



## It's A New Year, Same as The Old Year?

William Piwowarski, MaRLCA President



### MA Spring State Meeting via Zoom

Here we are March 2021, and while it doesn't exactly feel quite the same as last year, we are somewhat in the same spot we were a year ago. Back then we were wondering about having Eastern States Conference. Surely this pandemic was over blown, and life would go on. Well, it did but not how we expected. All the Area Conferences were cancelled if they hadn't been held by the middle of March. We here in Massachusetts were lucky enough to have gone on with business somewhat as usual. We held our District meetings and elected local members to district positions, nominated members to be state officers and nominated members to be delegates to National Convention.

(continued pg 3)

### MA Rural Letter Carriers' Association Election Notice

A secret ballot election for the Delegates of the MaRLCA to the 2021 NRLCA National Convention to be held in Orlando, FL on August 17-20, 2021 is being conducted by mail. 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 Camille Graves at 508-397-4541. If you request and return another ballot, only the replacement ballot will be counted.



#### Elections Committee Meeting

Friday, April 30th  
Hampton Inn  
735 Union St  
Franklin, MA 02038

Any member running for State Office or National Delegate has the right to observe the counting of the ballots by the Elections Committee.  
Please arrive by 9 a.m.

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**Future Dates to Remember**

- May 2 — State Spring Meeting  
VIA ZOOM
- May 9 — Mother's Day
- May 15 — Armed Forces Day
- May 31 — Memorial Day
- Jun 14 — Flag Day
- Jun 20 — Father's Day
- Jul 4 — Independence Day, USPS  
Observes Monday Jul 5
- Aug 17-20 — NRLCA National  
Convention, Orlando, FL
- Sep 1 — Back Roads  
Journal Deadline
- Sep 6 — Labor Day

MARLCA EDITOR

*Kathy Makowski-Cote*  
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**FALL EDITION  
DEADLINE  
WED SEP 01**

*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.

# May 2021

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

# June 2021

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

# July 2021

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



## Report of the President

William Piwowarski



(continued from pg 1)

We waited for guidance on holding our state meeting from National, but by which time our State had shut things down. I, as state president held out as long as I could before we had to throw in the towel on having a State Conference. We were just being told by everyone we couldn't do it, and so down the rabbit hole we went. Life sure has been different for everyone, and especially hard on rural carriers. Most, if not all, of you have been overwhelmed with packages. It sure changed how you look at your job and how you feel about working for the Post Office. Sometimes reflection is a good thing.

The National Office took things very seriously, passing the word to cancel all the remaining Area Conferences. We were provided legal counsel to deal with host hotels that gave the Conference Presidents push back on finances. They canceled the National Legislative Seminar in Washington, D.C., and then came the big one - no National Convention.

Now you might wonder how state presidents were kept abreast of all that was going on, maybe not. Here is how it flowed; we were on conference calls almost weekly for a while. We checked in at 7pm eastern and listened to the National President give us the information as to what was going on and where things were headed. They took due diligence in all their decisions and when it came down to the National Convention our input was welcomed.

Here in Massachusetts, we went on with the process of running the state as best that we could following state dictated guidelines. The state ballots were counted as per usual but with social distancing adhered to. We have held one in-person board meeting for training and accounting purposes, again with state guidelines in place. Due to the way Covid has played a part in our lives we did not have Fall District meetings, nor our Fall Booster meeting.

This past Fall we started doing the occasional Zoom board meeting, and from that arose the resignation of state secretary/treasurer Dawn Makrinikolas for personal reasons. This prompted a need for change on the state board. Lorraine Pacheco was promoted to the vacant position which vacated the vice president's position. I appointed Bob Richardson to that position, and we were able to appoint a member of district 3 to fill his vacancy as district president. We held the three district meetings in February via Zoom, and they worked out fairly well though I suppose I'd expected a few more members to join in.

We have now come full circle. It has been a challenging year for all and yet we aren't finished with it. We go forward in our daily lives hoping we don't become ill from anything. When the opportunity to get vaccinated comes along it's your choice as to whether you get it or not. We wait for the National Office to give us some guidelines on carrying out our goals. Do we or don't we have a National Convention, and if we do, what changes will be made. Still, we wait.

As for us, it will be a Zoom state conference. We will pass along new information as we get it.

Respectfully,

*William J Piwowarski*, MaRLCA President



## Report of the Vice-President

Robert "Bob" Richardson



Hello fellow Massachusetts Rural Carriers!! Many of you may know me as the District 3 President, but I will be writing this article as the State Vice President. At the time of writing this article, all 3 districts have held their winter / spring meetings by utilizing a "zoom" platform. I would like to take a moment to thank all the district presidents, Jason Dole from District 1, Diane Daley from District 2 and their staff for their efforts in conducting their 1<sup>st</sup> ever zoom meeting. THANK YOU!! You ALL did a great job. I was hoping that the turnout would be a lot higher for this type of meeting, but, the turnout was still very low. This means that most of you missed A LOT of important information.

So due to the pandemic, there is still not very much going on at this point in time due to state Covid regulations on meeting sizes. I have been in touch with the former State VP Lorraine Pacheco, who has been a tremendous help in guiding me in my new role as I become more familiar with the position and duties of my new assignment. As I step up and take on a new role, I would like to thank and introduce the new District 3 President Haley Bureau. Haley works out of the Dracut Post Office and shows an interest and willing attitude to be more involved in the union. When we get to meet again, please take a moment to introduce yourself to her.

As I write this article on March 1<sup>st</sup>, the state restrictions due to Covid are about to be relaxed or eased up at the end of the month. Therefore, there may be an in person fall State meeting. Please continue to check the Massachusetts web site for any updates. I am not sure if this issue of the BRJ will reach everyone by the end of April, but I would like to remind the members who have been nominated, or submitted their name to be a delegate to this years' National Convention, that you do have the right to "OBSERVE" the counting of the ballots on April 30, 2021. If you would like to attend and observe, please contact one of your State Officers prior to this date. We are only allowed a certain number of people in the room, so it would be a first come basis. DO NOT just show up.

Next, I would like to touch on our membership. Within the state, there are a number of non-members, both regulars and RCA's. I ask each and every one of you to make an attempt to recruit them. You are their co-workers, friends, and possibly relatives. Please refer to your union magazine for information on incentives and payment for recruiting this NEW member. Both of you get \$\$\$\$\$. Keep in mind that it is the number of members within the state that determines our delegate strength (number of delegates allowed) to represent you at the National Conventions. In closing, please keep up to date by checking the MaRLCA.ORG and the NRLCA.ORG websites. Most important STAY SAFE!! Hopefully we can get the Covid Vaccine shot soon.

*Robert Richardson*, MaRLCA Vice-President

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## 2021 State Elections Candidate's Corner (in order of receipt)

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Fellow members, it's that time again to vote for Delegates to the National Convention. My experience with the USPS and the NRLCA is as follows: District President, Academy Instructor, OJI Trainor, Chairman of the Constitution and Resolution Committee, State VP, past delegate and over 19 years in the postal service. I enjoy doing work to contribute to **our** union. I take all votes on resolutions and National Board positions seriously because they impact **all of us** as rural carriers. **Let me be your voice!** I ask you for your support. Please vote for Robert "Bob" Richardson as a Delegate.

Hi, Bill Piwowarski here running for National Delegate. Some of you may know me from some of my past work, State President, District President and Area Steward or possibly Rural Carrier Academy Instructor or even that annoying guy trying to get you to donate to his PMC ride. Well, I've done a bunch of things over the years, but one of the biggest has been to represent you as a delegate at National Convention. When the time to vote comes along please cast your vote for Bill Piwowarski to represent you at National Convention.

I am running for delegate for the 2021 National Convention. The parcel overload this past year has pushed many carriers to their limits. Many carriers have worked over their evaluation without compensation. I have listened to these carriers concerns and would like to be their voice on the convention floor. As many of you know I have been around for many years and involved in different roles throughout this union. I would like the opportunity to represent the MaRLCA this year and will continue to fight for what is fair.

Your support is greatly appreciated,  
Lorraine Pacheco

My name is Don Ryle and I am running for Delegate to the National Convention. I have been a member of this Union since 1988 and have been an active steward since 2001. Currently, I serve the Union as a part time ADR and Vice President of District 2. I attended my first convention in St. Louis in 2013 and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I try to the best of my ability to represent the members of the MARLCA and with your vote, will continue to do so at the 2021 National Convention in Orlando Florida. PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE!

MARLCA members, I am running as a delegate to this year's national convention and would truly appreciate your consideration when you vote. If elected, I will keep the best interests of regular carriers and RCAs at the forefront when voting on the convention floor. In my 19 years serving as a local, area, assistant state steward, state steward and since 2012, your District Representative, I know firsthand of what is most important to all rural carriers. We have many upcoming challenges, and if elected, I will represent our rural carriers to the best of my ability. In solidarity,  
Art Courcy





# Sec-Treasurer's Two Cents

Lorraine Pacheco



6:04 PM  
03/07/21  
Cash Basis

## MaRLCA Statement of Financial Position As of March 7, 2021

	Mar 7, 21	Mar 7, 20	\$ Change
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
<b>Checking/Savings</b>			
1000000 · TD Bank	32,653.08	5,180.51	27,472.57
1100000 · APCU Savings Account	125,205.54	77,934.64	47,270.90
<b>1200000 · APCU CD's</b>			
1200080 - CD #80	11,308.51	10,994.33	314.18
1200070 · CD #70	28,861.04	28,281.55	579.49
1200075 · CD #75	23,568.33	23,102.40	465.93
1200077 · CD #77	23,410.83	22,995.20	415.63
1200079 · CD #79	30,042.31	29,406.38	635.93
<b>Total 1200000 · APCU CD's</b>	<b>117,191.02</b>	<b>114,779.86</b>	<b>2,411.16</b>
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>275,049.64</b>	<b>197,895.01</b>	<b>77,154.63</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>275,049.64</b>	<b>197,895.01</b>	<b>77,154.63</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>275,049.64</b>	<b>197,895.01</b>	<b>77,154.63</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>			
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>			
2100000 · Payroll Liabilities	233.83	-131.63	365.46
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<b>233.83</b>	<b>-131.63</b>	<b>365.46</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>233.83</b>	<b>-131.63</b>	<b>365.46</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>233.83</b>	<b>-131.63</b>	<b>365.46</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
3900 · Net Assets	204,779.71	177,376.24	27,403.47
Net Income	70,036.10	20,650.40	49,385.70
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>274,815.81</b>	<b>198,026.64</b>	<b>76,789.17</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>275,049.64</b>	<b>197,895.01</b>	<b>77,154.63</b>



## Sec-Treasurer's Two Cents

Lorraine Pacheco



This past year has certainly been a challenging one for the NRLCA. Membership dropped in every state including ours. Last spring everything came to a sudden halt. The rural academies, driver training, and orientations all stopped. Hiring was at the bare minimum. It was not until a few months later that we could continue under certain conditions. Social distancing and space constraints have limited how many RCA's come on the rolls each week. In the meantime, RCA'S are leaving the craft and not being replaced in a timely manner. It seems like a never-ending battle.

Our Academy instructors are doing a great job recruiting members and our numbers are slowly climbing. Unfortunately, RCA retention rate is not the best. For every five members recruited we lose two. In January, a new RAFT (Recruit A Friend Today) initiative was put in place. Both the recruiter and new member will receive a sign on bonus. New members will no longer get the first two months free.

Several weeks ago, I sent out recruitment letters to all the recent retirees and several new regular carriers. I've received six 1187's back, four retirees and two regular carriers. 1187's and 1187R's can be found on both the MaRLCA and NRLCA websites. If you need any assistance you can call me at 774-244-0837.

Our 2021 Spring State meeting will be held via Zoom. Meeting notices will be going out in April. The national office has agreed to have an officer in attendance to update us and answer any of your questions. The meeting will be scheduled to start at 9:00am and last approximately three hours. Please make effort to join in.

If you have not figured it out already, there has been some changes on the state board. In January, Dawn Makrinikolas resigned from her position due to personal reasons. I was asked if I would take over the State Secretary/Treasurers position since I was her assistant. I have always said that I will do what is best for this union. Dawn has offered her help if need be.

I would like to thank Dawn for the time she has served as the state secretary/treasurer. I wish her nothing but the best and hope things are brighter in her future.

Respectfully,

*Lorraine Pacheco*, MaRLCA Secretary / Treasurer



## From The District Rep's Desk

Art Courcy, CT Valley/ Greater Boston DR



After a great number of employees contracted the Covid-19 virus in the Postal Service during the winter months, we are thankfully now seeing a decline in the number of daily/weekly positive cases. All of us are very hopeful that this trend continues into the spring and beyond. We continue to have Covid-19 meetings with the District Manager to discuss hot spots where managers or employees are not following proper protective protocol. Throughout this tumultuous time in our history, we continue to work jointly to address those issues swiftly. I assure you that any reported issues are addressed immediately. It is with all of us collaboratively working together that I truly believe we did the best that we could to combat this virus in the workplace and helped to keep our carriers as safe as possible as they braved going to work every day to get much needed supplies and the mail to the public. Please continue to contact me or an Assistant District Representative if you are aware of any situations that pose a risk to our carriers or any employee. We will not stop elevating those issues that need to be addressed until this pandemic is completely over. Please, if you see something, say something.

‘Please continue to contact me or an Assistant District Representative if you are aware of any situations that pose a risk to our carriers or any employee.’

There has been an increase in bidding related issues and sometimes misinformation being given to our carriers that has been detrimental to them. All bidding MUST be done through the automated bidding system. This system has been in place for many years now and all must be aware that there are no exceptions unless there is some type of problem with the system itself that causes a carrier to be unable to bid. Not having a password is not a viable reason for an alternative bidding option. You must be able to access the liteblue website. To enter you must have a password. If you do not have one, you must set up an account on [www.liteblue.usps.gov](http://www.liteblue.usps.gov). Please also keep in mind that if you bid on a vacant position, a carrier who wishes to withdraw or change preferences on his or her bid must do so prior to the closing date of the posting. This means, once the posting closes, “if you bid it, you bought it” and there is no backing out of the awarded position. If you are unfamiliar with the automated bidding system, there is an excellent tutorial on our national website [NRLCA.org](http://NRLCA.org). On the home page in the “links” section, click on “Automated Job Bidding For Rural Carriers” and you will see step by step how the system works. As always, never delay in reaching out to myself or an ADR if you have any questions related to this so that we can help to avoid any potential problems.

While in the in the liteblue website, you should also review your eOPF which is an electronic personnel folder that you can access. Look at your most recent PS form 50 to be sure that the information is correct. For RCAs, be sure that the route you are assigned to is correct on the PS Form 50. This is your offi-



## From The District Rep's Desk

Art Courcy, CT Valley/ Greater Boston DR



cial route assignment. Many times, we discover that RCAs are not officially assigned to the correct route in the office. This is usually discovered when an RCA becomes eligible to be placed into a leave earning status, but management is unable to process the personnel action request. This is normally due to the carrier not being assigned to the correct route. Again, if you have any issues or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you are not aware, the Postal Service just had a major restructuring of districts nationwide. The impact here in our specific coverage territories of the Greater Boston District and CT Valley District was rather minimal, but other parts of the country have had major changes. The only real change here is that the 010-013 zones in western Massachusetts are going from the CT Valley District to the Greater Boston District. The new districts will be the CT District which will be comprised of all offices within the state of Connecticut and the new district effecting Massachusetts is the MA-RI District which is comprised of all offices within the states of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The new district territories will now be closely aligned with state boundaries.

As I am sure that you have heard stories and may have read articles, the pandemic has caused some disruption in mail processing facilities. We receive many complaints regarding fluctuation in mail volumes and processing issues. Please keep in mind that we still have a formal review process as a tool to utilize should you see a drop in your automated mail percentages as compared to your last mail count. Some carriers have benefitted recently by taking the initiative to follow through with a formal review of DPS letters and/or FSS flats. If you are experiencing a decline in your dps mail percentages, it could be an option for you that may be well worth looking into.

Parcel volumes still remain very high in many offices. With the added pressures at work and at home trying to keep our families safe during this pandemic, stress levels can certainly elevate. Please keep in mind that if you feel the need to reach out and discuss stress or any other life challenges, the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is there to help you. This is a confidential call, and they are always there 24/7 for you if needed. The EAP telephone number is 1-800-EAP-4YOU or you can visit their website which has a wealth of information and tips on how to cope with life issues.

<https://usps.ndbh.com/EAP>

Stay Safe everyone!

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## From The Assistant District Rep's Desk

Joan Tenerella, CT Valley/ Greater Boston ADR

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It is hard to believe that it has been a year now since this pandemic took over the way we live and work. That being said, the time has not come for us to let our guard down. It is just as important now as it was when this pandemic began to follow the guidelines for protective measures set forth by the CDC and the Postal Service. It is the Ct. Valley district as well as the Boston's district directive that masks must be always worn by everyone when inside a postal facility, unless otherwise directed by a physician and cleared through the Occupational Health Nurse with the Postal Service. As we all eagerly await an end to this pandemic or our turn to be vaccinated, please continue to work safely as we all get through this together. Continue social distancing, washing hands regularly, wearing masks, taking every precaution you can to protect yourself and others. If you have any issues in your office with employees or managers not adhering to social distancing and mask wearing, please notify myself or District Representative Art Courcy so that we can escalate the matter at the district level.

We have all had to navigate our way with all the changes that have come with the pandemic and in some cases, tensions run high, while this is understandable it does not give a supervisor or manager or anyone the right to treat each other with anything less than dignity and respect. I deal with many workplace environment issues on an almost weekly basis and I thought it would be best to explain what works best in documenting workplace environment issues.

‘The Postal service does not tolerate any type of harassment, inappropriate conduct, or reprisal in the workplace.’

The Postal services policy on workplace harassment very boldly states, “The Postal service does not tolerate any type of harassment, inappropriate conduct, or reprisal in the workplace”.

If you think that you or someone you know may be the subject of a hostile workplace environment it is extremely important to document these events. The following are some of the best ways to document these events and how to best report them.

### **How to Document Events to Show a Hostile Work Environment**

When you work in an atmosphere that is not friendly or hospitable to employees, it is considered a hostile work environment. This type of environment is very damaging to employee morale. Depending upon the level of hostility, it can also lead to workplace violence. For these reasons, it is important for you to report a hostile work environment to management. If management refuses to act, you can pursue other avenues through your union representative, EEO or in some case through postal inspectors, OIG and local police.

\*Document the details of each incident. Write down exactly what happened and who did it. You can also write down what happened immediately before each incident. By doing so, it can help to deter-

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## From The Assistant District Rep's Desk

Joan Tenerella, CT Valley/ Greater Boston ADR

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mine motive.

\*Write down the date and time of each hostile incident. This includes hostile words that are spoken, as well as hostile actions taken.

\*Include the names of witnesses for each incident. Speak with the witnesses to determine if anyone wishes to remain anonymous. If one wishes to remain anonymous, state so in your documentation.

\*Write down who you have informed of the hostile work environment. This includes managers, supervisors, and other employees.

\*Document how management responds to your report of a hostile working environment. State what actions are taken by management to prevent future hostility. If management has not taken any action, document this as well.

A manager can abuse an employee in many ways. Abuse can come in the form of violence, bullying, harassment, verbal intimidation or any behavior that creates a hostile work environment. A manager can also abuse an employee in more subtle ways through unfair treatment or undermining a worker's input or opinions. Documenting each of these occurrences is extremely important to establish a pattern and a timeline.

If you witness your manager abusing employees, you can document the incident by keeping a thorough diary that details the nature of the occurrence. Documentation should include dates and times, what was said and who was involved or present during the incident. Also maintain additional documentation, such as emails, text messages or written notes that may contain information about the abuse. Documenting the incidents will help you recall specifics about the behavior when you report it to an authority figure.

For more information or if you think you are involved in or have witnessed a hostile workplace environment contact your local steward, area steward, assistant district representative or district representative. Workplace environment issues can also be reported to Shared Services at 877-477-3273. As always, I can be reached at 401-536-8697 or email [Joan.Tenerella@nrlca.org](mailto:Joan.Tenerella@nrlca.org).

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## From The Assistant District Rep's Desk

Don Ryle, CT Valley/ Greater Boston ADR

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### **ACCIDENT REPORTING**

**What is an accident?** *The definition of an accident is an unfortunate incident that happens unexpectedly and unintentionally, typically resulting in damage or injury.*

I'm sure we have all heard the horror stories of carriers being disciplined for having an accident, whether it be vehicle or non-vehicle. However, for the most part, it's not the accident that the discipline is issued for, it's for the failure to report the accident\*\*. PO-603 Section 173 Accident Reporting, requires carriers to report any type of accident, such as motor vehicle, slip, trip, fall, dog bite, bee sting or even something as minor as a paper cut, immediately to your Postmaster or Supervisor. Immediately means from the scene where the accident took place! Not when you get back to the office, not an hour later or 5 miles away. Immediately!

**\*\*Leaving the scene of a vehicle accident and not reporting it may lead to discipline and possible removal.**

Below is an excerpt from a NRLCA Magazine article from October 2009:

***Is it necessary to report all vehicle accidents no matter how minor the accident?***

***What if I hit a customer's mailbox? Do I have to report that to my manager?***

**YES, to both parts of the question.**

**Report all accidents.** Remain at Scene If involved in an accident, regardless of the cause or the amount of damage, injury, or death, remain at the scene until you have:

- a. Obtained aid and assistance for any injured person.
- b. Safeguarded the scene against further accident.
- c. Secured and protected the mail.
- d. Notified the postmaster or supervisor, or designee.
- e. Notified local or state police as required.

### **AVOIDING ACCIDENTS**

**Please work SAFELY!** The NRLCA and the USPS both want you to return home to your family in the same condition that you left for work in the morning.....

- Complete a safety check of your vehicle every morning. Report any deficiencies to your manager on a PS 4565 Vehicle repair tag.
- Be always aware of your surroundings. Report any safety hazards on a PS 1767 Report of Hazard, unsafe condition or practice.
- ALWAYS WEAR YOUR SEATBELT! Including shoulder harness when traveling to and from the route as well as when traveling through intersections.
- When exiting the vehicle be sure to follow the 4-point park procedure. Curb the wheels, gear selector in park, pull parking brake and SHUT OFF THE IGNITION / REMOVE THE KEYS.  
Back up only when necessary. Never back up for a misdelivery or missed piece of mail / parcel.

Following these procedures will assist to prevent accidents, runaways, rollways, injuries, or fatalities and return you home safely.

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## Your Union—Your Voice

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### **Dianne Daley District 2 President**

Goodbye winter of crazy package volume and hello spring! While some have seen a drop in package volume with Amazon delivering more of their packages, others continue to be inundated with them. I feel for you if the latter is your situation. I'm fortunate to have my packages drop since mid-January. I'm still getting more than my evaluated amount. However, it is a more manageable volume and helping me be (mostly) under my evaluation. What a relief it is after the last year of working 11 or more hours a day.

We had a district meeting in February thru Zoom. Thank You to those who attended and I hope you were able to take away some useful information. I wished more people would have connected to this meeting. It was in the comfort of your own home, no travel to deal with and while it wasn't quite the same without having a meal to share and conversations with folks from other offices we've gotten to know, I had hoped it would have been worth a bit of your time to find out what is taking place regarding the issues you are facing every day. But it was important to be able to meet and assure you that your union is fully aware of how this pandemic has affected our workload. With the USPS failure to giving a clear response to the Step 4 regarding parcel volume, it gives the impression that nothing is being done. This is clearly not the case. Now our union has begun the process of contract negotiations. If you haven't already read our National President, Ronnie Stutts' opening remarks (posted on NRLCA website), take a few minutes to do so. Let us also hope they can come away with a contract that is not just acceptable but one that can truly benefit our carriers.

Hopefully RRECS will get back to mapping so this can be implemented...(please, please). Keep in mind that when we get to the point of implementation, a new count school will likely be developed to lay out how information is gathered and what the carriers need to do DAILY to get the most of your route. This is a benefit of being a union member! Those who are not members will be on their own to figure it out.

Enjoy the spring blooming ahead of us! Feel the warmth of the sun! Be safe!



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## Your Union—Your Voice

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### Dorothy Floyd Rural Carrier and Local Steward

Batman? Who are we? What good are we doing? what is the point of this? Some day I think why am I doing this no one notices me, I'm not important or essential, what difference am I making?.

Then I came to realize that I am like Batman (just in real life) I am not saving the world but I am making a difference one person at a time, one customer at a time! The average person in the story of Batman didn't really know who he was, but for that one person that Batman saved, their life had changed and they were grateful that someone noticed them. That's what we do (ok no cape, or bat mobile) but we deliver that packet of pills through the mail to that lady who can't get to the pharmacy. We deliver those cards to the millions of kids that are now at home due to this Pandemic. We are going to each and every house. We go everywhere. We are making a difference in the lives of every customer who we deliver mail too. It doesn't seem like that in the grand scheme of things but when we deliver those letters, flats, and parcels to everyone who is inside and looking out the window seeing us do our job they notice us, and they do care and they appreciate us.

So when you feel like what's all this for? Remember we are like Batman impacting one person at a time, we are making a difference one customer at a time.

And much like the story of Batman things would be very different if we were not out there every day making that difference.

Keep being Awesome Carriers  
The Dot



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## Political Action Committee (PAC) Needs Your Help!

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### Announcing the 2021 NRLCA-PAC Fundraiser

Starting February 1, 11 randomly selected members will receive a gift each month as a thank you for supporting NRLCA-PAC —10 NRLCA-branded Yeti cups and one larger gift will be sent out every month. To qualify, all you need to do is send at least a \$5.00 donation to your state PAC chair each month or continue your sustaining donorship. Eligibility refreshes each month, so don't hesitate to keep donating every month. We will announce new gifts every month until July 31 when the fundraiser ends.

February's big gift: was a **iPad Mini**  
**Please become a Sustaining Donor or send check to**  
**Amy Buccelli**  
**2 Barclay St Holland MA 01521**  
**Payable to " NRLCA-PAC " only**  
**do not put in my name**

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## Who Ya Gonna Call? Stewards at a glance

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### **District Representative- CT Valley/Greater Boston Districts (Full Time DR)**

Art Courcy, [Arthur.Courcy@nrlca.org](mailto:Arthur.Courcy@nrlca.org)  
508-761-6870

### **Full-Time Assistant District Representative**

Joan Tenerella, [Joan.Tenerella@nrlca.org](mailto:Joan.Tenerella@nrlca.org)  
401-536-8697

### **Assistant District Representatives:**

Don Ryle (Massachusetts)  
[Donald.Ryle@nrlca.org](mailto:Donald.Ryle@nrlca.org)  
508-997-1696

Dan Cote (Massachusetts)  
[Daniel.Cote@nrlca.org](mailto:Daniel.Cote@nrlca.org)  
978-237-2625

Bill Smith (Connecticut)  
[Bill.Smith@nrlca.org](mailto:Bill.Smith@nrlca.org)  
860-664-1020

Peter Allatin (Connecticut)  
[Peter.Allatin@nrlca.org](mailto:Peter.Allatin@nrlca.org)  
860-267-0033

### **Area Stewards:**

Ed Knight  
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413-323-7392

Theron Boudakian  
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774-319-0788

Matthew Barrett  
[mbarrett11@rocketmail.com](mailto:mbarrett11@rocketmail.com)  
508-525-9854

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# Backroads Journal

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### State Executive Officers:

**President:** Bill Piwowarski (508) 344-2475  
wjp01585@yahoo.com

**Vice President:** Robert Richardson (978) 314-4449  
rnrich84@comcast.net

**Sec-Treasurer:** Lorraine Pacheco (774) 244-0837  
Lorraine.pacheco@nrlca.org

### District Presidents:

#1: Jason Dole

#2: Dianne Daley

#3: Haley Bureau

### Appointed Positions:

**Assistant Sec-Treasurer:** Vacant

#### PAC Co-Chairs:

Amy Bucelli  
mailthis1@netzero.net

Camille Graves  
camille@a1parts.biz

#### Editor:

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