

# Buckeye Branch 78 Bulletin

## Columbus and Central Ohio



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JUNE 2004



VOL. 25, NO.6



## PRESIDENT'S PAGE



### WASHINGTON TRIP

The representatives for Branch 78 visited Washington, DC April 28 & 29. Our agenda was once again to

meet with our local representatives and to let them know we need their support on all the issues that will effect Letter Carriers, Postal reform being the biggest item on the table right now.

For those of you that think this is a waste of time, I wholeheartedly disagree with you. The NALC has lobbied for the Letter Carrier agenda from the start of the NALC. Our National fights a constant uphill battle everyday against all issues that



could lead to a reduction in retirement benefits, collective bargaining and negative Postal reform. They need our support by working with our representatives here in our local area.

The Ohio State Association sponsored our legislative briefing along with the Congressional

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# A MESSAGE FROM VICE PRESIDENT BOB SOLT

Congratulations are once again in order for not only the Letter Carriers but for everyone that participated with the 2004 NALC Food Drive. We have received notification from the Mid-Ohio Food Bank that the total weight of food collected was 117,078 pounds of food placed on 186 pallets. We received the notice of the total poundage of food collected from Fred Rutter, Marketing Manager for the Mid-Ohio Food Bank. Mr. Rutter also supplied the 2003 totals, which were 106,350 pounds of food collected on 170 pallets. We collected 10,728 pounds more food this year than we did last year. This is the true meaning of progressive Unionism. Many city and associate offices reported collecting more food this year than last.

I had the pleasure to work on the docks at City Gate sorting food when it arrived from the various stations and preparing it for shipment to the Food Bank destination. Branch 78 NALC Food Drive Coordinators this year were Dan Churry and Brenda Fuller. Branch President Rocco Evangelista, Chuck Snyder and fellow Branch Officer Bill Pagano also joined us on the docks at City Gate. The Mail Handlers did an outstanding job again this year of unloading the incoming trucks and loading the out going trucks. The MVS Drivers also did an outstanding job transporting food from the stations and City Gate. When the last outbound semi was dispatched and we left City Gate at 9:00 PM we all had a sense of accomplishment knowing that in some small way we helped the less fortunate in our community.

If not for the hard work of the NALC, all Letter Carriers and their families could find themselves in the midst of the economically underprivileged working class.

If any Letter Carriers are being threatened with discipline for not meeting the so-called standards that have been determined by DOIS contact us at the Union Hall immediately. Branch 78 President Rocco Evangelista and I recently met with the Postmaster regarding DOIS generated expected office times. A pre-arbitration decision (M-01444) states in part that DOIS will not constitute the sole basis for discipline. No Carrier shall be disciplined for failure to meet standards, except in cases of unsatisfactory effort which must be based on documented, unacceptable conduct that led to the Carrier's failure to meet office standards. DOIS is only as accurate as the information that is put into it. The Letter Carrier is to determine if he or she will need overtime or has undertime. If you feel you are unable to complete your assignment in the allotted time, a 3996 is to be completed. This pre-arbitration resolution has been discussed at the Stewards meetings and copies given to the Stewards in attendance.

On April 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> our Branch sent a delegation to Washington, D.C. to meet with our Congressional representatives. The bus ride over and back is not the most desired mode of transportation but those that made the trip felt it was worthwhile. Our National Business Agent Bill Cooke met us

when we arrived at the hotel. We had the opportunity to meet with our national officers and to tour the



NALC headquarters. President Bill Young conducted the meetings, which were followed by a question and answer period. Did the delegations solidify or alter the Congressional and Senate Members opinions on issues that are favorable to Letter Carriers? This can only be determined by their future voting records. Our elected representatives are impressed when their constituents travel from Ohio to meet with them and that we are aware of their voting records regarding issues that are crucial to us as voting, Unionist Letter carriers.

We must all exercise our right to vote for candidates from either political party that support the issues that are important to the NALC. We have Voter Registration Forms here at the Union hall for anyone that needs to register. Voting is the most powerful tool we have to protect our constitutional rights as well as our hard fought for and Union won rights and benefits. A silent voice from the voting constituency may convey to our elected legislative officials an apathetic message of appropriateness and acceptance of their decision making policies.

*Fraternally,*

**Bob Solt**



# PRESIDENT'S PAGE



Continued from page 1

Breakfast. Congressman Tiberi was represented by an aide who attended the briefing. She had the chance to hear our National President talk passionately about Postal Reform. When she left, she knew our thoughts and where our hearts are. We have only one thing in mind-to protect the future of the Postal Service and to preserve the rights of Letter Carriers. Jack LeValley and I had scheduled an appointment with Deborah Pryce. She was unable to attend but was represented by Legislative Assistant Kristen Maupin. Kristen listened very intently to our concerns and seemed to know the issues which we are concerned about. Will these meetings do any good? I don't know, but I do

know this; the more unity we show, the more impact we have. Remember we are voters and we should let our representative know it. It will not be said that Branch 78 has not made an effort to educate our local elected officials on what our needs and concerns are. Whether they are a Democrat or Republican means nothing to me-whoever can fill my need as a Letter Carrier and as a citizen will get my vote.

I have been asked several times lately who the NALC will endorse for the Presidency of the United States. It came up in Washington and President Young addressed it this way. President Young says the NALC will not openly endorse any candidate until after the membership votes on it. I

liked his answer-let the membership decide. ***Remember-keep fighting the good fight!***

## MILLION MILE CLUB

I had the privilege of attending a ceremony at the Main Office Carrier Unit for the Million Mile Club. From my understanding there are more Million Mile Carriers at this carrier unit than any other station in the United States, Twenty One in all. This sets the standard for all Letter Carriers to follow. I congratulate all the Carriers for a job well done and for making the rest of us proud.

## POSTAL UNIONS TARGETED

The Bush administration in December signaled its plan to push for legislation in Congress that would overhaul the U.S. Postal Service and give broad authority to a politically appointed regulatory board that could sidestep collective bargaining by setting wages and benefits, reduce services and make mailing letters costlier for customers in rural and inner cities.

President George W. Bush is echoing the recommendations of a commission handpicked by the administration that did not include postal union representatives.

"This recommendation would give such a board unprecedented authority, with no accountability," says Postal Workers President William Burrus. "It is part of the administration's broad agenda to deprive federal workers of their collective bargaining rights."

The commission's recommendations contradict its own Peter D. Hart Associates survey conducted in 2003. The survey found 75 percent of those surveyed believe current postal service required "only minor changes" or works "extremely well as is."

Congress is expected to introduce legislation this year that could affect more than 330,000 APWU members, approximately 230,000 Letter Carriers members and more than 50,000 members of the Laborers-affiliated National Postal Mail Handlers Union. NALC leaders are working with Congress to draft legislation that does not violate the bargaining process.

## SOLIDARITY

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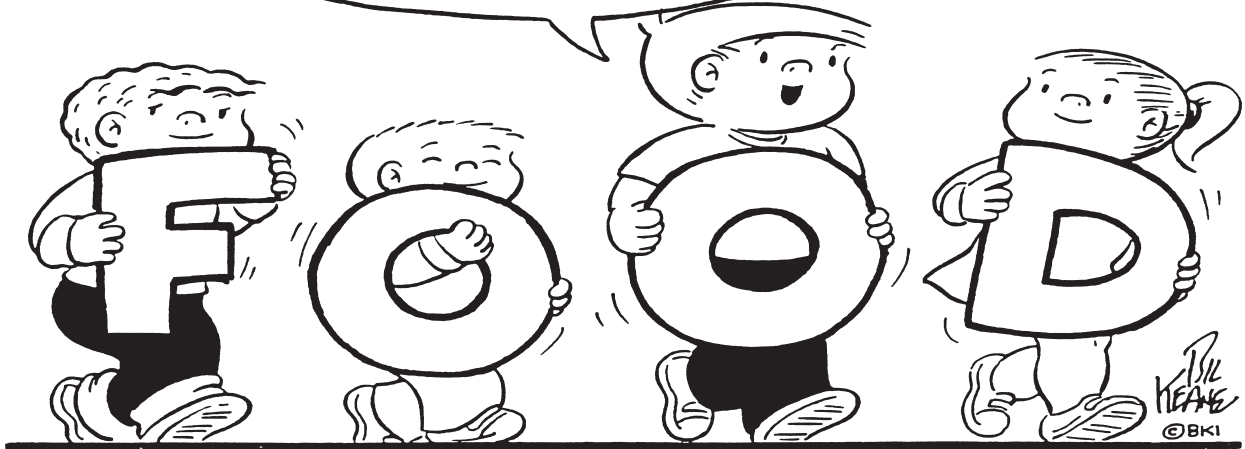
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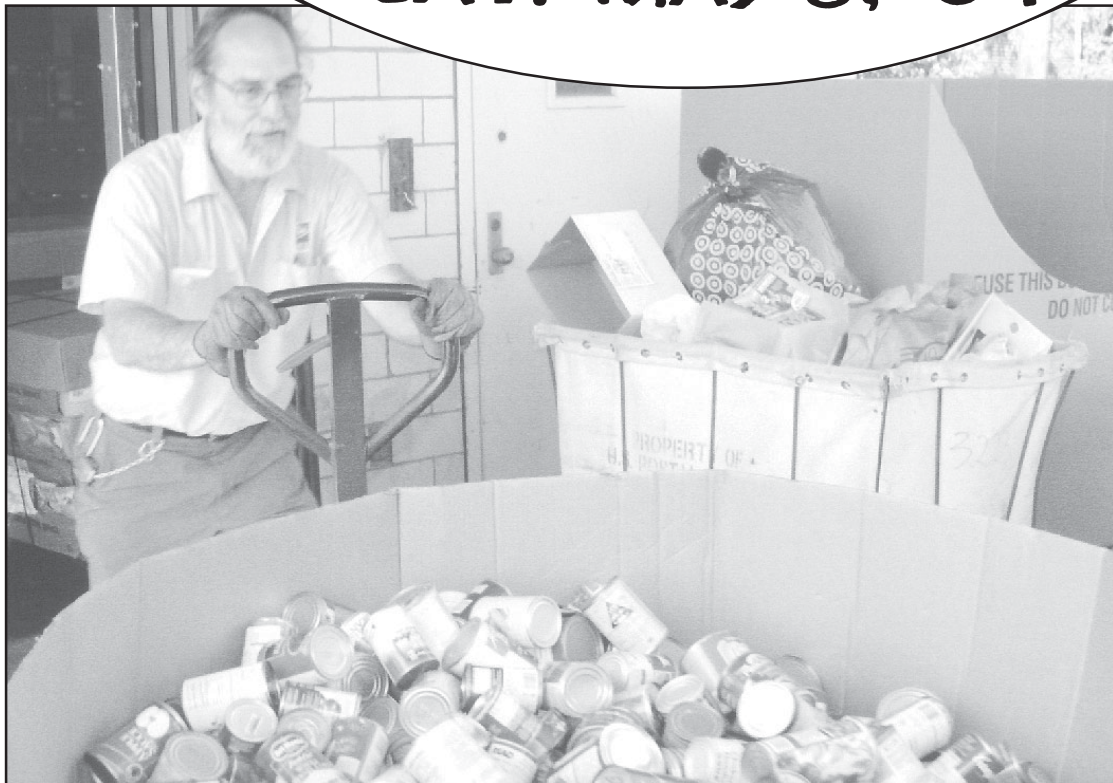




LOOK AT WHAT A HUGE  
SUCCESS THE NALC  
FOOD DRIVE WAS!  
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP  
AND GENEROSITY!



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







TOGETHER WE  
CAN STAMP OUT  
HUNGER!



## FROM THE DESK OF E.E.O. OFFICER MICHAEL HOLMES

Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination that violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Equal Employment Commission (EEOC) is the Federal agency that enforces this Act. The EEOC receives and investigates complaints of sexual harassment in the workplace. When investigating complaints of sexual harassment, the EEOC looks at whole records including the circumstances and context in which the alleged incidents occurred and makes its determinations from the facts on a case-by-case basis.

Sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. There are two types of sexual harassment recognized by federal law: quid pro quo and hostile work environment. Quid pro quo refers to situations where employment decisions such as hiring, firing, or promotions are contingent upon the employee providing sexual favors. Example of quid pro quo sexual

harassment are when a supervisor threatens to fire and employee who does not submit to sexual advances or where a supervisor promises to promote an employee in exchange for sexual favors.

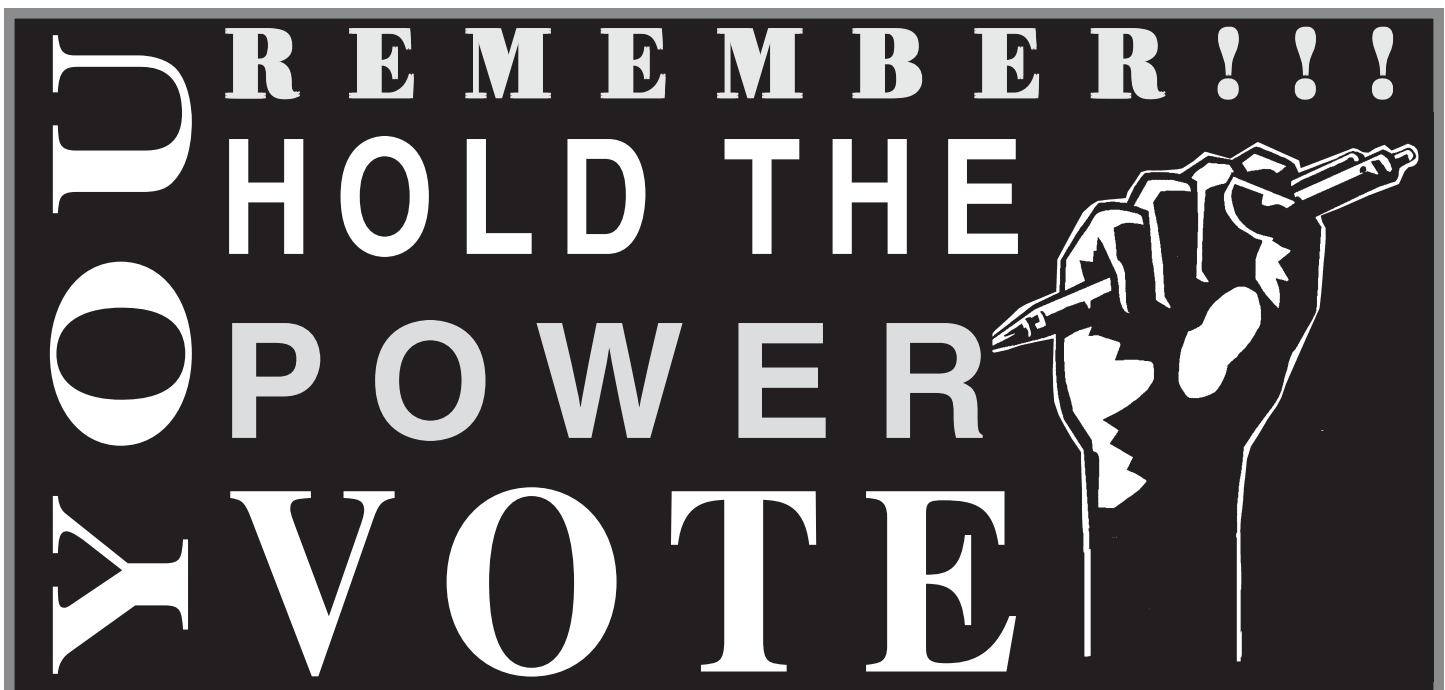
Hostile work environment sexual harassment refers to situations where the employee's work environment is made intimidating, hostile, or offensive due to the unwelcome sexual conduct and the conduct unreasonably interferes with the employee's work performance. This could take the form of unwanted sexual advances by the fellow employee, but it need not involve sexual advances at all. Examples of hostile work environment sexual harassment include making offensive sexual comments or jokes, discussions about sex and the display of sexually oriented materials.

The victim of sexual harassment may be either a man or a woman. The harasser may be either a man or a woman as well. The victim and the harasser do not have to be of the opposite sex. The victim does not

have to be the person to whom the sexual conduct is directed but could be anyone affected by the offensive conduct.

It is the employer's responsibility to maintain a workplace that is free from sexual harassment. The employer may be held liable for sexual harassment committed by their employees whether or not the employee is in a supervisory position. The employer may also be held liable for sexual harassment committed by non-employees. Therefore it is in the employer's best interest to prevent sexual harassment in the work place and, if sexual harassment occurs, to take remedial action as quickly as possible. Employers should establish a policy for the prevention, reporting, investigation, and punishment of sexual harassment in the workplace.

If you feel that you have been sexually harassed please notify your branch president Rocco Evangelista at 279-2778 or your branch EEO officer Michael Holmes at 475-2634.





# NBA REPORT

As National Business Agent, I attend a great many Branch functions honoring their retired members and it is always a pleasure for me because these men and women have done so much for those working in the Postal Service today.

Unfortunately, there is one issue that disturbs me as I attend these functions and that is the lack of active members at the affair.

Our retired members struggled with low pay, no benefits, no overtime pay and no health insurance not to mention their courageous action in 1970 which was the catalyst for the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 which gives us the right to bargain collectively.

Today, the top pay for a Grade 2 letter carrier is over \$46,000.00 and we have a benefit package as good as any I have seen.

Yet, when the time comes to take a little of our time and money to pay homage to these deserving people, virtually no one cares.

Brothers and Sisters, we cannot forget where we have come from if we intend to keep improving our lot. The first time we believe that we are solely responsible for the benefits we are receiving or that we are all the beneficiaries of a most appreciative employer, we are destined to fail.

All of our goals have been earned through the sweat and blood of those who have come before us and we need to say thank you to our retired members. You can do that by attending your Branch's function that honors their retired members not just the next one but every year.

*Have a great summer!*

*Bill Cooke*

## COLCPE!

As of April 27th the following is a list of names that have donated to COLCPE through dues deduction. Support those who support the USPS.

Terrance Bodfield  
Dwight Brickey  
Mark Burchain  
Christine Defide  
Brenda Fuller  
Dennis Grappin  
Doug Gulley  
Randy Hartman  
James Juniper

Robert Kirk  
Bill Pagano  
Kayla Spellman  
Angelina Sutherland  
Rocco Evangelista

Thanks  
For  
Your  
Contribution



Thanks  
For  
Your  
Contribution



**TOGETHER  
WE WILL MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE!!!**



# A MESSAGE

We completed our annual trip to Washington a few weeks ago. Again it was my pleasure to represent the members of Branch 78, and communicate to our legislators our concerns. Obviously, the biggest issue is Postal Reform and the issues pertaining to our Retirees. Unfortunately, neither Senator responded to our invitations or requests to visit. Pat Tiberi sent an Aide to the evening briefing and Deborah Pryce did have an Aide meet with us in her office. Rocco and Jack gave her materials on the issues we discussed and offered to be of assistance in the future since the Post Office is what we know. It was particularly nice to have a number of first timers on the trip. It is a good feeling to have fresh faces show interest in what we're up against in our fight to maintain the Postal Service as a viable force in these changing times. We want to make sure it continues and regains its strength. There are

major challenges ahead and we all have a stake in the outcome whether active or retired. I was disappointed in the amount the Branch presented to President Young for COLCPE, \$1400. It seems that people have become apathetic when it comes to making a monetary commitment to preserving their jobs. We say it over and over the HILL only responds to the rustle of MONEY. You can bet our competitors are shoving deep into their pockets to push for legislation to wrest away the cream of the Postal services. You can sit idle and do nothing until it is too late or you can fight for your jobs and benefits. To me there is a lot a stake and it is worth writing a check to COLCPE. It is worth writing a check to support people I think will support my best interest in Washington. I need to work and build toward my retirement. I want there to be retirement money there when I reach that point in life. I want health benefits and want them available when I retire.

I want a salary I can live on and not just survive on. These things are worth writing a check for now!



## **HOW ABOUT YOU!**

One of the highlights of the trip was to see the World War II Memorial. It opened the morning we had to leave and will be dedicated Memorial Day. Between our arrival and the evening briefing some of us went to see the new memorial. It is stunningly beautiful and sits at the opposite end of the Reflecting Pool from the Lincoln Monument. It was still surrounded by construction fencing but there was an opening on one side so you had an unobstructed view. I cannot tell you if it's white marble but if you stand on the street with your back to the Washington

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Monument you will see an oval of tall white vertical slabs encircling a pool with fountains. At each end of the oval is a pavilion representing the Atlantic and the Pacific theaters. As you look straight ahead there is a wall of a hundred gold stars each representing four thousand lives lost in the War. The slabs represent each of the states and territories that fought, at the top of each is a large bronze wreath on the inside and on the outside of the slab. There is a bronze rope that weaves between each of the slabs linking them to one another. I know my description does not do it justice but I wanted to convey as much of a picture as possible for those of you who fought in this War and may not have the opportunity to see it for yourselves. It is a solemnly striking monument to your sacrifices for the freedom of others and for this we thank you.

How is your count coming along? This has been interesting in that I have proof my supervisor lies her butt off. I ask what the sheet says for me each day then I go look for myself because I have caught her Lying about what DOIS predicts. Now she has no trouble telling you if DOIS says you are light but she has real difficulty verbalizing overages. That is sure to make me trust her on

anything that comes out of her mouth. I suggest you look for yourself you may have a LIAR, LIAR, too.

I don't remember when it started but it seems RMD (Resource Management System) isn't what it was cracked up to be. It must not have saved the millions of sick leave hours predicted at its inception because it is being disbanded and replaced with IVR (Interactive Voice Response). Here we go again, folks.

I recently read an article by Jim Hightower, who spoke at one of our National Conventions, he is a radio commentator, an author and former Texas agriculture commissioner. He is an excellent speaker and tells the facts you don't often read or hear in the monopoly controlled media. You do realize the majority of our media is controlled by eleven conglomerates. Anyway, the article was about Social Security and its need to be "fixed". He said, "Wouldn't you be suspect if you took your car in for a routine check and the mechanic told you he had found a mysterious and costly problem deep in the engine that "needs fixing" – even though you couldn't detect any problem at all?" He goes on to say that we are being told that to "fix" it we need to raise the retirement age to 70, cut monthly

payments for retired workers and even privatize part or all of this safety net for retirees. We must accept these fixes or the whole system will sputter and die. B.S. ALERT, B.S. ALERT! Of all the government programs – including the bloated, fraud-ridden Pentagon – Social Security is least in need of fixing. It's the most efficient program we have, requiring a mere 1% of its total budget for administrative costs and even those wanting to mess with the program admit that Social Security is perfectly sound and capable of paying full benefits to future retirees through at least 2042. And with only minor adjustment, the system is solid through 2075 – long after most of today's "fixers" will be dead. There is one fix that would guarantee the soundness of Social Security in perpetuity; Raise the current \$88,000 income cap so that the salaries, bonuses, stock gains and other wealth of the elites are also subject to Social Security taxes – rather than keeping the burden solely on the wages of low-income and middle-class working folks. He says to push for this simple and fair reform call Campaign for America's Future: 202-955-5665.

## **IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO READ MORE ABOUT POSTAL REFORM GO TO THIS WEBSITE:**

**[//reform.house.gov/UploadedFiles/051204businessmeeting.pdf](http://reform.house.gov/UploadedFiles/051204businessmeeting.pdf)**

**[//reform.house.gov/GovReform/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=3630](http://reform.house.gov/GovReform/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=3630)**

**You will find press releases and discussion drafts from the Committee on Government Reform**

# Postal Service overhaul clears first hurdle

By Zach Patton, CongressDaily

The Postal Service could be restructured for the first time in more than 30 years, under legislation approved Wednesday by the House Government Reform Committee.

In a 40-0 vote, the panel approved the bill (H.R. 4341), which would grant the Postal Service more flexibility to change its rates and manage its costs, while increasing the power of the postal regulatory board.

House Government Reform Chairman Tom Davis, R-Va., praised the bipartisan cooperation on the bill between himself and Government Reform Ranking Member Henry Waxman, D-Calif., as well as Rep. John McHugh, R-N.Y., and Rep. Danny Davis, who served, respectively, as chairman and ranking member of the committee's special panel on postal reform.

Davis said the bill would streamline the agency's rate-setting process, which currently can take as long as 18 months. The bill also would allow the Postal Service to compete directly with the private sector on services such as Express Mail and Priority Mail. The legislation also enhances the role of the regulatory body that oversees postal activity.

The bill would also limit the agency's monopoly power by requiring it only to engage in "postal services," which are statutorily defined for the first time.

McHugh, who has worked to pass postal overhaul legislation for the past 10 years, called the bill "an excellent first step." He added: "Work will continue as we refine the bill for floor consideration in the coming weeks. This reform is a long time in coming, and I'm thrilled that we can now see the light at the end of the tunnel."

Davis said he hopes to bring the bill to a floor vote by mid to late June, and he has the assurances of House leaders that the bill will be brought to a vote.

Two committee members offered and withdrew amendments to the bill.

Rep. Steven LaTourette, R-Ohio, offered two amendments. His first would have explicitly prohibited the Postal Service from competing with private companies that offer packing and package preparation services. The Postal Service has never offered that service, but LaTourette said the agency "toiled with the idea" in the mid-1990s.

LaTourette's second amendment would have limited the Postal Service's ability to contract international mail delivery with foreign air carriers. The amendment would require the Postal Service to use American carriers whenever available. After assurances from Davis and Waxman that they would work with LaTourette as this bill goes to the floor, LaTourette withdrew his amendments.

An amendment from Rep. Tim Murphy, R-Pa., would have required the Postal Service to expunge any revenue deficiency it suffered by offering discounted rates to groups that do not qualify as nonprofit organizations. After Davis and Waxman promised to consider Murphy's provision, he also withdrew his amendment.

Meanwhile, Senate Governmental Affairs Chairwoman Collins and Sen. Thomas Carper, D-Del., Wednesday began distributing a draft version of their postal restructuring bill, which Collins said she will introduce next week.

That Senate draft would allow the Postal Service to more easily enter into worksharing contracts with private companies, and it requires the agency to develop a plan for future operations, including a

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**SAFETY  
FIRST**



## ***Spring is Here!***

Spring is here and summer is not far away. That means it's time to start thinking about severe thunderstorms and tornado weather. What should you do if you're caught in the middle of a relay or driving? Stop and think right now as to how you would react.

Borrowing a phrase from a former Safety Capt. "Mail does not breathe. Your safety is the most important part of your job. During lightening storms take cover whenever possible in your vehicle, on a porch or in a business. In case of tornados seek the nearest tornado shelter. If there is not any on your route, lie flat in a ditch. Just remember, most times you cannot outrun them.

All Safety Captains should be having quarterly safety meetings with their managers. The minutes from these meetings need to be sent to the NALC/USPS District Safety & Health Task Force at 850 Twin Rivers Dr., Columbus, OH 43216. Help us help you.

School will soon be out so please watch out for the kids, our most prized possessions and their dogs, our worst enemies. That means you must watch when delivering mail or parcels. Kids and some adults do not think about their dogs attacking you when they open their doors.

***Have a Safe Summer !!!***

***Tony Snyder***

***Your Br78 Health and Safety Rep.  
NALC/VSPS Joint Safety Task Force Rep.***

## **Postal Service overhaul clears first hurdle**

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consideration of how closing or consolidating mail facilities might affect postal revenues.

Labor groups Wednesday praised the House bill, particularly its prohibition of most worksharing agreements between the Postal Service and private companies.

However, American Postal Workers Union President William Burrus said he is concerned about the Senate draft, which he said includes proposals that "could result in the closing of post offices, reduced hours of operation, longer lines and poor service."

Burrus also said the Senate version could allow the Postal Service to negotiate service agreements with large commercial mailers, which he said would hurt postal customers and workers.

## News: New York Times, “73 Options for Medicare Plan Fuel Chaos, Not Prescriptions”

1. **Shopping for the best deal is impossible — seniors have to sign “no money back” contracts but companies can change the deal on a weekly basis.**

Seniors can only buy one card from one company costing about \$30 per year. During that year, seniors are locked into the contract — but the card company can change or even revoke discounts altogether for a drug EVERY WEEK. Seniors cannot get their money back even if executives change the deal.

Companies make big profits by skimming off the top of secret discounts negotiated with drug companies. The new Bush law doesn't guarantee that these discounts actually get to seniors.

2. **The Bush prescription card plan has unleashed a “Medicare approved” swarm of salespeople and telemarketers on seniors.**

Cards are advertising directly to seniors with a “blizzard of mail, radio and TV ads,” according to Consumers Union. By year's end, there will be hundreds of “Medicare approved” cards and others operated by scam artists. The White House can even give Medicare beneficiary information to private companies for sales pitches.

3. **Bait & Switch: Since Bush came to office, drug prices have surged 20%-25% — but these cards only offer discounts of 10% to 25% on prices that are still going up.**

4. **Companies chosen by the Bush team to sell “Medicare approved” cards were paid back for millions in campaign cash.**

- Companies offering the cards spent at least \$35 million on lobbying last year alone.
- One company executive threw a \$100,000 fundraising party for Bush just a few weeks after being selected to sell “Medicare approved” cards.
- Ten of the largest contributing card companies invested a total of \$8.2 million in politicians since 2002. Of this money — fully 70% went to Republicans, according to the non-partisan Center for Responsive Politics.

5. **Companies chosen by the Bush team have a history of bilking taxpayers. Medco, a “Medicare approved” drug card sponsor, recently settled charges for secretly pocketing \$10 million while only passing on \$9 million in discounts to state workers.**

And the U.S. Justice Department has accused Medco of pocketing \$430 million from drug giant Merck to steer patients to expensive Merck drugs.

Continued on next page



**6. Prescription cards are just the tip of the earnings iceberg for most companies picked by the Bush team.**

Card sales will “allow approved sponsors to gain significant experience and name recognition prior to the beginning of the Medicare Part D drug benefit,” according to the Bureau of National Affairs. Additionally, the Bush prescription law includes no privacy protections for seniors who sign contracts with the companies — allowing them to use medical information in whatever way they see fit.

**7. The Bush Medicare deal actually PROHIBITS Medicare from negotiating the best drug prices for seniors, like the Veterans Administration does.**

The Veterans Administration gets prescription drugs at a fraction of the retail price because it negotiates directly with drug manufacturers. According to a government report, the VA prices for the top 10 drugs used by seniors are 75% LOWER than the Bush prescription cards.

This Union Respects the right of freedom of speech for all. The following letter is printed for that reason. I must say that William J. Cooke, Business Agent for Region 11, is paid to represent Letter Carriers and it is obvious who his choice for President is. One part of his message we all should agree with. . . exercise your right and cast your vote.

*Rocco Evangelista*

## **A LETTER TO THE EDITOR .....**

We should be offended. A previous newsletter contained two articles attacking Pres. Bush. The first of which was written by our Business Agent Bill Cooke. He stated that Sen. Kerry was the most electable candidate for our nations President. Not that he was the best candidate, but rather the most electable. So some experts in Washington assign him the position of the “most electable” and expect us sheep to follow and vote. Kerry being the guy who stands with striking grocery workers in California, and then appears at a fundraiser given by the billionaire owner of the grocery stores. Kerry, who owns five homes, flip-flops on votes, and moves a fire hydrant from in front of his home to give himself a better parking space. Not to mention his plans to raise taxes on Americans. And somebody anointed him the savior of the working American. Tragic. Mr. Cooke then bashes Iraq and claims that nothing was being done in Afghanistan. Wait till I tell my customers that their sons and daughters really aren’t in Afghanistan and are somewhere safe. Then I read a chart with rubber numbers. These numbers do not take into account the jobs lost due to 9-11, (which was planned during the Clinton years and executed after Bush took office) or the jobs lost due o the collapse of corporations who were cooking their books during the Clinton years only to be exposed during the Bush presidency.

In my opinion, we need to take a better look at what is going on around us, in our country as well as our workplace. Do no settle for “most electable”.

*Darren Fleck  
City Letter Carrier*

---

**IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU ARE REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT!**

**KEEP IT GOING!!!!**

**2004 ELECTION ISSUE !!**

**GET A BILL STARTED TO PLACE ALL POLITICIANS ON SOC. SEC.**

**This must be an issue in "2004". Please! Keep it going.**

-----

**SOCIAL SECURITY:**

(This is worth reading. It's short and to the point)

Perhaps we are asking the wrong questions during election years.!

Our Senators and Congresswomen do not pay into Social Security and, of course, they do not collect from it.

You see, Social Security benefits were not suitable for persons of their rare elevation in society. They felt they should have a special plan for themselves. So, many years ago they voted in their own benefit plan.

In more recent years, no congressperson has felt the need to change it. After all, it is a great plan.

For all practical purposes their plan works like this: When they retire, they continue to draw the same pay until they die.

Except it may increase from time to time for cost of living adjustments.

For example, former Senator Byrd and Congressman White and their wives may expect to draw \$7,800,000.00 (that's Seven Million, Eight-Hundred Thousand Dollars), with their wives drawing \$275,000.00 during the last years of their lives.

This is calculated on an average life span for each of those two Dignitaries.

Younger Dignitaries who retire at an early age, will receive much more during the rest of their lives.

Their cost for this excellent plan is \$0.00. NADA....ZILCH...

This little perk they voted for themselves is free to them. You and I pick up the tab for this plan. The funds for this fine retirement plan come directly from the General Funds;

**"OUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK"?**

From our own Social Security Plan, which you and I pay (or have paid) into, -every payday until we retire (which the amount is matched by our employer) -we can expect to get an average of \$1,000 per month after retirement. Or, in other words, we would have to collect our average of \$1,000 monthly benefits for 68 years and one (1) month to equal Senator Bill Bradley's benefits!

Social Security could be very good if only one small change were made.

That change would be to jerk the Golden Fleece Retirement Plan from under the Senators and Congressmen. Put them into the Social Security plan with the rest of us ... then sit back and watch how fast they would fix it.

If enough people receive this, maybe a seed of awareness will be planted and maybe good changes will evolve.





**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:**



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



# Buckeye Branch 78

1029 Harrisburg Pike  
Columbus, Ohio 43223-2524

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



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TRUSTEE	CARL DEMKO	351-0137
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TRUSTEE	TREVOR PAYNE	447-8078

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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		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
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Eastland	Gary Boller	237-1912
E Olde Town	Gary Porter	253-7350
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G South Columbus	Walt Brumfield	444-0217
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HILL Hilliard	Cindy Francisco	876-7021
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LV Lincoln Village	Rick Baker	351-0137
LIV Livingston	R. Pugh	237-9570
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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
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**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**