

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

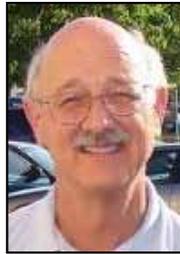


CHARTERED FEBRUARY 25, 1891

WEB VERSION @ WWW.782NALCCOM

OCTOBER 2012

at the
Mike:



As we come to an end of the seemingly never ending election cycle, I think there is very little I can say that has not been said over and over during the last year.

However, I think everyone can agree that they are glad that the election is almost over. I think most people would probably agree with me that they are tired of all the name calling and misleading statements and out right false statements made by both sides during this election campaign. The campaign has pitted neighbor against neighbor and Carrier against Carrier.

I recently saw a cartoon that was appropriate. There were two neighbors talking over the fence that separated their property and one of them stated: I will be glad when the election is over so that we can once again be friends".

Hopefully after the election both sides can reach agreements to benefit the country and not just their political party.

I would hope those who haven't made up their mind would read the article written by President Fredric Rolando in the September 2101 *Postal Record* and the article written by Nicole Rhine, the Assistant Secretary-Treasurer of the NALC in the October 2012 *Postal Record* as to why delegates at the National Convention voted to endorse President Obama's re-election. In her article, Nicole cites Romney's views concerning unions and our right to collective bargaining.

One thing that you can count on: whoever is elected, I am confident that the elected national officers of the NALC will do everything possible to protect our rights and jobs.

As we approach the Veterans Day holiday I want to take this opportunity to thank all the veterans for their service not only in the military but also as Letter Carriers in the Postal Service. Twenty-five percent of Letter Carriers across the nation are veterans.

I also would like to thank all those who helped with the Branch picnic at Castro park. I would especially like to thank Teresa Ortega for all the work she did in organizing the picnic. She always makes it look so easy.

Let me offer my personal congratulations to two Letter Carriers who have reached the ultimate highpoint in their career: Retirement! Ramon Herrera and Al Lopez are both looking forward to a long and healthy retirement. I certainly wish that for them both! They each join a long list of folks who have joined the "Last Punch Bunch". Congratulations!

Finally, I hope to see everyone at the next General meeting on Tuesday, October 23rd.

MIKE TOWERY
NALC Branch 782 President



NICOLE RHINE

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-TREASURER

Tale of a ticket

When the delegates in attendance at the 68th Biennial National Convention voted to endorse and work for President Obama's re-election, despite our disappointment with his position on Saturday delivery, the decision was based on what was best for letter carriers. Your job. Your standard of living. Your retirement. Your benefits. Your future.

As President Rolando stated in his article in last month's *Postal Record*, all members have the right to vote as they please. I simply offer the following as additional information on why Mitt Romney was not the NALC's choice for an endorsement at the convention. What you do with this information at the polls this November is your choice.

It came as no surprise, really, that there was virtually no support for Romney at the convention considering Romney's anti-union views. If you aren't convinced that Romney is anti-union, go to our website and watch the "Our Fight, Our Future" video located on the convention page. The video contains clips of Romney stating the following:

- "I've taken on union bosses before. I'm happy to take 'em on again."
- "I support Question 2 and Governor Kasich's effort to restrict collective bargaining." (Question 2 was a vote placed on the November 2011 ballot in Ohio. A "yes" vote on Question 2 meant that you supported Gov. Kasich's legislation to restrict public workers' rights to bargain collectively in Ohio. The measure was overwhelmingly struck down by Ohio voters.)
- He also called union members "union stooges" on numerous occasions and stated publicly that he will fight for "right to work" laws and to repeal the Davis-Bacon Act, a 1931 federal law that established the requirement to pay prevailing wages on public works projects.

It was because of these facts that the endorsement choice for Obama was an easy one. The choice was clear: Letter carriers will be much better off with Obama than with Romney.

Then, just two weeks after our convention, Romney selected Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI) as his running mate. Had

the delegates known at that time that Ryan would be Romney's choice to run as vice president, I believe the choice would have been even easier. And here is why:

Ryan is chairman of the House Budget Committee and was the author of a 2012 budget proposed that would have made massive cuts to federal programs. In case you've forgotten what the House 2012 proposal entailed, here are some of the low-lights:

- Ryan's 2012 budget plan called for letter carriers—and all federal workers—to dramatically increase our pension contributions. Federal employees covered by FERS contribute 0.8 percent of payroll to their pension plans. Under Ryan's plan, their contributions would increase to half the cost of the defined benefit they receive at retirement—which currently stands at 12.6 percent. The contribution increases would effectively cut pay for carriers covered by FERS by 6 percent. If the same policy were applied to CSRS employees, employee contributions would rise from 7 percent to 12.2 percent. For FERS and CSRS employees, this would amount to a pay cut between \$2,700 and \$3,300 annually for most carriers.
- Ryan's budget plan also called for trillions of dollars in cuts to Medicare, ending the program as it now is structured and replacing it with a voucher system for purchasing private health care. It also called for using the Medicare savings to fund a permanent extension of the Bush tax cuts and to expand tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans.
- The budget plan also slashed college aid for low-income students and called for the creation of a commission to propose Social Security cuts.

And just this year, Ryan pushed a stand-alone bill to make all federal and postal workers pay 5 percent more in contributions to their pensions—effectively cutting their pay by 5 percent. The House passed Ryan's measure. The Senate has not acted on them as of the writing of this article.

The choice of Ryan as Romney's ticket mate has made it all more clear that electing Romney as president would be disastrous for letter carriers.

Again, your vote, your choice. But I would ask you to consider following NALC's lead—it is based on what's best for you as a letter carrier. ☒

Reprint courtesy of the October 2012 NALC national magazine *The Postal Record*



“Labor groups represent education, public safety, public health and the people who work and service both the private and public economy. If these voices of advocacy for good services, good jobs and a healthy California are silenced by Proposition 32, the gains that they fought for may be lost as attacks increase on everything from the eight-hour day, worker safety and public safety to public education and health care.”

**Dee Dee Bridges, President
League of Women Voters of Sonoma County**

Get The Vote Out

Fellow Union Brothers and Sisters I hope you are paying close attention to this election as it is a very crucial one. Now I know some are saying that Obama been in office and enough hasn't been done but if you look at his record it has but if you has the House blocking every move and really not working with the elected President than something is wrong with those chosen House representatives and now is the time to make a change. I want our Union members to go out and vote but change can not be made if you are not register to vote therefore your voice cannot be heard so don't sit back and complain if you are not register!

The Post Office is in a financial crisis and we need the President and House behind us to pass the necessary Bills out there to do that. So when you vote use your conscious and vote to save your livelihood because without their backing it cannot be done.

On that note I want to share how important Proposition 32 is its misleading, deceptive and full of consequences that will hurt all of us. It does nothing to limit special interest influence on politics in fact, it is NOT campaign finance reform, the individuals behind this measure actually exempt the Super PACs and corporate groups from the same restrictions it puts on unions. The measure also does nothing to prevent anonymous large donors from spending unlimited amounts to influence elections. So here again say NO on Prop 32!

Remember to Vote by Mail but most of all vote by November 6th.

In Solidarity,

DIANA CHAVEZ-HERRERA
NALC Branch 782 Legislative Liaison

Politics...

Sometimes we don't even want to mention the word. I know I don't like to talk about it a lot, but I want to just get the word out there on what I had recently experienced.

I went down to 200 W Jeffery St to help out with phone banking. Diana sent out a text and I told her I would help out. At first, I said to myself, "What are you doing? You've never done this kind of thing before. And with all that you have going on, you surely don't have the time." After being there, watching and listening to people working on getting messages out to the public about propositions & politicians."

I discovered that there is a lot that goes on behind what you see on TV. And this is just one office. Giving of my time to make a few phone calls, some of which were hang ups (which is OK); but, most of them, people weren't home and I just left messages.

And several even made me giggle. People are interesting.

I only spent an hour or so there, but there were still a lot of calls that needed to be made. So, even if you can give 30 minutes of your time, it would help out. Volunteers are always appreciated. There was even food there.

Kuddos to you Diana Chavez for doing what you do. And many Thanks...

Norma Hamer
Shafter Shop Steward

Minutes of the September 2012 General Meeting

The regular meeting of Branch 782 was called to order by President Mike Towery at 7:01 p.m. on the 25th day of September 2012 at the branch office in Bakersfield. The flag salute was led by Sgt. at Arms Darryl Holderman. All members of the Executive Board were present except Treasurer Molly Biggar. The stewards were present from Arvin, Avenal, Brundage, Camino Media, Downtown, E.B., Hillcrest, Lamont, Oildale, Shafter, South, Stockdale, Taft and Wasco. Also present was the Newsletter Editor Basil Zuniga, Photographer Anita Holderman, Asst. Recording Secretary Mabel Bullis, Asst. Treasurer Debbie Guillet, OWCP Rep. Rick Gerdes and Frank Martinez of the Social and Recreation Committee. The Minutes of the August 28, 2012 meeting were read by Asst. Recording Secretary Mabel Bullis and were accepted with no additions or corrections.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND STANDING COMMITTEES: Teresa Ortega reported that we are “ready to go” for the picnic. The food will be served from 11:00 to 1:00. Anyone who wants to help with set up should meet at the Village Grill at 7:00 a.m. To sign up to donate to COLCPE, members need to bring their ID number and PIN and the membership number from the label of the *Postal Record*. Basil Zuniga reported that next month will be Dole Ct. He also informed the members present that the color version of the newsletter is on the computer in the steward office. Frank Martinez reported that the tickets for the Dodger game went well. The Social and Recreation Committee has 20 tickets for each BC home game. The cost is \$5.00 per ticket. Norma Hamer thanked everyone who helped with “Fill the Satchel”. She reported that over \$1000.00 was collected. Mike Towery thanked Norma and Shari Sharpe for working on the “Fill the Satchel” campaign. Mabel Bullis reported that Fred Acedo took some books to the Kern County Fair to sell. There are 1267 books remaining. Basil Zuniga is working with Eric Ellis, District 8 Rep., to attend other branch meetings to sell the book. Jerry Patterson volunteered to go to the meetings with Basil.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION: Mike Towery introduced our District 8 Representative, Eric Ellis, who informed the members present that John Hernandez (candidate for Congress from the 21st District) is on his way to the meeting. He had just finished a meeting in Selma. He explained that Diana Herrera will be on “full time release” from the Postal Service to work on the “No on 32” campaign and in support of John Hernandez. He then spoke about the upcoming election and how important it

is that we defeat Prop. 32 and elect officials who will support issues friendly to Letter Carriers. He invited anyone interested to walk precincts in Las Vegas on October 13 – 14. National is paying for 3 buses from California and one night stay in Vegas for any member willing to walk the precincts. Diana Herrera is asking for members to volunteer to work the phone bank for an hour. We need to work together to defeat Prop. 32. She asked that anyone interested in working the phone bank or walking the precincts, please contact her. Mike Towery stressed how important it is to vote and support the candidates and issues that support our jobs. He also asked that anyone interested in attending the Rap Session in Pasadena on Saturday to contact him.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION: Mike Towery reported that two members will be retiring: Al Lopez and Ramon Herrera. He reported on the National arbitrations. The Postal Service wants 25% TE workforce, to do away with the “no lay off clause” and that employees will pay most of their health benefits. He reported that we will probably not hear anything until the first of the year.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY’S REPORT: Anita Holderman reported that \$11,797.39 was collected for September.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Asst. Treasurer Debbie Guillet reported:

Beginning Balance	\$76,809.73
Due and Income	\$10,990.48
Interest Income	\$ 6.29
Total Balance	\$87,806.50
Expenses	\$16,295.36
Ending Balance	\$71,511.14

John Hernandez arrived at the meeting. He is running for the seat vacated by Jim Costa, so there is no incumbent. He was introduced by Diana Herrera. Mr. Hernandez informed the members that he is in support of protecting 6 day delivery; he feels that it is important to the country. He also wants to protect our pension, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. He also supports Collective Bargaining. He stated that he will be here for Letter Carriers and is hoping for our support. His local office is at 931 Niles St. He needs volunteers. Mike thanked Mr. Hernandez for attending the meeting and appreciates the time he has taken to be here tonight.

The MDA Drawing was won by Shari Sharp. The \$200.00 Drawing would have been won by Sharold McBride if she had been present.

There were 33 members present.

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KIM GERDES

NON-MEMBER LIST APRIL 2012

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| AVENAL (93203)
<i>100% UNION!!!</i> | DOLE COURT (93308/12)
S. Hancock
D. Morris |
| ARVIN (93209)
<i>100% UNION!!!</i> | STOCKDALE (93309)
J. Oh |
| DELANO (93215)
L. A. Campos
C. V. Quebral | CAMINO MEDIA (93311/13)
<i>100% UNION!!!</i> |
| LAMONT (93241)
<i>100% UNION!!!</i> | MOJAVE (93501)
<i>100% UNION!!!</i> |
| McFARLAND (93250)
<i>100% UNION!!!</i> | CALIFORNIA CITY (93504)
<i>100% UNION!!!</i> |
| SHAFTER (93263)
L. M. New
M. D. Voights | BORON (93516)
<i>100% UNION!!!</i> |
| TAFT (93268)
M. R. Marin
B. W. Krier
K. J. Hughes | EDWARDS AFB (93526)
<i>100% UNION!!!</i> |
| WASCO (93280)
<i>100% UNION!!!</i> | TEHACHAPI (93561)
<i>100% UNION!!!</i> |
| DOWNTOWN (93301)
J. Cruz | TRONA (93562)
<i>100% UNION!!!</i> |
| SOUTH STATION (93304)
<i>100% UNION!!!</i> | RIDGECREST (93555)
B. J. Leroy
L. M. Montano
H. G. Blanco
S. R. Pierce |
| EAST BAKERSFIELD (93305)
<i>100% UNION!!!</i> | |
| HILLCREST (93306)
<i>100% UNION!!!</i> | |
| BRUNDAGE (93307)
D. Kinglee | |



We are an “Open Shop”.
MEMBERSHIP IS VOLUNTARY.
369 Letter Carriers are in the complement assigned to cities represented by our Branch. ONLY 16 ARE NON-MEMBERS.
We are 95.67% organized!



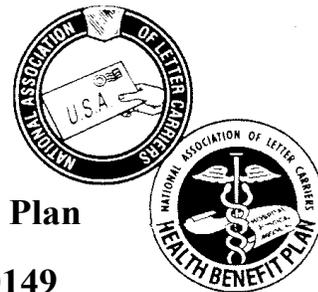
Mea Culpa

I'd like to send out an apology to Alma Kirby. I failed to mention a "Thank You" to you in the last newsletter for helping out with the MDA Fill the Satchel event. My apologies to you... Thank you for giving your time to help for this great cause. It was TRULY appreciated.

Norma Hamer

2012 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
CareMark Specialty Pharmacy	1-800-237-2767
Durable Medical Equipment	1-888-636-6252
NURSE ASSISTANT (24/7)	1-877-220-6252
CareMark Pharmacist	1-888-636-6252
Enhanced Eldercare Services (24/7)	1-877-468-1016
CIGNA PPO Dr's & Facilities	1-877-220-6252
CIGNA Transplant Approval	1-800-668-9682
Quit Power (Smoking Cessation)	1-877-521-0244
CIGNA Health Rewards (Discounts)	1-800-870-3470
CIGNA Dental Discount Program	1-877-521-0244
Disease Management Program	1-800-227-3728
MEDICARE Managed Care Plan	1-800-633-4277
OPM Retirement Info Center	1-888-767-6738
Federal Information Center	1-800-688-9889
Social Security Administration Info	1-800-772-1213
PostalEase Human Resources USPS	1-877-477-3273
Quest Lab Services (Bakersfield)	(661) 631-8520
LabCorp Lab Services	(661) 631-9258

NALC Health Benefit Plan
20547 Waverly Court
Ashburn, Virginia 20149

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

NALC Drug Prescription
"Claims" Program
P.O. Box 521926
Phoenix, Arizona 85012-2192

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

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

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

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

Some Websites for You...

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

Accupuncture!! Must be a state licensed or certified accupuncturist. Chiropractic! State licensed chiropractor or D.O. only.

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

* *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. MAIL ORDER PRESCRIPTIONS when NALC is primary: 60 day supply \$8 generic, \$43 name brand; 90 day supply \$12 generic, \$65 name brand; 90 day supply \$5 for NALCSELECT generics (certain drugs); 90 day supply \$7.99 NALCPREFERRED generic (certain drugs), **MEDICARE PROGRAM** (when Medicare is primary); Retail network pharmacy: you pay 10% of cost of generic, 20% of cost for name brand, MEDICARE PRIMARY (mail order); 60 day supply \$7 generic, \$37 name brand; 90 day supply \$10 generic \$55 name brand; 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, diabetis, organ rejection, etc.) require prior approval before dispensing. You **MUST** call the Plan 1-800-237-2767.

Mark Ramirez, NALC Branch 782 HBP Rep.
(661) 834-5011

OPEN SEASON for 2013 NALC HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN

As our National contract negotiations are going to arbitration, our NALC Health Benefit Plan's coverage and monthly premiums will be negotiated by our HBP Director Brian Hellman and his team. They will meet with the Office of Personnel Management (OPM).

Even though we don't have all the information for the 2013 season, it is with the utmost importance that our NALC Union Brothers and Sisters take a good look at "OUR" Union's Health Benefit Plan during open season. With the anti-union climate swirling around our nation, we "MUST" stand up and support our Union. Why? The benefits we enjoy today can easily be taken away in the near future.

Our NALC Health Benefit Plan is rated in the "TOP" of all health plans available to Federal employees.

We own our plan, and any profits are returned to the our Plan. With our Health Benefit Plan, "we" can choose our doctors, hospitals, and other medical services in the CIGNA network, at super discounts.

The Open Season for 2013 will begin November 12 and run through December 10th 2012. The NALC Health Plan benefits for 2013 have added a number of new improvements to our Health Plan. The monthly premiums have increased slightly for active members. Our catastrophic (major medical) benefits, which includes Organ Transplants, cancer etc. is still an excellent benefit for our members and utilizing our CIGNA PPO network, requires less out of pocket for our members. Our Drug Prescription Program is excellent, and for our members who have Medicare as their primary, our Drug plan is as good or better than Medicare "D", so there is "no" reason to purchase Medicare D. Our Chiropractic benefit has been improved for 2013, and our foot care benefit is better for 2013. A couple of new benefits that have been added to our plan are: Hepatitis B vaccine for all adults ages 19 and older. Now covered, Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccines covered, ages 19 thru 56. The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) testing ages 30 and older. New for 2013, alcohol and drug use assessment for children ages 11 through 21. Our Drug Prescription program; Network Retail Active members, Generic 20% of cost, Formulary brand 30% of cost, out of network, you pay 45% of cost.

Mail order or at a network Pharmacy, example, (CVS) 60 day supply \$8 generic, \$43 formulary brand, \$58 non-formulary brand, 90 day supply \$12 generic, \$65 formulary brand, \$80 non-formulary brand. "Medicare", mail order or network pharmacy, example (CVS), 60 day supply \$7 generic, \$37 formulary brand, 90 day supply \$10 generic, \$55 formulary brand.

2013 PREMIUM RATE INFORMATION

Self-only Annuitant	\$160.66 MONTHLY
Self and Family Annuitant	\$326.04 MONTHLY
Self-only Active	\$58.25 BI-WEEKLY
Self and Family Active	\$115.07 BI-WEEKLY
Transitional Employees (TE) Self-only	\$264.99 BI-WEEKLY
Transitional Employees (TE) Self and Family	\$575.43 BI-WEEKLY

I have been the NALC Health Benefit Representative for Branch 782 for over twenty-three years, and—in those twenty-three years—**EVERY** member who has enrolled in "OUR" NALC Health Benefit Plan has stayed the Health plan.

IT'S NOT, JUST THE BEST HEALTH PLAN TO BE A MEMBER OF; IT IS THE BEST "UNION OWNED" HEALTH PLAN TO BE "PROUD" TO BE A MEMBER OF!!!

So, during OPEN SEASON, use the PostaleASE website to enroll, or call 1-877-477-3273. You will need your personal identification number (PIN). You can call the number above to request your PIN number. Postal form SF2809 can be used if it is still available for enrollment.

MARK RAMIREZ
A PROUD NALC HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN MEMBER
NALC Branch 782

I have often pondered, what if the dirty language we hear today could be replaced with some insulting language heard in the Shakespeare era? It wouldn't be as offensive, but it would be funny to hear. And here are a few insults you might use, in place of the bad language we hear today;

**"I'LL BEAT THEE, BUT I SHOULD I
NFECT MY HANDS"**

**"THOU ART A CROSSED-EYED
CREAM FACED LOON!"**

**"THOU BURLY BONED FAT
KATEYED MINNOW!"**

**"THOU ART A BOIL, A PLAGUE SORE,
AN EMBOSSED CARBUNCLE IN MY
CORRUPTED BLOOD!"**

**"THOU HAS NO MORE BRAIN THAN I
HAVE IN MINE ELBOWS!"**

**"THOU SHAM'ST THE MUSIC OF SWEET
NEWS BY PLAYING IT TO ME
WITH SO SOUR A FACE!"**

**"YOU ARE A CANDLE, THE
BETTER BURNT OUT!"**

**"THINE BREATH STINKS WITH EATING
TOASTED CHEESE!"**

**"AS I TOLD YOU ALWAYS, HER BEAUTY
AND HER BRAIN GO NOT TOGETHER!"**

**"THY VILE CANKER BLOSSOM'D
COUNTEANCE CURDLES MILK
AND SOURS BEER!"**

So, the next time you have a heated discussion with someone, with a sense of humor, use one of these, instead of the usual....
@#%\$# @& *%#@#%\$^&#&^%*(#&

FUNNY BUMPER STICKERS

"Confidence"
is the feel-
ing you have
before you
understand the
situation.

Never put
off till tomor-
row what you
can avoid all
together.

You are only
young once,
but you can
stay immature
indefinitely.

The whole
purpose of your life is to serve as a warning to others.

It is impossible to make anything foolproof, because fools are so ingenious.

I don't care what you love, what your other car is, who you break for, or what you'd rather be doing.

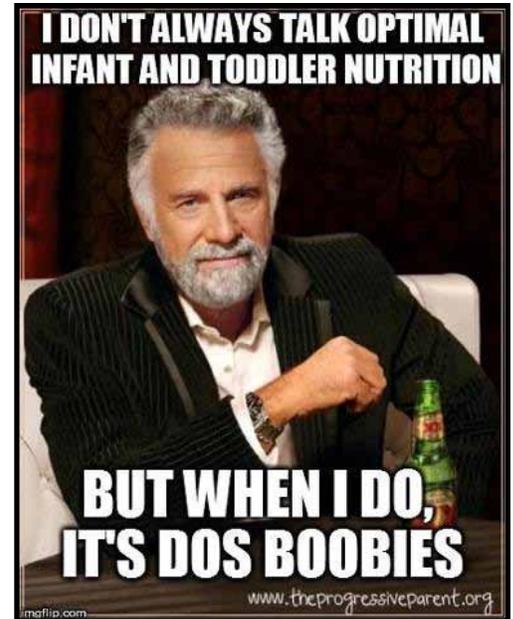
If it doesn't fit, force it; if it breaks, it needed replacement anyway.

A sign in a supermarket express lane read: "You are limited to FIFTEEN items or less! The number FIFTEEN is 'NOT' subject to negotiation!"

I know you think you understand what I said, but what you heard was not what I meant.

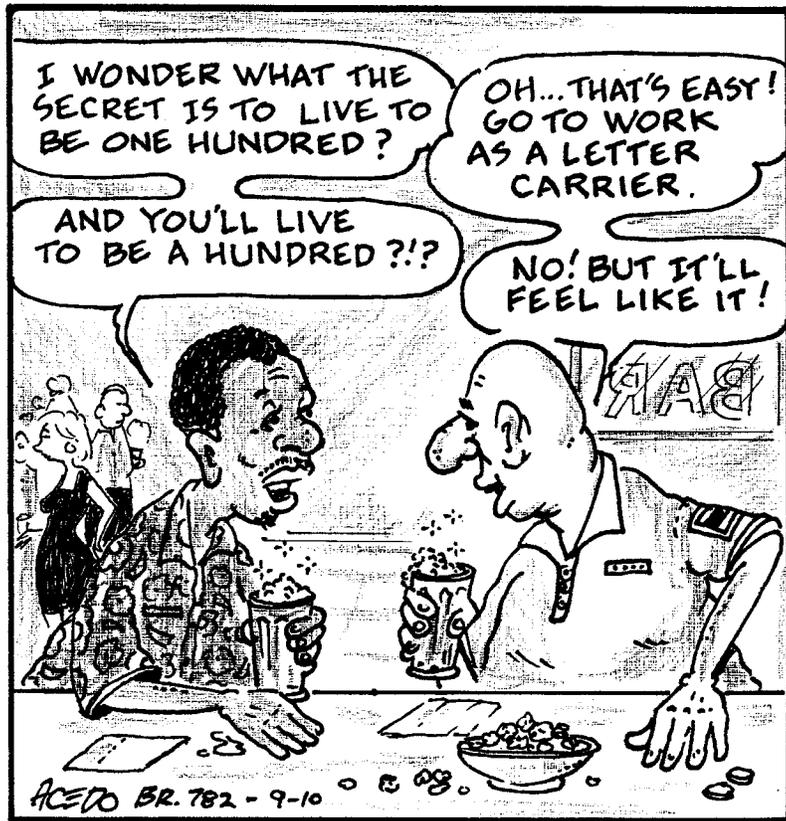
Mark's humor...just in case you need a dash.

MARK RAMIREZ
Branch 782 HBP Representative
and a proud Retired NALC/USPS Letter Carrier



Basil, I have something for our newsletter... Some say: "Laughter lowers blood pressure." It just makes me wet my pants! Mark Ramirez, HBP Representative

"OUT THERE"



OUT THERE



HAVE AN IDEA FOR FRED???

FRED ACEDO
BR. 782 S.A.N.E.
P.O. BOX 6532
BAKERSFIELD, CA
93386-6532

*...YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU MIGHT GET...

OUT THERE



*S.A.N.E.



SPECIAL ASSISTANT NEWSLETTER EDITOR - BR. 782 BAKERSFIELD, CA - 9-10



Setting Up Was Part of the Fun



These pictures are courtesy of talented NALC Branch 782 Photographer Anita Holderman.



The annual branch picnic was held on October 7th. I was in charge of games this year along with help from Autumn Meza.

Tried something a little bit different this year: outdoor bowling. It was fun and a lot harder than people thought. The object of a game was to use a basketball to try to knock over partially filled 2 liter bottles.

One thing that I didn't expect was for the basketballs to pop up in the air once the "pins" were knocked down. There were some strong bowlers out there!

Then we had the sack race. That was the funniest sack race I'd ever seen. Players were giving their all to cross that line! Mind you, there were gift cards to be won. You gotta play hard to win!

Then, it was time for the all faithful balloon toss. A nice little cool down, especially if you had just finished playing laser tag!

Thank you Teresa Garcia for another great job on pulling this annual event together! Laser tag was a HIT! Oh, and the food was delicious! For those of you that didn't make it, hope to see you next year.

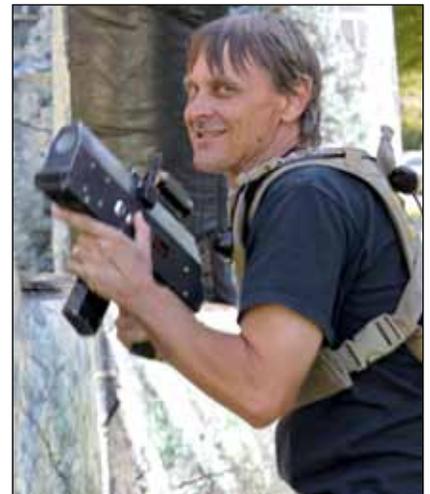
NORMA HAMER
Shafter Shop Steward



***And...why all the work??
So we could all have fun!!!***

Continued on next page...

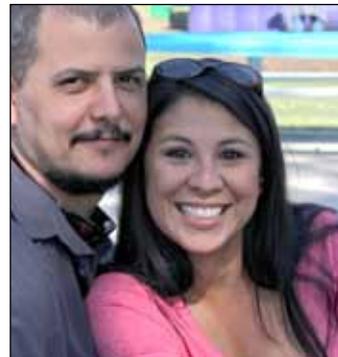
It was for the kids!



Even for the biggest kids, it was great!



It was fun!

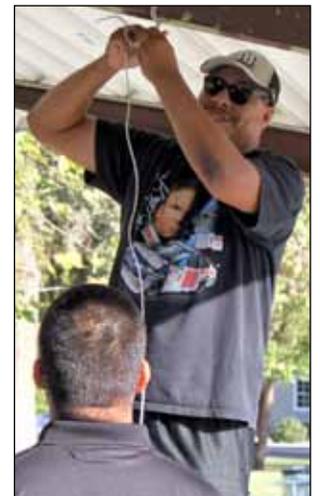
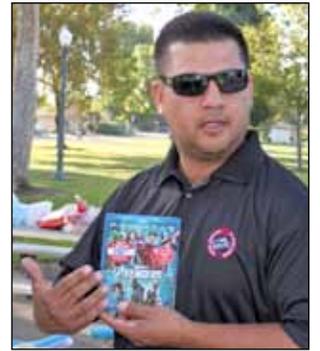




To see more pictures go to WWW.782NALC.COM. You are gonna be surprised.

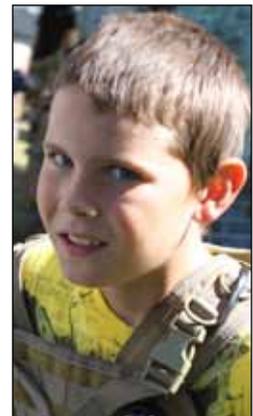


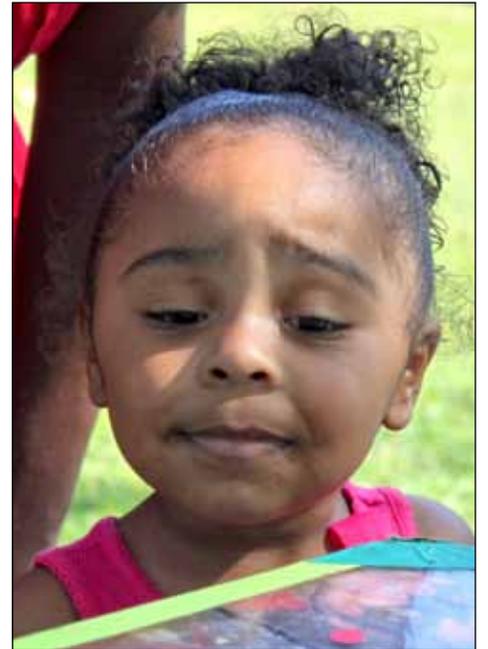
We did what??





We wouldn't have looked so good without these two folks!!!







Fun!

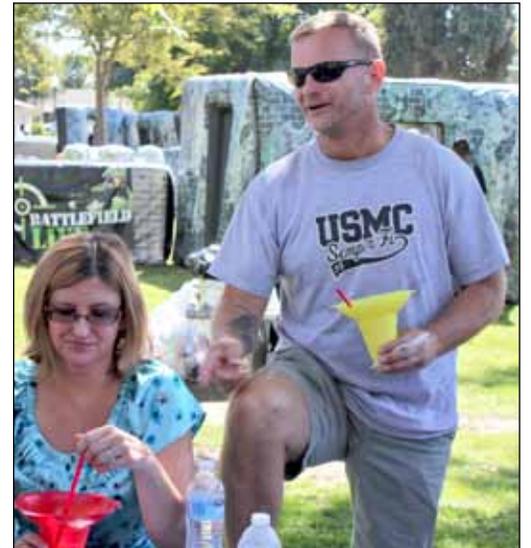


Competition brings out the best in some folks...



And??
And??





And????

If you are fan of a movie called "The Commitments" like Basil is, you might chuckle at this line...



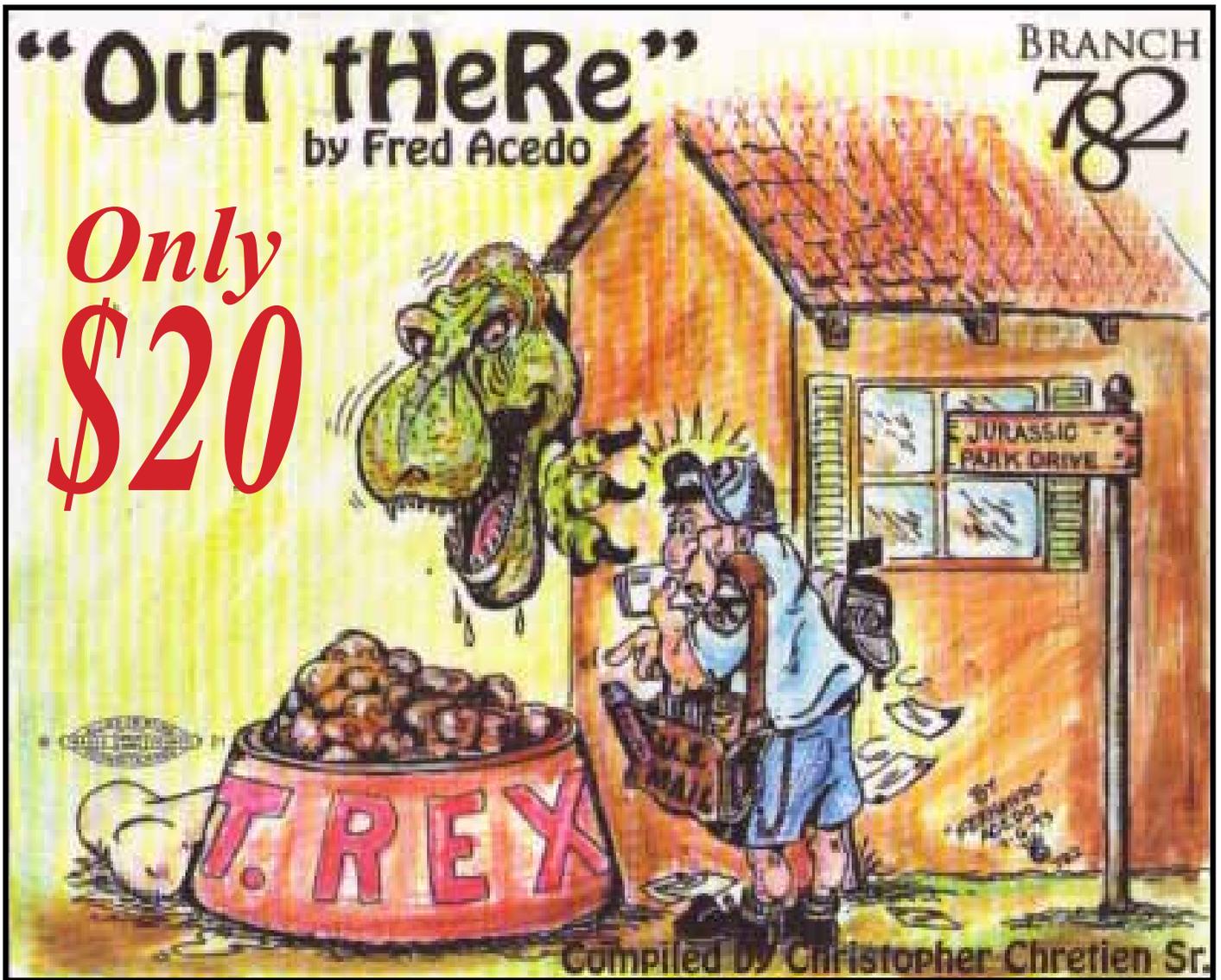
Thank you, Theresa!!!

It was a great picnic!!!! Hmmm... Next year will be quite a task to build on this and make it even a bigger and better event. We're all looking forward to that! Start planning right now...

“Out there” by Fred Acedo

BRANCH
782

Only
\$20



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

We envisioned that all 2,500 copies of this book would be sold at the national NALC Convention in Anaheim in 2010. Didn't happen. We still have about 1500 copies of this book waiting to be sold before we can make our anticipated MDA donation. And—to add a little twist—a member motion at our general meeting that we had to sell **ALL** of the books before we could make our donation...

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

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

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



Congratulations, Ramon!!! September 30, 2012



Ramon—casing Route 420 in 1980's

When you got to South Station in the mid-1980's *these* are some of the folks you worked with. All of them are retired, now. And...guess what? You are now, too!!!



"Primo"! It's hard to believe that I have worked with you for almost fifteen years. Where did the time go? I will miss you and our lunch times. Have a great retirement!

JUDY KIYOSHI

Vaya con Dios, Amigo! Hopefully, your body will not hurt too much anymore. Thank you for sharing the story about why they call you "Primo".

Maybe, you are the last of your cousins working now? I forgot to ask. Well, maybe, now the folks at the Towers will not complain anymore, but I doubt it. They will always complain about something or someone, right?! Good days to you, Ramon! NEIL KRAMER



Okay, get ready.



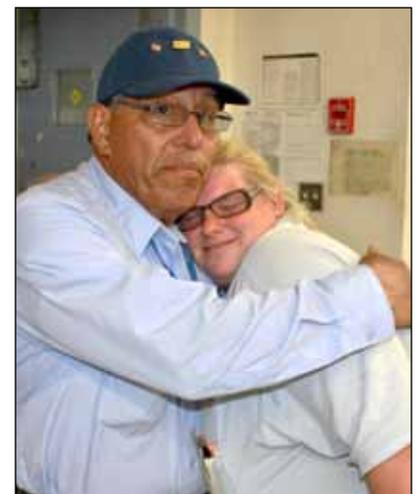
Please, don't reject me!



Hey! I'm retired!!! Really!!!



Can you hear me NOW????





Hey, “Primo”! Best Wishes! Good Luck! Good Health and Happy Retirement! Hope to be joining those ranks **SOON**, too!!!

DAVID BRIDGES



Hey, Primo!

Wishing you a long, long retirement filled with relaxing and fun times! I will totally miss you. Come visit us anytime!

Love, *DEVEN PATTERSON*

Hey, Primo!

Enjoy Retirement! Take care of yourself. Someday, I will be doing the same. Good Luck!

JOHN ROSSO

Primo: Enjoy your Retirement! Go places, do what you want. The rest of your life is yours to do what you want. Have a great Retirement!

DANNY BLAIR, Route 406

Hey, “Primo”!

I really enjoyed working with you for all of these years. Hope you have a great Retirement!

DARRYL HOLDERMAN

“Primo”, I didn’t get the pleasure to work with you long, but the time I did left a lasting impression! Take care of yourself and enjoy the Retirement years, Buddy!

DEBRA HARVEY



—“Primo”—

You made it! I pray that your days of Retirement are filled with blessings! Working alongside you gave me many smiles and laughs. Stay healthy and enjoy! !Dios te bendiga siempre!

ANITA HOLDERMAN

Well, Guy...

I hope you have a good Retirement with your family! Enjoy your time off. Don’t forget us workers slaving away. I’m gonna miss you!

ALMA KIRBY

Hello, “Primo”!

This is Sodhi. How are you doing? I miss you every morning. Have a happy Retirement!

SARBJIT SODHI



**“Hey! Work it!!!
You Got that Right!!!”**

SHEILA WILEY

“WaSappening????” Hey, “Primo”, Congrats on your Retirement!! Enjoy it! No more, “Whan Hour!!!!”

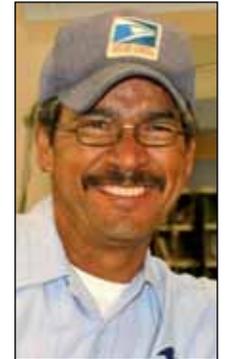
I still remember asking you how it was working for the Post Office when I lived on Agate before I got hired. You should have told me it sucked.... Just kidding! Have a Happy Retirement!!

RALPH RAMIREZ



To see more pictures from Ramon Herrera’s retirement celebration at South Station go to WWW.782NALC.COM

These pictures—and many others—are courtesy of talented NALC Branch 782 Photographer Anita Holderman.





Who is still around South today who was here then and hasn't left ???

Y'think that some of them might be thinking about the whole retirement thing when they see Ramon walkin' out the door???



Darryl Holderman



John Rosso



David Bridges



Danny Blair

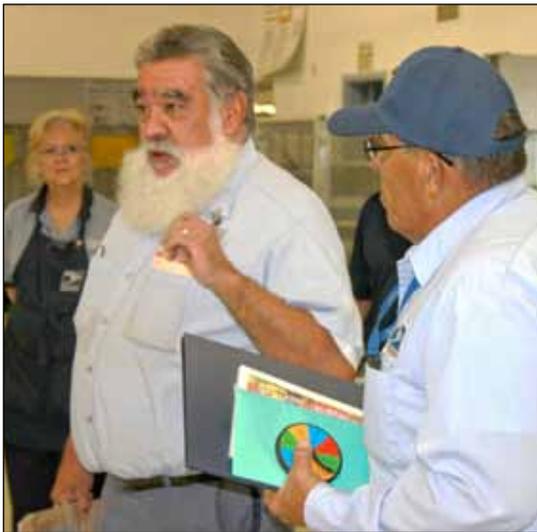


Basil Zuniga



These are some of the people that Ramon worked with in the mid-1980's. They are all gone to other stations or have left the USPS to pursue other interests...





Rufus "Al" Lopez (Seniority 5-8-78) decides he's had enough!

*Camino Media helped
celebrate Al's retirement!*

*He's going to be missed
by everyone still here!!!*



Pictures courtesy of Maggie Long's cell phone

Buy—or serve—a cup of coffee for a war veteran

by Cheryl Long

The Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary is a large portion of my life. We have been supporting the VA clinic as far back as I can remember with donations of coffee, coffee cups, stir sticks, creamer, sugar and sugar substitutes. Years ago, the Ladies Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of California helped enormously, but with the opening of many other clinics up and down California, funds have gotten a little smaller, making it difficult to spread around enough to help out all of the clinics and hospitals in the Veterans Administration Service Centers.

I was talking the other day to one of our state VFW Service officers about the coffee situation. He told me that at our clinic on Westwind Drive in Bakersfield, they are seeing more than 8,000 men and women per month... Including those coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan—as well as our older vets—that is more than 100,000 people a year!!

Well, that explains why we can't keep up with the coffee situation as well as we have in the past, and why the \$500 per year from our Ladies Auxiliary doesn't

go very far. Granted, during the summer there isn't as much coffee being brewed in the afternoons as there is in the mornings, so we are able to offset there; but, during the winter months—when it is cold and dreary all day—so much more coffee is consumed. Once a month, about 10 to 15 ladies (most of them from Bakersfield, Taft, Maricopa, Wasco and incorporated areas of Kern County) bake cookies, doughnuts and coffee cakes on the last Friday of the month. We set up a table where those men and women can come and get what they want—something to go along with their coffee. It's our way of saying, "Thank you for your service and for the freedoms it helps preserve." I (along with my Ladies Auxiliary sisters) believe this is the least we can do for what they have done for us.

I ran a little blurb about the situation on Facebook and had replies from five of my friends, who volunteered a couple of weeks ago. I love how my friends and our families step up to the plate, but this is a quick fix and we will need help for years to come. Our Ladies Auxiliary has plans to ask local markets and other businesses

to put out boxes for donations to see if we can get some relief that way. But only time will tell if anyone out there in the community would like to help.

In the meantime, please don't hesitate to call me. We will even make arrangements to pick up any donations you might have. You can reach me at (661) 303-0073.

Thank you, in advance! And, God bless the men and women who gave us the rights and freedoms we have today!!!

Cheryl Long is a Life Member of VFW Auxiliary No. 1468 under the eligibility of her father, Warren G. Morrell, Sr. He fought in the Korean War. He died on December 13, 2007.

*Branch 782 Editor-guy's note: Warren "Windy" Morrell was a retired postal employee who worked at the old Annex and retired from the GMF. He and his family used to live at 939 Sylvia. They were good people! I delivered mail to them for over twenty-three years. They lived on my first route. I had no idea he had served in Korea... Because of this article, I've taken some coffee over to the clinic. My question to you now is: **WILL YOU?***

This abridged article courtesy of an undated *Bakersfield Californian*



MUTUAL TRADE OPPORTUNITY

Regular Carrier in Wenatchee, Wa seeks a trade transfer to Bakersfield. Prefer someone with seniority. (And...want to avoid getting a park & loop rt.)

I have 7-94 seniority date. I am 14 from the top.

Wenatchee is a town of 60k , 40 rts.

contact bob at: po box 373 , wenatchee wa.
98807. OR, text to
509-393- 6374.

OR...e-mail me at
"alaskabob@genext.net".

Thanks again,

BOB
STIBRANY

These are a few pictures of Wenatchee that gives you just a tiny glimpse into how cool it is...

from the editor-guy

I've made this comment before:

"When it's 3:00 a.m.—and I'm trying to finish this newsletter—I wonder if anybody even takes the time to see what's in it..."

Many of you have told me that you take the time to look at more than just Fred Acedo's cartoons. That makes me feel good. It really does.

It also makes me feel good that you enjoy Fred's cartoons. They are really special and make what I do as your Branch 782 Editor-guy really fun. I also know that you really don't know what a gift that Fred's cartoons are to me.

Whether you know it or not, Fred has produced many, many cartoons that you have yet to see... **I'VE SEEN THEM. THEY EXIST!** And (if I can do my job right) you are going to see them well into the future.

But, unbeknownst to y'all, there is an additional benefit: I get to see some of Fred's artwork that—to this point—has never made it into the pages of our newsletter. Some of these are cartoons which, to use a phrase which is factual, are even *more* "Out There" than the cartoons that you see. And, truthfully, that particular stack of cartoons will probably never see the light of day in the pages of our newsletter. (However, that dude Hefner's publication might be a good venue...).

If you look at the graphic at the top of this column, you see an example of the type of artwork that Fred seems to casually throw on the manilla envelope in which he sends cartoons to me. This particular cover has been sitting on my desk for quite a while. I wanted to share it with you.

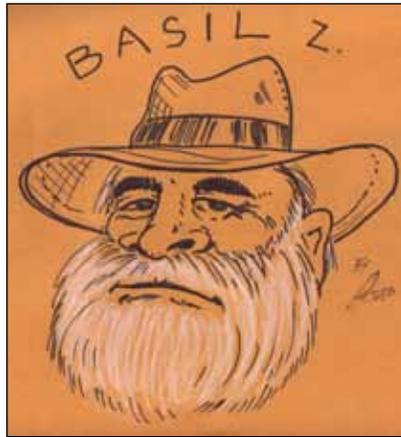
It's pretty good. My family loves it!

I also want to share something else with you. And *this* is something important.

NALC Branch 782 paid for the publishing of a book featuring Fred's first nine years of cartoons for our newsletter. 2500 books were printed as a way for our Branch to make a significant monetary donation to the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Seemed to us like it would be a relatively easy goal since there would be some 10,000 delegates at the Convention.

Our problem is that we still have books to sell. We anticipated that we would sell all of the books at the NALC National Convention in Anaheim. Didn't happen. We hoped that we would sell the remainder



at the NALC National Convention in Minneapolis. Didn't happen there either.

We're trying something different. We're going to see if we can take the books to NALC members at their Branch meetings and see if we can find a way to make our goal.

I attended the Fresno Branch 321 meeting on October 9, 2012 with three NALC Branch 782 members. There were forty members at that meeting. We sold ten books. (Three of those books were purchased by Branch 231 to send to members on active military duty who were stationed in combat zones.)

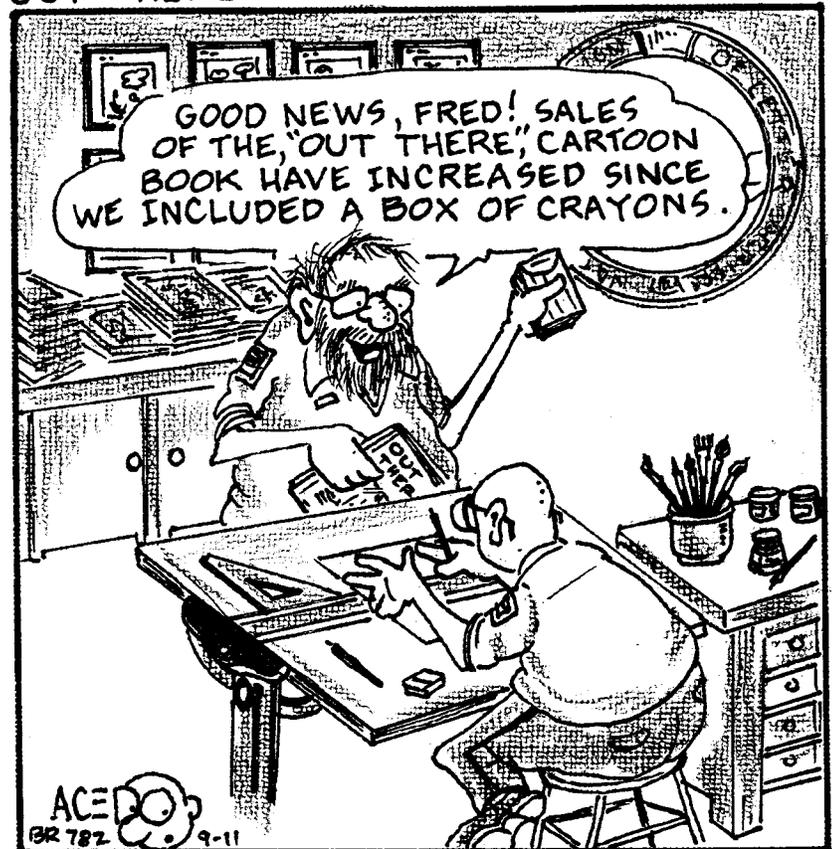
That gives me hope! It also makes me feel a little bold to ask you to consider doing something.

Some Carriers give their T-6 a present at Christmas time. Sometimes, it is a twenty dollar bill. Maybe, this year, you can buy one of the Fred Acedo cartoon books for \$20 and give it to your T-6 for Christmas.

If you've seen the books, you know that they are really an amazing look at the world that all Letter Carriers live in...

BASIL ZUNIGA

OUT THERE





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E.A. BAKER UNION UPDATE is published monthly by Merged Branch 782 of the National Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO.

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the writer and are not necessarily those of the publication staff or of the Officers of the Branch.

The information contained in this publication is true and complete to our best knowledge. All recommendations, on equipment and procedures are made without guarantees on the part of the authors or of the organization. Because the quality of equipment, services and methods are beyond our control, the organization and its publication authors disclaim all liability incurred in connection with use of this information.

Information in this publication may not be used for illegal purposes.

We invite all members to contribute articles for publication. Copy, if possible, should be double-spaced (but doesn't have to be) but **MUST** be signed by the contributor.

The Editor retains the right to edit, delete, or reject the article for the good of the Branch (and even this is subject to persuasion).

In the hope that material contained herein may be of benefit to the goals of the National Association of Letter Carriers, permission is hereby granted to other NALC Branches to copy or use material and/or cartoons promulgated in this publication with our best wishes...but remember to cite/give us some credit.

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*(Special Assistant Newsletter Editor)

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Delano (93215)	Gracie Silva	(661) 325-5526
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Dole Court (93308)	Shari Sharpe	(661) 364-5544
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California City (93504)	Russell Day	(760) 373-8963
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**Branch 782
Website
www.782nalc.com**

Rick Plummer, Webmaster



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Non-Profit Organization
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Permit Number 32

General Meeting Tuesday October 23, 2012 7:00 p.m.

Branch 782 Office
2628 "F" Street
Bakersfield, California

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

Congratulations Al and Ramon!!!

You've joined a great
bunch of USPS employees:
"The Last Punch Bunch"



For a look at more pictures from these celebrations for our two Branch 782 members *OR* to see Picnic pictures, check out this issue...

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