

National Association of Letter Carriers

Branch 782

E.A. Baker Union Update



ARVIN
CALIFORNIA CITY
McFARLAND
TAFT

AVENAL
DELANO
MOJAVE
TEHACHAPI

BAKERSFIELD
EDWARDS AFB
RIDGECREST
TRONA

BORON
LAMONT
SHAFTER
WASCO

CHARTERED FEBRUARY 25, 1891



VOLUME LXXXIV NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 2013

Johnny on the Spot



**The Branch 782
Officer Election
was conducted
at the Branch
office located at
2628 F Street
on November
26, 2013.**

The following nominations were made at the September 24, 2013 general meeting: Mike Towery for President, John Ortega for Vice President, Kim Gerdes for Recording Secretary, Molly Biggar for Treasurer, Anita Holderman for Financial Secretary, Mark Ramirez for MBA & Health Benefit Representative, and Jerry Patterson for Sergeant-At-Arms.

These nominations were accepted and the offices were won by acclamation.

Also nominated for the three Branch 782 Trustee positions were Danny Blair, Teresa Ortega, Darryl Holderman, Paul Salazar, and Frank Martinez. There were 130 ballots cast on November 26 to decide which three candidates would be chosen.

The final results for trustee were as follows: Head Trustee Frank Martinez (74 votes), Trustee Darryl Holderman (72 votes), Trustee Teresa Ortega (70 votes). The remaining 2 candidates finished a very close 4th & 5th.

There were 6 mail-in ballots that could not be counted due to the return envelope not being signed by the voting member and 1 mail-in ballot where the signature could not be verified by the Election Committee.

Additional voting determined the Branch 782 delegates to the NALC National Convention and to the California State Association of Letter Carriers Convention. The complete results of all of the voting is in the November Minutes.

I would like to thank the committee for all of the work performed to make our election a success. Thank you Brothers Mike Munoz, Bob Mitchell and Sisters Dicey Wilder, Hermie Encinas and Stephanie MacLaughlin. Another thank you to my wife, Annette, for all the help she pitched in.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN ORTEGA
Election Committee Chair/Branch 782 Vice-President

Minutes of the November 2013 General Meeting

The regular meeting of Branch 782 was called to order by President Mike Towery at 7:00 p.m. on the 26th day of November 2013 at the Branch office, Bakersfield. The flag salute was led by Sergeant-at-Arms Jerry Patterson. The Minutes of the October meeting were read and accepted with two corrections. President Mike Towery announced that the polls were open for voting.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP: Matt Johnson - Lamont; Bryson Tanner Zuspan - Shafter; Elizabeth Navarro - Brundage; Bianca Fabiola Salinas - Stockdale; Rosa Vilalobos - South; and, Robert Quezada - Wasco.

REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES: Basil Zuniga reported that it is Hillcrest's turn to fold the newsletter in December. Frank Martinez reported for the Social and Recreation Committee that movie tickets are available from Carmen Castillo for \$6.50. The polls were closed at 7:30 p.m.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION: President Mike Towery reported that a 26 year old Maryland CCA Carrier was killed on Saturday, November 23 at 8:30 p.m. He was the third Carrier killed in the dark. Molly Biggar reported that the budget will be reviewed on December 4, 2013 after the Steward meeting. Mike Towery is making arrangements for a CCA meeting on a Thursday in December or January. Mark Ramirez reported on the changes to the NALC Health Benefit Plan for 2014 and he passed out information regarding the changes. The December meeting will have a potluck with the Branch paying for a turkey.

The meeting was adjourned temporarily for counting of the ballots.

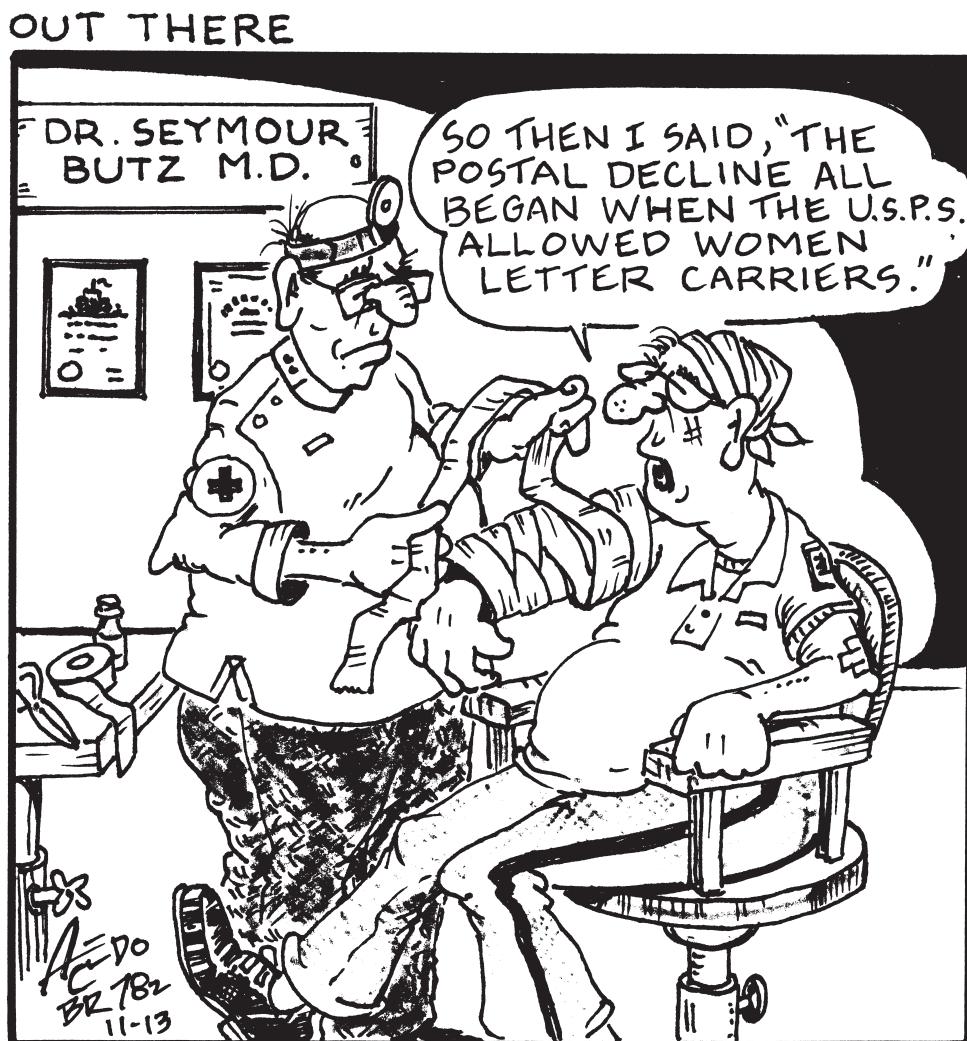
IMPROVEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION: The election results are as follow:

Chief Trustee: Frank Martinez - 74 votes. Trustee #1: Darryl Holderman - 72 votes. Trustee #2: Teresa Ortega - 70 votes. Paul Salazar - 69 votes, Danny Blair - 64 votes.

2014 National Convention Delegates: Basil Zuniga - 73 votes; Mike Meza - 49 votes; 3-way tie at 41 votes - Randy Courson, Rick Gerdes and Norma Hamer; Frank Martinez - 40 votes; Shari Sharp - 35 votes; 2-way tie at 33 votes - Anita & Daryl Holderman; Molly Biggar - 32 votes; Paul Salazar - 30 votes; Pam Smith - 28 votes; Diana Herrera - 26 votes; Judy Kiyoshi - 21 votes; Andrew Garcia - 19 votes; Teresa Garcia - 17 votes; Deven Patterson - 16 votes; Mark Ramirez - 15 votges; Debbie Guillet - 12 votes; Jerry Patterson - 10 votes. There were 129 valid ballots.

2014 State Convention Delegates: Basil Zuniga - 68 votes; Mike Meza - 41 votes; Randy Courson - 38 votes; Paul Salazar - 37 votes; 2-way tie at 36 votes - Anita and Darryl Holderman; Frank Martinez - 35 votes; 2-way tie at 34 votes - Norma Hamer and Shari Sharp; Danny Blair - 30 votes; Kim Gerdes - 26 votes; Teresa Ortega - 25 votes; 2-way tie at 23 votes - Molly Biggar and Diana Herrera; Fred Acedo - 22 votes; 2-way tie at 20 votes - Pam Smith and Judy Kiyoshi; Andrew Garcia - 15 votges; Teresa Garcia - 14 votes; Debbie Guillet - 13 votes; Jerry Patterson - 12 votes. There were 131 valid ballots.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: Anita Holderman reported \$11,707.89 for November 2013.



TREASURER'S REPORT: Molly Biggar reported for October 2013:

| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$71,487.11 |
| Dues & Other Income | \$11,084.45 |
| Interest Income | \$0.00 |
| Total Balance | \$85,571.56 |
| Expenses | \$11,400.80 |
| Ending Balance | \$74,170.76 |

The MDA 50/50 Drawing was won by Fred Acedo - \$15.50.

Mark Ramirez raffled off candy bars to Andrew Garcia, Dicie Wilder, Mrs. Fred Acedo, Norma Hamer, Mike Munoz, Hermie

Encinas, Debbie Guillet and Stephanie MacLaughlin.

The General Meeting Drawing for \$200.00 would have been won by Soledad Arcila if he had been present.

There were 38 members present.

The meeting adjoured at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

MOLLY BIGGAR
Acting Recording Secretary

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

NON-MEMBER LIST*

October 2013

| | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Downtown Station | Camino Media | Taft |
| S. Kirby | Christopher Rodriguez | Ashley Veach |
| J. Cruz | | Alicia Rodriguez |
| South Station | Avenal | B. M. Krier |
| T. M. Ward | Brent Howard | K. J. Hughes |
| V. Estrada | | Terra Bullard |
| Pedro Olvera | California City | |
| Rosa Villalobos | Stephen Ivory | |
| Brundage/East | Delano | Tehachapi |
| D. Kinglee | L.A. Campos | Nicholas Rodriguez |
| Alexandria Vickers | C.V. Quebral | Reyjun Sandorra |
| Hillcrest | Lamont | Trona |
| R. A. Richmond | Erik Gonzalez | William Campbell |
| C. D. Leal | | |
| R. K. Gomez | | |
| Dole Court | Ridgecrest | Wasco |
| O. Salazar | R. P. Zurn | V. L. Sipe |
| D. Morris | S. P. Pierce | Veronica Estrada |
| S. Hancock | Bonnie Leroy | |
| Stockdale | Deangelo Johnson | *CCA names italicized |
| J. Oh | Caroline Briede-Newton | |
| Marty Martinez | H. G. Blanco | |
| Chasiti Harrington | Christina Celaya | |
| Samantha Huckaby | | |
| | Shafer | |
| | M. D. Voights | |
| | L. M. New | |



**We are an "Open Shop".
MEMBERSHIP IS VOLUNTARY.
400 Letter Carriers are in the
complement assigned to cities
represented by our Branch.
43 ARE NON-MEMBERS**.**

**22 are Career employees and 21 are CCAs.

DOHERTY & DONELON SCHOLARSHIPS

Deadline: This form must be returned to NALC Headquarters no later than December 31, 2013.

Eligibility

■ Applicant must be the son, daughter or legally adopted child of a letter carrier NALC member in good standing—active, retired or deceased. Stepchildren and grandchildren are eligible if they live with the letter carrier in a regular parent-child relationship.

■ Applicant's parent must be a member in good standing of NALC for at least one year prior to making application.

■ Applicant must be a high school senior when making application and must submit the form provided at right, signed by the NALC member and an officer of the member's NALC branch. This form must be returned to NALC Headquarters by December 31, 2013.

Requirements

■ All applicants must take the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) or the American College Test (ACT) in either their junior or senior year. A copy of the official scores from the administering organization must be received at NALC Headquarters by midnight, March 31, 2014. (Computer-generated printouts of test scores will not be accepted.)

■ All biographical questionnaires and secondary school reports must be received at NALC Headquarters by midnight, March 31, 2014.

Regulations

■ Scholarship is to be used toward pursuing undergraduate

degree at an accredited college of recipient's choice.

- Winners may accept other college scholarship assistance in addition to the NALC award.
- Any change of schools or course of study must be done only with the permission of the NALC Scholarship Committee.
- A transcript of grades must be forwarded to the committee at the end of each school year.
- If winner suffers certified serious illness, scholarship will be held in abeyance for not more than one year.
- If unusual conditions are going to require an interruption in schooling, recipient must state reason(s) in writing to the Scholarship Committee and request that the scholarship be held in abeyance. Request(s) will be reviewed by the Committee and a decision rendered.

- If the NALC member is suspended by his/her local NALC branch or enters supervision, scholarship will be cancelled.

Terms of awards

■ The official scholarship judges will award one William C. Doherty Scholarship in each of the five USPS Regions and one John T. Donelon Scholarship. Winners are judged on the basis of secondary school records, personal qualifications and test scores. As in the past, the scholarship judges will consist of experienced persons in the educational field. Decisions of the judges will be final.

■ Doherty Scholarship awards will be \$4,000 per year and the

Donelon Scholarship award will be \$1,000 per year. Each scholarship is renewable for three consecutive years thereafter providing the winner maintains satisfactory grades. Award money will be deposited annually with the college. It will be credited to the winner's account to be drawn upon under the rules and regulations which the college has established for handling scholarship funds. Award money is to be used for required college fees, including room and board and transportation fees.

■ Children of NALC national officers are not eligible.

In honor of NALC's president from 1941 to 1962, the **William C. Doherty Scholarship Fund** will again award five \$4,000 scholarships to children of members in good standing. The **John T. Donelon Scholarship Fund** will award one scholarship in honor of Donelon, longtime NALC assistant to the president. Applicants must be high school seniors and must meet all of the following eligibility criteria to be considered.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Date _____

(Please print clearly)

Please send instructions as to how I can compete for a scholarship award. I am a senior in the 2013-14 school year.

I am the daughter son of active
 *stepdaughter *stepson retired
 *granddaughter *grandson deceased

letter carrier _____

of Branch No. _____ City _____ State _____

My name is _____

My address is _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Signature of NALC parent member
(or spouse if deceased)

Signature of branch officer

NALC parent's Social Security No.

Title _____ Date _____

Only official scores (SAT/ACT) from the testing agencies will be accepted.
No computer-generated scores (SAT/ACT) will be accepted.

This form must be returned no later than December 31, 2013, to
the NALC Scholarship Committee,
in care of the National Association of Letter Carriers,
100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144.

* Stepchildren and grandchildren are eligible if they live with
the letter carrier in a regular parent-child relationship.

2014 Carl J. Saxsenmeier Scholarship Program

The California State Association of Letter Carriers (CSALC) is now accepting applications for the 2014 Carl J. Saxsenmeier Scholarship Program. **All applications must be sent to the Scholarship Chair by January 3, 2014.** The Chair will send scholarship packets to all applicants by the end of January 2014. 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 2013 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 & Branch
Number _____

2013 NALC HBP Info

At a glance...

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| NALC Health Benefit Plan | 1-888-636-6252 |
| *Hospital Pre-Certification | 1-877-220-6252 |
| Mental & Substance Precertification | 1-877-468-1016 |
| **Drug Prescription Retail | 1-800-933-6252 |
| CVS/CareMark Specialty Pharmacy | 1-800-237-2767 |
| Durable Medical Equipment | 1-888-636-6252 |
| NURSE ASSISTANT (24/7) | 1-877-220-6252 |
| CVS/CareMark Pharmacist | 1-888-636-6252 |
| Enhanced Eldercare Services (24/7) | 1-877-468-1016 |
| CIGNA PPO Dr's & Facilities | 1-877-220-6252 |
| CIGNA Transplant Approval | 1-800-668-9682 |
| Quit Power (Smoking Cessation) | 1-877-521-0244 |
| CIGNA Health Rewards (Discounts) | 1-800-558-9443 |
| CIGNA Dental Discount Program | 1-877-521-0244 |
| Disease Management Program | 1-800-227-3728 |
| OPM Retirement Info Center | 1-888-767-6738 |
| Federal Information Center | 1-800-688-9889 |
| Social Security Administration Info | 1-800-772-1213 |
| PostalEase Human Resources USPS | 1-877-477-3273 |
| Quest Lab Services (Bakersfield) | (661) 631-8520 |
| LabCorp Lab Services | (661) 631-9258 |
| Shared Services (Retirees Info!!!) | (661) 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 85012-2192

Optimum Health Behavioral Solutions

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

"Non"-Medicare Claims Submit to CIGNA

(Payor I.D. 62308) or mail to
P.O. Box 18804, Chattanooga, TN 37422-8004.

* 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

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

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

Some Websites for You...

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

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

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

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

Humor is sometimes the best medicine

Adopted Twins

A woman gives birth to identical twin boys, and decides to give them up for adoption. One of them goes to a family in Egypt, and is named "Ahmal". The other boy goes to a family in Spain, they name him "Juan." Years later, Juan sends a photo of himself to his birth mother. Upon receiving the photo, she tells her husband, she wishes she had a photo of Ahmal.

Her husband responds, "They're twins! If you've Juan, you've seen Ahmal"

MORE FUNNY STUFF

At a Milwaukee post office, a woman complained to the clerk that a Pony Express rider could get a letter from Milwaukee to St. Louis in two days, and now, delivering the mail takes three days. "I'd like to know why?" she scoffed.

The clerk thought for a moment then suggested, "The horses are a lot older now?"

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

Water is composed of two gins: Oxygin and Hydrogin. Oxygin is pure gin. Hydrogin is gin and water.

The general direction of the Alps is straight up.

Most of the houses in France are made of plaster of Paris.

The spinal column is a long bunch of bones. The head sits on the top, and you sit on the bottom.

The four seasons are, salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.

The climate is hottest next to the Creator.

The word "trousers" is an uncommon noun because, it is singular at the top, and plural at the bottom.

Syntax, is all the money collected at the church from sinners.

If we had our way, more of us would choose, the front of the bus, the back of the church, and the center of attention.

My wife tells me, I never listen to anything she says. At least, I think that's what she said.

The world is full of people who want to live for ever, but don't know how to spend a rainy Sunday afternoon.

Proofs of a new hymn book containing this typo: "Praised is the Lord by day and praised by night; praised when we lie down, and praised when we wise up.

Cowboy in Heaven

A Texas cowboy appeared before St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. St Peter asked, "Have you ever done anything of particular merit?"

"Well, I can think of one thing," the cowboy offered.

"Once on a trip to the Black Hills out

OUT THERE



in South Dakota, I came upon a gang of bikers, who were threatening a young woman. I directed them to leave her alone, but they wouldn't listen. So, I approached the largest and most heavily tattooed biker and smacked him in his face, kicked his bike over, ripped out his nose ring, and threw it on the ground. I yelled, "Now, back off, or I'll kick the @&%# out of all of you!"

"St Peter was impressed, "When did this happen?"

"Just a couple minutes ago"

MARK RAMIREZ

Ask yourself some questions...

Do you feel blessed? Do you appreciate everything you have at this moment in life?

Out of curiosity, I researched if there were any incidents where Postal Carriers had serious or even fatal on-the-job injuries (dog bites, accidents, etc.)

Surprisingly—and disturbingly—I was able to find an incident for **EVERY** single month through November 2013!

FACT: In terms of federal jobs, postal work is by far the most dangerous.

Last year, *postal employees constituted a third of all federal civilian employees in the United States who died on the job.* (This information is according to preliminary numbers from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, dated: 9/2013 (Source—<http://www.federal-times.com/article/20130909/DEPARTMENTS02/309090007/>)

The following info is from news articles about the horrible things that have happened to fellow Carriers. I am sure that there are more incidents that did not make the news media.

JANUARY 2013

HAMPTON — The community and local postal workers are mourning the loss of Paul “Mike” Carney, 48, who died unexpectedly while delivering mail on Jan. 26. Carney worked for the Postal Service for four years and was well-liked by his co-workers and the Hampton community.

“He went to work every day,” said Kristine Babcock, his sister-in-law. “He was an easy-going guy.”

Babcock said he would often pull over his vehicle to have his lunch at a picnic table in front of a 91-year-old woman’s apartment, and she would come out to join him. “He was just that kind of guy,” said John Sigmund, a retired postal worker who trained Carney.

“He was very, very personable. He was energetic, dedicated, and an all-around fun person.”

(Source—<http://www.seacoastonline.com/articles/20120214-NEWS-202140351>

FEBRUARY 2013

BIRMINGHAM — Those who knew Desma Johnson say she was a caring, loving person and a devoted mother. In the blink of an eye, it was all gone.

Johnson, a resident of Detroit, had long been a familiar face in the Birmingham community as a mail carrier with the United States Postal Service. On Feb. 7, while chatting and sharing some laughs with a few coworkers, Johnson fell to the ground and died unexpectedly. She was 38 years old.

Katherine Paille worked with Johnson and was there when she passed away while preparing to go on their respective mail routes. “We were loading our vehicles and there was maybe eight or nine of us outside at the time. It was out of nowhere,” said Paille. “She just kind of fainted. When she went down, she never got back up.”

(Source—<http://www.candgnews.com/news/birmingham-postal-worker-remembered-kind-caring>)

MARCH 2013

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. —A postal worker who died this morning from injuries suf-

fered after being hit by a car in Port St. Lucie on Wednesday, has been identified as 53-year-old Juan Carlos Riestra, according to the St. Lucie County Sheriff’s Office.

Riestra’s U.S. Postal Service truck was struck by a 16-year-old female driver from Jensen Beach in the 10600 block of Indian River Drive, just north of Walton Road in unincorporated St. Lucie County. Deputies say Riestra was driving south as the other driver was heading north. Authorities say the woman approached a slight right-hand curve and continued straight at the curve. She crossed a double yellow line and sideswiped the mail truck causing it to rollover on its side, according to authorities.

Riestra, who was not wearing his seatbelt, fell out of the open driver’s side door, and the vehicle rolled on top of him, according to deputies.

The woman in the other vehicle was transported by county fire rescue ambulance to the hospital where she was treated and released.

(Source—http://www.wptv.com/dpp/news/region_st_lucie_county/postal-worker-dies-after-being-hit-by-car-in-port-st-lucie)

APRIL 2013

UNION, SC (FOX Carolina) - A mail carrier is recovering after being attacked by a dog while on the job, according to Union police.

A Union Public Safety report said the woman’s attack was unprovoked, but the owners of the dog said it was only being

Last year, postal employees constituted a third of all federal civilian employees in the United States who died on the job...

protective of its owners. According to the incident report, the attack happened while the 40-year-old mail carrier was making her rounds and was walking towards a home on South Church Street in Union when the dog came off the porch and began biting her Tuesday morning.

Police said the mail carrier suffered a number of wounds during the attack, but despite what happened, the owners of Cocoa told FOX Carolina their dog isn't dangerous.

The woman tried to use her post office-issued pepper spray to stop the dog but was unsuccessful, according to police. The report said she was eventually taken to the ER for bites to her arms, elbow and chest.

(Source—<http://www.foxcarolina.com/story/21935801/postal-worker-attacked-by-dog-while-delivering-mail-police-say>)

MAY 2013

The murder of Eddie "Marie" Youngblood took place around 11:44 a.m. Friday, May 17, when she was shot multiple times at close range and then set on fire inside her Jeep Cherokee, which was outfitted with a right-hand steering system used by mail carriers for rural mail delivery.

Youngblood's son was the one who reported the crime to law enforcement. "The son stated he was speaking with his mother via cellular telephone while she was delivering her route when he heard two loud noises that sounded like a 'pow, pow' or 'bang, bang.'

After asking his mother what had happened, she told him she thought she had been shot," the affidavit reads. "The son began shouting into the telephone trying to communicate with his mother when he heard an unintelligible male's voice over the telephone.

The son then heard his mother say, "Please don't kill me, please don't kill me."

The call was then disconnected. The son reported that he was unable to reestablish contact with his mother. At this point, the son called 911." (Editor-guy note: Can you imagine how frantic *you* would be???)

Law enforcement officers quickly descended on the area where Youngblood was delivering the mail and found her Jeep Cherokee engulfed in flames at a community water supply pumping station on Morris Creek Rd.

(Source—http://www.yourhoustonnews.com/eastex/news/federal-affidavit-details-shooting-death-of-coldspring-postal-worker/article_7f18ae6c-df24-5a46-8e89-2cb5631881be.html)

JUNE 2013

A U.S. Postal Service letter carrier died after his mail truck was rear-ended in Lloyd Harbor on Monday afternoon, Suffolk County police said.

Alan Nobile of West Islip was driving along his route southbound on West Neck Road when his vehicle was hit from behind by an Audi near the corner of Barberry Lane at 3 p.m. Nobile was ejected from the vehicle and taken to Huntington Hospital, where he died five hours later. Suffolk County medical examiners will perform an autopsy to determine his cause of death.

The second driver, a Lloyd Harbor resident, refused medical treatment at the scene. Second Squad detectives are continuing the investigation.

(Source—<http://www.longislandpress.com/2013/06/18/letter-carrier-killed-in-lloyd-harbor-crash/>)

JULY 2013

A Medford mail carrier collapsed and died on the job on Friday, according to WCVB.

James Baldassarre, 45, of Haverhill, was found lying on the ground outside of 99 Riverside Avenue around 5:30 PM on Friday. His wife Cathy told Channel 5 she believes the extreme heat and humidity played a role in his death.

"I have a bunch of texts from Jimmy all day long, saying, 'I'm going to die out here today. It's so hot,'" Cathy Baldassarre told Channel 5 on Sunday, and that her husband meant the messages as a joke. "They found him lying on the ground with

a temperature of 110 degrees, delivering the mail out in the heat."

Baldassarre had been with the Post Office for twenty-four years. The Post Office confirmed his death with Channel 5 but would not say if it was heat-related.

The flag outside of Medford's Post Office was flying at half mast, according to Channel 5.

(Source—<http://insidemedford.com/2013/07/07/medford-mail-carrier-collapses-dies-on-job/>)

AUGUST 2013

A letter carrier was attacked by a Rottweiler-Doberman mix after the dog broke free from a chain. The victim was rushed to the intensive care unit of the local hospital.

The dog's owner reportedly said that he didn't care that the man had been attacked. The owner could face federal charges because the attack was on a postal worker as well as charges for obstruction of official business because of his behavior toward police.

About 2:40 p.m. on the South Side, officers were called to the 700 block of Winona Drive when an assistant dog warden and paramedics called for help after a letter carrier, Shawn Miller, suffered a bite from his lower jaw to his eye, reports said. While there, the dog's owner, Robert Baldowski, 60, was rude to emergency workers, according to reports.

Reports said Baldowski would not give information to police, and he also said Miller was at fault for provoking his dog, a Rottweiler-Doberman mix.

Baldowski said he served in the Vietnam War and did not care that the letter carrier was injured, reports said.

(Source—<http://www.vindy.com/news/2013/aug/30/east-side-dog-attack-puts-mail-carrier-i/>)

Continued on next page...

SEPTEMBER 2013

A postal worker was mauled by a pit bull in Dayton Ohio. Dayton resident Joe Brewer may have saved the life of mail carrier Richard Oberlin, 45 years old, an employee of the United States Postal Service since 1998. The pit bull burst through a screen door to attack Oberlin.

Per WDTN.com Joe Brewer told a reporter "I come running out here and the dog had him down on the ground and I started yelling at the dog and he backed off immediately."

Dayton Police Sgt. Moises Perez told reporters "It's a possibility we could be investigating a death because this dog was just relentless in his attack. He stood over this gentleman. He was basically helpless."

The mail carrier's pepper spray can was found on the grass. Per Police Sgt Perez, mail carrier Richard Oberlin tried to use it but it had no effect on the pit bull. The mail carrier's blood spattered bag was found where he dropped it while using it as a shield as postal workers are trained to do.

Mail was scattered across the lawn.

Animal Control took the dog away but it took two AC officers plus a friend of the pit bull owner's family to subdue the pit bull. The dog will be quarantined for 10 days at Montgomery County Dog Warden Mark Kumpf's shelter, the Animal Resource Center.

Please note the physical condition of this pit bull, it appears that she is a breeding female, an income generator. Roughly a million pit bulls are euthanized in American shelters every year. Responsible dog owners do not breed pit bulls.

(Source—<http://scorchedearththepoliticsofpitb.blogspot.com/2013/09/pit-bulls-and-united-states-postal.html>)

OCTOBER 2013

Lydia Ray, a member of Garden Grove, CA Branch 1100, was struck and critically injured while delivering mail on Saturday. According to KABC-TV, the hit-and-run driver slammed into a parked car before ramming his vehicle into the back of Ray's LLV, throwing her from her vehicle. A police spokesman said Ray, a 20-year postal veteran, sustained broken legs, cuts to her arms and internal injuries. Authorities are searching for the driver, who witnesses say fled the scene.

"Our thoughts go out to Lydia and her family," NALC President Fredric Roldano said, "and we continue to pray for her recovery." Anyone with information related to the case should call Los Angeles Crime Stoppers at 800-222-TIPS.

This is a video feed

about the hit and run that you can access if you want: <http://www.postal-reporter.com/blog/tag/lydia-ray/>

(Source—<http://postalemployeenetwork.com/news/2013/10/nalc-ca-carrier-critically-injured/>)

NOVEMBER 2013

LANDOVER, Md. (AP) — Police say a postal worker has been shot to death while delivering mail about 10 miles from the nation's capital.

Police said they were called to a street Saturday evening in Landover and found 26-year-old Tyson Jerome Barnette dead from apparent gunshot wounds. Police are trying to identify suspects and a motive.

U.S. Postal Service spokesman Frank Schissler says it's rare for a postal worker to be killed while delivering mail, but it has happened. A postal worker was killed north of Houston in May and in 2010, a deliveryman in Miami was shot to death.

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service is offering a \$100,000 reward for information that leads to an arrest in the shooting.

(Source—http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/11/24/postal-worker-killed_n_4334453.html)

Nothing has been reported as of today, December 2, 2013.

Let's hope this year's Christmas month is all about GOOD NEWS... 1) catching the killer of Tyson Jerome Barnette; and, 2) just plenty of good 'ol special memories' of the holidays in 2013!

**PLEASE!! PLEASE!!
PLEASE!! PLEASE!!
PLEASE!! PLEASE!!**

PLEASE!! Stay safe out there.... Don't become a sad statistic!

MABEL BULLIS
Brundage Station



CCA?

**Do you still
have a few
questions about
your job?**



You are invited to attend a special meeting for all City Carrier Assistants. We will be going over numerous issues that you should be aware of. More importantly, we will address any questions that **YOU** want to ask about anything that you have to do to "survive" as a CCA.



There will never be enough time when you are "on the clock" to ask someone all of your questions...

We'll even feed you some pizza! Be there!!!

**Branch 782 Office
2628 "F" Street
7:00 p.m. 12/4/13**



Pictures courtesy of Anita Holderman, Branch 782.



**There were a lot of questions
and there were a lot
of answers...**

DELIVERING AT CHRISTMAS TIME LETTER CARRIERS and SANTA CLAUS

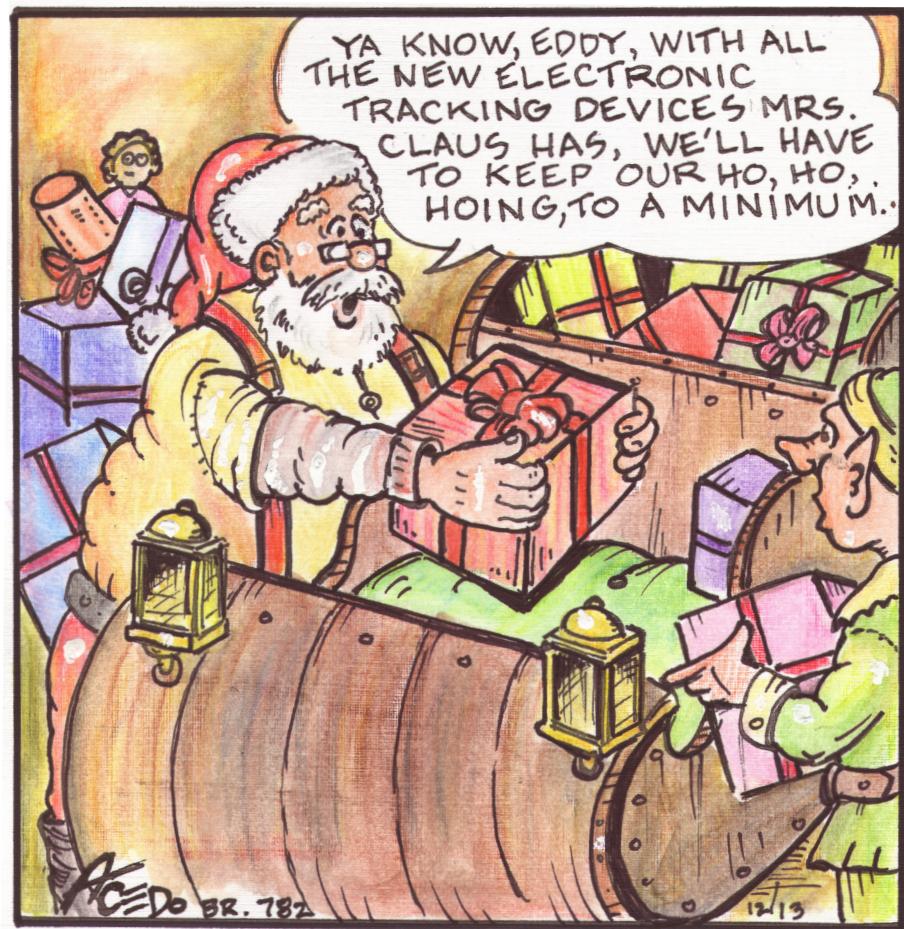
THE MAIL VOLUME IS CRAZY,
THIS TIME EACH YEAR!
HOPE, WHAT WE DELIVER,
BRINGS HOLIDAY CHEER!

JUST DAYS 'TIL CHRISTMAS,
MY SHOPPING'S INCOMPLETE!
I WALK IN A TRANCE,
OH, MY ACHING FEET!

IT'S BEST TO SHOP EARLY,
THIS, EVERYONE KNOWS!
DO YOU PROCRASTINATE?
JUST A COUCH POTATOE?

THIS NEW TIME CHANGE,
DOESN'T HELP AT ALL!
YOU'RE JUST ONE OF THE HERD,
SHOPPING AT THE MALL!

CAN'T WAIT FOR A DAY OFF,
IT'S NEVER GOING TO COME!
YOU'RE ON AUTO PILOT,
YOU'RE WHOLE BODY IS NUMB!



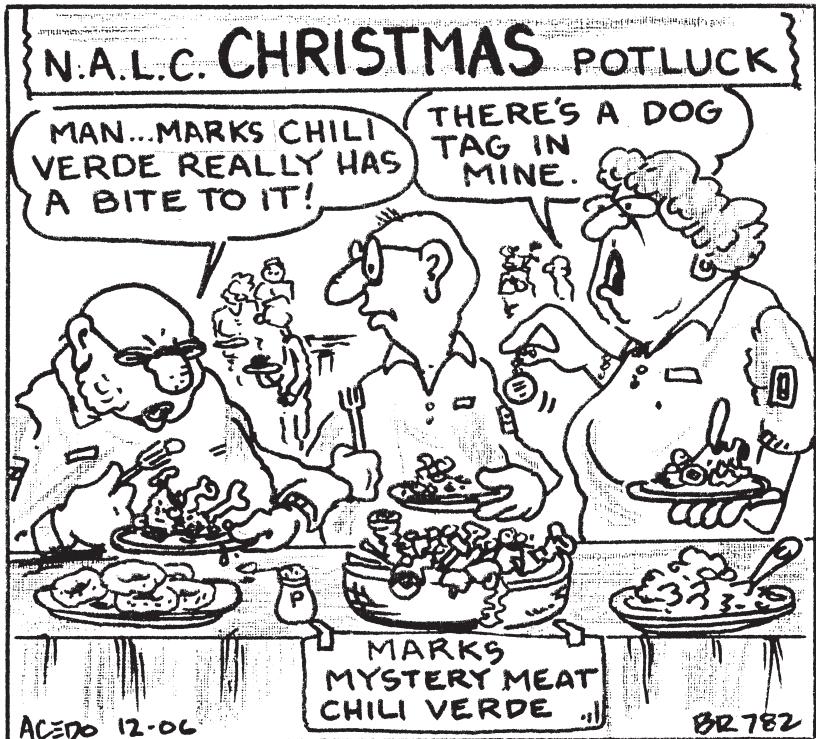
WE'D LIKE TO HELP SANTA,
HIS ELVES, TAKE UP THE CAUSE!
WE HAVE THE CARRIER PARAGRAPH,
HE HAS-- THE SANTA "CLAUSE!"

LIKE MAGICIANS WITH PENCILS,
THE POST OFFICE HAS ELVES!
THEY TURN 8 HOUR ROUTES,
INTO TWELVES!

LISTEN VERY SOFTLY,
THE ANGELS SING, "HARK!"
BECAUSE, SANTA'S NOT THE ONLY ONE,
DELIVERING AFTER DARK!

Mark Ramirez NALC Health Benefit Plan Representative
NALC Golden Empire Branch 782

OUT THERE



POTLUCK DECEMBER 17 GENERAL MEETING

The following individuals have already volunteered to bring some delicious food:

Mark—Spotted Owl Stew; Anita H.—Enchiladas; Mike M.—Whatever I kill!; Diana H.—Cheesy Potatoes; Rolando T.—Corn Casserole; Pam S.—Ham; Norma H.—Fudge; Shari S.—Jello Cake; Debbie G.—Taco Soup; Stephie Mac—Macaroon Cookies; Frank M.—Potatoe Salad; Maria V.—Cheesecake; Teresa G.—Pasta Salad; Randy C.—Casserole; and, Bob M.—Chicken.

Please come and add to the food that we'll share and the fun that we'll have!!!

OUT THERE



SANE • SPECIAL ASSISTANT NEWSLETTER EDITOR, P.O.BOX 6332 BAKERSFIELD, CA 93386

from the editor-guy

Whether or not you are interested, I want to share something with you that you may or may not know about me.

I don't like snow. Never have. When I see a postcard that I have to deliver and it features snow, I start to shiver.

In fact, I dislike it to the point that I've repeatedly told my oldest daughter that I'm never going to come visit her in the winter. "No Way! No How! No! No!! No!!!"

Did I mention that she lives about a half-hour away from Green Bay, Wisconsin?

Anyway, Marcena (that daughter of mine) called a few weeks ago to see if there was any way that we would be able to attend our son-in-law's ceremony in Green Bay when he retired from the U.S. Navy on December 7.

December in Wisconsin...Green Bay...snow...

A little thought bubbled up as I considered this and realized that there was no way that I (a Letter Carrier) would ever be able to get some time off in December. Whew!

However, I did tell my wife that I would see if there was any way possible that we could work it out. I checked the annual leave board and found, disconcertingly, that the time was available. Aw Geez...

Through a series of events linked to a voucher provided to my youngest daughter when a flight she was on had been overbooked, the cost of the flight for Marcelle and I was pretty much paid for.

Hmmm....couldn't really say that there was no way that we could afford to fly to Green Bay and all that snow.

I felt like I was beginning to be in the midst of some kind of a karmic avalanche as all of the pieces started to fall into place: My wife got the time off from her work, the animals would all be taken care of, and then my oldest son—Basil—even brought by a pile of warm jackets that would help me survive.



A really strange sight—Basil helping to chop some wood in "zeroish" temps...

I realized a rather startling truth: "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas..."

And? I did have an amazingly great time when we were there. Got to reacquaint myself with my six grandchildren. Saw an entirely different part of our country during a season that would have been unknown to me if I'd been left to my own devices.

I enjoyed the culinary skills that my son-in-law, Matt, has been able to develop. Got to walk through crunching snow to a unique biker barbecue joint and was able to waddle back out when we were done.

But, I do have to tell you that I am still reeling a little from looking at a thermometer which registered at .1 degree. Point One! It wasn't even one degree. Yowee!!

And, now, a "Segue"...

In Wisconsin, I did see a few LLVs rolling down the road. Also, I noticed that through most houses in towns, mailboxes were up by the front door. Saw snowblowers and snow shovels creating paths.

While I never saw any of my Letter Carrier people out there delivering the mail, I knew that they were out there coping with conditions and circumstances which were totally foreign to me. (My family only let me stay out in the cold as I chopped wood for a very, very short time.)

I have to tip my hat to all of them who really have to deal with a winter unlike anything that I experience here in California.

As a final comment, a few years ago I made the decision to start saving annual leave at the end of each year and this is why...

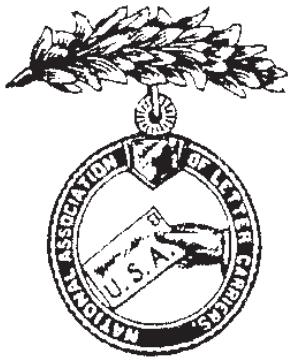
Letter Carriers are allowed to carry over 440 hours of accrued annual leave at the end of each year. If you have more than 440 hours on the books, you will lose them.

I have known Carriers who start to panic if they realize that they still have .75 hours of annual leave "in the bank" at the end of the year.

Think about that term "in the bank". Those hours carried over are literally \$\$\$! **If unused, you'll get \$\$\$!**

When you hit that point in your career when you earn five weeks of Annual Leave a year, take four weeks and "save" those forty hours. Do it again the next four years. Eventually, you will max out and will *have* to take the five weeks. Or you'll have the time available to go to Wisconsin or Costa Rica...

BASIL ZUNIGA



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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| Ridgecrest (93555) | Lynnell Howell | (760) 371-1039 |

**Branch 782
Website
www.782nalc.com**

Rick Plummer, Webmaster



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(661) 325-5526

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bakersfield, California
Permit Number 32

General Meeting Tuesday **December 17, 2013** **7:00 p.m.**

Branch 782 Office
2628 “F” Street
Bakersfield, California

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

December Meeting will be held one week earlier than normal...

Hopefully, we
are going to
enjoy a really
great Branch 782
potluck at this
month's General
Meeting...
We need YOU!!!

