



# THE INFORMER

BRANCH 106  
VOLUME 5 ISSUE 2  
JULY 2009



## Message from the President

Boy, hasn't this year flown by in a flash. We went to the Alabama State Convention in June. It was my first union convention and was a learning experience. The training provided by Lew Drass and Steve Lassen of the National Business office was excellent. Gary Mullins of the National Office was the keynote speaker and installed our new officers. I want to congratulate our local members who were re-elected to state offices. James Williams as President, Booker T Carroll as Southern Board member at Large, and Kenneth Stephens as Director of Retirees. In-depth training was provided on COLCPE, Muscular Dystrophy fund raising, Food Drive program, MIRAP route adjustment process, The MOU giving new territory to city carriers, Union activism in the current political climate, and the fiscal crisis in the Postal Service. The main message was to get involved and participate in these programs and processes. We need to recruit new members into the Union and re-recruit a lot of those who have left our ranks. We need to make a push to sign up every member into the political action arena by giving to COLCPE. There is a national contest going on and we are doing fair in the COLCPE participation but lagging behind in the percentage of our members that have joined the Union as dues /paying members. The union is leading the way by encouraging our congressmen and congresswomen to support HR22; to allow the Postal Service to restructure the 2.8 billion they have to pay the treasury each year to prefund the retirees health care fund. This alone will help the Postal Service with its financial pains. We were told that the postal service will exhaust its budget to pay its employees in October 2009 but will delay paying the 2.8 billion dollars to the treasury to have the monies to pay its employees through the end of the year.

On the local level, we are in fact starting to get some settlements on the pile of over-time grievances in Montgomery. The settlements will start flowing in a few weeks. We have appointed a new BY-Law committee to look at our by-Laws to see where they need updating. We have also decided to provide donated snacks at each union meeting in exchange for a donation to the Muscular Dystrophy Association. We raised \$2,710.00 during the June Bowl-a-thon, \$525.00 at the State Convention drawings, and \$25.00 at the last union meeting.

Finally, the new web site is up and running. Right now, you can log onto NALC106.Com and check it out. We still have a lot of work to do but we will get there. As we develop the areas, they will become available to you. We will work on the public side of the site first getting the officers and contact information. Then we will work on the Branch History and site rules. I want a resource section and common used forms for your use. In the private members only section, we will have a members forum. That is where you can post information to other members about what is going on in your workplace and ask questions about what to do when your supervisor says, Do This!! Rule number one is BE NICE. No personal attacks or

## Branch 106 Officers

**President**  
**Jerry Smith**

**Vice-President**  
**Lloyd Sager**

**Secretary**  
**Wandra Broughton**

**Assistant Recording Secretary**  
**Marilyn Evans**

**Treasurer**  
**Randy Rogers**

**Health Benefits Rep.**  
**Charlie Wood**

**Director of Safety And Health**  
**Pete Taylor**

**Sergeant-at-Arms**  
**Freddie Hubbard**

**Trustees**  
**Ruscell Hudson**  
**Booker T. Carroll**  
**Lois Gray**

## Branch 106 Newsletter

Published quarterly for the benefit of the members of the NALC Union-Branch 106.

**The contents are informational and do not necessarily reflect the views of this Union or its officers.**

All NALC Branch 106 members are welcome to submit articles. Articles of general interests to union members must be received at least 4 weeks prior to the month of issue.

Branch 106 reserves the right to reject or edit any and all material received. All articles must be signed by the contributor. No responsible articles or editorials will be refused.

If you wish to run your personal or business ad, **these** must also be submitted 4 weeks prior to issue.

NALC members who wish to contribute should send information to Wandra Broughton, editor at

**Union Office  
Branch 106  
2800 Zelda Rd  
#100-10  
Montgomery, Al  
36106**

If possible, you can e-mail articles to

wanjbro@knology.net

derogatory information allowed. This discussion board is to be used to stimulate discussion among our members. The outside public will not be allowed into this section. You will not be allowed to give outsiders access to this section. We will monitor the IP addressed of those logging onto the private section and block access as necessary. To facilitate the private members only access to this section, we will issue user IDs and passwords and you will not be able to change them. Believe me, we will toe the line here to protect our members.

Some issues that happened at our July meeting. The procedure of paying travel expenses to the Union Hall for AO members was reinstated. The rules are: One member will get mileage for a trip to the monthly scheduled Union Meeting for up to 4 members after filling out and getting an approved voucher. If 5 or more members attend, two vouchers may be paid. This is an attempt to encourage meeting participation from outlying areas.

In the past several weeks, the Postal Service has started paying overtime grievances and have scheduled more than 10,000 dollars to letter carriers in the Montgomery Installation. We also achieved some milestones in other areas. I will brief them at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Till then, In solidarity

Jerry Smith, President

NALC Branch 106



## Upcoming Meeting

**National Convention  
August, 2010  
Anaheim, California**

**MONTHLY MEETING  
(1st Thursday of each month)**

**Union Office  
2800 Zelda Rd #100-10  
Montgomery, Al. 36106**

**See You  
There!!**

## From the Vice-President

The second round of route adjustments under the **MIRAP** agreement should be complete by the time you read this. I know there are a lot of unhappy carriers out there.

As part of the district team, I helped adjust routes at some stations to as near eight hours as possible. **Is it possible that some routes are overburdened? Absolutely! What can you do about it? Do your job and deliver the mail at a professional pace. Obey all safety and security regulations, and take your breaks, and most importantly make correct clock rings.** There were some places where carriers didn't have one minute of P.M. office time for a whole month. When asked about this, the carrier said, I had to do that so I could make it back by 5 p.m. Other carriers said they skip their lunch and breaks and will continue to do so.

For those of you that plan on doing things like this all I can say is, plan on getting more added to your route. I know there are some people who did what they were supposed to and still got more added to them.

Do exactly what brother Fullove said at the July union meeting, from now on carry your route like management is watching you everyday. Especially when September gets here because that's the next evaluation time. It could be the month of September through November or any combination of those months.

So the bottom line is if you won't get your act together now, at least do it when September 1<sup>st</sup> gets here.

One last thing about MIRAP, I've been accused of not liking carriers at a certain P.O. or I have a vendetta against a certain P.O. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

I may have made some mistakes, but I did what I thought was right. The truth of it is not many routes got relief (lost some territory). Personally it makes me feel good knowing that some of my management partners were called in on the carpet, and had to explain to their superiors why they didn't get rid of as many routes as they had planned?

If it's broke, then let's fix it this fall. Like it or not, unless one of the parties at the national level back out of this agreement, routes will be adjusted at least twice a year.

In solidarity,  
Lloyd M. Sager

## Unity

Webster's dictionary defined the word **unity** as "a being united, harmony, agreement, continuity of purpose, action". The latter part of this definition means an unbroken coherent (glued together) whole. I'm trying to apply these meanings to recent events that occurred at the state convention and most currently at local branch meetings. We each need to re-examine our views on what the union and unity is to us as a whole. On occasion, whatever issues are divisive at the local level has the same effect at the national level. Nationally, we are all the locals represented as one big whole. We can't take the politics out of issues because the issues are always originating from the political arena. On a local level, we should come together as a whole and make decisions as to whom we select to represent us at the state level. As we are always divided at the local level, we are the same way abroad. Other locals get together and make decisions based on best qualified. As with any situation, best qualified should supercede any personal agenda. Have you ever felt unconnected to something or someone? **MOVING ON:**

**Congratulations** to Branch 106 members James Williams, Booker Carroll and Kenny Stephens on a successful win for another term. There was a lot of personal turmoil going on at the State Convention that trickled over into the election process. A hat off to the fraternal brother who voiced his disappointment in the way our members conducted themselves during the voting process on the amendments.

On another issue that is always presented, **COLCPE**. Those members who are not contributors, but are union members, please know that COLCPE is a vital part of this union. What COLCPE does for the union as a whole all members are rewarded. COLCPE is likened to contract negotiations. There are carriers that do not belong to the union but enjoy the same benefits of paying members. The choice you made when you committed to the union should be the same choice/commitment made to COLCPE. COLCPE is an extension of your union dues. It is critical to the survival of our jobs as letter carriers. Your financial support helps in the legislation arena to keep the post office open and working. Politics have been around for a long time. Regardless of opinions and the way we think things should work, face it, we're not living in a perfect society where righteousness prevails all the time. Until that time comes, we have to support our union in every endeavor that is good for the service. The concept here is "ONE FOR ALL AND ALL FOR ONE".

Lois Gray/Trustee

## Thank you, Thank you

### Thank you

Thanks to every one who supported the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) Bowl-a-thon on June 14th. We had a great time!!! We raised \$2700 dollars and during the state convention we raised \$525 with raffle tickets. Kenny Stephens won the Eagle.

I hope you realize what a difference you make when participating and donating to these events. I realize how important MDA funding is when I talk to the children who has the disease.

When their eyes light up, I know I'm doing the right thing by supporting this cause.

There will be a National Bowl-a-thon for MDA in November. And according to Angie Jordin, District Director of MDA, there will be more upcoming opportunities to get involved such as Fill the Boot Campaign, golf tournament, bowling events and much more.

This fall tune into the Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon on September 6th and 7th and the Walk of Hope on October 24th.

So, keep in touch so we can make a difference in these children lives. You make contact me by calling the union hall or the union president.

God Bless you for your help

Thanks you again,

Rusty Hudson  
MDA Coordinator/Branch 106



## Thoughts on 2009 Modified Interim Route Adjustment

By now all of you have undoubtedly been exposed to the current route adjustment process. Depending on your individual experience in this process, you consider this positive, negative or just maybe, a neutral event. Regardless, it is now here and will be ongoing, largely being driven by decreasing mail volume and the need to adjust routes to as close to eight hours as possible.

After completion of the current adjustment which are to be finished by the end of July, every route will be revisited beginning in October, using office and street data from a one month review of either September, October, or November. It is imperative that the next review provides an accurate and realistic accounting of every route-both your typical mail volume as well as your route's "value," i.e. is it an 8 hour route?

Not one of us knows if the mail volume will return, but one thing is certain—this is not a perfect process but **YOUR** route will always be judged based on **YOUR** office and street times.

With that in mind, ensure that you continue to deliver your route professionally, efficiently, and safely. This first round is just that— an initial look. The second round will hopefully provide all of us an opportunity to have our routes' value accurately assessed, especially if the first round adjustment left you shaking your head.

I know I was!

Marta L. Mass  
Shop Steward, Lagoon Park

## Union Meeting Summary (April)



Meeting called to order by President Smith

Prayer and salute led by Randy Rogers

Roll was called by Lois Gray. There were 30 members present with 5 excused absences.

**Special Guest**-Angie Jordan from MDA was present to speak on the bowl-a-thon to be held on June 14th.

A motion was made by Lois Gray to suspend the reading of last month's minutes. It was seconded and passed.

No New Members

**Communication**-President Smith mentioned a letter received from National concerning James Williams appeal. More information was requested.

### Grievances Discussed

**Social and Recreation report**- President Smith reported that this position is vacant because of Ken Homan retiring soon.

**Legislative report**-Ken Stephens mentioned HR22 and a bill that is in the senate concerning unused sick leave.

**Retiree report**- No report

**Safety report**- Peter Taylor told members to be careful of bees in mailboxes. He also told members to observe all safety regulations. Street observations are being done.

President Smith mentioned the Steward Training to be held April 16th and May 14th. He also reminded members of the food drive to be held May 9th and the State Convention to be held June 26th and 27th in Mobile. President Smith asked members to join him in participating in COLCPE and to write letters to congress concerning HR22.

Mike Ray reported the passing of member Bobby Canady.

## Union Meeting Summary (May)

Meeting called to order by President Smith

Prayer and flag salute was held.

Roll was called by Lois Gray. There were 29 members present with 5 excused absences.

**Two new members**- T. McGowan  
N. Delvsanno

President Smith changed the business of order to address the issue of delegates attending the state convention.

Angie Jordan from MDA was present to remind members of the Bow-a-thon to be held June 14th at Ace Bowling Alley.

### Grievances Discussed

**Legislative report**- Ken Stephens mentioned bill HR22.

**Safety report**- Pete Taylor resigned. President Smith asked for volunteers.

**MDA report**- Rusty Hudson mentioned the Bowl-a-thon again. Final details at June meetings.

President Smith mentioned the Las Vegas rap session. He explained why National President Bill Young signed off on MIRAP ( the new route adjustment procedure where the union and post office adjust city routes to 8 hours because of dropping mail volume)

National President Young agreed to expand the MIRAP because it will help us to hold on to what the union has already achieved over the years. This will help us with no loss of COLA, no loss of 1.9 percent raise and no massive layoffs in the carrier craft.

President Smith explained how the adjustments work. It is based on past performance. He mentioned that Ron Fullove and Lloyd Sager and maybe Rusty Hudson will be on the team as carriers.

President Smith also reported all new delivery should go to city routes. He said if you have new delivery in your area and it is assigned to rural routes please let him know.

## Union Meeting Summary (June)

Meeting called to order by President Smith

Prayer and flag salute by Jerry Pasley.  
There were 27 members present at this time.

President recognized two special guests from the food bank, Parke Hinman and Teressa Vigeneault. They thanked Montgomery and surrounding areas for a total of over 47,000 pounds of food. Certificates were given to each station for a job well done.

President Smith asked that all members who were not present at March meeting be excused because of the date change (due to weather) of the meeting. Ken Stephens made a motion to excuse all members who were not present. It was seconded and passed.

**Communications**— A thank you card was read from Lloyd Sager and family for flowers.

**New members**— Xavier Harris, Jeanine Buck, James Howell, Melissa Bagents, Christopher Davis and Theron Turman.

### Grievances Discussed.

**Legislative report**—Kenny Stephens updated members on bill HR22. He also mentioned the Thrift Savings Plan and the Employee Free Choice Act.

**Safety report**— President Smith asked for volunteers.

**Retirees report**— Freddie Hubbard reported there are no projections for retirees COLA 2010.

**MDA report**— Rusty Hudson mentioned the Bowl-a-thon to be held on June 14th at ACE Bowling Center.

President Smith commended Margaret Sidaris and Bill Taylor on a job well done for the food drive work.

A preliminary proposal has been setup with the website.

MIRAP (route adjustments) was discussed.



## Union Meeting Summary (July)

Meeting called to order by President Smith

Prayer and flag salute led by Randy Rogers

**Communication**—A request was received from a Nashville branch asking branch 106 to sponsor a hole in golf to raise money for MDA. Also NBA Lew Drass sent a letter thanking the branch for raising \$2710.00 for MDA.

There were 26 members present at this time with 1 excused absence.

**New Member**— George Bryant/Troy, Alabama

### Grievances discussed

**OWCP report**— Bill Taylor told carriers to be careful when making any changes while out on OWCP. When returning to work make sure the postal service has received notification of any changes.

**Legislative report**— Kenny Stephens reported the HR 22 bill passed in the Senate.

**Retirees report**— Freddie Hubbard reported once again there are no projection for retirees COLA

**Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA)**— President Smith reported on the June bowl-a-thon. We raised \$2710 plus an additional \$525.00 at the State Convention. He also mentioned that food at the union meetings will be donated by him, but a box will be placed beside the food for donations to help MDA.

President Smith congratulated James Williams as State President, Kenny Stephens as Director of Retirees and Booker Carroll as Southern District Executive Board member. These three members were elected as state officers at the State convention.

President Smith reported that a by-law committee has been appointed. They are Marta Mass, Ron Fullove, Margaret Sidaris, Bill Taylor and Dwight Thomas.

He also mentioned the website is up, so take a look at [www.nalc106.com](http://www.nalc106.com)

# Highlights From the 2009 State Convention

## Friday June 26th

Convention opened by State President **James Williams**

Invocation by **Charles Henderson**

Members welcomed **EAP Coordinator Patricia Hamilton.**

She encouraged members to utilize the Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

**Director of Education– Antonio Shields** spoke on improving COLCPE. She wants Alabama to be number one, so ask all member to contribute.

**National Business Agent Lew Drass** introduced his administrative assistant Steve Lassan. Drass discussed and answered questions from members concerning MIRAP(route adjustments)

**Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) coordinator Beth Grimes** thanked members for their donations in the past. NALC members were reminded of their promise to stay committed to MDA.

**Steve Lassan** spoke on the importance of assigning all new deliveries to the city letter carrier craft.

**Legislative and Political Affairs Field Coordinator Joe Kabourek reported on COLCPE.** He spoke on the importance of contributing to Colcpe, HR22, HR958, and the Employee Free Choice Act. He urged all carriers to call and write their congressman to ask for support of these bills.

## Saturday June 27th

Convention opened by State President James Williams

Invocation by State Treasurer John Moore

The following committees made their report: Credential, Resolution, Audit and Uniform. There were 13 branches in attendance with a total of 97 members including National officers.

A vest was approved for the State uniform. **National Officer, Gary Mullins spoke on The Future of the Postal Service.** He said “We have a crisis but there is hope”. He talked about confronting the crisis and the NALC Agenda for 2009.

A banquet was held at 7:00pm  
All newly elected officers were sworn in.



Branch 106 members  
Lloyd Sager and Bill Taylor



Branch 106 members  
Harold, Lois, Clarence



Far right-Branch 106 elected  
state Officer Booker Carroll



Branch 106 member  
Far left – Wandra Broughton



Branch 106 members  
Rusty, Otto, President Smith, Kenny  
Kenny



Branch 106 members- Far back left  
elected state president James Williams  
Front left– Kenny Stephens-state officer

## 2009 FOOD DRIVE WAY TO GO!!! BRANCH 106

Despite hard times, our customers still care. Even though donations were slightly under from the 2008 food drive, the Montgomery Area Food Bank still received a total of 47,880 pounds of food. The total food collected including outlying areas was 112, 127 pounds.

Nationally, there was a record 73.4 million pounds collected. The food was collected by letter carriers on May 9, 2009 as they delivered mail along their routes. This is the nation's largest one-day effort to **"Stamp Out Hunger"**.

NALC President William H. Young expressed profound appreciation to the millions of Americans who left food by their mailboxes and the thousands of letter carriers, rural carriers, and other postal employees and volunteers who collected, processed, and delivered the donations to local food banks and pantries.

Montgomery Area Food Bank representatives gave thanks to Branch 106 for a job well done. Certificates were presented to each station.



## 2009 FOOD DRIVE OUTSTANDING!!!

<u>Local Offices</u>	<u>Pounds</u>
Westside	3,382
Downtown	1,842
Prattville	3,859
Lagoon Park	21,619
South Station	4,180
Cloverland	4,803
Shakespeare	3,233
Wetumpka	2,166
Millbrook	2,166
Deatsville	630

<u>Outlying Offices</u>	<u>Pounds</u>
Troy	1,216
Greenville	504
Luverne	307
Tuskegee	2,719
Opelika	8,138
Auburn	6,048
Dadeville	2,500
Tallassee	2,400
Selma	3,399
Linden	495
Demopolis	1,160
Coffee	2,000
Dale	5,701
Geneva	4,750
Henry	2,400



## Update on Postal Service 5-day delivery study

**On June 10, 2009, USPS informed NALC that it was conducting a study of the impact of switching to five-day delivery and developing an implementation plan.** The study was to be completed in 60 days. The USPS sought our “input” and our views on the issues such a change would raise and the “impact” it would have. And they wanted that input and those views—for one of the most momentous decisions in postal history—by June 19, 2009, just seven days later.

**On June 17, NALC responded, requesting a prompt meeting with the USPS’ study team** and its technicians to receive a detailed briefing including review of the relevant data, projections, sensitivity analyses and assumptions being used in the study.

**On July 7, we attended a meeting in response to our letter. We received none of the information or data requested.** We were told that there were a lot of experienced, knowledgeable people in the Postal Service who understood the issues, had determined to explore dropping Saturday delivery, would conduct meetings and polls, and expected the draft report in a few weeks. USPS told us they “understood our position.”

**The Postal Service cannot unilaterally end Saturday delivery. Such a change would require a change in the law and a 90-day review by the Postal Regulatory Commission.** NALC will fight any attempt by the Postal Service to convince Congress to make this radical change.

Needless to say, we relay this report with great disappointment and regret. **NALC will proceed professionally and vigorously to oppose the elimination of six-day delivery on its merits.** Notwithstanding our position, we will also carefully scrutinize the Postal Service’s study to ensure that its data and assumptions are credible and that it fully considers all the ramifications of such a radical change.

NALC would much prefer to work with the USPS on win-win solutions to the ongoing crisis, but is prepared to act on its own to defend the long-term viability of the U.S. Postal Service.

## Editor’s Thoughts

(Wandra Broughton)

Are we the United States Postal Service or just the plain old U.S. Post Office? Do management understand that its about **quality service** and not just about **quantity and numbers**? The word **service** according to Webster dictionary is help given to others or an act of helpful activity.

In this world today, it seems as though everything is done in a such rush. There is always so much to do but so little time to do it. There is always a dead line to meet.

But, we as carriers must realize that quality service is just as important. We do understand productivity. I know management want to see those numbers working in their favor. (so do we)

If management is telling you to be back by 5:00p.m., please carriers allow yourself time to give quality service to your customers.

Do quality work. Do your jobs safely. Do not take shortcuts by doing things the wrong way or unsafe. Do your job with pride. Do what management says, but do it correctly. We have an M-41 (the responsibilities & duties of a city carrier) that tells you how your job is done.

Do it the way the M-41 reads and you can’t go wrong. Think about this, if you do your job correctly (even if it takes more time) that means less complaints, more business, more connecting with the customer (customer connect) and another satisfied customer. **Give Quality Service.**

**So let us give ourselves away  
Not just today but every day  
And remember a kind and thoughtful deed  
Or a hand outstretched in time of need  
Is the rarest of gifts, for it is a part  
Not of the purse but a loving heart  
And he who gives of himself will find  
True joy of heart and peace of mind**

Helen Rice

Thou shalt surely give him, and thine heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him: because that for this thing the Lord thy God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou puttest thine hand unto.

Deuteronomy 15/10

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