

# GATE CITY NEWS

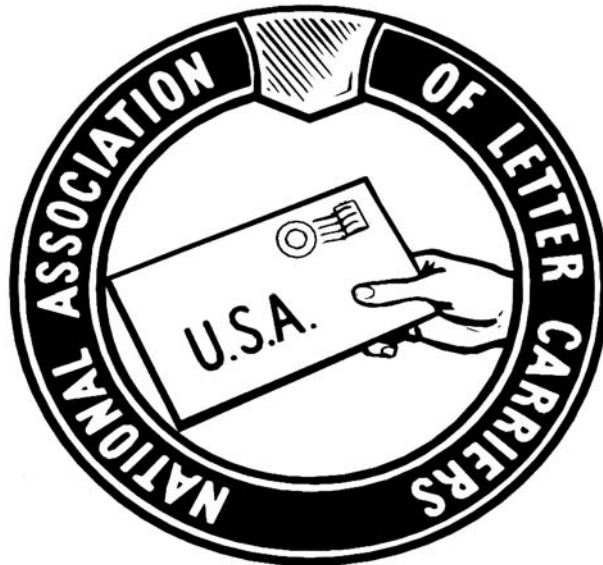


**VOLUME 69**

**JANUARY 2008**

**ISSUE 01**

**OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF BRANCH 5  
AFFILIATE OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS  
NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS AFL-CIO**



**NALC BRANCH 5  
10342 ELLISON CIRCLE  
OMAHA, NE 68134-1024  
PRESIDENT – DONNA WHITMARSH  
[www.nalcbranch5.com](http://www.nalcbranch5.com)  
e-mail: [gatecity@nalcbranch5.com](mailto:gatecity@nalcbranch5.com)**

## OFFICERS

**President** – Donna Whitmarsh – 616-2710  
**Vice President** – Billy Ray Stevens – 493-6420  
**Rec. Secretary** – Bob Martens – 553-6524  
**Fin. Secretary** – Jeremy Liebsack – 553-6524  
**Treasurer** – Laura Jacobberger – 451-2643  
**Sgt-At-Arms** – R.J. Riggs – 551-6670  
**HBR** – Tom Galus – 452-3030  
**Comp. Officer** – Ed VandenBerg – 551-0222;  
Home (402) 296-2844; Cell (402) 812-7057  
**Director of Retirees** – Dave Looman – 391-2533  
**Trustees** – Hollis Bledsoe, Karen Staack,  
Ken Jensen, Dan Graeve, Eli Lisiecki

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The views and opinions expressed in the Gate City News are not necessarily those of NALC Branch 5 or its membership. All union members are encouraged to contribute articles to the newsletter. All articles must be in by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month to be considered for the following month's newsletter. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit articles for grammar, spelling, technical inaccuracies and potentially libelous statements. Articles defaming the Union or its membership will not be considered for publication.

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All correspondence and all articles intended for publication in this newsletter should be addressed to:

Editor  
NALC Branch 5 Gate City News  
10342 Ellison Circle  
Omaha, NE 68134-1024

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### PRESIDENT'S LEAVE RECORD AS OF DECEMBER 7, 2007

Hours Available	Hours Used
A/L 284	A/L 340
S/L 268	S/L 36

## STEWARDS

**Ames** – Bobby Foye – 455-2654  
**Ashland** – Donna Whitmarsh – 345-0424  
**Benson** – Bob Martens;  
Alt, Jeremy Liebsack – 551-6670  
**Boystown** – Randy Polson;  
Alt, Sam Hayden – 496-0908  
**Elmwood** – Ed VandenBerg;  
Alt, Mike Bell – 551-0222  
**Florence** – Bill Ruyf – 451-2643  
**Millard** – Kim Ognissanti;  
Alt, Tony Placzek – 330-4321  
**Northwest** – Billy Ray Stevens;  
Alt, James Polson – 493-6420  
**Papillion** – Billy Ray Stevens – 493-6420  
**Pierce** – Garry Thorne – 348-2544  
**Plattsmouth** – Donna Whitmarsh – 345-0424  
**Ralston** – Billy Ray Stevens – 493-6420  
**Saddle Creek** – Eli Lisiecki – 551-5158  
**South Omaha** – Chuck Walls;  
Alt, Josh Lange – 733-8929  
**Stoneyridge** – Steve Hedgecock – 891-8961  
**West Omaha** – Karen Staack – 390-0992/0996

**Web Administrator** – Chuck Walls

**Delegates to the Omaha Federation of Labor:**  
Donna Whitmarsh, John Mickeliunas, Chuck Walls,  
Ed VandenBerg, Billy Ray Stevens

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## AUXILIARY #78 OFFICERS

**President** – Melinda Carl – 593-6877  
**Vice President** – Mary Lichtenberg – 572-6571  
**Secretary** – Tricia Danielsen – 1-712-323-6764  
**Treasurer** – Bonnie Looman – 391-2533  
**Sgt-At-Arms** – Lou Ann Kriebs – 333-8831  
**Chaplin** – Elinor Ricceri – 556-6762  
**Fin. Secretary** – Judy Polson – 779-2734  
**3 Yr Trustee** – Pryllis Maxwell – 393-8814  
**2 Yr Trustee** – Barb Walsh - 553-8673  
**1 Yr Trustee** – Barb Grae – 572-7431

## **NALC HEALTH BENEFIT NUMBERS**

Recorded Benefit Information	1-888-636-6252
Fraud Hot Line	1-800-636-6252
Caremark SPS	1-800-237-2767
Health Benefit Plan	1-888-636-6252
PPO Locator Service	1-800-622-6252
Pre-certification	1-800-622-6252
Prescription Drug Program	1-800-933-6252
Mental Health /Substance Abuse	1-877-468-1016

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## **PRESIDENT'S STATION VISITS January 2008**

- 3 - Ames / Florence
- 8 - Benson / Northwest
- 10 - Saddle Creek / Elmwood
- 15 - West Omaha / Boystown
- 17 - Stoneyridge / Millard
- 23 - Pierce / South Omaha
- 24 - Papillion / Ralston
- 29 - Ashland / Plattsmouth

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## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Another month, another year, another term! How fast the time flies! The nominations for Branch 5 officers and stewards were in October and the ballots were counted Saturday, the 8<sup>th</sup> of December. As you all know, a lot of the offices were filled without being contested. We want to thank everyone for their confidence and support of each and every one of us.

I look forward to working with the newly elected officers and stewards. The unity that we build will disseminate through out Branch 5 and that is important so that we may be strong. I want to thank those candidates who accepted the challenge of running for a position but were unsuccessful in their quest. Only one person can win the position, but Branch 5 will benefit if everyone continues to take an active roll. There are many ways to take an active roll in benefiting the membership without holding an elective office.

The withholding that was implemented last month has been lifted for our District. PTFs will again be able to make regular when vacant positions

do not have a successful bidder. We only have nineteen PTFs on the list. At this time, only TEs are being hired. As of yet, I have not received any names, but I understand that interviews have taken place.

I attended the National Training in Las Vegas last month. It was the largest Rap Session ever, but I feel that we came away without a lot of new information; just affirmation of what we had already heard and some ways the Union will go about achieving their goals. Many of the questions about TEs were not answered as they were waiting for an agreement with the Service on many of the Q and A's, instead of "shooting from the hip" and then arguing over what the ruling actually means. There will be a "Q and A" released concerning TEs shortly and I will pass on that information when it becomes available. It is also to be listed in the contract when that becomes available shortly.

First Class mail is down 6% while Standard mail is up 14%. In 2005, Standard mail became the largest class of mail. It takes 3 pieces of Standard mail to replace 1 piece of First Class mail in revenue. Despite the last three price hikes in postage, revenue remains flat. While volume is decreasing, delivery points are increasing. Revenue per delivery is not keeping up with inflation. Revenue per delivery has declined by 9.2% (adjusted to 2006 dollars) and the USPS must cut costs or raise productivity. Our Union will remain active in making sure that the benefits and raises that we have become accustomed to will continue. The Union is also committed to working towards a safer and less stressful work place.

Hopefully, you all received your retroactive back pay on Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> and are enjoying the contractual increase of 1.8% that was effective Nov. 24, 2007. Just a reminder, anyone retiring since Nov. 25, 2006, will have their annuities adjusted accordingly with the retroactive back pay of 1.4%.

The Article 8 grievance that was arbitrated was denied. Although we lost the grievance, Arbitrator Dilts specifically told us that it was a unique case and that probably any other Article 8 grievance would be sustained.

I would like to put a call out again for uniforms. Out closet is getting depleted. We recently had seven PTFs pass their 90-day probation and before all of them had a chance to get some extra items for their postal wardrobes, we were out of

(President's Report Cont'd)

some of the sizes. So again, please check your stash and items that you no longer find useful, please donate them for your brothers and sisters to use. Your steward will collect any items you wish to donate and bring them to the office.

I would like to congratulate Jeremy Liebsack for completing the three weeks of training at the Leadership Academy. He will work with our NBA for a few days in January. I am sure we at Branch 5 will reap many great rewards from his training at the National Level.

I want to wish each and every one of you a Happy Holiday Season and a great New Year!

**Donna Whitmarsh**  
**President, Branch 5**

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## **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

I want to congratulate those that were recently elected to lead this Branch. We will be doing some new Steward training at the first of the year to help some of our newer Stewards get acclimated to their roles. It would also be a good idea for some of you veteran Stewards to attend too.

For those of you that ran for office but were not successful, thank you for your interest. Your involvement in Branch affairs is needed. Try again or try some other avenue to help us, but stay with us.

We recently were handed a decision by an Arbitrator that did not go our way. For those of you not in the loop, it was the Article 8 violation. It is indeed a setback and not a decision I concur with or enjoyed hearing about. For those of you that had a personal interest in that case, I want you to know that our Branch did all that we could do to win that case. We will not back down regardless of that ruling and we intend to hold Management accountable to our Contract. If that means we start all over again, then so be it.

The winter is upon us and again, I always get the question, "Can they make us work in the dark?" The answer to that question is yea, however, they cannot compromise your safety. If you are out on the street after dark and you feel your safety is in question because you cannot see obstacles, ice, snow, etc, then call your supervisor and tell them you do not feel safe because you cannot see the potential hazards.

Most likely they will often just say - Do your best, be safe and finish or call back later. If you still feel your safety is compromised, call back immediately and tell them you still cannot see potential hazards and you are concerned for your safety. Tell them you are requesting permission to bring the remaining mail back to the Station. You may have to repeat this process several times. Eventually they should concede and have you come back to the station. If they do not or they hang up on you or they demand that you finish the route, tell them your safety is compromised and you are bringing the mail back to the Station. When you return, do not get into an argument with your Supervisor, simply show him/her the mail you brought back, fill out a Form 1571 and ask for further directives. If none, go home. Inform your Steward immediately the next day.

Remember, you can work in the dark but you may not be forced to work in an unsafe environment. You must be careful in how you make that determination.

Be safe, have a great Holiday Season.  
Semper Fi,

**Billy Ray Stevens**  
**Vice President, Branch 5**

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## **DIRECTOR OF RETIREES REPORT**

It is time to say thank you; it has been a wonderful time in office as Director of Retirees, both Local and State. It has been a great experience working with our local brothers and sisters and members throughout the state. I will still be as active as possible attending meetings and branch events. I will also see our retirees every second Monday of each month at our retiree's breakfast.

I know you are with me in wishing our new Director of Retirees, Dave Looman, a long and successful term in office.

Hope to see you at the next meeting. Until then, good health and many happy days.

**Joe Ricceri**  
**Director of Retirees, Branch 5**

## COMP. OFFICER REPORT

There are some new rules pertaining to Continuation of Pay (COP). Under our new contract, COP does not start immediately. The one thing to remember is that COP can be used for a traumatic injury only. A CA-1 must also be on file.

The first three days must now be used as Sick Leave or Annual in lieu of Sick Leave or LWOP. After the first three days COP will start. If the total COP time reaches 14 days, the first three days will then be converted to COP as well.

Winter is getting an early start. Work safe and be safe every day. Avoid injuries and accidents. We have a valuable benefit in Workman's Compensation. No one wants to be injured or disabled from work.

All of our current claims are looking good. Always keep copies of everything.

As always, call any time.

**Ed Vandenberg**  
**OWCP Officer, Branch 5**

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## HEALTH BENEFITS REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

First off I would like to thank everyone that voted for me. I look forward to the next 3 years as your Health Benefits Representative and hope that I will be able to help like I did the last 18. I would also like to welcome all the new members to our health plan. I know you will be very happy with the new changes this plan has to offer. Again thank you for your vote and Happy Holidays.

**Tom Galus**  
**Health Benefits Representative, Branch 5**

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## NEW BRANCH 5 MEMBERS

Congratulations to the following members of Branch 5 who recently passed their 90 day probation: **Thomas Gill**, Florence; **Christian Hofstetter**, West Omaha; **Michael Patlan**, Elmwood; **Barbara Roebke**, Stoneyridge; **Zach Wyscarver**, Northwest; **Ryan Yowell**, Papillion and **Fredric Prasun**, Saddle Creek.

We would also like to welcome **Shane Hufferd** and say good-bye and good luck to **Wayne Kinney** who had a mutual trade.

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## NSALC DIRECTOR OF RETIREES REPORT

At the General Meeting, Bob Martins asked me to try to get the Retirees more involved in the Volleyball tournament. Not suggesting that you have to play ball, but more that you at least attend and play cards or just come to visit friends and get to know some new members. I believe that Bob's request goes further than I first thought for these reasons; the activities committee members work very hard to provide us with outside of the Post Office activities. Unless we, active and retired, support these activities they will just simply go away for lack of interest. I want to encourage all of our members, especially the Retirees to attend these functions. We, the Retired, must remember that to get the young and the new to attend activities, meetings and other functions we need to set the example and attend them ourselves. Lets not let the efforts of our Union and Bob and his helpers efforts be for nothing.

I recently was asked to find out if Veterans could get FLU shots at the VA. The answer is that if you are qualified and have an active VA card, YES you can get the FLU shot for free at the VA. As I understand it from the VA, there is pretty much no waiting if you just want the shot. I am led to believe that if you are a combat veteran you can qualify to get a VA card regardless of your financial income.

**Dave Looman**  
**NSALC Director of Retirees**

## IN MEMORIAM

We extend our sympathies to **Annette Hurt**, Northwest Station, and **Ron Hurt**, Florence Station, whose mother / mother-in-law, June Harpster, passed away; also to **Bill Salvo**, Ralston, whose father, Joseph Salvo, recently passed away, to **Randy Boeck**, Papillion Station, in the loss of his father Elmer Boeck and to **Walt Obal**, in the loss of his mother, Mary Obal.

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Dear Brothers & Sisters of Branch 5,

I received an update from Bill Young regarding the activist network. This talks primarily about the employees of Federal Express being unable to organize a union. Due to legal loopholes in the law these workers are classified as airline workers leaving them no recourse at this time.

Senator Harkens has proposed a bill that would allow Federal Express to be permitted to organize and be covered under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA).

Workers at the postal service, UPS and other delivery companies are covered by the NLRA. Bill Young urges us to contact Senator Ben Nelson to support the Senator Harkin's amendment. You may email Senator Nelson at [www.bennelson.senate.gov](http://www.bennelson.senate.gov) or you may call 202-224-6551. Tell him that NALC supports the Harkin Amendment to the Labor-HHS appropriations bill and the letter carriers in Nebraska want fairness for Federal Express workers and a level playing field for the Postal Service. Please make your voice heard as soon as you possibly can.

During this holiday season I would like to wish you all a very safe and merry holiday from my family to yours.

Respectfully,

**R.J. Riggs**  
CDL Legislative District 2 Representative

## COLCPE

Season's greetings brothers and sisters. By the time you read this, the branch elections will be over. I hope that you all voted, because your vote **has** an impact on **this** election. Unfortunately, your voice doesn't have the same presence on presidential and congressional elections. That is why COLCPE was formed - so that our voice, as letter carriers, could be heard.

When I took on the COLCPE coordinator position, I knew that it wasn't going to be easy. I knew it wouldn't be easy, because the Hatch Act draws a pretty big line on how we can inform our membership about COLCPE donations.

There are 3 big **CANNOT**'s when it comes to COLCPE. First, I cannot talk to you while in

uniform. Next, I cannot talk to you while "On the clock." Finally, I cannot talk to you on postal property. So with that being said, you can see why this is brought up so much in the newsletter.

I urge everyone to donate, even if it is just a dollar a pay period. If you have any questions, feel free to contact President Whitmarsh or myself. Just make sure that you have covered all three criteria. Thank you for your time!

Yours in solidarity  
**Jeremy Liebsack**

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## BRANCH 5 ELECTION RESULTS

President: **Donna Whitmarsh\***  
Vice President: **Billy Ray Stevens\***  
Recording Secretary: **Bob Martens – 292**  
Chuck Walls – 117  
Financial Secretary: **Jeremy Liebsack\***  
Treasurer: **Laura Jacobberger – 220**  
Mark Magistretti – 198  
Sgt at Arms: **RJ Riggs\***  
Comp. Officer: **Ed Vandenberg\***  
Health Benefits Rep: **Tom Galus – 213**  
Randy Polson – 197  
Dir. of Retirees: **Dave Looman\***  
Trustees: **Ken Jensen – 318**  
**Dan Graeve – 283**  
**Sam Hayden – 272**  
**James Polson – 260**  
**Nancy Waters – 249**  
Eli Lisiecki – 205  
Tiffany Sheets – 197

Elmwood Stewards: Benson Steward:  
**Ed Vandenberg – 31** **Bob Marten\***  
**Lisa Mason – 19**  
Todd Farrell – 14 Florence Steward:  
Joe White – 6 **Bill Ruyf\***  
Tiffany Sheets – 3  
Northwest Steward:  
Boystown Steward: **Billy Ray Stevens\***  
**Sam Hayden – 12**  
Randy Polson – 4 South Omaha Steward:  
**Chuck Walls\***  
Stoneyridge Steward:  
**Steve Hedgecock\*** West Omaha Steward:  
**Mark Magistretti\***

\* Elected by acclamation  
(Names in **bold** are the officers and stewards for 2008-2010)

## NBA REPORT

With the end of the year fast approaching, this is a good time to reflect upon the accomplishments of the past twelve months and evaluate the challenges that we will be facing in 2008. Overall, this has been a good year for letter carriers and the NALC. We achieved a new, negotiated National Agreement, with significant wage increases, continued COLA, expanded job security and important MOUs to address and improve working conditions. The latest benefits from that package included the 1.8% general wage increase on November 24 and the retroactive pay for the initial 1.4% wage increase on November 30. The National Training Conference, which was held from November 16 to November 18, provided essential information on the basis for and the application of MOU issues and Settlements such as TEs, FSS, Route Evaluations, third bundles, DRP Interventions, DOIS, COR and S-999 mail. One of the biggest issues that we will be dealing with is the withholding of letter carrier positions due to the implementation of the Flat Sequencing System (FSS). We have already received a withholding letter from the Western Area for the deployment of FSS machines in Kansas City, MO, which is scheduled for December of 2009, at the earliest. Furthermore, they have cited an impact statement and an attrition rate for the next two years which, allegedly, gives them the right to withhold in a 175 mile radius from Kansas City. Such an approach could affect carrier assignments in three other Districts besides Mid-America, which is where the machines would actually be operating. My office is, of course, addressing this issue with management at the Area and District levels; but I felt it was important that you understand the implications of their approach in this matter. It is very important that any branch, which is notified by management regarding the withholding of a particular assignment, whether it be a new or residual vacancy, contact my office immediately. Management certainly has some entitlement to withhold based on FSS impacts, but that entitlement is not as extensive as they seem to believe. We need to stay on top of this situation.

Other very important priorities for us include the District Safety Committees Pilot Program and the Intervention Process. Providing a safe working environment for letter carriers should be everyone's priority and having management treat letter carriers

with dignity and respect is an essential component of achieving a less stressful and more worker-friendly workplace.

With the passage of Postal Reform Legislation, NALC achieved a goal which we had been pursuing for 14 long years. Providing increased financial stability and enhancing the ability to compete on a more level playing field in today's marketplace was a win-win for letter carriers and the Postal Service. The partnerships that we developed with Republican and Democratic legislators during this process served us well as we lobbied them on the issue of contracting out delivery services. Congressional support in the form of H. Res. 282 and S. 1457 ultimately forced the Postal Service back to the bargaining table and resulted in the MOU provisions which provide significant job security for letter carriers on this issue. Our friends on the Hill stand ready to take up the fight for us again, should the Postal Service be unwilling to modify their initial position on contracting out during the Article 32 Committee discussions over the six month moratorium period.

We are also pressing ahead on such issues as Vote By Mail, which would empower Americans to exercise that most basic of democratic rights and, in the process, raise additional revenue for the Postal Service; and Do Not Mail, which would undermine the Postal Service's financial situation and undercut the ability of small businesses to advertise their products. These are major legislative issues with which we will be grappling over the coming months. WEP, GPO and Premium Conversion continue to be issues which we are championing; although, given the current national debt ceiling and deficit numbers, a more realistic approach to the first two would be modification rather than outright elimination.

On the political front, 2008 is shaping up as one of the most important election years ever for working men and woman. NALC has laid the groundwork for success in the previous election cycle and over the course of this year. The Field Plan in each state has taken shape, and we have become a force to be reckoned with. Based on the members' recommendation, NALC endorsed Senator Hillary Clinton for president. We will be working very hard for her and all worker-friendly candidates during the Fall campaigns. It is absolutely essential that we refocus this country's priorities from corporate interests to working families' issues. But

(NBA Report Cont'd)

we need everyone's help to ensure that the kind of leadership which will effect such change takes charge in Washington, DC in January of 2009. Please sign up for the Carrier Corps and volunteer to work at least ten hours in next year's campaigns. Sign up forms are located at the NALC website or simply call my office and we will be happy to bring you on-board.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank all brother and sister letter carriers throughout the Region for your hard work and support over the past year. The members truly are the union, and any success that NALC achieves is directly attributable to the contributions of each member. In particular, I want to thank the Branch officers and stewards who fight the good fight in the trenches everyday on behalf of letter carriers. Your efforts are much needed and much appreciated.

Finally, on behalf of Danny, Nicole and myself, I want to extend our best wishes for a Wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

**Mike Weir**  
**NBA, Region 5**

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## **NALC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

Well, I have completed my last week at the NALC Leadership Academy in Silver Spring, Maryland. I successfully finished it and received my certificate. What an amazing experience! The training I received was second to none. In the final week, we studied the DOIS Route Protection Program, the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act (LMRDA), Fiduciary Duties, Taxes and Record Keeping, the NALC Dues Structure, Workers' Compensation, Negotiating Techniques, and last but not least Mentoring.

The days were again jam-packed with information with little time to myself. The time I did have for myself was spent bonding with my 29 other classmates. These are life-long friends who I will be able to look to when I need answers on anything. I actually consider them family. I still remember the first week, when I met them and was told about how we would bond. I really didn't see it happening, but wow, it truly did.

There are still two final segments, but I must complete them on my own. The first part is to go to St. Louis and work with our National Business Agent, Mike Weir, for four days. Secondly, I have been challenged, along with everyone else from the Academy, to always have three individuals to mentor throughout my career. The week with Mike Weir sounds challenging, because if you know Mike, you know he doesn't ever quit talking. No matter how challenging that week may be though, it won't be anywhere near as difficult as the mentoring segment.

The mentoring segment sounds a lot like what I have experienced in the Academy. Not so much the topics, but the thoroughness of the teaching and training. Each individual may have different strengths and weaknesses, but I am to take them under my wing, so to speak, and give them the tools they need to be successful union activists. A lot of you are thinking that the contract doesn't sound like it could be that much fun, but the truth of the matter is, being a union activist doesn't mean that you have to be JCAM savvy, although it does help.

I urge everyone that would like to broaden their union horizon to put in an application for the Academy. You will be pushed beyond your comfort zone and it won't be easy, but when you're through, the feeling of your accomplishments will be overwhelming. Don't think that just because you don't have a lot of experience you won't ever get picked. They have a large scope of people going through the Academy. The next class has been chosen, and I am happy to announce that another Nebraskan, Jacob Wilkins from Scottsbluff has accepted. So when they open it back up for applications, please put your application in, even if you're just thinking about it. I can promise you this - **YOU WON'T REGRET IT.**

Yours in solidarity,  
**Jeremy Liebsack**

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## **NEW RETIREE**

Congratulations to **Art Luhrs**, West Omaha, who retired November 2nd. We wish you a happy retirement.

**BRANCH 5**  
**STEWARD TRAINING**  
**November 29, 2007**

**In Attendance:**

Ames: Bobby Foye  
Benson: Bob Martens  
          Jeremy Liebsack  
Boystown: Randy Polson  
          Sam Hayden  
Elmwood: Ed Vandenberg  
Florence: Bill Ruyf  
Millard: Kim Ognissanti  
Northwest: Billy Ray Stevens  
          James Polson  
Pierce: Garry Thorne  
Saddle Creek: Eli Lisiecki  
South Omaha: Chuck Walls  
          Josh Lange  
Stoneyridge: Steve Hedgecock  
West Omaha: Karen Staack  
President: Donna Whitmarsh

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**GRIEVANCES SETTLED IN**  
**NOVEMBER**

**LOW** = Letter of Warning, **OT** = Overtime,  
**WA** = Work Assignment, **OTDL** = Overtime Desired  
List,

**STATION:** Violation or Discipline = Resolution  
(Steward / Formal A / Step B / Arbitration)

\* \* \* \* \*

**BENSON:** OTDL – Q3, 2007 Equitability =  
Management did not violate the equitability of the  
ODL hrs among the OT carriers due to the T-6  
receiving more OT hrs since he is assigned to two  
stations. Therefore the Step B team agrees the top  
hrs for Q3 at the Benson Station should be the carrier  
assigned solely to Benson who was high. The local  
parties will meet to determine which carriers need to  
be provided make up hours and opportunities during  
Q4, 2007 as per the USPS Formal Step A's offer.  
(Martens / Martens / Step B);

Art 29 – Revocation of License – Failure of  
Management to Provide 8 Hours of Work for  
Grievant = Pay grievant 18.91 hrs at BHR (Martens);

Art 1.6.B – Management Doing Craft Work –  
Supervisor Took Mail to Street = Pay (1) carrier .50  
hrs at OT rate of pay (Martens)

**BOYSTOWN:** LOW – Unacceptable Performance /  
Failure to Work in a Safe Manner – Vehicle Accident  
= reduced to 6 mos from date of accident (Hayden)

**ELMWOOD:** LOW – Failure to Maintain Regular  
Attendance = Reduced to 9 mos (Vandenberg);  
14 Day Suspension – Attendance = Reduced to 2  
year 7-Day Suspension (Vandenberg)

**NORTHWEST:** ART 7 – City Carriers Worked in  
Rural Craft = Following carriers will be awarded a  
monetary remedy of 50% for each hr worked in  
Rural Craft: (1) .77 hrs at OT rate, .15 hrs at POT;  
(2) .65 hrs at OT rate; (3) .71 hrs at OT rate; (4) .90  
hrs at OT rate (Stevens)

**PAPILLION:** ART 8.5.G – Simultaneously  
Scheduled Non-OTDL Carriers to Work Off Their  
Scheduled Assignments Without First Maximizing  
the OTDL carriers to 12 Hours = Pay the following  
carriers for the hours listed: (1) 2.5 hrs; (2) 1.61 hrs;  
(3) 1.48 hrs; (4) 1.75 hrs; (5) 1.38 hrs (Stevens);  
ART 10 & LMOU – Management Accepting Less  
Than a Full Week of Cancellation of Pre-Scheduled  
Annual = Parties agree it is a violation of the LMOU  
to cancel less than a full week of annual. Mgm will  
cease and desist further violations (Stevens)

**PIERCE:** LOW – Unacceptable Performance /  
Failure to Work in a Safe Manner – Vehicle Struck  
by Another Vehicle While Parked in a No Parking  
Zone = Reduced to 6 mos (Thorne);  
7 Day Suspension – Unacceptable Performance –  
Vehicle Accident = Reduced to 1 yr from the date of  
accident (Thorne)

**SADDLE CREEK:** ART 8.5.G – Simultaneously  
Scheduled Non-OTDL Carriers to Work Off Their  
Scheduled Assignments Without First Maximizing  
the OTDL Carriers to 12 Hours = The Union  
received an OT list from the Supervisor that  
contained erroneous information in regard to the OT  
status of carriers. The correct list was received and it  
appears there were no ART 8 violations during the  
period in question (Stevens)

**WEST OMAHA:** ART 8 – Another Carrier Worked  
OT on WA Carrier's Route = Pay grievant .90 hrs at  
OT rate of pay and provide Union with signed pay  
adjustment (Staack)

# GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

## December 7, 2007

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm by Vice Pres. Stevens.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

**Moment of Silence** for Gini Domayer, Auxiliary 78

**Roll Call:** Motion to excuse T. Galus, Wife's Dr. Apt; by RJ Riggs / G. Thorne; J. Liebsack, DC Leadership academy, by C. Walls / RJ Riggs; all motions passed.

**Speaker:** Loyd Neve, who is here to talk to us about the Nebraska Democratic Presidential Caucus being held Feb 9, 2008.

President Whitmarsh resumed the chair.

Minutes of previous meeting read by J. Mickeliunas.

No additions or deletions.

Motion to approve by D. Graeve / B. Stevens; motion passed.

### **Reading of Communications, Notices, Bills, Etc:**

Thank you for Bible from Vicki Peters family.

Thank you for Bible from Annette Hurt family.

Thank you from United Way for the \$50.00 donation.

Invitation to NALC Region 5 Holiday Party on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> in Overland, MO.

Nebraska Democratic Pres. Caucus training Dec. 18.

**OWCP** – E. Vandenberg – Ed is working on a case with a retired member. CA-1 is the form to fill out for a traumatic injury during this weather of snow and ice. He attended a safety meeting. Safety is a big concern and will be handled at the stations. Be aware of safety concerns at your stations and report them to proper authorities.

**HBR** – T. Galus – no report.

**ACTIVITIES:** B. Martens - Volleyball Apr 5, 2008.

One side of the court will be competitive and the other side will be recreational. He asked D. Looman to check on getting the retirees involved also.

**LEGISLATION** – RJ Riggs – nothing to report

**OFOL** – no report

**WEBMASTER** – C. Walls - The site will be updated shortly

**MINORS:** Zone 32 at Saddle Creek will be implemented in January. The next station will be Zone 24 at West Omaha or Millard Station. K. Staack asked questions about Zone 14 adjustments. K. Staack asked if M. Magistretti could sit in on the minor adjustments.

### **Old Business:**

**Budget:** Motion to accept the 2008 budget by H. Bledsoe / RJ Riggs; motion passed.

**Xmas party:** Jan. 20, 2008 at 6:00 pm at Goldeeze. \$10.00 per member for executive board and stewards (past and present term) and auxiliary members.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**50 Year Award – Harry Christensen** - Gold Card Member: Pres. Whitmarsh presented H. Christensen his gold card, 50 year pin and letters of appreciation from President Young and herself. Brother Christensen talked of his enjoyment of working with the Benson carriers and his customers.

**New Members:** Barb Roebke, Stoneyridge; Christian Hofstetter, West Omaha; Michael Patlan, Elmwood; Ryan Yowell, Papillion; Thomas Gill, Florence; Zach Wyscarver, Northwest and Fredric Prasun, Saddle Creek. Motion to set aside the bylaws and accept the new members on date of application by B. Domayer / J. Bass; motion passed.

N. Rhine will be present for the installation next month.

Reminder: The ballots will be counted tomorrow at the Union Office (Sat. Dec 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:00).

The CD at the Credit Union matured Dec 1. - \$37,498.30 – Motion that the President and Vice President look for the best rate and invest the CD monies by C. Walls / K. Ognissanti; motion passed.

The withholding that was in effect has been lifted. It now only affects the Mid America District. PTFs are again able to make regular when there are unassigned positions.

TEs are being hired. Interviews were being held last week. 10-13 TEs will probably be hired first – 23 have been approved for Omaha. Discussion was held on staffing at the stations and the shortage of carriers. Many supervisors and managers have been moved around.

**Article 8 Decision** – Pres. Whitmarsh announced that the Arbitration had been lost. B. Stevens spoke about what Arbitrator Dilts had told us. The 3 reasons given for losing the grievance were: 1. It was a Saturday (Businesses close earlier); 2. More carriers off than on the ODL list; (3) Mgm tried to reschedule the truck. With these three criteria all in play, we lost.

Newsletter Articles are due Monday, the 10<sup>th</sup>.

MDA T-Shirts are available for \$10.00 each.

K. Staack addressed the last audit – all accounts balanced. B. Martens addressed the articles in the newsletter on the elections, which he found

(General Meeting Minutes Cont'd)

offensive. He spoke to defend accusations in those articles. Discussion held.

Winner of the 50/50 Convention raffle was J. Bass. He won \$19.00.

**November Financial Reports:**

Motion by J. Polson / RJ Riggs to accept Fin. Sec. Report; by J. Ricceri / D. Lee to accept Balance Sheet; by E. Vandenberg / RJ Riggs to accept Profit and Loss; by D. Lee / S. Hedgecock to accept General Ledger; all motions passed.

Motion to adjourn by: J. Ricceri / K. Ognissanti; motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm

Respectfully Submitted by,

**John Mickeliunas**

**Branch 5 Recording Secretary**

## AUXILIARY #78 NEWS

I always have a great time at our December meeting. We have fun visiting and playing games and the time just flies. This year Trevor, Bonnie Looman's grandson, who attends almost every meeting, ran the bingo games like a professional. He made the games much more fun than they normally would have been with his comments and attitudes.

I received a gift from my Sgt-at-Arms, Lou Ann Kriebs. That was so sweet and so appreciated; I can't thank her enough. I have a great bunch of members in this group. They are all so caring and thoughtful it is a joy to attend the meetings every month. Anyone not coming to join us is missing a lot.

We had a great Christmas meal, as usual. I also can't stress enough how much all your compliments mean to myself and all our members. All the union members are so great at thanking us for the great meals. Your comments mean a lot to us.

Next month we are planning on beef stew and with all of our great cooks, you will really be missing a great meal if you don't come.

**Melinda Carl**

**President, Auxiliary 78**

## 60 YEAR GOLD CARD MEMBERS

Kielian, John  
Kotlarz, Stanley  
Krecklow, Earl

Morrison, Dean  
Redfield, Gene

## 50 YEAR GOLD CARD MEMBERS

Adam, Ed  
Alvarez, Trino  
Bang Jr., George  
Baratta, Anthony  
Becerra, Herbert  
Begley, Daniel  
Beherns, Robert  
Booher, Warren  
Bouc, Donald  
Branson, LeRoy  
Brice, John  
Christensen, Harry  
Christensen, Richard  
Daemon Jr., Alex  
Domayer, Robert  
Eymann, George  
Eymann, Richard  
Goldsborough, Fred  
Halbrook, Paul  
Hilpipre, Donald  
Hula, Carl  
Humphrey, Richard  
Hupka, Gerald  
Incontro, Frank  
Jacobsen, Dean  
Janousek, William  
Kaster, Stanley

Kelley, Franklin  
Kobus, Ed  
Kolc, Frank  
Kunkle, Eugene  
Leo, Thomas  
Luksa, Robert  
Machian, John  
Magistretti, Albert  
Meloccaro, Albert  
Morris, Bernard  
Norton, Robert  
Novak, William  
Petersen, Charles  
Reyneck, Richard  
Ritzdorf, Robert  
Roberts, Richard  
Sizemore, Harold  
Staley, Walter  
Stanislaus, Melvin  
Stillmock, Robert  
Stratton, Glenn  
Thorson, Ronald  
Weise, George  
Yost, Robert  
Zambuto, Frank  
Zemula, Leo



## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

**December 25, 2007**      **Christmas Day**

**December 27, 2007**      **Steward Training – 5:00 pm – 10342 Ellison Circle**

**January 1, 2008**          **New Years Day**

**January 4, 2008**          **Executive Board Meeting – 5:00 pm**  
**General Meeting & Auxiliary Meeting – 6:00 pm**  
**Great Plains Paralyzed Veterans Assoc. – 7612 Maple Street**

**January 20, 2008**        **Christmas Party – Branch 5 Officers and Stewards and Auxiliary 78**

**January 21, 2008**        **Martin Luther King Day**

**February 23-23, 2008**    **Region 5 Rap Session – Crowne Plaza St. Louis – Downtown –**  
**Reservations – 800-925-1395 / 314-621-8200 - \$93.00 + tax**

**April 18-20, 2008**        **NE State Convention – Norfolk Lodge & Suites, 4200 W. Norfolk Ave,**  
**Norfolk, NE - \$60 -\$70 - 1-888-355-0553**

**July 21-25, 2008**        **NALC National Convention – Boston, MA**

**NALC BRANCH 5**  
**10342 ELLISON CIRCLE**  
**OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68134-1024**

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