

Branch Meeting
NALC Bergen County Merged
Branch 425
October 14, 2025

Held its monthly meeting at the American Legion in Teaneck NJ. President Paul Bounassi called the meeting to order at 7:17 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 September 9, 2025 meeting was read, a motion to accept without any additions or corrections was made by George Willem, this motion was seconded by Brian Gautier.

Correspondence:

No correspondence was received.

Treasurer's Report:

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

Legislative Report:

Will be combined with the President's report.

MDA Report:

Basket raffle tickets \$5/1 or \$10/3 to be held at the December meeting.
Raised \$650 at the retiree luncheon on October 5th.

MBA/Health Benefit Report:

Open Season is November 10 to December 8, 2025.
New rates can be found at NALC Health Benefit site nalchbp.org and on the OPM website. Flexible Spending Account (FSA) Health Care FSAs- is used to pay for health care expenses for you and your family members. Dependent Care FSAs is used to cover care expenses for your dependents.

Retired Members Report:

The Final 2026 retiree COLA calculation will be announced any day now. The COLA will be the number used for your 2026 pension check.

The last projection was 2.8% for CSRS and 2.0% for FERS.

We had a great turnout for our Retiree luncheon. We had National Dir of Retirees Dan Toth and Bruce Didriksen Region 15 NBA.

President's Report:

In February the current administration was threatening to move the PO into the Dept. of Commerce. Thanks to the action of our National Headquarter, our President Brian Renfroe and everybody else's support, we were able to take care of it.

The Trump administration issued executive orders in March and August of 2025 to end collective bargaining rights for workers in numerous federal agencies.

Federal unions have filed multiple lawsuits challenging the executive orders. As a result, the situation is not final due to the ongoing legal and legislative challenges.

We have to take action and be vigilant, make a phone call, send a text, email to our congress and senators. A united front is a strong front.

Congress has the last say to what happens at the Post Office.

NALC has initiated two national-level interpretive disputes under Article 15, Section 3.F of the National Agreement.

The first dispute concerns the Postal Service's refusal to comply with the June 30, 2025 national-level award by Arbitrator Margo Newman, known as the "NACI Award" challenging the removal of an employee terminated due to an unfavorable National Agency Check with Inquiries report.

The second dispute centers on the arbitrability of grievances appealed to Step B teams.

Old Business:

No updates to report

New Business:

Conrad Gugliotta made a motion to move the November 11 meeting to November 18, 2025, this motion was seconded by Ron Filera, this motion was voted on and passed.

Valerie Keyton-Barlow made a motion for the Branch to pay \$10 per member for a bowling outing on Saturday November 8, this motion was seconded by Ron Filera, this motion was voted on and passed.

At 8:55 pm Valerie Keyton-Barlow made a motion to adjourn, this was seconded by Marco Ortiz