

# Buckeye Branch 78 Bulletin

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APRIL 2004



VOL. 25, NO. 4



## PRESIDENT'S PAGE



Members from Branch 78 will once again represent us at the Congressional breakfast in Washington DC on April 28 & 29. Many issues including Postal reform will be discussed before our elected officials. Postal employees and our families make up a strong voting force. Our representatives need to and will listen to our concerns. This process is the principle on which this great country was founded - democracy.

If you have not signed up for the NALC e-Activist Network I encourage you to do so. Postal reform is gaining speed and this is one way to stay informed. Your voice is needed to help sway the powers to be. If you think you

cannot make a difference you are wrong. Collectively we will make a difference. Sign up now by going to the NALC website, NALC.org.

The National Food Drive will be conducted on May 8, 2004. Once again I want to extend my appreciation for the efforts put forth to make this drive so successful. This is the nation's largest one-day food drive and it is so successful because of the efforts by Letter Carriers and the US Postal Service.

Letter Carriers have a long history of community service. You are the eyes and ears of the



community and you see the needs of the many. Your efforts do make a difference.

Keep the members of our military in your thoughts and prayers. In this global war on terrorism I hate to see another American soldier lose his or her

life. Many of our fellow Letter Carriers are members of the reserves and some are being called up to serve our country. I wish them a safe journey and swift return home.

***Remember – keep fighting the good fight!***

***Rocco Evangelista***



IT'S THE  
DEMOCRATIC  
THING TO  
DO:  
REGISTER  
AND VOTE

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# A MESSAGE FROM VICE PRESIDENT BOB SOLT

Again this year Branch 78 will be sending a delegation to Washington D.C. We will depart from the Union Hall at approximately 5:30 AM, April 28th and return late in the evening on April 29<sup>th</sup>. The Branch will provide transportation to Washington and a room while we are in Washington D.C. To qualify you must attend the WIN Workshop. The Workshop will be conducted April 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the Union Hall. On the first day we will have an opportunity to meet with our National Officers. The next day we attend the Congressional Breakfast, which will have our National Officers and some of Ohio's Congressional and Senatorial representatives. This a trip that all Letter Carriers should attend at least one time during their careers. This also affords us an opportunity to meet with Letter Carriers from all areas of Ohio. This is also an excellent opportunity to tour the NALC national headquarters.

While we may not persuade all of

our elected officials to vote favorably for NALC/ USPS issues it will at least let them know we are informed, voting Unionists. With 2004 being an election year, it is more important than ever that we contribute to COLCPE. The money received from COLCPE donations is distributed to candidates that support the views of the NALC. No Union dues are used for COLCPE donations. The NALC needs the help and assistance of all active and retired Letter Carriers to assist in the continuing battle to protect Letter Carrier wages, working conditions and job security and the USPS. Without the existence of the USPS there will be no need for collective bargaining, six-day delivery or a concern regarding working conditions. We can also contribute to COLCPE using PostalEASE.

Those of you without a computer can sign up to be a NALC Activist by filling out the form NALC Can Count On Me, which can be found in a number of places. If you have

trouble finding one of these forms contact me and I will be happy to send you one. We need each and every one of you, even the non-member, to get involved with the NALC in an effort to preserve the USPS while securing meaningful postal reform legislation. As Unionists we must look to the future or we will be lost in the past.



**Fraternally,**

**Bob**

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It is one of the most important elections.  
We as a union need to make sure our friends and family are registered to vote. Then make sure they all get out and vote.  
We need to vote for America and to keep American families working.

## NBA REPORT

With the results of the Super Tuesday Primaries in, it is clear that Massachusetts Senator John F. Kerry will be the Democratic nominee for President.

It has been my opinion that Senator Kerry was the most electable of the Democratic candidates, so I am pleased that he will be the candidate.

Under the current President, the deficit has increased immensely, the economy has deteriorated, the loss of jobs to foreign countries has spiraled upward, young Americans are being wounded and killed in Iraq while billions are being spent to

keep our troops there for reasoning that was faulty at best and the most devastating attack on American soil has gone unanswered by this Administration.

In short, there is very little positive that has come from this President's tenure and it is time to change leadership in America.

I believe that Senator Kerry has the wisdom and ability to be a fine President but, even if I didn't, I would support him on the record of negative leadership that has been provided by the current President.

Brothers and Sisters, I suggest to you that there has never been a

more important election for the middle class and working people in this country and I urge you to assist the NALC by signing as a Legislative Activist, having COLCPE dues deducted from your pay along with being a local supporter of the need to change the leadership of this country.

If you are not registered to vote, do so. If a friend or family member is not, encourage them to do so.

On November 2, 2004, exercise your right as a citizen of this great country and cast your vote.

*Bill Cooke*

# LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD! REGISTER & VOTE!

In February 2004 the NALC and the USPS began the Intervention Part of the Dispute Resolution Process using five Districts as pilot sites.

Among those five sites is the Cincinnati District and so my Regional Administrative Assistants Doug Gulley, John Walsh and myself attended training in January along with Eastern Area managers who will participate in the Intervention process.

We agreed to make the Cincinnati Post Office our first site and as I write this, we are a week away from our initial meeting.

The labor relations climate has not been good in Cincinnati for a great many years so it will be a good test of the process.

Startup and climate surveys have been passed out to the employees and it is hoped that they will all be returned so that the parties will know what the problem areas are before undertaking this task.

There are indicators that, when present, may show the need for an Intervention and several of them were present when assessing the Cincinnati Post Office.

President Young and Postmaster General Potter have agreed that we

need to have a better labor relations climate on the work room floor and that in those offices where the work floor is a battleground, the Intervention process should be employed.

I am looking forward to the challenge that the Cincinnati Post Office provides because if the process can work there, and I believe it can, it will go a long way toward legitimizing the new Intervention Process.

*Bill Cooke*

## MESSAGE FROM YANA

There are signs of spring all around us. Just brush away the snow and you'll find evidence that it's truly just around the corner. We have almost conquered another winter and hopefully with fewer injuries. We can't lose any more able bodies, since we have no second string as it is.

I trust that you have all been assaulted with the latest big time saver, taking sequenced mail directly to the street. We were told everyone will be taking all address sequenced mail directly to the street; specifically Advo cards would no longer be cased. Now the last I heard, the arbitrator's decision limits non-mounted routes to three bundles. Cased mail, DPS and Advo flats, I think that's three. When this was put to our leader, she confirmed that she was aware of that and they would make sure there were only certain numbers of house to house on certain days. Now the poor folks on mounted routes are going to have to work some magic because there is a finite amount of shelf space in those wonderful vehicles we drive. The most modern of which have no room for a tub between the tray and seat plus you can't get from the front to the back without going through the back door. This is going to be a real time saver, yes siree bob!

The Union still feels if there is an address it should be cased but we are not in charge of this ship. We were initially told your union set this up. I don't know what orifice they snatched that out of but it ain't so, they dreamed this up all by themselves.

There is still the nasty issue of pivoting, make sure you complete

1571's when instructed to cut and pivot. Do 96's when you're over 8. If you complain about having to pivot an hour everyday and you say you can't do it but you miraculously make it back in 8, don't complain! It's you're lunch and breaks that you're giving back. If you're a sponge it is no one's fault but your own. Nuff said!

I don't understand why edit books, nixies, address changes, etc are no longer considered carrier duties. If they can't be completed in your 8 and they give you time to do it they make you ring over to something else, what job is 743? Back in the day those items were considered carrier duties why don't they want us to show them as such? Maybe because the day is filling up with other little tasks that are pushing us over 8 and nobody wants to admit it.

A committee of Union Editors

has been formed to try to get out information to all of our publications on the upcoming elections to

motivate and educate as many working people as possible, to exercise their right to vote. We have an uphill battle before us. There is another organization called Partnership of Ohio Women to encourage union women to get involved in the presidential election process. The Columbus event will be a potluck dinner on April 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 at the Carpenters Union Hall, 1545 Alum Creek Drive. They're not asking for RSVPs, just for lots of women to come and bring a covered dish.



If you have something you would like to share with us. Please send us your article before the 1st Wed. of each month.





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# THE BUSH ECONOMY: CAN PIGS FLY?

The Bush economic cheerleading squad is in motion — claiming that their tax breaks created jobs last month and the remarkable 7.2% economic growth reported last quarter.

**Unfortunately, the real story is revealed in these numbers:**

Number of new jobs promised, June through October .....	1,224,000
Number of new jobs produced, June through October .....	229,000
Shortfall below projection .....	995,000

Number of jobs lost to date since Bush took office .....	2.43 million
Last president to lose jobs during entire first term .....	Herbert Hoover

Job creation, Bill Clinton, 8 years .....	22.4 million
Bush admin. own estimate of jobs creation after 4 years .....	-430,000

US Manufacturing jobs lost 1979-2000 .....	2.4 million
US Manufacturing jobs lost since Bush took office .....	2.56 million

Average annual tax cut Bush promised to Americans .....	\$1,000
Average tax cut actually received by 65 million Americans .....	\$19
Average tax cut actually received by top 1% .....	\$28,414

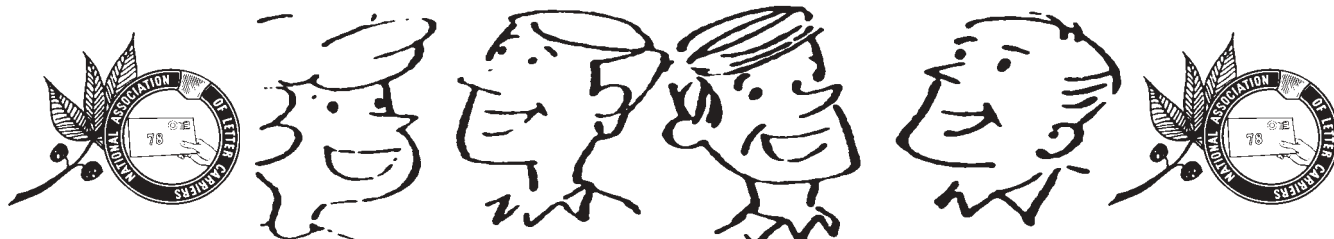
**From the Campaign to Take Back America**

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

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SPEND AN EVENING WITH FRIENDS



ATTEND YOUR UNION MEETINGS!

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# FROM THE NORTH

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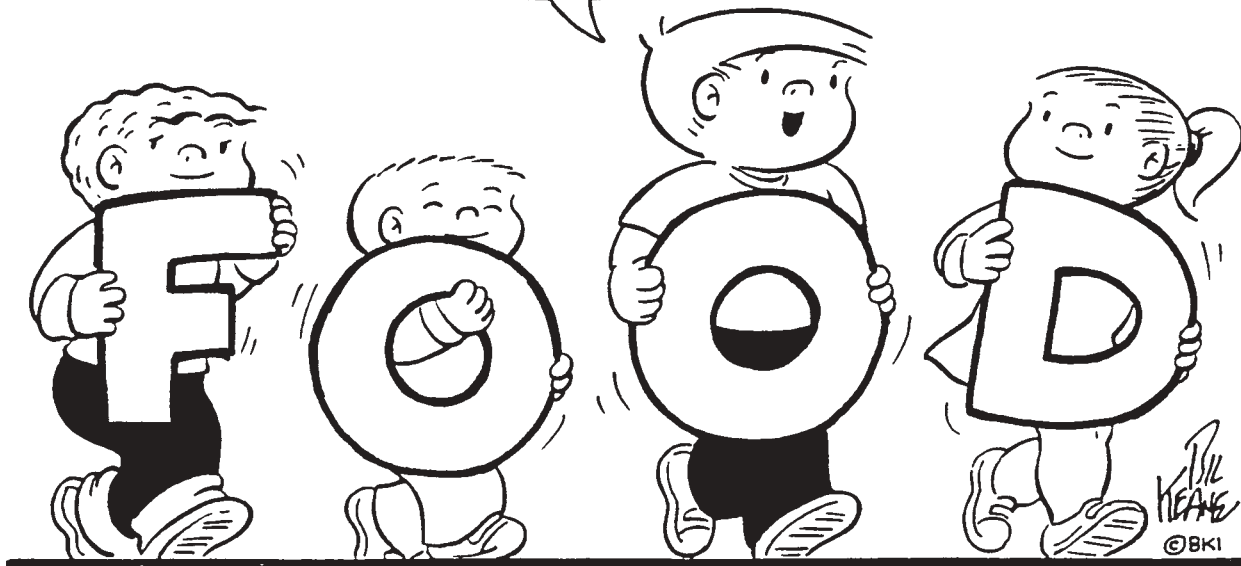
The creation of a District Safety Team that includes both management and craft employees is a positive statement of the USPS's commitment to our well being. The NALC representatives, Tony Snyder and Richard Shroats, are good choices for us. However, until the entire organization commits to actual action instead of lip service I doubt the seriousness of the effort. Practices that affect immediate safety and future medical concerns need to be evaluated at the level where actual work is being done; in the offices and on the street. For instance, on Saturday, January 31st, the actual temperature in the area was near 0 degrees. Carriers who walk routes were subjected to this for more than 6 hours on some routes. The safety concerned supervisor would have allowed these walking carriers the option of casing their DPS letters in order to shorten their street time. Our supervisor in Delaware called someone (?), I don't know who, to get permission to do this. He was told "No" I'm sure the same thing happened in other offices. **The following is my short list of practices that need to be addressed before I am convinced that safety is more than just something to talk about.**

1. The option for walking carriers to case DPS mail at any time. Off sidewalk walking, by itself, requires concentration to be safe. Giving that walker 3 to 4 bundles to concentrate on is ridiculous. The ergonomics involved in squeezing 2 bundles of mail into one hand for hours is definitely a cause of carpal tunnel syndrome. I know this is not a physically easy job, however, allow us the option of working in the manner that is easiest for us.
2. Mental well being. Some carriers work ethic is questioned every day because of what a computer program says. We are trusted with thousands of dollars of checks and personal papers deity. Why can't management trust us when we say that is the best we can do on this day? Forced overtime and losing our scheduled day off because of management's inability to properly staff an office is another example that affects mental well being. Happy people are safe, productive people.
3. For the mounted carriers, 5-6 hours in an LLV in 90-degree heat with humidity is inhumane. In my truck, I have had 110-degree readings in the summer. I know one carrier who suffers from nosebleeds because of this several times throughout summer. I am not even asking for air conditioning. I am asking that the catalytic converter that turns the floorboards into a griddle be shielded to deflect heat away from the cab. This is all I asked for a couple of years ago when I was asked, "What do you think they do in Arizona?" I don't know, just fix it. It is a safety concern. Article 41, Section 3 states management will continue to monitor this. Enough monitoring! Do something about it?
4. I don't know about other offices, however, Delaware has no sprinkler system for fire. What's more important, safe workers or dry mail? There is certainly no danger of hot lights mistakenly turning them on because the lights in Delaware are so weak you can hardly see to read addresses.

*I remain optimistic and I trust in Tony.*

*Randy Hartman*

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.

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

YOUR LETTER CARRIER



April 8 – May 2, 2004

COESRA

Free  
Parking!

Save  
\$5!

## Join in the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration!

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual I-X Indoor Amusement Park takes place April 8 through May 2, 2004. This will be a very **special edition**, marking the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary with rides, games, entertainment and special appearances chosen specifically for the enjoyment of our guests. **FREE PARKING**, a savings of \$7, is being offered this year to thank you for supporting our event over the years!

We are offering a **\$5 discount** per ticket to all Columbus-area **COESRA** members. For only \$13 per person a family can spend the whole day at the I-X Indoor Amusement Park for one admission price! It's the best springtime bargain in all of Ohio. Because here at the I-X Indoor Amusement Park we believe that *family fun shouldn't break the bank!*

Visit our Website at: [www.ixamusementpark.com](http://www.ixamusementpark.com)



April 8 – May 2, 2004

[www.ixamusementpark.com](http://www.ixamusementpark.com)

1-800-897-3942

## 2004 COESRA Members Coupon

Join in the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration!

April 8 – May 2, 2004

**SAVE \$5**

Off the \$18 General Admission Price. Limit of 8 tickets per coupon.  
Not valid with any other coupon or discount. Present at the I-X Center  
Box Office to receive \$5 discount.  
Children 2 and under are free. Seniors 60+ are \$9

This coupon good any day of the event.

Want to make a mini-vacation out of your visit to Cleveland? Log onto [www.travelcleveland.com](http://www.travelcleveland.com) for more information on what to do and see while you are here.



**K** NOW  
THE SIGNS?



**SAFETY DOES NOT STOP WHEN YOU LEAVE WORK. EVERYONE NEEDS TO HAVE A PLAN AS TO WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION AT HOME. PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO DISCUSS THESE PLANS WITH YOUR LOVED ONES. THE TIME YOU SPEND NOW COULD SAVE A LIFE.**

**TONY SNYDER  
BR 78 SAFETY REP.**



## **MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES**

*Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of accidental death In the U.S. About one In every five Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some point in his or her life.*

- In the U.S., alcohol was involved in 39% of all fatal crashes in 1997.
- Even at low doses, alcohol reduces reaction time and slows the decision-making process, impairing driving skills.
- Driving impairment begins at a blood alcohol level of .05% or even lower.
- Serious driving impairment occurs at .10%.
- ***Over the first 20 years of record keeping by the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration on fatal motor vehicle crashes:***
  - 28% of drivers killed had blood alcohol levels less than .10%
  - 40% had alcohol levels of .10% -.19%
  - 30% had alcohol levels of .20% - .29%
- Alcohol involvement in crashes peaks at night and is higher on weekends.

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# **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**



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



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## BRANCH #78 OFFICERS

