

CLARK V. SAVIDGE

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

VOLUME 32, ISSUE 5

MAY 2008



Gleams of Hope

Matthew 25:35-40

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The call to raise funds for the Currall Family reached our home about the third week of January this year. It came from Carmel Leckenby, a wonderful friend of mine who is the mother of Whitney, with whom I have done several FOP* fundraising concerts.

There were tears in my eyes when I read Lisa's letter detailing her family's needs. At an instant my very own needs became minimal compared to theirs. A sweeping feeling of peace and calmness came after reading everything. There was no doubt in my mind as to the reason why that letter came. It was a humble task to take on right from the start, because as a believer, I understand that I have to do my part of sharing God's love. He truly provides us with what we need to fulfill our mission in life – it is for His purpose.

This mission of helping others in need is an ongoing task for all of us. We need to remind ourselves that this is one of God's commandments that we love one another as He has loved us. How wonderful it is to be given an opportunity to respond positively remembering what our Lord Jesus has done for us. Indeed when we comfort others, we bring healing to ourselves. This type of healing is one we call "Love" in its pure essence. This Love is GOD!

I am thanking you in advance for your kindness, generosity and caring hearts. It is not easy to offer our time, talent, finances and effort to benefit others, but those hearts that have been enflamed by God's love know no other way but to respond positively to the Lord's calling. There is a reason why God sends us these needs. It is for the very reason that He knows our hearts and of our commitment in sharing His love.

Thank you for sharing your Gift of Love and Hope with the Currall Family. I pray to the Lord for your own blessings. We are God's hands and feet. Just as the Lord Jesus went to the poor, the oppressed, the lost, the needy, the outcast, the blind, the discouraged, the sick and the helpless, so will we in His name.

We hope you can join us on Saturday, **May 3, 2008, 7:00 p.m.** at the Olympia-Lacey Church of God in Lacey or on Saturday, **May 10 at 6:30 p.m.** at Hallen Hall of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Lacey, Washington. (*See attached flyer for more details.*)

In Jesus' Unceasing Love,

Virginia Deferia

Founder, "Gleams of Hope"

www.gleams-of-hope.net

* www.ifopa.org

Minutes of Meeting: April

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM, on April 4th, 2008, at the Labor Temple, on 119 ½ Capital Way N. Olympia.

“Twelve” members were in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Floyd.

Roll Call of Officers: All members were present with these exceptions; Editor Steve Ambeau, Sergeant of Arms Kevin Hageman, Trustee Karen Colpo and Trustee Cliff Darnell. The MBA and HBR positions are vacant.

Minutes of the Previous Month: A motion was made to accept the minutes as written, seconded, and discussed. Dean Peterson needs to be added to the Westside e-Activists list. Sacred Heart and Saints pantry are also beneficiaries of the food drive, not just the Thurston County Food Bank. The motion carried with the corrections.

Communications: John Jackson from Branch 1184, Puyallup, was a guest in attendance. John is their Director of Retirees. Welcome John!

The branch received a thank you card from Peggy Moore.

We received a letter from our WSALC President Bob James regarding Carrier Corps. The Carrier Corps is the method that President Young has created to further the political aims of the NALC. Washington State will play a critical role in the 2008 elections. Letter Carriers must help our friends in Congress so we can make progress on issues such as contracting out of letter carrier work. We have sign up form available. Campaign shirts will be sent directly to you.

Applications for Membership: Joel Walker's application is back. What about the three new TEs?

Committees: Food Drive: Concerning the 40,000 plastic food drive collection bags, the committee has decided that instead of having some routes with full coverage, all routes will receive some coverage. As far as P.R., there has already been a little notice in the Shelton paper. There will also be one in the Daily Olympian. There will be an announcement on the TCTV reader board, as well as announcements from radio stations KIX 96 and KGY. ROXY will be broadcasting live from Olympia Square. Rob McKenna will be making a blanket public service announcement. The stations are being used as a staging area to sort the food. Everyone is encouraged to volunteer to sort food at the stations. A motion was made to move \$150 from the education budget to the Food Drive, seconded, discussed and carried. Get a Food Drive T-shirt, they're cool! They are even offering purple this year.

MBA: No Report.

HBR: They are trying to make the NALC Health Benefits Plan more attractive to the members. The more members that sign up the stronger the plan will get. This will also help out greatly when it comes to the next contract negotiations.

Unfinished Business: Ryan Troy still hasn't got a truck.

New Business: Sam Samuels, who was not present at the March 6th meeting, asked about the status of the Currall family. Debbie Dixon and Al Floyd explained their status.

Good of the Association: Administrative records are now on-line under liteblue. You need your Employee number and PIN.

Mariner's Game: Twenty people have signed up at the Lacey branch, two names at the Main, none at the Westside. April 5th is the deadline. The Sounder sounds like the best way to get to and back from the game.

E-Activism and Carrier Corps: Everyone should be signing up.

OIGs: Lawsuit has been filed to prevent them from unlawfully obtaining our medical records. Do not lie in an investigative interview.

Only contributions to COLCPE are listed in the Postal Record. Individual's contributions to candidates are not. A list is put in the newsletter once a year showing the distribution of COLCPE contributions in Region 2. A complete list can also be found at opensecrets.org.

Treasurer's Report: A motion was made to move \$85 from Meeting Expenses to Donations and Gifts, seconded, and discussed. Ryan Troy stated he does not want to pull it from Meeting Expenses if we can't even get Ketchup! A friendly amendment was made to instead move \$85 from Education to Donations and Gifts. The motion carried. A motion was then made to accept the Treasurer's report as printed with the motion, seconded, and carried.

50/50 COLCPE Drawing: The winning ticket was drawn by John Mauk. He won a Ceremonial American Flag and \$17. He donated his \$17 to COLCPE for a total of \$34.

MDA Drawing: The winning ticket was drawn by Sam Samuels. He won \$11 and a baseball glove. He donated his \$11 to MDA for a total of \$22.

Food for next month's meeting: It's potluck again! The theme is Mexican (Cinco de Mayo).

Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn, seconded and carried. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:09 PM (1:01:42).

Submitted by "Mean Dean" Peterson

National Assn of Letter Carriers

PAC Contributions to Federal Candidates
2008 Cycle

Submitted by
"Mean Dean" Peterson

	Total Contribs
Baird, Brian (D-WA)	\$1,000
Blumenauer, Earl (D-OR)	\$1,000
DeFazio, Peter (D-OR)	\$1,000
Hooley, Darlene (D-OR)	\$1,000
Inslee, Jay R (D-WA)	\$2,000
Larsen, Rick (D-WA)	\$1,000
Matheson, Jim (D-UT)	\$2,000
McDermott, Jim (D-WA)	\$1,000
Reichert, Dave (R-WA)	\$1,000
Smith, Adam (D-WA)	\$1,000
Wu, David (D-OR)	\$4,000
Young, Don (R-AK)	\$2,000
Total to Democratic (Region 2)	\$15,000
Total to Republican (Region 2)	\$3,000
Total to Democratic House Candidates:	\$451,000
Total to Republican House Candidates:	\$52,000

Senate Candidate (Region 2)	Total Contribs
Baucus, Max (D-MT)	\$3,000
Murray, Patty (D-WA)	\$1,000
Tester, Jon (D-MT)	\$2,000
Total to Democrats (Region 2)	\$6,000
Total to Republicans (Region 2)	\$0
Total to Democratic Senate Candidates:	\$61,000
Total to Republican Senate Candidates:	\$0

Presidential Candidate	Total Contribs
Clinton, Hillary (D)	\$439
Dodd, Christopher J (D)	\$2,000
Total to Democratic Presidential Candidates:	\$2,439
Total to Republican Presidential Candidates:	\$0

Food at the right time

Submitted by: Ruth Milroy

Reliably falling on the second Saturday in May, the apt timing of our annual Letter Carriers' Food Drive has long been recognized. Operations at Branch 351's beneficiary food banks, namely the Thurston County Food Bank, Lacey's Sacred Heart Food Bank, and the Saint's Pantry of Shelton, vouch for that.

Children of working poor, unemployed and homeless families make up a significant portion -- a notable 49% in '07 at TCFB -- of clients served by these emergency food agencies. The school year ends in June, and, along with it, the free and reduced-price school lunches for which these children qualify.

Gone is the "Back Pack" program, which works like this:

The Thurston Co. Food Bank, via liaisons for homeless students in some North Thurston SD middle and high schools, sends kids home on Friday with a grocery bag containing the components of a nutritionally balanced, individual meal-ready-to-eat.

In the absence of school-provided food assistance, parents or guardians of such children rely more heavily on regularly available food bank provisions until fall. The thousands of pounds of food we deliver to these agencies each May leave them with additional stock at the ready.

Granted, another portion of society's most vulnerable, or seniors subsisting on low, fixed incomes or by the support of social services, is not subject to this same seasonal flux. However, finances already stretched to cover the basics can give no further when elements of the cost of living spike.

"Seniors face financial 'quadruple whammy'," read the April 7, 2008 *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* lead to an article about the effects of the tightening economy. The accompanying photo showed a 75-year-old retired nurse's aide, waiting in line at a food bank to supplement her social security income.

"Soaring grain prices affect food costs" (*Seattle P-I*, March 15, 2008) reported that the more-than-triple rise in the past 10 months of the price of wheat, the result of a combination of agricultural, economic and energy issues, reaches beyond the increased value of our dietary staple, bread. Since livestock is commonly grain-fed, the price of meat probably will rise accordingly.

Throw the elevated price at which gasoline hovers into the mix. According to Steve Helt, director of the Saint's Pantry in Shelton, some food bank clients specifically blame the need of emergency food assistance on that price increase.

What of the food banks themselves, who, as grocers to their clients, find the purchasing power of their donated funds, or the quantity of their in-kind donations, pinched by the same issues?

May serves as the right month to gather food from our customers, and the economic season of 2008 presents a special need for the 16th Annual Letter Carriers' Food Drive, this second Saturday of that month, May 10th.



PUT YOUR NON-PERISHABLE DONATION IN A BAG BY YOUR MAILBOX.
WE'LL DELIVER IT TO A LOCAL FOOD BANK FOR YOU.



Chief Shop Steward Report

Does everyone know what Article 14 is? It speaks of the responsibilities, cooperation and implementation of Safety and Health. Below is a part of it that everyone should be aware of; Management and Craft alike.

If an employee believes he/she is being required to work under unsafe conditions, such employee may:

- (a) notify such employee's supervisor who will immediately investigate the condition and take corrective action if necessary;*
- (b) notify such employee's steward, if available, who may discuss the alleged unsafe condition with such employee's supervisor;*
- (c) file a grievance at formal Step A of the grievance procedure within fourteen (14) days of notifying such employee's supervisor if no corrective action is taken during the employee's tour; and/or*
- (d) make a written report to the Union representative from the local Safety and Health Committee who may discuss the report with such employee's supervisor.*

Why state this? If you see an unsafe condition, report it, immediately. If it is not abated, persist. If persistence does not satisfy the condition, put it in writing. We all have a hand in keeping each other safe.

The grievances that I have had at Formal A are:

- Carrier Informed of an AWOL Status-Formal A not resolved-Appealed to the Dispute Resolution Team-Resolved at this level-Resolution did not resolve the question at hand-disappointing
- Non-Compliance of a Dispute Resolution Decision from Nov. 2007- Formal A not resolved-Appealed to DRT-Resolved at this level-Management given yet another month to not comply-disappointing
- Denied Alternate Steward Time while in OT Status-Formal A not resolved-Appealed to DRT-Resolved at this level-Sustained Appropriately
- Denied Alternate Steward Time while Main Steward is on the Clock-Formal A not resolved-Appealed to DRT-Resolved at this level-Resolution did not resolve the question at hand-disappointing
- Schedule not Posted Properly-Resolved at Formal A
- Notice of Removal to a Disabled Veteran-Formal A to meet on 4/17

Smile and File!

In Unionism,

Debbie Dixon

Lacey Shop Steward Report

The last two months have been very busy in the grievance department. With a new Manager, there have been adjustments to make for everyone. The following grievances were filed on behalf of the Lacey Carriers:

24 out of schedule grievances filed and settled

A 14-day Suspension reduced to an Official Discussion

A Letter of Warning reduced to an Official Discussion

T-6 Paid for Forced Overtime

Schedule Not Posted Properly-Not Resolved-No Informal A Meeting-Appealed to Formal A

Alternate Steward Time Denied Due to Overtime Status-Not Resolved-No Informal A Meeting- Appealed to Formal A

Alternate Steward Time Denied Due to Main Steward On The Clock-Not Resolved-No Informal A Meeting-Appealed to Formal A

Another Letter of Warning reduced to an Official Discussion

3 ODL Equitability Grievances-Informal A on 4/17

Work Assignment Mandoed off Assignment-Informal A on 4/17

Article 15 Violation for 3 Informal A Meetings Not Met On-Informal A on 4/17

Management Crossing Crafts-Informal A Meeting on 4/17

Past Practice Grievance on Use of Computer by the Union-Informal A on 4/17

Modified Job Offer violated-pending

Maximization of two routes-pending

Maximization of PTF's-pending

Opts not posted-pending

Four grievances given to Alternate Shop Steward; 3 Out of Schedule and 1 over 60 hours

I am looking forward to the Mariners Game on the 27th with everyone. It should be a lot of fun. Remember to trade in your ticket for a T-Shirt. I'm told they will be just outside our seating area. Keep in mind the Food Drive is coming soon. If you have friends or family that can help 'sweep' the routes before you get out there, send them in my direction for a map and a volunteer placard for their car. Welcome back Willie. It is good to see you. Congratulations to Peggy for 43 years in the service! Pay Backs!

In Unionism,

Debbie Dixon

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	
Alt. Chief Steward - Al Floyd	
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
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 - Christopher Glidden 870-7807
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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