

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



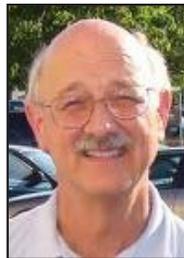
CHARTERED FEBRUARY 25, 1901

NUMBER 5

MAY 2014

at the

Mike:



There is a very appropriate saying that seems to fit this month:
ONE PICTURE IS WORTH 1,000 WORDS...

At least 79,679* Pounds...



LETTER CARRIERS' FOOD DRIVE
SAT., MAY 10, 2014

*Results are still being finalized. Some offices had monetary donations and extra food still to be picked up.

Johnny on the Spot



The Battle Continues

Not very long ago, PMG Patrick Donahoe conducted one of his weekly service talks stating the Postal Service would be going to 5-day delivery in the very near future. Our response: ***NO WAY!***

The NALC staged rallies across the country in opposition to this “shrink to survive rationale”.

Locally, Branch 782—with assistance from NALC headquarters—chartered a bus to Fresno, CA to attend the Rally staged there. We filled the bus along with some members from Visalia. Other Branch 782 members who drove their own vehicles filled the rally with our supporters. The result was that 6-day delivery was preserved. The media coverage we received was tremendous. The support we received from the public was overwhelming. And, in the end, I truly believe that the Postal Regulatory Commission (witnessing the outcome of our actions) ruled in our favor that it was against the law for the Postal Service to unilaterally shift to 5 day delivery.

Game Over, right? Not exactly!!

Our “frenemy” Rep. Darrel Issa, Chair of the House Oversight Committee, which governs the Postal Service has **TWICE** attempted to write legislation that would allow the Postal service to go to 5-day delivery.

So how have **WE** thwarted two attempts? The answer is **WE!!** Members of the NALC Carrier Corps have been the force that has stopped these attempts in their tracks. It is very easy to sign up for the NALC Carrier Corps. Log onto the NALC.org website and sign up. *IT IS FREE!* You will receive important emails when issues arrive concerning our livelihood. More importantly, it is so easy to respond to these attacks, especially in this smart phone era. Usually, all you have to do is enter your name and click on the petition. Your Congressional Representative will see your opinion to the matter at hand. There is power in numbers.

Another way to really get involved is through our COLCPE program. This program is not free but is so crucial to giving us a voice on the Hill. The best part is you decide what to invest. There is no donation too large or too small. Deductions can be through payroll deduction or a one-time donation. It should not matter what side of the aisle you are on. Invest in your future with the Postal Service. From “old timer” to CCA—and everyone in the middle—we all have a lot to gain or lose. Pam Smith is our Branch COLCPE Representative and she is energetic and is always looking for ways to protect our Rights and our benefits.

As I write this article, we are preparing for our 22nd Annual NALC Food Drive. Getting the cards and bags delivered are always extra work, but we *always* get it done.

Please don’t forget to thank your Food Drive Coordinators. The cards and bags have to be separated and counted for each and every route. They do this on their own time. I would also like to thank President Towery and Branch Food Drive Coordinators Shari Sharpe and Norma Hamer for their tireless efforts to make sure our event is successful. Last, but not least, it is all of you who make this event so special. Your hard work will help feed people in need. Personally, I hope to go home very tired, but with a smile on my face knowing that **WE** made a difference.

Respectfully,

JOHN ORTEGA
Letter Carrier and Branch 782 Vice-President

Just Randy...

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of my union Brothers and Sisters who voted to send me to the California State Association of Letter Carriers' Convention.

It was very inspiring to listen to all of the guest speakers who were in attendance. There were many labor leaders and members of Congress who spoke and apprised us of the continuing struggle that they, too, face each day.

The classes were jam packed with valuable information and all who were in attendance would certainly agree it was time well spent.

The continuing theme seems to be that there is a concerted effort in this country to bust all unions. If we are to survive, we must stay strong and remember There *IS* Strength in Numbers! *EVERYONE* should join the Union!!!

RANDY COURSON



When Politicians Threaten Your Livelihood, Take Them At Their Word!

During the 2012 election season, a relative asked me who I supported for president. When I replied that I planned to campaign for President Obama, she replied with disbelief. I explained that Mitt Romney supported a pay cut of forty percent for federal and postal employees and also advocated for selling off the post office and its assets, as he had done with other enterprises. Her reply was, "He doesn't mean it. He won't do that."



Back to 2010, when House Republicans were in the minority, they published a policy paper which stated that federal/postal employees should contribute more toward their pensions and it further stated that the special retirement supplement under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) should be abolished. This would effectively raise the minimum retirement age from 56/57 (depending on the year you were born) to 62.

And guess what? Legislation signed into Law forces new FERS employees to pay 4.4% of their base salary toward their pensions—up from .8%. House Republicans have also passed legislation eliminating the special retirement supplement, and Paul Ryan includes such a provision in his budget blueprint.

Senator Rand Paul proposed an amendment to S. 1789 which would have ended the mailbox use monopoly. Three quarters of Republican senators (35 of 47) voted to privatize the mailbox. This would allow any Tom, Dick or Harry to stick his hand in your patron's receptacle.

And, then, there's 1980 Libertarian vice-presidential candidate David Koch who sits on the pro-privatization Cato Institute's

"We propose the abolition of the governmental Postal Service. The present system in addition to being inefficient, encourages governmental surveillance of private correspondence. Pending abolition, we call for an end to the monopoly system and for allowing free competition in all aspects of postal service."

1980 Libertarian Party Platform

board of directors and gives tens of millions of dollars to politicians who favor outsourcing your job to private contractors. If you think think you can pay your bills carrying a contract route, think again. They make between \$15 and 20 thousand a year with no benefits. Can you make your mortgage payment or support your family on that?

The good news in this narrative is that you can do something about protecting what you have. You can participate in phone banks and precinct walks in support of pro-labor congressional candidates. You can call your Congress person or Senator when a harmful piece of legislation comes up for a vote and let him or her know how you feel. Better yet, get your friends and family to do likewise.

At this moment, there are at least three separate proposals to end 6-day delivery. Is this proposal just to save the USPS? Read what Crossroads GPS and Koch Industry money is flowing into politicians coffers. It is a means to their end.

Please participate in efforts to elect pro-Labor candidates! Your future depends on it.

ERIK ELLIS, CSALC District 4 Officer

Minutes of the April 2014 General Meeting

The regular meeting of Branch 782 was called to order by President Mike Towery at 7:00 p.m. on the 22nd day of April 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 Arvin, Avenal, Brundage, Camino Media, Delano, Hillcrest, Lamont, Oildale, Shafter, South, Stockdale, Taft and Wasco. Also present was Newsletter Editor Basil Zuniga; S.A.N.E. Fred Acedo; Webmaster Rick Plummer; Photographer Anita Holderman; OWCP Representative Rick Gerdes and Frank Martinez of the Social and Recreation Committee. Minutes of the March 25, 2014 meeting were read and accepted with no additions or corrections.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP: Applications were received from Eric Gonzales, Lamont; and, Ron Zurn, Ridgecrest.

REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES: Basil Zuniga reported that the newsletter folding "got done". He was not there so he was not sure how many people were there from Stockdale. Next month is Camino Media. He also reported that there will be more photos and the results from the Bowling Tournament in the next newsletter. Basil asked members for articles. Frank Martinez of the Social and Recreation Committee reported that the committee purchased tickets for the Dodger game on June 1, the cost is \$25.00 for the "all you can eat" pavilion. Tickets go on sale Thursday. Molly Biggar reported that 14 books were sold at the State Convention, there are 1206 books remaining. Shari Sharp reported that the Food Drive is May 10th. We have the cards and the bags. There will be a meeting at the Food Bank on Friday. Rick Plummer, Branch 782 Webmaster, reported that the newsletter is on the Website and it looks great in color. Molly Biggar brought 3 items from the convention to raffle off at the meeting.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION: Jerry Patterson asked about the inventory. President Mike Towery informed members that Mable Bullis was working on the inventory; the new

Trustees will need to continue to work on the inventory. John Ortega will schedule a meeting of the By-Laws committee. Mike Towery reported that approximately 6 CCA's attended the CCA meeting. There are over 50 CCA's in the city. He also said that another meeting will be scheduled. Hopefully, more CCA's will attend. Mike Towery thanked Kim Gerdes for all the work that she does.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION: Mike Towery introduced Retired Carrier, Joe Jones. He retired in Bakersfield and moved to Oklahoma.

FINANCIAL SECRETRY'S REPORT: Anita Holderman reported that the income for April is \$8282.35

CONVENTION REPORTS: Mark Ramirez reported that members need to donate to COLCPE. He got some forms for retirees to donate through payroll deduction. Basil Zuniga reported that Mark Ramirez served on the Retirement Committee at the convention. He also reported that Mark's poem about Sombrotto was printed in the convention book and that Manny Peralta read the poem to the convention delegates.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Molly Biggar reported for February 2014

Beginning Balance	\$80,095.19
Dues & Income	\$11,785.02
Interest Income	\$0.00
Total Balance	\$91,880.21
Expenses	\$11,316.41
Ending Balance	\$80,563.80

OUT THERE



The MDA 50/50 Drawing was won by Jerry Patterson.
 Raffle for license plate frame was won by Shari Sharp and Jerry Patterson won the two t-shirts.

There were 38 members present.

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

The General Meeting Drawing for \$450.00 would have been won by Retiree Alfred Martinez if he had been present.

KIM GERDES
 NALC Branch 782 Recording Secretary

NON-MEMBER LIST March 2014*

Downtown Station

S. Kirby
 J. Cruz

Stockdale

J. Oh
M. Martinez

Delano

L.A. Campos
 C.V. Quebral

Taft

A. Veach
 B. M. Krier
 K. J. Hughes
T. Bullard

South Station

100% UNION!!!

Camino Media

C. Rodriguez

Lamont

100% UNION!!!

Tehachapi

100% UNION!!!

Brundage/East Bakersfield

D. Kinglee

Arvin

100% UNION!!!

Ridgecrest

S. P. Pierce
 G.D. Weaver
B. Leroy
D.M. Johnson

Trona

100% UNION!!!

Hillcrest

100% UNION!!!

Avenal

B. Howard

Dole Court

D. Morris
 S. Hancock

California City

100% UNION!!!

Shafter

M. D. Voights
 L. M. New

Wasco

100% UNION!!!

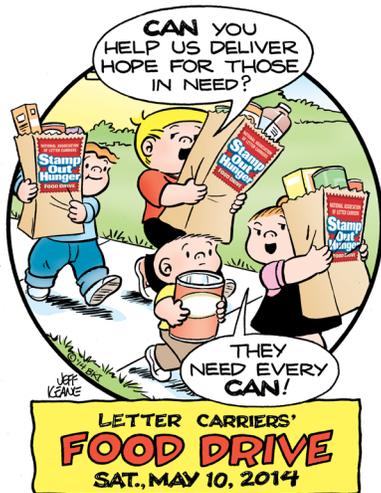
*CCA names
 are in italics.



Some pictures from last month's meeting—



Pictures courtesy of Anita Holderman,
 NALC Branch 782 Photographer.



This year for the Annual NALC Food Drive, East Brundage Station did not do as much as we have the past several years. We did NOT do bake sales, auctions, car washes, or even plan a BBQ to celebrate and motivate one another to kick start the main event on May 10.

Even though we fell short of all that, I have to tell you how **PROUD** and **HONORED** I am to work with a **GREAT** bunch of Carriers!! I heard all the whining about, “Do we *have* to deliver the cards **AND** the bags?”; or, “Can we just deliver them *all* of them on the same day?” Oh, and this one: “Who came up with these bags?!? No one uses them!”

East Brundage did NOT get enough bags and I had to short change most of all the routes for both 93307 and 93305 to be able to give all of them something. To my surprise....my fellow Carriers came to ME and **ASKED** ME for more bags!!



Gurminder Saran (93305) said, “I need more than what you gave me, I have all walking and what you gave me wasn’t enough. Can you get me more to deliver tomorrow?” *I was absolutely floored by that!!*. I didn’t think ANY-ONE would WANT to have **MORE** bags!! Then another Carrier, Joy Cordova (93305), came to me and said the same thing! When I came back from the street, Jag Singh and Sarabjit Gill (93307) also said the same. **Wow!!!!**



I called Norma Hamer and met up with her to get 200 more bags. I was able to give some to Jag and the rest to Saran.

I have to BRAG..... As I write this, there were **NO** bags left to be seen on Friday. **How AMAZING is that???**

Even though this year there was no media coverage or rally to promote our Food Drive, **THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU WHO WENT ABOVE AND BEYOND FOR A GREAT CAUSE!!**

We are VERY fortunate to have what we have and to give back to the community is an AWESOME experience and sight to see!!

MABEL BULLIS
East Brundage



Brundage Rocks!!!



How did we do???

Arvin (93203)	60
Avenal (93204)	987
Delano (93215)	3216
Lamont (93241)	412
McFarland (93250)	975
Shafter (93263)	2928
Taft (93268)	2540
Wasco (93280)	675
Downtown Station (93301)	2024
South Station (93304)	5305
East Brundage (93305/07)	8236
Hillcrest Station (93306)	8235
Dole Court (93308)	16132
Stockdale Station (93309)	12536
Camino Media (93311/13)	4380
Mojave (93501)	1700
California City (93504)	2300
Boron (93516)	277
Edwards AF Base (93523)	536
Tehachapi (93561)	1600
Trona (93562)	100
Ridgecrest (93555)	4525
TOTAL	79,679*

*Preliminary numbers...they will go up!



I want to personally thank all of my fellow employees for their help and participation in our 2014 Food Drive. I am sad to hear that our numbers appear to be down from last year.

I volunteer for this because I feel that with today's technology and resources nobody should be hungry. I have been truly blessed that I have not gone without a meal in my life due to lack of money or unfortunate circumstances. We all go through bad times in life but thankfully lack of food has not been something I have experienced.

I think that we should all be thankful for what we have because I believe we all tend to take things for granted.

I would also like to personally thank our floor supervisor, Lana Lewis, for a great job and making this Food Drive easier for me and all my fellow employees at Downtown Station. She took it upon herself to go and collect donations from Carriers so they would not be over-burdened when they got back to the station. I would hope that other supervisors would have done the same.

This is an annual joint effort and Lana showed great judgement and is great to work for and has something that can not be taught: Common Sense.

Thank you again for all who gave their efforts on both labor and management sides of this joint effort. I hope that we can strive to make future Food Drives successful. Please remember *that* the next time any of us sit down at the dinner table.

RALPH MOELLER
Downtown Station (93301)



“ I think that we should all be thankful for what we have because I believe we all tend to take things for granted.

—Ralph Moeller



On Saturday, May 10, 2014 Team Wasco came together along with the rest of our Postal family for a common goal. We want to STAMP OUT HUNGER!!!! We started off with a team breakfast to energize us, then hit the streets to collect donations from our awesome customers in support of the Griffith Ave Baptist Church. The church helps feed the community throughout the year. Thanks to the generosity of our Community, we were able to collect approximately 675 lbs. of food on Saturday and more food trickled in from our lobby customers over the counter on Monday. We are very proud to serve our community. WAY TO GO TEAM WASCO!!!!

VIVIANA M. RAMIREZ





We Did Good!!

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF LETTER CARRIERS
**Stamp
Out
Hunger**
FOOD DRIVE
SATURDAY
MAY 10, 2014



Credit for all these great pictures goes to: Mabel Bullis, Norma Hamer, Anita Holderman, and other unnamed contributors. Thank You So Much!!!

*We Did Good??
Really? Yes, REALLY!!*





At least 79,679
Pounds...*



**LETTER CARRIERS'
FOOD DRIVE
SAT., MAY 10, 2014**

**Results are still being finalized. Some offices had monetary donations and extra food still to be picked up.*

Bonita Lewis is retiring!!!



September 4, 1993 was the day that Bonita birthed her postal career. In the next twenty years, most of her time was spent delivering mail to customers who live in the 93304 area serviced by South Station. She did spend about a year and a half at East Bakersfield and Dole Court.

When she walked through the door, she—like almost everyone else—had no idea what she was getting into. She had worked at a bank, but the industry was changing as banks were being bought out all over town by bigger institutions and she didn't feel that there was too much job security. She wanted to be able to retire and not have any fears of being unemployed.

The best part of the job, in Bonita's opinion, is the time that is spent out on the street. She didn't want to be cooped up in an office all day!

She also has some strong feelings about the worst part about being a Letter Carrier. "What I don't like is when people don't control their dogs. Simple commands like COME, SIT, STAY. Or, they don't socialize them and keep them chained up in their back yard

without any people interaction. This only creates a dog that protects its property and surroundings with fear. I've had some very close calls out there with dogs and it's something that I don't wish on anyone.

It's perhaps one specific incident that was more than a "very close call" that underscores her strong feelings.

In 1998, she was bitten by a black Lab on the top of her right hand when she was delivering her route. There was nerve damage. Severed muscles have led to a pronounced loss of strength in her hand. (For perspective,

Bonita is right handed. Her right hand should be *MUCH* stronger than her left hand. When last tested, she squeezed 135 pounds with her left hand but only 25 with her right hand.) She learned to accommodate her injuries by using a nutting truck to move her mail from her case the LLV. Withdrawing trays from a deep hamper was too difficult with her hand issue.

When asked what she would miss the most after she retires, she had a typical Bonita response: "First off, all my co-workers. It's amazing how much you learn about your friends at work in the small amount of time we have in the office. South Station has a wonderful bunch of people that really care about each other. I wouldn't work at any office but South Station. I'll also miss my customers. They feel like family. Some could be described as 'quirky', but all-in-all, I still enjoy talking to them."

BUT, she won't miss a customer saying, "Oh, he won't bite...he's friendly." "Someone asked me once what dog on my route was my favorite dog. I

told them it was the one behind the fence! I do love dogs...but put them on a leash so I feel safe! I also won't miss making my lunch every day. I won't miss cleaning out the ice chest daily. I won't miss purchasing ibuprofen by the 100 tablet bottle and band-aids in the 100 variety box."

As Bonita steps out into her newest adventure, she admits that she won't be sitting around wishing she had something to do. "I have an Australian Shepherd that will be two years old in July of this year. He is currently on a Flyball team. In March of this year, he was in his first tournament. The next one will be in Santa Barbara at the end of June. I wasn't able to start any agility classes with him because they are held on Saturdays. One of my co-workers is going to join me at these classes. (Thanks, Brenda, for wanting to attend them with Tucker and me!)"

Bonita also likes gardening and plans to keep her flower beds free of weeds. "There's a few in there now, but after I retire I'm not going to have any excuse for that any more." She also anticipates that she's going to have more time to dedicate to another passion: "It will be nice to have my complete house clean at one time instead of 'just the kitchen and living room' or 'just the bathroom and bedrooms'!"

OUT THERE



HE JUST FINISHED DOG OBEDIENCE SCHOOL.

Bonita is a very sweet lady who will do anything for you and would give you the shirt off her back in a sec! She is very informative about stuff—especially her route. I hope she continues to come around to make our trips to West Coast Supply. I will miss her and her advice. Keep in Touch! *ALMA KIRBY*

I remember quite a few years ago—like when I was a PTF—and I did her route. OOPS...I made a few mistakes and she let me know about it. But, that only shows how much of a professional Carrier she is because she took pride in what she did and doing the best job for her customers. *JUDY KYOSHI*

When it was my birthday every year, Bonita would bake me a German Chocolate Cake from scratch! It was soooo, soooo good!!! I would also like to thank Bonita for being my alternate Steward for several years. It is a very thankless job, yet she was willing to do it. Enjoy those retirement years!!! *DARRYL HOLDERMAN*

The first person I met here after I transferred was Bonita. She said I would love it here and I do! She's a great "Breakfast Buddie" and a very good friend! You *WILL* be missed!! *DEBORAH HARVEY*

People who work around me seem to be getting younger and younger. Bonita grew up with the same music that I did. She also grinned if I mentioned a memory from the 50's, 60's or 70's. I'm really going to miss her feistiness. No one is going to be able to address Mike "Butt Head" Zaragoza in quite the same way on the workroom floor! It was fun listening to her talk to her "Cuz", Joe Lewis, before he retired. She and I often delivered mail by the light of the moon because we were both on the 12-hour OTDL. She took the crown as the "Iron Lady", though. My knee eventually gave out and she kept at it for awhile longer. When I finally went on the Work Assignment List, she told me that I'd never go back to the OTDL. We both remember the time that we were out on the street trying to get some mail delivered during the "PM Andy period" and it was pretty dang dark. We looked up to see "The Cavalry" coming to help get us back to the station. The person who came by told us that he had been asked to find us and see how we were doing. Found us. Saw how we were doing. And, then? Left us out there. Kind of hard to put into clean words how we reacted. If you were around her for any time at all, it became very evident that — through the years—all of her dogs were her "children". Bill Marchand (my old T-6) and I were both honored when Bonita named two of her dogs after us: "Missy Marchand" and "Basil". (I suspect that she might have named "Chunker" after me, too.) I've jokingly told Bonita that she's probably going to wind up on the porch in a rocking chair with an enhanced, silly grin watching the Letter Carrier walking through her neighborhood. Could happen... *BASIL ZUNIGA*

OUT THERE



Bonita Lewis is retiring!!!

2014 Battle of the Stations

Men's Team 1st Place NO NEED 4 NAME

Alex Dang	541
Erik Plante	486
James Flores	463
John Hardin	403
	1,893

Women's Team 1st Place GUTTER GALS

Lou Gutierrez	506
Valerie Tweedy	500
Beca Gomez	378
Teresa Guitierrez	356
	1,740

Co-Ed 1st Place

DOLE COURT STRIKERS

Antonio Avery	661
Ed Vitson	553
Rodel Pangaldan	410
Kim Vines	314
	1,938



The Best Averages:

Top Male:	Antonio Avery	661
Top Female:	Lou Gutierrez	506

FIREBALL

Shari Sharp	493
Joanna Weeks	458
Norma Hamer	418
Maria Vlenzuela	225
	1,594

GALS FROM SOUTH

Vi Garcia	383
Kellie Martinez	343
Alma Kirby	302
Darlene Medina	296
	1,324

BALL BANGERS

Jennifer Hernandez	473
Teresa Garcia	371
Cindy Jimenez	365
Sabrina Bonilla	291
	1,500

STRIKE A LICIOUS

Martha Leyva	378
Yesonia Vasquez	332
Dahlia Meza	327
Teresa Suarez	256
	1,293

UNACCOUNTABLES

Candace Brown	392
Stacey Adams	360
Lisa Sanchez	342
Beth Morrison	279
	1,373

1ST CLASS DIVAS

Sandra Rios	315
Angie Garcia	290
Maureen Purcell	285
Margie Cruz	255
	1,145

SOUTHERN BELLES

Denise Dilley	406
Marci Rodriguez	345
Debra Harvey	322
Anita Holderman	276
	1,349

There
were no
losers!



EX-PINDABLES

John Ortega	528
Joe Dangler	487
Andrew Garcia	423
Ruben Gonzales	<u>377</u>
	1,815

TOMMY AND HIS BALLS OF FURY

John Rosso	501
Tommy Herrera	469
Neil Kramer	437
Darryl Holderman	<u>372</u>
	1,779

THE LEFTOVERS

Jeff Harrington	515
Les Shaw	420
Pedro Olvera	348
Fernando Formeloza	<u>229</u>
	1,512

10 PIN MAFIA

Ronnie Mireles	463
Pam Smith	443
Roel Alaniz	432
Bernadine Maestas	<u>388</u>
	1,726

PRESTIGE WORLDWIDE

Kevin Vandiver	432
Diane Ryder	417
Glenn Ryder	412
Aaron Witherspoon	<u>356</u>
	1,617

OL SCHOOL HUZTLE

Kamal Singh	443
Henry Davis	417
Jason Johnson	410
Elvia R	<u>219</u>
	1,490

P.O. CHARROS

Kimmi Gardea	381
Cesar Rivera	373
Paul Greenfield	342
Sonia Camacho	<u>312</u>
	1,408

TOM & THE STRAY CATS

Annette Ortega	400
Judy Kiyoshi	380
Mychal Gonzales	335
Sheila Wiley	<u>175</u>
	1,290

TOILET BOWLERS

Bill Lewis	582
Rob Brown	323
Beth Den Beeman	203
Maryann Reddig	<u>180</u>
	1,288

TRIPLE XXX RATED

Dexter Pabro	440
Elton Morse	336
Stephanie Gomez	248
Kat Maxwell	<u>246</u>
	1,270

HILLCREST ANNEX

Luke Lopez	454
Rich Jamison	279
Mona Rener	268
Vanessa DeLuna	<u>257</u>
	1,258

DICK AND BLOUSES

Richard Romero	351
Jessica Felix	316
Chalene Cantu	302
Tatia Boone	<u>287</u>
	1,256

LUCKY STRIKES

Todd Whitson	427
Sara Owens	349
Luis Acosta	256
Christina Guajardo	<u>221</u>
	1,253

BOWLING BEASTS

David Renner	380
Sandra Alvarez	297
Manny Chavez	293
Jazmine Martinez	<u>269</u>
	1,239

BALLS OF THUNDER

Israel Cedillos	363
Carmen Vizzard	325
Raul Alvarez	255
Melissa Johnson	<u>254</u>
	1,197

3 PINS/A STRIKE

Francisco Herrera	453
Lorena Herrera	199
Faviola Estrada	183
Christina Garcia	<u>161</u>
	996



There is already talk about getting ready for next year...

THE UNINVITED

Serena Ornelas	***
Gracie Silva	***
Cindy DeLeon	***
Jorge Vaquera	***

CAMINO PARTY BOYS

Everet Jennings	***
Marty Espinoza	***
Ray Moya	***
Mike Meza	***

McFARLAND BOWLERS

Robert Campos	***
Ron Anaya	***
Bonnie Whitbey	***
Daniel Anaya	***

We apologize. Somehow the scores for three teams didn't make it to the info which was provided to us by the bowling alley.

We are so sorry!!!



“One of the advantages bowling has over golf is that you seldom lose a bowling ball.” — Don Carter



Thank you Anita Holderman and Michelle Puzzo for providing such great pictures of this great event! **2014 Battle of the Stations**



Well another year has passed and we've had another successful bowling tournament!! I let Roel and Denise change it up a bit this year, for my schedule was hectic this time.



We are so grateful for all the help that we received in putting this "2014 Battle of The Stations Tournament" together. Roel Alaniz and Denise Dilley did a great job in doing all that they had to do!



Some other helpful hands were the Social Recreation Committee's Carmen, Emma and Frank. Thanks also to Anita Holderman, Basil Zuniga, and Michelle Puzzo. Denise signed all the teams up and she did a Great Job!!

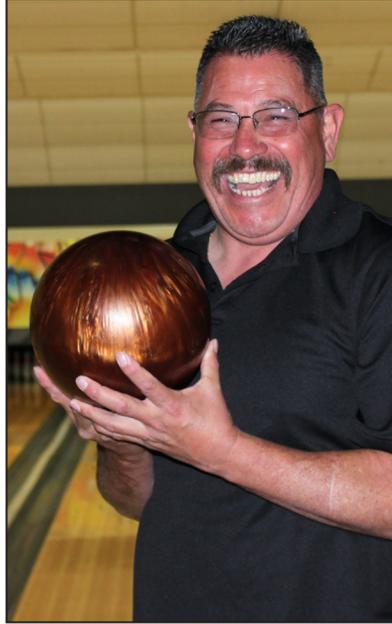


We hope everyone had a Blast and is looking forward to next year!!! Until then...

Sincerely,
RALPH RAMIREZ



Bowling Tourney



There were no losers!



HILLCREST HAPPENINGS

I want to start this off congratulating Deryck Alemao, Robin Lister, and Rami Shergill and to all the others who made regular in the last couple of months! It was a long time coming. Deryck Alemao now has route 604, and Rami Shergill has route 606. We lost Robin to E.B. and we miss her and wish her good luck.



We were well represented in the bowling tournament this year. Our women's team took 1st place with "Gutter Gals" Lou Gutierrez, Teresa Gutierrez, Rebecca Gomez, and Valerie Tweedy. Lou Gutierrez also got Women's High Bowler. Congratulations to you!



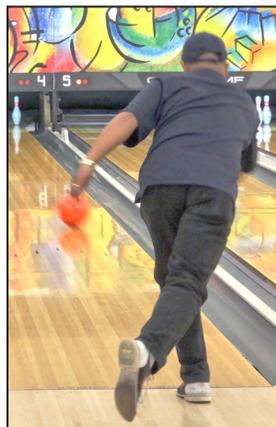
The "Ten Pin Mafia" of Roel Alaniz, Ronnie Mireles, Bernadine Maestas, and Pam Smith) took 2nd place in the Co-ed Division.

"Rener's Team" which consisted of David Rener, Jazmin Martinez, Emanuel Chavez and Sandra Alvarez rounded out the Hillcrest contingent.

A good time was had by all!

Happy Easter to All!

PAM SMITH
93306 Shop Steward



Pages 16 and 17 were originally published in the April 2014 newsletter. I felt they belonged here...

Editor-guy

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
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 Organ 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
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
Shared Services (Retirees Info!!!)	1-877-477-3273

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 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	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.diabetis.org
YOUR Personal Health Record	http://www.nalc.org/depart.hbp
Asthma Information Center	http://www.ama.assn.org/special/asthma
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.

OUT THERE



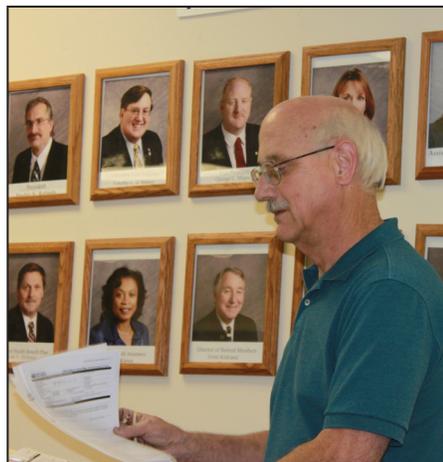
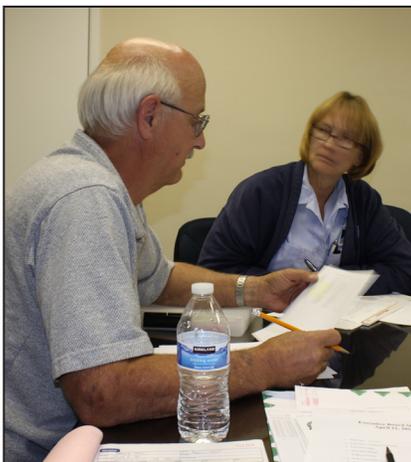
"IS IT HOT IN HERE, OR IS IT JUST ME?"

**Mike is so nice,
His grievances precise!
But he likes the room temperature,
As cold as ICE !**

**We attend the Steward meeting,
On time, if you please!
Just turn off the A/C,
President Mike, "Mister Freeze !!"**

by Mark Ramirez
NALC HBP Representative (poet at large)
"Golden Empire Merged Branch 782"

Some pictures of Mike presiding at different meetings



Pix by Anita Holderman, Branch 782 Photographer.

from the editor-guy

We—Letter Carriers—get such mixed messages. On the one hand, we're told what a great job we do. But, if we listen to the gloom and doom message that the USPS is pounding at the media, "we" suck and we are losing billions of dollars.

I want to offer a view written by David C. Yao, an APWU member. This info was sent to me by Jamie Partridge who is a retired Letter Carrier.

In a May 9, 2014 press release, the Postal Service issued another quarterly press release turning an operating profit (of \$261 million) into a loss. The supposed loss, an accounting fiction, was caused entirely by the 2006 law which generates a long-term loan to the Federal treasury, under the guise of "pre-funding" employee benefits.

In fact, the Postal Service is making a \$1 billion operating profit in the first six months of its fiscal year. In their own press release in response, the National Association of Letter Carriers pointed out that the Postal Service has been turning an operating profit since October of 2012.

But the USPS release included this apparent misstatement: "revenue... was up \$379 million over the same period last year — the third straight quarter of revenue increase," said Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer Patrick Donahoe" (underlining added).

The Postal Service has actually been reporting revenue increases for five straight quarters, dating back to January 1, 2013. So why is Postmaster General Donahoe minimizing that winning streak? Perhaps someone in Postal HQ's statistics department was snoozing that day.

But there is a more disturbing explanation, that is consistent with the Postal Service's "doom and gloom" reporting of its finances.

Over the last few years, faced with falling revenue, postal management has closed post offices, slashed rural office hours, sold historic buildings, cut jobs, and consolidated processing plants. It continues to seek closings and service cuts, such as eliminating Saturday delivery; but some of these moves have been delayed or curtailed by pushback from the public, from employees, and from legislators.

More recently however, postal finances have improved. Cash on hand increased from \$2.3 billion to \$3.7 billion over the last two quarters. Despite that, postal management has continued its campaign to impose austerity on the public (e.g., seeking to end door-to-door delivery), and its employees (such as current efforts to privatize its trucking arm and shift retail work to Staples). Its biggest weapon has been the persistent "We're Losing Billions" message.

So it appears more than suspicious that the PMG's press release minimizes postal management's own reports of increasing revenue over the past five quarters.

The persistent and misleading press releases about losses in the billions has also allowed right-wing commentators to paint a picture of the Postal Service as a failing business, even going so far as to call for privatization. But more importantly, they have the effect of drumming into the public, as well as employees, that drastic measures are called for, and there is no use in resisting.

In fact, postal reform *is* needed. But, not the slash-and-burn kind. Postmaster General Donahoe is apparently marching to the tune of big mailers, who want a streamlined network of postal facilities, without the costs imposed by the postal mandate of prompt and efficient universal service.

A postal management that took social values to heart, instead of corporate ones, would look to strengthen the Postal Service, not shrink it. Postal banking, for example, with a long history here and overseas, could provide valuable financial services to underserved areas and populations, as well as generate substantial revenue.

The U.S. government (or more specifically, a lame-duck Congress) is to blame for the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006, which required that the Postal Service pump over \$55 billion into a federal treasury account—ostensibly for future retiree benefits—for the purpose of "pre-funding".

A history of pre-funding on savethepostoffice.com cites an analysis by the Inspector General of the USPS OIG: "The aggressive payment schedule appears to have been set based on byzantine 'budget scoring' considerations rather than actuarial assumptions or an evaluation of the Postal service's ability to make the payments." In other words, pumping money into the federal budget was the motivator, not future needs, and was made regardless of USPS ability to pay.

So the USPS cannot pay the \$5.5 billion per year now, previous payments having drained its credit line – so, what? No actual money changes hands, but it still counts as an asset in the federal budget, and it still counts as a debt in the postal budget. And thus, the phony losses that are reported by the postal press releases, and dutifully, if misleadingly, parroted by the media.

Equally important is that Congress does not want to eliminate the unneeded pre-funding requirement, in this climate of budget fights. But what would be the harm in ignoring the annual \$5.5 billion dollar demand, "defaulting" as the Postal Service has done for several years, and carrying on as usual? Well, the harm is that this fanciful debt is being used as a battering ram to fool the public into thinking that postal finances are in such bad shape that a drastic overhaul is needed, as Representative Darrell Issa—the postal Voldemort—has been attempting to do.



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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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www.782nalc.com**

Rick Plummer, Webmaster



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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

General Meeting Tuesday May 27, 2014 7:00 p.m.

Branch 782 Office
2628 "F" Street
Bakersfield, California

Congratulations, Bonita Lewis!!! Enjoy a long and healthy Retirement!!!



August 2013, Melissa Leonard - \$50; September 2013, Veronica Rugno - \$100; October 2013, Vernon Jackson - \$150; November 2013, Soledad Arcila - \$200; December 2013, Danny Lujan - \$250; January 2014, Connie White - \$300; February 2014 - Ricarte Burgos - \$350; March 2014 - \$400; and April 2014, Alfred Martinez - \$450

Each of these folks have had the chance to win the Branch 782 General Meeting drawing. If they would have been present, they would have won "the pot".

Because they weren't present, the amount has grown by \$50 each month. Now—if **you** are at the meeting—you have the chance (*) to win:

\$500

*The fine print: To win the money, you have to be present at the meeting! So...can YOU say, "Make my day! Show me the \$\$!?" There is a \$500 cap.