

Buckeye Branch 78 Bulletin

Columbus and Central Ohio

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PICKERINGTON



APRIL 2007



VOL. 28, NO. 3

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The congressional breakfast is slated for June 5th 6th. Please note it was originally scheduled in May. In order to attend, you will have to attend a workshop scheduled at the Union Hall for May 3, beginning at 6:00PM. We want you to be informed on the issues before we meet with our elected representatives. I encourage all Union members to get involved and to see how the democratic process works. One of the issues I will discuss with my congressman Pat Tiberi is managements continued push to outsourcing of city carrier jobs. Contract Delivery will have a major impact on the Letter Carrier craft in the future. Remember the days of customer service? At one time it was a priority, those days are long gone. Letter Carriers have always taken pride in providing a service to the public. It may take a moment longer to walk inside a business and hand them a bundle of mail, but the rewards are great. Customer Service is what has kept our head above water with the public. Slowly we are dwindling the service aspect away and are falling in line with

the other mega-business organizations that deal with the public on a daily basis. We need the public on our side and service is how we keep them.

The rules for retirement counseling has once again been changed. As most of you were aware of, the NALC grieved the fact that management was no longer doing a "face to face" consultations on retirement benefits. The grievance was sustained because of language in the Handbooks and Manuals. Well, the language was changed so now we have to go through the Shared Services Center (HRSSC) in North Carolina. I have not heard any horror stories as of yet. It is reassuring to have the face to face contact, but it may not be as bad as folks are expecting. The paperwork can be overwhelming and sometimes reassurance is a necessity. Most of the employees in shared services are very good at the task before them and can be informative. Personally I believe if you work most of your life for an organization, setting down with someone than can look you in the eye and explain something to you is not much to



Rocco
Evangelista

ask. If you are having issues or questions about your retirement, please contact us at the union Hall. If we do not know the answer we will find out for you.

I still believe the possibility of a National Agreement will be reached. When I attended the Rap session in Los Angeles in January, I walked away thinking both sides were very close to an agreement. From my understanding the parties are still discussing the issues even though an impasse was declared. Before it goes to the point of arbitration, both parties will engage in mediation. At that point if a neutral party cannot

Continued on page 4



A MESSAGE FROM VICE PRESIDENT BOB SOLT

I would like to express my gratitude to the members of Branch 78



for the opportunity to represent our Union at Organized Labors 48th annual George Meany

Awards Banquet. The Central Ohio AFL-CIO and the United Way Community Services Department hosted the event. The banquet was held at Villa Milano on Schrock Road March 15, 2007. Angela Pace, Director of Community Affairs, WBNS-10 TV emceed the event.

Organized Labor was well represented by: Plumbers & Pipe Fitters Local # 189, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local # 683, Communications Workers of America Locals # 4310, # 4501, # 4502 and # 4320, Ohio AFL-CIO, Ohio Civil Service Employees Association, Columbus Education Association, Professionals Guild of Ohio # 1960, Bakers # 57, Transport Workers Union # 208, Laborers # 423, United Food and Commercial Workers # 1059, United Steelworkers # 2342, Columbus and Central Ohio Building Trades Council, Columbus Municipal Assoc. of Government Employees, Sheet Metal Workers #24, International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local # 413 and our own Branch 78 of the National Association of Letter Carriers. NALC Branch 78

President Rocco Evangelista is a Vice President with the Central Ohio AFL-CIO and was recognized for his work with Operation Feed.

The Community Service Award was presented to the Honorable Cynthia Lazarus, Judge of the Tenth District Court of Appeals, for her volunteer work in the community. The Central Ohio AFL-CIO Scouting Award was presented to Yolanda Ferguson for her participation with the Girl Scouts. Yolanda is an active member of OCSEA/AFSCME # 11..The George Meany Award was presented to Dave Caldwell. Dave is a member of the United Steel Workers.

Thanks again for the opportunity to represent NALC Branch 78 and spend an evening with Unionists from such an extensive variety of Union

professions to reflect not only on Organized Labor's past but our future community service commitments as well.

The NALC Food Drive is scheduled for Saturday May 12th. Again this year we will need every volunteer we can possibly get. The Union Stewards have been asked to organize the entire process in their stations. The Branch will also need volunteers to unload, sort and reload the trucks at City Gate. The success of the Food Drive can only be insured by the dedication and hard work of all Letter Carriers. By working together we can make a significant improvement in the lives of the less fortunate in our communities.

Fraternally,

Bob Solt

HAPPY EASTER
FROM ALL THE OFFICERS
OF
BR 78



MILLER'S MUSINGS

Once upon a time there was a station with lots of routes in a land kind of far away from downtown. These were pretty nice routes with minimal walking so there were a lot of carriers with a lot of seniority. Now there were a few that lucked up on routes when they had almost no time in the PO, but they were the exception not the rule. Anyway this station had a variety of rulers over time that were memorable for their less than desirable management styles. Frequently the morale of this station sunk to lows. In spite of those rulers they managed to keep going. Then one day a new ruler was enthroned. This one was like none they had seen before. Pleasant, you could say. This was new and the carriers were skeptical. There was still a leftover from the old regime that couldn't think and required the use of the DOIS to assign time to the carriers. She was incapable of analyzing what was there and how to accomplish goals without blindly following the DOIS, no matter how outlandish it sounded. The carriers were between the devil and the deep blue sea. Then there was a mighty wind and swirled things around in the city and in blew a new team to work with the Ruler.

There were a lot of strange things going on. Individuals were recognized monthly for their hard work. Monthly treats for the whole station. This was unheard of and the carriers did not know what to make of this new atmosphere. The stress level seemed to drop dramatically. There were fewer call ins, less bickering. Then the station started getting recognition for a job well done. The ruler was quite pleased and shared their appreciation with their carriers. There were submissions for quarterly awards for exceptional workers voted on by the workers. More accolades came to the station; they were at the pinnacle of success, the leader in the district.

Then it happened, the ruler was sent out to other stations, and spread that same management style to others. They were enthusiastic like the first station. The first station was disappointed that their ruler was not there all the time but still had the rest of the team to carry on the ruler's wishes. Life was still good and the carriers continued to produce good results. Just as sudden as the ruler had come she went off to another land far from the station. Then the other members of the team were banished to other stations and a new ruler

came forth. A darkness spread over the station. In no time at all the morale fell like a rock searching for the bottom of an abyss. Sickness invaded the bodies and minds of the carriers.

They couldn't understand why things were suddenly oppressive again. They all wondered how fast they would slip from the mountain top to the bottom of the chart. Life was no longer wonderful in that station far away from downtown. The dream team died.

Submitted by Yana Miller

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Continued from page 1

help resolve the issues at hand, then it will be scheduled for binding arbitration. I will keep you informed of any future actions.

I had the opportunity to congratulate Robin White, carrier from South Columbus Station on his retirement. He was presented with a watch on behalf of the

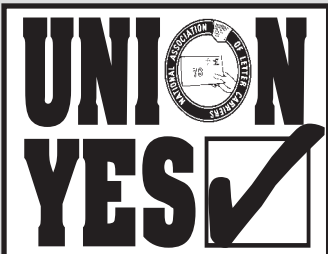
branch. Robin retired back in the fall of 2006 but I was not informed of his retirement at the time and it took this long to hook up. Robin is a veteran of the US Army, served his country in Vietnam and received the Purple Heart. I thank you Robin for your dedication.

Remember

Keep fighting the good fight!



Robin White, retired from South Columbus Station, displays NALC watch presented to him.



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

SUPPORT THE CARRIER BASKETBALL TEAMS AT THE ANNUAL SOCIAL REC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

**SUNDAY
APRIL 22**

**AT THE HOOP
4185 EAST FIFTH AVE
AT
5 PM**

**SEATING IS LIMITED SO
BRING YOUR CHAIRS**

**CHAMPIONSHIP
GAME WILL START
ONE HALF HOUR
AFTER THE FIRST
ROUND**

READ YOUR UNION NEWSPAPER!

**EXTRA!
EXTRA !
BR 78
NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2007
ISSUE
HOT OFF
THE
PRESS!**



Betsy Hernandez induction into Br 78



Congratulations...

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



FROM THE NORTH....

In July 1971, the first collective bargaining agreement between the USPS and letter carriers was signed. It was the first time in the history of mail delivery that wages and benefits would result from negotiations between the USPS and our union, the NALC.

Prior to that time all wages, benefits and working conditions were extended from considerations given by members of the Congress of the United States with final approval coming from the President of the United States. Although the NALC existed prior to that time, the Post Office Department was not under any obligation to recognize the union. Letter carrier wages were notoriously low and most of them qualified for public assistance. Relationships and communication between members of Congress and letter carriers was critical to any

increases in pay and improvement in working conditions.

Buckeye Branch 78's annual trek to Washington D.C. has its roots in those past times. Members of the branch would travel as a group to Washington in an attempt to gain support from Ohio senators and representatives for letter carriers nationwide. This year the message will undoubtedly be related to the proposed contracting out of letter carrier jobs to low bid workers.

Today, letter carriers enjoy something that is becoming increasingly hard to find in this country; a job that pays a living wage with benefits and a retirement plan. We have a lot to lose if the USPS fails.....our very jobs. From where I stand and view things it appears that postal management has a death wish. As workers who want to keep our jobs, all letter carriers, union or

not, have the challenge to save the USPS from itself. The best way to do this is to buy influence. The NALC has found friends in Congress who oppose the contracting out of letter carrier jobs. It is important to us that these people be re-elected to Congress. It takes money to win an election. Money donated to COLCPE is used to finance these campaigns. When we give money to COLCPE we buy influence.

I have \$5.00 automatically deducted from my pay check and have never missed it. It was easy to do and it is important. Every letter carrier who values his or her job should consider doing the same. There are people out there who want to take our jobs. 'Let's stop them.

Keep the faith,

Randy



SAFETY FIRST



By the time you read this article I hope we have said goodbye to the snow and frigid weather we experienced last month.

It won't be long before we will have to deal with dogs in the yards and front doors being open with dogs inside. Make sure you have a fresh can of dog spray and that you regulars have made out your dog

warning cards to use on your day off.

You have been doing a great job in safety. The first quarter of FY 2007, which ended Dec 2006, the Columbus district was No.2 in the nation for MVA reduction and No.8 for I&I's.

The USPS/NALC Task Force will be holding their meetings in

various offices throughout the district. While there we will be doing an audit of the station as well as doing 4584's (street observations).

We are also in the planning stage of producing a video to be used in a Plan 5 talk.

Until next time stay smart-be safe. Safety is our FIRST priority.

SPRING! What a beautiful time of year. It also is a time for people to enjoy the warmer air and all the spring color. We just don't want to lose sight of our safety procedures.

We all should be practicing defensive driving, not only at work but every time you get behind the wheel. It only takes a moment to turn your world upside down. Ask

the carrier who flipped her LLV a few weeks ago.

This time of the year also brings with it a whole array of different hazards. When bad weather comes ie; tornadoes, severe lightning storms or flood waters, know ahead of time where the safe shelters are on your route, in your station and at home. Never carry mail during a severe lightning storm. Get on a

porch and wait it out. These storms are usually fast moving with high winds and do not last very long. Even while you are on vacation, don't let your guard down.

*The key to prevention
is to plan ahead.*

Tony Snyder
Safety Rep. Br 78

DON'T FORGET! To Make Your Contribution To COLCPE

MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO COLCPE

Mail to:

Buckeye Branch 78

1029 Harrisburg Pike
Columbus, Ohio
43223-2524

MAIL
YOUR
CONTRIBUTION
TODAY!



SIGN UP
FOR
AUTO DEDUCT
FROM YOUR
PAY CHECK
OR
CHECKING
ACCOUNT!



Branch 78 News Flash

RENEE PALMER WHAT COULD YOU HAVE DONE WITH \$31 0? YOUR NAME WAS DRAWN AT THE MARCH MEETING AND YOU WERE NOT THERE!

WIN WORKSHOP

MAY 3, 6 PM

**BR 78 UNION HALL
1029 HARRISBURG PIKE**

**ATTENDENCE REQUIRED TO BE A
PAID REPRESENTATIVE ON THE
CONGRESSIONAL LOBBYING TRIP
TO D.C.**

MAY 8-9

INTERESTED IN A TRIP TO AMISH COUNTRY

The Social & Recreation Committee is planning a shopping trip on August 11, 2007.

Cost: \$52.00 (bsed on 40 people)

Prices includes:

- round Trip Motor Coach
- Guided Tour or Tour Guide (you decide)
- Lunch



If you would be interested please call Bobbee whitlow@472-0466
or

Tomecca Clary-Russell@469-4448

Buckeye Branch 78

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National Association of Letter Carriers

AFL-CIO



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C Linden	Marcus Jones	
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LON London	Jon Robinson	1-740-852-1881
MO Main Office	Matthew Gannon/Marvin West Alt.	469-4216
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FOR THE

UNION LABEL



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

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**The views expressed in articles
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**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