

# National Association of Letter Carriers

## Branch 782

### E.A. Baker Union Update



ARVIN  
DELANO  
MOJAVE

TEHACHAPI

AVENAL  
EDWARDS AFB  
RIDGECREST

TRONA

BAKERSFIELD  
LAMONT  
SHAFTER

WASCO

BORON  
McFARLAND  
TAFT



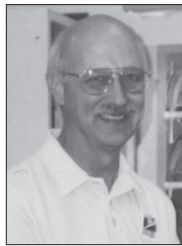
*CHARTERED FEBRUARY 25, 1901*

VOLUME LXXX NUMBER 11

DECEMBER 2008

at the

# Mike:



I want to thank all Branch members who took the time during Thanksgiving week to attend the General Meeting to cast their vote for the Trustees.

Congratulations to Lucinda Martinez who was elected as Branch 782 Chief Trustee. Congratulations to Bill Curtis and Danny Blair who were re-elected as the other Trustees. Both have been involved in the Union for years and I appreciate all their work.

I want to acknowledge a winner of one of twelve CSALC Saxsenmeier Scholarships—Timothy Mascarinas. He is the son of Branch 782 Retiree Mauricio Mascarinas and his wife, Tessie. I believe that this is the first time that someone from our Branch 782 “family” has won this award. Congratulations to Timothy for this great honor!

I also want to thank some guests who made the time to attend our November general meeting: National Business Agent “Manny” Peralta, and State Association President John Beaumont. It always is a pleasure to have them at our meetings so that we are able to get a bigger perspective of Postal issues. Joining them were CSALC District 4 Representative Eric Ellis and also Don Hastings from Fresno

It seems that, at this time of year, there is never enough time to get everything done. But, I hope everyone will take the time to attend the December 16th General Meeting and enjoy the potluck dinner we have planned.

More importantly, I encourage everyone to remember to tell all of your friends and loved ones how much you care about them and appreciate them. Unfortunately, it can become too easy to take it for granted that they will always be there...

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and hope to see many of you at the General Meeting!

MIKE TOWERY  
Branch 782 President

# Minutes of the November 2008 General Meeting

The regular meeting of Branch 782 was called to order at 7:30 PM by President, Mike Towery on the 25th day of November, 2008 at the Branch office, Bakersfield. The flag salute was led by Jerry Patterson. All members of the Executive board were present except for Recording Secretary Kim Gerdes. Also present were the stewards from 04, 06, 07, 08, 09, Camino Media, Delano, Lamont, McFarland, Taft and Wasco. Also present was Newsletter Editor Basil Zuniga, Assistant Newsletter Editor Jason Munoz, Safety and Health Representative Danny Blair, Webmaster Rick Plummer, and our Branch Photographer, Anita Holderman. President Mike Towery encouraged everyone to vote as the polls would close at 8:00 PM. President Mike Towery introduced visitors: CSALC President John Beaumont, National Business Agent Manny Peralta, Don Hastings from Branch 231 and CSALC District 4 Representative Eric Ellis. Also attending was retired Letter Carrier Mauricio Mascarinas and his family from Delano accepting the Saxsenmeier Scholarship of \$1250.00 for his son, Timothy Mascarinas, who is studying at UC Davis. The Minutes of the October 28, 2008 meeting were read with one correction to the amount over budget for the Branch Picnic. Correspondence was read from John Beaumont, President of CSALC, thanking all who participated in "Labor 2008".

**APPLICATIONS FOR NEW MEMBERS:** Robert Byington—Dole Court.

**REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES:** Branch 782 Picnic Coordinator Teresa Ortega requested that she be left alone for 11 months. Basil Zuniga thanked Brundage Station for helping with the newsletter folding in November. He also wished to thank the "regulars" that show up to help. Basil Zuniga also related that the article regarding the painting of the CBUs on Oct. 28, 2008 was "not accurate" according to Robert Nichols, South Station Manager. Basil pointed out that management does read our newsletter.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** December 16th Meeting Potluck sign up sheet was circulated to those present.

**GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:** CSALC President John Beaumont was given the floor to discuss Letter Carrier issues; CDS, Employ-

ee Free Choice Act; NALC Health Benefit Plan; COLCPE; Carrier Corps; Vote by Mail; E-Activist; and how the CSALC and NBA Manny Peralta's staff coordinate their efforts. John Beaumont then presented the Saxsenmeier Scholarship to the Mascarinas family. President Beaumont then recognized the following Branch 782 members who have donated to COLCPE: Diana Chavez, Bonnie Hershberger, David Lewis, Dan Lujan, Mike Meza, John Ortega, Jr., Teresa Ortega, Jerry Patterson, Pam Smith, Mike Towery, and Basil Zuniga. President Beaumont said there would be two (2) drawings in 2009 for two (2) 37" TVs. One drawing for existing contributors and one drawing for all new contributors to COLCPE. President Beaumont also commented on the two Bills in Congress regarding sick leave under FERS; CDS and Rural Carriers; that the APWU and NALC are together in legislation; and, the RAP Training which will be in Los Angeles on 5/14-5/17. Don Hastings COLCPE Coordinator and retiree from BR 231 signed up six new Carriers for COLCPE contributions: Rolando Trevino, Herminia Encinas, Steven Carter, Debbie Guillet, Lucinda Martinez, and Mike Copeland. President Towery announced that the polls closed at 8:07 PM. He also informed the membership that Emmett Dosier, Past President of Branch 782, passed away recently. NBA Manny Peralta discussed where COLCPE donations are disbursed and LWOP for Carriers who are registering voters and doing precinct work full time. 4th District Liaison Eric Ellis spoke about COLCPE as well. HBP Rep. Mark Ramirez commented that, at the recent Health fair, at least twenty employees at the GMF recognized that the NALC Health Benefit Plan was worth switching to. Anita Holderman informed members about the recently initiated Branch 782 Retiree Project. Retiree Bill Marchand displayed his retiree plaque with one torn shoe (courtesy of a pit bull which tore it off his foot while he was delivering mail.

**IMPROVEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION:** President Mike Towery reported on Route Adjustments at East Bakersfield, Camino Media, Stockdale, South, and Delano. President Towery also mentioned that at least twelve (12) carriers would be retiring under VERA on February 28, 2009. The Shop Steward meetings will be held on December 3rd and 10th, 2008 due to the general meeting on December 16, 2008. Basil Zuniga reminded everyone to "be consistent" at all times. Diana Chavez was nominated to coordinate the Christmas Potluck at the December 16, 2008 meeting. Diana Chavez made a motion that the Branch purchase a "cooked" turkey and ham for the potluck. Seconded by Molly Biggar. The motion passed. President Towery wished to thank the Election Committee made up of Teresa Ortega, Mark Ramirez, and Darryl Holderman. The Election results were: Brad Smith - 19 votes; Bill Curtis - 21 votes; Lucinda Martinez - 42 votes; Danny Blair - 23 votes. 50 Valid Ballots and 43 Unused Ballots.

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Anita Holderman reported that a total of \$13,375.78 was collected.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Report delayed until next month.

The 50/50 MDA Drawing was won by Mike Meza. The drawing for \$ 300.00 would have been won by Brenda Winch (from Stockdale) if she had been present. Next month, the drawing will be for \$350. There were 39 members and 10 guests present.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

MOLLY BIGGAR for Kim Gerdes

# WHAT HAPPENS AT A UNION MEETING???

by Kelly Pringle, Trustee  
NALC Branch 4374

I remember my first Union meeting and boy was it ever foreign to me coming from a background of military boards and corporate management meetings!

I was now sitting in an audience full of strangers, from all different post offices, all fighting for a fair days work for a fair days pay. There were 'motions' and there were people seconding the 'motions.' There were bylaws, readings, ap-

approval of minutes and our President had a gavel in her hand like a court judge that she was pounding on the table every now and then stating that so-and-so had the floor.

Clueless in the back of the room, I drank

my beer and watched our Union perform. It was great watching the passion of my fellow Brothers and Sisters fighting for our great cause. I asked myself why it took me so long to be a part of such an important part of my life—my job!

As time went on I began to learn the proper process in which to conduct business at our meetings.

I learned that a motion is a formal proposal by a member in a meeting, which the group takes certain action on. In order to make a motion, you stand up or raise your hand and the President will recognize you as the next speaker. You now have the floor to make your motion by simply stating "I move that..." and then clearly describe your proposal. Sounds simple enough.

I find that it is good practice to write out any motion you propose and give it to the Secretary and President. It is very important to say precisely what the words of the motion are to be. Votes are on exact language, not a vague idea. Your motion must be seconded in order to be considered by the members. No, you cannot second the motion yourself. This shows that at least two members want the proposal considered. To second a motion, you call out "Second!" The president will repeat the motion and it will be open for debate and voted on.

For those of you who already knew the rules and were dozing through this article, I apologize. For those of you who were like me, trying to figure it out, I hope this article has helped. For those of you not attending your Union meetings, what are you waiting for?

*Have a voice—make a difference!!!*

Article courtesy of the Roseville, Michigan  
October 2008 NALC Branch 4374 *Front Lines*



## DOWNTOWN STATION

Dale Pearce  
Javier Cruz

## SOUTH STATION

*100% Union!!!*

## EAST BAKERSFIELD

*100% Union!!!*

## HILLCREST

M. M. Henry

## BRUNDAGE

David Kinglee  
R. R. Torres

## DOLE COURT

Susan Webb  
Alice Schultz  
R. M. Byington  
R.E. Tinoco

## STOCKDALE

Ron Huston  
V.M. Calderon  
G.S. Saran

## CAMINO MEDIA

F. Medina, Jr.

## ARVIN

*100% Union!!!*

## AVENAL

J. T. Howerly

## BORON

*100% Union!!!*

## CALIFORNIA CITY

R. A. Day

## DELANO

C. V. Quebral

## EDWARDS

*100% Union!!!*

## LAMONT

*100% Union!!!*

## McFARLAND

B. A. Ibarra

## MOJAVE

*100% Union!!!*

## RIDGECREST

S. R. Pierce  
H. G. Blanco  
A. M. Connell  
T. K. Miller  
R. M. Nokes

## SHAFTER

L. M. New  
M. D. Voights

## TAFT

B. W. Krier  
K. J. Hughes  
T. M. Phillips

## TEHACHAPI

V. L. Johnson

## TRONA

S. L. Walent  
B. R. Dame  
K. K. Treat

## WASCO

*100% Union!!!*

# NON-MEMBER LIST October 2008

*93.1% of all Letter Carriers in our cities are NALC members (423 out of 455). 6.9% are not...*

# 2008 NALC HBP Info

NALC Health Benefit Plan	1-888-636-6252
*Hospital Pre-Certification	1-877-220-6252
*** Mental & Substance Precert.	1-877-468-1016
Drug Prescription Retail	1-800-933-6252
CareMark Hearing Impaired	1-800-238-1217
*** CareMark Specialty Pharmacy	1-800-237-2767
*** Durable Medical Eqpt.	1-888-636-6252
CareMark Specialty Pharmacy	1-800-237-2767
Durable Medical Equipment	1-888-636-6252
Nurse Assistant (24/7)	1-877-220-6252
CareMark Pharmacist	1-888-636-6252
Enhanced Eldercare Services (24/7)	1-877-468-1016
CIGNA PPO Dr's & Facilities	1-877-220-6252
***CIGNA Transplant Approval	1-800-668-9682
Quest Diagnostics (Lab Services)	1-877-220-6252
Quit Power (Smoking Cessation)	1-877-784-8797
CIGNA Health Rewards (Discounts)	1-800-870-3470
CIGNA Dental Discount Program	1-877-521-0244
**** Disease Management Program	1-800-227-3728
MEDICARE Managed Care Plan	1-800-633-4277
OPM Retirement Info Center	1-888-767-6738
Federal Information Center	1-800-688-9889
Social Security Administration Info	1-800-7721213



Branch 782  
Health Benefit  
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 52196  
Phoenix, AZ 85012-2196

## GENERAL MEETING POTLUCK DECEMBER 16, 2008



Mark Ramirez:	Pickled Lips
Jerry Patterson:	Dressing
Basil Zuniga:	Green Chicken Enchiladas
William Curtis:	"401 K Busted Beans" (Green)
Mike Meza:	Surprise
Mabel Lyons:	Mac & Cheese & Garlic Bread
Diana Chavez	Cheesy Potatoes
Rolando Trevino:	Carnitas
Pam Smith:	Cake
Mike Copeland:	Potatoes
Debbie Guillet:	Macaroni Salad
John Ortega:	Chile Verde
Rafaela Ochoa:	Desert
Bill Marchand:	Salad
Bob Mitchell:	Pie
Brad Smith:	Fruit Salad
Teresa Garcia:	Cookies
Danny Blair:	Surprise!!
Mabel Bullis:	Potatoe Salad
Lucinda and Jason Munoz:	Mashed Potatoes

*The Branch's Pot Luck,  
Will be held in December.  
We hope you'll attend,  
Good food and fun to remember.*

*Bring hot wings, lasagne,  
Or assorted cheese dips,  
Your mincemeat fudge brownies,  
Maybe, pickled pig lips.?*

*Make it sour or hot,  
Or something sweet,  
Bring that simple side dish,  
"You" force your family to eat!*

*Make your eye of newt salsa,  
Or flaming kielbasa,  
We'll have a great night,  
Maybe! a Union Food fight?*

Poem by Mark Ramirez

# From the Sunday Gardner\*

Bonita Lewis, Route 415  
Bakersfield, California

I then began to shout "**MY BACK PACK! NO!! NOT MY WALLET!!!!**"

But after a glance into the vehicle, I

noticed the thief had only taken my medical bag which was left on the tray...

I grabbed my cell phone and dialed 911. I explained to the operator who I was and what had just happened. I was told by the neighbors that a young man on a bike had been hovering around my truck, riding back and forth a number of times. They described him to me as I was talking to the police department. I was informed by the operator that four police vehicles were on their way.

Before I could hang up, two police cars were driving up. One officer took the description of the thief and off he went. The other parked and began to take notes. Two other patrol cars pulled up and sped off. We also had a Highway Patrolman.

During all this high volume of traffic, I took the opportunity and quickly called the station to inform the manager what had taken place.

The officer was talking to the neighbors as I stared through the broken window. I rounded the front of the vehicle and opened the driver's door because I noticed something on the drivers seat. It was white and was about 4 inches long, 3 inches wide and about 1 inch thick. I gently picked the item up by the sides, avoiding the large surface. I took it to the officer and showed him what I

had found. He immediately took it from me and said, "This is how they broke your window. This is a piece of porcelain. All you need to do is just lightly tap glass with a piece of porcelain and the glass will shatter." He then placed the item in his pocket.

The officer began interviewing me. He wanted to know what was in the bag that was taken.

He was quite humored that all the thief got were items like dental floss and Neosporin. He chuckled and said, "That guy is really going to be unhappy when he finds out that he can face twenty years in jail for dental floss." (*I wasn't humored. I felt violated!!*)

You may not think that something you own is of great value and may unconsciously leave it out because you think it's replaceable; but, after I tried to replace all the "first aid" things taken from me, it totalled more than I had expected. So, please keep the mail *and* your personal items out of sight!! Don't give a thief the idea that you are an easy target! Remember, this *could* happen to you...

It was a day just like any other day. Case the mail, pull the route down, load the truck and head off to just another day. But, it turned out to be the worst day of my postal career.

I'm sure all of you have had that kind of day where something awful happens... but I hope none of you experience what happened to me—**Postal Theft**.

Our Manager had just gone over the importance of keeping all valuables out of sight. He mentioned that times are tough and people will do anything if they see something of value no matter what it could be: mail, money, etc.

I was approaching the corner of Verde Street and "F" when I noticed that I had a cut on my finger. After parking, I reached down and pulled up my ready-made medical kit.

I have the normal things that anyone would have in their medicine cabinet: Neosporin, Band-Aids, Advil, Dental floss, etc. I keep my medical kit in a canvas bag (like one you would take to the beach). I placed the bag on the tray, applied the Band-Aid, and then exited the LLV to begin my park-and-loop.

As I lifted the back door to the LLV, I noticed that one of my customers was outside talking to one of her neighbors; again, I thought, "It's just another day, just like any other day."

Upon my way back to my LLV after the park-and-loop, I noticed Andrea running to the corner of her lot toward my truck. I heard her call back to me, "**Bonita! Someone has broken a mirror or some glass on your truck!**"

I began to run and, as I rounded the corner, I noticed glass **all over the street!**



\* Contact me at [SNDAYGARDNER@ATT.NET](mailto:SNDAYGARDNER@ATT.NET). I take all kinds of gardening questions!!!

# California State Association of Letter Carriers 2009 CARL J. SAXSENMEIER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The California State Association of Letter Carriers (CSALC) is now accepting applications for the 2009 Carl J. Saxsenmeier Scholarship Program. All applications must be sent to the Scholarship Chair by January 10, 2009. The Chair will then send scholarship packets to all applicants by the end of January 2009. All requested items must be returned in one packet and completed packets with no missing items must be returned to the Chair by April 4, 2009. 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 2009 award announcement. Applicant's parent / grandparent must be a member in good standing of the NALC for at least one year prior to making application. Applicant must be a high school senior when making application. Saxsenmeier Scholarship awards are issued in the year of graduation and are not renewable.

All requested information must be received by the Scholarship Chair by April 4, 2009.

Walter Johnson – Saxsenmeier Scholarship Chair  
913 E Willow Cr - Hanford, CA 93230  
559-582-0534

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Branch Number \_\_\_\_\_ Branch City \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



# 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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**Vice-President**  
**Recording Secretary**  
**Treasurer**  
**Financial Secretary**  
**HBP & MBA**  
**Sargeant-at-Arms**  
**Chief Trustee**  
**Trustee**  
**Trustee**

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**Mark Ramirez** (661) 834-5011  
**Jerry Patterson** (661) 203-9718  
**Danny Blair** (661) 397-8107  
**Bill Curtis** (661) 323-1107  
**Lucinda Martinez** (661) 327-2989

## NALC Branch 782 Shop Stewards

Avenal (93203)	Vacant	
Arvin (93209)	Vacant	
Delano (93215)	Jerry Patterson	(661) 599-6859
Lamont (93241)	Darryl Holderman	(661) 589-1683
McFarland (93250)	Steve Carter	(661) 301-3253
Shafter (93263)	Jerry Patterson	(661) 699-2462
Taft (93268)	Mike Meza	(805) 625-4541
Alternate	Debra McClain	
Wasco (93280)	Mabel Lyons	(661) 900-8892
Downtown Station (93301)	Kim Gerdes	(661) 834-2059
South Station (93304)	Darryl Holderman	(661) 589-1683
South Station Alternate	Bonita Lewis	(661) 589-1683
East Bakersfield (93305)	Paul Salazar	(661) 327-7637
Hillcrest Station (93306)	Pam Smith	(661) 979-5854
Brundage Station (93307)	Mabel Bullis	(661) 496-5679
Brundage Station Alternate	Emma Gonzalez	(661) 834-8658
Dole Court (93308)	Mike Towery	(661) 862-8033
Dole Court Alternate	Teresa Ortega	(661) 201-3086
Stockdale Station (93309)	Randy Courson	(661) 345-0256
Stockdale Station (93309)	John Ortega	(661) 809-8140
Camino Media (93311/13)	Mike Meza	(805) 625-4541
Camino Media Alternate	Gina Garcia	(661) 809-8016
Mojave (93501)	Vacant	
California City (93504)	Paula Hogg	(760) 373-8963
Edwards AF Base (93526)	Larry Beem	(661) 949-2280
Tehachapi (93561)	Mary Morphis	(661) 822-6614
Trona (93562)	Vacant	
Boron (93516)	Paula Hogg	(760) 373-8963
Ridgecrest (93555)	Lynnell Howell	(760) 371-1039

## Branch 782 Website

[www.782nalc.com](http://www.782nalc.com)

Rick Plummer

[webmaster@www.782nalc.com](mailto:webmaster@www.782nalc.com)



## Brookfield Uniforms

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Featuring Thorogood and Rocky Shoes

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CALIFORNIA CITY CA

PHONE: (760) 373-3281

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"Golden Empire" Merged Branch 782  
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Bakersfield, California 93301  
(661) 325-5526

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**PAID**  
Bakersfield, California  
Permit Number 32

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

General Meeting  
Tuesday  
December 16, 2008  
7:30 p.m.

Branch 782 Office  
2628 F Street  
Bakersfield, CA

TIME-VALUE MAIL—PLEASE EXPEDITE

*General Meeting will be on the  
**THIRD** Tuesday this month!!!*



*Don't  
forget to  
bring one  
of your  
favorite  
dishes so  
our  
potluck  
can be  
even  
better!!!*