

Branch Meeting
NALC Bergen County Merged
Branch 425
March 11, 2025

Held its monthly meeting at the American Legion in Teaneck NJ.
President Paul Bounassi called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. 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 February 11, 2025 meeting was read, with the addition of South Hackensack in the list for Sorting & Delivering Centers (S & DCs). A motion to accept without any corrections was made by Valerie Keyton-Barlow, this motion was seconded by Andrea Garcia.

Correspondence:

We received a thank you card from Thomas Mathai, a retired Bergenfield letter carrier.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report was read by Paul Bounassi. A motion to accept was made by Clary James, this motion was seconded by George Willem.

Legislative Report:

No updates to report

MDA Report:

No updates to report

Health Benefits Report:

No updates to report

Retired Members Report:

The Social Security Administration (SSA) announced that starting February 24, 2025, the agency is beginning to pay retroactive benefits and will increase

monthly benefit payments to people who were affected by the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). Beneficiaries who are owed retroactive benefits will receive a one-time retroactive payment. This payment will date back to January 2024, the month when WEP and GPO no longer applied.

This has already started, Social Security benefits are paid one month behind, so most affected will begin receiving their new monthly benefit amount in April 2025 for their March 2025 benefit.

As of February the current COLA is 0.8%, it does not get finalized until this October.

President's Report:

Discussion of Interest Arbitration.

Interest Arbitration is set to begin March 17. Dennis R. Nolan will serve as the neutral arbitrator. The Executive Council has agreed to do an expedited arbitration process.

The Postal Service announced on February 18, that Postmaster General DeJoy has notified the USPS Board of Governors of him stepping down.

The Trump administration, and Republicans, have declared war on unions, especially Federal unions. President Trump is planning to dissolve the leadership of the USPS and place it under the control of the Commerce Department, potentially violating federal law. The Postal Service's bipartisan board is preparing to fight the order, retaining outside counsel and threatening legal action.

Fight like Hell Rally, National Day of Action, Sunday March 23, 2025.

House Budget Plan may put Federal Employee Benefits on table for cuts 2/19/2025. The article describes a House Budget Plan that could lead to cuts in federal employee benefits. The plan proposes all FERS employees to contribute 4.4% of their salary towards their retirement benefits. Additionally, the plan suggests ending the annuity supplement for those who retire under FERS before 62.

Old Business:

No updates to report

New Business:

Safety is out on the Street. Please do your job, close your doors, wear your seatbelt, carry your satchel, curb your wheels, put your emergency brake on and take your keys.

Conrad Gugliotta made a motion for Branch 425 to split the cost of the bus for the rally on March 23, 2025 with Branch 120, this motion was seconded by Marco Ortiz. The motion was voted on and passed.

At 8:29 p.m. Samuel Jerome made a motion to adjourn, this was seconded by George Willem.