

# National Association of Letter Carriers

## Branch 782

# E.A. Baker Union Update



ARVIN  
CALIFORNIA CITY  
McFARLAND  
TAFT

AVENAL  
DELANO  
MOJAVE  
TEHACHAPI

BAKERSFIELD  
EDWARDS AFB  
RIDGECREST  
TRONA

BORON  
LAMONT  
SHAFTER  
WASCO

**CHARTERED FEBRUARY 25, 1901**

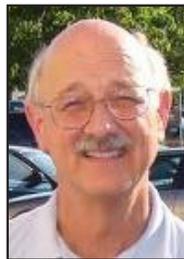


NUMBER 3

MARCH 2014

at the

# Mike:



I want to start by sharing part of an article written by Cedar Falls, Iowa Branch 373 Vice-President John J. Pffner. He covers a hot topic...

**W**ell, it's been a year since the new National Agreement was finalized. It's been a year since the old Transitional Employee (TE) Carrier jobs were eliminated. It's been a year since the previous TEs who wanted to stay employed at the Post Office took the test and were hired on as City Carrier Assistants (CCAs).

It's been a year since most of the former TEs started grumbling and were complaining about how the NALC forced them to take a pay cut. ***IT WAS NEVER THE NALC'S FAULT!*** An outside arbitrator decided on the new Carrier classification (CCA) and the pay that they would receive.

And during this past year? The NALC and Branch 373 President Bryan Rubner have taken a lot of venom from some of the former TEs about that pay and other working conditions.

Now, a year later, all but a few of the former TEs have been promoted to FULL TIME CAREER EMPLOYEES. Most of those remaining former TEs should make Regular within 6 months.

A year ago, the TEs had a bigger hourly wage. But that was it. ***They had NO pathway to CAREER status.*** Now they have career status and all of the benefits that being a full time Regular entails!

Had it not been for the NALC, the TEs would be no better off now than they were a year ago. **And in the past 12 months, the Branch has done a lot of grievance work to get the former TEs converted to the coveted full-time status.**

However—to add insult to injury—a couple of the former TEs that were going to be promoted started complaining about seniority and route assignments. I wonder, a year later, how many of these former TEs have expressed their gratitude to Bryan or the NALC for getting them promoted to Regular...

I have heard a couple of the CCAs talk about how much better they are as Carriers than some of the Regulars. Well, gee, do you think that 20 or 30 years makes a difference in how fast one might move out on the route? Do

*Continued on next page...*

you think that after 20 or 30 years, the older Letter Carriers are smart enough not to run?

I have heard CCAs complain about how much work they are assigned. If you are going to run, skip your breaks and get back early, you had better expect to get more work... And? Running a route does **NOT** make you a better Carrier.

Regulars have learned to do a *thorough* job on their routes. **THAT'S** what makes a Carrier a better worker, not speed.

Some type of route adjustment process is in the wind. If Letter Carriers—Regular or CCA—run the routes, the routes *will* be added to. Territory additions come from other routes to the point that some routes will have to be eliminated in order to provide those territory additions.

This scenario could happen: You are the top CCA. You are waiting for a Carrier to retire so that you can make Regular.

One finally does. But now there are route adjustments and the city loses a route. Your chance at getting promoted just vanished because even though a Carrier retired, there is now no open route that needs to be filled. It was eliminated...

The Contract that created the CCA position mandated that every route and T-6 position be filled with a Regular Carrier. It is in the best interests of CCAs to protect routes just as it is the Regulars assigned to them. The more routes we have, the better the chances of CCAs getting promoted to regular! So please walk, don't run!"

As I close, I want to invite all of you to this month's General Meeting on March 25, 2014. We're hoping to have a special guest at the meeting. California State Association of Letter Carriers John Beaumont has planned to address some issues with our members. See you there at 7:00 p.m.

MIKE TOWERY



## What's New? Grassroots Action Gains Momentum

**A**cross the state, Letter Carriers from every Branch have been working together to help introduce a resolution that would put their community on record in support of continuing door to door delivery, 6-day mail delivery service, and keeping their local post offices from closing their doors.

The resolution also promotes ending the onerous mandate placed on the United States Postal Service to pay for its future retiree health benefits up to 75 years in advance. Without this mandate, the Postal Service would have been over 800 million dollars in the black and cuts to services would not even be a topic, let alone proposed legislation to dismantle the USPS.

All four postal unions are working together on soliciting our City Councils and County Supervisors in a effort to show the public supports the continued operations of the USPS and workers who provide the service they have come to rely upon.

To date, twenty-five City Council/Board of Supervisors across the state have adopted our resolution from small and large cities alike. Anaheim, Los Angeles, Sacramento and San Francisco are just some of the larger cities passing the resolution, while Huron, Fowler, Orange Cove, Parlier and San Luis Obispo are some of the smaller towns and cities.

The objective of this grassroots effort is to enlist support from our communities, local government, veterans organizations, non-profit & faith based groups, labor, state and federal government to encourage our US Senators and Congressional Representatives to support progressive postal reform that would build and grow the Postal Service for the future and reject any legislation that would tear down our 200 year old institution.

We need everyone's help to get this resolution passed in as many cities and towns as possible while congress is still considering the fate of the USPS.

Please consider helping us out when asked by one your Branch officers or Shop Steward to attend your local city council meeting in support of the resolution when it is introduced.

A copy of the resolution and more discussion about this effort will be addressed by me at the NALC Branch 782 meeting on Tuesday March 25, 2014.

In Unionism,

John Beaumont  
President

California State Association of Letter Carriers



## New scanners on the way, and more



**Brian  
Renfroe**

I want to thank President Rolando for placing confidence in me by giving me the opportunity to serve as your director of city delivery. I am extremely grateful and excited to have the chance to serve the members of NALC. As the son of a letter carrier, I literally grew up learning about our jobs and the challenges we have faced over the years. Our union has a long and proud tradition of rising to meet every challenge presented to us throughout our 125-year history. I couldn't be more excited to have the chance to help continue that tradition.

The Postal Service recently announced a contract with Honeywell International, Inc. to produce the next generation of handheld scanning device for letter carriers. The new handheld scanner, called the Mobile Delivery Device (MDD), will eventually replace the Intelligent

ducted over a six-week period late last fall in three separate delivery units. The test sites were Diamond Farms Station in Gaithersburg, MD; Lost Lake Station in Minneapolis, and the Plano MPO in Plano, TX.

I am happy to report that after testing was completed, the Postal Service chose the device that the letter carriers involved in the test liked best. The first phase of the deployment will take place this summer and the new scanners will be assigned to approximately 75,000 city and rural routes, mostly in major metropolitan areas and other areas involved in the same-day and Sunday parcel delivery initiatives. The second phase is expected to include an additional 75,000 routes and be completed by the end of calendar year 2014, with the final phase of deployment to cover all city and rural routes taking place in 2015.

The new MDD has a large screen and a full keyboard of both numbers and letters. The most noticeable difference between the new device and the IMD is the vast improvement in scanning technology. This should result in far fewer instances of letter carriers being forced to manually input article numbers because a barcode will not scan.

The new MDD has nearly endless capabilities. Improvements in functionality will not require a new device; they can be done through software updates. During the initial deployment of the MDD, the functions will not be much different than the functions of the current scanner. We have been in discussion with postal management and engineering regarding additional functionality and software that should be included in the MDD. We will continue to engage them and work to develop and implement functionality that improves our jobs and provides the highest level of service to postal customers.

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**“The new scanner should result in far fewer instances of letter carriers being forced to manually input article numbers because a barcode will not scan.”**

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Mail Device (IMD) that letter carriers have used for the past eight or so years. Even more importantly, to many, the MDD also will replace the cell phones that most letter carriers are pairing with the IMD to transmit scan data.

About a year ago, the Postal Service solicited potential devices to replace IMDs from a number of manufacturers. The initial group included about a dozen devices that varied in size, keyboard configuration and appearance. After USPS engineering tested the durability of these devices, we held several meetings with the Postal Service to discuss the best way to test them and determine which one was best suited for our jobs.

The first phase of testing took place at the USPS engineering facility in the Washington, DC, area. Two letter carriers from the area and staff members from NALC Headquarters tested each of the devices and provided feedback on each. Based on this initial test, the number of devices was narrowed to six.

The next phase of testing was a field test where letter carriers used each of the six devices for a week and provided feedback on each one. This phase of testing was con-

**On a different note, there have been numerous reports of city carrier assistants (CCAs) having difficulty getting their initial uniform allowance. CCA uniform allowances are covered by the March 6, 2014, Questions and Answers 2011 USPS/NALC National Agreement (NALC Materials Reference System number M-01833), Questions 47-56.**

CCAs become eligible for a uniform allowance upon completion of 90 work days or 120 calendar days of employment as a CCA, whichever comes first. If CCAs are not provided a Letter of Authorization within 14 days of the *first day* of eligibility, they should inform their steward and a grievance should be filed as soon as possible citing a violation of M-01833.

If a manager has difficulty providing the uniform allowance or says he or she doesn't know how to do so, detailed instructions on providing uniform allowances to CCAs are available in the NALC Materials Reference System (M-01822). Both M-01822 and M-01833 are available on the NALC website at [nalc.org/depart/cau/step4mrs.html](http://nalc.org/depart/cau/step4mrs.html).

# Minutes of the February 2014 General Meeting

The regular meeting of Branch 782 was called to order by President Mike Towery at 7:00 p.m. on the 25th day of February, 2014 at the Branch office, Bakersfield. The flag salute was led by Sargeant-at-Arms Jerry Patterson. All members of the Executive Board were present except Trustee Teresa Ortega. The Stewards were present from Brundage, Camino Media, Delano, Downtown, Hillcrest, McFarland, Oildale, Shafter, South, Stockdale, Taft and Wasco. Also present was Newsletter Editor Basil Zuniga; Webmaster Rick Plummer; S.A.N.E. Fred Acedo; Photographer Anita Holderman; Assistant Treasurer Debbie Guillet and Frank Martinez of the Social and Recreation Committee. The Minutes of the January 28, 2014 were read and accepted with no additions or corrections.

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Applications were received from Pedro Olevar, South and Oscar Salazar, Dole Ct.

**REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES:** Basil Zuniga reported that the folding went really well. Next month will be Dole Court's turn. Frank Martinez reported that there will be a Bowling Tournament on Sunday, March 30th. The committee is working on getting Dodger Tickets. He also informed the members that the Social and Recreation Committee will be audited; there has not been an audit since 2009. Molly Biggar reported that one book was sold. Kim Gerdes discussed the number of delegates to send to each convention. Kim made a motion to send sixteen delegates to the State Convention. Seconded by Anita Holderman and passed. Kim made a motion to send seven or possibly eight delegates to the National Convention, seconded by Anita Holderman and passed.

**GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:** Shari Sharp and Norma Hamer discussed the T-shirts for the Food Drive. It was decided that they would be green this year. Norma Hamer made a motion to purchase Food Drive posters (50 English and 25 Spanish) and to change the date on the Food Drive Banner with a total cost of \$70.00. Seconded by Jerry Patterson and passed. Mike Towery reported that three PTF's have been converted to Regular. He also reported that, at the President's meeting, it was discussed that all withheld positions will be released. PTF's will be promoted to fill those jobs within the next couple of pay periods. Basil Zuniga reported that he had too much "stuff" for the newsletter, so he made a handout for the members present. Mike Towery reported that the closing of the plant has been put on hold indefinitely. Retreat rights have been sent out to the clerks who have already been relocated. John Ortega discussed a couple of incidents at Brundage. A carrier's vehicle was blocked by people on motorcycles. A supervisor was called and had an incident with the customers, the police and postal inspectors were called. Also a "crazy" man

entered the Brundage office and was on the workroom floor. Basil Zuniga informed the members that Branch 782 was chartered 113 years ago today, February 25, 1901.

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Anita Holderman reported that the income for October is \$12,013.07.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Molly Biggar reported for December 2013:

Beginning Balance	\$73,301.01
Dues & Income	\$16,919.62
Interest Income	\$0
Total Balance	\$90,220.64
Expenses	\$5,982.33
Ending Balance	\$84,238.31

Molly Biggar reported for January 2014:

Beginning Balance	\$84,238.31
Dues and Income	\$11,239.13
Interest Income	\$0
Total Balance	\$95,477.44
Expenses	\$16,227.34
Ending Balance	\$79,250.10

The MDA 50/50 Drawing was won by Dicie Wilder. The General Meeting Drawing for \$350.00 would have been won by Ricarte Burgos, if he had been present. There were 42 members present. The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

KIM GERDES  
NALC Branch 782 Recording Secretary

## OUT THERE



*If we all don't stick together now, there's going to be no one left to blame... We ALL should be Carriers in a Common Cause. Really? YES!!*

## NON-MEMBER LIST\* February 2014

### Downtown Station

Sarah Kirby  
Javier Cruz

### South Station

**100% UNION!!!**

### Brundage/East Bakersfield

David Kinglee

### Hillcrest

**100% UNION!!!**

### Dole Court

Dana Morris  
Sharon Hancock

### Stockdale

James Oh  
Marty Martinez

### Camino Media

Christopher Rodriguez

### Arvin

**100% UNION!!!**

### Avenal

*Brent Howard*

### California City

*Stephen Ivory*

### Delano

L.A. Campos  
C.V. Quebral  
*R.C. Saldana II*

### Lamont

*Erik Gonzalez*  
*M.S. Johnston*  
*D. Rivera, Jr.*

### Ridgecrest

R. P. Zurn  
S. P. Pierce  
GD Weaver  
*Bonnie Leroy*  
H. G. Blanco  
*Christina Celaya*

### Shafter

M. D. Voights  
L. M. New

### Taft

*Ashley Veach*  
*Alicia Rodriguez*

B. M. Krier

K. J. Hughes  
*Terra Bullard*

### Tehachapi

*TR Landis*  
*B.C. Den Beeman*

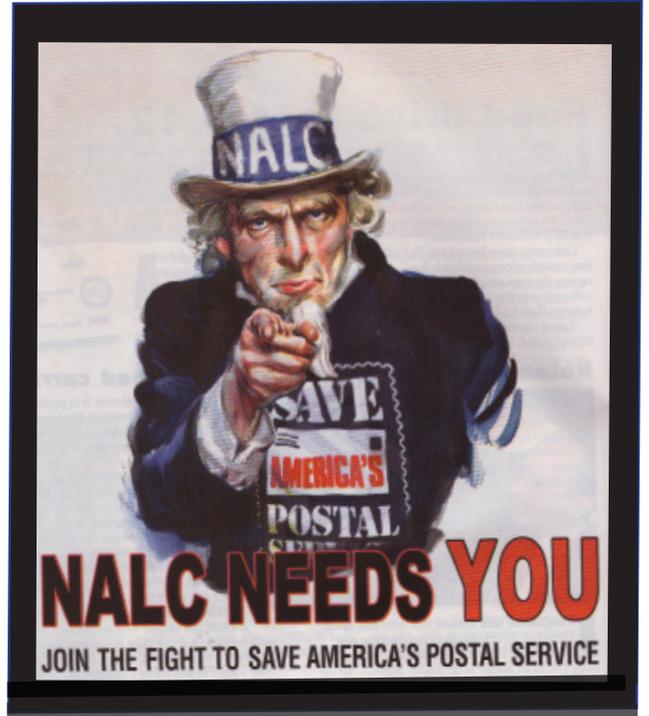
### Trona

*William Campbell*

### Wasco

**100% UNION!!!**

\*CCA names are in Italics



**We are an "Open Shop".  
MEMBERSHIP IS VOLUNTARY.  
400 Letter Carriers are in the  
complement assigned to cities  
represented by our Branch.  
32 ARE NON-MEMBERS\*\*.**

\*\*16 are Career employees and 16 are CCAs.

*Sometimes, the details are in the "fine" print...*

**W**ho is it who built and sustains civilization as we know it?  
Who are the most important people to our society?  
***WE ARE THE WORKING PEOPLE.***  
The clothes *we* wear, the food *we* eat, the transportation  
*we* use, the houses *we* live in and the buildings *we* work in....

The products *we* consume, the health care *we* receive, all of the services  
*we* utilize...

The entertainment *we* enjoy, the publications *we* read, the documents  
*we* produce, the devices *we* use, the electronics and tools...

ALL of the raw materials that are extracted, harvested, assembled,  
packaged, shipped, inventoried, stocked, prepared, delivered, served  
and rung up...

All of it is done by the hands of *US*—the workers. *WE* expend our  
skill, knowledge, time and energy in order for it all to work.

It is *OUR* labor which creates all capital. It is *OUR* labor which  
creates all value. It is *OUR* labor that should be valued, honored and  
held in regard above all else.

***AND IT IS ONLY THROUGH JOINING TOGETHER IN UNITY  
THAT THIS FACT HAS EVER BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED!***

It is only through *UNITY* that we have been shown the respect and  
dignity *we* deserve. It is only through *UNITY* that our work has ever  
been rewarded for its true value.

Yes, *OUR* value is our labor. Yet, our *UNITY* is our strength.

—Jacques Loveall

President UCFW 8 - Golden State  
UCFW International Vice-President

This information is courtesy of the UCFW 8 *Voice of Action* Volume 27 Number 3 Late Winter 2014

# Biggest Loser 2014

Here are the 2nd Month results of the Biggest Loser 2014. Congrats to Billy Herrera of Stockdale Station AGAIN for losing the most weight by PERCENTAGE! Beatriz Rodriguez from Stockdale Station is behind him with 7.30%

## Brundage Station

	1st Month	2nd Month	Overall
Beatriz Munoz	6.69%	5.94%	12.23%
Stacy Castillo	0%		
Jeff Harrington	5.07%	4.15%	9.01%
Kim Pumphrey	0%		
Ruben Gonzales	7.15%	6.96%	13.62%
Yvonne Esquivel	3.11%		
Shurie Amick	2.52%		
Inderdeep Gill	1.67%		
Mabel Bullis	2.90%	-0.29%	2.62%
Cesar Rivera	-1.74%		
Kim Williams	0%		
Rosie Padilla	2.28%		
John Ortega	4.18%	2.18%	6.27%
Maria Gutierrez	6.76%	5.16%	11.57%
Vicky Guerrero	0%		

## Dole Court Station

Dan Medina	0.75%		
Faviola Estrada	2.66%		
Glenn Ryder	2.56%	0.92%	1.66%
Laura Gordon	2.28%		
Jennifer Hernandez	0%	1.25%	1.25%
Art Mooney	0%		
Francisco Herrera	3.99%	0.40%	4.38%

## South Station

Andrew Garcia	2.69%	1.71%	4.37%
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## Shafter Station

Melissa Johnson	-1.51%	0.93%	-0.56%
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## Laton Station

George Vaquera Jr.	0%	3.04%	3.04%
Maggie Young	2.15%	0.28%	2.42%

## Delano Station

Luis Campos	5.37%	6.11%	11.15%
Serena Ornelaz	0%	3.12%	3.12%
Gracie Silva	1.21%	0.61%	1.81%

## Stockdale Station

Beatriz Rodriguez	-1.62%	7.30%	5.79%
Robin Richard	3.52%	4.86%	8.21%
Tina Harbour	0%	2.23%	2.23%
Tanya Courson	0%		
Amanda O'Neill	0%		
Annette Ortega	0.70%	-0.83%	-0.11%
Billy Herrera	7.53%	8.93%	15.79%

1st Place Winner 75% \$637.50  
 - monthly Winnings \$75.00  
 2nd Place Winner 25% \$212.50

**The Prize = \$850.00**

Calculations on getting the % is Beginning weight - Current weight  
 divide Beginning weight, move decimal 2 spaces

I know that showing the OVERALL results will help motivate the close winners to STRIVE just a bit more for that LAST month....

**BUT** I was NOT doing it to discourage the others.

We ALL have the WILPOWER to work harder and CHANGE our lifestyles for the BEST health possible! **YOU** owe it to YOURSELF and your LOVED ONES to become a BETTER you!!

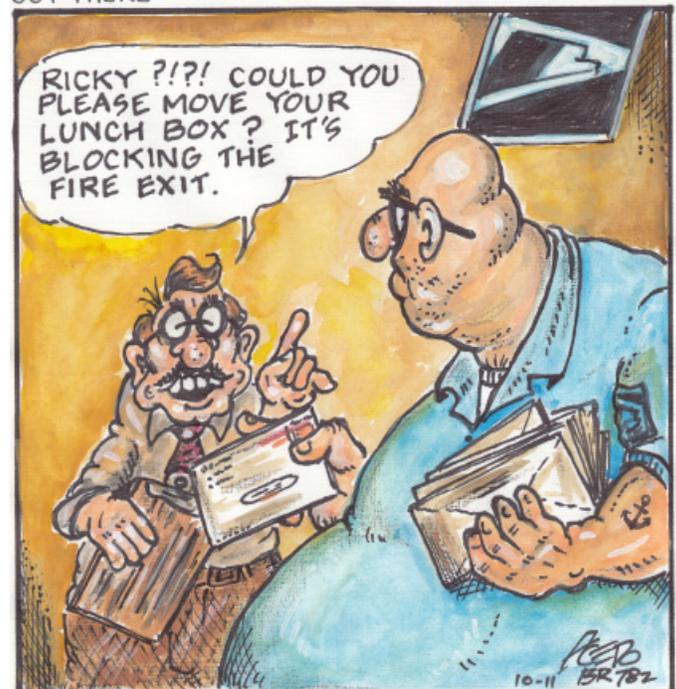
Keep it up!!

MABEL BULLIS  
 Brundage Station



Month 2 Winner: Billy Herrera

OUT THERE



# 8th Annual Battle of the Stations Postal Bowling Tournament 2014

## Cost:

\$80.00 Per Team  
Includes 3 Games  
and Shoe Rental

## ENTRY DEADLINE

March 25, 2014

Tournament is open to  
all **CURRENT** and **RETIRED**  
**POSTAL EMPLOYEES ONLY.**

## NEW THIS YEAR!!!

Each station will be represented by  
at least 3 teams. Stations MAY  
have more than 3 teams to  
represent them, BUT only the  
scores of the TOP 3 higher scoring  
teams from that station will be  
used. So, rally your station and get  
as many teams registered to better  
your chances of winning the trophy,  
earning a catered breakfast for  
your station and MOST  
IMPORTANTLY owning the bragging  
rights all year.

## A Big Thank You To The Social Rec Committee!!!

Teams of 4 with at least 3 bowlers from  
the station that is represented.

## MORE CHANCES TO WIN!!!

Awards will be presented to the top Men's  
team, top Women's team and the top Co-Ed  
team. Top individual Male and Female bowler will  
also win awards. So, get out to the lanes and get  
some practice in before the tournament.

**Lanes Are Limited.. First To Pay,  
First to Play**

**Contact:** Denise Dille 661-332-7895  
Roel Alaniz 661-900-2654  
Ralph Ramirez 661-847-9006  
After 4 pm

## RAFFLE PRIZES

Each team will receive 4 raffle tickets at  
check-in for a chance to win prizes!

## Where:

Southwest Lanes  
3610 Wible Road  
Bakersfield, CA 93309

661-834-2695

## When:

March 30, 2014

## Check-In Time:

9:00 am

## Start Time:

10:00

# IMPROVING CARRIER EXPERIENCE

I am the person who does all  
the work. I am the reason you  
take home a paycheck. I am  
the reason you are able to feed  
your family, pay your mort-  
gage, go on vacation, buy a car  
and contribute to your church  
or synagogue. Because of me,  
Management stays employed  
and the company has survived.  
Without me, there would be no  
Postal Service.

I drive every road in America;  
I deliver to every address in  
every community. Neither  
snow nor rain nor heat nor  
gloom of night will stay me  
from the swift completion of  
my rounds. Without me com-  
munication, correspondence  
and commerce across this great  
country would grind to a halt.

The wise come to know, re-  
spect and love me. The foolish  
disregard my importance and  
suffer accordingly.

By the way, you'll notice that  
I didn't introduce myself by  
name as your employee. That's  
because this company doesn't  
treat me like an individual  
with a name, only a peg to fill  
the hole or a number to fill a  
report. You are always on my  
back evaluating, timing, and  
pushing for more while giving  
me less time to complete my  
tasks.

So pay attention to me. Get to  
know me. Learn my habits. My  
likes, My dislikes. My desires.  
My dreams. My values. Learn  
my language.

Above all, treat me with re-  
spect. I will not be ill-treated,  
and why should I be? There are  
many customers that appreci-  
ate my service. Every time  
you turn on the television,  
open a newspaper, or listen  
to the radio, you see and hear  
multitudes of customers and  
citizens who routinely rank me  
as their most trusted Govern-  
ment employee.

And? Know this: I am not  
easily fooled. Managers treat  
me right or suffer the conse-  
quences. Sooner or later, I al-  
ways discover dishonesty and  
disrespect. Most of the time,  
I don't announce my displea-  
sure because I have a Union to  
protect my Rights and help me  
endure the constant pressure

and abuse heaped upon me by  
the side of the company you  
work for.

Almost always, we will have  
disagreements. I don't like  
mistakes, but I understand  
that you sometimes make  
them. The manner in which  
you handle my complaint  
determines any future interac-  
tion I have with you; and, in  
my mind, it also determines  
the character of the company  
you represent. I rarely ever  
give you a second chance to  
make the same mistake twice  
before a grievance is filed.

It is no exaggeration to say  
that when you interact with  
me, your future hangs in the  
balance. Know me.

Abridged article courtesy of Dave Heiszler by way of the March 2014 *Seventy-Niner* published by Seattle, Washington NALC Branch 79.



# In Memorium

**Armando "Al" Lopez Corella**  
**January 9, 1921 – February 28, 2014**

Armando went home to be with his Lord on February 28, 2014. He passed away surrounded by his family. Armando was born on January 9, 1921 to Ygnacio and Julia Corella in Good Year, Arizona. At age 17, he ran the 12th Annual Arizona Republic Rialto Marathon

Theater Race in Riverside Park September 6, 1938 on Labor Day in Phoenix, Arizona. He won the 2 mile race in 10 minutes 20.4 seconds. Armando graduated from Phoenix Union High School in June 1940.



Armando was a most patriotic youth. He enlisted in the 13th Army Air Corp two months after his 20th birthday. He served four years in WWII as a Tail Gunner on "Rod Rowdies B-24 Bomber" in the South Pacific. His 307th Bombardment group became known as "The Long Rangers". The longest most stressful bombing run lasted 18 hours. He completed 51 missions and was awarded 9 distinguished medals. With an honorable discharge in 1945, he returned to Bakersfield after the war and went to work as a mechanic at the Minter Field working on P-51's and B-17's. In 1945 he found special satisfaction donating his military combat papers and medals to Minter Field. Thereafter, he married his late wife Mary Witt. Armando soon joined the U.S. Postal Service in September 1947. Armando was awarded many special achievements while working 40 years before retiring in January 1986.

Armando continued his efforts to help achieve the standards of excellence with the community while continuing to serve others. Armando enjoyed pitching horse shoes winning, in 1939, his special trophy. He enjoyed trout fishing in Bishop, his loving dog "Lucky", and the Condor's Ice Hockey team. He also participated in the Veteran's Parades for four years. One of Armando's highlights in his later years was being able to travel to Washington D.C. on the "Honor Flight of Kern County". He loved watching his grandchildren and great-grandchildren participate in sports.

God gave us a special gift when he created our Dad. He was kind, had a giving heart, and was sensitive to all of us. No one will ever take your place in our lives. "Amazing" is one of the many words that describe his special place in our hearts. Daddy leaves behind three daughters: Sandra Caye Christensen, Judee Jones and Janet Cooper and two son in laws Richard Jones and the late Oscar Christensen, seven adult grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Graveside services were held at Hillcrest Memorial Park, Wednesday, March 5, 2014 at 12:00 noon. In lieu of flowers, donations were made, on Armando's behalf, to Honor Flight of Kern County and the Wounded Warriors Fund.

*Information courtesy of: Doughty- Calhoun-O'Meara Funeral Services*



**307th Bombardment Group** Activated on 15 April 1942. Trained and flew patrols off the West Coast, first in B-17 Flying Fortresses and later in B-24 Liberators. Moved to Hawaii, October-November 1942, and assigned to Seventh Air Force. Trained and flew patrol and search missions. Attacked Wake Island, December 1942 - January 1943, by staging through Midway Island.

Moved to Guadalcanal in February 1943 and assigned to Thirteenth Air Force. Served in combat, primarily in the South and Southwest Pacific, until the war ended. Attacked Japanese airfields, installations, and shipping in the Solomon Islands and Bismarck Islands. Helped to neutralize enemy bases on Yap and in the Truk and Palau Islands. Received a Distinguished Unit Citation for an unescorted, daylight attack on heavily defended airfields in the Truk Islands on 29 March

1944. Supported operations in the Philippines by striking Japanese shipping in the southern Philippines and by bombing airfields on Leyte, Luzon, Negros, Ceram, and Halmahera. Also took part in Allied air operations against the Netherlands East Indies by hitting airfields, shipping, and installations.

Received a Distinguished Unit Citation for an unescorted mission against vital oil refineries at Balikpapan, Borneo, on 3 October 1944. Supported Australian forces on Borneo and bombed targets in French Indochina during the last three months of the war.



Two Presidential Unit Citations were awarded to the Group during World War II, one for action in the bombing of the Island of Truk—the most heavily defended and strongly fortified Japanese base in the Pacific. During withdrawal, gunners of the Group destroyed 31 of the 75 attacking aircraft, probably destroyed 12 more and damaged 10 in an air battle that lasted 43 minutes. This daring raid (made on 29 March 1944) neutralized the Japanese airfields, making possible long range flights without fighter protection. The other Presidential Unit Citation was awarded for the successful strike at the Balitapan Oil Refineries in Borneo on 30 September 1944. The 307th had to fly their B-24 Liberator bombers 17 1/2 hours for a round trip of 2,610 miles, the longest mass daylight mission ever flown by this type aircraft.

Flew patrol missions along the Asiatic mainland and ferried liberated prisoners from Okinawa to Manila after V-J Day. Returned to the US, December 1945 - January 1946. Inactivated on 18 January 1946.

# Good-bye, Al!

On March 5, 2014 we gave yet another American Hero of World War II, and a member of our Greatest Generation, his truly deserved Military Funeral rites. I am sad Armando “Al” Lopez Corella passed away.



I met Al in September 1970 when I first went to work at the East Bakersfield Post Office (also known as Station “A”).

Back then, it was an all-male Letter Carrier workforce. I started as a “Sub-Carrier” when almost everyone was a veteran of WW II or Korea. What I remember the most was the dress code back then: shined shoes, neat haircuts, cleaned and pressed trousers, ironed shirts...the Post Office almost had a military kind of presence.

I remember Al coming up to me and introducing himself the first day I got there while distributing the mail. He said, “Don’t pay attention to that guy on Route 500 (Rudy Magana). He will try and give you a bad time.” Al was kind of laughing. *Like others, I found out why...*

I would soon become part of this professional working force trained by “the Best of the Best” in the Post Office system. Most everyone had some kind of nick name like “Bigfoot”, “Shorty”, “Grumpy”, etc. They would call Al “The Indian” or “Indio”. I couldn’t understand that since Al was so light-skinned. Then, I found out he was born in Good Year, Arizona.

I had the privilege and honor of working with Al for 16 years. And, in those years, we had dozens of good times at NALC picnics and many birthday parties. But, the

most fun was playing slow pitch softball for East Bakersfield Post Office teams. Al was our pitcher—and a very good one! I was always amazed at his skills with the ball and his athletic ability for an old guy! I remember him breaking a finger or two while playing in one game; but, I think Al was most famous for his pitching horse shoes at our NALC picnics. He beat everyone at that sport!

The last time I saw Al was at the Veterans Day parade two years ago. My most fond memories with Al were when he invited me to go with him to see a 49ers and Cowboys game at San Francisco Candlestick Park in the 1980’s. Along with Al’s daughter, Janet, and her husband we had a great fun weekend. Thank you, again, Janet and your husband for your generous hospitality.

I’m kind of sad that only six postal retirees (Zeke Lopez, Lupe Arredondo, Joe Santa Cruz, Henry Garcia, Frank Thomasy and myself) and an active clerk named David from the Hillcrest P.O. made it to the graveside service. I thought there would be some of the older guys there since they knew Al years before I came along.

In closing, I’m glad Al made it to Washington D.C. and got to see the World War II Memorial. I’m sure he enjoyed every minute he was there and I want to thank everyone associated with the Honor Flight of Kern County and the Wounded Warriors Fund that made it possible.

Please take the time to read Armando Lopez Corella’s obituary and the information about his military unit. It is a testament of a great American Hero and a true Patriot of The Greatest Generation. Thank you, Al, for your service to our country and may you rest in peace forever!

Semper Fi!

MARIO MUNIZ  
Retired Branch 782 Member  
and a Vietnam War USMC Veteran

# 2014 NALC HBP Info

## At a glance...



NALC Health Benefit Plan	1-888-636-6252
*Hospital Pre-Certification	1-877-220-6252
Mental & Substance Precertification	1-877-468-1016
**Drug Prescription Retail	1-800-933-6252
CVS/CareMark Specialty Pharmacy	1-800-237-2767
Durable Medical Equipment	1-888-636-6252
<b>NURSE ASSISTANT (24/7)</b>	<b>1-877-220-6252</b>
CVS/CareMark Pharmacist	1-888-636-6252
Enhanced Eldercare Services (24/7)	1-877-468-1016
CIGNA PPO Dr's & Facilities	1-877-220-6252
CIGNA Organ Transplant Approval	1-800-668-9682
Quit Power (Smoking Cessation)	1-877-521-0244
CIGNA Health Rewards (Discounts)	1-800-558-9443
<b>CIGNA Dental Discount Program</b>	<b>1-877-521-0244</b>
Disease Management Program	1-800-227-3728
OPM Retirement Info Center	1-888-767-6738
Federal Information Center	1-800-333-4636
Social Security Administration Info	1-800-772-1213
PostalEase Human Resources USPS	1-877-477-3273
Quest Lab Services (Bakersfield)	(661) 631-8520
LabCorp Lab Services	(661) 631-9258
<b>Shared Services (Retirees Info!!!)</b>	<b>1-877-477-3273</b>

NALC Health Benefit Plan  
20547 Waverly Court  
Ashburn, Virginia 20149

NALC Prescription Drug Program  
P.O. Box 94467  
Palatine, Illinois 60094-4467

NALC Drug Prescription "Claims" Program  
P.O. Box 521926  
Phoenix, Arizona 85072-2192

Optimum Health Behavioral Solutions  
P.O. Box 30755  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84130-0755  
Questions: 1-877-468-1016

NALC Consumer Driven Health Plan and Value Option  
P.O. Box 18223  
Chattanooga, TN 37422-7223  
Phone: 1-855-511-1893

*\* Failure to pre-certify for in-patient hospitalization will result in a \$500 reduction in benefits paid by our Plan. **YOU MUST** notify the Plan prior to undergoing radiology/imaging with doctor name and dates. Call: 1-877-220-6252.*

\*\* NALC Drug Prescription Program is **MANDATORY** generic (unless specified by your doctor, at additional cost to member). Preferred retail pharmacy 1st and 2nd fills, you pay 20% of cost of generic/30% of name brand/45% non-formulary. MAIL ORDER/CVS PRESCRIPTIONS (when NALC is primary): 60 day supply \$8 generic, \$43 name brand, \$58 non-formulary; 90 day supply \$12 generic, \$65 name brand, \$80 non-formulary; **MEDICARE PROGRAM** (when Medicare is primary) Retail network pharmacy: you pay 10% of cost of generic, 20% of formulary, 30% non-formulary. **MEDICARE PRIMARY** (mail order); 60 day supply \$7 generic, \$37 formulary, \$52 non-formulary; 90 day supply \$10 generic, \$55 formulary, \$70 non-formulary; 90 day supply \$4 for NALCSELECT generic (certain drugs); 90 day supply \$4 for NALCPREFERRED generic (certain drugs); NALCSENIOR generic antibiotics are available **FREE** for a 30 day supply, when Medicare is primary (certain antibiotics only).

**MAIL ORDER SPECIALTY DRUGS** (Bio-Tech drugs—*VERY EXPENSIVE*): **Your** cost for a 30 day supply is \$150; 60 day supply is \$250; and, 90 day supply is \$350. Some drugs (e.g. bio-tech asthma, diabetes, organ rejection, etc.) require prior approval before dispensing. You **MUST** call the Plan 1-800-237-2767.

Our PPO doctors and facilities—through CIGNA—save us and the Plan thousands of dollars and it is top notch care at a discount rate. You don't lose anything. You are saving money for the best care!!!  
**For example: \*CIGNA Weight Loss Program (877) 220-6252**

**Mark Ramirez, NALC Branch 782 HBP Rep.  
(661) 398-6075**

**Preferred Provider (PPO)**  
**Cost: \$20.00 Co-pay per office visit**

**(PPO) Deductible: \$300 Individual,  
\$600 Self & Family—Per Calendar Year**

## Some Websites for You...

Center for Disease Control	<a href="http://www.cdc.gov">http://www.cdc.gov</a>
American Public Health Assoc.	<a href="http://www.alpha.org">http://www.alpha.org</a>
American Cancer Society	<a href="http://www.cancer.org">http://www.cancer.org</a>
American Heart Association	<a href="http://americanheart.org">http://americanheart.org</a>
American Lung Association	<a href="http://www.lunusa.org">http://www.lunusa.org</a>
Diabetes Foundation	<a href="http://www.diabetis.org">http://www.diabetis.org</a>
<b>YOUR Personal Health Record</b>	<a href="http://www.nalc.org/depart.hbp">http://www.nalc.org/depart.hbp</a>
Asthma Information Center	<a href="http://www.ama.assn.org/special/asthma">http://www.ama.assn.org/special/asthma</a>
HR Shared Service—HRSHAREDSERVICES@GSA.GOV	

**Check out this PPO: Sendas Northwest Urgent Care  
3409 Calloway Suite 101 Bakersfield, California 93312  
Phone: (661) 587-2500**

**Sendas Southwest Urgent Care  
9450 Ming Avenue, Bakersfield, California 93309  
Phone: (661) 587-2500**

**Hours: M–F 8:00 am - 9:00 pm; Sat & Sun 8:00 am - 8:00 pm**

*Accupuncture!! Must be a state licensed or certified accu-  
puncturist. Chiropractic! State licensed chiropractor or D.O.*

## Minor Health Care Needs: A Scenario

I was thinking how I—as your NALC Health Benefit Representative—could provide a simple road map for minor health care. So here is a very real example of what can happen and the steps you might take to deal with the situation. (For the sake of this illustration, I am going to place this scenario in Bakersfield.)

**Y**ou arrive home after a long day of carrying mail. Your spouse informs you that your child is ill, has a high fever, is coughing, has a headache and diarrhea...*AND IT'S 5:30 PM.* Your family physician's office is closed.

### WHAT CAN I DO?

Step One: Call the (24/7) NALC REGISTERED NURSE ASSISTANCE LINE 1-877-220-6252. Explain your situation.

The nurse might be able to diagnose a minor illness or recommend that you take your child to a CVS PHARMACY MINUTE CLINIC. There is one located at 5184 Stockdale Highway and the local number is 661-633-2066. (There is also a CVS locator service at 1-888-607-4287). Or the nurse might recommend SENDAS URGENT CARE 3409 Calloway Drive #100 661-847-9934 or 9450 Ming Avenue 661-587-2500.

If lab work is required, QUEST DIAGNOSTICS is on our network. Call for appointment, or for a facility near you

(1-800-377-8448). For the use of this article, there is a QUEST DIAGNOSTICS lab located at 9500 Stockdale Highway #102 and the phone number is: 866-697-8378.

If imaging is necessary (CT/CAT, MRI, PET, MRA, and NC scans), these require **prior approval** from the NALC HBP. Call 1-877-220-6252.

If required, and **pre-approved**, TRUXTON RADIOLOGY is one PPO facility. It is located 3551 Q Street and the phone number is: 661-325-6200. KERN RADIOLOGY at 2301 Bahamas Drive is another PPO facility and their phone number is: 661-326-9600. There might be a facility which is closer to you. Call and ask.

If a hospital stay is needed, you need to know that **PRE-CERTIFICATION/PRE-AUTHORIZATION IS REQUIRED!!!** This is the number to call: 1-877-220-6252.

It may sound like a hassle, but you need to make sure that you follow through with the pre-certification! It will save you a lot of money!

PPO hospitals in Bakersfield are: MERCY HOSPITAL 2215 Truxtun Avenue 661-632-5000; and MERCY SOUTHWEST 400 Old River Road 661-663-6000; BAKERSFIELD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL 420 34th Street 661-327-1792; and SAN JOAQUIN COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

2615 Chester Avenue 661-395-3000.

In a “nutshell” this article has taken you through a number of steps to be able to best utilize the services afforded to you as a member of the NALC Health Benefit Plan in Bakersfield.

Learn which of the various hospitals and health care providers in YOUR area have contracted with the NALC HBP to provide care. Using this information will give **YOU** the best possible choices!

The NALC also offers 24/7 MENTAL HEALTH and SUBSTANCE ABUSE coverage. Again, **you must must receive precertification!!!** The phone number is: 1-877-468-1016.

Our NALC Health Benefit Plan is EXCELLENT!!! It pays to utilize our Open Access Plus (OAP) and PPO preferred providers. Doing this saves YOU out of pocket \$\$\$\$ and it saves our Health Plan \$\$\$\$ due to the reduced negotiated rates for our members with “NO” reduction in excellent health care services.

You can visit the NALC website at [www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org). Go to Departments for the link to “Health Benefit Plan”. On the left side of that page, you will see “CIGNA Health Care OAP (open access plus) (ppo) Online Provider Directory. You can use this to locate a doctor or facility if you don't live in the Bakersfield area and you need health care services.

MARK RAMIREZ  
NALC Branch 782 HBP Representative

## A laugh a day is good for the soul *and* the body...

A very cranky old woman was arrested for shoplifting at a grocery store. She gave everyone a hard time, from the store manager to the security guard to the arresting officer who took her away, complaining and criticizing throughout the entire process.

When she appeared before the judge, the judge asked what she had stolen from the store. The lady defiantly replied, “Just a stupid can of peaches.” The judge then asked why she had done it. She replied, “I was hungry and forgot to bring any cash to the store.”

The judge asked how many peaches were in the can. She replied, “Nine. But what do you care about that?” The judge patiently said, “Well, ma'am, because I'm going to give you nine days in jail—one day for each peach.”

As the judge was about to drop his gavel, the lady's long-suffering husband raised his hand and asked if he might speak. The judge said, “Yes, what do you have to add?”

The husband said, “Your Honor, she also stole a can of peas.”

# from the editor-guy

I'm always fascinated by the funny little twists and turns that bubble up in life.

Even more interesting is how seemingly unrelated events can wind up making some kind of an impact. Some are magical—as when someone meets their one true love—but most are just simply little things that happen on any given day.

Of course, it's not until I look back at how things have unfolded to get me to a certain point that I start to grin. (Come on, you've all had the same kind of experiences... Haven't you? Admit it.)

A number of years ago, a Letter Carrier who worked in another city was a delegate to an NALC National Convention. While there, one of our old newsletters

with some Fred Acedo "Out There" cartoons wound up in his hands. (For those of you who don't know, at the end of each month I usually wind up with extra newsletters after all of the mailing labels are affixed. Instead of just throwing the newsletters away, I save all of them and every two years take "the extras" to whatever city the NALC convention is being held in and—with help of friends—they're all passed out.)

Anyway, this particular convention delegate knew that Pete Berton, a guy at his unit, liked to collect all kinds of postal-related cartoons so when he got home he gave the newsletters with the "Out There" cartoons to Pete. Pete loved them. (Surprised??)

Some years passed and the now-retired Pete wrote to Fred Acedo (a copy of that letter was published in our January newsletter). In a subsequent letter, he told Fred that—years ago—he had worked for a while with a substitute Carrier named Mark Showalter. Mark eventually quit the USPS to return to his true love of being a musician.

And? Along with the letter, Pete sent Fred a CD with a copy of "The Mailman Song" which was written and performed by Mark. Fred took the CD to the January meeting and played the song for all to hear. It was well received. Even though you may not have been able to attend the January meeting, I wanted to give you a chance to at least read the lyrics to Mark's song. As a bonus, I've also provided information which was originally printed in the *Benicia Magazine* to give you more context. Grin a little...

In closing, I apologize to Mark for any of my "old ear" transcription errors.

BASIL ZUNIGA

## Featured Musician: Mark Showalter Band Leader, Saxophone, Keyboard, Vocals

by Rhonda Lucile Hicks  
*Benicia Magazine* / February 2013



**What was your best moment on stage?** The Fillmore, San Francisco, with Greg Allman performing in front of friends on stage alongside one of the legends of rock was pretty fun!

**How did you make your first dollar as a professional musician?** When I was a sophomore in high school and playing in the band & orchestra I was recruited by some older hippie-looking guys to do a rock/blues gig at The Boat House by the airport in Oakland. They had charts so it wasn't bad until they told me I had to do a solo. I was panicking until the drummer chuckled and said "All they can do is laugh at you." That somehow lightened the moment. I got through it somehow and made \$10. I was obviously on my way to the top!

**You went from touring with Gregg Allman to being a mail carrier in Napa. That couldn't have been easy to go from the perks of a rock tour to walking a postal route and deliver the mail!** Yeah, that was probably one of the harder things to go through. I had three solid years with Gregg Allman, and when it was over it was a shock. Working as a mailman, basically out of desperation, brought me back to reality very quickly. I can remember my first few days carrying mail in the dark in an unfamiliar neighborhood and in the rain, trying to find mail boxes, and just wanting to go home. Oh, the humanity! I have all the respect in the world for postal carriers and what they have to go through, a lot of it that the public doesn't get to see, but I knew I wouldn't last long. I did that for 2 years and it definitely gave me the incentive to keep pursuing music as my avenue in life.

**What prompted you to leave the post office to starting a Pink Floyd tribute band?** Basically in the two years that I was a mailman, I was bitten by at least three dogs, had my hand mangled by a cat that made a living waiting for the mail to come through the slot in the door; had two or three scraped knees and torn pants from uneven sidewalks and quick getaways from loose canines and had my foot punctured from a nail sticking up in someone's driveway. That prompted me!

This is an abridged version of the original article from the *Benicia Magazine*.

# The Mailman

© by Mark Showwalter, 2001

Case it up,  
Pull it down.  
Load the truck,  
Hit the town.

“Eight Hour Day?”  
“No Way!”  
Six days a week,  
Average pay.

You grab your rubber thumb munchies,  
And get a box key.  
What about Aflac?  
What about no worries?

You're “The Mailman”.  
‘Cuz You're “The Mailman”.

Park and loop,  
In and out.  
The daily poop,  
It's on your shoe...  
and in your pouch.

You grab your rubber thumb munchies,  
And get a box key.  
What about Aflac?  
What about no worries?

You're “The Mailman”.  
‘Cuz You're “The Mailman”.

Mail Man someday Mail Man,  
He's the Mail Man,  
He can wail!

Snow and rain,  
Can you feel their pain?  
They can't say, “No.”  
The mail's just got to go.

You grab your rubber thumb munchies,  
And get a box key.  
What about Aflac?  
What about no worries?

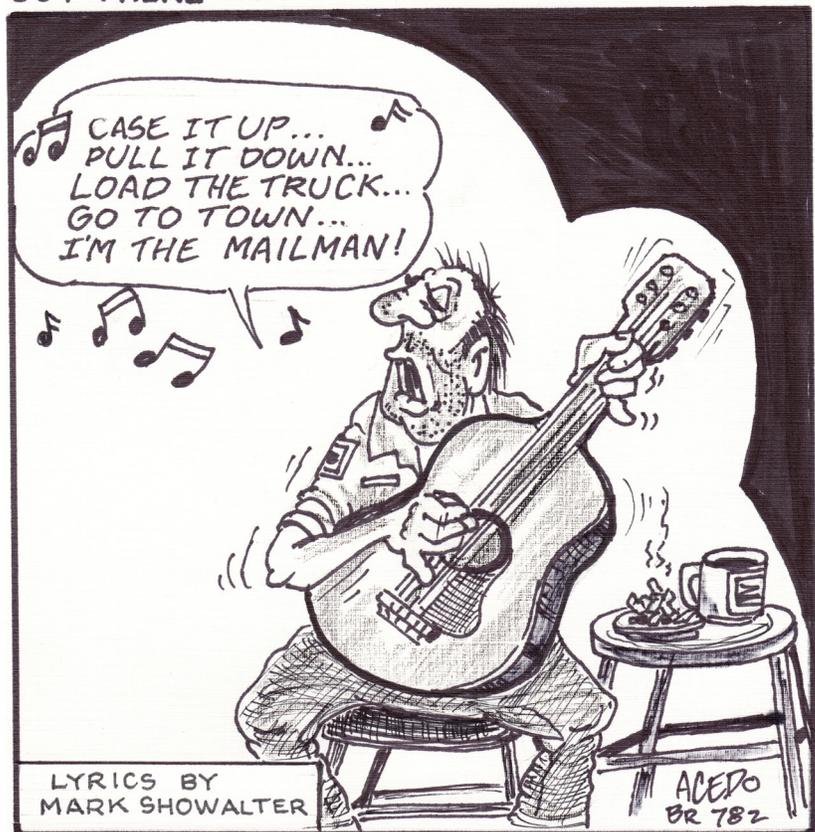
They're The Mailman.  
They're the Mailman.

Mail Man someday Mail Man,  
He's the Mail Man,  
He can wail!

Case it up,  
Pull it down.  
Load the truck,  
Hit the town.

Case it up,  
Pull it down.  
Load the truck,  
Hit the town.

OUT THERE



LYRICS BY  
MARK SHOWWALTER

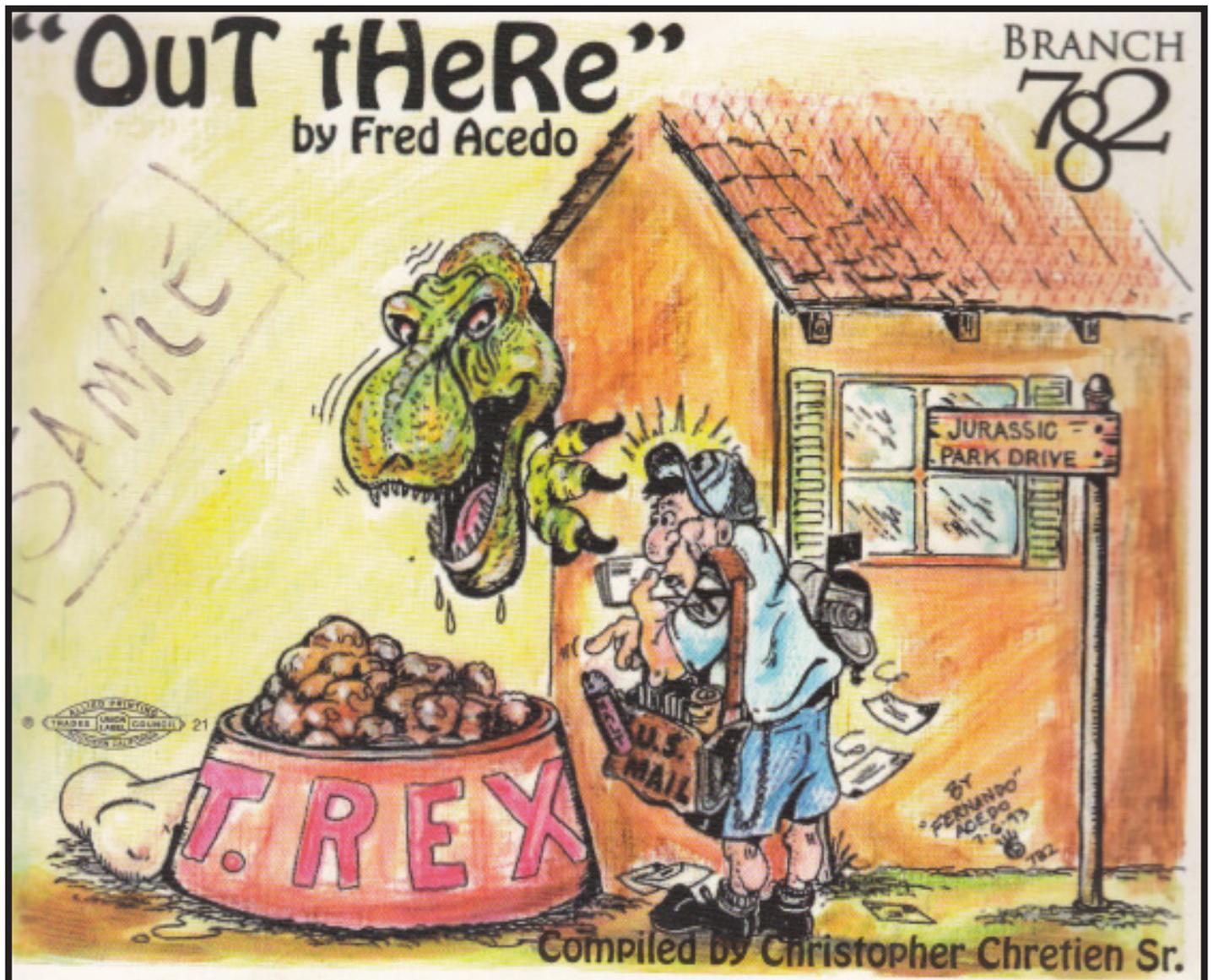
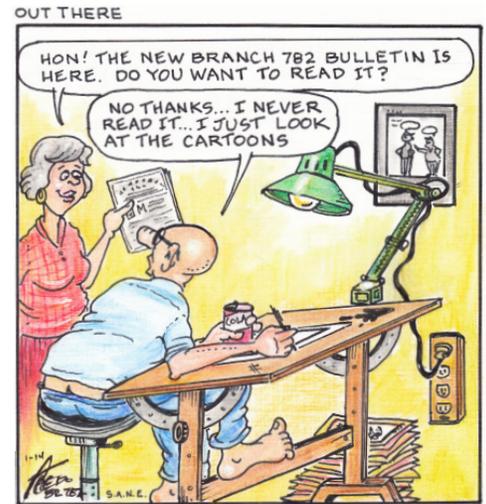
MAIL MAN SONG

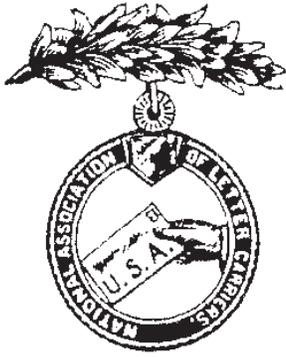
# *We have books for sale!!!*

This book is an amazing collection of “slices of life” that ALL Letter Carriers will identify with. You can purchase a copy as a retirement gift, or birthday gift, or even your own personal copy! We’ve made it easy for you.

Contact Branch 782 Recording Secretary Kim Gerdes through the Branch 782 mailing address or you can e-mail her at “krgerdes91@hotmail.com”. The cost for the book is \$20. Up to two books ship for \$5.05 for Priority Mail delivery.

Once we cover our costs, we can generate our donation to the MDA...





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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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The "S.A.N.E.">\*

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\*(Special Assistant Newsletter Editor)  
P.O. Box 6532  
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Anita Holderman, Branch Photographer

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Arvin (93203)	Mike Munoz	(661) 304-5516
Avenal (93204)	John Ortega	(661) 809-8140
Delano (93215)	Norma Hamer	(661) 619-1465
Lamont (93241)	Mike Munoz	(661) 304-5516
McFarland (93250)	Bonnie Whitbey	(661) 302-7354
Shafter (93263)	Norma Hamer	(661) 619-1465
Taft (93268)	Mike Meza	(805) 625-4541
Wasco (93280)	Joanne Layton	(661) 204-4928
Downtown Station (93301)	Kim Gerdes	(661) 834-2059
South Station (93304)	Darryl Holderman	(661) 487-5353
South Station Alternate	Judy Kiyoshi	(661) 817-5529
East Bakersfield (93305)	Paul Salazar	(661) 327-7637
Hillcrest Station (93306)	Pam Smith	(661) 979-5854
Brundage Station (93307)	John Ortega	(661) 809-8140
Dole Court (93308)	Mike Towery	(661) 331-9171
Dole Court (93308)	Shari Sharp	(661) 364-5544
Stockdale Station (93309)	Randy Courson	(661) 345-0256
Camino Media (93311/13)	Mike Meza	(805) 625-4541
Mojave (93501)	Vacant	
California City (93504)	Russell Day	(760) 373-8963
Boron (93516)	Paula Hogg	(760) 373-8963
Edwards AF Base (93523)	Mike Meza	(805) 625-4541
Tehachapi (93561)	Vacant	
Trona (93562)	Lynnel Howell	(760) 371-1039
Ridgecrest (93555)	Lynnel Howell	(760) 371-1039

**Branch 782  
Website  
www.782nalc.com**

**Rick Plummer, Webmaster**



National Association of Letter Carriers  
"Golden Empire Branch 782"  
2628 "F" Street  
Bakersfield, California 93301  
(661) 325-5526

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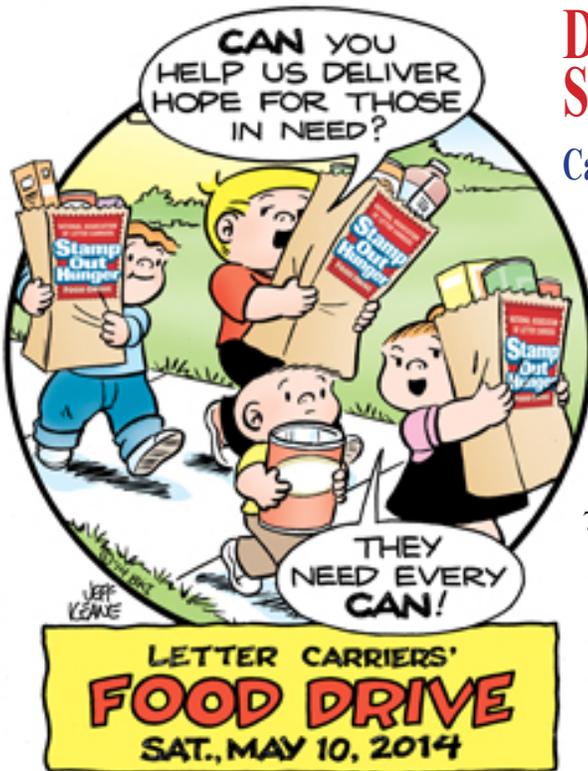
## General Meeting Tuesday March 25, 2013 7:00 p.m.

Branch 782 Office  
2628 "F" Street  
Bakersfield, California

**FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED**

## Delivering A Difference To Stamp Out Hunger: YOU Matter!!!

**Carriers, its that time again! Time for us to help Stamp Out Hunger!**



On Saturday May 10, the 22nd Annual NALC Food Drive will be held across the nation. This is your chance to take part in the biggest one day food drive across the nation!!! We are **"Building on a Billion!!!"**

Carriers from across the U.S. will collect food on their routes and donate to their local food banks to help feed the 49 million hungry people in this country. *To date, Carriers have collected 1.3 billion pounds of food!*

Last year, NALC Branches collected 74.4 million pounds of food. Branch 782 members collected 100,000+ pounds as part of this nation-wide effort.

The food Carriers collect on this one day feeds families in their communities for the whole year. Be proud and take part in this one day event to "Stamp Out Hunger" and give back to cities and towns that need us. Carriers, let all of us Deliver a Difference together to fight hunger! Food Drive T-shirts we be available soon and should cost around \$13.

SHARI SHARP

Each and every month, Branch 782 sponsors a drawing to encourage *YOU* to come to our Meeting. It goes up by \$50 each month that there is no winner\*. This month, you could win **\$400**.

\*The fine print: There is a \$500 cap. And...to win the money, you have to be present at the meeting!