

# Officer's Reports

Georgia Rural Letter Carriers'  
Association

May 2015



*Memorial Day was first enacted to honor Union soldiers of the American Civil War and it was expanded after World War I to include American casualties of any war or military action.*

## LLVs & POVs!

District meetings come and District meetings go. I surely hope you attended not only your District meeting but maybe you took the extra initiative to attend another District to see how they run their meetings. Traveling to other Districts helps you to become familiar with new faces and meet other Rural Carriers with similar issues as you may have and learn of different issues you may encounter at a future date. We are all Rural Carriers performing the same job, delivering the mail, but we all work under different styles of management, some good, some not so good and some downright disgusting! By regularly attending your meetings and reading your material helps you to better solve some of your problems by knowing what questions to ask and who to ask them of.

Seems to me the Postal Service, in all its infinite wisdom, has yet to figure out that insufficient training leads to inefficient performance. They expect carriers to just leave the office with minimal training on a route and be back by the precipitous 5:00 p.m.

deadline! Some areas of the state have more LLVs than POVs and some areas have more POVs. I, personally, have never driven an LLV but I can see where that loading and delivering out of a LLV would be less restrictive than a POV. The LLVs have the mail tray that will load 3 trays of mail side by side and a large cargo area for packages and residual mail. Now a carrier that drives a POV on a route has quite a few decisions to make before attempting to load their vehicle. First of all what type and style vehicle is it? How should they pull their mail down and tray, strap or tub it for delivery? Where will certain mail be placed in the vehicle so that the carrier can safely sit in said vehicle and deliver the mail? Where will all those parcels fit? Where will they put accountable mail? Where will they put money box and stamps? Where will they put residual mail for later part of route? Where will they put circulars so they can be worked with other mail? So you see a carrier that delivers in a POV has many decisions to solve even before they pull down their mail. Now if a carrier has been delivering a route which

has a LLV assigned and then has to cross over to a POV route they should have some extra training with the POV carrier, wouldn't you think? They just don't get it.

After traveling much of the state visiting different Districts, I was looking for the results of the District Officer training from February and was pleased to see there were positive reflections at each District. There were a few areas that still need some tweaking which was noted for future reference to training. Over all the meetings went very well and stayed on track. The Presidents kept the meetings running right along and the Secretaries reports were, for the most, representative of the District's finances and past business. Delegates elected to serve your District need to be prepared to do the business of the Association from June 29 to July 1, 2015 in Macon, GA at the Macon Marriott City Center. Looking forward to seeing you there. Be safe in all you do and deliver the mail with a smile.

*Respectively Submitted,*  
**Fred DeLoach**  
*President*

## 1.48 lbs is causing issues

1.48 lbs. This weight is causing me issues each day. No, I haven't gotten noticeably weaker. Yes, I can still handle a parcel up to 70 lbs. Why is 1.48 lbs. an issue you may be thinking? This is what the scanner weighs. I carry my scanner in the black nylon pouch we were issued. I attach this to my belt when I depart for the route. It stays there till I get to my last delivery. Where I go, it goes.

You're probably wondering at this point about my issue with this. It's causing my SHIRT to become UN-TUCKED multiple times each day! This is very bothersome to me. I don't have any extra time each day to deal with this but I do. I try to do a quick tuck method as I'm returning to my LLV. This is a temporary fix till I can do it right. I hope my customers haven't witnessed this method. They probably wouldn't understand what they are seeing. (I hope I never wind up on You Tube!) Fortunately I have places on my route I can take care of my issue. A while back I was having my issue towards the end of the route. I had a parcel that had to be delivered to the customer's door. Due to safety concerns I do not park the LLV on the road when I have to make a delivery to this customer's door. It's located in a blind curve with heavy traffic. I

make a SAFE, SLOW 3 point turn at the residence BEFORE making a safe dismount. Everyone knows what a safe dismount is RIGHT? Roll away, Run away accidents are avoidable. I went to the door, set the parcel down and scanned it delivered. On the way back I figured it would be a good time to properly take care of my issue. About halfway through the process a voice called out 'Thank you!' Busted! Didn't think anyone was home. 'Your welcome' I answered as I finished the process never slowing down or looking back. Always perform your job as if you are being watched. You never know when someone's looking. If you ever find yourself in a potentially embarrassing situation be professional and polite. Service with a smile and a good laugh occasionally!

**Phil Upchurch**  
*Vice President*

## From the Secretary's Desk

Membership for Georgia as I write this article is 4958.

### State Delegates

The elections for state delegates are now over with. If you were elected to serve your district as a state delegate at the 2015 Convention in Macon, GA. and know that you won't be able to attend; please let your district Secretary know as soon as possible. Some districts elected alternates and your district Secretary needs to know so that an alternate can be contacted to take your place.

Be sure to bring the credential you received from your District Secretary to the State Convention.

### National Ballots

The last day that nominations will be accepted for a place on the national ballot is May 20th. The drawing for the placement of names on the ballot will be held that evening. Contact me for the location and time if you would like to observe. Ballots will be mailed on or before June 9th. You normally have about two weeks to mark and mail your ballot, but with the

Postal Services' delay in processing you will need to vote your ballot and return it immediately. The voted ballot must be received by June 27th to be counted.

Each year approximately 4900 ballots are mailed and between 700 and 800 returned or about 16%. I commend those who exercise their right to vote and elect the delegates of their choice to represent them at National Convention. This is a big expense to the state and one that is required by law. So please take the time to VOTE.

### Cash Members

Letters have gone out to the members who pay their dues by the cash method. Membership is required if you currently have the Rural Health Benefit Plan or change to it in the future. To remain a member in good standing a timely response with payment will be appreciated.

**Glynda G. Wurtz**  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

### Membership April 30, 2015

#### Cash Members

Regular	9
Retired	80
Associate	1

#### Dues Withholding

Regular	2652
Relief	1478
Retired	690
Associate	26
Membership Total	4958

## Plant Closings—Poor Decisions

A mother-in-law arrives home from a shopping trip to find her son-in-law in a screaming rage and hurriedly packing his suitcase. “What is going on?” she ask anxiously? “What’s going on, what’s going on? I’ll tell you what’s going on” her son-in-law replied. “I mailed a letter to my wife telling her I was coming home early from my fishing trip. I get home... and guess what I find?? That’s right, your daughter, my wife Jan, in a compromising position with another man! This is unforgivable, this is the end of our marriage, I’m done, I’m leaving forever!” “Come now, calm down.” said his mother-in-law. “There is something very odd going on here. Jan would never do such a thing! There must be a simple explanation. I’ll go speak with her and find out what happened.” Moments later, the mother-in-law comes back with a big smile. “There now, you see? I told you there must be a simple explanation.” “Well what is it?” fumed the son-in-law. The mother-in-law said, “She never got your letter!”

I hope nothing like this ever happens for real to any Georgia Rural Mail Carriers, but with all the plant closings, I would not be surprised. It seems like higher level management is making some poor decisions with all these plant closing issues. I hope sooner rather than later someone wakes up. Maybe with the new PMG things will get better.

State and National Conventions are right around the corner. I hope you are making plans to attend and hopefully as a delegate. This is the time to make changes to our constitution and turn in resolutions to change our contract. Hopefully you got a head start on this at your district meeting. Don Maston, from California will be our speaker at the State Convention. The dates are June 29-July 1 at the Macon Marriott City Center in Macon Ga. Come and make a difference. The National Convention is August 18-21 in Reno, Nevada. I am looking forward to going to Reno. It should be lots of fun along with those long working

days.

Last month, the “Rural Quest” was “When a rural carrier retires, what is the form # they must submit to remain a member of the GA RLCA?” The answer is form 1187R. This was the most responded to question since the “Rural Quest” was started. A lot of carriers must be ready to retire. The winner was Linda Gaines from Fitzgerald Ga. The “Rural Quest” this month is “What was the most recent year the National Convention was held in Georgia and in what city?” If you want to make an easy \$10, send me your name, address and answer today.

In order to encourage non-members to become union members, please share your GRLCA Rural Bulletin and your National Rural Magazine with them. Hope to see you at the Conventions!

**Terry Chancey**  
*Chairman Executive Committee*

## National General No-Obligation Quote

District Spring Business meeting will be over by the time you receive this bulletin and I hope you took the time to attend yours. The District Representatives and their staff brought the members that attended good information and answered many questions that arose during the meeting. I for one was very interested in the information that was discussed about what’s going to be our new way of getting paid, the engineering time study. They also gave out good advice on our new scanners that most of us have now received. The DRs, ADRs

and Area Representatives have always provided us with good information and I’m glad we have them working on our behalf.

Georgia now has 13 quotes to our credit for this year. We have given out quote forms and asked the membership to call and get a quote from National General if they have not yet got one. Also ask your family members and friends to call them also because they are eligible to receive the same money saving quote on their vehicle insurance as you are. If Georgia receives 39

more quotes then the State Association will benefit by receiving \$20 per quote after that 39. This money goes toward helping the association keep cost down for our membership. Take a minute today and get your no-obligation quote by calling National General at 1-877-274-9632 and don’t forget to use the savings code R-21 when you talk to one of their representatives, you may be surprised by how much you SAVE!

**Mark Larman**  
*Executive Committee*

## State Convention—2015

**Macon Marriott City Center, Macon, GA**

**June 28th—July 1st**

# What Has the Union Done for Me?

You know this spring has been so different from any I've experienced in the past. I was assigned to attend certain spring business meetings, visited others and still had to prepare for my own. It has been busy for me, not as busy as our President and other Board members, but still a change for me. I have enjoyed meeting so many members of the GARLCA that I had only ran into at past booster meetings and conventions. Additionally, visiting a district is so much nicer than just riding through a district. I think it has been a very productive spring for the GARLCA.

But you know some things never change. I still hear "what has the union done for me". You know we can really be "close-minded". We forget that our stewards help us all the time. Be it management pushing us a little too much, problems with the WDRL, pay or innumerable other issues. Our union continually defends the 6 day delivery and works to provide us with the best pay and benefits possible. We provide you (in the state of Georgia) a Bulletin, a Facebook page and a GARLCA website. These provide timely information on what is going on in Washington (House and Senate activities), changes in our jobs (the time study/new scanners) and what the USPS is attempting to change within our craft.

The real problem we have is that we have too many carriers that wish to be SPOON-FED and not be involved in what the GA

RLCA and NRLCA are doing. Similar to the quote from John F. Kennedy- "My fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country"- Not what the NRLCA union is doing for you, but what are you doing to be informed, help formulate and push issues for the greater good of the Rural craft. If you are not involved and participating in the GARLCA/NRLCA, then quit complaining. Therefore, change is necessary. Attend your district meetings, GARLCA booster meeting and conventions (GARLCA and NRLCA).

If you attend, you will be better informed, see what is being done within our craft and all the work that goes into making the Rural Letter Craft stand out within a viable USPS. We need all regular carriers, retirees and RCAs to forge a strong union and thus protect all that has been taken for granted. Our future is in the hands of those who choose to participate, to pursue enhancing our knowledge/job performance and the viability of the USPS. I assure you that things will stay the same if you do nothing. (I'm off my soapbox now).

I hope to see you at our GARLCA convention in Macon, GA (28 June-1 July).

**Cliff Duncan**  
*Executive Committee*

## Vote "No" to Benefit Reductions

Last month, we talked about the House Concurrent Budget Resolution 27 and the Senate Concurrent Budget Resolution 11.

The deadline for Congress to adopt a joint Budget Resolution was April 15<sup>th</sup>. This did not happen.

Now the House and the Senate leaders have appointed members to the Budget Conference Committee.

The task set before this committee is to draft a final fiscal year 2016 Budget that must pass both the House and the Senate.

Then this will be presented to the President.

Even though the Senate Budget was asking for \$170 billion deficit reduction compared to \$318 billion in the House Budget Proposal, federal employees are still the primary target.

We encourage everyone to contact their Representatives and Senators to vote "NO" to all these benefit reductions and service cuts.

One thing, not necessarily legislative, but after the "cyber intrusion" last year the NRLCA filed a complaint with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) charging the Postal Service with unfair labor practices. The Postal Service knew of the incident many months before informing employees or any of the Unions of the hacking. The trial is set for May 20, 2015.

All of the District meetings will be over by the time you get this Bulletin. I hope you were able to attend your meeting and con-

verse with other rural carriers.

In closing, your President, Vice President, and myself are preparing to attend the Legislative Seminar in Washington DC; my hope is that we can give you positive feedback when we return.

**Dwight Brookshire**  
*Legislative Director*

**Remember to Honor with Gratitude  
those who have fought for our  
Freedom.**