



# THE BRANCH 324 BUZZ



## Special Edition

### Membership Ratifies New NALC-USPS Collective Bargaining Agreement

The active membership of the National Association of Letter Carriers has overwhelmingly ratified the tentative 2019-2023 National Agreement with the United States Postal Service. Over 94% of participating eligible members voted to accept the tentative agreement that was announced on November 25. The vote to ratify was 60,111 to accept the agreement versus 3,341 to reject it, as reported by NALC's Ballot Committee chairman Delano Wilson of Silver Spring, MD Branch 2611. The fifteen-member Ballot Committee monitored and observed the dispatch, receipt, and tabulation of the Ratification Ballot conducted by an independent company, MOSAIC of Cheverly, MD.

NALC will officially notify USPS of the March 8 ratification date.

Information on back pay and the implementation of the new contract will be released as soon as possible.

The new contract covers a 44-month term from September 20, 2019, to May 20, 2023.

### Route Counts

There have been route counts conducted in many of the offices our branch covers in the past weeks on individual routes. A few questions have been brought up in reference to these counts. Management is required to give advance notice to the carrier when conducting a 1838-C Office Count on a specific day. This is clearly listed in the M-39 Handbook, Section 141.2.

Your office time will be based on your volume that is counted. Don't try to expand your office time. It can come back to bite you. If your volume is low that particular day, don't just sit around on office time if you are waiting to clock out. If you have additional work that is needed on your labels, be sure to clock to 743 for that function. There are plenty of things that can be done for route maintenance. Always be sure to clock to street time when working on parcels so it doesn't affect your office time. This should be done on a daily basis.

If management is going to conduct a Street Count (3999), no advance notice is required.

It is recommended to educate yourself on the requirements as a city letter carrier. You can study up on the M-41 Handbook and the M-39 Handbook.

**Knowledge is Power**

### Next Generation Delivery Vehicle

By now you have probably seen the new NGDV approved by the USPS on February 23rd. Under the contract's initial \$482 million investment, Oshkosh Defense, based in Oshkosh, WI, will finalize the production design of the next-generation delivery vehicle (NGDV), a purpose-built, right-hand-drive vehicle for mail and package delivery, and will assemble 50,000 to 165,000 of them over 10 years.

