

Buckeye Branch 78 Bulletin

Columbus and Central Ohio



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JUNE 2007



VOL. 28, NO. 5

15TH ANNUAL 2007 NALC FOOD DRIVE KICK-OFF



HELP
STAMP OUT HUNGER!!!!



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Tough times are before us. When management says we need to tighten up that means the Letter Carrier is going to get squeezed just a little more. You have experienced that in the past year. Well guess what? When the FSS machines (projected implementation date August, 08) are implemented, most of you will spend more time on the street. Once again office time will decrease, street time will increase. Letter Carriers have one of the most physical jobs in the work force today. Eventually knees, backs, and feet will wear out due to the constant hours of walking that most of you do on a daily basis. Unfortunately there is not enough mounted routes to go around so letter carriers need to work smarter on a daily basis. Ergonomics need to be and should be a part of the work ethic of each and every letter carrier and should be included

in your daily routine. Think of yourself in the future after humping a mail sack on a daily basis, what will your physical condition be like? That is hard to predict, if we all knew what was in store for us we would all be rich and much smarter. Be smart! Work safe and carry like you knew what tomorrow brings.

I want to thank those of you that put in the extra efforts to make the food drive very successful. The numbers were down from last year, surprising because of the publicity we received this year. The food will go to the community food banks just in time to help stock the shelves for the summer. We live in the community, your efforts help the community and the community appreciates it. It is just a small effort to do what is right. Once again, we do not know what tomorrow brings. I assure you,



Rocco
Evangelista

Unfortunately we all know someone that has utilized the efforts of the food bank. I want to thank Bobby Solt and Todd Hornyak for all their hard work putting this together. The camaraderie of the stations helps to make the day seem to go without effort and to all those who are not letter carriers to pitch in and help-THANKS.

*Remember-Keep
fighting the good fight!*

★ NALC ★ NALC ★ NALC ★ NALC ★ NALC ★ NALC ★ NALC ★ NALC ★ NALC ★



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A MESSAGE FROM VICE PRESIDENT BOB SOLT



Bob Solt

As of May 18, 2007, the food drive results are approximately 201,820 thousand pounds of food

donations. This represents Columbus, the associate offices and some other cities in the central Ohio area. As with every other year, a few thousand pounds more food will be received that will add to the total amount we have collected. Up to now we have received donations of \$101.00. Mayor Michael Coleman issued a proclamation that proclaimed May 12 Letter Carriers Food Drive Day in Columbus. Mayor Coleman is to be commended for his dedication to the citizens of Columbus. While the totals did not quite meet our projected goals we have the satisfaction of knowing we have helped make a positive improvement in the lives of the disadvantaged in central Ohio. The economy, insensitive supervisors, rapidly increasing gasoline prices and even the recent increase in postage may have been a contributing factor to the amount of donations we received.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Letter Carriers, Union Stewards, Postmaster Robin Ware and her staff at the Main Office, clerks, mail handlers, M S drivers, Carl Demko and Yana Miller for coordinating the operation at City Gate, Todd Hornyak for volunteering to co-chair the food drive with me and we did have some supervisors that



Eastland Station collected \$600 for COLCPE to take to Washington.

stepped forward and helped. The tireless efforts of the Letter Carriers and all Postal workers have made our Food Drive the largest one-day food drive in the nation. Branch 78 President Rocco Evangelista and I want to again thank everyone that contributed to the success of our 2007 food drive.

Each year Branch 78 sends a delegation to Washington D.C. to enlighten our Congressional representatives of the issues that are crucial not only to Letter Carriers but the Postal Service as well. Silence from the voting constituency conveys to our elected legislative officials an apathetic message of appropriateness and acceptance of their decision making policies. These politicians are impressed when their constituents arrive at their offices in Washington to discuss issues. When we meet with our national officers our Branch donates our COLCPE donations. Union dues are not allowed by law to be used for political contributions.

This year, Eastland Station

has once again demonstrated why they are the pride of the Eastside. Eastland Station has made a significant contribution to

Continued on page 5

Buckeye Br. 78 Bulletin

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President	Rocco Evangelista
Vice President	Bob Solt
Recording Secretary	Ron Santavicca
Asst. Secretary/Editor	Yana Miller
Financial Secretary	Todd Hornyak

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MILLER'S MUSINGS

The Postal Service prides itself on moving into the twenty first century with automation to make us more viable in the mailing industry. A few weeks ago all Columbus district employees received a notice from the new plant manager and how she has improved things. She has instituted a program that inserts mail into the wrong sequence on the wrong route. They can tell you about where the errant letter can be found in your DPS. The first few times they gave me this slip of paper I couldn't decipher where they were pointing me and neither could anyone else so I quit looking and went back to work. I have had an occasion to find one of these mispositioned letters but I cannot for the life of me figure out why they can insert a letter on my route for another route but they can't get the letter addressed to the state of Maine out of my Columbus DPS.

For those of you fortunate enough to have retired before the scanners were dropped on us. We are on the second incarnation of scanners, they are big, bulky, the screens are difficult to read in daylight and

the buttons are very small and close together. I have fairly small hands and fingers and they are challenge for me so I sympathize with my Brother carriers with big beefy man hands. These high tech wonders take pictures of your completed 3849s. From the emphasis placed on scan points and times I believe it is more important to make your scans than deliver the mail.

I attended the Food Drive Kickoff and listened to the Postmaster speak on the importance of the Drive and the cooperation between the Postal Service and the Crafts in making this a success. Monday I was informed by my coworkers the supervisor told my unit Saturday they all had to pivot and hour and there would be no time allowed for the Food Drive. So much for all that hooley at the Kickoff!

Another new feature last week Advo flats come with the delivery addresses eliminating the need for Advo cards. The Advo company can still put loose misshapen inserts that fall out every time you attempt to put one in a mailbox.

Certain supervisors threatened carriers for cutting the

straps on the Advo bundles in the office. My Advo are in a large tub, not in order. I Aux out part of the route in half hour increments, there is no way to do this without cutting the bundles and sending the correct flats with the correct mail.

Friday we were informed that the mail volume was down because of the rate increase and we had time to pivot everyday. DOIS told me I could be out of the office and hour before I made it out the door. As a matter of fact DOIS told most of us that we could be on the street and hour or more before we clocked to the street. One of my coworkers said DOIS stands for DUMB OBSOLETE INSANE SYSTEM. I kind of prefer Damned Obsolete Idiotic System. And quite frankly, DOIS don't know us as well as he thinks he does.

Today we were informed we would be getting 1017s for missing our projected street times. I am in such deep water at this point I know I am drowning and there is no lifeguard on duty.

Submitted by Yana Miller

SPEND AN EVENING
WITH FRIENDS
ATTEND YOUR
UNION MEETINGS!



A supervisor commented on the lack of team effort in a plan five and a Carrier responded the Team is fine but the coaching SUCKS!

That's a keeper comment to be shared with all.

2007 SOCIAL REC BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

April 22, 2007 was the fourth annual Social Rec Basketball Championship. Unfortunately the Clerk and Carrier 1 teams didn't have enough players and had to forfeit. The Mailhandlers and Carrier 2 teams battled it out on the hardwood with the Carrier 2 taking the victory again. 58-35 final score. Ed White, Lafonda Carson, Stan Hawkins, Byron Clark, Bryan White, Richard Cunningham, Tony Sebony, Todd Davis and player/coach Fred Wilson are to be congratulated on their third Championship win.



FOOD DRIVE

I enjoyed the opportunity to serve Branch 78 as the 2007 City Gate Food Drive coordinator along with co-chair Yana Miller, Branch 78 Assistant Secretary-Editor. I want to thank everyone that took the time to help out at City Gate on the night of the food drive. Fortunately we had several dedicated volunteers to help sort the food. We were able to help load and unload several trucks. Food drive co-chairs Branch 78 Vice

President Bob Solt and Todd Hornyak were there to make sure everything went as scheduled. I want to thank the other Branch 78 officers, Carl Booth, Michael Iacoboni, Trevor Payne, Yana Miller and Bob Solt which helped out with sorting the food. The other Branch 78 volunteers were: Don Shepherd, Pete Watkins, Carol Baugus, Doug Doherty, Lisa Cook, Mark Beach, Jason Fry, Jacki Mitchell, Keith

Mitchell, Shad Siddell, and Tim Yenichek. The efforts and hard work of these dedicated volunteers helped fill up the Mid-Ohio Food Bank with needed food. Even off the clock, we can work together to make a big difference for the people in our city. Thanks once again.

Carl Demko

Branch 78 Trustee



THANK YOU FOR HELP MAKING THE
2007 NALC FOOD A GREAT SUCCESS.

*In Remembrance
To The
Men and Women Who
Sacrificed Their Lives...
For Our Freedom....*

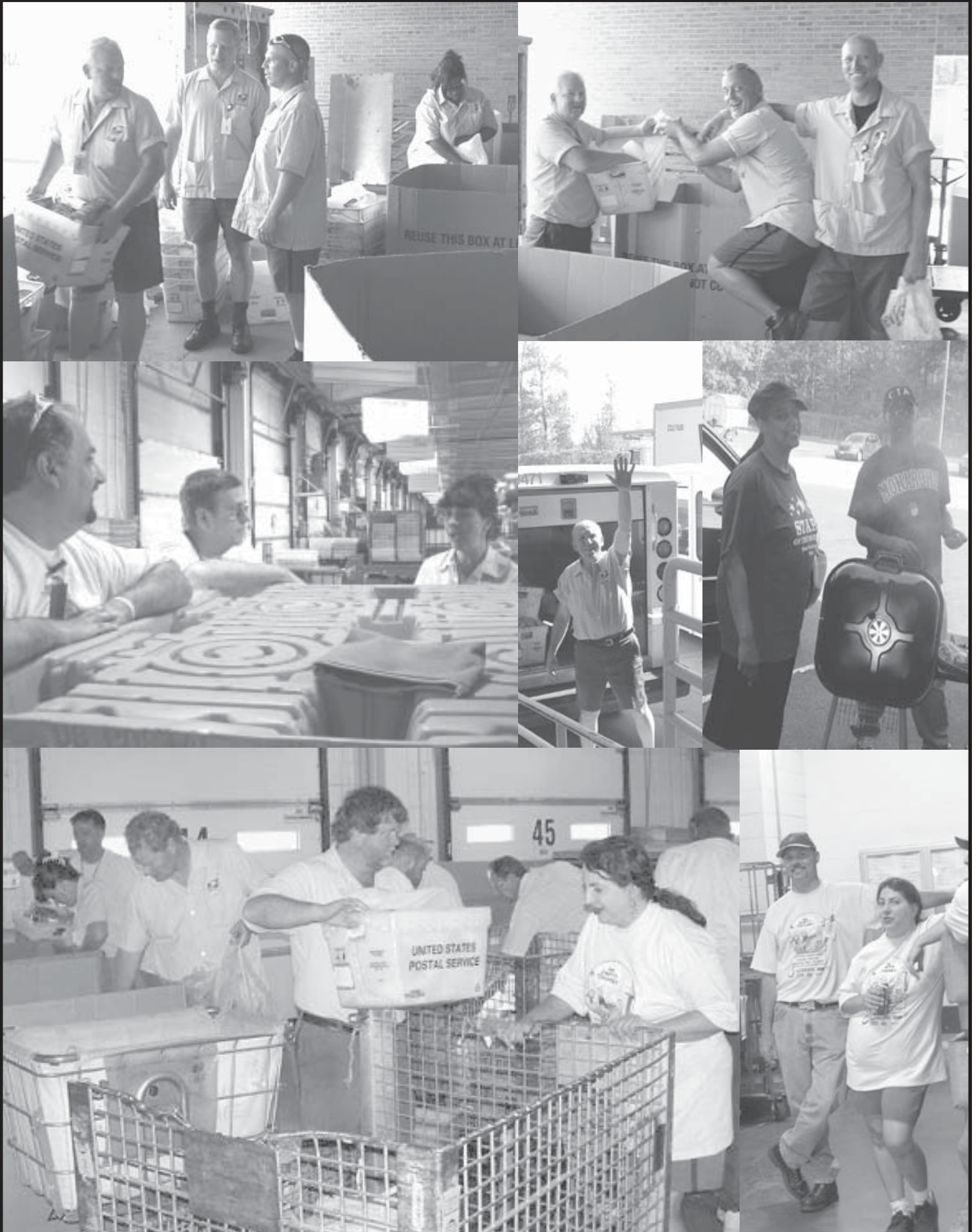


Dick McMichael Retirees



I want to congratulate Dick McMichael on his recent retirement. I wish him well. Rick worked at the Central Point Carrier Unit for many years. He deserves it!

2007 NALC FOOD DRIVE

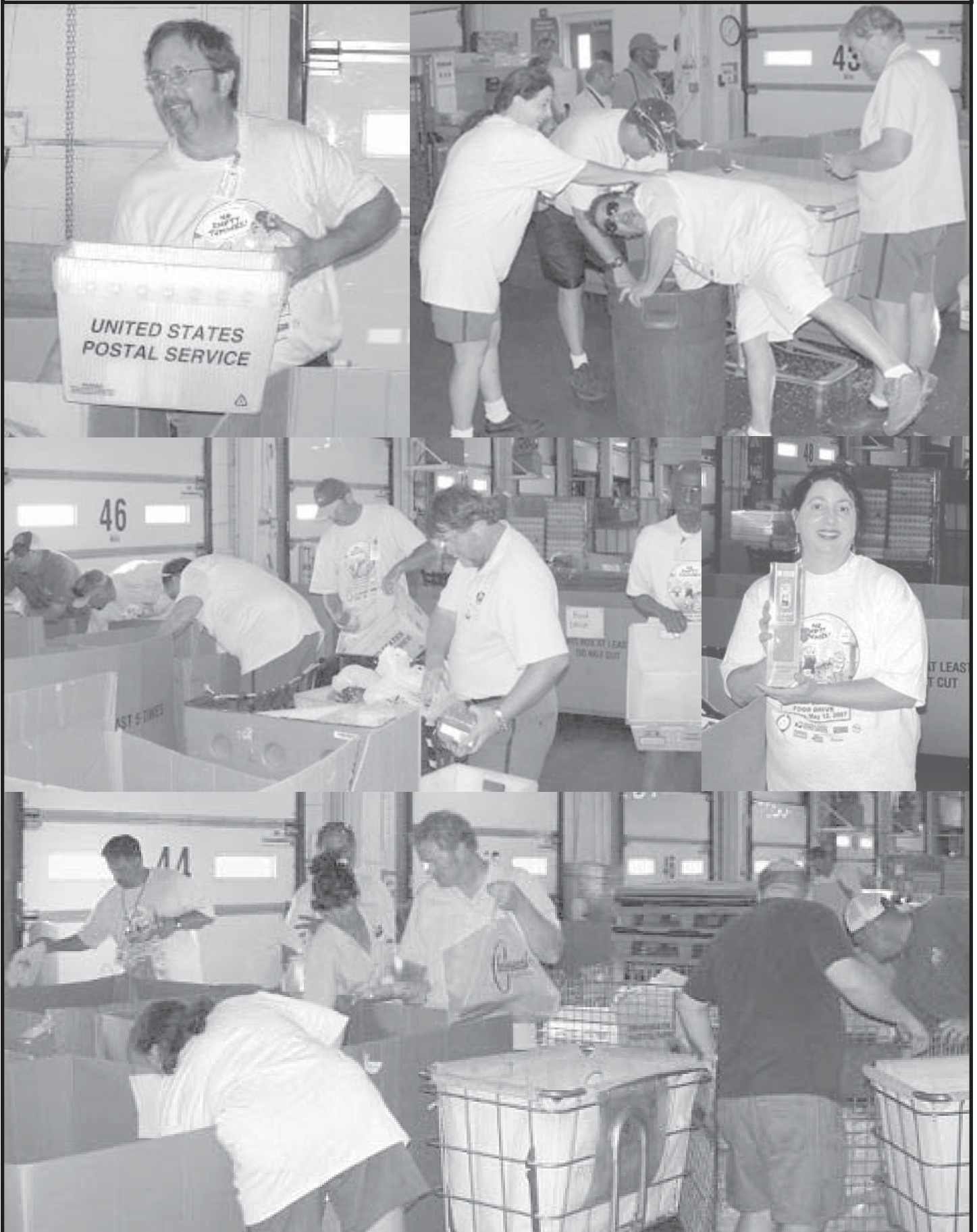




FOOD DRIVE



2007 NALC FOOD DRIVE



A MESSAGE FROM VICE PRESIDENT BOB SOLT

Continued from page 3

COLCPE for over \$600.00. This act of dedication exemplifies the definition of progressive Unionism.

We continue to receive telephone calls from Letter Carriers that state they are unable to complete their assignments in the DOIS generated allotted time. If you feel you will not be able to deliver the route in eight hours a 3996 needs to be completed and handed directly to a supervisor. It is always best to get a copy of the 3996 after the supervisor has completed their portion. If you are denied the overtime or auxiliary assistance inform management again as you are preparing to hit the street. If your office has a policy that if you are to call in by a certain time if you are not able to return on time, call in. When you call, inform management you will not be able to return on time. They will in all probability ask for the reason why or in some instances hang up on you. Inform them of the reason or reasons why you will be late. This should not be a time for a redundant unqualified psychiatric evaluation

of the Carrier and his work ethic. At this time the supervisor needs to make a managerial decision regarding what instructions to issue. The only options at this time should be: to continue to carry the mail, return the mail to the station or they can send out help. Management is to inform the Carrier. Do not make the decision on your own. Making the decision to go into overtime or return mail is not up to the Carriers. Some in management want to micro-manage. Cooperate to the best of your ability, hopefully the decision of when to use the restroom will continue to be at the users discretion.

If you receive discipline a grievance needs to be filed immediately. Some Carriers tell us that they have received numerous no-time-off suspensions but they did not file a grievance thinking it was no big deal because they did not lose any pay. It is a big deal. Fortunately, for these kinds of suspensions no pay is lost. Unfortunately, with the progression of discipline it could lead to a

removal for a minor alleged infraction. 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. The fourteen days for filing a grievance at Informal Step A begin the day after the occurrence or the day after the grievant or the union may reasonably have been expected to have learned of the occurrence. For example: if a grievant receives a letter of warning, day one of the fourteen days is the day after the letter of warning is received. If any type of discipline is issued to a Letter Carrier a grievance should always be filed.

In conclusion, I want to again thank everyone that contributed to the success of our Food Drive this year.

*Fraternally,
Bob Solt*

Buckeye Branch Volunteer Day

The Branch is currently planning to do some organizing of the Union Hall. We are looking for volunteers to help. Sunday June 24, 2007 is the date we are planning to work. If you would like to help and are available that day, Please call the Union Hall and let us know. We need help with sorting uniforms, boxes and miscellaneous organizing. Your help in this matter would be

greatly appreciated. We are planning on having a cookout later that day for all the volunteers. Please help.

*Carl Demko
Head Trustee*

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!

FROM THE NORTH....

Delaware is fortunate to have two supervisors who understand that trust is the most important ingredient in the working relationship they have with letter carriers. When a carrier informs that the DOIS time won't be made on any given day, they trust that the carrier is going to give an honest fair effort. When street time unexpectedly expands because of confirmation scans or hard to handle occupants, they trust carrier's explanations and don't harass or belittle them. When the Postmaster calls either or both supervisors into his office for an inquisition as to why we did not meet the numbers and something better be done about it, we trust that they will filter all that negativity before they interact with us.

When I read that the USPS is launching a campaign to identify and train an increasingly large number of "abusive supervisors" I

just shook my head. The pressure starts at the top and rolls downhill. Supervisors are under as much pressure as letter carriers. Managers and postmasters verbally assault these people over phony inaccurate reports and numbers every day.

Supervisors do not have stewards to help them. Many of them want to be promoted and won't stand up for what they know is right for fear of being perceived as weak. So they put pressure on carriers because they don't know what else to do. Unfortunately some carriers respond to the pressure by skipping breaks, lunches and working too fast to be safe. Delaware carriers have been through this before; our numbers reflected it, just as our numbers reflect favorable now.

The previous Postmaster in Delaware still lives in town. The Postmaster's spouse works for the

USPS in management downtown. It is not unusual for these two to do Saturday street observations on Delaware city carriers. I have questions. Why is this person allowed to harass Delaware carriers when he had the office so mismanaged when he was assigned here? Why doesn't he travel to his own station and do this? Is the spouse trained to do these or can any manager who wants to prove that city carriers just can't be trusted jump on too? Do they get an entire day off of compensatory time for one hour of this? Why doesn't the USPS contract this function out? I am sure they can get someone to do it for a fraction of what they are paying these two.

Keep the faith,

Randy

READ YOUR UNION NEWSPAPER!

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



PTF TRAINING CLASS

A training class will be held for all Branch 78 PTF's on Thursday, June 14th at 6:30 pm. The class will be held at the Doug Gulley Memorial Union Hall and will discuss the duties and responsibilities of a PTF and how our National Agreement applies to them. Several Branch 78 officers will be in attendance. If you wish to attend please inform your Union Steward.

UNION YES 
United We Stand!



United We Stand!

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

★ ★ ★ ★ **UNION STEWARDS** ★ ★ ★ ★

**THE JULY STEWARDS MEETING HAS BEEN CHANGED
FROM WEDNESDAY JULY 4TH TO THURSDAY JULY 5TH.**

ARE YOU INTERESTED?

The Social & Recreation Committee is planning an Amish Country trip on
Saturday, August 11, 2007.

Cost is: \$61.00 (per person)

Price includes:

- Round Trip Motor Coach to Sugar Creek, OH
- Guided Tour
- Lunch at an Amish restaurant
- Limited Shopping



Seats are based on "First Come First Served", no seat will be held without a \$30.00 non-refundable deposit (cash or money orders only - absolutely no checks will be accepted). If for some reason you have paid your non-refundable deposit and can not attend, please try to find a replacement. Deposit due by May 1, 2007, balance due by July 2, 2007.

If you are interested please call Bobbee Whitlow @ 472-0466
or

Tomecca Clary-Russell @ 472-0460



SAFETY FIRST



Summer will be here before you know it. Schools will be out and the temperatures will be on the rise. Please be extra careful when traveling through any neighborhood where a child may jump out from between parked cars, be riding a skateboard down a driveway and not be able to stop or where a child may be involved in horseplay such as pretending to push a friend in front of traffic and then losing their grip. The other day I had an 8 year old boy on a dead end street ride his battery operated motorcycle down the driveway and into the street. All the while his parents were outside washing their car and doing yard work. His 12 year old sister screamed but he was already in the street. Luckily I had already noticed him and was in the process of stopping before I reached the driveway.

Don't forget to take your water with you. Drink plenty of water before you leave the office to help you stay hydrated.

Another danger you might not have thought of is skin cancer. Use sun block with an SPF of 45 or higher. There are some on the market that need not be re-applied during the day because of sweating.

This is also the time of year you need to be more aware of dogs on your route. You do not have to deliver mail to a house where you feel your safety is at risk. As I said earlier kids will be out of school and they tend to leave gates open. Please! Please! Please! Be sure to use your dog warning cards for your days off, auxiliary assistance and vacation time because those carrying during those times are unfamiliar with the hazards on your route.

Carriers are voicing frustration about getting disciplined for dog bites, and rightfully so. If management is telling you to deliver mail to a house where another carrier was bitten you have the right to refuse until this hazardous situation has been corrected. Management must put mail on hold and rectify this hazard i.e. moving mail box to a safer delivery point, instruct the customer to keep the front door closed until after delivery, tie dog in backyard or get a P.O box. On the other hand if you take it on your own to deliver mail to a customer where you know a carrier was bitten the day before, then shame on you. If a building was on a fire you would not enter to deliver the mail, would you? Of course not because you might be injured. Don't allow management to place you in a dangerous situation.

Until next time.. Stay Smart – Be Safe • Safety is our FIRST priority.

Tony Snyder, Safety Rep. BR 78

DON'T FORGET! To Make Your Contribution To COLCPE

MAIL
YOUR
CONTRIBUTION
TODAY!

MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO COLCPE

Mail to:

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

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

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

Buckeye Branch 78

1029 Harrisburg Pike
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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	TODD HORNYAK	279-2778
EEO OFFICER	MICHAEL IACOBONI	279-2778
SGT-AT-ARMS	EDWARD STEWART	279-2778
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TRUSTEE	CARL BOOTH	491-1675
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B Clintonville	Douglas Lawver	447-8078
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Canal Winchester	Gary Boller	471-8289
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CP Central Point	Alan D. Moore Sr.	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		889-0763
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F German Village	Douglas Bryant	449-9565
G South Columbus	Walt Brumfield/Vince Eddy Alt.	444-0217
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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/Bob Connell Alt.	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	Kent Fling/Mike Little/Joan Nevels Alt.	890-1180
NW Northwest	Keith Etherington	451-1502
OP Oakland Park	Madonna Keller/P. Trzcinski Alt.	476-1590
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UA Upper Arlington	Tom Wilson/Tom Parise	451-2302
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WW West Worthington	Regina Taylor	793-9789
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WOR Worthington/Busch	Jeff Freeman	846-6088

LOOK

FOR THE

UNION LABEL



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

**ARTICLES RECEIVED AFTER THE
FIRST WEDNESDAY OF ANY
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THE FOLLOWING MONTHS
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**The views expressed in articles
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rectly reflect those of Branch 78 or
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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