



OHIO RURAL LETTER CARRIER

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**PRESIDENT
GAYLE SWEET**

PRESIDENTS REPORT

The Winter Board Meeting in Mansfield was held Jan. 19th & 20th. The Board discussed having a Booster Meeting this Spring. A National Officer is not available this Spring. They have decided to stay in Alexandria VA. to work on serious legislative issues that our union will be facing this year. The National Officers

will also be working on preparation of the 2010 Contract for The National Rural Letter Carrier Association.

There will be no Spring Booster Meeting this year. However, your Board will be covering all of the important issues at our District Spring Meetings held throughout the State. Please take the time to attend your Spring District Meeting. This is the opportunity to place your name on the Delegate List for voting rights at the next State Convention. At our Conventions you get to hear about the PAC legislative issues and an opportunity to talk with a Steward. We will have a National Officer assigned to our State Convention.

PAC Chairman Ray Nichols is well on his way to achieving his 2010 goal for our State this year. Giving to PAC is one of the important ways of preserving what we have now and helps fight for valuable gains that increases our benefits for the jobs we do. Those concerns include job security, health benefits and retirement, these issues are decided on Capital Hill. We cannot get Congress or the Senate to hear our concerns without your PAC dollars.

We cannot forget our fight against 5 day delivery and the preservation of each carrier having a right to have their own relief carrier. We do provide a good wage for our RCA'S. I know that at this time with vacant routes being held because of the FSS (Flat Sequencing System) Machines, we need to be patient and hope that the Postal Service will start releasing more routes at our impacted offices.

The OHRLCA adopted a new Board Policy to comply with National Guidelines concerning Legal Issues for Editors of Union Publications. See page 11 for the OHR-LCA BOARD POLICY that will facilitate the publication of our magazine.

The Mid-States Conference will be held May 7-9, 2010 at the Embassy Suites in Indianapolis IN. You will find the information in your national magazine and on page 11. This conference gives you the opportunity to talk to your National Officers and others who represent our union.

Your State Convention will be July 11-13, 2010 at

**"FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 12 2010 MAIL COUNT"
LOOK FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON PAGE 3
FROM STATE STEWARD CARLA DEDDEN**

The Kings Island Resort in Cincinnati OH. We will have committee appointments listed in a future paper. If you are a delegate and would like to serve on one of our committee's, please let me know. Also state that you would like to serve on a committee at the state convention on your delegate's list at your Spring District meeting. Your Board will be asking for volunteers.

I was one of the 11,000 or more that did not receive a paycheck PP 01/10. Please read the article concerning the updated information regarding the Rural Carrier Pay Problem in the National paper and on the OHRLCA and NRLCA web sites. Please check your next payroll check to make sure that it is correct. If you have a problem, please contact your local or area steward so that they can contact your State Steward for help.

Helping others in need is very important to Rural Carriers. The Earthquake in Haiti was a terrible tragedy. If you would like to contribute you can contact your local or national charities. They work hard in providing relief to the victims of this kind of disaster. You can link directly to the (USAID) U. S. Agency for International Development on your Liteblue.usps.gov web site to read about providing assistance.

If you are considering Retirement and you are going to carry the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program plan after you retire, remember that you must be covered under the FEHBP for the last five years of his or her federal employment. The five-year continuing FEHBP coverage into retirement is met if the retiree has been continuously covered for the last five years, either as an enrollee or a family member of a federal employee spouse. If you have questions you can contact the Office of Personnel Management.

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LOOK FOR THE OHIO NEWSLETTER IN FULL COLOR ON THE OHIO WEBSITE AT ohrlca.org

ALSO CHECK OUT THE "WHAT'S NEW PAGE" ON THE NATIONAL WEBSITE AT nrlca.org



STATE
STEWARD
CARLA DEDDEN

MAIL COUNT

The February-March 2010 Mail Count will commence on February 27 (Saturday) and end on March 12 (Friday). As you know by now, the USPS did not declare the count a National Count where all routes would be opted in. The USPS will count all vacant routes and aux routes as per the contract. Each District has opted in routes due to substantial service changes. Also, many carriers opted themselves in to the count due to an increase in their volume

on their route over last February-March 2009 Mail Count or the Special Mail Count in September. There were two forms for the "opt-in" procedure. Management had a "opt-in" form that had a heading of **2010 National Rural Mail Count Employer Option In Election Form** which management was to provide to the carrier(s) by **February 10, 2010**. If you **did not** receive this correct form marked **Employer** and you **did not** wish to count, please call a Steward **immediately**. Regular carriers had the right to "opt-in" to the count. The Employees "opt-in" form had a heading of **2010 National Rural Mail Count Rural Carrier Option In Election Form**. If you decide to count, you must complete this form by the end of the business day on **February 10, 2010** to opt yourself in to the count. Remember to make a copy for yourself.

Route inspections began January 27 and run through the last day of count. The route inspection must be ridden by management and the **regular carrier** on the route, unless the route is vacant, an aux route, regular out on extended leave, or regular on OWCP then the route inspection will be ridden by the RCA assigned to that route. Any mileage changes on your route must be submitted on a PS4003 and turned in to the District by your local management before the last day of count to have the correct mileage recorded for your February-March Mail Count results. Remember, to be covered by the **Tort Claims Act** on your POV, the PS 4003 must be completely accurate. The pre-count conference needs to be given to **ALL** carriers involved in the count by **February 12, 2010**. If you do not have a pre-count conference, you need to file a grievance **immediately**.

Any disagreement (s) on mail count needs to be handled on a daily basis. Each carrier needs to approach management with their issue (s) and try to resolve the disagreement. If the issue (s) cannot be resolved, then you, the carrier, need to keep great notes; do not sign your PS4241; fill out a mail count disagreement form (see your January 2010 National Magazine) signing and dating the form and making yourself a copy; turn the disagreement form in to local management; wait for a response from the District or your local management, in writing (do not wait more than 14 days); and then file a grievance on management's response if it is not in your favor.

As per the contract, you will have to file your grievance within 14 days of receipt of management's response. To adjudicate your grievance, the **Steward** handling your grievance will need your PS4241, daily PS4239 (all 12), column 17 sheet, disagreement letter, response to your disagreement, and your notebook on records you kept. The **Steward** may also need your daily post notes on your items counted so please keep these for possible reference. Please do not file a separate grievance on each mail count issue. File **one** grievance using the wording on Number 4 (Issue) on the grievance form "**Why did local management not allow me the proper credit for issues listed in my**



Carriers prepare for one of the many Mail Count Training Sessions held around Ohio. State Steward Carla Dedden said almost 300 carriers participated.

Mail Count Disagreement Form for the February-March 2010 Mail Count? Also, if you do not have any disagreements but the District decides to redline items on your PS4241 and/or Column 17 sheet, please grieve this redlining with the wording on Number 4 (Issue) on the grievance form "**Why did the District redline items and not allow me the proper credit on my Mail Count paperwork from the February-March 2010 Mail Count?**". For your information, mail count grievances may take a long time to get a positive settlement. The **Steward System** in Ohio notifies each grievant by certified mail on their grievances as they are moved up each level. Any resolution will be notified to the grievant also by certified mail. Please be patient.

By the time this newsletter is received the **Union** will have conducted nine mail count meetings throughout the State of Ohio. Whether a mail count is a National Count or not, all carriers should attend a mail count meeting. After each one of the meetings, carriers came up to me to thank me for a great informative meeting and that they always learn more than they already knew at each meeting they attend. **Remember!** One minute can make the difference in your yearly pay depending on your step level up to over \$1000.00 per year and \$18.50 more for one more hour of pay for an RCA.

All Union member carriers being counted need to check the National Union website at NRLCA.org under "February-March 2010 Mail Count" and "What's New". Also, please check the Ohio Union website at orlca.org under "Mail Count 2010". Please contact the **Steward** in your assigned Area (see listing in the front of the newsletter) or your **Local Steward** in your office for all February-March 2010 Mail Count questions.

REMEMBER!! DO NOT SIGN THE PS4241 UNTIL ALL ITEMS ON THE FORM ARE CORRECT AND TO YOUR APPROVAL!!

FSS MACHINES – COLUMBUS DISTRICT

The Columbus District has added three more offices for a total of 13 to date to the FSS machines. These new offices added are Gahanna, Grove City, and Delaware. These three offices will have all routes counted in the February-March 2010 Mail Count. There are four more offices yet to be put on the FSS machines. These offices are Lewis Center, Pataskala, Pickerington, and Marion (Athens was on the list instead of Marion and the USPS has not officially notified the Union to date of this change in offices). Because of the lack of the timeliness of the Columbus District of not putting all seven offices on the FSS by the February-March 2010 Mail Count, the remaining four offices will be counted in the Special Count in September. What this does to the hold on vacant and aux routes due to the FSS Memorandum of Understanding is to extend this until after the Special Count in September.



AREA STEWARD TRAINING

State Steward Carla Dedden and Senior Assistant Erik Hirschfeld conducted a "New Area Steward Training" at Cherry Valley Lodge in Newark in December. Pictured above from left are Erik Hirschfeld, Beci Lynn, Sharon Short, Susan Thayer Miranda Rodgers and Carla Dedden. We now have eight fully trained Area Stewards. See page two for the assigned offices for all of the Area Stewards.

STEWARDS! STEWARDS! STEWARDS!

There will be a newly-elected Local Steward training on March 20th and 21st at Cherry Valley Lodge, Newark. The training will begin at 10:00 AM on Saturday and end at 1:00 PM on Sunday. The next training will be July 24th and July 25th.

The Union needs a Local Steward in every office. The Form 10 (Local Steward election form) is a link on the orlca.org website. Download the form and post in your office for 15 days. The election must then be held. The form needs to be posted by February 25. This allows the 15 days of posting and the mailing of the completed election Form 10 to State Steward, Carla Dedden

FEEDBACK

As your State Steward, I would like to write articles that you, the carrier, have asked to be written. Please e-mail me your requests on articles. My e-mail address is OHStateSteward@aol.com. In the next State paper, I plan to write on the February-March 2010 Mail Count results and on the proper handling of the PS3971 (leave slip) when requesting leave.

President's Report continued

Do you have a Rural Carrier Duties and Responsibilities Manual (PO-603) at your rural case. If not please ask a Postmaster or Manager to get you one. There should be one issued for each carrier's case and left in the office for reference. You should take the time to read about your duties and responsibilities concerning your job. The valuable information found in the Duties and Responsibilities manual can help you understand your job and the responsibility that goes with it. The latest edition is July 2008. All previous issues of Handbook PO-603 are obsolete. This publication is available on the Postal Service Intranet as follows: go to <http://blue.usps.gov/cpim>, click on HBKs, then 603. Printed copies may be ordered from the Topeka Material Distribution Center. Use touch tone order entry (TTOE). Call 800-273-1509. You must be registered to use TTOE. To register, call 800-332-0317; select option 8, extension 2925, and follow the prompts to leave a message. (Wait 48 hours after registering before placing your first order.)

New Law in Ohio Requires Headlights With Windshield Wipers.

Drivers not using headlights while their windshield wipers are on could be ticketed as of Jan. 1, 2010. Ohio Drivers have a new law to obey. Officials say it actually took effect six months ago, but it is about to become enforceable. It means a \$100.00 fine for anyone found in violation. You can find this information on the web site under New Law in Ohio.

Another piece of information for you is concerning your license renewal. On the BMV web site under fees, you will find the statement, " a late fee of \$20.00 will be assessed to all driver license and vehicle registration renewal transactions if renewed more than **seven** days beyond the expiration date.

"Think Safety", President Gayle Sweet

EMERGENCY DISMOUNT DELIVERY

When snow, vehicles, or other objects *temporarily* block access to individual boxes, dismount to make delivery when such service can be provided without undue physical exertion or risk of personal injury. You are not required to dismount and provide service on foot when roads or entire blocks, or equally large portions of the route, are impassable or when access to several mailboxes (along a continuous segment of the route) is blocked. Whenever necessary, request your Postmaster or supervisor to inform customers with Form 4056, *Your Mailbox Needs Attention* or Notice 38, *Approaches to Curbside or Rural Mailboxes* to keep the approach to their boxes clear by promptly removing obstructions, including snow, that may make normal delivery or mail from a vehicle difficult or impossible.



Vice President
Tom Gamble

Working Together Works...

I recently heard a new OIC say this after a joint effort to break down mail from a late truck. It reminded me of a story or parable I heard one time that went like this. Two souls had a chance to meet after each had gone to their reward. One soul went to heaven, the other of course took up residence with the devil. The heavenly soul asked the other what it was like "down there". He replied " Oh you wouldn't believe it. The devil sets this magnificent table with all the most wonderful food you can imagine". "That doesn't sound so bad replied the heavenly soul." "Oh but it's torture he continued, the devil gave us these forks too long to use to feed ourselves so the food goes to waste." "That is amazing", replied the heavenly soul, "we have exactly the same situation in heaven, complete with the forks too long to feed ourselves ... so we feed each other!"

Amidst the bad economic news and all the reports of postal cutbacks it's easy to think that we're facing these things alone. In fact it seems as though the Postal Service is not interested in working together to find solutions to our common problems. It would appear that they have their mind made up and the only thing that can shift their focus is a public outcry or an act of Congress. Hopefully these stopgaps will continue to work. We're all still members of the public and we can still voice our opinions to our elected representatives. This is an election year and their ears are a little bigger than normal. We need to keep up the pressure for reform that makes sense, including keeping 6 day delivery. After all what sense does it make to rebuild the parcel business and then give it away on Saturdays?

I want you to know that your Board and your Steward System are continually working on your behalf. I must admit that it is frustrating to discuss some of these problems with management when they promise to act on a problem and do nothing, or they dismiss your idea because it only would amount to a few million dollars, but we persist and are continually looking for ways to serve you better, but we need your help. We need for you to let us know what is going on in your area, in your Post Office. We need for you to work with us and file those grievances, attend the mail count meetings that are set up for you and make time to participate in Your District and Statewide informational meetings. State Steward Dedden has had a lot of success recruiting Stewards to represent our members. Now *is the* time to step up and have an election in your office if you don't have a steward. Now *is not* the time to let someone else do it. Now *is not* the time to worry about how your postmaster or supervisor will react if you point out something that goes against our contract. Now *IS* the time to stand up and give strength and encouragement to each other for the common good.

I have been in touch with the National Office

about the problems associated with the FSS, as have your State Steward and other officers as well. To date we have met with opposition in the Columbus District, but we are not going to give up. I hope that you won't either.

Finally I'd like to leave you with the words of Henry Ford: "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success!"

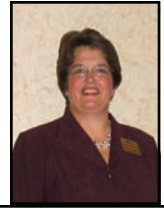
"Yours in Unity and In Service," Tom Gamble

A Penny for a Penny.....

ARGHHH! The mid-winter blues are upon us. The rush of the holiday season is past, the new year has begun and it's **TAX TIME** again. This year as you sort through the receipts, W-2s and other tax preparations to close out the year 2009, maybe it's time to look to the future and be certain that you are getting all you need for retirement. Are you maximizing all the benefits offered to you through the *Thrift Savings Plan (TSP)*? The TSP is a retirement savings and investment plan similar to private sector 401(K) plans. It is based on tax-deferred contributions and tax-deferred earnings with the benefit of investment option, loan programs and withdrawal options. For FERS employees, retirement benefits are based on three sources of income – pension, Social Security payment, and TSP funds. The pension is established by a formula based on years of service and salary received – not too much can be adjusted there. The Social Security benefit may or may not be realized depending on the financial state of the administration. The available funds for retirement in a TSP fund are directly related to the amount deposited into the fund and the returns on the investment option selected. **You** can have an influence on this part of your retirement package. There have been some recent changes that affect the TSP. Did you know that after becoming a regular carrier there is no longer a waiting period before you can contribute to the TSP? Are you aware that as a FERS employee the US Postal Service automatically contributes 1% of your earned wage to a TSP account? Are you aware that the money you designate for your TSP is deposited before taxes? These are questions I hope you have the answers for, but if not, read on for the explanation.

In August of 2009, the one year probationary waiting period was eliminated and all carriers still in the probationary period or newly hired could immediately elect to contribute to the TSP account. The Postal Service does automatically contribute the 1% of a FERS employee wage to the account, but it will also match contributions made by the carrier at a rate equal to \$1 /\$1 for the first 3% of your wage and 50¢/\$1 for the next 2% of wage. If you add in the automatic 1% contribution, the Postal Service will match 5% of your wage, dollar for dollar if you designate a 5% contribution to your account.

continued on next page



Committeeman
Jana
Hirschfeld

That's **FREE** money for retirement! Everyone should be contributing at least 5% of their wage into their account. Another way to use your TSP account is to defer taxes on your income because the contributions are deducted from your pay before the Federal Taxes are withheld and your tax is then computed on the reduced salary. Taxes are deferred until a withdrawal is made from the account. Income generated from the investment is also tax free until there is a withdrawal. In April of 2009, a Roth 401(k) feature was introduced where the money is taxed at deposit and not at the time of withdrawal.

Funds are invested in to several different funds as designated by the employee. Investments can be designated to ten different funds. There are five separate funds to select from (G fund, F fund, C fund, S fund, I fund) and five L funds, with each being a different blend of the five individual funds. There is a fund for everyone – from the more conservative investor to those that are willing to take a bigger risk.

In order to set up a TSP account for you to manage as part of your retirement, the employee needs to complete a Form TSP-1 which is available through Postal Ease. Participants may elect to start, change or stop contributions at any time.

There is not an open season for TSP that a participant needs to wait for. Once enrolled, a TSP PIN will be assigned to the account and the employee has access to manage the account at www.tsp.gov. For more information on Thrift Savings Plan you can access the home page of the www.tsp.gov website and do your own investigating. I have only given an overview of the options available through the TSP and I encourage you to study it on your own and at least elect a 5% contribution because FREE money is hard to come by. A penny for a penny, a dollar for a dollar, that's pretty good odds and one that isn't always available. Let 2010 be the year you planned ahead for your retirement!

Provident Guild is another way to put money aside for your loved ones at the time of your passing. Classes range from \$10 - \$50 a year and the return is guaranteed to be greater than the investment. Enrollment is open to all rural carriers, relief carriers, and their spouses under the age of 56. If you have any questions or would like an enrollment form, please call Janna Hirschfeld, Provident Guild Representative at 419 629-3830.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

“If each NRLCA member writes their representative and two senators encouraging them to preserve 6-day delivery, that would be 360,000 letters to Capitol Hill!”

Contact information for each of your Members of Congress can be found on the Legislative section of our national website nrlca.org or on the Ohio website ohrlca.org.

Are you being REASSESSED?

In 2006, the USPS initiated a program, the National Reassessment Process, to ensure that all employees in modified work assignments are performing work that is both suitable to their medical restrictions and necessary to the Services' mission.

The program aims to eliminate "make-work" assignments which, over time, occurred when factors such as increased automation and declining mail volumes reduced the amount of manual, sedentary, and useful work available for these employees to perform.

The program is being implemented in three phases in all 74 Postal districts. In phase 1, the Service ensures that all employees' medical records are current, and categorizes the employee based on their medical status. In phase 2 & 3, The Service attempts to find each employee medically suitable and necessary work. The key word here is necessary, and the Postal Service defines that as "value added". Does the modified work assignment add value to the Postal Service.

In successful reassessment the employee will be provided with a modified work assignment. However, when suitable work is not available, employees become eligible for wage loss compensation (workers' compensation). Specifically, because employees in phase 2 have reached their maximum medical improvement, they are not expected to return to work for the USPS and are eligible for workers' compensation indefinitely, whereas phase 3 employees are eligible for workers' compensation for only the number of hours they cannot work for the Service.

The USPS expects the program to be fully implemented by September 30, 2010, effecting some 31,044 employees presently in modified work assignments. The Goal of the program is to achieve a cost savings to the USPS. If an employee returns to full duty, retires, resigns, or performs modified (value added) work assignments then a cost savings is achieved. However, when suitable work is not available, some employee outcomes could increase the USPS short and long-term costs for workers' compensation.

The USPS reported to Congress that the program saved \$146 million in fiscal year 2008, but was unwilling to disclose how it arrived at its stated savings. This prompted the Government Accounting Office (GAO) to recommend the USPS establish program completion timelines, track and measure outcomes, and disclose limitations of its reported cost savings. The USPS agreed with the GAO's third recommendation and disagreed with the other two. The GAO held firm and retained all three requests to encourage program completion, accountability, and transparency.



**Committeeman
Delbert
Hutchisson**

Just A Few Thoughts

I became a sub of record in 1977. Prior to 1975, vacant rural routes were bid out and awarded to senior city carriers and clerks. After 1975, the rural subs had gotten those bidding rights. I thank those union representatives that negotiated for and won those rights for the rural subs. Many a city carrier that were in line for the next vacant rural route in the office were surely upset that they lost the chance to obtain that desirous position. That would include my Dad, who at that time had been walking the route in Plain City for fifteen years.

The current contract between the United States Postal Service and the National Rural Letter Carrier Association will conclude the end of the day on November 20, 2010. I would like to send encouragement, insight, forethought and some stubbornness to those men and women that will be negotiating the new agreement for our craft. I would also impress upon both sides that they will be making decisions that affect people. These are not just numbers on some pages but people with families, ambitions, obligations, and dreams.

I have seen different examples of "trust" exercises. One is where you fall back and I catch you. After viewing an advertisement where a CEO tells a gecko, "trust exercise, catch me," I reflected on that trust for a moment. You might trust me while we were standing on a carpeted floor, but would you trust me on an I-beam a thousand feet in the air. You might still trust me, but would want to be tied off, or wearing a parachute, or some other precaution for the "what ifs". Precaution was a good word to use there. I guess the level of precautions one would take is determined by the size of the risk. The trust is there, but the more that is at risk, the greater the need for precautions, for the "what ifs!"

One further thought concerning our contract, past and future. History has shown that never has an issue been "gotten through the door" then subsequently improved upon. What "gets through the door" becomes the starting point for the USPS to start whittling away on.

GMAC

I have heard that some GMAC policy holders have already seen some type of rate decrease in the cost of their protection. Even though GMAC is expert in dealing with Tort claims and how they affect the rural carrier, protection through them is not for everyone. Is it for you? You will never know unless you ask for a FREE quote.

"Call GMAC at 888-325-7727". Tell them that you are a rural letter carrier and would like them to use the NRLCA preferred rates.



Committeeman
Mike Aitchison

Become a Link in the Association Chain

Over the course of your career as a rural Carrier, there will be things needing change or improvement, and you will at times disagree with the way things are done by manual, handbook or agreement, or just aren't addressed by any of these. You, as a voting member of the Association, have a responsibility here. Let's start by calling it a "Suggestion" system. We all have ideas for improvement and we do have an established method to address issues up the chain to the NRLCA and USPS upper levels. These ideas and thoughts, when presented for consideration are called Resolutions. To have the Resolutions considered for adoption you must use the established system.

To effectively use the system, you must take advantage of your voting voice by becoming a link in the chain. The "chain" starts right there with your District Meeting. The Resolution can be presented at the State Convention. It is at this meeting your voting voice begins to be heard and needed.

Delegate is the next voting voice in the Association Chain, and delegate positions are open to all members willing to serve. You must be named and elected at your District Meeting. This is the only opportunity to be considered for this position. It is this position that makes the difference and votes on the "suggestions" or Resolutions put forward by the membership. Strongly consider taking part as a District Delegate to the State Convention. This is where change is initiated and where you really make a difference and your voice will be heard.

Each member should take an active role in the running of the Association and in the expression of needed updates, revisions, or changes to the way we do things for the betterment for the rural craft through the resolutions process. Attend your District Meeting, become a delegate to the State Convention. See what actually goes on, look at the members who are standing and speaking on the issues, listen to the voices, learn more about your job. Volunteer for a committee at the State Convention, become a stronger link and help run the process. The Association is a brotherhood, and we need to stand in support of each other through not just paid dues, but through active union involvement. You are the union, you're the representative, and you are the voices. Without your involvement the Association can not succeed in protecting our jobs.

Please for the benefit of your career and that of your fellow craft members, take an active role in this Association.

Please note that you will find the forms needed to submit Constitutional changes and Resolutions on pages 13 & 14 of this issue.



Committeeman
Floyd Edler



Secretary-
Treasurer
John Aichholz

MEMBERSHIP

As of December 29, 2009 Membership Analysis by the National Office was made Ohio's total membership was 4,725. The same report dated March 31, 2009 showed a total membership of 4,813, a loss of 88 members. At the same time the same two reports showed the total number of regular routes in the state had dropped from 2,470 to 2,364 a loss of 106 routes. A review of the rest of the states on the list indicates similar trends to those in Ohio. Please keep me informed of any new RCA's hired in your office and any craft employees that have left the Postal Service.

NATIONAL DELEGATE NOMINATING BALLOT

As indicated in last month's paper, the National paper in the months of February, March, April and May has a nominating ballot in it. If you desire to have your name placed on the ballot for consideration as a delegate to the National Convention or you desire to nominate someone else, fill out the nominating ballot and submit (*MUST BE MAILED*) it to my office. no later than June 1, 2010. Once I receive the nominating ballot, I will send a confirmation to the nominee. **IF THE NOMINEE DOES NOT RECEIVE THIS CONFIRMATION, PLEASE CONTACT ME.**

REMEMBER, District meetings are important as it is at them that your District officers are nominated and elected and your delegates to the State Convention are nominated and elected to represent your interests in any actions taken at the State Convention. **"According to our State Constitution both of these elections are to be by secret ballot."**

If you wish to be a delegate to the State Convention from your District and cannot attend the meeting, be sure to let your District Secretary know so that your name can be considered when elections for District delegates are held. **NAMES CANNOT BE ADDED TO THE DELEGATE LIST AFTER THE DISTRICT MEETING HAS ENDED.**

OHRLCA New Members Since 11/26/2009

<i>Name</i>	<i>Post Office</i>
ALLISON A DANIEL	GATES MILLS
DANIEL L BROTHERS	GERMANTOWN
GARY L HARTZLER	MECHANICSBURG
JODIE A PETERS	SOUTH VIENNA
ANTHONY J SOBLOTNE	WILLOUGHBY



DISTRICT MEETINGS

I hope that every member will plan to attend their District meeting that is listed elsewhere in the paper. You are a member of the district that includes the county in which your employing office is located. Check which counties are in your District as listed below to determine which District you are a member of and eligible to be a delegate to the State Convention representing that District.

- District 1 - Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, Portage, and Trumbull.
- District 2 - Carroll, Columbiana, Jefferson, Mahoning, and Stark.
- District 3 - Belmont, Coshocton, Harrison, and Tuscarawas-Holmes.
- District 4 - Guernsey, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, and Washington.
- District 5 - Gallia, Athens-Meigs-Vinton, Jackson, and Lawrence.
- District 6 - Fairfield, Hocking, Licking, Muskingum, and Perry.
- District 7 - Ashland, Crawford, Delaware, Knox, Marion, Morrow, and Richland.
- District 8 - Cuyahoga, Lorain, Medina, Summit, and Wayne.
- District 9 - Hancock, Lucas, Ottawa, Erie-Huron-Sandusky, Seneca, Wood, and Wyandot.
- District 10 - Champaign-Union, Clark-Madison, Franklin, Hardin, and Logan.
- District 11 - Adams, Brown, Fayette, Highland, Pickaway, Pike, Ross, and Scioto.
- District 12 - Butler-Hamilton, Clermont-Warren, Clinton, Greene, and Preble.
- District 13 - Allen, Auglaize, Darke, Mercer, Miami-Montgomery, and Shelby.
- District 14 - Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Paulding, Putman, Van Wert, and Williams.

OHLCA 2010 SPRING DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

- District 1** **April 24** in Geneva at Rt. 90 & Rt. 534 at the “Best Friends Restaurant” -order off the menu at 5:30 (\$5-\$12 range) meeting at 6:30- contact Dawn Greene at 440-759-2777 for more information.
- District 2** **April 17** at the “Dellroy Community Hall” St Rt. 39 Dellroy Ohio- Meal at 6:30 sharp, Chicken and Swiss Steak \$13 per person —Pay by April 5, 2010 to Penny Koren, 104 Clay Rd SW, Dellroy OH 44620 Questions or Directions 330-735-2727.
- District 3** **April 17** “Manor Restaurant” 753 S. Wooster Ave. Strasburg, OH (330)878-9809 3 Meat Meal with all the fixings \$10. Time: 6:00PM-9:00PM -\$5.00 meal if you; Bring a donation for a Veteran Free for 1st. time attendees RSVP: Maria Woodward 34600 Deersville Ridge Rd. Cadiz OH 43907 (740)942-4979 CALL IF YOU NEED A RIDE
- District 4** **April 24** at “Lori’s Restaurant”, Caldwell—6pm - order from the menu but in order to know how many to plan for please RSVP (let us know if you will attend) Contact Eileen Piatt 38641 Straight Fork Rd, Graysville OH 45734 740-934-2849 by April 20.
- District 5** **April 10** “McArthur Fireman's Hall”, 303 West High Street, McArthur, OH Time: 6:00pm to 9:00 pm Questions, please contact Doug Lash, District 5 President, at 740-418-6883 -Directions to McArthur Fireman's Hall: take US 93 to McArthur go west on US 50 for 2 blocks, turn right, go north on Boundary Ave, Hall is 1 block north on left.
- District 6** **April 17** “Johnson Park Shelter House”, Summer Choice Dr., Baltimore OH. Shelter House is next to swimming pool, corner of Park St and Summer Choice Dr., just follow signs from SR 158 or turn South on Park St from SR 256 by Library & Museum. Dinner will be catered, beginning at 6:30 PM, meeting to follow. Cost will be \$5.00 per person, with 1st timers to eat free. Ruth Crutcher 740-862-4082.
- District 7** **April 15** at the “Golden Coral” in Mansfield. Eat 5:45, meeting at 7:00. \$5.00 given towards members meal. Contact Darlene Foos for information or directions at 419-564-2796
- District 8** **March 24** (Wednesday) at “Ryan’s Steakhouse” in Wooster . “Ryan's” is located at 3743 Burbank Road (Rt. 83). It is an all you can eat buffet. Dinner / Meeting will start at 6:00 p.m. The District will pay for “members” and speakers' meals. Members' guests should pay at the door. The restaurant would like an estimated count by March 18th so PLEASE call Barb Perkins at 440-647-5341 with your reservation. Leave a message on answering machine.
- District 9** **April 14** at “Homestead Inn Restaurant”, 12018 US Rt. 250, Milan OH, at 6:00 pm. Please call Tim Barker at 419-901-1900, by April 1 for reservations.
- District 10** **April 14** at the “Der Dutchman Countryside”, 8690 US Hwy. 42 NE, Plain City, OH. The meal will start at 6:00pm with the meeting starting around 7:00 pm. The meal will consist of: chicken, roast beef, mashed potatoes, green beans, pie and drink. The cost is \$14.99 per person (tip included) Reservation made by April 7, 2010 will cost only \$7.00. Send payment to: Beci Morris, 2005 County Road 18, Bellefontaine, OH 43311-9261. Phone: 937-599-3636.
- District 11** **April 22** at the “Ponderosa” at 3858 US Highway 23, Portsmouth, OH 45662. We will eat at 6pm and meet at 7pm.
- District 12** **April 22** (Thursday) at “Damon's Grill” in Wilmington 1045 Eastside Drive. Restaurant phone number is 937- 383-1400. Ordering off of the menu starting at 5:00 p.m. Meeting to start at 6:30 p.m. RSVP to Cathy Funderburgh at 937-605-5200 or email Cfun70@aol.com so we can give them an idea as to how many will be there for dinner.
- District 13** **April 10** at the “Westminster Volunteer Fire Station”, 6825 Faulkner Rd, Westminster, OH (just southeast of Lima) at 6PM. The District will provide meat, beverage and table service. The members will carry-in side dishes, salads, and desserts. Contact person is Janna Hirschfeld 419 629-3830. Watch your mail for a personalized invitation!!
- District 14** **April 22** “Ponderosa”, 1495 N. Clinton, (St. Rt. 66 North), Defiance, OH- Dinner 5:30pm with meeting to follow. The notification card is worth \$5.00 off your meal price.

OHLCA SPRING DISTRICT MEETINGS ASSIGNMENTS

DISTRICT	DATE	OFFICER	STEWARD	AUXILIARY
DIST 1	APRIL 24	GAYLE SWEET	CARLA DEDDEN	TILLIE OWEN
DIST 2	APRIL 17	JOHN AICHHOLZ	ERIK HIRSCHFELD	FRANK SATTERFIELD
DIST 3	APRIL 17	DELBERT HUTCHISSON	DELBERT HUTCHISSON	PAUL ORTZ
DIST 4	APRIL 24	MIKE AITCHISON	ERIK HIRSCHFELD	BUDDY WILSON
DIST 5	APRIL 10	DELBERT HUTCHISSON	DELBERT HUTCHISSON	NONE
DIST 6	APRIL 17	FLOYD EDLER	CARLA DEDDEN	BUDDY WILSON
DIST 7	APRIL 15	JOHN AICHHOLZ	CARLA DEDDEN	FRANK SATTERFIELD
DIST 8	MARCH 24	TOM GAMBLE	CARLA DEDDEN	PAUL ORTZ
DIST 9	APRIL 14	FLOYD EDLER	DELBERT HUTCHISSON	SANDY SCHWARTZ
DIST 10	APRIL 14	JANNA HIRSCHFELD	CARLA DEDDEN	PAUL ARMBRUSTER
DIST 11	APRIL 22	TOM GAMBLE	DELBERT HUTCHISSON	PAUL ARMBRUSTER
DIST 12	APRIL 22	JANNA HIRSCHFELD	CARLA DEDDEN	NONE
DIST 13	APRIL 10	GAYLE SWEET	CARLA DEDDEN	SANDY SCHWARTZ
DIST 14	APRIL 22	MIKE AITCHISON	ERIK HIRSCHFELD	SANDY SCHWARTZ

WINTER BOARD MEETING

January 19-20, 2010

Mansfield Holiday Inn, Mansfield OH

The meeting was called to order by President Sweet at 11:40 AM with Vice President Gamble, Secretary-Treasurer Aichholz, and Committeemen Hirschfeld, Aitchison, Elder and Hutchisson present. Past President Frost was present also.

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed by the Board members and corrections noted. Comm. Aitchison moved to accept the minutes as corrected and Comm. Edler seconded.

The Secretary-Treasurer gave the financial report to the Board and answered any questions they had. The report was accepted on the motion of Comm. Hirschfeld with Comm. Gamble's second.

The Secretary-Treasurer reported that the number of routes in Ohio has decreased by 106 according to the numbers being used by the National and that number of RCA's being hired is very limited. The result is a decrease in membership. The hope is that with the economy improving will result in increased mail volume and more work opportunities for craft members.

Following a lunch break the meeting reconvened at 2:04 PM

The Spring Board Meeting will be April 27, 28, 29, 2010 at Kings Island Resort- site of the 2010 State Convention.

Provident Guild Rep Hirschfeld reported that there had been 83 new members enrolled and 32 deaths reported on a nationwide basis. The notices to the delinquent members in Ohio had resulted in several paying their dues.

Because of the unavailability of a National Officer for a Spring Booster Meeting it was agreed not to have a Spring Booster Meeting in 2010.

Insurance Rep Aitchison reported that he had not heard of any changes in previous policies of GMAC. He provided tabs with information for the Board members to used at the District Meetings.

The meeting recessed at 6:05 PM to reconvene at 8:30 AM January 20th.

Editor Sandy Laramée reported that the December issue of the paper was sent to the printer on December 2nd. Cost of the paper is approximately one half that paid before switching printers and class of mailing. As Webmaster she continues to made changes provided by the State Steward. She asked Board Members to let her know if there are things that need to be changed on the site.

The previously appointed committee to formulate a Board Policy (see page 11) on the content of the Ohio Rural Carrier gave their report. Each paragraph was reviewed and any changes offered. Vice President Gamble moved that the Board Policy for Newspaper Content be adopted. Comm. Aitchison seconded the motion and it was approved without dissent.

Secretary John Aichholz works with VP Tom Gamble on some paper work during the recent State Board Meeting in Mansfield.



On the subject of payment of expenses to the Mid-States Conference, Comm. Hutchisson moved and Comm. Hirschfeld seconded to pay the expenses of the President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer and the mileage and per diem of the State Steward to attend the Conference. Motion approved.

State Steward Dedden reported to the Board that she had trained 12 new local stewards in November, bringing the total number of local stewards to 104. There will be new local steward training in March and July with enhancement training for current local stewards on three Sundays in May and three in June. She had training for four newly assigned Area Stewards and she has developed a log book for them in addition to them keeping a phone log. She has had positive feedback regarding the mail count training. Three more offices have been added to the FSS. She ask for the Board to present a Constitutional change to increase the office allowance for the State Steward and Assistant State Stewards. She provided a print out of all the grievances filed since July 1st.

PAC Chairman Nichols reported \$13,871.75 had been sent to National. The mail count meetings held to date had generated an average of \$651.00. Ray presented the Longaberger basket that he is selling this year. It has been well accepted with a price of \$93.00. He asked about his attendance at District Meetings and he was approved to attend as many as he could, though the number would be less than the past because of multiple meetings on the same night.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM on the motion of Comm. Hutchisson with Comm. Edler's second.

Submitted by, John D. Aichholz, Secretary-Treasurer

BLOCH AWARD * DPS REVIEW

The NRLCA has just received the much-awaited decision by National Arbitrator Bloch in the DPS Review II case. In a resounding victory for the Association, Arbitrator Bloch ordered the Postal Service to immediately rescind its 2008 unilateral changes to Section 541.42 of PO-603, concerning the consequences should the Postal Service fail to maintain a route's DPS letter volume percentage at or above the level of the last mail count. He further ordered the Postal Service to reinstate the language and provisions of the original Section 541.42, which was collectively negotiated between the NRLCA and the Postal Service in 1994.

See nrlca.org for more details.

OHRLCA Board Policy Adopted 1/20/2010

Board Policy for Newspaper Content

It is the desire of the governing body of the OHRLCA to establish a board policy that will facilitate the publication of a newsletter that is in compliance with the National Guidelines. The State Board, State Steward, Editor and those with an appointed position required to submit articles for publication in *The Ohio Rural Letter Carrier* magazine will follow the guidelines listed below when preparing materials for submission.

In order to abide by the labor laws, the OHRLCA will follow the National Guidelines for publications as set forth by the NRLCA.

All information or articles submitted by State Board members or requested by members for print in *The Ohio Rural Letter Carrier* magazine must be approved by the State President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, State Editor, and State Steward. The editor has the final authority for print.

Information submitted for print must be absolutely true and factual without statements that could be libelous (containing material that is defamatory or leaves an unfavorable impression).

The Ohio Rural Letter Carrier is not free press in that it is not open for publication of all members' views. It is a Union funded, regulated paper and materials contained within the paper must meet the prescribed criteria.

Inspirational type articles may be included in the paper but cannot contain any quoted or referenced passage or verse from any religious material.

Union funds cannot be used to promote any individual candidate. Therefore, any article submitted for publication may not contain any type of campaign material, thank-you, or listing of a person's accomplishments. In the same manner, attacks of a personal nature are also forbidden. This is the accepted procedure at all times.

A generalized thank-you, such as to a district or committee, with no personal gain acknowledged or intended is permissible.

The OHRLCA Auxiliary will be fiscally responsible for the space used in the magazine at a rate equal to the costs incurred as outlined in the Affiliation Agreement that was adopted by the OHRLCA and the OHRLCA Auxiliary.

15th ANNUAL MID-STATES CONFERENCE

The Conference will be held May 7-9, 2010 at the Embassy Suites Indianapolis North, 3912 Vincennes Road, Indianapolis, Indiana. The rate for this all-suite hotel is \$94 plus tax and includes a complimentary, cooked to order breakfast. Hotel suite reservations may be made by calling the hotel at 317-872-7700 and referencing Indiana Rural Letter Carriers for the discounted rate. Reservations can also be booked online by searching Embassy Suites Indianapolis North and using the group code IRL. All suite reservations must be made by **April 7, 2010** in order to receive the discounted rate. Friday evening will kick off the conference with a steward session, open mike forum and mixer. Scheduled guests on Saturday and Sunday include Don Cantriel, Ronnie W. Stutts, Steven L. Traylor, and Susan T. Knapp representing the National Board. Other guests will include NRLCA Auxiliary President Rick Fox; Assistant Director of Governmental Affairs Kevin P. Talley; PAC Manager Trisha Botty; and NRLCA Legal Counsel Michael J. Gan, as well as many other representatives. Entertainment for the Saturday evening banquet will be the Hickory Hollow Bluegrass band.

Please register and pre-pay all meals by April 23, 2010. See February National paper for needed form. Mid States Conference Registration c/o Larry Kappenman 825 Red Oaks Lane, Lafayette, IN 47909 Tel: 765-474-7225.

IMPORTANT LEGISLATIVE MESSAGE FROM PAUL SWARTZ DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS PRESIDENT'S BUDGET REGARDING THE POSTAL SERVICE

I wanted to share with everyone some excerpts from the recently released President's budget regarding the Postal Service. It is very good news coming from the White House. I wanted to share with you two small sections of importance:

President's budget proposal on 6 Day Delivery, page 1313:

"2011: *Provided*, That mail for overseas voting and mail for the blind shall continue to be free: *Provided further*, That 6-day delivery and rural delivery of mail shall continue at not less than the 1983 level...

"That language included in the President's budget is the same language Congress includes (every year since 1983) in their annual appropriations bills mandating 6 day delivery. The White House is not looking to cut service, and is advising Congress not to cut service by including the same language.

In addition, at the bottom of page 1314, the White House recognizes the challenges the USPS is facing in this economic environment, but promises to work with all the stakeholders, **including the employee unions** (no other previous administration has ever mentioned working with the postal unions) to see that the USPS remains viable well into the future.

"The Postal Service faces a serious financial crisis due to unprecedented reductions in mail volume. These reductions, in turn, reflect greater reliance on the Internet (a.k.a., "electronic diversion") and the effects of the business cycle, including cost-cutting by businesses and consumers during the recession. The Administration will work with the Postal Service, its employee unions, the Congress, and other stakeholders to make sure the Postal Service has the tools and authorities it needs to remain viable as a pillar of the American economy and a vital public resource through the current crisis and over the long haul."

CONSTITUTION and/or BY LAWS

The following proposed Constitutional and/or By Laws change is submitted by (Individual, or District) _____ to the Law Committee of the 2010 Annual Convention of the Ohio Rural Letter Carriers' Association at Cincinnati, OH, for consideration and appropriate action.

The following procedures are suggested for effectively presenting a change:

- 1. Place only one proposal per sheet.
- 2. Present in typewritten form, if possible.
- 3. Identify if proposal is a part of the Constitution or a part of the By Laws:

By: Article _____, Section _____, Paragraph, _____

- 4. Explanatory paragraphs should be headed as follows: (If spaces below are inadequate, use additional sheets with the appropriate heading.)

(a) Present Language:

(b) Proposed Language:

(c) Intent of change:

(d) Reason for Change:

(Signed) _____
(Individual or District Officer)

RESOLUTION

BINDING _____

CHECK APPROPRIATE ITEM

NON-BINDING _____

The following Resolution is submitted by (Individual, County, District) _____
to the Resolutions Committee of the 2010 Annual Convention of the Ohio Rural Letter Carriers' Association at Cincinnati, Ohio for
consideration and appropriate action.

ISSUES

Check one:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> VEHICLE | <input type="checkbox"/> LEAVE RELACEMENTS | <input type="checkbox"/> AUTOMATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RELIEF DAY | <input type="checkbox"/> TIME STANDARDS | <input type="checkbox"/> MAILCOUNT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BENEFITS | <input type="checkbox"/> RETIREMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SALARY | <input type="checkbox"/> GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSTITUTION & |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WORK RULES | <input type="checkbox"/> EMA | <input type="checkbox"/> BY-LAWS |

The following procedures are suggested for effectively presenting Resolutions:

Place only one Resolution per sheet.

Present in Word Document Format.

Indicate if the Resolution is intended to be binding or non-binding (above).

Indicate the issue this resolution concerns (above).

Identify any Handbooks, Manuals, or Written Documents to be amended:

By: (a) Name of Document _____

(b) Article _____ Section _____ Paragraph _____

Explanatory paragraphs should be headed as follows: (If spaces below are inadequate, use additional sheets with the appropriate heading).

WHEREAS:

BE IT RESOLVED:

INTENT/REASON FOR CHANGE:

Signature _____ **Printed Name** _____

Date _____



**PAC Chair
Ray Nichols**

WHY SUPPORT PAC ?

This brings to mind what only the individual can answer. Are you completely satisfied with all aspects of your job as a rural carrier, as a regular, sub or retired? We all fit in this picture somewhere. What will PAC do for me or has done for me in past years?

The reason we must support PAC is to give our Association a chance to meet with our Congress people and inform them, as no other group will lobby the many duties we carry out. All labor unions lobby Congress on their individual needs. We must also lobby Congress on our behalf, as no other group will lobby for our needs. We do not lobby for our contracts but we lobby for many of our benefits, such as health insurance, 6 day delivery, retirement benefits, FERS sick leave conversion. This is but a few of the many issues that Congress can support us on.

Just recently we were successful in getting the sick leave credit on retirement for those under FERS. We received a commitment from Congress to maintain 6 day delivery. These alone mean a lot to rural carriers. A lot of work is being done on maintaining health insurance.

Each of these items have taken a lot of time and considerable expense. PAC has allowed members of our National Board to seek Congressional support on our behalf. Remember what we win today can be lost tomorrow if we let our guard down and take things for granted.

This is why each one needs to support PAC. The job is never done and we need support from each member of our craft to remain strong. Ohio is blessed to have so many members of the Association that keep donating to PAC. My only wish is that all members could see fit to support this much needed cause. **WILL YOU PLEASE DO YOUR PART?**

In my article you will see the 2010 Longaberger Basket. We will have as many baskets signed by a Longaberger family member as possible. If you bought a basket last year we will try to reserve that same number for you as long as we can. Respond as soon as you can. Twenty dollars of each basket sold will go to PAC in your name. The lid has been engraved in color and 2010 is

**2010 NRLCA
Longaberger® Baskets
Now Available**

A Longaberger® Round Keeping Basket with the lid engraved with a rural mail box dated 2010 is now available. The lid has the “*National Rural Letter Carrier’s Association*”, “*Service With A Smile*” engraved on it. The mail box is blue with the flag up and the lid open and mounted on the post. The basket is 7” in diameter and 2-7/8” in height. The basket is warm brown in color with a primary trim strip of white and a secondary trim strip of royal blue. The trim strips are accented star tack covers. The baskets will be numbered and hopefully signed. A protector is included. The cost of the basket will be \$93.00 and shipped by priority mail. The profit per basket will be \$20 and goes to the PAC Fund.

Make checks payable to: **Raymond Nichols and mail to:
Raymond Nichols, 20915 Nichols Lane
Freeport, Ohio 43973**

I would like to order:
_____ Baskets @ \$93.00 each = \$_____




printed on it.

Look at the drawing ticket printed with a list of prizes on it. We think we have some nice prizes on the drawing. All of the prizes were either donated or purchased with non PAC dollars. Every dollar you donated to PAC goes to Washington to work for you. This year we will again have the \$100 Dollar Bonus Club. Each one who gives \$100 will receive (1) ticket in the Bonus Drawing. A full list of prizes will be printed in the next paper. One prize we now have is a 1 carat diamond ear ring set valued at over \$900. This was cost shared with Kay Jewelry. We will add other prizes to the Bonus Drawing of the Buckeye \$100 Club.

As your PAC Chairman I’m asking you to please consider supporting PAC. Your money will not be wasted but will be your insurance for a better tomorrow. **DO IT NOW.**

OHRLCA DRAWING—PROCEEDS FOR PAC DRAWING-JULY 12, 2010 AT THE STATE CONVENTION BANQUET	SAMPLE ONLY
1 John Deere LA145 Tractor W/48” Mower	8 Ladies Diamond Bracelet-1 CT. total WT.
2 LG 42” Plasma HD TV	9 American Tourister 7 pc Luggage Set
3 15.6 Acer Laptop, 4GB Memory	10 Craftsman 154 pc Mechanics Tool Set
4 2600 PSI Husky Power Washer	11 \$100 Wal-Mart Gift Card
5 Ladies Crystal Bezel Watch & Bracelet	12 Colman Grill with Storage Tote
6 Craftsman 10 Drawer BB Chest & Top	13 Black & Decker Cordless Hedge Hog
7 Craftsman 16” Gas Chain Saw	14 Craftsman Die Hard Battery Charger

**Ticket Donation: 1 for \$25 3 for \$50 8for \$100
Each Additional \$100 Gets 10 Additional Tickets**

**Make your donation
check payable to:
NRLCA PAC**

Send to:
**NRLCA PAC %
RAYMOND NICHOLS
20915 NICHOLS LN
FREEPORT OH 43973**

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Junior Sponsor

Pat Singelyn
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Chagrin Falls, OH 44023
Phone 330-562-8886
plsteacher207@yahoo.com

The 2009-2010 Ohio Rural Letter Carriers' Association Auxiliary



The State Board met with the Auxiliary Board in Mansfield in January to plan the 2010 State Convention at the "Kings Island Resort" in July. From L President Gayle Sweet, Bill Owen, Auxiliary Sec. Tille Owen, Sec. John Aichholz, Auxiliary VP Sandy Schwartz, Auxiliary President Paul Armbruster and Sandy Armbruster.

AUXILIARY PROGRAM FOR 2009-2010

Project: "The 'Lucky' Clark Memorial Scholarship"
Motto: "Our Youth-Their Dreams-Our future"
Symbol: Mailbox/America the Beautiful
Americanism: Veterans/Veterans' Facilities
Safety: Sun Safety
Inspirational Music: "How Great Thou Art"
Song: "America the Beautiful"

Veterans/Veterans' Facilities

In an effort to continue support for our National Auxiliary Americanism Project, we are including an ALWAYS NEEDED list that you can bring to the Spring District Meetings and also to the State Convention:

- White socks
- Shaving Cream
- Tooth paste
- Dominos
- Small Craft items.
- Tee Shirts in sizes L, XL, and 2X
- Tooth brushes
- Deodorant
- Playing Cards



Auxiliary President Paul Armbruster

Thank you for your support of Veterans!

Notice to Parents of Juniors attending State Convention near King's Island!

As usual, the Juniors will be doing a fun/recreational event and an educational event at the State Convention. **However**, due to the huge **responsibility** in the King's Island Park and the Beach Water Park, these events will be parents only events if you so wish. Thanks for your understanding in advance. Pat Singlyn, Juniors & Paul Armbruster, Auxiliary



Chaplain Ron Briggs

"WAY UP HIGH IN DUBAI..."

New records are set in just about any year and 2010 may be remembered for a building that exceeds the heights of all other structures. The Dubai tower boasts the most stories and is now the tallest structure in the world; it also sets a record with an observation deck on floor # 124.

While the average rural carrier may not set any records in life, he/she can make a constructive impact on many lives. A word of encouragement to a fellow worker or to someone presently unemployed could be refreshing to that person. As it has been said "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold..." A smile is another way one can make someone's day brighter. My wife was once trying to recall the name of a rural carrier she had visited with during a meeting... "She has such a pretty smile!" That narrowed it down to dozens of smiling people. A noted author, George Eliot, once stated, "Wear a smile and have friends; wear a scowl and have wrinkles."

IN MEMORIAM



URBAN W "Midge" WEBER

He passed away at age 90 November 26, 2009 at the Woodsfield Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. He was buried in Oaklawn Cemetery in Woodsfield. He was a retired rural carrier for the USPS. He was in the Army Air Corp during WWII, receiving four bronze stars. He is survived by five children, many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

CLARENCE R NEWTON

Clarence was a mail carrier for 30 years with the USPS. He was an Army veteran in the 137 Regiment in the Battle of the Bulge. He was a member of DAV American Legion Post 24 in McConnelssville and the Morgan County Purple Heart Association. Services were held on December 11, 2009 at the Stone-Matheny Funeral Home in Chesterfield. Burial followed at the Bartlett cemetery with full military honors. He is survived by a son and daughter and many extended family members.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mail Count

February 27- March 12

Spring District Meetings

See page 9 for details.

Spring Board Meeting

April 27-29 Kings Island

Resort, Cincinnati

Mid States Conference

Indianapolis ID May 7-9

See page 11 for details.

Presidents/VP Legisla-

tive Conference Wash-

ington DC, May 16-18

State Convention

Kings Island Resort

Cincinnati ,July 11-13

National Convention

Spokane WA,

August 17-20

Deadline for the April/May issue is March 20, 2010. Please have all articles to Editor Sandy Laramee by that date. sj43147@insight.rr.com

Please note that this edition of the paper may be arriving later than usual since it was targeted for mail count.



See page 14 for details on the new PAC Basket.

NRLCA MAIL COUNT GUIDE

The complete Guide is available for members at nrlca.org, under "What's New".

Postmaster

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John Aichholz

7303 S. Twp Rd. 187

Attica, Ohio 44807-9424

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2010 OHRLCA STATE CONVENTION

JULY 11-13, 2010

"KINGS ISLAND

RESORT"

CINCINNATI

THE CONVENTION STARTS AT 1PM SUNDAY, JULY 11, AND ENDS TUESDAY AFTERNOON JULY 13 ROOMS \$109.00

LOOK FOR DETAILS IN THE NEXT PAPER

DPS REVIEW

IF ANY OF YOU HAVE HAD A DPS REVIEW, OR REQUESTED A REVIEW AND WERE DENIED, PLEASE PROVIDE ME, VIA CERTIFIED MAIL, ANY INFORMATION YOU HAVE (YOUR ORIGINAL REQUEST, ANY WRITTEN DENIALS, ANY DOCUMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF YOUR REVIEW, AND/OR ANY OTHER DOCUMENTATION YOU KEPT IN YOUR RECORDS). THIS WOULD APPLY TO ANY REQUESTS MADE AFTER JUNE 28, 2008. SEND THESE ITEMS TO ME PROMPTLY.

PLEASE GET THIS INFORMATION OUT IN THE FIELD TO ALL CARRIERS. CARLA DEDDEN STATE STEWARD

ACTS OF GOD

ELM 519.21 Acts of God

General – 519.211 – **Acts of God** involve community disasters such as fire, flood, or storms. The disaster situation must be general rather than personal in scope and impact. It must prevent groups of employees from working or reporting to work.

Determining the cause of absence – 519.213 – Postmasters and other appropriate postal officials determine whether absences from duty allegedly due to "acts of God" were, in fact, due to such cause or whether the employee or employees in question could, with reasonable diligence, have reported for duty.

Early Dismissal Due to Acts of God – 519.214 – When employees are dismissed from duty before the normal completion of their duty due to an act of God, the following applies: **a.** Full-time employees are entitled to credit for hours worked plus enough administrative leave to complete their tour of duty. This combination of work and leave is not to exceed **8 hours** in any one day. **b.** Part-time regular employees are entitled to credit for hours worked plus enough administrative leave to complete their scheduled hours of duty. This combination of work and leave is not to exceed **8 hours** in any one day. **c.** Part-time flexible employees are entitled to credit for hours worked plus enough administrative leave to complete their scheduled tour. The combination of straight time worked and administrative leave may not exceed **8 hours** in a service day. If there is a question as to the scheduled work hours, the part-time flexible employee is entitled to the greater of the following: (1) The number of hours the part-time flexible worked on the same service day in the previous service week. (2) The number of

hours the part-time flexible was scheduled to work. (3) The guaranteed hours as provided in the applicable national agreement.

Employees Prevented From Reporting – 519.215 – Employees scheduled to report who are prevented from reporting or, who after reporting, are prevented from working by an act of God may be excused as follows: **a.** Full-time and part-time regular employees received administrative leave to cover their scheduled tour of duty not to exceed **8 hours**. **b.** Part-time flexible employees receive administrative leave, subject to the **8-hour** limitation, for their scheduled work hours, as provided in 519.214c.

Employees on Annual Leave, Sick Leave, or LWOP – 519.216 – Employees on annual leave, sick leave, or LWOP remain in such status. They are not entitled to administrative leave.

Substitute Rural Carriers and Rural Carrier Associates – 519.217 – Substitute rural carriers and RCA's in a leave-earning status are treated the same as rural carriers: **a.** If they are scheduled for duty and are unable to report to the postal installation, administrative leave is granted for the full day that the employees are scheduled to serve their routes. No equipment maintenance allowance is paid. **b.** If employees are scheduled for duty and report to the postal installation but are unable to serve all or part of their routes through no fault of their own, they may be granted administrative leave for the remainder of the normal tour of duty for that day. Payment for equipment maintenance allowance is made, if appropriate, because employees are considered to be in duty status.

PLEASE ALSO NOTE: EL-902, ARTICLE 30.1.H; PO 603 -- 142.1 AND 152.1; F-21 SECTION 582