

WI RLCA News

September 2007

WISCONSIN

RURAL LETTER CARRIERS ASSOCIATION



Season of Change

Well, summer is just a fond memory and another Labor Day is behind us signaling the transition into fall.

Also, just a distant memory is the National Convention held in Grand Rapids, MI. We were able to seat 40 delegates this year thanks to the membership recruitment of Secretary-Treasurer, Karen Schauer, the Academy Trainers, Board members, and the membership. I want to thank all of our delegates who served our State Association. It was a very busy week from the kick-off with the Wisconsin Breakfast through the final gavel closing the convention on Friday at approximately 6:30 PM. Other than the fact that the acoustics were less than desirable and that it took six ballots to decide that Steve Traylor would fill the Committeeman's position vacated by Francis Raimer, it was business as usual. All other officers up for election were re-elected and Buffalo, NY beat out Pittsburgh, PA for the 2012 National Convention site. At the post convention meeting, Committeeman, Bill Gordon was assigned to the Great Lakes area which includes Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin. Thanks to Joey Johnson for his dedication and service to Wisconsin during his assignment as our Executive Committeeman.

On the contract front -- an Interest Arbitrator has been selected and Arbitration Hearings are scheduled to begin October 29th. Parties expect to conclude their presentation in December and anticipate that an award will be issued before Christmas. Our National Board is very confident that they are ready to present a strong case on our behalf. When asked if there might be a chance for a last minute contract offer as the NALC received, President Pitts didn't think so because of the different issues we have, EMA being one of them. Let's hope we all receive a Christmas gift (contract) that we can live with.

The Fall Conference is fast approaching, October 27th-28th at the Best Western Midway Hotel in Wausau. The weekend event will start on Saturday afternoon at 1:00 PM with State Steward, Tom Bittner conducting steward training. Saturday evening will be a Family Social Event sponsored by GMAC and a PAC fund raiser. Sunday will start at 9:00 AM. There will be a presentation from Postmaster and DJSC Co-Chair, Bill Tierney on the QWL/EI Process, including a report on the National Co-Chairs meeting, work team projects, and the DPS formal review process. We hope to establish a list of members interested in becoming Academy Trainers and Facilitators to fill vacancies as they arise. There will also be a presentation by Wendy Pierron on the PARS system. I am currently working on securing a few other presenters and we will conclude the afternoon with a question and answer session.

Please plan on attending part or all of the weekend activities. Even though we will not have a National Board representative present due to contract arbitration, it will be worth your time to attend. See you there!

Sincerely,
Dan Strobel, President



President Dan Strobel



GMAC Insurance

by Louan Friend

Did you know that every 27 seconds a vehicle is stolen? 50 cents of every dollar you pay into an insurance company goes to the legal system and torte. 14% of driv-

ers in the U.S. are uninsured and one in every eight accidents is caused by uninsured drivers. These are only a few things that make our insurance premiums increase and we should be aware of why we pay so much for auto insurance.

How do you know which auto insurance company is right for you as a Rural Carrier? A price that sounds too good to be true probably is. When choosing an insurance company, price is important – obviously. In order to understand which company is the best value, you need to consider what they are really offering for that price. Here are a few important things to consider:

Coverage

Are the coverage's that they are offering the same as the coverage's quoted by the competition? Make sure the coverage you are getting is adequate to protect you and your assets, and then make sure all of your quotes are for those same coverage levels. Also, look at the extras that some companies will offer, like free towing and new car replacement coverage.

Claims Service

Great rates don't do much for you if you can't count on the company when you need to file a claim. Can you reach them at any time? How quickly do they process claims? How much paperwork is involved in a claim? Do your homework and ask around. Technology is a great thing so use it to your advantage – go on line and compare.

Ability to Pay Claims

It is extremely important that the company you choose has a strong financial rating from an independent agency. The leading independent insurance rating agency is A.M. Best Company. Stick with companies that have at least an "A" rating from A.M. Best.

Renewability

Some companies will cancel a policy after you file an expensive claim. Look for providers that have a policy against canceling coverage based on claim history.

Of course, you could make things simpler just by going with the company that offers coverage needed by the Rural Letter Carriers- and their families. For over 53 years the Rural Letter Carrier and GMAC Insurance have worked together to build an extremely successful auto insurance program for the members of the RLC. GMAC now insure over 20% of Rural Letter Carriers nationwide. GMAC Insurance is the only company that really understands the needs of the rural letter carrier and the effects of the Federal Torte Claims Act. They are committed to keeping Rural Letter Carriers' lives moving. Rural Letter Carriers depend on their vehicles to work, to play and to live their life as they choose. Life doesn't stop just because your car does and GMAC has pledged to deliver the best in quality and service to get you back on the road as quickly as possible.

On the lighter side, I would like to thank the entire "crew" from Wisconsin - delegates, non-delegates, auxiliary, juniors, friends from the Pardeeville Post Office and family, for helping me to celebrate my birthday at the National Convention. Let's do it again next year at the 2008 Convention!!

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Special Board meeting – July 15-16, 2007 – Wausau WI

President Dan Strobel called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. All board members present: Linda Vanden Plas VP, Karen Schauer Sec/Treas, and Committeemen: Lisa Wojnarowski, Lois Graper, Chuck Groth, and Louan Friend.

Minutes of the Pre and Post Convention meetings were approved.

A part time, full time position for the secretary/treasurer was discussed. Linda made a motion, second by Chuck that we have the secretary/treasurer work full time for the union from July 7 (pp 15) thru Sept 14 (pp 19). Pay would be 46K without the monthly allowance but would include postal benefits. Motion passed. Board also directed the secretary/treasurer to maintain and submit a time card each pay period.

State Newsletter issues were discussed. Lois will continue as the designee Editor. Dan will appoint a committee of up to three to look into an 'editor' position. Names were suggested. Cost of mailing the paper under the new rules and rates was reviewed. Karen, Lois and Chuck will check on printing costs at various printers.

The end of the year, July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007) financial reports were reviewed. These reports will also be in the July Newsletter for the membership.

Meeting adjourned for lunch and resumed at 1:20 pm.

National Convention. Membership report was given. WI may seat 40 delegates at the National Convention. A few delegates have indicated that they won't be able to attend and alternates have been notified. Per diem and mileage for delegates was reviewed and mileage will be figured by the shortest route. WI Breakfast reservations were updated. Transportation means for the WI flag and banner along with the chairbacks, badges and state floor sign were considered. The board will have a short board meeting at the National convention on Thursday morning at 7:30 am. Lisa will make arrangements to have a picture of all WI RLCA members attending the convention. Linda made a motion, second by Lisa, that the winner of the 'National WI Floor sign' contest will receive one of the WI RLCA brief cases filled with a treasure trove of various WI RLCA items. Passed. Lisa made a motion, second by Luan that first time WI National delegates and first time non-delegates that attend this years convention will receive an appreciation gift which will be given to them at the Fall Conference. A card of appreciation with details will be given to each at the National Convention. Passed.

Constitution and By Laws passed at the state convention in Hayward were reviewed. Karen made a motion, second by Linda that By Law Art 6, Sec 1.1 be interpreted to mean that DROP will be paid as a 46K Step 12 and LWOP will be paid as 46K step 12 unless the officer or steward has a route with

an evaluation of 46, 47 or 48 in which case they would be paid 46K plus 5%. Motion passed. Copies of the newly revised C & BL will be available at the Fall Conference. The board reviewed the entire C & BL and made note of various changes that they would like to present for the delegates at the 2008 State Convention.

Board Policies were reviewed. Additions and corrections were made.

Lisa motioned to adjourn meeting until 7:30 am Motion passed at 6:10 pm

President Dan called the July 16th Monday meeting to order at 7:40 am. All board members present.

The board continued with the review of the board policies. Additions and corrections were made.

Ideas for this year's appreciation gifts were made. Due to budget concerns it was decided to just order the pocket calendars for the stewards, county presidents, county secretary/treasurer, and academy trainers. This topic will be reviewed again at the Fall Conference meeting.

An inventory of all equipment was made. Past board members have returned all equipment and new assignments were made for this equipment. The list will be reviewed again at the Fall Conference meeting.

County assignments were made and will be printed on the back of the July Newsletter.

National has requested that Tom's position on the AJSC be extended through September with the September meeting being the last that Tom would attend. Board approved request. The Northland District DJSC is looking for craft facilitators for the 540 and 548 areas. Lakeland District is looking for facilitators in the 530-531 area. Several names were suggested and anyone interested should contact one of the board members. A sign up sheet will be available at the Fall and Spring Conference for carriers that would be interested in future facilitator, academy trainer or ad hoc driving trainer positions.

Fall Conference details were reviewed. A suggestion to have a retirement seminar put on by NARF was duly noted.

A motion was made by Lois, second by Linda that the state convention recording secretary (Tammy Lucht) be paid \$600 for her labor and expenses, once the minutes are received and approved by the board. Passed.

Lisa made a motion, second by Chuck to adjourn at 1:02 pm Passed

Respectfully submitted by
Karen Schauer, Secretary/Treasurer



Linda Vanden Plas

Legislative Seminar Part 2

In the last issue of the WIR-LCA Newsletter I wrote about attending the Legislative Seminar in Washington D.C. In that newsletter I wrote about the important governmental issues that the NRLCA is facing, mainly Contract Delivery Service (CDS). In this newsletter I would like to continue to inform the membership of other Legislative issues that the NRLCA faces.

Vote By Mail is an issue that our representatives from both the Senate and the House are looking at. Vote By Mail allows the American voter to cast their ballots by mail. This would allow a more convenient way to vote. The American voter does have the right to vote by mail but there are restrictions and qualifications that must be met. HR 281 allows for the “no excuse” absentee voting in Federal elections. HR 281 will allow for a more accessible way to vote. HR 281 would also increase voter participation. The state of Oregon has an 87% voter participation with this “no excuse” absentee voting. This was a 30% increase when voters were allowed to vote by mail with out the restrictions. S 979 allows grants for states that hold Federal elections. The NRLCA strongly is in favor of HR 281 and S 979.

So, what can you do? First off thank Representatives Steve Kagan and Ron Kind. These Representatives have already supported HR 281. You can call or write Representatives Paul Ryan, Tammy Baldwin, Gwen More, James Sensenbrenner, Thomas Petri and David Obey and ask that they support HR 281 or ask why they cannot. On the Senate side neither Herbert Kohl nor Russ Fiengold have supported S 979. Please give them a call and let them know your thoughts on this issue.

Premium Conversion is another Legislative issue. S 773 and HR 1110 allow Federal Retirees to use pre-tax dollars to pay insurance premiums. Right now I can use my pre –tax dollars to pay for FEHBP insurance premiums however retirees cannot. HR 1110 and S 773 allow retirees the same benefit I already enjoy. By the way the Office of Personal Management estimates that Premium Conversion would save retirees about \$434 a year. The NRLCA is strongly in favor of

S 773 and HR 1110. My personal opinion is that every little bit helps and soon enough we will want this benefit when we retiree.

Once again what can you do? Call Representatives Steve Kagan, Ron Kind, and Gwen Moore and thank them for their support on HR 1110. Representatives Paul Ryan, Tom Petri, Dave Obey, Tammy Baldwin and James Sensenbrenner have not supported HR 1110. Senators Herb Kohl and Russ Fiengold have not supported S 773. Please call both your Representatives and let them know how you feel. Also please remember who supports your positions when it comes time to vote.

Linda Vanden Plas



WI Rapids QWL Team members:
Kurt Knoll, Carol Cherney, Pat Tyler,
PM Bill Allind, Cris Gengler, and Matt Harn

Congratulations to all the QWL Teams !

We wish to thank all the office teams that entered the QWL teams contest. The benefits of good communication in the workplace is the best possible outcome. There were some excellent entries that were submitted. The winners are:

- 1st place: WI Rapids Cheese Weazels
- 2nd place: Cottage Grove
- 3rd place: Edgerton

Again thank you for all the hard work that everyone did on the entries and in the everyday job duties.

Communication works - Try It!

Special Board Meeting – Aug 9, 2007 National Convention Grand Rapids MI

Meeting called to order by President Dan at 7:30 a.m. All board members and the state steward were present.

Minutes from the July 15th-16th meeting were read and approved.

Secretary/Treasurer gave an update on the full time work schedule. Time card format was approved as was the use of LWOP for the National Convention.

It was noted who were the 1st time delegates and the non-delegates in attendance. They will be thanked and an appreciation gift will be given to them at the Fall Conference.

Dan gave an update on the status of the state convention minutes. A deadline will be set so that approved minutes can be made available to members at the Fall Conference.

Recruitment of RCAs was discussed. Two recruitment letters will be used and response from each will be tabulated.

Co chair from last years' Mid States Conference met with us and shared with us their ways of organizing and putting on the conference. She also gave us a few ideas on how she thought things could have been improved. There will be a sign up sheet at the Fall Conference for WI members to sign up if they'd like to help. Dan and June will help with the Auxiliary and Junior programs. Our Co chairs will submit a financial report to the state sec/treasurer every two weeks once money comes in for the event.

The board decided to put forth the name of Lois Graper for the Upper Midwest States Caucus leadership position. Everyone will be on their own regarding food that evening.

Fall Conference, Oct 27th, and 28th, was discussed. There will be no National Officer attending. Dan has several other speakers set up and there will be a Q & A on Sunday. Hospitality night will promote PAC.

Three people have volunteered to serve on the Editors Committee. Bill Jarzombeck, Steve Thompson

and Cheri DuLac will work on a State Convention report for a proposed recommendation for a C & BL change regarding a State Newsletter Editor position.

Lois will oversee the full-time, part-time Secretary/Treasurer position committee. Committee member replacements may be made before the Fall Conference.

The board approved the appointment of Roger Schewe as the Senior Assistant Steward as of September 1st.

The board revisited the DROP/LWOP policy for the Monday before the National Convention. It was decided that board members do not qualify for a day's pay but will receive per diem for that day.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Schauer Sec/Treasurer

FOR SALE: 1998 RHD Jeep Cherokee - 215,850 miles - Runs great. Has new transmission, radiator, springs, and window motor. Good tires and extra seat. Bought it new and have all service records. Am including 4 extra tires, door protector, rear signs and light. I have retired. Asking \$3,700.00. Phone 715-453-3925 or e-mail dsjorgy2@verizon.net for more info.



Doug Hare
Member of the
Year

Thank You!

A big thank you to my fellow workers (past & present) at the Pardeeville Post Office, and my family for nominating me for Member of the Year and to the committee for selecting me. It is a great honor to be named Member of the Year. Thanks

Chaplains Corner

Father, hear our prayers, Bless us as you will, Keep those close who need healing in all ways. And thank you Father for another day on your precious earth. Amen

God Bless you all.

Your friend and chaplain, Chris Weber

RELIEF DAY WORK LIST



It's that time of year again, time when we need to talk about the guarantee period, and the Relief Day Work List. The current guarantee period ends on Friday, October 26th, 2007. And, yes, that means that the new guarantee period starts on Saturday, October 27th, 2007.

Now, keep in mind that two weeks prior to the beginning of the new guarantee period, is the time to decide if you would like to put your name on the Relief Day Work List. The RDWL needs to be posted in your office no later than October 12th, 2007. This is the only time that a regular carrier will be allowed to put their name on the RDWL.

Regular rural carriers that would like to work on their relief day, should there be a need, would put their name on the RDWL. A regular rural carrier would be needed to work due to the unavailability of a leave replacement.

The RDWL will be established in each delivery unit and will be specific to that delivery unit. A delivery unit is defined as a physical location containing one or more zip codes under the control of one postmaster or station/branch manager; this does not include annexes, stations, or branches under the control of a different postmaster or station/branch manager.

Once a regular carrier signs the RDWL, if they decide that they would like to remove their name, they would be able to do so. There are, however, some stipulations to this; starting with the carrier informing management of their decision. The next being, if a regular carrier has been scheduled to work their relief day, they must work that scheduled day before removing their name from the RDWL. You would not be able to sign on again until the next guarantee period.

When a regular rural carrier is needed to work a relief day, management will select carriers on the list in order of seniority on a rotating basis. The RDWL should list the regular carriers' names in order of seniority, in groups with the same relief day. Management may bypass carriers on the list, even if they are next in the rotation, if it will cause the carrier to exceed the hours of the annual guarantee period (2080) or fifty-six hours in a week.

If more regular carriers are needed to work than the list provides, or there is no carrier on list for the relief day needed, management will accept regular carrier volunteers not on the list, with the relief day needed, before mandating the most junior regular carriers to work. This does not mean that management must contact every carrier in the delivery unit, not on the list, to seek volunteers. If a carrier not on the list has knowledge that there is a need for a regular carrier to work a relief day, they can inform management that they would be willing to volunteer and management would use that carrier prior to requiring other regular carriers to work.

Regular carriers on the RDWL are given three options for payment:

- Even 'R for an X' – this means that the carrier would receive no extra payment, but would be able to choose their own 'X day'.
- DACA code 3 – this means that the carrier would be paid at 50% and management will select/schedule the carriers 'X day' within 12 weeks.
- DACA code 5 – this means that the carrier would be paid at 150% with no 'X day'.

Carriers not on the RDWL would have no other option than DACA code 3.

When a regular carrier works their relief day, the sub assigned to their route may be required to work any route in the delivery unit in accordance with the provisions in the National Agreement. Generally the leave replacement will serve the route that necessitated working a regular carrier from the RDWL.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa 'Wojo' Wojnarowski ☺

**DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR
"NEW STATE SIGN"
TO THE FALL CONFERENCE IN
WAUSAU!**

One winner will be selected from all of the entrants and will be awarded a really cool prize provided by your WIRLCA State Board.



If you have any questions about our old sign, feel free to contact Lisa 'Wojo' at 414-810-4860

**Mark May 2nd, 3rd and 4th, 2008 on
your calendars!**

**Wisconsin is hosting the 2008
Mid-States Conference.**

Brookfield Suites Hotel
1200 S Moorland Road
Brookfield, WI

262-782-2900 or 1-800-444-6404
Mention "2008 Mid-States"

For

\$77.00 single/double, \$20.00 ea. addtl.
Included in room rate: cook to order breakfast
and manager's reception.

Watch for more information in your next
State Newsletter.

See you there!

WIRLCA FALL CONFERENCE

Saturday, October 27th
Steward Training – Everyone welcome

Tamarack & Aspen Room
Please bring your laptop if you have one.

Saturday Evening
Hospitality – 7:PM to 9:30PM ??
Scavenger Hunt!
Poolside

Sunday, October 28th
Informational Speakers
Tamarack & Aspen Room

Call now and reserve your room:
Best Western Midway Hotel
2901 Hummingbird Road
Wausau, WI 54401
(715) 842-1616

\$62.00 Single/Double
\$10.00 each additional person

Rooms will be released after
September 26, 2007.

We need you ... Get Involved!



“T for two...

...and two for tea”. I can hear Rural Carriers and Retirees, throughout the State, singing along with this tune from the 1925 musical comedy “No No Nanette” (lyricist – Irving Caesar, music by Vincent Youmans).

This newsletter article isn’t really about show-tunes. Oh, there’s another line from the song “picture you, upon my knee”. That has nothing to do with this article either.

In the last edition of the WIRLCA newsletter I offered a challenge to our members. The person with the largest PAC contribution would win an orange “Stop Contract Delivery” T-shirt. And, well, I didn’t really have any “rules” to the contest. The results are; Calvin Loomis (from Eau Claire) and another anonymous contributor each contributed \$100 to our Political Action Committee fund.

Since there were no rules to cover the eventuality of a tie, and it didn’t make sense to rip one shirt in half, I sent both of them a T-shirt (“T’s for two”). Calvin’s photo should appear in this newsletter, if our editor received the picture and has room to print it (“picture you, upon ???”). Thank you Calvin and our other contributor! Every member of the Wisconsin Rural Letter Carriers’ Association appreciates your efforts to help maintain an influential position, in our Nations’ Capitol.

31 of the 40 delegates, whom you sent to the National Convention in Grand Rapids Michigan, made a PAC contribution. This resulted in Wisconsin accumulating the 4th largest amount of PAC funds, among all 50 States. Congratulations! Let’s continue to support this essential Association function.

WIRLCA Vice President Linda Vanden Plas and friends have devised a highly entertaining activity for Saturday evening, at our Fall Conference in Wausau. She may provide more details but I will tell you that all you need to bring, to the Conference, is a few extra dollars and a lot of enthusiasm. You may be taking home some fun prizes and great stories!

Our “PAC year” is off to a great start. Let’s continue the momentum. You may be able to get the silly

show tune out of your head if you concentrate on writing out a check, payable to:

NRLCA PAC. Mail that check to:

**DENNIS R. NELSON
1002 55TH ST
AMERY WI 54001-3013**

Consider contributing \$26 (which will get your name in the National Rural Letter Carrier magazine) or \$50, or better yet - follow the example of our T-shirt contest winners and contribute \$100. I don’t know if it is possible to maintain our #4 ranking, throughout the year, but I am certain that Wisconsin could be among the top 10 States (in PAC contributions).

I will send you a new 2008 PAC pin (“me, for you”) when you send your check (“and you, for me”). Enough already! Your PAC contribution is not tax deductible.



Calvin Loomis—Eau Claire

Fun Fun Fun

**Scavenger Hunt
WIRLCA Fall Conference
Saturday October 27th
Best Western Midway Hotel
Poolside
\$10.00 per person
2-4 person teams
8-9 pm
Prizes will be awarded
All proceeds will go to PAC!**



Karen Schauer

And the AWARD goes to the WISCONSIN Rural Letter Carriers!

At the 103rd National Convention in Grand Rapids MI I had the privilege to accept an award in acknowledgement of our high achievement in membership recruitment efforts during the 2006-2007

membership year. Our efforts to strengthen the collective voice of our Association were rewarded with a first place honor. Congratulations especially to our Academy Trainers for a job well done!

We are now in a new fiscal year and even though we won an award last year we must still continue our recruitment efforts. Wisconsin has 704 non members. I would like to ask **everyone** to ask your fellow carriers, in the office, if they are union members and if not to sign them up. But it doesn't ALL end there. All members, new or ?, should ponder a few of these thoughts:

Why should I become a local steward, someone else will take on that responsibility so I don't have to do it.

Why should I go to my county meetings, state or national convention, someone else will go so, I don't have to do that.

Why should I become a county officer, someone else will take on that job, so I don't have to do it.

Why should I become a delegate to the state or national convention, someone else will give up their annual leave to go so I don't have to.

Why should I attend QWL, become a facilitator, a DJSC member, an appointed or elected state officer, someone else will do it so I don't have to.

Why should I give my money to PAC, someone else will give theirs so I don't have to.

Why should I even pay to be a member, someone else will join and the Union will be there for me.

What if?

What if **someone else** doesn't become a local steward, who will be there to help me when I need them?

What if **someone else** doesn't go to all those meetings, who will be there to relay all that information to me?

What if **someone else** doesn't become a county offi-

cer, who will do all that work on my behalf?

What if **someone else** doesn't give up their annual leave to go to the conventions, who will be there to represent me?

What if **someone else** doesn't do all the work required by all those other positions, who will be there working for me?

What if **some else** doesn't give his or her money to PAC, how will we fight the bad legislation that's going to have a negative effect on me?

What if **someone else** doesn't become a member and the Union doesn't survive, what will happen to me?

What if someday I find myself in the unemployment line thinking, "I wish I had.."

Become a member, become involved, become informed, become 'someone else'

Welcome New Members 7/01/07 – 8/25/07

<u>Name</u>	<u>Post Office</u>
Alexandra Jeffries	Ashland
Evelyn Thoman	Brodhead
Jacqueline Clark	Burlington
Heather Rutley	Burlington
Joan Duren	De Forest
George Hrubes Jr	Fennimore
Amanda Hauke	Fond du Lac
Jennifer Schaefer	Fond du Lac
Marcy Liberty	Green Bay
Myles Mason	Janesville
Carla Rutherford	Janesville
Richard Serdynski	La Crosse
Michael Buttleman	Lake Geneva
Lorena Engstrom	Madison
Bridgette Morley	Monticello
Kathryn Brings	Muskego
Laura Kleiman	Muskego
Carmen Latus	Muskego
Lois Meyers	Nashotah
Mitchell Paquin	New Richmond
Melinda Luckow	Newton
Aaron Hawkinson	Omro
Jessica Gruber	Plover
June Mc Clure	Poynette
Victor Machovec	Reedsburg
Rhonda Houston	Rice Lake
Ben Clemens	Sheboygan Falls
Casy MacDonell	Superior
April Abbott	Tomah
Larry Rubin	Twin Lakes
David Jablonski	Valders
Marsha Gilligan	Wabeno
Daniel Kirk	Waukesha
Lisa Liesener	West Bend
Michele Solberg	Whitehall
Larry Barker	Wisconsin Rapids



Guarantee year

October 26th marks the end of the guarantee year. Just prior to this you should be given the opportunity to sign the relief day work list.

If you are eligible to elect the “high” option your Postmaster should arrange a meeting with

you to discuss the requirements for doing so. You must be in a six or eight hour leave earning capacity and sign a form 4015-A. By signing this agreement you are agreeing to use enough annual leave to keep your actual work hours below 2080 for the next 52 weeks. You can download a copy of this form from the forms page of www.wirlca.org. Because the guarantee year is just starting the hours that count towards you 2080 should be reset to zero and you shouldn't hear about 2080 for at least a few months.

The hours that you work from the beginning of the guarantee period until the start of the Christmas overtime period will determine what your rate of pay will be in the event you earn any Christmas overtime.

September Mail Count

The Postal Service has informed the NRLCA that they have revised the PO-603 section 242.21. This section refers to the way carriers handle undeliverable mail that is commonly referred to as mark-ups. For the special mail count in September and any future mail counts there will only be two individual mark-ups: deceased and No Record Mail, all other mark-ups will be bundled and receive one mark-up for each bundle. The markups now allowed are:

- IA Insufficient Address
- ANK Attempted Not Known
- DIS In Dispute
- NSN Non Such Number
- NSS No Such Street
- UTF Unable To Forward
- NMR No Mail Receptacle
- REF Refused
- TA Temporarily Away
- UNC Unclaimed
- VAC Vacant
- ILL Illegible

- UBBM Undeliverable Bulk Business Mail
- OUBBM Other Undeliverable BBM

In addition a bundle mark-up would be appropriate for each bundle of excess box-holders. If you are required by your Postmaster to make any other mark-ups you would also get a credit for those. There will be no change to the COA credit at this time, the Postal Service has decided to try to make this change through collective bargaining.

During the Special count carriers who are required to retrieve errors in their DPS that are identified through the Mail History Tracking System (MHTS) would receive credit under Column “R” for this new duty. This should be done in conjunction with riffling the mail. All carriers are entitled to this time whether or not they case their DPS. For purposes of determining the proper credit you would need to perform this prior to casing your DPS during the count period. You would receive credit for the actual time you spend riffling your DPS and retrieving errors.

Carriers who perform duties related to the Shipment Confirmation Acceptance Notice (SCAN) will receive a credit of 18 seconds under column “R” for each notice they scan. Under the SCAN service carriers are required to count parcels and scan a customers manifest. If you are required to do this please keep track of how many parcels you collect as well as the time it takes to count them.

You can obtain more information on count changes from our Web Site or by contacting your Steward.

The Special mail count will begin on September 17th and conclude on September 29th.. The only routes that will be counting are Auxiliary routes that evaluated over 39 hours and routes that have the potential of going either into or out of L route status and had a change of more than two hours in evaluation. A third criteria would be if circumstances existed that would have negated the validity of the latest count. Since there will be only a small number of routes counting, it would have been impractical to hold mail count trainings, if you are counting feel free to contact either myself or one of the Assistant Stewards for information. The results of the special count will be effective on October 27th, 2007.

Until next time; Tom Bittner

PHONE PROTOCOL

If you have a problem and you do not have a local steward in your office, contact the appropriate steward for your area, either area or assistant. The State Steward can be called anytime if you have trouble reaching your assigned steward.

Area Steward Post Office Assignments

Steven Sowle Home PO Tomah

Hm 608-372-5221 wk 608-372-5611

Arcadia, Bangor, Black River Falls, Camp Douglas, Cashton
Desoto, Fountain City, Galesville, Hillsboro
Holmen, La Farge, Melrose, Necedah, Onalaska, Sparta,
Trempealeau, Viroqua, West
Salem, Westby.

John Phillips Home PO Madison

Hm 608-437-6718 wk 608 848-6879 cell 608-212-4556

Email auggie2@prodigy.net

Arena, Barneveld, Black Earth, Blanchardville, Blue Mounds,
Cross Plains, Dane, Darlington, Dodgeville, Hollandale,
Madison, (all branches), Mazomanie, Mineral Point, Mt.Horeb,
Prairie Du Sac, Ridgeway, Sauk city, Waunakee.

Al Muench Home PO West Bend

Hm 920-994-4436 wk 262-334-3677

Kewaskum, Wauzeka, Jackson, Waupun, Beaver Dam, Juneau,
Freedonia, Random Lake, Campbellsport, Sheboygan Falls,
Sheboygan, Saukville, Allenton, Hubertus, Slinger, Lomira.

Paul Loumos Home PO Racine

Hm 262-633-3883 wk 262-632-6124

Burlington, Caledonia, Franksville, Kansasville, Racine (Main),
Racine (4-Mile), Racine (west), Sturtevant, Union Grove,
Waterford, Salem, Silver Lake, Trevor, Twin Lakes, Kenosha,
Genoa City, Sharon, Fontana, Williams
Bay.

Fred Resch Home PO Antigo

Hm 715-449-3026 wk 715-627-4812

Neopit, Gresham, Birnamwood, Gleason, Wittenburg, Eland,
Bowler, Pelican Lake, Summit Lake Aaiwa, Hatley,
Ringo,Elco, Merrill

Sue Heiderscheidt Home PO Centuria

Hm 715-646-9366 wk 715-646-2121

Webster, Federic, Prescott, Cumberland, Balsom Lake, Barron,
St Croix Falls, Dresser, Eau Claire, Bloomer, New Auburn,
Chetek, Osceola, Grantsburg.

Barbara Bergsma Home PO Avoca

Hm 608-583-5003 wk 608-532-6880 cell 608-604-4715

Benton, Blue River, Boscobel, Darlington, Fennimore,
Hazel Green, Lancaster, Linden, Lone Rock, Mineral

Point, Montfort, Muscoda, Plain, Potosi, Prairie Du Chein,
Spring Green, Stitzer, Mount Hope.

Michael Wieczorek Home PO Peshtigo

Hm 906-864-4465 wk 715-735-7342

Pestigo, Coleman, Crivitz, Oconto, Oconto Falls,

Louan Friend Home PO Pardeeville

Hm 608-587-2053 wk 608-429-2782 cell 608-697-8113

Email jklnmf@hotmail.com

De Forest, Reedsburg, Portage, Columbus, Endeavor, Poynette,
Montello, Sauk City, Packwaukee, Westfield, Randolph

Lois Graper Home PO Marion

Hm 715-754-4904 wk 715-754-5831

Amherst, Amherst Junction, Clintonville, Iola,
Manawa, Neillsville, Ogdensburg, Rosholt
Scandinavia, Schofield, Shawano, Tigerton

Marilyn Laporte Home PO Spooner

Hm 715-635-2560 wk 715-635-6919

Birchwood, Cameron, Minong, Rice Lake, Sarona, Shell
Lake, Springbrook, Trego

State and Assistant State Steward Assignments by Area

Tom Bittner -- State Steward

Phone 920-273-0760

Email: tombittner@wirlca.org

541,542,543,549,545,544

Roger Schewe

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Email: rschewe@charter.net

First 3 digit zip code areas

537,535,538,546

Charles Groth

Phone 715-634-3938

Email: cgroth@centurytel.net

First 3 digit zip code areas 547,548,540

Lisa Wojnarowski

Phone 414-810-4860

lwojnarowski@wi.rr.com

532,534,530,531,539

Anyone wishing to receive the State Stewards' electronic newsletter should send their request to:

tombittner@wirlca.org with 'electronic newsletter' in the subject line.

Just like clockwork...

Seasons come and seasons go. The T.V. ads show happy young ones stocking up on school clothes and supplies, football games have returned and stores are already preparing for Halloween. One of the benefits of having an employment contract with our employer is that we also can count on seasonal changes.



Chuck Groth

One of those scheduled events is the “Guarantee Period”, which will begin PP 23/07, Oct. 27, 2007 and continue for 52 weeks. Just like clockwork, it is this time of year that I have to refresh my recollection of what other events coincide with this period.

The complete description of guaranteed salaries can be found in our current contract, EL-902, in Article 9.2. Basically it states that *“certain rural letter carriers shall be employed on an annual basis at a guaranteed salary... and shall not be required to actually work more than 2,240 hours... pursuant to Section 7(b)(2) of the Fair Labor Standards Act (Art. 9.2.A.1) and (Art.9.2.1.b) “the employer may, at any time, reduce or increase such carrier’s total compensation..., **but not to a salary level below the guarantee set forth at the beginning of the guarantee period.**”*

So what does this mean? Basically, it means we are protected from sweat-shop working conditions by Federal law and will be guaranteed a 40 hour a week wage should anything catastrophic happen to our employment as regular carriers.

We are also guaranteed that, *“any employee scheduled to work and who does report to work shall be guaranteed two (2) hours work or pay (art. 8.4)-remember this on a snow day when you are “required” to show up and there is nothing to do.*

Part of **our** guarantee to management is that we agree, in writing, to use sufficient leave to stay under 2080 hours of actual work time for the year. One common mistake that contributes to excessive actual work hours is that many carriers forget to write down any “lunch period” time. Everybody should be able to

write down a minimum of 15 minutes for, “lunch/breaks/conversation time”, etc. This is deducted from your actual work hours and little by little may help towards preventing 2080 issues.

Another event connected with the guarantee period is the “Relief Day Work List (RDWL)”. Art. 8.5 of our contract states; *Two weeks prior to the beginning of the guarantee period **AT EACH DELIVERY UNIT**, regular rural carriers desiring to work their relief day shall place their names on the relief day work list.* There are some things to remember though; there needs to be a shortage of relief carriers, rules of seniority need to be adhered to (8.5.A.1 &2), you can take your name off at any time but you can’t put it on after the start of the guarantee period and even one (1) route offices should have a relief day work list.

Now you may be asking yourself, “Why is it important for even one route offices to have a RDWL?” Because there is a difference in pay procedures and choices (see Art. 9.2.C.5.f) and even though you may have the best working relationship with your manager, they may not always be there and their replacement may not want to play nice.

Hopefully this has got you thinking about some of the seasonal events with your job and what to expect.

Respectfully submitted, Chuck



Delegation hard at work at the National Convention in Grand Rapids MI

So, What did you think of the National Convention?

Traveling down the freeway I received a phone call from Cathy Morris asking if I was still en route to the National Convention. I said I was in Rockford Ill., via the phone call I was told I would be a delegate. I had to check in when I got to Grand Rapids. I was going as a non delegate.

Upon arriving at Grand Rapids I made my call to let everyone know I had made it and would see them on Tues. morning.

Tues. morning I was up early unsure of what to envision. I found my way to the Amway Grand Hotel with all its grandeur nestled on the banks of the Grand River. I inquired where I could find the WI. Delegation, oh what a relief to see familiar faces. I then was told I had to pickup my credentials and with the assistance of the seasoned delegates they steered me in the right direction and now I had my 1st official delegate badge.

Thanks Mary for helping my wife obtain her proper credentials also.

I was ready to enter the 103rd National Convention as a 1st time delegate, unsure what to expect but anxious to be here.

How awe-inspiring to see all the States banners represented on the walls. All the formal introductions and welcomes completed from all the dignitaries it was now time to get down to business.

The parliamentary procedure was perplexing at times and if I could change my vote on 1 or 2 issues I would but all in all I feel I made the correct choices.

The caucus was educational, one individual told us at the caucus the Convention was like a vacation, I think it was more like someone else said "go in and do your job"

With the familiar faces and names I have learned to know and recognize from attending the various conferences and State Conventions gave me confident feeling being with my fellow delegates which were always willing to answer my questions when I asked.

How informative it was to listen to all the questions

and answers throughout the Convention .It were a learning process, I will never forget.

In closing I want to thank each and everyone for all the mentoring you gave me and I hope I will have the opportunity to be a delegate at upcoming Conventions.

Norrie Samb

Thank You

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a first-time delegate to the NRLCA National Convention at Grand Rapids, Michigan. I did attend six national conventions with my husband but as a non-delegate.

During those conventions it was difficult to sit and watch all the activity around you and not being able to voice your opinion by your vote. The delegates are so very knowledgeable about the format of the convention and business was conducted in an orderly manner even with the poor sounds system.

The past and present National Officers were willing to talk with me and answered my questions. It was good to hear how other union members are coping with high gas prices, lack of substitutes and all were asking about the contract and arbitration.

There was information about the steward training, thrift savings plans, health and dental plans, retirement and so much more. It amazes me more union members do not get involved with the county, state or national meetings. There is always something new to learn.

Thanks again for giving me the chance to be a delegate and "vote".

Lucille Dobbe

Membership as of 9-1-07			
Members:		Non-Members:	
Regular carriers	1625	Regular carriers	190
RCA/RCRs	1265	RCRs	5
Retired	953	RCAs	435
Associates	20	RCAs on Aux Rts	50
Recently retired	7	Total	
Grand Total	3870	Non-members	680

While on my voyage to the national convention of RLC in Grand Rapids, Michigan I stopped for a family reunion. In conversation with my relatives I mentioned my destination and tried to explain what we did at the convention. After some joking of continual cocktail hour, poolside parties, and general fun, I said I thought we would be conducting business and meeting with other carriers from the country. A better response would have been that I was going to learn about the business of the union.

Upon arrival in Grand Rapids, I checked into my hotel, I realized that I had missed the seminar for first-timer attendees,(note to self check time zone of destination,) so I settled in, then went out to visit the convention center and get a feel for the city. I had dinner and went out to see what the downtown had to offer. In a short period of time I ran into some of the other Wisconsin delegates and we went window shopping together. Then back to the hotel to get some sleep and be ready for the Wisconsin breakfast at 7:30 am the next morning. I enjoyed a breakfast with some of the candidates for committeeman. Unfortunately I was a little shy about asking questions and so I just listened. After breakfast a fellow carrier took some of us first timers to the convention hall and we checked in with the credentials committee.

With my official name tag I proceeded to pick up my ditty bag. This is an important feature because it not only contained the agenda but also items of interest from the area. So after a quick look around at some of the vendors there, I found the Wisconsin delegation and took a seat. Wisconsin had 40 delegates in attendance, that means forty votes! The first day was filled with introductions and a few you're doing a great job speeches. The major part of the afternoon was reports. The longest being the financial report. It was very thorough and well explained. Very little discussion was held afterward and it was accepted as read. I'll admit that my mind wandered a few times during this report, I found myself doing a crossword puzzle at one point but quickly got back on task. After adjourning for the day I enjoyed a meal with fellow carriers and then retired for the evening.

Wednesday up early and over to the convention hall to visit the booths of the committeeman candidates and to pick up a few treats to snack on during the meeting. At this point we were all seated by state there were about 1200 delegates and some who just came because they were interested. There was a lot of

talk and each time a new issue arose there would be people lined up at microphones to wait a turn to speak or question the topic at hand. I found it interesting listening to questions. I don't always look at things the same way as others see them and it amazed me that some discussions actually persuaded my take on an issue. Things that I thought would take forever went quickly, like ratifying the new constitution and by laws and things that I thought would go quickly generated great amounts of discussion, like the courtesy resolutions. I have a great deal of respect for the people who served on the various committees. They were well prepared and informed. The day went much more quickly.

Thursday more of the same constitution and bylaws changes. Lots of amendments and amendments to amendments. Much discussion and voting with our yeah and nay cards. Again well run and extremely professional. Thursday night is caucus night. You meet with other delegates from your area and the candidates for office come in one at a time and spent about 15 minutes promoting their positions and answering questions, they also passed out lots of goodies, kind of a backwards Halloween. After the caucus the Wisconsin delegation met and discussed the candidates, more information.

Friday, the last day of the convention. elect officers and head home. The election process was tedious. We got the job done and were on our way home by 6:00pm. I missed the cocktails and the poolside parties but the convention was very informative and well run. Would I go again? Yes, I may even work up the courage to speak on the floor. Would I call it a vacation? No, but I'd still be proud to represent the rural carriers of Wisconsin.

Respectfully, Vicki Galgowski,RLC Hudson WI.



Wisconsin Breakfast

Should I go to Fall Conference?

“Come to the Spring or Fall Conference!” How often have you heard Tom Bittner, or one of the Area Stewards, say this to you at one of the county meetings through the years? Probably many times, or even every time you met with them—so did I. I finally went.

I attended my first Spring Conference recently held in Tomah, Wisconsin on March 17-18. IT WAS AWESOME. You really do learn so much. For those of you like me, who consider yourselves nice, quiet professionals, and wonder why you always seem to butt heads with managers, feel alone in your office, or wish you had more training. Well this is the place for you.

Our conference was held at the Cranberry Country Lodge in Tomah, conveniently located right off of the I-94 interstate exit. The special room rate of \$62 was for any room. I took my family of 5 so our room was a suite with a queen bed, bunk bed, a sleeper sofa, 2 TV's, refrigerator and microwave in 2 rooms. The bathroom was huge, and with 3 daughters, we really appreciated that! The price also included admittance to the water park with a swimming pool, whirlpool, dry sauna and exercise room.

Saturday started at 1 pm. Our first presenter was Sharon Dahlberg of the Madison PEDC. She brought us up-to-date on current rural carrier training. After a break Stan Allbaugh, Information Systems Manager, was very amusing and presented computer-related information including USPS Lite Blue. Adjourning promptly at 4 pm, we took a break for dinner and continued into the evening with a social and PAC event from 7-9 pm.

Sunday morning, we reconvened at 9 am with devotions, the Pledge of Allegiance, welcome and introductions. The morning session began at 10 am with Joyce Fox of AMS (Address Management System) in Madison. She presented edit book information and fielded a multitude of questions from attendees concerning address management, DPS, case labels and edit books.

We decided to skip our lunch break because of Badger Basketball playoffs and started with a meaty session with Steve Shears—Whitewater Postmaster and CSA for Lakeland District. Everybody's heard of Steve Shears—it was great to match a person with

the name and to discover he doesn't really have horns!! (his joke) We asked him anything and everything. He was very gracious and answered all of our questions. Steve started his career in rural delivery and now works in management. He helped to bring insight from the other side of our concerns.

After an hour long question and answer period with the State Steward Tom Bittner and WIRLCA President Dan Strobel, we ended the weekend with drawings for various prizes and adjourned by 3:30 pm.

I happened to win a \$20 gas card! We came in Friday night using Saturday morning for exercise, the water park and shopping in Tomah. I went down a water-slide for the first time in my glasses. At 54 years of age, I thought I was going to die! To say we had a ball would be an understatement. We not only enjoyed quality time, but as an 18-year USPS veteran, I experience a heavy duty condensed informational training session I only dreamed of. County meetings are great but this was unbelievable. With Tom's encouragement, those of us who ran for local steward, going to Spring and Fall Conference would be the next step up, and we get paid \$75 for attending. You do receive the information you need to do your job with confidence, to work with, or stand up to management depending on the situation. This gives you what you need to know and how to proceed.

Join up. Do it. Come to the Fall Conference. You will wish you had done it 10 years ago, like I wish I had.

Betty Skonieczny



Some days all you can do is smile and wait for some kind soul to come pull your butt out of the bind you've gotten yourself into.

QWL-EI Northland District News

Hi all, QWL-EI is “25 and still alive” in the Northland District. Since replacing Nancy Hainstock on the DJSC, I thought I’d update you on the progress of events in the northwestern third of our state. On Aug. 22nd and 23rd, we completed our tri-annual DJSC/Facilitator meeting. Three times a year facilitators meet with the DJSC for training, rejuvenation and networking. Normally we meet off of postal property, but this time we held training at the Minneapolis main post office. We were able to tap into resources not usually available any where else, such as speakers from Marketing, AMS, Finance, PEDC, Safety and even the District Manager, Tony Williams, came to speak. The facilitators were given the opportunity for some hands-on computer training that will assist them when out in the field. Subjects covered were; postal web pages LiteBlue and Blue, NetPost, eTravel and other websites important to rural carriers and their customers.

Recent projects have included-Safety, the area work team “547 Dibbs” had worked on an ergonomically correct mailbox, that some of you may have seen, but the big story is that while doing that, they had identified a mailbox model which had a defect that could contribute to repetitive injuries. Their research has caused the Postal Service to contact the manufacturer and require them to bring the defect into compliance. Also the “Dibbs” had produced and distributed a safety talk on a little known, but harmful plant that grows near mailboxes.

The 548 area work team has been active in safety also, with the production and distribution of a district accredited training course “Safety, Do It for You” and continuing to keep the characters of Em, Ed and Gedd (rural carrier ambassadors) visible in the public eye. They have also been busy working on revenue generation through the promotion of PhotoStamps.

There will be craft facilitator vacancies in the 540 and 548 areas. Contact- Marti Roberts, Northland DJSC Coordinator (marti.j.roberts@usps.gov) for a application.

It is with extreme gratitude that the Northland District expresses, as Norrie Samb (540) and Cathy Morris (548) roll off as facilitators. Thank You! For all your

hard work in promulgating the process and helping to improve the quality of our work life.

Respectfully submitted, Chuck

Improved Benefits for the Rural Carrier Benefit Plan in 2008

Many members have wondered what will happen to the Rural Carrier Benefit Plan (RCBP) now that Coventry Health Care is our new insurance company. Well, how about benefit improvement for 2008? The National Office recently received approval from the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) for the following benefits additions to the RCBP beginning January 1, 2008:

The Plan will cover the Zostavax (Shingles) vaccine for adults

The Plan will cover the new Human Papilloma Virus (Cervical cancer) vaccine for women

The Plan will pay the PPO level of benefits for all medical providers, including non-PPO providers, when a Plan member uses a PPO hospital for an accidental injury or medical emergency

The Plan will pay 90% of maternity care by a PPO provider, instead of 85%

The Plan will provide coverage for screening, testing, diagnosis, and treatment (including hearing aids) for hearing loss in children

In addition, the benefits for prescription drug expenses will remain the same in 2008. The co-payments for prescription drugs ordered through the Plan’s mail order prescription drug program will remain the same in 2008 and the Plan will pay the same percentage for prescription drugs purchased at the retail drugstore during 2008. And, the RCBP is the only health plan in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program that pays 100% for cancer treatment.

The Open Season for the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program will be from Monday, November 12th through Monday, December 10th.

VERIFICATION GUARANTEED

The Work Number makes employment verification easy

Applying for a car loan or a mortgage? If you are, chances are good your lender has asked you to provide proof of employment or income.

Good news. USPS has joined more than 1,500 companies using *The Work Number*, an automated service that allows you to quickly — and securely — provide proof of your employment or income. You benefit from having control of the process, since you authorize access to your information. The Work Number can be used anytime, anywhere and its available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

To verify employment, just give the verifier your social security number and the Postal Service employer code — 12946 — and send them to www.theworknumber.com or have them call 1-800-367-5690.

For income history, you'll need to generate a salary key to give to the verifier. You can get that from the website or by calling another toll-free number — 1-800-996-7566. Login using the employee option. You'll need the USPS employer code — 12946 — and your employee ID number. When prompted for a PIN, enter the last four digits of your Social Security number.

Have a pen or pencil ready because you'll be given a 6-digit salary key that you'll need to provide to anyone wanting to verify your salary. Give them the salary key and direct them to the website or the 1-800-367-5690 toll-free number.

Remember — more than 1,500 companies, and 95% of federal agencies, participate in this program. Most banks and lending institutions use The Work Number every day and will be very familiar with this process.



Lois Graper-PAC Rep.

National Rural Carriers Provident Guild

The Provident Guild is a Non-Profit, Fraternal Organization, created and operated by Rural Carriers for our membership and Auxiliary Members to give their survivors an amount of **Ready Cash** for those days when routine procedures of the courts and legal action tie up our estates after death.

The Guild is open to all regular, substitute, RCR, RCA, PTF carriers and their spouses.

The Guild is not an insurance! Rather, it is a Fraternal Death Benefit Fund that guarantees you at least 30 times your annual dues and, depending on the number of claims in any given year, can pay you up to 100 times your annual dues.

There is no physical examinations, no assessments, no commissions, and no high salaries.

This low cost protection does not decrease, nor can it be cancelled when you reach age 65.

Signing up for the Guild is as simple as a 1 page form that I could send to you. Contact me if you are interested!

Now back to old age. In the last newsletter I told you about my recent purchase of a right hand drive Jeep Cherokee. At the national convention, I was informed of possible problems with these right hand drive vehicle. A carrier claimed that the DOT was having concerns with these vehicles and in some cases impounding them. Upon further research, the vehicles that were impounded were purchased on E bay. I have not had a problem with the DOT. There was no problem at all registering the vehicle at the police department. Before the purchase I was told that after the vehicle came through customs, it was transported to US Drive Right in Spring Arbor, Michigan and inspected for problems. When the vehicle was delivered to my house I immediately took it to the local Jeep dealer for another inspection before I would use it on the route. Any purchase would be a personal choice. Buyer beware. Lois

WIRLCA Auxiliary Officers—2007-08

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Vice-President

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Watch the WIRLCA website and the next newsletter for some important changes for the Auxiliary. Also, look for information regarding this year's National Project, **Diabetes**. National Scholarship Application will be available. They must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2008. Contact any Auxiliary Board Member if you have any questions.



Cindy Graper at the National Junior Talent Show—Grand Rapids MI

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Lois Graper Committeeman	W10980 Riverside Rd. Marion, WI 54950-9020	715-754-4904	Lincoln-Langlade, Mara- thon-Clark, Shawano, Tri- County, Wood-Portage
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Louan Friend Committeeman	N685 10th Dr. Endeavor, WI 54843	608-697-8113	Crawford, Columbia, Monroe-Juneau, Sauk- Richland, Vernon
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Dennis R. Nelson PAC Chairman	1002 55th St. Amery, WI 54001	715-948-2605	

HEROES' CORNER

While delivering mail, Holcombe, WI, Rural Carrier Mischelle Hattamer found an alarming note in a customer's mailbox. It read, "I need help. My furnace blew up and my phone doesn't work." Hattamer went inside and found the customer, covered with soot and

having difficulty breathing. Hattamer went to a neighbor's house and called the woman's relatives. She then waited with the woman until help arrived. Later, the customer's son thanked Hattamer for her actions and said his mother's furnace had exploded two days earlier but she was unable to summon help until Hattamer arrived.

WI RLCA Lois Graper-Editor
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Wisconsin Delegation at National Convention in Grand Rapids Michigan