

# BUCKEYE BRANCH 78

## BULLETIN

### Columbus and Central Ohio



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**MARCH 2021**



**VOL. 41 NO. 3**

## PRESIDENT'S PAGE



**Todd Hornyak**

We have been informed that Officer in Charge (OIC) Andrea Dallas detail as the Acting Postmaster of Columbus has ended. Ms. Dallas will be returning to Dayton to her regular position as Postmaster of Dayton. She will be replaced as OIC by Bradley Grubb current Manager Post Office Operations (POOM) of group 2 for the Ohio Valley District. The two Manager Customer Service Operations (MCSO) or area manager positions will be filled by Ed Thorne and Justin Staten. These position are being filled as detail assignments as the Postal Service is currently under a hiring freeze. As always, we look forward to working with this new team and hope they will be able to address the many issues facing the City of Columbus.

NALC Region 11 has scheduled a Virtual Retirement Seminar for Sunday, April 18, 2021 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. via WebEx. The meeting will open at 12:30 to address any technology issues. The training will be a lecture and slide presentation covering both CSRS

and FERS employees and will focus on a regular or "immediate" retirement. Spouses are welcome and encouraged to attend. General questions will be answered through the chat feature in WebEx during the seminar. Specific questions can either be forwarded via email before the training or asked through the exit questionnaire afterwards. If you are interested in attending the virtual retirement seminar please call the union hall or send an email to [nalc78@gmail.com](mailto:nalc78@gmail.com) so that you will be registered. National Business Agent Mark Camilli and Regional Administrative Assistant Dave Kennedy will conduct the training and they do an excellent job presenting the material you will need for retirement.

The U.S. Postal Service announced February 23, 2021 it awarded a 10-year contract to Oshkosh, WI, based Oshkosh Defense, to manufacture the Next Generation Delivery Vehicle (NGDV). The vehicles are purpose-built, right-hand-drive vehicle for mail and package delivery and they will assemble 50,000 to 165,000 of them over 10 years. The vehicles will be equipped with either fuel-efficient internal combustion engines or battery elec-

tric powertrains and can be retrofitted to keep pace with advances in electric vehicle technologies. The contract is the first part of a multi-billion-dollar 10-year effort to replace the Postal Service's delivery vehicle fleet, one of the world's largest. The Postal Service fleet has more than 230,000 vehicles in every class, including both purpose-built and commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) vehicles. Approximately 190,000 deliver mail six, and often seven, days a week in every U.S. community. The NGDV, along with other COTS vehicles, will replace and expand the current delivery fleet, which includes many vehicles that have been in service for 30 years.

The NGDV vehicles will include air conditioning and heating, improved ergonomics, and some of the most advanced vehicle technology — including 360-degree cameras, advanced braking and traction control, air bags, a front- and rear-collision avoidance system that includes visual, audio warning, and automatic braking. The vehicles will also have increased cargo capacity to maximize efficiency and better accommodate higher pack-

**Continued on page 5**

## FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT



**Mark Beach**

So much for getting off on the right foot in 2021. I would like to take a moment and truly thank the members of Branch 78. Especially those members that have shown up to work day after day, working sometimes as many as 14 and 15 hours in a service day to ensure the mail continues to move. Finally, as plants across the country started to catch up, 75% of the United States was hit with extremely cold weather and large amounts of snow and ice on top of the worst pandemic since the Spanish Flu of 1918. Despite all of that and record-setting volumes, the members of Branch 78, continued to show up day after day. Be proud of the job that you have done and hold your heads up high. I'm proud to represent the members of Branch 78 as a whole. If the public only knew the type of pressure and conditions you are working under, they would collectively thank letter carriers for a job well done.

The current Columbus Postmaster during the last weeks before her detail ends late February. She canceled several of our last labor-management meetings, quite responding to emails or texts. She sent a massive amount of personnel to one station. This broke CCA hold downs, forced brand new CCA's out of their warehouses their first weeks of employment. A number of these new employees worked twelve hour plus days their first week. Not surprising many quit being stressed by the demands of USPS. These CCAs had the potential to become good carriers. Of course, many managers

blame the union for this situation we currently face. Yet management is the one in charge of hiring and the managing of those resources. The union is doing its sworn duty by enforcing the contract and insisting that management either abide by the contract or make restitution to the letter carriers. These violations are taking place on almost a daily basis with little relief in sight. Hopefully, a change in the Postmaster of Columbus, will help things start to trend in the right direction.

Recently Branch 78 started filing branch class action grievances for 12 and 60 violations and ELM 432 grievances for CCAs working over their daily contractual limits. This move was made to monitor and document the number of violations in the Columbus installation. This is to ensure that management is following through and entering the payments for the violations. I encourage all members to keep track of their resolve payments, to be sure management is entering these payments into GATS. One veteran letter carrier discovered management was inputting agreed to payments but was not at the appropriate rate. Not all managers are this underhanded, so members need to help the branch keep management honest. The union suspects that thousands of dollars of grievance settlements have been intentionally input incorrectly by management.

In some of the associate offices, the improper use of 733, 782, and 732 time has been discovered in recent months. The union is trying its best to monitor this activity and file on these matters as they are discovered. It is sad that Postmasters and POOMs are willing to hide time, just

to make their numbers. This happened in Columbus several years ago and led to systemic issues that are still affecting the installation.

Recently there have been more crimes against letter carriers in central Ohio. Several letter carrier's vehicles have been broken into as they have been out doing long park and loop relays. If you see suspicious activity don't ignore it, report it to management or the Postal Inspectors immediately. In one station new CCAs were ordered by the manager to drive these vehicles without being trained on them. Fortunately, the station steward and some veteran carriers were watching out for these new City Carrier Assistants and filed PS form 1767, Report of Hazardous conditions, the manager in question backed down from his orders. In another situation city carriers have been asked to use their own vehicles for delivery. Management tried to intimidate them by telling these carriers if they didn't use their own vehicles they wouldn't get any hours. This was addressed by the union immediately after the carrier contacted the union. How many of these situations go unaddressed because a new CCA is not aware of their rights or just plain scared of management, is not known. The union and its leadership have one goal in mind and that is to protect the rights of its members. So, the next time you find yourself questioning if management is acting appropriately, ask the union steward or call the union hall. Become educated and know your rights. More than ever, it is important to stand United.

**Mark Beach**

# MILLER'S MUSINGS



**Yana Miller-Farney**

There was a recent announcement by the PMG regarding NGDV - Next Generation Delivery Vehicle. Don't get excited yet, no debut until summer 2023. We may see them eighteen months after that in Columbus. The date was switched to the end of 2023 before the briefing concluded. I remember the anticipation of the LLV and FFV, We were late on the deployment list. We kept waiting and waiting, they brought them to the station a short stint then sent them elsewhere. Maybe we will be higher on the list this time. Judging by the rate postal vehicles are seen being towed, we will be delivering from Ubers before any are delivered. They definitely got use from the LLV (low life vehicles) or FFV, considering some have been in use thirty years. The Next Gen will supplement the Metris and Promasters currently in use, as older trucks are replaced.

It took the PMG and three VPs to make the NGDV promo which ticked me off. First, there was a lack of diversity, oh, there was one woman. Why it took four folks to deliver a picture, beats me. We have carriers on the street 12 hours a day, six to seven days a week, many forced to extend their work day over eight hours because there aren't enough bodies to deliver. There have been new CCAs onboard but they don't stick around. They train a week in one station, are sent to another that will remain unnamed, given a route and two additional hours and told to be back in eight. Treated poorly with little respect, while

battling freezing temperatures in unfamiliar territories. I can't say I blame them running the opposite direction. L'Enfant Plaza could do with fewer VPs, spend that money on leadership classes and interpersonal skills training for station managers, or let them carry mail. The goal, to improve retention of new hires. Contract training would be useful to decrease grievances and unnecessary payouts. That is a lost cause when you have the same managers repeat the same contractual errors day after day, week after week. There are teachable moments and there are people that refuse to learn. If there are no corrective actions levied on serial offenders; it leads one to wonder about those on the next rung up.

There have been increases in distribution of COVID-19 vaccinations but way below the numbers needed. There is a possible third EUA (emergency use authorization) for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, that doesn't require special refrigeration and only a single shot needed. Sadly, the signup process for the injections is not senior friendly. It favors individuals with online access, digital equipment and use familiarity. It's frustrating when you spend hours on the phone waiting to sign up only to be told there are no appointments left. Or sorry, your appointment has been cancelled due to a reduction in doses delivered. Bottom line, we need a better signup system. Seniors and indigent people should not be penalized for not having computer access or aptitude. We ALL must wear masks, that cover both your nose and mouth, simultaneously. This will be a factor for years to come. Make it part of

your daily wardrobe. COVID-19 is going to continue to disrupt our lives as long as the masses are not inoculated. With restrictions being lifted there will be increases in positive cases because people will relax keeping their distance and not wearing masks. Do your part to slow the epidemic. Get vaccinated as soon as you are able. There have been some unpleasant after effects with the second shot beyond a hard, sore arm. Most of the people in our office premedicated with Tylenol and alternate doses of ibuprofen to lessen the effects. Make sure you have no allergies to either of these over-the-counter drugs, first.

**Be safe!**

**Yana Miller-Farney**

## Buckeye Br. 78 Bulletin

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President	Todd Hornyak
Vice President	Mark Beach
Recording Secretary	Trevor Payne
Asst. Secretary/Editor	Yana Miller-Farney
Financial Secretary	Jason Fry

Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Branch.

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Send address changes to:

## Br. 78 Bulletin

**1029 Harrisburg Pike  
Columbus OH 43223-2524  
614-279-2778**

**[www.nalc-branch78.org](http://www.nalc-branch78.org)**

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## From Region II NBA Mark Camilli



**Mark Camilli**

Uncertainty, frustration, and angst or just plain exhaustion are some words that letter carriers describe their feelings as we are entering the one-year mark of the Covid-19 pandemic. I recall this time last year; we were preparing to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of those letter carriers who went out on the historical strike of 1970. As we decided to postpone the New York City celebration, I do not think many of us could have anticipated that we would still be somewhat shut down as a Nation one year later. During this past year, letter carriers faced one challenge after another but heroically pushed through those challenges so millions of Americans could stay home, remain safe and help flatten the so-called curve. It is easy to understand why many would feel discouraged, but spring is arriving, and in many ways, a “spring” of positives are arriving for letter carriers.

The United States Postal Service Board of Governors (BOG) acts much like a board of directors of a private corporation. Ultimately the BOG sets policies on all postal matters - from reviewing current practices, service standards, capital expenditures to long range planning. Robert M. Duncan was Chairman of the BOG from September 2018 – February 2021. He was once the Chairman of the Republican National Committee, serving in that post from 2007 – 2009. Mr. Duncan stepped down from his post as Chair but remains on the BOG. Ron Bloom was unanimously elected

on February 9, 2021 to serve as the 24<sup>th</sup> Chairman of the BOG. Mr. Bloom is an economic advisor who served under the Obama administration where he helped lead the auto industry restructuring after the 2008 recession. He has an extensive labor background as he also served as a special assistant for 13 years to the President of the United Steelworkers union and was employed as an advisor to the National Association of Letter Carrier on postal issues. On the same day of a House subcommittee hearing on the USPS, President Biden announced three nominees to the BOG. The three are: Ron Stroman, former deputy PMG who resigned from his post during the Trump administration, Anton Hajjar, former general counsel of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) and Amber McReynolds, CEO of the National Vote at Home Institute (NVAHI). The NVAHI is nonpartisan and nonprofit, dedicated to making sure every American can vote in a safe and secure manner by expanding vote-at-home systems in all 50 states. NALC Executive Vice President Brian Renfro serves as Board Chair of the NVAHI. Hopefully the three nominees go through a speedy Senate confirmation and the USPS BOGs can put the USPS on the right course to ensure the Nation’s treasured agency provide world class mail service well into the future!

In other positive news, the USPS has just recently announced awarding the contract to begin replacing the aging fleet of vehicles. While proto-type photos may take time to get used to, the features can not be overlooked. Items like a side entry door to access

mail that will be safer for letter carriers instead of working from the back of a vehicle. Other safety features include items such as air conditioning, airbags, back-up and 360-degree cameras, automatic parking brakes, front and rear bumper sensors, forward collision warning and blind spot warnings. We are also expecting the results of potentially ratifying a new national agreement. If ratified, CCAs with 24 months relative standing will be converted to career which will significantly alter the “cap” of the regular workforce ultimately allowing to hire significantly more hires across the country. Ratification will also infuse higher wages and the USPS can begin calculating retro payments to be paid to the hard working and deserving letter carriers!

As things have been grim over the past year, there are many positives to build upon and the pendulum is starting to swing our way. Many exciting items are still yet to be seen and possibly on the horizon – Postal Reform, more funding for the USPS under stimulus plans, FFCRA extension or replacement, USPS infrastructure spending, more vaccine availability and on in on. Yes – we are all feeling the challenges of the pandemic, but there is a lot to look forward to...

**Mark Camilli**

### **Virtual Retirement Seminar**

sign up by emailing  
nalc78@gmail.com or  
call 614-279-2778

**4/18/21 1-3 PM**

## President Continued from page 1

age volumes stemming from the growth of eCommerce.

I would like to congratulate Jeffrey Parker from Bexley Station, John Gomez from Clintonville Station and Richard Broomes from Hilltop Station on their recent retirement. I wish them the best on their retirement. I want to again thank all letter carriers for the amazing job you continue to do delivering the mail daily for our customers. Currently sixty-two letter carriers represented by Branch 78 have tested positive with a confirmed case of Coronavirus. The

number of cases has increased significantly in recent months. We are trending the wrong way for COVID in the state of Ohio and the Ohio Valley District. 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 of Branch 78.

**Fraternally**  
**Todd Hornyak**



**TOGETHER  
WE CAN  
MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE !**

## From the New Director of Retirees

I am the new Director of Retirees. Doug Gulley has held this office for some time. My goal is to continue the same commitment to the retirees, once the restrictions ease.

I have been a city carrier for over 20 years. I worked at the Oakland Park office in the Shepherd station. I carried mail

and was an OJI as well as being a classroom instructor for our CCA's. Over my postal career I have had the pleasure of helping with the CFC campaign and kick started the Customer Connect program at our station.

I currently lead the Welcome Center Ministry at my church. I also work in the Greeter's Ministry and

other areas in the church. I enjoy traveling, bowling, skating and many outdoor activities.

Looking forward to the country reopening so we can get back to a new more normal lifestyle.

**Sincerely,**  
**Valeria Davis**



Legislative Political Organizer (LPO) is a new full time position created by the NALC to serve the membership in a variety of ways, including educating members on the current state of legislation, training & assisting state associations & branches to help carry out our plan, meeting with members of congress & educating members on the importance of the LCPE.

Marc T. Ashmon has been a letter carrier for 25 years & is a Leadership Academy graduate of class 16. Prior to his appointment as LPO he held various positions in the NALC- branch president for 9 yrs., route inspection team, NALC observer & NJ State Food Drive Coordinator. Marc's territory as LPO includes 10 states, 4 Regions (11,12,14,15) and the Caribbean (Puerto Rico & Virgin Islands)



**Marc T. Ashmon**  
Asst. to the  
President For  
Legislative & Political  
Organizing

## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS TO UNION REPRESENTATION!

**Weingartner Rights:** "If this discussion could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated, or affect my personal working conditions, I respectfully request that my union representative, officer, or steward be present at this meeting. Without union representation present, I choose not to answer any questions."

*(This is my right under the 1975 U.S. Supreme Court Weingartner decision)*

# FEBRUARY 2021 BRANCH MEETING MINUTES

Zoom meeting called to order at 6:31 by President Todd Hornyak; Invocation by Yana Miller- Farney. Yana read the January Meeting Minutes, accepted as read.

Trevor Payne read Bills List and applications for membership. Regular order of business suspended for NBA Mark Camilli to address Branch. Thank you all for the outstanding job you do everyday under the current conditions. No up date on vaccine for USPS employees. If you have an appointment to get the vaccine, you will be released per USPS but will not be paid Administrative Leave. We are essential workers, National still in talks with USPS, CDC, Dept of Health & Human Services. Presented COVID stats, the numbers are trending down after the holiday spikes. Continue to follow SOPs and work safe. Ohio Valley still has the highest number of cases in Region 11. Robert Duncan resigned and Ron Bloom has been elected Chairman of the Board of Governors. Currently 4 Republicans and 2 Democrats; ruling party should have the majority so three more Democrats will be appointed. They met yesterday. Legislative news: HR (sense of the House) 47 against privatization, HR 109 maintain door delivery (stop cluster boxes) and HR 87 to repeal Prefunding of Retirees Health Benefits, since no other federal agency or department is required to do this. The need to give to the Letter Carrier Political Fund grows, the goal is 11% of membership, doesn't matter if it's \$1 per week. Columbus currently about 7%, lot of work to do. ADUS (automatic delivery unit sorter) still no concrete info deployment. They will sort parcels, place in hampers, eliminating need for clerks to sort parcels. Waiting for PMG to release his new business plan. The four evening Steward School went well; Ramon, Jeremy and Charles were accomplished actors during the presentations. Great job! 02/18/21 Beginning OWCP class, will only take first 100 to register; 7-9 PM. Count for ratification of Tentative Agreement has been extended to 03/01/21, due to slow mail delivery. Planning to have a virtual Retirement Seminar in March. Mike Brim thanked those that participated in Steward School, nice to see new names taking part. John Collins wanted to thank Officers and Stewards for the great job on grievances; 2019 - 562, 2020 - 1221 filings sent up; 966 were Pre Arb settlements sent up to Region 11. GV, SC and Livingston pending, hoping to settle them. Article 8 still most grieved issue, great starter file for these grievances due to precedent setting decisions in Branch 78. Thanked NBA office for participating in our meeting. Resumed regular order of business.

Mark Beach, OWCP Basic class starting, Intermediate OWCP 02/25/21, sign up now. First Steward Zoom held last week, more participation. Stewards like the format better.

Valerie Davis introduced herself since we skipped her last meeting. Hoping to increase retiree participation in meetings and activities. Tentative date for Retiree Dinner 10/16/21, it is a bye week for OSU, Villa Milano willing to work with us, in spite of the uncertainty surrounding COVID.

Ramon Lawson, thanks for electing him, will have an article in the next Bulletin.

Mark Beach read the Treasurer's Report from Jason Fry.

## NEW BUSINESS

There have been fifty-three COVID deaths nationally. It is suggested that each carrier sanitize their own workspace to ensure it is done right. Discussed the ongoing staffing problems in Br 78, CCA caps, there are 101 hired but only 81 working due to OWCP and COVID. Carriers are tired of being forced in, working OT when not on ODL. Morale is non-existent.

Steward School was 01/26, 01/28, 2/2 and 2/4/21 from 7-9 PM, thanks to the seventeen being paid for the training after working all day. If you have suggestions for the MOU, get them submitted to Todd. Local implementation period will be 04/29/21 to 05/28/21. OWCP Beginner School starts 02/18/21, OWCP Intermediate School 02/25/21; important to know how to file and which forms since there are more injuries coming with no paperwork from management. Doug Lawrence is a great resource, he will help to get approved. Gahanna Consolidate Casing Initiative finally returned to original routes 01/20/21 after 16 months of 7.45 on the street. Grievances had to be filed because they did not return routes in a timely manner, cases had no lights, the case label cells were wrong, FSS was not changed but DPS was. It could have been worse. Formal Inspections for Whitehall and Marysville have



been cancelled, anticipate the same for Livingston and Gahanna but no formal cancel yet. Special Inspections have been denied and grieved. An Arbitration was scheduled for 01/12/21 for Administrative Leave, management agreed to a Precedent setting Pre Arb at the hearing. Six more stations have cases pending for arbitration. There were four Columbus conversions effective 02/13/21. Spoke with DM Jean Lovejoy regarding issues in the AO's, city staffing, retention, Oakland Park and COVID. CCAs being sent to OP given a route plus three hours on another route, expected to return in eight hours, chastised and they can't understand why they have a retention problem. Shadowing for twelve hours is not a motivator to return the next day. Acting PM and OIC are leaving the end of the month. Two MCSO positions are vacant. Forced OT rampant in Columbus. Just informed that several stations mandated carriers to report at 0600 this morning, 02/10/21. Non list carriers being forced on NSD. Stewards need to file if the list are not working twelve hours. Violation of out of schedule and out of zip code. Branch Class Actions filed for Full time regulars forced over twelve and sixty hour limits since PP 2 from 01/09/21 on, 900 to 1200 hours over. Branch Class Action filed for CCAs forced over 11.5 hours since PP 26 week 1 from 12/05/20 on, 5-6 days a week. Union is requesting \$20 per incident as outlined in Arbitrator August award for the Branch.

USPS Financial Report for quarter 1 (Oct - Nov) 2020. More than 1.1 billion packages delivered during peak. Net income \$318 million. Mail volume has declined compared to the same quarter last year, Marketing mail decreased 3.9% despite political and election mail. First Class Mail decreased 4.1%, trending down and on time delivery dropped. Package volume increased 25% over the same period last year. Letter Carrier Political Fund in February Postal Record had Br 78 at 7.44% giving, goal is 11%. Special mention to top donors in 2020: Mike Brim \$1,020, Dominick Carmon \$719, Gahanna, Yana Miller-Farney \$550, Ed Ralston \$420 UA, Myron Miller \$320 NW and Doug Doherty \$312 CCU.

***Submitted by Yana Miller-Farney***



**Top left: Jeff Parker, his wife, Retiree Craig Braxton and daughter at Bexley retirement.**



**John Gomez with Clintonville steward Doug Lawver**



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**BRANCH 78 OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT	TODD HORNYAK	ToddHornyak@gmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT	MARK BEACH	markbeach78@gmail.com
REC SECRETARY	TREVOR PAYNE	thetrevorpayne@gmail.com
ASST SECRETARY/EDITOR	YANA MILLER-FARNEY	dogmamayfm@gmail.com
FIN SECY-TREASURER	JASON FRY	jasonfry44@gmail.com
SAFETY & HEALTH	GARY PORTER	GaryPorter8241@sbcglobal.net
SGT-AT-ARMS	JACKI MITCHELL	jackibr78@gmail.com
DIR OF RETIREES	VALERIA DAVIS	ValeriaDavis@ymail.com
MBA HEALTH BENEFIT	RAMON LAWSON	rlawsonformala@gmail.com
HEAD TRUSTEE	DON SHEPHERD	shep7961.ds@gmail.com
TRUSTEE	MYRON MILLER	mmmoh@att.net
TRUSTEE	DEAN PERUZZI	rcekids3@hotmail.com
TRUSTEE	CHARLES SANDERS	ces216@icloud.com
TRUSTEE	DEBBIE GUTHRIE	dguthrie76@gmail.com

<b>STATIONS</b>	<b>STEWARDS</b>	<b>BUSINESS-HOME</b>
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		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	Dean Peruzzi	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	Mark Beach	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./ Jacquelyn Mitchell 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/Eric Scarberry	614-351-0138
WJ West Jefferson	Mark Beach	614-879-9145
WW West Worthington	Jeremy Hirschfeld/Cornelius Scott/Jason Fry Alt./Charles Schneider Alt.	614-793-9789
WH Whitehall	Gary Porter	614-237-1722

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**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.

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

First Tuesday of each month

**BRANCH OFFICE PHONES:**

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