

Buckeye Branch 78 Bulletin

Columbus and Central Ohio



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OCTOBER 2007



VOL. 28, NO. 10

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

As you know by the contract was overwhelmingly ratified by the membership at 89.8 % voting for the agreement. It will call for 8.85% increase in wages. This will not include the nine cost of living increases spread throughout the life of the contract. Salaries will increase \$4200.00 just in general wage increases over the life of the 5 year deal. The one time lump sum paid to qualified letter carriers will be on your check in PP21, 2007. One of the provisions agreed to which I am very pleased with is bereavement leave. I will give you additional details as I learn more about the agreement. You may refer to the NALC at NALC.org website for additional information.

The branch picnic started off little shaky because of the weather but everything worked out well. Many letter carriers and their families showed up despite the chance of rain. The food was great but the camaraderie was better. Even though we had to cancel the pony rides and the DJ, the kids had a good time as well as the adults. I want to thank Carl Demko for taking

the lead and doing much of the work to make picnic a success. He put many hours of worry and effort in the outing to make sure all were entertained and well fed. He could not have done it without his staff of helpers. They include Mike Iacoboni, Brenda Barton, Eddie Stewart, Gary Boller, Trevor Payne & Jacki Mitchell. I know I have forgotten to list several names and I apologize to them.

The retirees picnic was the day after Labor day at the Amvets, Post 89 on Westerville road. We had a small showing but all went well. Most stayed for several hours and talked to old friends they haven't seen in a while. I want to thank Gene Smith, Todd Hornyak and Ron Santavicca for helping out.

Safety is and will always be at the forefront. Recently a carrier in the Columbus District was caught outside his vehicle while it was running. He is now fighting for his job. DO NOT put yourself in that position. Each time you get out of the vehicle, make sure it is off and the keys are not in the ignition. Make it a habit of locking the door each



Rocco
Evangelista

time you walk away from the vehicle. For years we worked with the mind set it was ok to leave the vehicle unlocked as long as you were in sight of the vehicle. It seems like the rules change each week so make it a habit of locking the vehicle each time you are out of it.

The branch was just informed on September 12, several city stations will go through route inspections this fall. In preparation for this unfair, one-sided process. The branch will have classes to help educate you on route protection. The stations that are based at 850 Twin Rivers Dr. are being moved to the second floor of the building due to the flat sorters. This is the

Continued on page 5

A MESSAGE FROM VICE PRESIDENT BOB SOLT

The new contract has been ratified. Management will now

treat Letter Carriers with dignity and respect. If that does not happen at least Carriers will be compensated a little

better. For those grades and steps in effect during the term of the 2001 Agreement, the basic annual salary schedules, with proportional application to hourly rate employees, for those employees covered under the terms and conditions of this Agreement shall be increased as follows:

Effective November 25, 2006—the basic annual salary for each grade and step shall be increased by an amount equal to 1.4% of the basic annual salary for the grade and step in effect as of November 24, 2006.

Effective November 24, 2007—the basic annual salary for each grade and step shall be increased by an amount equal to 1.8% of the basic annual salary for the grade and step in effect as of November 24, 2006.

Effective November 22, 2008—the basic annual salary for each grade and step shall be increased by an amount equal to 1.9% of the basic annual salary for the grade and step in effect as of November 24, 2006.

Effective November 21, 2009—the basic annual salary for each grade and step shall be increased by an amount equal to

1.9% of the basic annual salary for the grade and step in effect as of November 24, 2006.

Effective November 20, 2010—the basic annual salary for each grade and step shall be increased by an amount equal to 1.85% of the basic annual salary for the grade and step in effect as of November 24, 2006.

Another highlight of our new National Agreement is the inclusion of bereavement leave. Getting time off for the death of a loved one has always been a problem for some Letter Carriers. But again we have the nasty problem of over zealous Postmaster General wanna bees. That strange part about the documentation evidencing the death of the employee's family member will bring on numberless idiotic tirades about what constitutes valid documentation. City letter carriers may use a total of up to three workdays of annual leave, sick leave or leave without pay, to make arrangements necessitated by the death of a family member or attend the funeral of a family member. Authorization of leave beyond three workdays is subject to the conditions and requirements of Article 10 of the National Agreement, Subsection 510 of the Employee and Labor Relations Manual and the applicable local memorandum of understanding provisions.

Definition of Family Member.

"Family member" is defined as a:

(a) Son or daughter — a biological or adopted child, stepchild, daughter-in-law or son-in-law;

(b) Spouse;

(c) Parent; or

(d) Sibling — brother, sister, brother-in-law or sister-in-law; or

(e) Grandparent

Use of Sick Leave. For employees opting to use available sick leave, the leave will be charged to sick leave for dependent care, if eligible.

Documentation:

Documentation evidencing the death of the employee's family member is required only when the supervisor deems documentation desirable for the protection of the interest of the Postal Service.

So far this year Branch 78 has 312 grievances filed as of mid-September. Last year we had a total of 278. These are grievances that were not resolved at the first level of the grievance procedure and are now going to the next level. Management does not appear to comprehend that Letter Carriers insist that the National Agreement be adhered to.

We continue to receive phone calls from Letter Carriers that have received discipline that have not filed grievances on prior discipline and are now up to a fourteen day suspension or even a removal. It is of the utmost importance to file a grievance anytime discipline is issued. With progressive discipline, each discipline that is issued will be more severe. Even though the discipline may be a letter of warning or a no-time-off suspension management is keeping track of them. If the discipline is not grieved it will remain in the employee's file for

Continued on page 10



Bob Solt

MILLER'S MUSINGS

During the 65th Biennial Convention in Las Vegas we were told about a carrier hit while retrieving mail from her truck on a park and loop route. She lost both her legs and was in a medically induced coma. Someone from her branch in South Jersey sent an article regarding her recovery. Maureen Deprince lost not only her legs but her eyesight as well. In spite of this she has fought to reclaim her life. It takes her through a session of therapy learning to walk with her new prosthetic legs. The man that hit her had the charges voided because of a technicality, but was re-indicted the next day. He is charged with assault by auto, leaving the scene of an accident resulting in serious bodily injury and aggravated assault. He has been in jail since the accident and it is believed alcohol was involved. Witnesses said he never hit the brakes pinning her between his car and her mail truck. One leg was severed at impact the other was hanging by a tendon. An off duty firefighter, on his way to the beach, got towels from his truck to help stop the bleeding. Despite his efforts he thought Maureen was dying. She lost both legs that day then a stroke that night took her eyesight. She says, "It seems like just yesterday because I still have flashbacks from it. I'm learning to cope. I guess these are the cards I'm dealt." She credits her support group especially her husband, Troy. He has been there for her, took care of their animals and home, while continuing to work full time.

It certainly makes my problems minute when I think about what they are dealing with daily. I ask that everyone continue to pray for them as they struggle to regain some semblance of normalcy in their lives. There seems to have been so much loss in recent months it brings a sense of emptiness and thoughts of ones own mortality. It circles back to the fact that we spend so much of our time in a work environment that has become so negative and stressful. The majority of us have no light at the end of the tunnel. The ones that are nearing retirement are counting the days like convicts awaiting parole.

Management has become more fluent in the language of double speak. You must make your leave time but fail to inform you of that time until ten or fifteen minutes before the bewitching hour. You need to fill out a 96 but we won't look at it till after you've left for your route. You are not supposed to cut mail to pivot but you can't leave early enough to pivot unless you cut mail. Your leave time is based on taking all of your mail but if you take all your mail you can't make your leave time which makes you run into overtime which is not authorized. If you call to request a decision on what to do, you are told this is unauthorized OT. If you ask what do you want me to do, they say continue, but it is unauthorized OT. But you just told me to continue carrying the mail. I know, continue carrying! Then there is the issue of sequenced mail. They don't give you a count for it. It is bundled in maybe ten

to twelve bundles. It is in a flat rack or tubs in no particular order but you are not to cut straps or put it any

kind or order before to get to your route. Perhaps, you're auxing out part or all of a route but you can't cut the bundles or straps. Yet none of these clipboarders have offered nary a suggestion on how this is to be accomplished. There is a new management style of placing everyone's numbers by the time clock. It is unclear what this is going to achieve other than a pool to see who wins, places or shows next week.



Yana Miller

Continued on page 4

Buckeye Br. 78 Bulletin

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2007 NALC Retirement Picnic



It was a great day for a Picnic. The weather was good, the food was great and most of all lots of old friends. If you weren't there, you missed out.

MILLERS MUSING

Continued from page 3

The Branch Picnic turned out quite nice in spite of the two and half inches of rain received before the event. Carl Demko, his wife Shellie, Michael Iacoboni, his friend Penny Kurelic, did an outstanding job on making this picnic a success. There were a few things we had to cancel because of the conditions like the services of DJ Roger Noble and the pony rides but everyone seemed to enjoy themselves anyway. Thanks again to all, that helped make the picnic happen.

By Yana Miller



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Continued from page 1

reason for the inspections for most of the units that are going to be counted. It will take much longer for the carriers to load and unload because now they will have to take an elevator to the unit.

I would like to congratulate Tom Mulcahy and David McCartney on their recent retirement. Tom worked at the main office carrier unit and Dave worked at Beechwood. They both deserve a long and

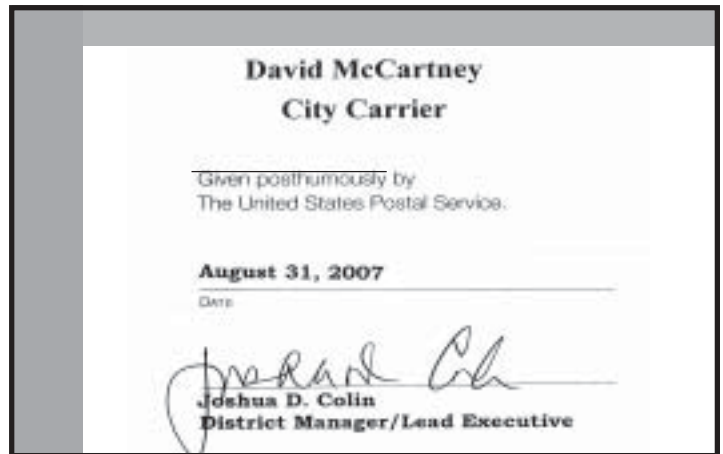
healthy retirement.

***Remember keep
fighting the good fight!***

Rocco Evangelista



Dave McCartney clocks out for the last time.



September 5, 2007

Mr. Todd G. Hornyak
4317 Avery Road
Hilliard, Ohio 43026

Dear Mr. Hornyak:

Thank you for contacting me regarding H.Res. 282. I appreciate hearing from you.

As you know, H.Res. 282 expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should discontinue the practice of contracting out mail delivery services. Thank you for meeting with me and my staffer, Maura McGovern, on June 6, 2007. After considering your request for my cosponsorship of H.Res. 282, I have decided to not cosponsor the bill at this time.

Please know that I understand your concerns regarding the practice of contracting out mail delivery services. H.Res. 282 has been referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Although I do not serve on the committee, rest assured I will keep your thoughts in mind should I have the opportunity to vote on the legislation.

Again, thank you for meeting with me. Please do not hesitate to let me know if I can be of assistance to you.

Very truly yours,

DEBORAH PRYCE
Member of Congress

DP:MM

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Congress
of the
United States
House of Representatives

DEBORAH PRYCE
OHIO
15th DISTRICT



NBA REPORT

The 2006-2011 Contract was ratified by a large margin, so we are in a relaxed mode right now.

As always, we cannot sit for long as we have a lot of work to do to change the political landscape.

In the Presidential poll that the NALC conducted, Senator Hillary Clinton of New York was the overwhelming winner.

The NALC announced that fact and formally endorsed Senator Clinton's candidacy on September 12, 2007 in a ceremony at the NALC building.

Now, we need roll our sleeves up and do the work necessary to get her elected next year.

If you have not given to COLCPE yet, do so.

If you are not yet an E Activist, do so.

If you are not registered to vote, do so.

If you have any questions about COLCPE, E Activist or registering, contact your branch officers for assistance.

Bill Cooke

BRANCH 78 2007 ANNUAL PICNIC



BRANCH 78 2007 ANNUAL PICNIC



BRANCH 78 2007 ANNUAL PICNIC





SAFETY FIRST



Can you believe its fall already? We know what that means. It's time to check your fall/winter safety gear. Only you know what to stock up on for those rainy days of fall and those cold, icy snow days of winter. Fall also brings a lot of different obstacles for us while delivering mail. Wet leaves

can play havoc while driving or walking. They cover rakes, plastic bags, hoses, holes in yards, sidewalks and the roads. When leaves get wet they become slippery almost to the point you feel as though you are on ice. Be careful!

With school in session, traffic

can be a problem around noon and 4pm because of the school buses and parents dropping off or picking up their children. ***Be alert!***

And please be generous to the kids. Give to One New Toy.

Tony Snyder
Safety Rep. BR 78

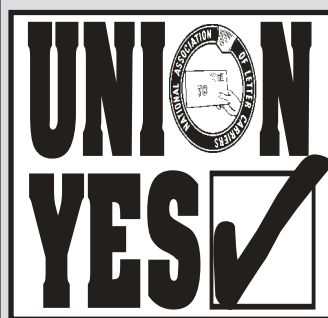
SYMPATHY FOR THE AGING.....

It happens to the best of us, even those born with 20/20. We need a little more light to see. We start holding letters farther from our faces. We hate to admit it. We hate to give in—like Admiral Kirk trying to hide the fact from Khan—but there comes a time in life when we can no longer distinguish threes from eights, fives from sixes, or from nines. I am not trying to hurt anyone's feelings here, but our jobs are too important to continue guessing. What I mean to say, as gently as I can, is this—I am sorry, D.P.S. Machine, but the time has come to lay vanity aside and put on the damned glasses.

Submitted by:
Doug Lawver
Station B



New Member Martin Dicks takes NALC oath.



**TOGETHER
WE WILL
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE!**

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

To all clerks and letter carriers: Subject: Discipline for missed scans on Delivery Confirmation mail.

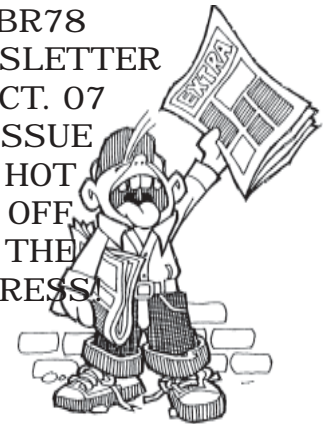
My name is Tom Wilson and I am a Union Steward and Letter Carrier at the Upper Arlington station in Columbus, Ohio. At the present time I am on light duty due to an on the job injury. Because of this, I am called upon to run misdelivered pieces of mail to their proper destination. I have been performing this task along with other work for a while. On 9-8-07, I spent a few hours of my day redirecting delivery confirms and other priority mail to their proper destinations. While performing this task, I put over 100 miles on the vehicle that I was driving. This is the normal rather than the abnormal occurrence. These items are usually properly Zip-Coded but still end up at 43221. I am sure that this happens all over the area because at times I pick up items for my station during my deliveries and we have items brought to us from other stations.

I am documenting this problem because of the orders from upper management that states that we (Craft Employees) are to be disciplined for missing even one Delivery Confirmation scan. How can such a directive be given when properly addressed items can't even reach their proper stations? How can we be disciplined for a missed scan when the item is at another station or even a different city? Upper management needs to make sure that these items get to their proper destinations before they declare Blanket Discipline.

Thomas H. Wilson
Union Steward
Branch 78

READ YOUR UNION NEWSPAPER!

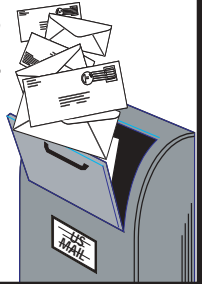
BR78
NEWSLETTER
OCT. 07
ISSUE
HOT
OFF
THE
PRESS!



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!**



A MESSAGE FROM VICE PRESIDENT BOB SOLT *Continued from page 2*

two years. An employee or Union representative must discuss the grievance with the employee's immediate supervisor within fourteen calendar days of when the grievant or the Union first learned, or may reasonably have been expected to learn, of its cause.

Letters of warning are official discipline and should be treated seriously. They may be cited as elements of prior discipline in subsequent disciplinary actions subject to the two year restriction. The record of a disciplinary action against an employee shall

not be considered in any subsequent disciplinary action if there has been no disciplinary action initiated against the employee for a period of two years.

As soon as you receive any discipline, inform management you wish to file a grievance and request time to meet with your Union Steward. It is your right to file a grievance and it is extremely important that you do so. Discipline does not mysteriously vanish without a written grievance resolution.

This years Steward Appreciation Dinner is tentatively scheduled December 5, 2007 at 6:30 pm at our Union Hall. This is the event where we pay tribute to the Union Stewards for their hard work and dedication to Branch 78. The Letter Carrier rotating days off calendars will be distributed to the Stewards after the dinner.

Become involved with your Union. Being a Union member is not a spectator sport.

Fraternally,
Bob Solt

Attention All Members
You're Invited
*Annual Retiree
Dinner*

When: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2007
Where: BERWICK PARTY HOUSE
3250 REFUGEE RD.
COLUMBUS, OHIO

***COME HONOR OUR NEWEST GOLD
CARD RECIPIENTS
HAVE A GREAT MEAL***

Time: Cocktails 6:00-7:00 PM
Dinner: 7:00 PM
Donations: Retirees and guest \$7.00
Active and guest \$10.00

For Reservations Contact
Jack LeVally
614-875-2220
or contact your shop steward

Buckeye Branch 78

1029 Harrisburg Pike
Columbus, Ohio 43223-2524

National Association of Letter Carriers

AFL-CIO



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FIN SECY-TREASURER	TODD HORNIAK	279-2778
EEO OFFICER	MICHAEL IACOBONI	279-2778
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	237-1912
TRUSTEE	CARL BOOTH	491-1675
TRUSTEE	RANDY HARTMAN	740-363-1906
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 Beechwood	John Klinger	447-8078
BEX Bexley	Jacki Mitchell	237-2830
Canal Winchester	Gary Boller	471-8289
C Linden	Marcus Jones	
CP Central Point	Alan D. Moore Sr.	228-1570
CIR Circleville	Rocco Evangelista/Bob Solt	279-2778
City Gate Collection Unit	Chuck Snyder/Alt. Spencer Lymon	472-0500
DEL Delaware	Randy Hartman/K. Sutton Alt.	1-740-363-1906
DUB Dublin		889-0763
Eastland	John Gibbons/G. Boller	237-1912
E Olde Town	Steve Bryant	253-7350
F German Village	Douglas Bryant	449-9565
G South Columbus	Walt Brumfield/Vince Eddy Alt.	444-0217
GAH Gahanna	John Slifko/Doug Doherty	471-8289
GP Groveport	Rocco Evangelista/Bob Solt	279-2778
GC Grove City	Dave Kitchen	
HILL Hilliard	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	237-9570
LON London	Jon Robinson	1-740-852-1881
MO Main Office	Matthew Gannon/Marvin West Alt.	469-4216
MV Marysville	Doc Holliday	1-937-642-1961
MT Gilead	Emma Jane Vail	
MTV Mount Vernon	Paul McCamey	351-1701
NE Northeast	Mark Martin	279-2778
NL Northland	Charles Armstrong/Joan Nevels Alt.	890-1180
NW Northwest	Keith Etherington	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/D. Brickey Alt.	469-4232
U University		294-7292
UA Upper Arlington	Tom Wilson/Tom Parise	451-2302
WV Westerville	Brad Turner/DJ Goodwin/K. Fraley/D. Hairston	882-2243
WJ West Jefferson	Robin Brown	1-614-879-9145
WW West Worthington	Regina Taylor	793-9789
WH Whitehall	Dan Churry	237-1722
WOR Worthington/Busch	Jeff Freeman	846-6088

**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 COMMUNICA-
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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
RETIREEES MEETING-1:00 P.M.
First Tuesday of each month**

**BRANCH OFFICE PHONES:
279-BR78
279-2778
www.nalc-branch78.org**