

BUCKEYE BRANCH 78

BULLETIN

Columbus and Central Ohio



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MAY 2020



VOL. 40 NO. 5

PRESIDENT'S PAGE



Todd Hornyak

The Coronavirus Pandemic continues to have a major impact on letter carriers and how we do our jobs here in central Ohio. I am very proud of all letter carriers for

coming to work daily and delivering the mail for the American public. This is the time for our company to shine, showing the public that through these very trying times we continue to deliver the mail professionally and we can be counted on. 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 procedure 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.

Currently there are no carriers in Branch 78 with a confirmed case of Coronavirus. There are carriers currently under quarantine. Nationally, over 8,000 of the 600,000 plus postal employees are under quarantine. There have been over 900 employees confirmed positive

for the virus, and over 600 more presumed to be positive. While most of these employees have recovered from the virus and returned to work, it saddens me to report that over 30 employees have died from the virus, including nine city letter carriers. Our hearts go out to all their families, loved ones, friends and co-workers.

I want to inform you about the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) which became effective on April 1, 2020. The Act provides employees with two additional types of leave. First, employees with a qualifying circumstance as defined by the Act are eligible for up to 80 hours of Emergency Paid Sick Leave, in addition to their normal sick leave balances. Second, employees who have a child whose school or place of care is closed may be eligible for leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), the majority of which is additional paid leave. These provisions apply from April 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020, and are in addition to any personal annual and/or sick leave balances that you have. An employee is entitled to use Emergency Paid Sick Leave for absences related to COVID-19 if the employee is unable to work, including unable to

telework, because the employee:

1. Is subject to a Federal, State, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19
2. Has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine related to COVID-19
3. Is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and is seeking a medical diagnosis
4. Is caring for an individual subject to a Federal, State, or local quarantine or self-quarantine
5. Is caring for his or her child whose school or place of care is closed, or the childcare provider is unavailable due to COVID-19 related reasons
6. Is experiencing any other substantially similar conditions specified by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

NALC at the national level is working to ensure the Postal Service has the resources necessary to continue operations. The Postal Service is projecting due the pandemic and the shutdown of the U.S. economy the total mail volume to fall by over 50 percent, greatly impacting its \$70 billion in annual revenues. Congress must step in to provide financial appropriations to the

Continued on page 5

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT



Mark Beach

COVID-19 has ravaged the United States and the rest of the world. By the time this article goes to print the pandemic will have left over 500+ dead in the state of Ohio and led to the deaths of 42,000 nationwide. Ohio's numbers are much lower than most states where there are major metropolitan areas. We have had very few cases of Postal Workers having the disease in Central Ohio and District Manager, Jean LoveJoy, has done a tremendous job of reacting in these few situations. She has ensured that once an active case of COVID-19 is discovered, that person is isolated, the unions are contacted, and the entire facility is sanitized. She also has gone to these offices and reassured the workers that they could take whatever medical precautions they chose without fear of retaliation. She has allowed the union local presidents to communicate directly with her and have taken care of many issues that have arisen due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

I must also give praise our Acting Postmaster of Columbus, Andrea Dallas, and her swift response to many situations that have been brought to her attention by the union. Although the extreme amount of stress has clearly taken a toll on her, she has been quick to respond to issues brought up by the union. I believe she is doing a very good job considering these trying times and circumstances. She is being put in a very difficult position where some of her staff

that just don't know her just do whatever they want to do regardless of the directions they are given.

As a union we will do everything we can to address and correct these issues when they are brought to our attention. If you have an issue with anything related to COVID-19 and/or questions about local management's handling of a situation, please don't hesitate to contact the union hall.

One of the biggest complaints has been the lack of good gloves in Central Ohio. When the epidemic first began Harbor Freight and other stores in the area donated their heavier Nitrile gloves to hospital and first responders. The Post Office scrambled to get what they could. Although not ideal, the thinner gloves provided by the post office do offer some protection and no one office should be in short supply. If a carrier goes through several pairs of gloves due to ripping then there shouldn't be an issue. Use only what you need and let your steward know if management is giving you issues obtaining supplies.

All Route inspections and adjustments if they were not already in the process of implementation have been put on hold. Travel among the offices have been limited. CCA's in offices of 100 year or more man hours are not supposed to be sent out. In some instances,

management has agreed to shift resources to smaller offices and leave them until the travel restrictions are lifted. This ensures a steady income for the CCA's and keeps the carriers in the smaller offices from being overwhelmed. What the parties don't want is carriers going back and forth between offices. Sunday delivery hubs are being temporarily sent back to their home offices until further notice.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the USPS financial outlook is very dim. Everyone from the airlines, to other delivery companies received stimulus and bailout money, except the Post Office. It has been rumored that the Postal Service was to receive \$25 Billion in the first wave of stimulus money and it was taken out due to threats made by President Donald Trump that he would veto the bill if it included any money to help the Post Office. Now is the time for carriers, their families and friends to act and have their voices heard. Members, their families and friends should go to the NALC National website and click on the link to directly email your Congressional Representative. Tell them to include the Postal Service in the next stimulus package. Stewards are encouraged to share this message with the membership if they keep it bipartisan and strictly related to the stimulus package issue. **United We stand.**

**THE WEATHER IS GETTING
WARMER AND THE PETS WILL
BE OUT MORE. KEEP YOUR EYES
OPEN AND REMEMBER.**



MILLER'S MUSINGS

Everyone is waiting with bated breath for every place to throw doors open tomorrow. I make it a habit not to listen to daily conferences because everyone will discuss it all day anyway. Besides when the tube is turned on it must provide entertainment or it's shut off. You all know I will speak my mind and don't blame the Branch. Send letters to the Editor, who is responsible for this.

I am fearful for what will come next, in the last month and a half I have had my fears confirmed there are a lot of incredibly stupid people in our midst. The examples are endless. I am no Mensa member but when I see the numbers of deaths steadily rise that are attributed to the novel corona virus circling the globe, I believe there is an enemy we must protect ourselves from. It has been shown that social distancing and protective barriers covering nose and mouth can lessen your chances of acquiring this disease, I'm wearing masks. They aren't pretty, although I recently saw a cat face one that was really cute, I'm wearing a mask. They are uncomfortable, irritate your skin, leave red marks, cause breakouts, I'm wearing a mask. They hurt your ears, I'm wearing a mask.

What is really uncomfortable is wearing glasses so you can see, accompanied by a headset and speaker to answer a steady stream of calls while wearing said mask. Remembering to pull it down to take a drink or get a snack. I might have lost a pound or two by wearing my mask.

I find myself annoyed by people that refuse to cover their mouth and nose, especially those in healthcare.

They really tee me off! They have no acceptable excuse, when they are distributed to them daily. I find it rude and disrespectful to their coworkers. Particularly, those that travel to other sites and hospitals, it shows their ignorance. I don't hold back on loudly pronouncing their lack of concern for others. Don't let them start sneezing and coughing, oh my, the tone gets higher pitched and more loud. If they haven't heard they are deaf. Not to mention they have been told repeatedly they need to mask up. I feel that too many people that have self quarantined the last month or so, will let go of their hand washing, wearing facial coverings and maintaining social distancing; will forget their safety habits, throw caution to the wind and go back to their old ways. My fear is that the virus will lay low, let us slip into a false sense of security and strike with a vengeance come flu season. I hope that I am so very wrong. That enough people will continue to be mindful and maintain safe distances, continue to wash hands and yes...wear masks.

Perhaps there will be a push to get adequate testing materials stockpiled for the next wave. Had more testing been done there would have been many more confirmed cases. I know people that isolated themselves, got sick, passed it to each other in their household but are staying away from doctors, clinics and urgent cares because they don't want to infect others. They have been miserably ill but toughing it out in their own little world. The worst part is the number of people that have died and their families were not able to sit with them, hold hands or hug them as

they departed this life. They have mixed emotions of anger and guilt of not being present. Then there are the families that have lost multiple family members and can't hug and console each other.

I only hope that folks won't go buck wild when the green light is turned on again.

Be careful and stay well.

Submitted by Yana Miller-Farney

**Wear your gloves and mask, carry hand sanitizer and cleaning wipes.
REMEMBER STAY SAFE!
STAY WELL!
WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER!**

Buckeye Br. 78 Bulletin

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FEDERAL EMPLOYEE RIGHTS

PAID SICK LEAVE AND EXPANDED FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE UNDER THE FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT

The **Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA or Act)** requires the Federal government to provide all of its employees with paid sick leave and, for employees who are covered under Title I of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), with expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19. These provisions will apply from April 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

► PAID LEAVE ENTITLEMENTS

Generally, the Federal government must provide Federal employees:

Up to two weeks (80 hours, or a part-time employee's two-week equivalent) of paid sick leave based on the higher of their regular rate of pay, or the applicable state or Federal minimum wage, paid at:

- 100% for qualifying reasons #1-3 below, up to \$511 daily and \$5,110 total; and
- $\frac{2}{3}$ for qualifying reasons #4 and 6 below, up to \$200 daily and \$2,000 total.

Federal employees including those not covered under Title I of the FMLA can receive either $\frac{2}{3}$ of the higher of their regular rate of pay, or the applicable state or Federal minimum wage for the two-week period for qualifying reason #5 below. However, for leave under qualifying reason #5, Federal employees covered under Title I of the FMLA can receive 10 additional weeks of expanded family and medical leave for reason #5 below, up to \$200 daily and \$12,000 total.

A part-time employee is eligible for leave for the number of hours that the employee is normally scheduled to work over that period.

► ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES

All Federal employees are eligible for up to two weeks of fully or partially paid sick leave for COVID-19 related reasons (see below). Federal employees who are covered under Title I of the FMLA and have been employed for at least 30 days prior to their leave request are eligible for up to an additional 10 weeks of partially paid expanded family and medical leave for reason #5 below.

Most federal employees are not covered under Title I of the FMLA and so would not be eligible for partially paid expanded family and medical leave. Please consult with your agency to determine whether you are covered under Title I of the FMLA. The Office of Personnel and Management will issue guidance on this question.

► QUALIFYING REASONS FOR LEAVE RELATED TO COVID-19

A Federal employee is entitled to take leave related to COVID-19 if the employee is unable to work, including unable to telework, because the employee:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. is subject to a Federal, State, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19;2. has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine related to COVID-19;3. is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and is seeking a medical diagnosis;4. is caring for an individual subject to an order described in (1) or self-quarantine as described in (2); | <ol style="list-style-type: none">5. is caring for his or her child whose school or place of care is closed (or child care provider is unavailable) due to COVID-19 related reasons; or6. is experiencing any other substantially-similar condition specified by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. |
|---|---|

► ENFORCEMENT

The U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division (WHD) has the authority to investigate and enforce compliance with the FFCRA for Federal employers covered under Title I of the FMLA. Employers may not discharge, discipline, or otherwise discriminate against any employee who lawfully takes paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave under the FFCRA, files a complaint, or institutes a proceeding under or related to this Act. Federal employers covered under Title I of the FMLA in violation of the provisions of the FFCRA will be subject to penalties and enforcement by WHD.



WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

For additional information
or to file a complaint:

1-866-487-9243

TTY: 1-877-889-5627

dol.gov/agencies/whd



WH1423 REV 03/20

Due to the Coronavirus or COVID-19 we feel that the best thing to do in conjunction with guidelines concerning the Virus; is to cancel the luncheon in June and the picnic we hold in September. If things should change we will make an attempt to reschedule. However, no one is answering phones to make arrangements for the luncheon or picnic. The Retirees Dinner is scheduled for October 3, 2020. God willing, I will try to call with an update later this year as plans are being talked about to reopen the country. As I write this I believe Re-opening the economy now is like not finishing your Rx of antibiotics because you're feeling a little better, let's hope the government makes good choices.

President's *Continued from page1*

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. The Postal Service needs appropriation of at least \$25 billion to help it weather the pandemic and the deep recession it is causing. The present crisis warrants such appropriations now.

I am asking you to contact your representatives immediately and ask the to help secure the financial situation of the USPS.

I want to thank vice President Mark Beach and all the officers and stewards for all the hard work they are putting in representing the membership during these trying times. Vice President has been sending the stewards the latest information on new MOU's and stand up talks when we receive them. We have asked the stewards to ensure the standup talks are being read. The stewards also update us on any station that is short on the supplies necessary for doing your job.

ATTENTION ALL NALC BR 78 MEMBERS

**Branch 78 Meeting
scheduled for
May 13, 2020**

**Has been cancelled
due to COVID 19**

**If you have any questions
please call the Union Hall
614-279-2778**

I have previously cancelled the April Steward meeting and April Branch meetings due to the COVID 19 pandemic. I am also cancelling the May Steward meeting and May Branch meeting. We have delayed the scheduling of our annual retirement seminar. The Robert Solt MDA Golf Outing and Branch Picnic are also on hold until we get through these very challenging times. The safety of

the membership is my number one concern. I would like to congratulate John Pinnix from Main Office, David Harris from West Worthington Station and Randy Hartman from Delaware Post office on their recent retirements and wish them well in the future.

**Fraternally,
Todd Hornyak**

COVID Coronavirus Disease 19

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

What is coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

Can people in the U.S. get COVID-19?

COVID-19 is spreading from person to person in China, and limited spread among close contacts has been detected in some countries outside China, including the United States. At this time, however, this virus is NOT currently spreading in communities in the United States. Right now, the greatest risk of infection is for people in China or people who have traveled to China. Risk of infection is dependent on exposure. Close contacts of people who are infected are at greater risk of exposure, for example health care workers and close contacts of people who are infected with the virus that causes COVID-19. CDC continues to closely monitor the situation.

Have there been cases of COVID-19 in the U.S.?

Yes. The first case of COVID-19 in the United States was reported on January 21, 2020. The current count of cases of COVID-19 in the United States is available on CDC's webpage at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>.

How does COVID-19 spread?

The virus that causes COVID-19 probably emerged from an animal source, but now it seems to be spreading from person to person. It's important to note that person-to-person spread can happen on a continuum. Some diseases are highly contagious (like measles), while other diseases are less so. At this time, it's unclear how easily or sustainably the virus that causes COVID-19 is spreading between people. Learn what is known about the spread of newly emerged coronaviruses at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html>.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of

- fever
- cough
- shortness of breath



CS 214937-A 02/21/2020

What are severe complications from this virus?

Many patients have pneumonia in both lungs.

How can I help protect myself?

The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.

There are simple everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses.

These include

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

If you are sick, to keep from spreading respiratory illness to others, you should

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

What should I do if I recently traveled to China and got sick?

If you were in China within the past 14 days and feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, you should seek medical care. Call the office of your health care provider before you go, and tell them about your travel and your symptoms. They will give you instructions on how to get care without exposing other people to your illness. While sick, avoid contact with people, don't go out and delay any travel to reduce the possibility of spreading illness to others.

Is there a vaccine?

There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.

Is there a treatment?

There is no specific antiviral treatment for COVID-19. People with COVID-19 can seek medical care to help relieve symptoms.

For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

Buckeye Branch 78

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National Association of
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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	Mark Beach	740-363-1906
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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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LOOK

FOR THE

UNION LABEL



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

**ARTICLES RECEIVED AFTER THE
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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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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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www.nalc-branch78.org