

Buckeye Branch 78 Bulletin

Columbus and Central Ohio



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DECEMBER 2006



12

VOL. 27, NO. 12



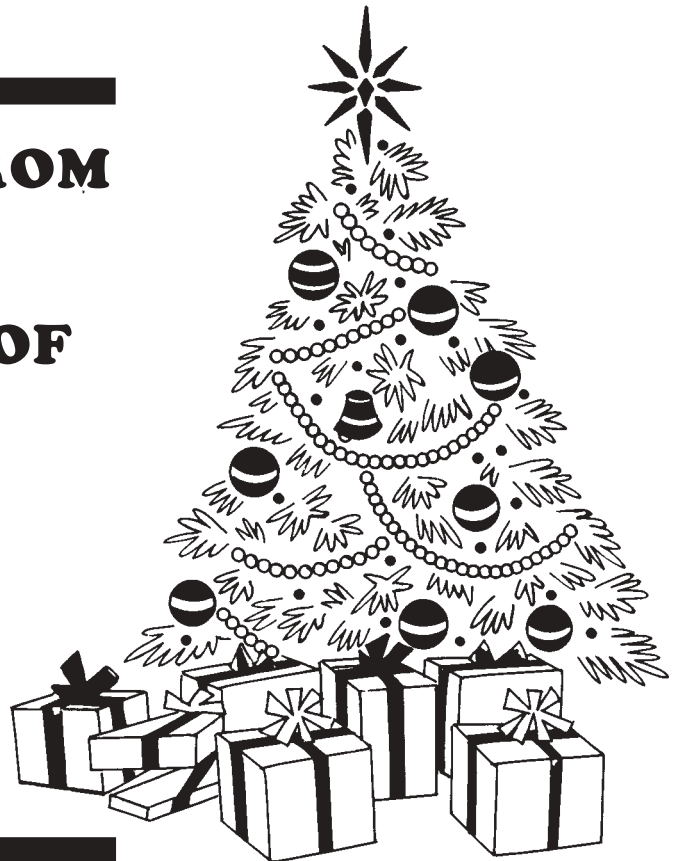
**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM
OUR FAMILIES TO
YOURS...OFFICERS OF
BRANCH 78**

Merry Christmas...

Happy Hanukah...

Happy Kwanzaa...

Joyous Eid



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

I want to thank all letter carriers for the long hours and hard work you put in during the 2006 election. The Eastern Area (because of Ohio) generated more revenue than other parts of the country due to the election mailings. As you know Ohio once again was the focal point during the election. I hope that each and every one of you took the time to vote. How you voted is your business but at least use the opportunity to do so. Remember in other countries of the world citizens die for something we take for granted. I want to thank Brenda Barton and Todd Hornyak for the many hours they put in working this year on trying to educate union members on the issues. For example, raising the minimum wage. Every working person in this country deserves to make a decent wage. Imagine a single parent working for minimum wages and trying to put food on the table and pay child care. It is impossible. One way or the other we are going to pay. Maybe with a decent wage we can also give them a little self respect also.

Open season is in full swing. This is the only time during the year that you can make a choice to switch health care plans. There are many to choose from including one ran by your union. Please take the time to consider switching health care coverage to the NALC. The NALC Health Benefit plan is rated number #1 in customer satisfaction this year. If you have any questions you can call us at the Union Hall or you may contact the plan directly. Remember it is a plan run by the

Union for Union members. Service and quality will always be number one. Open season runs from November 13 to December 11, 2006. You may also choose if you want to participate in a Flexible Spending account (FSA) and the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program. Any changes you make will take effect in January 2007.

The state recently held a retirement seminar at the Blackwell Inn. Over 165 people were in attendance. Matt Dry from personnel, a representative from the Social Security Office and the Director of Retirees for the NALC, Don Southern gave lectures on how to help prepare for retirement. It is never to early to get ready for retirement. Everything you do now, no matter when you are going to retire, will help you in the future. It all comes down to a matter of financial accountability. In other words, the more you are prepared towards retirement the better off you will be. This goes also for mentally and financially. If you are not ready to retire (some are not) you will might wind up regretting it. Ask someone you know, they will tell you. Who better to ask than another retiree. The branch has a supply of information concerning retirement which includes retirement booklets for both FERS and CSRS employees. You



Rocco
Evangelista

may contact us for information.

Speaking of retirement I want to congratulate Phil Paulson from Gahanna for the many years of service he contributed. I will remember Phil as someone who always spoke his mind, set the example for all Letter Carriers to follow. May retirement treat him well. On another note it has been a year ago since another Gahanna carrier retired but I neglected to mention him in my article. Terry Riley, one of the best T-6 carriers any of us had the pleasure of working with. The man is not much of a golfer but he is one heck of a carrier. I know both will enjoy the well deserved spare time.

I want to wish everyone a happy and prosperous holiday season. May you enjoy the time with your families, make every moment count and appreciate each blessing and be grateful. ***Remember, keep fighting the good fight!***

Happy  Holidays!
From The Evangelista Family

A MESSAGE FROM VICE PRESIDENT BOB SOLT

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a



Bob Solt

j o y f u l
h o l i d a y
season, a
M e r r y
Christmas
and a happy,
healthy and
prosperous
new year.

One can only hope that the personnel in management who are abusive will want to end the unpleasant treatment of Letter Carriers. The New Year should begin with adversarial working environments being a thing of the past. Working as an organization collectively is always more productive than working against each other.

The 2007 color-coded rotating days off calendars were distributed to the Union Stewards at the Stewards Appreciation Dinner on December 6th. This is the dinner we have each year to pay tribute to the Union Stewards for their hard work and dedication to the members of Branch 78. If the working conditions in your station are not as agreeable as you would like them to be, imagine what the atmosphere would be like if your Union Steward was not there to intervene on your behalf. The Union Stewards deserve to be commended and

thanked for the commitment they have made to the NALC and Letter Carriers.

The negotiation process for the National Agreement is still continuing in Washington D.C. If the NALC and the USPS do not reach a negotiated agreement through collective bargaining we will enter into a process of dispute resolution that may include mediation, fact finding and as a final point, arbitration. One of the goals of the NALC is a negotiated agreement with a level and general pay increases that would reward Letter Carriers for their contributions to the success of the USPS, enforcing our National Agreement and finding ways to improve the day-to-day working conditions of Letter Carriers. President Young has stressed that he is looking forward to the continuation of the cost of living adjustment clause of our current National Agreement. The most recent cost of living increase for active Letter Carriers amounted to \$790. This increase is more than sufficient to cover the meager Union dues that some Letter Carriers do not want to contribute. If you are unfortunate enough to have a nonmember where you work, let them know it would be nice if they united with us and paid their fair share. The NALC will also resist any attempt from the USPS to shift

the burden of the continually rising health care costs from the employer to the employee.

We have recently been informed of the death of John "Jack" Devery at the age of 88 in Lewis Center, Ohio. Jack retired in 1972 as a Letter Carrier. Jack was also a Life Member of the National Association of Letter Carriers. Jack is survived by his son Mike who is a Letter Carrier at Worthington. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Mike, and the family and friends.

Fraternally,

Bob Solt

Buckeye Br. 78 Bulletin

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MILLER'S MUSINGS

Wintery winds have been blowing for a month, the trees are bare of their fall cloaks and the elections are finally over. The holidays will be upon us so quick, that most of us are ill prepared.

More trees were killed this election year than any previous one. I don't know that for a fact but I don't remember this much volume in other contests. There were three and four pieces from some candidates on a daily basis. I just hope the Postal Service made enough to cover all the overtime hours used to process and deliver it. Most of it was not machinable, imagine that, and had to go out the day it arrived in the station. There are always a few stragglers the day after the voting but I had political mail come the Saturday after the election. Everyone you spoke to on the route said the same thing, "won't you be glad when this is over? I am so sick of this stuff and it goes straight to the trash." We can only hope that the newly elected will make some changes in the way Washington is run. In looking through some old pictures I found some that needed to be run again, particularly one of Ted Strickland, who was introduced in the Toledo

convention as the next Governor of Ohio. How neat was that?

I would like to thank Brenda Barton and Todd Hornyak for the many hours they spent working for Take Back Ohio. Theirs was a thankless job, calling people, knocking on doors and distributing literature to labor members to encourage them to get to the polls on Election Day. Inquiring as to which candidates they were going to support and trying to get a feel for the level of strength the labor candidates had. There is no doubt they represented Branch 78 and the NALC well. Hopefully more people will volunteer in '08. There is a lot at stake for all of us working folk.

Either the machines at the plant have become obsolete, or perhaps their programs have because the mail is coming in some very strange configurations. One day there will be breaker cards and the next there won't. It is very rare to have them on Mondays when your DPS is 120k plus. There are days you deliver two addresses and then the mail jumps back three addresses, it can't be sweeping errors when the numbers are that close and it happens throughout the route.

Why should they run everything in the plant for Monday and then have 45k on Tuesday? It makes no sense. And the flats are atrocious; I have had whole sets of catalogs with the covers unattached. It's really embarrassing when it's a periodical in pieces. The patrons think you've been reading their magazines and not being covert about it. We need some changes in processing and soon.

This year One New Toy will give to the Y Family Center, a shelter for homeless families and Franklin County Children's Services which oversees foster placement and wards of the State. We need all toys and money at the Hall by the December Branch meeting as we will be shopping and delivering the next week. I trust that all the stewards have amped up their stations collections this year as the need is great.

I take this opportunity to wish each and every member and their family a wonderful holiday season. May the New Year bring good health and prosperity.

*Joyfully submitted
by Yana Miller*



TAKE BACK OHIO.....

2006 LABOR WEEK



AFL-CIO LABOR 2006

I was grateful to be a part of the AFL-CIO Labor 2006 get out the vote campaign. Branch 78 had two of over 160 Letter Carriers who took leave from the United States Postal Service to work fulltime on Labor 2006 for NALC. Tri-Village Union Steward Brenda Barton and I participated in phone banks, door to door canvassing and literature drops to support labor endorsed and labor friendly candidates in the mid term election. I want to thank Letter Carriers Carl Demko, Danny Mehrle, Doug Gulley, Jacki Mitchell, Keith Mitchell, Bob Solt and Rocco Evangelista who volunteered their time at the phone

banks. When I spoke with fellow Union members I found that they were concerned with several issues. There were concerns about the direction or lack thereof of the war in Iraq. The economy and the availability of good jobs for their children, also the increases in health care and prescription drug prices for families were a concern. A number of other issues that were important to members included social security, pension security, terrorism, homeland security, immigration, taxes, gun ownership, raising the minimum wage and moral values. The overriding theme that I heard was that people were

tired of the direction of the country. They felt that it was time for a change. They wanted their elected officials to work on the problems facing this country instead of locked in gridlock and unwilling to compromise. We need to let our elected representatives know that we want solutions to the problems that we face. The 110th Congress needs to work across party lines on the issues and reach compromise.

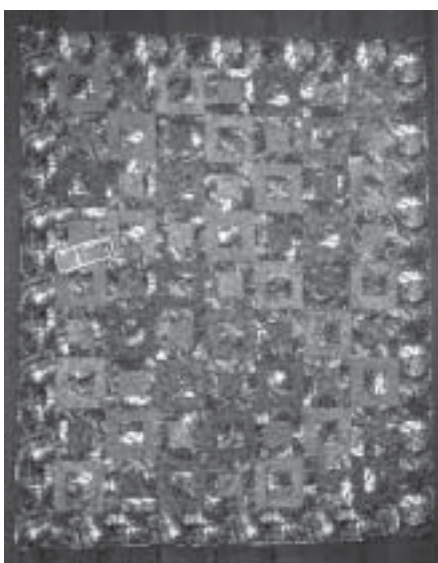
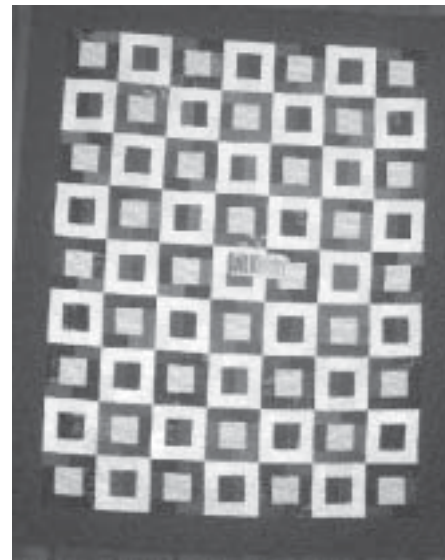
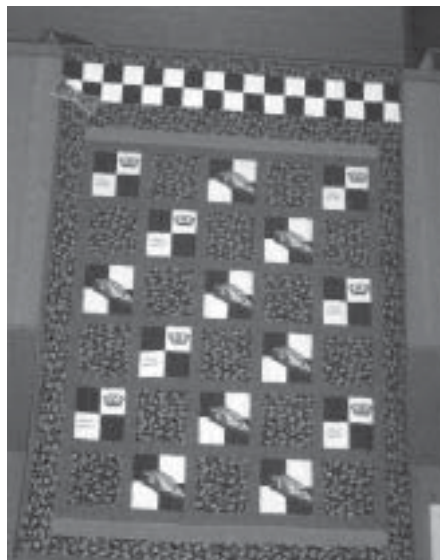
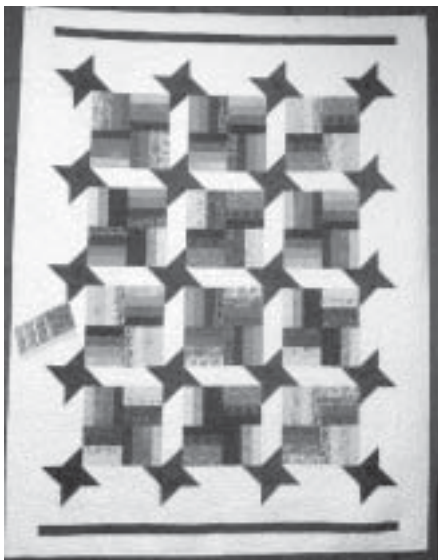
Todd Hornyak

NOVEMBER 8, 2006, Two good things happened on this day. First the end of all the political mail, I'm sure I can speak for a lot of carriers, who are happy this election is FINALLY over. "Away with the political mail and on with the bulk mail" Now that there is going to be a drastic change for the Democrats in Congress, maybe there will be changes in the post office, and hopefully this means we can get on with postal reform and get a decent contract. During the past two months, two carriers, Brenda Barton and Todd Hornyak, have been working on the election, from walking the pavement to doing the tedious job of calling people all over Ohio to encourage them to vote for the people who our union feels will be good to letter carriers in the coming years. Brenda and Todd, spent many hours more than they were paid, to do this for us. What I felt was a little disappointing was how few volunteers had helped out with this

election. I know all of us have lives after a long day at work, but we also need to keep in mind that it is up to all of us to protect our jobs. It was asked of the members to volunteer two hours of their time to help out, and if I'm not mistaken there were less than ten people who did indeed volunteer. This is such a small percentage compared to the number of members at our branch. We can't expect the same people time and time again to do all of the work for us. So, please, during the next election, when you are asked, and you will be, to volunteer a couple of hours, take the time, and help out. It could be your job you are protecting. On a more important note, I never realized how many veterans we are honored to have working for the post office. It was nice to see them get the recognition they obviously deserved, granted that they only received a certificate and continental breakfast, it still made me take a moment and reflect on what our veterans have done for

us and the sacrifices made to get us where we are today. I'm sure every member has somebody, family or friend, who is in the service at this time. You hear daily now of the casualties happening in Iraq, of the young men and women having their lives forever altered, or worse permanently ended because they are fighting for our country. To be recognized for this is a great thing. I've heard some people say management is only doing this to make themselves look good. I, for one, don't care about that, I care that they are being appreciated and commended for their sacrifices. The only upsetting thing about this is that not all veterans were acknowledged, I'm sure because a lack of communication. So, hopefully, next year when the time comes we can make sure ALL veterans are recognized.

Jacki Mitchell



QUILT MINISTRY FOR THE CHILDREN

These are a few of the quilts completed by the Quilt Ministry for the children in the Worthington Children's Home, some have mental disorders, some have suffered abuse. Fabric donations can be brought to the Hall. They need to be cotton so they have the same shrinkage for washing purposes. These black and white photos do not do justice to them.

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

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

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 IACOBONI	472-0696 or 472-0500
SGT-AT-ARMS	EDWARD STEWART	279-2778
DIR OF RETIREES	JACK LEVALLY	875-2220
MBA HEALTH BENEFIT	CHUCK SHARP	(H) 937-843-2546 or (C) 614-314-9302
HEAD TRUSTEE	CARL DEMKO	351-0137
TRUSTEE	GARY BOLLER	471-8289
TRUSTEE	CARL BOOTH	491-1675
TRUSTEE	TODD HORNYAK	351-0137
TRUSTEE	TREVOR PAYNE	447-8078

LOOK

FOR THE

UNION LABEL



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

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	Jacki Mitchell	237-2830
Canal Winchester	Gary Boller	471-8289
C Linden	Marcus Jones	
CP Central Point	Frank Lisath	228-1570
CIR Circleville	Rocco Evangelista/Bob Solt	279-2778
City Gate Collection Unit	Chuck Snyder	472-0500
DEL Delaware	Randy Hartman/K. Sutton Alt.	1-740-363-1906
DUB Dublin	Christine Gonda	889-0763
Eastland	John Gibbons/Jim Gilmer Alt.	237-1912
E Olde Town		253-7350
F German Village	Douglas Bryant	449-9565
G South Columbus	Walt Brumfield/Vince Eddy Alt.	444-0217
GAH Gahanna	John Slifko	471-8289
GP Groveport	Rocco Evangelista/Bob Solt	279-2778
GC Grove City	Dave Kitchen	
HILL Hilliard	Chris Haser/John Farranto Alt.	876-7021
HT Hilltop	Mark Beach	351-0137
LV Lincoln Village	Rick Baker/T. Hornyak Alt.	351-0137
LIV Livingston	Ray Pugh/Bob Connell Alt.	237-9570
LON London	Jon Robinson	1-740-852-1881
MO Main Office	Keith Jones/Matthew Gannon	469-4216
MV Marysville	Doc Holliday	1-937-642-1961
MTV Mount Vernon	Paul McCamey	351-1701
NE Northeast	Mark Martin	279-2778
NL Northland	Kent Fling/Mike Little	890-1180
NW Northwest	James Williams	451-1502
OP Oakland Park	Madonna Keller/P. Trzcinski Alt.	476-1590
PIC Pickerington		837-5793
PLN CTY Plain City	Teresa Thomas	614-873-4004
REY Reynoldsburg	Doug Sawyer	279-2778
SHEP Shepard	Larry Hamby	476-1590
TV Tri-Village	Brenda Barton	469-4232
U University	Rod James	294-7292
UA Upper Arlington	Tom Wilson/Tom Parise	451-2302
WV Westerville	Dennis Manning	882-2243
WJ West Jefferson	G. Chaffins	1-614-879-9145
WW West Worthington	Danny Green	793-9789
WH Whitehall	Ken McCauley	237-1722
WOR Worthington/Busch	Andy Curtis	846-6088

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

**The views expressed in articles
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rectly reflect those of Branch 78 or
the Editor.**

**ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICA-
TIONS 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