

MEMBER OF THE YEAR: Dianne Daley



MaRLCA President William Piwowarski presenting the "Member of the Year" Award to Dianne Daley at our Spring State Meeting. When asked Dianne has always stepped up. Dianne is currently the president of District 2 and an academy instructor for the Boston district. She has also held many other positions since joining our union in 2004. Congratulations and Thank You Dianne for all you do! Your hard work is truly appreciated!

Inside this issue:

Calendar of events	2
President's Report	3
Vice President's Report	4
Binding Resolutions and Delegate Voting Record	5
Financial Reports	6-7
From the DR's Desk	8-9
Steward Listings	10
Your Voice	10-11
Officer Listing	12

Future Dates to Remember

- Sep 2 — Labor Day
- Sep 12 — District 5 Meeting
6pm The Sea Dog Brew Pub
- Sep 18 — District 1 Meeting
6pm Wyckoff Country Club
- Sep 24 — District 3 Meeting
6pm VFW, Lowell
- Oct 1 — District 4 Meeting
6pm J.Anthony's, Auburn
- Oct 8 — District 2 Meeting
6pm Jockey Club, Raynham
- Oct 14 — Columbus Day
- Nov 3 — Fall State Booster Mtg
- Nov 11 — Veteran's Day
- Nov 21 — Thanksgiving Day

MARLCA EDITOR

Kathy Makowski
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**WINTER EDITION
DEADLINE
THURS NOV 14**

*Address Change:
You can log on to
<http://liteblue.usps.gov>*

The Backroads Journal is a publication of the MARLCA. Opinions and views expressed in this newsletter are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect or represent those of the Editor or the State Officers of the MARLCA.

September 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Labor Day	3	4	5	6 Pay Day	7
8	9	10	11	12 D5 Mtg	13	14 PP-20
15	16	17	18 D1 Mtg	19	20 Pay Day	21
22/29	23/30	24 D3 Mtg	25	26	27	28 PP-21

October 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 D4 Mtg	2	3	4 Pay Day	5
6	7	8 D2 Mtg	9	10	11	12 PP-22
13	14 Col Day	15	16	17	18 Pay Day	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 PP-23
27	28	29	30	31 Halloween		

November 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Pay Day	2
3 Fall State Mtg	4	5	6	7	8	9 PP-24
10	11 Vet. Day	12	13	14 BRJ Deadline	15 Pay Day	16
17	18	19	20	21 Thanks-giving	22	23 PP-25
24	25	26	27	28	29 Pay Day	30



Presidential Update



“Become Knowledgeable, Become Empowered ”

Where to begin, probably a question you might ask yourself occasionally and sometime the answer doesn't jump out at you. Back in May is where I'll call the beginning. We elected officers to the state board and delegates to the National Convention. We sent 14 delegates and one alternate to Grapevine, Texas, mind you I never saw any of those grapevines they are so proud of.

As a delegation we carried out our duties to the best of our abilities, with Art Courcy serving on the constitution committee and myself being a chairman of one of the teller's committees. I give credit to National Officer Clifford Dailing for making the counting of ballots much easier this year. Those counting machines simplified life.

As your State President I was again involved in the Parade of States opening ceremony, and I was also honored to carry the flag of the United States Coast Guard during the military honors.

I guess the most significant event to happen at this year's convention was the signing of your new contract. Postmaster Brennan and National President Ronnie Stutts signed the contract before the National Delegate body, this was a first.

This is my view of things about that, less than 20,000 ballots were cast out of almost 98,000. There were 2,600 cast in the negative and so of those in the affirmative there was 86% of the vote. Those who abstained from voting must have thought the contract was good enough or more would have raised their voices in the negative. It now is what it is no matter how you feel.

A short word on safety is in order. It always seems we need to be reminded no matter how many times safety talks are presented. The only truth is that if you aren't being careful once you drive out of the office lot, then you are at risk. Out on the streets you are your own safety officer, and even when we are as careful as can be, we can never account for the other driver behind the wheel. Just remember due diligence on the road, sidewalk, lawn, stairs, and everywhere you go is necessary.

Here we now are, time flying by with every tic of the clock. Fall will soon be on us and district meetings coming up. I ask you please take the time to attend yours and bring questions that you'd like to get answered. Don't forget knowledge is power. Become knowledgeable; become empowered.

See you this fall,

William J. Piwowarski

President MARLCA





VP Report



Summer is winding down and soon our busiest time of the year will be here. The days are getting shorter and we'll be out in the dark delivering all those packages. The daily reminders from management to "make our daily evaluation and perform safely" are additional stresses we don't need. Rural carriers are resilient. We deliver one box at a time and give our customers great service. However, after working many hours and pushing ourselves to the limit we can get very cranky. If at anytime you feel that you're going to lose your calm, please take a few deep breaths and regain your composure. Bad Behavior in the workplace will not be tolerated. We need to treat each other with dignity and respect.

H.R. 2478 the Federal Retirement Fairness Act. If passed, this bill would allow all rural carriers to buy back a portion of the time they worked as non-career employees.

Many carriers have asked me about H.R. 2478 the Federal Retirement Fairness Act. If passed, this bill would allow all rural carriers to buy back a portion of the time they worked as non-career employees. For many, this time would allow us to retire earlier. Now is the time to reach out to your congressional district representatives and let them know we need their support. We deserve the credit for all the years we worked.

This year's national convention was in Grapevine, Texas. On Tuesday, after a brief overview of the USPS's challenges, Postmaster General Megan Brennan took questions from the delegates and signed our new contract. The rest of the week was dedicated to the business of the union. Thanks to all our state delegates for their hard work.

District Fall meetings are right around the corner. Meeting notices will be going out soon. Please make time to attend your meeting. Come have dinner and talk to other carriers in your district. Bring your questions and concerns. Learn something new.

The MARLCA Fall Booster meeting will be held on Sunday, November 3, 2019 at the Best Western Royal Plaza hotel & trade center in Marlborough, MA. Look for this notice in October.

Lorraine Pacheco

MARLCA Vice President



FALL BOOSTER MEETING

Sunday, November 3, 2019

Best Western Royal Plaza
Hotel & Trade Center

Marlborough, MA

Come tell us what YOU would like to see in this Union!!





Binding Resolutions and Delegate Voting Record

115th National Convention 2019



- 1) **(Finance) (PASSED) BE IT RESOLVED:** That National Office explores the options of using modern technology to interact w/ membership. Examples: Live video ratification meetings, trainings, booster meetings, etc.
- 2) **(CT) (FAILED) BE IT RESOLVED:** That the NRLCA returns the selection of Academy Trainers to the State Board as representatives of the NRLCA.
- 3) **(CT) (FAILED) BE IT RESOLVED:** That the NRLCA returns oversight of the Rural Carrier Academy to the State Board.
- 4) **(CT) (FAILED) BE IT RESOLVED:** That the NRLCA allow and encourage meetings between State Presidents and District Management.
- 5) **(CT) (FAILED) BE IT RESOLVED:** That the NRLCA President set up a meeting at each Area Conference with all attending State Presidents to discuss issues facing the craft in their respective states.
- 6) **(GA) (PASSED without objection) BE IT RESOLVED:** That non-delegate members in good standing shall be provided all forms of information afforded to elected delegates necessary to perform the duties of elected delegates (i.e. Officer Reports, Committee Reports, times and places of meetings, etc)
FINANCE COMMITTEE ESTIMATE: Less than \$500.00
- 7) **(NV) (FAILED) BE IT RESOLVED:** That the NRCLA National office will provide paid representatives to attend orientations to represent our craft.
FINANCE COMMITTEE ESTIMATE: too many variables to determine cost
- 8) **(PA) (FAILED) BE IT RESOLVED:** That no NRLCA funds be utilized for alcohol purchases.
- 9) **(PASSED in new business R01) BE IT RESOLVED:** That Auxillary funds be transferred to the States while the National Auxillary accounts remain in legal dispute.

DELEGATE	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9
Amy Bucelli	N	N	N	N	N	N/A	N	Y	Y
Linda Camara	N	N	N	N	N	N/A	N	Y	N
Daniel Cote	N	N	N	N	N	N/A	N	Y	N
Art Courcy	N	N	N	N	N	N/A	N	N	N
Vicky Laczynski	N	N	Y	N	N	N/A	N	N	N
Roger A. LePage	Y	N	N	N	N	N/A	N	N	Y
Kathryn Makowski Cote	N	N	N	N	Y	N/A	N	N	N
Dawn Makrinikolas	Y	N	N	N	N	N/A	N	N	Y
Brian Miskell	Y	N	N	N	N	N/A	N	N	N
Lorraine Pacheco	N	N	N	N	N	N/A	N	Y	N
William Piwowarski	Y	N	N	N	N	N/A	N	N/A	N
Robert G. Richardson	N	N	N	N	N	N/A	N	Y	N
Donald Ryle	Y	N	N	N	N	N/A	N	N	N
William Tokarz	Y	N	N	Y	N	N/A	N	N	N



Sec-Treasurer's Two Cents

State Sec-Treasurer: Dawn Makrinikolas



MaRLCA Statement of Activities July 1 through August 27, 2019

	<u>Jul 1 - Aug 27, 19</u>	<u>Jul 1 - Aug 27, 18</u>
Income		
4050000 • Incentive Program	790.00	1,115.00
4200000 • Membership Dues	35,396.67	34,821.07
4400000 • Reimbursements	<u>313.00</u>	<u>204.00</u>
Total Income	36,499.67	36,140.07
Expense		
5000000 • Accounting Fees	250.00	66.61
5010000 • Bank Charges	0.00	4.00
5200000 • Education & Training	1,923.18	1,771.29
5700000 • National Convention	43,703.32	25,103.82
5800000 • Office Expense	39.94	0.00
5900000 • Payroll Taxes	1,657.19	969.53
6000000 • Per Capita Dues	733.66	642.00
6100000 • Postage	14.75	2.34
6200000 • Printing	43.51	175.31
6600000 • Salaries & Wages	4,128.19	3,833.31
6620000 • Salaries-Annual	175.00	0.00
6700000 • State Meetings	1,374.78	476.60
6701000 • Backroads Journal	0.00	95.92
7000000 • Travel	686.28	0.00
7200000 • Web Site	90.00	90.00
7300000 • Storage Rental	<u>327.00</u>	<u>289.00</u>
Total Expense	55,146.80	33,519.73
Net Income	<u>-18,647.13</u>	<u>2,620.34</u>



Sec-Treasurer's Two Cents

State Sec-Treasurer: Dawn Makrinikolas



MaRLCA Statement of Finance As of August 27, 2019

	<u>Aug 27, 19</u>	<u>Aug 27, 18</u>
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
1000000 · TD Bank	7,801.89	14,034.82
1100000 · APCU Savings Account	37,582.58	37,290.52
1200000 · APCU CD's	113,421.80	111,262.90
Total Checking/Savings	<u>158,806.27</u>	<u>162,588.24</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>158,806.27</u>	<u>162,588.24</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>158,806.27</u></u>	<u><u>162,588.24</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Other Current Liabilities		
2100000 · Payroll Liabilities	<u>202.16</u>	<u>205.99</u>
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>202.16</u>	<u>205.99</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>202.16</u>	<u>205.99</u>
Total Liabilities	202.16	205.99
Equity		
3900 · Net Assets	177,251.24	159,761.91
Net Income	<u>-18,647.13</u>	<u>2,620.34</u>
Total Equity	<u>158,604.11</u>	<u>162,382.25</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>158,806.27</u></u>	<u><u>162,588.24</u></u>



From The District Rep's Desk

Art Courcy, CT Valley/ Greater Boston DR



Rural Route Digitization Program

What is Rural Route Digitization?

Beginning on March 28, 2019, the USPS began utilizing the GPS “breadcrumb” information collected by the MDD (Scanner) to plot the line of travel for each rural route. The route mileage obtained from this information is then to be compared to the paid mileage for the route and the official line of travel on PS Form 4003 (Official Rural Route Description).

If used properly, the digitization program is a tool that management can use to identify mileage discrepancies in route data. Your MDD device with GPS technology collects breadcrumbs as you drive through your daily line of travel while delivering your route. No mileage changes should be made without the current re-measurement process being utilized. That being said, in order for your mileage to officially be changed, a manager should physically drive through the route following the official line of travel. The carrier has the right to accompany management in a non-duty status during the re-measurement.

Rural Carrier work methods should **NOT** be altered in any way by this data collection.

Beginning on March 28, 2019, the USPS began utilizing the GPS “breadcrumb” information collected by the MDD (Scanner) to plot the line of travel for each rural route.

In expecting many questions regarding the digitization program from carriers, our national office has prepared the following questions and answers regarding the subject:

Q. Will my line of travel be changed due to this breadcrumb data collection?

A. Possibly. If the data collection shows that there is a more efficient way to travel your route and make all assigned deliveries, management has always had the right to make changes to your line of travel. Of course, safety concerns such as avoiding left turns, U-turns etc. would have to be considered.

Q. Will management change the PS Form 4003 or my paid mileage using data collected from the breadcrumbs?

A. The MDD GPS data should not be used to change mileage. An official route remeasurement is the only contractual method of changing the 4003 or the paid mileage on a route.

Q. Can management remeasure my route based on information collected by the MDD?

A. Yes. Article 30.1.E governs Route Remeasurement.

"Rural Routes shall be remeasured upon request of the rural carrier or when the Employer determines it is necessary. The rural carrier assigned to the route has the right to be present in a non-duty status at the remeasurement."

Q. How will a remeasurement be done?

A. The remeasurement can be done using a vehicle equipped with a calibrated odometer. The parties are still in discussion over possible GPS devices we might agree to use for route remeasurement.

Due to many discrepancies between the digitized miles and the official route miles being paid for on the route, we have been receiving numerous calls from carriers regarding this program. Regardless of the reason that the mileage does not match, the most important thing to remember is that there have been no changes made or any changes agreed upon by the parties that would allow a route's official mileage to change without physically driving to remeasure the route. Yes, your mileage could be changed after the physical re-measurement, but it cannot be changed solely because the digitization shows a discrepancy. If this occurs, please contact your assigned steward and we will address it with the district immediately.

Safety

If you have not already experienced it, you most likely will soon. Currently, there is a much larger focus on safety throughout the entire Northeast Area. Specifically, in the Greater Boston and CT Valley District, there are more driver observations being conducted by management than we've seen in the recent past. This really should be nothing to worry about if we are all following the proper rules of driving and delivering the mail safely. Most importantly (and we have all heard this many, many times throughout our careers) when you dismount the vehicle, set the hand brake, place the gear selector in park, curb the wheels, turn off the engine and remove the keys. Also, be sure that your wheels are curbed in the proper direction. When parking your vehicle on a downhill slope with a curb, turn your wheels "into" the curb. When parking uphill with a curb, turn your wheel "out" from the curb. If there is no curb, turn your wheels to the side of the road you are parking on. If you will be out of sight of the vehicle, be sure to secure the vehicle and its contents. There are still too many rollaway/runaway instances happening out there. Following these steps will prevent a vehicle from moving while unattended. Please take the time to work safely. If you are being pressured into hurrying and rushing by local management, contact your steward and we can address it with higher level management. No one should be put into a position by someone else to work unsafe. Likewise, don't put yourself in an unsafe position by not following proper dismount procedures.

Your Union—Your Voice

Carol Strade
Alternate National Delegate

First of all, I want to thank the MA state board and fellow carriers that gave me the opportunity to travel to Grapevine, TX, the host of our National Convention. It was such an honor and privilege to witness how our democratic system works within our Union. How amazing it was to see how our National Board gets elected; hear the Post Master General address and take questions from carriers; and also witness the



signing of our three year contract, in which RCA's are finally being awarded benefits and recognition from USPS. I was in awe of the dedication and sacrifice that our state and fellow states boards and delegates give of themselves, for the betterment of our craft and livelihood. I realized that it takes a considerable amount of time for positive changes to occur, but we can rest assured that there is a tremendous amount of energy and commitment working on our behalf. I encourage all of us to get more involved. It can start with attending state meetings or becoming local stewards within your office. Strength in numbers! If you don't like how things are, you can be a part of change.

Who Ya Gonna Call? Stewards at a glance

Area Stewards:

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413-323-7392

ed-mary@msn.com

Theron Boudakian
774-266-7056

Thomas Gorman
774-319-0788

District Rep CT Valley/Greater Boston: ***(Full Time DR)***

Art Courcy
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Joan Tenerella
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Joan.Tenerella@nrlca.org

Full Time ADR

Bill Smith
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Bill.Smith@nrlca.org

Your Union—Your Voice



Robert G. Richardson
District 3 President

Greetings fellow letter carriers!!! As of the time of this article, I have just returned from the 115th National Convention in Grapevine, Texas. Let me start off by saying that in my opinion, it appears that the National Board has come together and has been working well together for the past year and they all were re-elected to their respected positions for another term, (Shirley Baffa, executive committeeman 4 year term). The convention started off with talk of the contract being ratified by 86% of the members returned ballots. So let's stop here & discuss this. If you read that, or hear that quickly you would think & get the impression that 86% of the membership ratified the contract. But, that is not true. Only 86 % of the RETURNED BALLOTS were in favor of ratification. Ladies and gentleman, we have a big issue with turnout at district meetings, turnout at the state meetings and the return of ballots for various voting issues. This is your money that is being used. As of June 30, 2019 the national membership was 114,984 (reported out to the delegates at the 2019 National Convention). Out of this number of membership, only 19,379 ballots were returned. Please note that retired members DO NOT have a vote in the ratification process. This will be my next endeavor, getting more members at the District and State meetings.

For a number of years now, we have always held a meeting at a certain venue. Maybe now is the time to change. In District 3 for example, we have a money raffle (door prize) for attendees. We thought that this would be a great way to get members to attend. This has been proven to not increase turnout. So, maybe we take that out and put that money towards a better meal for our members, steak tips instead of pizza, Italian dinner instead of subs. As District 3 President, it is my duty to watch over our funds and budget. But, I can no longer go by "this is how it is or has been done in the past". It is time for a change, time to think outside of the box. When we have meetings, do you want them in the same venue? Do you want us to rotate? Do you want a particular meal? Without your voice being heard, we are going by past practices, and votes by the attending members. Your membership in this union gives you a voice, gives you a vote, so please use it. By the time this BRJ gets out to our members, the District meetings will be underway, but you can still contact someone. I encourage you to do so. I will leave off here and resume when WE gather at our next district or state meeting. Please be safe in the next few months. I look forward to seeing the members of District 3 on September 24th at the VFW on Plain St. in Lowell, Ma. and look forward to seeing EVERYONE at the fall booster meeting. Please look for me if you would like to talk about meetings or if you have any ideas. There are no bad ideas when you are brainstorming.

Robert G. Richardson
District 3 President

Backroads Journal

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FALL BOOSTER MEETING

Sunday, November 3, 2019

Best Western Royal Plaza
Hotel & Trade Center
Marlborough, MA

Non-member
MA Rural Carriers can enroll at
the door

State Executive Officers:

President: Bill Piwowarski (508) 344-2475
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Vice President: Lorraine Pacheco (774) 244-0837
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Sec-Treasurer: Dawn Makrinikolas (508) 838-3800
Dawn.Makrinikolas@nrlca.org

District Presidents:

#1: Jason Dole

#2: Dianne Daley

#3: Robert Richardson

#4: Camille Graves

#5: Kenan Myers

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