

BUCKEYE BRANCH 78

BULLETIN

Columbus and Central Ohio



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PICKERINGTON

AUGUST 2023



VOL. 43 NO. 8

PRESIDENT'S PAGE



Todd Hornyak

Branch 78 is hosting the 71st Biennial Ohio State Convention on August 4 and 5th in Columbus. This is the first state convention hosted by Columbus since 1991. It is a great honor for the branch to host the convention and I'm sure the delegates will enjoy their stay in Columbus.

We are in the middle of summer now and a heat wave is here. Letter Carriers need to be aware of the heat and protect themselves from heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Unmitigated excessive heat can cause heat stress, often resulting in serious illness or death. This hazard becomes a greater threat every year, as science shows that temperature and heat indexes are steadily increasing. I am saddened to report that 36-year veteran letter Carrier Eugene Gates from Branch 132 in Dallas Texas collapsed and died in a customer's yard on June 20 due to heat related issues. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and coworkers.

The NALC participated in extensive litigation with the Postal

Service and the Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), as well as engaged the Postal Service directly to create and implement a heat illness prevention program (HIPP) that helps protect our members. The Postal Service will require annual completion of a HERO training course on heat stress by all employees in every facility, regardless of exposure assessment findings. This course will discuss the effects of heat on the body, outline the risk factors for heat-related illness, and describe the associated treatments for each. This training will also explain several control measure techniques and safe work practices that can be used to prevent heat-related illness, as outlined in this document.

The most important and immediate step that can be taken to protect anyone from the hazard of excessive heat is to learn as much as possible about this potentially life-threatening hazard, particularly the warning signs of heat illness. This year, all letter carriers and supervisors were required to be trained on the current HIPP by April. All letter carriers can review their training records by logging

in to liteblue.usps.gov and look at the HERO training records. If any letter carrier has not received this training, please contact your shop steward as soon as possible so the matter may be investigated, and a grievance filed if necessary. Vice President Mark Beach completed a HIPP training with all Union Stewards at the July stewards meeting.

I would like to congratulate Mathew Mack from Lincoln Village Station on his recent retirement. I wish them well on their retirement. Please attend our August branch meeting in person on August 9th, we will also be utilizing Zoom. Information regarding the meeting can be found on our Branch 78 website www.nalc-branch78.org. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Fraternally
Todd Hornyak

Make sure you are
registered to vote ASAP!
You need to vote **NO!**
On August 8, 2023
VOTE NO!

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT



Mark Beach

Many members have already learned there are charges circulating against the National President, Brian Renfro, concerning his conduct. The charges had not been officially filed through the appropriate channels; when I wrote this article. Since there has been nothing officially submitted there is an investigation going on to determine the next step. If proven to have full merit as stated, they would be very disconcerting if not addressed. I would hope the membership will not rush to judgement and jump to conclusions. One of the concepts the union is built upon, is the right to due process. In such a case, if the charges are officially filed, would be done so under Article 10 of the NALC Constitution. Article 10 concerns the removal and censorship of duly elected National officers for neglect of duty or other violation of the National Constitution. Like our National Agreement with the USPS, this process is like the terms of just cause outlined in Article 16. The appeal must be made in a timely manner and the appeal must be sent to the Executive Council via certified mail. The council will then appoint a panel of members not involved in the charges to investigate the matter and file a report with the Executive Board within 30 days. A copy of the report will be provided to the accused at that time. After receiving the report, the Executive Council will convene and decide what penalties and sanctions would be appropriate, up to and including pos-

sible removal from NALC office. Within fifteen days of the Council's decision, the accused member has the right to file objections or comments on the matter. If the sanctions or removal is upheld, then the accused member has the right to appeal the matter to the membership at the National Convention.

I believe our National Union is strong overall and will do a thorough and objective investigation of this matter and will do the right thing. Our union is more than one individual and even though these allegations certainly cast the NALC in an unfavorable light, I do not believe they affect the overall strength and solidarity of our union.

Recently the Columbus Installation has had yet another new Postmaster, Melissa Fluke, installed. Mrs. Fluke is a career Postal Service employee with her last stint being a detail at the USPS Headquarters in Washington D.C. My first impressions of the new Postmaster are very mixed, but I will reserve judgement to see how she does over time. She hit the ground running and the feedback I'm getting from offices when she visits is both positive and negative.

On the negative side both supervisors and craft employees have confided in me that they feel she is abrasive and thinks no one is doing a good job in Columbus, while being quick to rush to conclusions. On the positive side she has been out to the offices, given Safety Awards and recognized long tenured employees. It would have been nice if she had notified the union before she went out to present these awards and others, as the union would have liked to

recognized those employees as well.

So far, the new Postmaster seems well versed in parts of the contract. She has notified the union in writing about one of the offices in the installation that she is announcing enforcement of the start time of that station. When a rule has been unenforced, management must put the employees on notice that they intend to enforce said rule before they take any disciplinary action. This requirement can be found in Article 16 of the National Agreement, and I can see that this Postmaster is trying to make sure she does her due diligence before taking any adverse action. I hope the membership takes notice of this and does the right thing. I know that this will be extremely hard, due to management failing to enforce so many rules in the past. The operations were allowed to become very lackadaisical during and since COVID. Our job is to protect the membership and the best way we can do that is to keep you updated and informed on matters like this. I ask the membership to help us to protect them from unwanted disciplinary action by doing the right thing and following instructions.

By the time you read this, UPS workers may have a new contract or be on strike. The teamsters are taking a hard line against their employer to provide better wages, working conditions and end the forcing of unwanted overtime. The teamsters are bargaining from an extremely strong position as its employer saw record profits during COVID. Hopefully, our member-

Continued on page 4

VOTE NO on Issue 1, it is imperative!

ELECTION NOTICE

In Accordance with Article 5 of the National Constitution and Branch 78 bylaws.

Nominations for all Officers including President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Assistant Secretary/Editor, Financial secretary/Treasurer, Safety Officer, Sergeant at Arms, Director of Retirees, MBA Health Representative, Five (5) Trustees, and Delegates to the National and Ohio State Association Conventions. Nominations will be conducted at the Regular Branch meeting which is scheduled for October 11, 2023 at 6:30pm, 1029 Harrisburg Pike, Columbus Ohio 43223-2524. The nominations will be for a three (3) year term beginning on or about January 1, 2024. The election will be conducted by secret ballot mailed to the member's last known address. Results of the election will be announced at the Regular December Branch meeting December 13, 2023.

Letter Carrier

Appreciation Night at the Columbus Clippers

Join your fellow letter carriers for a night at the ballpark as the Columbus Clippers take on the St. Louis Saints!



August 4th

First pitch at 7:05 p.m.

330 Huntington Park Ln, Columbus, OH 43215

Wristbands bought in the NALC ticket bundle include discounted food and drink specials from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Enjoy other promotions at the game including "MargaritavilleNight" with pre-game live music on the Yueng-Wing Stage by Randy Goin; and Ohio Lottery "Fantastic Fridays," where the first 200 fans through the gates will receive an Ohio Lottery Promotional Scratch-Off Ticket!

Reminder: Retiree August Meeting
is AUGUST 8 at

Carrie's Cafe, 670 Harmon Ave,
1 PM. LUNCHES HOT or COLD
\$1.50, weekdays, 11 AM-2 PM

Buckeye Br. 78 Bulletin

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August 2023

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

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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www.nalc-branch78.org

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CONVERSION CLASS 7/18/23



L-R: Benjamin Searfos, Justin Marhover, Onesty Jones, Ray Smith, Lindsey Cummings, Japan Wade and HBP Rep, Dean Peruzzi.

VICE PRESIDENT

Continued from page 2

ship will gain from their efforts, and we will be able to exploit their hard line in our bargaining as well. The union has always kept negotiations hushed because management in the past, has sought to use anything they can use to gain an advantage. It has been made

clear that the overall goal is an all career work force, elimination of a two tier pay scale, advancement in pay raises that keeps us in a sustainable middle class position economically which includes protection of our cost of living adjustments. This helps to keep our carriers pos-

itive and happy. Although they are competitors, we support our fellow Union brothers and sisters at UPS and wish them the best of luck. United we stand!

Mark Beach, V.P. NALC Br 78

WHOLE LIFE 20 YEARS OR UNTIL 65

All career postal employees are enrolled in the Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance (FEGLI) basic insurance unless they opt out. The full premium for FEGLI basic coverage is paid by the Postal Service and therefore is free to active city carriers. Basic coverage covers your life for the amount of your salary rounded up to the next \$1,000 plus another \$2,000.

Upon retirement, USPS no longer pays the full premium for basic coverage. A portion of the premium will be paid by the retiree. Additionally, if you want to continue your optional FEGLI coverage into retirement, you must choose between continuing full coverage, 50 percent reduction, or 75 percent reduction. Each has a different financial impact to the retiree up to \$2.25 per month, per \$1,000 in coverage for basic, \$6.24 per month, per \$1,000 in coverage for Option B, and \$16.90 per month for each multiple of Option C if full coverage is elected. Option A will cost as much as \$13 per month from age 60 to 64 but becomes free at age 65.

The Mutual Benefit Association (MBA) offers several options that you can take advantage of either in place of, or to supplement, FEGLI. Two of these options are MBA Whole Life- Paid up in 20 years

And MBA Whole Life- Paid up at 65 years.

Both policies are available to NALC members and their spouses, children, stepchildren, grandchildren, step grandchildren, great grandchildren and step grandchildren, as well as members' parent life up to the maximum coverages. MBA will insure any one amount of \$100,000. The difference between these two plans is the age at which the policies may be issued: for a Paid Up in 20 Years policy it is age 0 to 80; for Paid Up at Age 65, age 0 to 55.

The best part about these plans is that the premiums remain the same for the entire premium payment period. At the plans' designated time, the policy is paid in full. The Paid Up in 20 Year policy is fully paid off 20 years after the issue date of the policy. The Paid Up at Age 65 policy is fully paid off on the policy anniversary date after the insured individual turns age 65. At that time, no further premiums are ever due on either of these policies and the coverage remains in force for the insured's entire lifetime. The premium is determined by the insured's age at the time the policy is purchased and the amount of life insurance requested. The earlier in life you make this purchase, the less expensive it will be. Premiums on

either plan may be paid to the MBA through biweekly payroll deduction, through electronic funds transfer (EFT) or directly to the MBA office on an annual or monthly basis by check or money order. MBA's whole life policies are "participating plans of insurance." This means that the policy owner will share in any divisible surplus of the MBA. The divisible surplus is called a dividend, which is credited to the policy on each anniversary date. Policy owners have options on how they may receive the dividends: receive a check each year on the policy anniversary date; dividends remain on deposit with the MBA and earn interest; or dividends can be used to purchase additional life insurance for the insured.

These whole life policies also build a cash value. The longer the policy remains in force, the larger the cash value. If your insurance needs to change and you determine that you no longer need coverage, you will receive the value that has accrued. As stated above, because FEGLI is term insurance, it builds no cash value. There is no open season to purchase an MBA policy; you may join at any time.

Dean Peruzzi
NALC Branch 78 Health Benefits Rep.

THE ROBERT SOLT MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING TO BENEFIT MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

AUGUST 27, 2023

PICKAWAY GOLF COURSE

1399 Stoutsville Pike

Circleville, OH 43113

SHOTGUN START - 8:00 AM

GET YOUR FOURSOME SIGNED UP EARLY



1. _____ ACT. _____ RET. _____
2. _____ ACT. _____ RET. _____
3. _____ ACT. _____ RET. _____
4. _____ ACT. _____ RET. _____

Phone Contact Number _____ Amt. Enclosed _____

Bob Solt Memorial

**\$60.00 per
person for
ACTIVE CARRIERS**

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person for
RETIRED LETTER CARRIERS**

Send Payments to:
**Charles Sanders
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1029 Harrisburg Pike
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JULY 2023 BRANCH MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:33; Pledge led by Mike Patton; Invocation by Val Davis. Moment of Silence for our Military and recent victims of violence. Trevor Payne read the Bills List and 25 applications for membership. Yana Miller-Farney read June Minutes, accepted as read. Mark Beach, Education; HIPP Training in stations or in biweekly Plan Five; comments regarding lack of potable water in stations, complete 1767 get signed copy and file if water is not provided. Val Davis, Retirees; Meeting 1 PM on August 8 at 670 Harmon, Lifecare Alliance Carrie's Cafe, \$1.50. Dean Peruzzi, HBP; explained Whole Life policy paid up at 65, several different plans to explore. Gary Porter, Safety; there has been a serious increase in MVA, please follow SOPS every time you operate a vehicle, many have been rural carriers. There is a HIPP video, file 1767, if HIPP not viewed. Ramon Lawson read the Treasurer's Report.

New Business

Mike Brim, NBA Office; Brought up service talks, HERO lie, file, Carrier died on street from heat in Texas, 66 yo, told no stationary events, speak up, grieve. Hdqtrs contacting offices about HIP. 5/20/23 negotiations began, continue for 60 days, Brian is positive so far but will continue negotiations. There have been 18 charges signed by Chris Jackson. No certified letter, appeal rights. Admits to issues since age 24. Rural carriers filed against USPS for undo burden, sent back to lower court, may help with our bargaining. Oct Leadership Academy, Ramon going. Ramon Lawson made a motion to add \$9947 to Convention funds to provide rooms for local delegates, seconded by Alan Moore. **Failed** E. Bd 3-9. Verbal count Yes -26 No-28, Roll Call requested. **Failed**. Ramon will appeal.

Jeremy Hirschfeld made a motion to spend up to \$4000 for parking, per diem for OSA Convention, seconded by Don Shepherd. Trevor Payne made a motion to spend up to \$2200 for Registration, seconded by Dean Peruzzi. **PASSED**. Valeria Davis made a motion to spend up to \$13,000 for Retiree Dinner and door prizes 9/30/23. **PASSED**

National reported final count of 42 million lbs of food collected this year's Food Drive, numbers still down but better than 2022. 56,000 lbs collected in Cbus and AOs. Delegates Meeting after this one. Bob Solt Memorial Golf Outing 8/27/23 at Pick-away GC in Circleville. Need teams only 6 now, hole, cart sponsors and volunteers needed. Eleven Unassigned Regulars converted 07/01/23, 100 PTFs in AOs mostly. Vote NO on Issue 1 August 8 explained the importance and the law passed to stop August elections, cost, turnout, etc. Teamsters (UPS) contract expiring, 340,000 Full time and 150,000 Part time employees, expires 7/31/23. 97% in favor of strike.

Good of the Association

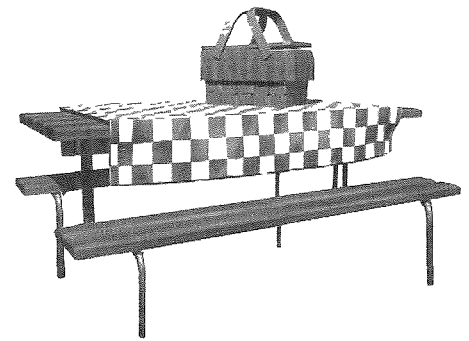
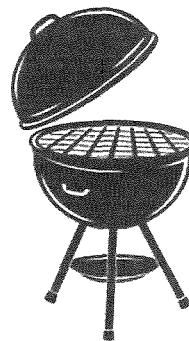
Street Observations have increased.

Joseph L. Mainini would have won \$130 had he been present.

Submitted by
Yana Miller-Farney

Attention! RETIREES

PICNIC



TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 5, 2023 AT 1 PM

AMERICAN LEGION
SOUTHWAY POST 144

3253 SOUTH HIGH STREET, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43207

BRANCH 78

ANNUAL

PICNIC

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

Franklin County Fairgrounds

Edwards Building

5035 Northwest Parkway

Hilliard, OH 43026

Noon – 4



Food & Beverages
DJ/Music



Cornhole Tournament 1 pm

Kids Face Painting 1 pm-3pm

Door Prizes



Attention All Member's You're Invited

Annual Retiree Dinner

When: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

Where: LIFECARE ALLIANCE
670 HARMON AVE
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43223

Come Honor Our Newest Gold Card Recipients

Have A Great Meal

Time: Social Hour 6.00-7.00 PM

Dinner: 7:00 PM

Donations: Retirees and escort \$7.00 each
Active and escort \$10.00 each

★ SPECIAL GUEST ★

Region 11 National Business Agent Mark Camilli

For Reservations Contact Branch 78

614-279-2778

or contact your shop steward

ALL CAMPAIGN ADS

MUST BE SUBMITTED

NO LATER THAN OCT. 17, 2023 BEFORE 5:30 p.m.

FULL PAGE \$ 200.00

HALF PAGE \$ 110.00

QUARTER PAGE \$ 60.00

BUSINESS CARD \$ 30.00

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS CONTACT ME AT 614-279-2778.

MAKE YOUR PAYMENT TO NALC BR 78. PAYMENT DUE WITH SUBMISSION OF AD. AD must be on a flash/thumb drive with a hard (paper) copy. PLEASE DO NOT BEND OR FOLD COPY.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION
YANA MILLER-FARNEY, ASST SECTY/EDITOR

Buckeye Branch 78

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



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STATIONS	STEWARDS	BUSINESS-HOME
BW Beechwood	Scott Lloyd, Nick Jervey/Alt Karlton 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	Cody Piersol/Alt Kent Reeves	614-889-6571
Eastland	Jeff Stiverson	614-237-1912
East City	Charles Sanders, 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	John Leba	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/Alt William Talley, Trenca Jackson	614-476-1680
PIC Pickerington	Mark Beach	614-837-5793
PLN CTY Plain City	Mark Beach	614-873-4004
REY Reynoldsburg	Mark Beach	614-866-6049
UA Upper Arlington	Steve Smith/Alt. Jacquelyn Mitchell	614-451-2302
West City	Allan Moore Sr , Heather Christy/Alts Shawn Carter, Richard Hannon	614-469-4465
WW Westerville	Olivia Nicholas	614-882-3037
Westland	Samuel "Cory" Bailey, Kelsey Crosbie/Alt. Eric Scarberry	614-351-0138
WJ West Jefferson	Mark Beach	614-879-9145
WW West Worthington	Jeremy Hirschfelt, Cornelius Scott	614-793-9789
WH Whitehall	Todd Hornyak/Alt. Robert Gravely	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:

614-279-BR78 • 614-279-2778
www.nalc-branch78.org