

Buckeye Branch 78 Bulletin

Columbus and Central Ohio

CANAL
WORTHINGTON
CIRCLEVILLE

DELAWARE
WINCHESTER
GROVE CITY

GROVEPORT
DUBLIN
LONDON

MARYSVILLE
HILLIARD
PLAIN CITY

MT. STERLING
PICKERINGTON
WEST JEFFERSON

REYNOLDSBURG
WESTERVILLE



SEPTEMBER 2004



VOL. 25, NO.8

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

One of the people that play a very important role in this union is the steward. He/she is the one that rally's the troops. He/she is the one that shares the information with the letter carriers at their unit. But they are also the one that takes the brunt of unwelcome criticism because of something they had no control over. Example-this convention was held in Hawaii. When it first came up for vote at a prior National Convention, Chuck Sharp was president of Branch 78. At that time the convention delegates voted on where the next convention was held. I believe all of the delegates attending that convention, which I was one, voted not to have the convention in Hawaii. We knew it would be costly and could not take as many delegates as we normally would. We also knew that some of the smaller branches in central Ohio could not go because of the cost involved. Well it all turned out to be true. Most of the excess cost to this convention is attributed to the airline fee. For example, the rooms in Philadelphia were pretty much comparable to the cost of the rooms in Hawaii but the airline tickets were much cheaper. When the delegates attended the convention in Philadelphia two years ago I do not remember any one questioning this branch

or its officers or the stewards for going there. Why, maybe it is the perception of having it in Hawaii. The delegates use their own annual leave to attend the National and state conventions. In defense of the convention committee, much advance planning goes towards the National Convention. It cannot be held in most cities because they do not have the space or rooms to accommodate up to nine-thousand letter carriers. The NALC only patronizes union hotels if possible. In some major cities this is not feasible.

I remember when I attended my first convention, attendance was kept to insure that all of the delegates did what they were elected to do. That sent out a message to all delegates elected by branch 78 "hey we have a job to do". That still carries over today. No, we do not take attendance but believe me all delegates put in their time and are very productive. They attended workshops faithfully and are very passionate about the debates and votes that take place on the convention floor. Members of this branch should be proud of the elected delegates that represent you. They do their elected duties well.

We are getting numerous complaints about DOIS. It is here to stay.



Rocco
Evangelista

You need to protect yourself by following the guidelines set forth in the handbooks and manuals. If you cannot carry your assignment in eight hours you need to fill out PS form 3996. It is your responsibility to inform management, let them make the decision on what you should do. But

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A MESSAGE FROM VICE PRESIDENT BOB SOLT

I would like this opportunity to thank the members of Branch 78 for allowing me to once again represent our Union at the National Convention. Our National Convention was held from July 19th to July 23rd, 2004. The final report of the Credentials Committee reported that credentials had been issued to 7,429 NALC members.

Delegates at the 64th NALC Biennial Convention gave nearly unanimous support to the candidacy of Senator John Kerry for President and Senator John Edwards for Vice President in November's election. The vote to support Kerry and Edwards was the first time the NALC had expressed a preference for this year's presidential election. As Unionists, it is of the utmost importance to register and exercise our constitutional rights to vote. It is in our best interests to elect the candidates that support the well being

of the Letter Carriers and the Postal Service as well. The current administration in Washington leaves a lot to be desired.

Another topic of interest to all Letter Carriers was the authorization by the delegates and the Executive Council to pursue a better way to evaluate and adjust routes. Under this proposed system it would adjust routes to eight hours, avoid daily confrontations, eliminate pivoting and eliminate supervisors among other things.

Several guest speakers were in attendance at the convention. Attending were President Emeritus Vince Sombrotto, Representative Danny Davis (D-IL), Representative Neil Abercrombie (D-Hi), United Farm Workers President Arturo Rodriguez, Canadian Union of Postal Workers President Deborah Bourque and National Rural Letter Carriers president Dale Holton.

The general Sessions of the convention were scheduled from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. daily. Twenty-six workshops, which were conducted by various national officers, were scheduled from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. These workshops were extremely beneficial to the delegates in attendance.

All Letter Carriers, whether active or retired, need to be involved with our Union. If we do not abide by our contractual rights they will be abandoned and ignored by a less than sympathetic management.

Fraternally,

Bob Solt



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Continued from page 1

you need to inform them first. Then, if you cannot make it in the allotted time call them from the street. It is very important that you do both.

I want to thank several of our members for helping Branch 78 in the past few months. First I would like to thank Dan Churry and Brenda Fuller for co-chairing the NALC Food Drive this year. We beat last years efforts because of the hard work they put in. Secondly, Roger Eaglin of Delaware. Roger once again attended the MDA camp at Recreation Unlimited. This year he arranged to have home-made ice cream brought in for the kids and volunteers at the camp. It was a huge success. Roger brought

much joy and happiness to a group of children who face daily adversities, more than some of us see in a lifetime.

In closing I have always encouraged all members to come to the branch meetings. This is a way to find out what is going on within the branch and to give your opinion on what takes place. This Union was founded on the basis of different opinions. This is a tough time to be a Letter Carrier. We need solidarity at the stations and your support. Back your steward and officers.

Keep fighting the good fight!

Rocco Evangelista



Don't forget the
Branch 78, NALC
Retirement Picnic
September 7, 2004
at AMVETS

3535 Westerville
Road. Call the
union office for
details.

279-2778

RETIREE'S COLUMN

by Jack LeVally



Jack
LeVally

The NALC's 64th Biennial Convention in Hawaii, without a doubt was one of the smoothest National Convention I have ever attended. Congratulations are in order to your National Officers for the professional and orderly manner in which it was conducted.

I am happy to report that your Delegates from Branch 78 were very attentive and participated in many optional workshops prior to and after the regular sessions. Early risers were at workshops as early as 7:00 AM while others preferred to attend the workshops in the afternoons after the regular sessions.

Hopefully President Young has settled the issue of DOIS for all concerned. He stated without reservation that it was only a management tool to estimate mail volume only and **COULD NOT be** used solely as a condition for route adjustments.

Several of our friends in Congress addressed the convention but one of the highlights of the whole week happened in the opening session on

Monday morning.

Congressman Neil Abercrombie (Dem. HI.), gave a rousing speech, imploring the delegates to help defeat the current administration while giving plenty of reasons to do so. (Such as job losses, the record deficit, the rising cost of health care. etc.)

The Congressman also warned that if the Bush administration is returned that the Postal employee would be its first target because of your right to collective bargaining. He asked that we Letter Carriers be loyal to those who have stood for our issues in the past and who promise to believe in and support our issues in the future.

Both political parties, Dem & Rep. have members who have supported us and will continue to do so. We must support those people who hold family and work issues as their first priority just as we should believe in those issues first and foremost. All other issues aside, the welfare and safety of your family should be of greatest priority.

No matter what political preference

y o u
profess,
p l e a s e
p l e a s e
p l e a s e
exercise
your right to vote this November.

If you have moved or haven't registered to vote please register and locate your voting place. Millions of people around the world sacrifice much, just to be allowed to vote. In the last Presidential election less than 50 percent of eligible voters chose to exercise their right and duty. This means that the 49% who supported President Bush represent only about 24% of the eligible voter.

I'm amazed at the number of members in Branch 78 who are not registered. Look at it this way. This election I will at least be able to complain because I participated.

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IN MY OPINION

By Bobby Kirk

I'm not a whiner but I am an old-timer and I believe the Post Office shows absolutely no respect for age on a daily basis. Management shows no hesitation to pivot older carriers on the hottest or coldest days of the year.

Now I firmly believe in eight hours work for eight hours pay but is eight hours work the same for a sixty year old as it is for a twenty year old? I think not!

To all the managers and supervisors who have no idea what it feels like to be fifty plus and have a physically hard job – what goes around comes around!

A MESSAGE FROM YANA

NALC 64th Biennial Convention

The Welcoming Reception Sunday offered a view of the many cultures that make up Hawaii. The event held at the Hawaii Convention Center, that would be our business place that week, had food, music, dance and crafts of the islands. The Convention Center is a work of art in itself meshing the indoors and outdoors as one with live palm trees growing in the Atrium, not to mention a few birds flying around the hallways of the upper levels. It was a chance to see old friends from across the Nation and stretch your legs from the flight. The Hawaiian Brothers and Sisters reached out to make us all feel at home.

The catchword of the convention was “ALOHA”, which means Hello, Good-bye and probably a few more things I didn’t pick up. Everyone that took the stage greeted the body with “ALOHA” and the floor responded with the same. The looming elections were on everyone’s mind and Rep. Neil Abercrombie, HI left nothing to the imagination on the need for new leadership for our country; jobs for Americans; to regain respect from our allies and bring our troops home. I could never convey the fire that Neil emotes nor will I try but he is campaigning to this end. Thank God he is on our side. Rep. Danny Davis, IL, addressed the body, his deep resonant voice, lilted like a Baptist preacher, brought us to our feet. Also encouraging each of us to get out and make sure every eligible voter gets to the polls this November. They both impressed on us the danger to Unions, working families and this

country if we lose. And with that we jumped into the business of the committee reports and resolutions.

One of the delegates questioned President Young why he hadn’t endorsed John Kerry. He asked the Brother if he wanted to make a motion to that regard. The delegates unanimously supported the NALC endorsing the Kerry/Edwards ticket. President Young was waiting for the voice of the membership and there was no doubt what that voice was by the roar of the delegation.

There were representatives from other trade unions, postal unions, direct mailers and international postal unions. Most expressed their dissatisfaction with the present administration and the need for change this November. Many support some form of postal reform to make the Service a more viable entity in the future.

Fewer resolutions were submitted to the convention and some issues raised at practically every other convention were not mentioned – premium pay for certain geographical areas. Unfortunately the request for benefits for domestic partners was defeated again.

President Young spent almost a whole session discussing route adjustments and the direction he’d like to see them take. First, to do away with the old system, this is totally unfair to most carriers and replace it with a more streamlined system based on the carrier’s individual performance. He stressed DOIS is not going away, too much money was spent on it and eventually it will replace the need for su-

pervisors. You read it right, with all the time keeping, TACS and data rolled



into DOIS, there will be no need for supervisors. Swipe your time card and DOIS will take care of the rest. I doubt that I will live to see that day but it would cut out a lot of unnecessary, nonproductive members of the postal workforce. Then maybe we could again deliver service to our postal patrons. Expect more about this plan in future issues of the POSTAL RECORD.

I attended workshops on Publications, OWCP, Branch Officer Training and the Changing World of Postal Services – International Update. All but one session was interesting and informative. OWCP, probably the most complicated of our benefits and extremely important if you are injured, requires intensive and repeated training. This was not a very well presented session.

It was great to see President Emeritus Sombrotto, he said he is enjoying his retirement but always glad for the opportunity to be with Letter Carriers. That was so Vinnie!

I had the opportunity to visit Pearl Harbor, the Arizona Memorial and the Battleship Missouri; a very moving tribute to an event that lead us into WWII and probably more stirring since 911.

It is with great pride I represent Branch 78 at any and all events attended, thank you for affording me that chance.

NALC 64th Biennial Convention



Delegates Leave Columbus



Welcome to Honolulu



Rocco defending our resolutions.



Carl Demko, Rick Baker and Ed Stewart before the Business Session starts.



Jack LeVally with novices Mike Iacoboni and Kathy Baer.



George Gould NALC Lobbyist conducting a workshop.



Rocco with Pres. Emeritus, Vince Sombrotto.



Branch 78 Delegation

BRANCH 78 ANNUAL PICNIC

SEPTEMBER 12, 2004

FRAN BAR PARK

NOON - 4

FOOD & BEVERAGES

CLOWNS & FACE

PAINTING

PONY RIDES

BALLOONS GAMES

FISHING POND



GREED, SCAPEGOATING AND XENOPHOBIA

In the July issue of the Buckeye Branch 78 Bulletin, city carrier Darren Fleck wrote, "Prescription drug programs from Washington are politically assassinated because they discourage the purchase of medicines from foreign countries. Sure They're cheaper, but they're foreign made". In their Analysis, published by the Journal, Health Affairs, researchers compared the average wholesale price of 30 drugs from the United States that are also sold in other countries. They also calculated the cost of the drugs at a 20 percent discount or about the level negotiated by the private insurance companies administering the Medicare drug coverage. Compared with U.S. prices, the drugs were 52 percent lower in Canada, 59 percent lower in France and 47 percent lower in the united Kingdom. Researchers at John Hopkins and Pennsylvania State Universities, calculate that if medicare patients could get the discounts found on key drugs in Canada, France and Great Britain, total spending for drugs would be about 28 billion a year less allowing complete coverage through the insurance program.

I would like to ask brother Fleck, who are the foreign medicine supporters that he refers to in his article?, and if he believes they have anything comparable to the armies of lobbyists roaming the capitol and donating thousands of dollars to the political campaign to re-elect Bush and the Republican controlled congress that propose and enact legislation that rewards the Pharmaceutical companies.

Fleck blames environmentalists for the high price of oil, yet according to the U.S. energy information administration U.S. consumption has climbed 25 percent since 1980. The most

obvious way to prevent dependence on imported oil is conservation and developing sustainable alternatives. Fleck also wrote, our brothers and sisters are dying overseas so that animals can live freely in Alaska. I assume this means that in spite of Bush's assertions about WMD's and links to Al Qaeda the real reason for the invasion of Iraq was oil. At least we agree on something. Instead of scapegoating the environmentalists

and resorting to xenophobia, Fleck should do some research. Information about the prescription drug program was obtained from page A7 of the July 21, 2004 edition of the Columbus Dispatch, I would also recommend the June Issue of National Geographics lead article "The End of Cheap Oil".

*Letter Carrier
Jeffery P. Little*

LOOKING BACK ON FORTY

By An Old Timer

Having recently received a plaque for forty years of service my memory kicked in – Here are some of the things I remember...

- the old style police hats
- the horse on our sleeve
- three wheeled scooters
- taking the city bus to our routes
- leather satchels
- the blizzard of '78
- all 5 of the dogs that bit me
- the collection sheds at shopping centers and setting off the alarms
- delivering in wind chill of -51 degrees on Christmas Eve
- all the great Beechwold Christmas parties
- running 5-10 miles every day before work
- when Ed Stewart and Doug Gulley's hair was bigger than their waistlines
- the Mailman Special at Donato's on N. High St.
- the 294 (actual count) pretty girls on my route in the Olentangy Commons
- B & E hog Haulers
- the Post Office Softball League
- Mike Devery and myself in the Great Gahanna Canoe Race (and the practice run)
- Flint State Park
- Me, Kenny Bethea and the Alaskan Rat
- Drinking beer with all my Postal buddies in a hundred different bars and parking lots through the years

*Bobby Kirk
The Old Timer*



Columbus Supremes



Columbus Supremes Dance Routine



Carrier Team 2



SOCIAL REC. CHAMPIONSHIP BASKETBALL GAME

Sunday August 8, 2004 the winners of the Social Rec Charity Basketball Games met to see who would come out on top. The Carrier 2 team faced the Mailhandlers. The event opened with a stirring rendition of the National Anthem by Daniya Wilson, one of the Columbus Supremes. The Carriers dominated the first quarter

holding a six to seven point lead. The Handlers started to warm up and cut the lead in half by the half. The youngsters came out and shot free throws, the successful were rewarded with McDonalds gift certificates. The Columbus Supremes sang and then performed a dance routine. What a show. Then it was back to the game and

fellas were serious. The Handlers caught up to the Carriers and they exchanged the lead through the next half with the Handlers topping the Carriers by two points. The Carrier 2 team players were Fred Wilson, Kendall Sims, Brian White, Rich Cunningham, Jason Murphy, Todd Davis and Omar Coleman.

Spectators



Mailhandler Team



A MESSAGE FROM TREVOR PAYNE.....



It's been quite awhile since I wrote a column for our Branch Bulletin. To start off, I'd like to thank all of the members for giving me the opportunity to represent Branch 78 at the 64th Biennial National Convention in Honolulu. Because of this, I have come back with enough information for a few columns from the seminars I attended. I'll write these over the next few months so as not to bombard everyone at once. To start off this series of columns, I'm going to begin with Postal Reform.

Postal Reform is a big topic around the country, not only here in Columbus and the surrounding areas, but in Washington D.C. There are many reasons for this. Some are more prevalent than others. A couple of reasons for Postal Reform is the fact the volumes are declining and the Postal Service can't operate the same way as it has since 1970. I'm sure that shrinking volumes are debatable on our routes and in our stations. As the use of electronic means of communicating continues to accelerate, the volume of mail will continue to decline. In turn, the Postal Service will need to increase rates, volumes will decline because of this and before you know it...the Death Spiral. To give you an idea on the scope of this, in 2003, the Postal Service lost 13 billion pieces of mail to electronic communications which resulted in a

loss of \$4.3 billion. This equates to 20 days of work for the Postal employee.

As the volume of mail continues to decrease, our jobs are more at stake than ever. Since 1997, the Postal Service has eliminated 100,000 jobs; and of those, 18,000 were letter carriers. That's about 214 carrier jobs lost EACH MONTH! The Postal Service has fewer employees now that it had in 1970. Automation in my opinion is a big key in this. I'm waiting for the day when after we clock in we head to the street. If you don't think this will happen, just wait and see. I hope that I'm wrong. I can't imagine spending ten hours outside in January delivering mail with only my thirty minute lunch and two ten minute breaks.

There are costs that the Postal Service must now absorb/fund since 9/11. One of these is the use of biohazard detection equipment. This amounts to \$770 million which has to come from somewhere. This was a cost which was never planned for. All of this on top of the fact that as the Postal Service adds 2 million addresses each year, the Postal Service loses money on each address. Universal Service is expensive with us delivering six days a week to 140 million addresses. So, how do you save money here? HCR's (Highway Contract Routes). Be sure to read Randy Hartman's articles on these. One thing we have at our disposal is the carrier. We are the key to maximize the first and last mile in the process of getting mail from point A to point B.

There are a couple of bills on Capital Hill that deal with Postal Reform. There is a Senate version

and a House version. The Senate version is S 2468 while the House is HR 4341. S 2468 (known also as the Collins-Carper bill) is sponsored by Sen. Susan Collins, Sen. Tom Carper, and Sen. Joe Lieberman. The bill was passed by the Senate Government Affairs Committee unanimously 17-0. HR 4341 (also known as the Davis-Waxman bill) is sponsored by Rep. Tom Davis, Rep. Henry Waxman, Rep. Danny Davis and Rep. John McHugh. The House Government Reform Committee passes this also unanimously 40-0.

These two bills have a few things in common however.

Structural Issues.

1. That the Postal Service be a for-profit service
2. Reduce the monopoly
3. Define Postal Service (i.e. prohibit non-postal services)

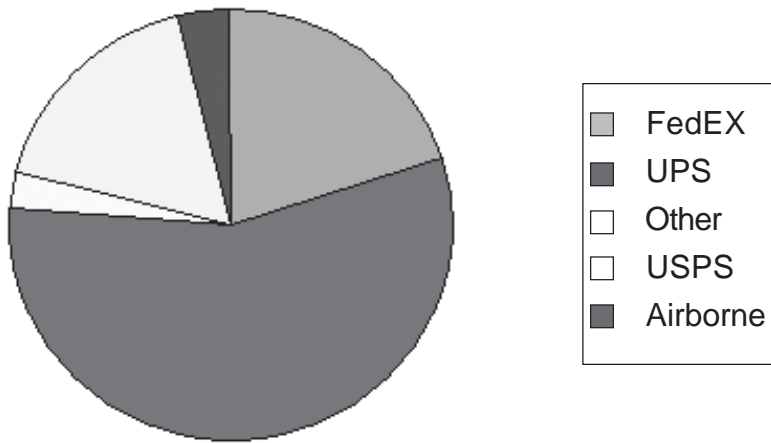
Labor Issues

1. Reduce fact finding with mediation
2. Repeal CSRS reform (i.e. transfer \$27 billion in military retirement to the Treasury)
3. Require funding of retiree benefits (\$25 billion - \$50 billion)

As many of you may remember the Bush Commission and their suggestions. Well, the Committee on Postal Reform rejected the anti-labor provisions such as giving the Postal Rate Commission (PRC) jurisdiction over collective bargaining. The commission also proposed the negotiation of health

Continued on page 11

US Package Market - 2003



benefits, a downsizing commission, and that the PRC have a role in defining universal service.

UPS – 56%
FedEx – 20%
USPS – 17%
Airborne – 4%
Other – 3%

One thing that I have never been able to understand is how the Postal Service lost so much of its business for packages. We should be at the top of this list. As can be seen, the Postal Service has its work cut out for them in gaining more of this very profitable sector. The deal with Ebay was a great start in the right direction. I feel that the Postal Service needs to continue its efforts in this arena. The new Carrier Pickup program was way over due.

The Christmas season could make or break this program.

Postal Reform will have an impact on Collective bargaining issues, such as:

1. Price indexing system
2. Productivity and wages
3. Strategic bargaining and revenue generation
4. Mediation versus fact finding

Postal Unions, such as:

1. NALC and NRLCA
 - a. Pricing flexibility to optimize the last mile
 - b. Route evaluations (i.e. less letters, more small parcels)
2. APWU and NPMHU
 - a. Limitations on work sharing

Postal Reform will affect both the mailers and the public.

The issues that affect the mailers are:

1. Will they continue investing in the Postal Service?
2. Will the Postal Service continue to be affordable?
3. Will mail retain its value?

The issues affecting the public:

1. Will the USPS be able to maintain universal service?
2. Will the public accept more pricing variability?
3. Will local Post Offices maintain a competitive environment?
4. Will the USPS be granted enough commercial freedom?

All of these questions and more will be debated in Washington D.C. Let's hope that the elected officials are able to answer these questions with common sense and make the Postal Service the powerhouse it should be!

This was just an overview of what was discussed in the seminar. I hope that I have educated and given every member something to think about. Our jobs, our futures, and the future of the Postal Service are at stake. As carriers we can do a few things like learn about the issues, get training and give to COLCPE.

Trevor Payne
Delegate/Webmaster/Trustee

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

FROM THE NORTH.....

"The Transformation Plan unveiled by Postmaster General Jack Potter two years ago is very much alive and, thanks to the efforts of all postal employees, has been successful on many fronts. Remember one thing. The Transformation Plan is keeping us focused on the right things. But it's every one of you who is delivering results." Alexander Lazaroff, Eastern Area Vice President, May, 2004.

An article from the same May 2004 Eastern Area Update was titled "City Letter Carriers Popular Symbols of Universal Service."

Another article from the same publication was titled "Columbus Carriers Earn National BPI Honor." It credited city letter carriers with achieving a BPI goal that resulted in \$5 billion in savings by improving our productivity.

Every district in the country recently held auditions for city letter carriers to represent the USPS in television and promotional print advertising. The theme of which is "**Working For You.**" Chief Operating Officer Pat Donohue, in his introduction of the program, explained that "Our carriers are well liked by our customers, so it makes perfect sense to feature real carriers in our ads."

Customer Connect is a national program that takes advantage of the relationships that letter carriers have with customers. As of May 2004 the program has resulted in over \$26,000,000 in new sales.

In a USPS Newsbreak dated June 21, 2004, Postmaster General Jack Potter stated in response to Fortune naming the USPS the 6th best company in the country for minorities, "This is a great honor and I am extremely proud of every employee of the Postal Service. Your dedication to diversity

has helped us build an organization that is stronger because of it"

So What's my point? The USPS experienced tough times since 9/11. Letter carriers have responded by working harder to make the USPS healthy and thus protecting our jobs. We are delivering millions of new addresses with thousands less carriers.

Now for the part I don't understand. Why does the USPS publicly praise letter carriers then quietly give our jobs to the lowest bidding high-way contract operators?

Highway Contract Routes (HCR's) can potentially hurt letter carrier's livelihoods and the USPS. Why is management doing this? Greed? The postal service is not supposed to make a profit. It is supposed to break even over time. Because of the universal service mandate it cannot be run like any other business. Managers should not be paid bonuses, wages plus benefits for everybody. Any other pay system pits management against craft. The future success of all jobs depends on mutual trust. That trust has to translate into management knowing that every employee is doing a fair day's work as defined by that individual's ability. Employees trust will translate into the belief that management will not adopt practices or policies that could potentially be detrimental to our livelihoods. Postal managers should believe in the sermons they preach publicly because they are true. We are the best postal service in the world because employees have living wage jobs that we want to keep. Give that away and we are all in trouble.

Randy Hartman

SAFETY FIRST



The USPS has backed the Letter Carrier craft according to an article in THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH on 7/14/04 in the Metro section. Lynn Nickell of the USPS stated that the Carrier followed the proper steps when he/she was confronted with a dog problem.

In Franklin County the telephone number for Animal Control is 462-3400. If you are having a problem with a dog or dogs running loose on your route **DO NOT** hesitate to give them a call. Also when you get back to your station, make up a **DOG WARNING CARD** and let your supervisor know about the problem. Check with your Safety Captain or manager in your office for the Animal Control phone number in your area.

Tony Snyder
Br 78 Safety Rep



2004 ART ARMSTRONG OPEN

BENEFITING MDA

September 26, 2004 • St Albans Golf Course
Shotgun Start • Teeing Off 9 AM

\$60.00 per person for ACTIVE CARRIERS
\$40.00 per person for RETIRED LETTER CARRIER
FEE INCLUDES STEAK DINNER

GET YOUR FOURSOME SIGNED UP EARLY

1. _____ ACT. _____ RET. _____

2. _____ ACT. _____ RET. _____

3. _____ ACT. _____ RET. _____

4. _____ ACT. _____ RET. _____

PHONE CONTACT NUMBER _____ AMT. ENCLOSED _____

WAL-MART FUTURE

Wal-Mart is the largest corporation in the world. It has sales of 256 billion dollars a year. In the next few years its value will exceed the gross national product of Russia. It is the largest single buyer of goods in the world other than the United States government. Procter and Gamble is a very large company in itself based in Ohio and Wal-Mart buys thirty percent of everything that they make, thus pretty much controlling them. Every year 200 new Wal-Mart stores open. Five of the founding Walton family members are in the top ten richest people in the world. And if you remember when Sam Walton died they all sued each other over the estate. That will give you a clue about what is to come in the rest of this article.

Yes, Wal-Mart is a true American success story. But at who's expense? And on whose backs? And from whose sweat and blood? The answer to that is both easy and obvious and the Walton family doesn't care who knows it. It's the EMPLOYEES! They earn only seven to eight dollars an hour. Most are part time working up to thirty-two hours a week but no more so they won't get any benefits. The ones that do must wait two years to qualify for a health

benefit plan. And what a great plan it is. First the employee must pay forty-two percent of the outrageous premiums. Then after the deductible is met the plan kicks in. Oh, I left out one bit of information. The deductible for this overpriced plan is \$6500. A year. Yes, six thousand five hundred dollars each year.

When I said most employees only work up to thirty two hours a week I was somewhat misleading. Many work much more than thirty-two hours a week but the rest is off the clock. If they don't do it, then they lose that great seven dollar an hour job. Wal-Mart has more than 200 unfair labor practice and civil rights lawsuits filed against them every year. And they don't care. When they lose they just pay up and it's back to business as usual. They have a forty-five percent employee turnover rate. The Postal Service turnover rate is one to two percent. Wal-Mart has been found to have groups of undocumented illegal alien workers, living in dormitory-like buildings, every night they are driven to Wal-Mart stores locked inside and made to work ten to twelve hours cleaning the store for substandard wages. And I do mean every night, seven days a year, three

hundred sixty-five days a year. No day off. No Vacation. They don't care.

By now you're thinking the employees should unionize themselves for protection and rights. Sometimes they do. And when they do the anti-union death squad from Bentonville, Arkansas, swoops into town and intimidates, terrorizes and if need be fires all those who dare or try to organize. One small group of meat cutters in a small Texas town once succeeded. And the very day the contract was to go into effect Wal-Mart executives showed up and closed down the meat cutting department in that store and fired all the meat cutters. Then to make the point crystal clear, they closed down the meat cutting department in every other store that had one. And don't forget that when Wal-Mart moves into a town all the other stores like it, sometimes family owned, disappear and go out of business. Wal-Mart makes their money but no one in or around them does and they don't care!

Is this the kind of future you want? Not me. ***Please shop somewhere else whenever you can! Thank You!***

***Eddie Stewart
Sgt-at-Arms***



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First Wednesday of each month

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