



OHIO RURAL LETTER CARRIER

Association Year 2021-2022 - Issue Number 1

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 13, 2021
State Paper Deadline

August 22, 2021
District Officers Training
Embassy Suites
2700 Corporate Exchange
Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43231

October 8, 9, & 10th, 2021
October Fall Booster &
Rural Carriers Seminar
Embassy Suites
5100 Upper Metro PI
Dublin, Ohio 43817

DISTRICT MEETINGS UPDATES

See **page 6** for more details

ANNUAL REPORTS INSIDE

See **page 14-15** for your
State Secretary-Treasurer's
and State Editor's
Annual Report



Fall Booster & Rural Carrier Seminar



October 8, 9, & 10th, 2021
Embassy Suites in Dublin, Ohio

Save the dates for getting together again,
having fun, and gathering information at the seminar!

Online Reservations: tinyurl.com/OHRLCAFall2021

Phone Reservations: 800-220-9219

Our phone reference code is CA2



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WORSHIP CORNER



Good Morning, Beloved Rural Carriers!

Dear Beloved brothers and sisters

As I sit to write this, it is pretty warm (hot, actually). 91 feels like 99, and a chance of showers means a chance of more steam on the roads. It's never pretty in our vehicles when it's that hot!

**Rita Beedy
State Chaplain**

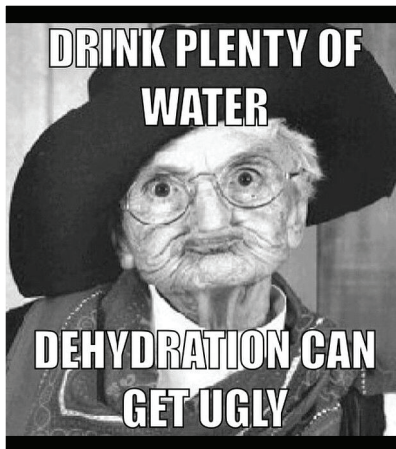
I saw a post on Facebook that had a picture of an LLV, and it said something about how hot they get inside and how nice it is when customers give us cold water! I shared it with a comment about how we like water! One of my former favorite customer's comments was, "Can't they carry a cooler of cold drinks?" My former favorite because I'm retired and not her carrier anymore. But now, a little more so because of that comment. I used a right-hand-drive Jeep, but I am sure that LLVs are a lot hotter because they don't have four windows to roll down!

I got to thinking about all the ways I tried to keep cool. I carried a small cooler with ice water in it with a dish towel I used to wipe my face and neck. I would sometimes take an ice cube and wrap it in the towel and put it around my neck, and let the

ice cube melt down my back.

I tried those things that you soak in water and put around your neck, get out and sit under a shade tree for a minute but couldn't do that too often because it took too much time. I finally found my answer; peppermint oil! I would put it on my pulse points, inside of wrists, around the back of my neck. I had even put it on my belly when it was unbearably hot! I know, TMI!

I put in a google search for personal cooling items and found so much stuff I had no clue existed (and I only looked on one site)! Besides the cooling towels and bandanas, there are water misters, a chill pillow to sit on, cooling hats, one with a solar fan (though not sure how that would work in a vehicle).



All that to say, I am praying very hard for all of you. POV or LLV - it makes no difference. It is misery this time of year, and I want you to know I care. I'm praying for you to find what works for you, and the Lord prevents heat stress and strokes! Please, take care of yourselves. Our families need us!

Stay hydrated!

I love and miss you and hope to see you as soon as we can gather!!

Hugs and prayers,

Rita Beedy
State Chaplain



Mark Funderburgh
President

Getting Back to Business

As the pandemic loosens its grip, Ohio is slowly reopening. District and state-wide meetings will come back in season and will quickly reach full-bloom. Now is the time to get reacquainted with each other and the latest happenings within our craft.

Our National Board is in the midst of contract negotiations. We've witnessed that mail volume has declined and package volume has increased. National President Ronnie Stutts has said the Association is trying to increase RCA benefits in negotiations. He would not elaborate (as to unnecessarily get anyone's hopes up) but noted that nothing had yet been finalized. He is hopeful for an agreement to be reached and sent out to the membership by mid-September for potential ratification.

Your State Board has had several Zoom meetings throughout our heightened social distancing period but is transitioning away from meeting online. We have a meeting scheduled for late August to train our district officers and will provide more details once finalized. OHRLCA Vice-President Timothy Barker is planning our next fall conference to be held in early October. The link for reserving your room for the 2022 State Convention in Fairborn, Ohio, will be printed in a future edition as it comes available.

This past May, your State Board had a legislative meeting via Zoom with Paul Swartz, NRLCA Director of Governmental Affairs. After our meeting, Vice-President Barker set up Zoom meetings with every Senator and Representative of our state to discuss issues affecting Ohio carrier careers. We had two days to get our point across with these prominent individuals, and we used that time well.

As we return to summer heat, carry enough water to stay sufficiently hydrated throughout the day. If you are susceptible to overheating (like me), I suggest you buy a cooling wrap to keep your body temperature down while delivering your route. Wraps are inexpensive and worth the comfort.

As always, if you have an LLV, be sure to crank up the air conditioning! Okay, quit laughing!

Here is one solution I have seen before to keep cool in an LLV,

and it works! Visit Lowe's or Home Depot and buy a 90° PVC elbow joint. Secure and strap the joint just above the door handle so that one opening faces the front side of the vehicle, and the other opening faces the left door.

As you move forward, the pipe will redirect cool air from outside into the LLV, making it feel like you have AC (or at least a second fan). Get management approval first. We wouldn't want management to think you made an unauthorized modification to the vehicle.

I look forward to seeing everyone back at the fall district meetings fall conference later this year. As always, be safe and thankful for all of your family and friends!

May God bless this State, this Union, and this Country,

Mark Funderburgh

President



Craig Yopp
Regular Carrier/
Academy Trainer

Carrier Spotlight: Craig Yopp

Meet Craig, one of the facilitators in the Rural Academy in Newton Falls, 44444, and is a Rural Carrier out of the Conneaut Post Office. Craig is skilled in the classroom, very professional, as well as personal. He believes it is an honor and a privilege to train new employees. He takes his position seriously and prepares his participants for their new positions as Rural Carrier Associates. His daily challenge is keeping students engaged in the material, even though some of the material is dry, such as the throwback case and forwarding mail.

"You must make it interesting and show the importance of it for the job." His words of wisdom for the new employees, "Hang in there, we have all been through it, YOU can do it! Do not give up on yourself!"

Craig makes facilitating look easy, the way he connects on such a personal level. He does not stop when class is over. He is a mentor, giving his phone number to students if they later needed to reach out for questions and concerns.

Thank you, Craig, for introducing new employees to the ever-challenging world of letter carrying!



Booster and Bills

Tim Barker
Vice-President

Hello, my union brothers and sisters. It has been a long time coming (long overdue for most of us), but it is finally time we reopen Ohio.

This year's fall conference will be held October, 8th through 10th, at the Embassy Suites in Dublin.

Opening remarks will begin Friday at 1:00 P.M. followed by a 90-minute Social Security presentation beginning at 2:00 P.M. with a meet and greet through Friday night.

Saturday and Sunday will include a variety of guest speakers and short seminars. Additional topics covered by our speakers include insurance, retirement, and route listing reports (red/edit books). We will have question and answer sessions with NRLCA union representatives too! Get your questions ready for answers!

We will provide lunches Saturday and Sunday. During the Saturday night banquet dinner, we will have a prize raffle, a "split-the-pot" 50/50 cash draw, and additional PAC prizes! You must sign-up for lunches and the banquet dinner so we can accurately prepare enough meals. Tickets for each of these items are on [page 9](#). Please fill out these tickets and mail them to us today while this event is ripe in your mind!

Was last Christmas tough for you too? Many of us experienced a workload that bruised the Postal Service's reputation. We had record-breaking parcel volume, the COVID-19 problem, understaffing, insufficient space for processing mail, vehicle and machinery problems, and more!

Though it was not an experience many of us hope to repeat, this negative publicity can help expose to Congress (and all of America) the severity of Postal conditions and what they must do about it.

Once again, I am asking you (and the rest of Ohio's rural craft) to contact our Senate and House Representatives. We need postal reform right now! No exceptions!

I recently finished up my zoom meetings and phone interviews with various Congressional staff that handles postal issues. I contacted the offices of both of our senators and our 14 congressmen. Several staff members shared stories with

me told by constituents. People are speaking out on how the Postal Service's once-respected delivery standards are eroding. Even though both House and Senate may recognize this issue, the greater our call, the greater their response.

Now is the time for us to contact Ohio's House and Senate members and ask them to sign on or thank those that have signed for their support on Postal Reform.

Send one e-mail for postal reform and encourage the OHRLCA to be heard!

Here is what to ask our Senators and House Representatives to pursue (or thank them for pursuing):

H. Res. 47 – No privatization of USPS

H. Res 109 – Ensure continued door to door delivery

H. Res 114 – Continued 6-day delivery

H.R. 3076 and **S 1720** – Postal Reform Act of 2021

H.R. 695 and **S 145** – Fairness Act

H.R. 3287 and **S 1663** – Authorizes USPS to ship alcoholic beverages

H.R. 4268 – Credit civilian service in a temporary position after 1988 as credible service through FERS

Everyone should review Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's 10-year service plan released on March 23, 2021. You can find all the information on NRLCA.org or Congress.Gov.

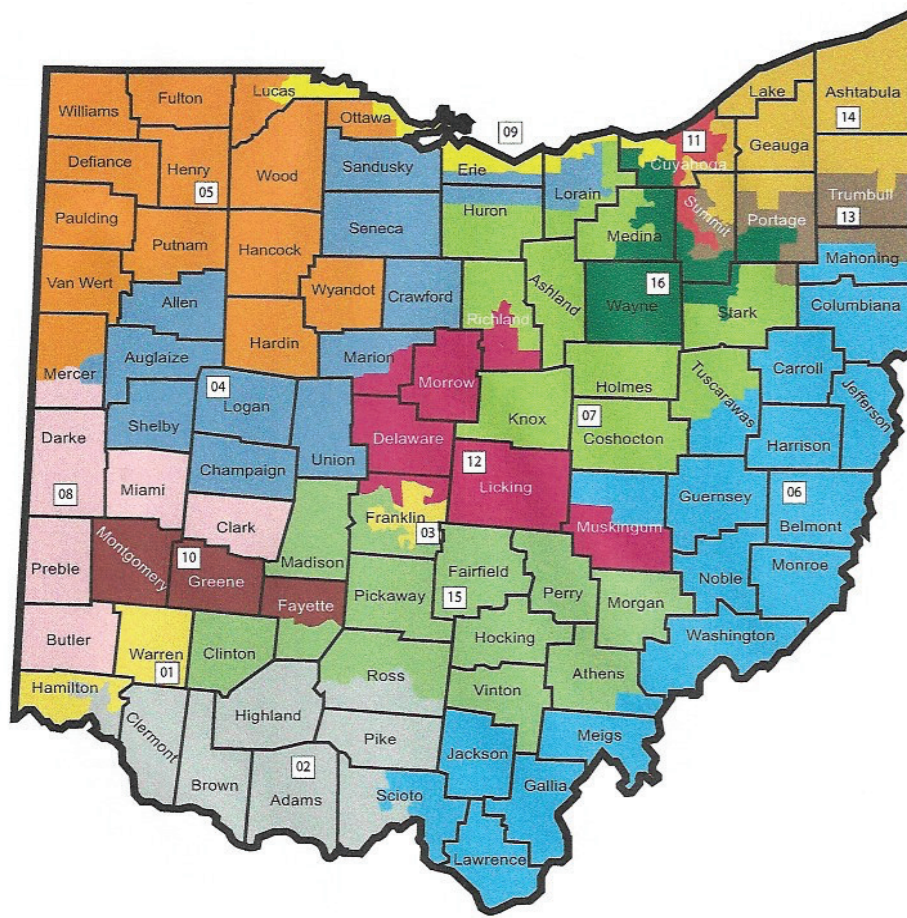
A map of Ohio's congressional districts and representatives is on [page 5](#) of this publication! Locate your district on the map, then contact your congressional representative. Ask them to support all postal reform that is coming out of the 117th Congress!

Ohio Senators Sherrod Brown and Rob Portman are also waiting for your call.

Remember, the squeaky wheel gets the oil!

Union strong,

Tim Barker
Vice-President



Senate	Name	Party	Phone
	Brown, Sherrod	D	(202) 224-2315
	Portman, Robert	R	(202) 224-3353

House	District	Name	Party	Phone
	1st	Chabot, Steve	R	(202) 225-2216
	2nd	Wenstrup, Brad	R	(202) 225-3164
	3rd	Beatty, Joyce	D	(202) 225-4324
	4th	Jordan, Jim	R	(202) 225-2676
	5th	Latta, Robert	R	(202) 225-6405
	6th	Johnson, Bill	R	(202) 225-5705
	7th	Gibbs, Bob	R	(202) 225-6265
	8th	Davidson, Warren	R	(202) 225-6205
	9th	Kaptur, Marcy	D	(202) 225-4146
	10th	Turner, Michael	R	(202) 225-6465
	11th	Fudge, Marcia L.	D	(202) 225-7032
	12th	Balderson, Troy	R	(202) 225-5355
	13th	Ryan, Tim	D	(202) 225-5261
	14th	Joyce, David	R	(202) 225-5731
	15th	Stivers, Steve	R	(202) 225-2015
	16th	Gonzalez, Anthony	R	(202) 225-3876



Lisa Heaton
Executive
Committeeman

District Meetings Return!

Finally! District Meetings!

Though things are finally beginning to return to normal, one thing never changed; Ohio rural letter carriers continued our traditional role of providing top-quality service to our customers!

Plans for district meetings are underway. We will again soon gather, reconnect, and socialize at these events with fellow members and stewards. In the meantime, consider inviting a not yet active member (or even a non-member) to your next district meeting. Maybe they have been curious about meeting discussions. If not yet a member, perhaps they'll consider joining our union.

Perhaps a not yet active member has finally decided that it is time to learn more about our contract. District meetings are an excellent atmosphere to ask questions and receive accurate responses. Many are curious about the status of the RRECS program. District meetings are a great place to learn more! Let us welcome all members of the craft to these educational meetings.

You likely already know that you must be a union member to vote on the contract. Do other carriers in your office know this too? Carriers are often willing to attend and become a member with just a little encouragement. Once they come to a meeting, the valuable information provided will keep them coming back! We believe the information provided by union meetings is well worth the cost of dues.

We all remember our first invite to a union meeting and the amount of information we brought home. We need to share that experience and the knowledge that comes with it. Encourage your coworkers to learn about their careers, workplace rights, and issues currently facing our craft.

Your district secretary will have plenty of PS Form 1187, *Authorization for Deduction of Dues*, ready to sign up new members.

Are you unable to make it to your district meeting? Is your district meeting too far away? As a member, you can attend any meeting in Ohio.

Participatory rules may vary if you're not a native to the district, but not by much. Just let the district officers know that you are a visiting member when you arrive.

I urge you to please make it a priority to attend your district meeting and consider inviting a coworker.

Lisa Heaton
Executive Committeeman



Janna Hirschfeld
Executive
Committeeman

Enroll in Provident Guild!

Greetings to fellow carriers and auxiliary! Summer is here! I hope everyone is wearing loose-fitting clothing and keeping hydrated in the heat. June 30th marked the end of the fiscal year for the Rural Carriers' Provident Guild. Hopefully, all members have remitted their annual dues to the Provident Guild National Secretary-

Treasurer. If not, please do so immediately! All claims for the 2020-2021 year must be received by July 30th, 2021.

If you need to file a claim, contact Provident Guild National Secretary-Treasurer Diane Cox at (419) 501-2213. Request a blue claim form. You must submit this form along with a death certificate for a current dues-paying member for the initial payment. The guild issues payments in August following the annual board meeting of the Guild officers.

The Rural Carriers' Provident Guild originated in Ohio in 1931. It is a non-profit death benefit plan fraternally managed by rural carriers. All rural craft carriers and their spouses are eligible to join if they are under age 56. Dues range from \$10 to \$50 annually, depending on the age of the applicant. Your dues rate is fixed, provided your payments are timely (even if you are no longer with the postal service).

If you are interested in joining the Provident Guild, contact me (or any other State Officer) for an enrollment form. Forms will also be available at District meetings and the Fall Conference.

Until next time,

Janna Hirschfeld
Executive Committeeman



Change! It's A Comin'!

Mike Aitchison
Executive
Committeeman

As if we haven't seen enough change over the past year and a half! A year and a half where the Union has had few opportunities to be out there as a resource to our members. There have been no District meetings, Booster meetings, or State Conventions to interact with the newest

members whose only exposure to our union was their new-hire orientation. There have been no opportunities to be there to welcome and encourage the newbies or to reinforce and buttress even the most stalwart of us that may need those words of encouragement to help them maintain their steadfastness.

Without this comradery, I fear that there have been many instances and opportunities for the newest to the most senior of us to be taken advantage of - both unintentionally and/or with purpose and design.

There appears to be a looseness in the way things are done by managers today. This is not to say that managers are not trying to micromanage in the way it seems they are being micromanaged (because many of them are), but rather a sense of deference to the way things are to be done as prescribed by the National Agreement, the ELM, and other postal manuals. It seems that Managers still want to manage but in their own way!

As we make our way out of this past year of isolationism let us try to be there for each other. Encourage attendance to the upcoming Fall Booster meeting. Help educate the newbies by exposing them to the resources of which they may be unaware. Encourage and provide the contact information your fellow carriers should access! And do not be disheartened if they don't. You tried. That's all you can do!

There will be change, but the process of that change must be done correctly! And believe me, that process of change will be hardest on us old farts that have been around a **long** time!!

In your service, in solidarity.

Michael D. Aitchison
Executive Committeeman



RRECS Testing

Carla Dedden
Executive
Committeeman

Do you want to do the best for your route? The Rural Route Evaluated Compensation System (RRECS) intends to do that for you!

Recently, across the United States, 1000 test routes experienced the mapping process of boxes and lines of travel. I had the privilege

of working with the carriers of four test routes in my office, Loveland. I am thankful for all the hard work these carriers did to make this portion of the RRECS route testing a success.

There were two parts to the RRECS mapping process.

The first part is the Delivery Point Manager (DPM) program. This program has four processing points for each address: mail stop, mailbox, park point for parcel delivery, and front door of the home. The program notates addresses as active or inactive deliveries. It also notates the mode of delivery (curbside, CBU, etc.), all dismounts, collection boxes, collection compartments, and your gas stop.

The second part is the Line of Travel Manager (LTM) program. This program confirms your line of travel, including your stop signs, yield signs, railroad crossings, school crossings, and gate-access stops.

The RRECS program's smooth operation depends greatly on you, the rural letter carrier. Keeping your route line of travel (PS Form 4003) and your edit book (red book/route listing report) accurate is essential. Correctly following your Form 4003 each day will provide the program your set line of travel while an accurately completed edit book will provide the program with your route's correct delivery order - box by box. Scanning your parcel(s) at point-of-delivery is also essential. Your scan shows where you delivered each parcel, and whether you delivered it in the box or at the door.

These programs may soon represent what we (as rural carriers) do out on our routes daily. Proper credit for these duties all depends on YOU!

Carla Dedden
Executive Committeeman

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

Dale Bensman..... Sidney
Tracee Bradley..... Mansfield
Luan Braun..... Holland
Michelle Carrigan..... Chardon
Lisa Keese..... Chillicothe

Larindia Moore..... Newark
Kylean Rocky..... Wauseon
Gregory Watts..... Marysville
Melinda Wildman..... Bristolville
Gloria Zubko..... Creston

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Cierra Anderson
Britain Anderson
Kory Apodaca
Kenneth Baldwin
Jeffrey Bitler
Candy Black
Monica Boes
Alya Boggan
Cachet Brown-Greene
Taeveion Bumgardner-Ferg
Caleb Canton
Daniel Carpenter
Robert Coller II
Codi Cooke
Jacob Corbin
Quashune Crockett-Kelso
Dan Dailey
Marjorie Davis
Kenneth Davis II
Kyle Dawson
Jane Degreef
Steven Delapena
Bryan Eades
Megan Ferris

Susan Fleming
Stanley Fleming III
Harrison Floyd
June Gerber
Zachery Gray
Brya Green
Daniel Guerrero
Marcus Harvey
Marypatricia Heckman
Carson Herschler
Sally Hornbeck
Ross Hubbuch
Tyler Huston
Jordan Huth
Kaylee Jakubowski
Taylor Jordan
Loretta Krynock
Mindy Latham
Ke Chaun Lewis
Michaela Long
Miliangelis Lugo Garcia
Noah Maynard
Lucus Mccollum I
Marie Mccormick

Michael Mcfarland
Kyle Melton
Gregory Mitchell
Kelli Moore
Serena Morris
Griffin Morris
Ronald Myers
Charles Neeley
Heather Panter
Clint Phillips
Brittany Pollitt
Kelly Prell
Derek Pullen
Maria Pullins
Rebecca Reid
Tiffany Robertson
Laura Rufener
Beth Ryan
Rufina Sabirova
Mary Sanders
Joanna Schultz
Christopher Shell-Crist

Marcaus Shupp
Carmelle Gra Smith
Kristal Snow
Theodore Snyder
Sarah Spencer
Matt Stidham
Angela Stiff
Richard Stiffler
Matthew Stimmel
Kenneth Storms III
Austin Suddith
Adrian Traynum
Julie Unger
Neil Von Ahn
Alexzandra Walker
Michelle Wallace-Negron
Christine Weikart
Cynthia Woodard
Jacob Wright
Ananda Wright
Justin Young

Fall Booster & Rural Carrier Seminar Registration Form for October 8, 9, & 10th, 2021

MEMBERS ONLY EVENT WITH REGISTRATION
ONE COUPON PER REGISTRANT
YOU MAY COPY THIS FORM IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL FORMS

Phone Reservations:
800-220-9219 - OHRLCA phone reference code is **CA2**
Online Reservations:
tinyurl.com/OHRLCAFall2021

\$104 daily room rate for king or double bed
Made to order Breakfast included

Evening reception from 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Games, prizes, and finally reuniting with fellow members!
More details will be printed in the next Ohio Rural Letter Carrier.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Office where you work _____

**Check the box beside events
you plan to attend so we may
have a meal prepared for you!**

- Friday (10/8) reception**
- Saturday (10/9) lunch**
- Saturday (10/9) banquet**
- Sunday (10/10) lunch**



**Mail your
completed
form to:**

Lisa Heaton
705 Drury Lane
Troy, Ohio 45373

Are you bringing any Auxiliary or Junior members with you? Let us know!

Name _____

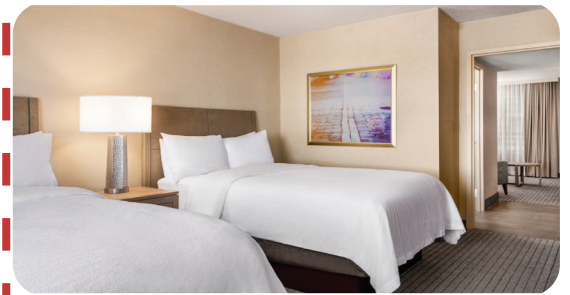
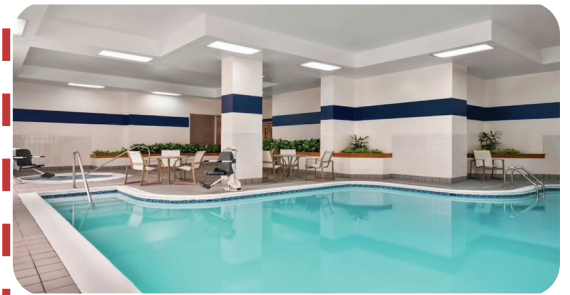
- Auxiliary Member**
- Junior Member**

Name _____

- Auxiliary Member**
- Junior Member**

Name _____

- Auxiliary Member**
- Junior Member**





Fall 2021 District Meeting Schedule

District 3 Sunday, July 18, 2021. Meal at 2:00 PM and the Meeting at 3:00 PM. Cy Young Memorial Park (large pavilion),

519 N College St (off SR 36) Newcomerstown OH 43832. The District will pay \$5.00 towards the price of the meal if you RSVP by July 10th. During the meeting district members may vote to pay additional money towards the price of the meal. Catered by Backwoods BBQ & Catering, Pork, Chicken, Seasoned Potatoes, vegetable, salad, dessert, & beverage. Bring your family and enjoy the afternoon. Pool is open until 7:00 PM - 40 swimming wristband are being supplied on a first come basis, additional wrist band may be purchased. Detailed Directions: Exit 65 off of I-77 onto US-36 toward Newcomerstown. Go 2.4 miles to the N College St turn-off. Park is right there. RSVP by July 10th to Jody Schuler, (740-610-8221) jodyschuler@yahoo.com or Patsy Anderson, (740-630-7306) ponyexpress52@yahoo.com.

District 7 Thursday, June 17, 2021. Dinner 6:30 PM and the Meeting 7:00 PM. P J's Restaurant, 571 W Cherry St, Sunbury OH 43074. Union member's meal is free. Three (3) \$25 gift cards to be given away as door prizes to those in attendance. Steward will not be present; however, your questions will be answered by an upper-level steward if forwarded by June 14th to Secretary-Treasurer Cramer. All questions to stewards will be presented and answers will be read during the meeting. RSVP by June 14th to Autumn Cramer, 419-562-1184 or autumnbcramer62@yahoo.com.

District 8 Wednesday, September 22, 2021. Meal served at 6:00 P.M. Meeting to follow. Old Schoolhouse Catering, 3940 Avon Lake Rd, Litchfield OH 44253 District Members meal is free. Non-members and Guest's meal cost is \$15 per person. Door prizes will be drawn during the meeting. RSVP by September 7th, Call Darlene Stewart - 440-355-5007 or text Barb Perkins at 440-667-7878 *leave message on answering machine, name, office and number attending.

District 10 Wednesday, September 29, 2021. Mimi's Diner, 156 E Main Dt, Russell's Point OH 43348. Dinner at 6:00 PM and the Meeting at 7:00 PM. Free Meal for member and one (1) guest. Gift cards to be given as door prizes. RSVP by September 25th to either Diane Cox 937-869-4724 or Lisa Heaton 937-215-0262

District 12 Thursday, September 16, 2021. Dinner 6:00 PM and the Meeting 7:00 PM. Marion's Piazza, 6176 Snider Road, Mason. The meal is free to all district members, non-members and guest. Gift cards will be given away at the meeting. Gift card to all first timers.

RSVP by September 9th to Carla Dedden 513-683-4664 or Carla.dedden@aol.com

District 13 Sunday, August 1, 2021. Meal is provided at 1:00 PM and the Meeting will follow the meal. Earl's Island Pavilion, just off of St Rt 362, Lake Loramie State Park, Minster OH. Family Fun Day at the Lake. Playground Fishing and ect activities. A meal will be provided free to all members. RSVP by July 18 to Pam Frey 937-726-2296 or pamfrey8@gmail.com

District 14 Thursday, September 2, 2021, Dinner 6:00 PM and the Meeting 6:30 PM. Kissner's, 524 Clinton St, Defiance OH 43512. District Members meals are FREE. Four (4) \$25 gift card will be given away as door prizes. RSVP by August 29th to; Debra Towers text or call 419-237-3071.



**Rebecca Orians
Retired Member**

Rebecca L. "Beck" Orians, 66, of Tiffin, passed away Sunday morning, May 30, 2021, at Mercy Health- St. Vincent Medical Center, Toledo.

Beck was a 1972 graduate of New Riegel High School and studied Accounting at Tiffin University. She was a rural mail carrier in Alvada for 25 years, retiring in 2018, was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, the Republican Central Committee, Charter member of the NCOC/North Central Ohio Conservatives, and volunteered at the Knights of Columbus. Beck enjoyed singing in the St. Joseph adult choir, funeral choirs, Ecumenical choir in Carey, and sang in the choir for the Pope in Italy. In her free time, she enjoyed movies, swimming at the YMCA, flower gardening, watching and feeding birds, traveling most of the United States, Canada, and many other countries. Everyone loved her cream puff cake, lasagna, and her orange jello salad. Most of all, she loved spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren. Beck was always there for anyone who needed her, lending an ear or a hand if she could.



Brian McClain
Regular Member

Brian F. McClain, age 58, of Mount Vernon, Ohio, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, May 14, 2021, at Riverside Methodist Hospital in Columbus.

Brian proudly served in the United States Navy from 1983 to 1985 and later started his career with the USPS in 1999. He was a member of Amvets Post #95, Veterans for Foreign War Post #4027, Colonial City Moose Lodge, and Fraternal Order of Eagles.

Brian was known by many for his years of umpiring with the Mount Vernon Girls Softball League. He enjoyed golfing, but most important to him was the quality time he spent with his family. He will be missed by many.



Cara Lou Sanders
Retired Member

Cara Lou Sanders, age 71, of Wauseon, Ohio, passed away at 3:22 P.M. on Thursday, May 13, 2021, after an extended illness.

Cara Lou was a 1967 graduate of Wauseon High School and Weaver Airline Training School in Kansas City, Missouri, and went on to work for Braniff International. She was employed as a rural carrier in Archbold, Ohio, and retired with twenty years of service. Cara Lou was a devoted member of St.

Caspar Catholic Church in Wauseon, where she worked on church festival committees and was a Eucharistic minister. She enjoyed camping with her husband, Jim, being with her family, especially with her grandchildren, and was a true Jimmy Buffett Parrott Head. Cara Lou was also an active participant with Relay for Life.



Denise Blakeley
Retired Member

Denise Blakeley, 67, passed away on June 27, 2021. Her postal career began in the Aurora office in 1985 and concluded in 2011. Through the years, she served the Association as a local, area, and assistant state steward. She also held positions as QWL/EI facilitator, District DJSC co-chair, district officer, and state committeeman.

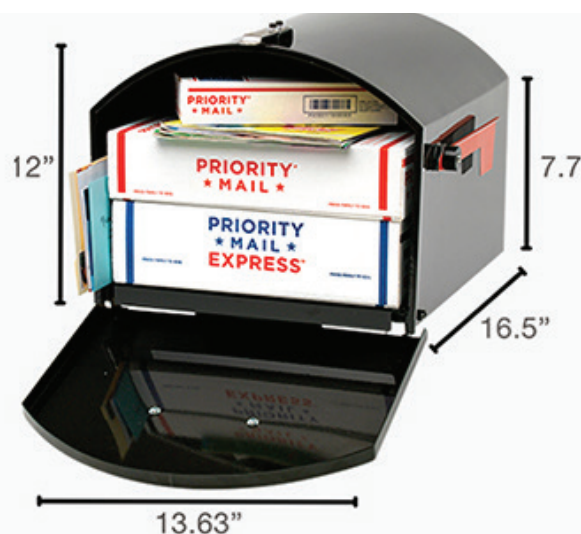
She is survived and missed by many, including her son, Jason.



Next Generation Mailbox

Are you familiar with the Next Generation Mailbox? Retailers began selling them last year after the Postal Service tested the mailboxes nationwide.

The mailbox measurements are approximately 13.63" wide x 7.75" tall on the sides, 12" tall at the center x 16.5" deep, and have the capacity to hold multiple packages, letters, cards, and magazines.



The larger mailboxes can protect more of your packages from the elements, like rain, sleet, and snow. They also fit on most standard posts.

The Next Generation Mailbox helps the Postal Service reduce failed delivery attempts that occur when letter and rural carriers are unable to deliver packages because they do not fit in customer's mailboxes.

The Next Generation Mailbox continues to be popular with customers and employees.

The Postal Service is planning to test potential enhancements to the boxes, including keyless locking and notification features that allow customers to know when mail is delivered.

For more information about the Next Generation Mailbox, including sizes, proper installation, and links to retailers, visit <http://www.USPS.com>.

Source: USPS LINK

Take a chance to **WIN** any of the prizes below while supporting your union's **Political Action Committee!**
PAC Reverse Raffle drawing will now be held during the 2021 OHRLCA Fall Booster!

Drawing to be held at the 2021 Fall Booster



OHRLCA 2021 Fall Booster

PAC Reverse Raffle

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

MAKE CHECKS
PAYABLE TO:
NRLCA-PAC

YOU ARE NOT
REQUIRED TO
BE PRESENT TO
WIN THIS PRIZE.

FILL THIS COUPON
AND SEND IT WITH
YOUR PAYMENT TO:

Brittany Levensky
3405 Leiby Osborne Rd
Southington OH 44470

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

Your Phone Number: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

How Many Tickets Are You Purchasing? _____

Instant Pot Duo Nova 7-in-1 Programmable Pressure Cooker

iRobot Roomba e5 Wi-Fi Connected Robot Vacuum Bundle

Silver - KitchenAid - KV25G0XSL Professional 500 5QT, 450 Watt Bowl Lift Stand Mixer

Sterling Silver 1/4 Carat T.W. Diamond Teardrop Pendant

Power XL Vortex Air Fryer

Samsung - 50" Class - LED - NU6900 Series - 2160p Smart - 4K UHD TV with HDR

Black - Apple Watch Series 3 GPS 38mm Space Gray Aluminum Case with Sport Band

Gold - Apple - iPad with Wi-Fi - 32GB - Gold

Ring Video Doorbell 2

And *more* items yet to come!



SURVIVING SPOUSE ELIGIBILITY FOR HEALTH INSURANCE

We often receive questions from the spouse of a deceased retired carrier about continuing health insurance coverage when a carrier dies. There are two requirements for a surviving spouse to continue health insurance coverage after the death of a retired carrier. However, it is very important that some planning take place before a carrier retires to be sure that a spouse will be eligible for health insurance coverage later when a retired carrier dies.

The requirements for a surviving spouse to be eligible to continue health insurance coverage after the death of a retired carrier are part of the Federal Employees' Health Benefits (FEHB) regulations. A surviving spouse must satisfy both of these requirements to continue health insurance coverage. The requirements are:

1. The surviving spouse must be covered by a self and family enrollment in a FEHB plan when the retiree dies; and
2. The surviving spouse must be eligible to receive a survivor annuity benefit from the U. S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM).

In planning for retirement, it is very important for an employee to select some amount of survivor annuity benefit (the full benefit is not required) for the spouse. Without a survivor annuity benefit, the surviving spouse will lose health insurance coverage after a retired carrier dies.

When a retired carrier dies, the surviving spouse or family should notify OPM as soon as possible. The notification can be by telephone or in writing. The toll-free number at OPM is 1-888-767-6738. The mail address for OPM is:

U. S. Office of Personnel Management
Retirement Operations Center
PO Box 45
Boyers, PA 16017-0045

When calling or writing OPM, please be sure to include or have available the civil service claim number (CSA #) of the deceased retired carrier. OPM will send the necessary claim form(s) and instructions to the surviving spouse or designated beneficiary. Be sure to attach a death certificate to each claim form and return it to the address provided.

OPM will determine whether a surviving spouse is eligible for continued health insurance coverage and notify the FEHB plan. If the spouse is eligible for continued health insurance coverage, the health plan will issue a new ID card in the name of the surviving spouse. The monthly premium for the health insurance coverage (usually for self only coverage) will be withheld from the survivor annuity benefit paid by OPM.

The FEHB regulations also prohibit a FEHB plan from requiring a surviving spouse to pay membership dues to keep health insurance coverage. That means that the surviving spouse of a rural carrier is not required to be a member of the Auxiliary to keep health insurance coverage.



Penny Koren
Secretary-Treasurer

Secretary-Treasurer's Annual Report

Brother and Sisters of the OHRLCA, it is a privilege to present my 2020-2021 annual report as Secretary-Treasurer of The Ohio Rural Letter Carriers' Association.

Membership Report:

The 2020-2021 membership year began with 4,420 members and, as of June 30, 2021, our total membership is 4,424; an increase of 4 members.

Your State Board continues to send recruiters to the new hire orientations with the hope of recruiting newly hired rural carriers as members. The recruiters have a 75% new member recruitment rate. 52% of the newly hired members remain as rural carriers after 90 days.

Below is a comparison of the membership for the years beginning 2013 through 2021.

Financial Report:

The Financial report is for the Association year July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021, is presented in this issue showing income higher than expenses by \$79,548.62. The OHRLCA State Board voted to send each member a \$50 gift card which offset typical annual expenses of in-person meetings and conferences.

With the COVID-19 virus pandemic and the stay-at-home order, I adhered to my work schedule and completed my duties and responsibilities as directed by the OHRLCA Constitution. Below is my detailed activity report.

Activity Report:

I completed and filed the Labor Department required LM-2 for the State Association. An LM-2 report consists of many pages of detailed entries to account for every penny of income.

Ohio Rural Letter Carriers' Association Statement of Financial Position

As of June 30, 2021

Jun 30, 21

CURRENT ASSETS

Checking/Savings

APCU Checking

\$29,400.79

APCU SAVINGS

\$623,362.11

Total Checking/Savings

\$652,762.90

Total Current Assets

\$652,762.90

Other Assets - Annuities

American National

\$250,000.00

Athene

\$250,000.00

North American

\$250,000.00

Standard Insurance

\$250,000.00

The American Equity Company

\$100,000.00

Vantis Life Insurance Company

\$150,000.00

Total Other Assets

\$1,250,000.00

TOTAL ASSETS

\$1,902,762.90

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

PAYROLL LIABILITIES

\$37,290.05

Total Current Liabilities

\$37,290.05

Equity

OPENING ASSETS

\$303,287.48

RETAINED EARNINGS

\$1,482,636.75

Net Income

\$79,548.62

Total Equity

\$1,865,472.85

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

\$1,902,762.90

It includes tracking all income received and expenditures paid to each employee, the duties of each employee, and expenditures paid to each vendor of the Association. Once completed, the report must be reviewed and signed by both the President and Secretary-Treasurer. The process of complying, completing, and filing took over 40 hours. The Labor Department requires electronic filing of all LM reports.

Membership Totals

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Rural Carriers	2,206	2,145	2,162	2,171	2,175	2,153	2,167	2,157	2,174
Relief Carriers	1,035	1,177	1,213	1,331	1,421	1,412	1,444	1,303	1,283
ARC					7	12	17	5	10
Retired Carriers	896	920	906	910	918	938	948	949	952
Associate	10	8	7	7	6	6	7	6	5

I assisted our subordinate Districts with electronically filing their LM-4 reports in addition to filing Association's LM-2.

The National Office requires me to complete Bonding Worksheets for each District and one for the State Association. The Bonding Worksheet for the State Association also must be submitted every three months to the National Office.

In November, I completed and electronically filed 14 IRS 990-e forms; one for each of Ohio's subordinate Districts. These 990 forms are the equivalent of a business IRS tax return. Association/District units lose their non-profit status if these 990 forms are not filed. The 990, which is a paper filing with the IRS, for the association consist of 12 pages of detailed entries of income and expenditures, which took a mere 16 hours to complete.

I worked an average of 57 hours each week this past year to properly perform the Secretary/Treasurer's duties as charged in the OHRLCA Constitution and to perform additional duties assigned by the National Office.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, though our State events were all canceled, my work hours remained constant. This past year, most of our board meetings were online through Zoom, but the Board had one face-to-face meeting. I've wrote the minutes of the board meetings, wrote state paper articles, presented financial reports, paid all of the associations liabilities, balanced the checking and savings accounts 12 times, reconciled and paid the credit card 12 times, wrote 178 pay roll checks, sent 492 retirement letters, completed 1 LM-2 Report, completed 15 IRS 990s, 53 IRS 940 tax filings, 4 IRS 941 quarterly reports, 12 SD-101 tax filings, 12 IT-501 tax filings, 4 BWC Payroll reports, 4 FUTA Tax reports, 4 JFS UC tax reports, wrote and filed and sent 23 W-2s and 3 1099 with the IRS and Ohio Taxation, completed and filed 18 bonding worksheets, wrote and sent 2762 membership recruitment

letters, entered 623 - 1187/1187-R into the National database, processed and submitted 35 membership remittance reports, processed and submitted 35 membership summary reports, answered 826 phone calls (as early as 5:30am and as late as 11:22pm), sent 62 cash due request letters, processed 57 cash dues membership cards, wrote 94 receipts, made 12 deposits, made 659 changes of address in the national database, I also provided numerous hours of assistance and consultation to the President, and members on the State Board, the District Officers and members. I have also spent many phone hours speaking with Senators and Congressional Representatives to protect six-day delivery, purchase all relief time toward retirement, and end the prepayment of healthcare for 75 years in the future.

As your Secretary-Treasurer, I am also an OHRLCA board member. I make decisions in the best interest of the Association and its members, consistently following the OHRLCA Constitution and the Department of Labor's laws. Making decisions is not an easy task, but it is a task that I take seriously. My decisions are lawfully driven and are not clouded by politics or driven by opinions or my own agenda.

Respectfully submitted by,



Ohio Rural Carrier Publication Expense Report

Issue	Pages in Issue	Data Processing	Lettershop Cost	Printing Cost	Taxes	Postage	Issue Total Cost
August	20	\$106.90	\$258.68	\$3,496.00	\$261.21	\$1,480.40	\$5,603.19
October	16	\$93.87	\$203.22	\$2,821.00	\$211.32	\$1,492.54	\$4,821.95
January	20	\$107.79	\$262.10	\$3,496.00	\$261.27	\$1,527.89	\$5,655.05
March	24	\$107.74	\$248.38	\$3,800.00	\$283.31	\$1,607.24	\$6,046.67
May	20	\$107.53	\$261.12	\$3,496.00	\$261.26	\$1,605.24	\$5,731.15
Totals	100	\$523.83	\$1,233.50	\$17,109.00	\$1,278.37	\$7,713.31	\$27,858.01



Board Meeting Minutes

The monthly OHRLCA State Board ZOOM meeting was held May 4th, 2021 at 8:00 PM. Attendees of the meeting included President Mark

Funderburgh, VP Tim Barker, Committeemen Jana Hirschfeld, Lisa Heaton, Mike Aitchison and Carla Dedden.

The agenda for the meeting involved the Fall Conference, District Officer ZOOM meeting and the Legislative meeting for Presidents and Vice Presidents.

The Legislative ZOOM Meeting for State Presidents and Vice Presidents will be held May 24th, 2021 at 2:00 PM. Attendees will be updated on current bills concerning the USPS and will support communications with our representatives in Washington DC. Committeeman Dedden made the motion to pay ADOP for the President and Vice President to attend this session if not paid by the NRLCA. Motion passed.

The Fall Conference will be held on October 8th, 9th and 10th at the Embassy Suites by Hilton beginning at 1:00 PM. Address, 5100 Upper Metro Place, Dublin OH 43017. At the present time, the following informational and educational presentations include, Social Security, Safety, Edit Books, NRLCA Officer, National General, Rural Carrier Health Benefit Plan, Ohio Stewards, Retirement and APCU. For fun, a meet and greet, and a banquet which includes our PAC reverse raffle are scheduled. Information on booking your stay at the hotel will be forthcoming. Currently, no definite schedule is finalized. Final schedule will be included in an upcoming state magazine.

The entire state board will be meeting with the district officers. The board would like to contact the district officers to see if any local and district meetings could be held by ZOOM. To communicate with them on any issues or concerns. If the ZOOM meetings can be held, the State Board will be available to advise and assist. Post cards can be sent to district members to promote your meeting. Also, the Ohio Stewards can be available to present through ZOOM.

The meeting concluded at 9:15 PM. The next scheduled ZOOM meeting will be Tuesday, May 11th at 7:00 PM for the Board. Followed by a ZOOM meeting with the District Officers at 8:00 PM.

Electronic Board Meeting May 11, 2021, 7:15 PM

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

The entire Board met to discuss the current National and State COVID-19 guidelines. The Board also reviewed the combined meeting's agenda scheduled with the OHRLCA District Officers.

District Officers began joining the meeting at 7:45 PM. A total of 43 attended the electronic zoom meeting using either a computer or telephone.

The OHRLCA State Board related their desire for meetings to start-up again. All meetings must adhere to the Ohio and National Guidelines for COVID. Meetings could be held safely outdoors.

Meetings could be held using the zoom meeting service, at no cost to the district.

District's must notify their members of the meeting details, by sending postcards.

In order to hold an official meeting, there must be a quorum present at the meeting. Each District's constitution dictates how many members makes a quorum.

At present the NRLCA Stewards have not been authorized to attend face-to-face meetings. Districts may request the steward and or national / state officers to attend their meeting using zoom services. This NRLCA rulings will update as COVID guidelines change.

Districts Officers were encouraged to talk amongst themselves and make decisions as weather or not to schedule a district meeting. If they schedule a meeting to share their decision and arrangement with the OHRLCA State Board.

A list of District Meeting will be published in the State Paper. The next State Paper deadline is June 15, 2021.

Since many Districts have not had meetings, their funds have increased. The OHRLCA State Board encouraged the district officers to spend some of their funds on their members by paying for meals and door prizes. The District Officers were instructed that all funds spent must be made in a motion and approved during the district meeting.

The OHRLCA Fall Conference was discussed with the District Officers. The Fall conference will be held October 8-10, 2021, at the Embassy Suites, 5100 Upper Metro Place, Dublin OH.

The meeting was open for concerns and question from the District Officers. Many concerns were addressed and the OHRLCA State Board will address the remainder of the concerns with National Steward System DR Funderburgh.

Next Electronic Zoom Meeting to be held with National Steward System DR Funderburgh
May 25, 2021, at 8:00 PM

**Electronic Board Meeting
May 25, 2021, 8:15 PM**

Present was President Funderburgh, Vice President Barker, Secretary-Treasurer Koren, Committeemen Heaton, Aitchison, Hirschfeld, Dedden and National Steward System DR Funderburgh.

The OHRLCA State Board requested NSS DR Funderburgh to join the meeting to discuss the Rural Carrier Academies. The State Board requested a list of the locations of the academies and the trainers assigned there. NSS DR Funderburgh will acquire the information and send it to the board.

The State Board discussed concerns about an academy trainer. NSS DR Funderburgh will follow up with both the trainer and HR and get back to the Board.

The State Board addressed other concerns from the District Officers. NSS DR Funderburgh will follow up with concerns and report back to the board.

NSS DR Funderburgh reported there will be offices going on the new evaluated system (RRECS) and will go through a mail count using the new system standards. For the RRECS to be utilized the routes must be accurately mapped. NSS Stewards will be mapping the routes in the test offices.

NSS DR Funderburgh reported that grievance activity was down and that the NSS Stewards have saved time by utilizing electronic meetings for PDIs. She also reported that the NRLCA will update their ruling on face-to-face meetings with the membership soon.

The State Board thanked NSS DR Funderburgh for her report and for attending the meeting.

9:30 PM

The State Board continued with the meeting. Secretary-Treasurer Koren reported that we have not received a Mid-States invoice for our membership in the Mid-States Conference. The Mid-States Secretary-Treasurer has been contacted and hopefully will respond soon.

President Funderburgh was contacted by a member who had received his gift card on May 14th. That was a later delivery then most of the gift cards was delivered to members.

Vice President Barker ask for suggestions, for raising PAC funds. The reverse raffle will be a highlight during the Fall Carrier Conference. The reverse raffle has brought in considerable funds in the past and hopefully will again.

Secretary-Treasurer Koren has invited Social Security and APCU to the Fall Conference.

Vice President Barker has contacted many speakers and is awaiting their confirmations.

Next meeting June 6, 2021, 8:15 PM

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

Adjourned 9:45 PM

**Electronic Board Meeting
June 6, 2021, 8:15 PM**

Present was Secretary-Treasurer Koren, Committeemen Heaton, Aitchison, Hirschfeld, and Dedden.

Secretary-Treasurer reported that Committeeman Heaton received additional training filing state and federal tax and other training on additional secretary-treasurer tasks in the database.

Secretary-Treasurer Koren shared what NSS DR Funderburgh reported back on the academy trainer. The matter will be followed-up for additional information.

Secretary-Treasurer e-mailed a new hire survey, requested by NSS DR Funderburgh, information on the amount of time

it takes from date of hired of the RCA to the date they carry a rural route.

Districts expressed concerns about face-to-face meetings – we reinforced the directive to follow the State and National Guidelines on COVID about gatherings.

Secretary-Treasurer Koren received confirmation that Social Security Representatives will present for 90 minutes at the Fall Conference providing their COVID guidelines allow. If they are not permitted to do face-to-face, they will do a zoom presentation. They will also prepare small pop-up presentation for our members to attend electronically in the future.

Secretary-Treasurer Koren reported that we have four (4) district meetings scheduled and the list is in drop box to access. The District Meetings list will be published in the next state paper. Deadline for each board members article is June 15th.

Secretary-Treasurer Koren received and sent payment for an invoice for membership in the Mid-States conference. No Mid-States Financial report was received.

Committeeman Dedden made a motion to send Committeeman Aitchison to present at the District 7's meeting, the motion passed.

We received notification that NSS Stewards will be available for meetings starting July 1st.

Committeeman Dedden reported that she has been mapping the routes in test offices that are test sites. She reported that route needs to be updated and accurate before the mapping is completed.

Committeeman Aitchison made a motion to adjourn, the motion passed.

Adjourned 8:45 PM

Next Board Meeting and District Officers Training
August 20 – 22, 2021, 9:00AM
Embassy Suites
5100 Upper Metro Place, Dublin OH.



Catherine Funderburgh
District Representative
Northern Ohio and
Ohio Valley Districts

Ohio Hot Topics

Health Insurance and Discipline:

If, for whatever reason, you are out on removal and are in a nonpaid, non-duty status for an entire pay period, please remember that you are still responsible for paying the amount previously deducted from your paycheck to pay for your health insurance premium.

The Post Office will send you invoices notifying you of your responsibility to pay the employee portion of your health insurance premium. The only way that you can waive these premiums is by completing [PS Form 3111, Federal Employees Health Benefits \(FEHB\) Coverage or Termination While in Leave Without Pay \(LWOP\) Status](#), stating that you no longer want health insurance.

Your health insurance coverage lasts up to 365 days (1 year), provided that you agree to pay the required premiums. If the Postal Service upholds your removal, your insurance enrollment will terminate at the end of the pay period they rendered the decision or at the end of the 365 day period, whichever comes first.

If the Postal Service does not uphold your removal, you will have the option to reinstate your insurance retroactively to the date it was terminated or enroll in a plan of your choice, just like a new employee. If you chose to reinstate your insurance retroactively, you could use the benefits of your health plan however, your contributions each pay period will be your responsibility to pay.

Health Insurance While Injured off Duty/Illness:

Carriers who are injured off duty or have a serious health condition will also be allowed to continue their health benefits, provided they pay their invoices. If you know that you will be off for a while and do not have enough in your leave balances to cover your absence, then you might consider spreading your leave out so, at minimum, you will have paid your health insurance.

Another option is to request advanced sick leave. That option comes with restrictions; your request cannot exceed 30 days, and it must be reasonable to believe that you will be returning to work. It does not matter if you have an annual leave balance or a donated leave balance. Your local manager can

approve the request without approval from their boss provided your request is supported with medical documentation (See [ELM 513.5](#))

Route Bidding while on Extended Leave:

If you are or will be off for an extended period due to health or disciplinary reasons, I recommend that you mail your Postmaster a written request for all rural craft vacancy notices. Management must then send all vacancy notices to your address, provided your written request has your address on it. (See [Article 12.3.B.5](#))

RCA's and Sunday Work:

[Article 30.2.P](#) allows for Sunday work. Offices not assigned to a spoke or hub, as determined by Amazon, may be added to create a larger work pool. First, ARCs are scheduled. Next, volunteer RCA's/PTF's are scheduled by rotating through the volunteer list in alphabetical order. If all carriers in these two categories are working, yet more carriers are needed, management will schedule through the non-volunteer list in alphabetical order. PTF's and auxiliary carriers are not exempt from working on Sundays and Holidays.

The only partial exception would be Designation 74 RCA's. These are rural carrier associates appointed via Form 50 to serve full time on a vacant route or in the absence of the regular carrier for more than 90 calendar days. Some offices use the City Carrier term "opting" or "hold-down" to describe this situation as the RCA is "holding down the fort" until a Regular Carrier returns to duty.

These "74s" are the last resort. They are scheduled after the first three categories are exhausted and more employees are needed to cover the projected number of Amazon rural routes. Currently, surrounding offices are being looked at to add to hub offices as needed.

Determination and Placement of RCA Route Assignments:

Some offices believe that new RCA's should be assigned to their route based on the seniority of the regular carrier. Others believe it should be based on who has the largest route. Still, others believe that it should be who has not had a sub the longest.

Contractually, none of these are true. The only language we have is [Article 30.2.A.2](#). This section gives the regular rural carrier the right to require that a leave replacement be assigned to their route. How do we require a leave replacement? By submitting a [120-day letter](#) to management.

This letter puts management on notice that they have 120 days to hire a replacement sub for your route. Write on your

calendar and turn on your phone alarm for 121 days of the day you submit the [120-day letter](#). File a grievance on day 121 if management failed to assign a replacement to your route.

At that point, [Article 30.2.A.3](#) will come into play. If there are at least two K routes in the office, management must establish a PTF position in your office. (120-Day letter is on [page 20](#))

Relief Days/Holidays:

Labor Day will be observed on Monday, September 6th. If your relief day is Monday, then under [Article 11.2.B](#), you will be granted the preceding day off (Saturday). If the primary leave replacement is not available, then the regular carrier who has Monday off may be scheduled to work.

Management is not obligated to force a carrier on the RDWL before scheduling Holiday work. Why? Saturday is your normal scheduled day to work paid at your straight time rate. (Exception: carriers receive 150% pay when working their Christmas holiday.) Excluding the Christmas holiday exception, it is cheaper for the Postal Service to pay the straight time rate for holiday work than the overtime rate for a carrier working their relief day.

RRECS:

The Postal Service is once again testing the system as they are mapping 1,000 routes across the country. Ohio's two districts have twelve offices with forty routes participating in this study. Management will eventually conduct a mini mail count to capture data for office duties other studies had not collected. Supposedly sometime in August, management will have projected evaluations for these studied routes. The projected evaluations will not affect the current route evaluation or carrier's pay. The NRLCA will be analyzing the data provided to see if the new system will be ready to roll out sometime later this year.

It is imperative that we follow our line of travel as outlined on the 4003 daily; we carry our scanners to the door when making deliveries; that we start and finish our scans at the door; and that we keep our edit books up to date.

Have a safe and wonderful summer. My hope for you is that you finally get to go on and enjoy that long-awaited vacation that we all dreamed of last year.

Your Union sister,

Cathy Funderburgh
District Representative

RURAL CARRIER REQUEST FOR LEAVE REPLACEMENT

POST OFFICE _____

RURAL CARRIER _____

ROUTE NUMBER _____

DATE _____

TO: _____ (POSTMASTER OR MGR)

As per Article 30, Section 2.A.2 of the National Agreement, I hereby request that a leave replacement be assigned to my route as soon as possible. I expect this assignment to occur within the 120 day period set forth in the Analysis of the National Agreement.

Rural Carrier

Received by _____ Date _____

Round-Date Here



OHIO NRLCA STEWARD DIRECTORIES

(July 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 Gamerding

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

E-mail: Misty.Gamerding@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

E-mail: Catherine.Funderburgh@nrlca.org

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

Assistant District Representative Lori Todd

Associated with Zip Codes: 439; 442; 444; 446; 447

Phone: (234) 284-5233

E-mail: Lori.Todd@nrlca.org

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

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

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



Diana Garner
Ohio PAC
Co-Chair

PAC: **Legislation Updates**

In a previous article, I explained what PAC is and what importance a strong Political Action Committee has for the future of our craft, our current working conditions, and our careers as we move toward retirement.

I'd like to share a few other facts to show that our NRLCA PAC has an urgent need to "up our game", raise more funds, and get the message out to our congressional representatives. We need to reinforce that rural carriers provide an essential service to Americans across the country.

Let's take a brief look at our competition.

FedEx Corp

FedEx Corp is the world's top express delivery service, thanks in large part to its close relationship with members of Congress and the White House. For years, the company has been a major campaign contributor to both Democrats and Republicans and is famous for its unique lobbying tactics, including the fleet of private planes that it keeps on stand-by for lawmakers who need to jet off at a moment's notice.

In exchange, the company has gotten unparalleled access to debates over international trade, tax cuts, and rules that govern the business practices of its one-time competitor, the United States Postal Service. In 2001, FedEx cemented a groundbreaking deal with the USPS to deliver all of the post office's overnight packages and express deliveries. In turn, FedEx was allowed to put its drop boxes in post offices around the country.

UPS (United Parcel Service)

UPS's competition with package-delivery rival FedEx is reflected in its campaign giving. For much of the past decade, these two companies have been trading places as the top political giver in the air transport industry. Despite their competition in business, UPS and FedEx agree on a lot politically. For years they have successfully opposed postal reform that would give the postal service easier access to the overnight, second-day, and bulk-mail markets. They also each advocate vigorously for free trade agreements that would boost the number of packages sent internationally.

Additional Considerations

The best shot for Congress to pass comprehensive postal reform legislation just got better with a bipartisan coalition of 20 senators introducing companion legislation to a bill soon headed for a House vote.

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Gary Peters (D-Mich.) and Ranking Member Rob Portman (R-Ohio) introduced the Postal Service Reform Act in May 2021.

The bill comes with strong bipartisan backing. 10 Democrats and 10 Republicans have co-sponsored the legislation. If the bill gains support from the remaining Senate Democrats, the legislation would have a filibuster-proof majority and would have a good chance of becoming law.

What does this mean for us?

The Postal Service Reform Act, like its House counterpart, would eliminate the 2006 PAEA pre-funding mandate and would require future postal retirees to enroll in Medicare Part A and Part B. Senators estimate these provisions would save USPS nearly \$56 billion over the next 10 years.

The Postal Service Reform Act would require postal employees to enroll in Medicare Part B when they turn 65 and retire. The bill wouldn't require current retirees to enroll but would give them a three-month grace period from late-enrollment penalties if they opt to do so.

Current postal retirees who choose not to opt into Medicare Part B would remain in the FEHB program, while current retirees who enroll in Medicare Part B and all future retirees would enter the PSHB program.

Keeping retirees without Medicare on the FEHB program could increase the average cost of coverage for FEHB plans, which could then increase FEHB premiums.

These are all things to consider that could help relieve USPS financial burdens, but potentially at the employee's expense!

Our voice needs to be heard... NOW!

FedEx and UPS have successfully contributed to their PAC organizations over the years.

UPS PAC Contributions in 2020 was \$5,110,721
FedEx PAC Contributions in 2020 was \$2,536,933
NRLCA PAC Contributions in 2020 was \$1,283,475

We all need to take responsibility for our actions. Donate to PAC to help keep your career intact!

An oversimplification?

Possibly, but are *you* willing to do nothing and just hope for the best when it comes to your future? Though we live in uncertain times, I am confident there will soon be more challenges and changes for USPS. Let's make those changes work **for** Rural Carriers.

It is simple to set aside a few dollars from each paycheck to protect your future. See the PAC withholding form in this newsletter to get started.



Sandy Schwartz
Auxiliary President

Ohio Auxiliary News

Greetings! It won't be long before we will all finally be able to be together again! Your Ohio Auxiliary Officers are looking forward to the upcoming district meetings and Fall Booster. We will have a program for the auxiliary and our Juniors. Please, register auxiliary and juniors on the registration form

available from the Association. Your advance notice helps us prepare activities and meals for all auxiliary and juniors attending.

I'm pleased to announce the following Auxiliary Book Grant recipients. They will each receive \$500.00 from the Ohio Auxiliary. Congratulations to each of you!

Edward L. Pennicuff Jr. from East Liverpool, Ohio. He is attending Youngstown State University and majoring in accounting. His grandmother, Elaine Ferguson, carried mail for the Leetonia Post Office for 25 years.

Nichole Lambright from Galion, Ohio. She will attend Capella University and study psychology. Her mother, Vickie Lambright, carries mail for the Mansfield Post Office.

Elianna Antoon from Mentor, Ohio. She is attending Hiram and Lakeland Community College and is majoring in business management. Her father, Elias Antoon, is a rural carrier at the Mentor Post Office.

As a bonus, I will be sending postal-related gifts to each person who signs up or increases their withholding amount now through October 1, 2021!

Donate to PAC, **today!**

Respectfully,

Diana Garner
Ohio PAC co-chair

Portions of this article includes information printed with permission from the Center for Responsive Politics www.opensecrets.org.

Our Auxiliary needs a Junior Sponsor for our Juniors' program.

If you are interested in this position, please, contact me.

Prerequisites are that you must be an Ohio Association member, an Auxiliary member, or a past active Junior member at least 21 years of age.

You will receive a stipend, your hotel stay will be covered, and you will have help from the auxiliary officers. If you enjoy working with children ages 6 to 21, this is a fantastic opportunity for you!

Enjoy your summer! I'm looking forward to seeing everyone!

Sandy Schwartz
Ohio Auxiliary President

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See Front Cover for
Scheduled Events

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Dominic Crooks
State Editor

Annual Report

Welcome to this fantastic edition of your Ohio Rural Carrier publication! We've had another unusual year, but our union must continue to press on! That stated, included is my annual report.

This being my fifth year as your State Editor, I've appreciated the ongoing support I've received from your state board and our members. I hope that you have enjoyed what this publication has offered you throughout the year. I've inserted a table displaying our publication's expenses for our publication on **page 15** beside Secretary-Treasurer Koren's annual report.

Some of you have specifically contacted me with your thoughts and ideas for future editions. Thank you! I encourage you all to do the same. I enjoy learning new things and seeing new perspectives. We have well over 4,000 union-minded folks in Ohio from which each of us can learn something. What would you like to learn about?

Our Fall Booster meeting will be here before you know it. I hope to see you there!

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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