

# BUCKEYE BRANCH 78

## BULLETIN

### Columbus and Central Ohio



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**FEBRUARY 2020**



**VOL. 40 NO. 2**

## PRESIDENT'S PAGE



**Todd Hornyak**

National announced on February 5, 2020 that Arbitrator Dennis R. Nolan has accepted appointment as the neutral chair of the three-person arbitration board that will be responsible for resolving the current bargaining impasse between NALC and the Postal Service. The current National Agreement expired September 20, 2019. The NALC and USPS then entered a sixty day period of mandatory mediation on the contract. An agreement was not reached, and they began to select a neutral arbitrator. Under the law, both NALC and postal management are each required to name one arbitrator and select a third neutral arbitrator to serve as the chair of the interest arbitration board. Nolan has previously served as a national arbitrator under the NALC-USPS National Agreement. Hearings in the interest arbitration are expected to begin in the spring. The current National Agreement remains in effect.

The NALC has achieved a major legislative victory on February 5<sup>th</sup> when the House of Representatives passed the USPS Fairness Act (H.R. 2382) in a 309 to 106 vote. This is the first piece of meaningful legislation that has reached the house floor for a vote since the 2006 passage of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, which forced the disastrous prefunding mandate onto our employer. This bipartisan bill seeks to end the mandate for the Postal Service to prefund retiree health care decades in advance. "I am asking all letter carriers, to thank their Members of Congress, who voted in support of HR. 2382. In the Columbus area Congresswoman Joyce Beatty from the 3<sup>rd</sup> district, Troy Balderson from the 12<sup>th</sup> district and Steve Stivers from the 15<sup>th</sup> district all voted for the bill. Please call them and thank them for their support.

"Letter carriers should be proud of their hard work to educate members of Congress and gain their support on this very important issue," said NALC President Fred Rolando. "House passage is a major victory in

the battle to end this disastrous mandate, but our work is not done. We must now turn our attention to the Senate. Now that the bill has advanced through the House, it will be up to the Senate to take action on S. 2965, the bipartisan companion bill. Letter carriers should be ready to engage and educate their Senators and staff on the need to repeal the prefunding mandate. I am asking all letter carriers call Senator Rob Portman and Senator Sherrod Brown and ask that they support this important legislation.

I would like to congratulate Rick Wells from Grove City on his recent retirement and wish him well in the future. Please stay informed and attend the monthly Union meeting the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Branch 78 Union Hall located at 1029 Harrisburg Pike Columbus, Ohio 43223.

**Fraternally,**

**Todd Hornyak**



## FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT



**Mark Beach**

Carriers can be their own worst enemy when it comes to route inspections and the evaluation of their routes. When an office is scheduled for a route inspection, carrier routes can be evaluated in one of one of two ways. They can either select the carrier's time from their performance over the period of the delivery year or the week of inspection.

If management decides to use the carrier's ability from their clock rings it comes from a random draw of weeks. Several things can factor in these times in a negative way that will result in an addition to a carrier's route. In the office, this evaluation could negatively be impacted by management miscounting the mail, carriers casing off the clock, carriers casing FFS and DPS, clock ring errors, improperly handling office functions, handling parcels on the street, not attending daily plan five meetings, failing to do daily vehicle checks and carriers showing up late to work just to name a few. If done over a period of time these practices can severely impact and skew a carrier's evaluated performance.

On the street, carrier's evaluated time can be extremely skewed by several factors including carrier clock ring errors, skipping lunch and breaks, running their routes on

days they want to get home early for special events, failing to handle SPRS in the office and casing FFS and DPS that drastically reduce street times.

Combine these two and the carrier is often looking at having their route adjusted to an unreasonable and unattainable standard. This leaves the carrier and the union hoping for the best (from the data) from the week of inspection.

Formal inspections can be fraught with pitfalls and traps. This can lead to carrier frustration and anger and that can result in poor performance during a formal route inspection. Carriers are required to fill out forms that record office data, times and mail volumes on an 1838-C form. Management will give all carriers a 45-minute whirlwind class called a dry run where they expect them to learn and remember how to fill out these forms. The forms also record line items and times for things such as vehicle checks, plan fives, communication with supervisors, withdrawing mail and getting equipment and forms just to name a few. If a carrier forgets to record a function on the form, the time is lost and it is absorbed into the carriers casing time. Miss enough line items and the carrier exceeds casing standards and they lose time credit in the office that they should have rightfully earned.

These frustrations and mistakes can be lessened and diminished

by carriers attending the union sponsored route adjustment training class. These classes not only provide the carriers with a second chance to reinforce what they learn from management's dry run but carriers also learn about all the line items that can entered on the 1838-C. The union also provides carriers with training materials that can be studied before the route inspection to ensure they are credited with the appropriate office time.

On the street, many times carriers feel rushed because they have spent extra time in the office counting mail or waiting in the office during the inspection. Carriers need to understand that inspectors cannot set the pace and must remain in a position of observation and not instruct the carrier in any way unless it involves safety.

Carriers must realize that they should not just accept the worse when it comes to formal route inspections. They should study and learn how to protect their routes during formal route inspection. All carriers must unite to achieve a common goal; to properly document the time on the 1838-C, to ensure proper route adjustments take place and manageable routes result from the inspections.

***"United We Stand, Divided We Fall".***

***Become proactive and fight to help protect your routes and your rights.***

## UNION PROUD!

*We Stand Together To Protect Our Families,  
Our Rights and The American Dream!*

# MILLER'S MUSINGS



**Yana Miller-Farney**

Short and sweet. Learn as much about the candidates as you can. Find out which candidates have been supportive of you. Thank those that have and don't vote for the ones who haven't. Put pressure on those with blinders, educate them. If you've tried in the past and it didn't sink in or get them motivated to investigate the information we have shared, find someone who will.

Somehow, being a military brat and civilian government employee's child; I managed to miss state history, all through first through twelfth. I did learn that there are three distinctive branches of government. They are the checks and balances to make sure we remain a democracy, not a dictatorship or ruled by oligarchs. It seems we have slipped far from

our founding Constitution and Bill of Rights. Is there time to wrench it back? Hard to tell, when those very elected officials have lost all sense of decency and make a mockery of their positions, hard to tell.

Many years I have heard an under current of we must fight back. There has got to be government takeover before it is too late. I am not proposing riots in the streets but full turnout of the disenfranchised while you still have the right to vote. Our freedoms are being stripped away by drug companies, real estate developers, venture capitalists and the politicians, that make it all legal. The Judicial, Congressional and Executive Branches should not conspire to let one another off the hook for their misdeeds. It is a shame what we have become. The rest of the world is trying to figure out when the American people are going to wake up and see the light. We have alienated our allies and

worsened our status in the world. We have become mentally crippled by our failure to be engaged and informed citizens.

The rays of hope are the many young people that are tired of the destruction of our planet and natural resources. Sticking heads in the sand and denying climate change is real has got them taking notice and ready to take charge. If the adults can't strive to make a difference, our youth will.

Tuesday, March 17, 2020 is the primary election in Ohio, please do your part and exercise your right to vote. Not too late to campaign, donate or become part of the Letter Carrier Political Fund. **It's your job!**

*Submitted by Yana Miller-Farney*

## Buckeye Br. 78 Bulletin

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Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Branch.

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**Gary Porter, President Fred Rolando and Eddie Thomas.**



**Ramon Lawson, Gary Porter, Joyce Beatty 3rd District and Todd Hornyak.**

## From Region 11 NBA Mark Camilli and Staff!

First of all, I hope you and your loved ones had a very happy and safe holiday season. The holidays are always a difficult time of year for letter carriers. While trying to juggle your own personal commitments and holiday stresses, each year you continue to rise to the challenge of meeting our customer's demands. Through longer hours, less daylight and colder temperatures – know that your efforts helped make your customer's holiday season special. We already had our first measurable snowfall and it is not officially winter yet! Just recently in parts of the eastern side of Region 11, we had a snowfall event in excess of twenty inches. While I would like to argue it's a little too early for that – I ask that we all look out for each other, especially our newer carriers who may not have the proper clothing to deal with weather extremes over the next few months.

2019 has come to an end. The new year has brought us many challenges. The USPS is stubbornly pushing their Consolidated Casing initiative in 62 sites across the country. I want to thank our brothers and sisters in Gahanna (Columbus Br. 78), Station A (Cleveland Br. 40), Webster (Rochester Br. 210) and Niskayuna (Northeastern NY Br. 358). They are all going through Consolidated Casing. Their work lives have been turned upside down. They all have endured schedule and route changes, longer hours on the street among other changes without regards to our collective bargaining agreement. NALC President Fred Rolando has committed tremendous resources to meet this head

on. I ask our carriers to continue to provide professional service, exercise patience and solidarity. We will get through this together! In other bad news this year - labor, letter carriers and the USPS experienced a tremendous loss on Capitol Hill with the passing of Congressman Elijah Cummings. He most recently served as chair of the highly important Committee on Oversight and Reform. Fortunately, House Speaker Pelosi has chosen Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (NY-12) to become acting chair. While it will take a little time to get her up to date on our reform issues, Congresswoman Maloney has been supportive of letter carriers.

For 2020 we have many challenges ahead of us. Talks continue on our next National Agreement. Our sixty days of mediation have just ended. The parties are now discussing the selection of a Na-

tional Arbitrator. The NALC team is ready to put our best case forward – stay tuned. We now have a quorum for the USPS Board of Governors and they are currently searching for the next Postmaster General. Let's hope they select an individual who has the vision to grow and utilize our network (not downsize and dismantle), maintain universal service (not privatize) and recognize its greatest resource – its employees.

In closing, as we reflect on a hectic 2019, I ask you to get ready for an even busier 2020. Now is the time to evaluate, plan and gear up our legislative activists to get ready for a Presidential Election. I hope that you realize the importance of 2020 and how it can impact our wages, benefits and our jobs. Happy New Year, be safe and we wish you all the best in 2020 from team 11!

### ★ ★ ★ 35 Year Pins ★ ★ ★ *Congratulations*



**John Wyckoff recently received his 35 year service award.**

### ★ ★ ★ New Member ★ ★ ★ *Congratulations*



**Br 78 welcomes new member David Dillon.**



**THE BY-LAW CURRENTLY READS:**

**ARTICLE VII – DUES EXPENSES & SALARIES SECTION**

**SECTION 11**

Other than a National or State convention any member attending authorized seminars, meetings, trips or other Branch functions, \$50.00 per diem will be paid in addition to travel and lodging expenses from the Branch Funds.

**PROPOSED CHANGE:**

**ARTICLE VII – DUES EXPENSES & SALARIES SECTION**

**SECTION 11**

Other than a National or State convention any member attending Branch authorized seminars, meetings, trips or other Branch functions, \$50.00 per diem will be paid in addition to travel and lodging expenses WHEN MEALS ARE NOT PROVIDED, from the Branch Funds.

*Myron Miller*  
*D. Lou*  
*Paul Pitt*



Rick Wells retires from Grove City, pictured with his daughter's family.

**HELP KEEP our  
UNION STRONG.  
Get INVOLVED.  
Attend  
UNION MEETINGS.  
Become a  
UNION STEWARD.**

## PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGE:

### ARTICLE I – PURPOSE

#### SECTION 3

NALC Buckeye Branch 78 will use a Policy Book to clarify the processing of payments for goods and services, use of branch credit cards, paying lost time, expense reimbursements, travel and per diem, changing officers benefits, record retention and destruction, grievances and arbitrations, stewards pay and expenses, mileage reimbursement and delegate fund usage or other .

Policy Book may be edited as needed by a proposal to the By-Law committee. Once the By-Law committee has reviewed the proposal they will present to the executive board for approval to take to the meeting floor.

Any changes to the Policy Book will be brought to the branch floor at the next branch meeting for a vote. The Policy Book can be edited as needed by as majority vote of the branch meeting attendees.

*Myron Miller*  
*Pat Cusick*  
*Bob Law*



## MDA

Pat Cusick, Dir. MDA Central Ohio shown with Todd, visited the February Branch Meeting to thank the Branch for their continued support of MDA. He gave updates on research. There are several new clinical trials going on at Nationwide Children's Hospital, some involving genome therapy. So successful that they are in the process of getting FDA approval to market these genomes. There are Duchenne afflicted men that are reaching their 40th birthdays, unheard of before, most died in their teens. He invited Br 78 to visit MDA Summer Camp in June, Visitor Day is on Wednesday but we are invited to come Sunday when campers arrive to help carry their belongings, medical equipment, etc into their cabins. A glimpse of what goes on during camp week. Anyone available that Wednesday is welcome to join the festivities.

# **JANUARY 2020 BRANCH MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting called to order by President Hornyak at 6:38; Pledge by Carl Demo; Invocation by Yana Miller-Farney. Minutes read with two corrections: Chuck Snyder will attend Br Officer Training not Myron Miller and no arbitrator selected for contract negotiations, the judge on the CCI court case felt he could not render a decision. It was sent to Arbitrator Das for an award on the Consolidated Casing Initiative appeal.

Trevor Payne read communications, Bills List and 29 applications for membership

Mark Beach discussing contract language; upcoming (11) route inspection classes for each station, make sure to attend; definitely DO NOT WORK OFF the CLOCK. Do not sign any forms to waive your rights, these have been appearing in several stations. Only sign grievances with date it was given to you.

Chris Semo Law Comm, read Art 1 Sec 3 on Policy Book and Art 7 Sec 11, need to run in bulletin before vote in March.

Gary Porter spoke on several robbery/assaults, be extremely aware of your surroundings and people approaching you. Jason Fry unsure if there will be a Safety Task Force this month. Do your vehicle checks correctly; be aware of LLV fires. A Dayton carrier was shot in the shin, hospitalized with non-life threatening injuries. Carriers also shot in Texas and California.

Ramon Lawson on detail in NC for CCI,

Doug Gulley, out of town.

Jason Fry read the Treasurer's Report

Jeremy Hirschfelt standing in for Ramon for Weight Loss Challenge weigh in tonight. There are two options: \$30 for three months or \$50 for 6 months. If you want to add on the additional three months it can be done and paid later than tonight. All payments must be in by March. Tips will be emailed to participants.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

One New Toy had over \$9000, Lewis Center Meijer gave \$2500 in gifts cards and Sawmill Meijer donated \$3000. Please shop these stores and let them know how appreciative we are of their continued support to the community through One New Toy. Mary Robinson and Gary Porter did a great job shopping with minimal assistance into the wee hours of the night. The icing was delivering to FCCS, VA on James Rd, Livingston Commons and PCCAO in Circleville. Please start your collections early and encourage retirees to assist with the shopping, the more bodies the quicker you spend the money, besides it's a lot of fun. Thanks again to our Co-chairs.

Todd read the dates and locations of the trainings for the 1848 forms for inspections. Legislative training on 3/15 at the Hall, 10 - 3, mandatory for DC delegates. DC Legislative Trip is 03/25-26. Discussed HR 2382 having 294 co-sponsors. Hasn't been taken to the floor yet because of impeachment and other issues. We need to increase our LCPF donors, we are only at 6.5% our goal is 11%, Jacki has a plan to get more people enrolled by going to meetings with several stations at a time. Jeremy Hirschfelt has been selected to go to Arbitration Training in DC. Arbitrations cost \$6000. Pre Arb settlements have been doing well. New District Mgr, Jean Lovejoy from NY state, NBA Mark Camilli, had good remarks about her. The new MDD from Zebra Technologies has been selected, no idea when they will deploy here; larger than a cell phone, touch screen, better bar code scanning, turn by turn directions. There is an expansion of delivery territory, UPS is dropping parcels for USPS to deliver Sunday. Discussed the Consolidated Casing Initiative. The Judge felt that he couldn't rule on the case so it's gone to Arbitrator Das 12/18/19. Chuck Snyder training to observe CCI. National has spent over a million in observation and changing to three days a week. Planning to rollout another CCI station in the Ohio Valley district, no timeline. Todd discussed TSP and the need to contribute the maximum 5%, because you're giving away free money. President meeting for Region 11, Todd requested training on TSP, Retirement and New Steward Training, NBA will get back on that.

## **GOOD of the ASSOCIATION**

Tim Bash won CCA gas card; Chuck Sanders won the other gas card; Robert A Brown Jr would have won \$70 had he been present.

**Submitted by Yana Miller-Farney**

## Buckeye Branch 78

1029 Harrisburg Pike  
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National Association of  
Letter Carriers  
AFL-CIO



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BEX Bexley	Roderick Robinson	614-237-2830
Canal Winchester	Mark Beach	614-837-7953
CIR Circleville	Brian Tatham	740-474-3113
DEL Delaware	Randy Hartman/Eric McElhatten Alt.	740-363-1906
DUB Dublin	Debbie Guthrie/Mary Metzen Alt.	614-889-6571
Eastland	Jeff Stiverson/Ramon Lawson Alt./Mark Elkins 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	Dierre Bell/Jacquelyn Mitchell	614-472-0696
GP Groveport	Mark Beach	614-836-5452
GC Grove City	Melissa O'Linn	614-875-6327
HILL Hilliard	Mark Beach/Jennifer Herbert Alt.	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	Joan Nevels	614-890-1180
NW Northwest	Myron Miller Jr.	614-451-1502
OP Oakland Park	Daniel Dillinger/Theresa Hall/Bryant Carr	614-476-1680
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PLN CTY Plain City	Mark Beach	614-837-4004
REY Reynoldsburg	Pamela Harris	614-866-6049
UA Upper Arlington	Jeffrey Williams/Josh Anthony Alt.	614-451-2302
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WV Westerville	Richard Kidwell, Katrina Travis/Dee Dee Miller Alt.	614-882-2243
Westland	Dustin Rudd/Joshua Murphy, Antonio Scott	614-351-0138
WJ West Jefferson	Mark Beach	614-879-9145
WW West Worthington	Jeremy Hirschfelt/Cornelius Scott/Jason Fry Alt./ Gary Porter	614-793-9789
WH Whitehall		614-237-1722

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COULD BE YOUR OWN!**

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

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

First Tuesday of each month

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