

# Buckeye Branch 78 Bulletin

## Columbus and Central Ohio

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DECEMBER 2005



12

VOL. 26, NO. 12

## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Much speculation is going on about the 2006 contract negotiations with the USPS. As always I am sure pay will be an issue for the Union. We have received some very good cost of living increases this past year. The price of gasoline in the past six months ate those increases up very quickly. The very lifeblood of any union is to struggle. Nothing is given to you; it must be negotiated or in some cases arbitrated. A good example is the arbitration that gave Letter Carriers "Level Six" pay. This set the standard for all the other postal unions to strive for. Soon after that the NALC negotiated a six-year contract. Now that negotiations are coming up once again the NALC will be in the forefront. Letter Carriers are the hardest working craft in the USPS and deserve everything they get.

I believe health benefits could be the focus point in negotiations. As one National Officer put it "health benefits could be the eye of the storm". General Motors, Kroger and many other unionized companies, the employer wanted the employees to pay more towards their portion of health benefits. The average worker at Kroger makes 9-10 dollars per hour. I don't know how they can do it. Health care costs are increasingly

rising. With 40 to 50 million Americans without health insurance, those of us who have it are in one form or another paying that debt also. If a hospital or doctor gets stuck with their bill it gets passed on to us. Many companies have filed bankruptcy to avoid paying for health care cost.

I attended the Health benefit Seminar this year. If you belong to the NALC health plan you will see a slight increase in rates. You will also see a few changes in benefits also. For one example if you go in for blood or lab work, ask if you Doctor uses QWEST labs. Over 400,000 doctors throughout the US belong to the network. If they do, QWEST will pay 100% of the fees. Previously the member paid 15% of the bill.

We need more active employees to join the NALC health plan. Currently retirees make up 75% of those that belong. That is one reason the NALC pays out an average of over \$800,000 PER DAY in prescriptions. The more diverse our membership in the plan, the broader the foundation and the more it can provide to its members. Members of the plan deserve the best treatment allowed. Because the NALC health plan is not a "plan for profit" every

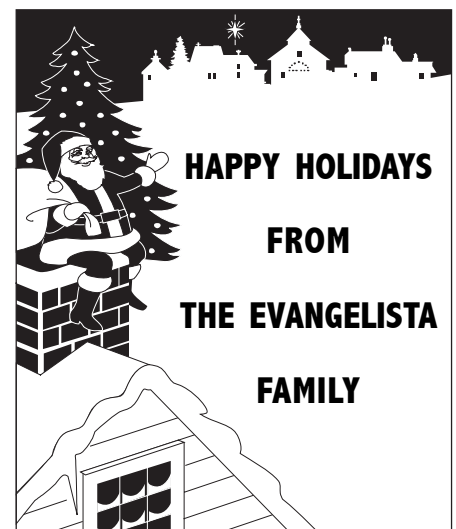


Rocco  
Evangelista

penny put in the plan will stay with the plan.

It was recently approved by the Bush administration that OPM could offer a Dental & Vision plan to active and retired government employees.

*Continued on page 4*



## A MESSAGE FROM VICE PRESIDENT BOB SOLT

I want to thank the members of Branch 78 for the opportunity to attend the recent NALC Health Benefit Seminar. The classes were extremely beneficial and informative. We, as members of the NALC Plan benefit enormously by having our own health plan. It was announced that Open Season will be November 14 to December 12, 2005. These are extremely important dates to remember if you want to change your coverage.

You will now pay nothing for covered outpatient services performed by Quest Diagnostics. You previously paid 15%. The Plan will now coordinate benefits with Medicare Part D. The NALC Health Benefit Plan plays an important role in your health care by providing ways to manage your care while controlling rising health care costs. The Plan has several programs in place to help you achieve this goal with a prescription drug program, PPO/OCN networks, mental health/substance abuse program and an NALC case management department. Caremark has customer care representatives and clinical pharmacists available to answer questions 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They can address questions about prescription benefits, prescription orders and im-



**Bob Solt**

portant drug specific information. You can telephone RxRequest at 1-800-933-6252 to order prescription refills, check on the status of a recent order, locate a convenient retail network pharmacy, get an order form or claim form

and also speak with a registered pharmacist. You can access through the NALC HBP website or directly at: [www.caremark.com](http://www.caremark.com). I was shocked by some numbers we were given at the seminar. The average cost of the prescription program per day is \$806,000. The average number of prescriptions filled per day are 7,764. The average cost of a member's retail prescription is \$43. The average cost of a member's retail co-pay is \$10. The average cost of a member's mail prescription is \$150 while the average cost of a member's mail service co-pay is \$21. The average number of member telephone inquiries per day is 2,279. To locate a Doctor, hospital, specialist, urgent care center you can call 1-800-622-6252 24 hours a day, 7 days a week or visit the NALC website- [www.nalc.org/departments/hbp](http://www.nalc.org/departments/hbp) for the most up to date information. You can log onto the NALC HBP web site or go to [liveandworkwell.com](http://liveandworkwell.com) to explore

mental health related articles and resources and to also receive help with quitting smoking. Because the NALC Health Benefit plan is a "not for profit" plan, every penny put into the Plan stays with the Plan. I encourage all NALC members to step up to the plate by belonging to and promoting the Health benefit Plan whenever possible.

NALC President Bill Young was in attendance and addressed the issue of DOIS and stated that Letter Carriers are having problems all across the country and that a National level grievance has been filed. At the Union Hall we get a few calls from Carriers stating something must be done about DOIS related harassment. Something has been in place for quite some time. DOIS is a management TOOL. Complete, and submit a 3996 if you are unable to complete your assignment in the time allotted by some contractually impaired supervisor. Harassment can be eliminated by filing grievances citing nothing more than the Joint Statement on Violence in The Workplace. We have had supervisors and managers removed from their assignments because of their inappropriate behavior.

*Fraternally,  
Bob Solt*

### **SPEND AN EVENING WITH FRIENDS ATTEND YOUR UNION MEETINGS!**

**STEWARDS MTG-6:30 P.M.**  
First Wednesday of  
each month

**OFFICERS MTG-6:00 P.M.**  
The Monday preceding  
Steward Meeting



**BRANCH MTG-6:30 P.M.**  
Second Wednesday  
of each month

**RETIREES MTG-1:00 P.M.**  
First Tuesday of  
each month

# MILLER'S MUSINGS

Here we are at the end of the year already. The holidays are in a few weeks and like most I am ill prepared. Undoubtably the number one topic has been the dreadful DOIS. We are in the midst of Branch elections and have just finished our local government voting. Then there is preparation for the year ahead.

Should this reach your door before December 6 and you have not purchased a toy, get to the store and get it to the hall for delivery the 7<sup>th</sup>. The other alternative is to meet the ELF CREW on Sawmill at the Anderson Store or Meijers, and bring money, lots of money. If you want to participate in the shopping or delivery, you are more than welcome to join us. Call West Worthington station before 10 am shopping day and let me know. We will gather at the Hall Wednesday around 8:30 am to load the toys and make our way to Gladden around 9. My hope is that you will not procrastinate and have your money and toys in by December 5<sup>th</sup> as we will be at the Hall that evening for a meeting so plan to drop off after work. I thank you all for your continued support of our ONE NEW TOY program.

DOIS has been on everyone's tongue since its inception. If you get two or more carriers together I guarantee the subject will come up. If you ask people from Edie Meyers station or route, they will state emphatically that DOIS and management's blind adherence to it, killed her. Any of you with three or more years in the USPS knows there has always been a DOIS like tool that management has used to attempt to push production upwards. They have never managed to improve the processing of the mail to get it to us

earlier which would get us out on the street and back earlier. This would improve morale, thus pushing up VOE scores and the public would be happier to get their mail early. From the beginning of my short postal career starting times have gotten later and later. The reason has always been the plant is having difficulty getting the mail processed. To my knowledge there has never been a measuring tool or time accountability study imposed on the processing areas to improve their productivity. When will the light bulb come on and someone get the bright idea that delivery isn't the crux of the problem? In spite of shortages of personnel, poor quality supervision and a myriad of other impediments we will (to borrow from Larry the Cable Guy) git er done! Unfortunately, none of the decision makers can see that they are concentrating on the wrong area to improve the numbers, scores, etc. Get us the mail and we'll get it delivered. We don't need your threats, your windows of operation or any of that other crap you throw our way. GIVE US THE MAIL IN A TIMELY FASHION AND WE WILL DELIVER!

I know that most people did not exercise their right to vote in the last election November 8. Considering the lengths that our predecessors went through to make it possible for everyone to vote and for us to ignore their bloodshed and sacrifice, we should be ashamed. Our young men and women soldiers have been fighting to give others the opportunity to cast a vote, yet we take this right for granted and fail to participate in the electoral process. Rectify that now by registering to vote, correcting your address or name with the Board of

Elections so that next time you can walk into your polling place and cast your vote. Get active, read,

and research the issues and the candidates. Ask for opinions weigh them out for yourself. There are a lot of things pending that will affect you, your children and grandchildren, don't wait till it's too late to make an impact on the future.

I thank you for the opportunity to serve you another term. I thank Jack Levally for helping me learn the ropes. Rocco and Bob for their assistance. Lastly, Lanz Printing has been outstanding working with me and the Branch not just on the bulletins but with their personal contributions to our



*Continued on page 4*

## Buckeye Br. 78 Bulletin

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President	Rocco Evangelista
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Recording Secretary	Ron Santavicca
Asst. Secretary/Editor	Yana Miller
Financial Secretary	Bill Pagano

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# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

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You will see something in the near future. The extra premium would be at the cost of the employee. The cost could be reasonable because of the number of former and current employees that could possibly join the plan. Many HBP plans out there are without dental and vision. The ones that do have it are very limited in benefits.

Doug Gulley was selected by President Bill Young to serve on the Standing Retirement Committee for the NALC. Doug will take with him many years of experience and knowledge. I know the other committee members are looking forward to working with Doug in this capacity. I want to personally thank Doug for his years of dedicated service and his continuing dedication to this branch and its members. He still makes this branch proud. On a closing note please take the time to reflect this holiday and be thankful for all we have and I wish you good fortune and health for yourself and loved ones.

***Remember, Keep fighting the good fight! Rocco Evangelista***



# MILLER'S MUSINGS

*Continued from page 4*

fundraising events.

This is open season for FEHBP look over the offerings of the plans. I hope that you will give the NALC a try. It is a comprehensive plan owned by OUR UNION working for us. Sign up, I know you will not be disappointed. If you have not used the FSA (flexible spending accounts) they are for medical and child/dependent care. These are pretax dollars you set aside to pay medical deductibles, copays, even some nonprescription items are allowable reimbursements. The same for child/dependent care pretax dollars are used to pay for your child care meaning your taxable income is reduced. Be careful because any monies you are not reimbursed for the year do not carry over for the next year. So it is better to under fund than over, as you will lose unused dollars. The other nice thing is you do not have to have the full amount needed built up in order to withdraw in the medical account. Read through these benefits and make use of the ones that will benefit you the most.

In light of the decision by GM regarding the health care benefits for their retirees and the impending strike by Kroger employees you will see a ripple effect and all employers will be seeking to reduce their responsibility toward worker and retiree health benefits. Our negotiations will be no different so prepare yourself for changes. I was talking with a credit union officer this morning who informed me credit card payments will double after the first of the year. Knowing that I have credit card balances and that I usually shred or discard anything that isn't a bill. I made calls to two different companies and the policies vary. The

OCC (Office of Currency Control) feels that creditors should pay more or at least one percent of their balance plus the monthly finance charge. The companies have their choice on implementing this edict. So if you have credit cards and carry over a balance month to month I strongly suggest you investigate how this may affect your monthly payments, particularly before you go rack up a boatload of holiday plastic purchases. This could be devastating to some folk.

Now that I have completely depressed you, be thankful that you have a job with a union that has officers that work hard to protect your rights and benefits. I wish you and yours a very happy, loving holiday season.

*Submitted By Yana F. Miller*

## Roy Tailors Uniforms

### Chuck Sharp

Past President  
Branch 78, Columbus is your Sales Representative for

### Roy Tailors Uniforms

Serving The men and women of the USPS for over 50 years. Look for my arrival at your station soon

or call me at  
614-314-9302 cell  
937-843-2546 Home

**Be Union –Buy Union  
Help me help Branch 78**





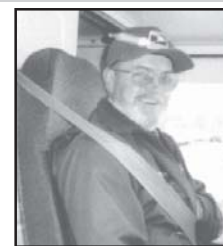
### ***Don't take chances!!!!***

Winter is almost officially here. Make sure you have good tread on your tires, ice scrapers, deicer, etc. Slow down on icy or snow covered roads. If your vehicle starts to go into a slide while pulling up to a mounted delivery, shift to neutral and ease up on the brake a little, this will allow you to have more steering control. When you have finished your delivery, simply put your vehicle back in drive and proceed to your next delivery. This will prevent you from sliding into the curb or the customer's mailbox. You might want to try this in an open parking lot a couple of times ("Not Every Day") before hand to get the feel of it.

On walking routes make sure you have good tread on your boots and if a customer doesn't remove snow and ice from their steps in a timely manner, curtail their mail until it is safe for you to make your delivery.



## **SAFETY FIRST**



If you are a new PTF and you do not have a set of cleats, contact your manager. They easily slip on over your boots and they are provided to you free.

With the Holiday Season upon us we will see a huge increase in packages. I have included in this

article a reminder of what "Immediate Response Actions" should be taken in the event one of these packages is leaking or is suspicious.

*Happy Holidays  
Tony Snyder  
Your Br 78 Safety Rep.*



## **Immediate Response Actions — Suspicious Mail and Unknown Powders or Substances**

### **REMEMBER**

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>PACKAGE</b> | Don't handle. Isolate it.   |
| <b>PEOPLE</b>  | Clear the area of people and notify your supervisor.                    |
| <b>PLAN</b>    | Contact the Inspection Service and follow your facility emergency plan. |

### **EMPLOYEES** — take the following initial protective actions:

1. Leave the mail piece or substance where it was found. Do not disturb.
2. Clear the immediate area of employees where the mail piece or substance is located and prevent others from entering the area.
3. Immediately notify a supervisor or manager of the situation. If a supervisor is unavailable, contact the Postal Inspection Service.
4. Wash hands and any other exposed skin with soap and water.

### **SUPERVISORS AND MANAGERS** — take the following actions:

1. Cordon off the area and keep others away from the mail piece or substance.
  2. Refer to and follow the steps outlined in the "Response Checklist for Suspicious Mail and Unknown Powders or Substances"
  3. Call the Postal Inspection Service with all available information on the mail piece or substance to conduct a threat assessment.
  4. Take appropriate protective actions based on:
    - A. The Inspection Service's threat assessment and instructions.
    - B. Your local emergency action plan.
- (Should an emergency situation exist such as smoke, fumes, vapors, or employees exhibiting medical symptoms — evacuate the area and call local emergency responders.) Follow the instructions of local emergency responders and make the appropriate notifications as indicated in your local emergency action plan.
5. Expediently communicate with employees, the local unions and management associations. Limit the information to the known facts and avoid any speculation that may lead to unintended misinformation. To the extent possible, use local first responders to assist in providing information.

# BROWNS VS TITANS



## ROAD TRIP

A few of us braved the conditions on Lake Erie to take in the Browns vs. Titans game. The weather was beautiful till we disembarked for a potty stop. The heavens opened up and we were pelted with hail, sideways rain and wind gusts that pushed me along. Once we got back on the road the skies were ominous and unpredictable. We arrived outside the stadium to sunshine and wind. The grill was going and we proceeded to tailgate and dry out. We even had entertainment thanks to Christine Hankins procuring a band. We made our way uphill to the stadium for our body searches and found our seats, which were not bad at all. During the course of the game the weather demons rained on us again but only a short while and then we got back to the happenings below. The halftime had several families who had lost loved ones in Iraq, presented checks from a Cleveland Philanthropist, whose name I did not get, and members of the different branches of service opening a huge flag on the field. The scene was quite moving. The return trip was thankfully uneventful but it was a good time.

Yana Miller





# **TOP 10 REASONS TO VOTE RANDY HARTMAN FOR VICE-PRESIDENT**

**#10** I do not have any hidden agendas. Defending our rights, pay & benefits is it.

**# 9** I believe the Branch Hall should be staffed during specified business hours. I will advocate to hire a full-time secretary in lieu of paying full-time Vice-President wages.

**# 8** I believe DOIS is flawed. We cannot change that locally, however, I promise that work ethic & trust will be on every labor management meeting agenda that I am a part of.

**# 7** I am an active letter carrier, 15 years away from retirement. I know your concerns because I carry mail and deal with management every day. A vote for me is a vote for the future.

**# 6** I believe that no one person is expert at everything. However, I believe our branch is full of people with talent the branch can use to benefit us all. I will look for talent and ask that person to help us.

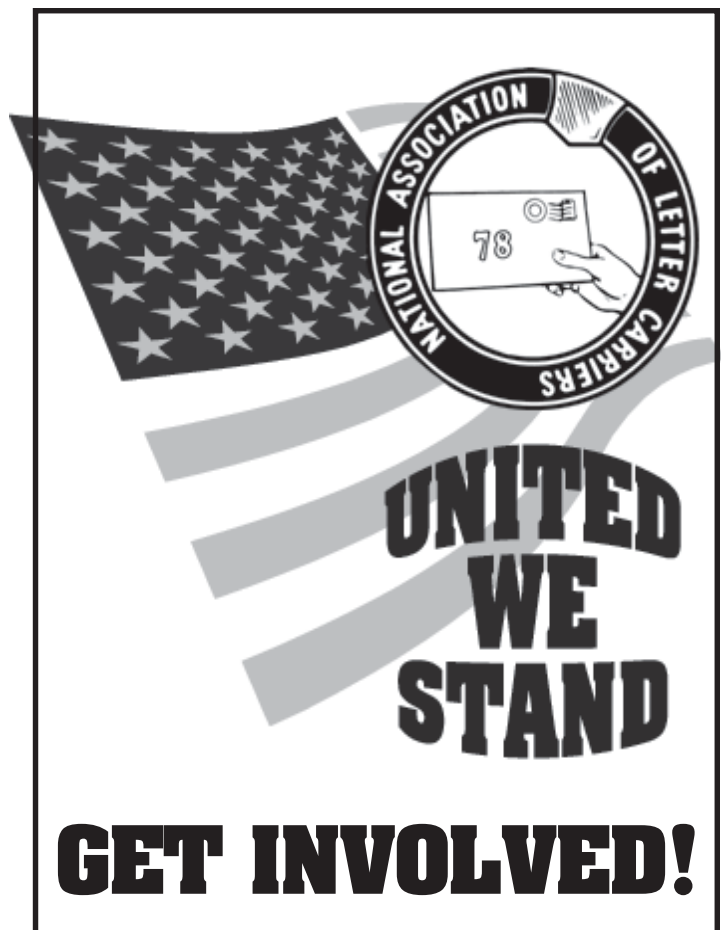
**# 5** Direct questions will get direct answers. If I don't know I'll tell you. I'll find the answer and follow up with documentation. And I promise to never be vague.

**# 4** I believe the President or Vice-President should visit every station as often as possible. Visible officers remind management that we are all a part of something bigger.

**# 3** I believe management plays "lip service" to safety. The real issues; DOIS related mental stress, discipline for accidents, repetitive motion injuries, "hurry up" directives and more, are ignored.

**# 2** Workroom floor issues will be highest priority.

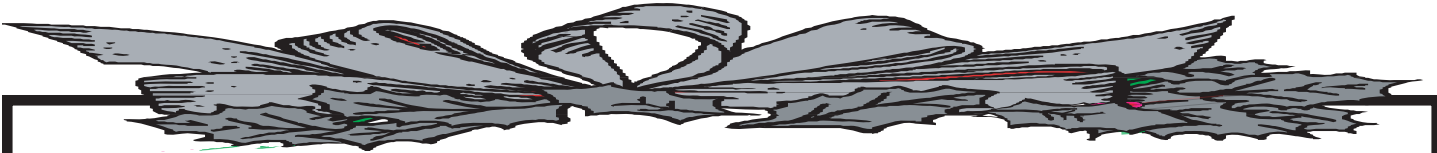
**# 1** reason to vote Randy Hartman for Vice-President.....I am dedicated to the NALC, Branch 78. Nothing else. No one else.





# ATTENTION ! ! !

If you haven't received a ballot contact the hall immediately! Give your name, address with zip and number where you can be reached in the evening.



## SOCIAL REC WILL SPONSOR A CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY



DECEMBER 4, 2005  
2-5 PM  
CAFETERIA @ CITY GATE  
2323 CITY GATE DR  
VISIT WITH SANTA  
MOTHER GOOSE • BOBO THE CLOWN  
COOKIES AND PUNCH



CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER ONLY

## ONE NEW TOY

**SHOPPING DATE IS DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>**

**TOY DELIVERY IS DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>**

**MAKE SURE YOU HAVE YOUR MONEY TO YANA MILLER BY DEC 6<sup>TH</sup>**

**AND TOYS TO THE HALL BY THE SAME DATE**

**IF YOU MUST WRITE A CHECK MAKE IT OUT TO YANA MILLER**

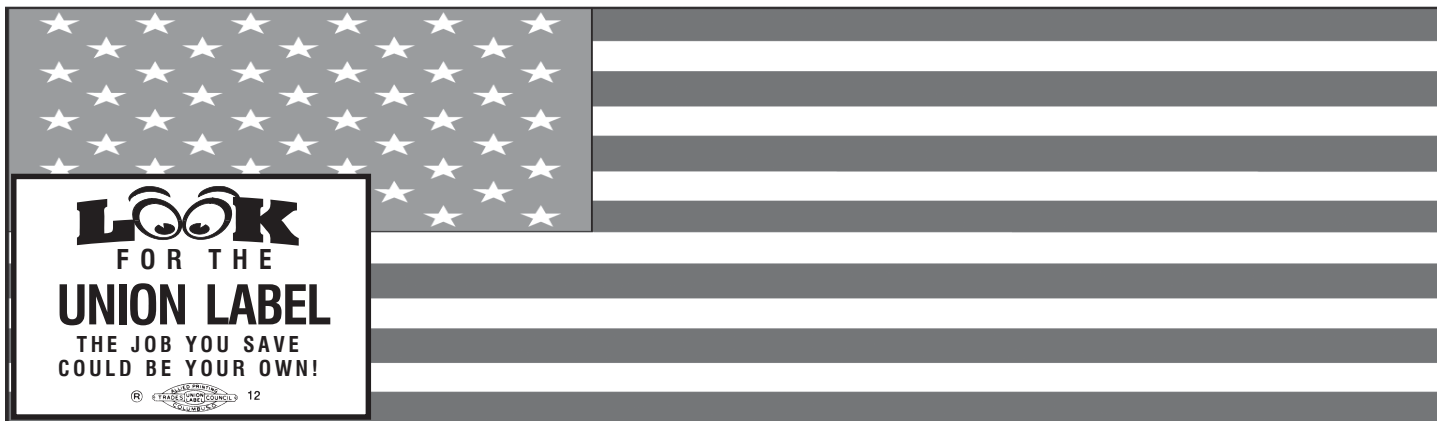
**FOR ONE NEW TOY SO THAT I CAN CASH IT TO SHOP WITH.**

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE ELVES TO SHOP**

**LET ME KNOW.**

**IT IS DEFINITELY A FUN TIME!**





## NALC CAN COUNT ON BRANCH 78

Please fill out this form to be included in the NALC's Activist Database

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE&ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CELL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_ BRANCH \_\_\_\_\_

This form builds the Legislative and Political Department's activist database. It is not used for any other purpose. The database is comprised of letter carriers the NALC can count on to take action on legislative and political alerts. Communication is often via email. Regular mail is used when it is necessary to send pertinent materials and phone calls are made when time is of the essence. Therefore, all information is necessary to lay the foundation for a strong grassroots operation.

Plases return this form to the Branch Office at: 1029 Harrisburg Pike Columbus, Ohio 43223-2524 or directly to the person giving it to you. Or it can be mailed to the National NALC Office at the address below.

National Association of Letter Carriers  
Legislative and political Department  
100 Indiana Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20001-2144



RE-ELECT



**BOB SOLT**

**VICE PRESIDENT**

*AND*

**ROCCO EVANGELISTA**

**PRESIDENT**

**OF BRANCH 78**

**VOTE FOR**

**EXPERIENCED**

**LEADERSHIP AND**

**DEDICATION**

**ENDORSED BY DOUG GULLEY**



12



## Buckeye Branch 78

1029 Harrisburg Pike  
Columbus, Ohio 43223-2524

**National Association of Letter Carriers**

**AFL-CIO**



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VICE PRESIDENT	BOB SOLT	756-4664
REC SECRETARY	RON SANTAVICCA	740-927-1174
ASST SECRETARY/EDITOR	YANA MILLER	253-4163
FIN SECY-TREASURER	BILL PAGANO	614-565-8987
EEO OFFICER	MICHAEL HOLMES	475-2634
SGT-AT-ARMS	EDWARD STEWART	279-2778
DIR OF RETIREES	JACK LEVALLY	875-2220
MBA HEALTH BENEFIT	ROBERT KIRK	740-927-4590
HEAD TRUSTEE	CARL BOOTH	491-1675
TRUSTEE	RANDY HARTMAN	740-363-1906
TRUSTEE	CARL DEMKO	351-0137
TRUSTEE	GARY BOLLER	471-8289
TRUSTEE	TREVOR PAYNE	447-8078

STATION	STEWARD	BUSINESS-HOME
A Short North	Jerri Frierson	294-4922
B Clintonville	Douglas Lawver	447-8078
BW Beechwold	John Klinger	447-8078
BEX Bexley	Jackie Mitchell	237-2830
Canal Winchester	Gary Boller	471-8289
C Linden	Marcus Jones	476-1590
CP Central Point	Frank Lisath	228-1570
CIR Circleville	Patrick Moore	1-740-474-3113
City Gate Collection Unit	Chuck Snyder	472-0500
DEL Delaware	Randy Hartman/R.Eaglin	1-740-363-1906
DUB Dublin	Christine Hankins	889-0763
Eastland	Gary Boller/Mitch Sayers Alt.	237-1912
E Olde Town		253-7350
F German Village	Douglas Bryant	449-9565
G South Columbus	Walt Brumfield	444-0217
GAH Gahanna	John Slifko	471-8289
GP Groveport	Rocco Evangelista	279-2778
GC Grove City	Dave Kitchen	
HILL Hilliard	Chris Haser	876-7021
HT Hilltop	Mark Beach	351-0137
LV Lincoln Village	Rick Baker/T. Hornyak Alt.	351-0137
LIV Livingston	R. Pugh	237-9570
LON London	Jon Robinson	1-740-852-1881
MO Main Office	Keith Jones/Matthew Gannon	469-4216
MV Marysville	John Burson	1-937-642-1961
MTV Mount Vernon	Paul McCamey	351-1701
NE Northeast	Brenda Davis	476-1590
NL Northland	Andy Curtis/Kent Fling	890-1180
NW Northwest	Keith Etherington	451-1502
OP Oakland Park	Madonna Keller	476-1590
PIC Pickerington		837-5793
PLN CTY Plain City	Teresa Thomas	614-873-4004
REY Reynoldsburg	Doug Sawyer	866-6049
SHEP Shepard	Larry R. Hamby Sr.	476-1590
TV Tri-Village	Shawn Carter/Chris Defide Alt.	351-1701
U University	Rod James	294-7292
UA Upper Arlington	Tom Wilson/Tom Parise	451-2302
WV Westerville	Bob Solt/Rocco Evangelista	882-2243
WJ West Jefferson	G. Chaffins	1-614-879-9145
WW West Worthington	Danny Green	793-9789
WH Whitehall	Dan Churry/D. Miller Alt.	237-1722
WOR Worthington/Busch	Jeff Freeman	846-6088

# LOOK

FOR THE

# UNION LABEL



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

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

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

**ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS  
TO :**

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

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**First Wednesday of each month**

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**The Monday preceding Steward  
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**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**