

BUCKEYE BRANCH 78

BULLETIN

Columbus and Central Ohio



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SEPTEMBER 2020



VOL. 40 NO. 9

PRESIDENT'S PAGE



Todd Hornyak

The April, May and June Steward and Branch meetings were not held at the Union Hall due to COVID 19. We held the July Steward and Branch meetings at the Union Hall and simultaneously had members participate via teleconference. The August meetings were held via telecom. We will hold September Steward and Branch meetings by telecom again.

Nominations for officers and delegates are scheduled for the October Branch meeting on Wednesday, October 14, 2020. I am hoping that at that time we will be able to hold a meeting at the Union Hall. I sent a letter to NALC National President Fred Rolando requesting dispensation from National regarding holding meeting via teleconference to fulfill the requirement that a quorum was present when conducting the business of the Branch as required in the Branch 78 By Laws. I also wrote President Rolando requesting dispensation to implement alternative election

procedures for nomination of delegates and officers. President Rolando granted the request for dispensation. The letter from President Rolando is in the bulletin for the membership to review. The Branch 78 By Law Committee and the Executive Board are discussing the procedures that will be used for nominations and they will be presented to the membership at the September branch meeting. Please check our website www.nalc-branch78.org for all the latest information.

I want to again thank all letter carriers for the unbelievable job you continue to do delivering the mail daily for our customers. Currently twelve letter carriers represented by Branch 78 have tested positive with a confirmed case of Coronavirus. There are several carriers currently under quarantine. Please continue to do all you can to protect yourself and your family from this virus. We continue to be in contact with the stewards at each station to ensure that you have the supplies you need to do your job safely. Your safety is the primary concern that I have.

There continue to be changes almost weekly at the Postal Service.

The Branch was informed in late July that South Columbus Station and Westerville Post Office had been selected for a new delivery initiative test titled Expedited Street/Afternoon Sortation (ESAS). They began on July 25, 2020 and were expected to continue for approximately thirty to sixty days in 384 selected sites. Rather than getting input from the Union, USPS chose to test it unilaterally without NALC participation. The ESAS test requires carriers to clock-in, attend any service or safety talk, perform vehicle inspections, obtain accountable items, set-up their scanner, retrieve the parcel hamper, case or line up the SPRs, pull down and then immediately clock to the street to load their vehicle and begin delivery. After completion of street duties, city carriers would perform normal return-to-office functions and then begin casing all non-preferential mail. After all non-preferential mail has been cased, the mail will be left in the case until the next morning. In early August the, NALC initiated a national-level grievance regarding the Postal Service's unilateral implementation of the

Continued on page 4

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT



Mark Beach

On June 15th, 2020 Louis Dejoy became the 75th Postmaster of the United States Postal Service. At first Mr. Dejoy said all the right things. However, actions speak louder than words and Mr. Dejoy's true intentions quickly became apparent with his recent actions. Postmaster Dejoy, who jointly maintains over seventy million dollars in stocks and assets in USPS competitors along with his wife has from late July to mid-August started what I and many others consider the dismantling of this great institution. He did this by ordering the intentional delay of mail, removing collection boxes, removing, and shutting down sorting machines, and demanding that overtime not be used even if it results in mail sitting on the floor and not being delivered. Pictures of mailboxes and sorting machines being removed are popping up everywhere across the country. In some places entire retail offices have been shut down and the collection boxes in front of the building were fitted with locking devices so customers could not mail anything at that location. Carriers are being approached on the street by irate customers wondering why mail is being delayed. Let management take the heat for what the new Postmaster general is doing and refer these customers to the office. If you want to help save your job contact your Congressional representative and ask them what is going on at the Postal Service and tell them of your concerns. Ask your

Congressional official to back the essential workers of the USPS and support Coronavirus relief funding for the USPS.

The most important thing you can do is to get your absentee ballot right now and have it in mailed back by October 20th. Make sure you cast your ballot for a president that will protect the USPS and not destroy it.

Speaking of concerns for operations at the Postal Service, I have been observing the new ESAS test (afternoon casing) site at the Westerville station. Someone higher up than the Westerville Postmaster decided that it would be a great idea to send every possible piece of mail back down to the plant for reprocessing. A lot of this mail is already three or four days delayed when it is first received. It either comes back in the FSS and DPS three or four days later or is returned to the office to again be possibly cased in the afternoon if management chooses to let carriers case it in the 3 P.M. if not, it's back to the plant to be delayed for another week. The written format of the test has the carriers grabbing their first-class flats in the morning and working them in and casing the rest in the P.M. At Westerville they are not even following the USPS test parameters which is clearly creating a nightmare for Westerville residents when it comes to their current mail service. Finally, an email to the district manager Jean Lovejoy brought this issue into the forefront after the POOM had ignored several emails from the union. At least the district manager seems to care about the USPS and the service we provide. I was able

to visit the other USPS ESAS test site at South Columbus this past week and things seemed to run a lot more smoothly at the city station. One of the main differences at South Columbus is they seem to try and follow the parameters of the test set forth by the USPS. If done correctly and without sending the mail back for reprocessing again and again this type of test could benefit the USPS if done correctly.

If you have issues concerning Coronavirus leave, please see the link on the NALC Branch 78 website. It is highly informative and is a valuable resource to the membership. Less than a dozen carriers so far represented by 78 have tested positive for COVID19. The offices are scattered throughout our area of representation and with one exception once someone in an office has tested positive Post office measures have seemed to stop contact spreading within the offices. Please follow all safety guidelines concerning COVID19. Help protect your loved ones and your fellow co-workers by following all safety protocol. Again, help get out the vote and make sure your friends and family are aware to get their absentee ballots back in by October 20th to ensure their vote is counted.

Mark Beach

NEW CONVERSIONS

Name	Conversion Date
Anthony Williams	8/1/20 - Northland
Keon Callaway	8/1/20 - Northland
Maria Pace	8/1/20 - Bexley
Columbus Ashu	8/1/20 - South Columbus

MILLER'S MUSINGS



Message ONE, FIGHT PMG DEJOY!

It didn't take long to show his true colors. Everyone was holding their breath to see

Yana Miller-Farney what his scheme would be after the first couple months meeting and greeting the National Union Presidents and upper level Postal management. Sounding like he was in the fight with us. Well, that crap didn't last long. Fred Rolando said from the beginning he's saying all the right things but time will tell how sincere those words were. First, plants put on notice, they will fire up those machines at the start of shifts, get the mail out to the stations, no OT, no late truck runs. Get that mail and go! Suddenly machines are getting yanked out of plants. Remember those VERA (voluntary early retirement acts) Carriers were holding out for years, they made a comeback for certain EAS levels. Not much concern there since there were always too many

chiefs and too few workers. The icing on the cake was sending letters to forty-three states, sorry but we are unable to get your mail in ballots delivered in time for the Presidential election that is three months away. WHO does this? Here is an opportunity to get first class mail flowing like water and the CEO tells people, don't count on us, no can do! Then start pulling up mailboxes, you know those big blue boxes that used to be on every other corner. That are harder to find than a highway without orange barrels. What school of business did yahoo attend? Most leaders promote their businesses, they don't turn business away.

All I can remember is that the USofA was always bird dogging every country in the world about the legitimacy and fairness of their elections. Now, we have an incumbent that is so fearful of the results that he places one of his largest donors in charge of our National Postal Service to tear it apart three months before the election. I mean just boldly dismantling the best postal service in the world. I was so po'd

with each new sledgehammer blow, I couldn't contain my anger towards these two individuals. I was already disgusted that Congress took their leave of D.C. without a resolution on the next pandemic relief package, this was just the cherry on top. We work too hard to maintain the sanctity of the mail and the respect of the American people, to let this Johnny come lately, flush our reputation down the sewer. Every National Convention there are representatives from UNI the International Postal Union, who have praised us as the best, cheapest, most reliable postal service in the world. That will no longer be the case when he who no longer brings De Joy, gets done dismantling 245 years of delivering to every address in this land.

Peace out!

Yana Miller-Farney

FIRST WOMEN TO RANK NO. 1



Pictured to the left is Upper Arlington carrier Julie Newman along with Upper Arlington clerk Dave Jones, both are number one in their craft in the city of Columbus.

Julie started her postal career September 4, 1982. She is currently a carrier at Upper Arlington Post Office. She is planning to retire in October. Congratulations Julie, on being the first female in Branch 78 history to hold Number One City Carrier rank.

Buckeye Br. 78 Bulletin

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Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Branch.

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

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President Continued from page 1

delivery initiative test (ESAS). I will keep the membership informed on this test.

The next initiative that was announced August 10, 2020 is the USPS was realigning its organizational structure. Over the next several weeks, the Postal Service will transition to a new organizational structure consisting of three separate operating sectors: Retail & Delivery, Logistics and Processing, and Commerce. The current field structure for processing and delivering the mail consists of 67 Districts within 7 Areas that report to a Headquarters COO. Under the new structure, the delivery and retail sector will consist of 67 Districts (for now) within 4 Areas reporting to one Headquarters COO, and the processing and logistics sector will consist of 12 Divisions within 2 Regions reporting to another Headquarters COO. The Ohio Valley district was in the Eastern Area and is now in the Central Area.

The next latest unilateral delivery initiative is called Post Office Sortation Equipment Reconciliation (SER). In the stand-up talk, USPS states "From a city delivery perspective, our goal is to convert as many city routes as possible to one, six shelf, evenly spaced 124 and provide efficient and effective customer service." A 124 is the main letter carrier case with the shelf where we place our mail as we sort it. USPS also states, "In order to do so, it is essential

that we seek your valuable input as carriers, to finalize the cell size changes. This is vital because, as the expert on the route, you can readily identify addresses that may require additional or less sortation space. In order to complete this as planned, we will be starting carrier consultations soon regarding these changes to our carrier sortation equipment by obtaining your input." At the end of the stand-up talk, we are reminded of the importance of "vigorously focusing on the efficiency of our operations". If supervisors or managers do not consult with and obtain your input prior to implementing this initiative, or if they ignore the valuable input you provide, you should inform your steward or call the Union Hall. It is hard to believe that anyone that has carried mail would think this is a good idea. This is just the latest in a long list of ill-advised initiatives from Postal Service operations.

August 17, 2020 the NALC initiated a national-level grievance regarding the Postal Service's unilateral implementation of the delivery initiative called Post Office Sortation Equipment Reconciliation (SER). The Postal Service has instructed local management to reduce the number of city letter carrier cases and to change their configurations without the input of carriers. NALC headquarter has received reports from the field confirming that significant

changes are being implemented without input from letter carriers.

The 28th annual Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, originally scheduled for May 9, was postponed earlier this year because of the COVID19 pandemic. NALC and its partners have devised the Stamp out Hunger Donor Drive, a virtual food drive for all communities across the United States. The Stamp Out Hunger Donor Drive is a drive with a single mission—to feed the hungry in our country. I would like to thank all carriers that have contributed to the worthy cause. I want to give a special thanks to Upper Arlington Station which did collections and contributed \$210.00 to the Mid-Ohio Food Bank. Please donate what you can to a community food bank at nalc.org/food.

I would like to congratulate James Williams from Northwest Station, Teresa Milligan from Westerville Post Office, and Gerald Hoosier from Westland Station on their recent retirements. Mr. Hoosier began carrying mail in May of 1979 and retired with over 41 years of service as a letter carrier. Gerald was the senior carrier in the installation of Columbus. With Gerald's retirement Julie Newman from Upper Arlington is now the senior carrier in Columbus. It is the first time a female has been the senior carrier in Columbus.

**Fraternally,
Todd Hornyak**

Stewards please make announcements in your stations to update your addresses with the Union Hall since ballots will be sent to the address we have on file.



National Association of Letter Carriers

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August 5, 2020

Todd Hornyak, President
NALC Branch 78
1029 Harrisburg Pike
Columbus, OH 43223-2524

Dear Brother Hornyak:

This is in reply to your letter, dated August 3, 2020, requesting dispensation permitting Branch 78 to conduct meetings and transact business by teleconference or web based technology, if it satisfies the quorum requirement provided by the Branch By-laws. You also request dispensation permitting the Branch's nominations and acceptances to be submitted by email, teleconference or web technology rather than at a Branch meeting as provided by the By-laws. These alternative procedures are necessary because the Branch is unable to conduct in-person meetings due to the pandemic.

Your request is certainly reasonable in light of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Therefore, in light of the facts presented, and in accordance with my authority under Article 9, Section 1 of the NALC Constitution, I hereby grant the requested dispensation.

Please make sure that an appropriate and timely notice of the procedures to be followed in nominating and electing officers and delegates is sent by mail to all members of the Branch.

I trust that the foregoing addresses your concerns. Thank you for addressing this issue.

Sincerely & Fraternally,

Fredric V. Rolando
President

FVR/cyn/NALC7947

cc: Paul Barner, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
Mark Camilli, NBA, NALC Region 11

Affiliated with the AFL-CIO &
Union Network International

AUGUST 2020 BRANCH MEETING

Meeting called to order at 6:33 by Vice President Beach on telecom; Invocation by Yana Miller- Farney, who also read the minutes. Motion to accept minutes as read by Doug Gulley.

Jason Fry read Bills List, Don Shepherd answered that Trustees had approved them; Jacki Mitchell has signed up almost 100% of new CCAs. Jason read the Treasurer's Report.

Law Committee had no submissions, Chris Semo on AL.

Doug Gulley encouraged everyone to contact legislators to include USPS in next Relief Bill and to vote.

Ramon Lawson conducted another class for newly converted CCAs; remind all new conversions of the 60 day limit to change to FEHBP.

Public Relations, regrettably Solt MDA Golf Outing, Branch and Retiree Picnics and Retiree Dinner have been cancelled due to COVID19 for this year.

Gary Porter - Please wear masks correctly covering your nose and mouth, follow CDC rules for sake of fellow carriers and all our families. Follow SOPs, safety still doing street Observations.

NEW BUSINESS

Branch doing telecoms due to COVID19. Todd sent a letter to President Rolando requesting Dispensation for meeting quorums, nominations and elections; following advice of Paul Barner of HQ. Response from President Rolando was read granting the Dispensation.

ByLaw Committee will have to prepare Policy Book entries to allow for those details. Expedited Sort Program being tested at Westerville and South Columbus (FCM in AM, bulk in the PM); not doing well in Westerville.

George Meany Dinner cancelled till 2021.

Braverman decision awarded Administrative Leave at time and a half to Bexley carriers. Discussed deaths and number of cases worldwide, locally ten carriers from Br 78 have tested positive for COVID19.

Meeting with Columbus PM about the elimination of Collection Routes, just trying to maximize collections. Asked about Limited Duty issues, claims no knowledge or involvement. Also inquired about no late trips, cut off is cut off. CCA Cap in Columbus still 32 short, they are hiring. Zoom Meeting with Eastern Area VP Angela Curtis July 11 no late or extra trips, Columbus PM said this was about the plant. Zoom Meeting on July 30 no late trips and want machines started on time, only on time starts 26%. Special Inspections - 3 in OP week of 08/01, GV week of 08/15; Formal Inspections: Whitehall 09/19/20, Livingston 10/03/20, Westland/Hilltop 43204 10/17/20. MCSO job for bid, Tunya Hill gone to Georgia.

July 29 USPS and Treasury agree to terms of \$10 Billion loan in CARES Act. New stimulus HEROES Act passed House May 15 for \$3 trillion; includes \$25 Billion for USPS and creation of Heroes Fund for essential frontline workers to provide hazard or premium pay of \$13 an hour on top of regular pay up to \$10,000, including letter carriers and other postal employees; HEALS Act Senate Republican version July 27, had no money for USPS and no hazard pay. Send family and friends to HeroesDelivering.com to express support for USPS.

2021 OSA Convention will be at Doubletree Hotel in Cleveland, OH August 4-8.

Consolidated Casing, National M-01923 resolved on June 3, 2020; 31 sites to return to original by July 31, Gahanna to return by January 22, 2021; John Collins - grievances, Mark Camilli - route restructuring.

Br 78 Elections December 2020, Nominations October 2020, consider alternative methods ex: use of mail and video telecommunications for nominations.

Region 11 Telecom with President Rolando July 30, Interest Arbitration first date was July 23. Service Talk 08/12/20, reduction to one piece of casing equipment, goes against M-41 Section 221 states the parameters for casing configuration, coming up with contentions and questionnaire for stewards to file grievances on the matter. Notice to submit proposals for the Policy Book.

John Collins and Mark Camilli on telecom thanked everyone for all you do everyday. Glad Gary brought up about the mask, wear at home and work, a lot of us have family with compromised health conditions, so be considerate. 750 presumed positive, 11,000 have self quarantined. There are efforts to change standards at Collective Bargaining.

Dave Kennedy thanked the Branch for the \$5000 donation to Mid Ohio Food Collective that will be matched by the National, thanks.

Mike Brim on SERS, told carriers not to accept decreased cell sizes on cases.

Thanked Region 11 Officers for participation in our call. Questions on COVID Leave answered.

We have four new Stewards. Discussed the door refurbishing and new metal door, that were finally completed, look great.

GOOD of the ASSOCIATION

We need to get everyone out to vote.

Thanked Jason and Yana for being at the Hall. Todd finally took a well deserved vacation.

Adjourned at 7:31 PM

Submitted by Yana Miller-Farney

★ **HAPPY RETIREMENT** ★

Congratulations On Your

Retirement ★

★ **HAPPY RETIREMENT** ★



James Williams retires from North-west Station.



Teresa Milligan, Westerville retiree July 2020 with her family.



Gerald Hoosier of Lincoln Village/Westland, Senior Carrier in the Columbus installation, retires with over 41 years; pictured with former Sgt-at-Arms, Ricky Baker.

ELECTION NOTICE

In Accordance with Article 5 of the National Constitution and Branch 78 bylaws.

Nominations for all Officers including President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Assistant Secretary/Editor, Financial Secretary/Treasurer, Safety Officer, Sergeant at Arms, Director of Retirees, MBA Health Representative, Five (5) Trustees, and Delegates to the National and Ohio State Association Conventions. Nominations will be conducted at the Regular Branch meeting which is scheduled for October 14, 2020 at 6:30pm, 1029 Harrisburg Pike, Columbus Ohio 43223-2524. The nominations will be for a three (3) year term beginning on or about January 1, 2021. The election will be conducted by secret ballot mailed to the member's last known address. Results of the election will be announced at the Regular December Branch meeting December 9, 2020.

Buckeye Branch 78

1029 Harrisburg Pike
Columbus, Ohio 43223-2524

National Association of
Letter Carriers
AFL-CIO



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TRUSTEE	BRENDA STIDAMS	bstidams@gmail.com
TRUSTEE	ED THOMAS	oakwooded@gmail.com

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BW Beechwood	Doug Lawver/Scott Lloyd/ Karlton Wilson Alt.	614-447-0146
BEX Bexley	Roderick Robinson	614-237-2830
Canal Winchester	Mark Beach	614-837-7953
CIR Circleville	Brian Tatham	740-474-3113
DEL Delaware	Lamar Hammons	740-363-1906
DUB Dublin	Debbie Guthrie/Mary Metzen Alt.	614-889-6571
Eastland	Jeff Stiverson/Ramon Lawson Alt./Mark Elkins Alt./Jamal Grinston Alt	614-237-1912
East City	Charles Sanders/Brian Ball/Dillien Miller Alt.	614-469-4466
F German Village	Jacqueline Habash/Dean Peruzzi Alt.	614-449-9565
G South Columbus	Eli Turner	614-444-0217
GAH Gahanna	Kirk Hilty/Brenda Stidams	614-472-0696
GP Groveport	Mark Beach	614-836-5452
GC Grove City	Melissa O'Linn	614-875-6327
HILL Hilliard	Mark Beach	614-876-7021
LIV Livingston	Ramon Lawson/Reggie Falls Alt.	614-237-9570
LON London	Mark Beach	740-852-1881
MV Marysville	Dave Eblin/Adam Tullis Alt.	937-642-1961
MT Gilead	Joe Kegley	419-946-5846
NL Northland	Sammy Tonyemba/Larez Harper	614-890-1180
NW Northwest	Myron Miller Jr.	614-451-1502
OP Oakland Park	Kelsey Crosbie/Daniel Dillinger/Antonio Scott	614-476-1680
PIC Pickerington	Mark Beach	614-837-5793
PLN CTY Plain City	Mark Beach	614-837-4004
REY Reynoldsburg	Charles Miliken	614-866-6049
UA Upper Arlington	Jeffrey Williams/Joshua Anthony Alt.	614-451-2302
West City	Allan Moore Sr./ Heather Christy/Shawn Carter Alt/Richard Hannon Alt.	614-469-4465
WV Westerville	Mark Beach/Dee Dee Miller Alt.	614-882-2243
Westland	Samuel "Cory" Bailey	614-351-0138
WJ West Jefferson	Mark Beach	614-879-9145
WW West Worthington	Jeremy Hirschfelt/Cornelius Scott/Jason Fry Alt./Charles Schneider	Alt.614-793-9789
WH Whitehall	Gary Porter	614-237-1722

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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