

BUCKEYE BRANCH 78

BULLETIN

Columbus and Central Ohio



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JANUARY 2023



VOL. 43 NO. 1

PRESIDENT'S PAGE



Todd Hornyak I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. This Christmas season was once again a very busy parcel delivery season for the Postal Service. Because of the understaffing in several associate offices and the Installation of Columbus, Letter Carriers worked long hours this peak season. I want to thank all the letter carriers for their challenging work delivering mail and packages during these trying times this holiday season. Letter Carrier jobs are essential work and I consider all letter carriers heroes for taking care of our customers during these times.

I would like to congratulate Region 11 Regional Administrative Assistant John Collins on his retirement. John was President of Branch 63 in Zanesville for several years. He was the NALC Representative on the Columbus Dispute Resolution Team for many years also. John worked at NALC headquarters and then was assigned to RAA for the last 8 years. His knowledge and determination will be missed.

I am proud to announce Branch 78 member Michael Brim has been appointed to replace John as Regional Administrative Assistant. Brim began carrying the mail at Westland Station in 2006.

Mike was Union Steward at Westland, Northland, and West Worthington Stations. He became a Formal Step A representative handling step 2 grievances for the branch in 2011. Mike was also union representative on the Columbus Dispute Resolution Team. He served as a branch trustee from 2013 to 2015. He graduated from the 2015 NALC Leadership Academy. That same year Mike became Health Benefits Representative for the Branch and served through 2018. Mike was

appointed a Regional Grievance Assistant representing Regions 6 and 11 on June 3, 2019, by President Rolando.

The Union has been informed that the Flat Sequencing System (FSS) will be discontinued in Columbus at the end of December. Columbus was the second site that used FSS back in 2008. The FSS has been a complete failure. Just like most USPS initiatives it was a day late and a dollar short. USPS headquarters spent 900 million dollars to install 100 FSS machines in 2007. Just when the Postal Service bought the FSS machines flat volumes dropped drastically. Every letter carrier that has carried FSS flats knows of the many problems with sorting flats with the FSS. It was always interesting when management wanted me to deliver the cover of a magazine with nothing inside. Just put it in a body bag and deliver it. Now that is customer service. Good riddance.

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 Rob-

One New Toy Elves



Continued on page 5

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT



Mark Beach

I want to thank each and every carrier and tell you how much I appreciate your superhuman efforts during the last election and this holiday season. Your efforts in the face of short staffing should be commended. For the new employees, it gets better in a few months moving forward. You survived the worst the Post Office has to offer.

Management talks a lot about safety but recently I have noticed a drastic downturn in management showing any regard for this matter. Lately the union has received reports of safety boards not having PS form 1767s. Management refuses to contact safety on matters, carriers being told to take faulty vehicles and even the new safety specialist refusing to return or respond to inquiries. I have a lot of respect for our outgoing safety specialist, George Carrington. George and the union did not always agree but he never failed to address an issue or respond or work with the union on matters of safety. Only two people are guaranteed to watch out for letter carriers' safety in my opinion; the carrier and the union. Please, if you have a safety issue, fill out a PS form 1767 and notify your steward or the union hall. **A carrier may refuse to perform an unsafe act if the proper steps are not taken, and the proper notification is not given. (BOLD added for emphasis).**

Mental Health is also part of the safety plan. It is very easy to become stretched to your men-

tal limits. If you notice yourself becoming easily angered, having anxiety, having a sense of detachment, depression, not caring about things anymore or just not being motivated anymore consider these as possible signs of depression. Mental exhaustion is an illness that can also manifest itself in physical forms, such as unexplained body aches, headaches, upset stomach and difficulty sleeping. If you think you may be suffering from mental fatigue, please reach out to the Employee Assistance Program, (1-800-EAP-4YOU). Local health crisis services such as Netcare or the City of Columbus 988 are available. Seeking counseling is not a sign of weakness or an admission that something is wrong with you as an employee. Simply put it is the right thing to do to take care of yourself if you are suffering and in pain. The union and I personally support the use of EAP, it's FREE! I am not ashamed to say I have used the service from time to time. Their services cover all your household members.

Many times, I hear our employees tell people they would never recommend anyone to come work for the Postal Service. I have found myself slipping into that same mindset. Yet I know in my heart my Postal Service job has been very good for me. It has paid for a house and cars, set up college funds for my kids and health benefits. It has produced enough income for me to save for retirement and enjoy life as we go. Yes, I must say dealing with some Postal management has been difficult, but listening to my union

and gaining knowledge through training and learning the carrier's duties and responsibilities as they appear in the M-41 handbook has made that burden a lot lighter.

Now more than ever, things seem to be out of control at the Postal Service. Most of these issues revolve around the lack of staffing and employee availability. A lack of resources makes already misguided managers unbearable. It adds stress to both our work and home lives. Yet letter carriers are one of the most trusted employees in the federal government. We as employees can help turn this employee deficit around by recruiting the next generation of letter carriers. But it is what we do to help retain these new employees after they are employed. We must get back to the days we watched out for each other instead of just putting our own interests first. This also means carriers must support the union and our contractual provisions instead of just going out and getting what is best for the individual. Let's make 2023 the start of a new beginning and help recruit new employees as letter carriers. Make an effort to watch out for these new employees and help mentor them so they become a valuable asset for the USPS, and we can retain them. The result will help us out all in the long run and help us make 2023 a better year at the USPS. Hoping you had Happy holidays and a safe New Year.

Mark Beach
Vice President

MILLER'S MUSINGS



Yana Miller-Farney

Welcome to 2023, hoping your holidays were full of joy and some well deserved rest. We have added

more career carriers to our craft, not enough yet but improving. Gary Porter and his ONE NEW TOY Elves, did a fine job spending close to \$8,000. Due to the generosity of Meijer Lewis Center matching the Br 78 donation and individuals digging deep to make this a very successful ONE NEW TOY drive.

We know the year will be challenging trying to secure a fair contract for us, the National has been making plans on improving for our craft. The biggest ask is to do away with a two tiered pay chart. Everyone doing the same job should earn the same wages and benefits. They have a tough road ahead. There have been constant fights with management to follow the contract but they chose to ignore it. Still snatching foolishness out their butts, in spite of repeated warnings and awards from Arbitrators.

The safety of Letter Carriers has always been a priority for the NALC. I have known of really bad neighborhoods where gangs and residents protected their carriers. These days you have to be mindful of your surroundings constantly because there is no respect for life anymore. That means take out those headphones and pay attention. Too many of you have been held up and threatened with bodily harm. Don't carry anything of value on your routes. Keep your scanner

on you at all times. If they ask for keys, give them up. Your safety is the most important item on the agenda.

It was thought the new postmaster would be a change for the better but his cooperation dwindled quickly. Lack of availability and no communication prior to changes reads like all the previous pm except for a very few and they were detailed to other places on temporary assignments that lasted forever then permanently reassigned shortly after their return. We can't get documentation needed for grievances. Bid postings are late and contain misinformation. Grievance payouts are delayed. There is systemic obtuseness in the management of the Columbus area. Not much of a change in years.

We definitely need more stewards to take the reins at stations, Todd and Mark can only be in one place at a time. Younger leaders are necessary to keep things progressing in all stations and learning the Branch workings. You are our future success and strength.

Congratulations to RAA John Collins on his retirement, he has been a great help in his many capacities in NALC. Mike Brim from Branch 78 has been selected to fill John's post, he has been a Regional Grievance Assistant in the NBA office for a bit, congratulations as you move up.

We had a disappointing package delivery experience during early December. I heard a thud on the porch, checked and a small parcel was there and a small envelope that would have fit in our box. The carrier was back in their vehicle but I was able to get their

attention when they turned into the alley by the house. I chided them for throwing packages on the porch, which they denied. First, if they set it down I wouldn't have heard it hit and the Ring doorbell would have picked up their presence on the porch. I informed them I'm a carrier, too and why I'm advising you to not to throw parcels or leave them out in the open for porch pirates to steal. Try to place them out of sight if possible, behind furniture or other objects on

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Recording Secretary	Trevor Payne
Asst. Secretary/Editor	Yana Miller-Farney
Financial Secretary	Ramon Lawson

Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Branch.

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FROM REGION 11 NBA MARK CAMILLI



Mark Camilli

First, I would like to take this opportunity to say that I hope you and your loved ones had a very happy and safe holiday season. We all know how stressful the holidays can be, especially in our line of work, but you can take pride in what you do each day. The service that you provided to the American public ensured that the holiday season was special for millions of our customers!

I have noticed a troubling trend of outside individuals trying to make a living off having letter carriers pay for services that we do not or at least should not have to pay extra for. One example is letter carriers paying someone hundreds of dollars to assist filling out their forms to retire. Think about that. Someone giving over thirty loyal years of their life to an employer, and they feel overwhelmed and compelled to pay someone from outside the agency (it may be someone who used to work at the PS), to assist in filling out forms. Many NALC branches offer this kind of assistance to their members, and the PS offers counseling sessions to accomplish this task (at no extra cost!). I have never received a complaint from a member after the PS counseling session, as all their questions and guidance were met. Back in 2009, the NALC was successful in a National level grievance that provided employees counseling “on the clock” (if they so choose). Local management will have to arrange reasonably private space and permit the employee’s spouse or advisor

to be with the employee during the process. The agreement also states that if the employee is unable to call HRSSC to begin or complete the retirement counseling, then local management via the HR manager will provide the assistance. If you or someone you know is preparing to retire and is hitting a “roadblock” in getting the counseling, please notify your shop steward and/or branch representatives. Our members should not have to pay for services that the agency should provide.

Another example of others trying to make a living off letter carriers is financial planners soliciting postal employees to gain access and manage their Thrift Savings Plan upon retirement (aka – snake oil sales). We have seen deceptive mailings try to look like official correspondence from a federal agency. One company used the same acronym as one of our retirement systems and provided a mailing to each letter carrier’s workstation in an office in Ohio. An unknowing, green supervisor handed out the letters to all the workers. Some of the workers responded to the mailing giving the sales company their personal contact information and the amount in their TSP. This should never have happened. Outside vendors/solicitors are prohibited to have access to Postal Service property and employees. Under Postal Operations Manual 124.54, the Postal Service is not to accept or distribute mail or accept telephone calls to employees from solicitors. If you see this take place, please inform your shop steward and/or branch officers immediately. Much of the services they were offering

can be done by you, right through your TSP account (without the exorbitant fees!). I’m not saying all financial planners are bad; I’m just asking you to be wary if you did not seek assistance from the planners seeking you.

Finally, another example to use your caution is being an injured worker and attorneys wanting to assist you and share your “schedule award” with you. Letter Carriers who suffer an on-the-job injury or illness and have a permanent disability involving the loss or loss of use of a body part may be entitled to be compensated in the form of a schedule award. For example, if you lose an arm, you may be entitled to 312 weeks of compensation or a loss of a thumb may be worth 75 weeks of compensation (and so on, etc.). Some of these awards add up to substantial payment. These benefits are provided to you as a federal employee under the Federal Employees’ Compensation Act (FECA). The NALC employs specialists at the regional level to assist our injured members in these types of issues. While attorneys may charge you a third of what the award will be, the NALC provides the service to you at no cost (other than what you pay for dues).

Long story, short – be careful, use your due diligence. Many services are provided to you via your union membership, and the union is there to help you from having to pay for services you should not have to pay extra for.

Mark Camilli
Region 11 NBA

DIRECTOR OF RETIREES



*Hello Retirees,
Merry Christmas
and Happy New
Year!*

As 2022 comes to an end let's look back over the year as we take time to reflect on the joys and sorrows that we have experienced this year. What a blessing we were able to spend time with our families and friends and we enjoyed

reasonably good health. But we have also experienced sadness due to loss in our family and some of our union brothers and sisters. So, let's remember to always be thankful.

We won't be having a January meeting, but we will be meeting again on February 7th. When our special guest will be Shauna Harrison and her team from the Veterans Administration for behavioral health. They will be discussing benefits for

veterans and mental health warning signs. This presentation is slated to be very beneficial to all carriers retired and active. Hopefully you will be able to attend this meeting and future meetings which are held on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 1:00 pm @ the union hall.

Hope you and your family had a safe and Happy Holiday from the desk of the Director of Retirees Valeria Davis

Happy New Year 2023

PRESIDENT Continued from page 1

inson 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. The Branch donated almost \$8,000 to these two organizations.

I would like to congratulate Darius "Dar" Faroughi from Upper Arlington Station, Ken Guice from Central Point Station, and John "Dave" Ishler from West Worthington Station on their recent retirement. I wish them the best on their retirement. I am very hopeful

that with 2023 things improve for letter carriers and the Postal Service. I hope 2023 is a great year for all of us.

**Fraternally,
Todd Hornyak**

One New Toy Elves



MILLER'S MUSINGS Continued from page 3

the porch. They were polite but not thrilled with my intrusion. Later I found that recent hires were given no training just sent out with parcels. No scanner training either, I

guess. How unfair this is to them that they are not being taught the proper way to do the job. Typical half baked management decisions, again. I do hope they will stay and

get the proper introduction to all facets of carrying.

**Submitted by
Yana Miller-Farney**

DECEMBER 2022 BRANCH MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:30 by President Hornyak; Pledge led by Chris Semo; Invocation by Val Davis. Minutes read by Yana Miller-Farney, accepted as read. Trevor Payne read communications from Mid Ohio Food Collective; Bills List; thirty applications for membership. Welcome them even though the last class only delivers parcels Edu. Mark Beach; most stewards attended, it was a good evening, distributed checks, calendars and most of the JCAMS we had purchased. Kelsie Crosbie, doing a great job down here, attending Formal A & Beyond Training Jan 7, 2023.

Law Comm. Chris Semo; By Law changes were printed in October, November and December bulletins and voted on tonight. Read Art 7- Sec 2a; Jeremy Hirschfeld, one of signers explained were all to update to new pay scales and updating language; **PASSED**. Read Art 7 Sec 7a; **PASSED**. Read Art 7 Sec 2a1; **PASSED**. Read Art 3 Sec 2; **PASSED**. Read Art 7 Sec 3a1b; **PASSED**.

Ret. Val Davis; shared a little food, wrote Christmas cards for Veterans; no meeting till February 7, 2023, VA Reps will speak on Mental Health and available benefits, sounds interesting for retirees and active carriers. Trying to get Trevor to figure a way to make available to actives, too.

HBP. Dean Peruzzi; Open Season is closed. Don't forget the other MBA offerings.

H&S. Gary Porter; nice to meet in person. Remember to be more wary of surroundings working in the darkness, your safety is your call. There has been an increase in MVA mostly in the AOs.

Ramon Lawson read the Treasurer's Report; A 872, R 356, GC 121, A 274, T 1673 members.

NEW BUSINESS

Mark Beach made a motion to spend up to \$885. To send President Hornyak to the Spring COP (Comm of Presidents), in Detroit, MI, 3/11-13/23; seconded by Jeremy Hirschfeld. **PASSED**

Management is sending people home after working 60 hours, during the time there is no penalty OT and there is mail sitting on floors, makes absolutely no sense, no response from PM.

Region 11 Presidents Meeting was 12/6/22; Rap Session in Syracuse Late March/early April Pre Arbs 1601, 1365 resolved or 85%, Reg 11 includes OH and NY. Regional Arbitration 79 cases, 55 sustained, 70% Union Success. Hardest to win are absenteeism, you need to follow rules calling in and providing documentation, always keep copies.

Membership is 89% organized, probably higher due to processing delays at NBA HQ.

102 Br members donate to Letter Carrier Political Fund 7.2%, goal is 11%

Contract expires May 20, 2023 - Negotiations begin February 22, 2023

One New Toy raised close to \$8,000. Gary Porter, Brian Nickells, Mary Robinson, Myron Miller, Brenda and Cadence Stidams and Dave Humphreys, shopped Tuesday night at Meijer Lewis Center, who matched the Branch donation of \$2500, Westland \$823, UA \$265, Eastland \$260, GV \$187 and OP \$80 plus bought toys. Delivered \$4,000, gift cards and toys to FCCS today, plan to drop off at VA tomorrow.

Aundre Cross, a member of Milwaukee Branch 2, killed 12/9/22 carrying mail, no details yet. Last contractual increase November 19, 1.3%; 2.3% for CCAs; Step P increase on December 9; top step table 1 is \$75k/yr, \$36/hr.

Route Adjustments, branch added zones in October, management still arguing over results of UA, impassed, due to adding 5 routes and aux. Charles Sanders added moving UA to MO added distance and loading delays. SN 43201, Bexley, OP - Jan 23, WW - Feb 23. Everyone make proper clock rings, wear scanners at all times before route adjustments, new scanner technology is very good.

Buckeye Branch 78

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National Association of
Letter Carriers
AFL-CIO



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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-Brown/Alt. Kent Reeves	614-889-6571
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East City	Charles Sanders/Alt. Dilien Miller/Alts. Brian Ball, Victoria Wessa	614-469-4466
F German Village	Dean Peruzzi/Alt. Jackie Habash	614-449-9565
G South Columbus	Rob Arnold/ Alt. Dean Peruzzi	614-444-0217
GAH Gahanna	Brenda Stidams/Eli Turner	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	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	Katherine Lingrel	614-451-1502
OP Oakland Park	Dale Hillis/Tawandra Ford	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	Jacquelyn Mitchell/Alt. Eric Kennedy	614-451-2302
West City	Allan Moore Sr./Heather Christy/Alts. Shawn Carter/ Richard Hannon	614-469-4465
WV Westerville	Mark Beach	614-882-2243
Westland	Samuel "Cory" Bailey/Kelsie Crosbie/Alt. Eric Scarberry	614-351-0138
WJ West Jefferson	Mark Beach	614-879-9145
WW West Worthington	Jeremy Hirschfelt/Cornelius Scott/Alt. Jeff Freeman	614-793-9789
WH Whitehall	Todd Hornyak	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
RETIREEES MEETING-1:00 P.M.

First Tuesday of each month

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