

# BUCKEYE BRANCH 78 BULLETIN

## Columbus and Central Ohio



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JUNE 2010



VOL. 31, NO. 6

### PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The 2010 NALC Food drive went well thanks to those who participated. We collected 194,888 lbs. of food which went to the needy. Thanks to those who came in on their day off to help out, to those who brought in a side dish or cooked and to the retirees who still know the importance of the food drive and participated by helping sort the food at the units. This is one way we give back to the community. Not only does the community gain but it promotes camaraderie between coworkers. I thank all of you for your hard work each year on the second Saturday in May.

The NALC has requested data from the locals on the number of positions withheld. It was discussed at the Committee of Presidents and the object is to verify the positions withheld and to work on promoting Part Time Flexible Letter Carriers. We have been under withholding for some time due to the anticipation of the Flat Sorters. The good side of this was we did not have to displace anyone outside the district and very few carriers were excessed from the units. The downside to withholding is for the PTF's,

they place promotions on hold. If I was a PTF, it would be hard to convince me of any benefit of withholding but it is necessary in most cases in anticipation of displacing regular employees. I will let you know of any future developments.

It is reported that the Cleveland District is now getting a flat sorter. To my friends in Cleveland-Good Luck! May I suggest that you talk management into letting the carriers case the flats, convince them they will still capture time savings but most of the headaches



Rocco  
Evangelista

will disappear. The organization states we are losing billions of dollars annually, why are we spending millions on more machines? Are the savings that great to justify the spending?

*(Continued on page 4)*

### 2010 Food Drive Kickoff



*Rocco Evangelista, Rose Spraggins, Mary Jo Kilroy and Angela Pace kickoff the food.*

## *Congratulations On Your Retirement Aaron!*



*Rocco Evangelista presenting Aaron Kitzmiller with his retirement watch.*



*Aaron Kitzmiller making his last clock rings before retirement.*

## **SAFETY & HEALTH BENEFITS OFFICER**

### **MAKING A STRONG STRANCE**

In our May 2010 issue of the Postal Record I read how our union brothers and sisters were faced with trying to help save the Postal Service 40 years ago. Now we are in the same situation all over again. Postmaster Jack Potter wants to eliminate Saturday delivery to recoup volume lost due to the internet. This is not the way to fix a company by cutting services. This is where we come in as letter carriers by informing our congressional representatives of our concerns with the way Postmaster Potter is trying to destroy a long running institution provided for the people. I feel Potter has made a bad investment in trying to keep up with companies like UPS, and FED-X to name a few. Our company does not need to compete with getting

something somewhere the next day or tracking this or that or whatever. The creation of the Postal service was "TO PROVIDE EVERY HOUSEHOLD AND BUSINESS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES WITH THE ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE AND CONDUCT BUSINESS WITH EACH OTHER AND THE WORLD THROUGH PROMPT, RELIABLE, SECURE AND ECONOMICAL SERVICE FOR THE COLLECTION, TRANSMISSION AND DELIVERY OF MESSAGES AND MAIL" In my point of view the higher ups have forgotten this purpose. We are not a PROFIT MAKING BUSINESS like FED-X and UPS. We are a government agency providing a service to the American people.

For all you non-union members you need to read "CARRIERS IN A COMMON CAUSE", the history of the letter carriers and the NALC. You non-union members will understand the fight and sacrifices that were made to get a good and fair wage for you. No union can please every member or fix every problem that arises, but a well represented union (100 %) will provide us with a strong stance on helping the Postal Service remain a long standing institution for years to come. "LET US BIND PEOPLE TOGETHER WITH A CHAIN THAT CAN NEVER BE BROKEN". All non-union members see your UNION STEWARD for information on how to sign up today!

**Gary L Porter**

### **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

# MILLER'S MUSINGS

Hot, humid miserable summer conditions are here. Schools are almost out for the summer. Everyone that has been housebound is out and waiting for their carrier to arrive. There is a new batch of dogs on every route. Children are out and playing. Peak vacation time has arrived and the mail still must get delivered. There is the looming threat of service cuts from L'Enfant Plaza.

Most of you know the keys to survival in summer but for those who don't here are a few suggestions. Drink lots of WATER, you can't drink too much. Soda, juice, coffee and the like may taste good but they will not rehydrate your body. You lose vital electrolytes when you perspire if you chose an alternative to water use a sports drink like Powerade or Gatorade they will put back what you have lost. Know the signs of heat stroke/exhaustion.

If you feel cool and clammy, get light headed or feel faint; get in the shade, sit down put wet cloths on your face/head. If you don't start to feel better in five or ten minutes, call in for help and call 911. Don't risk your health! Sunscreen is not just for fair skinned people, anyone can get sunburn and we are all at risk for skin cancer.

Our patrons love us and look forward to seeing us. They fail to realize we are on a tight schedule. It is hard to get away from the chatty ones in a polite manner. We

have all had to back away from them to get them to stop talking but some continue as you go to the next house. Tell them you don't want to be rude but you really must go and move away. Tell them the bosses are watching you which may not be a lie since you never know when they will show up.

Many families add new animals during the winter months so be vigilant of new dogs and their restraints or lack of them. Use dog cards for the problem pets. If you carry on someone, please return the warning and hold cards to that route when you return to the station.

There is hardly a day that passes that someone asks when we are going to five day delivery.

My response is contact your representatives in Washington and tell them you don't want five day delivery. It doesn't take long to say that and it gets the word out. Carriers are apprehensive about bidding on T-6 groups. Have you done anything to stop this train? Write, call and get your family, friends and the general public to put their support behind us. The more calls and letters sent to Washington representatives the more our voices will be heard. Potter has been stomping all over the Hill now we have to counter his attack on our jobs. Cut the fat at the top, quit buying those billion dollar machines, make our price structure more flexible, quit running presorted mail through

machines or quit giving discounts if you are going to machine it.

Lastly, the pivot, management knows you can't make it but they don't have to put overtime hours on their schedule if they call it a pivot. Document that you cannot make a pivot on a 96, be sure to ring over to that route to show the full hours worked. Don't short change yourself.



**Yana Miller-Farney**

*Submitted by  
Yana Miller-Farney*

## **Buckeye Br. 78 Bulletin**

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

**Br. 78 Bulletin**  
**1029 Harrisburg Pike**  
**Columbus OH 43223-2524**  
**614-279-2778**  
**[www.nalc-branch78.org](http://www.nalc-branch78.org)**



**TOGETHER  
WE CAN MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE !!!**

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**Columbus Ohio**





It seems like only last month we were trudging through two sometimes three feet of snow. I for one am glad to see the cool weather. What I don't like seeing is the decline in mail. We all know that mail is generally slow in the summer months. Now is the time management really thinks that we can make their numbers without any problems. I have had several carriers ask me "Since our routes were adjusted to eight hours, why is management asking us daily, to pivot anywhere from a half hour to an hour and a half?" The reason? Because we let them. Sure mail volume is down. But, we the carriers, should know if we are able to make a pivot. This is where it becomes our responsibility to utilize the 3996. The purpose of the 3996 is to inform management when we are unable to make the assignment. Some reasons, just to name a few, are heavy DPS, FSS, or parcels. Maybe our mail is not ready for us to case. Waiting on accountables. Incorrect leave or street time. Excessive plan 5 talk, the list goes on. My understanding is that all routes are given 33 minutes of built in office time. This does not leave a

lot of time to get the mail cased and carried. Management seems to think that we are all SEASONED carriers, and that we should know how to fill out the 3996 correctly. This is not always the case, especially when you have worked in a station where telling management verbally has always been acceptable. If you are unsure how to properly fill one out, ask your steward or as someone who does not seem to get a lot of hassle from management when submitting one. If needed, put your request in writing and ask for a copy. Therefore, management has a difficult time proving you did not ask for assistance. What you are doing is creating a paper trail. This not only benefits you, but your steward. When management tries to discipline you for unauthorized overtime, (and they will) you have paper proof you had already informed management. It is your responsibility to give your steward all the information you can to keep you from receiving discipline.

ON to a much more positive note, the food drive was a huge success. It seems like Bexley did not collect as much as last year, but we did not do too shabby either. We

were able to collect seven gaylords of food, to help fill the local food pantries. I would like to thank several people for helping with our food drive. Former carrier, Mindee Wright, for playing cook. I think she has become our designated cook for the food drive. Carrier, Tanya Carson-Senegal, and her daughter, Kendra, and Colin Stidams, son of carrier, Brenda Stidams for sorting the food that carriers brought in. Clerks, Kathy Cramer, and Michael (Peanut) White, for also sorting or going out to pick up food from the carriers. And especially to the carriers for taking the time to pick up the food from the customers and to those who stayed afterward to help sort. Also, special thanks to Manager Bobby Cundiff, at Kroger in Hebron, for donating a gift card. This allowed us to help buy food to feed the workers, and also to Kelly and her husband at Resch's Bakery on Livingston. Resch's donated donuts for our breakfast. Several people make our food drives a success, even those who are not part of the post office. Just goes to show what can happen when many people work together to benefit others.

**Jacki Mitchell**

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## PRESIDENTS PAGE *Continued from page 1*

The five day workweek is still on the radar. As I have stated all along, let us look to this as a last resort. Other avenues have to be explored before this happens. Look at the pre-funding of health benefits (where is that money?), cuts at the Area and Washington level in management. Any cuts in management will not add up to the billions of dollars we are allegedly losing but it is a start. It will send a message out to the rest of the workforce "we are trying

to fix the problem". Most craft employees see waste at their level that could be eliminated. Imagine the waste you do not see. Rather than giving our competitors the opportunity to come in and take a day of delivery, look for other ways to generate revenue.

John Shoemaker recently retired. He worked at Mt. Vernon carrier unit for awhile prior to bidding to the Main Office. Along with being a Letter Carrier he is also a Vietnam Veteran. I thank

you for your membership in our Union and to your service to this great country. Any person that served his/her country in combat deserves to be placed on a special pedestal. Please note that most don't want it, but they deserve it. Don't be a stranger.

**Remember,  
keep fighting the good fight**

*Rocco Evangelista*

**Rocco Evangelista**

# 2010 NALC FOOD DRIVE





## Cedar Point

Kick off your summer with a visit to Cedar Point. Located in Sandusky, OH, this amusement park has something for everyone in the family. Save over 20% off regular season ticket prices with your COESRA discounts! Visit [www.coesra.org](http://www.coesra.org) for more information and to purchase discount tickets online.

## Kings Island

With more than 80 rides, shows and attractions, Kings Island offers the perfect combination of hair-raising thrills and family attractions. COESRA members save up to 20% off regular admission price. Visit [www.coesra.org](http://www.coesra.org) to purchase discount tickets online.

## Ohio Renaissance Festival

Travel back in history at the Ohio Renaissance Festival. There's something for everyone: comedy, tragedy, thrilling action, music, and dance. COESRA members receive \$4.00 off adult and \$1.00 off child admissions. Visit [www.coesra.org](http://www.coesra.org) for coupon and more information.

## Great Wolf Lodge

Clear your calendar, pack the swimsuits and head to Great Wolf Lodge. Just imagine — colossal indoor waterpark, 100-game arcade, a luxurious spa and fantastic restaurants — all under one roof. Visit [www.coesra.org](http://www.coesra.org) for coupon and more information.

### Attention All Members You're Invited

### *Annual Retiree Dinner*

When: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2010  
Where: VILLA MILANO BANQUET &  
CONFERENCE CENTER  
1630 SHROCK ROAD  
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43229

COME HONOR OUR NEWEST GOLD  
CARD RECIPIENTS  
HAVE A GREAT MEAL

Time: Cocktails 6:00-7:00 PM  
Dinner: 7:00 PM



# BRANCH 78

## ANNUAL PICNIC

SEPTEMBER 19, 2010

Heimat Haus Party House

4555 Jackson Pike

Grove City, Ohio



Noon - 4



Food & Beverages

DJ/Music

Clowns & Face Painting



Pony Rides



Bean Bag Toss Tournament

Fishing Pond-Kids Tournament

Prizes

# Buckeye Branch 78

1029 Harrisburg Pike  
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National Association of  
Letter Carriers  
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FOR THE

# UNION LABEL



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COULD BE YOUR OWN!**

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The views expressed in articles printed  
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**ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO :**  
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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