

Branch Meeting
NALC Bergen County Merged
Branch 425
September 9, 2025

Held its monthly meeting at the American Legion in Teaneck NJ. President Paul Bounassi called the meeting to order at 7:00 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, Donald Jump and John Dudek who were excused.

Minutes from the June 11, 2025 meeting was read, a motion to accept without any additions or corrections was made by Conrad Gugliota, this motion was seconded by Valerie Keyton-Barlow.

Correspondence:

President Paul Bounassi appointed Taejon Hayes as Dir. of Health Benefits/MBA and Conrad Gugliota as trustee.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report was read by Barbara Mejia. A motion to accept was made by George Willem, this motion was seconded by Taejon Hayes.

Legislative Report:

Main focus on NALC docket are:

Federal Retirement Fairness Act (H.R. 1522) would allow letter carriers and other federal employees who began their careers in non-career positions to purchase retirement credit for that time.

Protect Our Letter Carrier Act (H.R. 1065/ S. 463)

Crime against Postal employees has nearly doubled between 2019 and now. Low Prosecution rate of only 14% of crimes against letter carriers result in both arrest and federal prosecution, highlighting a need for increased accountability.

Raising awareness and community engagement through local media and community outreach. Emphasizing the need to prosecute crimes against letter carriers and ensure that perpetrators are held accountable for their actions.

MDA Report:

Dir of Branch Affairs Valerie Keyton-Barlow is running a basket raffle, drawing will be held at the December meeting. Tickets prices 1 for \$5 and 3 for \$10 please see Valerie for tickets. All proceeds go directly to MDA.

Health Benefits Report:

Dir of Health Benefits/MBA Taejon Hayes speaks about the importance of the disability programs, rates are very low, if you have any questions please feel free to see him.

Retired Members Report:

As of August 12th The 2025 cost-of-living memo for retirees is CSRS is 2.5% and FERS is 2.0%.

The 2026 retiree COLA calculation will be finalized in October 2025 with the release of the CPI-W for September 2025.

Please send all updates for the October 5th retiree luncheon by September 29th.

President's Report:

Hackensack is being converted to an S&DC, they are having many issues during construction, and because of this, President Paul Bounassi , Executive V.P. Al Valverde, 1st V.P. Donald Jump and shop stewards together with RAA Orlando Gonzalez joined forces to create a Joint Safety Committee. The purpose of this Committee is to give every carrier a voice to bring any issue or concern regarding safety you have in the office, including any other crafts. Every month we will have a meeting with management to speak about everyone's concerns and how to resolve the problems. Executive V.P. Al Valverde speaks about all the issues they are facing in Hackensack, protect yourself by filling out a CA1, safety team is a process, people are going to be trained and certified. The goal is to bring this committee to every office. Hackensack is the 22nd office in the region to be in this program.

If you are issued a Discipline please sign for it, it is not an admission and then give it to your shop steward, they have 14 days to investigate.. Don't ignore your SPM (work orders), scan all your packages at the door, don't take extended breaks and don't take your battery out. Management is coming out doing inspections everywhere across the country. Start your tour in the office, check your truck, get your accountables and case your mail, always carry your satchel and if you are going to go over 8 hours, fill out a 3996.

New Contract: Back pay should have been received, upcoming pay increase cost-of-living adjustment of \$790.00 at Top Step will be effective September 6 followed by a general wage increase of 1.5% in November and another cost-of-living adjustment on March 2026

Video of Challenges Faced by Letter Carriers in 2025 is 30 minutes long, I highly recommend watching it on youtube channel, which is youtube.com/thepostal record is the NALC official channel. It talks about all the challenges Letter Carriers have faced in 2025, including collective bargaining, job security, crime and heat safety.

President Brian Renfroe has said that The new Postmaster General, David Steiner, opposes privatization and hasn't implemented major changes yet.

Old Business:

No updates to report

New Business:

A motion for the branch to pay \$90 for each person out of \$125 for Branch 38 Golfing outing for MDA on October 13, 2025 was made by Jeff Fox, this motion was seconded by Clary James, this motion was voted on and passed.

A motion for \$100 to Sponsor a hole was made by Jeff Fox, this motion was seconded by Conrad Gugliotta, this motion was voted on and passed.

At 8:41 pm Conrad Gugliotta made a motion to adjourn, this was seconded by Ron Filera.