

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



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MARCH 2013

Taking it to the Street?



March 1970!

NALC has planned a national rally day in support of 6-day delivery on March 24th. Members of our Branch will be attending a rally in Fresno from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Branch 782 has chartered a bus for the event to make it easier for our members to be a part of this important chance to state our case.

Take this chance to protect YOUR future!

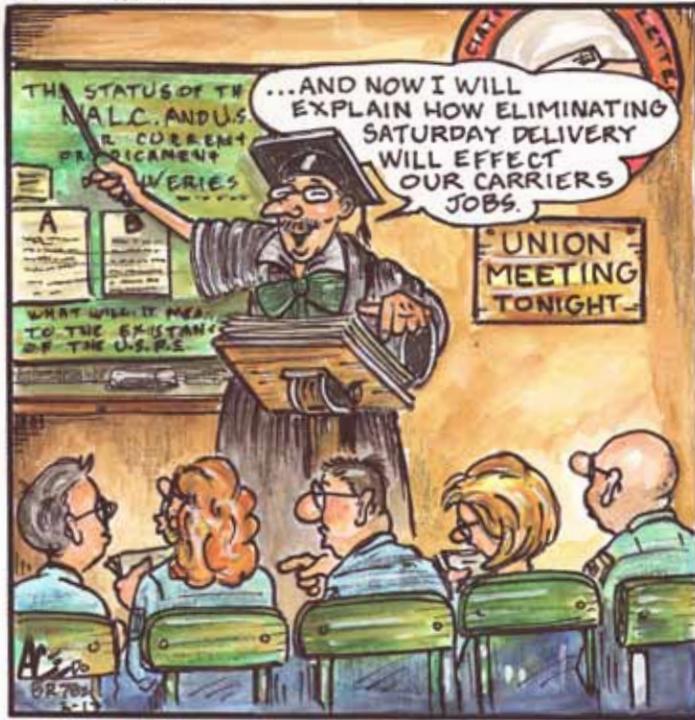
**NALC
was
there
then...**



Mikey T. and the NALC!



OUT THERE



Mister Mike Towery,
Is red, white and blue!
And he's the President,
Of Branch 782!

We call him "Professor"
Cuz, that's what he be!
In one hand, the Contract,
In the other, iced tea!

One of his hobbies,
"Honey Do's" for his spouse!
But Mike's favorite hobby—
Remodeling his old house!

OUT THERE



If it barks, has four legs,
And likes to roam,
It might be the new addition,
To the Towery home!

He's professional and honest,
And never a gripe.
Our members agree!
What's "not" to like,
About Mike?

by Mark Ramirez,
Branch 782 Poet "at large"
"Stand up Mark!".....I am standing!"

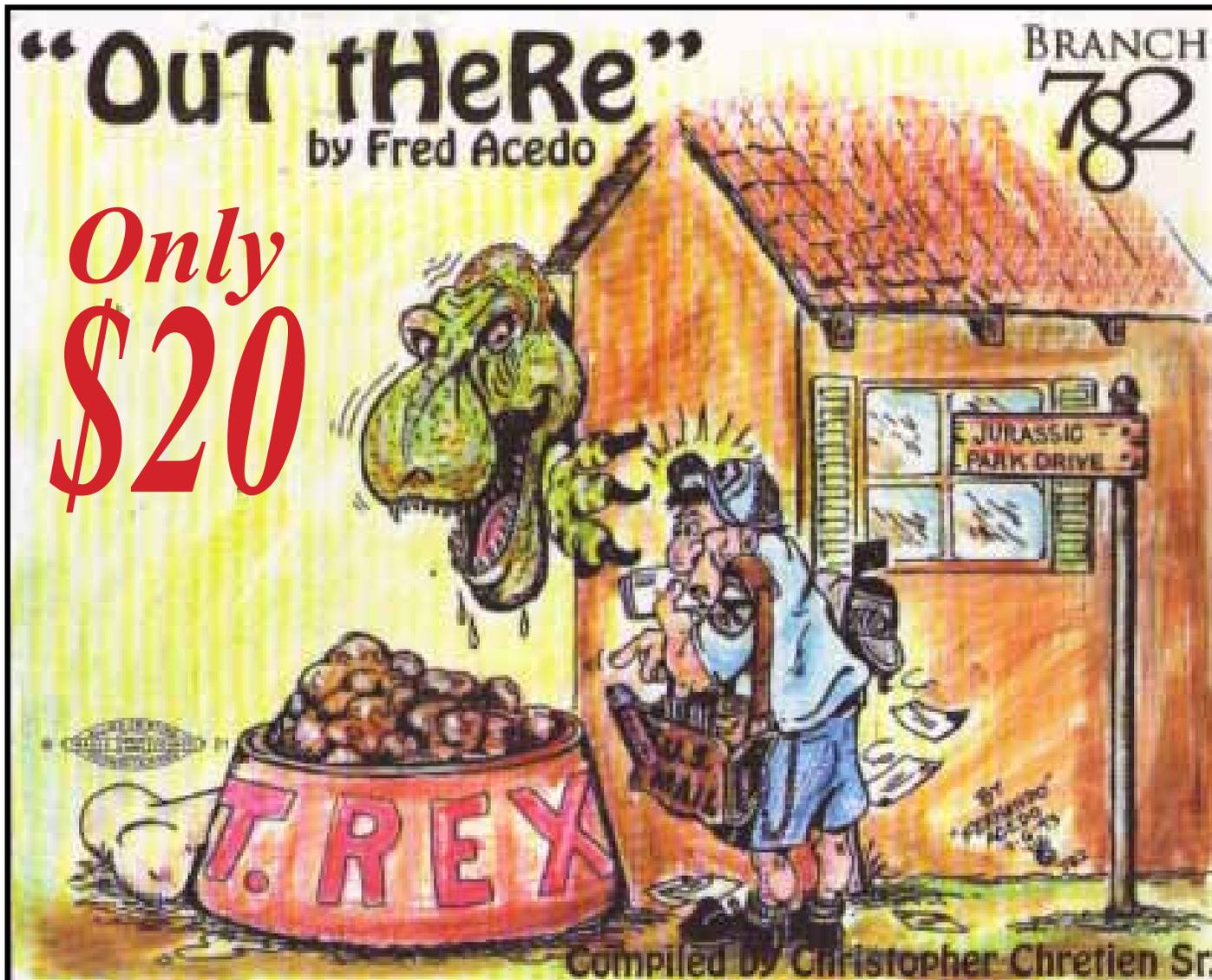
OUT THERE



“Out there” by Fred Acedo

BRANCH
782

Only
\$20



So what is this advertising message about? **THIS** is an MDA fundraiser. We are asking for **YOUR** help!!!!!!

We envisioned that all 2,500 copies of this book would be sold at the national NALC Convention in Anaheim in 2010. Didn't happen. We still have 247 copies of this book waiting to be sold before we can cover our costs and try to make our anticipated MDA donation. Making that donation is what we would really like to do!

The book (about, for and by members of the NALC) chronicles the work of Branch 782 S.A.N.E Fred Acedo through the first nine of his twenty-one years producing outstanding glimpses into who we are.

So...you may ask, what can you do? **ORDER A BOOK!!!**

Contact Kim Gerdes at (661) 301-9676; or, try her at the following e-mail address: "krgerdes91@hotmail.com". **PLEASE** help us out!





Johnny on the Spot



While the Postal Service moves forward with it's 5-day delivery fiasco, the Senate is currently considering a move to block the plan to end the Saturday delivery of mail.

A provision to keep Saturday mail delivery is being considered as part of a Senate budget resolution, it is similar to legislation that the House passed last week. There is no law that requires the Postal Service to deliver mail six days a week.

However, a spending bill that reimburses the agency for providing mail service to the blind and ballots to overseas voters *does* require six days of mail delivery. The provision has been in the annual spending bills since 1983. The Postal Service says the current continuing resolution does not include "specific language" requiring it to deliver mail 6 days a week.

Many lawmakers have expressed frustration with PMG Donahoe, who they say is trying to make an end run around Congress. But our worst two enemies—Senator Tom Coburn, Republican of Oklahoma, and Representative Darrell Issa, a Republican from California—said the five-day delivery schedule was a "common-sense reform."

Mr. Issa added that because the Postal Service would continue to deliver packages and keep post offices open on Saturday, the agency would simply be altering the services it provides and would not be in defiance of the spending provision that requires six-day delivery. This is the BS they are feeding their fellow GOP members.

He is also telling PMG Donahoe that if Congress does come up with a 6-day mandate to deliver mail that the Postal service can sidestep it by not accepting the roughly \$100 million in appropriation's funds the USPS receives for free matter for the blind and overseas ballots for voters.

March 27th 2013 is the date the current continuing resolution requiring 6-day delivery expires. In response to this, the NALC has planned a national rally day in support of 6-day delivery on March 24th 2013. Members of our Branch will be attending a rally in Fresno from 11a.m. until 2 p.m. Branch 782 has chartered a bus for the event and NALC headquarters is helping out our Branch with \$750 towards the cost of of this investment.

As of the writing of this article, we have almost sixty people committed to committing their time and energy to this event.

This is what a Union is about... Our voice will be heard!

Respectfully,

JOHN ORTEGA
NALC Branch 782 Vice-President

Shop Talk

with Jim Falvey
NALC Branch 82 Chief Steward

Lyndon Baines Johnson was the 36th President of the United States. He was not my favorite president by any measure—but he did have one of my favorite quotes.

During a particularly trying time of the Vietnam War President Johnson was being grilled during a press conference by a reporter who took exception to the president not being able to answer a series of questions. The reporter told the president that he felt Mr. Johnson did not know very much.

In response the President answered. “Son, I may not know much but I do know the difference between chicken salad and chicken sh#t”.

The President was letting this reporter know that he could see through this reporter’s assessment of him as to what it was, a personal attack that had nothing to do with the facts.

What is happening with the attempted move by PMG Donahoe to a unilateral cutting of Saturday delivery is that he is trying to sell the American public chicken salad, when in fact it is chicken sh#t.

The PMG has made an announcement at a self-called news conference to say he is going to implement a plan that he does not have the authority to do. So how can he do that?

Well, the answer is not that simple. The short answer is he can do what he wants until someone stops him. The long answer lies in how the oversight of the Postal Service begins with multiple people and entities. Congress, of course is the ultimate authority, as is the Presi-

dent of the United States. Then there is the Postal Board of Governors and the Postal Regulatory Commission and, of course, let’s not forget the Department of Homeland Security.

So, you can see it’s complicated.

Then there is the American public—the *true owners of the Postal Service*. How can we overcome all this and stop the madness coming from L’Enfant Plaza in Washington D. C.?

As I mentioned previously, we have many layers to the oversight of this organization and the American public is the first and in my mind, First and foremost we have to educate and convince that the PMG is bad for the Postal Service and bad for America. Once we do this, we—along with the American public—will focus on Congress and the Postal Board of Governors to make them see the error of the PMG’s ways.

I know that we have heard this drum beat many times before. It seem to be only a small number of Letter Carriers who answer it. We have been successful thus far. Moreover, those who sat on the sidelines have the feeling that “those NALC folks” did it without me then, so they can do it without me now.

You have never been more wrong! We need *every* Carrier and their family, who in turn needs *every* American, who in turn needs *every* Congressperson..... You get the picture.

If you have not lifted a finger to save your job thus far, now is the time to go all in. If you have rallied and have written your elected representative or made that phone call, **now we need to re-double our efforts!** The NALC got you a contract. Now, it’s up to you to save the Postal Service so that contract means something.

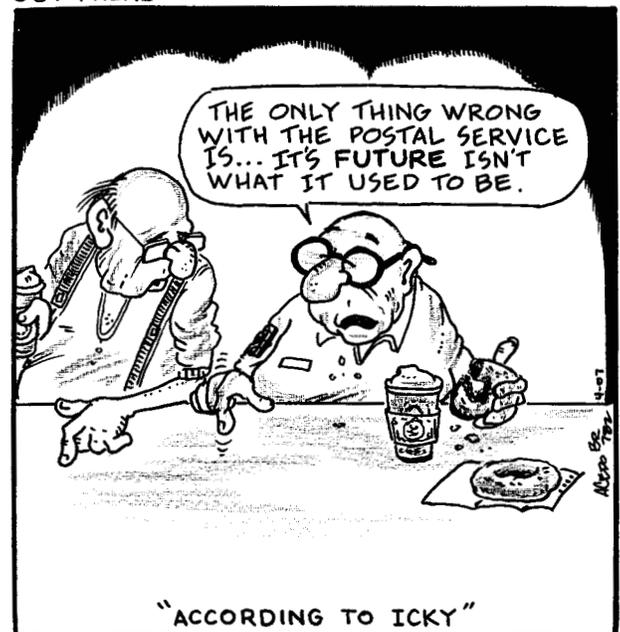
Come on out on March 24th and be heard. Show the American public that the Postal Service is theirs and that we are worth fighting for.

I listened to PMG Donahoe give his press conference and I watched his testimony to congress on C-Span. I don’t know if he will be able to curtail Saturday delivery. I don’t know if he will be able to destroy 80,000 family wage jobs; and, I don’t know if he will be able to defy the Congress and the American public.

Yeah, it’s true. Just like President Lyndon Baines Johnson, I don’t know much.

But I do know the difference between chicken salad and chicken sh#t and the PMG’s plan is chicken sh#t!

OUT THERE



This critical message was originally published in the March 2013 Portland, OR Branch 82 B-Mike.

Minutes of the February 2013 General Meeting

The regular meeting of Branch 782 was called to order by President, Mike Towery at 7:00 p.m. on the 26th day of February, 2013 at the branch office, Bakersfield. The flag salute was led by Sgt. at Arms, Darryl Holderman. All members of the Executive Board were present. The stewards were present from Arvin, Avenal, Brundage, Camino Media, Downtown, Hillcrest, Lamont, Oildale, Shafter, South, Stockdale, Taft and Wasco. Also present was the Newsletter Editor, Basil Zuniga; S.A.N.E., Fred Acedo; Photographer, Anita Holderman; OWCP Rep., Rick Gerdes; Legislative Rep., Diana Herrera and Frank Martinez of the Social and Recreation Committee.. The minutes of the January 22, 2013 meeting were read by Asst. Recording Secretary, Mabel Bullis and accepted as read with no additions or corrections.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP: Applications were received from Daniel Burciaga, Adolfo Gonzalez, Jonathan Carrera-Arellano, Jazmin Martinez, Alexandria Otto, Monica Salazar, Erica Clemons, Thalia Castaneda, Ambar Johnson and Eduardo Flores.

REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES: Basil Zuniga reported that last month was Downtown Station's turn, next month will be South Stations turn. He thanked Mark Ramirez for the poem about Vincent Sombrotto. Norma Hamer reminded the members about the Food Drive in May. Frank Martinez of the Social and Recreation Committee reported that there was a bowling tournament and flag football tournament that resulted in "no injuries" There will be a Basketball tournament on St. Patrick's Day and a baseball tournament on Memorial Day weekend. Mabel Bullis reported:

Total books sold	1257
Expenses	\$29,941.75
Book income	\$25,140.00
Balance	\$ 4,801.75
Need to sell	247

Mike Towery suggested that we take the books to the Local Negotiation training at Br. 2902.

NEW BUSINESS: Mark Ramirez made a motion to spend no more that \$200.00 to purchase a frame for the poem he wrote and send it to Mrs. Sombrotto. Seconded by Anita Holderman and the motion passed. The cost will come from the Flower/Remembrance budget. Mike Towery informed the members that NALC President, Jill Lemons, of Canoga Park, represented our branch at a meeting with member, Albert White. Mike made a motion that the branch spend \$75.00

to cover the time spent by President Lemons on behalf of our branch. Seconded by Mike Munoz, and passed.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION: Norma Hamer discussed the Food Drive in May. She made a motion to spend \$126.00 to cover the cost of the posters and two banners. Seconded by Shari Sharp and passed. Norma discussed the Food Drive t-shirts, which will be construction orange this year. Molly Biggar discussed the recent budget meeting. She made a motion to make the adjustment to the budget for the quarter. Seconded by Alan Smith and passed. Basil Zuniga talked about retired member Forrest Willard, 106, who passed away recently. He retired in the 1960's, and was a member of the NALC for 88 years. Retiree Luther Lane began his career in 1955. He advised the members present that to "stick together, because if you don't you will find yourself washed out." He also advised the members to encourage non-members to join the union, there is strength in numbers. Basil Zuniga asked for a moment of silence in honor of Forrest Willard, Ann Suniga, Ruby Lane and Vincent Sombrotto.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION: Diana Herrera shared the response she received from Congressman, Kevin McCarthy. She encourages all members to contact their congressman to preserve 6 day delivery. There will be a Day of Action rally on March 24. Contact the Executive Board if you can attend. We will try to charter a bus. Mike Towery reported that there will be a Retirement Workshop on March 7, at 6:30, at the branch office. There will be a meeting for all new CCA's on February 27th at 6:30. Mike Towery discussed the proposed 5 day delivery and the affect it will have on PTF's and the newly hired CCA's. John Ortega reported that the resolution to keep 6 day delivery is coming up for review on March 27th.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: Anita Holderman reported that \$17,022.21 was collected for the month.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Molly Bigger reported:

Beginning Income	\$69,842.84
Dues and Income	\$11,672.64
Interest Income	\$ 5.93
Total Balance	\$81,521.41
Total Expenses	\$ 9,339.81
Ending Balance	\$72,181.60

The 50/50 Drawing was won by Shari Sharp.

The Drawing for \$450.00 would have been won by Bonnie Hinojosa if she had been present.

There were 47 members present and one guest member from Ohio.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02.

Respectfully Submitted,

KIM GERDES

NON-MEMBER LIST JANUARY 2013

*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!!*

AVENAL (93203)
100% UNION!!!

DOLE COURT (93308/12)
S. Hancock
D. Morris

ARVIN (93209)
100% UNION!!!

STOCKDALE (93309)
J. Oh

DELANO (93215)
L. A. Campos
C. V. Quebral

CAMINO MEDIA (93311/13)
100% UNION!!!

LAMONT (93241)
100% UNION!!!

MOJAVE (93501)
100% UNION!!!

McFARLAND (93250)
100% UNION!!!

CALIFORNIA CITY (93504)
100% UNION!!!

SHAFTER (93263)
L. M. New
M. D. Voights

BORON (93516)
100% UNION!!!

TAFT (93268)
M. R. Marin
B. W. Krier
K. J. Hughes

EDWARDS AFB (93526)
100% UNION!!!

TEHACHAPI (93561)
100% UNION!!!

WASCO (93280)
100% UNION!!!

TRONA (93562)
100% UNION!!!

DOWNTOWN (93301)
S. Kirby
J. Cruz

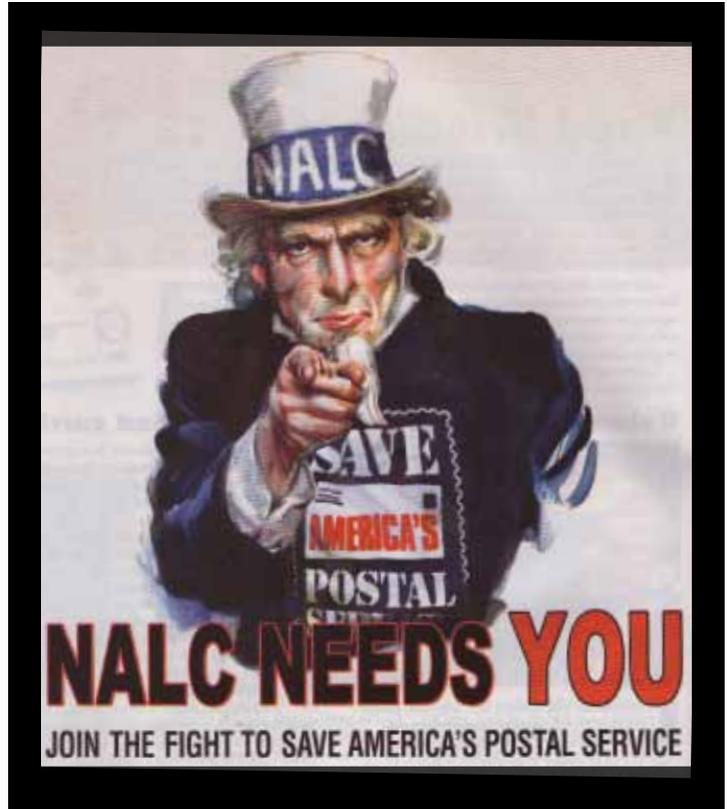
RIDGECREST (93555)
B. J. Leroy
L. M. Montano
H. G. Blanco
S. R. Pierce

**SOUTH STATION
(93304)**
100% UNION!!!

**EAST BAKERSFIELD
(93305)**
100% UNION!!!

HILLCREST (93306)
100% UNION!!!

BRUNDAGE (93307)
D. Kinglee



**We are an "Open Shop".
MEMBERSHIP IS VOLUNTARY.
366 Letter Carriers are in the complement
assigned to cities represented by
our Branch. ONLY 17 ARE NON-MEMBERS.
We are 95.4% organized!**



2013 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
NURSE ASSISTANT (24/7) 1-877-220-6252
 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 Transplant Approval 1-800-668-9682
 Quit Power (Smoking Cessation) 1-877-521-0244
 CIGNA Health Rewards (Discounts) 1-800-558-9443
CIGNA Dental Discount Program 1-877-521-0244
 Disease Management Program 1-800-227-3728
 MEDICARE Managed Care Plan 1-800-633-4277
 OPM Retirement Info Center 1-888-767-6738
 Federal Information Center 1-800-688-9889
 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
Shared Services (Retirees Info!!!) (661) 477-3273

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 85012-2192

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

"Non"-Medicare Claims Submit to CIGNA
(Payor I.D. 62308) or mail to
P.O. Box 18804, Chattanooga, TN 37422-8004.

** 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) 834-5011

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

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

Some Websites for You...

Center for Disease Control	http://www.cdc.gov
American Public Health Assoc.	http://www.alpha.org
American Cancer Society	http://www.cancer.org
American Heart Association	http://americanheart.org
American Lung Association	http://www.lunusa.org
Diabetes Foundation	http://www.diabetes.org
YOUR Personal Health Record	http://www.nalc.org/depart.hbp
Asthma Information Center	http://www.ama.assn.org/special asthma

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

Check out this PPO: Sendas Northwest Urgent Care
3409 Calloway Suite 101
Bakersfield, California 93312
Phone: (661) 587-2500
Hours: M-F 8:00 am - 9:00 pm; Sat & Sun 9:00 am - 7:00 pm

Four guys have been going on the same fishing trip for many years. Two days before the group is to leave, Kevin's wife puts her foot down and tells him he isn't going. Kevin's mates are very upset that he can't go. But, what can they do.

Two days later, the three mates get to the camping site only to find Kevin sitting there with a tent set up, firewood gathered, and dinner cooking on the fire. "Wow, Kevin how long you been here? How did you talk your missus into letting you go?"

"Well, I've been here since last night. After dinner at home yesterday evening, I was sitting in my chair and my wife came up behind me and put her hands over my eyes and said, "Guess who?" I pulled her hands off, and she was wearing sexy, brand new lingerie. She said had been reading 'Fifty Shades of Grey' and she had a devilish look in her eyes..."

She took my hand and led me to our bedroom. The room had candles and rose petals all over. On the bed she had handcuffs, and ropes! She told me to tie her up and cuff her to the bed, so I did. And then she said, "Do whatever you want."

So . . . here I am !

OUT THERE



Old Age Is just A "Stage" In life — A group of senior citizens at a retirement home were having a high old time discussing their various aches, and pains and ills. Arthritis, indigestion, ulcers, insomnia, on and on it went. Finally an eighty-five-year-old man said, "Think of it this way, my friends, "It just proves that old age isn't for sissies!"

You know you're going to have a bad day when: your teenage son asks to wear your clothes to school on NERD DAY. the bird singing outside your window, is a buzzard. you sink your teeth into a beautiful steak, and they stay there.

"Why is there mistletoe hanging over the baggage counter?" asked the airline passenger, amid the holiday rush. The clerk replied, "So you can kiss your luggage goodbye."

OUT THERE



Humor can be medicinal...

Who says you can't beat the odds? My friend Bill, drove his \$30,000 Cadillac to Las Vegas and returned on a \$250,000 Greyhound bus!

PICK-UP LINES — Hey baby, haven't we meet somewhere?
Yes, that's why I stopped going there!

YOU KNOW YOU'RE GETTING OLD WHEN:
the four letter word for something two people can do together in bed is "READ".....your back goes out more than you do.....you start having dry dreams and wet farts.....the names in you little black book are mostly doctors.....the end of your tie doesn't come anywhere near the top of your pants.....your ears are hairier than your head.

Mark (you know who)
I hope some of these aren't too raw....
But they are funny!!!!

7th Annual Battle of the Stations



SO? Another year has gone by and another successfully Bowling Tournament has been played out! **AND? Our 7th Annual "Battle of the Stations" was a blast!!!**

First, I want to give a special thanks to the USPS Social and Recreation Committee for sponsoring this tournament! Secondly, thanks to "DJ SIXXX" for providing the tunes! Also, than you very much to photographer Adrian and NALC Branch 782 Photographer Anita Holderman for their services! Thirdly, my thank you goes out to the "Junior Skaters for Life" for their 50/50 Raffle for Relay for Life! Most importantly, my most heartfelt thank you is directed to the 112 bowlers who put their toes on the line,

whooped and hollered in support of their teammates, cheered, grimaced, smiled, groaned, wore their team colors proudly and who made this event so very, very much fun!!!

Okay, now for the Big Winners: In 1st Place, for the fifth straight year, were East Bakersfield's "Kentucky Street Kids"; Second Place was taken by Dole Court's "Domination"; and, Third Place went to South Station's "The XXX Men"!!

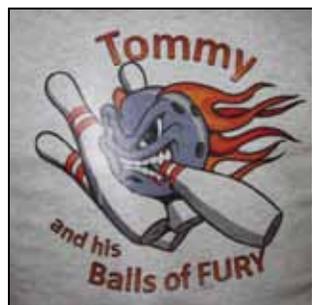


The prize for Top Male Bowler went to East Bakersfield's Gregg Barazza. He had a 648 series! Second Place was Ralph Ramirez with a 625, and with 601 points, Ed Vitson took the third prize.

Taking the prize for the Top Female Bowler was Taft's Christina Sanchez who had a 476 series! She was followed by Sara Davis who produced 460 points and Diane Ryder with 455.



FIRST PLACER WINNERS: "KENTUCKY STREET KIDS"



The top male and female bowlers also won a trophy and a gift card to the Valley Plaza Mall. Christina killed everyone with an amazing ending game of 218!! **To top it off, Christina was also the BIG Winner of the Big Screen TV!!!**

Here are some more winners from the raffle: South's Annette Meza - Shop Vac; from Brundage, Reuben Gonzalez - \$50 Buffalo Wild Wings gift card; Taft's Tina Phillips won a \$35 massage; Camino Media's Cassandra Rios - \$25 Starbucks gift card; and, Stockdale's Anthony Zuniga was the winner of the portable DVD player.

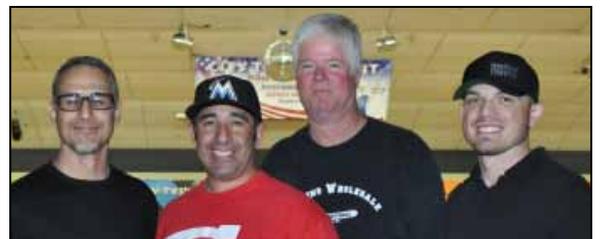
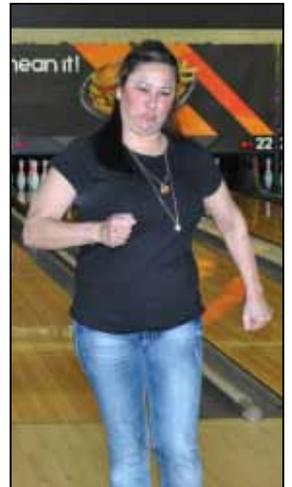
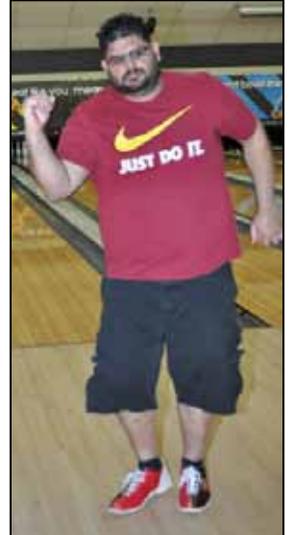
Thank you to everyone who participated!

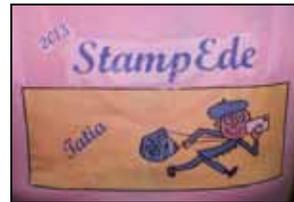
RALPH RAMIREZ

1st Place	East Bakersfield	"Kentucky Street Kids"	2122	Greg Barraza, Brian Shellcross, Jeff Harrington, Geroge Vaquera
2nd Place	Dole Court	"Dole Court Domination"	2079	Ed Vitson, Anthony Avery, Chris Mesa, Dean Looker
3rd Place	South Station	"The XXX Men"	2053	Andrew Garcia, Denise Dilley, Les Shaw, Ralph Ramirez
4th Place	GMF/Plant	"Old School Hustle"	1823	June Cezar, Kamal Singh, Jeremy Johnson, Jason Johnson
5th Place	GMF/Plant	"Hit Ten"	1780	Robert Turner, Joey Cezar, C. Johnson, Mary Haskins
6th Place	Hillcrest	"Ten Pin Mafia"	1772	Roel Alaniz, Ronnie Mireles, Lou Gutierrez, Bernadine Maestas
7th Place	Brundage	"The X-pindables"	1745	John Ortega, Luke Lopez, Joe Dangler, Ruben Gonzalez
8th Place	Dole Court	"Prestige Worldwide"	1711	Diane Ryder, Glen Ryder, Kevin Vandiver, Aaron Witherspoon
9th Place	Stockdale	"The Instigators"	1698	James Flores, John Boy Hardin, Bill Herrera, Anthony Zuniga
10th Place	Taft	"Bobby's Angels"	1621	Christin Sanchez, Bobby Krier, Tina Phillips, Shelly Miezner
11th Place	Delano	"The Uninvited"	1602	Jorge Vaquera, Cindy DeLeon, Serina Ornelaz, Gracie Silva
12th Place	South Station	"Tommy & His Balls of Fury"	1561	John Rosso, Neil Kramer, Tommy Herrera, Darryl Holderman
13th Place	GMF/Plant	"Lucky Strikes"	1546	Sara Owens, Todd Whitron, Paul Pineda, Christian Guajardo
14th Place	Shafter	"Balls of Thunder"	1541	Israel Cedillos, Clay Davis, Ron Anaya, Carmen Vizzard
15th Place	Tehachapi	"Tehachapi Toilet Bowlers"	1482	Bill Lewis, Rob Brown, Michelle Bettes, Mary Ann Redig
16th Place	South Station	"Chicks with Balls"	1430	Judy Kiyoshi, Annette Ortega, Melissa Kelley, Shiela Wiley
17th Place	Dole Court	"Ball Bangers"	1423	Cindy Jiminez, Teresa Garcia, Sabrina Bonilla, Lorena Hererra
18th Place	Brundage	"Here 4Da Beer"	1410	Edgar Kiang, Cesar Rivera, Kimmi Gardea, Paul Greenfield
18th Place	Dole Court	"Just Here 2 Drink"	1410	Francisco Herra, Rodel Pangalden, M. Rodriguez, Joey Mungcal
19th Place	GMF/Plant	"Incred-a-Bowlers"	1402	Dexter Pabro, Maria Rosales, Elton Morse, Stephanie Gomez
20th Place	Camino Media	"5 Day Wrong Way"	1398	Mike Mesa, Ray Moya, Everett Jennings, Ricky Heer
21st Place	Camino Media	"Un-accountables"	1374	Lisa Wescott, Stacey Adams, Candice Brown, Cassandra Rios
22nd Place	Downtown	"Downtown Knock 'Em Down"	1343	Lorraine Clemmons, Lana Lewis, Cassius Hooper, Steve Friedle
23rd Place	South Station	"Stampede"	1320	Tatia Boone, Sodhi Sarbjit, Anita Holderman, Fernando Formeloza
24th Place	Stockdale	"Mynz in the Gutter"	1218	Alex Dang, Brad Webb, Tina Harbour, Darlene Medina
25th Place	Brundage	"Split Happens"	1132	Vanessa Halle, Stacy Castillo, Kristi Hanson, Yvonne Esquivel
26th Place	Dole Court	"Strike-a-licious"	1121	Martha Leyva, Yesenia Vasquez, Dahlia Meza, Teresa Suarez
27th Place	Dole Court	"First Class Divas"	1023	Whitney Moreci, Angie Garcia, Sandra Rios, Margarita Cruz

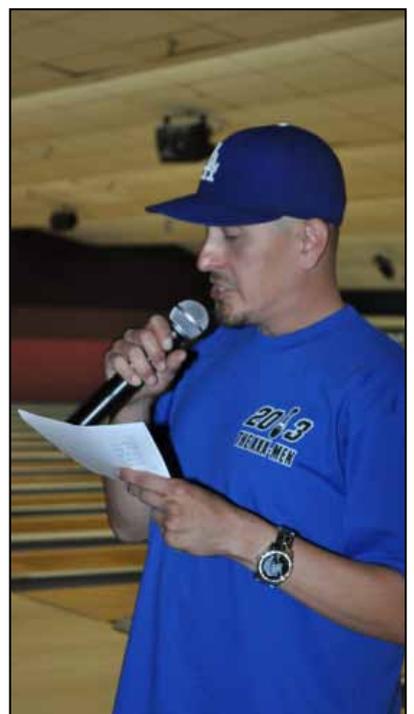


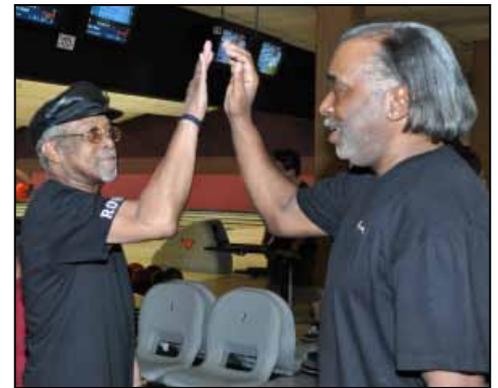
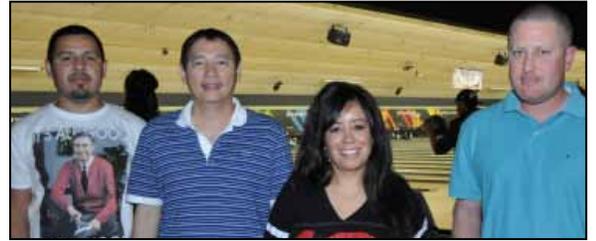
For a WHOLE LOT more pictures, go to the web version of this newsletter...

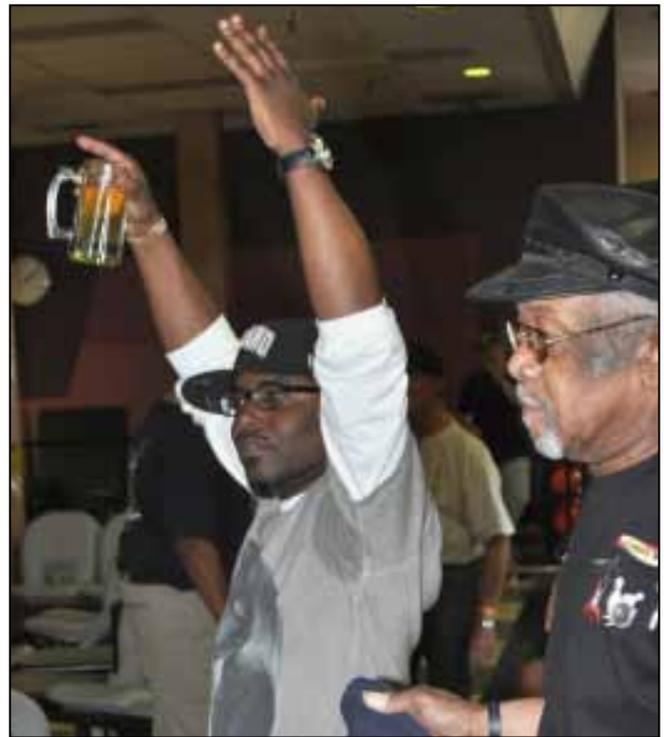




*For more pictures, go to the next page...
It was a good time for everyone!!!!*







So many pictures and not enough room!!!
Special thanks for the use of these pictures goes to
to photographer Adrian and NALC Branch 782
Photographer Anita Holderman for their services!



It's Great to Have Weekends Off?

By James Perryman, San Fernando Chief Shop Steward/Branch Trustee

Hello, brothers and sisters. It's been awhile but I'm back. It's been a long time since my last article, and many rumors have been buzzing during this time. We heard about the plan to close processing plants, retail stations, and some delivery units. We also heard about the plan to excess Letter Carriers and Clerks to different crafts and other installations. The alarming thing about some of the rumors that we have been hearing is that they are becoming a reality, with more to come down the road.

Letter Carriers have been excessed into other stations and other crafts, which traumatically changed their lives. Some Carriers are forced to drive as far as 100 miles from their regular assigned installation to the new installation. Other Carriers were not only excessed from their assigned installation, they were also excessed into other crafts. Keep in mind that when Carriers are excessed they become junior in seniority in the new installation or craft. Yes, that means the bottom of the barrel in that office.

We have heard about the Postmaster General's plans to eliminate first class mail delivery on Saturdays beginning August 5, 2013 however, we have not heard about plans on how it will affect the Letter Carriers assignments, work schedules, and T-6 positions (Note at the time this article was written).

Some of our fellow brothers and sisters were happy and excited to hear the news of the plan to deliver first class letters and flats only 5 days a week with the possibility of having weekends off. Unfortunately I deflated their excitement when my opinion was asked about having weekends off if the plan goes into effect. I explained that it may be a possibility that some of the Letter Carriers may not only have weekends off, but they may also have every day off. Example: Under the new Contractual Agreement all Part-Time Flexible Letter Carriers will be converted to Regular Letter Carriers by May 2016. Under the Contractual Agreement Regular Letter Carriers are guaranteed 40 hours a week. If the Regular Letter Carriers schedule is changed to a five day work week it may eliminate the need for the T-6 position. Therefore, the five day work week may cause an excess of unassigned Regular Letter Carriers due to the lack of available work and assignments. This may lead to the need to excess the junior unassigned Regular Letter Carrier(s) into another craft or installation if there is no work available in their assigned craft or installation. In addition, this may also lead to the possibilities of LAYOFFS.

This is one of the reasons why it is important to support the NALC actions to defeat the Postmaster General's plan of action. We need to be on alert and pay attention to what is happening to the Postal Service because some of these rumors may become reality. Letter Carriers may have to be prepared to make adjustments and step up to take the appropriate necessary actions to help secure our jobs. We all should make contributions to COLCPE to support the political men and women that support Letter Carriers and their families. Write to your Congressmen and let him/her know the importance of maintaining 6 day delivery for all MAIL!

Some may say aw, that's just a rumor. Well, go back and read the beginning of this article, remember some rumors may lead to becoming a reality. I don't mean to rain on anyone's parade. I think it will be great to have weekends off, however I have to be honest and put things in perspective. I don't need weekends off at the expense of Letter Carriers losing their jobs.

In closing, I believe that these are some scary times for many Letter Carriers and some of our members may have a tough time dealing with all the changes at the Postal Service. I'm confident that the NALC will do all it can for the best interest of Letter Carriers. The NALC will utilize the same effort that was presented to the Arbitration panel that decided our current contract with the Postal Service to secure our jobs.

Just a reminder to all, if you are having difficulties at work or at home, and you need to talk to someone in private, EAP is there for you and its free to all Postal Employees and his/her immediate families (1-800-EAP-4-YOU).

Until next time, God Bless and Go Lakers!!! (Don't worry Lakers fans, we are going through a rebuilding process, we'll get there).

Article courtesy of the March-April 2013
Chatsworth, California NALC
Branch 2902 Mail Bag News

...I believe that these are some scary times for many Letter Carriers and some of our members may have a tough time dealing with all the changes at the Postal Service...

The Snitch Page by Clarence Blaze III

Thank you to letter carriers Tony Saputo and Bill Schroeder for bring this 2 million dollar "Postal Party" to my attention. I found the following article.

Report: Struggling Postal Service to spend \$2.2 million on San Francisco conference

Posted By [Caroline May](#) On 12:01 PM 02/19/2013 @ 12:01 PM In [DC Exclusives - Blurb,US](#)

The struggling United States Postal Service, which has been pushing to end Saturday deliveries as a last-ditch way to save money, is spending over \$2 million to send 400 employees to a San Francisco conference next month.

Documents obtained by local California TV station KTVU reveal that Postal Service will end up spending \$2.2 million on the four-day National Postal Forum conference at the Moscone Center in March.

KTVU reports that between travel, exhibit space and other aspects of the trip will cost the postal service \$2.2 million. There will also be workshops, golf, a dance party, music entertainment, and a taste of San Francisco banquet, according to the report.

USPS explained to KTVU that the Forum will help to make money by creating future business, claiming that last year the Forum conference in Orlando generated \$73,000 for each dollar they spent.

"The Forum is the mailing industry's premier educational venue, trade show and networking event for industry professionals," The National Postal Service Forum's website explains. "It provides business mailers with ongoing training and education, and helps them keep pace with the mailing industry's rapid progress."

USPS added that this year they as sending 160 fewer staffers than they did last year.

The Forum is held annually each spring.

UPDATE: Tuesday, Georgia Republican Rep. Tom Graves sent a letter to Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe requesting a "detailed justification for the USPS's costly participation in the National Postal Forum conference.

Source: The Daily Caller - <http://dailycaller.com>

Just my 2 cents: "This is \$550,000 a day, hmmm? Next time my supervisor complains about that 1 or 2 clicks of v-time. I would have to respectfully respond by saying, "ARE YOU KIDDING? PMG Donahoe just spent 2.2 million on a party." –Clarence Blaze III

Courtesy of the January-February 2013 *Branch Snitch* published by Mt. Clemens, Michigan NALC Branch 654.

Misinformed Public

by Larry Sturges, Steward

To help prevent a misinformed public from standing idly by while the U.S. postmaster general begins to dismantle the Postal Service, I offer the following facts and observations.

Debt troubles for the USPS began in 2006 when Congress enacted a mandate requiring the agency to transfer \$5.5 billion annually from its operating budget into a future retiree health benefit fund. At the same time, Congress made it impossible for the agency to change its rate structure or enter new lines of business to pay for the mandate. The measure targeted no other federal agency or private firm — only the USPS, even though its future benefit accounts were already well funded and growing.

Congress thus manufactured a financial crisis for the USPS, made worse by the onset of recession shortly thereafter and the drop off in first-class mail. At least 80 percent of the current postal debt can be attributed to the pre-funding mandate, according to the National Association of Letter Carriers.

You may be surprised to learn that in its latest fiscal quarter, despite a slack economy, the USPS earned a profit of \$100 million delivering the nation's mail. It earned \$17.7 billion in revenue against \$17.6 billion in operating expenses. The profit was due largely to a jump in its package delivery and gains in efficiency. Many media outlets reported the quarterly results as a \$1.3 billion loss for the Postal Service, without making it clear that the loss was due to the quarter's \$1.4 billion prefunding charge.

The Postal Service has received no taxpayer funding for more than 30 years and does not require a taxpayer bailout to overcome the financial crisis imposed on it by Congress. It requires that Congress remove the pre-funding mandate and allow the agency to rationally use its own funds.

Further, it needs to take the handcuffs off the USPS and allow it to innovate, to develop new services and products to support its constitutional mission to serve us all (rural and urban, rich and poor) with a dependable, univer-

sal and affordable postal service. It does not need a postmaster general who lacks an effective strategy to save and strengthen the system.

The postmaster general's recent unilateral and unwise proposal to save money by cutting mail delivery to five days cannot be implemented without congressional approval. In the last Congress, a bipartisan majority of representatives co-sponsored legislation to maintain Saturday delivery. In the new Congress, Maine Reps. Mike Michaud and Chellie Pingree have joined with others who are signing up to co-sponsor H.R. 30, which supports Saturday delivery.

In Maine and other rural states, small and home businesses predominate. My career experience as a city letter carrier leads me to believe that many of these businesses would be harmed by taking back their mail — remittances mostly — on Saturdays. Overwhelmingly, small businesses receive payment by mailed check. The Postal Service should not be allowed to slow the mail and disrupt that cash flow.

Senate majority leader Harry Reid (D-Nevada) stated, "Given the importance of the Post Office to communities in Nevada and across our nation, such a drastic policy change cannot be enacted without approval from Congress. Instead, the Postmaster General relied on flawed legal guidance to claim that he can circumvent Congress' authority on the matter. The Postmaster General's actions have damaged his reputation with congressional leaders and further complicates congressional efforts to pass comprehensive postal reform legislation in the future."

The USPS is using misleading polling numbers to claim public approval for its action. A company spokesperson told the BDN on Feb. 7, "There have been multiple surveys done. ... Upward of 70 percent supported the move to five-day delivery if that means there won't be any taxpayer funding."

The question is deceptive — there is no proposal in Congress to support the USPS with taxpayer funds. Results

of opinion surveys always depend on how the question is phrased. What if pollsters had asked, “Would you support ending Saturday delivery if it led to the further dismantling of universal, affordable postal service and its replacement with a patchwork of expensive services offered by private firms?” I suspect that upwards of 70 percent of respondents would disapprove.

Further, the postmaster general’s claim that the cut will save the agency \$2 billion is also unreliable and has been questioned by Sen. Susan Collins and others.

In announcing the end of Saturday mail, Postmaster General Donahoe is basically gambling that Congress will not include the 6-day mail delivery requirement in whatever new appropriations bill it passes before March 27 2013.

Strong and timely action is undoubtedly needed to save the USPS. That means ending the pre-funding mandate. It does not mean recklessly halting service, which will only shrink revenue and lead to further cuts, leading to even less revenue — a downward spiral ending in the death of the Postal Service.

Article courtesy of the March 2013 Burkburnett, Texas NALC Branch 1227 *Red River Carrier*

Statement of NALC President Fredric Rolando on Postmaster General Pat Donahoe’s plan to eliminate Saturday mail delivery

Feb. 6, 2013 -- Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe’s plan to end Saturday delivery is a disastrous idea that would have a profoundly negative effect on the Postal Service and on millions of customers. It would be particularly harmful to small businesses, communities, the elderly, the disabled and others who depend on Saturday delivery for commerce and communication.

Slowing mail service and degrading our unmatched last-mile delivery network are not the answers to the Postal Service’s financial problems. If the Postmaster General is unwilling or unable to develop a smart growth strategy that serves the nearly 50% of business mailers that want to keep six-day service, and if he arrogantly thinks he is above the law or has the right to decide policy matters that should be left to Congress, it is time for him to step down.



This maneuver by Mr. Donahoe flouts the will of Congress, as expressed annually over the past 30 years in legislation that mandates six-day delivery, which remains in effect today. In the last Congress, which ended in January, a bi-partisan majority of Representatives co-sponsored legislation backing the continuation of Saturday delivery.

This misguided and counterproductive decision is in keeping with the Postmaster General’s slash-and-shrink approach to dealing with the Postal Service’s financial challenges. Instead of offering a real business plan to tap the full potential of this essential American institution, he is offering a plan that will doom USPS to failure.

The National Association of Letter Carriers has tried time and again to work with Postal Service management to pursue growth measures and cost savings, but it has become clear that the Postal Service leadership’s only strategy is to gut the unique postal network that provides us with the world’s most affordable delivery service, and to eliminate the services on which Americans depend.

America’s letter carriers condemn this reckless plan in the strongest terms. We call for the immediate removal of the postmaster general, who has lost the confidence of the men and women who deliver for America every day. And we urge Congress to develop a real reform plan that gives the Postal Service the freedom to grow and innovate in the digital era.

Senior Vice President's Report

By Brian Bump
Senior Vice President



What information can you provide a non-union member to convince them of the need for a strong union and why they should be a member of the NALC? A good place to begin would be in the Arbitration Award for our new National Agreement. The new contract contains three general wage increases during the life of the contract; 1 percent in November 2013, 1.5 percent in November 2014, and 1 percent in November 2015. It also contains seven COLAs to be paid between now and 2016, though the two COLAs calculated in 2013 will be deferred and paid in 2014.

In addition, the contract maintains the ban on sub-contracting and the no-layoff clause for carriers with at least six years of service. And, although the award lowered the entry wage for new career letter carriers (appointed on or after Jan. 12, 2013), these new carriers will reach the top step pay of the existing pay chart in exactly 644 weeks, the same 12.4 years that applies to career carriers appointed before Jan. 12, 2013.

And while these achievements are certainly a good starting point, perhaps the best argument for a strong union is made by management. These are some of the arguments management presented to the Arbitration Board, and are included in the Arbitration decision:

The Postal Service has experienced an unprecedented and permanent decline in First Class mail revenue due largely to electronic diversion. This fact, combined with certain regulatory burdens imposed by Congress, has led to a dangerous and untenable financial situation for the Postal Service-one that cannot be solved by

Congressional action alone. As the delivery network continues to grow while the value of the product delivered declines, the Postal Service must bring its delivery cost structure in line with its declining revenues.

As the Postal Service seeks to generate new revenue in response to the dramatic, permanent loss of First Class mail volume, it will move increasingly into the packages and parcels market, which is intensely competitive. The growth of e-commerce has led to a large increase in demand for low-cost same-day or next-day delivery in the business-to-consumer market. To effectively compete for this business, the Postal Service needs a less expensive delivery workforce with increased flexibility to deliver outside the typical 9- to-5 delivery window.

City delivery is significantly more costly than both rural delivery and contract delivery service; indeed, it is the most expensive cost center within the Postal Service. The Postal Service needs a less expensive delivery workforce to (1) ensure the gap between cost and revenue per delivery does not continue to grow, and (2) position the Postal Service to be competitive as it moves further into the same-day and next-day package delivery markets.

City letter carriers enjoy a very rich and very costly wage and benefit package that exceeds comparable wages and benefits paid for similar levels of work in the private sector. The appropriate comparison for purposes of private sector comparability is the entire private sector, not only large, unionized employers. Past interest arbitrators have recognized the postal wage premium.

Collective bargaining does not exist in a vacuum, and must take into account financial realities and changes in product markets. Provisions such as COLA clauses, no-layoff protections, and restrictions on contracting

are nearly non-existent in private sector labor contracts today. Accordingly, they should be excised from the parties' agreement.

What did management ask the arbitration board to "give" you? Lower wages, no COLA clause, no-layoff protection, the right to contract out the work you do. That your wages and benefits be comparable to similar levels of non-union workers in the private sector, like pizza delivery drivers or a newspaper delivery person.

Any city letter carrier that can read the above arguments from management and still conclude the NALC is not doing anything for them is simply not living in the real world. Without the collective bargaining rights that we enjoy, management would not have to make the above arguments to an Arbitration Board, they would simply be able to implement the changes unilaterally.

I don't believe that any non-member can honestly say the benefits they enjoy as a result of union representation do not far outweigh any perceived problem, concern or dispute they may have with the union. While non-union members can give you a hundred and one reasons why they are not members, the only realistic reason for them not being union members is that they enjoy the free ride they get to take on the backs of hardworking, dues paying union members. The hardworking, dues paying union members who enable them to continue to enjoy the wages and benefits they enjoy because the NALC was able to present a case to the Arbitration Board to convince them that city letter carriers deserved a much better deal than the Postal Service was offering.

Be safe,

Brian

Information courtesy of the March 2013 *Swing Room Gazette* published by NALC Branch 133 in Sacramento, CA .



Football Tournament



Yes!!! Pants were grabbed...





Football Tournament



*For a WHOLE LOT more pictures,
go to the web version of this newsletter...*
Pictures courtesy of Branch 782 Photographer Anita Holderman.



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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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Lamont (93241)	Mike Munoz	(661) 304-5516
McFarland (93250)	Robert Campos	(661) 805-1034
Shafter (93263)	Norma Hamer	(661) 619-1465
Taft (93268)	Mike Meza	(805) 625-4541
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Downtown Station (93301)	Kim Gerdes	(661) 834-2059
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South Station Alternate	Judy Kiyoshi	(661) 817-5529
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Rick Plummer, Webmaster



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Non-Profit Organization
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General Meeting

Tuesday

March 26, 2013

7:00 p.m.

Branch 782 Office
 2628 "F" Street
 Bakersfield, California

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

\$500?

*YOU have a chance to win.
 What do you have to do?*

**Attend the NALC Branch 782
 meeting on March 26, 2013.**

Will your name be called next?

If you are not present...rest assured somebody
WILL let you know that you didn't
 win the \$500...



from the editor-guy

Recently, I attended the Retirement Seminar hosted by our Branch. Yup. Along with quite a few other folks, I was there to try to learn a little more about retirement. Go figure...



Judy Kiyoshi
 (4/11/1998)



Alex Dang
 (3/1/1972)

And? I want to share something. Many of people who were there had gray hair just like me. That made sense. **However...** Yes! There is a "However..."



The people who should have made the time to be there that night were people who are early in their careers. While the idea that you should be thinking about retirement when you have just started might not make sense to you now—it will... And? It is on **YOU**.



This is **REALLY** important!

BASIL ZUNIGA



Photos by Anita Holderman



Don't forget to check out the web version of this newsletter! More is better... Go to out WWW.782NALC.COM