

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 11

NOVEMBER 2014 WEB VERSION

at the
Mike:
The sudden news that
PMG Donahoe announced
his resignation trumps
almost every other item
which I can address. But,
there ARE other things
which you need to be
aware of. Really...



I want to thank John Ortega, Mike Meza, Shari Sharp and Norma Hamer for spending their Sunday attending the NALC Leadership Conference in Pasadena on October 19th. We heard NALC President Fredric Rolando discuss the many issues that face Letter Carriers in the months ahead.

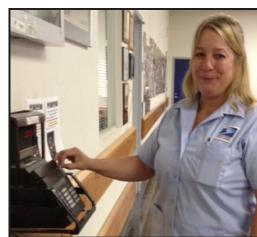
Since then, Frederic Rolando and his team of national officers have been re-elected. While some of the Congressional races did not go as we had hoped, I *KNOW* our national officers will do *all they can* to work for the betterment of the Letter Carriers.

With Postmaster General Donahoe retiring February 1, 2015, we will have to wait and see if the new Postmaster General—Megan Brennan—will focus more on growing the business instead of shrinking it. Time will tell...

I also want to congratulate the last five Part-Time-Flexible Carriers in Bakersfield who were converted to full-time Regulars effective November 15th—as a result of a grievance settlement. Congratulations to Glenda Beaver, Penilla Ramirez, Maria Valenzuela, Francisco Herrera and Fernando Formeloza!

Bakersfield's Francisco Herrera has the distinction of being *the very last PTF Carrier ever!* There are approximately 130 PTF Carriers left in our district who still need to be converted to full-time, and I believe there are only two PTF Carriers left in our Branch. I know that CCA Carriers—some who have worked at the Postal Service for over ten years—have been eagerly awaiting the time when they, too, will be converted to full-time.

I hope to see everyone at the General Meeting where we will discuss a variety of issues that may be of concern to you.



Glenda Beaver



Maria Valenzuela and Francisco Herrera



Fernando Formeloza

Breaking News: PMG Donahoe Resigns!

New Route Adjustment Process... CDRAAP

The new joint route evaluation and adjustment process, the City Delivery Route Alternative Adjustment Process (CDRAAP) 2014-2015, has two components designed to help ensure that the data used to evaluate and adjust routes is accurate: posting the Workhour Workload Reports (All Routes) daily in each office, and the PS Form 3999 Process.

These two components allow Letter Carriers to be directly involved with correcting any data problems they identify while reviewing what information is recorded for their assignments. Both are explained in detail on the following pages.

The parties' mutual understanding of the Memorandum of Understanding Re: City Delivery Route Alternative Adjustment Process – 2014-2015 (M-01845) includes a renewal of the Workhour Workload Report (All Routes) posting requirement, which allows Letter Carriers an opportunity to verify—on a daily basis—the correct recording of times and volumes for their assignments.

The NALC initially negotiated this procedure in the 2011 Joint Alternate Route Adjustment Process to help identify any problems with the daily recording of data and get them corrected quickly. If the Workhour Workload Report is not being posted in your office you must notify your Steward.

The reason for posting and reading this report is simple. CDRAAP uses this information to determine an *actual* office and street time, as well as a standard office time determined by the volume of cased letters and cased flats, plus a fixed office time.

Also, the CDRAAP agreements require the regular Carrier's input from the initial consultation to be considered when evaluating the office and street time for

a route. The more familiar you are with your daily workload as well as your daily office and street times, the more accurate your input will be about the time necessary to complete your daily assignment.

Management is required to post the previous day's Workhour Workload Report (All Routes) in a convenient location in every office in the country. This requirement can be found in M-01846, which provides the mutual understanding of the national parties on issues related to M-01845. This includes *every office in every zone*, including offices that were not selected for evaluation and adjustment under CDRAAP.

We all have an interest in monitoring the data recorded for our routes, and no one knows better what happens every day on your assignment than you do. The Workhour Workload Report (All Routes) reflects what was recorded for the actual time used to case and carry your route and the volume recorded each day.

Reviewing the Workhour Workload Report (All Routes) each day and asking management to correct any errors you may find will help you ensure that all the time you spend working on your assignment is properly recorded and that *all* letters, flats and parcels are accounted for. This will help the route evaluation and adjustment team assigned to your office make sound decisions when evaluating and adjusting your route.

Also renewed with the signing of M-01845 is the PS Form 3999 Process. This process is outlined in the parties' jointly developed document, M-01846, which provides the mutual understanding of the national parties on issues related to the MOU.

The PS Form 3999 is used to record all data on the day a manager goes out on

your route with you. The times on this form are used to determine the time value of territory transferred from one route to another.

Most of the time you spend on the street not delivering mail, but doing other tasks related to mail delivery, is recorded as what is called "allied time."

The City Delivery Route Alternative Adjustment Process has two provisions dealing with 3999s that we believe will put you in a better position to ensure a fair adjustment of your route.

The first provision requires that where multiple 3999s have been done on a route since the last time it was adjusted, the 3999 closest to the evaluated street time for the route will be used to determine the time value of territory transferred from one route to another route.

If you had multiple 3999s done on your route since the last time you had an adjustment, you should point this fact out at your initial consultation and, if you can, tell the local office contacts how many 3999s were done on your route.

The second provision *requires* a manager to discuss the 3999 with you within three days after it is done. The manager is required to show you any nonrecurring time recorded for your route and explain why the time was recorded that way. You then have the right to write comments about the time recorded as nonrecurring, the route

Johnny
on
the
Spot



examiner's written or oral comments, mail volume, etc. from the day the 3999 was performed.

You also are entitled to a copy of the comments you write. Don't forget to ask for a copy if it isn't automatically provided.

All of this information is forwarded to the route evaluation and adjustment team in CDRAAP-selected zones.

This new 3999 process is to be followed for *any and all* 3999s conducted after Sept. 23, 2014, (whether or not your office or zone is in CDRAAP).

The term "any and all 3999s" means exactly what it says.

These are just some highlights from the November 2014 *Postal Record Contract Talk* section. I urge you to read that article for a more in-depth look into this new process by which routes will be evaluated and adjusted..

On Saturday November 15th the final five PTF Carriers in the city of Bakersfield were converted to Full Time status. Congratulations to each and every one of them. And, what does this now mean? This means you're next, CCA's!!

Respectfully,

JOHN ORTEGA
NALC Branch 782 Vice-President

PMG announces retirement; USPS releases 2014 financial report



(l-r) Branch 782 President Mike Towery and President Rolando

We wish Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe well in the future, and we congratulate his replacement, Megan Brennan. We look forward to working with her. We hope that in addition to a new name, this change also involves a vision for the future that will enable the Postal Service to continue to adapt and to serve Americans and their businesses.

Today's annual USPS financial report reinforces the point that the postal networks are thriving—profitable this year by \$1.4 billion after what USPS called its best quarterly and annual performance in many years—and that dismantling the networks is precisely the wrong thing to do.

The USPS report shows that letter revenue rose as the economy improves, while package revenue skyrocketed by 9.1 percent, the biggest increase on record. That reflects growing online shopping, which makes the Internet a net positive for USPS—auguring well for the future.

Proposals that involve slowing the mail by closing processing plants, and degrading service by ending Saturday and door-to-door delivery or reducing post office hours, are nonsensical. Dismantling postal networks that have returned to profitability and that provide Americans and their businesses with the world's most efficient and affordable delivery service would hurt the public.

By driving away mail and revenue, a shrink-to-survive approach also would destroy an agency that is based in the Constitution and has an 80 percent positive rating from the public.

Lawmakers should strengthen the networks while addressing the onerous pre-funding of future retiree health benefits imposed by a lame-duck Congress in 2006. This burden, required of no other entity, is essentially the red ink, and addressing it would strengthen the Postal Service moving forward.

Today's news, including the continued financial improvement, provides an opportunity to move forward with constructive reform that all stakeholders can buy into.

NALC Press Release—November 14, 2014

Proposed NALC Branch 782 Retiree Dinner Motion

My name is Mario Muniz. I am a Branch 782 Retiree. In accordance with the Branch 782 By-Laws, I am publishing this proposed Motion which will be introduced, and seconded, at the November 2014 General Meeting.

"I move that NALC Branch 782 host a Retiree Dinner where the cost of the dinner for each Branch Retiree and their significant other will be subsidized by the Branch. Although it has been four years since the last Retiree Dinner was held, hosting a gathering like this has been a tradition for our Branch for many years. Almost 100 Retirees and their significant others attended the 2010 Retiree Dinner which cost a little less than \$18.00 a meal. The cost for the event to Branch 782, held at Hodel's Restaurant in Bakersfield, was a little under \$1,700. I have been informed that costs have risen over the course of the last four years and that the cost of a buffet meal for this kind of a function is now \$21.50 per meal; therefore, I propose that Branch 782 allocate \$2,200 for this project. However (because it is impossible to predict how many people will attend), the actual monies expended may be either under or over the \$2,200 amount which is being proposed. Active Letter Carriers and other guests are welcome to attend and they will be required to pay for the cost of their own meals."

I respectfully request your support for this Motion and look forward to the discussion and the vote on November 25, 2014.

Minutes of the October 2014 General Meeting

The regular meeting of Branch 782 was called to order by President Mike Towery at 7:02 p.m. on the 28th day of October 2014 at the Branch office, Bakersfield. The flag salute was led by Sergeant-at-Arms Jerry Patterson. All members of the Executive Board were present. The stewards were present from Avenal, Brundage, Camino Media, Delano, McFarland, Oildale, Shafter, South, Stockdale, Taft and Wasco. Also present was Newsletter Editor Basil Zuniga; S.A.N.E. Fred Acedo; Webmaster Rick Plummer; Photographer Anita Holderman; OWCP Representative Rick Gerdess; Assistant Treasurer Debbie Guillet, and Frank Martinez of the Social and Recreation Committee. The Minutes of the September 23, 2014 were read and accepted with no additions or corrections.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP:



New Branch 782 member

Aaron Gonzales

Aaron Gonzales was present and was administered the oath by Vice President John Ortega.

REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Teresa Ortega thanked everyone who helped with the picnic, it was a team effort. She reported that the turnout was not as large this year, but every member present won a prize. Mike Towery presented her with a copy of the newsletter with color photos from the picnic. Mike Towery thanked Mike Meza, John Ortega and Randy Courson for cooking and all those who served the meal. Basil Zuniga reported that there will be more picnic photos in the next newsletter. He thanked Hillcrest for the great turnout, the newsletter was done quickly. He discussed the article written by a CCA who worked for the postal service for 3 months. Basil urged anyone who has not read the article to do so.

He reminded everyone to check out the newsletter for more articles and color photos. He also thanked Alex Dang for his article. Mike Towery presented Alex with a color copy of the newsletter. Frank Martinez had nothing to report regarding the Social and Recreation Committee. Molly Biggar reported that one book sold this month, the total remaining is 1198. Mark Ramirez informed members that Open Season for health benefits is November 10 thru December 8. The rates for the NALC Plan are:

Active members: Self Only \$76.94 – Family \$155.70 biweekly
Annuitants: Self Only \$166.70 – Family \$337.35 monthly

CCA
Consumer Driven Plan – Self Only \$50.06 –
Family \$108.70 biweekly
Value Option Plan – Self Only \$43.10 – Family - \$93.59 biweekly

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION: Mike Towery reported that one PTF was converted to regular. There are only 5 PTF's left in the city. Retiree Mario Muniz discussed having a Retiree Dinner. He volunteered to head the committee for the dinner. Next month he will report on the cost and make a motion. He also wanted to make sure that members know to contact Kern County Association of Veterans if you want a military funeral for a member who passes away. Mike Towery reminded members to vote for national officers, the results should be known soon. Mike Towery asked for a moment of silence for all Branch members who have recently passed away.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: Anita Holderman reported that the income for October is \$11,605.43.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Molly Biggar reported for February 2014

Beginning Balance	\$73,629.17
Dues & Income	\$11,368.54
Interest Income	\$0.00
Total Balance	\$84,997.71
Expenses	\$20,440.50
Ending Balance	\$56,557.21



All of the Branch 782 Retirees who attended the October 2014 General Meeting all seemed pretty happy...

The MDA 50/50 Drawing was won by Deven Patterson.

The General Meeting Drawing for \$500.00 would have been won by Cathleen Gonder if she had been present.

Mike Towery reported that there are 528 members of Branch 782 and twenty-one Carriers are non-members.

There were 44 members present.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

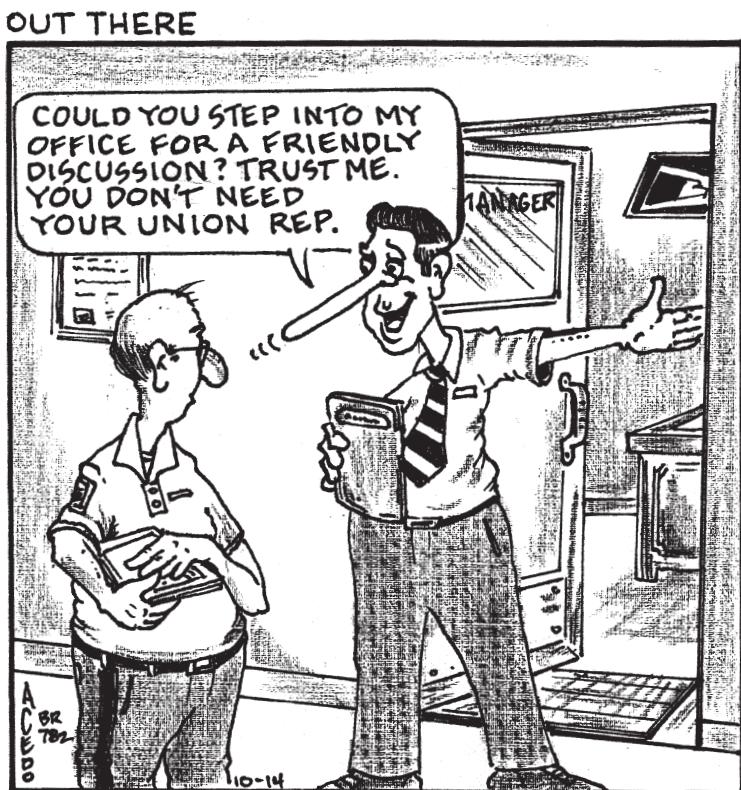
Respectfully Submitted,

KIM GERDES
NALC Branch 782 Recording Secretary



Did Sheila Wiley win? No.

Alex Dang and Rick Plummer



Mike Towery and brand new Retiree Alex Dang.



Toni and Fred Acedo smile for Anita's camera.



Teresa Ortega "loves" Mark Ramirez!

Non-Member List October 2014*



Downtown Station

S. Kirby
J. Cruz

South Station

100% UNION!!!

Brundage/East 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

B. Howard

California City

S. T. Ivory

Delano

L.A. Campos
C.V. Quebral

Lamont

100% UNION!!!

Ridgecrest

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

Shafter

M. D. Voights
L. M. New

Taft

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

Tehachapi

100% UNION!!!

Trona

100% UNION!!!

Wasco

100% UNION!!!

Letter Carriers operate in an "Open Shop". Membership in the NALC is **VOLUNTARY**.

96.02%

of **ALL** Letter Carriers in the cities affiliated with Branch 782 belong to the NALC!

*CCA names are in italics.

2014 NALC HBP Info

At a glance...



NALC Health Benefit Plan
*Hospital Pre-Certification
Mental & Substance Precertification
**Drug Prescription Retail
CVS/CareMark Specialty Pharmacy
Durable Medical Equipment
NURSE ASSISTANT (24/7)
CVS/CareMark Pharmacist
Enhanced Eldercare Services (24/7)
CIGNA PPO Dr's & Facilities
CIGNA Organ Transplant Approval
Quit Power (Smoking Cessation)
CIGNA Health Rewards (Discounts)
CIGNA Dental Discount Program
Disease Management Program
OPM Retirement Info Center
Federal Information Center
Social Security Administration Info
PostalEase Human Resources USPS
Quest Lab Services (Bakersfield)
LabCorp Lab Services
Shared Services (Retirees Info!!!)

1-888-636-6252
1-877-220-6252
1-877-468-1016
1-800-933-6252
1-800-237-2767
1-888-636-6252
1-877-220-6252
1-888-636-6252
1-877-468-1016
1-877-220-6252
1-800-668-9682
1-877-521-0244
1-800-558-9443
1-877-521-0244
1-800-227-3728
1-888-767-6738
1-800-333-4636
1-800-772-1213
1-877-477-3273
(661) 631-8520
(661) 631-9258
1-877-477-3273

NALC Health Benefit Plan
20547 Waverly Court
Ashburn, Virginia 20149

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

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

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

NALC Consumer Driven Health Plan and Value Option
P.O. Box 18223
Chattanooga, TN 37422-7223
Phone: 1-855-511-1893

* Failure to pre-certify for in-patient hospitalization will result in a \$500 reduction in benefits paid by our Plan. **YOU MUST** notify the Plan prior to undergoing radiology/imaging with doctor name and dates. Call: 1-877-220-6252.

** NALC Drug Prescription Program is **MANDATORY** generic (unless specified by your doctor, at additional cost to member). Preferred retail pharmacy 1st and 2nd fills, you pay 20% of cost of generic/30% of name brand/45% non-formulary. MAIL ORDER/CVS PRESCRIPTIONS (when NALC is primary): 60 day supply \$8 generic, \$43 name brand, \$58 non-formulary; 90 day supply \$12 generic, \$65 name brand, \$80 non-formulary; **MEDICARE PROGRAM** (when Medicare is primary) Retail network pharmacy: you pay 10% of cost of generic, 20% of formulary, 30% non-formulary. **MEDICARE PRIMARY** (mail order): 60 day supply \$7 generic, \$37 formulary, \$52 non-formulary; 90 day supply \$10 generic, \$55 formulary, \$70 non-formulary; 90 day supply \$4 for NALCSELECT generic (certain drugs); 90 day supply \$4 for NALCPREFERRED generic (certain drugs); NALCSENIOR generic antibiotics are available **FREE** for a 30 day supply, when Medicare is primary (certain antibiotics only).

MAIL ORDER SPECIALTY DRUGS (Bio-Tech drugs—**VERY EXPENSIVE**): Your cost for a 30 day supply is \$150; 60 day supply is \$250; and, 90 day supply is \$350. Some drugs (e.g. bio-tech asthma, diabetis, organ rejection, etc.) require prior approval before dispensing. You **MUST** call the Plan 1-800-237-2767.

Our PPO doctors and facilities—through CIGNA—save us and the Plan thousands of dollars and it is top notch care at a discount rate. You don't lose anything. You are saving money for the best care!!!
For example: *CIGNA Weight Loss Program (877) 220-6252

Mark Ramirez, NALC Branch 782 HBP Rep.
(661) 398-6075

HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS OPEN SEASON

NOVEMBER 10th through DECEMBER 8th 2014

The health benefit plan open season will be starting next month, and I would like to urge all NALC members to take a good look at your present health benefit plan, if it is not the NALC Health Benefit Plan.

Our NALC Health Benefit Plan is the best choice for Letter Carriers and their family. The first reason is, our NALC Health benefit Plan is union member owned! And, our NALC health benefit plan is "NON-PROFIT"!!!

All profits are placed back into our NALC Health Benefit Plan. Most health plans are that are available to Letter Carriers during open season are "FOR PROFIT" — and it means just that!!!

Our Director of NALC Health Benefit Plan is Brian Hellman. He is a Letter Carrier. Our National Trustees (Lawrence Brown, Mike Gill, and Randall Keller) are Letter Carriers. They and their team members negotiate with OPM the best possible health benefits at the lowest possible premiums for our Letter Carrier member. We have a strong union and we are very fortunate to have had strong national officers!! They are Letter Carriers who have been able to negotiate, on our behalf: contract language, pay, cost of living, and retirement. The list is long and we should all be proud to have such great leadership!

Our NALC Health Benefit Plan is an extension of our "Union Solidarity" and we MUST support OUR NALC Health Benefit Plan. It is part of our NALC union family!! Who is going to look out for our membership BETTER than OUR OWN UNION??? Non-profit, union membership owned, excellent benefit coverage, reasonable premiums, HBP Representative in most branches, and it is accepted nation and world-wide !!!

I hope, during this open season, our Branch 782 members who are enrolled in another health plan, will make the *CORRECT UNION CHOICE* and enroll in our union member owned NALC Health Benefit Plan.

NALC Health Benefit premiums for 2015

Active Members (Self)	\$76.94 bi-weekly
Annuitant/Retiree (Self)	\$166.70 monthly
Active Members (Family)	\$155.70 bi-weekly
Annuitant/Retiree (Family)	\$337.35 monthly

NALC Consumer Driven Health Plan (Self) \$50.06 bi-weekly
NALC Consumer Driven Health Plan (Fam.) \$108.70 bi-weekly

OUT THERE



NALC Value Option Health Plan (Self) \$43.10 biweekly
NALC Value Option Health Plan (Fam.) \$93.59 biweekly

The "Consumer Driven" and "Value Option" premiums listed are the biweekly amount

***AFTER
the Postal Service has paid \$125.00
toward the monthly premium.***

For Branch 782 members who wish to purchase a supplemental Dental/Vision plan, log on to www.BENFEDS.COM or call 1-877-888-3337

Our members can change enrollment from one health plan to another by submitting a Postal form SF 2809 or by using the POSTALEASE online or telephone enrollment system. You will need a pin number, and this can be requested at same site. Your postal ID number from your pay stub will be needed for pin number request.

OPM'S OPEN SEASON ONLINE EXPRESS
"ANNUTIANTS" call 1-800-332-9798

OPM'S RETIREMENT INFORMATION CENTER
"ANNUTIANTS" call 1-888-767-6738
for HEARING IMPAIRED TDD call 1-800-878-5707

MARK RAMIREZ
NALC Health Benefit Representative
NALC Golden Empire Branch 782

Branch Picnic

October 12, 2014
Jastro Park





Jerry says, “Thank You!”

I know I can't thank each and every one of you personally so I am going to use this newsletter article to let you know how I feel.

So many of you were so generous at the Branch 782 picnic in October! I am proud to say that \$240.00 was the most I've collected for the Make-A-Wish Foundation!!! Thank You!

I know that the NALC's official charity is the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Letter Carriers have been involved in generating donations for them for over fifty years! And, each month, Branch 782 Letter Carriers do collect money for MDA.

But, every organization/foundation needs help to accomplish their goals. And **WE were** able to make a difference to the Make-A-Wish Foundation in Bakersfield. They do amazing things as they live out their purpose to grant wishes to children with life-threatening medical conditions and enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy.

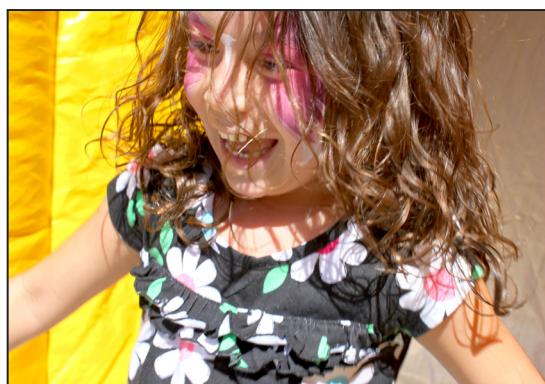
Finally, I want to thank Teresa Ortega for putting on such an amazing awesome picnic each year!

Your Union Brother,

JERRY PATTERSON
Retired...and loving it!



Branch Picnic







All of these great picnic pix are courtesy of Anita Holderman—except this one of Anita by Norma Hamer. My thanks to each one of them!!!

Branch 782 Editor-guy

Branch Picnic October 12, 2014 Jastro Park

Open Season for CCA's...

NOVEMBER 10th through
DECEMBER 8th 2014

NALC Consumer Driven Health Plan (Self) \$50.06 bi-weekly
NALC Consumer Driven Health Plan (Family) \$108.70 bi-weekly
NALC Value Option Health Plan (Self) \$43.10 biweekly
NALC Value Option Health Plan (Family) \$93.59 biweekly

The "Consumer Driven" and "Value Option" premiums listed are the bi-weekly amount AFTER the Postal Service has paid \$125.00 toward the monthly premium.

A FOCUS ON OUR FUTURE: CCA MALLAURIE FLETCHER

Mallaurie has been with Stockdale station since she first started in Feb 2013. She has had a very colorful array of experiences in her short time being a CCA so far.

She experienced heat related problems last summer. She thought she felt better when she took her lunch but she couldn't handle it and up-chucked everything.

She says, "You haven't experienced anything until you have "watermelon and pepto bismol coming out of your nose!" ...Ummm, ewww! :)

At Stockdale, mail volume is quite high. Holiday mail last year she couldn't carry circulars with parcels with the walking route she had, her truck was fully packed, she would be casing till about noon and come back about 6-6:30 p.m. delivering fast BUT safely. She says parcels have doubled and she is delivering "groceries" for her customers now. She is on a long term opt that has about 8hrs of walking. She has four streets back-to-back with four whole blocks at one park and loop on each street. I'm sure that satchel is weighed down and arms full....*every day!*

Mallaurie has worked 32 days straight at one time including Sundays and holidays! She worked so many hours, it didn't benefit her because taxes took mostly everything. Also working so many days, she had no rest, would get sick and worn out but she couldn't afford medical insurance because she has to pay full price. *NOW THAT THE INSURANCE RATES HAVE BEEN REDUCED, SHE IS VERY HAPPY.* (Call Mark Ramirez at (661) 204-5592 for info on affordable NALC health insurance!)

Mallaurie also has experienced dog incidents, they have ripped open her shoes. One time a pit bull was at the end of her route. It used the neighbors brickwall to jump over the fence. She put her satchel between her and the dog, but the dog was only about 5



inches from her shin. She got out her spray—but as she was backing up—she fell to the ground and hit her head. Luckily, the dog ran off after being sprayed and the owner came out. She didn't have her cell phone with her...it was in the truck. She had to walk back to the truck to call the supervisor but there was no answer and she only had about 10-15 minutes left of the route, so she finished delivering. **WHAT A TROOPER!!!** It was a good thing that she had her visor on because that helped with the impact of the fall. But, she still suffered a concussion. She got out of the hospital at midnight.

Being on a long term opt, Mallaurie already notices that CCAs are quick to do the route and that looks good but it's not being done properly. The attitude is "just get it done, forget efficiently". While she's gone, she will come back and there would be a mess. She does understand and remembers herself that new CCAs being on probation they need to "hustle" but in the long run, it's not good customer service. When she does go to other stations, she is just given a map and off she is sent out. She isn't familiar with the area and the parcels are not marked. She is glad that she is on the long term opt.

Her advice to new CCAs is quite comical but true at the same time. "Prepare to not have a life" You will be totally exhausted at end of day and just want to eat and go to bed. The good thing is you accumulate 100 hours of vacation at end of year term and you either use it or lose it. She loves it because for that five days off she gets paid a nice chunk of money.

Also....Mallaurie is the first CCA that has told me that she invests in her future and puts away money into her MBA account. Way to go Mallaurie!!! YOU are NEVER too young to start preparing for your retirement!!!

I spoke with her about the article that was printed last month. Mallaurie understands that CCAs are low on the totem pole but we both agreed that "Dignity and Respect" does go a long way. CCAs *ARE* here to work, but it has been told to them that if they don't want to be here on a Sunday/Holiday, find a different job—this is what you are hired for. Being told this in that manner would send a bad taste in anyone's mouth.

Mallaurie is grateful for this job and says it's nice to have a hard working day to make it go by fast. Even after all she's been through.... What a great attitude!!!

MABEL BULLIS
East Brundage

WE SHOULD ALL HONOR EACH AND EVERY ONE OF OUR MILITARY VETERANS!!! IT IS OUR DUTY...

My lead flight attendant came to me and said, "We have an H.R. on this flight." (H.R. stands for human remains.)

"Are they military?" I asked. "Yes", she said. "Is there an escort?" I asked. "Yes, I've already assigned him a seat". "Would you please tell him to come to the Flight Deck. You can board him early," I said.

A short while later a young army sergeant entered the flight deck. He was the image of the perfectly dressed soldier. He introduced himself and I asked him about his soldier.

The escorts of these fallen soldiers talk about them as if they are still alive and still with us. "My soldier is on his way back to Virginia , " he said. He proceeded to answer my questions, but offered no words.

I asked him if there was anything I could do for him and he said no. I told him that he had the toughest job in the military, and that I appreciated the work that he does for the families of our fallen soldiers. The first officer and I got up out of our seats to shake his hand. He left the Flight Deck to find his seat.

We completed our preflight checks, pushed back and performed an uneventful departure. About 30 minutes into our flight, I received a call from the lead flight attendant in the cabin.

"I just found out the family of the soldier we are carrying is also on board," she said. She then proceeded to tell me that the father, mother, wife and 2-year old daughter were escorting their son, husband, and father home. The family was upset because they were unable to see the container that the soldier was in before we left.

We were on our way to a major hub at which the family was going to wait four hours for the connecting flight home to Virginia . The father of the soldier told the flight attendant that knowing his son was below him in the cargo compartment and being unable to see him was too much

for him and the family to bear. He had asked the flight attendant if there was anything that could be done to allow them to see him upon our arrival. The family wanted to be outside by the cargo door to watch the soldier being taken off the airplane.

I could hear the desperation in the flight attendants voice when she asked me if there was anything I could do. "I'm on it," I said. I told her that I would get back to her.

Airborne communication with my company normally occurs in the form of e-mail like messages. I decided to bypass this system and contact my flight dispatcher directly on a secondary radio. There is a radio operator in the operations control center who connects you to the telephone of the dispatcher. When I was in direct contact with the dispatcher. I explained the situation I had on board with the family and explained what it was the family wanted. He said he understood and that he would get back to me.

Two hours went by and I had not heard from the dispatcher. We were going to get busy soon and I needed to know what to tell the family. I sent a text message asking for an update. I saved the return message from the dispatcher and the following is the text:

"Captain, sorry it has taken so long to get back to you. There is policy on this now, and I had to check on a few things. Upon your arrival a dedicated escort team will meet the aircraft. The team will escort the family to the ramp and plane side. A van will be used to load the remains with a secondary van for the family.

The family will be taken to their departure area and escorted into the terminal, where the remains can be seen on the ramp. It is a private area for the family only. When the connecting aircraft arrives, the family will be escorted onto the ramp and plane side to watch the remains being loaded for the final leg home.

Captain, most of us here in flight control are veterans. Please pass our condolences on to the family. Thanks."

I sent a message back, telling flight control

thanks for a good job. I printed out the message and gave it to the lead flight attendant to pass on to the father. The lead flight attendant was very thankful and told me, "You have no idea how much this will mean to them."

Things started getting busy for the descent, approach and landing. After landing, we cleared the runway and taxied to the ramp area. The ramp is huge with 15 gates on either side of the alleyway. It is always a busy area with aircraft maneuvering every which way to enter and exit. When we entered the ramp and checked in with the ramp controller, we were told that all traffic was being held for us.

'There is a team in place to meet the aircraft', we were told. It looked like it was all coming together, then I realized that once we turned the seat belt sign off, everyone would stand up at once and delay the family from getting off the airplane. As we approached our gate, I asked the copilot to tell the ramp controller, we were going to stop short of the gate to make an announcement to the passengers. He did that and the ramp controller said, 'Take your time.'

I stopped the aircraft and set the parking brake. I pushed the public address button and said: 'Ladies and gentleman, this is your Captain speaking: I have stopped short of our gate to make a special announcement. We have a passenger on board who deserves our honor and respect. His Name is Private XXXXXX, a soldier who recently lost his life. Private XXXXXX is under your feet in the cargo hold. Escorting him today is Army Sergeant XXXXXX. Also, on board are his father, mother, wife, and daughter. Your entire flight crew is asking for all passengers to remain in their seats to allow the family to exit the aircraft first. Thank you.'

We continued the turn to the gate, came to a stop and started our shutdown procedures. A couple of minutes later I opened the cockpit door. I found the two forward flight attendants crying, something you just do not see. I was told that after we came to a stop, every passenger on the aircraft stayed in their seats, waiting for the family to exit the aircraft.

When the family got up and gathered their things, a passenger slowly started to clap his hands. Moments later, more passengers joined in and soon the entire aircraft was clapping. Words of 'God Bless You', I'm sorry, thank you, be proud, and other kind words were uttered to the family as they made their way down the aisle and out of the airplane.

They were escorted down to the ramp to finally be with their loved one.

Many of the passengers disembarking thanked me for the announcement I had made. They were just words, I told them, I could say them over and over

again, but nothing I say will bring back that brave soldier.

I respectfully ask that all of you reflect on this event and the sacrifices that millions of our men and women have made to ensure our freedom and safety in these

United States of AMERICA .

Thank you all who have served, or are serving!
WE WILL NOT FORGET!!!!

This reprinted article submitted by Branch 782 member Mark Ramirez.

ESPECIALLY, WHEN THERE ARE THOSE WHO DON'T UNDERSTAND... by Mark S. Leon NALC Branch 3

Just a few months ago I had an opportunity to assist a fellow Carrier who is also a proud American who just happened to serve in our military without reservation or regret. The issue this veteran was experiencing was with his postmaster, who apparently doesn't realize the true meaning of the sacrifices veterans have made for the rights to freedom and democracy.

This particular postmaster continuously denied this veteran leave for treatment for his disabilities at the Veterans Administration Hospital and often instructed him to schedule these appointments on his own time and not the postal service time. (For the sake of this article, this Veteran is no longer experiencing these irresponsible transgressions and the grievance process is still on-going.)

Now to top it all off, this same postmaster was also overhead stating to another supervisor that he believes that Veterans and Veterans' Day are a waste of time and it's not his fault that he went to college. WOW!

After hearing this, my initial thoughts were, "This guy is a complete idiot and does not deserve the right to be called an American citizen." But after further thought, I immediately realized that this is just one of the many reasons that we—The American Veterans—took the pledge to defend our nation and its citizens. More importantly, we took the pledge not only to protect our citizens, but to also protect our constitutional rights which include the right to 'Freedom of Speech' (First Amendment).

So, I guess I could respond by labeling this guy as nothing more than a "callus brain little dweeb" who obviously doesn't know the first thing about American Veterans or the citizenship he holds, but it should be noted that he also lacks the dignity and respect of the sacrifices that veterans have made to preserve these Rights. But after further thought, I believe that I'm better than that, and refused to get pulled into his stinking little thinking along with his stinking little miserable life. So...I decided not to go down that road. On the other hand, I thought it might be relevant to explain what a Veteran is and sacrifices that Veterans have made for the sake of our nation.

In my efforts to describe what a "Veteran" might be I would like to offer the following as a starting point: As defined by 38 U.S. Code § 101 — Definitions states: The term "veteran" means a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable.

More to the point, I'd like to offer an additional explanation by Rod Powers, a retired U.S. Air Force First Sergeant, who stated:

"A VETERAN IS SOMEONE WHO, AT ONE POINT IN HIS/HER LIFE, WROTE A BLANK CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO 'THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA' FOR AN AMOUNT OF 'UP TO AND INCLUDING MY LIFE.'"

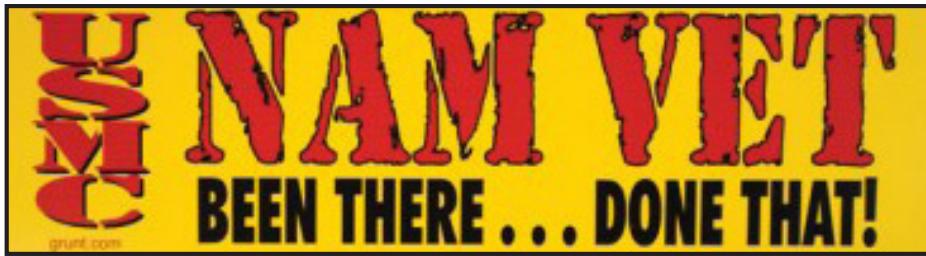
Now with all this being said — I need to get back to addressing this particular postmaster and everyone else who might feel the same regarding Veterans and Veterans' Day. In one of the best quotes regarding who and what our military veterans are, I would like to refer you to a movie entitled *A Few Good Men*, a 1992 film about the trial of two U.S. Marines accused of murder while serving at Guantanamo Bay. The movie was directed by Rob Reiner and written by Aaron Sorkin.

The scene that still stands out for me after repeated viewings of Rob Reiner's military courtroom drama features one of the most oft-quoted and even mocked lines in film, but it cannot be denied how powerfully it is delivered by Mr. Jack Nicholson. I believe the scene, although fictional, specifically addresses who and what veterans are and also serves to educate those who have not served and those who know nothing about defending a nation. And I, for one, make special homage with one particular passage where Nicholson says *"Son, we live in a world that has walls and those walls need to be guarded by men with guns. Who's gonna do it? You? You, Lieutenant Weinberg? I have a greater responsibility than you can possibly fathom. You weep for Santiago and curse the Marines; you have that luxury. You have the luxury of not knowing what I know: that Santiago's death, while tragic, probably saved lives and that my existence, while grotesque and incomprehensible to you, saves lives. You don't want the truth because deep down in places you don't talk about at parties you want me on that wall, you need me on that wall. We use words like honor, code, loyalty. We use them as the backbone of a life trying to defend something. You use them as a punchline. I have neither the time nor the inclination to explain myself to a man who rises and sleeps under the blanket of the very freedom I provide and then questions the manner in which I provide it. I would rather you just said "thank you," and went on your way. Otherwise, I suggest that you pick up a weapon and stand a post. Either way, I don't give a damn what you think you are entitled to."*

So I say to this postmaster, "Enjoy your freedoms and the life that has provided you the opportunities as an American Citizen. But, let's not forget those who have served and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice of death so that you can enjoy and prosper by the freedoms that we—**EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THE AMERICAN VETERANS**—have provided!"

For further information or requests feel free to contact Mark Leon, (716) 208-5715, e-mail: MrR2Leon@aol.com or NALC Branch 3 (716) 631-3940.

Featured for you this "Veterans Day" November 2014, this article is courtesy of the August 2014 **BUZZ** published by NALC Branch 3 in Buffalo, New York. Thank You, once again, Mark Leon!!



Before Branch 782 Retiree Mario Muniz became a Letter Carrier, he served his country as a combat Marine in Vietnam.

In many ways, he embodies a phrase which you may have heard: "Once a Marine, Always a Marine!"

Mario attended a Marine Corps reunion in Williamsburg, Virginia from October 1-5, 2014. It is a reunion which is held every two years. On this Veterans' Day, he wants to share what it means to him to be able to be with those men he fought side-by-side in combat with...

"Grunts" is what we were called in the Marine Corps. We all served with the 1st Marine Division in an infantry rifleman company. All of us at the Reunion were in Golf Company in the Vietnam War between 1965 through 1975.

Some of our guys got together and started a long and hard journey to locate the men we'd lost touch with. It took years to find most of those Marines; and, of course, too many had died after coming home from Vietnam.

We became "Golf Company Association" about twenty-five years ago. Our reunions have taken us to Quantico, Jamestown, Yorktown, Williamsburg, Norfolk and the Marine Corps Museum.

We come from almost every state in the U.S.A. Most of us are in our mid-sixties now and retired from what ever we did for a living.

Most of us had successful careers after the war in almost every field of employment and we are known to have been the smartest and most educated fighting force that ever went to war—most of us were high school graduates and many had college backgrounds.



Can you believe that over 33,000 of the 58,000 Americans killed in the Vietnam War were only 18 years old? Some were even younger...one was 15 years old.

This is a picture of **THE** Flag that flew over Iwo Jima in WWII. (If you don't know what this means, ask **ANY** Marine!)

My Marine Corps experience spanned 1968-69 In Vietnam. I was wounded three different times, and I saw more death than I want to remember on both sides. I lost a lot of good Marine buddies...and I think about each of them *every* day of my life.

The reunions we attend are our celebration-gatherings to count our blessings and to remember fallen Marine brothers who paid the ultimate price with their lives. They will forever live in our minds and they will never be forgotten!

Although I was only 20 years old when I came home, I was excluded from any kind of active duty after coming home from Vietnam because of my injuries.

I am proud to have served my country. But, I am even more proud to FOREVER carry the title of a U.S. Marine.

All of us Marines served together in Golf Company 2nd Battalion, 5th Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 3rd Platoon, 3rd Squad as Riflemen and Machine - Gunners. Too **MANY** of us are recipients of Purple Heart Medals—some of us multiple times.

These Marines are some of the bravest individuals that I had the honor of serving in combat with during my Vietnam War from 1968-69.

When I went to Vietnam, I was already married to Irma who was only 17 years old. We got married July 8, 1967 when she was 16 and I was 18. High School sweethearts, we have been married 47 years!



Don't let the gray hair fool you...this is one group of Marines that can STILL kick your Ass!!

And, the life she shares with me has included being active in these Marine Corps Reunions!

Irma makes memory quilts to raffle at each of our reunions as a fund raiser. On the quilt are pictures of KIAs that we still honor as our fallen Brothers. She makes a quilt every two years.

This year, the winners were the Camarillo family from San Antonio, Texas. Their brother, Pache Camarillo,

was KIA on May 30, 1968 in Vietnam. They understand the need to remember.

Marines have a Brotherhood that no other Branch of service has. I say this with no disrespect to any other Branch. *USMC Marines try and stay in touch with each other for life and we always have a bond that we share with each and every other Marine regardless of when they served!*

In closing, I want to share one final thought with you.

Whenever you see a military Veteran or an active military person, please walk over to them and thank them for their service! Show them that their service means something to you. Your thanks will mean everything to them!

Semper Fi,

MARIO MUNIZ
A Proud U.S.M.C. "Grunt"
and
A Proud Retired Letter Carrier



Irma's quilt honors the REAL heroes of this country!!!

SIERRA COASTAL DISTRICT
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

November 11, 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR: VETERANS

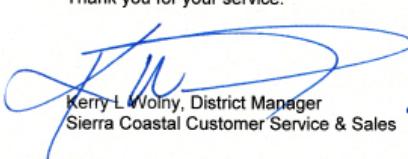
Dear Veteran:

It is our privilege to recognize your service to our country on Veteran's Day, November 11, 2014, as our nation pays tribute to the men and women who defended our freedom and bravely wore the uniform of the United States.

Through all generations, men and women have faithfully served their country's interest. Mothers and fathers understand that their sons and daughters are in many ways still children. Yet, these same young adults became heroes on the fields of Normandy, Germany, North Africa, Korea, Southeast Asia, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Some made the ultimate sacrifice. Many returned to their homes with injuries that last a lifetime.

Members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard have answered a high calling to serve and have helped secure America in every generation. It is with great respect and honor that we represent the Sierra Coastal District in extending our good wishes and gratitude to you on Veteran's Day 2014.

Thank you for your service.


Kerry L. Wolny, District Manager
Sierra Coastal Customer Service & Sales Britton D. Soto, Plant Manager (Major)
Santa Clarita Processing & Distribution Center

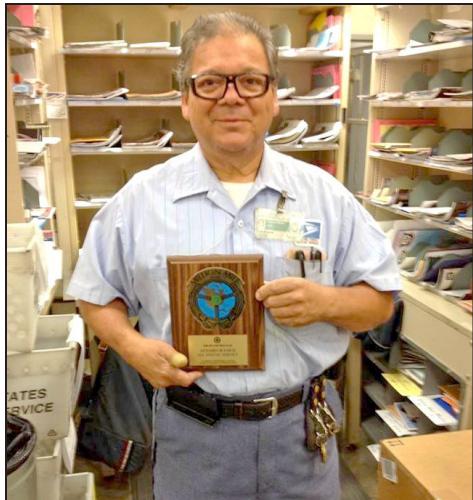


IT IS OUR DUTY, OUR PRIVILEGE, AND OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO HONOR ALL OF AMERICA'S MILITARY VETERANS!





Alvaro "Alvie" Ramos joins the Million Mile Club!



"STANDUP! STANDUP! EVERYBODY GATHER AROUND!" If this sounds familiar, it's because all Letter Carriers have been on the workroom floor when this kind of an announcement is made and we know what we're supposed to do.

Like many other times during the course of a career which began in 1983, "Alvie" Ramos put down the mail he'd been casing, turned around, and went over to listen to the announcements. He remembers thinking, "After thirty years, what kind of a crazy new change am I going to have to get used to now?"

This particular standup would hold a surprise for him. As his name was called, he was asked to come forward. He looked around and wondered what he'd done.

He was presented with a special award as he was honored with his induction into the prestigious "Million Mile Club". To qualify, professional drivers must have remained accident-free for thirty years or one million miles. **EACH** honoree is a conscientious person whose leadership and professionalism are great examples for every employee!

When he was asked about receiving the award, "Alvie" had some thoughts that he wanted to share. "It seems like when someone receives some type of award, the only people who know about it are the ones who work in that unit. Years have passed since the last person where I work received this. Rufus Lopez got one about two years ago. I think *everybody* needs to know they can get it, too!"

Delivery duties have seen "Alvie" sitting in the driver's seat of the 1/4 ton jeeps, K-Cars, and the LLV. And, while there have been a few instances when other drivers on the road placed him in a position where he might have had a wreck, he's been able to avoid them. But, it hasn't been because he was just lucky...

"Alvie" shares this advice with everyone—"ALWAYS be a defensive driver! ANTICIPATE the unexpected! Be on the Defensive!" You have to admit that the advice of someone who has "been there" is something to take to heart!

His entire family is especially proud of his accomplishment! Many relatives have contacted him to tell him what an amazing thing that he has done!

He did have also have this to say, "I am looking forward to one more SPECIAL AWARD. I am going to enjoy getting that my first retirement check sometime in 2018...unless, of course...I happen to win the Lotto!"



**Win
\$500?**

Each and **EVERY** month, Branch 782 sponsors a drawing to encourage **YOU** to come to our Meeting*. There was no winner in October. So? Do **YOU** really have a chance to win the \$500?? Yup! Be there...

*The fine print: **TO WIN THE MONEY YOU HAVE TO BE PRESENT AT THE MEETING WHEN THE NAMES ARE DRAWN.** Hmm, \$500...



All of us probably do this almost every day. We get behind the wheel of our car and drive someplace as a normal routine.

On October 28, Dennis Crenshaw had gone to the dentist for a routine visit and then made a stop at San Joaquin Hospital to visit his sister-in-law, Kelly. With his visit over, he pressed the button for the elevator and then sensed an interior Voice reminding him that he should probably go back and pray with Kelly and her husband. With the elevator coming, he felt a little reluctant to go back. But, he did.

By the time he left, it was a little after noon. As he headed home, Dennis remembers getting up to speed after getting on the on-ramp to southbound Highway 99 at Rosedale. As he paid attention to vehicles coming up from behind, he merged into the number 2 lane as he came close to the California Avenue exit; and, suddenly, *things were no longer routine...*

He was abruptly startled as he saw a large object flying about six feet in the air over the cement center divider **AND IT WAS HEADED IN HIS DIRECTION!**

In the blink of an eye, a tire and rim hit his car and bounced off to his right. Unable to see through the windshield after the impact, Dennis attempted to push it aside to find a safe place to get off the freeway.

Providentially, there was a Bakersfield Police Department officer driving behind Dennis who saw what had happened and responded quickly. That officer was able to pull in behind him in a blocking action.

Dennis made it off the freeway and parked. Looking back now, he doesn't really remember exactly what he did to get there; but—as soon as he was able to breathe—he called his wife, Sharon.

In one little memory of the aftermath, he remembers that he realized that things looked *really* blurry.

He realized that his glasses weren't on his head where they were supposed to be! When he looked in his car, he could see them on the floor in front of the driver's seat. He told the on-scene CHP officer who'd arrived that he needed to get his glasses. But, because of the damage, he couldn't get to the glasses through the passenger door.

Although the officer told him that it might be dangerous because of how close his parked car was to on-coming traffic, he told Dennis to go ahead, "But, be careful!"

By the time the tow truck arrived, the "culprit" had been discovered. It was a rim and tire that had apparently come off of some vehicle which had been northbound on the 99.

And—oddly enough—on the way to the wrecking yard, the tow truck driver spotted a northbound mobile home parked on the side of the freeway right before the Rosedale turnoff. He pulled over (ostensibly to see if they needed any help...but he really stopped to see if *THIS* vehicle had been responsible for the damage to Dennis' car). Being transported by a big rig, it *WAS* the vehicle that had lost the tire.

Dennis recalls that he was surprised to find little bits of glass in his hair and *even in his back pocket*. When he saw the shattered sun-roof, he knew the source of the broken glass. Wow...

Although he finds himself feeling a little "anxious" when he now gets on the freeway, Dennis shared that he was touched by the heartfelt emotions people had when they learned about what had happened. **FIRST, AND FOREMOST, family members showed their love for him**, In fact, when they hugged him, "It was more than just a hug. It was like they were 'holding on' to me!!"



Ironically, Dennis and Sharon Crenshaw were down to their last three payments on that 2008 Toyota Camry...

In the Blink of an Eye...

Photos are courtesy of Sharon Uhles-Crenshaw.

Just for Halloween fun
Young at heart!



Me and my co-worker,
CCA Gurminder Saran.

Mabel Bullis -East Brundage

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...



2015 Carl J. Saxsenmeier

Scholarship Program

The California State Association of Letter Carriers (CSALC) is now accepting applications for the 2015 Carl J. Saxsenmeier Scholarship Program. **All applications must be received by the Scholarship Chair by January 2, 2015.** The Chair will send scholarship packets to all applicants by the end of January 2015. The scholarships are available to the dependent children or grandchildren of members of NALC Branches within the State of California who have not served in a supervisory capacity in the previous two (2) years from the date of 2014 award announcement. Applicant's parent / grandparent must be a member in good standing of the NALC for at least one year prior to applying. Applicant must be a high school senior when applying. Saxsenmeier Scholarship awards are issued in the year of graduation and are not renewable.

**Jeff Parr
Saxsenmeier Scholarship Chair
1177 Levine Dr-Santa Rosa, Ca 95401
707-523-1818**

**Saxsenmeier Scholarship Application
(Please Print)**

Student's Name _____

NALC Member's Name _____

Home Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Home Telephone _____

Cell / Fax _____

Email Address _____

Applicant's Signature _____

NALC Member Signature _____ Relationship to Applicant _____

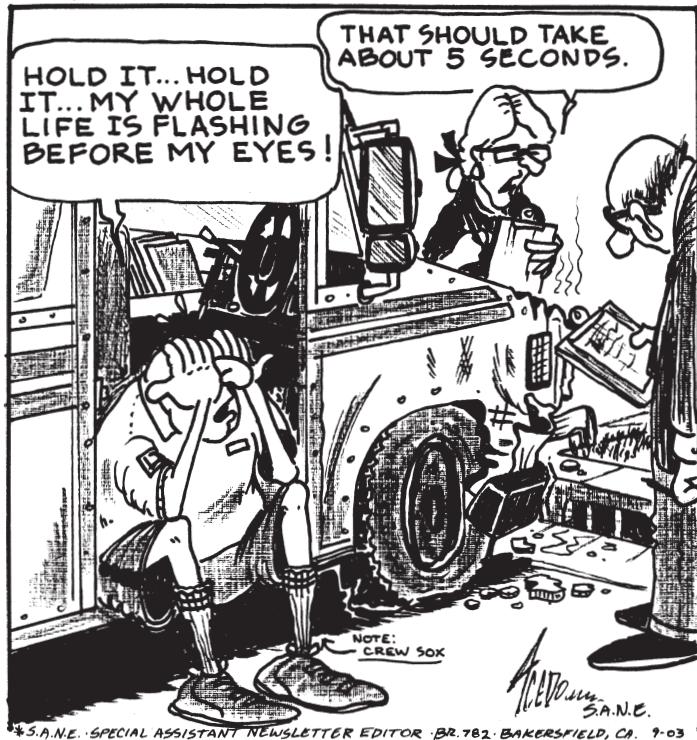
Local NALC Branch Officer Signature required for verification of member in good standing:

NALC Branch Officer Signature _____ Title _____

Branch Officer Printed Name _____

Golden Empire Merged Branch 782

OUT THERE



from the editor-guy

I've heard that a smart person learns from mistakes; but, a **WISE** person learns from the mistakes of others.

Hopefully, many of you will choose to be **WISE** people...

Recently, while out delivering mail, a customer backed into my LLV. All of the fact finding, management decisions and grievance "schtuff" is going to run its course. Eventually, I'll deal with the aftermath. (Dang it! I was really hoping to get that new award for joining the "Two Million Mile Club! Oh, well...")

Anyway, the fact that this occurred has caused me to really look at how I do what I do out on the street. I've realized that much of what I do has become "routinized".

WHAT?

"I do what I do because that's the way I do what I do." (I know this sounds awkward. But, does it make sense?)

If you've been doing this work for some time, you may be in the same situation where you haven't taken any time to actually see if there might be a better way to accomplish your duties.

Along that line, since I was backed into I've become more aware. I've experienced myself anticipating what might happen in any given situation **IF** other drivers aren't paying attention.

At the risk of boring you, let me give you some examples.

I was getting ready to exit a driveway from a business delivery and I saw some on-coming traffic in the lane I was going to turn into. (I can't even begin to tell you how many times I've done that!!) There really was more than enough room to enter the traffic stream, but I decided to wait those "extra" thirty-forty seconds until all of the cars had passed. And, I found that I repeatedly did that time after time that day.

In order to make a delivery as quickly as possible, I generally park close to a business and do my business. I'm now actually **really** looking my normal parking place and trying to determine if parking farther away would make more sense and keep any possible,

potential or even imagined accident from ever happening.

Sometimes—even though I may feel that nothing is going to happen—the "other" driver may not even realize that I am there. And, **THAT'S** where the problem may lie.

Ultimately, our concern to make wise decisions as we work each day should be based on this basic concept: "At the end of the day, I want to go home without **any** kind of injuries. Will taking **THIS** action give me the best chance to do that?"

With that in mind, I want to close with some final comments about Alex Dang's retirement. He did this job for some forty-eight years! *That is absolutely amazing!!*

Fred Acedo came up with a cartoon which points to how long Alex actually carried mail (as looked at through the canine eyes of some of our furry friends out on the routes). I hope that the cartoon makes you grin as much as I did.

Be Well in all that you! Be Safe! Do whatever it is you need to do to be able to retire—like Alex Dang was able to—after your own long, illustrious, and safe career!

BASIL ZUNIGA

OUT THERE





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.

Basil Zuniga, Editor-guy
(H) (661) 397-4330
(C) (661) 205-1603
e-mail: brziii@aol.com

Juan R. Rodriguez, Assistant Editor
(H) (661) 859-5314
(C) (661) 247-5960

The "S.A.N.E."*
Fred Acedo, Cartoonist
*(Special Assistant Newsletter Editor)
P.O. Box 6532
Bakersfield, CA 93386-6532
e-mail: Fred.acedo@yahoo.com

Anita Holderman, Branch Photographer

Branch Officers

President	Mike Towery	(661) 331-9171
Vice-President	John Ortega	(661) 809-8140
Recording Secretary	Kim Gerdes	(661) 834-2059
Treasurer	Molly Biggar	(661) 832-0393
Financial Secretary	Anita Holderman	(661) 487-5353
HBP & MBA	Mark Ramirez	(661) 398-6075
Sargeant-at-Arms	Jerry Patterson	(661) 699-2462
Chief Trustee	Frank Martinez	(661) 703-4212
Trustee	Teresa Ortega	(661) 325-5526
Trustee	Darryl Holderman	(661) 332-9201

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
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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
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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



National Association of Letter Carriers
“Golden Empire Branch 782
2628 “F” Street
Bakersfield, California 93301
(661) 325-5526

Non-Profit Organization
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Permit Number 32

General Meeting Tuesday November 25, 2014 7:00 p.m.

Branch 782 Office
2628 “F” Street
Bakersfield, California

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



OUT THERE



More Pix from Branch Picnic

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OPEN SEASON FOR HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS IS NOVEMBER 10TH THROUGH DECEMBER 8TH, 2014