

National Association of Letter Carriers

Branch 782

E.A. Baker Union Update



ARVIN
DELANO
MOJAVE

TEHACHAPI

AVENAL
EDWARDS AFB
RIDGECREST

TRONA

BAKERSFIELD
LAMONT
SHAFTER

WASCO

BORON
McFARLAND
TAFT



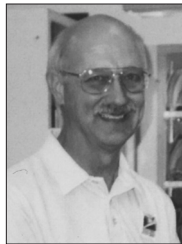
CHARTERED FEBRUARY 25, 1901

VOLUME LXXIX NUMBER 4

APRIL 2007

at the

Mike:



I was hoping that I would be able to report that the national contract had been settled and that we would soon be receiving our ballots to vote. But, as everyone I have talked to over the last five months has predicted, it comes to no shock or surprise that the Postal Service has flatly rejected—as President Young stated—“an offer of a strategic partnership to protect the future of the Postal Service”.

Therefore the NALC has withdrawn the workforce restructuring proposal and is once again looking to an arbitrator to determine our national contract. The parties had agreed to continue to negotiate until April 6th but it became evident about a week before the deadline that the Postal Service was not serious about negotiating and continued to insist upon contracting out delivery service. What a sad comment it is that the Postal Service management has decided to let an outside party determine the future of the Postal Service.

The Postal Service Board of Governors (BOG), which is headed by James Miller III, is determined to contract out delivery service, in spite of the objections of members of the Congress and the mailing industry.

In 1989, James Miller, then President Reagan's OMB Director, gave a speech at the right wing Cato Institute pushing privatization of the US Postal Service. In the speech Miller stated that "the Postal Service should expand the practice of contracting out rural mail delivery to private carriers". Nineteen years later he is still pushing this agenda and has decided to use his position as chairman of the Board of Governors to expand contracting out even if it leads to the demise of the Postal Service as we know it.

Any successful business does not out-source their core functions.

I am confident that national officers of the NALC will do everything in their power to prevent the contracting out of our jobs. Three of our branch members, Basil Zuniga, Pam Smith and Diana Chavez, along with carriers from across the nation will be in Washington D.C. the week of April 16th to lobby Congress concerning the contracting out of delivery service.

Continued on next page...

Even though the Postal Service and the union are not in agreement on the contract, they are still working together on the 15th annual Food Drive set for Saturday, May 12, 2007. Since 1993, the NALC Food Drive has collected over 765 million pounds of food. The Food Banks across the nation find their supplies of food drastically low at this time of the year. It is estimated 30 million people or over 10 percent of the population depend upon food banks. I am very proud of the Letter Carrier union and ask all the Carriers of the branch to work to make the effort more successful than ever. I also would like to thank Pam Mauck for once again being the Food Drive Coordinator for the branch.

There will be a special guest at the General Membership Meeting on April 24. James Brouillard, the Postmaster of Bakersfield, will be attending the meeting to answer any questions Carriers may have. I hope to see every one at the meeting.



**LETTER CARRIERS
FOOD DRIVE
Saturday, May 12, 2007**

OUT THERE



Eleven Bakersfield Letter Carriers Honored for Safe Driving

They are in and out of our neighborhoods and business districts every day, stopping and going on busy thoroughfares and always keeping their attention on the road and their surroundings. U.S. Postal Service letter carriers do a lot of driving on the job and they are well-trained to do it safely.

Eleven letter carriers from the Bakersfield Post Office were recently honored for their safe driving skills with “Million Mile Awards” from the National Safety Council. This prestigious award is presented to safe drivers who log one million miles, or 30 years, without a vehicle accident.



Mike Towery speaking to reporters about “Million Mile Award” Letter Carriers

These eleven letter carriers have all logged at least 30 years each driving for the postal service without incident.

No matter how you look at it, 330 years or eleven million miles, this is an amazing accomplishment! Just how far is eleven million miles? The circumference of the earth is 24,900 miles, so you would have to drive around the planet more than 440 times to cover that distance!



The celebration of this accomplishment was held at Hodel’s Restaurant in Bakersfield.

In attendance, in addition to the eleven honorees, were Bakersfield Postmaster Jim Brouillard, California Highway Patrol Officer Greg Williams, and Bakersfield Police Detective Greg Terry.

All three were proud to be in attendance to take note of this outstanding accomplishment.

The Letter Carriers honored were Michael L. Cameron, Paul F. McCarthy, Phillip L. Krause, Michael Newton, Clifford R. Fehdrau, Alex A. Dang, Michael R. Hall, Michael G. Towery, E. L. Collaso, Paul G. Shaw and Joe Lewis. Each of the letter carriers received a Million Mile Award plaque from the National Safety Council and a special Million Mile jacket from the U.S. Postal Service.

Congratulations to all!

James C. Brouillard, Postmaster
Bakersfield CA 93380-9998
1-661-392-6102

“ “ ...330 years or eleven million miles, this is an amazing accomplishment!

Proposed By-Laws Amendment Branch 782

Two By-Laws changes were submitted to the By-Laws committee on February 27, 2007.

They will be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of Article I, Section 3 (“By-laws may be amended at any regular meeting of the branch, provided the amendment has been submitted in writing at the last previous regular branch meeting, and suitable notification to members shall be made at least ten (10) days before the regular meeting at which the vote is to be taken. The By-Laws committee will review the proposed changes and recommend approval, disapproval, or no recommendation of the proposed changes. The proposed changes will be published in the “E.A. BAKER UNION UPDATE” one month prior to being voted on by the Branch membership at the Branch General meeting. A simple majority is needed for passage.”).

A discussion will be held at the general meeting on March 27, 2007. The proposed By-Laws Amendments will be voted on at April 24, 2007 general meeting.

The proposed changes are in underlined Italic bold print.

ARTICLE III MEETINGS

Current language: SECTION 1. The regular meeting of this Branch shall be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month, excluding December, at 7:30 P.M. at the Branch 782 Union Office, 2628 “F” Street, Bakersfield, California. The December meeting will be held on the third Tuesday of the month.

Proposed to read: SECTION 1. The regular meeting of this Branch shall be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month, excluding December, at 7:30 P.M. at the Branch 782 Union Office, 2628 “F” Street, Bakersfield, California. The December meeting will be held on the third Wednesday of the month.

ARTICLE X FUNDS

Proposed New Section

SECTION 9. All traveling and/or accommodation expenses incurred by any branch member on union business must have receipts accompanying their expense vouchers. All hotel receipts must be turned into the branch to verify billing. Any expenses of a personal nature (phone calls, premium television movies, “wet bar items”, spouse’s expenses) must be paid by the branch member prior to check out at the hotel.

DIANA CHAVEZ
Chairperson, By-Laws Committee

My Opinion

It has been proposed that we change our General Meeting night from the fourth Tuesday of the month to the fourth Wednesday of the month.

Tuesday has, generally, worked for me. But sometimes that day falls after a holiday and that can be difficult for some.

In changing the day of the week to Wednesday, it makes it more difficult for some members to attend for at least two reasons: 1) Wednesday is *Penny Saver* day—a difficult day; and 2) Some members like to go to church on Wednesday.

My thought is that if Tuesday and Wednesday are a problem, then make Thursday the General Meeting day.

I say we vote down this proposal and support a change for Thursday.

ALAN SMITH



Need Help Fast???

President Mike Towery

Cell Phone: (661) 331-9171

Postal Service reservists eligible for back pay

By Tim Kauffman - *Army Times* Staff writer
Posted : Monday Apr 2, 2007 16:36:44 EDT

As many as 100,000 military reservists who worked at the U.S. Postal Service between 1980 and 2000 could be eligible for thousands of dollars in compensation because they were improperly charged for their military leave, under a new ruling.

The Merit Systems Protection Board decision greatly expands the scope of a larger back pay issue that ultimately could cost the government half a billion dollars, said Matthew Tully (<http://www.fedattorney.com>), a New York attorney who is representing affected employees for free.

Previous rulings have held that between 150,000 and 200,000 reserve or National Guard members who worked for executive branch agencies between 1980 and 2000 are eligible for back pay because of an erroneous leave policy. In a March 7 ruling, *Miller v. U.S. Postal Service*, MSPB said reservists who worked at the Postal Service also are covered because that agency used the same policy.

Outside the Defense Department, the Postal Service is the largest single employer of Guard and reserve members, Tully said. He said complying with the decision could cost the Postal Service upwards of \$200 million.

“They’re probably going to have to jack up the price of stamps 3 or 4 cents just to pay for the outcome of this decision,” Tully said.

The Postal Service did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Postal Service could appeal the ruling to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, although that court in 2003 issued the landmark decision that employees were entitled to back pay because federal agencies improperly charged reservists who were on military leave for days they were not scheduled to work. Subsequent decisions by MSPB expanding the scope of the appeals court ruling have not been challenged.

The policy, which was changed in 2000, had charged reservists for every calendar day they were on military leave, instead of charging them for the actual workdays they missed. Reservists who used up their military leave because they were charged for weekends or other days they weren’t scheduled to work instead had to use their own vacation days or take leave without pay to complete their annual military training.

The court decisions require agencies to restore annual leave to current employees or provide back pay to retired workers to make up for the lost compensation or leave that employees incurred because of the policy.

Tully said the average back payment has totaled \$3,500, although employees have received anywhere from \$400 to \$14,000 depending on how long they were in the reserves and their paygrade.

Reservists who believe they are owed back pay must file their case with MSPB

Minutes of the March 2007 General Meeting

The regular meeting of Br. 782 was called to order by President, Mike Towery, at 7:31 p.m. on the 27th day of March, 2007 at the branch office, Bakersfield. All members of the Executive Board were present except Jerry Patterson and Mark Ramirez. The stewards from 01, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, Camino Media and Lamont were present. The flag salute was led by Trustee, Bill Curtis. The minutes of the February 27, 2007 were read and accepted with no additions or corrections.

REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES: Pam Mauck reported that the postcards and posters have been ordered and will arrive soon. She will attend a meeting regarding the Food Drive tomorrow. Pam Smith reported on COLCPE, she discussed the need to support those who support carrier issues. Mike reminding the members that "Contracting Out" is being pushed by the Postal Service and the only way to combat this is by donating to COLCPE. The money goes to Congressional members who support carrier issues. A discussion was held on the recent appointment of Emma Gonzales to the Social and Recreation Committee. Basil Zuniga reported that Pam Smith and the carriers from Hillcrest had a great turnout for the Newsletter folding. Next month it will be Brundage Station's turn.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Diana Chavez reported on the By-Laws changes. Alan Smith discussed the By-Law change for the day of the General Meeting from Tuesday to Wednesday. A vote will be taken at the April meeting. Jeff Harrington reported that there are 6 lanes left for the Bowling Tournament. Brundage and Camino do not have teams yet.

NEW BUSINESS: Molly Biggar made a motion that the excess equipment in the office be listed in the newsletter for any member who is interested to have. Any equipment left will be donated to BARC. Seconded by Alan Smith and the motion passed.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION: Mike Towery reported that the Postmaster will attend the April General Meeting. He will answer questions from the members. Mike also reported that the Postmaster agreed to post 3 auxiliary routes for bid and that there are 10 unassigned positions in the city, 6 of those will be assigned. Once all the unassigned regulars have been assigned a position, the Postmaster will begin to hire TE's. He will also be considering all transfer requests with a good safety record. Area did not approve hiring PTF's. The Washington DC trip will be April 15 -19. Diana Chavez, Basil Zuniga and Pam Smith will attend. Basil Zuniga attended the services for Tony Cortese and reported on the services. Mike Towery reported that retiree Manual Estrada passed away. He asked that a moment of silence be observed in memory of Manual.

IMPORVEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION: Mike Towery reported that the Shop Steward training class will be April 4th from 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. Members are welcome. You don't need to be a steward to attend.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: Molly Biggar reported that \$13,541.71 was collected for March.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Molly Biggar reported:

Beginning Balance	\$45,328.87
Dues and Income	\$11,835.61
Interest Income	\$ 12.66
Total Balance	\$57,177.14
Total Expenses	\$ 7,104.95
Ending Balance	\$50,072.19

The COLCPE 50/50 Drawing was won by Emma Gonzales.

The \$500.00 Drawing would have been won by John Hines who was not present.

Mike Towery showed the members a set of key that were lost at the office. If no one claims them he will dispose of them.

There were 25 members present.

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KIM GERDES
Branch 782 Recording Secretary

OUT THERE



Retirements Mean Parties! And, Joe Lewis had a great party!!!!



“ *Only a fool would try to deprive working men and working women of their right to join the union of their choice.* ”

Dwight D. Eisenhower
34th President of the United States

NON-MEMBER LIST January 2007

DOWNTOWN STATION

J. Cruz
D. Pearce

SOUTH STATION

100% Union!!

EAST BAKERSFIELD

100% Union!!

HILLCREST

P. L. Morelos

BRUNDAGE

D. Kinglee
E. Miller
A. Shultz
U. Singh

DOLE COURT

S. Webb

STOCKDALE

R. Huston

CAMINO MEDIA

100% Union!!

ARVIN

100% Union!!

AVENAL

100% Union!!

BORON

100% Union!!

CALIFORNIA CITY

100% Union!!

DELANO

C. V. Quebral

EDWARDS

100% Union!!

LAMONT

100% Union!!

McFARLAND

MOJAVE

100% Union!!

RIDGECREST

H. Blanco
G.E. Burgwald
Stan Pierce

SHAFTER

Lori New
May Voights

TAFT

B.W. Krier
C.L. Sanchez
A. C. Ramirez

TEHACHAPI

100% Union!!

TRONA

B. R. Dame
K. K. Treat

WASCO

100% Union!!

Do you know where these carriers work? They are not paying dues! D.A. Velasques, K.J. Ibarra, R.G. Campos, R.L. Ector, R.A. Day, G. Garcia, F. Medina, Jr., M.S. Diaz, J.G. Gonzalez, T.M. Phillips

The Laotian, Mongolian, Hungarian Retires!!!

March 30, 2007 was the last day Rick Burgos was employed as a Letter Carrier with the Postal Service in Lamont, California!

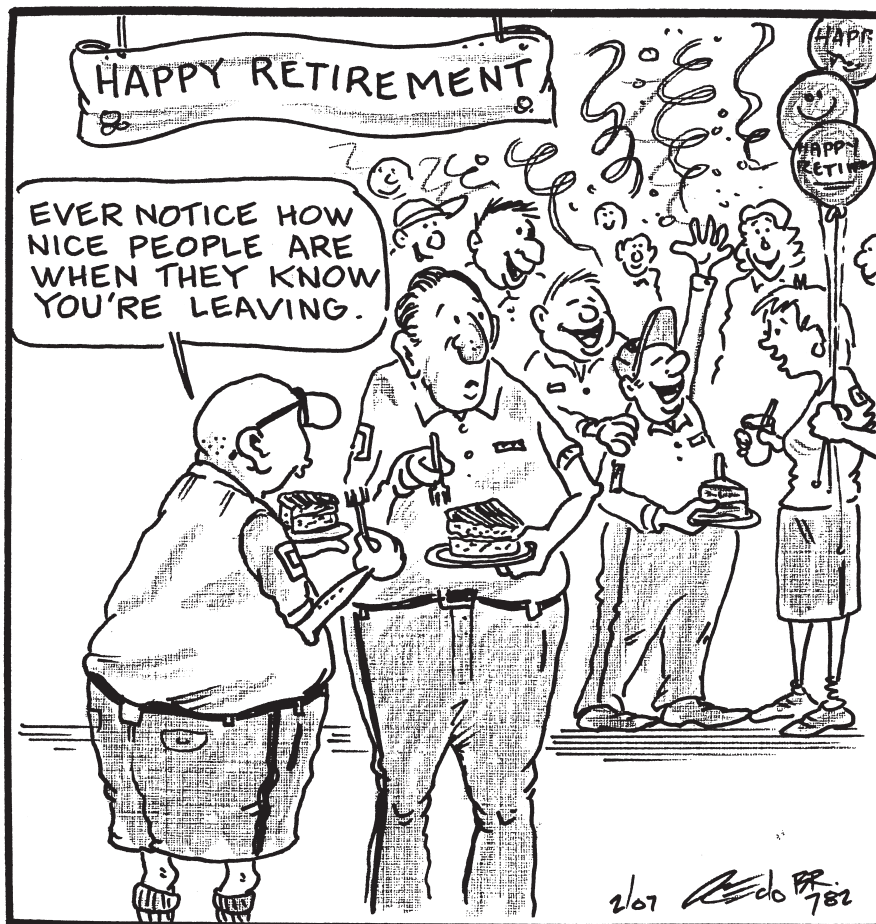
Rick began his postal career in Venice, California in 1981 and then transferred to Lamont in 1989.

He recently turned 60. With twenty-seven years of service, he chose to vacate Route 4102 and do some different things with his life.

“Burgos” was gifted with a crazy sense of humor and his comments were always something that we all got a kick out of. He says that his new hobbies are going to include trips to Las Vegas, golf, and living on a retiree’s pension.



OUT THERE



I have a suggestion though. He might want to focus on his golf game.

I have had the opportunity play golf with Rick on a few occasions. He likes to dress like Tiger Woods...but his golf game resembles “Rick in the woods”.

But he enjoys the game and that is what’s important when you are retired!

The message from Mark, Debbie, Maria, Marilyn, Lucky, Martin, Mike, Olga, Rebecca and Lynda is this: We all wish you good health and a long life!

MARK RAMIREZ

“Next in Line to Retire”
Seven months and counting...

2007 NALC HBP Info

NALC Health Benefit Plan	1-888-636-6252
HBP Claims Representative	1-703-729-4677
PPO Claims Payment Inquiry	1-800-548-8454
Nominate Physician for PPO	1-800-622-6252
* Hospital Precertification	1-800-622-6252
** Drug Prescription Program	1-800-933-6252
CareMark Hearing Impaired	1-800-238-1217
CareMark Specialty Pharmacy	1-800-237-2767
Durable Medical Equipment	1-888-636-6252
Flexible Service Option	1-703-729-4677
Double Coverage	1-703-729-4677
Drug Double Coverage	1-800-933-6252
Customer Service Hot Line	1-888-933-6252
Nurse Information Line	1-800-622-6252
CareMark Pharmacist	1-800-282-2229
Federal Information Center	1-800-688-9889
* National Organ Transplants	1-800-622-6252
* Mental Health/Substance Abuse	1-877-468-1016
MEDICARE Phone Option #1	1-800-633-4227
MEDICARE Phone Option #2	1-888-636-6252
MEDICARE Managed Care Plan	1-800-633-4277
OPM Retirement Info Center	1-888-767-6738
*** OPM Specialty Drugs	1-800-237-2767
**** Enhanced Eldercare Services	1-877-468-1016



Branch 782 Representative
Mark Ramirez
(661) 834-5011

NALC Prescription Drug Program
P.O. Box 94465
Palatine, IL 60094-4465

Out of Network Pharmacy Claim
NALC Drug Prescription Program
P.O. Box 686005
San Antonio, TX 78268-6005

United Behavioral Health
P.O. Box 30755
Salt Lake City, UT 84130-0755
1-877-468-1016

* Failure to pre-certify will result in a \$500 reduction in benefits paid by the Plan. Must notify the Plan prior to hospital admission with doctor name and dates. ** Mail order drug prescription program long term (maintenance drugs) 60 day supply: \$8 generic, \$24 name brand; 90 day supply: \$12 generic, \$35 name brand. Retail Pharmacy, you pay 25%. MEDICARE 60 day supply: \$7 generic, \$20 name brand; 90 day supply: \$10 generic, \$30 name brand. Network Retail Pharmacy you pay 15% of the cost of the prescription. Prior approval required for some drugs. Must call the Plan. *** Prior Approval Required. **** Registered Nurse Care Advocate 24 hours, 7 days a week.

Contact Information

Preferred Provider Cost
\$20.00

Co-pay per office visit

Preferred Provider
Deductible
\$250 Individual
\$500 Self & Family
Per Calendar Year

CareMark	1-800-238-1217
First Health	1-800-259-8179
United Behavioral Health	1-800-842-2479
Disease Management Program	1-866-447-6393
Health Care Fraud Hotline	1-202-418-3300
Center for Disease Control	http://www.cdc.gov
NALC/CareMark Site	http://www.HealthTalk.com
National Library of Medicine	http://www.nlm.nih.gov
American Public Health Assoc.	http://www.alpha.org
American Cancer Society	http://www.cancer.org
American Heart Association	http://www.americanheart.org
American Lung Association	http://www.lunusa.org
Diabetes Foundation	http://www.diabetis.org
Muscular Dystrophy Association	http://www.mdausa.org
JAMA Asthma Information Center	http://www.ama.assn.org/special/asthma



NALC FACT SHEET

Department of Legislative and Political Affairs — National Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO

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February 12, 2007

Postal Service Contracting Out

NALC Calls for Congressional Oversight of USPS Outsourcing

The Postal Service is seeking to dramatically expand the practice of contracting out delivery services across the country. NALC believes that the growth of so-called Contract Delivery Service not only threatens the jobs and incomes of America's 325,000 city and rural letter carriers, but also the long-term viability of the Postal Service. It believes that Congress should closely scrutinize this practice in the course of fulfilling its oversight function. NALC stands ready to assist both the House and the Senate as it undertakes this work.

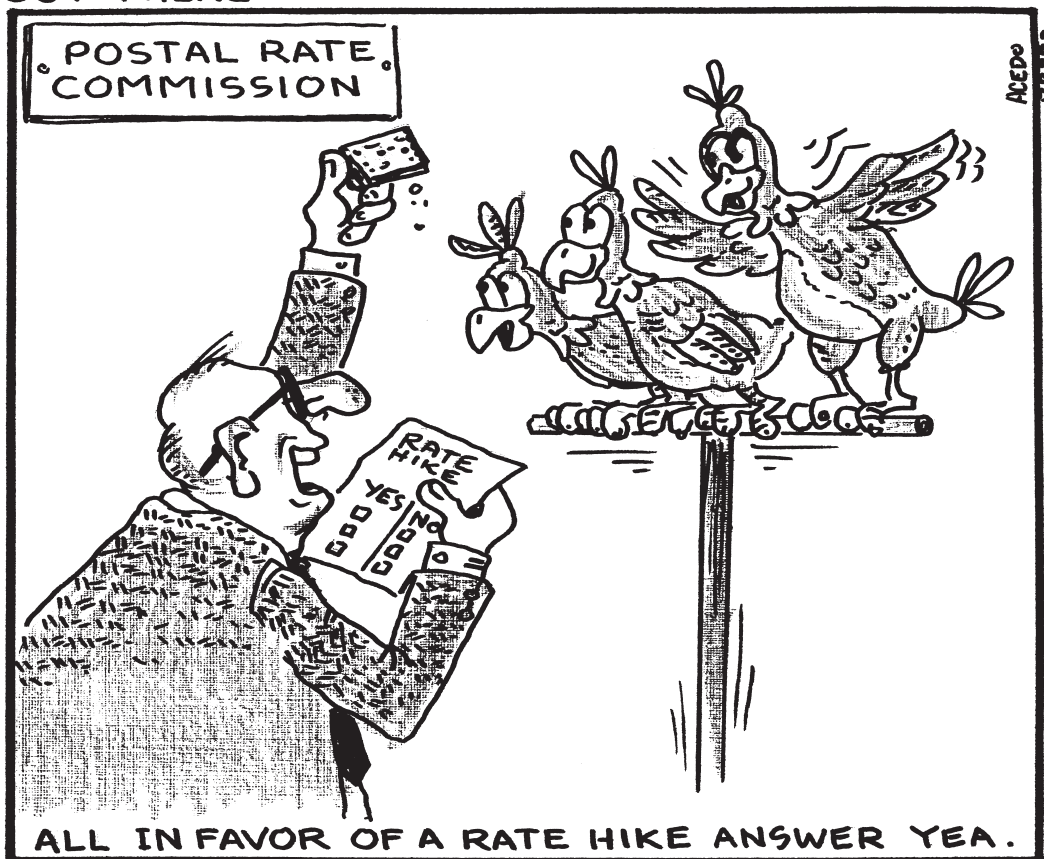
the most efficient postal service in the world. And thanks to their unions, these workers earn solid, middle-class wages and have decent pension and health benefits. In contrast to the nation's largest employer, Wal-Mart, the USPS is an exemplary employer.

Unfortunately, postal management is placing this success and the future of the Postal Service at risk by turning to outsourcing as a key business strategy for its core function. Contracting out the delivery of mail is increasingly being promoted not just in the most rural areas where Highway Contract Routes (HCR) have long been an option, but also in urban and suburban areas. In

Background

The United States Postal Service is the second largest employer in the country. It provides excellent and highly affordable universal postal services. Today it delivers twice as much mail to tens of millions of more households and businesses than it did when it was created 35 years ago, but with significantly fewer employees. Efficiency gains from automation and new business processes have eliminated nearly 100,000 jobs over the past decade alone. Thanks to the hard work of more than 700,000 workers, the U.S. Postal Service is

OUT THERE



cent years, postal management has initiated a major effort to promote contract delivery, and in 2006, the USPS renamed the HCR program Contract Delivery Service (CDS). Delivery managers have been instructed to favor CDS using contract employees over delivery by career city or rural letter carriers for all new deliveries. The growth in CDS has been dramatic in many parts of the country. In the Southeast Area, for example, the number of homes and businesses served by contractors has exploded in recent years, rising by 34% since 2002. Over that same period, the number of city and rural delivery points grew just 6%.

NALC Opposes Outsourcing of Delivery Jobs

Outsourcing delivery is contrary to the broad public interest

* By using contract delivery workers, the Postal Service has bypassed the normal recruitment and hiring processes that ensure that only qualified and trustworthy people are entrusted to handle Americans' mail. In so doing, it is also undermining the federal policy of granting preference to veterans of the Armed Services for postal jobs.

* Using contractors undermines the accountability of the Postal Service. CDS contractors often sub-contract their delivery work to unknown individuals. Neither customers nor the Postal Service can know who is responsible for service problems or delivery concerns.

* The CDS contracting process lacks transparency; wage levels are reportedly less than 50% of those enjoyed by career letter carriers, but other payments and fees paid to contractors for "vehicle expenses" and "overhead costs" eat up whatever labor cost savings might exist. The details of CDS contracts are subject to little or no scrutiny.

Outsourcing delivery threatens the sanctity and security of the mails

* Recruited with minimal screening, CDS contractors and their unscreened sub-contractors open the possibility that convicted felons, identity thieves and other undesirable workers will gain access to Americans' mail and their mail boxes. The danger of bio-terrorism through the mails was demonstrated with the anthrax attacks of 2001. Granting access to the mail stream to an unaccountable, low-paid work force foolishly risks the security of the mails.

* Outsourcing mail delivery to contract workers weakens the ability of the Postal Inspection Service to prevent, investigate and prosecute mail theft, mail fraud and other illegal uses of the mail (for example, child pornography, etc.).

Outsourcing delivery is a foolish business strategy

* Successful businesses do not out-source their core functions. Professional letter carriers are the public face of the Postal Service. The public's trust in letter carriers is an essential business asset of the Postal Service.

* The success of programs like Customer Connect, which uses city letter carriers as sales agents for postal products, and technological strategies such as Intelligent Mail require highly skilled and strongly motivated letter carriers. Low-paid, unskilled, here-today-gone-tomorrow contract workers would doom such programs and strategies to failure.

* Outsourcing the last mile would undermine the basic trust mailers and patrons have in the postal service and backfire: volume and revenue would fall, offsetting any short-term cost savings.

Outsourcing undermines the public service orientation of the Postal Service

* Letter carriers bring tremendous goodwill to the Postal Service through the intangible contributions they make to their communities. Programs such as Carrier Alert, whereby letter carriers look out for the well-being of elderly and disabled Americans, and the NALC National Food Drive would atrophy with the spread of Contract Delivery Services.

* Contract workers would not and could not be counted on to go the extra mile for the public interest. How many CDS workers would fulfill the commitment made by the NALC, the USPS and the Department of Homeland Security to distribute vaccines and medicines in the face of a national emergency. The fulfillment of that commitment, made in the Cities Readiness Initiative, will depend on having the most dedicated and professional letter carriers possible.

For further information, please contact the NALC office of Legislative and Political Affairs 202-662-2833.

NALC FACT SHEET Department of Legislative and Political Affairs
National Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO
100 Indiana Ave. NW - Washington, DC 20001-2144
202-393-4695 - www.nalc.org ©

NALC—February 12, 2007

Where:

Westchester Lanes

1819 30th St.
Bakersfield, CA 93301
(661) 324-4966

When:

April 22nd

Sunday • 2 pm
(Check-in 1:30 pm)

Cost:

\$60.00 per team

(\$15.00 per person)

Includes 3 games and shoe rental.
(Trophies if your team is that good)



Get your shoes, get your back stretched and your competitiveness spirit ready. Join our first annual Bowling extravaganza. Team up with your co-workers at your station and get a shot at having bragging rights on what station truly has the best carriers.

You will need a 4-person team. (men, women, mixed)

Deadline: April 1st. I will need teams who want to participate on sending the money, check, M.O. and the names of each player to me by this date to reserve the lanes. I only have so many lanes reserved. First to pay first to play.



Camino,
Brundage,
Dole Ct.
We're not
"CHICKEN"
are we?

Contact:

Jeff Harrington

For more info: 378-0975 after 4 pm

Send everything to P.O. Box 30084 at 93385

Battle Of The Stations

Fantastic Four (Hillcrest)
Lane #1

Caryl Newton
Peggy Morjil
Paul Hernandez
Ralph Clyburn

Stud Muffins (E.B.)
Lane #4

Wilissa Godaw
Joy Cordova
Frank Martinez
Geore Vaquera

Strike Masters (South)
Lane #7

Les Shaw
Neil Kramer
Mike Zaragoza
Ralph Ramirez

The Misfits (E.B.)
Lane #10

Teresa Ortega
Barbra Gonzales
Paul Salazar
Dan Medina

Hell Hole (Brandage)
Lane #13

Maggie Ferreria
Ruben Gonzalez
Francisco
Enoch Moya

3 Amigos & A Chiva
Lane #16

Ronnie Mirasa
Roel Alaniz
Vince Gonzales
Ozzie Smith

Victorious Secret (Stockdale)
Lane #19

Tina Harbour
Shellyn Sharoc
Yuriana Rubio
Darlene Macina

Lord Of The Pins (South)
Lane #2

Darrel Holdeman
Joe Dangler
Tommy Herrera
John Rosso

9 er's (Stockdale)
Lane #5

Alex Dang
Anthony Zuniga
Steve Friedle
James Oh

Cowboy & The Chicks (Hillcrest)
Lane #8

Pam Smith
Valerie Tweedley
Mona Rener
David Rener

Fab 4 (Stockdale)
Lane #11

Brian Davis
Ange Vega
Steve Blanton
John Ortega

Dangerous Dames (South)
Lane #14

Anta Holderman
Dyan Thoms
Denise Dilley
Kellie Martinez

Kentucky Street Kids (E.B.)
Lane #17

Jalmo Paddock
Cindy Jimenez
Greg Baraza
Jeff Harrington

Time To Spare (Dole Ct)
Lane #20

Jennifer Gonzalez
Kelly Ruiz
Paul Hernandez

Britney Spares (Dole Ct.)
Lane #3

Diana Ryder
Teresa Garcia
Glenn Rycer
Andrew Garcia

Strikes R Us (Camino)
Lane #6

Ray Moya/Luko Lopez
Everette Jennings
Mika Masa
Laura Davis

Over Time! (Downtown)
Lane #9

Debbie Anderson
Sabrina Buntala
Lorraine Clemons
Rick Rangle

Mixed Nuts (Dole Ct)
Lane #12

Debbie Guillot
Yolanda Agredano
Les Hill
Nick Roberts

MANDATED! (Downtown)
Lane #15

Teresa Lapinosa
Mark Hutchinson
Art Evans
Ralph Mueller

The Gigglers (Shafter)
Lane #18

Serina Omeiaz
Cynthia Dolon
Noma Hamer
Carmen Vizzard

SAGA FROM STOCKDALE

I, Gale Grasse-Sprague, have recently been appointed as one of two shop stewards for Stockdale Station, the other being Randy Courson. The purpose of this article is to communicate to you some basic rights that you, as employees, may not know you are entitled to. As we are not allowed to use the workroom floor to communicate these issues to you, this appears to be a very productive way to get the message across.

First, let me begin by telling you that if management holds a discussion with you that “could lead to discipline”, you have the right to request a shop steward of your choosing. If either Randy or I am not there, you have the right to insist that management find another shop steward to represent you before the discussion begins. Remember, you can choose either Randy or myself to represent you, and representation by our union is your LEGAL RIGHT.

I will continue to post pertinent union information on the union bulletin board in the break room and I encourage you to make a point to read it for your own benefit.

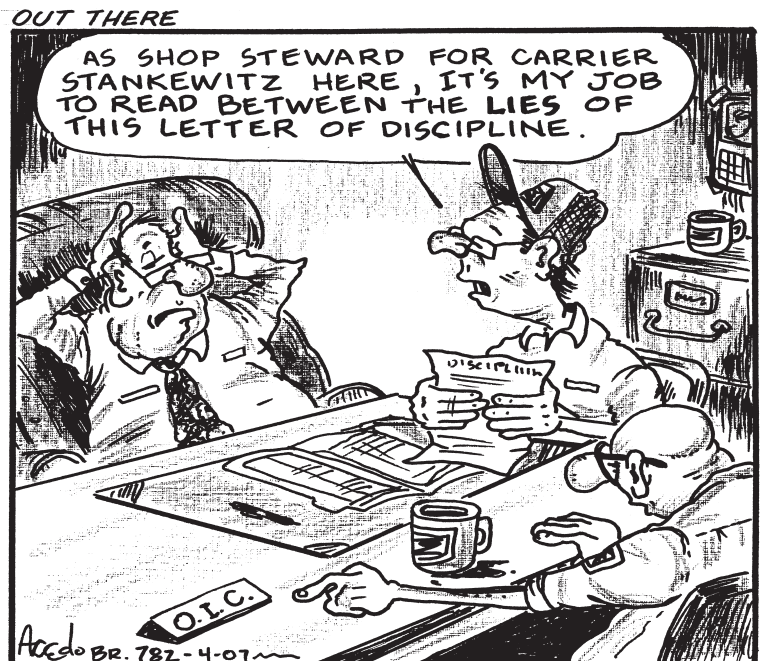
If you feel that you are being treated inappropriately by management, you have the right to request a meeting with the shop steward of your choosing in order to ascertain if this is a grievable offense or not. Please be assured that your shop stewards are in constant contact with our local president, Mike Towery, for his advise and guidance before we proceed in any action.

I feel the need to address the following issue. I was approached by a fellow employee who stated that I need to “back-off” management because if I go after management, they will come after the employees. This employee further suggested that most employees do not shut their vehicle doors or wear their seat belts and that management would start targeting these areas. Let me be perfectly clear on this. I am only ONE of three union officials who are attempting to encourage management to follow the contract at Stockdale Station. I have not, nor do I intend to, go after management, nor will I ignore any contractual violations so that they do not retaliate. Mike, Randy and myself have one goal and one goal only, and that is to protect the rights of the letter carriers at Stockdale Station. We will not ignore abuses heaped upon one employee to save another. We are all in this boat together and we must stick together to survive. Please, for the sake of your job, follow all the rules, shut your vehicle door, wear your seat belt, curb your wheels, etc. You know the routine - do your job and we will do ours.

Mandated overtime is a very hot issue at Stockdale Station right now. The employees are all exhausted and our of patience at the mandating that has been going on for approximately the past 6 months. Please know that management and the union are working together in an attempt to spread this work our fairly, but some rotations are more severely impacted than others. I understand that the USPS is hiring some more employees, but how many and when they may appear at Stockdale is an unanswered question at this time. Regarding mandated overtime, as you all know, one of our employees was mandated last Saturday, but his wife, a postmaster at an AO, sent one of her employees over to take his place so that he could have the day off. Please be assured that the union is looking at this issue very seriously and will address it to the best of their abilities.

One last issue I need to address. IF you have medical limitations, it is YOUR responsibility to work within those limitations and to continually re-educate management of those limitations when they “forget”. If you choose NOT to work within your medical limitations and you get re-injured, the responsibility is all yours, not managements.

Randy and I are only 2 individuals and we need your help. Please let us know if there are any contractual violations that you are aware of so that we can attempt to resolve those quickly and positively with management. We thank you for your assistance.



In Jerry's World

All over the country management is happy because they have been cutting the number of routes and delivery employees. They point to how much money they are saving.

There have been problems all over the country with late delivery. In Chicago, mail has been hidden and even thrown away because they have not had enough Carriers. Customers are not happy. The Postmaster General has promised to fix the problem. One of the initial things he said that he would do is hire a hundred Letter Carriers in the Chicago area.

All over the country management is happy because they have been cutting the number of routes and delivery employees. They point to how much money they are saving.

Customers are not happy.

This is *not* the fault of Letter Carriers.

Day in and day out, we hit the road delivering mail. From city to city and town to town—regardless of the size or location in these grand United States that we live in—it is the same no matter where you go. We are out there six days a week. We become a part of each neighborhood because part of providing the service of delivering mail means that the customers that we see become important. That is what a good business does. It takes care of its patrons.

Regular Carriers meet our customers every day and sometimes we form a relationship with them like part of our family.

Sometimes, they wait just to see you come by to let you know what they did, when their kids are coming to visit, or just to leave a soda, tea or water for you. So we develop a personal friendship with many people we deliver mail to.

As we deliver, we sometimes may notice that things “don’t look quite right”. And maybe some of us have taken action.

In February, Patty Arimendez spotted a child (who was about one or two years old) out in the street. She pulled over and got that child out of harm’s way. This is part of the reality of the world that we live in as Letter Carriers.

The other part of the reality of our world is the fact that management doesn’t care about any of this. They live by their numbers and whether or not they get their bonuses.

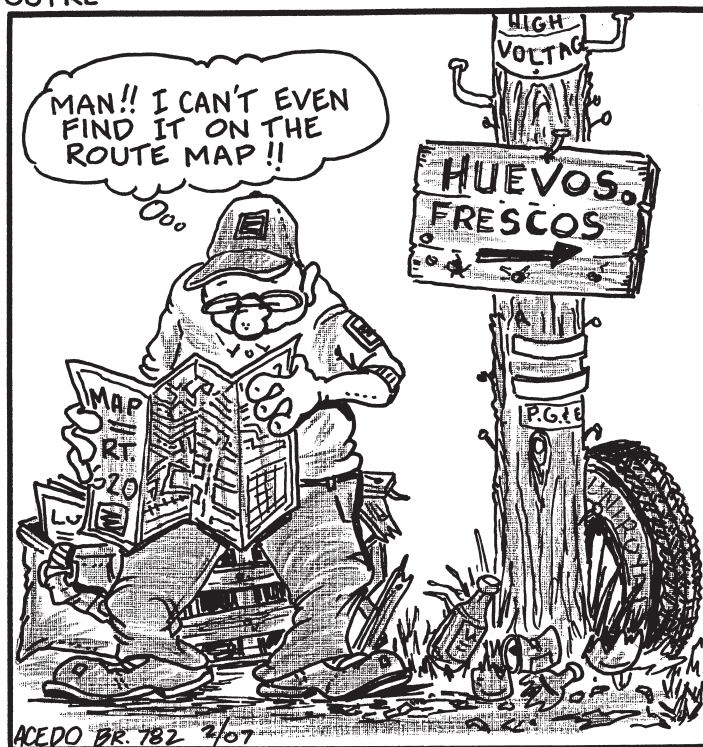
As I thought about it, I got to thinking about the five types of supervisors that we have: 1) The Scarecrow - - “No Brain”; 2) The Tinman - - “No Heart”; 3) The Lion - - “No Courage”; and, 4) The Wicked Witch - - “Put a Spell on You” so you will take, take, take”.

Finally, there is 5) The Mighty Oz - - who despite showing that he wants to do the right thing, only makes decisions that, in the end, help him first.

This seems to be their reality: Do what you’ve got to do to make me look good. Skip your lunches and your breaks. Break the rules. But if I catch you breaking the rules, I will make an example of you so that I will look better to my boss.

They often act like they are paying you out of their own pockets when we take longer than they think we should. But I haven’t seen any of their signatures on

OUTRE



my check. And the money which does pay us comes out of the pockets of our customers. We need to make sure that we keep *them* happy with the service that we give.

If it was up to me, I would like to see self-management where *we* would make the decisions on what needs to be done.

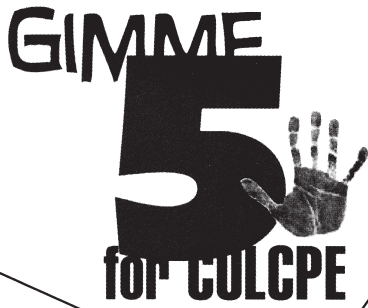
Who knows better than the Carrier?

You tell them that you need an hour of overtime. They give you a half-hour. And then you phone them later to tell them that you need a half-hour more. So then they need to figure out if there is anyone to help you or just give you the “extra” half-hour that you asked for in the first place.

But, as with everything else, being able to make the best decisions means that Carriers need to know how to properly carry mail.

The Branch is going to be trying to set up training classes for PTFs so that they will know their responsibilities and their rights. I would suggest that any of our newer employees make the decision to become more professional by attending these classes.

JERRY PATTERSON
Branch 782 Shop Steward for
McFarland, Shafter and Wasco



Contests for 2007!

Contest 1

February 1–June 30, 2007

Contest 2

July 1–November 30, 2007

National Contest

NALC 66th Biennial National Convention
Boston, MA
August, 2008

NALC will have an exciting COLCPE raffle at the National Convention in Boston. All "Gimme 5" contributors will be eligible for the raffle as well as any convention delegate who signs up for "Gimme 5" at the convention. Details for this contest will be announced at a later date.

NALC launched the first of two five-month COLCPE contests on February 1. The winner of the first contest will receive **two round-trip airline tickets to the city of their choice within the United States** (trip to be taken within 18 months of winning the raffle). To be eligible for the raffle you must fulfill one of the following:

- 1 If you are already a "Gimme 5" automatic contributor (\$5 a pay period by PostalEase, \$10 a month by EFT, or \$5 a month for retirees through OPM Annuity Deduction) and you get two new NALC members to sign up for "Gimme 5" automatic deduction, you will be entered into the raffle. For each additional two new contributors you recruit, your name will be entered again.
- 2 If you are a new "Gimme 5" contributor, your name will be entered into the raffle. Once you have signed up for "Gimme 5" payroll deduction, you too will be eligible to recruit new "Gimme 5" contributors for additional raffle entries.
- 3 If you are currently an automatic payroll contributor at less than \$5 a pay period and you increase your deduction to meet the "Gimme 5" level, you will be entered into the raffle.

An existing automatic contributor whom you recruit to increase his/her contribution to the "Gimme 5" level counts as a new recruit.

The COLCPE Coordinator representing the branch of the winner will receive a \$200 Best Buy gift certificate.

NALC will launch the second five-month COLCPE contest on July 1. The winner of the second contest will receive **a trip for two to the 2008 Super Bowl (including travel, tickets, per diem)**. To be eligible for the raffle you must fulfill one of the following:

- 1 If you are already a "Gimme 5" automatic contributor (\$5 a pay period by PostalEase, \$10 a month by EFT, or \$5 a month for retirees through OPM Annuity Deduction) and you get two new NALC members to sign up for "Gimme 5" automatic deduction, you will be entered into the raffle. For each additional two new contributors you recruit, your name will be entered again.
- 2 If you are a new "Gimme 5" contributor, your name will be entered into the raffle. Once you have signed up for "Gimme 5" payroll deduction, you too will be eligible to recruit new "Gimme 5" contributors for additional raffle entries.
- 3 If you are currently an automatic payroll contributor at less than \$5 a pay period and you increase your deduction to meet the "Gimme 5" level, you will be entered into the raffle.

An existing automatic contributor whom you recruit to increase his/her contribution to the "Gimme 5" level counts as a new recruit.

The COLCPE Coordinator representing the branch of the winner will receive a \$200 Best Buy gift certificate.

In order to receive a raffle ticket for signing up two new NALC automatic "Gimme 5" contributors, you must fill out this form for every two new contributors you recruit. Please note that for each two new contributors you recruit, you need to send in a separate pledge form to receive an additional raffle ticket. (Additional copies can be obtained on the NALC website or by making copies of this form.)

Date _____

Please Print

FIRST NEW CONTRIBUTOR

(or contributor increasing to the "Gimme 5" level)

Name of new contributor: _____

Branch number: _____

New contributor signature: _____

SECOND NEW CONTRIBUTOR

(or contributor increasing to the "Gimme 5" level)

Name of new contributor: _____

Branch number: _____

New contributor signature: _____

One raffle entry for the member who recruited two new "Gimme 5" contributors should go to:

Name: _____

Branch number: _____

Phone number: _____

Existing contributor signature: _____

Please note that this form is only a pledge to sign up as a new "Gimme 5" contributor. Raffle entries will only be made if the new contributor is on the "Gimme 5" rolls by June 30, 2007 for the first contest, and by Nov. 30, 2007 for the second contest.

If you are signing up to become a "Gimme 5" contributor on your own (without being recruited) or increasing your deduction to meet the "Gimme 5" level (without being recruited to do so) you do not need to submit this form. Every new "Gimme 5" contributor who signs up between 2/1/07 and 6/30/07 will automatically be entered in the first raffle, while those who sign up between 7/1/07 and 11/30/07 will automatically be entered in the second raffle. This form is ONLY for those who are recruiting new contributors.

Please send this completed form no later than 6/30/07 (for the first contest) or 11/30/07 (for the second contest) to:

National Association of Letter Carriers
Attn: "Gimme 5" Contest
100 Indiana Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20001

The Biggar Picture

Branch 782 is reducing its inventory of office equipment. With the exception of one item (a padded folding chair which is broken), the excess items are electronic machines no longer used to conduct Branch business.

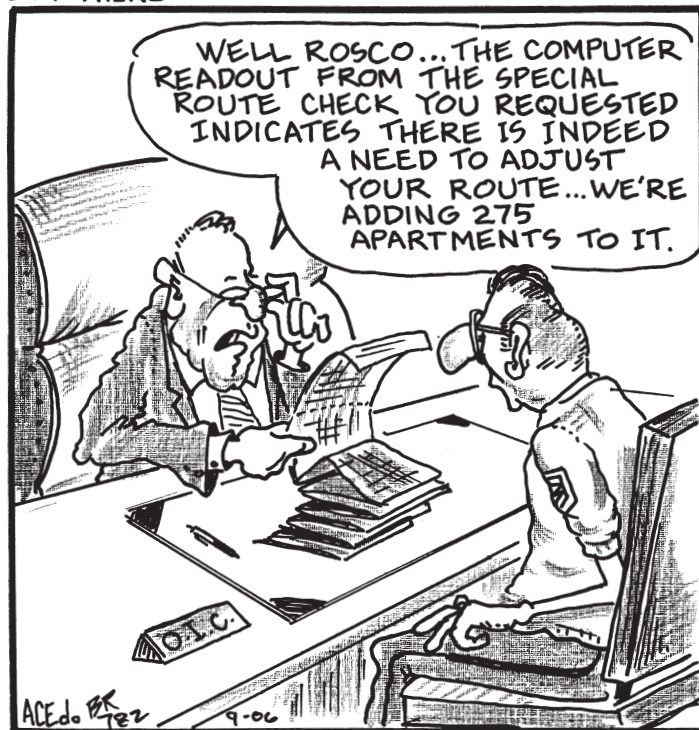
Any and all members who would like any of these items are invited to contact me and set up an appointment to see if anything on the posted list would fit your needs. If a member wishes to have this excess equipment, he/she can claim it. If any item is unclaimed, it will be donated to a non-profit agency like BARC.

This is the list of what is currently available:

Sharp SF 7900 Copier
Apple Macintosh Personal Laser Writer
Apple Macintosh SE 30 HD 520
Apple Power MAC 7200/120 PC compatible
MAC Performa 550 with keyboard and mouse
Curtis document holder for monitor
PacBell Multi Media L197
 16XCD ROM Drive and 3 1/2 inch Floppy
 Keyboard
 Mouse
 Monitor with screen saver
 Two speakers
TOSHIBA - Satellite 305CDS Laptop
 INTEL Pentium CD and 3 1/2 inch Floppy
SONY Monitor CPD 200SX
UMAX Page Scanner S-63
Keyboard
CANON BJC 1000 Printer
Padded Folding Chair - broken

MOLLY BIGGAR
NALC Branch 782 Treasurer

OUT THERE



Bakersfield Social & Recreation Committee Report

Postmaster Jim Brouillard, Mike Bettes, Randy Hart, Frank Lomas, Eddie Maniz, Stella DeAvila and Frank Martinez were present. Lisa Wescott, Sandra Billingsly and Anita Holderman were absent. We discussed the minutes from last meeting. No questions.



Treasurer Report: \$11,934.49 in checking account. Last check from Canteen for \$1,625 has not been deposited. The average monthly check from Canteen is \$1,500.

Old Business: We have movie tickets for sale. Will sell for \$5.00 each. Dole Court received a check for \$100 towards a refrigerator as requested. Terrace, representative from Bakersfield Jams, attended the meeting, spoke about setting up a "Post Office Night Out" at a Jams game. Motion made by Frank Martinez to buy 45 tickets for March 10, 2007, Saturday night, at 7:30 p.m. We paid \$19.00 a ticket and committee will sell for \$15.00 a ticket. Next tickets we buy will be half price.

New Business: We still need more members for the committee. Postmaster Brouillard informed the committee that he spoke with the union presidents regarding appointing members. He has asked Lynda LaForce to audit our books. Last time books audited was 2003. Jeff Harrington, Carrier from 93305, requested a Christmas party. Members discussing maybe not having a picnic this year and putting the money toward a Christmas party. Will discuss further at next meeting.

PS Form 2488 and the Case of the Illegal Direct Order

By: Ray Hill, Executive Vice-President



The Postal Service (PS) Form 2488, "Authorization for Medical Report", has reared its ugly head yet again. The PS Form 2488 was initially developed to obtain the release of medical information concerning persons that were seeking employment with the USPS. This form was **not** originally intended to obtain medical information concerning current employees.

However, the USPS **does** use the form in an attempt to obtain medical information concerning current employees. Usually, the Form is given to an employee who has suffered from an illness or injury either job-related or not job-related. The USPS asks the employee to sign the Form so that they may obtain personal medical information from the employee's doctor. **It is important to know that Management may not require an employee to sign a PS Form 2488. Also, the Union recommends that you never sign a PS Form 2488.**

A National Level grievance was filed several years ago challenging the fact that Management had required an employee to sign a PS Form 2488. On April 19, 2001 the NALC and the USPS, at the National Level, came to the following arbitration settlement on that grievance:

"...The issue in this case is whether management violated the National Agreement by requiring the grievant to sign PS Form 2488, 'Authorization for Medical Report.'"

While we mutually agree that no national interpretive issue is being presented in this case, we resolve this case as follows:

*Completion of PS Form 2488 by the employee is **voluntary**."*

*If an employee signs a PS Form 2488 it opens the door for the USPS to obtain information regarding **any and all medical problems** the employee may have.*

*Remember, completion of PS Form 2488 is **strictly voluntary**.*

Recently at a Post Office represented by Branch 7902 a Letter Carrier was given a **direct order** by a USPS Labor Relations Representative to sign a PS Form 2488. This carrier had been scheduled for a Fitness for Duty Exam and Management claimed that the Fitness for Duty doctor needed information from the carrier's doctor regarding his medical condition. So, in

order to get that medical information, the carrier was provided a PS Form 2488 and was then ordered to sign it. I happened to be there at the time that order was given, and I advised the carrier **not** to follow the direct order and sign the form. In the 17 years that I have been a Union Representative, that was the first time that I have ever advised a Letter Carrier to disobey a direct order. I say this because I want you all to understand that I am not in the habit of advising carriers to disobey direct orders and I strongly advise against going so except in two very limited situations.

The Sierra Central District's Work Rules and Rules of Conduct, item #2 reads as follows:

*"2) All employees must follow the instructions of management **unless the order is illegal or unsafe**. If an employee disagrees with an instruction, the employee will nonetheless comply with the order and file an appeal. Failure to comply with a 'Direct Order' may be grounds for severe disciplinary action."*

As I wrote above, this was the first time that I ever advised a carrier to disobey a direct order. I did so because I felt very strongly that the order was illegal and in violation of Federal Law, specifically the "Privacy Act". Therefore, if the carrier had obeyed the direct order to sign the PS Form 2488, his rights under Federal Law (i.e. the "Privacy Act") would have been violated.

The carrier was subsequently issued a 14 Day Suspension charging him with "Failure to Follow Instructions". We filed 2 grievances resulting from the improper direct order.

- 1) One grievance for the carrier regarding the 14-Day Suspension he was issued for refusing to follow the "Direct Order" and sign the Form.
- 2) A second grievance challenging the propriety of the Direct Order given to the carrier to sign a PS Form 2488.

These grievances were appealed by me to the Dispute Resolution Team (DRT) and I am happy to report that both grievances were resolved in our favor.

The 14 Day Suspension was rescinded in its entirety based on the circumstances involved in the case. In their decision for the grievance filed on the 14-Day suspension, the DRT wrote the following, in relevant part:

"...Furthermore, the DRT finds that if Mr. [redacted] had complied

Continued on next page...

Continued from page 18...

with the order, he would have had no time to resort to the grievance procedure and seek adequate relief. Compliance with this order might well have compromised his right to medical privacy and the harm done may have been irreparable. Consequently, the DRT finds consistent with the just cause principles of the JCAM that Management did not have 'a fair and provable justification for discipline'. Therefore the 14 day Suspension will be rescinded and removed from all USPS files..."

In their decision for the grievance filed on the propriety of the Direct Order given to the carrier, the DRT wrote the following, in relevant part:

"...the DRT finds Management's order to sign PS Form 2488 violates the National Agreement and the April 19, 2001 National level prohibition settlement to Case No.:D90N-4D 09-025408 and that it is inconsistent with the Privacy Act Statement on the form. Therefore, Management is instructed to cease and desist ordering city letter carriers to sign PS Form 2488 Authorization for Medical Release..."

Kudos to our local DRT for making the proper, albeit difficult, decisions on these 2 grievances. The above quoted language in their decisions is fantastic and will be very helpful if a similar situation should arise in the future.

I was unsure whether or not I should write this article because I don't want any carriers to misinterpret my message and feel that it is normaly OK to disobey a "Direct Order" given to them by Management. However, you readers of The Mailbag News are an intelligent

bunch and I am sure you understand that you may only disobey a "Direct Order" from Management if that order is **illegal or unsafe**.

Otherwse, you must comply with the "Direct Order" and notify your Union steward so that he or she can investigate the situation and file a grievance on your behalf.

One thing I can say with certainty if you are ordered to sign a PS Form 2488, "**Authorization for Medical Release**", you do not have to comply with that order.

The December 2002 issue of the **Postal Record** discussed PS Form 2488 in that issue's "**Contract Talk**" article and closed with these words of wisdom:

"...The Contract Administration Unit strongly recommends that letter carriers never sign a Form 2488. There is simply too much potential for abuse and the Postal Service may seek to obtain information unrelated to the current illness or injury...So if you receive a PS Form 2488 (Authorization for Medical Report) from the Postal Service just remember your signature could result in a medical free-for-all."

Wise words, indeed. If you have any questions regarding instructions or "orders" given to you by Management, consult with your steward or phone the Branch Office.

This article is courtesy of the March-April 2007 *Mail Bag News* published by NALC Branch 2902.

If you don't know your rights, you don't have any rights.

OUT THERE



If you don't know your rights, you don't have any rights.

In Memorium

Manuel Jesus Estrada
Dec. 8, 1936 - Mar. 19, 2007

Manuel Jesus Estrada, age 70, passed on Monday morning, March 19, 2007, at about the same time he usually arose for work as a letter carrier for the United States Postal Service, a job that he held for 37 years.



After his retirement in 1992, he kept himself busy working part time as a master house painter, and by becoming the family cook for his wife, and for his children and grandchildren when they visited, which they did quite often.

Manuel, the oldest son of Jesus Lujan Estrada of Texas, and Maria Lopez of Zacatecas, Mexico, was born on December 8, 1936 in Bakersfield, California. He attended Lincoln and Emerson Junior High Schools and Bakersfield High School. On June 13, 1953, he married his sweetheart Nellie Martinez, whom he met at Lincoln Junior High School. On January 8, 1954, their first child, Adeline was born, followed over the next twelve years by Adrienne Lynn, Gary, Larry, Nancy Elaine and Brian Christopher.

Manuel who became “kitchen commander” of his home, loved to cook for his family, especially for the holidays. Although he did not watch television much, he became a fan of the cooking channels on cable television. He had an insatiable taste for candies, particularly chocolate.

As far back as his family can remember, Manuel was a fan of the old style country music, (Hank Williams, Buck Owens, Merle Haggard, Patsy Mine), but he also was a fan of the Beatles, taking Nellie to see the Beatles’ first two movies whenever they were in theaters, and watching the Beatles on the Ed Sullivan Show.

Much to his family’s sadness, Manuel lost his battle with lung and heart disease. He is survived by his wife Nellie and six children; his grandchildren, Matthew and Victor Villalpando, Gary Steven, Christopher A and Stephanie Estrada, Katherine, Kristen, and Jonathan Villa; Arlene, Amber, Benjamin, and Chelsey Estrada; step grandchildren, Renee and Hector, Jr. Villalpando, Nicholas, Christopher, and Jacob Estrada; and greatgranddaughters, Jazmyne and Alexis Villalpando. Manuel also is survived by his sister, Augustina Urrutia and brother, Robert Lopez Estrada. Manuel was very proud of his grandsons who currently serve in the United States Army: Hector, Jr., Matthew and Victor Villalpando, and Gary Steven Estrada. Manuel was preceded in death by his grandson, Gabriel Anthony Estrada. Lastly Manuel is survived by his Chihuahua, Charlie.

*Join us in prayer for and in celebration of
Manuel’s life. We love you, Dad!*

from the
editor-guy

I was assigned to Route 427 for about twenty-three years. During that time, the 93304 Carriers were housed in three different units; various adjustments moved territory about; and, I got a little older. Through all of those changes, 618 Patricia continued to be one of the homes that I delivered. That was where Manuel Estrada lived with his family.

I knew of Manuel. He was one of the “old timers”, and he worked up at the Hillcrest Station. I even got to carry a part of his route one day when they sent me from my station up to 93306. I remember the part that I had was pretty sweet.

Occasionally, I would see him at home and he would always threaten to unleash his dog. We both knew better...

After his retirement, he was always a fixture at the Branch picnics. I think that his purpose in life at the picnics was to ensure that none of his family members would starve to death. I'm sure that others also have memories of him

I remember one ironic thing: Manuel started working for the Post Office when he was 17 years old. To retire he had to have thirty years *AND* be 55 years old. You do the math. Before he could retire he was looking at a minimum of thirty-eight years... I think he got a “reprieve” with an early out.

As I age, seventy years old seems so much younger to me.

BASIL ZUNIGA

To my colleagues:

On March 19th, at about 4:06 a.m., my father Manuel Jesus Estrada lost his battle with heart and lung disease. He was 70 years old. I knew that my father was very ill, and had visited him in the hospital on March 10th & 11th, but on March 18th, his health took a turn for the worse. I received the call late on Sunday, and traveled to Bakersfield immediately. Rosario and I arrived at the hospital at 3:30 a.m. We spoke briefly with my father, but he slipped away from us after 30 minutes. My mother, my sister Nancy and my niece were present, as well. I am certainly glad that I was with him, but as some of you may know, it truly is painful to see your father takes his last breaths, knowing that there is nothing more that you can do for him, even though it was, indeed, his time to go. I do find comfort with my family and friends, and also knowing that he will no longer suffer and will be with my son in heaven.

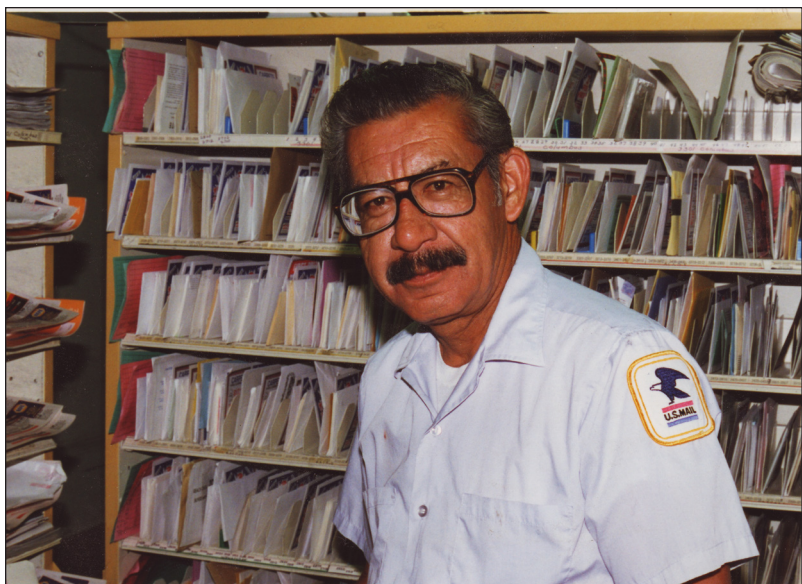
There will be a rosary and mass for him at St. Francis Church in Bakersfield on Friday March 23, 2007, at 10:30 a.m., followed by the burial at Greenlawn Southwest (2739 Panama Lane). A reception back at St. Francis Church will follow. I am at my parents' home: 618 Patricia Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93304.

Thank you.

Larry F. Estrada

**Postal Service Attorney
Law Dept, Pacific Area Office**

Tel (415) 764-3600



This picture of Manuel taken shortly before he retired in the early 1990's.



Harrington's Corner

“A Mother’s touch ... the difference a mom makes.”

As Mother’s Day approaches, sometimes, it is hard to find that special gift or card to get our mom. I mean there is no more influential or powerful role on earth than a mother. As significant as political, educational, or religious public figures may be, none can compare to the impact made by mothers. Their words are never fully forgotten, and the memory of their presence lasts a lifetime.

A mother holds her children’s hands for awhile; their hearts, forever.

I was in line at the grocery checkout the other day. A few feet in front of me, a mother guided her toddler ahead, anchored her baby on her hip and elbowed her checkbook open to pay the clerk. In what seemed one single gesture, she retrieved her toddler’s hand from the candy rack, tore the check from her book and offered it to the clerk while placing a comforting smooch atop her baby’s head. The baby drooled down the mother’s shoulder, the toddler clamp-gripped his mom’s leg and the other wrapped her arms about both while waiting for her payment to be processed.

As I wheeled my cart to my car, I noticed another woman with her kindergarten-age son, rushing into the store as I was exiting. Suddenly she stopped and glanced down at her child, reached in her pocket and brought out a wadded Kleenex. Moistening it with her tongue, she swabbed it about his dirty face. He resisted, but only briefly. Satisfied with her work and his appearance, she stuffed the tissue back in her pocket, took up his waiting hand again and marched into the store.

As I approached my car, I noticed a woman and her teenage daughter chat animatedly. Hands flew, it wasn’t an argument exactly, more a debate. The daughter, almost six inches taller than the mother, inclined her head downward. The mother rolled her eyes and patted her daughter’s back. As they reached their car, the mother tossed the daughter the car keys and watched her daughter’s face break into shock.

It is amazing the little things that we probably didn’t even give a second thought too. The little things that mother’s do on that everyday motherly instinct.

Yes, my mother told me to offer kindness to those around me and to avoid drugs and violence. My Grandmother taught about biblical truths of forgiveness when I mess up and of truthfulness when I’d rather lie. My mother outlines the basics of how to get along in life by managing an allowance, making my bed and getting my homework done before I relaxed.

But there is more to mothering and more to discipline than telling and teaching and outlining. There is touch.

Some scientific studies have shown that appropriate touch such as a pat on the back or a hug reaches out and over words and wraps a child in a comforter of conviction that he or she is valued—no matter what.

I wish every mother out there a Happy Mother’s Day to you.

“Just Another Day in Paradise”
Jeff Harrington



Branch Officers

E.A. BAKER UNION UPDATE is published monthly by Merged Branch 782 of the National Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO.

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the writer and are not necessarily those of the publication staff or of the Officers of the Branch.

The information contained in this publication is true and complete to our best knowledge. All recommendations, on equipment and procedures are made without guarantees on the part of the authors or of the organization. Because the quality of equipment, services and methods are beyond our control, the organization and its publication authors disclaim all liability incurred in connection with use of this information.

Information in this publication may not be used for illegal purposes.

We invite all members to contribute articles for publication. Copy, if possible, should be double-spaced (but doesn't have to be) but **MUST** be signed by the contributor.

The Editor retains the right to edit, delete, or reject the article for the good of the Branch (and even this is subject to persuasion).

In the hope that material contained herein may be of benefit to the goals of the National Association of Letter Carriers, permission is hereby granted to other NALC Branches to copy or use material and/or cartoons promulgated in this publication with our best wishes...but remember to cite/give us some credit.

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Financial Secretary	Anita Holderman	(661) 589-1683
HBP & MBA	Mark Ramirez	(661) 834-5011
Sargeant-at-Arms	Jerry Patterson	(661) 203-9718
Chief Trustee	Darryl Holderman	(661) 589-1683
Trustee	Danny Blair	(661) 397-8107
Trustee	Bill Curtis	(661) 323-1107

NALC Branch 782 Shop Stewards

Avenal (93203)	Vacant	
Arvin (93209)	Vacant	
Delano (93215)	Jerry Patterson	(661) 599-6859
Lamont (93241)	Mark Ramirez	(661) 834-5011
McFarland (93250)	Jerry Patterson	(661) 599-6859
Shafter (93263)	Jerry Patterson	(661) 599-6859
Taft (93268)	Vacant	
Wasco (93280)	Jerry Patterson	(661) 599-6859
Downtown Station (93301)	Mark Hutchinson	(661) 325-5526
Downtown Station Alternate	Kim Gerdes	(661) 834-2059
South Station (93304)	Darryl Holderman	(661) 589-1683
East Bakersfield (93305)	Teresa Ortega	(661) 201-3086
East Bakersfield Alternate	Jeff Harrington	(661) 327-7937
Hillcrest Station (93306)	Pam Smith	(661) 325-5526
Brundage Station (93307)	Emma Gonzalez	(661) 325-5526
Dole Court (93308)	Mike Towery	(661) 862-8033
Dole Court Alternate	Debbie Guillet	(661) 325-5526
Stockdale Station (93309)	Gail Sprague	(661) 325-5526
Stockdale Station Alternate	Randy Courson	(661) 325-5526
Camino Media (93311/13)	Teresa Ortega	(661) 201-3086
Mojave (93501)	Vacant	
California City (93504)	Paula Hogg	(760) 373-8963
Tehachapi (93561)	Mary Morphis	(661) 822-6614
Trona (93562)	Vacant	
Boron (93516)	Paula Hogg	(760) 373-8963
Ridgecrest (93555)	Lynnell Howell	(760) 371-1039

**Branch 782
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Rick Plummer

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**General Meeting
Tuesday
April 24, 2007
7:30 p.m.**

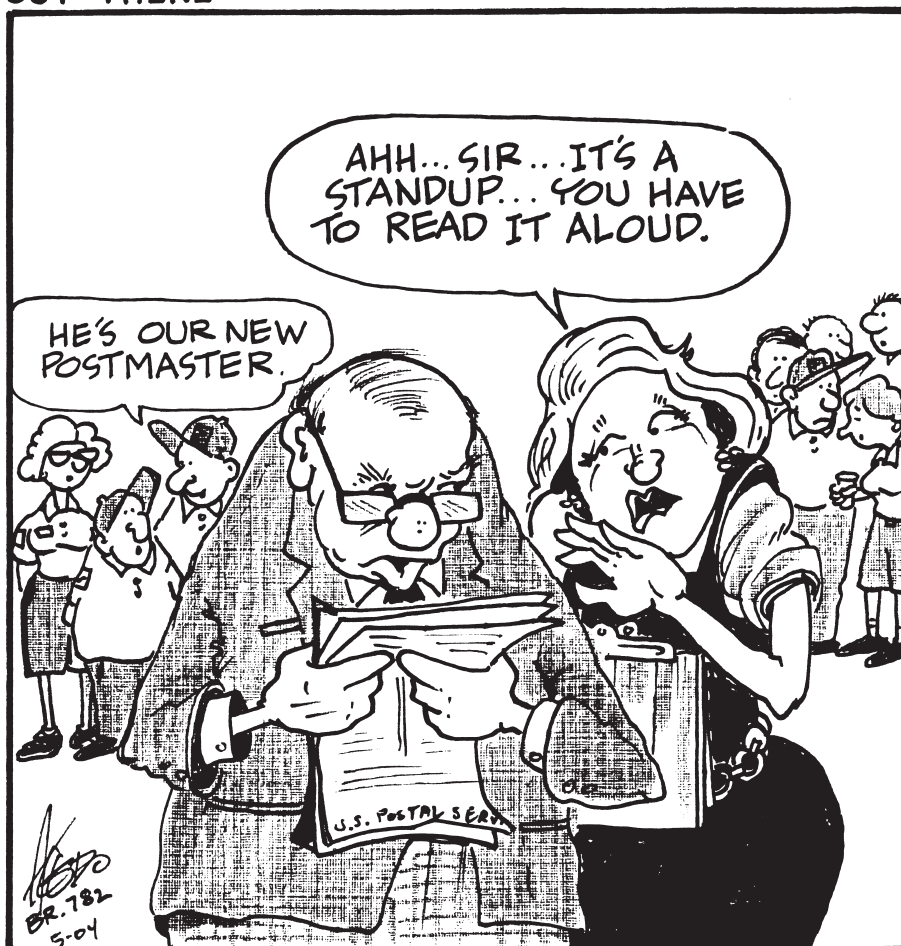
**Branch 782 Office
2628 F Street
Bakersfield, CA**

TIME-VALUE MAIL—PLEASE EXPEDITE

There will be a special guest at the General Membership Meeting on April 24. James

**Brouillard,
Postmaster of
Bakersfield,
will be
attending the
meeting to
answer any
questions
Carriers may
have.**

OUT THERE



SPECIAL ASSISTANT NEWSLETTER EDITOR