

# National Association of Letter Carriers

## Branch 782

# E.A. Baker Union Update



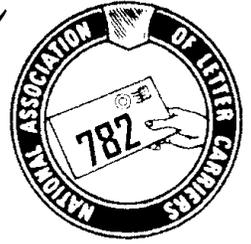
ARVIN  
CALIFORNIA CITY  
McFARLAND  
TAFT

AVENAL  
DELANO  
MOJAVE  
TEHACHAPI

BAKERSFIELD  
EDWARDS AFB  
RIDGECREST  
TRONA

BORON  
LAMONT  
SHAFTER  
WASCO

**CHARTERED FEBRUARY 25, 1901**

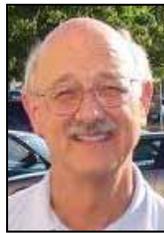


NUMBER 5

MAY 2015

at the

# Mike:



We started this year's Food Drive with a few obstacles that we had to overcome. Campbell's soup was unable to sponsor the cost of printing the Food Drive postcards and the sponsor who took over cancelled at practically the last minute. And? We were still able to collect over

# 116,000 Pounds!!

The Branch 782 membership stepped up and approved covering the cost of printing the 330,000 cards that we would deliver to promote this project. We were very fortunate to have the Branch reimbursed for a large portion of the cost by donations from Carriers, family members and even some Postal managers.

It turned out that the Branch ended up having enough postcards that we were able to give Porterville Branch 1469 enough cards for their Branch.

In Bakersfield, we collaborated with the two food banks: Golden Empire Gleaners and Community Action Partnership of Kern.

However, we discovered that we would be faced by some more last-minute obstacles.

During the early morning hours of the Food Drive day, the Gleaners were vandalized when someone cut

*Continued on next page...*

the power cables to their facilities and stripped the copper wire. This left the Gleaners without any power. They lost *all* of the food they had in their refrigerators!

Despite this crisis, Jim Wheeler (Executive director of the Gleaners) and Pam Lindaman (Operations Director) dealt with the vandalism. And, then? They still managed to make sure the food at the stations was collected.

***Despite little media focus, we collected over 30,000 more pounds than last year!***

The success was the direct result of a collaborative effort by many Union members and their families throughout the District and Branch 782.

In case you didn't know, planning for the Food Drive started months ago. This was part of the reason that we were able to be successful. And, we also had some help along the way.



Van Nuys NALC Branch 2462 President Janette Dolabson graciously offered Branch 782 pre-printed Food Drive paper bags if we could pick them up. Shari Sharp, Norma Hamer, Robert Hamer (Norma's husband) and I drove to Van Nuys where we loaded our vehicles—plus a horse trailer—with 97,000 grocery bags!

This was the first year we were able to use paper bags and it appears it was a contributing factor in the increase in food donated this year.

*Again, even though we received little coverage by the local media, the total for this year's Food Drive was over 116,000 pounds for Kern County residents!*

(If you add up the published totals, you may find that the numbers add up to a little less than 116,000 pounds. However, the published numbers don't take into account the fact that the donated \$385 was "converted" into additional credits. Additionally, food also trickled into units in the days after the Food Drive. These additional pounds of food are also considered part of the food generated during the largest one day food drive in the United States!)

I do want to thank Shop Stewards Shari Sharp and Norma Hamer for their hard work and dedication as Food Drive coordinators again this year!

Shari also provided hot dogs at Dole Court on the day of the Food Drive and even purchased gift cards for a drawing.

## There was a bit of "prep" work...



Those 97,000 bags didn't appear by magic. In a horse trailer donated by Robert and Norma Hamer, the bags were hauled on April 21 from Van Nuys by NALC Branch 782 President Mike Towery, Branch 782 Food Drive Coordinator Shari Sharp, and Robert & Norma Hamer.



**Thank you!**

**Community Action Partnership of Kern and the Golden Empire Gleaners thank the National Association of Letter Carriers and our Local Giving Community, who provided us with 78,488 lbs. of food for the hungry as a result of the 2015 "Stamp Out Hunger" Food Drive. This represents an increase of 22,934 lbs. over the 55,554 lbs. collected in the 2014 effort.**

Thanks to those who set nonperishable food items by their mailboxes on May 9, and especially to the Letter Carriers who brought the food to us:  
*Year after year, you are helping to "Stamp Out Hunger" in Kern County.*

Courtesy of the May 14, 2015 *Bakersfield Californian*

I would also like to thank Dole Court Carrier Teresa Ortega (who also organizes our Branch picnics each year). She spent her day off helping sort the food at Dole Court. Teresa not only had her son help, but she also had her daughter bake cupcakes for all the Carriers who helped.

day to pick up the bags for her Carriers. (The bags we sent through the Postal Service did not arrive in Ridgecrest...)

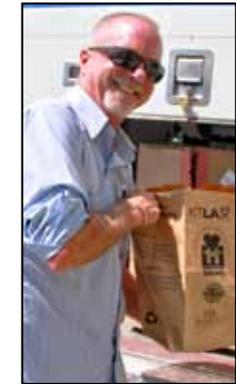
MIKE TOWERY  
NALC Branch 782 President

A special thanks to Branch 782 Retirees Dicie Wilder and Kim Gerdes; and, also, Kim's grandson for helping out sorting the food. Thanks to Shop Steward Paul Salazar for spending his day off helping at Dole Court. A special thanks to Rural Route Carriers Joann Weeks and Priscilla Robertson for their help. Dole Court station manager Erica Tovar and her daughter also helped sort the food.

I want to thank *all* Letter Carriers for their help in collecting the food and all Carriers, supervisors and managers who assisted sorting the food as it arrived at the stations.

It is amazing what can actually be accomplished when we all work together! **THAT** is the foundation for Unionism!!!

In closing, I want to offer my heartfelt thanks to Ridgecrest Shop Steward Lynnel Howell for doing such an outstanding job in everything that she does! She even drove to meet me in Tehachapi two days before the Food Drive

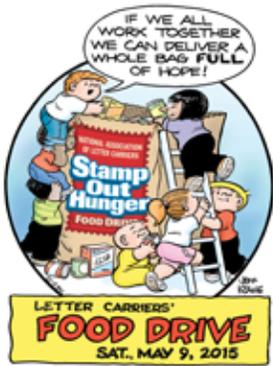


I LOVE MY MOM AND MY DAD!! (No, this is not a typo.)

I thank them for shaping me into the person that I am. With the 2015 NALC Food Drive upon us as I write this, I am more thankful for them every day. *THEY* instilled in me the joy that comes with being able to help people in need!

Too often, each one of us hears about people who need help with simple everyday life issues—like having enough food to eat...

I feel sad for Carriers who seem to complain every year when the Food Drive comes around. I guess I can assume that they have never been on the receiving end of not being able to have any food to eat. The amount of time, the extra work that so many of us put in—and the behind the scenes efforts that go into every year's Food Drive—is invested so that *each and every* Letter Carrier can give back to the community.



Even though I am often questioned about, “Do we **REALLY** need to deliver the Food Drive cards? Do we **REALLY** need to deliver the bags? Do we **REALLY** need to pick up the food?” I just have to step back and say, “Yes. It’s mail. Deliver it!”

As I sit and write this article, I am *truly* saddened to say that this is the *very* first year in my entire career that I have not participated in this event since I became a “Mail Lady”. I will be traveling out of state to go see my daughter graduate from college.

**HONESTLY**, I *truly* enjoy going around and picking up the food that the community has so graciously donated to the unfortunate.

My hope for individuals who seem to complain about this once a year event is that they actually step back and take a look at the big picture. We are all approached—sometimes every day,—by somebody or some organization asking for money. Too often, most of us don’t have any “extra” money to donate.

But? We can always put forth a little bit of labor to help out one another. It doesn’t cost us anything. We invest just a little bit of our time and our strength and our willingness to care.

**THAT** is what the NALC Food Drive is all about: We pick up food donated by our customers all over the country to help the less fortunate!!!!

As I close this out, I want to thank *EACH AND EVERY* Letter Carrier—City and Rural—for all the extra effort that you put into this Food Drive!! **WITHOUT EACH OF YOU, THERE WOULD BE NO FOOD DRIVE.** We would never have been able to collect over 73 million pounds of food last year...or the over one billion and a half pounds of food since we became involved in this mission!

I also want to thank Shari Sharp, Mike Towery, Robert Hamer, and all the Coordinators for all of your absolutely extraordinary behind the scenes help! Some folks may take it for granted. I don’t.

NORMA HAMER  
(Blessed to be)

Food Drive Coordinator Assistant

## How did we do???

|                           |       |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Arvin (93203)             | 275   |
| Avenal (93204)            | 2100  |
| Delano (93215)            | 2594  |
| Lamont (93241)            | 510   |
| McFarland (93250)         | 325   |
| Shafter (93263)           | 5146  |
| Taft (93268)              | 1600  |
| Wasco (93280)             | 3614  |
| Downtown Station (93301)  | 2381  |
| South Station (93304)     | 9417  |
| East Brundage (93305/07)  | 10955 |
| Hillcrest Station (93306) | 11106 |
| Dole Court (93308)        | 24107 |
| Stockdale Station (93309) | 13943 |
| Camino Media (93311/13)   | 6194  |
| Mojave (93501)            | 1395  |
| California City (93504)   | 2600  |
| Boron (93516)             | 850   |
| Edwards AF Base (93523)   | 1072  |
| Tehachapi (93561)         | 1200  |
| Trona (93562)             | 1550  |
| Ridgecrest (93555)        | 12600 |

**TOTAL 115354\***

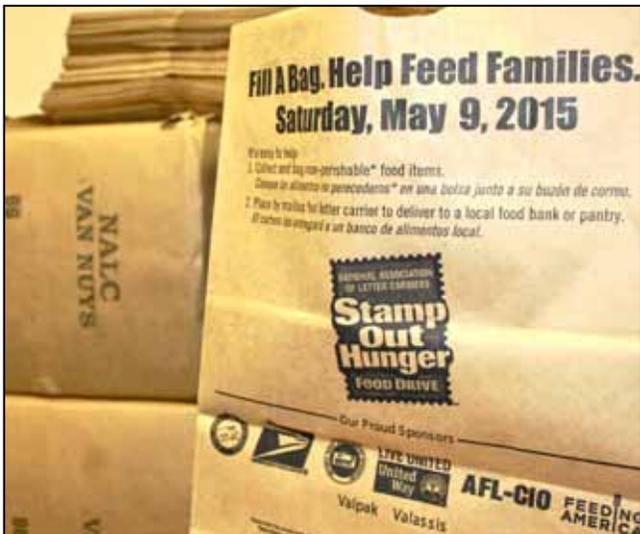
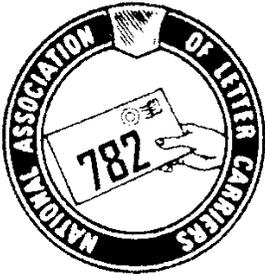
\* Monetary donations and Monday food which trickled in helped to increase the total amount of food which was generated.



# *Because of YOU...*



# *Over 116,000 Pounds!!*



Last year, at the end of the NALC Food Drive, I wrote a little article about how we should all be thankful for what we have and not take a routine meal for granted. This year, I would like to spend a moment on a few more thoughts. Let me point out that I have never gone hungry or been in a situation that has caused me to go without a meal. I do not wish this on anyone.

There are a lot of great causes out there. It is almost impossible to find someone who hasn't suffered the loss of a family member or friend to cancer. Unfortunately, we are all people with limited means. When it comes to a cause or a charity that you feel strong about, it is time to pick and choose. Donations to food charities has opened my eyes and it has become very important to me.

Many times, I have paid for a sandwich for a homeless person or given gift cards from fast food establishments. I have yet to have someone in need turn down a meal when I offered.

I am trying very hard not to be judgemental of others. Some people may view the recipients of my gifts as "bums, addicts or just plain lazy". Though some of these judgements may be accurate, I feel it is not up to me to decide that. My wife taught me to give in good faith and what they do with it is out of my control. If you think about it, the same goes for church tithing. You give in good faith but after that it is someone else who decides what that is used for.

These last few years have been hard for me and my family. I am sure many of you have dealt with some or all of the same situations that we have; and, the plain fact is that life is hard. We, like so many others have experienced family members returning to live with us and depending on our support, the death of a parent, and one recent issue that has hopefully been resolved...

You read in the paper about layoffs and people losing their jobs and you think, "That's terrible." Like anyone else, you just don't think much about it and you go about life. Until a layoff crashes into *YOUR* life...

My wife has 25 years of work experience. In November, she was told by a very large corporate healthcare group that she was not good enough for them and they were letting her go. So, one day everything is finally wonderful and we are finally putting away money and planning out our retirement; and, the next minute, our livelihood was ripped away. For seven months, we were literally counting every dollar and were on an extremely tight budget. There were many tough choices we had to make.

After being patient—and my wife being persistent—we

were finally rewarded by her gaining employment two weeks ago. Now comes the "Lets Catch Up" mode. Instead of planning our retirement, our first order of business is to plan better in the event should this ever happen again.

(Be patient I am about to tie all this together.) I am not writing about this to inform everyone of our misfortune, but the exact opposite. ***Be thankful for what you have and don't take it for granted.*** The

enormous amount of stress taken off our shoulders was amazing from the very moment my wife got the call that she had been selected for employment. I am thankful that we still had food, although our shopping budgets were tight. I am thankful that because of the NALC, I will not be in that position. Please ***DO NOT*** take your union for granted. My wife and I witnessed first hand that big corporations are all about saving a dollar and your lack of employment really doesn't matter to them.

We also witnessed that age discrimination is alive and well. With my wife's experience, there is no way she should have been out of the job market at all! Perhaps, this situation was a blessing for us. We are blessed and are extremely thankful. We believe that all things happen for a reason.

On a separate issue, I also want to say that change is hard — whether good or bad. It is just human nature. I recently made a very tough choice to leave my route at Bakersfield's Downtown station. It has been my route for fifteen years and Downtown has been "home" to me for over twenty-six years. My choice was purely a case of my body telling me I just couldn't do the same route anymore. But, it was the right choice!

I miss the people that I worked with for so long and I miss my old customers. All this happened to me as we were going through this very tough time in our life and the decision was one of the toughest career choices I have been faced with. I want to thank everybody at Downtown that I worked with for so long for being a part of my life. I want to thank my postal union for being there and working hard so I don't have to keep looking over my shoulder just because I am 55. I want to thank everyone at Dole Court who has been absolutely wonderful in making me feel like one of their own from Day One. And I would also like to thank Shari Sharp for the awesome job she does with the Food Drive every year!

Now that I have been rather long winded I will sum this all up with, "Be thankful. Thanksgiving is not just one day a year!"

RALPH MOELLER



Message received Sunday, May 10, 2015...

# Fast Track. It Means Lost Jobs!

By John Beaumont, President  
California State Association of Letter Carriers

Congress and the President are currently pushing expanding unregulated trade deals with a new, and much larger, trade agreement known as The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

TPP being referred to as “NAFTA on steroids”, would be the largest international trade deal in history with major economic and environmental consequences both here in California as well as across the entire nation. What is one of the most distressing facts about TPP is that the exact details of this agreement are being negotiate behind closed doors in total secrecy.

This agreement is being negotiated with demands from other trading partners for deregulation, privatization, tax breaks and other financial advantages for Big Business while shrinking workers’ rights and job protections in the name of “labor flexibility.” Trading partners included in TPP are: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, Vietnam and Japan.

Both the President and Congress have stated “That this agreement creates jobs here at home, protects the environment, and ensures safe imports”. Twenty years ago the exact statement was made about NAFTA and we all know now how that turned out!

Both Democrats and Republicans in Congress are being pushed by wealthy corporate interests looking for more power and less oversight on global trade agreements. To accomplish this goal they need to Fast Track this legislation quickly through both the House and Senate. This process allows a vote to be taken on this legislation with very limited debate and without allowing amendments. Fast track legislation is not the way for a democracy to operate. It short cuts our representation in DC.

Please call 202-224-3121 today and ask to speak with Senator Feinstein’s office. Let the Senator know you would like her support for working families and oppose S.1900, Fast Track legislation.



After you call Senator Feinstein it is very important you also call your individual member of the House of Representatives at 855-712-8441 and ask your representative to also support working families and oppose H.R. 3830, Fast Track legislation.

We need your help to call today! This legislation could be introduced for a vote congress at any time.

Information cited from sources and articles from: NALC, AFL-CIO, California State Federation of Labor, Former US Secretary of labor Robert Reich, US Senator Elizabeth Warren (Massachusetts)

Message received Tuesday, May 12, 2015...

## Dear Branch Presidents, NBA, Branch and State Officers, CDLs, and Activists:

The Associated Press reported just a few minutes ago on the first positive action in our long battle to oppose allowing the President to have Fast Track Authority. While this is a major set-back, the President and Senate Majority leader McConnell (yes, they are working together) will now attempt to pick off Senator Wyden and as many Dems as possible to reach 60 votes — possibly by offering to package Fast Track with Trade Adjustment Assistance and the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). We must increase the calls into Senator Feinstein’s office to keep the pressure on her to oppose Fast Track Authority!



In Unionism,

JOHN BEAUMONT  
CSALC President

# Johnny on the Spot



## House of Reps Investigate USPS for Possible Unlawful Activity

An influential committee within the US Congress is investigating the US Postal Service over its competitive parcels business.

The Oversight and Government Reform Committee in the House of Representatives has written to Postmaster General Megan Brennan demanding she respond to concerns about the possibility that the federal agency has been using its monopoly mail products to support its activities in the competitive parcels industry.

While regulators have said in recent months that USPS is in compliance, House Republicans said success seen in the Postal Service package business have heightened their concerns about how compliance is measured and controlled.

Under US postal law, the Postal Service has to ensure that any services it runs in competition with the private sector are profitable, to the extent that it is not seen to be gaining a competitive advantage in the industry because it also has a monopoly on services like First Class Mail.

USPS has to bring in enough revenue from its competitive products to cover all their costs, as well as a portion of overall USPS overheads — institutional costs — to show that the services are not cross-subsidised.

At the end of March 2015, regulators at the Postal Regulatory Commission concluded that in 2014 USPS did comply with these requirements for all services except two international money transfer services.

USPS brought in \$15.3bn in revenue from its competitive products list in the 12 months up to the end of September 2014, with costs for running those services put at \$11.2bn.

## Concerns

However, the Republican-led Oversight Committee said this week that it was concerned because competitive products now generate 22.5% of all USPS revenue, “more than double the percentage in 2008”, because traditional mail volumes have declined dramatically while e-commerce has been propelling parcel volume growth.

The Committee, which is led by a Party that believes in small government and reducing federal interference in private markets, said recent USPS package growth had provided a “much-needed financial bright spot” for the federal agency.

But Chairman Jason Chaffetz said that growth in competitive products’ revenue in recent years meant regulatory controls on cross-subsidisation had become more important than when the current controls were brought into law in 2006.

“Opportunities for unlawful cross-subsidisation exist in a number of areas,” Chaffetz wrote to Brennan. “In fact, some of the Postal Service’s actions and public statements have heightened the Committee’s concerns about cross-subsidisation.”

The Committee chairman pointed to a statement within the USPS strategy for reducing the size of its mail processing network, which suggested that cutting operating costs would free up investment to boost the package business.

Chaffetz has given USPS a little under two weeks to provide his committee with information competitive products revenue, assets, performance and related matters from 2008 to 2014.

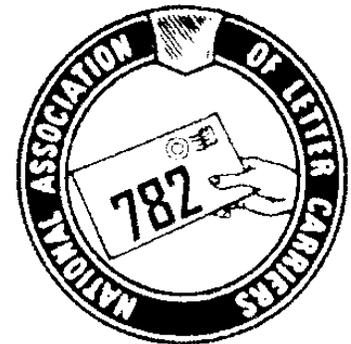
The Committee wants to know plans on how costs will be attributed to the major vehicle fleet renewal being planned by the Postal Service.

And, it wants detailed explanations on how the Postal Service calculates its costs for competitive services, and why “cost attribution, as a percentage of total costs, has declined” since the last major postal act was passed by Congress in 2006.

The 2015 Food Drive has come and gone again. The results are trickling in but it appears that this year’s event is going to surpass last year’s totals. Every station in Bakersfield beat last year’s totals. Bakersfield 2014 Total 55,000 lbs. 2015 Total @80,000 lbs. The AO’s also did a great job collecting over 37 thousand pounds of food. Thanks to all who participated.

Respectfully,

JOHN ORTEGA  
Branch 782 Vice-President



# Minutes of the April 2015 General Meeting

The regular meeting of Branch 782 was called to order by President, Mike Towery at 7:00 p.m. on the 28th day of April, 2015 at the branch office, Bakersfield. The flag salute was led by Sgt. at Arms, Jerry Patterson. All members of the Executive Board were present. The stewards were present from Arvin, Avenal, Brundage, Delano, Downtown, East Bakersfield, Hillcrest, Lamont, Oildale, Shafter, South, and Stockdale. Also present was Newsletter Editor, Basil Zuniga; S.A.N.E., Fred Acedo; Webmaster, Rick Plummer; Photographer, Anita Holderman; Asst. Treasurer, Debbie Guillet; OWCP Rep., Rick Gerdes and Frank Martinez of the Social and Recreation Committee. The minutes of the March 24, 2015 were accepted as read. A correction was noted in the newsletter minutes that the drawing was for \$500.00.

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Applications were received from Marilu Rivera, Crystal Lopez, Sarah Figweidd, Albert Kim, Joaquin Samaro, Jacob Coronado, Jennie Artiaga, Rockey Hooser and Daniel Villalpaudo.

**REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES:** Basil Zuniga reported that newsletter got folded he also discussed a program from Austin, Texas in which carriers are being put on special street supervision for not making management expectations. Frank Martinez reported that he was not allowed to attend the Social and Recreation Committee meeting, but that he did contract for Dodgers vs. Padres tickets on May 24th at 1:10 p.m. Molly Biggar reported that 3 books were sold at the Retiree Dinner. There are 1195 books remaining to sell, 198 needs to be sold to break even.

**GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:** Mike Towery thanked Lois Miller for stepping up to make the arrangements for the Retiree Dinner. He also thanked Frank Thomasy, John Ortega, Kim Gerdes, Molly Biggar, Anita Holderman, Rick Plummer and Basil Zuniga for helping to make the night a success. John Ortega reported that the adjustments are done in the 93307 zip code. Camino Media adjustments will be done in two weeks. He reminded members that even if their zone is not being adjusted

this time, it may be, and that the work load/work hours reported should be posted everyday at the station. He also reported that routes are being added to some zones. Mike Towery discussed a meeting he attended with the Postmasters of the AO's regarding the new management program to track carriers. Mike then thanked Shari Sharp, Norma and Robert Hamer for driving to Van Nuys to pick up Food Drive bags and then delivering them. Jerry Patterson discussed the inventory being completed by the Trustees. Progress is being made. Mike Towery presented membership pins to members at the meeting who have more than 25 consecutive years in the union. John Ortega then presented a pin to Mike for more than 40 years in the union. Rick Plummer reminded members to check out the web version of the newsletter; there are lots of great photos thanks to Anita Holderman.

Mike Towery asked Shari Sharp to let the members know the schedule for delivery of the Food Drive cards and bags. Shari asked that the cards be delivered on Wednesday, May 6, the bags on Thursday, May 7 and any leftovers to be delivered on Friday. Mike reported that Shari and Norma went to the local TV stations to try to get coverage of the Food Drive.

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Anita Holderman reported that the income for April is \$12,457.89

## OUT THERE



N.A.L.C. BR. 782 - BAKERSFIELD, CA.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Molly Biggar reported for February 2014:

|                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$67,627.36 |
| Dues & Income     | \$11,831.88 |
| Interest Income   | \$0.00      |
| Total Balance     | \$79,459.24 |
| Expenses          | \$10,747.86 |
| Ending Balance    | \$68,711.38 |

The General Meeting Drawing for \$500.00 would have been won by Roy Rosales, if he had been present.

There were 36 members present.

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

KIM GERDES

NALC Branch 782 Recording Secretary

The Food Drive Card 50/50 Drawing was won by Lois Miller.

## Non-Member List March 2015\*

### Downtown Station

S. Kirby  
J. Cruz  
*D. Zuniga*

### South Station

**100% UNION!!!**

### Brundage/E. Bakersfield

D. Kinglee

### Hillcrest

**100% UNION!!!**

### Dole Court

D. Morris  
S. Hancock

### Stockdale

J. Oh  
*M. Martinez*

### Camino Media

*C. Rodriguez*

### Arvin

**100% UNION!!!**

### Avenal

J.A. McColloch

### California City

*S. T. Ivory*

### Delano

L.A. Campos  
C.V. Quebral  
*D. Barreto*

### Lamont

**100% UNION!!!**

### Ridgecrest

S. P. Pierce  
G.D. Weaver

### Shafter

M. D. Voights  
L. M. New

### Taft

*A. Veach*  
B. M. Krier  
K. J. Hughes

### Tehachapi

B.C. DenBeemen  
C.E. Rosales

### Trona

**100% UNION!!!**

### Wasco

**100% UNION!!!**

\*CCA names are  
in italics.



**Could  
YOU  
Really  
Win  
\$500?**

Each and EVERY month, Branch 782 sponsors a drawing to encourage **YOU** to come to our Meeting\*. There was no winner in April...

**AND THE POINT IS?**

**YOU** really do have a chance to win \$500 on May 26!! ! Be there!

\*The fine print: *TO WIN THE MONEY YOU HAVE TO BE PRESENT WHEN YOUR NAME IS DRAWN!*

# MEMORIAL DAY - 2015



## William Perez

January 29, 1948 — May 16, 2014

### *Stars and Stripes*

The Stars and Stripes,  
they flew forever  
Always in his heart.  
He was loyal to his nation  
And bravely did his part.  
Always thinking of his brother  
Ever in his mind.  
He stood for love of country  
And most of all, mankind.  
Now gazing down with his Master  
Through a light and  
heavenly cloud  
He's still looking out for all of us  
Of whom he is so proud.

My Dad volunteered to serve his country in 1967. He enlisted in the U.S. Army when he was just nineteen years old. He became a combat veteran, after a posting in Panama, when his next assignment took him to Vietnam.

For twenty-one years, he travelled wherever his orders took him. His growing family got to live in many of those places. He retired from the Army in 1988.

After that first career, he entered into a new adventure in Tulare, California as a USPS Letter Carrier in 1991. He eventually retired —because of health issues — in 2007. He was aware that his almost forty years of federal service was an amazing accomplishment.

I am his proud daughter! I am a Letter Carrier. I am Judy Perez Kiyoshi and I work at Bakersfield's South Station. And my mom, Lucy, was a Postal Service clerk for nineteen years who was also hired to work in Visalia. And? My brother, Anthony, has been a Postal Service Clerk for twenty plus years in Visalia. *Because of my Dad, we all went Postal!!!*

“Dad, I love and miss you! Thank you for protecting our country and your family! You may grin when you hear me say this: “Once an Army Brat, always an Army Brat...and, I'm **DAMN** proud of it!”

It's been a year since he passed away. I wanted to honor his life in this way because too many of the young men that he served with through the years died during their time of military service. He didn't. I'm glad that he was as my Dad! And, on this Memorial Day, I miss him.

JUDY KIYOSHI  
93304 Shop Steward Assistant

## How is Memorial Day different than Veterans Day?

**Veterans Day:** This federal holiday falls on November 11 and is designated as a day to honor all who have served in the military. According to Military.com, Veterans Day began as Armistice Day to honor the end of World War I, which officially took place on November 11, 1918.

**Memorial Day:** Celebrated the last Monday in May, Memorial Day is the holiday set aside to pay tribute to those who died serving in the military. *THEY* paid the ultimate price for the freedoms that we enjoy!!!

# GOP Budget Threat Looms Over Us

A budget resolution that raises federal employee pension contributions and cuts the federal workforce is on the fast track for passage.

Both the Senate and the House voted and passed differing budget blueprints for fiscal 2016 in late March, but must now work to reconcile the differences and then vote on a final unified budget.

A final vote is expected sometime this month perhaps just a few days after Congress returns from recess, according to sources in the House and Senate familiar with the negotiations.

The budget blueprint is non-binding and does not need to be signed by the President. Instead, the Senate and the House will use the budget during the appropriations process to decide how much funding federal programs and agencies get in fiscal 2016.

Both the Senate and the House versions would increase federal employee pension contributions to six percent or more of salaries.

The House version would also cut the federal workforce by 10 percent through attrition and increase Postal Service employee contributions to their health insurance premiums.

The budget proposal also decreases the rate of return on the Thrift Savings Plan's government securities fund (G Fund) and encourages the elimination of the Federal Employee Retirement System annuity supplement.

The federal budget proposed by House Republicans would potentially increase the amount they have to contribute to their health-care plan, according to newly released details. House Budget Committee Chairman Tom Price, R-Ga., recently unveiled the spending blueprint - which aims to achieve several hundred billions of dollars in savings through measures affecting federal employees - but did not initially release the specifics.

Abridged article courtesy of the Spring 2015 *Union Vision* published by NALC Branch 2128 in Toms River, New Jersey.

Param started his career with the Post Office when he was 19 yrs old. In July, Param will mark his two years as a CCA. He is stationed at Camino Media. Param has gotten used to being called by his last name.

"Dhillon" was born in India and came to the USA in 2003. He has two older sisters, he is the "baby" of the family. He likes to hang out with friends, his X-Box and play basketball at the park.



Dhillon wasn't sure what he wanted to do after he graduated from high school. He worked for 6 months as a daycare worker for mentally disabled kids. He said that it was a good experience, but it was difficult to continue. He saw an ad for the Postal Service and went for it.

He was at Stockdale Station for about 3 months. During his time there, he had to spray a little dog. He was doing a walking route when the little dog approached him barking. Thinking that the dog was going to bite him, he had to spray. He still feels guilty about it to this day. At Camino Media, he hardly ever sees loose dogs. He has been helping out at Brundage Station and he says there hasn't been a day that he doesn't see dogs. He has been working more hours at Brundage and when he gets home tired, his parents say, "Why are you tired? You just stand there and deliver to big boxes".

Dhillon's advice to the newbies is, "Keep going. It will get better. The harder it is now, the easier it will be later". During his first year, he said there were several times he was wanting to quit. He didn't know what he was doing, didn't know walking routes but now he says, "It's easy money".

You just have to love the outlook from the YOUNGER Carriers.

MABEL BULLIS  
Brundage Station  
661-496-5679

\*\*\*\*\*I am trying to highlight CCAs from different stations. If you want to be next month's feature or want to recommend someone, please contact me\*\*\*\*\*

## A Focus on Our Future: Param Dhillon

# ***Lynching in a Northern Town***

by John Serwach, Vice-President  
NALC Branch 3126

**LYNCHING:** *An extra-legal trial and punishment by an informal group. It is most often used to characterize informal public executions by a mob, often by hanging, in, order to punish an alleged transgressor, or to intimidate a minority group. It is an extreme form of informal social control such as "riding the rail" or "tarring and feathering", but with a drift toward the public spectacle.*

**S**o, what did you do this weekend? You know, on your day off. Did you go to a club, a bar, the casino? Did you get in an argument with a friend; use some foul or inappropriate language in a text message or maybe on your Facebook page? If you did, do you think you could come to work on Monday and find yourself up for removal?

## **ELM 665.16 Behavior and Personal Habits**

Employees are expected to conduct themselves during and outside of working hours in a manner that reflects favorably upon the Postal Service. Although it is not the policy of the Postal Service to interfere with the private lives of employees, it does require that postal employees be honest, reliable, trustworthy, courteous and of good character and reputation... Employees must not engage in criminal, dishonest, notoriously disgraceful, immoral or other conduct prejudicial to the Postal Service.

What about now? One of the Postmasters in an office in our Branch apparently thinks so. A Sister of ours in one of our stations sent a text message to some co-workers. The message was sent off the clock. She considered the co-workers to be friends.

The message had to do with some things going on in the office. She thought she was giving them some much-needed advice. I'm not going to go into what the text message said, or judge whether or not any part of it could be deemed offensive. An arbitrator will be making that decision in the very near future. But what I am doing is issuing a warning — a warning about the world we work in. Big brother is watching! He's watching what you're doing and saying not just at work but also in the privacy of your own home.

During the grievance process, I tried to explain to Management that there was no way this removal was going anywhere. I was told that Labor had advised that the office needed to be consistent with the type of discipline everyone else was doing and that it was not uncommon in the Detroit District for employees to be removed for actions they take off the clock. What did you do this weekend? What did you say at Church or in the bar last Sunday?

As I conducted the defense of our Sister through the grievance process, I argued many things. I also supplied evidence from a Facebook page of something one of our Supervisors (the griev-

ant's former supervisor) had posted. I found it highly offensive, it made light of pedophilia.

Is Labor relations reviewing the file? Have they interviewed the Supervisor for his "notoriously disgraceful" act? No, I'm sure they haven't. The double standard of, "Do as I say, not as I do" is still running strong in the Detroit District.

Are you listening District Manager Lee Thompson? We're firing hard working Letter Carriers for the words they use at home, but your Supervisors are free to run amok. Free for now.

I know what you're thinking, "There must be more to this story. The employee must be a disgrace. She must have a discipline record as long as my arm. She's probably on a last chance agreement already for things she did in the past."

No. She's veteran carrier with **20 years of discipline-free work history**. Well liked by her peers, respected. Even some of the supervisors in her installation privately told me what a wonderful person she was. And she was put up for removal. For a text message...sent off the clock. On her own time, from the privacy of her own home.

What did *YOU* do this weekend? Can I see your phone, scroll through your texts? Say, what did you mean by this on your Facebook page? I'm offended.

This case went to the B team. Management's representative reduced it unilaterally to a one-week suspension which was subsequently impassed and is now awaiting arbitration. Am I confident we will win this case? Truth be told I never thought it would have gone this far. Had management not reduced it at the B team, and merely impassed it, the Carrier would be spending Christmas at home — without a paycheck.

Ultimately, she will be made whole through the grievance system (assuming the grievance will be won) receiving full back pay, but not receiving a check for six to nine months while it waits to go to arbitration.

Brothers and Sisters! Be careful with what you do; with what you put on Facebook; or, with what you tweet or even say.

Big Brother is watching you. Someday, maybe someday soon, someone will be watching the watchers. But until then, think before you speak, or post. Think about the potential consequences of what you say, or commit to writing.

You're being watched...

This article is courtesy of the May 2015 *Eastern Iowa Reporter* published by Cedar Rapids, Iowa NALC Branch 373 It was a reprint of an article which originally appeared in the *New Vision* published by NALC Branch 3126 in Madison Heights, MI.



**O**ur union/member owned NALC Health benefit plan is considered one of the best health plans in the Federal Employee Health Benefit (FEHB) network. But, our union members might not be aware that the National Association of Letter Carriers also has something called the “Mutual Benefit Association”

(MBA). It is an NALC insurance department run by Myra Warren, Director of Life Insurance.

There are a number of plans that are suited to the Letter Carrier life style. This is *OUR* union insurance department at *our* National office in Washington D.C. There are also plans that allow members to set aside a nest egg for retirement (Maturity Income). They can start for as little as \$15 a pay period.

There are Term life, Whole life, Universal life plans that have very reasonable premiums and can be set up on payroll deduction. You can find an MBA postcard in your monthly *Postal Record* union magazine. Just complete the card and mail it in to have MBA information mailed to your home.

You can also call Myra Warren at 1-800-424-5184 Eastern time 8am - 3:30pm Tuesday & Thursday. She is the Director of Life Insurance. Ask her about the type of insurance needed for you and your family. ***Myra is a Letter Carrier.*** She knows what your world is like and has been elected by NALC members to offer NALC Letter Carriers the best possible insurance coverages.

Our MBA is here to cater to you and your family's needs, there are “NO” insurance agents, and “NO” commissions —

just “EXCELLENT” insurance plans. There is NO pressure. Take a look at what **YOUR** union MBA has to offer.

Start early. You'll be glad you did, when you are ready to retire.

Additionally, the MBA provides “Accidental Death” benefit coverage for each and every NALC member. This NALC Group Insurance Coverage has been provided since 1985. All active, retired and city carrier assistants of the NALC in good standing are eligible for this benefit. It also includes other non-supervisory postal career employees. The basic benefit coverage is \$5,000 and there is no cost to the members.

MARK RAMIREZ  
NALC Health Benefit Plan &  
Mutual Benefit Association Representative  
Golden Empire Branch 782

## FROM ITS EARLIEST YEARS...

...the NALC pioneered programs for mutual support and welfare to complement its struggles for improved working conditions. The union established the “Mutual Benefit Association” at its 1891 convention in Detroit. The MBA offered life and other kinds of insurance to help protect Letter Carriers and their families.

... In its early years, MBA offered a simple death benefit policy which Letter Carriers could purchase for a modest fee. This early policy was an extremely important feature of the MBA because *the federal government did not provide death benefits for postal employees*. A fact which, all too often, left a Carrier's family without any income when the Carrier died.

### In 1905...

NALC members in attendance at the National Convention in Portland, Oregon, voted to expand the role of MBA to include the National Sick Benefit Association (NSBA) so that NALC could provide sick benefits to those Letter Carriers members of the MBA who found themselves out of work due to accident or illness. (There was no such thing as employer provided “Sick Leave”...)

### Today...

...MBA continues to record strong gains year after year. Total assets continue to increase over previous years by millions of dollars, and surplus increases by hundreds of thousands. Despite the stock market decline, MBA was continuing to outperform other life insurance companies, just as it had done for more than 100 years.

Today, the MBA has over \$224 million of life insurance in force and can claim over \$194 million of admitted assets. The organization continues to serve Letter Carriers and their families nationwide—not only by providing insurance protection, but through other activities as well. Thanks to the unfailing support of its members and the expert guidance of its Board of Trustees, MBA can easily look forward to another 100 years of success.

Source: NALC Homepage

# 2015 NALC HBP Info

*At a glance...*



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

## CVS Pharmacy

**Some immunizations may require your doctor call in a prescription.**

**Also, not all CVS pharmacies have "Minute Clinics".**

*\* 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 (OPA Network) 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**

CCA Information Section

NALC Consumer Driven Health Plan  
 and Value Option Plan  
 P.O. Box 182223  
 Chattanooga, TN 37422-7223  
 1-855-511-1183

*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



OLD AGE/ MATURITY....it's great to remember funny happenings in your life.....while you still can.

You go from wishing for a BMW....to hoping for a BM.

You ordered cable for the weather channel. It's MTV for old folks.

You look both ways before crossing the room.

You can't get in shape, so you settle for a work out video titled; "Buns of Putty." (Too young to remember "Buns of Steel"????)

Your ears are hairier than your head.

Your idea of weight lifting is....standing up.

Your hot flashes set off the smoke alarm.

You've seen it all, done it all, and can't remember most of it.

I've sown my wild oats, Now I'm into prunes and all bran.

to your chagrin — that you aren't wearing any.

Youthful injuries return with a vengeance

Age is a very high price to pay for maturity.

You have read this entire list, looking desperately, for one item that doesn't apply to you.

MARK RAMIREZ  
HBP Representative  
Golden Empire Branch 782

# Health Prescription: Humor from Mark!

Life is like toilet paper, the closer you get to the end, the faster it goes.

I knew the romance was over, when I drank champagne, out of the old girls slipper, and nearly choked on a Dr. Scholl's orthopedic insert.

Isn't it nice that wrinkles don't hurt ?

I knew I was getting bald, because it was taking longer and longer to wash my face.

I finally got my head together, Now my body is falling apart.

It's easier to get older, than it is to get wiser.

You know you are getting old, when it takes twice as long.....to look half as good.

You and your teeth don't sleep together.

You have come to the conclusion, that your worst enemy is gravity.

You realize, your train of thought, frequently derails.

You try to straighten out the wrinkles in your socks. And you discover — much to your chagrin — that you aren't wearing any.

**ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR!!**

The "9th Annual Battle of the Stations" took place on April 12, 2015. Thank you to the USPS Social & Recreation Committee we had quite a few prizes for the thirty-three teams that participated!



# 9th Annual Battle of the Stations



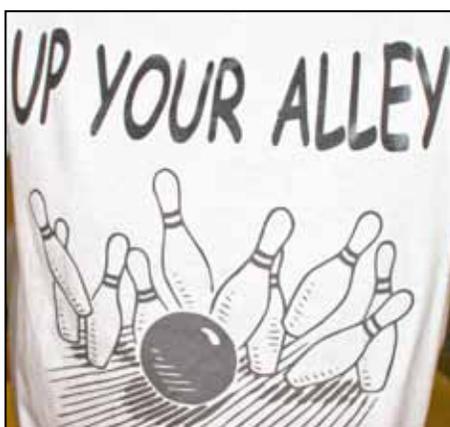
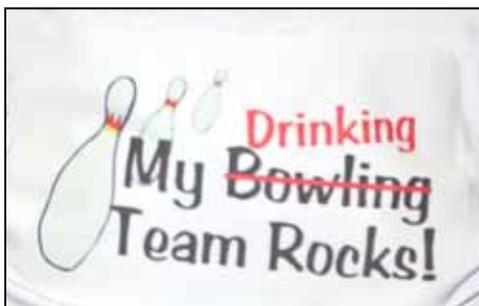
The Winner was Dole Court! They received the special breakfast and took home the trophy! Their victory was based on the results posted by three of the Dole Court teams: "Dole Court Rural", "Prestige Worldwide" and "Gutterly Ridiculous" with a total pinfall of 5247!



A special thank you to Cipriana, Roel and Anita and the USPS Social & Recreation Committee for making this event possible. We had a little trouble with the printer. But, we thank everyone for their patience in finding out the results. Congratulations to all of the winners! And, Thank You to Everyone!!!

Sincerely!

RALPH RAMIREZ  
Battle of the Stations Facilitator



# April 12, 2015



## All Women's Teams (Lanes 1-7)

### 1st PLACE: Hillcrest "Gutter Gals"

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| Val Tweedy       | 477         |
| Lou Gutierrez    | 426         |
| Teresa Gutierrez | 393         |
| Rebecca Gomez    | <u>301</u>  |
|                  | <b>1597</b> |

### 2nd: Dole Court "Fireball"

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Joann Weeks     | 410         |
| Shari Sharp     | 401         |
| Catrina McBane  | 351         |
| Leslie Thompson | <u>330</u>  |
|                 | <b>1492</b> |

### 3rd: Camino Media "UnAccountables"

|               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| Candice Brown | 403         |
| Stacey Adams  | 388         |
| Lisa Sanchez  | 369         |
| Sandra Rios   | <u>314</u>  |
|               | <b>1474</b> |

### 4th: South "Stray"

|                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| Annette Ortega | 456         |
| Judy Kiyoshi   | 414         |
| Kim Pumphrey   | 251         |
| Sheila Wiley   | <u>203</u>  |
|                | <b>1324</b> |

### 5th: Dole Court "Las Malandrinas"

|                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Cindy Jimenez     | 395         |
| Marcy Herrera     | 352         |
| Vicky Guerrero    | 264         |
| Christina Barajas | <u>223</u>  |
|                   | <b>1234</b> |

### 6th: Dole Court "First Class Stamps"

|                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| Margie Cruz    | 347         |
| Whitney Moreci | 313         |
| Angie Garcia   | 274         |
| Laura Vega     | <u>227</u>  |
|                | <b>1161</b> |

### 7th: Dole Court "Dolls with Balls"

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Dahlia Meza     | 310         |
| Martha Leyba    | 293         |
| Teresa Suarez   | 265         |
| Yisenia Vasquez | <u>247</u>  |
|                 | <b>1115</b> |



## Co-ed Teams (Lanes 8-27)

### 1st PLACE: Hillcrest "10 Pin Mafia"

|                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Pam Smith         | 484         |
| Ronnie Mireles    | 472         |
| Roel Alaniz       | 431         |
| Bernadine Maestas | <u>395</u>  |
|                   | <b>1597</b> |

### 2nd: Dole Court "Team 19"

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Antonio Avery*  | 561         |
| Rodel Pangaldan | 468         |
| Kim Vines       | 393         |
| Albert Sanchez  | <u>340</u>  |
|                 | <b>1762</b> |

### 3rd: Dole Court "Prestige Worldwide"

|                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Diane Ryder*      | 471         |
| Glenn Ryder       | 437         |
| Kevin Vandiver    | 421         |
| Aaron Witherspoon | <u>387</u>  |
|                   | <b>1716</b> |



### 4th: Hillcrest "Carrier Annex"

|                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Luke Lopez         | 529         |
| David Rener        | 414         |
| Joe Van Aspen      | 339         |
| Mallaurie Fletcher | 293         |
|                    | <b>1575</b> |

### 5th: Taft "Taft Who????"

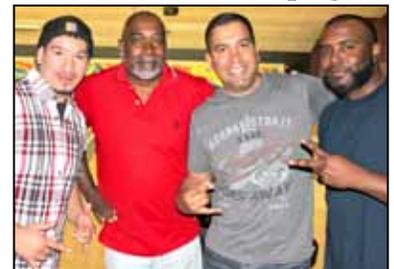
|                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| Ashley Miller  | 424         |
| Shelly Mizener | 395         |
| Bobby Krier    | 358         |
| Tina Phillips  | 350         |
|                | <b>1527</b> |

### 6th: Delano "Team 20"

|                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| Jorge Vaquera  | 555         |
| Serina Ornelaz | 359         |
| Cindy DeLeon   | 315         |
| Gracie Silva   | 296         |
|                | <b>1525</b> |



*Continued on next page...*



## All Men's Teams (Lanes 28-33)

### 7th: Plant "50 Shades of Great"

|                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Todd Whitson       | 404         |
| Sara Owens         | 367         |
| Christina Guajardo | 348         |
| Paul Pineda        | 289         |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>1408</b> |

### 8th: E. Brundage "Sabrina's Strikers"

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Sabrina Bonilla | 382         |
| Joy Cordova     | 381         |
| Robert Guererro | 379         |
| Angie Hernandez | 256         |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>1398</b> |

### 9th: Hillcrest "Team 22"

|                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Gio Flores        | 408         |
| Miranda Robertson | 376         |
| Jazmin Martinez   | 310         |
| Emanuel Chavez    | 292         |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>1386</b> |

### 10th: South "Up Your Alley"

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Fabian Cepeda   | 432         |
| Anita Holderman | 359         |
| Kellie Martinez | 317         |
| Debra Harvey    | 272         |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>1380</b> |

### 11th: Stockdale "Cheat 2 Win"

|                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Francisco Herrera | 452         |
| Marty Martinez    | 449         |
| Paul Castruita    | 281         |
| Maria Valenzuela  | 188         |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>1370</b> |

### 12th: Downtown "Knock 'em Down"

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| Thomas Nagl      | 396         |
| Lorraine Clemons | 391         |
| Jonathan Carrera | 302         |
| Jeri Jimenez     | 263         |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>1352</b> |

### 13th: Stockdale "3 Tacos N' a Corn Dog"

|                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| Teresa Garcia  | 416         |
| Anthony Zuniga | 377         |
| Darlene Medina | 284         |
| Stacey Flippin | 266         |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>1343</b> |

### 14th: South "Team CCAs"

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Aaron Gonzalez  | 421         |
| Joe Gerlick     | 361         |
| Mychal Gonzales | 306         |
| Melissa Nagel   | 237         |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>1325</b> |

### 15th: Tehachappi "Toilet Bowlers"

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| Bill Lewis       | 469         |
| Rob Brown        | 442         |
| Stephanie Thomas | 233         |
| Marann Reddig    | 160         |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>1304</b> |

### 16th: Plant "Gutter Minds"

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Dexter Pabro    | 367         |
| Tim Beggs       | 366         |
| Stephanie Gomez | 287         |
| Maria Rosales   | 269         |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>1289</b> |

### 17th: Plant "King Pin & The Split"

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Kamal Singh     | 436         |
| Jessica Felix   | 350         |
| Lourdes Aldana  | 264         |
| Elvia Rodriguez | 214         |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>1264</b> |

### 18th: Hanford "Oddballs"

|                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| Joleen Bratton | 359         |
| Tim Tomlinson  | 334         |
| Jeremy Groff   | 292         |
| Jamie Gubbins  | 255         |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>1240</b> |

### 19th: Shafter "Team 21"

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| Israel Cedillos  | 352         |
| Carmen Vizzard   | 322         |
| Melissa Johnson  | 236         |
| Rebecca Rainbolt | 230         |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>1140</b> |

### 20th: Arvin "Arvin 9"

|                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Butter Rosales    | 357         |
| Christian Rosales | 356         |
| Vanessa Deluna    | 246         |
| Mari Estrada      | 167         |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>1126</b> |

### 1st PLACE: Plant "The Bowling Stones"

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| O.C. Johnson    | 545         |
| Jason Johnson   | 515         |
| Johnny Martinez | 467         |
| Neil Morales    | 327         |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>1854</b> |

### 2nd: Dole Court "Gutterly Ridiculous"

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| Ozzy Ruiz        | 466         |
| Brian Shellcross | 463         |
| Jeff Harrington  | 441         |
| Patrick Farr     | 399         |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>1769</b> |

### 3rd: Stockdale "Stockdale"

|              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| John Hardin  | 462         |
| Ed Vitson    | 447         |
| Brian Davis  | 447         |
| James Flores | 398         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>1754</b> |

### 4th: South "Balls of Fury"

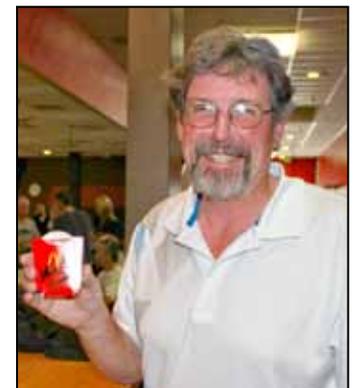
|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| Ralph Ramirez    | 457         |
| John Rosso       | 436         |
| Neil Kramer      | 423         |
| Darryl Holderman | 356         |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>1672</b> |

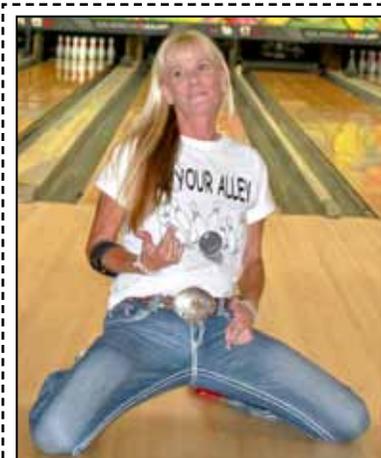
### 5th: Brundage "Brudage Bawlers"

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| John Ortega     | 465         |
| Ruben Gonzales  | 408         |
| Sal Garcia      | 398         |
| Paul Greenfield | 330         |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>1601</b> |

### 6th: South "Reservoir Dogs"

|                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Andrew Garcia          | 425         |
| Al Sikes               | 391         |
| Pedro "No Show" Oliver | 322         |
| Steve Tucker           | 296         |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>1434</b> |





Top Male  
Antonio Avery

Top Female  
Diane Ryder

Line 1: 223  
Line 2: 149  
Line 3: 189

561

Line 1: 161  
Line 2: 170  
Line 3: 140

471

from the  
**editor-guy**

NALC Branch  
782 Photographer  
Anita Holderman  
provided some 350  
pictures of this  
event. Wow!

A separate project  
is being worked  
on to display more  
of what went on at  
the tournament.

Soon? We'll see...



It's okay, folks! James and Cindy are married. It's sacramental.

from the  
**editor-guy:**

I anticipate that I will probably be a retired Letter Carrier by this time next year. As I slide closer and closer to that point, I find that I look for signals that the Postal Service (as I've come to know it) is going to continue on into the future.

The realization that I've come to is that the U.S. Postal Service is going to have to change in some significant ways as the needs of our customers do.

It's too easy to dwell on so many of the negative things. However, there are signs that there may be cause for some optimism.

I want to share something that I came across in the Apr/May/June 2015 issue of the *Anthony B. Morell Branch News* published by Santa Ana, California NALC Branch 737.

When I first read through this article, I remembered some comments I'd heard and read. They were made by then-NALC President Vincent R. Sombrotto. His thoughts were shared *many* years ago. His views on Carriers delivering groceries (seemingly made in jest) gave me an astounding realization that "Vinny" really was a visionary in many ways!!

## Amazon Fresh & How it works in Irvine

by Phillip Capuano, President NALC Branch 737

The Irvine Post office is beginning the Amazon Fresh Service, where customers can go online to order groceries and other items, and have them delivered the next day. Irvine is one of the pilot locations, and is a hub for an area that spans from Costa Mesa and Tustin to Dana Point, Ladero Ranch and Trabuco Canyon.

Amazon Prime Customers can order groceries on line via the Amazon web site. Customers can request specific delivery windows from 3:00 AM. (Yes, Letter Carriers will be, on the street, delivering at 3:00 AM!) to 10:00 AM within four groupings seven days per week. Customers can request delivery to be attended or unattended. Once the Customer submits their order, Amazon submits data to USPS for current day delivery to USPS at 1:00 AM and 1:00 PM. The Postal Service will then "dynamically" route the grocery totes via Metro Post routing (ESRI) and sends data to the Carrier's hand-held scanners. The Postal Service will receive the groceries from Amazon between 1:00AM and 2:00AM and again between 1:00PM and 2:00PM.

The Amazon groceries are received in green "totes" in rolling containers. The totes are insulated and may contain dry ice packs. Totes are lined up according to route and sequence number. Although the totes are not addressed, they contain labels with a QR code that has the address, label number, and other information. Carriers are to load their trucks by tote number, which is already in delivery sequential order, then scan the QR code on each tote after it has been loaded with a scanner provided to them by management. Once all the codes are scanned, the scanner provides all routing directions for the Carrier, with "turn by turn" GPS navigation.

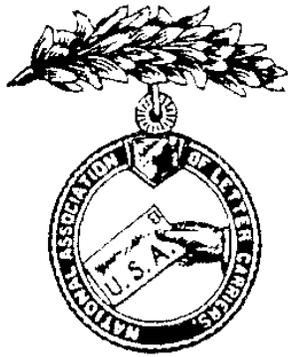
The Letter Carriers (usually CCAs are assigned to these duties due to the flexible hours that they can work) are expected to deliver the totes on time and within the timeframe windows. They have been instructed to deliver the totes at the actual doorstep for the right address, and not to deliver to the mailbox. It should be noted that all tote bags are considered to be fragile, as some totes may contain eggs and/or breakable items. It is recommended that totes should not to be tossed around like a parcel. Deliveries of Amazon Fresh are all dependent on the amount of orders they receive the preceding day. Carriers will not always be out at 3:00AM or at 10:00 PM delivering Amazon fresh — it will depend on the number of customers who use Amazon Fresh.

Recently, I had an opportunity to see how the process works in Irvine. Although there are still a few kinks to work out, it looks like it could be a success if enough people order through Amazon Fresh.

We definitely aren't just delivering mail anymore... This really is more of an opportunity for the USPS to be more successful as a company for all of us.

OUT THERE





# Branch Officers

|                            |                         |                       |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>President</b>           | <b>Mike Towery</b>      | <b>(661) 331-9171</b> |
| <b>Vice-President</b>      | <b>John Ortega</b>      | <b>(661) 809-8140</b> |
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| <b>Sargeant-at-Arms</b>    | <b>Jerry Patterson</b>  | <b>(661) 699-2462</b> |
| <b>Chief Trustee</b>       | <b>Frank Martinez</b>   | <b>(661) 703-4212</b> |
| <b>Trustee</b>             | <b>Teresa Ortega</b>    | <b>(661) 325-5526</b> |
| <b>Trustee</b>             | <b>Darryl Holderman</b> | <b>(661) 332-9201</b> |

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The options 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.

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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 here-in 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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Anita Holderman, Branch Photographer

## NALC Branch 782 Shop Stewards

|                           |                  |                |
|---------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Arvin (93203)             | Mike Munoz       | (661) 304-5516 |
| Avenal (93204)            | John Ortega      | (661) 809-8140 |
| Delano (93215)            | Norma Hamer      | (661) 619-1465 |
| Lamont (93241)            | Mike Munoz       | (661) 304-5516 |
| McFarland (93250)         | Bonnie Whitbey   | (661) 302-7354 |
| Shafter (93263)           | Norma Hamer      | (661) 619-1465 |
| Taft (93268)              | Mike Meza        | (805) 625-4541 |
| Wasco (93280)             | Joanne Layton    | (661) 204-4928 |
| Downtown Station (93301)  | Kim Gerdes       | (661) 834-2059 |
| South Station (93304)     | Darryl Holderman | (661) 487-5353 |
| South Station Alternate   | Judy Kiyoshi     | (661) 817-5529 |
| East Bakersfield (93305)  | Paul Salazar     | (661) 327-7637 |
| Hillcrest Station (93306) | Pam Smith        | (661) 979-5854 |
| Brundage Station (93307)  | John Ortega      | (661) 809-8140 |
| Dole Court (93308)        | Mike Towery      | (661) 331-9171 |
| Dole Court (93308)        | Shari Sharp      | (661) 364-5544 |
| Stockdale Station (93309) | Randy Courson    | (661) 345-0256 |
| Camino Media (93311/13)   | Mike Meza        | (805) 625-4541 |
| Mojave (93501)            | Vacant           |                |
| California City (93504)   | Russell Day      | (760) 373-8963 |
| Boron (93516)             | Paula Hogg       | (760) 373-8963 |
| Edwards AF Base (93523)   | Mike Meza        | (805) 625-4541 |
| Ridgecrest (93555)        | Lynnel Howell    | (760) 382-3030 |
| Tehachapi (93561)         | Vacant           |                |
| Trona (93562)             | Lynnel Howell    | (760) 382-3030 |

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

**Rick Plummer, Webmaster**



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Bakersfield, California  
Permit Number 32

## General Meeting Tuesday May 26, 2015 7:00 p.m.

Branch 782 Office  
2628 "F" Street  
Bakersfield, California

**FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED**

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# If you don't know your Rights, you have none? Yup...

OUT THERE



N.A.L.C. BR. 782 BAKERSFIELD, CA.

Don't forget to check out the web version of our newsletter at: [www.782nalc.com](http://www.782nalc.com). The colors of the cartoons and the pictures really "pop"!