

BUCKEYE BRANCH 78

BULLETIN

Columbus and Central Ohio



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JANUARY 2022



VOL. 42 NO. 1

PRESIDENT'S PAGE



Todd Hornyak

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. This Christmas season was once again the busiest parcel delivery season ever for the Postal Service.

Because of the understaffing in several associate offices and the installation of Columbus the number of hours the letter carriers worked this peak season were worse. I want to thank all the letter carriers for persevering, getting the mail and parcels out to the public, in spite of COVID during this holiday season. They overcame the challenges delivering for America. I consider all letter carriers heroes for taking care of our customers during these trying times.

I want to thank all the carriers and stations that contributed to One New Toy this year. I also want to thank Safety and Health Officer Gary Porter and Retiree Mary Robinson for all their hard work making one new toy a success this year. The Branch 78 One New Toy donated to Franklin County Children Services and the Veterans Administration this year. Because of COVID 19 we did not donate toys, only gift cards.

By joint agreement at Headquarters several COVID-19 related memorandums of understanding have been extended through Feb. 11, 2022. These memoranda include: temporary expanded sick leave for dependent care (M-01910); temporary use of the 7:01 rule (M-01913); temporary workplace changes to promote social distancing (M-01915); temporary use of TCAs (M-01916); and reinstatement of temporary additional paid leave for CCAs (M-01965). NALC and the Postal Service also agreed to another temporary time limit extension on Step B and arbitration appeals (M-01970), and an agreement giving local parties the ability to mutually develop a sign-up process for full-time employees who previously did not, or could not, place their names on either the overtime desired list or work assignment list (M-01971).

Also extended through Feb. 11, 2022, is a USPS memorandum (M-01914) which instructs managers and supervisors to allow liberal changes of schedule to accommodate employees who are dealing with childcare issues related to the pandemic. The memorandum also provides for liberal sick leave usage for employees who are sick and liberal annual and leave without pay

(LWOP) to the extent operationally feasible, treats COVID-19 related leave as scheduled (as opposed to unscheduled) leave, and directs that leave taken for COVID-19 related reasons during this time may not be cited in discipline for failing to maintain an assigned schedule.

Branch 78 will be hosting a New Steward Training put on by Region 11 National Business Agent Mark Camilli's office January 25-27. We will have several new stewards attend the training. The Ohio State Association will be meeting with our congressional representatives April 27 and April 28 in Washington DC. Any member that is interested in attending the legislative conference please contact me at the union hall.

I would like to congratulate Angie Hughes from Bexley Station, Ken Black from Westland Station, Brodis Grigsby from Upper Arlington Station and Spencer Lymon from Centralized Collections on their recent retirement. I wish them the best on their retirement. I am very hopeful that with 2022 things improve for letter carriers and the Postal Service. I hope 2022 is a great year for all of us.

Fraternally
Todd Hornyak

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT



Mark Beach

Hopefully, the members of Branch 78 were able to spend a little time with their families during the holidays; despite management's poor staffing planning in most of the offices represented by Branch 78. Instead of being realistic, management in the Columbus Installation doubled down and forced carriers, management and anybody they could, to deliver mail up to 16 hours a day. Local officers, the Business Agent and even National parties have continually emphasized, these hours and expectations are unacceptable and unsustainable. It is becoming a safety issue, resulting in resignations of new CCAs and veteran letter carriers.

The staffing issue reached critical points twice recently in the Columbus installation. The first incident has become known at the union hall as the Thanksgiving Day massacre of 2021. Late in the afternoon on Thanksgiving Eve, then acting Postmaster Dallas, put out a directive that she was ordering in all CCAs to carry mail and parcels on Thanksgiving Day. Even new CCAs in Columbus have been working 14 and 15 hours a day, six and seven days a week. At the time this directive was put out, several CCAs brought back the mail and resigned. Thus, pushing the city of Columbus deeper into staff shortages. By the time the union was made aware of this decision and intervened at higher levels, the damage was already done. We ended up losing at least one CCA that the union is aware of.

The second was forcing all regular carriers on the Sunday before Christmas, in the Columbus installation. The union again was not notified by management of this decision but carriers contacted the union hall furious about the decision. The union sent an email questioning this decision and got no response. Several regulars resigned around the time of this announcement. Local area labor has denied the union's request to hire new employees as PTFs. Labor argues that the lack of staffing is because of management's failure to retain CCAs. Although this is part of the problem, one must look no farther than the USPS recent job fair hiring, to see that retention is not the only problem. For example, one of the recent job fairs hired 25 applicants. By the time the hiring process was completed only one accepted the job. Could it be that it takes the USPS upwards 3 months to hire? Who wants to wait around 3 months to start a job? Management must streamline this process.

Some good news came out of the associate offices recently. The union has been in contact with the new compliment coordinator for many of our associate offices. As a result, long overdue conversions of CCAs to full time employees are taking place in Hilliard, Pickerington and Reynoldsburg. The union has also been closely monitoring the progress in Hilliard as they considered transfer candidates. The list in Grove City was extremely long and thus is causing some staffing stress as well. The Grove City steward has ensured that management is sticking to the timeframes for each candidate, so

the staffing issue is kept to the required minimum. Some of our associate offices have been affected by long term regular employees using sick leave at the end of their tenure to have medical issues addressed. A unique situation that has slowed conversion in one office, came from a veteran carrier retiring before he had even turned in his paperwork or sent it for processing. Thus, that employee is holding up a spot until his paperwork becomes official. Many factors go into the staffing equation but for the most part the hiring and retention are the major factors, which are the sole responsibility of management. Hopefully, the new Columbus area Postmaster will take these factors into consideration and make major changes before Columbus falls deeper into staffing purgatory.

We have seen a major uptick in action by HRM concerning the withdrawal of limited duty offers in recent times from those incapable of doing their normal carrier duties. Once the carrier has settled into a job offer, OWCP usually closes their claim. If the OWCP recipient does not keep their claim open by going back to the doctor every six months or so, to update their CA-17. HRM tells management to withdraw their job offer and makes them request light duty. Even though this is completely improper, it forces the carrier to fill out a CA-2A because management withdrew their limited duty. It takes time for OWCP to reopen the claim, causing financial hardship on the carrier. In rare cases the doctor of record fails to properly address

Continued on page 5

MILLERS MUSINGS



Welcome 2022, may it prove better than its start.

Hopefully, you had the opportunity to spend

quality time with those you love. There has been so much darkness wrapped around us by a number of sources but we have persevered. Our world is a mess whether you look at the environment, health of all populations human or otherwise, it's frightening. We tend to focus on our immediate surroundings. We must work together to change these negative forces. The old saying, "strength in numbers" is apropos more than you know. Officers of the Branch have to fight tooth and nail against an employer that refuses to work with us. They are nothing without their employees. They have the upper hand because it is their business to run or ruin. They have been more inclined toward ruin the past few decades, getting worse every year. Locally, we have used our weapons of grievances. I care not what some individuals will promise but the contract defines our options. Our National has fought for us constantly but the decisions made in DC get watered down through the chain of command. Allowing inept individuals at the helm in the local levels. Sadly, this isn't limited to our region as discussed among the Presidents and NBAs when they gather. We still have the support of the American people but as our service standards continue to fall and the younger people disregard us opting for digital com-

munication methods only. It is not a rosy future.

Each experienced carrier needs to help the newer staff acclimate and learn the job. Especially, working safe, the desire is that each of you goes home the same way you left, only tired. The job has changed so much over my tenure, definitely harder than before. Being bombarded with negativity does not make a good environment. There may be less first class mail but the unbelievable increase in parcels is overwhelming. If you're running to meet unrealistic goals, you risk a fall that could be life changing, plus it will be your fault for not working safe. Trust! Take the time to check your vehicle, don't wait till it's loaded to find out it doesn't start, has no headlights or other malfunction. And DO NOT drive an unsafe vehicle. Go to your steward or ask to meet with your steward. Learn to wear full seatbelts at all times, it could save your life. Ask questions of your steward and seasoned carriers or call the union hall.

The continuing saga of Shared Services, Part 2, trying to schedule retirement counseling. December 01, 2021, called Shared Services, again. Listened to that insanely annoying hold message for only ninety-six minutes. A very nice woman scheduled my counseling for December 23, 2021, at 12:30 with a meeting ID and phone number. Called number at the appointed time, entered the meeting ID to be told that was not a correct meeting ID. I tried several more times then tried rearranging the numbers a little, no luck. This is why I don't play the lottery. Called Shared Services

in desperation, answered in record time 15 minutes. She gave me the correct ID called back, moderator said they were twenty minutes into the session and she had no paperwork on me. Said she was texting a coworker to reach out and get me scheduled, again. Still waiting on that person to contact, after Christmas called Shared Services again, fifty-six on hold, getting better. My new session scheduled for January 7, 2022. Pray harder that this happens.

Yana Miller-Farney

Buckeye Br. 78 Bulletin

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Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Branch.

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

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Congratulations

On Your Retirement!



Brodis Grigsby retires from Upper Arlington with wife Sierra.



Dave Powers last day at Reynoldsburg. He received his million mile award.



Ken "Fluff" Black - long time Eastland carrier that retired from Westland.



28 year letter carrier Dee Dee Miller, alt. steward, retired from Westerville. Pictured with daughter, Tory.

Welcome to the Retirees Club!



Tom Bennett retires from Main Office Carrier Unit.



Angie Hughes retired from Bexley.



Mark Morrison retired from Gahanna.

A MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR OF RETIREES

Hello Retirees,

Another year has passed, and we welcome the new year 2022. Hopefully you had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year, with family and friends. Unfortunately, with covid number steady rising, we must remember to practice our safety protocols. Wearing mask, social distancing and hand washing are so very important now to keep ourselves and loved ones healthy.

I would like to congratulate all the new retirees. Retirement is one of the greatest blessings, to know you have completed the job you had been assigned. As you embark on your newfound freedom of not having to go to work. We your fellow retirees we like you to extend an invitation for you to join us on the 1st Tuesday of each month for the retirees meeting.

We have some exciting events planned for 2022, visiting COSI, Veterans Memorial and The Ohio Histor-

ical Center. Last year these sites were closed on Tuesday's due to covid staffing. But we are hopeful that covid numbers will improve for us this year.

Asking everyone to be safe and take care of yourselves, so we can continue to be with family and friends. Thank you retirees Love and miss you Val.

Love, Peace, and Joy always
Valeria Davis
Director of Retirees

Vice President

Continued from page 2

the CA-2A and the carrier is then forced to request light duty until it is corrected. Please, if you are on a limited duty job offer; even if you have reached maximum medical improvement and have permanent restrictions. Keep your claims open and your restrictions up to date to avoid this often costly situation.

With the Corona virus and the many variants that are now emerging. I urge the membership to continue to take precautions, be vigilant and pray for the safety of the membership. I am looking forward to 2022. Hoping that management addresses the staffing elephant in the room that has affected so many of us in a negative way.

Mark Beach Vice President

Attention Members

Change of Address -

Please notify Branch 78 any time you move. It cost your dues money to send to bad addresses.

Know Your Rights!



NALC Members

By joining the union, you have taken the first and most important step toward protecting your job and securing the future of letter carriers and the United States Postal Service. You can find information to help you learn more about your union and your rights and benefits as a city letter carrier.

We need YOU! 

GET INVOLVED!
HELP MAKE YOUR UNION STRONG!
BECOME A UNION STEWARD!

COME TO THE RETIREES MEETING FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH



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DECEMBER 2021 BRANCH MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:33; Pledge led by Jeremy Hirschfelt; Invocation by Yana Miller- Farney; Moment of silence in remembrance of Pearl Harbor; the passing of Bob Dole, our flag will remain at half staff till Friday; for John Collins family for the loss of his brother and for Todd's family.

NBA Mark Camilli joined us giving an update on Senate and White House; repeal of 6 day delivery out of committee probably taken up by CBO after January; sixteen republicans have cosigned because of DeJoy. We might not be able to maintain their support without him. The Juneteenth holiday has not been negotiated. Uniforms: April 1, a moisture wicking polo should become available; cargo pants in 2023. Do not wait till the end of your allotment to use.

Resumed regular order with Yana reading minutes, correction: funds have not been transferred to Wright-Pat Credit Union yet; then accepted. Dean Peruzzi read communications and applications for membership; Jason Fry read Bills List. Mark Beach, it was suggested we do a class on crossing crafts; Stewards School January 25-27, other branches attending, lunch being provided. Jason Fry read the Treasurer's Report. Nothing submitted to Law Committee (still carrying). Val Davis, we did some Christmas cards for Vets and some retirees. Hoping to do outings to new Vets Memorial if things reopen. Ramon Lawson reminded Open Season ending Monday 12/13/21, went over premiums, don't wait till last day. Thanked Trevor for coming down Thanksgiving to work on Steward expenses and Jason for processing them quickly.

Yana Miller-Farney made a motion for the Branch to donate \$2000 to One New Toy, seconded by Don Shepherd.
~ **PASSED**

Jacki Mitchell made a motion to donate \$1500.00 to United Way Community Service, seconded by Jeremy Hirschfelt. ~ **PASSED**

Jeremy Hirschfelt made a motion to spend \$14,500.00 to send up to 17 to New Stewards School, seconded by Dean Peruzzi. ~ **PASSED**

Dee Dee Miller (Delaware), Doug Bryant (GV) family provided a breakfast, Orlando Diaz (SC) and Tom Bennett (MO) retired.

Brad Grubb was sent back as Area 2 POOM (was on medical Lv) immediately did temp schedule change to 5:45 for everyone; lots of AO violations started after his return. Sent Safety team to Westerville day of Dee Dee's retirement, awards were all wrong.

Andrea Dallas, Dayton, acting OIC 11/18/21 for five days. John Umphlett here three days and left. Dallas back as OIC, not communicating with the union. Morale at an all time low, everyone working long hours, many way past their limits. Regular with over a year resigned from a Columbus station, saying not worth it! Several station's routes not getting carried daily. USPS HQ team sent from Operations has done less hiring now than before. East City, West City, Oakland Park, South Columbus and Westland, only 34 CCAs versus complement of 130. M-01968 signed on loaning employees; flyer offered detail assignment, hotel and per diem if over fifty miles. Unfortunately, no communication, there was one person from Dayton to Pickerington no one knew. We had a person from Westerville to Chicago but we have been filing work hour limits there the past two weeks; 12 & 60, ELM 432, daily. The decision was made by the district Manager without knowledge of station or union. Awaiting USPS decision to make Columbus a PTF preference hiring location.

Ed & Alice Thorne are transferring to Colorado, soon. Miguel Vazquez management Formal A Rep sent back to Toledo, returning it to local managers. They are not releasing formal A Reps, so only two.

Branch Class Action for improper posting Gahanna route 3029, only up one day. Another for not properly converting people on 11/20/21, still listed as CCAs. Vacation list sent to city stewards was wrong, corrected the week of Christmas 12/19-12/25/2022; vacations are

Monday through Sunday according to the local. Vacation schedules should have started December 1, in Columbus. Make sure Conversions are on Vacation schedule.

Manual bids becoming an issue, they're not being posted. Notify the Branch to post.

Job Fair 11/29/21 to 12/03/21 at City Gate and 850 Twin Rivers; produced candidates for AOs only one for the City.

December exclusionary period runs 12/04 through 12/31/21; no 12 & 60 limits for WAL or ODL; THINK SAFETY! Requested updated WAL and ODL from stewards. Trying to file another class action for non list carriers who were being paid by 12/60 grievance. An Eastland carrier was held up at gunpoint, second in three months. Audit process has resumed but there's a huge backlog.

Dispensation Letter from President Rolando for 2022 to hold electronic meetings; Decided activities on a voluntary non paid basis. Business Agent cancelled Christmas Party as was our Steward Dinner. We are looking for a way to show appreciation.

OPM adjusted FEGLI insurance rate increases without notifying retirees.

Almost completed passing out calendars. Arbitration on 12/08/21 Non-Compliance with Uniform Process - Ditchey, Arbitrator; Jeremy, Mark and Todd testified, it went well; on uniform allotment, management failed on payouts. Arbitration 12/15/21 - SG-OT Equitability, Jeremy Hirschfelt, Advocate. 12/60 grievances being held in abeyance on the matter of cease and desist violation asking for paid time off. 8.5G at 50% of pay; Admin Leave. The events committee has been asked to look into events for this year. January meeting will be available on ZOOM or in person. Waiting to see what affect the Amazon Cloud crash will have on parcels.

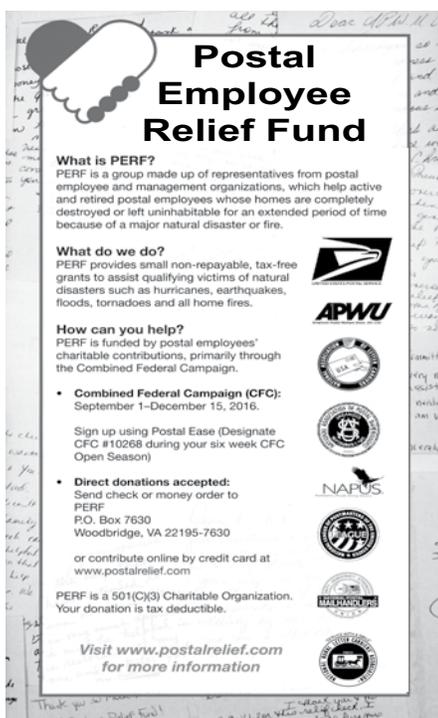
Last day for One New Toy is today; Mt. Vernon, Eastland and Westland have participated, thanks.

Good of the Association

Grove City Progressive Party met here last night. Stayed after and discussed letter carrier issues. Please continue to bring gently used uniforms to the Hall, and mark sizes, please. Val and Mark wished everyone a Safe and Happy Holiday.

Michael L. Favors Jr would have won \$100 had he been at/on the meeting.

Submitted by Yana Miller-Farney



Postal Employee Relief Fund

What is PERF?
PERF is a group made up of representatives from postal employee and management organizations, which help active and retired postal employees whose homes are completely destroyed or left uninhabitable for an extended period of time because of a major natural disaster or fire.

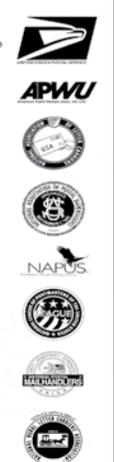
What do we do?
PERF provides small non-repayable, tax-free grants to assist qualifying victims of natural disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, tornadoes and all home fires.

How can you help?
PERF is funded by postal employees' charitable contributions, primarily through the Combined Federal Campaign.

- Combined Federal Campaign (CFC):** September 1-December 15, 2016.
Sign up using Postal Ease (Designate CFC #10268 during your six week CFC Open Season)
- Direct donations accepted:** Send check or money order to PERF, P.O. Box 7630, Woodbridge, VA 22195-7630 or contribute online by credit card at www.postalrelief.com

PERF is a 501(C)(3) Charitable Organization. Your donation is tax deductible.

Visit www.postalrelief.com for more information



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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. Dilien 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

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 COULD BE YOUR OWN!**

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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

RETIRES MEETING-1:00 P.M.
 First Tuesday of each month

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