

The PONY EXPRESS



May 2014

NRLCA Vice President Ronnie Stutts Will Address the 2014 IDRLCA State Convention

Ronnie W. Stutts was re-elected as vice president at the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association's 109th National Convention in St. Louis, Missouri on August 16, 2013. Prior to his election, Ronnie was no stranger to the national arena. He served on the 1993 DPS study, was Chairman of the Appeals Process Review Committee, and served as a member of Steward Task Force One. Additionally, Ronnie served as an executive committeeman and held the title of Director of Steward Operations for national headquarters.

After graduation from high school, Ronnie attended the Newbern Tennessee Tech Vocational School where he earned a degree in electrical engineering. He was employed by the Marrimont Corporation as an electrical technician until he began his postal career in April of 1977. At that time, Ronnie was hired at the Dyersburg, Tennessee, post office as a Designation 73



NRLCA Vice President Ronnie Stutts

Attention: IDRLCA Non-Members

Each year, the May edition of The Pony Express is sent to all rural carriers in Idaho. It is the perennial hope of the IDRLCA that non-members will be persuaded to become members by reading this newsletter and realizing how much more informed they can be as members.

This year, however, your membership is more important than ever to make our union stronger and better able to continue to protect your benefits and you against the onslaught of those who seek to make your craft irrelevant and powerless.

Please, join now and strengthen the union that won you the benefits and protections you enjoy.

substitute. He became a regular rural carrier in 1981, on Rural Route 1 in Dyersburg, Tennessee. Since then, Ronnie has dedicated 36 years of diligent service and experience to the rural craft. He carried numerous rural routes in his Dyersburg office. In addition to his service to the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, he has served in many leadership positions including local, county, district, and state levels to include – but not limited to – board member, vice president, president, and 12 years as Tennessee state steward, representing the nation's largest rural district.

Ronnie feels strongly that we should contribute our time and talents to our communities. He also believes we should continue to support the auxiliary's position

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Senator Michael Crapo (R) www.senate.gov~crapo
Rep. Michael K. Simpson(R) www.house.gov/simpson.gov
Rep. Raul Labrador (R) www.labrador.house.gov

Please report corrections to addresses and telephone numbers to The Pony Express.

LOCAL STEWARDS

OFFICE	NAME	ADDRESS	CITY-ZIP	UNION PHONE
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Athol				
Blackfoot Main	Clade Ward	285 S Shilling Ave	Blackfoot 83221	(208) 681-8749
Boise Boi-Cole	Sharon Atkins	7106 San Fernando Dr	Boise 83704	(208) 376-1955
Boise Boi-Five Mile	Tom Lewis	4315 West Campfire Ct	Meridian 83646	(208) 869-6163
Boise Boi-Garden	Herschel Howard	5103 Shalecrest Ct	Boise 83703	(208) 794-9231
Burley Main	Nancy Neiwert	339 S 50 E	Burley 83318	(208) 678-2541
Cambridge	Herschel Howard	5103 Shalecrest Ct	Boise 83703	(208) 794-9231
Caldwell Main	Sam Doyle	819 Settlers Dr	Caldwell 83607	(208) 392-0841
Coeur d'Alene	Jeff Taylor	20923 E Trent Ave	Oitis Orchards WA 99027	(509) 993-0188
Cottonwood Main				
Craigmont				
Culdesac				
Deary				
Eagle	Herschel Howard	5103 Shalecrest Ct	Boise 83703	(208) 794-9231
Emmett	Herschel Howard	5103 Shalecrest Ct	Boise 83703	(208) 794-9231
Filer	Marilyn Carrico	56 Northridge Way	Jerome 83338	(208) 326-5220
Fruitland Main	Lori Bennett	306 N Dakota Ave	Fruitland 83619	(208) 452-3539
Garden City Station				
Genesee				
Glenns Ferry	Herschel Howard	5103 Shalecrest Ct	Boise 83703	(208) 794-9231
Grangeville				
Gooding Main				
Greenleaf	Herschel Howard	5103 Shalecrest Ct	Boise 83703	(208) 794-9231
Hayden Main				
Homedale	Herschel Howard	5103 Shalecrest Ct	Boise 83703	(208) 794-9231
Horseshoe Bend	Herschel Howard	5103 Shalecrest Ct	Boise 83703	(208) 794-9231
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Inkom				
Juliaetta				
Kamiah				
Kendrick				
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McCammon				
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	Robin Carver	3729 E Benton Ave	Nampa 83687	(208) 465-5838
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Pingree				
Plummer Main				
Pocatello	Leslie Greenwell	712 N Marsh Creek Rd	McCammon 83250	(208) 221-2912
Post Falls	Peter Haynes			
Preston Main	Earl Nelson	4382 N Hwy 91	Preston 83263	(208) 220-0623
Priest River Main	Christine Arndt	PO Box 474	Priest River 83856	(208)
Rathdrum	Jeff Taylor	20923 E Trent Ave	Oitis Orchards WA 99027	(509) 993-0188
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Rigby				
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Sandpoint				
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Wilder Main	Herschel Howard	5103 Shalecrest Ct	Boise 83703	(208) 794-9231
Worley	Christine Hodgson			

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Email - ponyexpr@pmt.org or Telephone - (208) 436-0687*

Southern Idaho District Representative's Report

Salt Lake City/ Nevada-Sierra District Representative Brian Draper

Line of Travel Deviations

Once the line of travel has been established on a route, any deviations should be the exception and not happening on a consistent basis. There are a few exceptions but, in most cases, the carrier needs to be compensated for the deviation. The only deviations not compensated would be for lunch, coffee break or restroom stop. It is a good idea to make a note on the PS 4003 of where these stops are located.

There are very good reasons a carrier should not be required to deviate. First would be the additional cost to the USPS. Second would be the safety issue of taking carriers out of their normal routine, which could result in an accident. Third would be a safety and service issue of delaying the carriers to point that they are rushing to make dispatch.

There are cases when management will put customer service above all else, but rural carriers, in most cases, are concerned about the customer far more than management. Rural carriers' concern is for our customers; with most managers, it is mostly the numbers on a report.

Rural carriers need to be aware that deviations are not part of the route evaluation and, in most all cases, compensation is required.

Currently, we are investigating reports of carriers being made to deviate off the route in the late afternoon to return to the post office to leave what mail they have collected. There are no contractual provisions that allow this or for what would constitute the proper compensation. If you are being instructed to do deviate off your route, you need to contact your ADR and possibly file a grievance. One option management does have, is to send out a leave replacement to collect this mail from the carrier within their line of travel.

Another issue would be instructions to back-track to deliver mis-sequenced DPS letters. Again, there are no contractual provisions or proper compensation for this.

As in all cases, follow the managers' instructions and contact your local steward or ADR about filing a grievance.

Below are four contractual references dealing with deviations from the line of travel and how they are to

be compensated.

Express Mail : Handbook PO-603 section 342.21:
In order to meet required delivery times, management may require a carrier , during the course of normal delivery of the route to deviate from the established line of travel to deliver Express Mail and will provide additional compensation as appropriate.

Carrier Pick Up Items: MOU 02/28/08 - Reference C-20:

The parties agree that the carrier assigned to the route is entitled to perform carrier pickup duties and the route will receive the applicable credit during a mail count provided: the carrier's vehicle can accommodate the carrier pickup items to be collected without deviation from the route's line of travel, including second trip. and the carrier is able to meet the dispatch of value.

The parties recognize that there may be situations where it is more reasonable to utilize a leave replacement to complete the carrier pickup request rather than the carrier assigned to the route where the delivery address for the request is located. If it is anticipated that the carrier assigned to the route will be required to deviate from the line of travel or required to make a second trip in order to complete the carrier pickup; management may designate a leave replacement to complete the duties associated with that carrier pickup request. Management may also utilize a leave replacement for these duties if completion of the carrier pickup request will cause the assigned carrier to be unable to meet the dispatch of value.

In those instances indicated above, management will determine whether the carrier assigned to the route or a leave replacement will complete the duties associated with the carrier pickup request. Further, in unusual circumstances where carrier pickup volume is extremely large or either the rural carrier assigned to the route or any available leave replacement will be unable to meet the dispatch of value; management may seek alternate means to complete the pickup.

Detours : F-21 section 572.2:

Recording Temporary Route Deviation in Excess of 30 Calendar Days

*Any temporary route deviation of more than 30 calendar days shall be added via **PS Form 4003** to the evaluation, and the salary shall be adjusted accordingly. Discontinue reporting the route deviation on **PS Form 1314**. Upon termination of the deviation, the route*

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Northern Idaho District Representative's Report

Alaska District Representative Patrick Pitts

Under Attack

You, your livelihood and your career are under attack. Rural carriers today carry on a proud tradition of providing service to rural and urban America. It is a tradition of service that goes back more than 100 years with a plan for rural delivery being delivered to Congress in 1891, and the establishment of Rural Free Delivery on October 1, 1896. Yet we, along with all Postal Service employees and the U.S. Postal Service itself are under unprecedented attack. That's how the PROCLAMATION – A POSTAL UNION ALLIANCE begins; a historic joint proclamation by the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association (NRLCA), National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC), American Postal Workers Union (APWU), and the National Postal Mail Handlers Union (NPMHU).



"The United States Postal Service shall be operated as a basic and fundamental service provided to the people by the Government of the United States, authorized by the Constitution, created by Act of Congress, and supported by the people. The Postal Service shall have as its basic function the obligation to provide postal services to bind the Nation together... It shall provide prompt, reliable, and efficient services to patrons in all areas and shall render postal services to all communities." POSTAL REORGANIZATION ACT, AS AMENDED

The proclamation identifies the attack as coming, in part, from corporate privatizers seeking to gain control over larger and, certainly, some of the most profitable segments of postal operations, fueled by the Postmaster General's policies of subcontracting and degrading service. While citing a precarious financial position, those who should be working together to maintain and increase the level of service provided, seem dead-set on destroying the cord that binds the nation together. And this precarious financial position itself is a congressionally-manufactured crisis draining the USPS of vital resources; resources necessary to fulfill the Postal Service's basic function and obligation. More than 80% of the Postal Service's losses since 2007, are attributable to the disastrous retiree health benefit pre-funding mandate enacted by congress in 2006; a mandate required of no other public or private entity.

With more than \$50 billion already set aside, funding future retiree health benefits for decades to come, it is time to repeal this congressionally-mandated obligation.

A letter from NRLCA President Jeanette Dwyer and the presidents of the NALC, APWU, and NPMHU to both the chairman and the ranking member of the House Committee on Oversight & Government Reform, U.S. House of Representatives, equates re-amortizing the pre-funding mandate to "kicking the can down the road" and is viewed as totally unacceptable.

Also unacceptable, according to the letter, is the administration's proposal to allow the Postal Service to eliminate Saturday delivery. To do so defies what should be common business sense. You cannot maintain a successful postal business by eliminating or limiting service and alienating Postal Service customers; both those that send and those that receive the mail, relying on the offices in their local community for that service. Granting the Postal Service the right to end Saturday delivery would result in the elimination of 81,000 jobs. This is unacceptable to the hard-working men and women of the Postal Service, the unions that represent those employees, and the communities they serve.

In a seemingly incomprehensible dichotomy of actions the Postal Service attempts to reduce or limit service by eliminating six-day delivery of the mail, eliminating door-to-door delivery, mandating the use of neighborhood cluster boxes (centralized delivery), slashing retail office hours at more than 13,000 post offices located in rural communities and inner-city neighborhoods - while increasing service by partnering with companies like Amazon to provide seven-day delivery and testing same-day package delivery in both New York and San Francisco.

It is time for those who would eliminate or limit service; who would seek to privatize the most profitable elements of the Postal Service; those whose desired course of action would sever the cord that binds our nation together to step aside and make room for those who stand ready to sustain and build a Postal Service well-suited for the 21st Century.

WANTED!

IDRLCA members who will take an active role in the union that has worked for 111 years to obtain and retain the rights that make the rural carrier craft the best in the Postal Service.

IDRLCA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

IDRLCA President Sharon Atkins

Belonging to a Union

Why do we belong to a union? Or better yet, why should we belong to a union?

Recently, at an IDRLCA State Board meeting, the board members listened to Brian Draper, our Salt Lake district representative, relate some of the brain storming, relating to the question of union membership, in which he took part at a recent training. They were to sum it up in three words. Here are just some of the items they came up with:

Educate. Represent. Serve;
Carriers represent carriers;
Uniting rural carriers;
Keep Communications
Alive;

Knowledge is power;
A family organization;
Protect your rights;
Strength in numbers;
Shield your future;
Share. Defend. Bargain;
Know your rights.



This does not hit all that they come up with, but you get the idea. We want to be a strong force in creating the best work environment that we can. We can then give the best service possible to the American public at a reasonable rate.

Information is key to what we do. Does it ever bother you that we work for a "communications" company and, so often, we are the last to know what is going on? The union provides the opportunities to be informed. You are holding in your hands, "The Pony Express", one of those information possibilities. Another is the national publication, "The National Rural Letter Carrier". We have union websites, both national (nrlca.org) and state (idrlca.org). Most importantly, you have your fellow carriers. Do you attend meetings, conferences and conventions that allow you to network with your fellow carriers? What an amazing opportunity to learn more from those that also do your job.

We are looking forward to the 2014 IDRLCA State Convention to be held in Twin Falls on June 12th through the 13th, hosted by District Two. Our national Vice-President Ronnie Stutts will be in attendance to bring us information from the national officers. Come join us, I guarantee you will learn something worthwhile. I have never left a meeting without having learned something, so that is why I say I can "guarantee".

Patti Upton, our vice-president, and I will be traveling to Washington DC in May, to meet with our senators and representatives. We must make our voices heard. The United States Postal Service will not survive if we

cut back on service to the American public. There are so many false rumors and statements about us out there, that we have to clarify these issues. It is up to us, those who should care, to contact our two senators and two representatives and let them know that we support SIX-day delivery.

The USPS posted an operating profit in 2013 except for the retirees health prefunding requirement that no other entity in the government or the private sector is required to do. Congress would also like to see us pre-fund our worker's compensation. Give me a break! If you do not contact them, then you must accept what they think "is right for us."

I am hoping to see you and hear from you at our meetings. Make a difference for you and your family and your future now.

Welcome New Members

<i>Lacey Andrew</i>	<i>Pocatello</i>
<i>Leslie Bailey</i>	<i>Salmon</i>
<i>Chandelle Binette</i>	<i>Caldwell</i>
<i>Jonathan Boyd</i>	<i>Pocatello</i>
<i>Rhonda Cannon</i>	<i>Weiser</i>
<i>Anna Davidson</i>	<i>Caldwell</i>
<i>Wendy Fife</i>	<i>Kimberly</i>
<i>Richard Gonzales</i>	<i>Hayden</i>
<i>Scott Goodson</i>	<i>Troy</i>
<i>Scott Groggett</i>	<i>Boise</i>
<i>Courtney Gullickson</i>	<i>Nampa</i>
<i>Ronald Haas</i>	<i>Shoshone</i>
<i>Samantha Hite</i>	<i>Kamiah</i>
<i>Marc Hust</i>	<i>Nampa</i>
<i>Steven Jorgensen</i>	<i>Boise</i>
<i>Gayl Klemmer</i>	<i>Kuna</i>
<i>Sarah Lett</i>	<i>Nampa</i>
<i>Niki Lootens</i>	<i>Homedale</i>
<i>Diana Mason</i>	<i>Caldwell</i>
<i>Nicole Nelson</i>	<i>Paul</i>
<i>Nicole Preston</i>	<i>Homedale</i>
<i>Mark Rigby</i>	<i>Melba</i>
<i>Scott Robertson</i>	<i>Eagle</i>
<i>Michael Scanlon</i>	<i>Boise</i>
<i>Chris Shaner</i>	<i>Boise</i>
<i>Laurel Sherman</i>	<i>Payette</i>
<i>Eric Sutherland</i>	<i>Caldwell</i>
<i>Christina Totten</i>	<i>Boise</i>
<i>Noel Tramel</i>	<i>Caldwell</i>
<i>Colleen Wallace</i>	<i>Mountain Home</i>
<i>Bernard Williams</i>	<i>Boise</i>
<i>Valerie Williams</i>	<i>Boise</i>
<i>Natalie Wilson</i>	<i>Boise</i>
<i>Beau Yates</i>	<i>Emmett</i>

IDRLCA VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

IDRLCA Vice President Patti Upton

Fighting For the Postal Service

Have you heard the latest on the Postal Service? It is times like these that we all need to bind together, forming one voice to be heard loud and clear. Congress is trying to dismantle the Postal Service and personally I do not want to sit back and watch it happen. This is precisely what faces us though. My friends, they do not care about YOU or about the job that you do on a daily basis. I am sure that you have heard that the Postal Service is broke, going bankrupt or needing a bail out. This simply isn't true. The current congress has found a solution to this problem. They are trying to immediately end six-day delivery. Ending six-day delivery, and going to five days or less, they believe will solve all of the current problems that we face. However, if six-day delivery goes away, it will not only destroy the service that we provide, but 50,000 rural carriers will go unemployed.



The most important fact that you need to understand is this. The prefunding of retiree health benefits must end. Those benefits have now reached over 50 billion dollars and the Postal Service is funded through 2025. Ending this mandate alone will restore the Postal Service to profitability. Without the mandated prefunding, the Post Service is estimated to make a profit of 1 billion dollars this year. Are you getting the picture? They do not want the truth to be known. The public is being led astray and made to believe that we are a failing company.

There are many ways you can help. Are you a member? If not, now is time to join. There is strength in numbers and we need to stand together. Everyone must step up and be an advocate for this cause. Get on the phone and call your local legislators. Send a letter to your local representatives. You are a key to the solution.

You can help by donating to PAC. These monies will be used to promote our cause. If every rural carrier in Idaho donated \$10.00 this would be nearly \$8000.00. It would be a wise investment in your future and your job. Please donate today!

It is important that you realize that your union fights for your rights. On March 10th, 2014, an historical agreement was signed by all four postal union presidents. This is to show our solidarity and to protect the invaluable United States Postal Service as we know it, today. All four unions are committed to working to-

gether to protect universal mail delivery and to protect good union jobs.

I would like to personally ask you to join us in Twin Falls, Idaho on June 12-14, for the 2014 IDRLCA State Convention. Attending the state convention is a great way to meet other carriers. It also provides valuable information about your job.

If you have any questions regarding the upcoming convention or the postal reform bills, feel free to call me at 208-707-2665.

THE PSALM of the NON-UNIONIST

The dues paying member is my shepherd.
I shall not want.
He provideth me with rest days and
vacations
So that I may lie down in green pastures
Beside still waters.

He restoreth my back pay
He guideth my welfare without cost to me.
I stray in the paths of the non-righteous
For my money's sake.

Yea, though I alibi and pay no dues
From generation to generation,
I fear no evil, for he protects me.
The working conditions which he
provides,
They comfort me.

He annointeth my head with the oil of
workers
Compensation, Sick pay, holidays
and a pension.
He represents me in grievances
And my cup runneth over with ingratitude.

Surely, his goodness and loving kindness
Shall follow me all the days of my life
Without cost to me.

And I shall dwell in his house forever
And allow him to foot the bill.

IDRLCA SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

IDRLCA Secretary-Treasurer Lori Bennett

An INVITATION to the NON-MEMBER

I am extending to you an invitation to enhance your future in the rural carrier craft and introduce you to your union, the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association (NRLCA). The NRLCA is the only union that holds exclusive recognition to represent the rural carrier craft with the United States Postal Service This includes salaries, benefits and work rules.

You are employed by one of the largest employers in our nation. Within the USPS there are a variety of jobs; city carriers, rural carriers, clerks, mail handlers, postmasters, and supervisors to name a few. Each one of these job types or crafts has its own unique union which represents its own members and negotiates their contract for them. Your manager will not be an expert on all of these individual union contracts. That's where your union comes in. The NRLCA's purpose is to protect your salaries, rights, benefits and conditions of labor with the USPS. We are the rural carrier specialists.



I cannot imagine working for this huge company without my union. I know, without a doubt, that my quality of life is better because of it. I'd like to invite you to join our union today by completing PS Form 1187, the membership application. RCA dues are just \$8.44 per pay period (every two weeks) and regular carrier dues are just \$26.20 per pay period. The dues withholding form authorizes automatic payment from your paycheck.

If you have questions about the NRLCA, contact a member in your office or contact one of your district or state officers. You are already a part of the rural carrier family, become a part of the NRLCA family today.

An INVITATION to the MEMBER

An INVITATION to the MEMBER: I am extending to you an invitation to enhance your future in the rural carrier craft and encourage you to become more involved in your union, the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association (NRLCA).

(turn to page 10)

IDRLCA Statement of Financial Position

(As of April 23 2014)

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Checking APCU	4,487.30
Savings APCU	79,937.26
CD-APCU 70 April 4	21,279.44
CD-APCU 71 Oct 23	20,746.19
CD-APCU 72 July 20	20,571.91
CD-APCU 73 Jan 18	20,407.72
Total Checking/Savings	167,429.82
Total Current Assets	167,429.82
TOTAL ASSETS	167,429.82

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Payroll Liabilities	643.73
Total Other Current Liabilities	643.73
Total Current Liabilities	643.73
Total Liabilities	643.73

EQUITY

Opening Balance Equity	114,942.53
Retained Earnings	-2,635.02
Net Income	54,478.58
Total Equity	166,786.09
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	167,429.82

IDRLCA Statement of Activities

(July 1, 2013 through April 23, 2014)

INCOME

Interest / Dividends	720.17
Membership Dues	112,005.03
Miscellaneous	0.00
National General Insurance	2,781.24
Reimbursements	2,400.00
Sales	6.00
Western Conference Receipts	0.00
Total Income	117,912.44

EXPENSE

Accounting Fees	1,565.00
Awards, Recognition, Other	767.50
Education and Training	131.28
Equipment Maintenance	0.00
Equipment Purchases	149.99
Lodging	0.00
National Convention	10,679.00
Office Expense	2,497.85
Payroll Taxes	1,736.83
Per Capita Dues	5,679.50
Postage	2,283.96
Printing	987.33
Rent	0.00
Repairs / Maintenance	0.00
Salary & Wages	18,525.68
State Meetings	1,742.46
State Paper	3,388.56
Telephone & Internet	1,531.92
Travel	11,296.00
Western States Conference	253.00
Workers Compensation Insurance	218.00
Total Expense	63,433.86
Net Income	54,478.58

(from page)

RONNIE W. STUTTS

and their family plan to improve our organization and the lives of others.

In addition to serving our craft, he served 35 years in the United States Army National Guard where he negotiated and implemented contracts and earned the rank of Command Sergeant Major. He is a lifetime member of the Palestine Methodist Church and supported the Boy Scout Troop 168 for 18 years where his son earned the Eagle Scout award. Ronnie is dedicated to the national association and is committed to serve all rural carriers nationwide. He vows to *never forget* that **he is a rural carrier!**

(from page)

Line of Travel Deviations

evaluation shall be adjusted to its former status. No special count shall be made at either the beginning or ending of the deviation.

All salary changes become effective at the beginning of the first pay period following completion of the first 30 days of the detour and at the beginning of the first pay period after the deviation is terminated.

Second Trips Delivery of Mail/Parcels: Pre-Arb 3-14-05:

*For the purposes of this agreement, an additional trip(s) is when management authorizes/requires the carrier to deliver mail that will not fit in the carrier's personal vehicle, which is of sufficient size in accordance with **Handbook PO-603 Section 141.2** or the employer provided vehicle on the first trip due to the volume of mail or the physical size of the parcels or both . In all cases the carrier must consult with management as to the need for an additional trip(s). Management will determine if an additional trip(s) is necessary. Management may require the carrier to make an additional trip(s), utilize a leave replacement, curtail mail or take other action in lieu of requiring the carrier to make an additional trip(s).*

A SCAB

Jack London describes a SCAB as what God made with the awful substance He had left after making the rattlesnake, the toad and the vampire; a two-legged animal with a corkscrew soul.

Can you make an acronym out of the word SCAB? Four words describing something less than pure?

(from page)

An INVITATION to the MEMBER

You have available to you the best source of information regarding your employment with the USPS. Every member receives both The National Rural Letter Carrier Magazine and The Pony Express publications. These are great sources of knowledge and insight into your craft. You have the NRLCA (nrlca.org) and the IDRLCA (idrlca.org) websites. The greatest source of information that is available to you is to attend your local meetings. The ability to network with fellow rural carriers throughout Idaho and beyond is invaluable.

Take advantage of the privilege of serving as a delegate to represent your district at the state convention. Your voice and your opinion matter. All members have the opportunity to run for national delegate to represent the state of Idaho at the national convention. You do not have to be an officer to have an impact on this association.

If you have any questions about your local meetings, contact a district board member. Their names are listed inside the front cover of this paper. You can also contact any of your state board members. Get the most out of your membership at each and every opportunity.

Frankly, your union
means NOTHING to me....



Nothing but
Food,
Clothing,
Shelter,
And a job!

THE IDRLCA AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Robin Carver, Auxiliary President

State Scholarships

It's almost time for our state convention again and I do hope many of you can attend. We have some fun activities planned for the juniors this year and I hope you can bring your children or grandchildren to the convention. The children's age limits are 6-18 and I look forward to meeting them. I would also like to invite all spouses, grandparents, and volunteers who would like to join us. Because this is a family state, all spouses of rural carriers are also auxiliary members and all grandparents are always welcome. I may not always have room to accommodate all of the volunteers, but feel free to drive your own vehicles and join us anyway. I will have a small program with the agenda for the juniors. These programs will be handed out during the registration at the convention. A special thanks to Teresa Knobbe who is working with Juniors President Dakota Samples and I to set up the fun.



This year's National Representative for the Auxiliary is LaVern Clithero, from Oregon, and she will speak about our humanitarian project this year. My wonderful husband, Bret, will be selling project items during the convention while I am with the juniors having fun.

I have not received any requests for scholarship packets or state convention application requests. This could be because all national scholarship applications are now on line and I have no visibility or it could be that no one is going to school this year. National scholarship deadlines have passed but if you would like a state scholarship application, I can send you one through your email to download and fill out. The deadline for state scholarships is June 1. My e-mail is rtcarver@hotmail.com. Type state scholarship in the subject line.

For those of you who have yet to attend a state convention, it is a great opportunity to see how our state officers and representatives make changes and work through disagreements and get things done. It's a great place to let your representatives know how you feel and learn how to change or understand what you can't change. I often hear people say, "what is our union doing about this." It is time to say and think, what are we doing for ourselves with the help of our union. Make a change - it starts with you.

Project Items

Sheila's project items for sale are:

1. A very handy auto tool which has a flashlight, a small hammer, and a strap cutter to help escape a car if you are in danger.
2. Puzzles of Washington DC
3. A notepad and calculator combo
4. A stylus and cleaner tool.
5. Horse and Carriage pin

The pin and auto tool are \$10.00, the puzzles and notepad/calculator combo are \$8.00 and the stylus and cleaner tool is \$5.00.

Contact me online at rtcarver@hotmail.com or call me at **208.880.9063** if you are interested in any of these items.

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF)

JDRF is the leading global organization focused on type 1 diabetes (T1D) research. JDRF is the leader of the type 1 diabetes (T1D) community—unifying global efforts to cure, treat, and prevent T1D. Through a transformative vision, breakthrough innovation, and effective operations, we are inspiring tomorrow's hope through today's results.

Driven by passionate, grassroots volunteers connected to children, adolescents, and adults with this disease, JDRF is now the largest charitable supporter of T1D research. The goal of JDRF research is to improve the lives of all people affected by T1D by accelerating progress on the most promising opportunities for curing, better treating, and preventing T1D.

JDRF collaborates with a wide spectrum of partners who share this goal. Since its founding in 1970, JDRF has awarded more than \$1.7 billion to diabetes research. Past JDRF efforts have helped to significantly advance the care of people with this disease, and have expanded the critical scientific understanding of T1D. JDRF will not rest until T1D is fully conquered.

More than 80 percent of JDRF's expenditures directly support research and research-related education.

Each year the National Auxiliary selects a worthy charity to support with the money it raises through the sales of select items at meetings and conventions of national and state organizations. Please, won't you support your auxiliary?

IDRLCA DISTRICT REPORTS

District One

Mikea Hargrove, District One Vice President

The annual District 1 election meeting was held on March 21, at Jerry's State Court Café in Boise. We had a large turnout of union members present. However, all members are encouraged to come to all meetings as well as those who are ready to become part of the National Rural Letter Carriers Association (NRLCA).

Herschel Howard thanked everyone for supporting his presidency of District 1 and left us with a great quote, "A Union is everyone working together for the greater good"

Paula Grigg read the minutes from our December meeting and made our financial report.

State Secretary/Treasurer Lori Bennett gave us some amazing information on the continuation of the RAFT (Recruit a Friend Today) program. This means, if we can recruit a sub, they don't have to pay dues for three months plus the recruiter gets \$25.00. If we can recruit a regular, they don't have to pay dues for three months and the recruiter receives \$50.00. Remember, membership is the lowest it as been in years and the more members we have the bigger our voice is.

State President Sharon Atkins reminds us to keep sending emails and protecting our six-day work week. The senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is still trying to push Postal Reform Act S-1486.

Committees were assigned and made their reports:

Audit Committee announced all invoices and reports are accounted for.

Constitution Committee announced no constitutional changes were needed.

Resolutions Committee reported four resolutions:

1. PS Form 3821 needs to be updated to include all accountable items. It passed.
2. Each postage rate change needs to have a different color of envelope for stamp orders. It Passed.
3. EO 902 - add the words "any certified stewards should have the right to request a leave replacement on any route." It passed
4. This resolution will be reworded and presented at state convention.

The results of the District 1 election are:

Michael Hargrove is president elect.

Cindy Pettit is vice president elect.

Paula Grigg is the district secretary/treasurer.

Glenda Sanders was elected Carrier of the year and Cindy Pettit will serve as the Delegate at large to the state convention.

At close of the elections, the meeting was concluded and everyone said their goodbyes. We hope to see everyone at the state convention.

District Two

Laurie Loveland, District Two Vice President

Hello! Spring is here, yes! It is so NICE to have warmer weather and LONGER days!

District Two conducted its annual election meeting at Idaho Joe's in Twin Falls, on April 17, 2014. There were 14 members present.

It was great to meet two new members, Nicole Rollins and Darren Chernoh. It is always wonderful to relax and visit with the other members who attend the meetings.

District Two President Russ Hutchison began the meeting at 6:00 pm. He introduced our distinguished guests: IDRLCA State President Sharon Atkins and husband Jerry Atkins; IDRLCA Vice President Patti Upton, who is also the IDRLCA PAC Chair; and IDRLCA Secretary/Treasurer Lori Bennett.

District Two Secretary/Treasurer Amber Warr read the minutes of the prior meeting. The minutes were accepted and approved. Amber stated that

the district is now banking with Atlanta Postal Credit Union.

The district's financial reports were audited by the Audit Committee comprised of Nicole Rollins, Darren Chernoh, and Lori Bennett.

The records were accepted and approved.

President Atkins spoke on various political issues that the union supports and those that the union opposes. In the House, we support HR 630 and oppose HR 2748, concerning five-day delivery, closing of rural offices, etc. In the Senate, the union supports The Postal Protection Act S 316 and opposes S 1486 which would do away with postal pensions, etc. Sharon stressed the importance of contacting our local congressional offices to request that they support/oppose the issues of concern.

IDRLCA PAC Chairman Patti Upton took PAC donations. The members' names who donated were entered in a drawing for \$100 and a Nook tablet. Nicole Rollins won the \$100 and Sharon Atkins won the Nook. PAC donations totaled \$715.04 with the pocket-change jar of \$40.04. Thank you.

There was a district constitution change of Article V, Section 1., pertaining to the scheduling of district meetings within specific months. The purpose of the change was to be more flexible with the scheduling of district meetings. The members present approved the change to Article V, Section 1.

The elections of officers, delegates, and the carrier of the year was the main item on the agenda. Russ Hutchison will remain District 2 President, Darren Chernoh is the new District Two Vice-President, and Amber Warr will continue to serve as the District Two

(Turn to next page)

IDRLCA DISTRICT REPORTS

District Two continued

Secretary/Treasurer. The installation of officers was performed by IDRLCA State President Sharon Atkins. Renae Samples was elected our delegate-at-large to the state convention.

Laurie Loveland, Russ Hutchison and Amber Warr were all nominated as the district's carrier of the year. A coin-toss decision gave the election to Carrier of the Year Amber Warr. Congratulations!!!

District Two is allowed to have 13 delegates, one delegate at large and up to three alternate delegates to the state convention.

The district will pay \$100 to the delegates who attend the entire convention, to help with their expenses. Delegates who are paid by the state are not eligible for the district's payment.

The 2014 State Convention hosted, hosted by District Two, will be held in Twin Falls, at the Best Western Plus Hotel on June 12-14. For more information refer to the convention and banquet registration form in The Pony Express or contact the District Two officers: Russ Hutchison (208-431-1509), Laurie Loveland (208-420-2744) or Amber Warr (208-670-5824).

If you have questions, concerns, or need more information regarding the juniors and their planned agenda/activities, you may contact Russ or Teresa Knobbe (208-670-4703) or Robin Carver (208-880-9063).

The convention committee members are Russ Hutchison, Amber Warr,

lou Freeman, Laurie Loveland, Nancy Neiwert, Teresa Knobbe, and Darren Chernoh. They will meet on Thursday, May 29th at Doc's Pizza in Rupert at 6:30 p.m.

Our next District Two meeting will be after the convention on July 17th at Centennial Park in Twin Falls, starting at 6:30 pm. This will be our picnic meeting.

We hope to see you there. The more the merrier.

District Three

John Thomas, District Three Vice President

District Three held its 2014 election meeting, March 13, at Stockman's Restaurant in Blackfoot. Seven district members and four guests, including IDRLCA President Sharon Atkins and IDRLCA Vice President Patti Upton, were in attendance. Stockman's provided a good meeting area and an excellent meal.

Business conducted at the meeting included a financial report, reading of the minutes from the previous meetings and the announcement of the IDRLCA State Board Meeting in Boise on April 5, and the Western States Conference in Albuquerque on April 24-26. The IDRLCA State Convention is to held June 12-14, in Twin Falls. It was noted during the financial report that

our district is in the process of moving our accounts to the Atlanta Postal Credit Union. State officers in attendance conducted an audit of the district records.

The state officers acted as our teller committee for the election part of the meeting. Brett Parkinson was re-elected as district president, John Thomas was re-elected as district vice president, and Leslie Greenwell was re-elected as district secretary/treasurer. All district officers will serve two- year terms. They were installed by IDRLCA President Sharon Atkins.

A slate of delegates to the state convention were also elected. District Three is allowed 17 delegates to the state convention. Leslie Greenwell was elected Delegate at Large. It was further decided that the district would allocate up to \$2000 to help defray the delegates' cost of attending the convention. These funds will be divided equally among attending delegates provided they are not being paid by the state. No one delegate may receive more than \$350.

Leslie Greenwell was also selected as District Three Carrier of the Year.

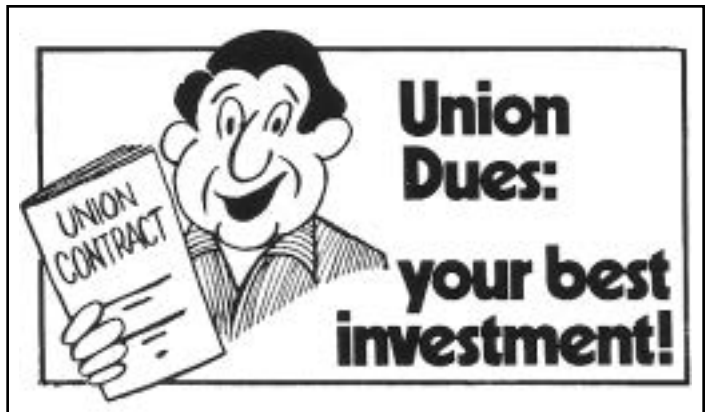
District Three will host the 2015 IDRLCA State Convention. After considerable discussion, it was decided that the convention will be held in Pocatello. A couple of sites are under consideration and a selection will be made at our next meeting, which is to be held May 15, in Pocatello. Our theme will be Rural Roundup. Committee assignments will be discussed at our next meeting.

Thanks to those district members who attended. We had one member attending for the first time. We need more involvement and welcome your input. Consider attending the next district meeting or state convention.

District Five

Reported by Tony LeBlanc, District One Vice President

No Election Information Received



2014 WESTERN STATES CONFERENCE

Western States Conference

Even though it has been dry here in Boise, flying into Albuquerque, New Mexico, made me glad I live where I do; it was so dry looking out the plane window. But, the area had its interesting attributes: lots of adobe and great Southwestern cuisine, so it was a good time and a great conference.

The Western States Conference began with the opportunity to learn a bit about retirement. The national office has seen fit to provide some information to those of us that are looking forward to the day when we can enjoy doing our own thing, daily.

NRLCA Vice-President Ronnie Stutts, our assigned national officer for our state convention this June, has taken this task on. No, the national office will not tell you all the ins and outs of retirement because each case is very individual, but they will guide you to the information you need to make the right decisions. They can provide contact information for all the agencies that you might have to deal with. He explained that the three-legged stool, of postal pension, savings and social security, is vital to FERS employees. The postal part of the annuity is not substantial, so make sure you are contributing at least the 5% that is matched by the Postal Service in your Thrift Savings Program, otherwise you are throwing away “free” money. Your questions can be answered. What is my annuity based on? Should I make a deposit repayment, if that applies? What do I do with my TSP? Do I need a survivor’s annuity? The list goes on and on and there is guidance available now. Note: OPM is still way behind, so be prepared for at least a six-month wait. If everything is easy in your case, if not it may be longer.

There was a great networking opportunity at the WSC Meet and Greet. It is always good to catch up with friends from all over the Western Area. The national officers are available to us and how fantastic it is to have their ear and their advice.

The steward portion of the evening was interesting. We split into teams and then answered situations and statements that were presented by discussing them in our groups. It was a fun way to test our knowledge and to learn at the same time.

I do not want to steal anyone else’s report, but I was impressed with a few thoughts which I will pass along. President Dwyer indicated that never before have our

efforts been more important in reaching out to congress

If your job is important to you, contact the representatives in Washington, D.C., and let them know how you feel. Sunday delivery is a work in progress. We will be hearing more about that. National convention has had some adjustments, which will, hopefully, cut some costs. The engineered time study is proceeding forward. Have you ever heard of ALVs, the acronym for our LLV’s now –After Life Vehicle- chuckle□

It was a good conference so read everyone’s report and if you want more information on something call us and we’ll see if we can tell you more, we love to share.

Friday Morning

The 2014 Western States Conference was held in beautiful Albuquerque, New Mexico. The conference opened on Friday morning and true to form NRLCA President Jeanette Dwyer did a fabulous job of giving us information. Some of what she told us, as she put it, was for our ears only. Some of what she said, she wants to keep confidential, but also wants to keep the membership informed.

I encourage more of the members to attend this annual conference. It is one of the few meetings where you can talk to the national officers on a more personal level. Dwyer spoke about the coalition of our union with the other unions and how the presidents have unified to keep everyone informed and on track as to what is going on in the Postal Service.

President Dwyer also spoke about the need to educate our customers about some basic facts regarding the Postal Service. The United States Postal Service uses no tax dollars, getting all its revenue from stamp and postal products sales. We would have a huge profit if the pre-retirement health funding wasn’t still hanging over our heads. Our 1st quarter profits this year was 1.2 billion dollars. She went on to say that, among the business delivery services, the Postal Service did the best job this Christmas season. We are still the most trusted delivery service out there, despite the cuts in service. We are still doing a great job, because rural carriers care.

The mail count was a wash for the Postal Service and they spent 50 million dollars for it. POV routes were down 13 routes while LLV routes went up 15.



Sharon Atkins



Lisa Hall

(Turn to next page)

2014 WESTERN STATES CONFERENCE

(from previous page)

Friday Morning

Dwyer updated us about the engineering time study, as outlined in the 2012 Arbitration Award, and how NRLCA Director of Labor Relations Joey Johnson is very busy making sure that everything is in place to make this study done the right way. Johnson's Postal Service counterpart is Jim Bolt. They will be reviewing all the work activities rural carriers do in the office; basically, every aspect of what we do. Then they will come up with a true analysis of what we do and how long it should take. The Postmaster General wants this all done by the MOU date. As Dwyer put it, the engineers are driving the train; we just need to make sure it goes to the right station. We can't let the evaluated system be stripped away piece by piece.

President Dwyer also told us rural carriers need to make sure things are being done in a safe fashion. We have families we need to get safely home to at night. We also need to get back to the service part of our jobs and that, as the parcel business grows, we may need to make some adjustments.

National Auxiliary President Shiela Readon-Gilmin spoke about her program of juvenile diabetes this year. Type One diabetes affects 15% of children and 85% of adults. They may have to prick their fingers up to six times a day because glucose levels have to be monitored. Some symptoms of juvenile diabetes are extreme thirst, increased weight loss and a feeling of lethargy. The auxiliary will award \$29,500 in scholarships this year.

Larry Waligora, representative for the RLCA insurance program announced that he would be retiring in about two years. His replacement, in training, is Cameron Demell. Waligora also said to make sure that your insurance company has your social security number so you wouldn't be penalized for having no health insurance when you do your taxes next year.

Congresswomen Michelle Lujan-Grisham, (D) New Mexico, was an amazing speaker. She told the story of how she became a lawyer and ended up at the post office trying to locate an elderly gentleman who helped her pass her first legislation. She told us of her ride-along on the route with Stephanie Lerdahl and couldn't believe everything rural carriers do in one day, how involved we are with the people on our routes and how the public looks up to the carrier that delivers their mail. Lujan-Grisham also said that losing Saturday delivery or dismantling the Postal Service is not the answer to its problems. She is working very hard to pass the right legislation for us and that there are about 200 house members on our side. The

congresswoman also spoke to our dedication to our jobs; that we don't go home until our jobs are done no matter how long it takes us. She also told us that whit-tling away at the Postal Service is not the answer to the problem. She couldn't be prouder of coming to speak to us, she said.

Diane Yost of Atlanta Postal Credit Union told us that they have acquired several smaller credit unions and that their rates are very good.

Shirley Corno, representing National General Insurance, said they have been serving rural carriers for 60 years. They have established a special service line for carriers: 1-855-752-8477. If you should need a rental car, after an accident, it can be brought to you and if you are not satisfied with your repairs, you can get \$250.00 back. The insurance company's "Friends and Family" program is still in effect. National General will pay \$20.00 to your state association for each new customer referral they receive.

Friday Afternoon

It was my pleasure to once again attend the Western States Conference. This year took us to Albuquerque, New Mexico. The information from such events is invaluable and Friday afternoon was no exception.

Paul Swartz, Director of Governmental Affairs, reminded us that the battle lingers and this struggle is far from over. There is a glimmer of hope, but it is apparent that we need to continue to do what we have been doing. We must be persistent when writing and calling our representatives. Idaho representatives support a five-day delivery schedule. They have become our opponents. Have they forgotten their rural roots?



Patti Upton

Congressional Postal Bills S 1486 and H.R. 2748 will destroy the USPS as we know it. Daryl Issa, (R) CA, continues to push forward with his thoughts of cutting the Postal Service until it is gone. His bill, HR 3801, is a bill to repeal the reductions in military retirement benefits made by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 and to authorize the United States Postal Service to implement a modified Saturday delivery schedule. If passed this bill would allow ending Saturday delivery.

The Administration's 2015 Proposals Include: End to six-Day mail delivery, end door-to-door delivery,

(Turn to next page)

2012 WESTERN STATES CONFERENCE

(from previous page)

Friday Afternoon

end door-to-door delivery, restructure and re-amortize, pre-funding requirement, make permanent the 4.3% exigent rate increase. Are you getting the picture?

Democrats and republicans alike, say the 113th Congress is shaping up to be the worst ever. Veteran lawmakers are used to partisanship and stalemate, but they say Capitol Hill has sunk to a new dysfunctional low. Congress has, in some ways, already closed for business until after the mid-term elections. Any laws made between now and November will be minor.

This hold up is helping us in the long run. Isn't it interesting that they continue to say that the Postal Service is bleeding dry, when in fact we would be profiting 1.1 billion dollars without the 2006 mandated pre-funding of retirees health benefits.

Assistant to the Director of Governmental Affairs Macauley Mc Ginnis spoke about the Grass Tops and Grassroots programs. Grassroots is when we take the time to write letters to our legislators. Grasstops is where we find a personal connection so that we can talk to a specific person. We are aiming to connect with someone with influence.

Mike Uehlein talked to us about PAC. He reminded us that it is a lobbying tool and that it fuels the work that we do on a daily basis. It is because of donations to PAC that our voices are heard on the hill. Your donations have made a difference and it is one of the reasons that we are still with a six-day delivery schedule. Do not forget that you can have funds taken out of each check or do an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) directly from your checking account.

Michael Gann, NRLCA legal counsel, shared that we are preparing for the next collective bargaining. They are working on many new ideas and have two new arbitrators coming on. We are still educating them to our system, but dozens of issues have already been settled. Bloch will be heading out, and Shawn Doss will be taking over.

The engineer time study is a positive step in securing the evaluated system. Standards continue to be slashed and the study will help clarify what we do each and every day. When this study is finished, some of us will gain and some will lose, but it will be a system that makes sense. The incentive of getting our jobs done will finally be at rest. The entire cost of this study is on the shoulders of the Postal Service. The only cost to the union is for Joey Johnson's travel expenses.

So much information is gained from attending these conferences. I am thankful to be able to travel and gain such knowledge.

PAC donations for WSC 2014
\$3950.00

Of this amount Idaho gave:
drum roll
\$1975.00

Saturday, April 26, 2014

Coming soon to a Post Office near you... Sunday parcel delivery. NRLCA Executive Committeeman Don Maston addressed the Western States Conference. Mr. Maston explained that, technically, Sunday parcel delivery is still in the testing phase. It has been ongoing in select locations. Currently, Amazon is the only retailer using Sunday delivery. The Amazon service scores



Lori Bennett

started at 99.9%, with the lowest at 99.5%, which is a good job for our company. There were 3,000,750 parcels delivered just last week. The USPS is getting the market share back with parcel delivery. The majority of parcel delivery increases have been on rural routes. The USPS call center has been getting information about our customers and they are, in part, basing new products and services on these phone calls. The Rural Reach program accounts for 50% of new leads.

Sunday parcel delivery is using dynamic routing in the process. A manifest will be printed, and parcels sorted to hubs and spurs for delivery. Each delivery route may include several different towns. It also allows UPS to sort parcels into the system. In the future, it will allow other companies to compete in the Sunday market.

A list of volunteers will be utilized to deliver on Sunday. Dynamic routing is the sequencing of a changing series of deliveries in an efficient order. This is done by computer. Clerks will scan and sort the parcels, and they will mark a sequence number on the parcel corresponding with the dynamic route. The system will create a turn by turn instructional for delivery.

The basic carrier process is to clock in between 8:30 and 9:30 am. They then report for their assignment and obtain keys, directions, scanner, etc. They will perform a vehicle safety check and ensure there is fuel in the vehicle.

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2012 WESTERN STATES CONFERENCE

(from previous page)

Saturday, April 26, 2014

Next they will obtain the parcels and load their vehicle. The carrier will clock out for delivery, and upon return, the carrier will report any discrepancies. The carrier will follow standard operating procedures for delivery. The carrier needs to ensure they have 3849s for all zip codes, arrow key, and any other unique item for that office. The delivery time is 2.5 minutes per parcel plus travel. A meeting to discuss any issues identified in the testing phase has been scheduled between the Postal Service and the NRLCA.

Mr. Maston then discussed the load leveling Initiative. Load leveling addresses the disproportionate Monday workload which results in late delivery and added costs and may impede the ability to meet critical 24-hour clock parameters resulting in late processing, late or missed transportation, additional processing and transportation costs, and service failure.

Load leveling is supposed to drop 25% of all mail on Mondays down to 20.8% and average the work load over the rest of the week. Currently, 42% of standard mail is on Monday, and 25.2% of all mail is on Monday. Load leveling will not affect 1st class, periodicals, newspapers, or EDDM. Benefits of loadleveling are that the morning operations will finish earlier and carriers will be able to leave on time to deliver their routes. Over-time is reduced. Collection mail can arrive at the plant earlier, and they can process the incoming mail, which allows the machine runs to finish early or on time, so transportation will be on time. Ultimately the mail will arrive timely at the delivery unit.

Don showed a picture of the new Mobile Delivery Device (MDD) or scanner. The new scanner will eliminate the need to carry separate cell phones. The new MDDs will begin roll-out this summer with approximately 75,000 devices being placed on rural and city

routes.

Most of the initial deployment will go to large metropolitan areas and those areas involved in the delivery of Amazon.com parcels on Sundays. An additional 75,000 devices will be deployed later in calendar year 2014, with the final phase in 2015. All rural and city routes will eventually be using the next-generation scanning devices. Of special interest to rural carriers is the fact that the new device will be used to collect data for the Evaluated Compensation System Time Standards Project (the engineered study).

Committeeman Maston concluded his remarks by recognizing all the stewards in attendance. He encouraged us to bring up some younger people in the system and expressed the need to get more local stewards and mentor them.



Are You an Active Member



Are you an active member
The kind that would be missed,
Or are you just content
That your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings
And mingle with the flock
Or do you stay at home
To criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part
To help the work along

Or are you satisfied to be
The kind that just belongs?

Do you ever go to visit
A member who is sick
Or leave the work to just a few
And talk about the "clique?"

Think this over, member,
You know right from wrong,
Are you an active member
Or do you just belong?

Idaho Rural Letter Carriers' Association

Election Notice

A secret ballot election for the Delegates of the IDRLCA to the 2014 NRLCA National Convention to be held in Grapevine, TX on August 12-15, 2014 is being conducted by mail. Ballots for this election will be in the mail no later than May 23, 2014. Any eligible member who has not received a ballot or any member who spoils a ballot may request a new ballot by contacting Election Chairperson Darren Chernoh at 208-420-5169. If you request and return another ballot, only the replacement ballot will be counted.

Instructions For Mail Voting

Please read the following instructions carefully before marking and mailing your ballot:

- > Clearly mark the box next to the name of the individual(s) candidates(s) of your choice not to exceed the total number that the state is entitled to as identified at the ballot heading. There are no write in candidates allowed. Do not place your name, initials, or any other identifying information on the ballot. Ballots containing any identifying information will be voided.
- > Place your marked ballot in the small envelope labeled "Secret Ballot" and seal it. Do not write on this envelope. You must use the Secret Ballot Envelope to ensure that ballot secrecy is maintained. If your ballot package does not contain a Secret Ballot Envelope, you may obtain one by contacting Election Chairperson Darren Chernoh at 208-420-5269.
- > Insert the sealed Secret Ballot Envelope containing your marked ballot into the return envelope pre-addressed to the IDRLCA Election Committee and seal it. DO NOT remove your pre-printed name and address mailing label from the back of the return ballot envelope.
- > Your name on the back of the return ballot envelope will identify you as an eligible voter. Your vote will remain secret because the Secret Ballot Envelope containing your ballot will be separated from the return ballot envelope and mixed with other Secret Ballot Envelopes before it is opened and the ballot counted.
- > Ballot secrecy can only be preserved if you personally mark and mail your ballot. DO NOT allow anyone else to mark or handle your ballot or see how your vote. DO NOT give your ballot to anyone else for mailing. Voted ballots must be sent via the USPS and in no instance hand-delivered.
- > **IMPORTANT:** Mail your ballot in sufficient time for it to be received at P.O. Box 529, Twin Falls, ID, 83303-0529, no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 11, 2014.

CANDIDATES FOR NATIONAL DELEGATE

to the 2014 NRLCA National Convention

You will soon receive an envelope containing a list of candidates for the position of Delegate to the National Convention for 2014 and a ballot with which to vote for your choice of Delegates to represent YOU at the National Convention in August.

In past elections, only 30% or fewer of the IDRLCA membership bothered to vote for their Delegates to the National Convention. This means that fewer than 30% of the Idaho rural letter carriers decided who would represent 100% of the IDRLCA membership at the National Convention.

DON'T LET SOMEONE ELSE DECIDE WHO WILL REPRESENT YOU! TAKE A FEW MOMENTS TO REVIEW THE CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS AND CAST YOUR VOTES FOR THE CANDIDATES YOU THINK WILL BEST REPRESENT YOUR INTERESTS!

LISA HALL

Greetings fellow Idaho Rural Letter Carriers! It is once again that time when we elect our delegates to the national convention to be held in Grapevine Texas. My name is Lisa Hall. I have been a carrier for 28 years now and have been involved in the union for most of it. I have held many jobs in the union and always believe in giving back to it. I am currently an Ad-Hoc trainer in the Caldwell Academy. The union is what makes our jobs so good. And we don't have a voice if no one is involved. Every year we learn more things that define our job for us. The national convention is where we let our voices be heard and to make known the issues that we as carriers are having. This is where we conduct the business for the next year. Elect national officers and vote on all the resolutions sent up by the states. This is our wish list so to speak. This is how we let our national officers know what is important to us. We also vote on constitution changes these are the things that are binding. I always vote as to what is good for our state and membership. We don't vote as a block, so everyone is represented by Idaho. That is what is so good about this process that we use. Everyone gets a vote. I once again ask for your consideration when you cast your ballot.



Respectfully submitted
Lisa Hall

PATTI UPTON

My name is Patti Upton and I am once again asking you, to select me, as one of your National Delegates to Grapevine, Texas. It seems like yesterday I was be-

ginning my career with the Postal Service. What seems like a short time ago has turned into 18 years of service with 12 of those years as an RCA. Because of the length of time that I served in that capacity, it gives me a greater desire to make sure that we take care of those many carriers that work in this position. Not only am I



concerned for my job as a regular, but also for the jobs of thousands of RCA's if a 5 day work week is implemented. I am currently acting as your IDRLCA Vice President and PAC Chair. This is also my second year serving as the NRLCA PAC Co-Chair. I truly enjoy meeting the new hires of our craft while training at the Ad Hoc Academy. What a privilege it is to share my knowledge and

experience with them.

I am proud to be a member of the Idaho Rural Letter Carriers Association. I realize the challenges that face us on many levels. However, it is time that we all stand together. No one knows what is to come, but I continue to be active in the union for that reason. I am committed to protecting and preserving our livelihoods. It is imperative that you select representatives that will speak your concerns to the National Board. Please carefully consider and then exercise your right to choose delegates that you feel will best represent you. I sincerely hope that you will allow me, Patti Upton, the honor to represent you. I value and welcome your thoughts and opinions. Thank you for your consideration.

Please take the time to mark your ballot and mail it. It's very important and takes only a couple of minutes.

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SHARON ATKINS

It is that opportune time again for each of the Idaho rural carriers to choose their delegates to the national convention in August. Do you go to work each day wondering what might be changing? Our work environment never stagnates, that's for sure.

As a union, we must prepare for the changes that will happen in our work environment. This is the opportunity to let our national officers know what is important to us. I would be honored to represent you at the national convention in August.

We must keep information flowing so that we all are aware of the challenges that lay ahead. Conventions provide one of those chances to listen, learn, network and speak out for our desires as rural carriers. If you have an issue that you feel strongly about but cannot attend a conference or convention, call someone, relate what is on your mind. Together we can stand united in what would be good for our craft as a whole.

When your ballot comes, take the time to mark your choices of representation and return it. I hope that one of your choices will be Sharon Atkins. Thank you for your consideration.



GLENDA SANDERS

Hi all, I'm Glenda Sanders and I am asking for your vote to be a national delegate this year and travel to Grapevine, TX. I have been a mail carrier in Meridian, ID for 11 years and have been a union member for all 11 of those years. In 2008 Brian Draper asked me to run for local steward. I asked him can I be a conservative and still be a steward? His answer was "This is Idaho, we are all conservatives."

I maintain our IDRLCA website as the Idaho State Webmaster.

I am proud to do the work on the website (idrlca.org) and to serve on the board as a non-voting member. Sitting on the board has been a big educational venture for me. This past year I also sat on the State Budget Committee and helped formulate the 2014 Budget. Working with Lori Bennett and Jo Aguire for an entire day was fun and fruitful! For 4 years now I have served on the Media committee at the State Conventions.



I want to be a delegate to the National Convention because I would like to have a voice in this current climate. Possible job loss and office closings across the country are very unnerving. I am looking forward to the new time standards. I am for the right of every Rural Carrier to choose whether to take DPS to the street or case it in the office. I am for more PTF positions. I am against 5 day delivery and have gone to great lengths to make sure that never happens. Please consider casting a vote for me, Thank you.

LORI BENNETT

My name is **Lori Bennett**, and I would like to ask for your consideration for Delegate to the National Convention in St. Louis, MO. I have over 23 years of membership and service in the IDRLCA. I am currently serving my 11th year as State Secretary/Treasurer.

There are always many important issues to discuss and vote on during the National Convention; having delegates who are active and informed are vital to the process.

There is an ongoing need to keep in close touch with our National Board members. It is through the resolution process that we inform them of not only what we would like to gain, but also what we are unwilling to give up. With the constant threats from the Postmaster General to end 6-day delivery and take over our healthcare we need to have a strong voice to maintain what we have without giving up the backbone of our craft.

The threat of five vs. six day delivery, FSS flats, rising fuel costs, plant closures and many other challenges facing us today need our constant attention. There is never a good time to sit back and just see what happens. We need to be proactive, and not just reactive. I think the rural carriers are still a vital part of the Postal Service. We need to fight to maintain what we have, and use our collective voice to educate not only members of our craft, but Congress, the public and the PMG.

If I am elected as a Delegate to the National Convention, I will represent you as best I can. I welcome the opinion of any association member. With this in mind, I ask for your vote for National Delegate. Thank you.

Your right to vote for your representatives was fought for and won by your union. Please exercise that right now by marking your ballot and mailing it soon.

CANDIDATES FOR IDRLCA STATE OFFICE

FOR IDRLCA PRESIDENT SHARON ATKINS

My name is Sharon Atkins and I am declaring my candidacy for the office of IDRLCA State President. I have been proud to serve in this capacity and others over the years that I have been active in our union. I have served on the District and State level and also have been involved in representing carriers through the steward program.



Due to my involvement in these areas, I have had the opportunity to learn and educate myself about what it means to belong to a union. Without dedicated people giving of themselves, it would be a much more difficult for all of us to receive any of the benefits that we enjoy. Idaho rural carriers are those dedicated people that give of themselves each and every day.

Our challenges continue and because of that I would like to ask for your support. I will strive to represent you to the best of my ability. Thank you for your consideration.

FOR IDRLCA VICE PRESIDENT PATTI UPTON

My name is Patti Upton and I am asking you to consider me once again for the position of Vice President of the Idaho Rural Letter Carrier's Association. I am dedicated to serving each and every carrier in this state and will continue to fight the battles before us.

For three years I served as the District Once Secretary/Treasurer and for once year I served as their President. I have been a local steward and currently teach in the ad hoc academy. I have enjoyed serving as your Vice President for 3 years. I also enjoy being the IDRLCA PAC chair and continue to serve as the National PAC Co-Chair. I never give a little, but always give all that



I have to the task put before me. In the past I have watched other carriers before me fight for our rights, our jobs, and its security. These dedicated people made a difference and I choose to do the same.

They taught me that personal growth comes from active participation and hard work.

I have enjoyed being a part of the IDRLCA State Board. I look forward to seeing you in Twin Falls as we do the business of our State once again. I appreciate your continued support and ask for your vote this June. Thank you.

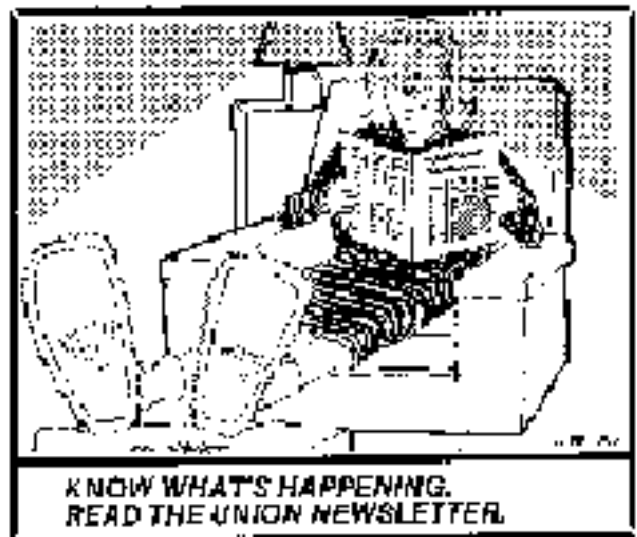
FOR IDRLCA SECRETARY/TREASURER LORI BENNETT

My name is Lori Bennett and I would like to ask for your continued support as the State Secretary-Treasurer. I am announcing my candidacy to run again at this year's State Convention in Twin Falls, June 12-14.

I have been serving as the State Secretary-Treasurer for the past eleven years, and I believe I have brought some beneficial changes to the State Association. Every year there continue to be challenges and I have worked very hard on behalf of the association. As we are facing trying times, I wish to continue to recruit new members, and help direct our State and National Officers in a way that is best for our craft.



I have a real passion for my job as the secretary-treasurer, and I have sincerely enjoyed my position and being able to serve such a great state. I appreciate your continued support and ask for your vote this June at the State Convention. Thank you.



VOICE of the DISTRICT COMMITTEEMAN

District Two President Russ Hutckison

Welcome To Twin Falls and The IDRLCA 2014 State Convention

Spring is here, with warmer weather, farmers in the fields, and new flowers blooming. Idaho, what a great place to live and work!

Before summer gets into full swing we, as union members, get together to do the state's business. Yes, it's convention time again. If you haven't been to a convention before, this will be a great time to start.

Conventions are an excellent source of information. NRLCA National Vice President Ronnie Stutts will be attending the entire convention and will be the guest speaker on Friday, June 13th. Stutts offers a wealth of information in steward operations and the business of the national office in relation to Congress.

Conventions are also a great place to fellowship with other carriers from around the state. We have a vast network unlike any other profession.

This year the state convention will be hosted by District Two on June 12, 13, 14, at the Best Western Plus Hotel, 1377 Blue Lakes Blvd North, Twin Falls. As the executive committeeman representing District Two, I am proud to showcase some of what our area of the state has to offer.

Twin Falls is a beautiful city that is growing rapidly. It has a rich history dating from the early settlers who traveled the Oregon Trail. Perched atop the magnificent Snake River canyon, Twin Falls offers breathtaking views from many lookout points including the Perrine Bridge.

The Perrine Bridge, spanning the canyon, provides one of the nation's few legal take off points for base jumping. Depending on the weather, one can often see these daring parachuters jumping from the bridge. Evil Knievil's famous sky cycle jump across the Snake River canyon was attempted just east of the bridge from where the dirt ramp can still be seen.



Spectacular views at Shoshone Falls, the Niagara of the West, are available just minutes upstream. This is a popular destination for the juniors. Shoshone Falls features a beautiful park and walking trails.

With a perfect mix of farming community and industry along with education from the College of Southern Idaho, Twin Falls is a trendy, fun place to live, with a strong community backbone.

If you are a long time participant in state conventions or a new comer, I hope you will consider coming to Twin Falls this year. It will be well worth your time. Registration will begin at 3:00 pm Thursday, June 12, with the convention convening at 6:00 pm.

I hope to see you there.

Attention: Retirees

All retirees are invited to attend a luncheon at:

Jakers Restaurant

1598 Blue Lakes Boulevard North

Twin Falls ID

This luncheon will be held on Friday, the 13th of June, at 12:00 noon, during the 2014 IDRLCA State Convention to be held in Twin Falls, June 12 – 14.

This will be an excellent opportunity for you to meet again with your fellow retired rural carrier friends.

*If you plan to attend please **RSVP to Jo Aguirre at (208) 376-1554, so she'll know how many people to plan on being in attendance.***

IDRLCA 2014 STATE CONVENTION

DUECES WILD”

Double Down with District Two

June 12 - 14, 2014
Best Western Plus
1377 Blue Lakes Blvd North
Twin Falls ID
208.736.8000

Room Rate

Single or Double Room rate of \$79.00 + tax
Mention You are with the Idaho Rural Letter Carriers' Association

CONVENTION AND BANQUET REGISTRATION

BANQUET AND CONVENTION _____ @ \$50.00 = \$ _____

CONVENTION MEETINGS ONLY _____ @ \$25.00 = \$ _____

Juniors' Names

Ages

T-Shirt Sizes

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

NUMBER OF PEOPLE: _____ PHONE: _____

Mail Checks To:

Amber Warr

1960 Brockie Avenue

Heyburn ID 83336

Please Make Checks Payable to: IDRLCA District Two

Free

Behold the next door neighbor's
Frigidaire, faithful servant
of fifteen years, now standing
at the foot of the driveway, facing
the street, a handwritten sigh carelessly
taped to its freezer compartment
and fluttering in the breeze:
"Free!"

Then think of the thousands of couches
and loveseats left in the front yards
of their former houses, sometimes bearing
similar signs, otherwise their status
is implied. Evidence their worn fabrics,
outdated patterns and styles, the fact
that they've been carted outside.
They're free.

But the dumbfounded home furnishings
The pardoned kitchen appliances
Con do nothing but stand quiet vigil
Outside like abandoned children
Or aging, divorced wives, the downsized,
The suddenly homeless, the disenfranchised –
now free.

"Your services are no longer needed,"
their former masters have informed them
and these one-word Dear John letters
to the coffee table or the washing machine
"You can leave anytime you'd like.
You're free."

Jackleen Holton

Go to the IDRLCA Website,
idrlca.org
for the latest and most
comprehensive postal
news.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
PAUL ID 83347
PERMIT # 53

The PONY EXPRESS



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Please send address changes to:
IDRLCA Secretary Lori Bennett
306 N Dakota Avenue
Fruitland ID 83619

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Coming Events

IDRLCA
State Board Meeting
June 12, 2014 8:30 a.m.
Best Western Plus
208.736.8000
1377 North Blue Lakes Blvd
Twin Falls ID

IDRLCA
2014 State Convention
June 12 - 14, 2014
Best Western Plus
208.736.8000
1377 North Blue Lakes Blvd
Twin Falls ID

NRLCA 2014 National Convention
August 12 - 15, 2014
Gaylord Resort
Grapevine TX