

RURALINFO.NET

The #1 website for rural carrier information!!

Ruralinfo Newsletter Friday, February 8th, 2008

[Go to RURALINFO.NET](#)
[Rural Carrier Polls](#)
[Rural carrier classified ads](#)
[Rural carrier Transfers](#)
[Table of evaluated hours](#)

[Postal News](#)
[Message Board](#)
[Download the ruralinfo flyer](#)
[Current rural carrier salary chart](#)
[Current EMA chart](#)

Hello rural carriers,

There has been a lot going on the last couple of months... Hopefully, everyone received their payments from the Eischen award. It will be interesting to see after the payout from this award, how the USPS conducts the upcoming mail count..

I am continuously working on adding interactivity to my site. I hope you all will come and join in..

There are some new sections that have been added which I will tell you about later in this newsletter.

Remember that my website has been moved. You can reach the new site at <http://www.ruralinfo.net/>.

Please update your bookmarks to the new site. The old site is redirecting you for now, but will be gone in the future.

I am sure most of you have heard of the storms that ravaged the south. These storms have completely devastated many lives, including your fellow postal employees. If you would like to help, you can donate to PERF, the Postal Employees' Relief Fund. PERF was started in 1990 to help employees who were victims of major natural disasters certified by the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) when their losses weren't reimbursed by insurance or grants. If you would like to help, visit the [PERF](#) website.

[New Features on ruralinfo.net](#)

Now you can get your own personal profile where you can upload pictures, share your interests, and even participate in a live chat. Come and share your rural world with us.

[Click here for your own profile](#)

I have also added a new page about Rural Carriers doing extraordinary deeds while delivering mail.

If you know anyone that deserves an entry on this page, please let me know.

We are a customer oriented dedicated craft and I thought we deserved a page showing just how dedicated we are.

You can get to that page [HERE](#)

[Arbitration award](#)

If you havent checked out the abritration award yet, you can still check that out on my [arbitration page](#).

[Mail Count](#)

I havent heard of very many routes that will not be counted in the upcoming mail count. Please inform

yourself. There are a few changes for this next mailcount. Know your rights. Be diligent. Every minute counts..

I added some info on my mailcount page that demonstrates how much one minute in evaluation can cost you..

I have all of the latest calculators, mail count guides, and mail count tips on my [mailcount](#) page..

This page is for you, dont hesitate to use it to learn what you are entitled to..

[Eischen 2002 mail count award settlement](#)

Most should have received their payments from the [2002 Eischen mail count award](#).

They are trying to

make sure even retired and previous employees that were on the rolls during the specific dates in this

award get paid. If you know a former employee or a retiree that is entitled to a payment, you can find the

procedures for payments to former employees [HERE](#)

[Contract Back Pay](#)

I know everyone is wondering when we will receive our back pay from our new contract..

Here are some of the latest reports about back pay and wage increases.

Wage Increases

The general wage increases are reflected in the 2/8/08 (PP3) paychecks.

(including regular carriers, PTF's, substitute, rural carrier relief, auxiliary rural carrier and rural carrier associate bargaining unit employees)

Back Pay

1. Wage increase back pay from Nov. 25th, 2006 (Reports on this say will not be paid until May)

(including regular carriers, PTF's, substitute, rural carrier relief, auxiliary rural carrier and rural carrier associate bargaining unit employees)

2. COLA \$686 lump sum payment (click below for details)

[Lump Sum Payment for Rurals scheduled for Feb. 22, 2008](#) (Thanks to John Amtsfeld for the sending the information on the COLA payment)

******* Leave replacements will not receive a COLA payment until Feb. 2011*******

[TSP News](#)

The Thrift Savings Plan will begin placing restrictions on interfund transfers. You can read about this [HERE](#)

[New EMA and Salary Charts](#)

The latest EMA chart has been posted. This includes the increase from the new agreement.

You can see that chart [HERE](#)

The latest salary schedule has been released. You can access that [HERE](#)

[Tax time again](#)

It is that time again.. Tax time. Here is a link to an article from the NRLCA on how to deduct

your mail vehicle expenses... [Click here](#)

[Latest Postal Bulletin](#)

You can check all of the latest postal bulletins [HERE](#). I highly advise everyone to scan through these

when they are released. This is where any new procedures, forms, and updates are

usually released first..

CDS Update

The APWU is asking for support on the "Mail Network Protection Act of 2007". This would require the USPS to bargain with postal unions before commencing with significant contracting. You can keep up the with progress of this and read the bill on my [contracting](#) page.

Is the OIG illegally obtaining postal employees medical records?

In my last newsletter, I wrote about the charge that the OIG was illegally obtaining postal employees medical records. There has been some developments on this subject. The NALC and the APWU have now sued the USPS and the OIG for invasion of medical privacy. You can read the whole story [HERE](#)

PO603 Revision for Rural Boxholder Non Delivery Request (RBNR)

The USPS introduced a new program on Jan. 31st, 2008 called the (RBNR) which allows customers to opt out of saturation mailings with simplified addresses. A mail count credit has been established for this also.

There have been a lot of reports that Valassis (formerly Advo) stopped sending their mailings addressed and have changed them to the simplified address format. There are a lot of complaints that the timing of this action right before a mail count is suspect. This essentially changes the mailings to boxholder credit instead of flat credit for the purpose of a mailcount.

Was this an intended circumstance of the new RBNR? Knowing that carriers would lose half of their mail count credit for a mailing most deliver weekly? We will probably never know. One thing is for sure...

It will be detrimental to our evaluations. You can read the revision [HERE](#)

NRLCA has a new Director of Workman's Compensation

Thomas M. Markey has joined the NRLCA staff as the Director of Workers' Compensation.

Tom will be responsible for answering questions and giving guidance to NRLCA members who have been injured on the job and need assistance when filing an OWCP claim. Tom will have an office at NRLCA headquarters. He can be reached during regular business hours,

9:00 AM to 5:00 PM EST, at 703-684-5545.

Editorials by former State Steward John Amtsfeld

I will be featuring some editorials by former State Steward John Amtsfeld in my monthly newsletters.

The editorial for this month is [Creating Tornadoes: Building the Perfect Monster Storm](#)

John has started a series of editorials concerning the USPS Transformation plan, the planned restructuring of the USPS business model, which includes staff reductions and route consolidations.

He is anticipating this will be a 10 part series with 7 already published on my site.

You can reach the whole list on my [EDITORIALS](#) page.

Special thanks goes out to John for these editorials which provide a valuable perspective from his experience and knowledge. All rural carriers should take heed of what he is saying in these editorials.

This truly is not your daddy's postal service anymore. Big changes are coming...

Interesting News stories

[Big pay increases approved for top Postal Service officers](#)

[Postal Service plans to save \\$1B this year with automation, cost cutting](#)

[Postal employee stats at a glance](#)

[TrackingTheWorld Designs G.P.S Letter Logger for U.S. Post Office](#)

[Twister packs wallop along Renon Lane in Caledonia](#)

[The FTC and the "M" Word](#)

[AT&T unit wins \\$20M U.S. Postal Service contract](#)

[Postal Service Says It Will Request Proposals to Outsource Some BMC Activities](#)

[USPS says it will continue PAEA revisions in 2008](#)

[USPS Reports Income of \\$672 Million](#)

Want more postal news? You can sign up for daily emails of the important news concerning postal employees [HERE](#)

Until next time, be safe !

ruralinfo.net

DISCLAIMER