

Buckeye Branch 78 Bulletin

Columbus and Central Ohio



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MAY 2004



VOL. 25, NO. 5



PRESIDENT'S PAGE



Letter Carriers once again will participate in the country's Largest One-Day Food Drive benefiting local food pantries and the needy. It is hard for me to understand why families still go hungry in this great nation on a daily basis.

With the blessing of the local Postmasters, once again this drive will be a huge success. It could not be done without the help of the Postal Service. They deserve much credit for this massive effort to run smooth. Of course much credit goes to the Letter Carrier whose work in the past have made this task almost effortless. I hope for 100% participation once again from all letter carriers.

We are in the middle of the mail count which was mandated by the Moratorium signed by the Postal Service and the NALC. At most stations it seemed

to be running smoothly. At first I knew there would be problems but I also knew they would be worked out- which most. I have been asked by numerous Letter Carriers what is this leading up to? I can only surmise and at this time I will keep my opinion to myself.

We recently had a representative of management at the stewards meeting to explain how DOIS works. It was a very informative meeting with numerous questions. In order for us to have a better understanding of this operating process, we need to further educate ourselves. Some say well if you are at your case, casing mail what does it matter? It matters when



that supervisor comes to you on a daily basis and says "DOIS has you an hour light", you need to pivot. I know that is happening and I openly condemn that style of managing. Supervisors have the right to manage. That is their job, but manage. Don't

wave a piece of paper in front of me and tell me "DOIS has you light". Remember- it is only a guide to manage by. Come to the monthly meetings-if you walk out with one small piece of information the effort was worthwhile.

Remember-keep fighting the good fight.

Rocco Evangelista




LOOK AT THE IMPORTANT LETTERS WE'RE CARRYING!



LETTER CARRIERS' FOOD DRIVE
SAT. MAY 8, '04





YOUR POSTAL EMPLOYEES WILL CARRY THE FOOD YOU DONATE TO YOUR LOCAL FOOD BANKS.

JUST PLACE NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS IN A BAG BY YOUR MAILBOX, AND WE'LL DO THE REST! THANKS SO MUCH.



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A MESSAGE FROM VICE PRESIDENT BOB SOLT

CONTRACT INTERPRETATION

A part time flexible Carrier writes: I have been told by my supervisor that if I go on vacation for two weeks I will lose my hold down. Does the supervisor know what is really supposed to be done in a case like this and would I lose the hold-down?

No, you would not lose the hold down. The supervisor is contractually challenged on this issue and may want to scrutinize the Joint Contract Administration Manual for clarification. Article 41 states in part that once an available hold-down or opt is

awarded, the opting employee "shall work that duty assignment for its duration". There are exceptions to the duration clause in which Letter Carriers temporarily vacate hold-down positions. One example would be when a Carrier who has a hold-down goes on vacation. The carrier with the hold-down would reclaim and continue the hold-down upon returning to work. When the absence of the Carrier with the hold-down is expected to include at least five days of work, the vacancy qualifies as a new hold-

down within the original hold-down. These vacancies are filled as regular hold-downs and the Carrier with the first hold-down would resume his or her hold-down upon returning to work. The Carrier would remain on the hold-down, in this situation, until the regular carrier returns to work



YOUR JOB AND YOUR RETIREMENT ARE AT RISK

The President's Commission on Postal Reform contains the following recommendations which are clearly harmful to carriers... active and retired

- They have recommended that pension and post-retirement health care plans subject to collective bargaining. This would allow management the ability to remove postal retirees from existing federal pension and retiree health care plans
- Placing a salary cap on new employees creating a 2-tier wage system.
- Establishing a new method for contract negotiations. This could mean major losses to wages, benefits, and working conditions that have been negotiated for letter carriers since collective bargaining came into effect

It is vital that we make contact with our elected officials when called on by the NALC. The time to contact your representatives is not here yet

but it may come soon. Watch for the call to action from our National NALC and the local. Many of you have completed the NALC Can Count On Me form or have joined the ranks of e Activist by visiting the NALC Web page and will be notified via the Internet of important issues concerning letter carriers and the USPS. If not it isn't too late to do so, become part of your future become an active, knowledgably NALC Activist. Contributing to the Committee on Letter Carrier Political Education (COLCPE) is easier than ever before. Now you can contribute to COLCPE using Postal EASE. A simple and painless way to make your donation directly from your paycheck, you won't even miss the pay role deduction. Become part of your future become involved sign up as a NALC e Activist and contribute to COLCPE. No matter what your political party affiliation, COLCPE is an insurance policy protecting your well being and the future of the USPS. COLCPE is used to support

candidates that support issues and concerns that would directly have an effect on letter carriers and the USPS. COLCPE knows no political party lines.

Buckeye Br. 78 Bulletin

Published and Paid for
by Br.78

12 times per year
Volume 25 - Issue 4
May, 2004

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Please notify your local union of address changes as soon as possible.
Send address changes to:

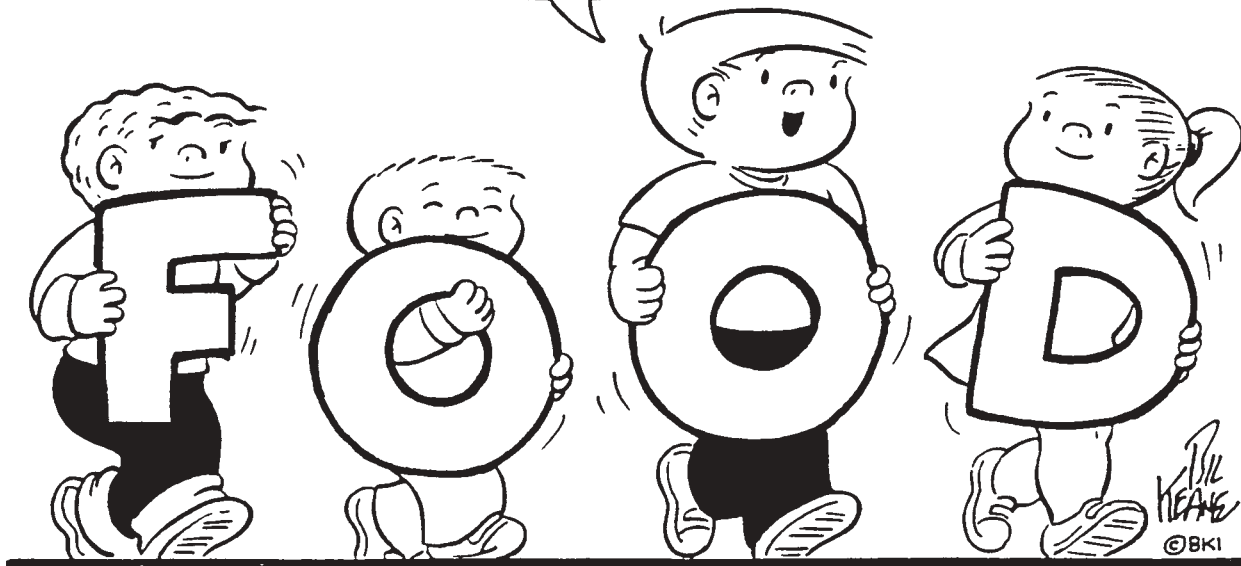
Br. 78 Bulletin
1029 Harrisburg Pike
Columbus OH 43223-2524
614-279-2778
www.nalc-branch78.org

Printed by

Lanz Printing Co.
Columbus Ohio



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TO YOUR LOCAL FOOD BANKS.



JUST PLACE NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS IN A BAG BY YOUR
MAILBOX, AND WE'LL DO THE REST! THANKS SO MUCH.

Let's Post It Company
AFL-CIO
614-221-1124

YOUR LETTER CARRIER



I had the honor of escorting our sponsored student, Larry Workman, a Junior and first year participant in the Carpentry program at Southeast Career Center, a Columbus Public School. Larry seems to be quite a worker for his tender years. The Youth Services Award was presented to his class for their work on two Habitat for Humanity homes in Columbus. He stated that he enjoys the work and hopes to progress to the point he can enter the trade after graduation.

GEORGE MEANY AWARDS BANQUET

Bob Solt
Branch 78 Vice President

I would like to express my gratitude to the members of Branch 78 for the opportunity to represent our union at Organized Labor's 44th Annual George Meany Awards Banquet. The Central Ohio AFL-CIO and United Way Community Services Department hosted the event. The banquet was held at Villa Milano on Schrock Rd. March 24th, 2004. Chris Bradley, Chief Meteorologist for News Center ABC 6/ FOX 28, emceed the event.

Organized Labor was commendably represented by: Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 189, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Communication Workers of America, United Auto Workers, Bakers Local 57, OCSEA/AFSCME Local 11, Ohio AFL-CIO, AFSCME Local 1632, Columbus Education Association, Central Ohio Union Label & Service Trades, OPEIU Local 277, Professionals Guild of Ohio Local 1960, Transport Workers Union, United Food & Commercial Workers Local 1059 and our own Branch 78 of the National Association of Letter Carriers. NALC Branch 78 President Rocco Evangelista is a Vice President serving on the Central Ohio AFL-CIO and also serves on the Community Services Committee.

The AFL-CIO Scouting Awards are presented to Union members for outstanding service to youth through the programs of the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts. Amy Hernandez, a member of OCSEA/AFSCME Local 11 received the award for her work with the Girl Scouts. The Community Service Award is given to a community volunteer whose leadership and involvement has made a significant contribution was presented to Monsignor Joseph Hendricks. The Central Ohio AFL-CIO presents the George Meany Award to a Labor person for outstanding leadership and support of health, welfare and recreation services to the Central Ohio community. This year's award was presented to Gregory Behnke, a member of United Food & Commercial Workers.

Thanks again for the opportunity to represent Branch 78 and spend an evening with Unionists from such an extensive variety of careers to reflect not only on Organized Labor's past but future community service commitments as well.

Fraternally,

Bob Solt

**UNION JOBS MAKE SAFER WORKPLACES
GOOD JOBS ARE WORTH FIGHTING FOR!**

SPEND AN EVENING WITH FRIENDS



ATTEND YOUR UNION MEETINGS!

America's No.1 Export Should NOT Be Good Jobs

White House News Briefing

Feb. 9, 2004

By N. GREGORY MANKIW

chairman, President Bush's Council of Economic Advisers

WASHINGTON—"I think outsourcing is a growing phenomenon, but it's something that we should realize is probably a plus for the economy in the long run.... More things are tradable than were tradable in the past and that's a good thing."

ALERT: President Bush's economic report approves of sending good U.S. jobs overseas. Read on:

- **President Bush's response to lost manufacturing jobs:** Consider changing the definition of a manufacturing worker so it includes fast-food employees. "When a fast-food restaurant sells a hamburger, for example, is it providing a 'service' or is it combining inputs to 'manufacture' a product?"
(Economic Report of the President, February 2004, p. 229)
- **President Bush's response to U.S. jobs being sent to low-wage countries:** Support \$60 billion in tax breaks for companies that move offshore and ship jobs overseas. (<http://thomas.loc.gov>; H.R. 2896, 7/25/03)

America has lost 2.9 million private-sector jobs since President Bush took office. We can't afford to lose any more.



Call President Bush at 202-456-1111 and tell him to support policies that keep jobs in America.

For more information, contact Buckeye Branch 78 at 279-2778 or visit www.aflcio.org.

The attendees of the February stewards meeting were given a 90-minute presentation of the mysterious inner workings of the DOTS program by USPS manager, Bob Dean. You know DOIS: that's the computer program that supervisors use to determine whether a route will be under time or overtime on any given day. All Letter Carriers should want to understand any program that has an effect on his or her workday. However, not all Letter carriers are able to attend meetings like this that last until 8 P.M. I will summarize what Mr. Dean told those in attendance about the program.

He started by stating that the DOIS program is a program that he believes in. He believes the program is accurate to within a few minutes if the program is properly maintained and if all the mail is accurately counted. In order for the program to be properly maintained and all the mail to be accurately counted your local supervisor must make a good daily effort.

The final product of DOIS; your projected daily workload in time, comes from a program called the "Route Base Information Report". This is derived from information given to the program from the last route inspection. If there have been changes to your route since the last inspection the Route Base Information Report will not be accurate. Some examples are as follows:

Growth — If you have had new deliveries on your route, the program is not going to give you

more time to do them. According to Mr. Dean, DOTS will show the current # of active deliveries, however, it will not, by itself, add more time to do them. At least two people in the meeting said their routes have grown by nearly 150 deliveries since the last inspection. This fact, by itself, will not affect the office time of the route, however, it will affect the street time. Because of DOIS, routes no longer have reference volume. The amount of time DOIS figures you will be in the office is determined by the standard you set during your last inspection. If your standard was 20 letters and 10 flats per minute those figures are divided into your total letter and flat count for the day and a projected leave time is computed.

There may be factors that prevent you~ from performing to your demonstrated office ability today. Some of those things may be: you are physically not able, maybe you are tired or sick or have carpal tunnel now.

Some offices have taken equipment from routes. I had four pieces of casing equipment when I was last inspected. That gave me room to put every address in at least one cell. Some addresses, like doctors, had more than one cell. During the AM SOP experience I was told to reduce my route to three pieces of equipment. In order to do that I now have two addresses in about half of my available cells. That keeps me from casing as fast as I did during inspection. That is information that DOIS does not

have.

Another fact that has an affect on demonstrated office performance is the amount of automated flats (NLM). During inspection I might have had two tubs of automated flats per day. Now I get more than several. The problem with these is that they are not faced. The addresses are not uniform; therefore, I have to search for them. Flats that come from the clerks are easier to read as they read them. Flats that come in bundles are all faced the same way. They are easier and faster to case. Another thing that affects your demonstrated ability office time is the amount of nixie mail that you bring back from the street that was in DPS. It has to be handled somehow. During inspection the mail was so light that it could be culled on the street in five minutes. Some days, Mondays, I will have over a foot of DPS mail that is undeliverable. It takes twenty minutes to go through it in the office. All these things described contribute to what Mr. Dean called "incorrect base data in DOIS". This is a valid reason to inform your supervisor of why you may be longer than DOIS says you will be. It may be something you want to put on your 3996.

Mr. Dean said that street time is a constant. It will not change by much day to day. If there is hazardous conditions such as snow and ice it will change by a lot. Anybody who has ever carried mail

Continued on page 8



SAFETY FIRST



Are You Safe At Work?

The first week of May is National Dog Bite Week. There have been 29 full time carriers bitten, as well as 8 PTF's, and 1 casual in fiscal 2004.

- **WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PREVENT DOG BITES?**

Use your hazard warning cards for others when you are not on your own route.

LET'S BE SAFE OUT THERE!

Also, don't forget those who have fought for our freedom in the past and present on Memorial Day.

Tony Snyder

Your Br78 Health and Safety Representative

MORE FROM THE NORTH

DOIS

Continued from Page 7

will understand that. He also stated that a large amount of DPS mail will not have an effect on street time. If that is true, then it just makes sense that a small amount won't either. Each route has a base parcel count. If you averaged 7 parcels per day during inspection 7 will be your base. The time to deliver those 7 parcels will be in your DOIS projected time. If you have 20 parcels today, the program is supposed to add an additional 1 minute 30 seconds for each parcel over base. This cannot be done unless your supervisor physically counts and enters into the program your total parcel count for the day.

It's all about trust.

Preparing and delivering your route is different every day. Many things affect that time. It is a supervisors job to ensure that you do your job to the best of your ability; a fair days work for a fair days pay. If you are not performing to your ability it is their job to identify what the behavior is that kept you from that. If you do not inform your supervisor on a 3996 he can only assume. In reality we do the best we can do with what we have to work with and "it's going to take however long it takes."

Letter Carriers Food Drive

Saturday

May 8, 2004

Just place your non-perishable food in a bag near your mailbox and we will do the rest!



6th Annual Charity Golf Outing Camp for Kids 2004



WILLOW RUN GOLF CLUB

MAY 16, 2004

SHOTGUN START 1:00 PM

\$75/GOLFER FIRST 144 GOLFERS

- U CHANCE TO WIN \$1,000,000**
- U CHANCE TO WIN A NEW CAR!**
- U STEAK DINNER, SUB SANDWICH AT TURN**
- U BEVERAGES AVAILABLE ALL DAY**
- U DOOR PRIZES FOR ALL GOLFERS**

Send and make checks payable to:

Camp for Kids
8100 Tuscany Road
Blacklick, OH 43004
(614) 751-0708
Ken Callahan, President

IMPORTANT!

**INCLUDE 3X5 CARD WITH NAMES OF THE GOLFERS
IN YOUR FOURSOME**

Bush's Medicare Drug Law Fails Working Families

Get the Facts

- Coverage doesn't begin until 2006. (Medicare bill signed into law, 12/8/03)
- Joining the program isn't free. You will have to pay \$420 in premiums. There is also a \$250 annual deductible, meaning you will have to pay \$670 in the first year before benefits kick in. These costs will increase each year. (H.R. 1, 2003)
- Bush's Medicare prescription drug law encourages employers to drop retiree drug coverage. The Congressional Budget Office estimates nearly 3 million retirees with benefits could lose them. And today's workers are less likely to receive employer-sponsored retiree benefits. (Congressional Budget Office Report, 2003)
- The Medicare law prohibits the government from negotiating for the cheapest drug prices. (*New York Times*, 12/7/03)

Watch out for big gaps in coverage.

If your drugs cost...	You pay...	Up to...	Total amount out of your pocket (per year including premium)
\$0-\$250	100%	\$250	\$670
\$251-\$2,250	25%	\$500	\$1,170
\$2,251-\$5,100	100%	\$2,850	\$4,020

Call President Bush at 202-456-1111 and urge him to support legislation to protect current retiree benefits.



**For more information
contact Buckeye Branch 78
at 279-2778.**



Pat Moran's Memorial Lunch

Retired Letter Carriers – The Old Codgers Bunch

Columbus, OH



Greetings:

You Know us - you are one of us! We know you!

We are holding our 25th Annual Reunion and you are invited to join us.

When: Wednesday June 9, 2004

Where: Stan's Restaurant
4333 Westerville Road
(At Morse Road - NW Corner)
(Enter through the side door on the South side.)

Time: 11:30 a.m.

We have our own room and we order from the menu about 12 noon.

We pay for what we select and tip generously. We bring our spouses, family members, friends, chauffeurs - come alone or with somebody.

We exchange greetings – and gab a lot! Take pictures and enjoy ourselves.

To join us, just call one of the Committee members no later than Monday, June 7, 2004 and we will reserve places for you.

We are expecting you!



Committee:

Bob Long	279 - 6180	Dick Rappenport	231 - 7416
Lloyd Clark	274 - 1566	Howard Henry	890 - 5356
Frank Case	263 - 8393	Al Goelz	231 - 2484
Harry Gentry	889 - 8414	Otis Lowe	274 - 1507
Charles Trott	833 - 0035	Eugene Smith	879 - 7758



Buckeye Branch 78

1029 Harrisburg Pike
Columbus, Ohio 43223-2524

**National Association of Letter Carriers
AFL-CIO**



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HEAD TRUSTEE	CARL BOOTH	491-1675
TRUSTEE	RANDY HARTMAN	740-363-1906
TRUSTEE	CARL DEMKO	351-0137
TRUSTEE	GARY BOLLER	471-8289
TRUSTEE	TREVOR PAYNE	447-8078

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A Short North	Douglas Doherty	294-4922
B Clintonville	Douglas Lawver	447-8078
BW Beechwold	John Klinger	447-8078
BEX Bexley	David B. Jackson	237-2830
Canal Winchester	Gary Boller	471-8289
C Linden	Anwar Mateen	476-1590
CP Central Point	Mark Beach	228-1570
CIR Circleville	Patrick Moore	1-740-474-3113
City Gate Collection Unit	Chuck Snyder/Water Harris	472-0500
DEL Delaware	Randy Hartman/R.Eglin	1-740-363-1906
DUB Dublin	Teresa A. Forman	889-0763
Eastland	Gary Boller	237-1912
E Olde Town	Gary Porter	253-7350
F German Village	Douglas Bryant	449-9565
G South Columbus	Walt Brumfield	444-0217
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GC Grove City	Greg Kuertz	
HILL Hilliard	Cindy Francisco	876-7021
HT Hilltop	Russell Sturgell	351-0137
LV Lincoln Village	Rick Baker	351-0137
LIV Livingston	R. Pugh	237-9570
LON London	Jon Robinson	1-740-852-1881
MO Main Office	James Williams/Keith Jones	469-4216
MV Marysville	Jim Lockwood	1-937-642-1961
MTV Mount Vernon		351-1701
NE Northeast	Ernie Windham	476-1590
NL Northland	Andy Curtis/Kent Fling	890-1180
NW Northwest	Keith Etherington	451-1502
OP Oakland Park	Wendy Yonker	476-1590
PIC Pickerington	Robert Brandon	837-5793
PLN CTY Plain City	Teresa Thomas	614-873-4004
REY Reynoldsburg	Doug Sawyer	866-6049
SHEP Shepard	Mark Martin	476-1590
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U University	Rod James	294-7292
UA Upper Arlington	Tom Wilson/Ed Ralston	451-2302
WV Westerville	D. Fleck	882-2243
WJ West Jefferson	G. Chaffins	1-614-879-9145
WW West Worthington	Danny Green	793-9789
WH Whitehall	Dan Churry/D. Miller Alt.	237-1722
WOR Worthington/Busch	Jeff Freeman	846-6088

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FOR THE

UNION LABEL



**THE JOB YOU SAVE
COULD BE YOUR OWN!**

**ARTICLES RECEIVED AFTER THE
FIRST WEDNESDAY OF ANY
MONTH WILL BE PUBLISHED IN
THE FOLLOWING MONTHS
BULLETIN**

**The views expressed in articles
printed in this publication do not di-
rectly reflect those of Branch 78 or
the Editor.**

**ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO :**

**1029 Harrisburg Pike
Columbus, Ohio 43223-2524**

STEWARDS MEETING-6:30 P.M.

First Wednesday of each month

OFFICERS MEETING-6:00 P.M.

**The Monday preceding Steward
Meeting**

BRANCH MEETING-6:30 P.M.

Second Wednesday of each month

RETIREES MEETING-1:00 P.M.

First Tuesday of each month

BRANCH OFFICE PHONES:

279-BR78

279-2778

www.nalc-branch78.org