

BUCKEYE BRANCH 78 BULLETIN

Columbus and Central Ohio



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MARCH 2010



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VOL. 31, NO. 3

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

First, I would like to thank Chuck Sharp for his past dedication to Branch 78. Chuck resigned effective January 1st as MBA/Health benefits representative to move on towards other endeavors. We wish him well. Tom Wilson recently retired from the USPS and also resigned his seat as trustee. I want to thank Tom for his dedication as an officer and long time steward. I have appointed Orrin Bowman, Dublin letter carrier and steward to this position. I believe Orrin will bring some new ideas to the table along with his leadership skills. I have always believed the associate offices are due a voice on the executive board. He will represent them well.

A small delegation from Branch 78 will attend the Congressional Breakfast in Washington, DC on March 17 & 18 to meet with our elected representatives. This year the main topic of conversation will be the five-day work week. We already have a commitment from President Obama to work with the Unions and other stakeholders to keep the Postal Service strong for years to come.

Due to lower mail volume which equates to loss of revenue, the five day work week could be-

come a reality. In a letter from the District manager dated February 18, 2010 to all Columbus Employees, he states the reasons for considering a 6 to 5 day delivery is the declining volume. In 2008, we processed 203 billion pieces of mail compared to 177 billion in 2009. This equates to a net loss of \$3.8 billion dollars. I have no doubt this is true. All you have to do is walk through most of the offices and ask any letter carrier. Most of you will agree that you have seen a drop in volume over the past few years. So that brings us to the solution-how do you make up the difference? Cutting services is not the answer. Cutting positions at the top level is. I have said it before and will continue to say it, management needs to trim its workforce starting at the top and working its way down to the area levels. Is that the total catch-all to make up for the revenue loss, absolutely not but it is a start. Cutting services should always be a last resort in any business decision.

The Postal Service also cites the mandate to pre-fund our retiree health benefits is a tremendous cost to the organization. I agree the burden is great but I wonder what was done after the OIG determined the



**Rocco
Evangelista**

Postal Service had overpaid the fund by \$75 Billion dollars. I want to point out that all the Union contracts will be negotiated in the upcoming year, maybe this push is just a coincidence to set the tone for next year. I ask all of you to contact your local Representative to express your concern over five day delivery. Those of you that want Saturday off, you need to think of job security. Once we open the door and cut back on service, someone else will slide right in and capitalize on our shortcomings. Then, the next battle we will be fighting is the one against privatization. As Union members we need to look at the bigger picture, and not to look at a quick fix.

It has been a long winter for Letter Carriers. Trudging through the snow took its toll mentally and physically. I applaud all of you for

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MILLER'S MUSINGS



Yana Miller-Farney

The last few months we have been going through the FSS introduction. We are now entering the second phase; route adjustments. There are a few bright spots in this article. Weather has created major challenges this winter but nothing like what our brethren in the New England states have been dealt.

Ideally management would send information to the department in charge of COR and according to volumes, street times, and whatever goes in the stew territories would be shifted, maps redrawn of the new routes and returned to the station for display so that the persons affected could get an idea of what the routes would consist of. Approximately four days before the changes were to take effect we were told the bidding would begin. Ever inquiry prior to this day the buck was passed from one person or the other as to why this process had not begun and why there were no accurate maps of the new routes. So it began after vehicle checks down from the top of the seniority roster. Needless to say many of us had to go to the street before we were called in. Being fairly new to the station and being a bottom feeder (low on the totem pole) I have very limited knowledge of the routes or where they are located and due to my standing there wasn't a lot to pick from anyway. Here's the scenario, cell rings, "Are you pulled over or at a place

where you can talk?" manager. "It just so happens I am." Me. "Here are your choices; A, B, C or D." Luckily the steward and another carrier were with the manager to help me sort out what I was about to accept. Saturday the case labels were changed by others and Monday we do our new routes. Next bulletin there will be an update on the success of this project. Stay tuned.

There is little doubt in my mind and most of my colleagues why this business is suffering. Look at the way things are handled in your station, see the response or lack thereof from the next level up. Then there is another layer above that and I think a tier above that before you get to the PMG. His cure for the PO is to cut one day of delivery, period. How about cut some of the waste from between us and him. There are constant complaints from management that they don't have enough clerks to get the mail to carriers on time but they keep abolishing clerk positions. If the managers are so concerned why don't they show it on their Level Five reviews (wrong title) but it explores the need in the unit for clerks. That's why you have managers and supervisors spreading mail, sorting parcels and running Express Mail.

They complain about coverage daily but if you start each day down seven routes what do you expect. People get sick and call in then you're down nine routes. From our experience your down time predicates on the number of down routes. You have the same time to pivot whether you have three feet to case or a half. Your

street time is the same whether you have three parcels or twenty-three; same with dps and fss, five and two the same as nine and four. Another cute item, some house to house has marriage mail in the dps; then management asks why you took a hundred percent? All the cards were in the dps!

Weather records for snowfall have been broken this winter but the mail has been delivered almost without fail. Some days and streets were more challenging than others but mostly we conquered our obstacles and without a lot of injuries to bodies and vehicles. There are probably more than a few that did some Olympics performances in the snow and on the ice; we didn't make it to the podium but certainly set some personal best for most creative performance. Spring is around the corner but this isn't over yet. Be careful and protect yourselves.

Steve Miller of Gahanna bid off of his walking route after almost thirty years. His customers were saddened by the loss but wish him well on his new endeavor. Management wanted to know why he was late getting back his last day, duh! Mind you this fellow worked eighteen years without using an hour of sick leave. Jerry Howell left the service after forty-one years and three months to embark on a new career, retirement. We wish him good health and lots of enjoyment in the years to come.

Submitted by
Yana Miller-Farney

GET INVOLVED

By now you should have had a "Plan Five" talk about the State of the Organization. How the postal service has lost \$297 million in the first quarter of this fiscal year. It was also noted that they might have problems meeting payroll by September 2010. Of course, we were reminded of our responsibility to make our times and not creep into overtime. Let's start with the FSS programs, the MIARAP, the lack of clerks to process the mail for carriers to make it back on time, etc. It just always seems to fall on the Letter Carriers. Maybe it's because we are the last ones to receive the mail????

A Delegation will be headed to Washington this month to lobby on the future of the postal service. There's a big push by the postal service to cut one day of mail service. They say this would save \$2 - \$3 billion annually. This is where we need your help. The NALC needs every Letter Carrier to contact the Congress person in their district and let them know that this is not the right direction to go. A lot of jobs will be lost; service to our customers will be greatly affected, which in turn could cause other companies to cut their workforce because of the loss of one day delivery service.

Private firms like Fed Ex and UPS would love to handle that day that the Postal Service wants to eliminate. Just remember that we had the parcel service and we just let UPS come in and capitalize the service. Let's not let them do the same thing all over again with our letters! Contact your Congress person now! Write them a letter, call or email them. **DON'T WAIT, ACT NOW!**

Gary Porter

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Continued from page 1

doing the best you could under terrible conditions. You will remember this winter in the years to come and look back and reflect how bad it was.

The City of Columbus gets an F for the lack of service they provided to the city streets. As I write this some streets still have not been plowed. I'm sure the streets around City Hall were.

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

Rocco Evangelista

Rocco Evangelista

Buckeye Br. 78 Bulletin

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

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**The Basketball Tournament will be
April 18, 2010**

at

Woodward Park Rec Center,
5147 Karl Road, Columbus, OH 43229.

Time: 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

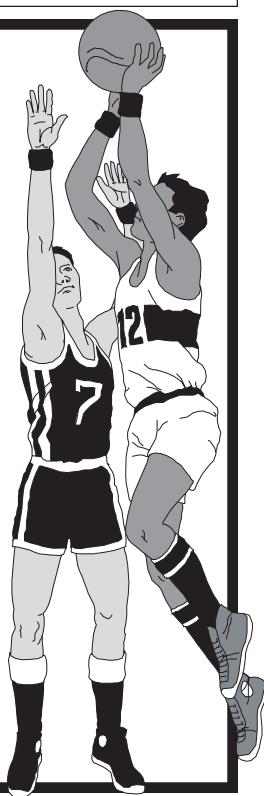
There will be one game, two teams;

Delivery vs Processing.

Come support the players.

This event is sponsored by Social &
Recreation Committee.
contact Bobbee Whitlow 614-472-0466 or
Fred Wilson Linden Station.

***Bring one canned food or
nonperishable item for entry.***



Congratulations
Jerry Howell
on your
Retirement. . .



OWCP Claim Forms

By Lee Bossa

In light of the recent severe conditions letter carriers have had to deal with, I thought it might be a good time to talk for a minute about OWCP claim forms.

First off, let's cover where all of this info can be found:

<http://www.dol.gov/owcp/>

and

<http://www.dol.gov/owcp/dfec/>

The primary forms that a carrier will be using are: CA-1, CA-16, CA-17, CA-20.

CA-1: Federal Employee's Notice of Traumatic Injury and Claim for Continuation of Pay/Compensation. **THE MOST IMPORTANT FORM!** This is the initial report documenting the on-the-job injury. Without this one, no further action can be taken by OWCP. This should, in most cases, be completed on the day of the injury. It **MUST** be completed within 30 days of the date of injury to be eligible for continuation of pay (COP).

CA-16: Authorization for Examination and/or Treatment. You will need one of these when you seek medical attention. This form gets the care-giver paid. If you are treated at a contract facility, (Urgent Care), you won't need this one.

CA-17: Duty Status Report. This details your medical restrictions, if any. You will need one of these each time you see your Dr. as your condition changes.

CA-20: Attending Physician's Report. This report is prepared by your Dr. and submitted to OWCP so they can evaluate and adjudicate your compensation claim.

It is important to note that there are literally dozens of additional forms for all kinds of situations, but these four are the ones carriers will use the most. Competent advice is critical in these situations and can be obtained thru the branch or a workman's comp attorney.

There are legal issues you should be aware of also; I will reproduce them here without further comment:

Penalty for Refusal to Process Claim

Any employee or supervisor responsible for making reports in connection with an injury who willfully fails, neglects, or refuses to do so; induces, compels, or directs an injured employee to forego filing a claim; or willfully retains any notice, report, or paper required in connection with an injury may be subject to a fine of not more than \$500 or 1 year in prison, or both. (20 CFR 10.23)

Penalty for Fraudulently Claiming or Obtaining Benefits

Claimants convicted of fraudulently claiming or obtaining benefits under FECA cited in Public Law 103-333, effective 9/30/94, lose entitlement to medical benefits, compensation for wage loss, and any other benefits payable under FECA. (20 CFR 10.23)



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: _____

Branch 78 Officer : _____

Station Steward: _____

Date Signed: _____

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 for at least 12 consecutive months prior to making application. NALC member must also be in good standing at time of award.

Applicant may not be a relative of any member of the scholarship judges.

Applicant must be a graduating high school senior for the 2009-2010 school year when making application. The form must be submitted and signed by the NALC member, and a Officer of Branch 78 or Station Steward. This form must be returned to Branch 78 by August 1, 2010.

BRANCH 78 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Continued from page 5

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, 2010

All biographical questionnaires and secondary school reports must be received at Branch 78 by midnight, August 1, 2010.

Please submit the following:

1. Application
2. Official copy of ACT/SAT scores
3. Official High School Transcript for all 4 (four) High School Years.
4. Date of Graduation.
5. A Introductory letter (1 page minimum) talking about:
 - Background (personal and academic), future plans
 - Extracurricular activities involved in (if any)
 - Community/Volunteer work (if any)
 - Awards/Recognition (if any)
 - Work Experience (if any)
 - Leadership Positions (if any)

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.

If the NALC member is suspended by Branch 78 or enters supervision, scholarship will be canceled.
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 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 books, 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.

Other important information

Address scholarship packet to: Branch 78 Scholarship
1029 Harrisburg Pike
Columbus Ohio, 43223

Any application that is incomplete will be invalid and not considered for award.

JOB WELL DONE

February roared in here like a lion. We received up to 10 inches of snow and drifts in just a couple days. This put a heavy task on the backs of the Letter Carriers. But despite the conditions, Letter Carriers did everything they could to make sure that the mail got

delivered to homes and businesses along their routes. Once again, Letter Carriers showed their dedication, resilience, and simply going above and beyond the call of duty. Despite the conditions, we the Letter Carriers delivered with almost no safety issues. There were

minor slips and falls, but nothing major. In all, we prevailed and I would like to congratulate each and every carrier on a job well done!

Gary Porter,

Safety & Health

**BRANCH 78 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIES IS ACCEPTING
NEW BIDS FOR CLEANING SERVICES.
SUBMIT BIDS TO 1029 HARRISBURG PIKE, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43223
DEAD LINE IS APRIL 30, 2010**

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR AGREEMENT

This Independent Contractor Agreement (the Agreement) is made and entered between _____, an independent Contractor hereafter referred to as Contractor and Branch 78, National Association of Letter Carriers, hereafter referred to as Company.

In consideration of the covenants and conditions hereinafter set forth, Company and Contractors agree as follows:

SERVICES

Contractor shall perform the following services for the Company (the "Work")

Once a week: empty all trash containers & replace liners in such, sweep all carpeted floors, sweep & damp mop all tile floors, dust all furnishings, clean toilet, urinal and sinks in two bathrooms, upstairs and downstairs.

Monthly: all weekly duties above plus clean windows inside, wax tile floors in Meeting room and upstairs hallway.

Contractor shall report to Branch 78 President at 1029 Harrisburg Pike, Columbus, Ohio. 614-279-2778

Payment

Contractor will be paid for work performed under this agreement as follows:

Signed and agreed upon this date _____

Contractor

Branch 78 Representative

Branch 78 Representative

Buckeye Branch 78

1029 Harrisburg Pike
Columbus, Ohio 43223-2524

National Association of
Letter Carriers
AFL-CIO



ADDRESS
SERVICE REQUESTED

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U.S. Postage
Paid
Columbus, Ohio
Permit #1291

BRANCH #78 OFFICERS

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VICE PRESIDENT	BOB SOLT	756-4664
REC SECRETARY	TREVOR PAYNE	279-2778
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DIR OF RETIREES	DOUG GULLEY	279-2778
MBA HEALTH BENEFIT	MARK BEACH	279-2778
HEAD TRUSTEE	CARL DEMKO	351-0137
TRUSTEE	JASON FRY	447-8078
TRUSTEE	JOHN KLINGER	
TRUSTEE	JACKI MITCHELL	237-2830
TRUSTEE	ORRIN BOWMAN	889-0763

STATIONS STEWARDS BUSINESS-HOME

A Short North	Ramon Lawson/J. Frierson	294-4922
B Clintonville	Douglas Lawver	447-8078
BW Beechwood	John Wyckoff/Jason Fry Alt.	447-8078
BEX Bexley	Jacki Mitchell/B. Stidams Alt.	237-2830
Canal Winchester	Rocco Evangelista/ Bob Solt	471-8289
C Linden	Marcus Jones/A. Mateen Alt.	476-5786
CP Central Point	Alan D. Moore Sr.	228-1570
CIR Circleville	Patrick Moore	1-740-474-3113
City Gate Collection Unit	Chuck Snyder/Alt. Spencer Lymon	472-0500
DEL Delaware	Randy Hartman	1-740-363-1906
DUB Dublin	Orrin Bowman	889-0763
Eastland	Dean Peruzzi/M. Sayers Alt.	237-1912
E Olde Town	Steve Bryant	253-7350
F German Village	Douglas Bryant/Ed Thomas Alt.	449-9565
G South Columbus	Walt Brumfield/Thomas Cluff Alt.	444-0217
GAH Gahanna	John Slifko/Doug Doherty Alt.	471-8289
GP Groveport	Rocco Evangelista/Bob Solt	279-2778
GC Grove City	Dave Kitchen	875-6327
HILL Hilliard	Keith Fekete	876-7021
HT Hilltop	Michael Brim	351-0137
LV Lincoln Village	Mark Beach/Ricky Baker Alt.	351-0137
LIV Livingston	Ray Pugh/Mike Steele Alt.	237-9570
LON London	Jon Robinson	1-740-852-1881
MO Main Office	Matthew Gannon/Marvin West Alt.	469-4216
MV Marysville	Todd Longworth	1-937-642-1961
MT Gilead	Emma Jane Vail	1-419-946-5846
MTV Mount Vernon	Charles Sanders	351-1701
NE Northeast	Kim Demarcus	476-5786
NL Northland	Joan Nevels	890-1180
NW Northwest	Lee Bossa	451-1502
OP Oakland Park	Madonna Keller/P. Trzcinski Alt.	476-1590
PIC Pickerington	Rocco Evangelista/Bob Solt	837-5793
PLN CTY Plain City	Rocco Evangelista/Bob Solt	614-873-4004
REY Reynoldsburg	Doug Sawyer	279-2778
SHEP Shepard	Larry Hamby	476-1590
TV Tri-Village	Brenda Barton	469-4232
U University	Rocco Depassio	294-7292
UA Upper Arlington	Ed Ralston	451-2302
WV Westerville	K. Fraley/T. Hannum	882-2243
WJ West Jefferson	Robin Brown	1-614-879-9145
WW West Worthington	J Chris Imwalle	793-9789
WH Whitehall	Dan Churry/Gary Porter Alt.	237-1722
WOR Worthington/Busch	Jeff Freeman	846-6088

LOOK

FOR THE

UNION LABEL



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

**ARTICLES RECEIVED AFTER THE
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THE FOLLOWING MONTHS BULLETIN**

The views expressed in articles printed
in this publication do not directly reflect
those of Branch 78 or the Editor.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS 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