

Buckeye Branch 78 Bulletin

Columbus and Central Ohio



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MARCH 2007



VOL. 28, NO. 3

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Safety is and should always be a priority of this branch. Safety starts with the Letter Carrier. It is his/her responsibility to do so. Yes, much pressure is placed on you especially to work within sometimes unreasonable time constraints. That is not an excuse to deviate from safe work habits. Whether it is driving with mail in your hand or fingering mail going up and down steps, actions like this contribute to accidents. I know most of you are thinking (he) is not carrying mail; it is easy for him to say. Well you're right but I did carry mail and I know the pressure the Letter Carrier is under.

Ultimately (in the mind of some) the blame for an accident falls on the shoulders of the carrier. In some cases management must shoulder the blame also. It is very easy to place blame but much harder to correct. Making the numbers is not an excuse to push any carrier to the point he/she deviates from a safe routine or taking shortcuts. If you follow the agreed upon rules or even the rules set forth by management tomorrow, I guarantee you will work less hard than you did today. In some cases

when that supervisor or manager tells that PTF carrier "take this hour, carry your route and be back in eight or you will face corrective action", In my opinion management is setting that carrier up to fail before they leave the office. Well the carrier may get lucky do the usual good job and get back in time, but guess what-it will happen again and again. Hopefully that carrier will not have an accident. Is that management person to blame also? Absolutely we as an organization have a bad habit of always passing the buck on to someone else.

In order for safety to benefit the organization as a whole, all employees must cooperate with the program. This includes the Postmaster down to the PTF carrier. Education and training over a period of time will eventually and automatically be routine. But in order for this to work, there can be no deviation from the agenda. Plan five talks should be given daily. If management fails to adhere to the plan five talks on a daily basis, they show the unit they are not serious about the agenda. What kind of message does this



Rocco
Evangelista

send out to the employee? It shows that we are only serious as long as it doesn't cost any time or money. That Plan 5 talk may only take five minutes per day but multiply that times each letter carrier in the office. It does add up, but the cost of education does not compare to the cost of ignorance, in other words, if all employees are not constantly educated on the essence of working in a safe manner, it will cost much more in the long run later. Remember do your self and your family a favor- always work safe.

Branch 78 will return to Washington, DC on May 8 & 9 of this year for the congressional Breakfast. Once again the bus will be leaving the union hall at

Continued on page 3

A MESSAGE FROM VICE PRESIDENT BOB SOLT



Bob Solt

As of February 15, 2007 we are continuing to calculate the loss of funds the Branch has suffered. A Certified Public Accountant has been temporarily hired to help determine our financial loss. The dishonesty of the former Branch 78 financial secretary-treasurer has caused more than the fraudulent misappropriation of funds entrusted to him by the members of Branch 78. The time that has been spent trying to determine our loss is incalculable. The money is replaceable. The dishonor he has placed on himself and more important, our Branch, is not so easily repaired.

Some of the highlights of the ongoing contract negotiations is the

NALC has proposed an all regular workforce by 2011. All Letter Carriers would be converted to regular. They would have a Monday through Friday schedule. A Saturday only workforce would be created which would give retired Letter Carriers a hiring preference. The retired Letter Carriers would be paid at the top step. The new hires, probationary Carriers would be paid at the lowest step. The proposed Monday through Friday schedules sound like the possible elimination of Saturday delivery. The NALC is also proposing an early out retirement. 'At this time these are only some of the proposals from the NALC.

Our NALC Food drive is scheduled this year for Saturday, May 12th. Again this year Branch 78 needs all of the volunteers we can get to make this year's Food Drive a success. Branch 78 Trustee Todd Hornyak has

volunteered to be a coordinator this year. The Branch is still in need of a volunteer to coordinate the Food Drive efforts at City Gate. When the trucks arrive at City Gate, we help unload the trucks, sort the food and if need be, help reload the trucks. The success of this years food drive can only be accomplished through the voluntary commitment of all Letter Carriers. The Union Stewards will be asked again this year to coordinate the Food Drive operation at their offices. Through a combined effort we can again this year help make a significant improvement in the lives of the less fortunate in our community. Our Food Drive is an excellent example of progressive Unionism.

Fraternally,

Bob Solt

NBA REPORT

The 2008 Presidential election is heating up as there are many announcements of candidacy in both parties

On the Republican side, John McCain, Rudy Giuliani and Mitt Romney have declared.

On the Democratic side, there are more candidates announcing every day.

To date, the following have announced Hilliary Clinton, John Edwards, Barack Obama, Tom Vilsack, Chris Dodd, Wesley Clark and Joe Biden.

It promises to be a very interesting 18 months coming up.

In the meantime, the Bush Administration is increasing the number of troops in Iraq which seems to be the opposite of what the majority of American citizens want. Iraq will certainly be an issue in 2008.

As Letter carriers, union members and working men and women, it is imperative that we be part of the election process.

It begins with being eligible to vote. If you are not registered, do so immediately.

If you are not an EActivist with the NALC, contact your Branch officers to sign up. If you are not

a COLPCE contributor, you need to become one and the best and easiest way to do that is through automatic contribution.

If you do not step up to do your part, no one will do it for you and our collective future as letter carriers and union members could depend on your action or lack of action.

Think about it!

Bill Cooke

MILLER'S MUSINGS

Finally winter has arrived and not for a day or two. This is the real deal. This is the time to be extremely cautious in your work. Observe all the safety rules and look out for your self. I have no doubt that with several inches of snow on the ground there were supervisors insisting "DOIS says you are two hours light" so you need to pivot and hour. Never mind people driving 0mph, having to chip ice off your vehicle, finding a torch to unlock the doors and not being able to roll your mail to your truck because the lot wasn't plowed. The bottom line you must do what it takes to get your route done in a safe manner and insure that you return to your home the way you left only more tired.

Those of you new to the game, learn to wear layers and lots of them. You can always take some off if you're too warm. Ask your supervisor for hand warmers. Find proper footwear to keep your feet dry and warm. If necessary take extra socks. Invest in thermal underwear that wicks moisture away from your skin. Wear a hat, more heat seeps from your head than any other part of your body.

I wish they had had NEOS when I was on walking routes, they are wonderful.

Now that several inches have accumulated there are layers of ice over snow. Be even more careful on steps and porches. Be wary of areas that look clear and wet there could be black ice.

The new COESRA cards are at the Hall. Stewards can pick them up for their station and distribute to Branch members ONLY. I hope you found the list of service providers helpful and keep the issue handy for future reference especially if you do not have computer access.

I have had the pleasure of using the new scanners the past few weeks. They are smarter than the old ones. I have yet to be asked about problems with them for feedback. So I guess that we are stuck with them the way they are. I have had mine require me to get signatures on 3849s when they are a delivery confirmation not signature confirmation and you can't ignore it because it won't let you make another scan until it's satisfied. I hate manual inputs of sixteen and twenty number

strands. Why do people put the scans over box openings making them unscannable? If they want legible signature captures they're going have to provide proper writing implements...Sharpies seem to work very well. You can record multiple codes for a house receiving several parcels. That's nice!

The Social Rec sponsored Basketball tournament is coming in April. All you ballers need to get in shape because it's just around the corner. Contact Fred Wilson at Linden station if you are interested in playing.

Submitted by Yana Miller

Buckeye Br. 78 Bulletin

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Vice President	Bob Solt
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Asst. Secretary/Editor	Yana Miller
Financial Secretary	

Please notify your local union of address changes as soon as possible.
Send address changes to:

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1029 Harrisburg Pike
Columbus OH 43223-2524
614-279-2778
www.nalc-branch78.org

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Continued from page 1

5am and arrive around 1:30 in DC. We are attempting to schedule appointments with our representatives to discuss Letter Carrier issues. We will schedule a workshop in the near future for those who plan on attending. Please look for the date in a

future branch bulletin.

Remember-keep fighting the good fight

Rocco Evangelista



FROM THE NORTH....

In Delaware, as is probably the same in your station, required safety talks should have the intent of educating people of the hidden dangers of mundane tasks. This education normally will have the effect of heightening awareness so as to avoid accidents. In reality and practice, management uses these talks as reasoning for the issuance of discipline when carriers are injured, work is disrupted or equipment is damaged due to accidents that occur during the course of a carrier's workday. The postal service's position on accidents is that they "are all preventable." Safety talks are used as documentation that you should have been aware as we warned you.

Consider the following; a carrier is walking on snow covered ground, fingering mail and steps in a hole that doesn't appear to be

there because of the snow. He twists his ankle, reports it (because he is required to) and is disciplined for "unsatisfactory performance."

A carrier on a motorized curbside delivery route drives the LLV under a portable basketball goal hanging over the curb every day for seven years. One day someone changes the net and it is 4 inches longer than the old one, however, not visibly noticeable. The next day this carrier does as he does every day except that this day the LLV catches the 4 inch longer net and pulls the goal onto the LLV. He reports it (as he is required to do) and is disciplined for "unsatisfactory performance."

These are just two of the ridiculous examples of several disciplines that were cited in the class action grievance that was filed from this office. Carriers are

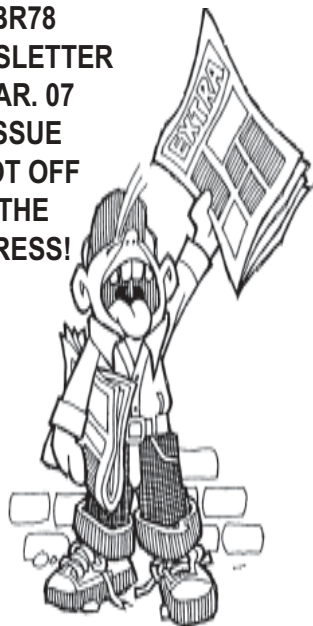
required to report all accidents immediately. Logically the reason for this is so that an injured person can get needed medical treatment. An injury that appears minor may be worse than initially thought or a small injury may progress to a major injury without immediate treatment. Because of the practice that 99 % of accidents result in discipline, I am aware of several injuries that have gone unreported. Eventually some unreported injury is indeed going to be worse than thought or progress into something major. Maybe then management will feel the shame they should already feel for putting carriers in that position.

Keep the faith,

Randy

READ
YOUR UNION
NEWSPAPER!

BR78
NEWSLETTER
MAR. 07
ISSUE
HOT OFF
THE
PRESS!



Change of Address Form

Members who move and fail to report address change will not receive the *Buckey Branch 78 Bulletin*.

Please use this form to report changes.

Name

Social Security Number

New Address

Telephone

HEADING



BUCKEYE BRANCH 78 2007 BUDGET

		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Branch	Budgeted	\$27,343.00	\$6,186.00	\$20,000.00	\$42,110.00	\$41,000.00
	Used	\$24,920.00	\$25,922.00	\$23,248.00	\$10,066.00	
Payroll	Budgeted	\$200,000.00	\$210,000.00	\$210,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00
	Used	\$193,579.00	\$188,823.00	\$189,593.00	\$154,119.00	
Per Capita	Budgeted	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,100.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
	Used	\$936.00	\$1,183.00	\$1,187.00	\$1,080.00	
Delegate	Budgeted	\$12,000.00	\$42,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$37,000.00	\$15,000.00
	Used	\$15,296.00	\$41,205.00	\$6,668.00	\$36,323.00	
Education	Budgeted	\$13,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$16,000.00	\$24,000.00
	Used	\$11,550.00	\$10,783.00	\$14,912.00	\$14,119.00	
Taxes	Budgeted	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,100.00	\$7,000.00
	Used	\$4,602.00	\$4,671.00	\$5,025.00	\$6,440.00	
Office Supplies	Budgeted	\$25,000.00	\$27,500.00	\$27,500.00	\$27,500.00	\$29,821.60
	Used	\$25,867.00	\$21,643.00	\$27,679.00	\$22,435.00	
Social Rec	Budgeted	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$15,000.00
	Used	\$12,995.00	\$11,449.00	\$15,669.00	\$12,239.00	
Utilities	Budgeted	\$13,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$16,700.00
	Used	\$13,208.00	\$11,384.00	\$12,653.00	\$9,806.00	
Bldg. Maint.	Budgeted	\$25,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$35,000.00
	Used	\$33,865.00	\$8,342.00	\$13,240.00	\$8,844.00	
Totals	Budgeted	\$336,343.00	\$354,686.00	\$348,600.00	\$386,910.00	\$384,721.60
	Used	\$336,818.00	\$326,405.00	\$309,874.00	\$266,417.00	

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!



INTERESTED IN A TRIP TO AMISH COUNTRY

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

Cost: \$52.00 (based 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



United We Stand!

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

Branch 78 News Flash

BILL ZIMMERMAN would have won **\$300** at the **February meeting** but he was not there! This is really sad because he is rarely misses a meeting, unlike so many of the other members drawn. Zimmie, Jim Pierce and Jerri Frierson feel your pain, it happened to them, too!

Buckeye Branch 78

1029 Harrisburg Pike
Columbus, Ohio 43223-2524

National Association of Letter Carriers

AFL-CIO



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BRANCH #78 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	ROCCO EVANGELISTA	UNION HALL 614-279-2778
VICE PRESIDENT	BOB SOLT	756-4664
REC SECRETARY	RON SANTAVICCA	740-927-1174
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FIN SECY-TREASURER		
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	471-8289
TRUSTEE	CARL BOOTH	491-1675
TRUSTEE	TODD HORNYAK	351-0137
TRUSTEE	TREVOR PAYNE	447-8078

LOOK

FOR THE

UNION LABEL



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

STATION STEWARD BUSINESS-HOME

A Short North	Jerri Frierson	294-4922
B Clintonville	Douglas Lawver	447-8078
BW Beechwold	John Klinger	447-8078
BEX Bexley	Jacki Mitchell	237-2830
Canal Winchester	Gary Boller	471-8289
C Linden	Marcus Jones	
CP Central Point	Frank Lisath/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	Christine Gonda	889-0763
Eastland	John Gibbons/Jim Gilmer Alt.	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	Chris Haser/John Farranto Alt.	876-7021
HT Hilltop	Mark Beach	351-0137
LV Lincoln Village	Rick Baker/T. Hornyak Alt.	351-0137
LIV Livingston	Ray Pugh/Bob Connell Alt.	237-9570
LON London	Jon Robinson	1-740-852-1881
MO Main Office	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	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	469-4232
U University	Rod James	294-7292
UA Upper Arlington	Tom Wilson/Tom Parise	451-2302
WV Westerville	Dennis Manning	882-2243
WJ West Jefferson	G. Chaffins	1-614-879-9145
WW West Worthington	Randy Taylor	793-9789
WH Whitehall	Ken McCauley	237-1722
WOP Worthington/Duech	Andy Curtis	846-6088

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

**The views expressed in articles
printed in this publication do not di-
rectly reflect those of Branch 78 or
the Editor.**

**ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICA-
TIONS TO :**

**1029 Harrisburg Pike
Columbus, Ohio 43223-2524**

STEWARDS MEETING-6:30 P.M.

First Wednesday of each month

OFFICERS MEETING-6:00 P.M.

**The Monday preceding Steward
Meeting**

BRANCH MEETING-6:30 P.M.

Second Wednesday of each month

RETIREES MEETING-1:00 P.M.

First Tuesday of each month

BRANCH OFFICE PHONES:

279-BR78

279-2778

www.nalc-branch78.org