

# GATE CITY NEWS



VOLUME 67

OCTOBER 2007

ISSUE 10

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)  
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## OFFICERS

**President** – Donna Whitmarsh – 345-0424  
**Vice President** – Billy Ray Stevens – 493-6420  
**Rec. Secretary** – John Mickeliunas – 891-8961  
**Fin. Secretary** – Randy Polson – 496-0908  
**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** – Joe Ricceri – 556-6762  
**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 SEPTEMBER 3, 2007

Hours Available	Hours Used
A/L 320	A/L 304
S/L 244	S/L 36

## STEWARDS

**Ames** – Bobby Foye – 455-2654  
**Ashland** – Donna Whitmarsh – 345-0424  
**Benson** – Bob Martens;  
Alt, R.J. Riggs – 551-6670  
**Boystown** – Randy Polson;  
Alt, Sam Hayden – 496-0908  
**Elmwood** – Ed VandenBerg, Eli Lisiecki;  
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** – Billy Ray Stevens – 493-6420  
**South Omaha** – Chuck Walls;  
Alt, Josh Lange – 733-8929  
**Stoneyridge** – Steve Hedgecock – 891-8961  
**West Omaha** – Karen Staack;  
Alt, Art Luhrs – 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** – Barb Grage – 572-7431  
**2 Yr Trustee** – Joyce Theiler – 932-3234  
**1 Yr Trustee** – Virginia Domayer – 553-6179

## 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 October 2007

- 2 - Ames / Florence
- 4 - Benson / Northwest
- 10 - Saddle Creek / Elmwood
- 11 - West Omaha / Boystown
- 16 - Stoneyridge / Millard
- 18- Pierce / South Omaha
- 23 - Papillion / Ralston
- 25 - Ashland / Plattsmouth

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As I sit down to write this month's article, I am pleased to know that our contract was ratified yesterday with a 9 to 1 margin. The vote for ratification was 104,345 to 11,895. President Young stated, "I am extremely pleased that members of this union agree that this is a good settlement that meets the interests and needs of both letter carriers and the Postal Service."

The contract includes general wage increases of 8.85 % over the term of the agreement, along with semi-annual COLAs and new protections against contracting out of our work by the Postal Service to private firms and individuals. There is a 1.4% wage increase retroactive to Nov. 25, 2006; a 1.8% increase in Nov. 2007; 1.9 % in Nov. 2008; 1.9 % in Nov. 2009, and a 1.85% in Nov. 2010. Using the CPI-W projection of 2.2% annually over the next five years, the average carriers' paycheck will increase by \$276.62 per pay period or \$7,192 annually over the life of the contract. The contract runs until Nov. 20, 2011. Fulltime carriers will also receive a one time lump sum in the amount of \$686

for the COLA that was due in March. Hourly rate employees (PTFs and PTRs) will get a payment based on the number of paid hours in the 26 pay periods prior to the payment's effective date and will be paid according to the following schedule: 1500+ hours = 100%; 1000 – 1499 hours = 75%; 500 – 999 hours = 50%; 1-499 hours = 25%. Along with the financial gain, there were many other MOUs and items that we will see a benefit from.

Last Friday NBA Mike Weir was in Omaha and he, VP Bill Stevens and I met with District Manager Mike Holloway and his staff. I don't believe we gained a lot other than it was established that we will start having Labor / Management meetings on a regular base. Our first one will be next week. The main topic will be Article 8 violations due to their "Window of Operation". If you have things going on in your station that are violations, let us know and we will address them in future meetings.

On Sunday, Sept. 2, 2007, several Branch 5 members went down to the State Fair and worked in the Labor Booth. That day was designated specifically for the NALC. Those participating this year were Sam Hayden, RJ Riggs, Jeremy Liebsack, Bill Stevens and myself.

The Labor Day Parade was a fun time for all who attended. It is nice to see our carriers and their families participate as this event is all about labor. I want to thank those who chose to spend a few hours of their time in supporting all the brothers and sisters of Branch 5 in the parade. Members who walked in the parade were Boyd Paulson (Alex, Kate and Hallie,) Bill Stevens (Kyle, Hannah and Jenna), Andrea Malena (Allyson and Mickayla and Kalina O'Doherty), Barb Schulte (Krissy), Dale Culver (Kailee and Cory Wills), Laura Jacobberger, Randy Polson, Sam Hayden, Steve Stessman (Morgan) and myself. David Johnson, APWU, joins us each year as the APWU does not support the OFOL.

Our golf tournament was last Sunday. Congratulations to the winners! Winners of the 1<sup>st</sup> flight were Jim Harkness, Tony Russo, Rich Olivo and Eric Bright; Ron Zaracki, Bobby Palermo, Andy Kirby and Jason Hoff finished second. RJ Riggs, Bob Martens, Joe McAndrews and Barry Kussman were the winners of the 2<sup>nd</sup> flight; Steve Hedgecock, Tom Hill, Mike Klusman and Marty Knust finished second. I believe everyone had a good time, even with a few problems we had with Fox Run.

(President's Report Cont'd)

Just a reminder to you, the upcoming Steak Fry will be on October 7, 2007. Either phone the office and sign up or sign up at your station. We need to have a count of how many will attend so we have steaks for everyone! It is free for all members and \$10.00 per guest. If you haven't been to a steak fry before, make an effort to attend. It is really a great event.

To the members who have NALC insurance, take note that effective January 1, 2008, the Plan will replace Coventry Healthcare PPO Network (formerly First Health PPP Network) with the CIGNA HealthCare Shared Administration PPO Network as the new hospital and medical provider PPO network. This change will effectively double the size of the NALC provider network to nearly 1 million providers. It will have no effect on processing of claims for those with Medicare as the primary payer.

If you do not have Medicare and want to verify that your doctor or hospital is part of the new CIGNA network, call 1-877-220-6252 or visit the Plan website: [www.nalc.org/depart/hbp](http://www.nalc.org/depart/hbp) and click on the link to the network on the left side.

Also, I want to remind you that the Branch 5 nominations for elected officials and stewards will be Oct. 5 at the General Meeting. Nominations for convention delegates will also be at that time.

As of this writing, we have filed 254 grievances so far this year – an all time high in the past few years. We have been successful in winning a vast majority of them plus getting monetary awards for lots of carriers. As long as management continues to violate the contract and / or carriers' rights, we will continue to file grievances. That is why it is so important for our stewards to be present for our monthly training. We will continue to train our stewards with the latest information available plus continue to cover the information in the Contract and other Handbooks and Manuals.

I look forward to seeing you at the Steak Fry.

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

**Branch 5 web site**  
**[www.nalcbranch5.com](http://www.nalcbranch5.com)**

## **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

It appears the Contract was ratified by a substantial margin. Thank you, for those of you that took the time to vote on this. There is always some negative aspect to every negotiation, proposals, etc...but for the most part, I think it's a good contract.

The election season will soon be in full swing. The NALC has endorsed Hillary Clinton for President. That is where NALC resources (COLCPE) will be directed. This is because by a margin of 2 to 1 you, the Letter Carriers, told the NALC that was your candidate. If Hillary Clinton is not your choice, then get out and work for the candidate of your choosing. Let them know you are a letter Carrier.

There was an article in last months Postal Record about Rush Limbaugh. A Carrier had called in and stated that the NALC did not list any Republican candidates for Carriers to choose from.

The NALC sent questionnaires to every candidate. The Democratic candidates are the only ones that responded. As an organization and an Association that represents thousands of members, the majority speaks in one voice.

The Republicans simply did not respond, therefore the NALC did not consider listing them. Does it make sense to give them any consideration when they completely ignored our requests?

Next week, as State President, I am going up on the Hill to lobby all of our elected representatives. I will address issues of importance to Letter Carriers. I do not care if they have a D or an R in front of their names. I will not have a personal agenda; I will be there on behalf of Letter Carriers.

I understand we have many Carriers that support Republicans and their issues. That's great - that is what our system is for. Get involved and stay informed on issues. However, as a Union, we speak for our members. Individuals speak for themselves. Free choice, the American way.

Semper Fi,

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

## COMPENSATION OFFICER REPORT

I attended an OWCP workshop in Kansas City on August 27. It was a good training and very informative. There were several OWCP reps there from our region. Thanks for allowing me to attend.

The CA-1 is a very important form. This form is the one that we need for a traumatic injury. A traumatic injury must be caused by a specific incident or incidents within a single workday or work shift. The CA-1 must be filled out accurately. Continuation of pay is dependent upon an accurate CA-1. There have been some changes in the eligibility for COP. I will discuss COP in more detail in a future newsletter.

In some instances, such as an emergency, the Postal Service may require an examination by their doctor. You have the right to be seen by your doctor for any treatment. When you are going to your doctor, management should provide you a CA-16, which is used for payment to your doctor of choice.

Another form to remember is a CA-17. This form will allow management to give you limited duty. A CA-17 provides you and management a list of restrictions. Make sure you discuss with your doctor the duties you do every day.

Do not let management try to dismiss your restrictions. If you do anything beyond your restrictions, management will document what you did. They will use any information they can get to controvert your claim.

In order for us to have continued success, it is important that we get and keep copies of everything. We have won appeals and have had many claims approved by our efforts. Documentation is so very important. The claimant has the responsibility of establishing the burden of proof. The biggest requirement is for your doctor to show in his medical report that your condition or disability is related to your injury.

We continue to have success in our claims due to our efforts. If I can help, give me a call. If I haven't returned your call within a day or two, please call again.

**Ed VandenBerg**  
**OWCP Officer, Branch 5**

## SICK CALL

Paul Sheets is at the Nebraska Eastern Veterans Home located at 40<sup>th</sup> & Capehart Road. Paul is in Room 142. Paul doesn't have any family here in Omaha so any visits would be greatly appreciated.

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## HEALTH BENEFITS REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

### UNION-OWNED, UNION-OPERATED

The NALC began its health plan in 1950, and operated successfully for ten years as an independent run plan designed for letter carriers and their families. In 1960 the NALC Health Benefit Plan joined the federal program amidst much skepticism. Just how long could a self-insured UNION-sponsored health plan survive in strong competition with the "big boys"? Well, here we are, still in "strong competition with the big boys". We remain rich in benefits and affordably priced.

Not only are we union-owned, but we are union-operated. The NALC Health Benefit Plan is administrated by elected union officers; not an outside service company. It's a plan that cares about your needs. When you contact the NALC Health Benefit Plan, you will deal with union employees that are there to assure that letter carriers receive fast, efficient and courteous service.

(Courtesy of the NALC Health Plan)

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

### Have you moved? Send in your COA

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Old Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

New Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Branch

10342 Ellison Cir

Omaha, NE 68134-0102

## **DIRECTOR OF RETIREES REPORT**

A lot of us have served in military life as well as our career job as Letter Carriers. We focus today on the war in Iraq. I came across a poem by Louis J. Sanker about the:

### **GI MAILMAN**

He can march! What of it? The tramp of his feet  
Back home had been wearing a trail in the street.  
His shoulders that square now to pull off his pack  
Had sagged to a load for many years back,  
He had hurried along with military stride,  
For a uniform always was part of his hide -  
And the service he gave repaid him in pride.

Heat was a hammer, and cold was a claw;  
Wind was a razor rasping him raw;  
And rain was a deluge drowning desire...  
But stung by the storm, he sheltered his fire;  
Elbowed the wind, taunted the rain,  
Derided discomfort, made light of his pain-  
For a duty well done was adequate gain.

The folks he had served might have measured his worth;  
He solaced in death, was joyous in birth;  
Kept tight the courage of mother and dad,  
Till he knocked on the door with word from the lad  
He treasured their thanks, took pride in their praise-  
But it's strange that nobody thought of a raise,  
For nigh twenty years never thought of a raise.  
(Courtesy of Carriers in a Common Cause)

**Joe Ricceri**  
**Director of Retirees**

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## **LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Not much going on currently. The AFL-CIO convention will be held September 21, 22& 23. I am sure after the convention has concluded there will be more legislative information to pass along. I am sure the AFL-CIO has chosen quite a few candidates that support our views of the union and our membership. I will convey all information as soon as I am made aware.

**R.J. Riggs**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Dist. Legislative Representative**

## **NBA REPORT** **September 2007**

As I write this article, the ratification process on the tentative agreement for a new, five-year National Agreement has begun. I received my ballot on a Friday, and immediately returned it, indicating my acceptance. Hopefully, by the time this report is printed in newsletters throughout the region, the majority of our members will have done the same. President Young and your National Officers in Washington, DC worked very hard to negotiate a contract which has an excellent wage package and addresses some long-standing concerns on the workroom floor. They deserve to be recognized for their efforts on our behalf, and an overwhelming vote of approval would deliver just the right message of appreciation.

Of course, the fact that we have a new National Agreement does not mean that management is suddenly going to “play nicely” in every installation. In numerous locations, we are still trying to convince them to abide by their obligations under the previous agreement, particularly with regard to Article 8. Staffing is clearly an underlying issue; and, if the TEs that are scheduled to be hired after ratification are allocated where they are most needed, we may see some relief on that front. Nonetheless, we will continue to press management to abide by the provisions of the contract, all of which were either jointly negotiated and freely entered into by both parties or settled through the mutually acceptable process of arbitration. These provisions cannot be disregarded, simply because management no longer finds it convenient to abide by them. This office is committed to the ongoing training of NALC activists throughout the region to ensure contractual compliance and to pursue appropriate remedies for the harm that letter carriers suffer as a result of management’s violations.

We are in the midst of an organizing campaign to sign up the non-members in the region. We have sent out letters with completed 1187s for their signature, inviting them to become members of the NALC. We have discovered that, in many cases, new PTFs were not contracted to join the union during orientation and, thereafter, slipped through the cracks at their offices. There are, of course, others who have chosen to be non-members for a variety of reasons. When you look at the wages, benefits,

(NBA Report Cont'd)

retirement and working conditions that letter carriers enjoy in comparison to the rest of the federal workforce and the private sector, there really is no excuse not to be a member of the NALC. We are still faced with many challenges in the years ahead. Our best hope for success lies with the support of a solidly unified workforce. Please reach out to these non-members and encourage them to pay their fair share toward ensuring that the strong, effective leadership which has characterized the NALC's representation of letter carriers to this point continues in the years ahead.

With the addition of a third allotment under the new contract, there really is no excuse for letter carriers not to contribute to COLCPE. The unfortunate reality in politics is that money opens doors. It helps us elect representatives who support our interests as letter carriers and working men and woman, and provides continuing access to them and others to promote our agenda. Recent successes with Postal Reform and Contract Delivery Services legislation demonstrate the effectiveness of our P.A.C. fund and corresponding lobbying efforts. As we look toward the national elections in 2008, we must redouble our efforts to achieve our goal of electing an even stronger, more worker-friendly Congress and giving them the opportunity to partner with a worker-friendly administration in the White House. We need a change in philosophy and direction from the politics of corporate greed to policies that promote the pursuit of The American Dream for all of our citizens. This remains our focus for the up-coming campaigns next year and in the Halls of Congress.

It is important to remember, however, that NALC's political support does not hinge upon hot-button issues of personal conscience but rather upon a candidate's record and commitment to protecting and promoting the interest of letter carriers and working families. Please help us to continue this vital work by taking advantage of the inclusion of a third allotment to contribute to COLCPE through automatic deduction or consider increasing your current contribution. In order to counter the enormous resources that corporate America has at its disposal, we must have a sufficient war chest of our own to effectively educate working men and women on the real issues impacting the will-being of their families, and to get out the vote to elect

representatives who will speak for us on these issues. These are very ambitious goals; but, given what is at stake – the very survival of the middle class – they are goals we can and must achieve.

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

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## STEWARDS CORNER

As office times are reduced and street times expanded, concerns over injuries increase. There is a virtual plague of repetitive stress injuries related to the methods carriers are forced to comply with when delivering their routes.

While conflicts continue over how many bundles carriers have to carry, we may be ignoring recognized procedures that offer carriers protection. The following applies to Foot Routes or Park and Loop Routes, which constitute the vast majority of routes in offices represented by Branch 5.

The M-41 (City Delivery Carriers Duties and Responsibilities) indicates the proper method for delivering. While it is accepted that delivering with flats on the arm is the common practice, the governing manuals for such procedures indicate otherwise.

M-14 Chapter 32

Delivery of Ordinary Mail Matter.

321 Foot Routes

321.1 Unstrap the first bundle of mail with street sign and number on first house.

321.2 Verify the street, block, and number

321.3 Peel off the letters and circulars for the first house from bundles carries in the hand, **and the flat mail from bundles standing on end in satchel.** (emphasis added)

323 Park and Loop routes

323.1 Delivery of mail on park and loop routes is basically the same as for foot routes with relays. The vehicle is used as a moveable relay box from which the carrier withdraws a substantial amount of mail, placing the mail into his satchel before beginning the split.

The Postal Service Training Manual that is also accepted by the Union essentially reiterates what is indicated in the M-41.

(Steward's Corner Cont'd)

*Standard Training Program for Letter Carriers United States Postal Service Delivering Foot Routes: When delivering the mail on foot routes, the carrier must unstrap the first bundle; verify the street, block and street number with street sign and number on the first house. Combine the mail in your hand with the mail from your satchel at each delivery point. **Mail should be carried in the hand and satchel only.** (emphasis added) Delivering Park and Loop Routes: Delivery on park and loop routes is basically the same as for foot routes with relays. The vehicle is used as a moveable relay box from which the carrier withdraws mail, placing the mail into the satchel before beginning each relay.*

How many of you carry your mail properly? I know that the vast majority of carriers either carry their flats in their hand or on their arm. Try carrying your flats in your satchel - *the correct way* - and notice the difference in wrist and arm fatigue.

**Donna Whitmarsh  
President, Branch 5**

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**BRANCH 5  
STEWARD TRAINING  
August 30, 2007**

**In Attendance:**

Benson: Jeremy Liebsack  
Boystown: Sam Hayden  
          Randy Polson  
Elmwood: Eli Lisiecki  
          Ed Vandenberg  
          Mike Bell  
Millard: Kim Ognissanti  
Northwest: James Polson  
Pierce: Garry Thorne  
South Omaha: Chuck Walls  
          Josh Lange  
President: Donna Whitmarsh

**Excused:**

Benson: Bob Martens, no vehicle  
Northwest: Bill Stevens, Arbitration  
West Omaha: Karen Staack, SL

## NALC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

I have been lucky enough to be selected for the NALC Leadership Academy, and in August, I attended my first week of three. I had planned on talking to you about what went on up in Springfield, Maryland at the September general board meeting, but due to having a 45 minute job discussion, with my station manager at the end of my work day, I was unable to, and that is why I am writing you now. This will just be a brief overview of what went on, because if I went into detail, I would be writing a book and not an article.

The first thing that needed to be done before even leaving for the academy was to read "Carriers in a Common Cause." This is a book that covers the entire history of the NALC. If you haven't read this book, I urge you to read it, because it talks about the struggles this union has gone through and faced. I wasn't too enthused when I first heard that this was my first part of the academy, because I don't really like to read, but once I started reading, I couldn't put the book down. If anybody would like to read it, I have a copy, and President Whitmarsh has some in the office as well.

The main items discussed were: labor union movements and values; the NALC's union structure; constitution and by-laws; leadership and character; teaching adults; and finally giving and receiving feedback. Each time we covered a section, there was a breakout session where we could get a hands-on experience with it and get a better understanding of what was just covered. Everything was intense, but covered so thoroughly. After everything for the week was completed, we were given a homework assignment to do before we return in October.

The homework assignment I chose to do was a personality test done at the August steward's training. The stewards who were in attendance all participated, and almost all were impressed with how accurate the results came out. I was hoping to show the stewards what some of their strengths and weaknesses were. Then, I had to write a report to send back to the national trainers. I'm hoping that everything went well, and am waiting for the results.

Besides all the subjects covered, we talked about solidarity. You happen to hear that word thrown out quite a bit not just in this union, but all

(Leadership Academy Cont'd)  
other unions. We also happened to talk about how complacent this union has become with it's own success, which is leading to only few individuals being involved. We need to see more people step up to the plate and be willing to take part in the NALC. It's sad to see that people only want to come and take part when the going gets bad. Needless to say, we need more involvement from everybody.

In conclusion, I'm happy to be lucky enough to have this opportunity. I'm going to have a couple more weeks up in Springfield, and plan on bringing as much information back to Branch 5 as I possibly can. I will be given more homework assignments and hope that they can benefit all of us. Until then, hope to see more of you at the meetings and taking part in Branch 5.

Yours in unionism,  
Jeremy Liebsack

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## GRIEVANCES SETTLED IN AUGUST

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

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

\* \* \* \* \*

**ASHLAND:** LOW – Failure to Follow Instructions  
- Reduced to 6 mos from date of incident  
(Whitmarsh)

**BENSON:** ART 8.5.G – Mgm Forced Non-OTDL  
and WA Carriers to Work OT Off of Their  
Assignments Without Maxing the OTDL to 12 Hours  
= Grievance withdrawn due to timeliness (Martens /  
Martens / Pre-ARB, Rhine);

ART 8 – Q1, 2007 OTDL Equitability = The parties  
agree that the settlement to the Q2, 2007 OTDL  
grievance will satisfy this grievance (Martens /  
Martens);

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 low person on the OTDL on that day  
will be paid for .38 hr at the applicable rate of pay  
(Martens / Stevens);

ART 8.5.G – Simultaneously Scheduled Non-OTDL  
Carriers To Work Off Their Scheduled Assignments  
Without First Maximizing the OTDL Carriers to 12  
Hours = ODL employees were all scheduled to work  
4 hours OT; no violation (Martens / Stevens / Step  
B);

ART 1.6.A – Mgm From Ames Station Delivered a  
Priority Parcel to Benson Station = A PTF carrier  
designated by the Union will receive a one time lump  
sum of \$9.00. Mgm has been instructed in numerous  
decisions at several levels of the DRP, including Step  
B level, to cease and desist performing craft work.  
(Martens / Martens / Step B);

ART 1.6 – Mgm Performing Craft Work –  
Transporting Mail Between Stations = The Union  
will designate a carrier working on 6-22-07 to  
receive a lump sum of \$9.00. The steward is directed  
to let the NALC Formal A know the name of the  
carrier (Martens / Stevens);

ART 8 – Q2, 2007 OTDL Equitability = Pay the  
following carriers at the OT rate of pay: (1) 15.59  
hrs; (2) 11.56 hrs; (3) 11.56 hrs; (4) 10.51 hrs; (5)  
13.84 hrs; (6) 12.35 hrs; also carrier (8) was not  
equitable in Q2 and must be made equitable in Q3  
(Martens);

ART 3, 5, and 17 – Grievant Denied His Request of  
the 3189 and Refusal of His Request of a Steward in  
a Timely Manner = In the future, grievant will speak  
with station mgr for a workable agreement to the  
request. Mgm will adhere to the language in ART  
17.4 when employees request to see steward. As far  
as 7:05 starts, grievant will not be treated disparately.  
Pay grievant 50% BHR for 1.24 hrs he worked  
auxiliary assistance (Martens);

ART 8.5.G – Over 60 Hours in Work Week = Pay  
grievant BHR for 3.37 hrs (Martens);

ART 8.5.G – Over 60 Hours in Work Week = Pay  
grievant BHR for 2.57 hrs (Martens);

ART 8.5.G – Over 60 Hours in Work Week = Pay  
grievant BHR for .81 hrs (Martens);

ART 10.3 & LMOU – Failure to Award Grievant,  
Who Was the Senior Bidder, a Single Day From a  
Cancelled Week of Pre-Scheduled Annual = Follow  
guide lines of ART 10.3 when posting cancelled AL.  
Grant grievant a day of his choice outside of  
Christmas week (Martens)

**ELMWOOD:** ART 1 – Saddle Creek Mgr Brought  
Priority to Elmwood = A carrier working on 6-7-07  
will receive a lump sum of \$9.00. The steward will

(Grievances Cont'd)

notify the NALC Formal A of the name of the carrier. (Bell / Stevens);

ART 8.8.B & 8.5.D - Carrier Worked Less Than 8 Hours on Day Off = Grievant to be paid 3.17 hrs at applicable OT rate (Lisiecki / Stevens / Step B);

ART 5 & 14 – Discontinuation of Morning Power Lift Stretching = Mgm violated ART 5; power lift stretching will be reinstated as it has been for the past 10 years. (Lisiecki / Stevens / Step B);

LOW – Unacceptable Performance – Attendance = Reduced to 1 yr (Vandenberg);

ART 8.5 – Q2, 2007 Equitability = Pay one OTDL carrier 5 hrs at OT rate of pay; start following carriers in the negative in Q3, 2007 for the hours listed: (1) -7 hrs; (2) -7 hrs; (3) -6 hrs; (4) -2 hrs; (5) -2 hrs (6) -1 hr (Vandenberg);

LOW – Unacceptable Performance / Failure to Work in a Safe Manner / Failure to Follow Instruction – Vehicle Accident = Reduced to 1 yr pending no further accidents in that period. (Vandenberg)

**FLORENCE:** ART 8.5.G – Simultaneously Scheduled Non-OTDL Carriers To Work Off Their Scheduled Assignments Without First Maximizing the OTDL Carriers to 12 Hours = Mgm did violate ART 8; Mgm is to cease and desist the practice of not working OTDL employees 12 hours before working non-OTDL off of their bid assignment (Ruyf / Stevens / Step B);

ART 8.5.G – Simultaneously Scheduled Non-OTDL Carriers To Work Off Their Scheduled Assignments Without First Maximizing the OTDL Carriers to 12 Hours = One OTDL carrier will receive a lump sum payment of \$33.50 (Ruyf / Stevens / Step B);

ART 8.5.G – Simultaneously Scheduled Non-OTDL Carriers To Work Off Their Scheduled Assignments Without First Maximizing the OTDL Carriers to 12 Hours = Two OTDL carriers will each receive a lump sum payment of \$25.00 (Ruyf / Stevens / Step B);

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 grievant .07 hrs at OT rate and .23 POT. Informal A Mgm did not offer a position statement to refute the union contentions. (Ruyf / Stevens)

**MILLARD:** LOW – Unacceptable Performance / Failure to Work in a Safe Manner – Vehicle Accident = Reduced to 6 mos from date of accident if no further accidents (Placzek);

LOW – Unacceptable Conduct – Attendance = Contingent upon improvement, reduced to 6 mos (Ognissanti)

**NORTHWEST:** ART 7 & 41 – City Carriers Scheduled to Work in Rural Craft = Pay (1) 16.72 hrs at BHR; Pay (2) 4.21 hrs at BHR (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 = Based on the facts presented – no violation (Stevens / Stevens / Step B)

**PIERCE:** ART 41 – Grievant Removed From Hold-Down = Pay grievant 50% BHR for 14.25 hrs (Thorne);

LOW – Unacceptable Performance / Failure to Follow Instructions – Late Delivery of Express Mail = Reduced to 6 mos (Thorne)

**SADDLE CREEK:** ART 8 & 15 – Mgm Worked Non-OTDL Carriers to Carry Auxiliary Assistance Prior to Maximizing the OTDL = \$2,995.12 to be divided between the affected OTDL carriers: (1) \$195.27; (2) \$364.51; (3) \$113.37; (4) \$108.33; (5) \$279.35; (6) \$144.81; (7) \$194.55; (8) \$611.44; (9) \$246.21; (10) \$389.83; (11) \$347.45; (Stevens / Stevens / Pre-ARB, Rhine);

ART 8 – Non OTDL Carriers Working OT and WA Carriers Working Off Their Assignments and Their Non-Scheduled Days Without Maximizing the OTDL = \$992.20 will be divided between the affected OTDL carriers; (1) \$92.00; (2) \$94.76; (3) \$132.02; (4) \$145.38; (5) \$133.38; (6) \$96.14; (7) \$225.18; (8) \$16.32; (9) \$17.00; (10) \$40.02; (Stevens / Stevens / Pre-ARB, Rhine);

ART 41 – Mgm failed to Allow PTF to Exercise His Rights to His Opt for A Hold-Down = On the following days the PTF was worked off his hold down in violation of ART 41. 6/20 - .25 hrs; 6/26 - 8.0 hrs; 7/2 - 8.0 hrs; 7/5 - 8.0 hrs; 7/6 - 8.0 hrs. Grievant will be paid 32.25 hrs at OT rate of pay (Stevens)

(Grievances Cont'd)

**SOUTH OMAHA:** ART 8.5.G – Failure to Maximize OTDL Prior to Assigning Non-OTDL Carriers to Perform Auxiliary Assistance and Failure to Allow a WA Carrier to Properly Carry Their Own OT = \$1,324.68 will be divided between the affected OTDL carriers: (1) \$40.46; (2) \$99.82; (3) \$98.12; (4) \$156.72; (5) \$248.84; (6) \$219.70; (7) \$368.00; (8) \$93.02 (Lange / Stevens / Pre-ARB, Rhine)

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## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 7, 2007

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm, by Pres. Whitmarsh

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Introduction of Region 5 NBA, Mike Weir**

**Roll Call:** Motions to excuse K. Staack SL, by L. Jacobberger / R. Lichtenberg; G. Thorne, AL, by L. Jacobberger / C. Walls; E. Lisiecki, AL, by RJ Riggs / M. Bell; S. Hedgecock, work, by P. Campbell / L. Jacobberger; all motions passed.

**Minutes of previous meeting read by J. Mickeliunas.** No additions or deletions. Motion to approve by S. Hayden / J. Bass; motion passed.

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

Thank you from Auxiliary #78. Thank you from Stone family (Gene Stone). Thank you from Gilmore family (Patti Dougherty) Raffle Tickets - NE State AFL-CIO (return 9-14) Dad's Day Golf Event - Sept 29, 07 Breakfast with Joe Biden - Sept 14

**OWCP** - E. Vandenberg: He attended the OWCP Seminar in K.C. with Pres. Whitmarsh. He gave a brief synopsis of the seminar. He spoke on an OWCP claimant being assigned to a nurse. Watch for problems. The brain, heart and back do not qualify for OWCP claim. Pres. Whitmarsh explained that the information obtained in K.C. had been handed out at the Steward's meeting.

**HBR** - T. Galus: He spoke on medication refills. Contact CareMart to see if a generic medicine is available for your prescriptions. Discussion was held on Generic Drugs availability.

**Activities:** Family Picnic: J. Tourek and A. Malena did an excellent job. \$874.00 spent on picnic; 125 people attended; extra food will be used at Branch 5 functions, including The General Meeting. Golf Tournament: C. Walls said things were ready for

the tournament. There are 3 hole sponsors @ \$360.00. R. Lichtenberg recommended that the hole sponsorship be lowered to maybe \$100.00.

**Legislation** - RJ Riggs - He be attending the AFL-CIO Convention in Kearney.

**OFOL:** no July or Aug meetings

**Audit** - July audit; all accounts balanced.

**Web Site** - C. Walls: The site is being used and gave an overview of the site.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Gold Card Members: Richard Eymann, will be presented his Gold Card next month; Dan Begley, Glenn Stratton & John Machain were unable to attend. Trino Alvarez and Frank Kolc attended and were presented Gold Cards, letters from Pres. Young, and pins by NBA Mike Weir. Pres. Whitmarsh presented a letter of tribute to them.

Two new members: Ernie Banks and DeWayne Hogan. Motioned to set aside the bylaws and accept the new members on date of application by H. Bledsoe / T. Thieler; motion passed. Branch 5 is 96% organized.

Office Secretary is Sandy and she has been working for over 2 months.

Sign up sheet for fall training in Grand Island. Motion by S. Hayden / R. Polson to pay attending members \$75.00 per day or \$150.00 for both days; motion passed.

LMOU training Sept 25 at 7:00 pm here in Omaha, given by Nicole Rhine - Motion by B. Stevens / E. Vandenberg to pay the \$65.00 rental fee for DAV hall; motion passed.

All By-Laws were approved by National.

Future Audits to be held the second Wed. of the month. Next audit Oct. 10 (Wed)

Steak Fry sign up sheets are being sent out to stations.

Have had 12 new PTFs since the 1<sup>st</sup> of July. Everyone has signed up to join the Union. Two more started Sept. 1 and will be in the carrier academy next week.

Motion by T. Thieler / H. Bledsoe to send Pres. Whitmarsh and HBR T. Galus to Health Benefits Seminar in Las Vegas, NV. Oct 14-17, 2007 and each will be funded \$850.00. Motion passed.

Pres. Whitmarsh spoke on their meeting with Dist. Mgr. Mike Holloway. One thing came up that regular Labor Management meetings with EvaJon Sperling and Cheryl Love will be held. VP Bill Stevens will also attend.

(General Meeting Minutes Cont'd)

Labor Day Parade was a success but needs more participation.

M. Bell / R. Lichtenberg motioned that the Branch should solicit a younger carrier to train with the OWCP officer Vandenberg, motion passed.

B. Durkin spoke on the insurance offer by AIL Insurance. He sent in the card from the mailing and received a phone call by an agent. He did not appreciate the call. Pres. Whitmarsh again stated that members have the insurance whether or not they send in the card designating a beneficiary.

**June Financial Reports:**

Motions by RJ Riggs / Lichtenberg to accept Fin. Sec. Report.; by R. Lichtenberg / RJ Riggs to accept Balance Sheet; by D. Looman / S. Hayden to accept Profit and Loss; by N. Waters / J. Liebsack to accept General Ledger; all motion passed.

**July Financial Reports:**

Motions by J. Liebsack / J. Polson to accept Fin. Sec. Report; by D. Lee / S. Hayden to accept Balance Sheet; by E. Vandenberg / RJ Riggs to accept Profit and Loss; by P. Campbell / D. Looman to accept General Ledger; all motion passed.

**August Financial Reports:**

Motions by T. Langfeldt / N. Waters to accept Fin. Sec. Report; by D. Graeve / E. Vandenberg to accept Balance Sheet; by N. Waters / J. Liebsack to accept Profit and Loss; by RJ Riggs / M. Bell to accept General Ledger ; all motion passed.

Motion to adjourn by: Stevens/Bell; motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm

NBA Mike Weir gave a presentation after the general meeting - concerning the meeting with District Manager Holloway; the tentative contract; COLCPE; e-activists;

Respectfully Submitted by,

**John Mickeliunas,  
Branch 5 Recording Secretary**

**IN MEMORIAM**

Our sincere sympathies go out to **Charles Petersen**, Retiree, whose wife, Dolores, passed away; to the family of **Robert Henderson**, Retiree (50 year member); to **Allen Tunstall**, South Omaha Station, in the loss of his grandmother, Leedie Tunstall.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

We would like to extend a big welcome to the following carriers who became members of Branch 5 recently: **Ernie Banks**, Ames; **DeWayne Hogan**, Florence; and **Ian Sandall**, Elmwood.

**AUXILIARY #78 NEWS**

We're back in the swing of things again. Our first meeting of the new season was a success, even without our secretary (happy anniversary to Tricia and her husband). We still need your toiletry donations, so keep them coming. We're planning on a bake sale at the October steak fry, so whatever you could donate would be appreciated. Bring it with you to the dinner, we'll take it from there. The proceeds will be donated to COLCPE.

A good time was had by all at the family picnic in August. I heard comments about hoping it is an annual event. The kids sure loved it. Even though it was hot, everyone told me they could find enough shade to be comfortable. Thanks a lot Andrea and committee. Thanks also for the hotdogs for our last dinner.

Next month our dinner will be ribs, so come hungry, but please come! The more the merrier.

**Melinda Carl  
President, Auxiliary #78**

<p><b>Application for Membership To Auxiliary #78</b></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Phone# _____</p> <p>D.O.B. _____</p> <p>Signature _____</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p><b>Return application and a check or M/O for \$25 annual dues to: Melinda Carl, President – 8214 Molokai – Papillion, NE 68046. Please notify us of any changes by calling 593-6877 and leave your correct information</b></p>
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## NON-MEMBER LISTING

The following are non-members of the NALC. We wish to extend them an invitation to join Branch 5 in the efforts to preserve and secure the future rights of all letter carriers. It is so very important that we all join together in that fight. We all enjoy the benefits; lets all support each other.

We have just ratified a contract that will greatly increase their pay and benefits. All we want is for them to join us and help with the next battle.

**AMES:** Tammy Swanson\*, Carrie Hammers\*;  
**BOYSTOWN:** Shelly Flowers, Jolene Manion\*;  
**ELMWOOD:** Don Vokal, David Brester;  
**NORTHWEST:** Rich Hansen; **PIERCE:** Ron Beber\*, Angela Perez; **PLATTSMOUTH:** George Johnson; **SADDLE CREEK:** Matt Bruce, Mike Wertz\*, Dan Greenfield\*;  
**SOUTH OMAHA:** Ron Aubrey\*, Jannette Bogler; **WEST OMAHA:** Andy Quick, Tim Zabawa\*

\*Indicates a previously cancelled member

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## RESERVISTS ELIGIBLE FOR BACK PAY FROM POSTAL SERVICE, MSPB RULES

As many as 100,000 military reservists who worked at the Postal Service between 1980 and 2000 could be eligible for thousands of dollars in compensation because they were improperly charged for their military leave, under a new ruling.

The Merit Systems Protection Board decision greatly expands the scope of a larger back pay issue that ultimately could cost the government half a billion dollars, said Matthew Tully (<http://www.fedattorney.com>), a New York attorney who is representing affected employees for free.

Previous rulings have held that between 150,000 and 200,000 reserve or National Guard members who worked for executive branch agencies between 1980 and 2000 are eligible for back pay because of an erroneous leave policy. In a March 7 ruling, *Miller v. U.S. Postal Service*, MSPB said reservists who worked at the Postal Service also are covered because that agency used the same policy.

Outside the Defense Department, the Postal Service is the largest single employer of Guard and

reserve members, Tully said. He said complying with the decision could cost the Postal Service upwards of \$200 million.

"They're probably going to have to jack up the price of stamps 3 or 4 cents just to pay for the outcome of this decision," Tully said.

The Postal Service did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Postal Service could appeal the ruling to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, although that court in 2003 issued the landmark decision that employees were entitled to back pay because federal agencies improperly charged reservist who were on military leave for days they were not scheduled to work. Subsequent decisions by MSPB expanding the scope of the appeals court ruling have not been challenged.

The policy, which was changed in 2000, had charged reservists for every calendar day they were on military leave, instead of charging them for the actual workdays they missed. Reservists who used up their military leave because they were charged for weekends or other days they weren't scheduled to work instead had to use their own vacation days or take leave without pay to complete their annual military training.

The court decisions require agencies to restore annual leave to current employees or provide back pay to retired workers to make up for the lost compensation or leave that employees incurred because of the policy.

Tully said the average back payment has totaled \$3,500, although employees have received anywhere from \$400 to \$14,000 depending on how long they were in the reserves and their pay grade.

Reservists who believe that they are owed back pay must file their case with MSPB.

(Article courtesy of Tim Kauffman, *Federal Times*, 3-29-07)

\* \* \* \* \*

**Do you have a steward in your station? Do you want to see a change in your station? Are you interested in running for that position? The Oct. General Meeting is the place to be! Working conditions are so much better when you have a steward on the premises.**

**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  
Beherns, Robert  
Begley, Daniel  
Booher, Warren  
Bouc, Donald  
Branson, LeRoy  
Brice, John  
Christensen, Richard  
Daemon Jr., Alex  
Domayer, Robert  
Eymann, George  
Eymann, Richard  
Halbrook, Paul  
Hilpipre, Donald  
Hosek, George  
Hula, Carl  
Humphrey, Richard  
Hupka, Gerald  
Incontro, Frank  
Jacobsen, Dean  
Karnik, Milo  
Kaster, Stanley

Kelly, 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  
Reynek, 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

**Branch 5  
Steak Fry**

**Sunday**

**Oct. 7, 2007**

**Vennelyst Park**

**9100 N 31<sup>st</sup> St**

**Noon to 6:00 pm**

**Members – free**

**Guests - \$10.00**

**No children please**

**\*\*\*\*\***

**Call Branch 5**

**at 345-0424**

**or sign up at your station**

**The following article was received and the Executive Board recommended placing it in the Gate City News for the membership. Mr. Cyncar was looking for financial (donation) or administrative support in the form of an article in the Local's newsletter.**

## **Cyncar v. Potter FMLA Class Action EEO**

On February 1, 2007 the Office of Federal Operations (OFO), Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Washington, D.C. approved the Cyncar v. Potter FMLA Class Action EEO complaint, Agency Case No. 4E-800-0333-00; CC-8-9-0001-01, EEOC Hearing No. 320-A1-8380X, Appeal No. 0720030111. This class action was initially started in August 2000, and a more formal move for class certification was submitted in April 2001. The Class was certified in April 2003, and subsequently appealed by the Postal Service. This class action was initiated in the Colorado Springs P&DC.

Personnel affected by this class action are, "Those persons employed by the Postal Service throughout the Western Area from January 1, 1998 to December 31, 2002 who are disabled with the meaning of the Rehabilitation Act and who were discriminated against under the Rehabilitation Act when they were denied reasonable accommodation: (1) after they applied for but were denied leave; (2) were subject to disciplinary actions for leave violations after FMLA status was denied; or (3) were unreasonably required to re-certify their medical conditions."

On August 1, 2007 the USPS sent 49,050 notices to personnel in the Western Area advising them of the approval of this class action. If you received a notice, and you meet the parameters set forth in the previous paragraph, I urge you to contact the class attorneys, either via phone (303) 333-8700, or e-mail ([tjm@mcmarlaw.com](mailto:tjm@mcmarlaw.com)) and request a class questionnaire. You may also visit [www.postalflame.org](http://www.postalflame.org) on the Internet, and you will find the class questionnaire posted on the site in various formats. Complete the questionnaire and forward it to the class attorneys with requested supporting documents. If you did not receive a notice, and you believe you fit the parameters set forth in the previous paragraph, it would be in your best interests to contact the class attorneys at either of the above stated contact points. You may also obtain the class questionnaire, and the class notice at [www.postalflame.org](http://www.postalflame.org). Provide the completed questionnaire to the class attorneys. The mailing addresses are contained with the class notice as well as the above noted website.

This class action was initiated for various violations of the FMLA by the Postal Service against personnel with disabilities. "Disability means a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more of your major life activities, or you have a record of such impairment, or you are regarded as having such impairments." Unfortunately, not all health conditions can meet the definition of a disability, and there is no list of health conditions that qualify as a disability that a person can refer to. However, if your Serious Health Condition(s) impair(s) your normal life activities to any extent, then you may have a qualified disability. The only way to find out is to complete the questionnaire and return it to the class attorneys for inclusion in the class during the discovery process.

As the class-agent, I urge you to take an active interest in this class-action and complete the questionnaire, and return it to the class attorneys. Without an active interest, whether that interest is in Union activities, or the class action, success becomes a more difficult target to achieve. A united stand and active interest is the only way to guarantee success, or continued success in any endeavor that will, eventually, benefit all to some degree.

John A. Cyncar  
Class Agent

## Re-elect Donna Whitmarsh as President

I am asking for your support again. As you know, we have made some major strides forward for the Branch in these past three years. I would like to continue to provide the Branch with the same dedication for the next three years. **Billy Ray Stevens** will also be my running mate as Vice President again. We all know he has done an excellent job in the many hats he has been wearing – VP, chief steward, and training officer.

I would like to ask that you support **Laura Jacobberger** for Treasurer again. She has done an excellent job at getting the books in order after she assumed that office. **Chuck Walls** will be running for Recording Secretary. His attention to detail and computer savvy will be an added bonus. As you all know, he single-handedly set up our website.

Joe Ricceri has decided not to run for office again this election. **Dave Looman** will be an outstanding person who will make every effort to fill Joe's shoes. We will dearly miss Joe as our Director of Retirees.

Ad paid for by the committee to re-elect Donna Whitmarsh as President of Branch 5

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| September 11, 2007  | NALC Contract Ratified  |
| September 27, 2007  | Steward Training – 5:00 pm – 10342 Ellison Circle   |
| October 5, 2007     | Executive Board Meeting – 5:00 pm<br>General Meeting & Auxiliary Meeting – 6:00 pm<br>Great Plains Paralyzed Veterans Assoc. – 7612 Maple St. |
| October 7, 2007     | Branch 5 Annual Steak Fry – Vennelyst Park – Noon to 6:00 pm  |
| October 8, 2007     | Holiday – Columbus Day  |
| October 8, 2007     | Retiree's Breakfast – Petrow's – 60 <sup>th</sup> and Center – 8:00 am  |
| October 27-28, 2007 | NE State Fall Training, Grand Island, NE, Mid-Town Holiday Inn<br>Reservations – 1-308-384-1330 or 1-800-HOLIDAY - rate \$69.95               |

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