

National Association of Letter Carriers
Branch 245 Newsletter

John H. Swanson Merged Branch 245
Organized September 24th, 1891

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Annual lobbying trip to Washington, DC. Pictured left to right: Senator Roland Burris, Jerry Pyfer, Kelly Pruka and Senator Dick Durbin.

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Branch 245 Newsletter

Published by John H. Swanson Merged Branch 245
National Association of Letter Carriers
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Branch 245 Newsletter

Published each month for the benefit of the membership.

Contributions of articles and photos relating to this branch or the NALC is encouraged. Articles and photos may be submitted to the Editor at EditorBranch245@yahoo.com

The editor reserves the right to edit for content or space and shall determine whether material submitted shall be printed.

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Branch 245 Calendar

July 5, 2010	Independence Day Hol.
July 6, 2010 Tentative	Exec. Board 6:30 p.m. Stewards 7:30 p.m. Verdi Club
July 9, 2010	\$ Payday \$
July 13, 2010	Union Meeting 7:30 p.m. Verdi Club
July 23, 2010	\$ Payday \$
August 2, 2010	Exec. Board 6:30 p.m. Stewards 7:30 p.m. Verdi Club
August 6, 2010	\$ Payday \$
August 9, 2010	National Convention Anaheim, CA
August 10, 2010	<u>NO MEETING</u>
August 23, 2010	Corn Boil

**Congratulations to Chuck Kniess on his retirement.
Congratulations to John Ferro on his retirement.
Congratulations to Bill Kapfer on his Gold Card.
The Branch offers condolences to Phyllis "PJ" Babb and Sandi Babb on the loss of their father.**

Merged Branch 245 union meetings are the second Tuesday of each month at the Verdi Club located at 782 N. Madison St. Rockford, IL

President's Report President Kelly Pruksa



I can't believe this year is already half way over with. Time really does go by so fast. I know, it didn't seem like it as last winter dragged on forever. My youngest daughter just turned four already and my oldest daughter is going to be a senior in the fall. I know all of you that have children can relate to how fast they grow up. I know the weather is finally nice, and everyone will be busy this summer. I hope that everyone takes the time to enjoy it with friends and family.

I also hope everyone will take the time to participate in some of the activities the branch has coming up. If you have never participated in any of the branch functions, talk to someone who has. Everyone always has a good time. Without the workroom floor tension, everyone can relax and have fun. You can talk to whoever you want for as long as you want without a boss glaring at you. It's great!

August:

NO BRANCH MEETING!

9-13: NATIONAL CONVENTION (myself and 9 elected delegates)

23: CORN BOIL (members only-retirees free)

28: LABOR DAY PAGEANT (contact Robin Maurer to be a candidate)

September:

6: LABOR DAY PARADE AND PICNIC (open to members and families)

MDA TELETHON (volunteers needed to answer phones)

12: MDA GARAGE SALE (need volunteers and donations)

14: BRANCH MEETING (nominations of officers)

October

12: BRANCH MEETING (election of officers)

TBA: RETIREMENT DINNER (members and spouses-retirees free)

I know the calendar of events is always in the newsletter. I just wanted to highlight what was coming up and ask you to take a look at the above list and try to fit something in your schedule. If you have kids, try the parade. It really is a lot of fun. I look forward to seeing some new faces at these events.

Have a safe and Happy Fourth of July!

Kelly Pruksa

Minutes of Monthly Branch Meeting Secretary Maureen Johnson

JUNE 8, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM at the Verdi Club. A special presentation was made to Bill Kapfer for his fifty years as a NALC member – way to go Bill!!! The other special presentation was to John Ferro on his retirement – woohoo!!!

Roll call was taken and the following officer was absent: Jack Breitbach. The Treasurer's and Membership reports were read. Motion to pay the bills was made by Billy Daugherty, seconded by John Ferro. Motion carried.

Corrections to last month's minutes: Under new JARAP process not all zones will be adjusted this time, only zones that the District Lead Team chooses. The August meeting counts as one of the seven that officers and stewards have to attend for dues reimbursement. There will be no August meeting.

President Pruka reported that through JARAP some zones in Rockford were going to be adjusted. After much discussion about the integrity of the data, accurate volume counts and different directions at different stations, the route adjustments in Rockford have been cancelled for now.

Kelly had to report to the DRT team as of June 1st. Our regular union rep. resigned and she had to take his place. She is still in constant communication with all officers. If you need to reach her please text or e-mail. She does have to exclude herself from DRT decisions on grievances she filed. Kelly has settled at Formal A: providing equipment. Settled at DRT: a 204B carrying mail – the carriers were paid. Pending at DRT: limited duty sent home without pay, 8 hour only violation, (2) 7 day suspensions for attendance and a posting of a cancelled vacation over compliment.

All 12 offices of our Branch reported a total of 87,881 lbs. of food picked up for the Food Drive, just a little down from last year. Nationally we did hit the 1 billion lb. mark.

LOVES PARK

Jerry thanked the Branch for sending him to Washington. Of course, 5 day delivery was the main issue. There is only one line in the current Bill that is saving our jobs. It says that the Postal Service has to make so many delivery days a year – which comes out to 6 days a week. If they were to change that wording at all – you get the idea.

Mike Tyler reported that the Park has air conditioning again. Everything is running pretty smooth, have no grievances.

Our Editor, Dougie, reported that Fred Acedo from Bakersfield, CA that does all the cartoons is putting together a book of his first 7 years – around 400 cartoons. He will be selling them at the National Convention. If you would like a copy please call Dougie.

KILBURN

Vice-President Belinda Anderson has had to take Kelly's place on route adjustments. She will be working in Winnetka and Palatine. Belinda has had a hard time meeting with Larry about grievances. Rick Moore has been busy. There have been 4 job discussions on attendance, 2 job discussions on expanded street time and a 2 year letter on sick leave usage down to 90 days.

Steve Brown reminded carriers that management is really looking at times and scans, questioning everything and everyone on any large spans of time.

NTS

Sandy Gleim reported that the ODL is current at NTS. The Cornboil will be August 23rd. Tickets will still be \$8.00, retirees free. Please contact Sandy to let her know you will be attending. Stewards will have tickets.

Dave Rungren reported that a carrier (not a union member) went through the NRP because of permanent

injuries, was told he could work for 4 hours and then go home, and comp would pay the other 4 hours. Workers' Comp never agreed to this. It was a total scam. Filing grievance to make PO pay for lost time. If they do it to a non-member, they will do it to members too. That's why we pay dues and that's why people who don't are living off of us.

Robin Maurer reported that we still need candidates for the Labor Day Parade: Mrs, Miss and Little Miss. Paperwork must be turned in by July 15th. Please see Robin if interested.

Russ Galub cautioned carriers to double check scanners and make sure the time is correct. His was on Eastern Time for last week. This will affect all your scans, like Express.

Steve Isbell wants information on John Swanson, anyone with pictures or info please contact Steve. The National is doing bios on past HBP Directors. Most of you know our Branch was named after John H Swanson. He was our Branch President, then State President, then Business Agent and finally Health Benefits Plan Director at the National. He grew the plan tremendously. A very talented man. The MDA garage sale will be September 12th, at Loves Park, looking for donations and volunteers. On August 29th we will be asking carriers to participate in MDA fund raiser, keep date available – details to follow.

MPO

Denise Leber said nothing was new in the 09's. A 204B at the MPO carried mail, it was settled at DRT and carriers were paid.

BELVIDERE

Matt Seng reported that there were no new grievances. Belinda handled one at Formal and did a great job. Phil Rowley is the new assistant steward; we embarrassed him and made him stand.

OLD BUSINESS

There will be an Executive Board meeting in August but no regular meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

President Pruka spoke of upcoming elections of National Officers. She asked the branch to endorse Neal Tisdale for Business Agent at the National Convention. Doug Arnold made the motion, seconded by Jerry Pyfer. Resounding ayes have it. Neal Tisdale will be endorsed by Branch 245.

There will be a Committee of Presidents meeting on September 19-20th. It is within the budget parameters. Rick Moore made the motion to send the President and Vice-President, especially with 5 day delivery looming and the end of the fiscal year. The motion was seconded by John Ferro, passed.

Special thanks to Sandy Gleim for great burgers, potato salad and all the fixings.

Thirty seconds of silence was observed with special thoughts for Chester Partyka and our Troops.

MDA Prize won by Billy Daugherty

Door Prize won by Ross Parlapiano

IPALC Prize won by Robin Maurer

COLCPE Prize won by Ross (Lucky) Parlapiano

Attendance prize name drawn was Matt Seng. Matt was in attendance and won \$25 making next month's drawing worth \$25.

Motion was made to adjourn by Chops, seconded by Billy. Motion carried.

See you all next month!!!

My Train Of Thought Jerry Pyfer

“Indifference is the childhood of disease”

That’s it! I have had it with the indifference and self defeating attitude that some letter carriers spout off about this five-day thing.

Where is your passion, your belief, your fight in this debate about many of our fellow letter carrier jobs? Quite possibly your jobs!

Another fellow letter carrier asked me how T-6 utility carriers losing their assignments would affect their own rights to their own present route assignment. I tried to fend off the notion of five-day delivery, but got stuck onto the tar-baby of speculation. But let me state perfectly clear, that won’t happen again because I’m about to tell you how it is and how you need to get the passion, the belief that this fight has only begun. A few letter carriers have drank too much postal kool-aid and are resigned to the fact this five-day deal is a done deal. Not yet it isn’t!

If you are a letter carrier resigned to the idea we are going to five-days, knock it off. If you exerted half the energy wringing your hands that we are finished into joining the battle to preserve six-day service, we would all be better off. Are you going to just roll over and play dead or are you ready to stand together and fight this enemy of your fellow carrier? If you think the postal sky is falling, put on your helmet and help man the letter writing machinery.

I have (hopefully) four and a half years until retirement. If you are one of these folks with a bunch of seniority and feel it won’t affect you so who cares-You need to care! It is our sisters and brothers that need all of us to get involved. Your indifference is the childhood of disease. That disease will grow to weaken our employer and our futures. My voice alone won’t be but a squeak in Washington DC, but all of our voices united in the cause will be a formidable voice and one that can’t be ignored.

The next person asking me what will we do when the five-day deal is done, will get this response, “It will take an act of congress to reduce the level of service the Postal Service is required to provide. Congress will act upon your recommendation. Will you write our congressman and senators to help preserve six-day delivery? I can provide the information you will need to write an informed letter.”

Some fellow letter carriers have been asked to join the campaign. A number of you have taken the time to help our cause. We thank you very much. If you want to join in, let me know.

Now then, thank you for sending me to Washington DC for our annual State Association lobbying trip. My last trip to DC was about 6 years ago. Although I enjoy the trip and marvel in awe at the sites, I figure to step aside for others to experience the trip before I would return again.

Wednesday afternoon, Kelly and I joined about 75 NALC branch representatives from across the state of Illinois. Our mission was to learn about the postal issues we needed to bring before our congressman and senators. NALC political liaison Meaghan Slater outlined the main topics for the gathered carriers in the NALC headquarters main meeting room.

“Five-day is the wrong way to save the Postal Service” is first and foremost. In a world of they wanted it yesterday, eliminating service is the sure way to deter potential business. Service is all we have to offer. The NALC is proposing a new delivery service for CVS pharmacies. Upon learning of this idea, Walgreen’s also wanted in on the new idea for prescription deliveries. Yes, electronics has taken business away. But just as with the telegraph, telephone and fax machine inventions, the USPS has evolved to survive.

We need to convince our representatives that preserving six-day delivery will help the USPS in the long run as new ideas are run up the flagpole to see who salutes.

One line within the massive annual appropriations bill reads something like, the USPS will maintain service levels of “1980something”. That is all that maintains one-sixth of the USPS employees as productive American citizens. This bill comes up every year.

As Illinois letter carriers, we have two close friends in Washington DC, Senators Roland Burris and Richard Durbin. Additionally, Senator Durbin holds the rank of Majority Whip in the senate (the #2 guy). We need to write him to convince him of making that one little line more permanent. Please take the time now, to do just that.

USPS officials would like congress to refrain from passing that one little line in the legislation, taking with it the six-day delivery. I have heard some folks say that they won’t be harmed by going to five-day delivery. Really? In April, PMG Potter was also quoted at a National Postal Forum in Nashville, “The value of going to four days-removing a second day-is even greater.” If he could get rid of one, two or even more days, what would stop him? So, where would this line of thinking leave you then?

Thursday morning, the entire Illinois delegation had the chance to meet and greet Senators Burris and Durbin in the Hart Senate Office building. Both senators understand our plight and support you.

Later that morning, two fellow carriers Sami Vigil and Mike from Branch 825 joined, Kelly and myself visiting 16th District Representative Donald Manzullo’s office. Manzullo had been called to the house chamber as the Mexican president was addressing a joint session at that time. Manzullo’s aide Senior Legislative Assistant Kate Schmucker visited with our delegation. We shared our concerns about going to five-day delivery. She indicated Manzullo was leaning towards the PMG’s idea of eliminating service to contain costs. We tried to inform them of alternate means of reducing costs. Among the various means were route adjustments and addressing retiree health care over-funding payments. Our delegation also highlighted potential new business ideas and the potential elimination of American jobs in these difficult economic times.

It would behoove you to write the congressman as well. You need to do some homework on the issues and H.R. 173 in particular. The NALC website is the best place to learn of these issues. When you have completed the homework, you can write a better informed letter to help the representatives better understand our position. If you don’t write and become involved, they won’t care if you don’t care.

CABOOSE



Active and retired letter carriers who have enrolled in automatic deductions

Belinda Anderson
 Doug Arnold
 Jimmy Gustafson
 Terry Leber
 Dean Lindeman
 Will Bogusiewicz
 Frank Kottmeier
 David Gunsallus

John Martelin
 Robin Maurer
 Kelly Pruka
 Jerry Pyfer
 Robert Swenson
 Jeanie Virtue
 Terry "Tank" Johnson
 Leslee Bounds

Reid Peper
 Mike Tyler
 Mary Culver
 Rick Moore
 Jack Breitbach
 Steve Isbell
 Scott Fuhler
 Dan Hunter

Arlen Lehrke
 Carol Goral
 Dan Goral
 Joan Sherman
 John Abate
 Sandy Gleim
 Mike Rose

COLCPE is the Committee On Letter Carrier Political Education. The NALC encourages active letter carriers to make COLCPE contributions through automatic payroll allotment. COLCPE supports political candidates that support letter carriers. This method of donation allows for a more reliable source of funding for candidates and allows the NALC to budget for upcoming elections. Retirees may also donate via automatic deductions. Please consult The Postal Record or the NALC website at www.nalc.org for further information. If you have recently signed up or you have been donating please let the editor know so that your name may be added. Questions or assistance can be directed to Doug Arnold at (815) 621-8526 or email EditorBranch245@yahoo.com.

COLCPE
 100 Indiana Ave. NW
 Washington, DC 20001-2144

IPALC
 P.O. Box 561
 Orland Park, IL 60462-0561

COLCPE Honor Roll

The following members have donated to COLCPE or IPALC through individual donations in 2010

Earl Martin	Frank D'Antone	Paul Vogt
Joel Kowalewski	Charlie Falzone	Leonard Ancona
Lou Ricotta	Charles Meverden	Lacy Sciame
Norm Fry	Bill Kapfer	Dick Patterson
Lydia Cockrum in memory of Elmer Cockrum	Richard Oakley	
Dan Whalen		

Senator Richard Durbin
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: 202-224-2152
Fax: 202-228-0400
Email: dick@durbin.senate.gov

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1118 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515
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Washington, DC 20510
Phone: 202-224-2854
Fax: 202-228-1372

U.S. Representative Don Manzullo
Republican 16th District
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Bill Kapfer reaches 50 years and John Ferro retires. Photos courtesy of Gail Rothermel.

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Absent from the May Executive Board/Steward meeting: Terry Johnson, Rick Moore, Steve Isbell, Sandy Gleim.

Absent from the June Executive Board/Steward meeting: Will Bogusiewicz, Dave Rungren, Ross Parlapiano, Jack Breitbach, Steve Brown, Russ Galub.

**Annual Corn Boil
August 23rd 4:30 p.m.
Verdi Club**

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Retirees FREE (RSVP to Sandy
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