

December 31, 2015

Happy New Year to each and every one of you. I hope the New Year brings you much happiness and good fortune.

This past year has brought our branch a lot of changes. Joe Noel stepped down as President. I became the President. Past President Gary Smith transferred to Florida. The board for the branch got two new people in Darrell Helsley, Financial Secretary and Scot McKale, Recording Secretary. We held elections for the branch officers and delegates. Amazon parcels have reached Grand Rapids. Carriers are working on Sundays for the first time in decades.

There many more changes that happened beyond what I have listed above. We as a branch will work through each of these changes and any other issues that arise.

The New Year is sure to bring more changes and issues for us to handle and deal with. There is a saying that the only constant in the world is change.

Amazon is here to stay in Grand Rapids and the surrounding cities. That means more packages during the week and Sunday parcel delivery. Starting January 10, 2016 Amazon Parcel delivery on Sundays are going back to the "Hub" system. What that means for Grand Rapids is the Hubs, on Sundays will be done out of the East Paris and Northeast Stations. Wyoming will no longer be a Sunday Hub. CCA's will work at these Hubs as will the Overtime Desired List Carriers in these stations.

Amazon has brought a large increase in parcels to the routes. This increase was not built into the last adjustments that were done. Please make sure to tell the boss if you think the increase in parcels will put you over eight (8) hours each day. Fill out a PS Form 3996 when you feel you will not be done in eight (8) hours.

No carrier should be punching to 733 for any reason outside of December. 733 is not counted towards your route. By using 733 a carrier's route will not get the proper time credit for what they did.

A new board for the branch will be sworn in at the January 7, 2016 General meeting. RAA Troy Clark is coming to the meeting to swear in the new board. We have a new Sgt @ arms, Larry Niece and a new trustee, Michael "Chief" Czapek. I am confident that the new board will do a great job in representing the membership of Branch 56.

I ask all of you to do two things in the New Year. One, get more involved in the union. Attend meetings, trainings, etc. Two, write letters to family and friends. Writing is a lost art. Take the time to send a letter.

Kyle Inosencio  
President NALC Branch 56