

BUCKEYE BRANCH 78

BULLETIN

Columbus and Central Ohio



CANAL WINCHESTER
HILLIARD
REYNOLDSBURG

CIRCLEVILLE
LONDON
WORTHINGTON

DELAWARE
MARYSVILLE
WESTERVILLE

DUBLIN
MT. GILEAD
PLAIN CITY

GROVE CITY
MT. STERLING
WEST JEFFERSON

GROVEPORT
PICKERINGTON

AUGUST 2021



VOL. 41 NO. 8

PRESIDENT'S PAGE



Todd Hornyak

Branch 78 sent 20 delegates to the 70th Biennial NALC Ohio State Convention in Cleveland July 23 and July 24, 2021. The delegates from our branch were elected to conduct the business of the Union at the convention. I would like to thank Branch 40 President Eric Poston and Cleveland Branch 40 for a great convention. National Executive Vice President Brian Renfroe, National Director of Retired Members Dan Toth and Region 11 National Business Agent Mark Camilli were all in attendance. There were training classes offered by Mark Camilli's office on the new contract, conversion to full time regular, OWCP, retirement, legislation, and thrift savings plan. The delegates will be reporting information from the convention to the membership at the August steward and branch meetings.

In July the branch received two favorable regional arbitration decisions regarding administrative leave. Arbitrator Braverman awarded administrative leave at time and a half for non-list and

work assignment carriers forced to work overtime before the overtime desired list was maximized to 12 hours in Gahanna Station. Arbitrator Barrett awarded administrative leave at 100% in a case out of Livingston Station. The hard work of the Union stewards and Formal A representatives made these decisions possible. I would like to recognize West Worthington Union steward Jeremy Hirschfeld who was the Union advocate that presented the Livingston case. Both arbitrators instructed Columbus management to conduct training on the methods of scheduling overtime in accordance with the overtime provisions in the national agreement. The National Business Agents office and Area Labor Relations is scheduled to conduct joint training for management and Union stewards in the installation of Columbus the first week of August. I hope this will give management incentive for scheduling overtime in compliance with the National agreement.

Management has informed me they will be conducting formal route inspections at German Village Station the week of September 11, 2021. Bexley Station will be inspected the week of

September 18, 2021. The inspections should be in accordance with chapter 2 of the M-39 handbook. The inspections will include a six-day mail count. The formal route inspections are now done by management with no involvement by the Union. Management is inspecting these stations because they no longer have Flat Sequencing System (FSS) flats. We will be conducting route inspection training for both stations shortly before the inspections begin. I am asking all carriers who are being inspected to please attend the training, so they receive proper credit during the inspection process.

I want to thank Director of Retirees Valerie Davis for hosting our retirees meet and greet at the Union Hall on July 15. This was the first event that we held at the Hall since last year due to Coronavirus and it was good to see so many retirees were able to attend. Those that came had a great time.

I would like to congratulate Archie Smith from Shepherd Station on his recent retirement. I wish him the best on his retirement. Please attend our August Branch meeting which will be our first in person meeting since October. We

Continued on page 4

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT



Mark Beach

As more and more Americans are vaccinated and the world gets back to normal, offices in the Columbus Installation are still left with peak COVID staffing issues. In the city of Columbus, the Postmaster has now put the hiring on the shoulders of the station managers. This plan has seemed to fail miserably as none of the managers have either requested CCAs or don't know how to do so correctly. To our count, we are at least 60 CCAs short of the cap and that margin seems to grow with each retirement. Instead of the USPS addressing why people don't want to work for the Post office in the Columbus Installation they instead have turned hiring over to the office managers. Branch 78 has elevated this issue to the MBA's office with seemingly little results. During the state convention I personally pulled NALC Executive Vice President, Brian Renfroe aside and pleaded the case for Columbus and it's surrounding associate offices on the issue of staffing. We will see what happens.

The Postal Service announced that OPM would like all employees that have family or self plus one health insurance to go to Lite Blue and check to make sure all dependent information is correct. Some members have seen that their covered family members are not listed correctly. Employees that have individual insurance do not have to check to ensure this is correct as it only pertains to family and self plus one health insurance.

In the Columbus Installation the union has won the grievance filed on management unilaterally changing the call-in procedure. The policy was struck down by the Dispute Resolution Team as not being consistent with the ELM and that craft employees will go back to using the IVR. It is sad that management will not take responsibility and recognize that the short staffing is leading to many call-ins because carriers are literally being worked to the point of exhaustion. The branch is back to processing the 12 and 60 grievances in Columbus and the violations are overwhelming.

The state convention was eye opening to say the least. Members of both the Republican and Democratic parties stopped in to share their visions. Even long-time allies like Mary Kaptur seemed out of touch with what the NALC leadership plan and vision for the Postal Service is moving forward. We encourage all members to write your congressman and ask them to sign on to the following bills that the NALC supports:

House of Representative Bills

HR-842 - PRO ACT- Supports union organizing rights

HR-3076 - Postal Reform Bill (Senate Bill 1720)

HR-695 - USPS Fairness Act (end prefunding mandate) (Senate Bill 145)

HR-82 - Social Security Fairness Act- provides full social security benefits for federal employees

HR-47 - Anti Privatization Bill

HR 114 - Six-day Delivery

HR-119 - Service Standards

HR-2478 - Allows letter carriers to buy back years as CCA towards retirement

If you are unfamiliar with these bills, please go to the NALC website (NALC.org) under the Government Affairs tab, scroll down to Priority Bills and Congressional Resolutions, and click on the tab to learn more. Then write your Congressional Representatives in both the House and Senate and ask them to support these bills.

Finally, I want to thank the membership for hanging in there as management continues to fail at staffing the stations. Staffing and site management is the sole discretion of management in accordance with article three of the National Agreement. After the recent move of the Upper Arlington station, to the downtown location, it is clear that management could care less about its employees' concerns. Whatever engineer designed the layout of that station should spend a day or two as carrier in that office to see if he thinks his design works. Worse yet, the district manager, visited the offices and didn't even ask a single carrier how they felt about how the office set up. So much for the district managers big push on employee engagement. Maybe it was because every time a craft employee or union official tried to approach her, she was ushered away by the Columbus Postmaster. The union sent her an email questioning the situation and we have yet to get a response. Hopefully, fall will bring some much-needed relief from the heat and a few new CCAs to the Columbus installation and surrounding offices.

***United we stand;
divided we will fall.***

Mark Beach, VP Br 78

WRITE YOUR CONGRESSMAN

Doug Gulley has sent the following suggestions to contact your local legislators.

Request In Person Appointment

Dear Congressman _____

I hope this message finds you and yours well and in good health. The last year and a half has been a trying time in many ways. During the August Recess I would like to meet with you to discuss some issues and a take photo for our monthly publication. Please contact me at one of the methods listed below. I look forward to our meeting.

Sincerely, _____

Always include your full name, address, phone and email. Talking Points for Calls or Letters.

We urge you to support all USPS issues and vote YES on HR 3076. The Postal Service Reform Act of 2021 H.R. 3076 advanced out of committee on a voice vote with no amendments. This bipartisan bill aims to provide financial and operational stability to the Postal Service. It was introduced on May 11, 2021 by the House Committees on Oversight and Reform, Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney (D- NY) and Ranking Member James Comer (R-KY). Currently this bill has 54 Cosponsors - 32 Democrats and 22 Republicans.

Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs (HSGAC), Chairman Gary Peters (D-MI) and Ranking Member Rob Portman (R-OH) introduced a bill, it has 12 Republicans, 10 Democratic and one independent co-sponsors. This companion bill mirrors H.R. 3076.

The legislation in this bill addresses two of National Association

of Letter Carriers biggest priorities. To repeal the pre-funding mandate that the Postal Service pre-fund health benefits for future retirees. Secondly, it addresses an important reform of the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program (FEHBP) to maximize participation in Medicare. Persons over 65, who had chosen not to enroll in Medicare Part B will have a one time opportunity to enroll without late-enrollment penalty. NALC also successfully lobbied to ensure exceptions to the requirement to enroll in Medicare for those covered under other insurance arrangements (such as the VA) and those who live in areas without Medicare participating providers.

The House Committee on Ways and Means and the House Committee on Energy and Commerce have jurisdiction over the Medicare program, therefore the bill will be referred to them for possible amendments before it can be debated by the entire House of Representatives.

H.R. 3076 also includes language that requires the Postal Service to maintain six day delivery. This bill would eliminate the need for the annual fight to maintain this mandate. It would require the Postal Service to provide semi- annual reports to Congress on the implementation of its 10-year strategic plan; provides for a public dashboard using nationwide delivery metrics to track delivery performance; directs the Postal Service to use the most efficient means to transport mail, likely moving from air to ground; mandates a Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) review of competitive and non-competitive products and a study of nationwide processing efficiency of flats (magazines and catalogs); provides the PRC

with independent budget authority through the Postal Fund, preventing it from being directly impacted by sequestration/shutdowns; provides a special postage discount for newspapers; and consolidates USPS and PRC Inspectors General into a single office.

This milestone legislation will make foundational reforms and add transparency to ensure the Postal Service provides the high quality of service Americans expect and deserve. Ultimately, this bill will preserve and strengthen the Postal Service, one of our nation's most vital and respected institutions.

The American people rely on the U.S. Postal Service for everything from bills, receiving prescriptions

Continued on page 5

Buckeye Br. 78 Bulletin

Published and Paid for
by Br.78

Published monthly

Volume 41 - Issue 8
August 2021

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.

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

Send address changes to:

Br. 78 Bulletin
1029 Harrisburg Pike
Columbus OH 43223-2524
614-279-2778
www.nalc-branch78.org

Printed by

Lanz Printing Co.
Columbus Ohio





Congratulations on receiving your *Retirement Watches*



President

Continued from page 1

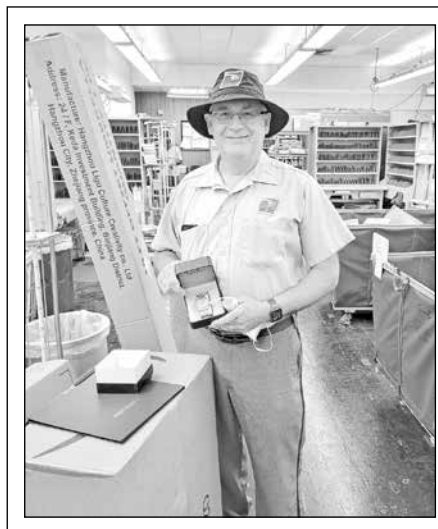
will also be utilizing ZOOM. Information regarding the meeting can be found on our Branch 78 website www.nalc-branch78.org. The fact that we are so short staffed in several offices makes it difficult for the membership to make it to the union hall in time for the meeting. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Fraternally
Todd Hornyak

**PLEASE ATTEND
YOUR UNION MEETINGS.
TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE
A DIFFERENCE!!!**



**Archie Smith from Shepherd station
receives his retirement watch**



**Tim Tackett retires from South Colum-
bus receives retirement watch.**

Retiree Get Together



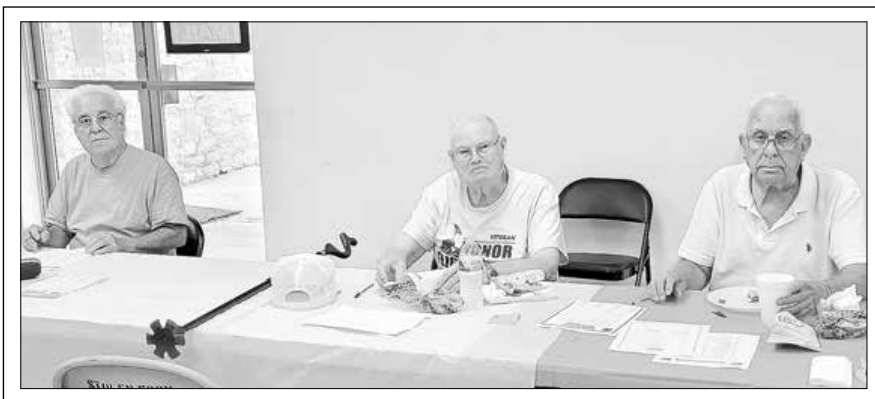
**Director of Retirees,
Valerie Davis**



Grill Master, Archie Smith and RGA, Mike Brim



Ronald McDonald and John O'Neil



Ron Santavicca, Eugene Smith, Evan Behrendt



Tom Barnhart, Dee Pence and Pete Watkins

Write Your Congressman

Continued from page 3

and staying in touch with their families.

The Postal Service Reform Act, coupled with Postmaster General DeJoy's business reform plan, will help put USPS on the road to fiscal stability, make it more efficient and sustainable for generations and ensure continued service to the American people.

On behalf of more than 13,000 Ohio Letter Carriers and their families we thank you for your continued support of USPS issues. Thanking you in advance for your support on issues important to all Americans.

Doug Gulley

THANK YOUR UNION

- Health Care
- Dental
- Vision
- Civil Rights
- Worker's Comp
- Representation
- Raises
- Breaks
- Social Security
- Holiday Pay
- Military Leave
- Pensions
- Minimum Wage
- Equal Pay Act
- Weekends
- Paid Vacation
- FMLA
- Paid Sick Leave
- Child Labor Laws
- Collective Bargaining
- Wrongful Termination Laws
- Age Discrimination Laws
- Sexual Harassment Laws
- 8 Hour Work Day
- Overtime Pay
- Health and Safety OSHA
- American Disabilities Act

Now come to
a meeting and
get
involved in
YOUR Union

OSA Convention Delegates Applauds Mr. T. A. Williams



Mr. A. T. Williams, a long time carrier for Branch 40 , Cleveland Ohio. 84 years old and still carrying after 60 plus years. Delegates gave him a letter carrier cheer!

Annual Retiree Dinner

Attention All Members You're Invited

When: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2021
Where: VILLA MILANO BANQUET CENTER
1630 SCHROCK RD
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43229

**COME HONOR OUR NEWEST GOLD
CARD RECIPIENTS
HAVE A GREAT MEAL**

Time: Social Hour 6:00-7:00 PM

Dinner: 7:00 PM

Tickets: Retirees and Guest \$7 each
Active and Guest \$10 each

SPECIAL GUEST

NALC National Officer

For Reservations Contact
Branch 78

614-279-2778

or contact your shop steward

JULY 2021 BRANCH MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order, deviated from regular order for Dave Kennedy, Region 11 RAA. Fred Rolando met with De-joy on staffing. OPM approved Juneteenth Holiday but too late to implement for USPS this year. CCAs converted to PTF pay issues will not require a grievance at this time USPS programming errors. Back pay delayed due to USPS audit; maybe August? Fourth COLA, 07/13/21 for \$1726; expect in two PP; more info on NALC website. If there are changes to HBP dependents, complete verification on Postalease. OSA Convention next week, training starts Friday. John Collins, RAA, in Columbus working on Pre Arbs. Mike Brim hopes to see everyone soon. Return to regular order of business. Yana Miller-Farney read May Minutes; no corrections accepted as read. Mark Beach read Bills List. Yana read June Minutes, accepted as read. Mark Beach read May and June applications for membership. Education: Beach, one new steward down for training. OWCP training requested; contacting Doug Lawrence, RCS, to set up a ZOOM meeting. Val Davis confirmed Retiree Dinner 10/16/21 at Villa Milano; excited to have Meet & Greet, 8-10 retirees RSVP, will be in Union Hall due to heat and weather. Food and games. Ramon Lawson, nothing to report. Letter regarding Health Assessments being sent by HBP. Gary Porter reported failure to properly wear seatbelts in Promaster vans, fastening behind themselves, no protection in an accident. Please remind in Plan 5 to wear properly. He has been doing street observations. OWCP information is on Branch 78 website. Submit 3971 for all absences. Be mindful of heat related illnesses and report them. It is your responsibility to stay properly hydrated, don't wait for management to provide water. Mark Beach read Treasurer's Report.

NEW BUSINESS

Mark Beach made a motion, seconded by Don Shepherd, to spend \$900 for database upgrades to add buttons for email, membership pins, seniority rosters, etc. **Motion Passed**

Ramon Lawson made a motion to spend \$328 monthly to upgrade copier to IM Ricoh 7000 copier. This will include Cloud Workflow OCR reader to search, payoff of current copier. Our contract was based on 5,000 copies per month, averaging 35,000; have made 1.6 million copies since 2017. **Motion Passed**

Reviewed legislation HR 3076 and S 1720, Postal Service Reform Act of 2021; repeal prefunding mandate, include 6 day delivery language that does not have to be renewed annually, Medicare integration for FEHBP. Project a savings for USPS of \$30 billion over a ten year period, more employees covered by Medicare will cost less. Requesting no penalty for joining after 65, 10% per year; covered by VA don't have to join or if no Medicare providers in your area. If approved would start 01/2023, Carriers premiums would be reduced an average of 6%. Task Force on Staffing due to nationwide problems; Chicago, Detroit, Philadelphia and Atlanta can't get applicants; Region 11 cities understaffed. EF-EL from American Rescue Plan has paid under \$1 million of \$570 million authorized, continues through September so should not run out of funds as previously thought, file your request. HR 4268 Federal Retirement Fairness Act introduced 06/30/21 would allow TE and CCA to buy back time for retirement credit similar to military buy back.

Mask Policy - discussions with HQ mandates wearing masks in Federal buildings.

Arbitration Decision from arbitrator Braverman for Gahanna today, authorizes Administrative Leave at time and a half, forced OT, 70 cases; management must retrain ALL managers and supervisors regarding scheduling overtime in accordance with Article 8 within 30 days. Management scheduling training for stewards August 3, 4 and 5. Last month John Collins, Pre arbitration settlements for Admin leave 100% through November 30 for South Columbus, Whitehall and German Village. All managers, NBA, Step B must attend Article 8 training from 2018 Intervention. We are waiting a decision on Admin Leave for Livingston Station from Arbitrator Barrett. Meet this week on Impasses from local negotiations that ended May 28 for Columbus, Reynoldsburg and Canal Winchester. John Collins is meeting with Area labor Relations on pre arbs. Consolidated Casing Arbitration #3 Gahanna Bid Assignments scheduled for 08/13/21. Carriers frustrated with continued forced OT, 70 CCAs under cap in Columbus. Under staffed in Hilliard, Pickerington and other AOs. Still experiencing difficulty on EF-EL approvals, in spite of the amount left in the fund.

Grievances for Columbus are back logged, approximately twenty cases need to meet for Formal A. Branch Class Action on Call In Policy; decision last week to rescind policy. Branch Class Action on Audit Policy will be appealed this week. Discussed Ohio State Convention 07/22-24 in Cleveland; Following Committees meet Thursday: Audit - M. Miller, Mileage & Per Diem - R. Lawson, Credentials - J. Hirschfeld. Friday at 0830: Election - B. Stidams, Constitution - J. Fry, Retiree - D. Gulley, Rules - S. Bryant, Resolutions - J. Mitchell. Training Friday 0900 - 10:15 - OWCP, CCA to PTF Conversion, Retirement, Legislation; 1030 - Noon: TSP, New Contract and MOUs. Friday General Session 1 - 5 PM. Saturday General Session 9 AM - 4 PM. Banquet Saturday evening. Rooms reserved Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, need to know who is attending and what night checking out if before Saturday. Full Delegate meeting directly after Branch Meeting concludes.

Clipper tickets from over a year ago will be used at 09/04/21, 7 PM game; first come basis \$5 each, immediate family only, limited.

Reviewed computer system upgrade progress. Ramon Lawson attended Branch Officer Cybersecurity Training.

Val invited folks to stop down for Retiree event. Attend August Meeting in person or on ZOOM. Delegate Meeting in three minutes.

Adjourned at 7:48 PM.

Submitted by Yana Miller-Farney



Ramon Lawson CCA conversion class.

Br 78 Delegates at OSA Convention

Friday morning session!



Mark Beach, Myron Miller at OSA Convention.



Nina Turner, running for Congress in District 11, with Stevie Bryant at OSA Convention.



Doug Gulley, Don Sheperd, Ramon Lawson, Mike Brim



Don Sheperd, Jason Fry, Mike Brim, Brenda Stidman

Buckeye Branch 78
 1029 Harrisburg Pike
 Columbus, Ohio 43223-2524
 National Association of
 Letter Carriers
 AFL-CIO



Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 Paid
 Columbus, Ohio
 Permit #1291

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

STATIONS	STEWARDS	BUSINESS-HOME
BW Beechwood	Doug Lawver/Alts. Scott Lloyd/Karlon Wilson	614-447-0146
BEX Bexley	Roderick Robinson	614-237-2830
Canal Winchester	Mark Beach	614-837-7953
CIR Circleville	Bryce Dilts	740-474-3113
DEL Delaware	Mark Beach	740-363-1906
DUB Dublin	Debbie Guthrie/Kent Reeves	614-889-6571
Eastland	Jeff Stiverson	614-237-1912
East City	Charles Sanders/Alt. Dillen Miller	614-469-4466
F German Village	Dean Peruzzi	614-449-9565
G South Columbus	Rob Arnold/ Alt. Dean Peruzi	614-444-0217
GAH Gahanna	Kirk Hilty/Brenda Stidams/Dante Mix	614-472-0696
GP Groveport	Mark Beach	614-836-5452
GC Grove City	Mike Zeller/Alt. Tricia Douglas	614-875-6327
HILL Hilliard	Mark Beach	614-876-7021
LIV Livingston	Ramon Lawson/Alt. Kisha Moman	614-237-9570
LON London	Mark Beach	740-852-1881
MV Marysville	Dave Eblin/Alt. Adam Tullis	937-642-1961
MT Gilead	Joe Kegley	419-946-5846
NL Northland	Sammy Tonyemba/Alt. Larez Harper	614-890-1180
NW Northwest	Myron Miller Jr.	614-451-1502
OP Oakland Park	Dan Dillinger/Alt. Jeremy Starkey/Ericka Anderson	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/Alts. Joshua Anthony/Jacquelyn Mitchell	614-451-2302
West City	Allan Moore Sr./Heather Christy/Alt. Richard Hannon	614-469-4465
WV Westerville	Mark Beach/ Alt. Dee Dee Miller	614-882-2243
Westland	Samuel "Cory" Bailey/Eric Scarberry/Alt. Kelsie Crosbie	614-351-0138
WJ West Jefferson	Mark Beach	614-879-9145
WW West Worthington	Jeremy Hirschfeld/Cornelius Scott/Alts. Jason Fry/Charles Schneider/ Jeff Freeman	614-793-9789
WH Whitehall	Gary Porter/Rob Gravely Alt.	614-237-1722

LOOK
 FOR THE
UNION
LABEL



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

**ARTICLES RECEIVED AFTER THE
 FIRST WEDNESDAY OF ANY MONTH WILL
 BE PUBLISHED IN
 THE FOLLOWING MONTHS BULLETIN**

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:

279-BR78 • 279-2778
www.nalc-branch78.org