



Heart of America
**BRANCH 30 LETTER CARRIERS
VIEWPOINT**

Published Bi-monthly by Branch No. 30 N.A.L.C., Kansas City, Missouri

Volume 60, No. 2

March/April, 2007

*Still Working
Long & Hard
for the Customer!*



DATES TO REMEMBER

St. Patrick's Day - March 17th

Good Friday - April 6th

Easter - April 8th



It's Almost Time To
CELEBRATE!
Your VIEWPOINT'S
60th Anniversary

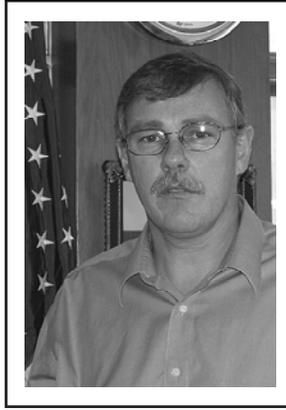
If you, or someone you know
has memorabilia or photos
we can share in our special
60th Anniversary issue
please contact one of the
Viewpoint Staff or the hall.

*Let's make this
an occasion to remember!*

PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE

By Dave Gwin

President Young's proposal to restructure the City Carrier's job was very appealing to many in attendance at the National Rap Session. Monday through Friday workweek; Saturdays designed for retired Carriers and overtime; route adjustment based on actual office/street times...almost sounded too good to be true but with the savings to the USPS in the Billions of dollars over the next 20 years or so...it was very appealing to both parties. A lot of us have a hard time believing that the USPS is going to "share" the profits with the NALC but according to President Young, Postmaster Potter was in favor of this.



The health care presentation got a mixed response. The USPS currently pays 84% of our premium and that percentage amount will drop to 72% under the new proposal if Carriers don't have or change to NALC insurance. The savings to the USPS under this proposal is expected to be several hundred million dollars a year. Once again, President Young has requested the USPS give the NALC 50% of the savings and once again, Postmaster Potter agreed. President Young said the "lump sum" savings to the USPS will be shared with the Carriers every year, regardless of your health care plan. This money is supposed to help offset the expense, in many of our cases, of what our premium will be going up to if we DON'T change to NALC insurance.

One major question that has led to many Letter Carrier rumors is that if you change to NALC insurance will you be able to keep your same doctor? The NALC optimists say that a health care plan of this nature will be very appealing to all physicians and hospitals. There SHOULD be no reason why they will not honor NALC insurance. We already have a well respected health care plan and a dramatic increase in membership will help it even more...again, that's what the optimists say.

This is going to be an interesting vote if the contract is given to us for ratification. Some numbers to keep in mind look like this: Approx. 230,000 City Letter Carriers, 50,000 Carriers in the NALC health care plan, 180,000 Carriers are in other plans. Voting yes to a contract means you accept the whole offer. The question will be how many of the 180,000 Carriers

will hesitate to vote yes because they are uncertain about the health benefit deal. For those of you overly optimistic about this getting past the City Carriers... the National Rural Carriers thought the same when their contract was being voted on. Unfortunately, less than 1/3 of those eligible voted and the majority said NO DEAL with one of the primary reasons being the health care considerations.

President Young said that contract delivery/article 32 was the only provision of the contract negotiations that the BOARD OF GOVERNORS said no to. Postmaster Potter gave verbal approval of the entire contract but these "Bush appointed" individuals said NO DEAL. President Young did give the USPS something to think about that even the Board of Governors found to be appealing. In fact, this negotiation tactic is the primary reason the contract has been very close to being signed. Postmaster Potter agreed that the City Carrier restructuring would save the USPS billions of dollars and Potter agreed to "share" the savings with the NALC. Instead of giving us 50% of the savings that EVERYONE agreed to do, how about the USPS only give us 40% of the savings and let the City Carriers keep all the territory we currently have and any in-growth that takes place (In-growth is new deliveries that are within our city limits). All new deliveries outside those limits would go to contract carriers. This compromise was thought to satisfy both parties and prompted the rumor that a deal was very close. If we get a contract to vote on you can rest assured that this issue will be in our favor.

A lot of us in attendance at the RAP Session were very surprised that our National President brought factual contract negotiations to our attention. I think he did so because he was confident that we would have something to vote on soon and he wanted to explain the Executive Counsel's position. The problem I see is what if we get NONE of these proposals? If this goes to arbitration it is very possible we may get a contract similar to that of the APWU...with none of the aforementioned items. So, was it a good idea to tell us about the negotiations or would it have been better to just wait and see what an arbitrator would award us? Time will tell.

President Young asked us all to be patient. "We are as close to war as we've ever been with management". That was a direct quote at the National RAP Session. We may not be able to strike but we DO NOT have to participate in several activities that the

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Vice President's Article

By Dave Teegarden

We recently attended the Region 5 Rap Session in St. Louis, MO. It was expected that the topic of conversation would center around the rumors circulating across the country of a tentative agreement to a contract. This did not happen. The rumors were just that, rumors, as of this writing we have no tentative agreement. The parties are supposedly close but until there is something in writing, to be ratified by the membership we will proceed along the road to arbitration.

Locally things have gone from bad to worse. Several stations including James Crews and Hickman Mills have been working well beyond the 12 and 60 hour limitations in Article 8.5. Despite the fact that the union has grieved previous Article 8 violations and prevailed, management continues to violate these same provisions daily. Carriers are being given direct orders to continue carrying beyond contractual limitations with the explanation from management, that there is a remedy for this violation, an additional 1/2 time rate of pay. Carriers are being required to work over 70 hours per week in some instances. Carriers are also being forced to work their N/S day off even though they are not on the OTDL. At James Crews we have no supplies to complete our jobs, we routinely have to "borrow" toilet paper from GPO. We have no pens, 3996 forms, paper towels or rubber bands. Maintenance work goes undone for weeks, broken case lights are not fixed and vehicle issues like gas, windshield wipers and lights go unresolved. Management did put new carpet in the conference room but Carriers have been forbidden to go beyond the restrooms so we can't actually see it.

As far as management goes there have been a number of changes made. MCSO Norwood has been sent to St. Joseph, MO. It has not been determined if this is a permanent move. Also District Manager Epperson has moved back to Colorado. Several station managers continue to play musical stations and it's anybody's guess as to when the music will stop or who will land where.



The Mid-America District continues to lead the way on Customer Connect with 84% of the Carriers participating in those stations currently in the program. Programs such as these put us in a much better position during contract negotiations. Locally Randy Williams is the Branch 30 Customer Connect Co-Coordinator and should be commended for a job well done.

Hopefully when the local management shakeout is complete we will be able to meet with Postmaster Freeman and bring about the changes Carriers are demanding, like days off. Staffing shortages must be addressed now and changes affected that make differences. Working conditions within the various stations must be addressed in an open atmosphere to make the changes a reality. Letter Carriers deserve nothing less from their union. Remember no victory was ever realized without sacrifice. This union and it's leaders remain committed to you, the membership.

BROOKFIELD UNIFORMS

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Nash

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Recording Secretary's Report

By Melvin R. Moore

Regular Monthly Meeting

December 14, 2006

Meeting called to order at:

7:00 pm

Prayer: Joe Hill

Salute to flag: Jeff Rainey

Roll call of officers: David A. Gwin, Dave Teegarden, Melvin R. Moore, Linda Baker, Byron Townsend, Joe Hill, Dave Metcalf, Jeff Rainey, Jim Lonergan and Ed Lopez

Reading of minutes and communications:

Executive Board Minutes December 7, 2006

1. The Board discussed proposed contract agreements from the other postal craft unions. Many of them will receive a 1% rate increase annually, modifications on health benefit premiums and more outsourcing of jobs.

2. The Postmaster reported that no personal items can be on cases/work stations.

3. All stewards are to immediately report violations of Art. 1.6 or Management performing craft work.

4. Staffing at units will not be getting any better until Management can see an improvement in performance or DOIS projections. Carriers will continue to be encouraged to provide a fair day's work for fair day's pay.

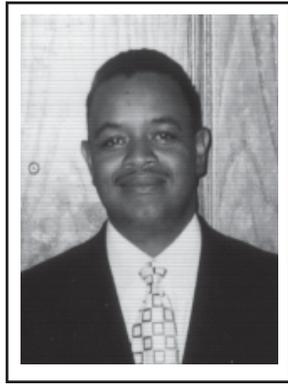
5. The Treasurer, Financial Secretary and Trustee Chairman will be attending financial training classes February 1 or February 12-13, 2007 in Wisconsin. A motion to send officers was approved at the February 9, 2006 meeting.

6. Management is conducting a diversity training program. Any NALC member that is asked to attend class needs to contact the union hall.

7. Linda Baker, Treasurer reported that all payroll checks need to be deposited within 60 days. If the Branch has to re-issue a check, \$12.00 fee will be charged.

Recommendation(s)

1. The NALC National Officers will be conducting an Emergency Rap Session to discuss the National Agreement. The NALC is the only postal union that does not have a tentative agreement. The Board recommends that the Branch send the Executive Board of Branch #30 to the rap session in LA, California January 28, 2007. MSC to accept
Deceased Members: Melvin Crouch (retired Carrier Richmond, MO) Johnietta Ross, (wife of Morris



Ross), Abigail Hartley, (daughter of Kathy Hartley) and Sue M. Davis, (mother of Rick Davis).

New Members: none

Bills: MSC to accept as written

Treasurer's Report: MSC to accept as written

Financial Secretary Report: MSC to accept as written

Labor/Management Meeting

- Contract, DOIS and North Station Manager moving to St. Joseph

Entertainment: Tim Winkelbauer thanked committee for help at the Christmas Party. Hoped all had a good time.

Legislative:

- Democratic Party did very well during November National elections.

- Ten candidates have entered their name into the Kansas City Mayoral race. AFL-CIO will screen candidates and select one that is labor friendly.

HBR/Director of Retirees

Joe Hill thanked all stewards for speaking to members at their station about joining NALC Health Insurance.

Guest Speaker: Lucy Young, wife of deceased member Bill Young, informed Branch members of the difficulties she has experienced trying to collect on federal life insurance. The process will take more than ten days and it is a nightmare. She thanked Branch #30 for their support. MSC to donate a gift of \$25.00 to the family of Bill Young and the members raised an additional \$225.00.

Unfinished Business:

1. Pursuant to Section 11.31 of the NALC Regulations Governing Branch Election Procedures, Branch #30 will be conducting a run off election for (7) seven alternate delegate positions for the 2007 State Convention. All members need to see the election judges before 8:30 pm.

2. Any steward planning to attend the 2007 Rap Session need to sign up ASAP.

New Business: none

Good of the Association

- President Gwin informed the membership that Postal Reform had finally passed.

- The newly elected Congress will start their term in office with legislative matters such as; Iraq conflict, minimum wage, etc...

Brookfield Uniform: \$10.00 Gift Certificate: Jeff Rainey

Steward of the Month: Dean Hall-Hickman Mills
50/50 for COLCPE-Mike Bratcher

Attendance Incentive Drawing (must be present to win); Rosalyn Holman

Adjourned: 8:30 pm

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Recording Secretary's Report

(continued from the previous page)

Regular Monthly Meeting January 11, 2007

Meeting called to order at: 7:00 pm

Prayer: Joe Hill

Salute to flag: Melvin R. Moore

Roll call of officers: David A. Gwin, Dave Teegarden, Melvin R. Moore, Linda Baker, Byron Townsend, Joe Hill, Dave Metcalf, Jeff Rainey, Jim Lonergan and Ed Lopez

Reading of minutes and communications:

Executive Board Minutes January 4, 2007

1. The Budget for the first six months will be presented in February.
2. The CPA will mail all form-1099 before January 31, 2007. All stewards need to see Treasurer, Linda Baker for 2006 W-2 and quarter 4 payrolls.
3. The Branch scholarship deadline for 2007 is March 1, 2007. The applications will be reviewed by May 1, 2007. The winner will be announced at the May 10, 2007 regular branch meeting.
4. 2007 Food Drive is scheduled for May 12, 2007.
5. MDA Super-Bowl-A-Thon is scheduled for Sunday, February 4, 2007.
6. The Branch is filing a class action grievance concerning management's failure to adequately staff offices.
7. The Board agreed to send Dave Teegarden to Executive Park to investigate OT violations and management performing craft work violations.
8. Stewards training Thursday, January 18, 2007 at 6:30 pm.

Deceased Members: 0

New Members: 0

Bills: MSC to accept as written

Treasurer's Report: MSC to accept as written

Financial Secretary Report: MSC to accept as written

Labor/Management Meeting

The National Business Agent, Mike Weir, is scheduled to meet with the District Manager January 16, 2007.

Legislative: Ernest Graham reported;

- The AFL-CIO will be publishing a list of district representatives that support labor.
- The AFL-CIO did not endorse a mayoral candidate for Kansas City. A mayoral endorsement will come after the primary election.
- The USPS has made a contract offer to the NALC that was insulting to Letter Carriers. Increased medical insurance, no Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), no real wage increase etc...

Kevin Horan reported;

- Postal Reform passed after 12 years. The union's main concern is the new bill will force postal employees to wait three (3) days before receiving continuation of pay (COP) for a work related injury.
- HR1696-Employee Free Choice Act (free to start union w/o harassment)
- Federal Wage Increase (help support minimum wage increase)

Safety:

- Flashlights are not postal issued equipment. If you can not purchase equipment with uniform allotment, then you are not required to use it.
- Postmaster stated at safety meeting 12/19/06 "If delivery is not safe, then do not attempt. Report all hazardous conditions to supervisors/manager".
- Pipe bombs have been found in collection boxes on west coast. Postal Inspectors believe that teens are finding ways to make bombs via the internet. Please be careful when opening a box.

Unfinished Business: none

New Business: none

Good of the Association

President Gwin reported;

- Postal reform will set the postal service in good position in the next ten years. The ability to adjust postage rates with inflation will allow the postal service to remain competitive.
- Contract Delivery Service (CDS) is coming to Kansas City. The postal service will contract to the private sector new developments that generate more than an hour work in a unit. All new additions/developments are to be submitted to Delivery Programs for considerations for CDS. CDS employees will wear a smock with postal emblem. No formal training for CDS employees has been discussed.

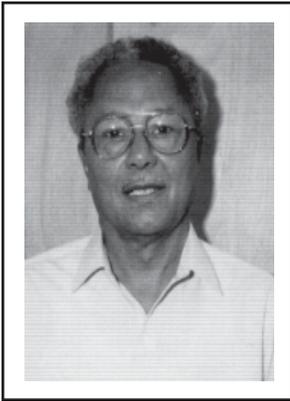
Brookfield Uniform: \$10.00 gift certificate; Reggie Collins

Steward of the Month: Terry Myers

Attendance Incentive Drawing (must be present to win); Roy Nevils-not present

Adjourned: 8:30 pm

QuickTime™ and a Photo - JPEG decompressor are needed to see this picture.



Health Benefit Representative Retiree Coordinator

Joe D. Hill

Around the Clock Retirement Information

Now on LiteBlue you can find information developed by Headquarters Compensation to help you understand and prepare for retirement. You can have this information at your fingertips 24 hours a day, 7 days a week-with just an internet connection and a few clicks of a mouse.

The presentation is divided into individual segments, specific either to CSRS and CSRS Offset or to FETS. If a particular segment is not applicable to you, you can skip it. For example, you may want to skip the segment on military service if you have never served in the military. The segments range from 5 to 25 minutes in length.

*Segments include information on
determining **when you can retire**,
reading your **annuity estimate**,
continuing your **health and life insurance**,
making sure your **military service** counts toward retirement,
and much, much more.*

A workbook containing written information, charts, examples, etc. is attached to each segment for viewing online, downloading, or printing.

Go to the Internet on our personal computer and type in <https://liteblue.usps.gov>.

- On the Welcome page to LiteBlue,
type in your Employee ID-the 8-digit number on your pay stub-and then
type in your USPS PIN-the 4-digit number you use for *PostalEASE*
- You are now at the LiteBlue main page. At the top
click on the My Life tab.
- Under the heading My Benefits,
click on Retirement Seminar Online,
- Select:
 - the retirement coverage you want (CSRS or FERS) or Other Benefits Information,
 - the cable or modem speed of your personal computer, and
 - whether you want closed captioning.

You can download Microsoft Windows Media Player, if necessary, without charge.

If you do not have access to the Internet, you will soon be able to borrow this video presentation on a DVD and view it on a computer monitor or television screen. The DVD loan package will also include a hard copy of the online workbook.

You are encouraged to take advantage of all the information provided in this retirement seminars presentation. Investing a few minutes of your time now can help you be better prepared for your transition into retirement. Knowing the resources you will have can put you on the path to achieving your retirement goals. This Postal Service tool is meant to help you do just that.

If you have any questions concerning the presentation information, you can call the Human Resources Shared Services Center at 1-877-477-3273, selecting option 5.

President's Article

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USPS has taken for granted for several years. President Young said to act professional and do the same good job we have all been doing. If the USPS does not want to take advantage of some innovative ideas from the NALC that will better the Post Office and our futures then we are prepared to take matters in another direction. President Young is well aware of the staffing issues across the country and the havoc it creates. His plan is to utilize his political connections in the House and the Senate to get the contract we all need and deserve and then go public with the staffing issues If the USPS does not take care of them.

LOCALLY: We are getting more active in the right to truth committee and soliciting more support from the AFL-CIO. These are the DIRECT lines to the media in Kansas City. With television and all the local newspaper connections we intend to let the community know how management is treating the Letter Carriers in our area, why their mail is being delivered so late at night and why the general attitude of the Carriers is at an all time low. It is extremely difficult to maintain a friendly and professional service under the conditions we are forced to work in. Grievances continue to be financially beneficial to those involved but the blatant disregard to the contract, the disregard to "B" team decisions and the disregard to the arbitration settlement is forcing us to seek other forms of retribution. This will happen upon direction from our National Leaders and not before. Until then we are expected to conduct ourselves in a professional manner and abide by the local directives and the contract. I know it's difficult but I also believe in our National President's Plan of Action. Stay Strong!



Don't Forget to
Visit Your Web Site:

www.NALCBranch30.org

Legislative Report

Submitted by Kevin Horan

After six long years of George W. Bush's disastrous presidency, a new direction begins in Congress with Democrat House leaders introducing bills from their First 100 Hours agenda. Of these bills passed the five most notable are: 1) To strengthen our nation's security by passing the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. 2) Cutting interest rates on college student loans. 3) Negotiating a better prescription drug cost for Medicare. 4) A stronger ethics bill on stricter rules against lobbyist behavior and runaway deficit. and 5) Increase the federal minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour. These, along with other bills, are now in the Senate for their approval.

Another new bill being introduced to the House of Representatives is the Employee Free Choice Act (HR 800). This bill will enable millions of working Americans not in a union to form a union without coercion, intimidation, or harassment from their employers. Already one out of every twenty three American workers has been fired illegally from their jobs while trying to form a union. We, as union members, are privileged to have the right of representation to negotiate our pay, hours and working conditions every day throughout our career. Unfortunately some 60 million Americans cannot join due to old labor laws with loop holes. That is why it is essential all of us contact our House Representatives and urge them to pass this legislation, HR 800, in order that others will have the same benefits we now share as union members.

Finally I would like to inform the members that the Bush administration's Anti-Labor and Big Business friends are at it again. Just when you think they can't leave well enough alone. That's right, they want to revise the Family Medical and Leave Act (FMLA) that was originally signed in 1993. They feel changing FMLA is the number one priority right now in terms of labor issues. They struggle with the law's requirement and the tracking and verifying if it's legitimate. The FMLA allows employees up to 12 weeks of leave to take care of personal illness, the illness of a family member, or for a new baby. Let lawmakers know how important it is for workers to be able to take time to take care of a sick family member and to not let them weaken FMLA just to solve their paper trail.

Remember to always deliver like a champion.

CELEBRATION TIME COME ON!

By Sellie Truitt—Associate Editor

We are rapidly approaching the time when our beloved News Paper (VIEWPOINT), will become the ripe old age of 60. It must have been a lot of FUN because I have heard that time flies when you ARE having Fun. I guess I must have had a lot of Fun because the time flew by too fast. Speaking of Fun, it was not always so. Sometimes it was Hell getting the paper out. I devised a plan to get the Viewpoints to the Stations, in the Hands of the Carriers. First I would drive to each Station and deliver the papers. Management, at that time, allowed the Clerks to sort the papers to the Carrier Routes and when they pulled their Mail, the Viewpoints were there. No Postage. This was the early years.

It was a financial hardship on me. At \$.87 an hour I couldn't afford the \$.15 per Gallon for Gas. This continued for several years and I had to devise a cheaper method. Clerk and Carrier relations were Excellent, at that time, and I had no problem talking a Night Clerk into letting me come down to GPO when the sacks for the stations were being loaded on the dock. A mutual agreement was reached as he would call me at home and advise me when I could come down. I took the papers home, bundled and labeled them according to the number of Carriers in each Station. I sat in my car waiting for the Signal from the Clerk. I rushed up on the Dock and tossed the papers into number 3's and I was gone.

Those were also the days of "Car Contracts". I wonder how many reading this article knows what I'm talking about? The Government paid Carriers to use their vehicle to deliver Relays, Parcels, etc. It didn't fly with everyone but I bought a NEW CAR with my earnings from its use. We were paid for the number of miles to and from our Routes.

Now let us get down to the preparation of what is coming up for a Most worthy Celebration. How many Branch Publications, Nationwide, can boast of having served its Membership for 60 years. This is indeed an Honor and a Milestone in the History of Branch 30. If you remember, the 50th Celebration lasted for two weeks. We were honored with a Picnic, Royals Baseball Game, A visit from Mr. Vincent R. Sombrotto, National President, at that time, who threw out the First Pitch Ball at a Special Ball Game. Also our Local President, Dan Pitman, now our RAA, State President, Kevin Suttner, at the time, Local President, Dan Pitman, Regional/National Business Agent Joe Miller, who Caught President Sombrotto's Pitch. We also sang the National Anthem. Sombrotto stayed in Kansas City for Three days. We also had special T-Shirts commemorating the occasion.

Let's make the 60th even Bigger. After all you only have ONE 60th Birthday, if you're lucky. In my opinion here are some of the things that the 60th is worthy of. Baseball Game, T-Shirts, Go all out to have a Winning Publication, Picnic, Retiree Honoree Day, Presidential Invitations, Invite (All)-State, National Presidents, Post Master, etc. I may get called down on this Postmaster bit, but it might improve relations. You can call me down on this if need be, since I'm out of Touch with Postmasters.

I think it would be a good idea to set a time for Memorabilia to be brought to the branch for Picture taking. By all means A Large picture of the Viewpoint Staff, Convention Badges and other Convention (State and National) memorabilia.

You've heard from me, now let's hear from you. After all, this is the Viewpoint, Speak Out. Let's hear your --VIEWPOINT

National Business Agent's Report

By Mike Weir

I am writing this article during yet another ice storm here in St. Louis. For the most part, it has been an unseasonably warm winter; but when the weather has turned bad, it has done so with a vengeance throughout Region 5. As the latest storm was hitting the area, I visited with a Carrier whose matter-of-fact approach to the difficult delivery conditions was reflective of the way Letter Carriers go about the business of taking care of their customers, whatever the weather or the latest USPS policy directive. Yet, only on rare occasions, does management acknowledge the Carriers' efforts or recognize the importance of their contributions. No where was this more evident than in the recent contract negotiations. Not only was management's final offer insulting to the dedicated public servants who are largely responsible for whatever success the Postal Service has enjoyed over the past several years; but their decision to abandon the professionalism of career Letter Carriers for the uncertain work ethic of non-career contractors demonstrates a complete lack of understanding of the commitment to quality service that Letter Carriers bring to the job as well as exhibiting a lack of concern over the safety and security of the nation's mail. As we prepare for arbitration, the NALC will continue to dialogue with the Postal Service in an effort to convince them that subcontracting delivery services is not in the best interests of our customers and, for that matter, the USPS.

We will be taking that same message to Capitol Hill during the week of February 12-16. The NBA's and the fifty State Chairs will be in Washington, DC for a legislative workshop at that time. We will also be taking advantage of this opportunity to meet with the members of the 110th Congress. Our intent is to build upon the relationships that we developed over the course of our long march toward the successful passage of Postal Reform legislation to ensure that our efforts to preserve the Postal Service were not in vain. To that end, we will be discussing the obvious pitfalls associated with subcontracting delivery services. Such a move would certainly undermine the public's confidence in the mail service, push our customers to explore other delivery options and, ultimately, undercut the very financial security that we have worked so hard to strengthen. Additionally, we will be discussing issues of particular importance to Letter Carriers such as WEP, GPO, Premium Conversion and Vote-by-mail legislation as well as issues of interest to all working families such as the minimum wage, social security and The Employee Free Choice Act. Having the chance to speak with

members of a more worker-friendly Congress gives us renewed hope that our concerns and those of our fellow working men and women may actually be heard and addressed. At the very least, there is an opportunity for a more productive dialogue. Nonetheless, it is essential that we further strengthen our political clout if we wish to maintain a viable presence on Capitol Hill with our Senators and Representatives. Our success in the 2006 mid-term elections was certainly a good beginning, but there is still much work to be done. Sign up as an e-Activist and contribute to COLCPE! Add your voice to our efforts to protect our jobs and benefits, and to provide a better life for our families...now and in the years to come.

The Region 5 Rap Session is scheduled for the weekend of February 24 and 25 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel-Downtown St. Louis. We will have the latest information on the struggle to achieve a fair and just National Agreement as well as updates on the subcontracting issue. However, the bulk of our training will focus on protecting Letter Carriers' rights and assisting them with work-related issues. Special emphasis will be placed on the Dispute Resolution Process. NALC Director of Retired Members, Ernie Kirkland, is the national officer assigned to the Rap Session. Those who have never had the opportunity to hear Ernie speak are in for a treat. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the table which he shares with others in a low-key, down-home style. We are looking forward to another lively, interactive training session.

QuickTime™ and a
Photo - JPEG decompressor
are needed to see this picture.



NEWS FROM THE STATIONS

MOOSE'S MINUTE

By David "MOOSE" Metcalf

The "Gimme 5" campaign was a huge success, nationally we nearly doubled the number of members who make automatic contributions to COLCPE, locally if it wasn't for Frank Ferro it would not have been the success it was. Congratulations Frankie, your diligent and difficult work on this campaign helped make it the success it was. You should be, as I am, extremely proud of all that you've accomplished. THANK YOU.

However, there is still much more we can do-only 4% of our members are currently enrolled in automatic COLCPE contribution. Since the "Gimme 5" campaign was so successful last year, National decided to hold two more contests this year to encourage even more members to sign up for automatic contribution, and to encourage those currently on the rolls to sign up their friends. Here's how the contests will work:

- *For both contests, automatic contributors who are already at the "Gimme 5" level will receive a raffle ticket for every 2 new NALC members that they convince to sign up for automatic "Gimme 5" deductions. The number of raffle chances is limited only by the number of recruit pairs that member can find.*
- *Recruiting an existing automatic contributor to increase their contribution to the "Gimme 5" level counts as getting a new recruit.*
- *All those new "Gimme 5" contributors will be entered into the raffle, too, and then they can start signing up their own pairs of "Gimme 5" level contributors to increase their chances to win.*
- *Automatic contributors who bump themselves up to the \$5 per pay level will be entered in the drawing as well - and then can start recruiting their own pairs of new member contributors.*

The first raffle entry deadline is June 30th, and the grand prize is two round-trip plane tickets to any U.S. location including Hawaii. The second contest starts the very next day and runs through November, with the winner of that raffle receiving an expenses-paid trip, but only to one destination: the 2008 SUPER BOWL in Glendale, Arizona. Obviously, the best way to increase your chances to win either contest is to

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maintain a steady recruiting effort all year long.

I would like to count on every member of Branch 30 to help make these contests a huge success, with one of our members going to the 2008 SUPER BOWL.

We were able to use COLCPE to pass long overdue Postal Reform legislation and elect a Congress that will protect Letter Carriers for years to come. With the next presidential elections just around the corner, our work has never been more important. THANK YOU for doing your part to ensure the future of our UNION. PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO COLCPE!!!

Take it Easy...Be Careful...and above all BE SAFE.

Unity and Persistence Has Paid Off

For over 3 years the stewards here at Gladstone have been embroiled in an all out no-holds-barred fight with management and their total and absolute disregard for the National Agreement and any and all manuals and texts. In that time there have been no less than 7 EEO's filed and innumerable grievances against the Station Manager and a Supervisor which was working in close conjunction with her. In what can only be described as a last ditch effort to destroy the camaraderie of the Carriers and Clerks management made a calculated attack at what they perceived as the "ring leader" of the workforce. They evidently thought that if they were able to cut off the head then the body would surely follow and be stopped once and for all. For a 3 month period the Chief Steward remained off the clock and fighting to retain his job with the Post Office on charges that were changing as often as the supposed eye witness accounts of the Management team that leveled the charges. The actual charges are not important to this story but what is, is what happened with the craft personnel as a result. While management thought this would divide the workforce it only served to strengthen their resolve to work together and to unite stronger than ever before. For, perhaps the first time the Carriers and Clerks demonstrated a unity that would rival any I can remember. The statements and witnesses suddenly began to stream in

(continued on page 12)

NEWS FROM THE STATIONS

(continued from page 11)

whenever they were requested by the Alt. Steward. Each grievance was accompanied by notes, timeframes and witness accounts. Each and every one more thorough than the last.

Management was suddenly facing a more formidable workforce than they could have imagined. Their well laid plan was backfiring at an alarming rate. Upon returning to work the Chief Steward found that the Carriers and Clerks had a renewed vigor and a determination to right the perceived wrongs which had been thrust upon them from an abusive and violent supervisor. It took another 7 months and a second "fact finding" panel by upper management but enough evidence was brought forward to substantiate the many charges which had been leveled towards the actions of the supervisor. With no other choices management offered up the supervisor in the hopes it would placate the workforce and all would be forgotten. The supervisor was given another assignment out of supervision and away from the craft personnel. While this in itself should have had the desired effect it only served to make me realize that if these very same charges had been brought forward against a craft employee then this employee would have been fired long before the abusive supervisor was asked to reassign. The truly sad part of this entire situation is that it took 3 years to make management act when the evidence was flashing brighter than a neon sign at night.

I told this story to say this: Through unity and persistence Gladstone was able to band together and strike back against abuse and harassment. Only by standing together and displaying strength and a refusal to surrender were the Carriers and Clerks able to rid themselves of one of the most abusive management people it has been my misfortune to have met. Although we were warned by numerous other Carriers where this supervisor had managed before that she was this way, there had been no paper trail, no charges, no history had ever been documented by any other steward or employee. We were forced to endure what might have been stopped had others before us simply taken the time to do their jobs in the first place.

Let this serve to alert all of us in this Union that it is our responsibility, our duty, to assure that any and all abuse is stopped and fought at every level. Remember if we don't take the time to do the job right the first time, where will we find the time to correct it later? Don't let others suffer because you don't want to get involved. Take a lesson from your brothers and sisters up North, stand together for there is strength in numbers and through persistence you can and will succeed.

Yours in a solid and strong Union
Herb Harvey and Roger Ramsey
Gladstone Station

Cartoon
Photo - JPEG decompressor
are needed to see this picture.



EAP AS PARTNER APRIL IS EAP MONTH

Tongue twister: Say as fast as you can 3 times:

WHAT COULD EAP 4 YOU
DO 4 YOU
IF EAP 4 YOU
CAN DO 4 YOU?

Now say very slowly: WHAT CAN EAP DO 4 ME AND MY FAMILY?

- ✦ EAP can assist you with personal problems including relationships, parenting, depression, anxiety, substance abuse, gambling, elder care, child care, grief and loss, financial and retirement.
- ✦ EAP can assist you with work place concerns including relationship with co workers or management, absenteeism or tardiness, stress management and how to balance work and home.
- ✦ EAP can identify referrals to community services or resources, and provide brochures and articles and information through the website—www.eap4you.com.
- ✦ EAP can provide consultation to all employees, craft, management and union to assist in problem solving and resolving an issue.
- ✦ EAP can provide training to craft, management and union on communication, stress management, respect in the workplace, dealing with difficult people and other topics as requested.
- ✦ EAP can respond to crises in the workplace including death of a co worker either in the workplace or off site, robbery, accidents, natural disasters or terrorism.
- ✦ You can encourage fellow employees to call EAP for assistance.

- ✦ EAP can listen when you need to talk, cry with you when you need to cry, laugh with you whenever given a chance, problem solve with you, give you feedback, assist to enhance coping skills and provide support for you with any endeavor.

**Remember: EAP is available 4 YOU 24/7 by calling
1 800 EAP4YOU. That is 1 800 327-4968.**

TTY: 1 877 492-7341

**For Jackie Tigges Mid America District Consultant
Phone: 913 342-0066**

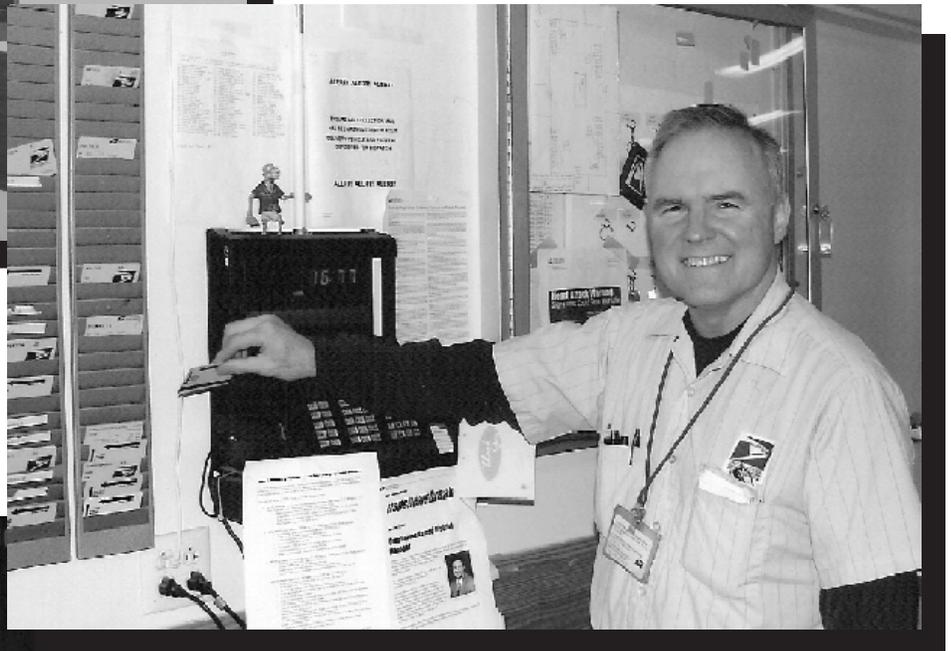
jackie.tigges@usps.gov or llenc.grunspan@usps.gov.

Make the Call!

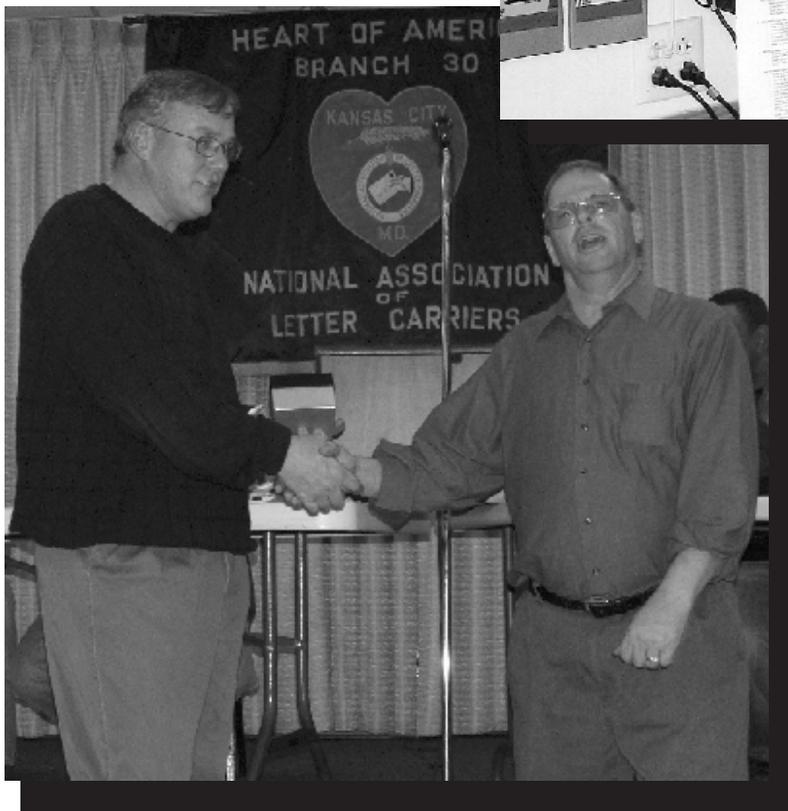
Three Fine Carriers Retire



Phil Pennsy
GPO Carrier Annex
Service from
April 7th 1979-February, 2007



Gerald "Jerry" Wojcicki
Barry Woods Station
Service from
Jan. 29th, 1977-March 1st, 2007



Steve Wilson
Branch EEOC Representative
Retired February 7th, 2007
Watch and retirement pin
presented to him by
President Gwin at the
February Union Meeting

**BRANCH # 30, N.A.L.C.
VOGELBAUGH/TRUITT
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

Complete and return to:

Scholarship Committee, Branch #30, N.A.L.C.
6320 Manchester Ave, Suite 41-A
Kansas City, Missouri 64133

Name of Applicant: _____

Home Address: _____

I am the son / daughter of an active / retired / deceased member of Branch #30:

(Parent name and Social Security Number)

One \$500.00 scholarship will be awarded by the Scholarship Committee from those competing. All applicants must be a dependent of an active, retired or deceased member of Branch #30. Only those who are seniors graduating from high school in 2007⁹ may apply.

The application and information listed below must be in the Branch Office *no later than* 5:00 p.m., 1 May 2007. The Scholarship Committee will review applications and announce the winner at the regular branch meeting, 10 May 2007. The following data is required:

1. A copy of your scholastic aptitude test results (S.A.T.'s or A.C.T.'s).
2. Secondary school scholastic records.
3. Your personal biography to include: (a) the subject you intend to major in; (b) why you are interested in this major; (c) what you hope to accomplish in this field; (d) extra curricular activities; (e) how you have prepared yourself for college or vocational school.
4. A Personal statement. (This might include anything else you would want the Scholarship Committee to know).

Regulations:

The scholarships will be applied to tuition, fees, including room and board.

The Branch #30 Scholarship may be used in addition to other scholarships, however, cannot be used in excess of the total college cost.

-Incomplete applications will not be considered-



BRANCH #30 STEWARDS

Barry Woods
Stu-Chris Nerich
Alt-Randy Stayer

Hodge Park
Stu-Mike Neverve
Alt-Drew Kingery

North Kansas City
Stu-Jack Foster
Alt-Mary Ewing

Sunny Slope
Stu-Jennifer Keaton
Alt-Lupa Ebera

Executive Park
Stu-Roger Smith
Alt-Jim Edwards

James Crews
Stu-Dave Teegarden
Stu-Terry Myers
Alt-Curtis Walker
Alt-Frank Ferro

Parkville
Stu-Ed Gibson

South Troost
Stu-Joie Bostic
Alt-Byron Townsend

Gladstone
Stu-Herb Harvey
Alt-Roger Ramsey

Longview
Stu-Chuck Athey
Alt-Jack Julo

Parkway
Stu-Don Turner
Alt-Reggie Collins

Southeast
Stu-Donnie Criswell
Alt-

GPO Station
Stu-Phil Vaughn
Alt-Beth Horned

Martin City
Stu-Chuck Hardway
Alt-Harry Hinkle

Plaza
Stu-Kenny Best
Alt-David Metcalf

Waldo
Stu-Norm Long
Alt-Kenny Mercier

Hickman Mills
Stu-Dave Keeton
Alt-Dean Hall

Raytown
Stu-Rick Rawlings
Alt-Troy Smith

Westport
Stu-Ed Lopez
Alt-Yvoone Salinas

(Associate Offices)

Blue Springs
Stu-Jeff Rainey
Alt-Randy Williams

Holden
Stu-Larry Adkins

Lexington
Stu-Mike Batcher

Warrensburg
Stu-

Butler
Stu-Curry Massey

Green Summit Annex
Stu-Jimmy Williams

Odessa
Stu-Iris Schwartze

Weston
Stu-Jeff Avey

Belton
Stu-Mike Larkey
Alt-Tom Didier

Lee's Summit
Stu-Bruce Beltcher
Alt-Steve Wilson

Pleasant Hill
Stu-

Blue Springs Annex
Stu-Allen Sharp

Carrolton
Stu-Phill Henderson

Maryville
Stu-

Richmond
Stu-Mike Farnan

Higginsville
Stu-



CONGRATULATIONS *Steward of the Month*

Jan-Terry Myers-James Crews	Jul-
Feb-Roger Ramsey-Gladstone	Aug-
Mar-	Sep-
Apr-	Oct-
May-	Nov-
June-	Dec-

2007 Grievances

<u>Formal A's</u>	
Total Filed	63
Resolve	10
Working	53
Pending	0
Arbitration	0

**Heart of America
LETTER CARRIER VIEWPOINT**

6320 Manchester, Suite 41A
Kansas City, MO 64133
Branch Office Phones
816-358-3100/816-358-3104

REGULAR MEETINGS
2nd THURSDAY
EACH MONTH 7:00 P.M.
NO MEETINGS IN AUGUST
JUNE MEETING ONLY 2nd WED.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF BRANCH 30

PRESIDENT.....DAVE GWIN
VICE PRESIDENT.....DAVE TEEGARDEN
RECORDING SECRETARY.....MELVIN MOORE
FINANCIAL SECRETARY.....BYRON TOWNSEND
TREASURER.....LINDA BAKER
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS.....DAVE METCALF
HEALTH & RETIREE REP.. (816) 942-6595..JOE D. HILL
TRUSTEE (Chairman).....JEFF RAINEY
TRUSTEEJIM IONERGAN
TRUSTEE.....ED LOPEZ
DAN PITTMAN, RAA • ERNEST GRAHAM, WCD REP.
CURTIS WALKER.....CHAPLAIN

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Dave Teegarden-Editor • Sellie Truitt-Associate Editor • Dave Gwin-Advisor
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NOTE: The VIEWPOINT is published bi-monthly for Branch 30 members and friends. Opinions expressed by writers are not necessarily shared by the Editors, Members, or Staff. The Editor, at his/her discretion, may delete or change any article deemed, unnecessary, improper or unfit. The last day to receive articles is: 15th day of the following (Even) months; FEBRUARY, APRIL, JUNE, AUGUST, OCTOBER and DECEMBER.

N.A.L.C. BRANCH 30
6320 Manchester, Suite 41A
Kansas City, MO 64133



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