

# National Association of Letter Carriers

## Branch 782

### E.A. Baker Union Update



ARVIN  
CALIFORNIA CITY  
McFARLAND  
TAFT

AVENAL  
DELANO  
MOJAVE  
TEHACHAPI

BAKERSFIELD  
EDWARDS AFB  
RIDGECREST  
TRONA

BORON  
LAMONT  
SHAFTER  
WASCO

CHARTERED FEBRUARY 25, 1901



NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 2014

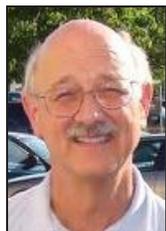
OUT THERE



at the

# Mike:

This month, let me highlight the story of a Letter Carrier from the state of North Carolina. I hope you will see why... Also, I want to credit the web site of the North Carolina State Association of Letter Carriers for this information.



## After 68 Years, America's Senior Letter Carrier Hangs Up His Satchel

**AFTER 68 YEARS OF DELIVERING MAIL**, Rudy Tempesta had experienced more than his share of hot, humid days. But today was different. Midway through his route along Summerset in Chapel Hill, NC, a route he had carried for over two decades, the extreme heat was taking its toll on his 89-year old body. Soaked in sweat and feeling ill, he decided to return to the Chapel Hill Public Library.

He had just staggered to a bench inside the library's doors and sat down when he began throwing up.

The rest of the day became a blur: the people's faces gathering around him, voices, the ambulance ride to UNC Hospital, more blurred faces and jumbled voices in the E.R.

Ironically, just a few days before this his postmaster had approached him out on the route as he was reloading his vehicle.

"Don't you know you're not supposed to drive without a seatbelt?" she had asked of the man who had driven a postal vehicle accident-free for more years than there were candles on her last birthday cake.

"I was wearing my seatbelt," replied Rudy. "I unhooked it as I came to a stop."

From there the conversation turned to the summer heat. As Rudy recalls it, the postmaster didn't seem to think it was hot inside his truck.

"What?" exclaimed Rudy. "It's 95 degrees in that damned truck. You're riding around in an air-conditioned limousine and you tell me it's not hot in the truck!"

Although this may be a typical conversation between a Carrier and a supervisor or postmaster concerning what's hot and what's not on any given summer day, it was not typical for this postmaster and Rudy. Normally, the working relationship was respectful. But on this particular day, for whatever reason, the sparks flew.

Then, a few days later, Rudy finds himself in the hospital suffering from heatstroke.

Although Rudy could have died that day—much younger Letter Carriers have succumbed to the heat in the past—his life did not pass before his eyes. But if it had, these are some of the scenes he might have revisited:

The flashbacks would likely have gone back to 1925 and his birth in Brooklyn, NY to his two Italian immigrant parents. He would have recalled his happy childhood there and his four siblings.



Rudy gives a farewell salute to his fellow Carriers.



Rudy and the crew of the B-24 Liberator bomber, "The Flying Coffin." Rudy is the 5th member from the left, front row.

The flickering video of memories long past would then have segued into his early adulthood—and the two years he spent as a ball turret gunner hanging precariously from the bottom of a B-24 Liberator bomber in World War II as it flew missions over Nazi-occupied Europe. (Editor-guy note: Rudy Tempesta truly *IS* a real life Hero!)

It was during these two years that the teenager became a man and became acquainted with the specter of death as he and his fellow crew members flew through enemy machine-gun fire and maneuvered flack-darkened skies.

After his discharge he would recall his brief stint working in a machine shop and then the beginning of what would become a very long career with the postal service.

Harry Truman was the President that year, the man who had famously said of his job, "The buck stops here."

But when Rudy began delivering mail, the hourly wage was less than a buck. It was 85 cents.

Other scenes that would have skipped along the neural pathways of his 89-year old brain that day in September would have been the 12 years he had spent delivering mail on four floors of the Empire State Building, walking down long corridors that seemed like they were a mile long.

There would be memories of his first marriage and the birth of his first two children, Rudy, Jr. and Toni. He would have recalled his move from New York to Chapel Hill in 1959 and his early years as a City Carrier and the Branch's president.

***Shortly after his arrival, Rudy's co-workers appointed him as their new president. "Damn Yankee," they laughed, "let HIM fight with the managers."***

When he began delivering mail there they only had five city routes, and the UNC Hospital was just a brick building.

Shortly after his arrival, Rudy's co-workers appointed him as their new president. "Damn Yankee," they laughed, "let HIM fight with the managers."

And fight he did.

Even though his body was just on the outskirts of death that day in September, his mind would have recalled with a deep

## OUT THERE



sense of satisfaction, the battles he had waged and won on behalf of his fellow Carriers.

on to victory would have exploded like fireworks within his mind.

"Your family and you should always be one," he has said. "When you're gone, they carry on."

Of course there would be the memories of the friendships he had made over the decades with both co-workers and customers alike. They were members of his extended family.

Undoubtedly, he would recall that other brush with death he had had—this one in 1996. Unable to move, he had been rushed to the hospital where he was diagnosed with toxic shock syndrome, a potentially fatal illness. His prognosis was so dire that the doctors nearly took him off life support. And had it not been for his eldest daughter, Toni, they would have.

*Continued on next page...*

# A little more about Rudy...

After the war, Tempesta returned to his hometown of Brooklyn, New York and worked for a few months in a machine shop before being hired by the United States Postal Service. He would spend the next 12 years delivering mail on four floors of the Empire State Building.

“They were a mile long,” he says of the floors. “You made three trips in those days: first and second class mail, then registered, certified and airmail, then bulk mail.”

Back in those days Carriers would clock in at 6 a.m., work until 3 p.m., go home, sleep, then return at midnight and work the building again.

His first Shop Steward was a young man by the name of **Vincent Sombroto**. “I’ve known him for a hundred years,” says Tempesta. “He’s a great guy. Too bad he had to retire.”

In 1959 Tempesta moved with his first wife to Chapel Hill. She was a native of Carborro. They had two children before they divorced.

In 1982 he would marry for a second and last time. He sent her to college, then to medical school. After three children, that marriage, too, would end in divorce.

When he began delivering mail in Chapel Hill there were only five routes, all walking. Today there are 60, all riding.

He began by delivering mail along the old Victory Village route, over by the UNC hospital.

“I would start at the old post office downtown and walk across campus,” recalls Tempesta. “I met people from all over the world. (Former governor) Jim Hunt was a student then and I used to have coffee with him.”

He became Branch 2613’s president soon after he arrived at the post office...

**A**n email from a coworker of Rudy’s, Diane Parrish, alerted me to Rudy’s condition and his plan to retire. I knew if Rudy was retiring, it had to be serious. He wouldn’t be hanging up his satchel otherwise.

My wife and I visited with Rudy in his basement apartment in October. Rudy is sitting on his couch, his walker in front of him. The week-long stay in the hospital has caused the muscles in his legs to atrophy. “I can’t get around without it,” he says. When I had interviewed Rudy a few years ago he had weighed 138 pounds. In the wake of his illness, he looks thinner, his hair is grayer. But he’s still as feisty as ever.

He tells me the problems he’s having with Worker’s Comp. He shows me a letter dated September 26. It reads in part: “When your claim was received it appeared to be a minor injury that resulted in minimal or no lost time. Based on these criteria and because your employing agency did not controvert Continuation of Pay (COP) or challenge the case, payment of a limited amount of medical expenses was administratively approved.” He’s understandably frustrated. His family physician will resubmit the claim. (In mid-November he still hasn’t heard back from them. Fortunately, he has plenty of sick leave.) “Someone wrote them (Workers’ Comp) a letter telling them I wasn’t out during my illness,” he says. “Why would anybody do that?” Why, indeed.

He’s also facing hurdles in getting his retirement processed. Lots and lots of paperwork to be filled out and filed. (In a subsequent conversation over the phone we learn that Rudy’s paperwork has been completed and he’ll be retiring on November 26.)

On the brighter side of things, Rudy says he’s received numerous phone calls, cards and letters, and visits from co-workers and customers. A co-worker will be coming by tomorrow to take him to the doctor.

During our conversation, the maintenance man stops by to see how he’s doing. Then his Letter Carrier, Newman, looks in on him and delivers a letter from a former customer who now teaches in Spain. The writer is Julia Daugherty, a young lady whose picture hangs on his apartment wall and who has become like a daughter to him. “She’s a sweet kid,” he says. “You get close to them.”

Evidently there’s a certain closeness he has with his co-workers as well. Back in September a petition with 26 signatures was sent to President Obama asking that he send Rudy a letter of appreciation for his many years of service.

I have one last question for America’s senior Letter Carrier before I leave. “Now that you’re finally retiring after all these years, Rudy, how do you want to be remembered?”

“I’d like to be remembered,” he says, “as a good guy and that I cared about people.”

That shouldn’t be a problem at all. Enjoy your retirement.

From the North Carolina State Association of Letter Carriers website.

## **REAL SOON.**

“First day,” he laughs. “They make a joke of it. ‘Damn Yankee, let him fight with the managers.’ There was no election, they just appointed me. The first thing I did was ask for a count. They never counted down here. It worked out perfect.”

He would go on to serve as the Branch’s president *FOR THE NEXT 40 YEARS*—longer than most Carriers’ careers.

RICHARD THAYER

Howie Leff Memorial Branch 936  
High Point, NC

At this time of the year it is a time we should give thanks to all of those who have gone before us and the struggles they endured so that we can have the benefits that we now enjoy.

Definitely, Brother Tempesta has seen a lot a changes! And it sounds from the article that he had made a difference in many lives and deserves our thanks.

To work 68 years as a Letter Carrier is almost unbelievable! It makes me feel like a rookie with my

43 years. It is another example that one person *can* make a difference.

I wish Brother Tempesta and his family a Merry Christmas and all the best in his retirement. I also want to wish all Union Brothers and Sisters the best during the holiday season. Hope to see you at the December meeting on December 16 at 7:00 p.m.! Remember, it's a potluck dinner, too!

MIKE TOWERY  
NALC Branch 782 President

# Johnny on the Spot



## Committee leadership taking shape for incoming Congress

One of the first orders of business for lawmakers returning after the mid-term elections was voting on committee leadership posts for the 114th Congress. Those elections were held on Tuesday. With regard to committees of importance to the NALC, Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA) will no longer chair the Oversight and Government Reform Committee. In a contested race for the post, Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) won election to take over as chairman. Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD) will continue to serve as the ranking member on the committee.

The Subcommittee on Federal Workforce and Postal Service

will be led by current chairman Rep. Blake Farenthold (R-TX), and Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA) is expected to remain as ranking member. Subcommittee leadership posts and the makeup of committee and subcommittee memberships will be determined when the House returns in December.

With regard to the House Appropriations Committee, Rep. Hal Rogers (R-KY) will remain chairman and Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY) will remain as ranking member. Rep. Ander Crenshaw (R-FL) will remain on as Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee chairman, and Rep. José Serrano (D-NY) will also remain as ranking member.

In the Senate, when Republicans take over control in January, it is expected that Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) will take the lead of the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee (HSGAC). During the 113th Congress, he spearheaded a failed amendment to S. 1486 that would have put the Postal Service into bankruptcy and destroy all postal collective-bargaining agreements. The current committee chairman, Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE), will become the ranking committee member.

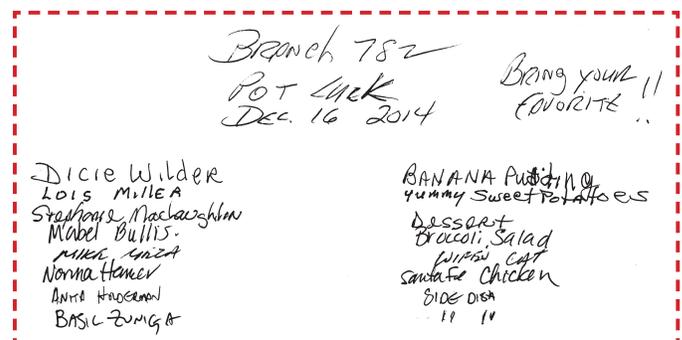
Official announcements regarding Senate committee leadership posts and composition are not expected until January, due in large part to the uncertainty regarding the status of Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-LA), who will face Rep. David Cassidy (R-LA) in a runoff on Dec. 6. The result of that race will have an impact on the makeup of HSGAC, which lost two other Democrats, Sens. Mark Begich (D-AK) and Mark Pryor (D-AR). The GOP has seven incoming new senators, and that also will lead to members' shifting among Senate committees.

On a different note, I offer my condolences to the family of Lonnie Neal. Lonnie was a long time 93307 Carrier. Although he was long gone by the time I started my career as a Letter Carrier, there are still more than a few employees at Brundage who remember him and were saddened to hear about Lonnie's passing.

Additionally, while not too many folks signed Marks's potluck list, I know that we will have a whole lot of participation!!

Respectfully,

JOHN ORTEGA  
Branch 782 Vice President



# Minutes of the November 2014 General Meeting

The regular meeting of Branch 782 was called to order by President Mike Towery at 7:00 p.m. on the 25th day of November, 2014 at the branch office, Bakersfield. The flag salute was led by Sargeant-at-Arms Jerry Patterson. All members of the Executive Board were present. The Stewards were present from Arvin, Avenal, Brundage, Camino Media, Delano, Downtown, Hillcrest, Lamont, Oildale, Shafter, South, Stockdale and Taft. Also present was the Newsletter Editor Basil Zuniga; S.A.N.E. Fred Acedo; Photographer Anita Holderman; Assistant Treasurer Debbie Guillet; OWCP Representative Rick Gerdes and Frank Martinez of the Social and Recreation Committee. The Minutes of the October 28, 2014 meeting were read and accepted with no additions or corrections.

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP:** An application was received from Laura Salinas and Irene Gomez.

**REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES:** Teresa Ortega had nothing to report for the picnic committee. Basil Zuniga reported that last month was East/Brundage, he appreciated all the help. Next month will be Dole Court. The folding for the December newsletter will be on December 10th. He thanked Anita Holderman for all the photos, they are amazing. Frank Martinez had nothing to report for the Social and Recreation Committee. Molly Biggar reported that there are 1197 book remaining. Mark Ramirez reported that we are still in Open Season; he will stay after the meeting to answer any questions regarding the Health Benefit Plan.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Mario Munoz made a motion to have a Retiree Dinner with a cost of no more than \$2200.00, seconded by Alan Smith. During the discussion Mario stated that the cost could be higher or lower depending on the number of retirees in attendance. Alternate locations were suggested by members. A vote was taken and the motion passed. Danny Lujan will assist Mario on the planning of the dinner. Molly Biggar made a motion

to move \$2200.00 from the budget item "Rental Account" to cover the cost of the Retiree Dinner. Seconded by Jerry Patterson and passed.

**GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:** We will have a potluck following the December General Meeting. Mark Ramirez will be passing around a sign up list. Basil Zuniga asked that we have a discussion regarding the new route adjustment process. Mike Towery reported that the zones to be adjusted are 93305, 93307, 93311 and Ridgecrest. The Work load, Work hours report should be posted in all offices not only those to be inspected. Mike shared a plaque he had made for Alex Dang from the article about him in the *Bakersfield Californian*.

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Anita Holderman reported that \$11,760.13 was collected for the month.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Molly Biggar reported

Beginning Balance	\$56,557.21
Dues and Income	\$10,755.43
Total Balance	\$67,312.64
Total Expenses	\$13,466.91
Ending Balance	\$53,845.73

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

The drawing for \$500.00 would have been won by Robert Brown if he had been present.

There were 43 members present.

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KIM GERDES  
NALC Banch 782 Recording Secretary

*We Welcome our  
Newest Members!*

*Laura Salinas  
Irene Gomez*

*Win  
\$500?*

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

\*The fine print: **TO WIN THE MONEY YOU HAVE TO BE PRESENT ON DECEMBER 16 AT THE MEETING WHEN THE NAMES ARE DRAWN. Hmmm, \$500...**

# Non-Member List October 2014\*



**Downtown Station**  
S. Kirby  
J. Cruz

**South Station**  
**100% UNION!!!**

**Brundage/East Bakersfield**  
D. Kinglee

**Hillcrest**  
**100% UNION!!!**

**Dole Court**  
D. Morris  
S. Hancock

**Stockdale**  
J. Oh  
M. Martinez

**Camino Media**  
*C. Rodriguez*

**Arvin**  
**100% UNION!!!**

**Avenal**  
*B. Howard*

**California City**  
*S. T. Ivory*

**Delano**  
L.A. Campos  
C.V. Quebral

**Lamont**  
**100% UNION!!!**

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

**Shafter**  
M. D. Voights  
L. M. New

**Taft**  
*A. Veach*  
B. M. Krier  
K. J. Hughes  
*T. Bullard*  
*A. M. Rodriguea*

**Tehachapi**  
**100% UNION!!!**

**Trona**  
**100% UNION!!!**

**Wasco**  
**100% UNION!!!**

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

**96.02%**

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

\*CCA names are in italics.

## In Memorium—Lonnie Lee Neal January 5, 1933 — November 28, 2014

Lonnie Lee Neal was born to the union of Herbert Howard and Mary Lee Neal in Okmulgee, OK. The family moved to Arizona and resided there for a number of years and eventually moved to Bakersfield during the late 1930's. Lonnie married Otha Ree Player and from this union they were gifted with seven children, Reggie Reed, Lorraine Clemons, Anthony Neal, Lonzetta Neal-Sparks, Lewis Neal, Nathaniel Neal and Candace Neal.

Lonnie served in the U.S. Army for three years and received the Army Occupation Award and the National Defense Service Medal. After receiving his Honorable Discharge, he returned to Bakersfield and worked for the City as a sanitation worker from 1963 to 1966. He retired from the Post Office after 35 years of service.

Lonnie had a strong work ethic and took pride in everything that he did. He had other skills and

talents such as mechanic, plumber and electrician. "If it was broken, Lonnie could fix it!" Even with a full-time position with the Post Office, he still found time to remodel his Aunt Olena Carter's home on Hale street. He would always have his sons—and occasionally a daughter—helping him and wanted them to develop a good work ethic. In addition to working at the Post Office and on Hale Street, Lonnie would spend his nights working as a janitor for Hillcrest Mortuary.

He loved the Lord. Therefore, he attended church faithfully and took pride in being a child of God. He enjoyed



the fellowship with other church members and liked to hear good sermons and good singing.

While Lonnie did share scripture with his children when they were very young, they all felt that he focused too much on the following passage: Proverbs 14:24, "Spare the rod, spoil the child."

### *A few Reflections by some of his children...*

"If you asked Pop a question, he truly listened and conveyed his belief in what the Scriptures say, 'Be quick to hear and slow to speak.' He processed what you were saying before he responded." —**Reggie**

"I learned the value and rewards of hard work at an early age from Pop. I would wake up every morning to shine his shoes, and he would pay me." —**Nate**

"My father gave me the best gift possible. He introduced me to the Lord. He instilled God's Word in me. From faith to faith and that will sustain me to the end. He was the greatest father anyone could ever ask for." —**Candy**



Jazmin was only 18 when she started with the Postal Service in June of 2012 as a PSE clerk at the Plant. Due to the plant “shutting down”, she took the opportunity when it presented itself to become a CCA in February 2013. (If she would have stayed as a PSE clerk, about a year later, she would have become a Regular clerk along with her other PSE co-workers.)

She knew being a CCA would be more physically demanding but she never expected to LOVE her job. She does use her clerk experiences as a tool to better herself now as a Carrier. She was amazed of the constant movement in the Plant and how a letter processed from one area to only end up in your Delivery Point Sequence (DPS). If she had realized how her job as an automation clerk affected the Carrier, she would of done some things slightly different to make it easier on carriers :)

Jazmin wouldn't go back to being a clerk because she has found that being a Carrier is more rewarding in the long run. She gets more hours and she is a people person so she loves her customers. She finds that she makes connections with her patrons and they appreciate what she does. They have given her avocados during the summer and enchiladas on holidays.

Her grandparents worked in the fields so she figured if they could work in this heat for less than minimum wage then she could be a Carrier and have

nothing to complain about and the heat doesn't phase her.

She has had a VERY colorful experience as a Carrier in her short two years.

She has had two dog bites. One by a small chihuahua who was chasing a man on a bike. As he rode by her while doing her walking delivery, the dog ended up biting her and broke skin. Got to love those little yappers. The other dog bite occurred when she had a house delivery. The kids, like a lot of kids, love running to the mail person to get the mail and as they ran out the gate, the pit bull went right out behind them. She couldn't spray the dog because the kids were right there and it bit her leg. The father didn't even apologize.

Jazmin also has had experiences with disrespectful customers. One man had anger issues to begin with; but, apparently, another Carrier the day before had placed two circulars in his box which set him off. He started cursing in spanish and he punched the mail truck. His sister came out and told Jazmin that he has issues and apologized and said to leave before he gets worse. Another incident is when a neighbor started using explicit language across the street to one of her elderly customer yelling that he can park wherever he feels like parking, even if it's in front of the neighbors box.

She was just appalled how someone can be so disrespectful to our elderly. Also, Jazmin was the only witness to a pedestrian getting hit by a car in broad daylight. The pedestrian didn't want to call the police so she continued delivering mail.

Another time, Jazmin smelled something really bad at a house one day. The next day it was blocked off from police and she found out that it was a badly decomposed body—the owner's son murdered his girlfriend at the house. ALL of this happened on the same long term opt she has been on during the FIRST year as a Carrier. Jazmin said her second year

has been boring though and it just seems like in a blink of an eye she going to be starting on her third year.

Jazmin is looking forward to a long time career as a Carrier. She feels that if she made it through her first year with all those experiences, she can make it to the rest of her career in the future. One thing that stands out to her being employed with the Postal Service is the diversity this job has. Everyone is different and unique. She has colorful tattoos and has never had a negative comment about them. She is seeing more and more CCAs coming on board from all different backgrounds and education and beliefs, new and long time Carriers. One thing that she also loves about her job is how her fellow co-workers look out for one another. When one has a headache, another offers Advil to help with pain. Last week when it was pouring rain, she noticed another Carrier doing a walking route with no rain gear. Jazmin was done with her part of walking so she stopped and gave her fellow co-worker her rain gear to use.

**TEAMWORK!** That is what it is really all about.

Jazmin would like to give some special recognition to two people who made a difference in her life as a Carrier. Jazmin wants to give her gratitude to Alice Nelson who is a great lady that helped guide her. Alice's optimism as a team player help influence and mold Jazmin to be who she is today as a Carrier. The other is Robin Lister who was Jazmin's On-the-Job Instructor (OJI). Robin taught Jazmin to be conscientious about how she delivers mail, to set a good pace, and to be confident that she isn't misdelivering mail by paying attention.

*Keep up the good work, Jazmin!*

MABEL BULLIS

## A Focus on Our Future: CCA Jazmin Martinez.....

# First she was a Casual... then T.E. for four years... and, CCA two years...

# and, finally, Juanita makes Regular!!!



Juanita “captured” on the phone as she is told that she is making Regular...but that she has to decide *right now* if she wants to be a T-6 at Dole Court or an Unassigned Regular at Brundage.

Picture courtesy of Pedro Olvera

It has been a long, long rough road for Juanita Chavez.

Hired in April 2007, she spent her first three to four months as a Casual Carrier. She received a pleasant change to her status when the category of Transitional Employee was established. She found herself with an increase in pay as a TE!

But, what an Arbitrator can give another Arbitrator can take away. She found this out in 2011 after working as a TE for a little over four years.

When the City Carrier Assistant (CCA) position was established in the 2011 - 2016 Contract, Juanita was very frustrated. If she chose to become a CCA, she would be taking a major loss of income. She struggled with whether or not she should quit.

Juanita didn't.

Although she as “been loaned out” to every unit in Bakersfield, most of her experience has been at South Station where she has been assigned for the majority of her career to this point.

When asked if there's one thing that she's not going to miss when she becomes Regular, there was no hesitation. “I'm not going to miss working those Sundays and Holidays!” Additionally, she shared that the longest stretch that she worked was fourteen straight days.

She worked July 4 and most other Holidays over the course of being a CCA. And, of course, she also delivered *THOSE* parcels on Sundays!

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Despite making Regular, she fully expects that she will still be working long hours. Getting the mail delivered is the thing that each and every Letter Carrier does every day. And, in her role as a CCA, Juanita consistently found herself working extended hours every day.

It was the end of another long day on Saturday December 6 when she walked into South Station. The moon was out—again. She was hoping that she wouldn't be sent back out.

She didn't now what the expect when the supervisor, Andrew Garcia, told her that she needed to call the Postmaster's office. (Andrew is known to be a jokester and she didn't know if he was trying to have fun at her expense.)

When she called the phone number, she found herself talking with Bakersfield OIC Jodie Nacimiento. (Andrew wasn't joking this time!)

Juanita was told that she was being offered the opportunity to become a Regular Letter Carrier. There were two positions available: a T-6 assignment at Dole Court and an Unassigned Regular position at Brundage.

The effective date of her conversion is going to be December 27 and she has decided to go to Brundage.

Looking back, she recalls that back in 2007 four people were hired with her in Bakersfield as Casuals within a short time. All four of them are still around. She's really happy that each of them are going to reap the reward of making Regular after “paying their dues” for such a long time!

# 2014 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
<b>NURSE ASSISTANT (24/7)</b>	<b>1-877-220-6252</b>
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 Organ Transplant Approval	1-800-668-9682
Quit Power (Smoking Cessation)	1-877-521-0244
CIGNA Health Rewards (Discounts)	1-800-558-9443
<b>CIGNA Dental Discount Program</b>	<b>1-877-521-0244</b>
Disease Management Program	1-800-227-3728
OPM Retirement Info Center	1-888-767-6738
Federal Information Center	1-800-333-4636
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
<b>Shared Services (Retirees Info!!!)</b>	<b>1-877-477-3273</b>

**NALC Health Benefit Plan**  
**20547 Waverly Court**  
**Ashburn, Virginia 20149**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Some Websites for You...

Center for Disease Control	<a href="http://www.cdc.gov">http://www.cdc.gov</a>
American Public Health Assoc.	<a href="http://www.alpha.org">http://www.alpha.org</a>
American Cancer Society	<a href="http://www.cancer.org">http://www.cancer.org</a>
American Heart Association	<a href="http://americanheart.org">http://americanheart.org</a>
American Lung Association	<a href="http://www.lunusa.org">http://www.lunusa.org</a>
Diabetes Foundation	<a href="http://www.diabetes.org">http://www.diabetes.org</a>
<b>YOUR Personal Health Record</b>	<a href="http://www.nalc.org/depart.hbp">http://www.nalc.org/depart.hbp</a>
Asthma Information Center	<a href="http://www.ama.assn.org/special/asthma">http://www.ama.assn.org/special/asthma</a>
HR Shared Service— <a href="mailto:HRSHAREDSERVICES@GSA.GOV">HRSHAREDSERVICES@GSA.GOV</a>	

**Check out this PPO: Sendas Northwest Urgent Care**  
**3409 Calloway Suite 101 Bakersfield, California 93312**  
**Phone: (661) 587-2500**

**Sendas Southwest Urgent Care**  
**9450 Ming Avenue, Bakersfield, California 93309**  
**Phone: (661) 587-2500**

**Hours: M-F 8:00 am - 9:00 pm; Sat & Sun 8:00 am - 8:00 pm**

*Accupuncture!! Must be a state licensed or certified accu-puncturist. Chiropractic! State licensed chiropractor or D.O.*

# Health Prescription: Humor from Mark!

## THESE ARE ACTUAL COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY "THOMAS COOK VACATIONS" FROM DISSATISFIED CUSTOMERS:

1. "I think it should be explained in the brochure that the local convenience store does not sell proper biscuits like custard creams or ginger nuts."
2. "It's lazy of the local shopkeepers in Puerto Vallarta to close in the afternoons. I often needed to buy things during 'siesta' time – this should be banned."
3. "On my holiday to Goa in India, I was disgusted to find that almost every restaurant served curry. I don't like spicy food."
4. "We booked an excursion to a water park but no one told us we had to bring our own swimsuits and towels. We assumed it would be included in the price."
5. "The beach was too sandy. We had to clean everything when we returned to our room."
6. "We found the sand was not like the sand in the brochure. Your brochure shows the sand as white but it was more yellow."
7. "They shouldn't allow topless sunbathing on the beach. It was very distracting for my husband who just wanted to relax."
8. "No one told us there'd be fish in the water. The children were scared."
9. "Although the brochure said that there was a fully equipped kitchen, there was no egg-slicer in the drawers."
10. "We went on holiday to Spain and had a problem with the taxi drivers as they were all Spanish."
11. "The roads were uneven and bumpy, so we couldn't read the local guide book during the bus ride to the resort. Because of this, we were unaware of many things that would've made our holiday more fun."
12. "It took us nine hours to fly home from Jamaica to England. It took the Americans only three hours to get home. This seems unfair."
13. "I compared the size of our one-bedroom suite to our friends' three-bedroom and ours was significantly smaller."
14. "The brochure stated: 'No hairdressers at the resort.' We're trainee hairdressers and we think they knew and made us wait longer for service."

15. "When we were in Spain, there were too many Spanish people there. The receptionist spoke Spanish, the food was Spanish. No one told us that there would be so many foreigners."
16. "We had to line up outside to catch the boat and there was no air-conditioning."
17. "It's your duty as a tour operator to advise us of noisy or unruly guests before we travel."
18. "I was bitten by a mosquito. The brochure didn't mention mosquitoes."
19. "My fiancée and I requested twin-beds when we booked, but instead we were placed in a room with a king bed. We now hold you responsible and want to be reimbursed for the fact that I became pregnant. This would not have happened if you had put us in the room that we booked."

BE AWARE ... THEY WALK AMONG US & THEY VOTE!

\*\*\*\*\*

They also reproduce! (My comment)

Submitted by Mark Ramirez  
NALC Branch 782 HBP Representative

OUT THERE



# The Holidays are highlighted by the pleasure of both the giving of gifts and the receiving of gifts. Mario Muniz shared a message which may help to put the whole Season in a proper perspective.

Over the phone, his mother told him, “Mr. Belser died last night. The funeral is Wednesday.” Memories flashed through his mind like an old newsreel as he sat quietly remembering his childhood days.

“Jack, did you hear me?”

“Oh, sorry, Mom. Yes, I heard you. It’s been so long since I thought of him. I’m sorry, but I honestly thought he died years ago,” Jack said...

“Well, he didn’t forget you. Every time I saw him he’d ask how you were doing. He’d reminisce about the many days you spent over ‘his side of the fence’ as he put it,” Mom told him.

“I loved that old house he lived in,” Jack said.

“You know, Jack, after your father died, Mr. Belser stepped in to make sure you had a man’s influence in your life,” she said.

“He’s the one who taught me carpentry,” he said. “I wouldn’t be in this business if it weren’t for him. He spent a lot of time teaching me things he thought were important. Mom, I’ll be there for the funeral,” Jack said.

As busy as he was, he kept his word. Jack caught the next flight to his hometown. Mr. Belser’s funeral was small and uneventful. He had no children of his own, and most of his relatives had passed away.

The night before he had to return home, Jack and his Mom stopped by to see the old house next door one more time.

Standing in the doorway, Jack paused for a moment. It was like crossing over into another dimension, a leap through space and time. The house was exactly as he remembered. Every step held memories. Every picture, every piece of furniture. Jack stopped suddenly...

“What’s wrong, Jack?” his Mom asked.

“The box is gone,” he said

“What box?” Mom asked.

“There was a small gold box that he kept locked on top of his desk. I must have asked him a thousand times what was inside. All he’d ever tell me was ‘the thing I value most,’” Jack said.

It was gone. Everything about the house was exactly how Jack remembered it, except for the box. He figured someone from the Belser family had taken it.

“Now I’ll never know what was so valuable to him,” Jack said. “I better get some

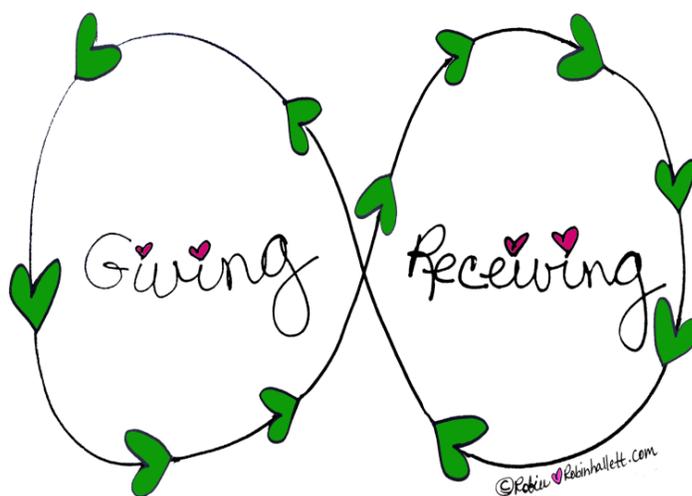
sleep. I have an early flight home, Mom.”

It had been about two weeks since Mr. Belser died. Returning home from work one day Jack discovered a note in his mailbox. “Signature required on a package. No one at home. Please stop by the main post office within the next three days,” the note read. Early the next day Jack retrieved the package. The small box was old and looked like it had been mailed a hundred years ago. The handwriting was difficult to read, but the return address caught his attention. “Mr. Harold Belser” it read. Jack took the box out to his car and ripped open the package. There inside was the gold box and an envelope. Jack’s hands shook as he read the note inside.

“Upon my death, please forward this box and its contents to Jack Bennett. It’s the thing I valued most in my life.” A small key was taped to the letter. His heart racing, as tears filling his eyes, Jack carefully unlocked the box. There inside he found a beautiful gold pocket watch.

Running his fingers slowly over the finely etched casing, he unlatched the cover. Inside he found these words engraved:

“Jack, Thanks for your time! - Harold Belser.”



“The thing he valued most was... my time”

Jack held the watch for a few minutes, then called his office and cleared his appointments for the next two days. “Why?” Janet, his assistant asked.

“I need some time to spend with my son,” he said.

“Oh, by the way, Janet, thanks for your time!”

**Think about this. You may not realize it, but it's 100% true.**

- 1. At least 15 people in this world love you in some way..
- 2 A smile from you can bring happiness to anyone, even if they don't like you.
- 3 Every night, SOMEONE thinks about you before they go to sleep.

- 4. You mean the world to someone.
- 5. If not for you, someone may not be living.
- 6. You are special and unique.
- 7. When you think you have no chance of getting what you want, you probably won't get it, but if you and wait, sooner or later, you will get it or something better.
- 8. When you make the biggest mistake ever, something good can still come from it.
- 9. When you think the world has turned its back on you, take a look: you most likely turned your back on the world.
- 10. Someone that you don't even know exists loves you.

- 11. Always remember the compliments you received. Forget about the rude remarks.
- 12. Always tell someone how you feel about them; you will feel much better when they know and you'll both be happy.
- 13. If you have a great friend, take the time to let them know that they are great.

Send this letter to all the people you care about, if you do so, you will certainly brighten someone's day and might change their perspective on life... for the better..

To everyone I sent this to: “Thanks for your time.”

\*\*\*\*\*

*Thank you to Branch 782 Retiree Mario Muniz for sharing this info which was sent to him.*



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I write to invite you to join me in supporting the Combined Federal Campaign by making a pledge or donation to the charity of your choice.

We face many challenges as Letter Carriers and middle

class Americans. However, we earn a living wage that gives us the ability to take care of our families by providing shelter, food, clothing and health care. Unfortunately, many other Americans are unable to do so with the persisting challenges that linger in the overall economy.

Each day—six days a week—many of us encounter real conditions of these basic needs in the communities where we live and deliver the mail. Throughout the year we help by collecting food, providing clothing, mentoring children and looking after the lonely and disabled.

We must continue to be good citizens by involving ourselves in these and other community efforts. But our efforts cannot end there. The Combined Federal Campaign allows us to easily contribute to charities that we care about through payroll deduction.

Please consider making a donation to the Postal Employees Relief Fund (PERF), NALC's charity—the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA), or directly to United Way Worldwide.

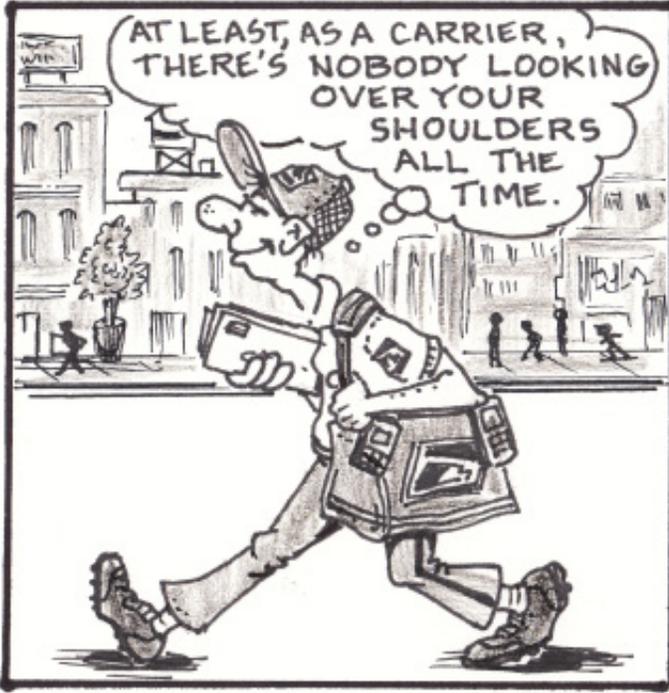
I know the times continue to challenge us on many fronts. But I also know that when **WE** take action to make a difference and join our individual efforts, **WE** improve lives and create better communities!

Thank you for your daily work delivering the mail and thank you in advance for your consideration to help your community through the Combined Federal Campaign.

Sincerely, and Fraternaly,

Fredric V. Rolando  
President

OUT THERE



# Have an Idea for Fred?

Fred Acedo  
 Br. 782 S.A.N.E.  
 P.O. Box 6532  
 Bakersfield, CA  
 93386-6532

Out + HeRe



The Editor-guy  
NALC Branch 782  
2628 F Street  
Bakersfield, CA 93301-1816

Greetings Editor-guy,

It is good to hear from you once again.

So let me set the scene: For the most part this Wednesday morning, we (letter carriers near my case) are on 534 time - "They can't get the mail to us because they cut the clerks to the bone and can't figure why we aren't getting the mail to us". Just receiving my inter-office envelop, I unwind the red string and open the yellow flap to discover your letter.

Well, since I'm on do-nothing-time, I might as well read your letter. I read thru the text nodding my head in agreement and now curious as to what you used. Now, I get to the Acedo gem, scan the caption, the artwork and that's when it hit me! LAUGH OUT LOUD to the point fellow carriers are wondering if I'm going to make it. As it happens, our just resigned editor Doug Arnold cases right next door to me. I just hand him the letter. About 15 seconds later, tear-producing laughter explodes from his case.

No, that cartoon will not make it into our newsletter, but you made the day for two unsuspecting past editors. And to make the artwork suitable for the general reader would just spoil the full impact. But it will get passed around to a select few.

I edited our newsletter for 11-years, until I just burned out. Fortunately, Doug Arnold accepted my recommendation that he take over. He finally resigned last month due to the same reason, plus an unfortunate split in our officer ranks. Doug edited the newsletter for the past 7-years.

I have added your website to my favorites and plan to regularly check out your newsletter and the hilarious, if not poignant Acedo gems. This will give me something to do once I retire 12-26-14. I started the day after Christmas and I will end it the day after Christmas, 30 years on the dot.

My only regret, not getting to meet you in person. Keep editing, I look forward to your work.

One of your fellow editors,  
Jerry Pyfer



### editor-guy note:

I have made reference in the past to the fact that I am *SO VERY BLESSED* to have Fred Acedo as the NALC Branch 782 S.A.N.E. Cartoonist! I have also mentioned that I also have a stack of cartoons that are more than a little "Out There"...

I decided to share one of them with Jerry. And, he—*like me*—is a **VERY BIG FAN** of the talents that Freddie has produced!

Basil Zuniga

# DOHERTY & DONELON SCHOLARSHIPS

**Deadline: This form must be returned to NALC Headquarters no later than December 31, 2014.**

## 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, 2014.

## 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, 2015. (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, 2015.

## 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 2014-15 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of NALC parent member (or spouse if deceased)	Signature of branch officer •
NALC parent's Social Security No.	Printed name of branch officer
Title	Date

This form must be returned no later than December 31, 2014, 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.*

# 2015 Carl J. Saxsenmeier

## Scholarship Program

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

Jeff Parr

Saxsenmeier Scholarship Chair

1177 Levine Dr-Santa Rosa, Ca 95401

707-523-1818

Saxsenmeier Scholarship Application

(Please Print)

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

NALC Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell / Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

NALC Member Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

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

NALC Branch Officer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Branch Officer Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Golden Empire Merged Branch 782**

## from the editor-guy

Family is important each and every day all year long; but, the Holidays allow us to relish that importance.

Because many of you would probably appreciate a break from reading anything that I have to say, let me share a couple of things written by my oldest daughter, Marcena. She writes an on-going blog (*Cold Anchor Farm*) in the midst of raising her six kids.

### *Armchair Reflections*

I had been sitting there for hours. The sun, just rising, hit me square in the face with its obnoxious glare, emphasizing the dark circles under my eyes. I was a vision of loveliness to be sure. Dressed in sweatpants and one of my husband's t-shirts (because all of mine were still wet in the washer), bath towel draped over my lap, my hair was a mess and I smelled more than faintly of vomit.

The vomit wasn't even mine. It belonged to the tiny boy sleeping fitfully in my arms. My neck and shoulders were aching, but I was afraid to move and wake him.

We'd had quite a night. Older children got sick in buckets placed near their beds, but baby Joey vomited with abandon and without warning of any kind. He covered several of my shirts, his jammies, sheets, blanket, the floor... and that thing all the way over there across the room. Who knew sick could travel so far?

Of course, I didn't really care about all of that. My biggest concern was making sure my sick little baby was cared for

and comforted. If that meant a sleepless night, smelling of vomit, holding his precious weight until my arms felt like they were going to fall off, then so be it.

I peered at the Christmas tree, dark and quiet in the corner. Paper chains still hung festively from the windows. Glittery snowflakes dangled from the light fixture over the dining table. Gold stars stood silent atop the piano. What had happened to the idyllic Christmas I envisioned? Everything had started out well; but, let's face it, the disheveled woman sitting in her living room, holding her sick baby, wrapped in a towel, hardly looked Christmas card perfect.

I glanced at the Nativity scene, and through the fog of my sleep deprived brain flashed an image of the birth of Our Lord very different from the pretty, sanitized version displayed on my table. It occurred to me that the real Nativity probably didn't look Christmas card perfect either. If cameras existed back then we most likely would've photo-shopped the dickens out of any images taken in that stable. I'm sure St. Joseph did the very best he could, but I imagine the animals that sheltered there didn't stop being smelly animals just 'cause the Christ Child was born in their midst.

Life on earth is messy. Such was His love for us that he deigned enter the mess in order to lift us out of it. He was willing to become one of us, truly one of us. The Eternal stepped into time in order to bring us to eternity. The mess and the stink weren't His doing, but ours. Nevertheless; He didn't shrink from us, but became like us to bring us the healing we so desperately needed.

Joey and I stayed in that chair for a while longer. Neither of us smelled any better, but I was more at peace... except for that queasiness beginning to take hold of me. Oh dear. Maybe next year our Christmas will be a little more "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire", and a little less "Eww! Where's the air freshener?"

### *Is it Out, Yet?*

"Is it out?" The hairdryer switched off and inquisitive fingers ran through the length of my hair. "Nope." Leaning over the tub I carefully wet and lathered my hair for the third—and probably not last—time.

I confess, I love to have my hair touched. I do. I love it so much, on my birthday my daughters offer to brush my hair as a present. I love it so much I have endured countless braids, funky hairdos, and tangles as the only "patron" of nine-year-old Mary's *Beauty Shop*, just to have my hair played with.

If I am ever full of stress and tension, rub my hair and I will actually melt before your eyes. Melt. No more stress, just me, eyes closed, slumped over, unable to speak anything more complex than monosyllables, swiftly falling asleep. Weird, but true.

Joseph sat next to me on the couch, running a thick lock of my hair through his little toddler hands. He wasn't pulling or tangling, just running it through his hands.

"Your hair is pretty, Mama. I'm making your hair beautiful."

"Mhmm..." I replied suddenly feeling rather sleepy. "Beautiful. Beautiful." Joey continued. "Mhmm..." I mur-

mured again. Someone should bring me a pillow.

Wait a minute. My ears had detected a noise, a quiet noise, an odd noise, a slightly wet, smacking noise that was not the sort of noise that clean, dry hair makes when it is run through clean, dry hands. The realization that something was wrong seeped into my drowsy brain.

I lifted my hand to my hair and encountered a wide streak of something terribly sticky. Joey's fists were full of a thick, white paste that I knew all too well. Diaper ointment. The white stuff. The greasy, white stuff that not only doesn't wipe off easily, but laughs—actually laughs—at soap and water. I didn't even know we had any.

"I make-d your hair so beautiful, Mama." Joey said in a sweet voice. Yes, beautiful, and white, and stuck in a thick clump to the side of my head.

You know *those* moments when something unexpected happens and you truly appreciate just how...unique... living with little ones is? It's like the times you find yourself stringing together words you didn't know could exist in the same sentence.

*"Don't lick shopping carts."*  
*"The cat doesn't want your gum."*  
*"Your dinosaur doesn't need a bubble bath."*  
*"Nice little boys don't shout 'booger' in church."*  
*"Your brother doesn't like you dancing on his head."*  
***WE DON'T RUB DIAPER OINTMENT INTO MOMMY'S HAIR.***

I was having one of *those* moments. Yes, I was.

I was also lathering my hair for the *fourth* time...



# Branch Officers

<b>President</b>	<b>Mike Towery</b>	<b>(661) 331-9171</b>
<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>John Ortega</b>	<b>(661) 809-8140</b>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<b>Kim Gerdes</b>	<b>(661) 834-2059</b>
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<b>Sargeant-at-Arms</b>	<b>Jerry Patterson</b>	<b>(661) 699-2462</b>
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<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Teresa Ortega</b>	<b>(661) 325-5526</b>
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*E.A. BAKER UNION UPDATE* is published monthly by Merged Branch 782 of the National Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO.

The options 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 here-in 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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The "S.A.N.E."\*  
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Anita Holderman, Branch Photographer

## NALC Branch 782 Shop Stewards

Arvin (93203)	Mike Munoz	(661) 304-5516
Avenal (93204)	John Ortega	(661) 809-8140
Delano (93215)	Norma Hamer	(661) 619-1465
Lamont (93241)	Mike Munoz	(661) 304-5516
McFarland (93250)	Bonnie Whitbey	(661) 302-7354
Shafter (93263)	Norma Hamer	(661) 619-1465
Taft (93268)	Mike Meza	(805) 625-4541
Wasco (93280)	Joanne Layton	(661) 204-4928
Downtown Station (93301)	Kim Gerdes	(661) 834-2059
South Station (93304)	Darryl Holderman	(661) 487-5353
South Station Alternate	Judy Kiyoshi	(661) 817-5529
East Bakersfield (93305)	Paul Salazar	(661) 327-7637
Hillcrest Station (93306)	Pam Smith	(661) 979-5854
Brundage Station (93307)	John Ortega	(661) 809-8140
Dole Court (93308)	Mike Towery	(661) 331-9171
Dole Court (93308)	Shari Sharp	(661) 364-5544
Stockdale Station (93309)	Randy Courson	(661) 345-0256
Camino Media (93311/13)	Mike Meza	(805) 625-4541
Mojave (93501)	Vacant	
California City (93504)	Russell Day	(760) 373-8963
Boron (93516)	Paula Hogg	(760) 373-8963
Edwards AF Base (93523)	Mike Meza	(805) 625-4541
Ridgecrest (93555)	Lynnel Howell	(760) 382-3030
Tehachapi (93561)	Vacant	
Trona (93562)	Lynnel Howell	(760) 382-3030

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

Rick Plummer, Webmaster



National Association of Letter Carriers  
"Golden Empire Branch 782"  
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Bakersfield, California 93301  
(661) 325-5526

Non-Profit Organization  
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PAID  
Bakersfield, California  
Permit Number 32

## General Meeting Tuesday December 16, 2014 7:00 p.m.

Branch 782 Office  
2628 "F" Street  
Bakersfield, California

**FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED**

# MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!!!

The NALC  
Branch 782  
December  
General Meeting  
will be held on  
December 16...

## THIRD

**Tuesday in December!**

**There will  
be a potluck!**

OUT THERE



Are you a reader of "the fine print"? \$500 is available for a fortunate Branch 782 member. Look for the details on page 6.