

# BUCKEYE BRANCH 78

## BULLETIN

### Columbus and Central Ohio



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**JUNE 2020**



**VOL. 40 NO. 6**

## PRESIDENT'S PAGE



**Todd Hornyak**

I want to thank all letter carriers for the incredible job you are doing delivering the mail daily. Letter Carriers are essential workers on the front line of this global pandemic. I consider the work we are doing to be just as important as the work of doctors, nurses, healthcare providers, police and firefighters during these trying times. We must remain on the job to deliver prescription drugs, public health information, goods purchased by sheltering families and other vital mail to keep our country going. You're being asked to risk your health and even your lives—and the health and lives of your loved ones—to do this essential work. You are heroes.

Currently there are no carriers represented by Branch 78 with a confirmed case of Coronavirus. There are carriers currently under quarantine. At the writing of this article over 1.5 million Americans have tested positive for the coronavirus and over 90,000 have died. The United States Postal

Service reported that over 5000 employees are under quarantine from the virus. Over 12,000 previously quarantined employees have been cleared and returned to work. About 900 of the currently quarantined employees have tested positive for the virus, and another 500 are presumed to be positive. Another 1000 employees who tested positive in the past have recovered and returned to work. Of all these numbers, about one-third are letter carriers. Sadly, 60 employees have passed away from the virus, including 14 city letter carriers. I have never been prouder to represent letter carriers. Your safety is the primary concern that I have. We have been in contact with the stewards at each station to ensure that you have the supplies you need to do your job safely. Please follow all procedures to make sure you and your family are safe. Make sure you wash your hands regularly. Use hand sanitizer and wear gloves and masks and practice social distancing. Governor DeWine has started to open businesses and we all remain hopeful this does not lead to an increase in positive cases.

The Postal Service is facing a severe financial crisis. The impact on Postal Service revenues of the pandemic and the shutdown of the U.S. economy is projected to be both devastating and immediate. Although package volumes are up as we deliver goods for families forced to stay home by the crisis, letter mail volume has plummeted. By the end of the year, the Postal Service expects total volume to fall by 50 to 57 percent—wiping out up to half of its \$70 billion in annual revenues. Congress must step in to provide financial support to the Postal Service, the way it did in March for private companies damaged by the pandemic-induced recession with a \$2.2 trillion relief package that did not include any appropriations to the Postal Service. Although the Postal Service has not needed taxpayer support for more than 40 years, it needs it now. It currently projects that it will exhaust its cash on hand by the end of September if Congress and the White House fail to intervene.

On May 1, North Star Opinion Research and Hart Research

**Continued on page 4**

## FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT



**Mark Beach**

Louis Dejoy, the top fundraiser and organizer for Donald Trump, has been appointed to replace Megan Brennan as Postmaster General.

The requested retirement of Brennan, is a loss of a 33-year USPS career employee, who worked her way up through the ranks of the United States Postal Service and understood how we functioned. Her replacement, Louis Dejoy has never worked for the United States Postal Service and has spent most of the last decade running supply chain and distribution centers. This is the first time in 20 years that someone from outside of the Postal Service has served in this top position. Although not directly appointed by the President, the new Postmaster General was appointed by the current four members of the Board of Governors. The Board of Governors members are appointed by the president and normally consists of nine members. Democrat Gerald Connolly, the House Subcommittee Chairman that oversees the Postal Service denounced the appointment, pointing out that Dejoy is a partisan donor to the President, who is in direct opposition to the USPS.

Mr. Dejoy is a huge supporter of President Trump already donating over \$360,000 dollars this year alone to his reelection campaign while donating another \$70,000 to the Republican National Party. President Trump has made it clear in the past that he

wants to privatize the US Postal Service and severely weaken if not outright do away with the Postal unions all together. This does not bode well for the future of craft employee's salaries, benefits, and retirement. Mr. Trump has vowed to save the Postal Service, but at what cost will this be in terms of service to the American People and the middle-class workers of the USPS. Whether you are a Republican or Democrat, you should be taking a deep breath and be concerned for our future.

Recently the USPS announced in a somewhat controversial service talk that all employees would be required to wear masks on the workroom floor where social distancing could not be achieved. The National Union endorsed this stance based on contractual language found in the ELM section 814.2 which states:

814.2 Responsibilities all employees are responsible for:

a. Complying with all OSHA and Postal Service safety and health regulations, procedures, and practices, **including the use of approved personal protective equipment.**

A few employees felt this requirement is an infringement on their civil liberties while others may have medical issues that may prevent them from wearing a mask. These situations will be handled on a case by case basis according to the district manager. The business agent has informed us that wearing the PPE requested by the postal service is a condition of employment under 814.2 of the ELM and that the overall

safety of the entire workforce is the motivation for supporting and endorsing this move. Carriers that have a possible medical condition that prevents them from wearing a mask are asked to contact their health care provider and have them explain the conditions to the occupational nurse.

Every letter carrier hopefully realizes that the appointment of Postmaster General Dejoy and the impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic has the potential to greatly alter our future as letter carriers. I for one, would prefer to be proactive to try and shape my future, than sit idly by and watch my good middle-class job and retirement be flushed down the drain by politics. Write a letter, make a phone call or donation to the Letter Carrier Political fund and help save your future.

One last quick note; we still have not heard from National when or if the food drive will be rescheduled. A big thanks goes to our union brothers at the UFCW local 1059 who donated the food drive bags this year as they made a \$5,000 donation on behalf of the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. I would like to challenge all NALC Branch 78 letter carriers to make a financial contribution to MID-OHIO FOOD COLLECTIVE (Mid-Ohio Food Bank) and in the memo make the note "NALC Stamp out Hunger Food Drive". Mail contributions to: Mid Ohio Food Collective/Food Bank, 3960 Brookham Dr, Grove City, OH 43123. ***Let's see if we can top their donation!***

**Mark Beach, Vice President**

# MILLER'S MUSINGS



Yana Miller-Farney

It is late May, hummingbirds have returned to Central Ohio, so spring is finally here. Next week may be summer but what the heck it's no longer winter. Everyone seems excited that things are slowly resuming a semblance of normalcy. But are they really? Each of us will have to weigh their options based on health, age and personal beliefs. The Branch is resuming meetings in June. We still have no plans for summer get togethers, lunches, picnics or fund raisers for MDA. More planning needed to schedule for those.

The National Convention was finally cancelled after watching the numbers, listening to health advisories for the state of Hawaii. This was a disappointment, putting it mildly but the goal is to keep our workforce healthy. Since the next two convention sites have been selected there probably wouldn't be an opportunity to plan for Hawaii before 2028. When you consider all the preparation that goes into a national convention the size of ours, I feel for the work done by the branches in Hawaii. The need to quarantine when arriving and some before returning to work was just not possible for most travelers. The two states most dependent on tourism are Hawaii and Nevada, not having thousands of letter carriers spending money has to be a staggering economic blow. I'm sure President Rolando will make every effort to disseminate

the materials to us as soon as possible.

Here in Ohio, the Governor and Dr Amy Adkins are trying to safely resume life outside of lockdown. Already there are examples of people forgetting or refusing to wear masks and not social distancing. The idea that some idiots thought it was all right to picket and threaten the Doctor at her home was shameful so you know they will throw caution to the wind. No doubt people are suffering from the sheltering in place; I personally know some that had not received any income since mid March. Did their bills stop... No, did they need basic necessities...Yes. We are so fortunate to have been paid through this epidemic but many of our friends and neighbors aren't. They may never get back to where they were before COVID19. What about the seniors that were looking forward to all the activities of the year. For many this might be their only graduation in life. Not to mention the couples whose wedding plans got interrupted. All the industries related to weddings, florist, caterers, venues, bakers, photo and videographers, DJs, stationery purchases; the list goes on; that's just one activity affecting so many businesses. Wow!

Let's talk about the personal suffering this has caused for so many. We always speak of the economic but the personal side. I work with a woman whose Mother is 94, can't hear to talk on the phone and has some mental impairment. She visited her Mom daily after work, communicating using whiteboards The strain of

not being able to lay eyes on her or explain why she doesn't visit is tearing her apart. Another co-worker had one parent in one facility for Alzheimers and another in another facility for rehab from a fall. Each evening she visited both. Suddenly her Father's health took a drastic turn for the worst. When it was determined his end was near she was permitted to sit with him till he passed. Then she had to tell his wife of 67 years that he was gone, over a phone. These are just two of so many affected emotionally by this disease and people still don't take it serious. What will it take to get people onboard with taking small safety measures like wearing masks in public and maintaining social distancing. If

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## Buckeye Br. 78 Bulletin

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Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Branch.

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## President's *Continued from page 1*

Associates, leading Republican and Democratic public opinion firms, released the findings of a national poll commissioned by the NALC regarding the continued operation and funding of the U.S. Postal Service during this pandemic. Unsurprisingly, the results of the poll show overwhelming bipartisan support for the Postal Service with 94 percent of all registered voters polled saying mail and package service is important to them. In addition, 95 percent of registered voters polled said receiving by mail, official government recommendations, supplies, medications, and test kits related to COVID-19 is important to them during this crisis. The poll results clearly show that the American public overwhelmingly supports the direct appropriation of funds for the Postal Service during this pandemic. NALC will continue to work with Congress and the White House to stabilize the agency in the next stimulus package so that the Postal Service can continue to serve the needs of 160 million households every day. I am urging all letter carriers and their families to contact their representatives in Congress and ask them to support HR 6800 the "HEROES" Act. This legislation will provide a \$25 billion appropriation to the Postal Service to offset postal revenue losses resulting from the pandemic-induced economic shutdown.

The NALC and Postal Service announced new hearing dates September through November, have now been confirmed for interest arbitration for a new national agreement. Neutral arbitrator Dennis Nolan provided the parties enough hearing dates for

this time period. The Unions collective bargaining goals have not changed. While we continue discussions with the Postal Service, we are also continuing to prepare for arbitration to achieve those goals. Our current collective-bargaining agreement remains in full force pending final resolution of the parties' dispute.

May 12 the national announced the cancellation of the 2020 National Convention in Honolulu. I cancelled the April and May Steward and Branch meetings. I am hopeful that we will be able to schedule the June meetings. We will follow the guidelines from the Governor and the Ohio Department of Health. Please see the Branch 78 website at nalc-

branch78.org for the latest details. I want to give Trevor Payne, the webmaster for our website, kudos for his work on the website. He has posted all the information on Stand-up talks, memorandums of understanding and statements from President Rolando on a special COVID 19 section of the website. Trevor was also interviewed in the May Postal Record for an article on branch websites. Great job Trevor. We have delayed the scheduling of The Robert Solt MDA Golf Outing and Branch Picnic until we are cleared to safely schedule these events.

*Fraternally, Todd Hornyak*



## Millers Musings *Continued from page 3*

you feel invincible, fine but at least do it for those whose businesses you enter and their workers. Don't be a jerk and mask up!

Lastly, I beg you all to reach out to your legislators to include

the USPS in financial support as they have private businesses. We serve all Americans metropolitan and rural, we need assistance just like companies paying their investors. The USPS needs stimulus

NOW! We have to get everyone to fight for this because we work for all Americans, no matter their address.

*Submitted by Yana Miller-Farney*

## WRITE YOUR LEGISLATORS! TELL THEM TO SHOW THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE USPS!

### ACTIVE MEMBERS



MAKE AN ACTIVE UNION

### JOIN THE UNION RETIREE CLUB!



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**UNION**  
**YES** 

## STOP COVID 19

Social distance,  
wear your gloves and mask,  
carry hand sanitizer and cleaning wipes.

**REMEMBER STAY SAFE! STAY WELL!**

**WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER!**

# ATTENTION ALL NALC BRANCH 78 MEMBERS

Branch Meeting scheduled for June 10, 2020

Has been cancelled due to COVID 19

The Branch will host a teleconference at 6:30 pm  
Phone # is 1-774-220-4000 the conference ID is 782-020.

We are hopeful to resume regular meetings in July

*Todd Hornyak*

Todd Hornyak  
President Branch 78, NALC



## Buckeye Branch 78

1029 Harrisburg Pike  
Columbus, Ohio 43223-2524

National Association of  
Letter Carriers  
AFL-CIO



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CIR Circleville	Brian Tatham	740-474-3113
DEL Delaware	Mark Beach	740-363-1906
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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	Dierre Bell/Jacquelyn Mitchell/Brenda Stidams Alt.	614-472-0696
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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	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	Mark Beach	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
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# LOOK

FOR THE

# UNION

# LABEL



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COULD BE YOUR OWN!**

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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  
**RETIREEES MEETING-1:00 P.M.**

First Tuesday of each month

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