

# BUCKEYE BRANCH 78

## BULLETIN

### Columbus and Central Ohio



CANAL WINCHESTER  
HILLIARD  
REYNOLDSBURG

CIRCLEVILLE  
LONDON  
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GROVE CITY  
MT. STERLING  
WEST JEFFERSON

GROVEPORT  
PICKERINGTON

**NOVEMBER 2021**



**VOL. 41 NO. 11**

## PRESIDENT'S PAGE



**Todd Hornyak**

I would like to start this article by thanking all our veterans for their service to this country. Veterans Day is a holiday honoring the men and women who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. On Veterans Day we are especially thankful for all the sacrifices that veterans and their families make to keep America safe. Thank you for your service. This year the Veterans Day Holiday will be observed on Thursday, November 11, 2021.

Every year there is an open season to allow members to change coverage under the Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan. This year open season begins November 8 and ends on December 13. There is a self plus one option this year. Again, this year for the NALC Plan the self plus one plan costs more than the self and family plan. Please look at the NALC Health Benefit Plan. I am asking that all carriers review the rates carefully. Select the option that works best for you and your family. The penalty overtime exclusion period for 2021 is from December 4, 2021, through December 31, 2021.

I would like to thank Director of Retirees Valeria Davis for her hard work on the annual Retirees Dinner that was held Saturday, October 16, 2021 at Villa Milano Restaurant. I would also like to thank Region 11 National Business Agent Mark Camilli who attended the dinner. This was Valeria's first retirement dinner, and I am pleased to report that I have received very positive feedback from all the retirees that attended the dinner. Once again, it was a good time and great meal as we honored our newest Gold Card Members that have attained 50 years membership in NALC.

I have recently returned from the Committee of Presidents meeting in St. Petersburg Florida. NALC National President Fred Rolando was joined by several members of the executive council including, Executive Vice President Brian Renfro, Secretary Treasurer Nicol Rhine, Director of Retired Members Dan Toth, Director of Life Insurance Jim Yates, Director of Health Benefits Stephanie Stewart. This was the first in person meeting since October 2019 due to COVID 19. The national officers provided updates on all the issues facing NALC. The number one issue discussed was the number of

hours letter carriers were working. The other major issue was the hiring of letter carriers. This is a problem nationwide. The national is in negotiations with USPS headquarters for solutions. I will update the membership on the issues discussed at the November Branch membership meeting.

I would like to congratulate Dave Powers from Reynoldsburg Post Office and Orlando Diaz from South Columbus station on their recent retirement. I wish them the best on their retirement. Please attend our October Branch meeting in person or watch using Zoom. Information regarding the meeting can be found on our Branch 78 website [www.nalc-branch78.org](http://www.nalc-branch78.org). I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

*Fraternally*  
**Todd Hornyak**

### FEHBP OPEN SEASON

**November 8 - December 13/2021**

Sign up early to avoid last minute glitches. There are NO extensions. Make sure you find the plan that fits your needs. Some plus 1 cost more than family. Check out NALC Plan it's owned and administered by us.

## FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT



**Mark Beach**

I believe we are headed into the worst holiday season anyone in the USPS has every seen. A combination of the COVID pandemic still lingering, customers preferring to shop via e-commerce, along with the USPS being short staffed; may lead to the Postal Service not being able to meet its delivery demands in many areas.

The union has tried to negotiate higher wages with the USPS to secure more city carrier assistants. We are closer to meeting some of our other goals. Many similar industries are facing the same staffing crises and have raised hourly starting wages in the mid \$20 range. The USPS has serious decisions to make for its future if it wants to maintain staffing levels to reach delivery goals. Branch 78 has informed the Business Agent that Columbus and some surrounding offices are at a critical crossroads; carriers are starting to crumble under all the hours we are working. I'm going to encourage all letter carriers to put their best foot forward, come to work and deliver for our customers this holiday season.

All is not lost however, and there does seem to be some hope in the near future. NALC leadership has expressed hope that an agreement may be reached soon to raise wages or bring back the PTF craft position as the starting point for all new city letter carriers. Hopefully, the USPS sees that the dam, is close to the breaking point in some areas, if relief does not come soon.

The branch has been filing the 12 & 60 grievances for the Co-

lumbus Installation and management has finally started making the agreed to payouts. The Branch is monitoring to ensure these payouts are being made. Pickerington and Hilliard are still experiencing staffing issues in their offices. Even with the ODL lists, very few people on the ODL violations list are not getting large payouts.

OWCP issues continue to plague NALC Branch 78 membership. One of the issues many members are facing is management withdrawing long term job offers. This is happening because the member either has failed to keep the claim open or has let their restrictions lapse. Once this occurs management is using intimidation on injured employees to break their restrictions which could result in more serious injuries. The key to workers compensation claims is for the employee to take charge of their claim with the help of the union. Many forms have time limits on submission. Failure to do so could be a violation on the HRM part or on the employee's part. That could cost or result in slow payment of claims and benefits. It is very important to get the advice from the union when injured. HRM is looking out for the rights and financial interest of the USPS. Remember you are not in this alone, get your union advocate involved ASAP. Remember, if you suffer from an on the job injury, request in writing the CA-16. This keeps the initial claim open for 30 days and ensures all bills are paid. This form, if issued, saves many carriers a lot of hassle and headache when bills start to come in.

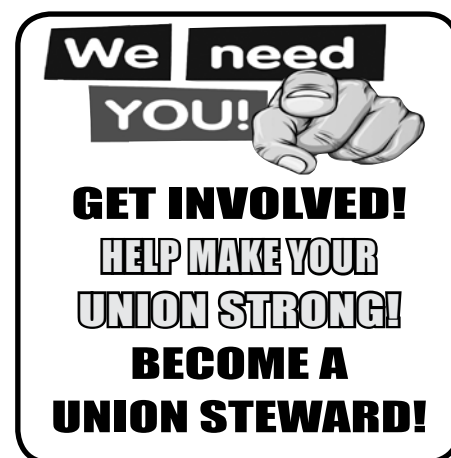
We held our first event since the COVID-19 pandemic became

a part of our reality and everyday lives. Saturday, October 16, 2021 the Branch held its Annual Retirees dinner at the Villa Milano. Over 100 NALC Branch 78 members attended the dinner to honor milestones. New Director of Retirees, Val Davis, did an excellent job emceeding the event. It's no wonder that prior Director of Retirees, Doug Gulley, nominated Val after seeing her charisma and charm on full display at the dinner. A great time was had by all.

Postal reform is close to becoming a reality. For the first time in 20 years we have a real chance to pass meaningful Postal legislation. Current bills address the pre-funding issue that have caused most of the financial issues while ensuring the USPS future. When the call comes, even though you will be tired from the holiday season, take the time to call or write your Congressman to support this very important legislation.

One last note I would like to recognize and thank all the Veteran letter carriers amongst our ranks on the eve of this Veterans day. Thank you for your service to your country and this great nation.

*Mark Beach, VP Br 78*



# MILLERS MUSINGS



**Yana Miller-Farney**

Thank you to all of you who served in all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces and your families.

It does not matter how short your stint, if you were in armed conflicts, pushing papers, mopping; bottom line you served. I appreciate the sacrifices your families made to have you away for extended periods. The special moments missed during those times cannot be given back to you. The isolation, nightmares, loss of friends and survivor's guilt some experience I couldn't begin to imagine the suffering.

It troubles me the lack of support from government agencies to those who are unable to cope with the demons left behind. The untold numbers of veterans in jails, homeless and dealing with substance addictions, many denied benefits when the root

of their problem was serving their country. Then there are the thousands cheated from benefits because of their sexuality, this is criminal to me. Instead of the petty bickering over unsubstantiated voter fraud I would like to see all levels of government address the injustices levied on our veterans. **THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY, YOU ARE APPRECIATED!**

The Retiree Dinner was the smallest gathering I have attended in thirty years. Val Davis did an outstanding job putting on the event. It is always wonderful to see members and their families, following the COVID shut down it was particularly sweet. The hard part is seeing us with more wrinkles and relentless effects of aging plus the members we have lost since 2019. The conditions in the stations are ridiculous, keeping carriers on the street past 10 PM in some stations. Their lack of presence pushed our ranks

way down. It has always been an opportunity to see people from former stations, compare notes on who's still there. COVID has changed our lives forever and not for the better. Being a hugger, it puts a damper on my urge to wrap arms around peeps I haven't seen in forever. Sending you all air hugs but it just isn't the same. Thanks to our guest NBA, Mark Camilli, sharing the evening and celebrating our member milestones from 35 to 70 year honorees.

*Wishing you all a happy family gathering to give thanks for all our joys and successes.*

**Much love,  
Yana Miller-Farney**

## Conversion Class



### Buckeye Br. 78 Bulletin

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**November 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**  
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Columbus OH 43223-2524  
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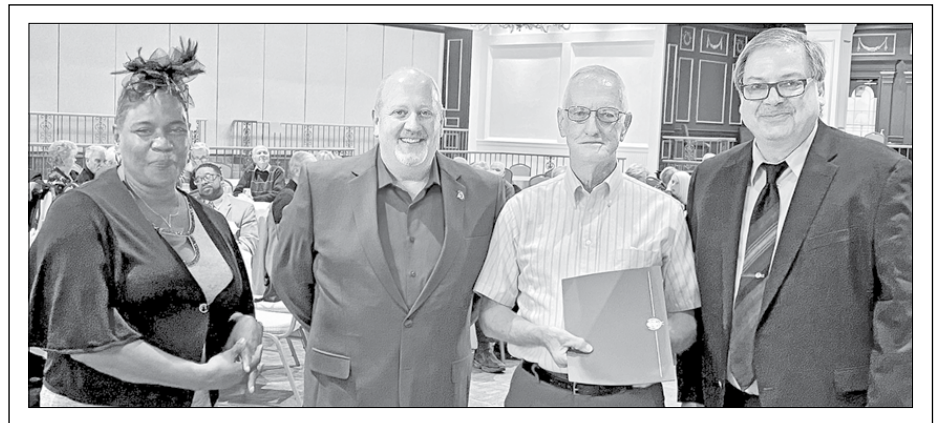




**Valeria Davis, Mark Camilli, Rico Caruso, Todd Hornyak.**



**Valeria Davis, Mark Camilli, Larry Meade, Todd Hornyak.**



**Valeria Davis, Mark Camilli, John Moler, Todd Hornyak.**



**Valeria Davis, Mark Camilli, Dennis Shore, Todd Hornyak.**

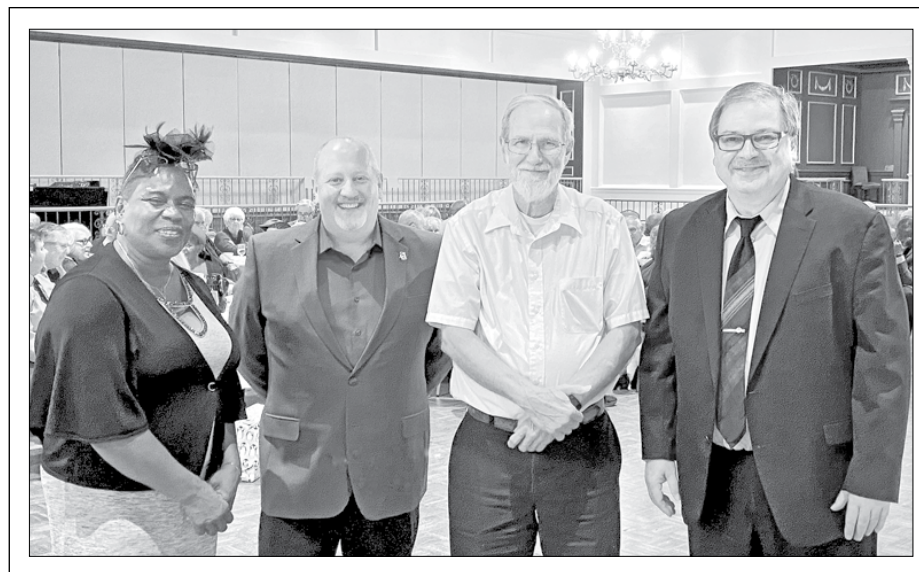




**Robert “Bob” Wilson receives his 70 year Pin.**

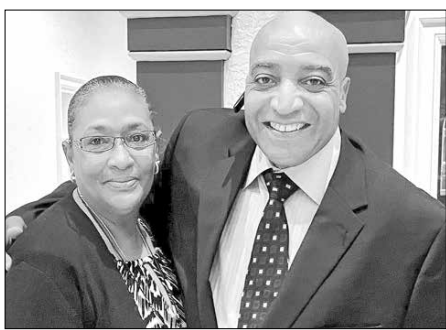
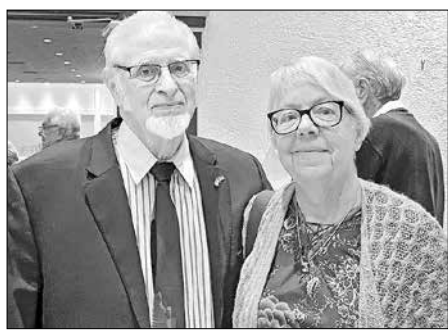


**Evan Behrendt receives his 60 year pin..**



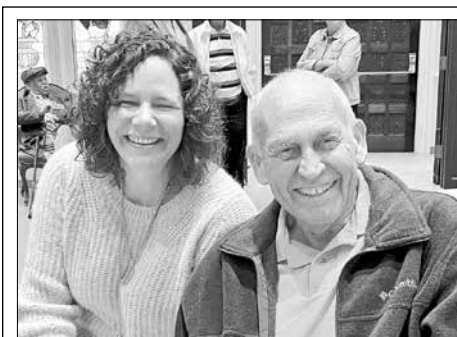
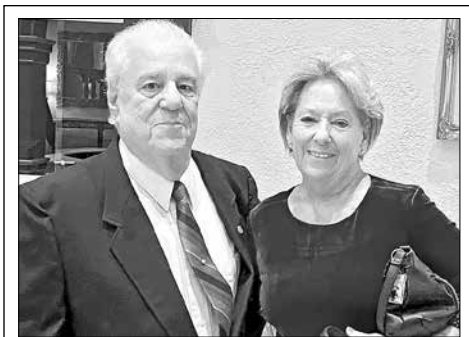
**John English receives his 55 Year Membership.**

# Annual Reti





# Tree Dinner



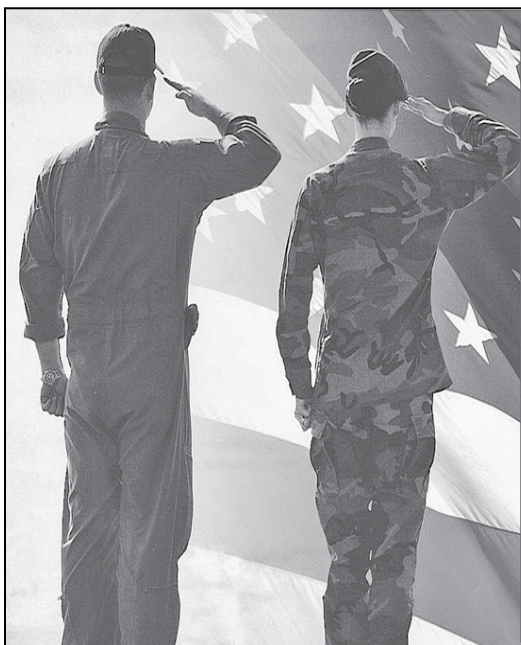


**Broderick Cook receives his 35 year**



**Tom Wallace receives his 35 year pin.**

Congratulations  
to all Gold  
Card Honorees  
and Members  
who received  
their Pins.



## ***Veterans Day*** **November 11**

Veterans Day is a holiday honoring men and women who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. On Veterans Day we are especially thankful for all the sacrifices that veterans and their families make to keep America safe.

***Thank You!***

# **EAP**

**When you need it!**

**Counseling,**

**Consultation, Coaching**

**Make the Call!**

**USPS Employee  
Assistance Program**

1-800-327-4968

(1-800-EAP-4-YOU)

TTY: 1-877-492-7341

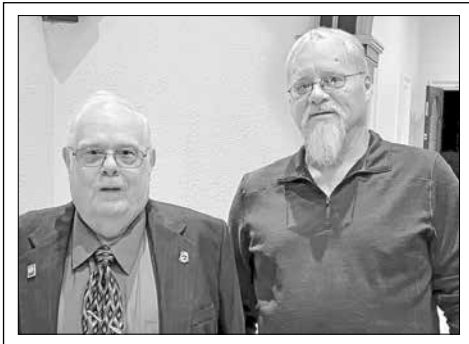
[www.EAP4YOU.com](http://www.EAP4YOU.com)





# Annual Retiree Dinner

Photos continued from page 5 and 6



*A big thank to Valeria Davis on working so hard to make this Annual Retirees Dinner a great success.*

## JOE CARRELL AN OAKLAND PARK CARRIER PUBLISHES HIS FIRST NOVEL

I've been working on this story for several years now. Last year with all that was going on I decided I needed a goal to focus on. So I began writing everyday. Little by little the words added up until I reached the end around Christmas of last year. Through this year I've been working with editors and artist to make this book a reality. On October 22nd my first novel was released. You will be able to buy "More Than A Vampire" on the Amazon book store. It's a fantasy story that takes place in the 17th century. Sometimes we

all need to escape reality for a little while. Hope this book can

do that for people.



# OCTOBER 2021 BRANCH MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order by President Hornyak at 6:35; Pledge led Jason Fry; Invocation by Val Davis. Minutes read by Yana Miller-Farney, one update OSA Convention to be in Columbus Aug 3-6, 2023. Trevor read communications from Mark Dawling, thank you card from Todd Hornyak and family; Bills List and 26 applications for membership. Welcome those who haven't quit. Deviated from the regular order of business. Allison Russo, running for the seat in 15th Congressional District vacated by Steve Stivers. Introduced herself and her platform. She is from a union family, 2018 elected to State General Assembly; Her background is Public Health. Reminder early voting began 10/11/21. Resumed regular order of business.

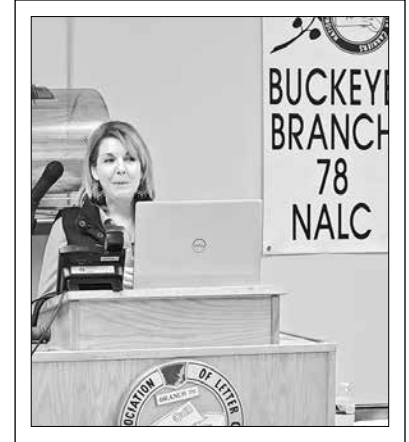
Mark Beach - Edu. Stewards studied 8.5F of the National Agreement, Vacation List

Val Davis retiree Dinner this Saturday 10/16/ starting at 6 PM at Villa Milano

Ramon Lawson Health Benefits Open Season 11/08 - 12/21

Safety & Health Carriers have been out till 10 and 11 PM; carrier experienced a possible stress fracture; armed robberies, suggest you throw your scanner in your satchel and give it to them. Twelve new CCAs, eight showed up; already a resignation from OP after a conflict with a manager.

Jason Fry read the Treasurer's Report



**Allison Russo**

## NEW BUSINESS

Deviated from regular order for RGA Mike Brim (Mark Camilli in Exec Counsel) discussed rumored start times; COVID memo extended through 12/31/21; CCA COVID memo; NY State meeting Fred discussed possible Mentorship test for CCAs being paired with a Senior carrier in Cincinnati. Award on Consolidated Casing by Arbitrator August, USPS disagreed. Mentioned three shootings in Memphis, no details. Postal legislation should be completed by the end of the year HR 3076. Regular order of business resumed.

New MCSO for Columbus, J Staten returned to Newark, Ryan Fitzgibbons here from Cincinnati. Labor-Mgmt Meeting with Josh Collins, Shayne Hensley, Brad Grubb and Ed Thorne 10/4/21. Management now working list carriers 12 hours. Major issues are non-compliance, failing to enter correct hours in GATS, crossing crafts, work limits, 8.5.F violations; staffing still top problem.

Mark Beach made a motion seconded by Gary Porter to spend \$750 to purchase fifty JCAMS. Motion amended to wait for language corrections before purchasing as suggested by Mike Brim. Dayton, Cincinnati and Columbus going in on the purchase to lower cost. Motion Passed. Region 11 Branch Telecom 09/30/21 held by Brian Renfroe. 80 hours COVID Leave reinstated for CCAs. You only can use this once. Biden Administration - Mandate federal employees to get vaccinated; require weekly negative tests for Employers with more than 100 employees if not vaccinated - NALC in talks with USPS to use Admin time for vaccinations.

HQ discussing issue of staffing, getting applicants and retention of those hired; discussed hiring as PTF career employees; Increase starting pay, at Step C, keep there till time to move up. Once drafts changes made to HR 3076, requests will be sent to members to contact legislators; Beatty, Balderson and Brown all co-sponsors. Infrastructure Bill to include money to manufacture electric vehicles up to \$7 billion.

Formal Route Inspections were cancelled for GV and Bexley due to staffing.

CCA conversions to Full time regular; 2 in Columbus backdated to 8/28, 3 on 9/25, grieving 1 for Dublin, 1 in Grove City another in the works.

Branch continues to file Branch Class Action Grievances on 12 and 60 work hour limits; CCAs working over 11.5 hour max in ELM 432; no end in sight. Forced OT in Columbus had stewards work on filing 8.5.F.



Open Season 11/08/21 till 12/13/21, don't wait to change, new premiums announced

Ohio Business Systems installed the new copier September 29.

Scholarship winners from 6 applications: Tyler Robinson, son of Rod Robinson of Bexley and Taylor Nagel, daughter of Westerville carrier David Nagel. Congratulations!

Retiree Dinner October 16 at Villa Milano, 26 Gold Card Honorees, Guest Mark Camilli. New Acting Gahanna Mgr blackmailing carriers for not making office time so not changing start time. Requested Admin time being automatically denied, Scott and Melanie passing the buck. It was reported a CCA was shadowing ED Thorne.

Reminder to report address changes to the Branch

Good of the Association

Matthew J. Hacker, would have won \$80 had he been present. November Meeting held in person and over ZOOM. Adjourned at 7:50

*Submitted by Yana Miller-Farney*

## THANK YOUR UNION

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

**Now come to  
a meeting and  
get involved in  
YOUR Union!**

### Attention Members

**Change of Address -**  
Please notify Branch 78  
any time you move. It cost  
your dues money to send  
to bad addresses.

**COME TO THE  
RETIRES MEETING  
FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH**



**Mark Downing retires from Grove City post office with 34 years.**



**30 year Delaware city carrier Branko Petrovich with wife Theresa retired on 9/30/2021.**

**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  
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 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 BROWN	dguhtrie76@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 Brown/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  
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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  
**RETIRES MEETING-1:00 P.M.**

First Tuesday of each month

**BRANCH OFFICE PHONES:**

279-BR78 • 279-2778  
[www.nalc-branch78.org](http://www.nalc-branch78.org)