

Buckeye Branch 78 Bulletin

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JANUARY 2005



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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

My grandfather used to say time goes by quickly, enjoy it while you can. You don't realize that until you get a little older. I look back and wondered what happened to 2004, but I also said the same about 2003. I hope 2005 is a prosperous and healthy year for all.

Once again, **ONE-NEW TOY** was a huge success thanks to your efforts. With a combined effort from our retirees, active carriers and even a few managers and supervisors who donated to this worthy cause, it brought much joy to many less fortunate than us. I especially want to thank the Eastland Station for their efforts. They raised over \$1000 dollars this year. There are many people responsible for making One New Toy work, but they do not do it for recognition. Actually some do not like it when I mention their name so I won't. But they know who they are and this branch would be much less without them. I thank you on behalf of everyone for your hard work and dedication.

The Postal Service informed the NALC they were not going to proceed any further with pursuing a route adjustment agreement on

a National Level. Needless to say the leaders of the NALC are furious. They put many hours of discussion and work in trying to secure an agreement only to have the rug pulled out from under them. With the current system in place, route adjustments are not fair to the carrier. We reached an agreement in Columbus several months ago based on demonstrated performance, verified mail volume and 30 minutes minimum, fixed office time. We have yet to test the agreement.

Many items that we put in the bulletin are used against us sometimes in the grievance procedure and also in arbitration cases. But, this newspaper is the best avenue we have to reach our membership besides the monthly meetings. When I tell you to fill out a 3996 and you do not do it, it will be thrown back in my face by a manager who will say "I know you tell the carriers because I read it in your articles". I usually say, "Well some of them don't read it". I know that most of you do. The next hot spot I want to touch on is safety. You will see many teams out to the stations checking for emergency brakes, addressing



Rocco
Evangelista

accident records and so on.

Take the time and make sure your handbrake is set every time you get out of your seat. It only takes a second to set it, but it will take us much more time to defend you when you are written up for failure to follow instructions. Take the time to follow all safety regulations. It took me a long time to figure out why management was always giving safety talks. They eventually sink in! We have had some very serious accidents in the past including the death of one Postal Employee. Always try and do your job as safely as possible. Do not take any shortcut that could cause yourself some unnecessary grief later on, it is not worth it. Besides family,

Continued on page 4

A MESSAGE FROM VICE PRESIDENT BOB SOLT

On December 1st we held our annual Steward appreciation dinner. I would like to once again thank all of the Stewards, their families and the branch officers that were able to attend. The rotating day off calendars were distributed to the Stewards



Linda Solt and Bobby Kirk



Doug Lauver

in attendance. Again this year, Branch 78 Health Benefits Representative and the extremely domesticated Bobby Kirk was the last one out of the kitchen.

Thanks to everyone that helped with the *One New Toy*. It was a record-breaking accomplishment this year. The carriers are to be commended for their tireless dedication. Eastland Station had a combined total of \$1200 in contributions. This may be why Eastland Station is considered to be the pride of not only the USPS but Branch 78 as well. This is the perfect definition of progressive Unionism.

We continue to receive questions regarding 3996's. If you feel you will not be able to complete your assignment in eight hours a 3996 needs to be completed. It is always a good idea to get a copy and keep it. It is not management's choice as to whether or not you will be permitted to obtain and submit a 3996. If management does not agree with the auxiliary assistance or overtime you are requesting they have the option to



Bob Solt

approve or disapprove your request. Management is required to give you a copy of the 3996 marked approved or disapproved. This does not need to become a time of verbal confrontation. If your station has an SOP regarding calling in if you cannot return on time follow it. Management then has the option of instructing you to deliver the mail or return it to the office.

I would like to wish everyone a joyous holiday season and a safe and prosperous new year.

Fraternally,

Bob Solt



United We Stand!

*Support our men and women
in the
military who are fighting
for our freedom!
God Bless America!!!*



A MESSAGE FROM YANA

I attended the quarterly COESRA meeting December 14th, there are some changes for

2005, the biggest is that there will no longer be individual cards for members, you simply present your work ID or Union card and the discount will be issued. We will no longer receive a notebook of the participating businesses; there will be a computer disc. I will ask Trevor to download it to the Branch website. You can access it yourself at www.COESRA.com. I will try to profile a few services/offers each month.

The Sunrise Senior Living properties offer half off the initial community fee and 5% discount off their base rate and there are six locations in the Columbus area. Tuffy Auto Service Centers offer a 5% discount on their services to COESRA members. Centex Homes offer a 1% discount on their homes or condominiums. COESRA has discount tickets for the Smucker's Stars on Ice by mail order. It is a good idea to ask businesses if they give COESRA discounts before making purchases, just as you would for AARP, AAA or Golden Buckeye.

We had an excellent response

to **ONE NEW TOY** this year. The outstanding station this year was Eastland. Mitch told the Head Elf, "We didn't do to good on the toy part but we've got this!" and handed him \$1200. Needless to say Big Tom Wilson was overjoyed. That took care of three quarters of the teens. I don't know how you did it but we are extremely grateful for your generosity. If only the rest of the stations were as focused. If I'm not mistaken they also do some food baskets for families in their zip. **THANK YOU EASTLAND STATION FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF ONE NEW TOY.** I won't have the tally on the number of children served but five hundred twenty-five families signed up at Gladden. They had to stop accepting applications to ensure they had enough to provide each with a satisfactory food basket. Ray Mitchell and the Mid-Ohio Vair Force once again provided a substantial toy donation to **ONE NEW TOY**, this is their fourth year of participation and we appreciate their support.

The Social Rec Committee donated the toys left after their Children's Christmas party to **ONE NEW TOY**. So your pop can donations did double duty, keep recycling. As always the Retirees helped by bringing toys to their

Christmas lunch, we can always count on them to lead the way.

There were a number of individuals that went above and beyond the typical toy or two and we thank their generosity as well. We had a new elf this year on shopping night, Jackie Mitchell braved the elements to help fill the two trucks we took shopping. She caught on pretty quick to the technique and was eagle-eyed watching the cashiers. Way to go, Jackie!

Without slighting anyone I offer a heartfelt thanks to each and every person that made this year's toy drive such a success. You are all to be commended. Branch 78 made the holidays very special for a lot of children that would not have had anything to celebrate without your donations. **THANK YOU!**

I had a note from one of our Retirees requesting names on the pictures. We will try as much as possible to document the people but it's not always possible. I appreciate your suggestions to make the bulletin better.

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Continued from page 1

safety should be your foremost concern. You will not be any good to your loved ones if you are laying in a hospital bed because you wanted to save a few minutes.

What I am going to touch on next is going to make some people mad but I am not trying to win popularity but I am addressing it because it needs to be said. This branch spends a lot of time defending the same people on usually the same issues. We have many important matters facing us as Letter Carriers. We need to

spend time knocking on doors fighting to keep what we have, instead of talking on the phone defending a carrier that does not want to come to work or soon as the first snow flies, goes on limited duty. That is not fair to the carriers that come to work everyday and does his/her route in the rain or snow without a complaint. I know this job is not getting easier and I know more is expected from letter carriers daily, but that is not an excuse for a few not to do the job that is

expected of them.

It puts more pressure on your fellow letter carrier and causes much resentment on the work-room floor. It is also tough on the stewards to defend the same issues over and over again. Please don't get me wrong, if your sick, your sick. That is what sick leave is for. But I think all of you know what I am talking about. Remember keep fighting the good fight!

Rocco Evangelista



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



Ricard Loring Main Office Retiree



**Second from the left is Gene Aldenderfer
UniversityStation Retiree**



**Retiring Doug McGee from
Trivillage Station**

His Dream Marches on.....

**UNITED
WE
STAND!**



FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH!

SALES REP WANTED

Wasserman/AME's Uniforms

Our company is looking for a retired Letter Carrier or spouse of a Letter Carrier to make sales calls in your local post offices.

Part time or Full time is available. Please call Joe Padon, Sales Manager at 1 (866) 597-2532 to learn more about the position.

Wasserman/AME's Uniforms is a union preference company that hires NALC retirees as it's sales reps.

50 YEAR GOLD CARDS



Rosie Flenard and Otis R. Lowe

Buckeye Branch 78

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National Association of Letter Carriers

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NW Northwest	Keith Etherington	451-1502
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COULD BE YOUR OWN!

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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

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