

National Association of Letter Carriers

Branch 782

E.A. Baker Union Update



ARVIN
DELANO
MOJAVE

AVENAL
EDWARDS AFB
RIDGECREST

BAKERSFIELD
LAMONT
SHAFTER

BORON
McFARLAND
TAFT

TEHACHAPI

TRONA

WASCO

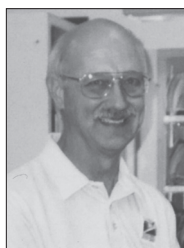


CHARTERED FEBRUARY 25, 1901

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DECEMBER 2007

at the



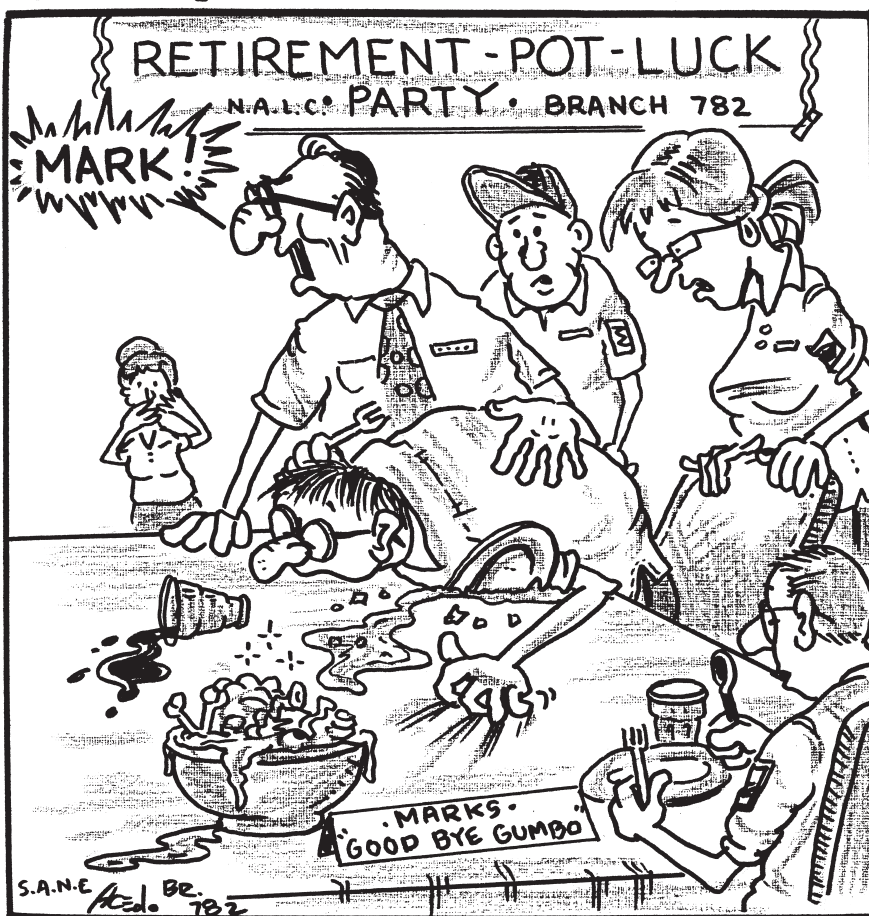
Mike:

As the year draws to a close, I want to remind everyone to re-cherish the time that you will be able to spend with your loved ones.

Happy Holidays to all of you and those special to you!

I also want to wish an especially Happy Holiday season to Mark Ramirez who retired at the end of November and—so far—seems to have spent quite a bit of time on one special project: making the Branch 782 office look better. Congratulations also to Pat Kennedy who recently retired. I wish them both long lives and

OUT THERE



Continued on next page...

Do You Remember When?

We all start rolling our eyes when someone starts telling us “how things used to be”, “I remember when”, or that old, standard parental cry, ‘When I was your age’. I’ve heard it and I’ve said it.

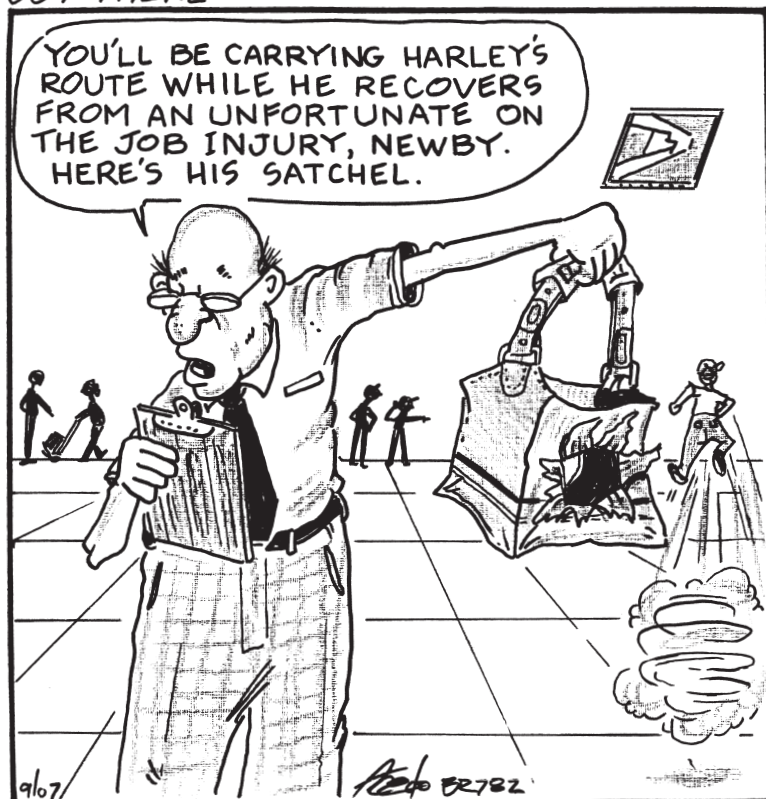
Change is inevitable. It IS life. Change does not have to be a negative force in our lives although some entities try to insist upon it. We can learn from our past.

One of the things I’ve learned is that there is safety in numbers—this is a very basic rule. That goes for every aspect of our lives, including the workroom floor. The old timers looked out for the new Carriers. If a manager or line supervisor was “targeting” a Carrier, the other Carriers would deflect the blow by running interference. They took an interest in each other’s lives and understood what happened to one, happened to all (if not today, eventually).

The first week I carried mail by myself I, like most new people, didn’t take any breaks or a lunch so I could get done when “they” said I should.

When I got back off the street, an old timer turned to me and said, “Sit down and take a break. I know you didn’t take any today”. Then he kept the supervisor busy while I did that so he wouldn’t “bother” me.

OUT THERE



That was the start of something for me—and I saw it repeated many times. There was a caring for each other as co-workers who all went through the same thing - and a way to help each other out.

I’m not suggesting that the times are the same, or that we necessarily have the freedom and security to do things in the same ways as in the past. Times HAVE changed. But what we know from the past, the GOOD of the past, can be brought back.

Carriers took an interest in each other’s lives - both at work and outside of work. They helped each other in and out of their work days. They got together after work, handled

projects together, played together, partied together. They KNEW each other.

The breakdown of that caring hit me most recently this summer when I witnessed one of our “old timers” leaving us in less than desirable circumstances—and it just plain and simple wasn’t right. Nobody should put in excess of 30 years into their livelihood only to feel forced out.

We had a gathering (cookout) for this Carrier and I realized how much we all have missed and needed the “getting together”, especially to celebrate the time with us and hear “stories of the past”.

I say that some of us who have been here a while have let the “new” generation of carriers down. Yes, life has gotten busier. That is a fact. I have been guilty of being involved sporadically. But each and every one of us can be involved in different, simple ways. It doesn’t have to be anything complicated. It can be as simple as sharing with a new Carrier what their rights are. It can be getting together one night a month to socialize. It can be as involved or uninvolved as you want it to be—and still be supportive and unifying.

It’s each and every one of us thinking outside of ourselves and looking at someone else around us... and understanding that we know what it feels like. We’ve been there. We are still there. But we are not alone.



National Association of Letter Carriers

William H. Young, President

November 19, 2007

Dear Branch President:

Three of our fellow NALC members: James Black and Larry Schatz from Branch 411 and Daniel Morales from Branch 70 lost their homes in the tragic California Firestorms last month.

To help assist these members deal with this tragedy both branches set up a relief fund to assist these members with their losses. Branches who would like to send donations to these members can do so by mailing them to the following:

Schatz, Black, and Morales
PO Box 1085
Apple Valley, CA 92307

Thank you for your solidarity assisting these members with their losses during the upcoming Holiday Season.

In Unionism,

John Beaumont

John Beaumont
President
California State Association
of Letter Carriers

Manuel L. Peralta, Jr.
Manuel L. Peralta, Jr.
National Business Agent
NALC Region #1

Manuel L. Peralta Jr.

National Business Agent
NALC Region 1
Administrative Office
13252 Garden Grove Blvd.
#108
Garden Grove, CA
92843-2204
714.750.2982
Satellite Office
408.988.6252

William H. Young
President

Fredric V. Rolando
Executive Vice President

Gary H. Mullins
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Secretary-Treasurer

George C. Mignosi
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Brian E. Hellman
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Myra Warren
Director, Life Insurance

Timothy C. O'Malley
Director, Health Insurance

Ernest S. Kirkland
Director, Retired Members

Board of Trustees:

Larry Brown Jr.
Chairman
Randall L. Keller
Michael J. Gill

This is a portion of an article, originally written by Patti Bates, which appeared in the NOV/DEC 07 Lansing, Michigan NALC Branch 122 Highlights

SOUTHERN TRAINING RAP SESSION

I attended the Southern training held in Los Angeles this last weekend. Being the Legislative liaison, I can not impress the importance of how everyone can play an active role in this political arena.

The theme will be "Labor 2008 Working Together for Change".

If you read the *Postal Record*, you know that NALC is endorsing Hillary Clinton. I know there is a percentage of you who might be a bit disappointed, but a poll was taken and therefore Hillary Clinton is our Candidate. A survey was sent out to all candidates Democratic and Republican regarding our issues at hand. Guess what? She was the one who actually had our best interests in mind.

As you all know, the Postal Service wants Contract Delivery Service (CDS). The California State has a new Resolution AJR 27-(Solorio) that will stop the United States Postal Service from just that.

In this resolution it shows that the United States Postal Service provides mail delivery service to 144 million homes and businesses across the nation; and, that the Postal Service promotes the contracting out of mail delivery services as a key for business strategy of its core function; and, in the last five years the Postal Service has contracted out 3.5 million deliveries nationwide, replacing workers who earned living wages and benefits with low pay contract jobs without benefits; and, that by contracting out Letter Carrier positions the Postal Service is bypassing the hiring process that ensures that only qualified people handle of America's mail.

So as you well know, the security of the mail could be in jeopardy!

Now we hope that other states will come forward with their own measures and put the pressure on Congress to discontinue CDS.

Letter Carriers from across the country have descended on Washington to lead NALC's campaign to stop the Postal Service's reckless drive to contract out the delivery of mail.

Last Spring, Basil Zuniga, Pam Smith and I went back to Washington, DC—with other Letter Carriers from the Western states—to make a stand against the contracting out of our jobs and to meet with your Congress and House representatives and to urge them to take action to protect the Postal Service from itself.

INSURE YOUR JOB

Hello everyone!

I am back writing this article to impress upon you the importance of COLCPE (Committee on Letter Carrier Political Education).

As you well know by now, the contract was ratified and we did receive a little chunk of change, all because our president negotiated a really good contract. This wouldn't have happened without our friends in Washington D.C.

He supported us well, and now he is asking you to support him by giving to the COLCPE fund. All he is asking for is \$5 per pay period, or whatever you can afford, either using an allotment or automatic debit from your checking account.

There are no more excuses for not doing this. If you were to say, "I already have two allotments."...well, *now we have three!* This is the easiest way to do this.

If you were to say you only give money to the Democrats, that would not be true. We give money to whoever will support our needs. Twenty three percent of COLCPE money went to Republicans.

We pay up to \$5000 dollars to a candidate in a federal election, this is the cap. The NALC does not spend any dues money on political activities.

What could we do with more friends in D.C.??

1. Repeal or phase out the Windfall Elimination Act.
2. Pass the Employee Free Choice Act.
3. Stop contracting out permanently.
4. Create an America that works for working families.

This is so important to protect our jobs and retirement benefits. Isn't your job worth 50 cents a day? The pay increase and COLAs will more than take care of it. **NO MORE EXCUSES!**

I urge you to contact me @ 661-979-5854, and I can help you decide which method would be best for you.

Thank you and Happy Holidays

PAM SMITH
COLCPE Coordinator

On March 28, 2007, Congressman Albio Sires (NJ-13) introduced a non-binding resolution (H.R. 282) expressing the Sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should discontinue the practice of contracting out mail delivery services. Hundreds of Congressional Representatives have signed onto the resolution as cosponsors, showing their support for Letter Carriers as we continue to move forward towards a binding legislative proposal to address this issue.



(L-R) Diana Chavez, Pam Smith, Walter Johnson (CSALC District Officer), Anita Holderman and Darryl Holderman in a post-conference caucus.

To see if your Representative is a co-sponsor of H. Res 282, go the NALC website and research this for yourself. If you do not see your Representative listed we encourage you to read through our Fact Sheets and call your Representative's Washington, DC office and ask for their support on H.R. 282.

On May 24, 2007, Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) introduced S. 1457, Mail Delivery Protection Act of 2007. The bill would limit the Postal Service's ability to contract out mail delivery to only those places where there are less than one delivery points per mile. At the time of its introduction, S. 1457 had six cosponsors including Senators Casey (D-PA), Baucus (D-MT), Bingaman (D-NM), Murray (D-WA), Leahy (D-VT), Kerry (D-MA), Tester (D-MT), and Dorgan (D-ND). Follow the above directions to search for S. 1457 to continue to monitor the bill sponsors. We encourage you to reach out to your senators and ask for their support on S. 1457.

Take notice as you can see there are numerous bills out there to stop the CDS from being implemented by the Postal Service. We do have the backing of some of our Representatives but we need your support and help in letting them know what we want and for the betterment of the American people.

Also for those of you who are interested, there was a hearing on the Windfall Elimination Provision act (WEP) and Government Pension Offset act (GPO) on November 6, 2007

Senator John Kerry (D-MA) held a hearing on the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) before the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Social Security, Pensions, and Family Policy. Senator Kerry chairs this body. Kerry is also co-sponsor of S. 206 (The Social Security Fairness Act of 2007) which would repeal both the GPO and WEP.

Kerry said that Postal Service employees are "heavily impacted" by the provisions. He also said, "Those affected by these exemptions are people that we, as a country, value enormously: they teach our kids, they keep our streets safe, they deliver our mail, and they protect our homes from fires. We owe them a fair shake and a secure retirement." Tuesday's hearing was seen as a

positive step for federal retirees, as legislation to repeal the GPO or the WEP must first pass through Senator Kerry's subcommittee.

One witness at the hearing was Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), also a co-sponsor of S. 206. She said, "These two provisions have enormous financial implications for many of our teachers, police officers, firefighters, postal workers and other public employees. Given their important responsibilities, it is simply unfair to penalize them when it comes to their Social Security benefits."

S. 206 introduced by Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), currently has 34 co-sponsors. Feinstein issued a statement urging Senate Finance Committee members to approve S. 206 saying, "Nearly one million federal, state, and municipal public employees are unfairly held to a different standard when it comes to their retirement benefits."

S. 206 has a sister bill in the House—H.R. 82, introduced by Representative Howard Berman (R-CA). That measure currently has 333 co-sponsors.

NALC supports attempts to repeal or substantially revise both provisions and will continue to work with lawmakers to encourage action on the bill, although most experts agree such a bill would almost certainly be vetoed by President Bush. There are NALC Fact sheets on both the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset. More information about the hearing, including a web cast and statements from each witness, can be found by going to the NALC website.

I encourage all to stay focused and keep an eye out for notices on the "e-Activist Network" and do what is needed of you when the time is right.

In Solidarity,

DIANA CHAVEZ
Branch 782 Vice-President

Minutes of the November 2007 General Meeting

The regular meeting of Branch 782 was called to order by President Mike Towery at 7:30 PM on the 27th day of November 2007 at the Branch 782 office, Bakersfield. The flag salute was led by Sergeant-at-Arms Jerry Patterson. President Mike Towery announced that the polls were open for voting.

All members of the Executive Board were present except for Recording Secretary, Kim Gerdes. The Stewards were present from 04, 05, 06, 08, 09, Camino Media, Delano, Edwards, Shafter, and Wasco. Also present were Newsletter Editor Basil Zuniga; Assistant Newsletter Editor Jason Munoz; Danny Blair of the Safety and Health Committee, and Frank Martinez of the Social and Recreation Committee. The minutes of the October 23, 2007 meeting were read and only one correction of the drawing amount to be \$500.00.

Communication read from John Beaumont regarding three Letter Carriers losing their homes in the recent California fire storms. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

APPLICATION FOR NEW MEMBERSHIP: Robert Gabriel Campos-McFarland; Rosenda A. Gomez-Brundage; Arnulfo Reyes-Rios-Shafter; Shari Renet Sharp, Micheal Ray Hall-Dole Court; Juanita Chavez, John Pyun, Shantika Wandik-South Station; Alma A. Marquez-Stockdale Station.

REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES: Frank Martinez Sr. announced that there are still tickets available for the Holiday Dinner Buffet and Dance at the Double Tree Hotel on December 29, 2007. Tickets are \$25.00/person. Live jazz during dinner and DJ after dinner. Door Prizes too! Basil Zuniga was thrilled with the turn out for the newsletter folding for November. "Bunch of people from Dole Court and their kids along with many from EB Station. Basil also mentioned it would be Hillcrest Station's turn to fold the newsletter. Mike Towery commented on Patty Arismendez's article on her trip to Washington DC to receive her "Hero of the Year" Western Region award. Patty Arismendez then explained that what she wrote was how she felt.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: LMOUs were completed on schedule. Bakersfield's Postmaster asked questions regarding our LMOU because our Branch has a prime leave program (no 90 day notice for vacation, 13% off, and leave available in December) as compared to the rest of the nation. McFarland has a new LMOU.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION: December 18, 2007 meeting will be potluck. Diana Chavez made a motion for the branch to purchase a ham and a turkey for the potluck. Basil

Zuiga made a friendly amendment that "the motion giver cook the ham and turkey". Seconded by Jerry Patterson. Diana Chavez discussed the new Rural Route boundaries which will be Highway 178 to Masterson to Jolt. Brundage Station swapped with the Rural carriers, and Hillcrest Station will have more growth. East Bakersfield Station's Route adjustments will eliminate 3 routes. Tera Ortega took on a major responsibility along with Anita (the Management Route Count Co-ordinator from Lancaster) to make major route adjustments. South Station had decent route volume so only lost one hour. South Station's route adjustments are over. One carrier had 12 hours/day on her route during count week.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION: Article 8, mandating the ODL, Casuals to TE's. Te's will not be in leave book—not a career appointment, 4 hour guarantee time, 360 days/year then off for five days, no progression of discipline. Hillcrest's Brad Smith commented on the new carrier supervisor's negotiating-style as one of "Be back by 5PM, or..." President Mike Towery closed the polls at 8:05 PM. Vice President Diana Chavez reported on the retroactive pay and general wage increase to reflect that a CC1 Step O yearly salary of \$ 50,793.00 and a CC2 Step O yearly salary of \$ 51,927.00. NALC Hero of the Year winner Patty Arismendez further commented that she had a lot of fun. She didn't want a lot of publicity because many Carriers do incredible things every day and management doesn't acknowledge it. She further commented that our National Union Representatives represent us very well. "National President Bill Young was very kind to us all. The NALC Building is incredible, too; not just because it is the closest building to the Capital." Frank Martinez, Sr. made a motion for Jeff Harrington requesting \$50.00 for the Bowling Tournament in February/2008. President Mike Towery reminded all that the request for funds has to be published in the newsletter prior to the event, as funds have not been allocated in the budget for sponsorships. Station Reports- East Bakersfield: Management is still bad, Station Manager talks to Shop Steward through a closed door. Hillcrest-Route counts in April 2008. President Mike Towery reminded all to start doing everything by the book now as the eight week analysis will start soon. New Carrier Supervisor "anal"yzing times between scan points and office time not looking good. Bullying by DOIS. Numbers aren't matching what carrier is actually pulling down and delivering. Dole Court- Potluck last week. Thanks to management for the turkey and time to eat it. Stockdale- still pretty good. Jazz is making an effort to be fair. Camino Media-Medical Documentation mandated even if under three days. Mandating ODL, 12/10/work assignment not full, delaying mail, calling in Carriers from outside the city, 20 minute with Postmaster J.B. and most of the Carriers "ate" the time. Mike was asked if 93311 had a potluck. "Potluck??? Just like we had the Halloween party down at Mary's house!" Edwards-nothing exciting...950 total deliveries. Route inspection in January/2008. "Hearing from other Shop Stewards, Edwards doesn't have it so bad". Basil commented on the recent fires in San Diego and how you can have 50 houses on a street and end up with 2 after the fire. A lot can change. President Mike Towery mentioned about the month of December will have no penalty pay and OT is available 24 hours/day. Recess at 8:28 PM to tally the votes. President Mike Towery wished to thank the election committee: Mark Ramirez,

Dicie Wilder, Rick Plummer, and Danny Blair.

State Convention Delegates: D. Chavez - 21 votes; R. Courson - 5 votes; W. Curtis - 21 votes; K. Gerdes - 14 votes; E. Gonzalez - 6 votes; D. Guillet - 4 votes; J. Harrington- 12 votes;; A. Holderman - 26 votes; D. Holderman- 27 votes; F. Martinez - 8 votes; M. Meza - 8 votes; J. Munoz - 2 votes; J. Ortega - 3 votes; T. Ortega - 9 votes; J. Patterson - 15 votes; P. Salazar - 5 votes; B. Smith - 20 votes; P. Smith - 19 votes; R. Trevino - 14 votes; B. Zuniga - 42 votes. National Convention Delegates: D. Chavez - 22 votes; R. Courson- 6 votes; E. Gonzalez - 7 votes; D. Guillet- 4 votes; J. Harrington- 18 votes; A. Holderman - 29 votes; D. Holderman -33 votes; F. Martinez -11 votes; M. Meza -8 votes; J. Ortega - 5 votes; T. Ortega - 13 votes; J. Patterson -18 votes; P. Salazar -5 votes; B. Smith -20 votes; P. Smith -25 votes; R. Trevino -13 votes; B. Zuniga - 42 votes. Paid delegates will be decided at the December meeting.

FINALCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT:

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Monies received | | |
| | October 2007 | \$ 5,575.43 |
| | November 2007 | \$ 5,675.27 |
| | Total | \$ 11,250.70 |

TREASURER'S REPORT:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$ 58,481.94 |
| Dues & Income | \$ 11,490.84 |
| Interest Income | \$ 17.95 |
| Total Balance as of 10/31/07 | \$ 69,990.73 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 18,106.62 |
| Ending Balance as of 10/31/07 | \$ 51,884.11 |

COLCPE DRAWING of \$ 16.00 won by Dan Lujan.
 General Meeting Drawing would have been won by Cecila Hernandez if she had been present.

Thirty-nine members present

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM

MOLLY BIGGAR
 Acting Branch 782 Recording Secretary



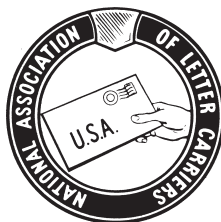
Joshua, 11, North Barrington, IL

THIS would be a great stamp!!!!...

OUT THERE



OUT THERE



Need Help Fast???

President Mike Towery
 Cell Phone: (661) 331-9171

2007 NALC HBP Info

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| NALC Health Benefit Plan | 1-888-636-6252 |
| HBP Claims Representative | 1-703-729-4677 |
| PPO Claims Payment Inquiry | 1-800-548-8454 |
| Nominate Physician for PPO | 1-800-622-6252 |
| * Hospital Precertification | 1-800-622-6252 |
| ** Drug Prescription Program | 1-800-933-6252 |
| CareMark Hearing Impaired | 1-800-238-1217 |
| CareMark Specialty Pharmacy | 1-800-237-2767 |
| Durable Medical Equipment | 1-888-636-6252 |
| Flexible Service Option | 1-703-729-4677 |
| Double Coverage | 1-703-729-4677 |
| Drug Double Coverage | 1-800-933-6252 |
| Customer Service Hot Line | 1-888-933-6252 |
| Nurse Information Line | 1-800-622-6252 |
| CareMark Pharmacist | 1-800-282-2229 |
| Federal Information Center | 1-800-688-9889 |
| * National Organ Transplants | 1-800-622-6252 |
| * Mental Health/Substance Abuse | 1-877-468-1016 |
| MEDICARE Phone Option #1 | 1-800-633-4227 |
| MEDICARE Phone Option #2 | 1-888-636-6252 |
| MEDICARE Managed Care Plan | 1-800-633-4277 |
| OPM Retirement Info Center | 1-888-767-6738 |
| *** OPM Specialty Drugs | 1-800-237-2767 |
| **** Enhanced Eldercare Services | 1-877-468-1016 |



Branch 782 Representative
Mark Ramirez
(661) 834-5011

NALC Prescription Drug Program
P.O. Box 94465
Palatine, IL 60094-4465

Out of Network Pharmacy Claim
NALC Drug Prescription Program
P.O. Box 686005
San Antonio, TX 78268-6005

United Behavioral Health
P.O. Box 30755
Salt Lake City, UT 84130-0755
1-877-468-1016

* Failure to pre-certify will result in a \$500 reduction in benefits paid by the Plan. Must notify the Plan prior to hospital admission with doctor name and dates. ** Mail order drug prescription program long term (maintenance drugs) 60 day supply: \$8 generic, \$24 name brand; 90 day supply: \$12 generic, \$35 name brand. Retail Pharmacy, you pay 25% . MEDICARE 60 day supply: \$7 generic, \$20 name brand; 90 day supply: \$10 generic, \$30 name brand. Network Retail Pharmacy you pay 15% of the cost of the prescription. Prior approval required for some drugs. Must call the Plan. *** Prior Approval Required. **** Registered Nurse Care Advocate 24 hours, 7 days a week.

Contact Information

Preferred Provider Cost
\$20.00

Co-pay per office visit

Preferred Provider
Deductible
\$250 Individual
\$500 Self & Family
Per Calendar Year

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| CareMark | 1-800-238-1217 |
| First Health | 1-800-259-8179 |
| United Behavioral Health | 1-800-842-2479 |
| Disease Management Program | 1-866-447-6393 |
| Health Care Fraud Hotline | 1-202-418-3300 |
| Center for Disease Control | http://www.cdc.gov |
| NALC/CareMark Site | http://www.HealthTalk.com |
| National Library of Medicine | http://www.nlm.nih.gov |
| American Public Health Assoc. | http://www.alpha.org |
| American Cancer Society | http://www.cancer.org |
| American Heart Association | http://www.americanheart.org |
| American Lung Association | http://www.lunusa.org |
| Diabetes Foundation | http://www.diabetis.org |
| Muscular Dystrophy Association | http://www.mdausa.org |
| JAMA Asthma Information Center | http://www.ama.assn.org/special/asthma |

How to Join The NALC Health Benefit Plan

Enrollment codes for our Plan are:

321 Self Only

322 Self and Family

Newly Hired Letter Carriers

Newly hired Letter Carriers may enroll within sixty (60) days of their date of becoming eligible. They may enroll by completing the PostalEASE FEHB Worksheet and forwarding it to the Human Resources Shared Service Center (HRSSC 1-877-4PS-EASE) or through the Internet (<https://liteblue.usps.gov>).

Current Active Letter Carriers

There are three (3) ways you can sign-up.

Internet – from home (<https://liteblue.usps.gov>) must have EID and PIN

Intranet – Employee Self-Service Kiosk located at some USPS facilities

Phone – PostalEASE 1-877-4PS-3273, option 1 instructions

If you have access to the PostalEASE Employee Web on the Intranet (from the Blue page), the Internet (<https://liteblue.usps.gov>) or to an Employee Self-Service Kiosk (available in some postal facilities), using either may be simpler than using the telephone. Just follow the instructions. Otherwise, call the Employee Service Line to reach PostalEASE toll-free at 1-877-4PS-EASE (1-877-477-3273, option 1) or 1-866-260-7507 for TTY.

When prompted, select Federal Employees Health Benefits. Follow the script and prompts to enter your Employee ID, your USPS PIN, and information from your completed PostalEASE FEHB Worksheet. Information needed, daytime phone number, the name of the health benefit plan (NALC Health Benefit Plan) in which you wish to enroll, enter the code number (321 Self Only or 322 Self and Family) of the plan, the names, addresses and date of birth for all eligible family members covered under your enrollment. The name and policy number of any other group insurance you or any of your eligible family members may have (including Tricare, Medicare, etc). If you are changing plans or canceling coverage, enter the code of the health benefit plan in which you are currently enrolled.

After completing your entries you should note the following information:

Record the Confirmation Number you receive from PostalEASE:

_____.

Your enrollment will be processed on this date, record this information: _____.

Your enrollment will be reflected in your paycheck that is dated,

record this information: _____.

YOU SHOULD KEEP ALL THIS INFORMATION FOR YOUR RECORDS.

Retirees or Annuitants will receive annual FEHB Open Season Information in the mail. To enroll or to change their enrollment, they can visit the Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) Open Season Online web site at www.opm.gov/retire/fehb or call Open Season Express 1-800-332-9798. Or they may send an email to retire@opm.gov.

By mail, the address is:

**Office of Personnel Management
Open Season Processing Center
P.O. Box 5000
Lawrence, Kansas 60046-0500**

Retirees or Annuitants who are eligible in the FEHB Program may call the Retirement Information Center 1-888-767-6738 (or 1-800-878-5707 for a TDD for the hearing impaired) for instructions on enrolling. Annuitants in the Washington, DC local calling area should dial 202-606-0500 (or 202-606-0551 for a TDD for the hearing impaired). Or they may send an email to retire@opm.gov.

Newly Eligible Federal Employees can enroll in the FEHB Program within sixty (60) days of their becoming eligible for the program by obtaining and completing a Standard Form 2809 (SF 2809) from their employing office. They may also fill out the SF 2809 online, print it, and turn the form in to their employing office.

Current Federal Employees of agencies that participate in Employee Express may enroll during the annual Open Season using the web site www.employeeexpress.gov.

OUT THERE



NEW CONTRACT... SAD GOODBYE...

Four of us recently attended a national training session in Las Vegas to get the latest information on our new 5 year contract. All of our national officers were there including our National President, Bill Young.

Many different subjects were touched on that most of us already know: COLAs and pay increases, lump sum payments and new health benefit costs. But, two subjects very new to me, were the implementation of T.E.s and the new flat sorting system(FSS).

Although T.E.s are new to many of us, they are not new to the Postal Service. There are no longer casual carriers in the USPS. If those employees are still with the service, they were converted to a T.E. status. This status now gives them a guarantee of hours and they can become a union member. They cannot however, work more hours in a work week than a PTF. A PTF is entitled to 40 hours in a given work week if a T.E. works every day that same week.

We are continuing to get more T.E.s and there is a reason why. The flat sorting machines are on the way. They are scheduled to start implementing them back East in early 2008 in major cities and work their way out West. The Postal Service is projecting much less office time, eliminating routes and using all of those T.E.s for more street deliveries.

As you can probably guess, this new system is creating another bundle. I have been to many training sessions in the last few years and have been hearing about this new system coming soon. Well, they are now just a few months away and my major question is still unanswered. What about the fourth bundle on circular day?! Nobody has an answer yet.

I see only two remedies. The postal service makes us carry it as a fourth bundle which will create a national grievance or we will need to case in one of the bundles that day which defeats the whole purpose of implementing FSS. The postal service also projects that this extra bundle will only take the Carrier 4 (four) minutes longer out on the street. YEA RIGHT!!! As usual, the Postal Service will be proven wrong. Their DOIS projections are continually wrong, and—by the way, in case you don't know—you cannot be held to your DOIS projected times. That was part of our new contract agreement.

When they say “..but DOIS says this is your time today...”, your answer should be, “That’s fine, but here is MY estimated time!”. Then continue to do your job safely and the best you can do on that day. **END of DISCUSSION!** If they require you to follow the DOIS projected time, then contact your steward so a grievance can be filed. When FSS finally hits Carriers in the cities that Branch 782 represents, there should be an answer to the fourth bundle issue. When I hear something new, I will pass it on to you as soon as possible.

OUT THERE



In closing, I would like to bid a sad goodbye to Mrs. Patricia Kennedy!!!

She retired on Friday, November 30, 2007 after almost 21 years of service. I've worked with Pat for over 20 of those years at South Station and enjoyed hearing her sing "Call HIM Up, Call HIM Up. Tell HIM What You Want!". She would try to keep me in check when I would have something sarcastic to say about management. I will miss her straightening me out. Hope you enjoy a loooooong and healthy retirement, but don't be a stranger! We will all miss you!

DARRYL HOLDERMAN
NALC Branch 782 Chief Trustee & South Station Steward

Record-setting Conference!

Union members across the Nation attended Las Vegas on November 16th thru 18th to discuss the 2006-2011 National Agreement. I personally was surprised by the amount of NALC members in attendance. More than 1,800 signed up for the session. Four of your Branch 782 brothers and sisters attended.

I have to tell you that President Bill Young has a way with words and an inspiration about him. This is what he told all of us in attendance: The NALC Must Help Bolster USPS And Rebuild our Union Movement!

Looking out over a huge ballroom at the Paris Hotel packed to near-capacity, Young asked: "How do we achieve long-term job security for the men and women we represent?"

He said two things were needed. First: Find ways to strengthen the United States Postal Service in the Internet age. Second: Do our part to help rebuild the American middle class by helping rebuild the union movement and motivating political change.

I believe he is right. We—as union brothers and sisters—must help the Postal Service build revenue and keep the volume going up whether it be with letters or parcels or whatever it takes! Guess what? If we don't, the Postal Service will be no more as we know it today.

We all know volume has gone down. I think Carriers must wake up and push "Customer Connect". I know there is not much help locally, but we'll have to change that. If you turn a contact in and you receive no response, let your Shop Stewards know. We'll let our National Business Agent know what going on here. So let's do our part!

"The Road Ahead" was the theme of the conference, which included four workshops. There were contract related topics;



Walter Johnson, CSALC District 8 Representative and Branch 782's COLCPE Coordinator Pam Smith take some time to for a photo op.

ics; building a strategic partnership with the USPS; implementation of the Flat Sequencing System (FSS); the use of Transitional Employees (TEs); the implementation of "Shared Services"; and NALC's strategy for protecting and improving health benefits.



Listening intently, three of your Branch 782 representatives to the conference (Darryl Holderman, Diana Chavez and Pam Smith) are unaware that Anita Holderman has them in her camera's sights...

On the political front, President Bill Young noted the NALC's prominent role in 2006 and said, "The entire labor movement deserves a lot of credit for winning back the Congress, but we can proudly say that no other union did more than the NALC."

He also stated expanding use of the e-Activist Network, growth in funds for the Committee on Letter Carriers Political Education (COLCPE), and the Carrier Corps of political volunteers as clear signals that the NALC will have to step forward.

On that note, I hope all employees are signed up with e-Activist Network. If you have a computer, it's quite simple. The Network sends out a notice asking you to contact your Congress or House Representative to help support whatever bill or issue that is needed to help the Letter Carrier issues.

I know many of you helped in the passing of the New Postal Reform bill last year. For that, "Thank you!" Otherwise, we would not be where we are today. Without those who interacted with the e-Activist Network, we would never have been able to be so successful.

So hear this! The 2008 campaign is here. Play a role in it and help middle class Americans move forward. Do your part and quit passing it off to everyone else except yourself. When asked to register to vote, do it. **Register and then Vote!!!!**

I know that sometimes it's difficult to make a decision on who is to be your next President or between your Congress and House Representatives, but the choice is always yours. Choose who will vote on your issues and your livelihood. No one better than you can make that decision. Be your own voice and voice that to your Representatives. Don't be a silent voice. Speak up and vote!!!!

In Solidarity,
DIANA CHAVEZ

UP ON THE HILL

Two weeks ago I had the privilege to attend some training classes in Las Vegas. I took a class that was about the NALC Health Care Plan.

I learned that the reality is that we did well in this latest National Agreement. The next contract may be a different story. So, what was it about this last contract negotiations that you should be aware of?

Because medical costs continued to soar since 2000, the USPS wanted to reduce the share of the cost to 72%

(which is the rate that other federal employees pay).

The NALC proposed a "Carrier-only" plan. This would have saved the USPS 475 million dollars per year. The NALC proposed that members in the plan would pay 15% out-of-pocket, while members on other Federal Employee Health Benefit (FEHB) plans would pay 28% out-of-pocket. The NALC also proposed that we share the savings, but management wasn't willing to share enough of it.

The NALC's strategy to leap into 2011 is to bring Letter Carriers back into the Plan, with benefits designed to what the Carriers choose.

Recent changes to the Plan are that it will utilize the Cigna network of providers, so doctors are plentiful. It will continue to add benefits while keeping cost low. Now, it is pretty similar to the Blue Cross Blue Shield plan, and are hoping to mirror that plan. By the time you read this Open Season will be over, so I strongly urge you to keep this in mind for next year.

On a lighter note, I would like to welcome our two new PTF'S Carrie Kendrick and Nicole Aranda and our new TE's David Rivera and Michelle Henry. Also, Connie Crimmins took a vacation to the Bahamas, and came back



Carrie Kendrick and Nicole Aranda—newest Hillcrest PTFs and Branch 782 members

with a new hairdo. Welcome back, Connie. We missed you.

I would just like to wish everyone "Happy Holidays!"

PAM SMITH
93306 Shop Steward
and Branch 782
COLCPE Coordinator

Guest Editorial

\$\$\$ for Sick Leave???

by Steve Terry
Secretary, NALC Branch 14

A recent article in the *Federal Times* discussed the use of sick leave by federal employees. The examination of sick leave balance of employees that are nearing retirement revealed that FERS employees were approximately one-half of CSRS employees. The sick leave "abuse" cost the government \$68 million dollars in lost productivity in the year ended March 2006.

Representative Jim Moran, D-VA, is drafting language that would pay FERS employees some percentage of their unused sick leave balance. One option proposed is to pay 10% of the hourly rate of a retiree's high-three salary for any accumulated sick leave balance above 500 hours. If this option is used, FERS employees—whose high-three average is \$48,648—would receive \$1,169.42 for those 500 hours.



If the FERS employee was allowed to apply the 500 hours toward his/her creditable service for retirement purposes (same as CSRS employees), the annuity would increase by approximately \$6.65 per month. These numbers may be off, but if a FERS employee would receive some credit for their sick leave it would be an improvement in the current system of "Use it or Lose it".

I personally think that all employees should receive the same credit for their sick leave balance. Some say it is a reward for those that have high sick leave balances, but it may be that these people were just fortunate enough not to suffer any prolonged or serious illness or injury during their career.

In any case, *all* FERS employees should be aware of the proposed legislation and inform their congressional representatives of the importance of passing laws that would encourage employees to save one of their most precious benefits of federal employment - Sick Leave.

Again, this subject is only being discussed, but it is one that could have significant impact on your retirement if you are in FERS.

This article originally appeared in the November 2007 edition of the Louisville, KY *BR. 14 NEWSLETTER*

“Strengthening the Postal Service.”

That is what our National NALC President said we should be doing.

President Bill Young must be “crazy” wanting to help management. He wants to help with the “crazy” programs such as Customer Connect. He feels that the NALC should be involved in the implementation of the new flat sorting system (FSS) coming to a post office near you. (First phase of FSS is scheduled for mid 2008.) Why would President Young want to go out of his way to help management? Let those programs fail!. Why should we care if these programs are successful? That may show that certain management personnel don’t know what they are doing and should not be where they are.

WOW! There are many craft employees with this mentality. Here is the problem with this train of thought. If the USPS fails, our jobs may be in jeopardy!

To cut costs the USPS has contracted out entire routes. It costs less to pay a contracted deliverer that receives no benefits than to keep current Carriers or hire career Carriers that are getting benefits.

The failure of programs Bill Young wants us to support gives the USPS more reason to continue this practice of contracting out. President Young just signed a new five year contract, but how difficult do you think it may get to ask for increases for the next contract when the USPS says it can’t afford it because the above named programs failed? You think maybe our health benefits may be cut to compensate for lost revenue that Customer Connect could have prevented?

President Young says that by being involved, we (the union), help strengthen the USPS and secure our jobs and livelihood. “This is about us, not them.”

So, is President Young “crazy”? If wanting to make sure that the USPS is around and viable for a very long time, then YES. If wanting to make sure our union brothers and sisters have a secure job, then YES. I guess we all have to learn to be a little “crazy” to work for the USPS.

ANITA HOLDERMAN
Branch 782 Financial Secretary

Basil,

**Here are a few tidbits I came across.
Use them as you like and see fit.**

Did you know...a full six day route count costs the USPS \$5,000.00 per route?

Did you know...third bundle mailing labels should have code #ECRWSS? (If not, it is not mail for third bundles and should be cased.)

Did you know...the USPS will start implementation of the 1st phase of the flat sorting system (FSS) machines in mid 2008?

Did you know...the O.T. rate nationally for FY 2007 was 14.5%?

Did you know...the COLCPE Gimme 5 campaign has raised \$3 million to be distributed to pro-letter carrier candidates?

When you are making out your Christmas card list this year, please include the following address to send a card to:

**A Recovering American Soldier
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20307-5001**

***If you approve of the
idea, please pass it on
to EVERY single person
that you know!***

Congratulations, Pat!!!

Pat Kennedy was always singing and dancing. She tried to make you see the good in everybody even if you were at work. She was always smiling even when she had to stay late. But, she'd tell you how much she hated staying late.

She will be very missed.

Deven Patterson



This picture of the always smiling Pat Kennedy was taken in the mid-1980's. If you look closely, you can see the horizontal flat case on the left side.

Pat always had a song! We will miss "Tell Him What You Want..." and "We're on the Battle field Now".

She always dressed sharp wearing a tie when she didn't have to.

If we ever wanted to rile her up, we just had to say, "WhatEVER!!!!, Pat." She hated that.

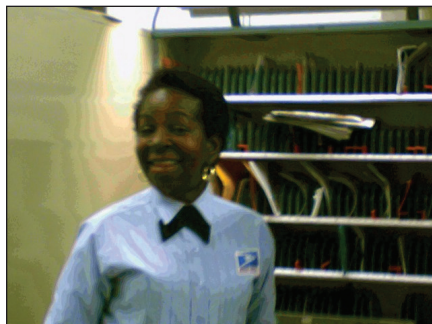
Loved her little dance when she was happy and the way she would always say, "Okay, let's move on!" when a standup was going on a long tangent.

I never told you, but I always appreciated your singing. Your singing *always* brought me to think about how blessed we are. I'm going to really, really miss you and your singing.

Enjoy your retirement! You deserve it! May God bless you every step of the way!

Your friend,

Sylvia Reyna
Route 408



"Captured" by Tatia Boone's cell phone on her last day at work, Pat still shows off her famous smile. Only, today, it meant more...

P.S. Could your write the music and lyrics to the songs you sang in the mornings?

I loved it when she would say her famous line: "Call Him Up and Tell Him What You Want". It would make my day!

Sheila Wiley



Pat Kennedy joins "The Last Punch Bunch" ...and, yes, she's smiling!!!

I remember "snippets" of conversations with Pat. She loved her sister's cooking and really appreciated what she would have for lunch. Her family was such an important part of her life. She told me about her Mother and her Father, their relationship, and how they each had such an impact on all of their children. She seemed to really like my wife, Marcelle, and the fact that we had eight kids that were homeschooled. Pat's faith—strong and deep—didn't just seem alive with her church family, it was something that she lived every day. When I hear about how many people responded to Pat's singing, I think that it was more than that. When she sang she resonated with something in other folks around her. Although I know she tended to smile, I also remember many of those late evenings she would drag herself in from *another* ten hour day. Pat didn't want overtime. She *never* wanted overtime. There was no smile. But, the next day, she would be back. Singing. Praying. Hoping. I'm happy for her. I hope she finds a good man... Since her husband passed away, I think she needs to find somebody who will make her "Number 1" in his life. I'll miss you, too. Basil Zuniga



“Tell Him What You Want...”



Pat Kennedy shows off the message that was on her hat all day on her last day on Route 407. More pictures...more smiles!!

OUT THERE



T.E. John Payn who has been working as a Carrier for about three months stands by Pat as she checks in her accountables for the last time.



Thank you to Carrier Sylvia Reyna and South Station Manager Robert Nichols for taking pictures of Pat's last day on the job!

General Meeting Pot Luck

December 18, 2007
After the
General Meeting

OUT THERE



member main dish side dish dessert

Diana Chavez
Pam Smith
Randy Courson
Dicie Wilder
Mark Ramirez
Basil Zuniga
Frank Martinez
Anita Holderman
Jerry Patterson
Lucinda Martinez
Paul Greenfield
Debbie Guillet
R N Kramer
Bob Mitchell
Clint Gallaher
Danny Blair
Wendy Bottoms
Ben Dover
Emma Roids
Amanda Cheeton
Sal Manilla
Helen Back
Anita Richone

TURKEY
HAM
?
Pulled Pork
Chocolate prune possum

Voggio casserole ?
?
Veggies
?
Stuffing
?

Better Than ? cake
Good & Steamy ?
Cookies
Apple pie in your eye?
Surprise ????????

Hot Pickled Eggs
Tofu Okra Salsa
Mucho Hot Chilli Sardines
Garlic Turnup salad
Goat Cheese/oyster dip

Blue Cheese Brownies

Pepto Shooters

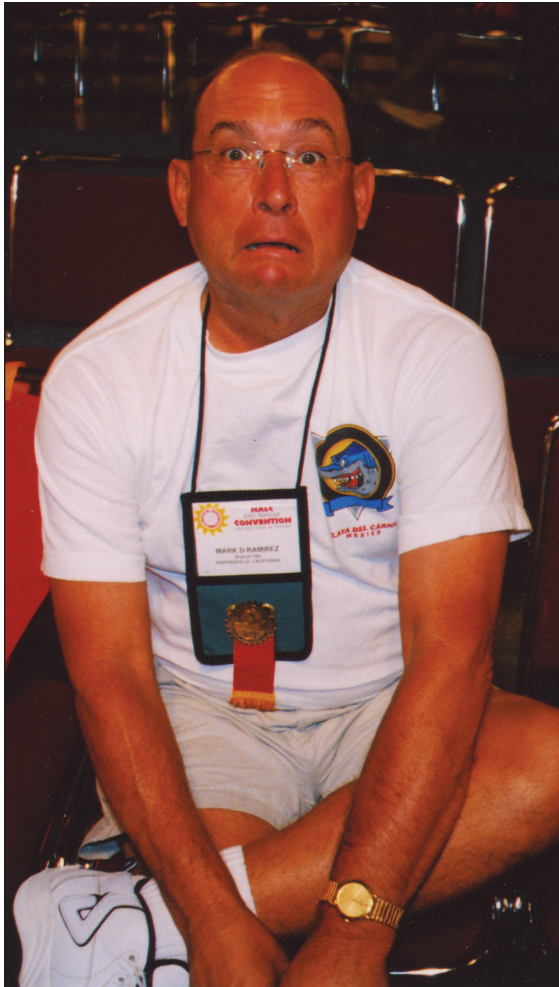
OUT THERE



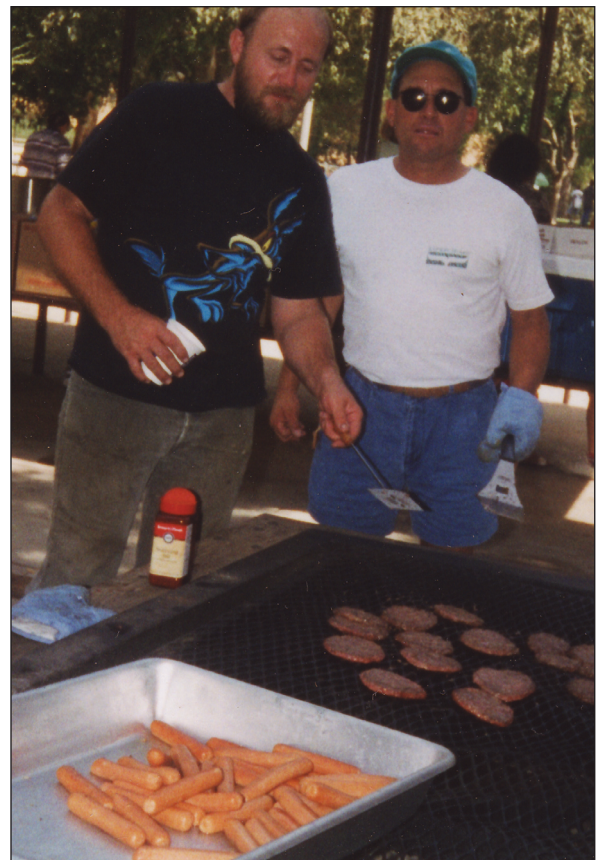
General Meeting Pot Luck

Mark Ramirez Retires!!!

and the Lamont Postmaster is happy.



Mark, a Branch 782 activist for many years!



GRANDMA'S MYSTERY CHRISTMAS STEW?

THE CHRISTMAS MEAL, WAS ALWAYS SERVED, DOWN, AT GRANDMA'S PLACE,
BUT THIS YEAR, SHE SERVED US STEW, THAT HAD THE ODDEST TASTE.

THE YEARS HAD PASSED, SINCE GRANDPA DIED, AND GRANDMA LIVED ALONE,
WE DIDN'T SEE HER VERY MUCH, BUT WE CALLED HER ON THE PHONE.

GRANDMA HAD HER GARDEN, NOT A THING SHE COULDN'T MAKE,
SHE COULD COOK A LEATHER BOOT, YOU'D SWEAR THAT IT WAS STEAK.

GRANDMA HAD SOME LIVESTOCK, AND THEY WERE ALL QUITE TAME,
AND WHEN SHE WENT TO FEED THEM, SHE CALLED THEM ALL BY NAME.

THE STEW WAS VERY HEARTY, AND MORE THAN WE COULD EAT,
THE LIVESTOCK WERE ACCOUNTED FOR, WHERE DID SHE GET THIS MEAT?

THE GROCERY STORE FROM GRANNY'S HOUSE, WAS TOO FAR INTO TOWN,
BUT THERE WAS ALWAYS FRESH MEAT, JUST LYING ON THE GROUND.

MY SIS ASKED FOR THE RECIPE, AND I JUST RAISED MY CUP,
THE ONLY THING MY GRANDMA SAID, "IT'S JUST SOMETHING I PICKED UP."

THE MEAT WAS JUST SMALL CRITTERS, LET'S SAY A MEAT COLLAGE,
SOME NEEDED TO BE TENDERIZED; SHE DID THIS WITH HER DODGE!

NOW GRANDMA'S STILL A GREAT OLD GAL, BUT HER MIND IS GETTING ILL,
NEXT YEAR, I'LL COOK THE CHRISTMAS FEAST, AND IT WON'T BE FRESH ROAD KILL!



This poem was originally published in November 2002

MARK RAMIREZ
NALC Branch 782



These pictures represent only a few of the many times that Mark Ramirez was involved in doing something to work for the membership of Branch 782. Cooking at Branch picnics, being a delegate to California state or national conventions, attending the many varied functions that occurred over the years, or being our own Branch "Poet Laureate"...he was always diligent in everything that he did. Over the years, many who requested assistance from him as our NALC Health Benefit Plan Representative were grateful. Thank you, Mark!!!

When Lunch Begins & When Lunch Ends

by Joseph J. Whitbeck
Vice-President, NALC Branch 274

Every Letter Carrier is afforded a 30 minute lunch each day. We do not get paid for this time, therefore it is important to have lunch or at least take the 30-minute break. Otherwise, you are essentially working “off-the-clock”. In other words, if you work through lunch and have an eight-hour day, your pay will actually be the same only you will have worked eight-and-a-half hours. This reduces what you really made per hour. The Union has fought hard to establish your hourly wage and to make sure each of us has time to eat and relax during the day. ***Please don't waste their efforts by working for nothing...***



Jerry Patterson, chuckling over another management policy that he'll deal with.

Lunch begins the moment you deviate from what would have been your pattern of delivery. For example: Let's say you are delivering a loop on Avenue A and your lunch location is on Street C which intersects Avenue A one block up the road. You deliver the loop on Avenue A and the next loop on your route is the loop after the Street C intersection.

You are ready to take lunch now however, so you finish up the loop and begin driving towards the intersection of Street C. You are still working, because this is an action you would have had to get to the next loop. When you arrive at Street C, you put on your directional indicating you are turning onto Street C and *when the light turns green you begin to turn. Your lunchtime has officially begun.*

The action of turning off the pattern of delivery is what begins the 30-minute break. You will then be expected to be turning back onto Avenue Avenue A, 30 minutes later.

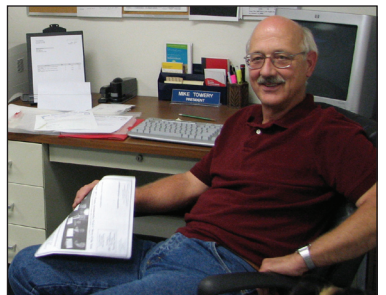
With the MSP scan points, nothing has changed. Some Carriers probably believe that they are required to make their two scan points only 30 minutes apart. The fact is, ***when you are scanning your are working.*** Lunch does not begin the moment after you scan the barcode! When you scan the first bar code—indicating you are going to lunch—you are still away from your vehicle (if you have one) and you still have mail in your bag. You must still walk to your vehicle and handle any mail accordingly.

Using the example above, you would still be “working” until you turned onto Street C.

When lunch is over, as you turn back onto Avenue A, your work begins by driving up Avenue A to the park point. You then park the truck, lock and chock the truck and get your first loop ready for delivery. You then walk to the first delivery point and scan the bar code. Again, you are working when you scan the bar code. You have been working for some five minutes possibly by then.

Management should not be instructing Carriers that the two scan points (before and after lunch) should only be 30 minutes apart. If this happens, tell the supervisor that the two of you should address this issue with the Shop Steward.

This article was a reprint which appeared in the Reading, PA Pagoda Branch 258 *NALCASTER* published in December 2007



NALC Branch 782 President, Mike Towery, relaxes (?) prior to meeting.



Darryl Holderman, Debbie Guillet, John Ortega, Mike Meza and Pam Smith getting comfortable before the November Shop Steward meeting.

from the
editor-guy

I had an early Christmas present this year. I got to go back to my "first" route to train a new employee.

Periodically, I get to do this.

The supervisor tells me that I am going to be "training" a new employee. I hear that and I wonder if I *really* want to do this *one* more time...

To this point, I've always said, "Yes."

I was on my "first" route for 23 years.

After being a Part-Time Flexible employee for a year and a half, I was assigned to Route 427 *because no one else wanted it*.

I just did what I did, day after day...for twenty-three years. Day after day, week after week, year after year I got the opportunity to be *THE* Letter Carrier for people who just happened to live where they lived.

I talked to many of them on a daily basis. Some of them I saw rarely. But, for the most part, I gave each address the best possible service that I could give.

When I went back today (with that new Letter Carrier) I was greeted with hugs, kisses, hand shakes, smiles, and other amazing greetings which made me feel like I was coming "Home".

I can't even begin to tell you what an amazing thing this was...except—as Letter Carriers—you already know what I'm saying.

I learned that Mrs. Tarver passed away. Her daughter told me that when I asked how Mrs. Tarver was since I hadn't been there for a few years. She also told me about the recent death of Bernard (her brother) from cancer. I shared with her how frustrated her dad had been when he had lost his sight years ago. I got hugs from the Spains on Tilton. Dave, on Dore Drive, told his "newer" neighbor across the street that I had had a long pony tail and a "*LONG BLACK* beard". (Much shorter hair, and definitely grayer now...) An old brown dog seemed excited to see me, and I realized that this was a puppy that had grown older in my absence. On Timothy Street, Katy (another really cool, and friendly dog), used to be a puppy who was scarcely taller than the lawn. Twelve years later, she remembered me... And, the mail boxes on the whole route were still in the same places, too. Geez, what a world!

I know that I remembered my time on Route 427. I really didn't know that they would remember me. There is a sermon here...I think.

Post Office



Holiday Party

Presented by Social and Rec. Committee

Double Tree Hotel

(Hwy 99 & Rosedale)

Saturday, December 29th

6-7 pm Social • 7-9 pm Dinner

9-1 am Dance

Games, Prizes, Raffles

Professional Photography, DJ

Semi-Formal Attire

❄ Adults Only ❄

No-Host Bar

Tickets \$25 per person

Dance only \$10.00 after 9 pm

DEADLINE DECEMBER 14TH

[HURRY WHILE TICKETS LAST]

For info/tickets:

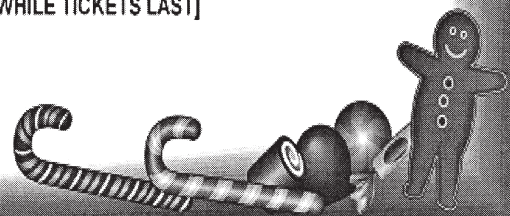
STELLA DE AVILA 392-6301

Jeff Harrington 378-0975

Patti Arismendez 706-7888



LIVE JAZZ BAND

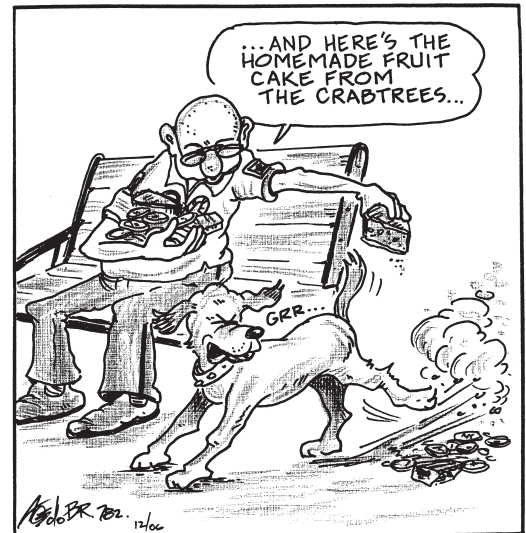


"OUT THERE"

OUT THERE



OUT THERE



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...



Branch Officers

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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| Trustee | Danny Blair | (661) 397-8107 |
| Trustee | Bill Curtis | (661) 323-1107 |

NALC Branch 782 Shop Stewards

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Avenal (93203) | Vacant | |
| Arvin (93209) | Vacant | |
| Delano (93215) | Jerry Patterson | (661) 599-6859 |
| Lamont (93241) | Mark Ramirez | (661) 834-5011 |
| McFarland (93250) | Steve Carter | (661) 325-5526 |
| Shafter (93263) | Jerry Patterson | (661) 599-6859 |
| Taft (93268) | Vacant | |
| Wasco (93280) | Jerry Patterson | (661) 599-6859 |
| Downtown Station (93301) | Kim Gerdes | (661) 834-2059 |
| Downtown Station Alternate | Vacant | |
| South Station (93304) | Darryl Holderman | (661) 589-1683 |
| East Bakersfield (93305) | Teresa Ortega | (661) 201-3086 |
| East Bakersfield Alternate | Paul Salazar | (661) 325-5526 |
| Hillcrest Station (93306) | Pam Smith | (661) 325-5526 |
| Brundage Station (93307) | Emma Gonzalez | (661) 325-5526 |
| Dole Court (93308) | Mike Towery | (661) 862-8033 |
| Dole Court Alternate | Debbie Guillet | (661) 325-5526 |
| Stockdale Station (93309) | Randy Courson | (661) 325-5526 |
| Stockdale Station Alternate | John Ortega | (661) 325-5526 |
| Camino Media (93311/13) | Mike Meza | (661) 325-5526 |
| Mojave (93501) | Vacant | |
| California City (93504) | Paula Hogg | (760) 373-8963 |
| Tehachapi (93561) | Mary Morphis | (661) 822-6614 |
| Trona (93562) | Vacant | |
| Boron (93516) | Paula Hogg | (760) 373-8963 |
| Ridgecrest (93555) | Lynnell Howell | (760) 371-1039 |



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**General Meeting
Tuesday**

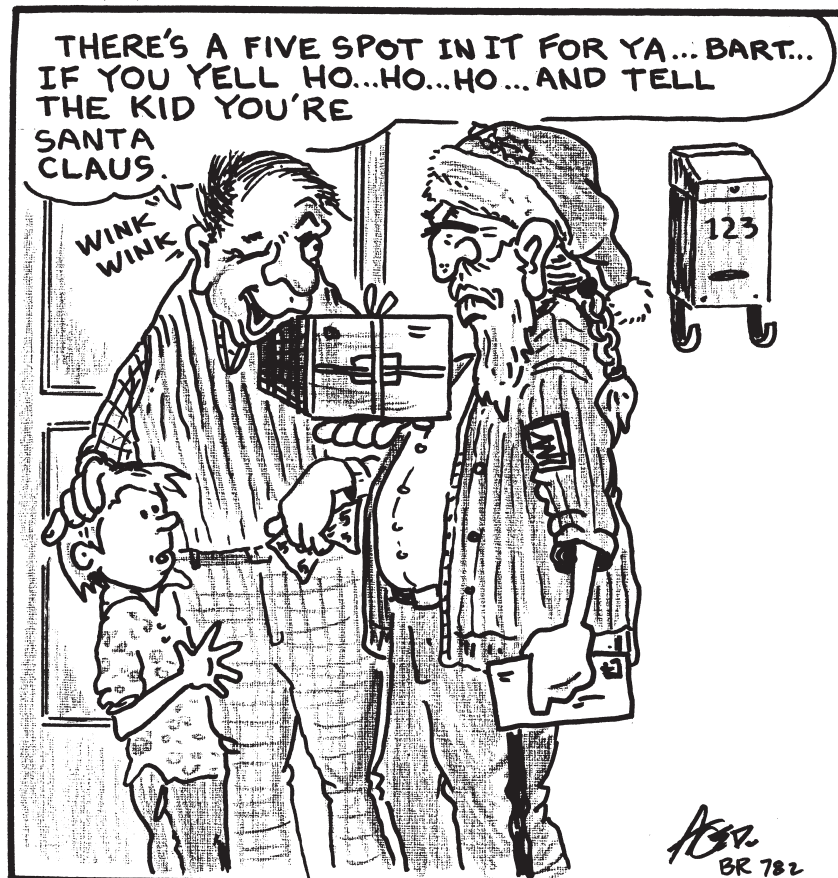
December 18, 2007

Branch 782 Office
2628 F Street
Bakersfield, CA

TIME-VALUE MAIL—PLEASE EXPEDITE

**The December General Membership Meeting
will be held on the *third* Tuesday of this month.
There's also going to be a potluck.**

OUT THERE



\$500

is the amount *you* might
win this month.

But (in the immortal of
words of Frank Diaz)—
“And this is a Big But!”
you have to be
present to win.

Think about it.