



OHIO RURAL LETTER CARRIER

Association Year 2020-2021 - Issue Number 3



Recently Resigned:
NRLCA
Executive Committeeman
Johnny Miller

NRLCA Executive Committeeman Johnny Miller Resigns From the National Board Due To Persistent Health Condition

November 21, 2020: NRLCA President Ronnie Stutts Appoints His Presidential Predecessor, Mid-Carolinas District ADR Jeanette Dwyer, to Fill Remainder of Executive Committeeman Miller's Term



Jeanette Dwyer returns
to the National Board as
an appointed Executive
Committeeman

In *The National Rural Letter Carrier*, Johnny writes:

It is with deep regret I write this article. As some of you know, early in 2018 I was diagnosed with end stage liver disease. I appreciate all the prayers and well wishes on my behalf. Best case scenario, my doctors initially thought my condition could advance slowly and be treatable medically. Unfortunately, the tests used to monitor my condition have shown a decrease in liver function to the point that I am now being evaluated for placement on a transplant list.

I wanted to let everyone know that I appreciate the support, opportunities, and relationships our great Association has given me through the years.

In keeping with the respect and dedication our Association demands, I resign my position as Executive Committeeman due to my current health condition.

**Respectfully submitted,
Johnny Miller, 2020**



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WORSHIP CORNER



Chaplain Chat: You Got This!

Greetings Brothers and Sisters!
As I sit down to write this, the first snow is on the ground. It is the beginning of December, and the annual "crazy" is really hitting the post office.

Rita Beedy
State Chaplain

I saw a meme that basically read that we have made it 100% through everything you thought was impossible and would do us in. Rural Carriers are a rare breed and are way stronger than we think. We are incredibly determined with a built-in "git 'er done" mentality. We care for our customers and want to give the best service we possibly can.

To us, I say, CARRY ON! I AM SO PROUD OF YOU! This is my first holiday season as a retired rural carrier. I felt guilty when the snowplow went by our house while knowing a leave replacement would have to deliver in the snow! I remember when I was an RCA. I would hear the snowplow and pray the regular would not call (sorry Tom, haha!).

I remember when it was a joy to deliver parcels when people would be happy to get a gift in the mail from Gramma, or Aunt Myrtle. Times have changed. Now, that degree of joy is less common. I would tell myself that I was doing Santa's job. That would help ease my mind.

How many of us are old enough to remember the small white parcel carts. They were maybe two by three feet in size. Now, we have the huge orange carts with even more parcels stacked at cases!

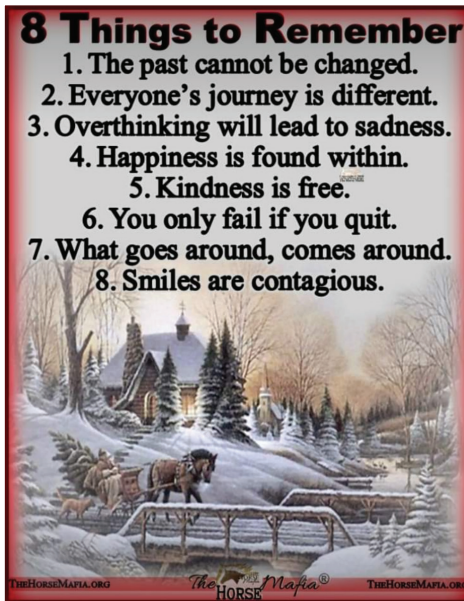
Thank you, leave replacement carriers, for all your help this time of year. I think I would not have made it through the last few holidays without mine. I think I had the best one in the business! She is now a "real carrier" and has been regular since I retired! (Congratulations!) Actually, thank you, subs, for all your service!

I would listen to Christmas music and that would help me too. There is one that I particularly love, "God Rest You Merry Gentlemen", and find great joy in the content. (I have probably shared this before and will probably share again!)

I learned just a few years ago that it is to be sung with a comma after Merry. An excerpt I found online (deeprootsmag.org) regarding understanding the song's historical translation and meaning:

8 Things to Remember

1. The past cannot be changed.
2. Everyone's journey is different.
3. Overthinking will lead to sadness.
4. Happiness is found within.
5. Kindness is free.
6. You only fail if you quit.
7. What goes around, comes around.
8. Smiles are contagious.



When modern people say “Merry” Christmas, the word merry means happy. When “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” was written, merry had a very different meaning. Robin Hood’s “Merry Men” might have been happy, but the merry that described them meant great and mighty. Thus, in the Middle Ages, a strong army was a merry army, a great singer was a merry singer, and a mighty ruler was a merry ruler.

So when the English carolers of the Victorian era sang, “merry gentlemen,” they meant great or mighty men. Ye means you, but even when translated to “God rest you mighty gentlemen,” the song still makes very little sense. This is due to another word that has a much different meaning in today’s world and a lost punctuation mark.

The word rest in “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” simply means keep or make. Yet to completely uncover the final key to solving this mystery of meaning, a comma needs to be placed after the word “merry.” Therefore, in modern English, the first line of “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” should read “God make you mighty, gentlemen.” Using this translation, the old carol suddenly makes perfect sense, as does the most common saying of the holidays, “Merry Christmas.”

Just know that I am praying for you during the holiday season, that God would fill you with strength, not just physically, but emotionally and spiritually! I pray we get to meet face-to-face soon! Dark gray days aren’t fun, but we are MIGHTY and have got this! I pray for those grieving deceased loved ones, as the holidays are so difficult without them.

Love and socially distanced hugs to you all!
You’ve got this!

Rita Beedy
State Chaplain



Thank Your Sub Today!

Some of our fellow craft members showed their delivery spirit during the Christmas Period. **Holli Mosley** (RCA of the Magnolia office) has been dressing up for the occasion for the past seven years. Holli is pictured here, buried in packages but ready for the daily battle!

Thank you, all leave replacement carriers! Your dedication is the glue that holds our craft together!



Mark Funderburgh
President

Working With 2020 Visions

What a year 2020 has been!

The pandemic has severely wounded our scheduled events. The first to fall was Mid-States, and then the Legislative conference. COVID-19 knocked out our state convention in June and our national convention in August. This misfortune has been

disheartening to many dedicated craft members. The 2019 NRLCA South Atlantic Conference (SAC) was the last large union event I attended. Like you, I long for the opportunity for involvement.

Pandemic restrictions have forced your State Board to improvise to have large group meetings. We are limited to meet in a room large enough to practice social distancing or meet online in a virtual environment.

A hotel with a large enough meeting space to have everyone 6 feet apart may also include a requirement that everyone have their own microphone to conduct association business. I know of no hotels in our state that could reasonably accommodate these needs.

I came down with a sinus infection that later included COVID-19. I only had two days of sickness, but that came with 10-12 days of just being exhausted. My leave replacement appreciated the additional work and pay, and I appreciated being able to rely on someone holding down the fort! I was lucky in multiple accounts.

This year is almost over! (Thank you, Lord Jesus!)

Take at least a moment each day to reflect on your personal thankfulness for who and what you have in your lives. Consider looking forward to a better and more prosperous new year.

I know I am! As of the first of January 2021, I only have 43 weeks left of postal work. I can finally see the finish line that many of you have already crossed, while many others are close behind me in this footrace, also eager to celebrate.

May everyone be blessed this holiday season with the gift of family and friends, and may all of your dreams come true for this year and the next one. Happy holidays!

May God bless this Union, this country, and this Association.

Mark Funderburgh



Penny Koren
Secretary/Treasurer

Membership Analysis Report

OHRLCA Brothers and Sisters,

As of November 30, 2020, the Membership Analysis report prepared by the National Office has Ohio's total membership at 4486. We have a decrease of 67 members from last year. Our Union is only as strong as the number of members we have.

Ohio has 916 non-members. If your office has received a new RCA or ARC, recruit them to become a member of the NRLCA. Keep our Association strong by recruiting a non-member today. PS Form 1187, authorization for dues withholding, is available on the ohrlca.org website.

NATIONAL DELEGATE NOMINATING BALLOT

The National Magazine's December through April issues includes the nominating ballot for delegates to the National Convention. If you desire to have your name placed on the ballot for consideration as a delegate to the National Convention, or you want to nominate someone else, fill out the nominating ballot and mail it to NRLCA Delegate Nominations, PO Box 107, Dellroy OH 44620-0107. All National Convention Nominating Ballots must be received by US Mail, in PO Box 107, Dellroy OH 44620-0107, no later than April 25, 2021. Upon receipt of the nominating ballot, a confirmation notice will be sent to the nominee. IF THE NOMINEE DOES NOT RECEIVE A CONFIRMATION NOTICE, PLEASE CONTACT – OHRLCA Secretary-Treasurer Koren at 330-735-2727.

NATIONAL DELEGATE BALLOT NAME PLACEMENT DRAWING

Two members of the Election Committee will pull the nominee names for placement on the ballot. The names will be placed on the ballot in the order in which they are drawn. The ballot draw will be on April 27, 2021, at 7:00 P.M. at 104 Clay Rd SW, Dellroy, OH 44620. This event is open to all members.

You will receive a ballot to elect delegates to the National Convention in the middle of May 2021. If you do not receive a ballot, please contact OHRLCA Secretary-Treasurer Koren at 330-735-2727.

RURAL CARRIERS WHO PASS AWAY

Please contact me if a Rural Carrier who passes away. I will send the family information of whom to contact within 30 days of the carrier's passing. So, please email or call if you know of any rural carrier that passes away.

TSP CONTRIBUTIONS

The New Year, 2021, is fast approaching. It is time to reassess your retirement investments. Contributing to the TSP is an absolute must for FERS employees who wish to retire and maintain their same standard of living. Many postal employees contribute 5% to their TSP because this allows them to get the full matching amount. This isn't enough. The "old" rule of "saves 10% and you'll be able to retire comfortably" is only true if you plan on working for the full 30 years. If you didn't become a regular carrier until age 40, you probably aren't planning on working until you have 30 years of USPS service and must boost your TSP contributions. In 2021 you can contribute up to \$19,500 to the TSP program. If you are 50 or older, you can contribute an additional catch-up amount of \$6500. Catch-up contributions are made on top of your regular employee contributions; however, they do not receive any matching. To be eligible to make these special contributions, you must be on track to meet the IRS elective deferral limit. They are separate from the elective deferral and annual addition limits.

RECENT RETIREES

Recent retirees, you have 90 days after retirement to sign up as a member. If you do not continue your membership, your membership will expire, then you will become a non-member. The \$7.50 in monthly union dues may be taken out of your annuity check each month or be paid annually in cash. You must retain your union membership to continue your benefits of insurances and programs sponsored by the NRLCA. Even if you do not elect the Rural Carrier Health Benefits insurance program now, you may elect the Rural Carrier Benefit Plan in the future or add dental or vision programs. Do not let your membership lapse! Sign and return the 1187-R, authorization for dues withholding form, to keep your benefits.

OHRLCA DISTRICTS

A big "Thank You" goes out to all of the District Secretaries for completing (and filing via the Internet) the LM-4 with the Department of Labor! As per the OHRLCA Constitution Article III, Section 5.B.2, upon completion of all District reports and officer elections, deposits were made into each District's Share Account. The deposits were calculated on the formula of \$10.00 per each regular and relief carrier members as of June 30, 2020.

Christmas was not canceled at my house; it was just reinvented. If 2020 has taught me anything, it's how much the people in my life mean to me, to spread some happiness where I could.

I wrote down how much people mean to me then I mailed it out to them. I made Christmas cookies and gave them to friends and neighbors. I dropped off a pizza (and other treats) at my local nursing home, police station, and fire department to brighten the lives of people there. I hope you reinvented Christmas also.

Hopefully, 2021 will bring with it a solution for the COVID-19 pandemic so we may all return to our normal routines and spend time with our friends and loved ones. I wish each of you a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Union Proud, *Denny Koren*
Secretary-Treasurer



Board Meeting Minutes

Electronic Board Meeting
Online via Zoom

Wednesday, November 4, 2020 7:00 PM

Present was President Funderburgh, Vice President Barker, Secretary-Treasurer Koren, Committeemen Heaton, Aitchison, and Dedden.

The NRLCA National President has directed all State Boards, that during the Covid-19 Pandemic the State Board was not to meet face to face. The NRLCA President has suggested State Boards to conduct electronic Meetings.

New Board Policy:

When warranted the OHRLCA State Board may conduct State Board meetings electronically. Electronically is defined as services using an internet meeting service, telephone conference calling, or other secure available services. State Board participants must have an access code to the meeting. All Electronic Board Meetings will be held as per the direction set forth in the OHRLCA Constitution.

Minutes:

The minutes of the March 4 - 5, 2020 minutes were reviewed in drop box.

Treasurer Report:

The Association's Detailed Financial Position was reviewed by the entire board.

Membership Report:

Secretary-Treasurer Koren reported that OHRLCA's current membership is 4,470, which is a decrease of 90 members from last year this date. During the months of March, April, May and June 2020 the board appointed union presenters were not permitted to present the union during new hire orientation which contributed to the decrease in membership. The new hire orientations have

returned to normal and our membership is slowly increasing.

Vice President Barker made a motion to accept the Secretary-Treasurer reports, the motion passed.

OHRLCA Website:

The Website must be rebuilt and updated with new software.

Vice President Barker made a motion to purchase the new web site software for \$1,500 and to pay the fee of \$1000 to build a new and improved website, the motion passed.

2022 State Convention:

The Board reviewed the proposals from 5 convention sites for the 2022 State Convention.

Committeeman Dedden made a motion to sign a contract with the Holiday Inn in Fairborn for the 2022 convention, the motion passed.

PAC:

Polo Shirts were ordered with embroidered with logos this past spring to be sold with the proceeds going to PAC.

Vice President Barker made a motion to pay Spencer's Shirt for the embroidered shirts, the motion passed.

Desk Calendars:

Committee Aitchison made a motion to purchase desk calendars and to send the 2020 national convention delegate nominees each a desk calendars, the motion passed.

Retiree Book Grant:

Since the pandemic caused most of the Association activities to be cancelled, the donations for the OHRLCA Retirees Book Grant were not enough to award a book grant to all applicants. The Retirees Association has requested a donation from the State Association to enable each applicant to receive a book grant.

Committeeman Dedden made a motion for the OHRLCA State Board to donate \$1500 to the OHRLCA Retiree's book grant, the motion passed.

State Paper:

Articles for the next State Paper will be due December 1, 2020.

Next Board Meeting:

The next Board Meeting will be held when warranted.

Vice President Barker made a motion to adjourn, the motion passed.

Adjourned 10:00 PM



Lisa Heaton
Executive
Committeeman

Thank You, Essential Employees!

Corona's persistence continues to craft a new sense of normalcy we've all found discomfoting. Despite these unpleasantries, I would like to say thank you for your dedicated service.

Each of you deserves much gratitude. You are going above and beyond to soothe weary minds during

lockdowns and shelter in place orders. I appreciate your continued efforts to come in every day. Sometimes this includes more than just your route to ensure all of the mail is delivered every day. Local morale relies on you delivering medications and holiday gifts. In this way, you provide your customers with a sense of peace and respite.

Understaffing is a familiar territory within many offices with rural delivery. This burden is passed on to our leave replacement employees. These outstanding carriers often assist multiple routes (and sometimes in multiple offices) to get us all through this difficult time. Many of us have all found ourselves working longer hours to cover for fellow carriers who fell ill or caring for ill family members.

Hopefully, very soon, we will find ourselves allowed to gather again and continue our scheduled conventions and local meetings. Until then, remember to social distance, wear a mask, and use hand sanitizer. If you do not have the essential supplies, ask management to get them for you.

Thank you! Please be proud of the work you do, the difference you make, and the proud union member you are! I value you and appreciate your dedication to the rural carrier craft!

Lisa Heaton
Executive Committeeman



Janna Hirschfeld
Executive
Committeeman

Retirement Considerations

Happy New Year and best wishes to you all! Hopefully, 2021 will be more kind to us than 2020 was. Maybe we can at least return somewhat to the "norm" as it relates to work.

Congrats on making it through the Christmas season! Your customers appreciate your efforts. You keep

the Postal Service moving forward. Thank you!

So, what does 2021 have in store for you? Thinking of retiring? Let me share some information on how Social Security enters into the retirement equation.

First, there are 4 options when it comes to Social Security ("SS"). Once eligible (possibly as early as age 62), you can choose to:

1. Continue working and claim SS benefits, OR;
2. Quit working and claim SS benefits, OR;
3. Continue working and *not* claim SS benefits, OR;
4. Quit working and *not* claim SS benefits.

Keep in mind that SS benefits are calculated over a 35-year span of work. This means if you retire before you have 35 years of earnings, there will be years factored into the calculation with zero earnings for those years which you did not work during that span of 35 years.

Determining your full retirement age ("FRA") for Social Security is based on the year you were born. It ranges from 66 to 67 years. If SS benefits are claimed before reaching your FRA, there is a slight reduction to the benefit amount received each month you are short of reaching your FRA. You may be eligible for delayed retirement credits if you reach your FRA but do not make a claim for your SS benefits. These credits could amount to up to 8% a year, but there is no benefit in postponing your claim after age 70.

Medicare enrollment is another thing to keep in mind. If you claim your SS benefits before the age of 65, you will be automatically enrolled into Medicare Part A and Part B. If you delay your benefits from SS until after you are age 65, you will not be automatically enrolled in Medicare. If such delay is your strategy, it would be good to enroll in Medicare 3 months before your 65th birthday so you can avoid a penalty payment for as long as you have Medicare coverage.

To recap, if you make a claim early for SS it will be a lesser amount each month, but you will receive payments over a longer time period. If you make your claim at FRA or age 70, your SS payments each month will be greater, but you will receive less of those payments within your lifetime.

Thorough research and careful consideration is key to reaping your most compatible benefit. It is a decision we all need to make as we reach our golden years.

For more detailed information on your Social Security benefits, please visit ssa.gov.

Until we *meet* again,

Janna Hirschfeld
Executive Committeeman



Gayle Sweet
Ohio Retired Rural Carriers President

Ohio Retired Rural Carriers' Book Grants Have Been Awarded

We are pleased to announce that we gave all of our Book Grant applicants a \$100.00 book grant for the 2019-2020 Association year!

It has been a rough year for us all. Despite these complications, with the help of our many cherished donors, the Ohio Retired Rural Letter Carriers

collected enough donations to award a book grant to each of our 41 applicants! Our Secretary-Treasurer, Shirley Ortz, issued these checks on December 1, 2020.

We greatly appreciate all aid we received to make this happen. This generous support came from the Ohio Rural Letter Carrier State Board, the Ohio Rural Letter Carrier Auxiliary, Atlanta Postal Credit Union, and union members like you! Your help will give our college and trade school students a little relief from their education expenses.

It has been a difficult year for all of us, but rest assured, we will overcome this obstacle too!

Thank you, once again, for your ongoing support!

Gayle Sweet
President - Ohio Retired Rural Letter Carriers



PAC News

2020 has been a challenging year for all of us in so many ways. I was able to travel to two district meetings in our state before all remaining meetings were canceled.

Diana Garner
OHRLCA-PAC
Co-Chair

As your newly appointed PAC co-chair, I was looking forward to meeting all of you this year across

our state. It is my job to help union members understand the importance of PAC. This includes how PAC impacts our lives and careers.

I sometimes joke that I am a t-shirt peddler at our meetings. All joking aside, your financial contributions to PAC are still needed to get our craft's current and future needs addressed in Congress.

In the past, PAC contributions from union members have aided in the defeat of efforts to restrict collective bargaining, made sure single-piece parcels remained in the market-dominant category, and scuttled anti-labor amendments.

To ensure that our voices are heard from today until the next election, your Ohio PAC and National RLCA PAC must begin preparing now!

There are many ways that you can contribute to PAC. You may schedule an automatic monthly withdrawal from a checking account, give credit card donations through PAC Chairs, and even set up a payroll allotment through PostalEase (instructions on page 15). One time contributions by purchasing the reverse raffle tickets and merchandise (such as clothing and parcel markers) can still be made through contacting my co-chair, Brittany Levensky or me at djgarner4@gmail.com.

If you are already a sustaining PAC contributing member, **THANK YOU** for your diligence and support! If you are not already a supporting PAC member but would like to be, or if you would like more information on PAC, again, please contact Brittany or me.

Each month, PAC donation totals are published on the NRLCA website and in the National Magazine. I am challenging you, our AMAZING Ohio union members, to put OHIO at the top of that list every month of 2021!

Diana Garner
Ohio PAC Co-Chair



Catherine Funderburgh
District Representative
Northern Ohio and
Ohio Valley Districts

Hot Topics in the Stewardship

USE OF SICK LEAVE AND FMLA:

What is FMLA?

The Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) was adopted by Congress then signed into federal law in 1993 under the Clinton administration. This was after a 9-year battle instigated by an organization previously known as the Women's Legal Defense Fund.

Among the rights the Act provides, it was a pivotal breakthrough for labor and women's rights movements. It significantly reduced the anxiety of workers (including expectant mothers and fathers) who were often heavily pressured to choose between having a job or tending to personal or family health-related issues.

Under the FMLA, employers nationwide are required to provide job-protected leave to eligible employees. FMLA leave in itself is not "paid leave." The condition of "FMLA leave" is placed upon your leave type with a purpose to protect you against discipline for qualified absences.

Though some of these pressures still exist, some of them have been reduced through this Act. Finer details of FMLA leave rules during postal employment are found in the [Employee and Labor Relations Manual \(ELM\) section 515](#) and [Publication 71, Notice for Employees Requesting Leave for Conditions Covered by the Family and Medical Leave Act](#), but below is a good starting point to understand some of its basic provisions.

Who is eligible for FMLA within the Postal Service?

For an absence to be covered by the FMLA, the employee must have been employed by the Postal Service for an accumulated total of 12 months and must have worked a minimum of 1,250 hours during the 12-month period before the date leave begins. (See [ELM 515.3](#))

How many weeks/hours am I allowed to use without fear of losing my job?

Eligible employees must be allowed a total of up to 12 workweeks of leave within a Postal Service leave year. (See [ELM 515.41](#))

Does the time used for dependent care accumulate towards the 12 workweeks?

Yes. You get 12 total workweeks. Time used for dependent care or personal care under FMLA accumulates towards that total.

Will I be allowed to use more "days" than what is in 12 workweeks?

Yes, when taking a parent/child/spouse to the doctor. I'll explain it.

First, keep in mind that sick leave for regular rural carriers and Designation 72 and 74 leave replacements are charged in one-day (i.e., 8-hour) increments. (See [Article 10.3\(d\)](#), [Article 10.5.A](#), [Article 7.2.B](#), and [Article 7.2.D](#)) Remembering this rule allows you to maximize the availability of your protection by utilizing those "protected" hours only during those times they are actually being used.

For example, if a trip to the doctor, treatment, and return trip took 3 hours, I'd suggest you notify management that only 3 hours were associated with FMLA. If you don't do this, it will likely be presumed that your entire day charged (8-hours) was associated with FMLA.

Let's do the math here. If you make 10 of these 3-hour trips without appropriately notifying management that each trip was only three hours, it would appear that you needed 80 hours of FMLA protection when you actually only needed 30 hours. In this scenario, depending on what you declared to management, either 80 or 30 hours would be charged towards the 12 weeks of dependent care allotted through FMLA.

All other rural craft leave-earning positions are charged in hourly increments. Regardless of how your leave is charged, notifying management of all hours used under FMLA can maximize your use of the Act's protection.

Are there any cases in which I would be allowed for more than 12 weeks?

Yes. A spouse, child, parent, or next of kin would be allowed 26 weeks for a covered (active or discharged in the last 5 years) service member who has a serious injury or illness.

Who is a dependent?

A son/daughter, spouse, or parent. (See [ELM 515.2](#) for a complete definition)

Is my mother-in-law or father-in-law included as a dependent?

No. Your in-laws are not recognized as dependents.

FMLA is granted for what reasons?

FMLA is granted for any condition which may involve hospital care, chronic conditions, multiple treatments, pregnancy, or an on-the-job injury.

What type of leave am I allowed to use when taking FMLA leave?

You may use sick leave, annual leave, leave without pay, a continuation of pay (if it is an on-the-job injury), or a combination of any of these leave types.

Will my leave balance increase if I have FMLA?

No, it will not increase your annual leave or sick leave balances. It only guarantees protection from losing your job or benefits when you are off from work due to FMLA qualifying conditions.

I called off work and told management it was for FMLA. Management told me that I needed a doctor's note. Do I have to bring in a note?

Yes. You must provide complete and sufficient documentation of a serious health condition or serious injury or illness from an appropriate health care provider for FMLA leave. If you don't provide the proof, management could charge your absence to annual leave, LWOP, or AWOL. Gathering documentation for FMLA-related absences is always a good practice, regardless of management's documentation requests. It's comforting to have documentation and not need it than to need documentation and not have it.

When can I schedule a doctor's appointment?

Doctor's appointments are to be scheduled after work hours or on your day off. However, not all appointments can be scheduled after work hours. If you must schedule your appointments during work hours, management can request that you bring in a doctor's note for your work-related absence.

I am off on extended leave. Can management make me provide medical documentation every month?

Yes. You must provide documentation every 30 days or within 15 days of being requested for documentation.

What is "acceptable" documentation?

It should advise the employer of the nature of the serious health condition such as, "the carrier was incapacitated for work."

What if I am injured on the job?

Under continuation of pay (COP) or OWCP (Office of Workers' Compensation Programs), the time will count towards your 12 weeks of FMLA leave.

How do I get approval for FMLA?

The employee submits a [Department of Labor Form WH-380-E, FMLA Certification of Health Care Provider for Employee's Serious Health Condition](#), to HRSSC.

How do I submit my paperwork to HRSSC?

HRSSC's mailing address is P.O. Box 970400 Greensboro, NC 27497-0400. Their phone number is (877) 477-3273.

How long do I have to submit the paperwork?

You have 15 days after receiving the request or after returning to work.

How long does it take to be approved?

You should know if it has been approved or not within a week or so.

What should I do if I am denied FMLA?

If it is denied, then re-apply and provide additional information relevant to your case.

Do I have to get FMLA approved every year?

Yes, and you may be required to provide new medical documentation in each subsequent leave year.

Am I allowed to have more than one FMLA case in a year?

Yes, but the total maximum time off for all cases combined remains limited to 12 weeks of FMLA leave.

I have been off work due to a serious injury. Can management require me to have a fitness for duty exam before I return to work?

You must provide documentation that you can perform your job without any limitations.

Can management require additional medical opinions?

Yes, management can require you to get a second opinion (and even a third) from a person they designate. The postal service will pay for the additional opinion(s), plus reasonable out-of-pocket travel expenses incurred to obtain the opinions.

I did not use all 12 weeks of FMLA leave last year, but I may need that unused time this year. Is that allowed?

No. Unlike annual leave and sick leave, unused FMLA weeks do not carry over.

Is management allowed to issue discipline to me when I use FMLA?

No. If you have approved FMLA and you have not used your 12 weeks of FMLA leave, then that basis cannot be used to discipline you.

When in doubt, always protect yourself. You do not know what the future may hold for you. If you suspect your extended absence may be FMLA-protected, request and complete the paperwork, then follow-through by submitting your completed paperwork to HRSSC using the contact information provided within this article.

OWCP:

Regular carriers under OWCP (Office of Workers' Compensation Programs) are placed in a "protected salary" status. This status is commonly referenced as being in an "e code." "E code" means that your salary remains frozen at the time of the on the job injury.

What does “having my salary frozen” mean?

For example, if your route evaluation would increase in evaluation, you will not receive a salary increase. However, if your route would decrease in evaluation, then you will not be taking a pay cut at that time. A problem surfaces when you return to full duty, but management forgets to take you out of this “e code” status.

Eventually, the accounting department will catch the error, potentially resulting in you receiving a huge letter of demand.

How do I protect myself from this problem?

Upon your return to full duty, request management to rescind the “e code.” Document your request in writing and ask management to sign your request as acknowledgment.

INJURED ON DUTY:

Did you know that if you are injured on-the-job, you may be covered under C.O.P. (continuation of pay) for up to 45 calendar days? This is done by checking the appropriate box on the CA-1 form. This benefit applies to leave replacements as well as regular carriers. Leave replacements would be paid what their work hours averaged over the previous 12 months or since appointment if employed for less than one year.

INJURED OFF DUTY:

It is heartbreaking to receive these calls. A carrier is injured off duty and does not have enough in their leave balances to cover the necessary time off to heal. Carriers can request donated leave, but realistically, few district employees are willing to donate their annual leave. The carrier can request advanced sick leave but granting that request is management’s option.

What would you do if you found yourself in this predicament?

One solution might be having short term disability insurance. Imagine sitting at home, incapacitated, with no paycheck, while the bills kept coming in. It might be worth your time to investigate this potential solution before you actually need it.

CARRIERS ON EXTENDED LEAVE:

Article 12.3.B.5 states that if you are off of work for extended leave, you should request in writing to your Postmaster/OIC that you wish to be notified of any bids for the rural craft. This written notification should include your name and mailing address.

Send this request to your Postmaster by certified mail with a return receipt attached. Keep a copy of the letter along with the return receipt for documentation, if needed.

PANDEMIC EFFECTS ON OUR CRAFT:

I want to personally thank every Regular Carrier and Leave Replacement for their outstanding service this past year and during our peak season.

With the pandemic still going on, I know offices were short of help.

When an office is understaffed, exhaustion quickly sets in, and the stress level mounts, especially when our parcel volumes increase by 60%.

The National Office is aware of the shortage of leave replacements and is working to rectify that situation. I have begun tracking job postings and management’s hiring of RCAs and ARCs. I’ve done this to identify problem offices then take appropriate actions to help resolve the issue.

CHANGES TO YOUR MAILING ADDRESS:

Did you know that Employees must keep the installation head informed of their current mailing address? See [ELM section 665.5](#).

Any changes in mailing addresses must be reported to the installation head on [PS Form 1216, Employee’s Current Mailing Address](#), through “Self-Service” on the Postal Service Blue page (Liteblue) or other approved methods such as PostalEase. You should also notify your state secretary/treasurer to continue receiving state-union publications and updates.

RETIRING AND LETTERS OF DEMAND:

Regular carriers are advanced annual leave for the year at the beginning of each leave year. That comes with an understanding that the carrier will be working the entire year. If you are retiring before January 1, 2022, then you will need to pay attention to the portion on your paycheck stub that displays “earned annual leave.”

If you use more leave than you have earned, the Postal Service’s accounting department will generate a letter of demand requiring you to repay those advanced (and unearned) days to the Postal Service. Once you retire, you no longer have the benefit of the grievance procedure because you are no longer an “employee”.

LIVE RECORDINGS OF WORKING CARRIERS:

Smile, you are on camera! Surveillance cameras, doorbell cameras, security cameras, and cellphones are everywhere these days. Assume that you are always being recorded. If you fail to report an accident regardless of how minor it is, someone may have likely recorded it and reported your accident to management. When that happens, a minor accident can have significant consequences. This includes potential removal.

I hope you each and every one of you have a safe, healthy, and happy New Year!

May all of your dreams come true in 2021.

Your Union Sister,
Cathy Funderburgh



OHIO NRLCA STEWARD DIRECTORIES

(January 2021)



Ohio Valley District Steward Directory

District Representative Catherine Funderburgh

Office: (937) 265-5477 Cell: (937) 471-0491

Fax: (937) 528-2297

E-mail: Catherine.Funderburgh@nrlca.org

Address: P.O. Box 96, Clifton, Ohio 45316

Assistant District Representative Misty Gamerdinger

Phone: (740) 503-0295 Fax: (888) 412-0260

E-mail: Misty.Gamerdinger@nrlca.org

Address: P.O. Box 6036, Chillicothe, Ohio 45601

Assistant District Representative Philip Burnside

Phone: (419) 455-3005 Fax: (866) 287-8071

E-mail: Philip.Burnside@nrlca.org

Address: P.O. Box 455, Kenton, Ohio 43326

Assistant District Representative Jimmy Julian

Phone: 740-590-2555 Fax: (866) 205-6870

E-mail: James.Julian@nrlca.org

Address: P.O. Box 739, Johnstown, Ohio 43031

Assistant District Representative Lori Todd

Phone: (234) 284-5233

E-mail: Lori.Todd@nrlca.org

Address: P.O. Box 1281, Salem, Ohio 44460

Area Steward Ron Kelhoffer - Phone: (937) 902-5310

Representative of Batavia, College Corner, Franklin, Hamilton-Fairfield, Harrison, Lebanon, Maineville, Milford, Monroe, Okeana, Oxford, Springboro, Trenton, and West Chester

Northern Ohio District Steward Directory

District Representative Catherine Funderburgh

Associated with Zip Codes: 440; 441; 448; 449

Office: (937) 265-5477 Cell: (937) 471-0491

Fax: (937) 528-2297

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Phone: (234) 284-5233

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Assistant District Representative Jimmy Julian

Phone: 740-590-2555 Fax: (866) 205-6870

E-mail: James.Julian@nrlca.org

Address: P.O. Box 739, Johnstown, Ohio 43031

Area Steward Jody Schuler - Phone: (740) 610-8221

Representative of Cadiz, Dellroy, Dennison, Freeport, Martensferry, St Clairsville, Sardis, Strasburg, Gnadenhutten, Millerburg, Mineral City, Perrysville, Sherrodsville, Steubenville, Sugarcreek, Toronto, Tuscarawas, Uhrichsville, Walnutcreek, Bellaire and Powhatan

Area Steward Jason Zedaker - Phone: (419) 367-2834

Representative of Bellevue, Bowling Green, Curtice, Fremont, Genoa, Holland, Huron, Millbury, Maumee, North Baltimore, Port Clinton, Sandusky, Vermilion, Walbridge, and Waterville

District Representative Funderburgh would like to thank ADR Susan Thayer for her years of service as a steward and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors. Susan had one of the more difficult jobs in the stewardship. As a part-time Assistant District Representative, Susan spent her days servicing her route and many of her evenings doing steward work.

Susan will be missed, but has decided to step down as she is considering retirement.

I REQUEST UNION REPRESENTATION

Whenever talking to management, if the conversation starts to indicate disciplinary action OR you believe disciplinary action could result, STOP the conversation and ask:

"If this discussion could in any way lead to my being disciplined, terminated, or affect my personal working conditions, I respectfully request that my union representative or steward be present at this meeting. Without representation present, I choose not to participate in this discussion"

THE STATEMENT ABOVE COULD SAVE YOUR JOB!

PLEASE USE THE DIRECTORY NUMBERS LISTED.

CALLS MADE TO A STEWARD'S PERSONAL CELL PHONE WILL NOT BE RETURNED.

PLEASE DO NOT TEXT AS TEXTING IS NOT RECOGNIZED AS AN OFFICIAL FORM OF COMMUNICATION

And now, the moment you've all been waiting for! Happy Retirement!

Joyce Baer.....Harrison
 Gloria BethelBolivar
 Jessie BloomGarrettsville
 Trina BolinWilmington
 Connie BushWest Chester
 Ronald Craig.....Lucasville
 Judy Crofts.....Willard
 Melanie Edmonds Medina
 Mark FrazierBloomingdale
 Roy Griffith JrSeaman
 Geri Griggs.....Rock Creek
 Walter HanefeldLeipsic

Ross Hixon Mechanicsburg
 Gregory KehresDeerfield
 Carla Markley..... Yellow Springs
 Deborah Miller..... Cambridge
 John Pinter.....West Chester
 Julia Plybon.....Proctorville
 Mary Pyle.....Uniontown
 Glenna Rossi.....Hamilton
 Karen Sloan.....Louisville
 Emma SlomerWellsville
 Teresa StewartLowell
 Bonnie Widder.....Dundee

GET THE MOST FROM YOUR RETIREMENT!

All Statewide and National Meetings have been canceled. Because of these cancelations, union members wishing to retire have been contacting the State Board and asking for guidance. Governor DeWine's COVID safe distancing orders have made an in-person retirement seminar out of the question. As an alternative, the OHRLCA Board would like to offer a **RETIREMENT WEBINAR**

We want your feedback to ensure that the OHRLCA membership is interested in a retirement webinar before we use state resources to make it happen. Please complete the coupon below if you would be interested in a retirement webinar.

Please Respond as Soon as Possible



**FILL THIS COUPON
AND SEND IT TO:**

Lisa Heaton
705 Drury Lane
Troy, Ohio 45373

OHRLCA

RETIREMENT WEBINAR

**FILL AND
SEND THIS
COUPON TO EXPRESS
YOUR INTEREST IN
AN OHRLCA-HOSTED
RETIREMENT
WEBINAR**

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

Your Phone Number: _____

Month/Year You Want to Retire: _____

**SEE ABOVE
FOR DETAILS**

John Aliff
 Jeff Alyea
 Bonnie Armistead
 Brian Artz
 Samantha Babb
 Sheena Bailey
 Paul Baker
 Loretta Baltrip
 Justin Barhorst
 Rebecca Bari-Smith
 Madison Bean

John Cox
 Kendra Cox
 Kandis Cremeans
 Angela Crispen
 Janet Crum
 Jahrule Davis
 Andrea Davis
 Latasha Davis
 Theresa Di Giannantoni
 Tanner Dietz
 Diane Dubose
 John Dutton
 Rachell Elleman

Kelly Kinser
 Timothy Lairson
 Tony Lattimer I
 Rachel Lawrence
 Mark Lewallen
 Stephen Lojero
 Sherry Ludwig
 David Mace
 Brian Malbrough
 Amanda Marshall
 Joan Marshall
 David Mazak
 Jacalyn Mccandless
 Vanessa McClaine

Danielle Rosier
 Clarissa Schauseil
 Michelle Schwaben
 Sierra Scott
 Ericka Scott
 James Sears Iii
 Taylor Semrau
 Kellen Shane
 John Shumaker
 Neil Shumate
 Thomas Siemer
 Tim Sloneker
 Timmie Small Sr
 Nicholas Smith
 Felitia Smith-Taylor

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Kylynn Beery
 Zachary Bell
 Jessenia Bennett
 Patricia Bess
 Byron Bihl
 Kevin Blevins
 Nathaniel Blevins
 Kayla Bohach
 Jalona Boring
 Sherry Bowersox
 James Bowman Jr
 Dawn Brown
 Edward Burk
 Taylor Butkovic
 Cierra Caffey
 Melody Cameron
 Matthew Caraway
 Lana Carpenter
 Bruno Casci
 Andrea Casto
 Amber Churn
 Charles Clayton
 Gretchen Clutter
 Brandi Cobb
 Blake Collins
 Jarrod Coniglio
 Christopher Conley
 Thomas Cooper
 Jamie Cooper
 Dustin Coss
 Lisa Cowan
 Neil Cowen

Brandy Flowers
 Stephanie Fowler
 Joshua Fred
 Nora Gaines
 Lisa Galton
 Brandi Gates
 Brian Gerlach
 Amy Grile
 Sarah Hall
 Erick Hall
 Danielle Havlock
 Melissa Hayden
 Jack Heefner
 Justin Henderson
 Austin Hill
 Trey Hilson
 Travis Hollins Sr
 Brian Horstman
 Deanna Howes
 Angel Hudnall
 Danette Hull
 James Hunter
 Courtney Hutchison
 Gideon Intsiful
 Rose Isgrigg
 Jacob James
 Christopher Jordan
 James Keener
 Thomas Kelly
 Johnathan Kershner
 Lucien Kieschie

Matthew Mccue
 Joshua Mccullough
 Ashley Mckendrick
 Kara Mckinney
 James Mierzejewski
 Tatyana Miller
 Chelsie Miller
 Jason Millsaps
 Scott Moore
 Holly Morgan
 Marlena Morrow
 Ciara Myers
 Kristin Myler
 Ciera Nelson
 Kaylee Newman
 Kara Oberlander
 Wade Osburn
 Antoine Pennington I
 Charlie Pepper Jr
 Anita Perry
 Thomas Preston
 Leatha Queen
 Colton Rader
 Angela Rivera Ponce De
 Leon
 Tyanna Robinson
 Melissa Robinson
 Gavan Rodgers
 Stephanie Rodriguez
 Rudolph Rosales Jr

Brian Snead
 Jackie Sorsdal
 Roger Sperry
 Courtney Stickel
 Michelle Stimmel
 Shawn Swartz
 Autumn Thacker
 Jera Thomas
 Carol Thomason
 Edward Throckmorton
 Amanda Tonjes
 Skylar Tuggle
 John Tutoki Jr
 Kadie Tyo
 Christian Velez
 Seth Wade
 Karen Walker
 Daniel Watts
 Thomas Webb
 Josh Webb
 Austin Weber
 Todd Wehrle
 Lindsay Williams
 Dustin Williams
 Erin Williams
 Dawn Wilson
 Donald Yates
 John Young
 Marian Ysrael

Signing up for Withholding

Active carriers may elect to use one of their three payroll allotments to donate every two weeks. You must sign up for withholding exclusively through PostalEase.

Have readily available your **8-digit Employee ID Number** (on your paycheck stub) and your **4-digit USPS PIN or password**. If you don't have your USPS PIN you will need to call PostalEase at: 877-477-3273. Press #1 for PostalEase. When prompted, enter your employee identification number. When prompted for your pin, pause, and then press #2. Your PIN will be mailed to your address on the next business day.

Steps for signing up Online:

1. Add your Employee I.D. number to the end of the 9-digit NRLCA-PAC Account (**163055555**) to create your PostalEase account number.
2. Now you are ready to log into: **liteblue.usps.gov**.
3. Enter your employee I.D. number and password, then click "log on."
4. Click on "PostalEase."
5. Click on "I Agree."
6. Enter your Employee I.D. and password again and log in.
7. Click on "Allotments/Payroll NTB."
8. Click on "Continue."
9. Click on "Allotments."
10. Enter the following Financial Institution routing number: **051400549**
11. Enter your NRLCA account number: **163055555_ _ _ _ _**, followed by your Employee I.D. (No hyphens, No breaks, 17 digits total).
12. Enter account type as "Checking."
13. Enter the amount you want to be taken out **every two [2] weeks** — not the amount you want to give yearly.
14. Click on "Validate."
15. Click on "Submit."
16. Click on "print page" to see and print your confirmation number for your records.

Steps for signing up by Phone:

1. Dial 1-877-477-3273 (1-877-4PS-EASE).
2. Press "1" for PostalEase.
3. When prompted, enter your Employee ID Number.
4. When prompted, enter your USPS Pin Number.
5. When prompted, choose option #2 to select Payroll Allotments.
6. When prompted, choose option #1 to select type of Allotment. When prompted, press "2" to continue.
7. When prompted, press "3" to continue to 'ADD' the allotment.
8. When prompted, add routing number: 051400549.
9. When prompted, add the NRLCA-PAC account # followed by your Employee ID Number. It should look like: 163055555_ _ _ _ _ . No hyphens, 17 digits total. If correct, Press "1."
10. When prompted, press "1" for checking.
11. When prompted for the dollar amount of the allotment, enter the amount of your choice to be deducted bi-weekly (per pay period) using the \$__ 00 format. Press "1" if correct.
12. When prompted, press "1" to process.
13. Record the confirmation number given for your records and note the date the first allotment will take place. Press "1" to repeat, or press "9" to hang up.

The NRLCA RAFT Program Returns

At its recently concluded board meeting, the National Board adopted and endorsed a national recruitment initiative called RAFT (Recruit A Friend Today). This special initiative is scheduled to commence January 2, 2021. The RAFT program will focus our collective resources on appealing to the active craft non-members including new hires.

As an incentive for recruiters and new members, the 2021 RAFT Program offers the following benefits:

Individual recruiters will receive an incentive payment of \$15.00 for each RCA or ARC recruited and \$50.00 for each Regular or PTF carrier recruited. The only stipulation to receive this payment is that the recruited individual must sign an 1187 Dues Withholding Authorization Form.

The newly recruited RCA or ARC will receive an incentive payment of \$25.00 after his/her Form 1187 is received by the National Office, processed and sent to the USPS and accepted for processing.

The newly recruited Regular or PTF will receive an incentive payment of \$50.00 after his/her Form 1187 is received by the

National Office, processed and sent to the USPS and accepted for processing.

In order to be eligible for the recruitment incentive payment, the recruiter must provide their USPS EID or CSA number and their full name and address (legibly) either in the upper right-hand corner of the 1187 or on an attached sheet before mailing it to the State Secretary. There is no eligibility waiting period as in the past (2 months free before processing). All 1187 forms will be processed upon receipt as soon as administratively possible.

In addition, no incentive payments will be made to State Associations. Incentive payments will only be made to the new member and the individual recruiter when identified.



Clifford Stevens
Retired Member

Pastor Clifford (Cliff) Lee Stevens of West Union, Ohio, was born May 27, 1944, to Virgil and Ernestine Adkins Stevens in Hardy, Kentucky, and entered the presence of the Lord on October 20, 2020, from his home, at the age of 76.

The year he turned 19, Cliff put his trust in the finished work of Jesus Christ. He was united in marriage to Patsy Ellen Bennington on June 01, 1963, and they served the Lord together for 57 years. At the time of his death, he was pastoring

Cornerstone Christian Union Church of West Union, where he pastored for nearly 26 years. Prior to this, he pastored Shawnee Community Church, Hamilton Church, Faith Tabernacle, Satterfield Chapel Christian Union, and Beasley's Fork Christian Union Church. A Scripture verse of noted value to Cliff is found in Psalm 116:12 which states, "What shall I render unto the LORD for all His benefits toward me?"

Cliff enjoyed and dabbled in many hobbies involving his hands: carpentry, woodworking, historical cars, etc. He especially loved music and played a variety of instruments, but of greatest significance were the many lives who were touched by his ministry.



Christopher Smart
Retired Member

John Christopher Smart, 62 years, of Seaman, Ohio, passed away on Wednesday, October 14, 2020, at the Greenfield Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, in Greenfield.

Chris was born in West Union, Ohio, on January 21, 1958, the son of John and the late Nancy (Bishop) Smart. Chris worked as a mail carrier for the U.S. Postal Service and as a farmer. He was a member of the Model T Ford Club, the Mustang Club, and the Farm Bureau.



Marie Rhodes
Retired Member

Marie S. Rhodes, age 81, passed away peacefully on October 6, 2020.

Marie is survived by her son, Mike Telin (Dan Hathaway) of Lakewood, OH, and brother, Robert Walworth (Connie) of Evart, MI.; step-sons, Dale (Karen) Rhodes of Doylestown, and Mark (Barb) Rhodes of Massillon; step-daughter, Terrie Gent of Maryland; twelve grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren.



**Leo "Bub" Barlow
Retired Member**

Leo "Bub" Dale Barlow, 90, of Liberty Center, Ohio passed away on September 14, 2020 in Waterville, Ohio.

Bub was born August 4, 1930 in rural Henry County (Ohio). Graduating from Liberty Center High School in 1948, he worked briefly as a carpenter's apprentice before enlisting in the United States Marine Corps in 1950. He served during the onset of the Korean War and engaged battle during the Battle of Chosin Reservoir campaign.

During the last year on active duty, Bub met and married his wife, Shirley Felter, while stationed in Washington, D.C. They wed in Forest Glen, Maryland on November 10, 1954. Bub was a rural mail carrier for 33 years with the Liberty Center Post Office retiring in 1990. He also served on the Liberty Center School Board and also served 20 years as a Washington Township Trustee.

Bub was known for his affiliation with various military organizations that included his lifetime membership with the Chosin Few Association, the Marine Corps League of Defiance. He served 4 years as Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) post 6596, the American Legion, American Veterans (AMVETS) and the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), all in Henry County. Known for his community service, Bub also belonged to a number of civilian organizations such as the Free & Accepted Masons (F&AM) of Liberty Center, the Ohio Township Association, the Henry County Sportsman Club, Henry County Farm Bureau, National Rifle Association (NRA), Northwest Turkey Federation (NWTF), as well as the National Rural Letter Carriers Association.

With the exception of his years away from home due to his military commitment, Bub spent his entire life in the Liberty Center area. He became skilled in hunting, fishing, trapping, gardening, and raising livestock. Due to his years as a rural mail carrier, he had the ability to look at a residence and state *who* used to live there, how he knew them, and what hobbies they shared if any. His outgoing personality gave him the ability to make many friends who will sorely miss him.



**Kimberly Shoffer
Bargaining Unit
Member**

Kimberly L. Shoffer, 56, of Columbus, Ohio passed away Friday, September 25, 2020 at her home.

Kim was born in California then moved to the Columbus area as a young child where she spent the rest of her life. She graduated from Hillard High School in 1982. She raised her son Josh in the area and was elated when he married Mycki, who became like a daughter to her. She was a devoted employee of the United States Postal Service. You could find her shooting pool with her sister and friends on a typical Saturday night.



**Charles Watts Jr.
Retired Member**

Charles T. Watts Jr., 98, of Paris, Ohio went home to be with the Lord and Savior Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2020.

He retired in 1987 as a letter carrier for the US Post Office and had worked at Monarch Rubber, Timken Roller Bearing, and was a hobby farmer. He graduated from Richwood High School in West Virginia and was a WWII US Army Veteran. He was a member of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Homeworth and was a founding member of the Grace Brethren Church in Minerva.



**Paul Weinstock
Retired Member**

Paul David Weinstock, 84, of Maplewood, Ohio passed away at his residence on Tuesday, August 18, 2020.

He was a mail carrier for 30 years and an avid bowler, a member of the Shelby County Farm Bureau. He also worked at the Shelby County Fairgrounds food booth and past member of the Elks and the Moose.

He was known for growing tomatoes.

Have You Prepared for your passing from this life?

I have received many phone calls from members' survivors asking, "What do I need to do, who do I need to contact? Can you help me?"

No one wants to think about passing from this world however, we all will pass. To help your family at that difficult time, be sure you have all your documents in order. Also, make sure you let your family know where these documents are kept.

Prepare two (2) files.

File one (1) Entitled USPS and contain the following;

If you are an active carrier;

1. Letter of instructions and a copy of the NRLCA's What to do when an active carrier dies.
2. Your employee identification number
3. USPS immediate supervisor name and contact information
4. USPS life insurance election
5. Ohio's State Secretary contact information

If you are a retired carrier;

1. Letter of instructions and a copy of the NRLCA's "What to do when a retired carrier dies."
2. Include the booklet you received at retirement entitled "Your Federal Retirement Benefits". This booklet will contain pertinent information
3. Retirement date.
4. CSA identification number
5. Survivor benefits
6. USPS Life insurance
7. Office of personnel contact information
8. Username and Password for OPM Services
9. Ohio's State Secretary contact information

File two (2) entitled important papers

1. Letter of instructions
2. Will
3. Durable health care power of attorney
4. Marriage license / Divorce papers
5. Personal and family medical history
6. Authorization to release health care information
7. Housing, land, and cemetery deeds
8. Escrow mortgage amounts
9. Proof of loans made, and debts owed
10. List of bank accounts
11. Vehicle titles
12. Stock certificates, savings bonds, and brokerage accounts
13. Partnership and corporate operating agreements
14. Life insurance policies
15. IRAs, 401(k), trusts and Annuity Contracts
16. List of usernames and passwords
17. List of safe deposit boxes





**FILL THIS COUPON
AND SEND IT WITH
YOUR PAYMENT TO:**

Brittany Levensky
3405 Leiby Osborne Rd.
Southington, Ohio 44470

OHRLCA 2021 STATE CONVENTION

PAC Reverse Raffle

**TICKETS:
1 FOR \$25
5 FOR \$100**

**MAKE CHECKS
PAYABLE TO:
NRLCA-PAC**

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

Your Phone Number: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

How Many Tickets Are You Purchasing? _____

**YOU ARE NOT
REQUIRED TO BE
PRESENT TO WIN
A PRIZE.**

Drawing to be held at 2021 State Convention



**Sandy Schwartz
Auxiliary President**

Ohio Auxiliary News

Hello Everyone!

Hopefully, you have had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your immediate family. We wish that you are all healthy, thankful, and remain hopeful that 2021 will be a better year for all of us! We have missed seeing all of you at district, booster, and state meetings and hope that we will see each other again, very soon.

I have some updates for you from the Auxiliary.

We continue to support the Postal Employees Relief Fund (PERF). PERF lends support to our spouses in case of a disaster. If you would like to donate to PERF, you can send your donation to any of your state officers.

National scholarships are available again this year for our Juniors. Visit tinyurl.com/2021Auxiliary or NRLCA.org to view currently available scholarships. Applications are due March 1, 2021. Though we have yet to receive hard copies of these applications, you may print them directly from the websites provided above.

The exclusive Ohio State Auxiliary Rural Carriers' Book Grant application will also be available through any Auxiliary officer. You may also download the application from OHRLCA.org. The book grant application is due on May 20, 2021.

I am happy to inform everyone that we have awarded our three \$500 book grants to our recipients as listed in the last newsletter. Since we did not have a state convention this year or related Junior

state convention expenses, your Auxiliary unit decided to present a \$100 stipend to the other applicants of our 2020 book grant.

We are extremely pleased to have seen an increase in the number of applicants compared to previous years.

The five applicants awarded this \$100 are:

Madelynn Barnett, child of Stephanie Barnhouse (Norwich PO)

Alexa Brooks, grandchild of Michaela Brooks (Kent PO)

Presley Holthaus, child of Paige Holthaus (West Alexandria PO)

Kori Lochard, child of Christine Lochard (Wapakoneta PO)

Aubrianna Williams, child of Andrea Williams (Chagrin Falls PO)

Congratulations and good luck to each of you in your educational endeavors!

The Ohio Auxiliary also donated \$500 to the Ohio Retired Carriers' to help with their book grant fund applicants. Their grant offering details are found on page 7 of this publication. Be sure to check them out!

Here is to hoping that you all have a wonderful Christmas season! Hope to see you all soon!

Sandy Schwartz
Ohio Auxiliary President

OHRLCA 2020-2021 AUXILIARY BOARD

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orlcasjo2001@comcast.net

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Diana Hausfeld

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UPCOMING EVENTS

All Scheduled Events
Have Been Cancelled

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104 Clay Road SW
Dellroy, Ohio 44620-9757

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Permit #225
Youngstown, OH



Dominic Crooks
State Editor

A Word from the Editor

We've missed numerous traditional moments easily taken for granted. This has initiated some interesting effects. Some have reflected on their lives and their relationships with others as well as themselves. For some, this has led to a more enriched and appreciative life experience. For others, they have come face to face with great misfortune. Some have lost their job or home, and yet others have lost members of their family. Remember to be kind to each other and realize that *everyone* has a backstory.

As topsy-turvy as 2020 was, the OHRLCA presses forward in 2021. The National Agreement's duration ends in May. We must be ready for negotiations. We also have state and national conventions scheduled this year. We hope to see you there, provided safety permits.

As always, if your mailing address changes, please let our Secretary/Treasurer know. Also, please don't be shy. Drop me an e-mail anytime with your inquiries, ideas, or suggestions to include in our publication. I hope to hear from you soon! In the meantime, let's all dive right into this issue of the Ohio Rural Carrier!

Dominic Crooks
State Editor

State Editor

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