



On May 2, 2015, the postal service announced a restructure of the VMF function. Locally it meant that the Providence VMF went from a lv 21 manager and 2 Supv VMF lv 17s to a manager, lv 19 and one supv. vmf lv 17. They added 32 level 23 territory managers and some regional managers. Although I was detailed to the Providence plant for about one year, I needed to land a job or accept a downgrade. I have dreamt of a promotion in vehicle maintenance for a long time and it came true this July.

I was selected for one of the new territory managers, and got the NEA group 1, lv 23 position which includes NNE district VMFs and Great Boston VMFS except Worcester. This paved the way for Ricky Laporte to be promoted to the manager in Providence and for Andre Maynard to keep his vmf job. Congratulations Ricky and Andy.

**What does this mean for you in Branch 105? As of Sept 10, the membership change report** reflected that my new finance number has taken affect and I am now a member of a branch in GB. Therefore I am no longer able to continue to serve as the president of this branch. I actually cannot be a member of this branch, our constitution and bylaws require me to move with my finance number.

In discussing this with Brian over the summer he asked Joanne Keeling to serve as his VP until the elections in November and she graciously accepted with the approval of the board. Thank you for that Joanne.

We decided to forego the guest speaker to discuss this and give you time to reconsider running for the board, if you so desire.

**Nominations will open tonight and Branch 105 has great promise.**

The thought of no longer being an officer of this Branch is hard to imagine. It is hard to believe this day has come. I have to say that I have mixed feelings today. It's wonderful to look forward to the future of my new job. But I also feel sadness at leaving behind me what has been such an important part of my life.

When you do something that has become the fabric of who you are, it is hard to let that go. I will truly miss ALL of you. I have enjoyed my time here serving on the eboard, as the VP and most recently as the president. I'm proud of the things we've achieved. WE have helped many members along the way.

I am stepping down today with a wealth of knowledge I will always treasure. I have grown as manager and a person through the work of running this branch. I have made some very dear friendships along the way and will always cherish them.

Brian, I have no doubt you will continue to lead this Branch and be a great President. A team effort takes compromise. When you are on a team you have to at times lead, follow, and more often than not, meet in the middle. –I strongly encourage any of you who would like to be a part of the eBoard team to challenge yourself and get involved.

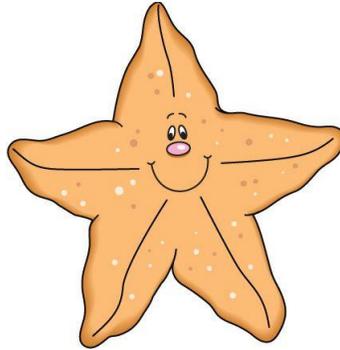
Integrity and professionalism has always been the hallmark of this branch and it will continue under Brian's leadership. I hope all of you feel as fortunate to be a part of this branch here as I feel.

The eBoard are the people who work tirelessly for you and conduct the business of running a large branch. It is not always easy, but it is very rewarding.

Thank you to all of you for your dedicated service, giving up your evenings, your Sunday mornings, the shopping, and the travel and giving up your valuable time to serve this branch and our members. How about that great party in May? Applause!  
Thank you to your families in their sacrifice of sharing you with us for so many years.  
I cannot thank all of you enough for all you have done for me and our members over the years.

I can't thank Cy enough for his tireless work on my behalf and for helping me and so often for pushing me. Albeit, almost over the edge on occasion, I know I owe much of my success in NAPs and in the postal service to him for opening doors for me and his coaching and mentoring has made me who I am today, ***which is why this is a 10 page speech!*** That is a gift I can never repay.

He continues to mentor me to this day and at times, I mentor him. I know I am richly blessed.



I attended the CFC kick off last week. This meeting kicks off the fund raising efforts and is designed to motivate and inspire the key workers to do their best to reach everyone for a donation.

The slogan this year is **YOU can CHANGE a LIFE!**

Jane Larson, Enterprise Account Director for the USPS and LFCC, local federal coordinating committee member spoke to the group.

In her remarks she spoke of a story about 'star fish' and that is exactly the story I planned on using it tonight to illustrate to all of you how I see the value of stepping up to serve this branch. I was going to change that but decided not to.

My version of the story goes like this.

A Grandfather and young grandson were walking along a beach and came upon hundreds if not thousands of star fish that had been washed up on the sand. The tide was going out and they would surely die. The young boy started to race to the star fish and picking them up and throwing them back in the water. He continued for several minutes and the Grandfather called out to him and said, "son what are you doing?" the young boy replied, "I am getting the starfish back into the water so they won't die."

The grandfather saw that the starfish went on for a mile or more and said to the boy," It won't matter son, you cannot possibly save all of them."

And with that the boy held up a starfish and he said, "it matters to this one!"

Brian and the eBoard, current and future, I would suggest keeping this star fish within sight and when you start to doubt that you are making a difference remember your starfish. It matters!

With that I will turn this meeting, along with one starfish, to your new Branch 105 President, Brian Holt!