

CLARK V. SAVIDGE

Serving The Letter Carriers of Olympia, Lacey,
Tumwater and Shelton, WA since 1892

VOLUME 32, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2008

Presidents Report

By Al Floyd

The Postal Service is stating that it is going through financial trouble again. This time the need is for doing away with auxiliary routes and reverting bids that go vacant. By the time you receive this article, I would have gone to the District Office to be in on discussions about route adjustment strategies. In next month's newsletter I will put in what was discussed as well as talk about it at the branch meeting on November 6. Some of the things that I have heard so far are early retirements, route adjustments, bids being reverted.

Early retirements are being offered now to letter carriers. Those of you who meet the Office of Personnel Management's for the early out conditions, being age 50 with 20 years of what they consider creditable service or any age with 25 years of creditable service, will receive or have received a letter informing you of such. What's the catch? The catch is that's all they are offering, an early out, no incentives and voluntary.

If you have any questions, go to the web-site for more information. Also, if you meet the conditions, are interested in retiring early, but have not received an offer letter, let me know ASAP. You must decide between October 20 and November 21, 2008.

Next, management is looking at minor route adjustments with the thought of eliminating routes. Please understand that they must follow the provisions of the M-39 and the local agreement. For example, management is required to follow several initial steps before it conducts a route exam.

1. It must have completed an annual route and unit review. The results of the review must be shared with you before the count and inspection. This is done to identify problems and correct unsatisfactory conditions such as inadequate case labels, case equipment and the amount at mis-sent or mis-thrown mail distributed to your route.
2. It must provide certain notices in advance. Five working days before the start of the count, management must post a notice giving the schedule of the count week and the day and date of inspection. Management must give at least one-day notice if they change the day of inspection.
3. It must conduct a dry run with the carrier. This is to give you a chance to practice filling out the 1838-C, Carriers Count Worksheet. This dry must be conducted within 21 days prior to the start of the inspection

Management is also trying to revert bids that go vacant. This involves eliminating a reserve position, the downgrading of a full-time position to an auxiliary or splitting it up and giving the territory to other routes. Your stewards will be grieving this action because of the simple fact that in our

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Minutes of Meeting: October

No Quorum. Seven members required according to the By-Laws. Only six members were in attendance.

Submitted by "Mean Dean" Peterson

The following is an open letter to members of our local and can be printed in the newsletter or read at the next meeting.

'It would now appear that the local union is closed. The local isn't interested in recruiting new members. After harassing and demonizing non-members with the infamous Word Search puzzle, why would any of them even consider joining our local. The local president has drawn a sharp line in the sand by endorsing the word search as an appropriate way to treat non-members.

In my opinion, one of the main functions of our local should be to encourage non-members to join. There should be conversations about why they haven't joined or what's keeping them from joining and then an all-out effort to remove these roadblocks to membership. If members have left the union, we should be asking them what caused them to leave.

The use of the word 'scab' might have been technically correct in accordance with several dictionaries. However, the generally accepted definition is: a worker who crosses a 'strike' picket line in order to perform the job of a striking worker, thereby helping the employer at the expense of the striking worker. I don't believe that any of the non-union members in our area have done this. I might have expected something similar from management, but for our own union to degrade fellow carriers is about as low as someone could go.

I personally know of one injured member who left the union after the shop steward failed to file grievances for many instances of harassment by supervisors and other incidents over a four year period. The requests for grievances and supplied documentation went into a folder and never received any action or support from the local.

How many others have left for similar reasons? How many non-union members would join the Union if they didn't have to be part of the local that doesn't want them?

The only way to have a strong effective local is to represent all carriers equally and efficiently. I would like to thank Ms. Dixon for being the perfect example of a steward who knows where the line in the sand should be drawn.

Draw that line between MANAGEMENT and CARRIERS. Make sure that ALL carriers know they're on our side of that line and management is on the other. Encourage members to help the union grow, not distance it from other carriers and we will all benefit.

It's time to nominate candidates for union offices. If you disagree with the isolationism and current direction the local is taking, step up and help make some changes. Nominate someone willing to make a difference or volunteer yourself to be nominated. This is your union, speak up!

Submitted by: Joel Walker, City Route 17, Local 351 member

October 12, 2008

How Much Would You Pay in Taxes?

Sens. Barack Obama and John McCain both say they'll cut federal taxes if elected. Here's what their proposals would mean for you.

	<u>Obama</u>	<u>McCain</u>
If you make...	you'd save...	you'd save...
less than \$19,000	\$567	\$21
\$19,000-\$37,600	\$892	\$118
\$37,600-\$66,400	\$1118	\$325
\$66,400-\$111,600	\$1264	\$994
\$111,600-\$161,000	\$2135	\$2584
\$161,000-\$227,000	\$2796	\$4437
If you're in the top 5% of earners...	you'd pay an extra...	you'd save...
\$227,000-\$603,400	\$121	\$8159
\$603,400-\$2.87 million	\$93,709	\$48,862
more than \$2.87 million	\$542,882	\$290,708

*Source: Tax Policy Center. Numbers have been rounded. For complete details, go to TaxPolicyCenter.org.

Submitted by "Mean Dean" Peterson

area there is just too much new growth as well as routes plainly as well as painfully, over burdened. There is no justification for any of the reversions.

The NALC has always been proactive with the Postal Service about keeping the service competitive. The problem is that management only chooses to listen after their butt is in the fire. The Union has tried to work with them on the route adjustment process for years, but the only time they listen is after a grievance is filed. Then they are even more upset, because not only do they have to put the route back the way it was before the adjustment, they would have to pay for not meeting the timelines but also do the correct adjustments.

Always do your routes in a professional manner. Take the time necessary to the job safely and effencently.

Nominations for officers and convention delegates of Branch 351 will be held at the regular Branch meetings of November 6, 2008, 7:00 PM, at 119 ½ Capitol Way N, Olympia, WA 98501.

All Branch 351 members are eligible for nomination, with the exception of those in supervisory positions or within two years following termination of supervisory status. Nominees must attend six of the twelve meetings before the convention to be eligible as expenses-paid Convention Delegates.

Nominations will be received from the floor or may be submitted in writing. Nominees must be present to accept or may indicate their acceptance in writing. Written nominations must be in the possession of the Recording Secretary no later than 8:00 PM, November 6, 2008.

The election will be conducted by secret mail ballot. The ballots will be mailed to all eligible members at least 20 days before the election. The election will be held on December 4, 2008. Ballots must be received no later than 7:00 PM, December 4, 2008. Write-in ballots will not be counted for any position, but will not cause the entire ballot to be invalidated.

Nominations will be held for the following Branch Offices:

President Vice-President Secretary-Treasurer Recording Secretary
Director of Retired Members Editor Sergeant-at-Arms Two (2) Trustee
MBA Representative Health Benefit Representative

***The term of office will be for two (2) years beginning January 1, 2009.**

FIND THE NON-MEMBERS

R	E	K	C	E	N	G	N	O	L	M	A
J	Y	E	C	A	R	Y	V	X	T	I	C
H	W	N	F	Q	G	E	D	A	R	C	I
U	O	A	T	R	A	H	R	E	B	E	L
E	I	L	R	E	J	W	U	C	H	R	A
A	D	O	I	T	I	X	F	R	G	R	C
M	C	V	G	D	E	T	G	R	Q	A	X
F	W	Z	H	A	A	E	A	E	F	K	F
R	A	R	I	V	D	Y	J	I	P	A	W
Q	K	L	A	H	U	W	N	R	R	T	V
I	A	R	G	I	F	N	Y	A	Q	R	E
J	X	E	B	U	N	C	H	E	R	Z	K

BUNCH

FARAH

KARRECI

CALICA

EBERHART

FINN

GRAY

HOLIDAY

LONGNECKER

PRY

K RIAT

L ZVOLANEK

Submitted by "Mean Dean" Peterson

Union meetings are held on the third floor at the Labor Temple :

119 1/2 Capitol Way
Olympia, WA

(360) 754-8600

branch351@hotmail.com

Branch 351 holds its union meetings on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm, unless otherwise noted.

The Branch Union office will be opened every Tuesday & Thursday from 2:30 pm till 5:30pm. If I can't help you, I know where to get an answer for you.

Your VP,
Sam Samuels

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Union Stewards / Alternates and Phone Numbers

	Station Numbers
Chief Shop Steward - Debbie Dixon 923-9197 Cell # 628-3320	
Alt. Chief Steward - Al Floyd Cell # 628-3319	
Main Office Shop Steward - Al Floyd	357-0222
Main Office Alt. Steward - Debbie Dixon 923-9197	
Westside Station Shop Steward - Al Floyd	352-0222 or
Westside Station Alt. Steward - Debbie Dixon 923-9197	455-1120
Lacey Station Shop Steward - Debbie Dixon 923-9197	459-8988 or
Lacey Station Alt. Steward - Vincent Corsi 493-1622	455-1120
Shelton Office Shop Steward - George Vocke 426-5928	426-4291
Tumwater Shop Steward - Debbie Dixon 923-9197	455-1120

BRANCH OFFICERS AND PHONE NUMBERS

President - Al Floyd 628-3319
Vice President - Sam Samuels 352-2912
Secretary/Treasurer - Vincent Corsi 493-1622
Recording Secretary - Dean Peterson 491-2468
Editor - Stephen Ambeau 870-7807 Email: stamper9@comcast.net
Assistant Editor - Vacant
Director of Retirees - Sam Samuels 352-2912
MBA Representative - Vacant
HBR Representative - Vacant
Sergeant of Arms - Kevin Hageman
Trustees - Ryan Troy (08-09)
Karen Colpo (07-08)
Cliff Darnell 431-6599 (07-08)

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