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2008-2009 STATE OFFICERS

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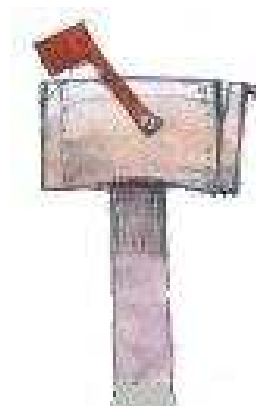
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Vehicle Insurance Quote	1-800-847-2886
Home Insurance	1-800847-7233
24-Hour Claims Service	1-800-325-1088
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NORTH DAKOTA RURAL LETTER CARRIERS'

Official News Publication
The Peace Garden State



FROM THE DESK OF OUR STATE PRESIDENT

Change: The theme of the times. We are seeing change in our country, in the USPS, and in our union. The changes we made at our state convention were good for our state association. Thank you to the delegation for approving the dues increase and how our State Steward is appointed. So here is a review of the State Convention:

A BIG THANK YOU to Jim Stensos for chairing the convention and to Mary Wertz for keeping every-

thing going during the convention. Also thank you to all the members who served on committees. Their work on committees helps us conduct the business we need to do at the convention. We were very honored to have Don Cantriel, NRLCA Vice President, present at our convention. He gave us updates of what was happening nationally and a presentation of the FSS machine. Our district will not be affected for a long time so

this way we can see how it affects the rest of the country first.

We adopted a new format for our constitution which combined the by-laws with the constitution to give us one document. We also adopted some major changes which I will summarize. The State Steward position will be an appointed one, not elected.

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RURAL CARRIER CRAFT THE BEST! -D. HAUGEN

It's no secret that I love my job being a rural carrier. If you ask me it's the best job in the Post Office. It bothers me to hear carriers complain about their job. Yes, there are times we run into a snag, whether it's management or something else. There is one thing that is not my favorite thing in the post office and that is the dreaded Mail Count. There will not be

another newsletter coming out before mail count so I'll say a few things I think you should know. I have a feeling with mail volume being down; most of us will have the pleasure of counting. This mail count is Feb 14, through March 14, 2008, It will be opt in and I got a feeling Management will be opting most of us in. (Ref Article 9.2.c.3.a). All routes to be counted are

to be inspected by postmaster or designee while accompanying the carrier on the route. This task must **not** be delegated to craft employees. The inspection, must be conducted during or immediately prior to a national or special mail count. The purpose is to obtain current data including but not limited to line of delivery

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NDRLCA Outstanding Member of the Year

Barbara Opdahl was awarded the *Outstanding Member of the Year* at the Rural Carriers State Convention in New Town, North Dakota.

Barb has been with the postal service since 1981 when she was hired as a Rural Carrier Associate. In 1991 she became the regular carrier in the Westhope Post Office, where she happily carries mail today. She has been the Peace Garden Unit Secretary / Treasurer since 1984.

Barb has been the editor of

our North Dakota Newsletter from 2001- 2007. She was awarded the State Publication Award for Honorable Mention in Category 1 in 2006 at the 102nd National Convention held in Charleston, South Carolina. Category 1 is having 1-300 routes.

She is active in her community as the church secretary and also as a member of session at the First Presbyterian Church of Westhope. (continued next column)



Barb, proudly holding her award

She is married to Carroll Opdahl, they have eight children and seventeen grandchildren. Barb and Carroll reside in Westhope. Three years ago they purchased the local grocery store now known as Opdahl's Grocery. The grocery business keeps them very busy.

Congratulations Barb!
-Dorene Haugen



Question: Have you called 1-800-847-2886 for a vehicle insurance quote? That little green lizard that you see on T.V. isn't all that cheap when you compare him to GMAC. I really don't know much about the 24 -hour claim service 1-800-325-1088, never had to use it.

They also have a homeowners program. This program provides RLC members who own or rent a home or condominium, with high value property insurance. Available full replacement coverage allows rural letter carriers to collect the true dollar value from any loss. And like the member's vehicle insurance, the member is invited to compare coverage with a free, no obligation quote. -Jerry Axtman

Safety First!

GREETINGS FROM DISTRICT 3

Mary M Wertz
District 3 Committeeman

Hello from central North Dakota! Summer is over and Fall is here. Hunting season has began. Rural traffic has increased and deer will be on the move. You never know when one will jump out in front of your car, so please stay alert.

Every Rural Carrier should have a handbook PO-603 (Rural Carrier Duties and Responsibilities) at their case. This handbook is a great resource. The new printing of the 603 contains language that applies to the 30 day DPS reviews. The NRLCA has challenged

this unilateral change and think it is in our best interest not to utilize the new 603's.

Keep your old 603's and use them. New information will be posted on the National Website.

I hope to see all of you at our booster meeting in Jamestown January 18th 2009 at the Gladstone Inn.

Take care,
Mary Wertz



DORENE'S REPORT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

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number of boxes, box types, dismounts, dismount distance, and number of stops and safety. (Ref PO 603 Sec 521, 522 M-38 Sec. 511. The pre-count conference is a joint conference between rural carriers and managers, this conference must be held at least 15 days prior to the beginning of the mail count. (Ref M 38 Sec 525.11) This is the last day the administrative changes in carrier remainder of the year, unless corresponding changes in carrier procedures, The procedures are locked in throughout the count and the remainder of the year, unless corresponding changes are made in salary for additional functions. No changes in carrier work methods, casing equipment, or office procedures can be made between the date of the conference and the mail count unless these items were specifically discussed at the conference. (Ref. M-38 Sec. 525.14) & (Ref Step 4 H4R- 4P-C26467 Columbia, MO)

I strongly recommend that carriers take a percount conference check list to the conference and take notes.

If a carrier is on leave 15 days prior to the mail count they must be conferred with before going on leave or immediately upon return to work and any and all changes explained.

Remember- Procedures used during the mail count period must be the same as those used during the rest of the year.

No, changes in carrier

work methods, casing equipment, or office procedures are to be made between date of the conference and mail count, unless they were specifically discussed at the conference.

Regular carriers who observe the mail count in a non-duty status may not perform or participate in office work.

Relief carriers are entitled to work his/her scheduled workdays during the mail count period.

The mail must be counted in the facility where the carrier cases mail. With the exception of DPS mail, which is recorded from the End of Run Report. Either manager or carrier may verify the piece count without additional compensation to the carrier for the time involved.

Mail is credited on the day it is cased.

Mail flow procedures during the count period must be the same as the rest of the year.

On the day proceeding the count period, all mail available up to the normal "cut-off" time must be delivered on the day.

All mail available up to the normal "cut-off" time on the last day is included in the count and delivered. Expedited Preferential Mail system offices, available mail would be cased but not counted upon returning to the office from the route on the prior to the start of the mail count. Conversely, in a EPM office on the last day of count, available mail would be cased and entered

on PS Form 4239 for the day.

Every effort should be made in honor mailer requested delivery dates for mailings even if the dates fall outside the count period.

Prior to the count, no extra effort should be made to deviate from the normal mail delivery or processing schedules.

Mail must not be curtailed on the last day of the count period.

Mail withdrawal procedures in effect at the time of the count should be the same throughout the rest of the year.

Rural carriers always have the right to verify the daily count of mail and all entries made on the PS Form 4239.

Remember, if possible it is best to resolve disputes immediately.

Document any and all disputes by collecting all relevant data at the time of the dispute.

Take the time to verify all data recorded on Forms 4239 and 4241.

Remember to record mail associated with second trips appropriately. (Ref. Arb. C95R-4C-C 98023318)

Should Disagreements Occur:

Many times there are questionable items and issues during mail counts. When this occurs every effort must be made at the time to resolve the dispute. Carriers should make management aware of each repeated occurrence of disputed items. When there is a dispute pertaining to a mail piece,

an attempt must be made to resolve the issue before the mail in question is delivered.

If carriers are unable to resolve the differences, documentation of all information regarding the item (s) or issue (s) in dispute is critical. Include in the documentation the issue in dispute, the number of articles and any other relevant information such as dimensions that will be helpful in resolving the disagreement.

Attend mail count training and review Chapter 5 of the PO 603, read your *National Rural Letter Carriers, January issue.*

I will be doing two mail count trainings. One will be held at Bismarck Am Vets Club on Feb 12, 2008 (Thursday) at 7:00 p.m. Am Vet's serves chicken & ribs so come at 6:00 for supper the cost is around \$7.00. The Minot training will be Feb 8, 2008 at the Grand International Inn (Sunday) at 2:00 p.m.

Bob Defoe will be doing training at the Booster meeting in Jamestown. Bob will do the East side of the state.

Best wishes go out to each of you. Enjoy the holidays season and may the coming year be a wonderful one, and may we be showered with lots of mail Feb 14- March 14 2008.

-Dorene Haugen



Booster Meeting Schedule:

Saturday January 17, 2009
 1pm Board Meeting
 7pm Steward Enhancement Training

Sunday January 18, 2009
 8am Registration
 9am Booster Meeting
 12pm Buffet Lunch
 1pm Mail Count Training

Booster Meeting
Jamestown, ND
Gladstone Inn
January 18, 2009

111 2nd ST NE in Jamestown

Rates at the Gladstone Inn
 \$53/night
 \$5 each additional person in room
 For Reservations, call 701-252-0700



DEATH OF OLD FAITHFUL

A moment of silence was observed at the Central Four Unit meeting on Oct. 10, 2008 for Gerald Franklin's mail car who silently slipped away on Sept. 17, at **803,000** miles. He was created in 1988 as a Chevy Celebrity wagon and lived up to his name being somewhat of a celebrity on the route. He remained single, although there was a 1987 celebrity who joined the family known as the "female car" since he was the "mail car", but there was nothing more than friendship between them. She'd sub for him from time to time if he needed to see the doctor. He needed a few adjustments soon after

birth like a long oil filter, a rubber hose around the fuel line to protect it from rocks, and a regular oil change of 10w30 oil. He was well loved and will be missed by many patrons who looked for the arrival of his white body to bring letters, packages, medicine and a friendly greeting by his driver.

"It is believed he died of a broken heart at the thought of no longer being needed."

He did undergo some major surgeries when the front wheels on each side front wheels on each side fell off and a heart transplant (motor) at 658,000 , and several transmissions that lasted about 200,00 miles. His rear was totally worn through by rocks but he was so convenient to deliver mail- just the right size and —being a wagon—roomy enough for packages. This summer he was beginning to show his age and the back axle support wore through and dropped down. A come-along was used



to pull it forward and it was chained together to limp to the doctor.

He must have heard his driver was retiring soon and it is believed he died of a broken heart at the thought of no longer being needed. His driver, too, shed a tear as he was taken to his final resting place at the Trading Post in Minot. May he rest in peace!

-Gerald Franklin

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE STATE STEWARD

Hello fellow ND rural carriers. Before I give you a brief update on what's been going on lately, I would like to congratulate the newly elected local stewards and the reelection of the current local stewards. At this time I would also like to thank all stewards, new and renewed ones for stepping up to the plate and taking on the task of being a local steward. I have already utilized the talents of several locals by having them handle some issues. Their willingness to help makes things easier for me and gives them the experience and confidence to handle grievances or situations that can be solved without a grievance. Thank you so much for your help. A big thank you to the area stewards and the assistant state steward for their help also. It not only helps me out a lot but the state also benefits from reduced mileage costs. There will be local steward enhancement training during the mid-winter booster meeting. It is set for 9:00 AM January 18. All stewards required to attend will be notified. New local steward training will be done this fall yet. I am working on finding a time to do it that will work for all or most involved. Info will be coming out shortly.

THE HIRING FREEZE DOES NOT, REPEAT DOES NOT AFFECT THE RURAL CARRIER CRAFT. So if a PM or manager tells you you're not getting an RCA because of the freeze make sure you inform them and have them check with HR. If that doesn't work please give me a call.

Several inquires have come in about the measuring of mail in offices. Offices 13 and below are starting to measure, and send these numbers in on the computer every day. 15's and above have already been doing this. This is a requirement from District level to keep track of volumes. Heaven only knows what they will use this info for.. But remember they are in a cut-cut save-save mode right now ??? The questions are: is this affecting rural routes or does this have anything to do with a count? Nothing gives the indication that this will have an effect on rural routes. The only thing to keep an eye on is if this measuring causes any extra work to be performed by rural carriers. If you are asked to measure anything different than DUVRS , what you've always done, what was done during count or if you have to wait for mail, bring this to your PM's attention and get hold of a steward. If you are doing recurring work functions then you are eligible for 8127 time and /or time for this during the next count. The next count will be a 4 week count and will be February 14 to March 14 2009. It is an opt in count. I will be conducting count schools as needed and will have an abbreviated version, mainly an enhancement or a refresher type, during midwinter conference. It will be at 1:00 PM on January 18. Midwinter is in Jamestown at the Gladstone Inn, January 18, 2009, Martin Luther King holiday weekend.

The hiring freeze that has come down from HQ does not involve rural carriers. I don't have any information to verify this but my gut feeling is this is a part of or is in response to the VERA, (voluntary early retirement) options out there now, and is a 'wait and see what we will need after the dust settles' reaction. People that are or will be eligible should have gotten a letter informing them of their eligibility. HR has sent out packets between October 10 to the 20th to those eligible. If you decide to go and have filled out your papers then changed your mind you must withdraw them by November 28th. If you take this retirement it is effective February 2009. Discipline. Any one receiving any kind of discipline should grieve it immediately. It seems there is a big push out there to discipline carriers for any infraction. I don't know if they think they will get a bigger bonus if they get rid of a carrier or what? I have news for them, even if the carriers go the route is still there to be served. Finally there is an issue that has just serviced recently. Many have probably heard some rumblings about it. There was an email from HQ with a statement that employees with under 6 years employment could be laid off. This does not affect rural carriers. We have a no lay off clause in our contract so we are protected. I don't know if the other crafts have it in theirs or not.

Until we meet again at a meeting, training or wherever be safe and stay alert out there.

- Bob Defoe



Editor's Note:

Seasons Greetings!

**This time of year is always busy with activity, and with the holidays- bring more travelers. Stay safe and drive defensively! I am happy to bring all of you our website: www.ndrlca.org I am somewhat new to the web-building process, so all that I ask is that you are patient with me as I bring you updated information. If you have any ideas or suggestions for the website or newsletter, please contact me. Constructive criticism works well too! I hope to meet you soon. Stay warm!
-Theresa Price**

DHL GOING OUT OF BUSINESS -courtesy of NRLCA.ORG

As many of you have heard, DHL Express is ceasing operations in the U.S., leaving a potential \$3 billion in new business up for grabs for the Postal Service. As rural carriers, you have daily contact with many former DHL customers, and this is a great opportunity to identify new business leads. Using the Rural Reach program, you can reach out to potential new customers and let them know about the Postal Service's products and services. For more information about the Rural Reach program, see page 190 of the May issue of the National Rural Letter Carrier. DHL going out of business is an opportunity for rural carriers through the Rural Reach program to reach out to customers and let them know the USPS wants their business.

NOW HISTORY: 104TH NRLC CONVENTION

As a delegate, I found The 104th NRLC Convention very informative and interesting.

Our state entered 4 posters and essays. Many posters and essays were disqualified because of just little mistakes of not completely filling in all the blanks, etc.. The information is now out as to the subject for the 2009 convention and it's not too early to start thinking of what you can do. Please do follow directions, though. In the division I judged, the state name was left out and so out it went. It worked the same with scholarships and the students not following directions. There were no North Dakota winners this year but it only takes a little time and a stamp to enter with the possibility of winning from \$500 to \$5000 scholarships.

If anyone knows of any widows in your unit that is not contacted by me, please let me know. One missing widow left the North Dakota Auxiliary with only two national paid delegates this year instead of the usual 3 delegates. That shows how important each membership is! Let's continue to support the auxiliary.

Pat Gunnell is our new auxiliary national president and her project is a Program of Blessings concerning children. Items will be for sale at unit meetings and the state and mid-winter

meeting. One item is a quilt square for a \$10. donation and design it with your children or grandchildren's hand or thumbprints or whatever you wish. The quilts will be raffled off later.

Lexington, Kentucky is the place where horses are very important. We did see some harness racing on a track close to where we stayed. All and all the convention and drive there and back was good. It made it special to be at the convention with Clara Hauck, our auxiliary member of the year, and Rochelle De Foe.



Friday's program was very exciting as there were 5 elections and we were in session until 7 pm with a break at noon to pick up a sandwich at the food court and take it back to eat in our meeting room.

It all began at 8:30 am with call to order by Herschel Miller - remember he visited North Dakota last year. The project report was given at \$81,695.85

for the Diabetes Foundation at this time. A large check was presented to the Foundation.

The essay and poster winners were announced. North Dakota wasn't lucky enough to have a winner this year. Many were disqualified with just having small errors. In the 12 - 14 year essay contest there were 59 entries with 25 disqualified.

Election of officers for 2008 - 2009 began but it took five ballots to finally find Joyce Newman as 8th year elected secretary, Katie Demerit from MI as treasurer and Kay Carter of NC as the new board member.

Pat Gunnell presented her Program of Blessings for 2008 - 2009 which centers on children.

The 2008 -2009 Junior Auxiliary Officers were introduced. Over 200 Juniors attended convention.

The 2008 -2009 Auxiliary Officers were installed and Herschel was presented a Scrapbook and Recipe Box for his years on the board.

There was a Retirement of Colors and the 82nd National Auxiliary Convention was adjourned.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent North Dakota at this convention.

-Mary Thompson,
Auxiliary Secretary/Treasurer

JERRY FOSSUM'S REPORT

Greetings from District I and a very blessed holiday season to everyone! It has been a full year of new experiences for me. I'd like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to attend the National Convention in Lexington, KY.

Since it was my first, I was very intrigued by some of the goings on. There were several changes on the National Board that I feel will be a positive for us all, as we know that the Postal Service is out to slash budgets and with a mail count coming up, they will be looking at our times very closely.

I'd like to go back to talking about our State Convention in New Town and thank Jim Stenos, Mary Wertz, and all involved in it's planning. Another special thanks to Phil Quick and Myron Langehaug as they retired from the state board. They put in many hours of work for the association. A special congratulations to our former newsletter editor- Barbara Opdahl for the great job she did and for being named ND Carrier of the year.

I don't know if anyone has heard the word "change" lately, but here are some you may or may not know: First is a welcome to our newest board member-Gary Thompson of Grand Forks where everything there should be peaches and cream now. I'm sure Gary

wishes that were the case. Another change made was that the state steward is now an appointed position and not a voting member of the board. Bob Defoe was appointed and now fills in the vacancy of Myron not seeking another term.

For the 1st time in about 10 years, a dues increase was voted on and approved. It also contains an escalator clause to match any national dues increase. Most of you probably haven't even no-

"DON'T RELY ON SOMEONE ELSE TO GET ALL OF THE ANSWERS FOR YOU"

ticed the approximately \$2 per paycheck.

Changes abound with the USPS also. Their plan to reduce 40,000 jobs via their VERA plan was a flop. Less than 8500 reportedly accepted their offer. Clerk hours are being cut to the bone and with the 4 week mail count coming in February, we can again expect anyway possible for them to cut into our evaluated time. They gained back a lot of hours last year on the 2 week count, and I'm sure they will do everything possible to keep them. Be aware now of any changes that affect you. Address them right away, document them, and if necessary, file a grievance. Don't wait until Feb-

ruary!

We will be having a mail count seminar in Jamestown at the Gladstone Inn at our Mid-Winter booster meeting. Please encourage your subs to attend this meeting. Every minute counts and they translate to dollars.

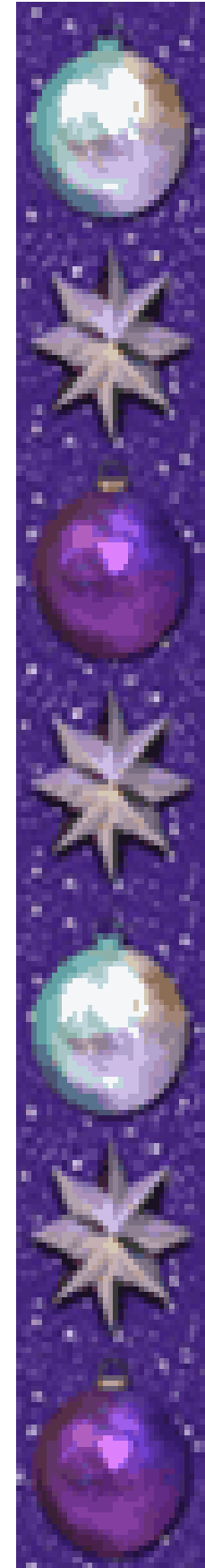
Don't rely on someone else to get all of the answers for you.

Steward refresher training will also take place, so please make an extra effort to be there. Attendance at all levels of meetings, from local to state conventions should be higher than what they are. If you have suggestions for topics or speakers, contact one of the board members and we will see what we can do.

As winter approaches, we can at least find some relief every time we fill with gas. Needless to say, our EMA will also drop. Just to make sure we don't get ahead, our health premiums are going up. Snow, Ice, Wind, Children at play, and for some-large farm machinery-always present a challenge for us both on and off the route.

DRIVE SAFELY! MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY NEW YEAR, and we'll see you all in Jamestown.

-Jerry Fossum



NRLCA WITHDRAWS FROM QWL-EI –Courtesy of NRLCA.ORG

Once heralded as a shining example of labor – management cooperation in the Postal Service, the USPS-NRLCA QWL-EI program has outlived its usefulness and the NRLCA National Board has notified the Postal Service that it will withdraw its support from QWL-EI effective January 1, 2009. From its inception, the parties QWL/EI program depended on the commitment of the USPS and NRLCA to work toward improving the “quality of work life” for rural carriers and their managers.

Our collective goal was to find solutions to problems, to make rural carrier jobs more satisfying, effective, and above all to enhance the work environment for craft and managers alike at all levels of the organization. QWL/EI was intended to instill in the parties a sense of trust, respect, dignity, and ownership in a truly joint, cooperative venture between USPS managers and rural letter carriers. Our stated goal was to work together to solve problems and facilitate change in a wide variety of situations. Given its interest in the QWL-EI process, the Postal Service agreed to fund all QWL-EI activities. Unfortunately, for several years now we have seen the QWL/EI process headed in a different direction – a direction previous National Boards did not envision. We have concluded that the Postal Service’s commitment to improve the workplace environment has been pushed to the bottom of the list of concerns.

More and more, the Postal Service has insisted that the QWL/EI process work exclusively on issues that support its corporate goals. We have seen postal managers refuse to spend funds on QWL/EI unless they could realize a return on investment or otherwise guarantee a financial benefit. At the same time, we have experienced how difficult it has become to get managers to invest their own time and energies in the QWL/EI process.

The QWL/EI process was designed to have rural craft and management leaders meet face to face to work on issues and, through consensus and team-building, find solutions to many workplace problems. Now the Postal Service is reluctant in many places to have those face-to-face meetings; rather, we are encouraged to have teleconferences or Webinar meetings. The National Board firmly believes this is not and never was what the QWL/EI process was all about. We have seen scheduled trainings and meetings cancelled without the consensus of the affected DJSC’s. These actions fly in the face of the whole notion of jointly working together. Finally, the QWL/EI process was designed as a national program, with involvement at all levels of our two organizations: District, Area, and National.

In our view for the QWL/EI process to be successful, all parts of the country must be participating - and at the same level. Sadly, this is not happening. While QWL/EI is alive and thriving in parts of the country, in other parts of the country, it is for all practical purposes dead in the water. For the past several years, we have time and again expressed our concerns to the Postal Service over direction of the QWL/EI process in some places. Yet, despite our best efforts it appears that many of our concerns have fallen on deaf ears. Most recently, in meetings between NRLCA President Cantriel, PMG Potter, and COO Donahoe we expressed our concern that the QWL/EI process no longer had the support in the field that was necessary for the process to remain viable. We did not see any tangible results from our special interventions.

Therefore, for all of the reasons stated, it is the unanimous decision of the NRLCA National Board, that effective January 1, 2009; the National Rural Letter Carriers’ Association will be withdrawing all support for the QWL/EI process. This means that the NRLCA will no longer sanction QWL/EI meetings at any level of the organization. Discussions will be held at the National level to determine how any duties that remain the responsibility of the QWL/EI process will be handled next year. We are saddened by this turn of events and will not close the door on the QWL/EI process forever, but as we inform you of this news, the joint, cooperative spirit that led to so many worthwhile projects over the years simply exists in too few places across the country. -www.nrlca.org

GREETINGS FROM THE CENTRAL PLAINS

State Convention

June 5-7 2009

at the
Seven Seas Hotel &
Water Park
2611 Old Red Trail
Mandan ND

For Reservations Call
1-800-597-7327

A block of sleeping
rooms has been re-
served for June 5-6
2009 at the state rate
of \$55.00 per room per
night.

Mention that you are with the
ND Rural Letter Carriers’
Association

What a fantastic October we have had weather, hunting, gas going down and EMA increase.

With a very successful State Convention, June 13-15th, 2008 behind us, we realize that with the Postal Service as well as RLCA, we must make changes to our ND Constitution & By laws, mainly the format of the Constitution with changing times.

I’m asking all fellow ND Rural carriers that don’t have a local steward in your office to take on the task of being a local steward.

The steward certification and steward enhancement training is one of the most valuable tools with our daily delivery of mail service situations and issues.

There are a number of newly appointed postmasters and their not getting the proper hands on training. This makes it hard for communications between carrier and postmaster, especially during mail counts.

Tomorrow morning when you report to work have a note pad handy by your case. Write down anything that you question or are not

sure of in your daily duties, justify getting compensated. Just 5 seconds can make a difference in a K/J, J/H route.

Plan to attend the January 18th, Booster meeting. With steward enhancement and mail count training to help us be informed on what effects our rural routes daily.

I know we will have a nice mild winter “the wooly worms told me so!” See you on January 18th, in Jamestown!

-Jerry Axtman

OUR DEARLY DEPARTED

Hubert Wolff, 82, Gackle, ND died Tuesday, November 4, 2008 at his home in Gackle, ND. Hubert was born May 10, 1926 at Gackle ND, the son of Fred and Rose (Schmidt) Wolff. He attended school at Gackle and graduated in 1944. He entered the US Army Nov 17, 1944 at Minneapolis, MN. He served in Germany and was honorably discharged Aug 26, 1946 at Ft. Sheridan, IL with the rank of CPL. Shortly thereafter, Hubert married Naomi Lucille Hoyer, with whom he had two sons, Lowell and Dana.

Hubert, also known as “Doc,” went into business with his father Fred at Wolff Chevrolet. He later owned the television sales and repair shop in Gackle and subsequently served as the Rural Letter Carrier with the US Postal Service for 33 years, at which time he retired.

During his tenure with the

Postal Service, “Doc” was honored nationally as Outstanding Letter Carrier and served as president of the North Dakota Rural Letter Carrier’s Association. Hubert served the community of Gackle as its mayor and fire chief as well as Logan County Civil Defense Director.

He and Dee Feist-Wilhelm were married June 16, 1973 at Gackle, ND. They made their home in Gackle on the

homestead. Dee and Hubert enjoyed spending time at their cottage and going south in the winters. One of his favorite past times was going to the casinos. He was a member of the VFW, American Legion and the National Rural Letter Carriers Association.

Funeral Service was held Friday, November 7, 2008 at the Basilica of St. James in Jamestown, ND with Father Al Bitz officiating.

Interment was made in the North Dakota Veteran’s Cemetery at Mandan, ND. Arrangements were by the Haut Funeral Homes in Jamestown ND.

-Tri County News, Gackle, ND

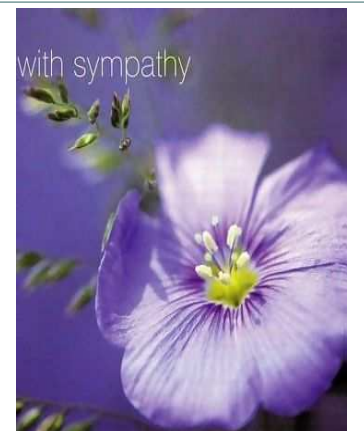
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IDA'S REPORT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE



THANK YOU!

Thank you to all of the carriers in ND for nominating me for this awesome award. It is indeed an honor to be chosen by my fellow carriers as Outstanding Member of the Year! I only wish I could have been at the State and National Conventions to receive this award in person. I regret not being able to be there. Thanks again, ND, you are the best!

--Barbara Opdahl

The State Steward will serve as an ex-officio member of the Board of Control. Dues were increased by approximately by \$2 per pay period for actives, RCAs, and PTFs and tied to our COLA raises. This way we keep up with inflation. Retires were raised by \$7 annually. The delegates to the national convention will be compensated the same as the nationally paid Delegate At Large and will not be required to write an article for the newsletter since the National Magazine publishes the convention word for word. The other changes were language clarification. The new constitution is printed and available to any member by request from the State Secretary. The delegates elected to the national convention by state ballot were: Dorene Haugen, Robert Defoe, Phil Quick, Ida Volesky, John Schafer, Myron Langhaug, Dianne Morrell, and Jerry Fossum. Myron Langhaug could not attend so Duane Thompson moved up as a delegate.

New officers elected were: Ida Volesky, President; Gary Thompson, Vice President; Dorene Haugen, Secretary/Treasurer; and Mary Wertz for 3rd District

Committeeman. Robert Defoe was appointed to the State Steward position. Congratulations to all the Officers. Thank you to Phil Quick and Myron Langhaug for their dedication to the association as officers. We appreciate all the time and talent they gave freely to help all of us. I am very glad the delegation passed the dues increase. We finished the fiscal year on June 30th with a net loss. Because we were so short on funds we had to cut most travel for the officers last year. This was not good for our association. Lack of training and information hurts our members. I am happy to say that we have some funds available now for travel and mail count meetings. Mail Count training will be held at our Booster Meeting, January 18th, in Jamestown. Hope you can attend the Booster Meeting or a mail count training close to your office.

"Lack of training and information hurts our members. I am happy to say that we have some funds available now"

"Change is coming and Information is power"

Our PAC team has been busy making contacts on the Hill in DC. A letter was written to Postmaster General Potter on the expense of gas for the rural carrier who supplies their own vehicle and who is not being compensated enough to cover the expenses. This letter was penned by Rep. Filner and co-signed by 123 members of congress. One of whom was ND Representative Earl Pomeroy. You can see the complete document on the NRLCA Website.

Congratulations to Barb Opdahl on receiving the Outstanding Member of the Year for the Association and to Clara Hauck for Outstanding Auxiliary Member. Barb was our State Editor and has given countless hours of dedication to the association. Thank you, Barb. Clara is a great artist and has donated works of art to the State and National conventions for fund raisers. Clara has also served as a state auxiliary officer for many years. The Booster meeting, count training and steward enhancement training are all coming up the after the first of the year. Please mark your calendars and attend what you can. Remember, Change is coming and Information is power.

-Ida Volesky

Dirt



Roads

104TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

The National Rural Letter Carriers' Association Convention took place August 5-8, 2008 in the beautiful Lexington, Kentucky and surrounding Area. I was pleased to represent North Dakota as Auxiliary Member for 2008. The Auxiliary honorees from each state were honored with the Association and were announced by states. We were called to the stage in front of the joint session of the Auxiliary and the Association, our pictures

were flashed on the big scene as we walked. This year I was honored to be in the great company of Carrier of the Year Barb Opdahl. Her award was received by Jerry Fossum, as she was not in attendance. I would like to thank the Auxiliary for choosing me to represent our great state and the Association for sponsoring me on this wonderful experience. I so enjoy being a member of this organization and have learned so

much and met such wonderful folks from around North Dakota and all over the United States. The Lexington area is rolling green hills, lots of white or black fences and of course horses, horses, horses. I do so enjoy watching horse racing so this was an extra special treat for me as we even had the pleasure of watching horse racing one evening on our walk back to the motel.

- Clara Hauck, Central Four



Retired Members

John Sweeney	Larimore
John Kuntz	Devils Lake
Kathleen Denault	Emerado
Peter Paulson	Grand Forks

Welcome Aboard!

New Members

Michael Hagelstrom	Wimbledon
Sharon A Combs	Lisbon
Robert L Reiersen	Tower City
Erik Thoen	Kindred
Mark Saunders	Milnor
Arlene King	Cando
Daniel Alber	Marion
Tim Herman	Jamestown
Peggy Buri	Anamoose
Eric Edwards	Edgeley
Jeff Trom	Hankinson
Dennis Behm	Medina
Chris McDonagh	Fargo
Michael Simonson	Mandan
Laura Huseby	Tioga
George Zeller	Carson
Julie Weisser	Harvey
Larry Gast	Wahpeton
Troy Skjerseth	West Fargo
Brandon Frankhanel	Fargo
Matthew Dellamano	Fargo
Jennifer Nash	Devils Lake
Daniel Lavergne	Grand Forks
Teresa Peterson	Williston

Hello carriers,

I want to begin by saying thank you to all the great people who have made great contributions to the PAC effort. The raffle at the state convention was a great success with over \$1400 raised in ticket sales, auction and donations. Bob Defoe and Ken Christenson's aunt showcased their auctioneering skills and I thank them bringing up the dollar values. The Terry Redlin framed print went to Rhonda Wyum, the Pipka Santa figure to Kyle Dilbeck and the rural carrier imprinted shirt was won by Bruce Lorenz. The prizes were donated by Jerome Fossum, Ida Volesky and myself.

The national office notified me that all contributor's

PAC NEEDS YOU!

names may not have been printed in the November magazine which contained the convention proceedings and therefore went to print early. It should also be noted that each time you make a monetary donation to PAC your name will not be printed again unless the accumulated cash donations put you into a new category of giving.

I also want to thank the membership for sending me to the national convention at Lexington. I was able to take in the PAC meeting with our new national PAC manager Anthony Vilaro. He presented to us some of the legislative concerns of the association and the continued need for PAC support. Our state presi-

dent will point out some of those items in her news article. The national convention is a great lesson in patience as days become long and people's "need to be heard" becomes trying. It is always a great learning experience. Once again the discussion for a biennial convention was struck down. When attending these conventions we don't always have time to see the local area, however this year we did make some time to see some of the great horse farms. A lot of money is invested there. I didn't get to visit any of the local distilleries but heard that was a great trip too.

Please continue to keep PAC on your donation list.

-Philip Quick