

Branch Meeting
NALC Bergen County Merged
Branch 425

January 13, 2026

Held its monthly meeting at the American Legion in Teaneck NJ. President Paul Bounassi called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm and led the members in the flag salute.

Roll call of officers was taken and all members of the Executive Board were present except for Dennis Spoto and John Dudek who were excused.

Minutes from the December 9, 2025 meeting was read, a motion to accept without any additions or corrections was made by George Willem, this motion was seconded by Clarey James.

Correspondence:

Mail received from Greater Bergen Community Action

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report was read by President Paul Bounassi. A motion to accept was made by Valerie Keyton-Barlow, this motion was seconded by Brian Gautier.

Legislative Report:

No updates to report

MDA Report:

Bowling event scheduled for March 15th at 3 pm \$20 per member and \$25 for non-member. MDA Shamrocks will be sold for \$1 or \$5. All proceeds go to MDA.

Health Benefits Report:

No updates to report

Retired Members Report:

The Food Drive will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2026.

Effective January 1, 2026 all optional retirement applications must be submitted online through the OPM's Online Retirement Application (ORA) platform.

1099 needs to be downloaded from the OPM's website.

President's Report:

Branch 38 had their Steward Training Session In Atlantic City.

State attorney Donald Millman says 2024 had 6,000 dog bites reported nationwide.

President Brian Renfroe was the main speaker.

They will officially open collective bargaining on February 25, 2026. They are planning to have a national day of action. This will get media coverage and contract awareness. Discussion of 2025. Nearly 1 million Federal employees had their collective bargaining rights stripped. Most are currently in litigation.

The One Big Beautiful Bill was a major fight. Which had major cuts to our retirement.

While we were able to repel this attack, it will get harder. Confident we will prevail in the fight in 2026, but the future is uncertain.

State of the Post Office, lost \$9 billion last year and have lost money for the past 15 years. Mail volume has dropped 50% over the past 20 years. Parcel volume went down 6% last year, the first time in many years. 43% of our revenue comes from parcels and will be about 50% this year. The job of a letter carrier is in real jeopardy if we continue to lose parcel volume.

The Postal Service will mail a letter in January about a new federal tax deduction for certain overtime payments. The letter will include qualified overtime amounts for the 2025 tax year and will be available in PostalEase.

Prime-time Picks, fill out your 3971 and get a copy.

Bergenfield March 1 - April 1

Edgewater January 1 - February 15

Ft Lee January 15 - February 15

Hackensack February 1 - 19

Passaic February 15 posted by March 30

Ridgefield Park February 15 - March 15

Teaneck March 15 - April 30

Old Business:

No updates to report

New Business:

Executive VP Al Valverde speaks about the importance of delivering all the mail, everyday we lose the trust of the public. Throwing mail away is a federal crime.

Fake doctor's note, management has the right to question a doctor's note.

At 8:25 pm Conrad Gugliotta made a motion to adjourn, this was seconded by Ron Filera.