

Buckeye Branch 78 Bulletin

Columbus and Central Ohio



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PICKERINGTON

JULY 2007



VOL. 28, NO.7

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Pivots, light mail starting times are moved back, can it get worse? The *Los Angeles Business Journal* reported that USPS has awarded Northrop Grumman Corporation a contract worth \$874.6 million to purchase 100 flat sequencing systems designed to automate the flats mailstream. The new system will sort mail to the delivery sequence of each carrier, reducing manual sorting. You do know what that means, carriers will spend less time in the office and more time on the street. That will please carriers on a mounted route but what of the carriers on a park and loop. This job is more physically demanding than it was several years ago. A park and loop carrier has the potential to spend over 7 hours on the street. His/her body cannot hold up for a period of time because of the demands placed upon them. Has the Postal Service taken this into consideration? I will admit DPS the flats will once again curtail office time to a minimum but along with that will come some extra baggage. The Postal Service has to conduct a study of some sort on the ergonomics of the position of

letter carrier and the physical stress the knees and feet can take. Enough is enough, as your bodies get older the chance for an injury is greater. Yes, some will carry for awhile but what will happen once they reach retirement age, how are their bodies holding up? That has to be taken into consideration. The potential for a OWCP claim will be much greater as time goes on.

We are already under withholding for the implementation of FSS. The Postal Service is already gearing up to hire Transitional Employees during the period of transition. This is being argued at the National Level in Washington, DC. My prediction is the Postal Service position will prevail. This is a protection for career employees so they cannot get displaced from their unit. The projection date is September, 2008. From my understanding the machine is the size of a football field. It will take up most of the workroom (first) floor at Twin Rivers Drive. I will keep you apprised of any future dialogue.

Members from Branch 78 attended the Congressional



Rocco
Evangelista

Breakfast in Washington, DC. We had several meetings scheduled with our Congressional Representatives. The main topic of discussion was the contracting out of work to private contractors. I am proud to say after our meeting with Patrick Tiberi, Representative to Congress for the 12th District, the Congressman signed on as a co-sponsor of HR 282 (a bill introduced to stop the contracting out of career jobs). Before I had left Washington his aide contacted me on my cell phone to let us know that they had already contacted the NALC and were going to join the fight to keep customer service intact. It was a rewarding trip. Our delegation

Continued on page 5

A MESSAGE FROM VICE PRESIDENT BOB SOLT

On June 5th and 6th Branch 78 sent the yearly delegation to



Washington, D.C. to meet with our elected officials. The Branch provides transportation and lodging

for the trip. While in Washington we have an opportunity to discuss with Carriers from all areas of Ohio the problems they have to contend with. During this time we enlighten our elected officials on issues the Letter Carriers and USPS are experiencing. One of the major issues this year is the contracting out of City Letter Carrier work. Congressional Representatives Dennis Kucinich, Zack Space, Charlie Wilson and Betty Sutton attended the Congressional Breakfast. While in Washington we were able to convince several representatives to cosponsor HR 282 that is intended to stop the contracting out of City Letter Carrier jobs.

On June 14, 2007 we held a training class at our Union Hall for the PTF's. Branch 78 Trustee/Webmaster Trevor Payne explained the Branch 78 web-site and the vast amount of information that is available on it. If you have not logged on you should check it out. MBA Health Benefit officer Chuck Sharp gave a very informative talk on the NALC health benefit plan. All NALC members should belong to our NALC

health benefit plan. Sgt.-at-Arms officer Eddie Stewart gave an explanation of the pay stubs and the problems a PTF has to deal with on a daily basis. Branch 78 President Rocco Evangelista gave a comprehensive review of all issues regarding a PTF's life in the Postal Service. These dedicated officers are to be commended for volunteering their time and their continued dedication to our Branch.

Letter Carriers collected over 70.7 million pounds of food donations during our food drive. The food was delivered to the local food banks, shelters and pantries to help the less fortunate in our communities across the nation. The final results announced by the NALC national offices were 70,745,176 pounds of non-perishable food was collected on Saturday, May 12. The total amount collected nationally was a slight increase over last years totals but was the fourth consecutive year the Union's food drive has exceeded 70 million pounds. Branch 78 collected \$136.00 and approximately 201,820 pounds of food from Columbus, the associate offices and some smaller communities throughout central Ohio. During the 15 years of the food drive the NALC has collected over 836 million pounds of food. NALC President Young stated that even in these difficult times, when many family budgets are pressured by high gasoline prices, the American people showed their generosity toward those who are less fortunate. We

have made a positive difference in the lives of the disadvantaged in central Ohio. I would like to again thank everyone that helped make our food drive a success and Branch 78 President Rocco Evangelista for his invaluable leadership and assistance before and during the food drive.

If you receive any type of discipline a grievance needs to be filed immediately. Do not have the misconception that if a grievance is not filed the discipline will disappear.

Intimidation is self-inflicted. Do not allow yourself to be intimidated. We have a National Agreement that management is mandated to abide by. Being a Union member is not a spectator sport. All Letter Carriers need to be enthusiastically involved NALC members.

*Fraternally,
Bob Solt*

**Catch
the Spirit!**

**Stand Up!
Speak Out!**

**Get Involved
With Your Union!**



MILLER'S MUSINGS

DOIS says you are an hour light, no make that two hours light. You can pivot two hours. What a way to start the week. In the plan five we are told the mail is light so we will all be pivoting at least an hour. When questioned about the DPS and other mail volume, management stated they didn't have those numbers yet. Well if you don't have those numbers yet how do you know we can pivot an hour or more? That's that ASP logic at work. One of my coworkers explained the acronym – already stupid protégés or automatically stupid person. Bear in mind that not all that enter the program fall in to those categories but a large percentage definitely fit the bill. Back to Monday the one with ninety - seven thousand DPS and the order is that you are light and you will pivot. You are not supposed to cut mail to pivot. My leave time according to DOIS was 9:30. The last time I remember being out of the office at 9:30 we started work at 6:30 or I had to leave and attend a meeting, the route was not up or pulled. As said before DOIS knows us better than we know ourselves. I didst protest that there was no way I could make the two and half hour assignment and be back in eight. I was not sure I could make 1700. By then I was frustrated trying to talk sense to the nonsensical, threw up my hands and went back to work in a highly agitated state. Not a good way to start one's week. When I did get out of the office, close to 10:30, two of the three trays of DPS for the other route took a notion to slide in to the

parking lot leaving their trays behind. Luckily, one of my fellow carriers asked the carrier that put the route up to help us get it back in order, which she graciously did. Needless to say I had to make the three PM, sorry, not going to make it call and will try to be back before six.

There was an order sent from the heavens that NO ONE would start before 7:30, double casers included. Let's see, we are in peak vacation time, so every station is down five or six routes not including call-ins. We are in a drought with extreme temps and humidity and you want people starting later and working harder in these conditions spending the majority of the time in the heat of the day because you are starting them later and later. There have been so many safety talks about the importance of working safe. How can you work safe in vehicles that have no ventilation? Speaking of vehicles, those same people that tell you to take unlimited sets of house to house on mounted routes. Not one of them has shown anyone where you are supposed to set that mail in these vehicles. They are the same people that have said you can't have your radio or anything else on that sliver of a dash. My truck tray has room for a DPS tray, a cased tray and parcels or advo. There are no other places to set those infinite sets of house to house. What in the world are they thinking when giving those directives? Bad question. Retraction. Most of these individuals do not think, that is obvious when they open their

mouths.

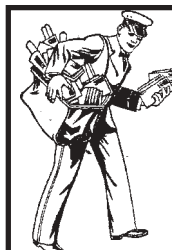
Remember, if you gripe and moan that you can't make the DOIS time and you do. Stop whining!

I must apologize for the misnomer of the Union Hall. I was having one of my serious senior hours.

My apologies to all.



Yana Miller



**Remember
when
delivering
your route
safety 1st.**

Buckeye Br. 78 Bulletin

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FROM THE NORTH....

This..... “involved establishing work and time standards for each letter carrier function. These would be put into a computer which would then determine an 8 hour route for each individual carrier. The efficiency experts measured and timed how far a carrier walks to and from the time clock and how he walks in pulling his case. The distance a carrier’s arm moves in casing a letter was noted. They even measured to the split second the time it took for the carrier to move his eyes from the letter to the case and the time it took for the carrier to move his eyes from the case back to the next letter. At this rate, if you sneezed you could be charged with delay in the mail.....”

Letter carriers across the country spoke out against being “reduced to nothing but automation, as letter carriers are not robots, they are human beings.” A carrier from

Portland, Oregon wrote “.....we hope and pray that our National officers will be successful in receiving a ruling.....so that carriers will again be treated as humans instead of robots and we will have a return to better service.”

Sounds like DOIS nonsense? No, these are excerpts from the history of the NALC entitled “Carriers in a Common Cause.” In 1974, the USPS announced plans to begin a work measurement system called LCRES, Letter Carrier Route Evaluation System. It was first introduced in Kokomo, Indiana and was thus nicknamed “The Kokomo Plan.” If successful in Kokomo, it was to be introduced to every station in the country. During an 8 month test of 38 carriers, 9 transferred, 3 retired, 2 went on disability and 1 died. Letter carriers were outraged and the NALC grieved the plan as a unilateral increase

in the work load of carriers. On the eve of the NALC’s 1976 National Convention, an arbitrator ruled that the plan violated the National Agreement. Delegates at the convention “roared” their approval as President James Rademacher declared “Kokomo is dead!”

DOIS is Kokomo with a different name. Every day some letter carrier is being berated for not working to the standard that DOIS has set. The USPS wants you to believe that safety is their number one concern yet they ignore the mental stress that flawed DOIS data causes every day. The issue will be discussed in arbitration this year. I have confidence that, just like Kokomo was declared dead in 1976, that DOIS will be dealt a death blow in 2007.

*Keep the faith,
Randy*

NBA Report

As I write this, we have 168 co-sponsors on H-RES-282 which indicates opposition to sub-contracting city delivery by the USPS.

We need to get more representatives to sign on as co-sponsors, with our ultimate goal being to have enough to make an actual bill veto proof.

So write or call your representatives and ask them to co-sponsor H-RES 282. Explain to them that in this era of heightened security, sub-contracting mail delivery would

constitute a huge breach of that security and open avenues for all kinds of terrorist activity to occur.

In addition, it would greatly reduce the service to the public and cause the further reduction of head of household jobs which allow Americans to raise a family, own a house and educate their children.

A large number of our domestic problems could be cured by the creation of these head of the household jobs and we have a government agency, the USPS, attempting to

eliminate them.

The NALC Executive Council and the Branch leaders are doing everything they can to save letter carrier jobs. What we need is for all our members to sign on as Legislative Activists and to contribute to COLCPE, preferably as an automatic contributor. If that happens, we can win the battle of sub-contracting. Isn’t your job worth this small effort on your part? Think about it.

Bill Cooke

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Continued from page 1

from Columbus did very well representing Branch 78. They knew the issues beforehand and made a very educational presentation before our elected officials. Senator Sharrod Brown and several other officials from Ohio also pledged to help in this struggle also.

The Branch 78 Golf Outing for MDA is in August. Our Branch

picnic is coming up in September. Hope to see you there.

Remember
Keep fighting the good fight!

Rocco Evangelista



A MESSAGE FROM JACKIE MITCHELL.....

Good morning to all letter carriers, I think its official that summer is here. I'm not sure what happened to spring, maybe it is lost somewhere in DOIS, or whatever new tool they are using to show us how incapable we are. On that note, we had a carrier just this week who was instructed by the supervisor, (who was being shadowed by a manager who probably has at least ten years less or more than this supervisor) tell them that DOIS showed them being able to pivot an hour, typical right? This carrier was also having another supervisor walk them on this particular day. This seems like every angle was covered. Now, we are told that DOIS is the best possible tool out there that gives letter carriers the best accurate count of their mail. If this being the case, why did the letter carrier come back in just over eight hours? (by the way a big pat on the back goes out to him) This was supposed to be SO accurate, there were all three, manager and both supervisors, inputting the information into this wonderful tool, and he still showed eight hours. Of course

when the carrier asked to discuss this on the floor the very next morning he was told that he would be talked to later on that this only concerned him. I was under the impression that DOIS affected all of us. So the bottom line is if DOIS says you're an hour light, and you are not. Don't run the route just so they won't harass you, guaranteed, they'll be back for more the next time.

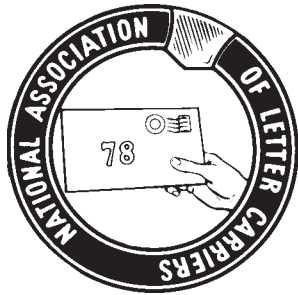
Now, on to something more positive. This years food drive was, as always, a success, even though it seemed that we did not collect as much as we did last year. Even with the outrageous gas prices, our customers still came through for us. For the past two years, I have asked Kroger to make some kind of donation to our employees who help with the food drive, and they have been so gracious enough to do so. This year many heart felt thanks go out to Charlotte Dandrea, from Pataskala, who donated a gift card so I was able to buy hamburgers for the workers. Thank you again.

We made our annual trip to Washington D.C. on June 6th. What I found interesting when we

talked to our representatives they had no idea or were misinformed about how the Post Office is trying to contract out OUR jobs.

Pat Tiberi was absolutely shocked when we told him what the post office was trying to do, and my understanding is that Deborah Pryce thought we were trying to take the jobs from the rural carriers. They both were immediately correctly informed, and thankfully, Pat Tiberi had signed on to bill 282 within the hour of our meeting. So those of you who are wondering if our trips make a difference, that alone should answer your questions. I personally have been talking to the customers on my route about the post office, and every response is the same, "They can't do that, who would we be able to trust?" My advice to all of you, tell your customers and have them contact their representatives, as well as you doing the same. I still want my job to be here in twenty years!!!!!!

Jacki Mitchell



Branch 78

Scholarship Application

Applicant, fill out required information below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Please Check One:

- Son
- Daughter
- Stepson*
- Stepdaughter*
- Grandson*
- Granddaughter*

of an: active _____ retired _____ deceased _____

Name of member: _____

Eligibility

- Applicant must be the son, daughter or legally adopted child of a NALC letter carrier member in good standing — active, retired or deceased.
- Applicant's parent must be a NALC member in good standing of for at least one year (12 months) prior to making application.
- Applicants may not be a relative of any member of the scholarship judges.
- Applicant must be a high school senior when making application and must submit the form provided above, signed by the NALC member, and an officer of Branch 78. This form must be returned to Branch 78 by August 1,

-
- Stepchildren and grandchildren are eligible if they live with the letter carrier in a regular parent-child relationship.
 - Stepchildren and grandchildren are eligible if they live with the letter carrier in a regular parent-child relationship.

Requirements

- All applicants must take the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) or the American College Test (ACT) in either their junior or senior year, and a copy of the original printout of the scores from the administering organization must be received at Branch 78 headquarters with application by midnight, August 1, 2007.
- All biographical questionnaires and secondary school reports must be received at Branch 78 by midnight, August 1, 2007.

Regulations

- Scholarship is to be used toward pursuing undergraduate degree at an accredited college of recipient's choice.
- Winners may accept other college scholarship assistance in addition to the Branch 78 award.
- If winner suffers certified serious illness, scholarship will be held in abeyance for not more than one year (12 months).
- If unusual conditions are going to require an interruption in schooling, recipient must state reason(s) in writing to the Scholarship Committee and request that the scholarship be held in abeyance. Request(s) will be reviewed by the Committee and a decision rendered.

Terms of awards

- The official scholarship judges will award two scholarships (one male winner, one female winner). Decisions of the judges will be final.
- Branch 78 Scholarship awards will be a one time \$500 scholarship. ***Award money will be deposited annually with the college. It will be credited to the winner's account to be drawn upon under the rules and regulations which the college has established for handling scholarship funds. Award money is to be used for required college fees, including room and board and transportation fees.***
- *Stepchildren and grandchildren are eligible if they live with the letter carrier in a regular parent-child relationship.*

WASHINGTON D.C. LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

120 Letter Carriers from the Ohio State Association attended the Legislative Breakfast June 6, 2007 in Washington, D.C. at the Hyatt Regency on Capital Hill. Branch 78 sent eighteen members and we heard from Congressman Dennis Kucinich D-10th District, Charlie Wilson D-6th District, Betty Sutton D-13th District, Zack Space D-18th District and Steve Chabot R-1st District all spoke at the breakfast. All of the representatives signed on as cosponsors of HR 282. When the Ohio delegation arrived the state had four Representatives who were co sponsors of HR 282, when we left town we had nine Congressman or Congresswomen signed on as cosponsors. President William Young announced at our national rap session and political and legislative briefing that Sherrod Brown had signed on as cosponsor of S1457 the "Mail Delivery Protection Act of 2007" on June 5, 2007.

When we met with our representatives we spoke concerning contracting out the delivery of mail. Members of Branch 78 met with Senator Sherrod Brown, Representatives Pat Tiberi and Debra Pryce. We spoke with Senator Brown's Legislative director Chris Slevin. We expressed our concerns about the Chairman of the United States Postal Service Board of Governors James Miller III's decision to privatize the

delivery of mail. We explained that contracting out to a low wage; no benefit contractor is an unwise practice. The contractors then subcontract out to other people who are unknown. We explained how hiring contractors bypasses the recruitment and hiring process that produce qualified and trustworthy employees. The hiring of contractors undermines the Federal policy of granting veterans preference in hiring those who have served their country.

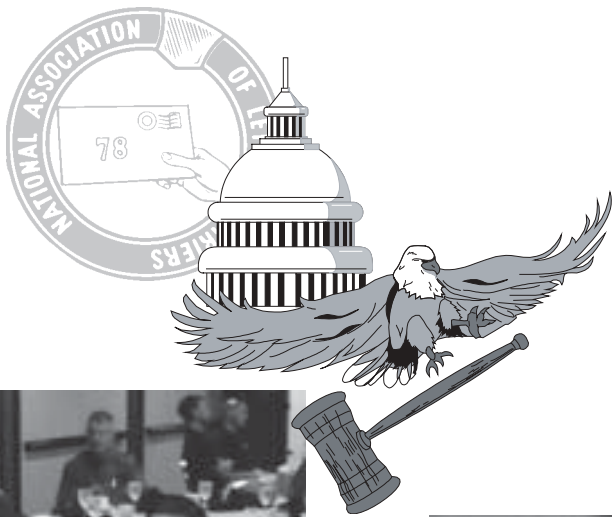
Congressman Pat Tiberi agreed to co sponsor HR 282 the sense of the house resolution to stop contracting out delivery services. Congressman Tiberi also offered to sponsor a house bill similar to the senate bill that was drafted by NALC. Mr. Tiberi is to be commended for his support of this worthy resolution.

We met with Debra Pryce and expressed our views on contracting out. We explained that there were highway contract routes in Grove City, Galloway and Hilltop 43204. The constituents that receive mail from a contractor or subcontractor that is the lowest bidder for a one or two year contract will not receive the same service as a career employee provides. We asked Ms. Pryce to consider cosponsoring the HR 282. She told us that she needed to review the issue before signing as co sponsor.

The membership should contact their representatives and thank them for supporting the concerns of Letter Carriers or to ask for their support.

Todd Hornyak





BR 78 RETIREEE ROOSEVELT FLENARD WRITES BOOK ON HIS EXPERIENCES IN THE NAVY DURING WORLD WAR II

One of our Retirees has written a book about his experiences in the Navy during World War II. Roosevelt Flenard, or Rosie, wrote a very honest account of what it was like to be an African American

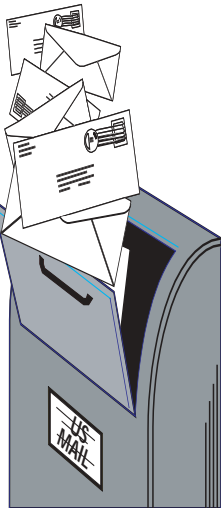
serving in the Armed Forces after the military was desegregated. He enlisted in the navy against his mother's wishes. Someone Paved the Way is an eye opener when you consider we were supposed to be

fighting a common enemy and not each other. If you are interested in obtaining the book, contact Rosie Flenard at 614-258-7429

MEMBERS OF BRANCH 78

If you have something to share with us. Please send us your article before the 1st Wed of each month.

**GET
INVOLVED!**



DONNIE LINDSEY RETIREEES.....



Congratulations to Donnie Lindsey. Donnie worked at the South Columbus Station for many years. We wish you well and many years of happiness during your retirement.

READ YOUR UNION NEWSPAPER!

**EXTRA!
EXTRA !
BR 78
NEWSLETTER
JULY2007
ISSUE
HOT OFF
THE
PRESS!**



**AMERICA WON'T WORK
IF AMERICANS DON'T WORK.
BUY AMERICAN/BUY UNION MADE PRODUCTS!**

UNION YES 
United We Stand!

BR 78 ANNUAL GOLF

OUTING TO BENEFIT MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

AUGUST 19, 2007

ST. ALBANS GOLF COURSE

SHOTGUN START - TEEING OFF 9 AM

- \$65.00 per person for ACTIVE CARRIERS
- \$40.00 per person for RETIRED LETTER CARRIERS

FEE INCLUDES STEAK DINNER

GET YOUR FOURSOME SIGNED UP EARLY

1. _____ ACT. _____ RET. _____

2. _____ ACT. _____ RET. _____

3. _____ ACT. _____ RET. _____

4. _____ ACT. _____ RET. _____

Phone Contact Number _____ Amt. Enclosed _____

Send Payments to:

JASON FRY

NALC

1029 Harrisburg Pike

Columbus, Ohio 43223-2524

BRANCH 78

ANNUAL PICNIC

SEPTEMBER 9, 2007

Fran Bar Park

Noon - 4



Food & Beverages

Clowns & Face Painting



Pony Rides

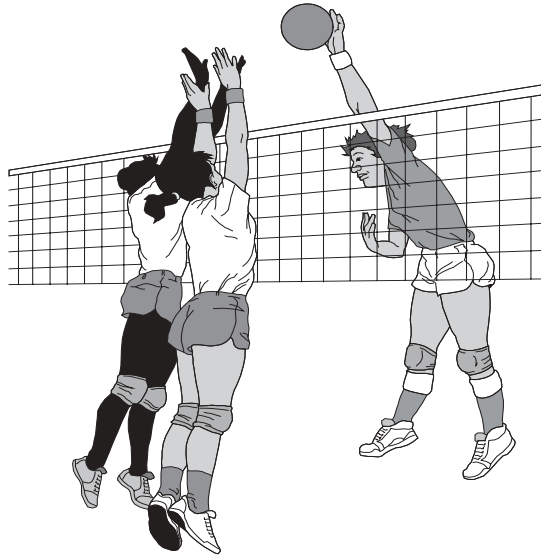


Ballons

Games

Fishing Pond

Branch 78 Picnic



Volleyball Team Signup

Team Name: _____

Players (6 minimum):

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Station: _____

Team Contact: _____

Phone Number: _____

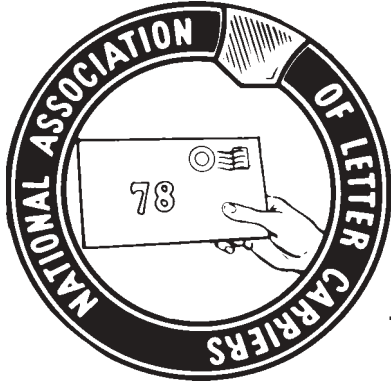
Send Signup form to:
Trevor Payne
1029 Harrisburg Pike
Columbus, Ohio 43223-2524

Return by September 1, 2007



United We Stand!

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



DON'T FORGET!
To Make
Your Contribution To
COLCPE

**MAKE YOUR CHECK
PAYABLE TO COLCPE**

**MAIL
YOUR
CONTRIBUTION
TODAY!**

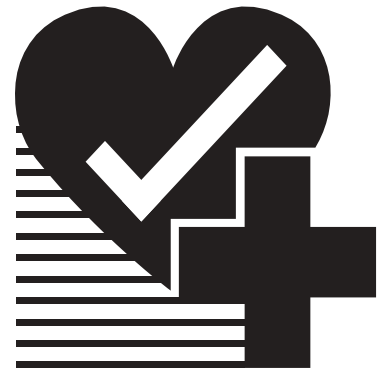
Mail to:
Buckeye Branch 78
1029 Harrisburg Pike
Columbus, Ohio
43223-2524

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



HEART ATTACK WARNING SIGNS

According to the American Heart Association a heart attack is caused by a prolonged lack of oxygen-rich blood to the heart muscle that results in damage to that muscle. Some heart attacks are sudden and intense-the "movie heart attack," where no one doubts what's happening. But most heart attacks start slowly, with mild pain or discomfort. Often people affected aren't sure what's wrong and wait too long before getting help. Here are signs that can mean a heart attack is happening:



Chest Discomfort. Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes, or that goes away and comes back. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, tightness, burning, pain or mild ache.

Discomfort in others areas of the upper body. Symptoms can include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.

Shortness of breath. May occur with or without chest discomfort.

Other signs. These may include breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea, vomiting, weakness or lightheadedness.

If you have chest discomfort, especially with one or more of the other signs, don't wait longer than a few minutes (no more than 5) before calling for help. Call 9-1-1. Calling 9-1-1 is almost always the fastest way to get lifesaving treatment. Emergency medical services staff can begin treatment when they arrive-up to an hour sooner than if someone gets to the hospital by car. The EMS staff are also trained to revive someone whose heart has stopped. You'll also get faster treatment in the hospital if you come by ambulance.

911 EMERGENCY

IF YOU ARE ROBBED!!

EMERGENCY 911

NOTIFY THE POLICE IMMEDIATELY. GIVE THE POLICE DISPATCHER A DESCRIPTION OF THE SUSPECT(S) AND GIVE THIS COMPLETED FORM TO THE FIRST POLICE OFFICER ON THE SCENE! CALL YOUR SUPERVISOR.

COMPLETE FOR ALL SUSPECTS

Sex _____ Race _____ Accent _____ Age _____

Ht. _____ Wt. _____ Build _____

Hair Style & Color _____ Teeth _____

Eyes _____ Complexion _____ Features _____

Facial Hair (Mustache, Beard, Unshaven) _____

Clothing/Diguisers _____

Glasses _____ Earrings _____ Jewelry _____ Weapons _____

Tattoos _____ Scars _____

Vehicle Description: License# _____ State _____ Make _____

Color(s) _____ Year _____ Body Style _____ Body Damage _____ Occupants _____

Please use the other side for other information you may feel is important-but first call **911-EMERGENCY**

Buckeye Branch 78

1029 Harrisburg Pike
Columbus, Ohio 43223-2524

National Association of Letter Carriers

AFL-CIO



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TRUSTEE	TREVOR PAYNE	447-8078

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B Clintonville	Douglas Lawver	447-8078
BW Beechwood	John Klinger	447-8078
BEX Bexley	Jacki Mitchell	237-2830
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CIR Circleville	Rocco Evangelista/Bob Solt	279-2778
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G South Columbus	Walt Brumfield/Vince Eddy Alt.	444-0217
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GC Grove City	Dave Kitchen	
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HT Hilltop	Mark Beach	351-0137
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