

National Association of Letter Carriers

Branch 782

E.A. Baker Union Update



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CHARTERED FEBRUARY 25, 1901



NUMBER 8

AUGUST 2016

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF NALC GOLDEN EMPIRE” BRANCH 782 AND DELEGATES TO THE 2017 STATE CONVENTION

NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the election of officers of NALC Branch 782 and delegates to the 2017 State Convention will be held at the regular Branch meeting on September 27, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. at the Branch 782 Union Office located at 2628 “F” Street, Bakersfield, California. Candidates must accept nominations at the time made or, if absent, in writing to the Branch Recording Secretary within three (3) days after the nomination is made. Nominations may be submitted in writing provided that they are received by the Branch Recording Secretary prior to the closing of nominations at the regular branch meeting in September. Candidates may accept nominations for only one office. Upon nomination, every nominee must certify that he or she had not served as a supervisor for the 24 months prior to being nominated.

Nominations will be held for the following Branch offices: **President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Sergeant-at-Arms, three (3) Trustees;** and, **MBA/Health Benefits Representative.** By virtue of the positions, Branch 782 President and Vice President shall be delegates to both the National and State Conventions.

The term of office will be three (3) years.

ELECTION

The election will be conducted by secret ballot at the regular meeting on November 22, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. at the Branch 782 Union Office, 2628 “F” Street, Bakersfield, California. Any member who, for any reason, will be unable to vote on November 22, 2016, may obtain absentee ballots by submitting a signed written request to the Election Committee, Golden Empire Branch 782, 2628 “F” Street, Bakersfield, California 93301. Absentee ballots must be requested after nominations have been closed but no later than November 8, 2016.

Write-in votes are not permitted.

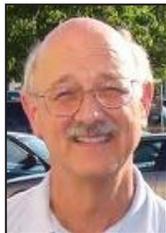
ELIGIBILITY FOR BRANCH FUNDS

Of the delegates from the Bakersfield local area selected to the State Convention and National Convention, the requirements of eligibility for Conventions funds will be; attendance at ten (10) of the twelve (12) regular General Meetings just prior to the State Convention; and then (10) of the twelve (12) regular General Meetings just prior to the National Convention.

Of the delegates selected from the outlying Associate Offices (excess of thirty miles from Bakersfield), the requirements of eligibility for convention funds shall be: attendance at least two (2) meetings (any combination of regular General Meetings and/or Quarterly Area Meetings) in the twelve months just prior to the State Convention.



at the Mike:



...Continued from back cover

The Branch was fortunate to be able to send fourteen members to the Convention on our behalf.

I want to thank all those members who took the time to attend so that they could better represent the membership. Most of the active

duty Branch delegates elected to take their own annual leave to participate. Be advised that attendance is definitely *not* a vacation.

The remaining Branch delegates were Retirees who have continued to be active in the local Branch after their retirement from the Postal Services .

Classes were scheduled early in the morning and in the afternoon after conclusion of the general convention sessions.

There were approximately thirty-eight classes such as Managing Branch Finances, Food Drive, Postal Reform, Dignity and Re-

spect, NALC History, MDA, CCA Rights, Contract Administration and Trustee Training (to name just a few. The complete list and course description can be found in the July 2016 *Postal Record*.

I want to congratulate Carrier Bryan Womack. He was converted to full-time effective August 6, 2016 and had been a City Carrier Assistant in Bakersfield since June 2013.

I hope to see everyone at the August 23rd general meeting at 7:00 p.m..

MIKE TOWERY
NALC Branch 782 President



Welcome New Members!!

Leonardo Montoya Mike Avila
Pedro Lopez Chrystal Blanco
Eduardo Canul Mariah Hall
Richard Thingstad

Cierra Castle — Scholarship Winner

California State of Association of Letter Carriers Saxsenmeier Scholarship program is very pleased to announce that Cierra Castle, daughter of Branch 782 member Brian Castle, is the recipient of one of ten awarded 2016 CSALC scholarships.

Cierra graduated #1 in her Liberty High School Class and plans to major in Kinesiology at California State University, Bakersfield.

When her father, Brian, was asked what prompted her decision to study in this field, he explained that it was her own experience that moved her in that direction. Over many years of playing high school and Club soccer, Cierra has gained a first hand appreciation for the benefits that numerous physical therapists were able to provide to her and to many members of her teams.

A severe injury to her anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) derailed some of her plans to compete in soccer at the collegiate level.

However, she has continued to work hard on her own therapy and is now able to get out on the field doing something she still enjoys.

Brian Castle, a Letter Carrier since January 1985 is more than a little aware that his daughter's academic strengths reflect her basic personality. "Cierra always got straight As and is a hard worker! And, I'm proud!"



Children and grandchildren of both active and retired California Letter Carriers who have not served in a supervisory capacity in the two years prior to the award are eligible to receive a Saxsenmeier Scholarship. The winners are selected by a panel of professors from the California State University system.

IF I'VE TOLD YOU ONCE ...



When my kids were young, I felt as though much of my communication with them took place in repetitive sound bites that I could utter without actual thought: "Don't touch that; it's dirty!" "Why didn't you go before we left the house?" "Hold my hand in the parking lot." "Stop touching him/her." "Where was the last place you saw your other shoe/the house key/your trumpet/the dog?" "Wash your hands. Use soap." The kids are grown and gone so now my husband gets the canned speeches: "You really should try before we leave the house." "Where was the last place you saw your keys/your cell phone/the remote control?" "Did I accidentally lock you out of the dishwasher, again?" "'Close enough' does not work with laundry baskets/garbage cans/toilet bowls." (He might be thinking of leaving too but I keep hiding his car keys. Just ask him.)

At work, and certainly when it comes time to write another article, I feel like I'm repeating myself constantly. But, unlike talking to my children or my husband, my audience changes from month to month as we continue to add new members every few weeks for the last three years, so I shall, once again, offer my Top Ten greatest hits:

Did you talk to your steward? Some problems can be addressed and resolved by getting your steward involved early. Were you denied a day off when the quota wasn't filled? Were you bumped from a hold-down and you don't think it was done properly? Did management mess up the holiday schedule again? In many cases, the intervention of the steward can fix these things before they become grievances.

Fill out a 3996. If you have more work than you believe you will be able to complete, without running, without skipping your lunch or breaks, without tossing parcels toward porches, without giving excellent service to your customers, you absolutely, positively, **must** fill out a 3996 informing management that you will need additional time. This form will protect you and help your steward when he needs to file a grievance. Do it every time.

Management doesn't "give" you time. When you fill out the 3996, you inform management how long it will take you to properly, professionally, deliver the mail. They have the opportunity to approve or deny the time. If it is denied, that doesn't mean the mail will automatically deliver itself and it certainly doesn't mean that you should work unsafely or work through your lunch to make up time. It just means that they will have to address the issue later in the day. As long as you keep management informed, **it's not your problem.**

Do not argue over the phone. Carriers frequently have their 3996s denied in the morning with the instruction to call later in the afternoon. Often this is done because the morning boss looks like a hero getting all the mail delivered on "under-time". By the time you call, that boss is long gone and the afternoon boss is in a panic because the phone is ringing off the hook and they are scrambling to get the mail delivered on overtime. **It's not your problem.** If the boss yells or asks stupid questions

like, "what have you been doing all day?" the proper answer is, "I did not call to discuss my day. I called for instruction. Do you want me to continue delivering or do you want me to bring the mail back." If the instruction is to be back at a certain time, follow it, even if it means bringing back mail.

There is no such thing as The Five Minute Rule. At the end of the day, there are certain functions, spelled out in the M-41 that are carrier p.m. duties. These duties include disposition of all mail brought back from the street and the return and clearing of accountable mail. In some offices, on some days, some carriers may be able to complete all of these tasks in five minutes but in general, it takes more than five minutes to find a clerk willing to clear your accountables. The fact is, it takes what it takes. Mail brought back from the street is not to be left for the next day.

Always fill out 3971s in triplicate. When you request time off, make three copies of the 3971 and have one of them signed and dated as received by a member of management and immediately returned to you. When the other two copies get lost among the piles of paperwork on the bosses' desk, you have proof of your request. If management fails to act on your request within contractual timeframes, you will automatically be approved *provided you have the signed and dated receipt.*

Fill out 3971s for prime time vacation as well as non-prime. Buffalo city stations have a calendar of primetime summer vacations but it is still necessary to have an approved 3971. Your name on a list may not be enough if management claims you don't have enough leave balance to grant you the time off.

Don't jeopardize your health or safety under any circumstance! If it's hot, take the time to hydrate and cool off when necessary. When it's cold, seek warmth. Don't leave your truck running or your seatbelt off to save time. Park only at safe park points. If you are injured, follow your doctor's instructions. Don't allow management to rush you back to work before your body is healed. You only get one body and you're going to want its parts to last a long time.

Wear sunscreen. This could fall under the last topic but it's important enough to deserve its own spot on my list. Skin cancer can range from disfiguring to deadly. Minimize your risk as much as possible.

Watch out for each other. Each of us is but a small part in a much bigger world. If someone in your office is being treated disrespectfully, instead of fading into the background, stand up for them. You'd be surprised how solidarity can change the atmosphere in an office. Have each other's backs.

Have a great summer. Take some time to relax and enjoy doing the things that you love with the people you love.

Article courtesy of the July 2016 BUZZ
published by Buffalo, New York NALC Branch 3

Minutes of the July 2016 General Meeting

The regular meeting of Branch 782 was called to order by President Mike Towery at 7:00 p.m. on the 26th day of July, 2016 at the Branch office, Bakersfield. The flag salute was led by Sergeant-At-Arms Jerry Patterson. All members of the Executive Board were present except Vice President John Ortega. The Stewards were present from Arvin, Delano, Downtown, East Bakersfield, Lamont, Oildale, Shafter, South and Stockdale. Also present was the Newsletter Editor Basil Zuniga; S.A.N.E. Fred Acedo; Webmaster Rick Plummer; Photographer Anita Holderman; Assistant Treasurer Debbie Guillet; Assistant Financial Secretary Marcie Rodriguez; Assistant Recording Secretary Norma Hamer; OWCP Representative Rick Gerdes; and, Frank Martinez and Paul Greenfield of the Social and Recreation Committee. The Minutes of the June 28, 2016 minutes were read and accepted with no additions or corrections.

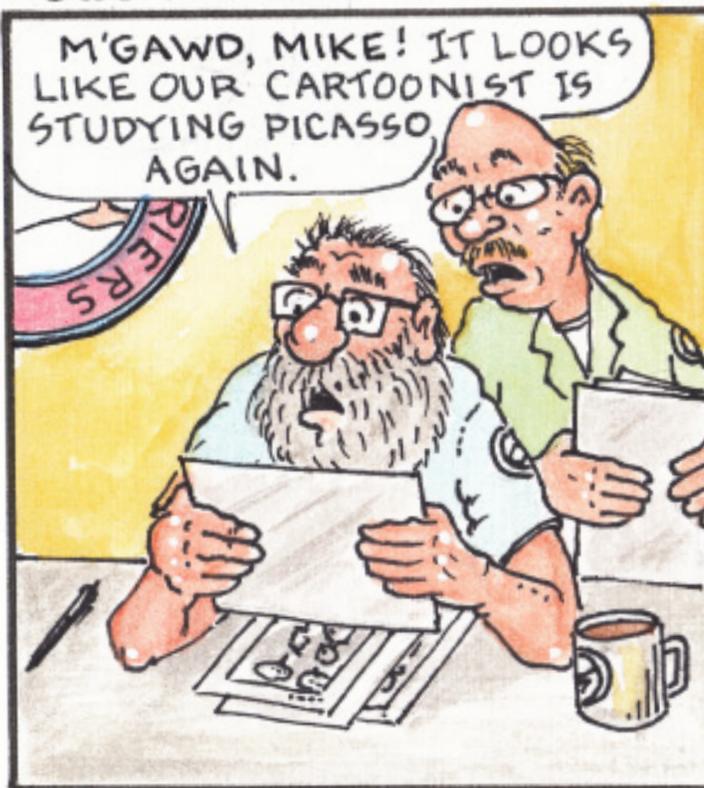
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP: Applications were received from: Leonardo Montoya, Dole Court; Pedro Lopez, Hillcrest; Eduardo Canul, Bakersfield Downtown; Mike Avila, Stockdale; Chrystal Blanco, Camino Media; Mariah Hall, South; and, Richard Thingstad, Hillcrest.

REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Teresa Ortega reported that the picnic planning is going great; there is nothing to report at this time. Basil Zuniga reported that next month will be Hillcrest Station's turn to fold the newsletter. He then discussed an article in the web version of the newsletter. There was a study done regarding the Thrift Savings Plan. There are 5 million people who contribute to the TSP. After 9.3 years of service you should have about \$50,000 in your account, after 19.1 years, \$50,000 - \$250,000, and after 24 years \$250,000 - \$500,000. Now is the time to put money into your TSP. A good rule is to save until it hurts and then save \$1.00 less. He shared two handouts with the members present. The second article was concerning Carriers who have died during the severe heat. In 2012 OSHA fined the USPS \$70,000, because of the death of a Carrier in Missouri. Another Carrier died in Oregon in 2014. Management will continue to send Carriers out, the only person who will protect you is "you". Frank Martinez of the Social and Recreation Committee reported that there are tickets to the Dodger game on Sunday July 31. The cost is \$30 each in the "all you can eat section" and \$12 in the lodge section. There will also be a Softball Tournament on August 7th. Andrew Garcia will contact each unit. Molly Biggar reported that the Food Drive card balance is \$51. Kim Gerdes reported that the book balance is 903.

NEW BUSINESS: Teresa Guterrez asked for clarification of the seat belt rules. Mike Towery answered that the seat belt (lap and shoulder harness) must be worn at all times the vehicle is in motion. If delivering on a mounted route and the Carrier can not reach the mailbox, the harness can be taken off. It must be reattached before moving the vehicle. Mike Towery also reported that

"OuT tHeRe"



management is saying that the door must be closed at all "T" intersections.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION: Mike Towery reported that Carriers are being put off work with no pay for not wearing seat belt. All delegates to the convention should plan to attend a meeting August 3, at 6:45. The meeting will follow the steward meeting to discuss the classes they will attend, who will car pool and to get per diem. Basil discussed a book of cartoon he has put together for other editors to use in their newsletters; he will print them as ordered.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: Anita Holderman reported money collected for July 2016 is \$12,927.73

TREASURER'S REPORT: Molly Biggar reported she will have her report at the next meeting.

50/50 Food Drive Card Drawing was won by Norma Hamer who donated her winning to the Food Drive card balance. (23./23.)

The Drawing for \$150.00 would have been won by Robert Zehner if he had been present.

There were 41 members and 2 guests present.

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.
Respectfully Submitted,

KIM GERDES
NALC Branch 782 Recording Secretary

"Out tHeRe"



**NALC Branch 782:
"Crude and Refined"**

Courtesy of Branch 782 Retiree John Ross...

**Non-Member
List
May 2016***

Downtown Station

Sarah Kirby
Javier Cruz
Daniel Zuniga

South Station

100% UNION!!!

Brundage/East Bakersfield

Vicky Guerrero

Hillcrest

100% UNION!!!

Dole Court

Dana Morris

Stockdale

James Oh
Marty Martinez
Jannet Bobadilla

Camino Media

Laura Flad
Daen Daniel

Arvin

100% UNION!!!

Avenal

100% UNION!!!

California City

100% UNION!!!

Delano

Cynthia V. Quebral
Daniela Barreto

Lamont

100% UNION!!!

Ridgecrest

G. D Schatz

Shafter

M. D. Voights
L. M. New

Taft

K. J. Hughes

Tehachapi

B. C. Den Beeman
Christian Rosales

Trona

100% UNION!!!

Wasco

100% UNION!!!



*CCA names are in Italics

There are 20 non members

2016 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
Prescription Drug Program	1-800-933-6252
CVS/Caremark Specialty Pharmacy	1-800-237-2767
Durable Medical Equipment	1-888-636-6252
"24/7 Nurse Hotline"	1-877-220-6252
CVS/CareMark Pharmacist	1-888-636-6252
Solutions for Caregivers (24/7)	1-877-468-1016
CIGNA PPO Locator Line	1-877-220-6252
CIGNA Organ Transplant Approval	1-800-668-9682
Quit for Life (Tobacco Cessation)	1-866-784-8454
CIGNA Health Rewards (Discounts)	1-800-558-9443
CIGNA Plus (Dental Discount)	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 Bakersfield	(661) 631-9258
Shared Services Option 5 live person	1-877-477-3273

NALC Health Benefit Plan
20547 Waverly Court
Ashburn, Virginia 20149

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

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

OptumHealth 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

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

PPO Deductible: Per Calendar Year
\$300 "Individual"
\$600 "Self & Family" or "Self Plus One"

"OuT tHeRe"



"This is a summary of some of the features of the NALC Health Benefit Plan High Option. Detailed information on the benefits for the 2016 NALC Health Benefit Plan can be found in the official brochure (RI 71-009). All benefits are subject to the definitions, limitations, and exclusions set forth in the official brochure."

Many immunizations are Free (Adult/Child) when administered at a PPO pharmacy/facility. Some will require a prescription from the Doctor.

URGENT CARE

Sendas Urgent Care: 9450 Ming Ave., Bakersfield (661) 587-2500
M-S 8 a.m. - 9 p.m. Saturday/Sunday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
ASK FOR OTHER LOCATIONS

Accelerated Urgent Care: 9710 Brimhall, (661) 829-6747
9500 Stockdale Hwy, (661) 735-3943 8 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. daily
ASK FOR OTHER LOCATIONS

Our PPO doctors and facilities—through (OAP 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!!!

MARK RAMIREZ
NALC Branch 782 Health Benefit Plan Representative
(661) 398-6075



Health Prescription: Humor from Mark Ramirez!

"Political Food" for Thought, and low in calories!!

"Out tHeRe"



Changes and progress very rarely are gifts from above. They come out of struggles from below.

Noam Chomsky

The more you can increase the fear of drugs and crime, and welfare mothers, immigrants and aliens, the more you control all the people.

Noam Chomsky

Governments are not representative. They have their own power, serving segments of the population that are dominant and rich.

Noam Chomsky

The more successful capitalists are in cutting their wage costs, the less money workers will have to buy back what those same capitalists produce. It's a contradiction.

Richard D. Wolff

All contributions by corporations to any political committee or for any political purpose should be forbidden by law.

Theodore Roosevelt

Any dictator would admire the uniformity and obedience of the U.S. media.

Noam Chomsky

Our only real hope for democracy is that we get the money out of politics entirely and establish a system of publicly funded elections.

Noam Chomsky

The 1950's and 1960's had been a period of enormous growth, the highest in American history, maybe in economic history.

Noam Chomsky

Free speech has been used by the Supreme Court to give immense power to the wealthiest members of our society.

Noam Chomsky

History shows that more often than not, loss of sovereignty leads to liberalization imposed in the interests of the powerful.

Noam Chomsky

The flood of money that gushes into politics today is a pollution of democracy.

Theodore White

Politics has become so expensive that it takes a lot of money even to be defeated.

Will Rogers

We can't get our democracy back until we change the way campaigns are funded.

Lawrence Lessig

An honest politician is one who when he/she is bought, will stay bought.

Simon Cameron

"We in America do not have a government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate".

Thomas Jefferson

Paper money will invariably operate in the body of politics as spirit liquors on the human body. They prey on the vitals and ultimately destroy them.

George Washington

MARK RAMIREZ
NALC Health Benefit Representative
Golden Empire Branch 782



Originally published May 2011

I Remember Andy

by Frank Martinez
Branch 782 Trustee

When I walked into Brundage Station in July 1978, I had no idea that I would still be delivering 93307 mail in 2016! That world is so much different than the one that new employees find now.

Carriers went out of their way to help each other. They even helped newbies like me. Fred Stuck, Emory Jennings, Billy McKenzie, "Tom Cat" Riley, Curtis Jones, John Trice, Lonni Neal and, of course, Andy "Godzilla" Garcia were some of those Carriers who helped me figure out what I was doing.

One day, I was casing on a route and I was so confused. Everybody else was gone and Andy came over to see how I was doing. I still had over a foot of mail on the ledge and Andy knew that I needed to get on the street. He helped me out. (If you want to know more details, ask me if you dare! But, I will tell you that "Godzilla" did things in a big way!)

I never found out why Andy had his nickname. But, I did ask him about his fingers...or the lack of fingers.

Andy was missing some fingers on his hand. It didn't seem to slow down his casing or his delivery. After some prodding he admitted that a snapped cable had chopped them off. Didn't seem to bother him. (Fred Acedo says that Andy told him that he found the missing fingers gave him good material to work with.)

The Branch picnics back then had deep pit that was prepared by Andy and some of the other Carriers. They would stay overnight, drink a little, tell stories, take care of the meat, and try to empty out the beer truck on the day of the picnic!

He was a good Carrier. As different managers and supervisors came and went, they all tried to make Andy do things their way. He would have none of it. He told them to leave him alone. He wasn't shy about telling them to get out of his face and go away. They did. And, if you ever heard Andy talk about "taking it to

In Memorium

**Andrew Garcia, 85,
died on July 9, 2016,
in Bakersfield, California**



"Andy" was born on February 4, 1931 in Bakersfield, California to Mary Gonzales Garcia and Juan Garcia.

Andy enlisted into the U.S. Navy at the age of 16 years old. His mother had to sign for him to join because of his age. He served in the U.S. Navy 1948-1952. While in the Navy he traveled all over the world. He remembered

going through the Panama Canal to New York. From there he crossed the Atlantic Ocean to Italy, Germany and many other countries.

After an honorable discharge from the Navy he went to work for the U.S. Postal Service. Andy retired in 1986 as a postal employee after 30 years. After retiring from the postal service he worked as a school crossing guard for the Bakersfield City School District until 2015.

He was preceded in death by his sister Isabel Estrada and his mother Mary Garcia and his father Juan Garcia. He is survived by his nieces Rachel Muniz, Nancy Flowers, Mary Ellen Carroll and his nephews Larry Estrada and Ruben Estrada. He also leaves several great nieces and great nephews, friends and neighbors. A graveside service was held on Friday July 22, 2016 at 12:30 pm at Bakersfield National Cemetery 30338 E. Bear Mountain Blvd., Arvin, CA.

A special thank you goes to Hoffman Hospice, Carmela Gurrola (adopted daughter) and Helen Valencia for caring for Andy at the end of his life. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Hoffman Hospice 8501 Brimhall Road, Building 100, Bakersfield, CA 93312.

Obituary notice courtesy of the *Bakersfield Californian*



Originally published December 2004



Andy in two group photos in the 1980's at Brundage Station

the back dock", you knew that you didn't want to go out there with him! "Pop" Wright would just say, "Let's get froggy!!"

One of the best things that I remember about Andy was that he was a jokester like

many others at Brundage. They all made it fun to go to work. Everybody now seems to always be "on edge". I'm glad that "Godzilla" and all those other old-timers were around then. Because of them, I've been able to hang around as long as I have.

E'Reassign/ CCA Conversions:

by Bobbi Green, President
NALC Branch 3126

On May 20, 2016 Memorandum (M) 01876 was signed. This agreement, became effective on July 1, 2016. CCA conversions will be more efficient.

The most significant change from M-01856 is *as routes become available, they will be posted for bid within the installation.* Any route that is left residual after the bidding cycle is complete will be assigned to unassigned full time Regulars (UAR).

Any position that is not filled by an UAR will then be filled by PTF's who have an ac-

tive transfer request in eReassign pending to the installation of the assignment.

Any full time opportunities that remain will be filled by:

- 1) the conversion of a CCA, or
- 2) acceptance of a voluntary transfer request pending in eReassign at the time the opportunity becomes available.

The number of transfers allowed is limited to one in every four for offices of 100 or more work years and one in every six for offices with less than 100 work years.

For CCA's this means that you do not have to wait for a position to be posted on eReassign for 21 days before you find out if there is a transfer or you are converted.

The routes will not be posted on eReassign. If there are no UAR's in your installation, or no PTF's with an active transfer request (or they have already taken a transfer previously), a CCA will be converted.

If a Regular wishes to transfer to a certain installation, he or she should submit the request in eReassign as soon as possible, regardless of whether there is currently an opportunity available.

Employees also need to remember that that eReassign requests expire after one year from the date of submission, unless the request is extended.

This article courtesy of the Madison Heights, Michigan *NEW VISION* published by NALC Branch 3126 in August 2016

Job Posting and Bidding

by Tom Cleer, President
NALC Branch 3520

An issue that arises from time to time is bidding for vacant positions.

In the spring of 2014, the USPS announced that access to Shared Services through the *liteblue.usps.gov* website would require your employee ID and a password instead of the 4-digit pin number. Letters were mailed to all employees providing a temporary password and explaining how to set up your own individualized password.

At that time, job posting and bidding was still done only on paper.

Fast forward to 2016. The future has arrived. Job posting and bidding is available online and has become the **ONLY** way to place a bid. Want to transfer to another area or craft? Yep, do it online. Yet, many of our members are still trying to live in the past and have never set up a password. (Note: don't try to use the temporary password they sent you in 2014. It expired long ago!) Word to the wise. Don't miss out on vacancies or reassignments that you really want.

☒ Set up your liteblue account now. How? Follow the steps below.

- Log on to *liteblue.usps.gov*
- Enter your employee ID (can be found at the top of your pay statement)

■ Under the box for password, click on "Forgot Password" If you haven't set a password, you will be asked to answer several questions including your PIN number. If you don't know your pin number, call Shared Services at (877) 477-3273 and select Option 5. Their hours are Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. After you get your PIN, continue the process. (Note: The PIN will be mailed to you.)

If you set up your password but forgot it, you will be asked security questions that you previously set up. Correctly answering the questions will get a password emailed or mailed to you.

Once you are logged on to your liteblue page, select "My HR" from the menu and proceed to eJobBidding or eReassign.

Article courtesy of the Annandale, VA *NOVA CARRIER* published by Northern Virginia Branch 3520 in August 2016



from the
editor-guy:

Mark Woodbury is a retired Letter Carrier who lives in the state of Michigan. He is also an author of a book called *Tales of Yore* — a book about many of his favorite character nutty co-workers that he knew over the years at the Post Office in St. Johns, MI.

Over the last few months, Fred Acedo and Mark have struck up a friendship. More importantly, for the sake of this newsletter, they have established a collaboration...

How Cal got his Wooden Leg

by Mark Woodbury

It seems Cal Rohrback had tried every way to make a living before arriving at the PO. Just like that old song, *I've Been Everywhere*, Cal could sing "I've Done Everything". He was a teacher to start. Then a chicken rancher. Then he wore stripes. (No, he wasn't a convict! He was a referee.) Then, he lost all vestige of self respect and sold real estate. But, it was while he was working at a cemetery that a brush fire got out of control and he burned the entire grounds. Yeah, "Ghost Toasties"!

That bad joke reminds me of that old wisecrack Jay McKay used to tell: "Did you now I once worked in a bloomer factory? Yep, I pulled down a hundred a week."

"OuT tHeRe"

M WEIGHT 28.



But, you all want to know how Cal got his wooden leg. It all started when we got a new employee named Kathy W. She gave it to him. You might say she was responsible. I guess Cal first hurt his leg refereeing. All that running up and down the field. I think he did football and basketball games well into his sixties. And, his knees started to go.

"OuT tHeRe"



Cal started as a rural sub at the St. Johns Post Office and sometimes did a little city carrying which was hard on his bum knee. (Eventually, he did have surgery to correct that dysfunction but before that he had quite a limp for a lot of years.)

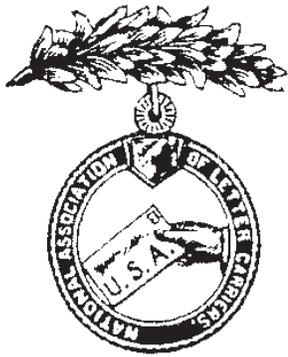
One day, he had just finished three or four hours of carrying and was hobbling in the door when new hire Kathy W. leaned close and whispered to me: "How long has that guy had a wooden leg?"

If I have a talent, it's the ability to keep a straight face when the occasion absolutely demands it. I said, "I'm not sure about that, but I think Bimb knows." We went to Bimb's case just as he was returning from his route. I had her repeat her question to the big guy and she went on to say, "I think it's wonderful the way they hire the handicapped here. That's very admirable, to give that poor, old crippled guy a chance at a decent life."

Bimb was getting red, risking a stroke, trying hard not to laugh. But, he managed to tell a few others (to let them in on the joke) before he busted out with the truth, "You know, Kathy, Cal doesn't really have a wooden leg."

"I know," she said in a loud whisper. It's not nice to call it that. I'm sure it's made of plastic or something. We should just be polite and say it's an artificial limb."

That's when the wooden leg jokes started for poor Cal. He got ads for termite control placed on his ledge. And, instead of people saying, "Knock on wood," it was, "Knock on Cal's leg." People asked him what kind of varnish he recommended. What brand of furniture polish did he use? And, "What do you do for dry rot?" But, Cal took all this with good humor and never lost his smile. And he continued to clump around for many years after on that 'wooden leg'.



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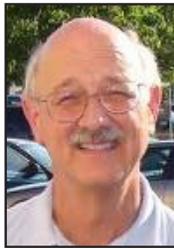
National Association of Letter Carriers
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Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. Postage
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 Bakersfield, California
 Permit Number 32

General Meeting
Tuesday
August 23 2016
7:00 p.m.

Branch 782 Office
 2628 "F" Street
 Bakersfield, California

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



at the
Mike:

**The NALC
 Convention
 was held in Los
 Angeles from
 August 15th -
 19th.**

Continued on page 2...

OUT THERE



Each and EVERY month, Branch 782 sponsors a drawing to encourage **YOU** to come to our Meeting*. *There was no winner in July 2016!!!*

This month YOU could win \$200!

*The fine print: To win the money YOU have to be present when YOUR name is drawn!