

National Association of Letter Carriers

Branch 782

E.A. Baker Union Update



ARVIN
DELANO
MOJAVE

TEHACHAPI

AVONAL
EDWARDS AFB
RIDGECREST

IRONA

BAKERSFIELD
LAMONT
SHAFTER

WASCO

BORON
McFARLAND
TAFT



CHARTERED FEBRUARY 25, 1901

VOLUME LXXX NUMBER 10

NOVEMBER 2008

at the



Mike:

It seemed as though the campaigning would never end; but, finally, the election of the next President of the United States is history!

It will be quite a change to have a President of the United States who supports and values unions.

During the campaign Senator Obama stated, "It's time we had a president who will stand up for working men and women by building an economy that rewards not just wealth, but work and the workers who create it" and "It's time you had a president who honors organized labor—who's walked on picket lines; who doesn't choke on the word 'union.'"

I want to thank NALC President Young, the National Officers, California State Association President John Beaumont and all the Carriers who worked so hard to elect a labor friendly President and Congress. While some Carriers did not vote for Senator Obama I would hope they would recognize that President Bill Young was doing the job he was elected to do — protecting Letter Carrier jobs. I am confident that the National Officers are up to any challenges in the coming years.

Senator John McCain's gracious speech on election night pledging his support of the new President left no doubt in anyone's mind why Senator McCain is truly an American hero. Now, it is time for all of us to put aside differences and work together to tackle the challenge of rebuilding the middle class and the economy.

Even while the focus was on the national elections, NALC President Bill Young and the National Officers managed to reach an agreement

Continued on next page...

on an alternate route adjustment process. You may have heard about this.

This came after the Deputy Postmaster General Donohoe decided that the Postal Service was going to use the "streeter" concept where some Carriers would no longer case mail in the morning but would only carry mail.

The alternate route adjustment process agreement put a stop to it. It appeared to come at just the right time as there were routes in the district already being adjusted using the "streeter" concept. I want to thank District Manager Kerry Wolny for taking the time to meet with the Union Presidents several times during October to discuss, first, the "streeter" issue and; secondly, the alternate route adjustment process.

During the first meeting in October Mr. Wolny explained to the Branch presidents that the budget was being cut by 511 thousand hours. He explained that in order to achieve this goal, it would be necessary to bring the overtime rate for the district down from the current of 7.66 percent to 5 percent. It would then be necessary to eliminate at least 132 routes in the district. The new "streeter" concept was discussed and that it would be used for route adjustments.

The second meeting in October was called to discuss the new Alternate Route Adjustment Process that the national parties had signed and to discuss the use of Expedited Preferential Mail (EPM) in the offices in the district.

EPM was used years ago and involves Carriers only casing the first class and periodical mail in the morning. They then case the rest of the mail in the afternoon after delivering the route.

While the concept is sound, its success depends upon the plant getting the mail to the offices at a consistent time, the plant separating the first class from the third class and hav-

ing a sufficient clerk staffing to make sure the parcels, priority mail and accountable mail are ready for the Carriers within an hour of them reporting to work. If not, it may end up that Carriers would have to have later reporting times instead of earlier reporting times as envisioned.

I want to offer my Congratulations to Delano's Clint Gallaher. He is now a Retiree! As a former Shop Steward, I know that he won't miss too many of the challenges that he had in that role. I wish him a long and healthy life. I hope that he will continue to show up at some of our general meetings.

Thank you to all those who made the time to attend the Part Time Flexible meeting on November 11 in the Branch office. I hope that that investment will pay dividends as they continue their postal careers.

On a sadder note, I want to convey my condolences to the family of Emmett Dosier who passed away on the second of November at age 94. It is always difficult to lose a loved one regardless of their age.

In addition to being a member of Branch 782 for some seventy years, Emmett was the president of the Branch 782 in 1950 and 1951 and always kept in touch over the years. I always enjoyed reading his letters and talking to him on the phone.

Finally, I wanted to wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving and ask that they not forget all the American soldiers that are away from their families and ask that you pray for their safe return.

MIKE TOWERY
NALC Branch 782 President

Don't Forget!!

**An election for the position of the three
Branch 782 Trustees will be conducted at
the November General Membership Meeting**



November 11, 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR: VETERANS

As United States citizens, we enjoy freedom that people of other nations do not have. We enjoy luxuries, both untouchable and materialistic, making our lives and our children's lives so much better. We have the power to choose, to state our thoughts and ideas and to move freely within our own country. We have the right to protest, vote and purchase our own homes. We can protect our families and ourselves. However, these luxuries did not come without the sacrifice of many U.S. Military women and men. You encountered some of the most gruesome battles, your triumphs enabled us to maintain the very freedoms we have today. As U.S. Soldiers, you left the soil of your own country to persevere the solid ground we walk on today, forever changing your lives and that of your families.

Unfortunately, many soldiers paid for our freedom with their own lives. As United States Citizens, we all owe much gratitude to those who have fought for us and our country. Because we treasure the peace and freedom we have, the employees of the Sierra Coastal Performance Cluster and I would like to thank each and every Veteran, both past and present, for admirably fighting for and maintaining our freedoms.

Please accept this gift of gratitude and appreciation for your dedication and commitment to our Armed Forces.

our Armed Forces.

[Handwritten Signature]
Kerry L. Wolny, District Manager
Sierra Coastal Customer Service & Sales

WHAT IS A VETERAN?

A person who looks the world in the eye and feels an extra heartbeat when the flag goes by.

He has a little taste when he hears a military band. She comes from every race and creed. A Veteran can be tall, small, short or tall. He is the Dauntless of World War I, the G.I. of World War II, Korea and Vietnam. A Sailor, Soldier, Layer or Marine.

From Artillery, Infantry, Medic, Engineering, Armored, Ordnance, or Corporal. A Republican, Democrat and Independent. He or she may be a plumber, welder, salesman, mechanic or clerk. A rich person, poor or workman. A Veteran is a person who knows that vigilance and sacrifice are necessary if freedom is to be preserved. Veterans are proud of the American heritage, alert to the present and concerned of America's future.

A Veteran likes the legends of America's great like Washington, Lincoln, Roosevelt, Truman and Eisenhower as the proud patriots who have marched through American history. He has flown, sat at Valley Forge, crossed the Hills of Gettysburg, faced fire at San Juan Hill, stormed the sands of Guadalcanal, swarmed ashore at Omaha Beach, waded the coasts of Korea and the stinky jungles of Vietnam.

In the veteran's secret heart there is always a rage of sorrow, a souvenir of sadness for lost and departed comrades. The veteran knows that a first class fighter and member of history is great as long as freedom. Our veterans today no longer wear their rifles, but they are more than patriotic citizens. They will defend our eternal lands for their sacrifice to keep us land free.

(Author Unknown)

Minutes of the October 2008 General Meeting

The regular meeting of Br. 782 was called to order by President, Mike Towery, at 7:30 p.m. on the 28th day of October, 2008, at the branch office, Bakersfield. The flag salute was led by Sgt. At Arms, Jerry Patterson. All members of the Executive Board were present. The stewards were present from 01, 04, 05, 05, 07, 08, 09, Camino Medial, Delano, Lamont, McFarland, Shafter, Taft and Wasco. Also present was the Newsletter Editor, Basil Zuniga, Webmaster, Rick Plummer, Safety and Health Rep., Danny Blair and Frank Martinez, of the Social and Recreation Committee.

The minutes were read and spelling corrections were made to Ruby Torres, Gurpreet Singh and Tenille Guillet. The minutes were accepted as corrected.

NEW MEMBERS: Applications were received from Robert A. Geurrero and James Fleming.

REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES: Teresa Ortega asked Kim Gerdes express her thanks for all those who helped with the picnic, the set up and the clean up. Molly Biggar reported that the picnic was over budget by \$455.00. Basil Zuniga thanked Hillcrest Station for folding the Newsletter and thanked Anita Holderman for "preparing" a great dinner. Frank Martinez reported that the Social and Recreation Committee is working on a Dinner/Dance for Valentine's Day. It is still in the planning stages. He also reported that there are a limited number of tickets available for the Melodrama. Contact Stella at the plant @392-6301 for those tickets and discounted movies tickets.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION: Diana Chavez, John Ortega and Pam Smith attended the Leadership Academy. John Ortega reported that it was "high intensity" and great to see all the members at the meeting. Mike Towery reported that he attended an Emergency Meeting of Presidents in Santa Clarita on Friday. They reported that 511,000 hours would be cut from the budget. That translates to about 132 routes that need to be eliminated. In the meantime National reached an interim Route Adjustment agreement. The office time and street time from May and September 2008 would be used to adjust the routes office time. Mark Ramirez reported on the changes to the Health Benefit Plan and encourages everyone to look at the plan during Open Season.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION: Darryl Holderman explained that he has been using his family plan minutes for branch business. He made a motion that the Branch pay \$30.00 each month for the cost of increasing the minutes on his cell phone plan. Seconded by Molly Biggar and passed. Molly Biggar made a motion to move the money from the building fund to cover the cost of Darryl's cell phone. Seconded by Jerry Patterson and passed. Mark Ramirez volunteered to be in charge of the December Potluck.

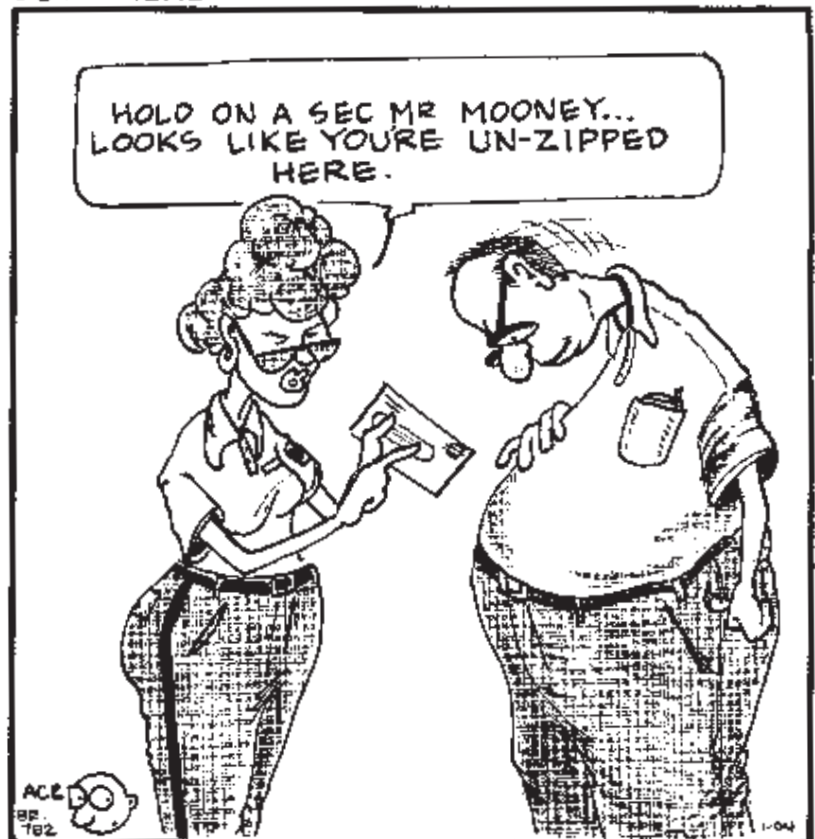
FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: Anita reported that \$6,266.81 was collected for September and \$13,350.56 was collected for October, for a total of \$19,620.27

TREASURER'S REPORT: Molly Biggar reported:
Beginning Balance: \$55,455.50
Dues and Income \$19,745.15
Interest Income \$ 16.97
Total Balance \$75,217.62
Expenses \$20,777.69
Ending Balance \$54,439.93

The 50/50 MDA Drawing was won by Rick Plummer. The Drawing for \$250.00 would have been won by Isoconie Celistino who was not present. There were 37 members present. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
KIM GERDES

OUT THERE



OFFICIAL NOTICE OF NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF NALC "GOLDEN EMPIRE" BRANCH 782

ELECTION



The election will be conducted by secret ballot at the regular meeting on November 25, 2008 at 7:30 P.M. at the Branch 782 Union Office, 2628 "F" Street, Bakersfield, California.

Any member who, for any reason, will be unable to vote on November 25, 2008, may obtain absentee ballots by submitting a signed written request to the Election Committee, Golden Empire Branch 782, 2628 "F" Street, Bakersfield, California 93301. Absentee ballots must be requested after nominations have been closed but no later than November 11, 2008.

Write-in votes are not permitted.

Nominations for the three offices of Trustees were (as the following is to appear on the ballot): Bill Curtis, Brad Smith, Danny Blair, and Lucinda Martinez.

NON-MEMBER LIST October 2008

DOWNTOWN STATION

Dale Pearce
Javier Cruz

SOUTH STATION

100% Union!!!

EAST BAKERSFIELD

100% Union!!!

HILLCREST

M. M. Henry

BRUNDAGE

David Kinglee
R. R. Torres

DOLE COURT

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

STOCKDALE

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

CAMINO MEDIA

F. Medina, Jr.

ARVIN

100% Union!!!

AVENAL

J. T. Howerly

BORON

100% Union!!!

CALIFORNIA CITY

R. A. Day

DELANO

C. V. Quebral

EDWARDS

100% Union!!!

LAMONT

100% Union!!!

McFARLAND

B. A. Ibarra

MOJAVE

100% Union!!!

RIDGECREST

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

SHAFTER

L. M. New
M. D. Voights

TAFT

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

TEHACHAPI

V. L. Johnson

TRONA

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

WASCO

100% Union!!!

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

Day of Painting NBU's

I am going to try to put as much of a positive spin on this as I can. I don't want this to be viewed as another carrier vs. management article as we so often read in this newsletter. However I can not avoid the opportunity to rib our management at how ironic the circumstances turned out for the day.

I'm not sure if the other stations were asked, as we were asked at South Station to volunteer our time on our day off to come and help the community. We were told it would be a few hours of scrapping and prepping NBUs / CBUs, putting stickers over key holes, eat some BBQ and then go home. We were told that the city would do all the painting and that we needed to help with the time consuming prep work. Sounds good, right? Well here's what really happened.



We gathered Saturday morning, Oct. 25 at Olliver Leon Jr. High School on the corner of Monitor and Berkshire Rd. There was a good gathering of several groups to include Haliburton, Aera Energy, BPD, Mercy Hospital, private citizens from the Stonecreek area and the 20+ of us that were from the USPS.

I would like to tell you there was a good turn out for the NALC, but I only counted the Holdermans and myself. The others were managers and supervisors from the various stations. If there were other carriers there I'm sorry I didn't recognize you because I have neither worked with you nor did I recognize you from the NALC meetings and activities.

We heard some nice pep talks from the organizers of the group, BPD's Officer Tony Martinez and city council member of the seventh ward, Zack Scrivner. Seventh ward was the only area we concentrated on for the day. Why we didn't include the entire city, I don't know. They had

such a good turn out they would only need to assign one box per three or more people.

Nothing was said about a BBQ that our station manager Rob had promised us. Then they told us that we would not only be prepping the boxes, but that we would be painting them by hand as well. This was getting better and better by the minute.

So off the Holdermans and I went to our assigned NBU. We joked about how we would have worn different clothes if we had known that we were going to be painting. We relished the thought that Mike Zaragoza would be coming by later that day to deliver the mail to the particular NBU we were working on and that he too might be getting



paint on his hands and uniform.

While we were working, J.B. (the postmaster) stopped by to thank us again for coming out on our day off and apologized for the misunderstanding of the BBQ. He explained to us that Haliburton had provided a nice spread in the years past. Then to add insult to injury, he told us of two more NBUs that had been assigned to USPS on another part of town and asked if we would mind going over and painting those as well. We agreed and joked about how typical it was for management to bring us more work. Kind of like when they bring you that extra swing.

I found out later that the postmaster did take everyone out for brunch afterwards at Mauricio's Grill and Cantina, but somehow the Holdermans and I didn't get the message...

Aside from all the misunderstandings it was a rewarding day to see the graffiti disappear and leave those NBUs looking good. A few residents did thank us, to include a cousin of our own city carrier Patti Arismendez. We enlightened him on what a hero his

cousin was (just a little heads up there Patti for the next family reunion) and gave him the left over paint for any additional graffiti that may come after we left. I share all of this with you not only to pick fun, but to give warning.

If ever you should be asked to volunteer on your day off, double check the details



and prepare for the worst. More importantly, find a way to have fun in a bad situation and remember that the community does appreciate your efforts.



NEIL KRAMER
Letter Carrier, South Station

Electing our Friend

by Pam Smith
Steward at Hillcrest Station

In October of 2008 I had the opportunity to do precinct walks in Las Vegas for Barak Obama and pro-labor Congressional Candidate Dina Titus. These walks were very well organized and very well attended by busloads of Letter Carriers from California. You all would have been proud. The Branch was represented by Dianna Chavez, John Ortega and myself. We were also joined by busloads of other unionists from the LA Area. The meeting hall was standing room only. The walks went quick as there were so many volunteers there.

As I write this article I reflect on the last two years and the efforts that were made by the NALC Leadership and most importantly, you the membership.

From April the 16th to April the 19th of 2007, John Beaumont, President California State Association of Letter Carriers, and Manny Peralta, National Business Agent - Region 1, led a delegation of letter carriers from California, Nevada and Hawaii to Capitol Hill to lobby Congress in your behalf. We were joined by many other States and NALC Regions. Basil Zuniga, Dianna Chavez and I were honored to represent our branch on that trip. On the first day, the NALC arranged for a briefing so that we understood the issues and were able to explain them to our US Senators and Congressional Representatives.

The next few days we met with our representatives or their aides and explained our concerns over contracting out and how it affects the security of the mails and the security of your jobs. I was in awe of the fact that I, a little girl from Bakersfield, was in Washington, DC, walking the halls of Congress speaking in your behalf to our elected representatives.

Recently I had the chance to watch a video of Letter Carriers meeting with Congresswoman Jane Harmon during that trip in 2007. It made me appreciate the importance of getting pro-labor representatives elected in the first place. Congresswoman Harmon showed sincere concern for our issues and made me realize that lobbying really begins with getting our friends elected.

Letter Carriers are quite the experts in organizing and conducting precinct walks. The work you every day make you valuable to our friends on the hill. Once elected (or in many cases or re-elected) we make appoints to see them and pitch the needs of our organization. It really works for you and keeps them in the know on issues that affect us.

By the time you read this you know that Barack Obama was elected as the 44th President of the United States of America. Labor further helped elect quite a few more members of Congress and at least six more seats in the Senate.

He has pledged that he will sign into law the a Bill that would prohibit the contracting out of mail delivery and in so doing has pledged to protect your jobs and benefits. He has further promised to sign into law the Employee Free Choice Act which will allow others to form unions more easily. That is important to us and other unions.

Whenever the NALC calls on you to get out the vote or volunteer to assist in getting our friends elected, remember that your efforts open their minds and their hearts to our concerns.



2008 NALC HBP Info

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

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

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

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



Branch 782
Health Benefit
Representative

Mark
Ramirez

(661)
834-5011

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

Out of Network Pharmacy Claim
NALC Drug Prescription Program
P.O. Box 52196
Phoenix, AZ 85012-2196

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

NALC Health Benefit Plan
20547 Waverly Court
Ashburn, VA 20149

Contact Information

Center for Disease Control	http://www.cdc.gov
National Library of Medicine	http://www.nlm.nih.gov
American Public Health Assoc.	http://www.alpha.org
American Cancer Society	http://www.cancer.org
American Heart Association	http://www.americanheart.org
American Lung Association	http://www.lunusa.org
Diabetes Foundation	http://www.diabetis.org
Muscular Dystrophy Association	http://www.mdausa.org
JAMA Asthma Information Center	http://www.ama.assn.org/special/asthma
Your Personal Health Record	http://www.nalc.org/depart/hbp
National Patient Safety	http://www.npsf.org

HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN ***OPEN SEASON*** for 2009

*November 10th thru December 8th, 2008

The time for selecting our Health Benefit Plan for the 2009 year will be here soon. Our Union owned NALC Health Benefit Plan has negotiated another great health benefit package for its Union members while keeping our premiums lower than most other health plans.

Our NALC Health Benefit Plan does not have stock holders, or a board of directors which must see a profit each year. Our NALC Health Plan is owned by you and me. Any profits our Health Plan realizes, are placed back into our Health Plan.

New or improved benefits for the 2009 season include:

* \$15.00 copayment out patient office visit (PPO), it was \$20.00 One (1) Health benefit card, had 2 last year.

* Our Drug prescription co-payment is unchanged, all prescriptions can be filled at any CVS Pharmacy.

* There is a new emergency Dental benefit for 2009, plus a discount Dental benefit Plan through CIGNA (not insurance).

* There is an improved Weight Management Program. Smoking Cessation program (no cost).

* We still have an excellent Organ Transplant Program. Excellent Mental and Substance abuse Program.

* New for 2009, “no cost” for casting of strain, sprain, fracture, or simple lacerations (stitches) when you receive care within 72 hours of accidental injury at a (PPO Provider) Great out of pocket savings to members when we use Quest Diagnostics (lab work).

* Our Plan now covers an annual physical sports exam for camp, and school sports, ages 3 thru 21.

* Our NALC Health Benefit Plan covers our members, and family “Nation Wide”, and “World Wide”.

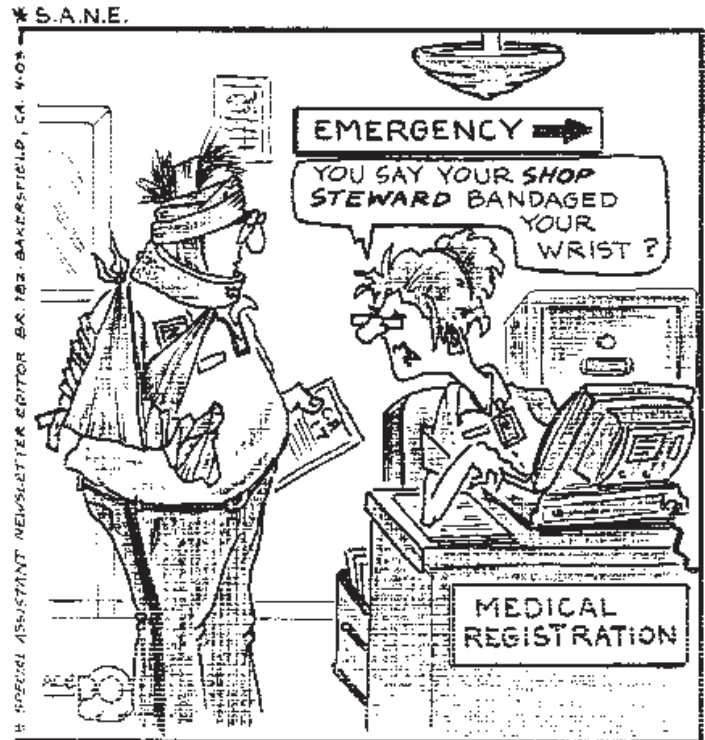
Your Union owned NALC Health Benefit Plan should be wisely considered. To make changes to your Health Care Provider for the 2009 season, there are two options: Utilize the PostalEase on line (Blue page). You will need your employee ID number (found on your pay stub) and your PIN (Personal Identification Number). To receive a PIN, log on to PostalEase, make your request, and a PIN will be mailed to you. Your second options is to call the Employee’s Service line at 1-877-477-3273. Select option “5” to Select Benefits to speak to a HRSSC representative.

2009 RATES (Biweekly) for Active Duty Members

High option “self only” \$32.71
High option self & family \$62.84

2009 RATES (Monthly) for Retired Duty Members

Annuitant self only \$122.42
Annuitant self & family \$252.84



MARK RAMIREZ

NALC Branch 782 Health Benefit Representative

**“KEEP OUR HEALTH PLAN STRONG”
JOIN DURING OPEN SEASON!!!**

You're Retired, Clint!!

Looking at Clint Gallaher, it's hard to believe that he is sixty years old! But after twenty-six years of Postal Service both as a Clerk-Carrier and a Letter Carrier he felt it was time to do some other things with his life.

Clint's federal service included a ten-month stretch in Vietnam with the 4th Infantry which began in December 1969. He ended his two year stint in the Army with stateside time at Fort Hunter-Liggitt near King City about thirty miles from Highway 101 in California. After that he worked for numerous companies before he began his postal career.

In August 1982, Clint was hired as a Clerk-Carrier in McFarland by Postmaster Jim Boatman. For those who are more recent hires, a Clerk-Carrier could perform the duties of each Craft. He remembers some of the "old-timers" when he began: Clint Wood, Ralph Moore, Rudy Lanjel, and Lawrence McLaughlin. Over the next ten years, Clint did just about everything there was to do in McFarland.

As a sub Clerk-Carrier, he would often get loaned out to other towns if they needed help. After about ten years in McFarland, he tried to get a transfer to Wasco. It never happened; however, something else did. PM Boatman went to Delano on a detail and noted that Delano needed a good Carrier. He worked out the arrangements for Clint to transfer as a Letter Carrier in 1992.

The Delano Postmaster at that time was Evie Tan. Clint recalls, "She really spoiled us. We had the best potlucks and she really knew how to take care of her employees. And, you know what? We worked really, really hard for her." One thing that he noticed right away was that the mail volume for the ten routes in Delano was a lot heavier than what he had been used to in McFarland. The two and-a-half routes in McFarland were a lot longer, but they didn't get near the mail that he had to get used to in Delano. But, he got used to it pretty quickly.

Some of the folks who helped him adjust were Ernie Gutierrez and Ralph Escalante...although Ralph wasn't around for very long because he retired soon after Clint transferred in. Like many other Retirees, Clint noted that he doesn't miss the work too much, but he misses the people that he worked with. "Delano has a good reputation as a place where there are good hard workers," Clint says proudly.

Marriage to his wife, Shiela, since 1968 has been a joy. Blessed with three daughters and a son (Tammy, Laura, Paula and Brian) has provided them with all of the joys and struggles that any parent could identify with.

Although never bitten by any dogs "officially", there were two Irish Setters and one "Irish Cousin" that came pretty close. He knows that he is very fortunate. He knows of Carriers who have dealt with life-changing dog attacks.

The accumulated sick leave that Clint managed to save during his career augmented the twenty-six years of actual postal time. That, together with his two years of military service, gave him just a shade under thirty years. One of the biggest thrills for him though came shortly after retirement. He got a check in a mail for the amount calculated for the 440 hours of annual leave that he had banked. And, yes...it went into the bank!

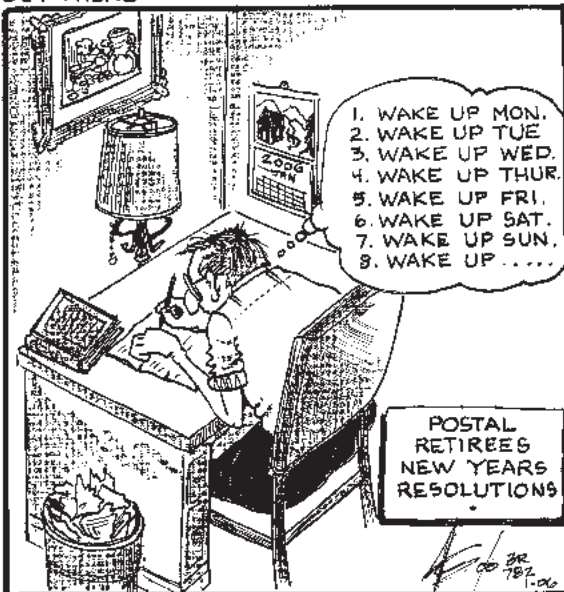
Clint has never liked just doing nothing. A three week "vacation" after retiring from the Postal Service led to a new job. He says that the pay and benefits are not what he used to earn, "But, there sure is a whole lot less stress. The boss makes sure that we know what we have to do and then he just lets us do it."

Being a Retiree allows you to give some advice to new people. Cliff says, "New employees need to join the Union. They also need to make sure that they max out their Thrift Savings Plan. Save your Sick Leave!! You never know when you might need it. Sick Leave is very important. And, if you can...save a little bit of Annual Leave every year. Let it build up little by little. If you do, you are going to be just as thrilled as I was when I got that check. It's your hours. It's your money."



Clint Gallaher looks on as James Oh signs in at a monthly Union meeting.

OUT THERE





October 8, 2008

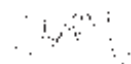
Mr. Clint Gallaher
674 8th
McFarland, CA 93250

Dear Clint,

I received the enclosed letter late last week from one of your customers. I of course want you to have it. I took great pride in you when this customer came into the office to bring the letter and tell me how sad she was to see you go. I hope that it will bring a smile to your face and fill your heart with pride to know that your many years of carrying mail and being a faithful public servant did not go unnoticed. When Ms. Duarte refers to your friendly, courteous and efficient service it made me very happy to know that your customers had those feelings for you, and rightfully so.

I hope that your first month of retirement has been enjoyable.

Best Wishes,


Lynda La Force
OIC/Postmaster
Delano, CA 93215-9998



***You'll have
a lot more
time to
play that
guitar,
Clint?***

September 3, 2008

Att: Paul, Supervisor U.S. Post Office Delano, C'a. 93216

Dear Paul

September 3rd is designated as "Good Neighbor Day" and I would be remiss not to pay tribute to my favorite number one mailman Clint Gallagher. He has been my mail person for many years and I appreciate him so much. I feel that I can speak for our entire neighborhood in paying him the highest compliment for his faithful long time service,

During all the years he has been delivering on the 13th/14th hundred block of 7th Avenue I have never seen him without a pleasant smile on his face and always a cheerful "hello". Come rain, fog, sleet, snow, (freaky 1999 snow storm) or 110 degree weather he is always friendly, courteous and efficient. He is a jewel that we hope will continue on our route until his retirement. Please convey our appreciation to him and "watch his face turn red". He is so modest when complimented.

Today, September 18th, I learned that Clint has retired. I am so disappointed that I did not get to thank him again for the many years of faithful service. He was the best of the "best". I will miss his cheerful friendly personality, the pleasant smile on his face and the excellent service he has always given on our block.

He will be missed.....

Sincerely,

Alice Luque Duarte
1305 7th Avenue
Delano, Ca. 93215-3012
661 725-0195
301-3772

California State Association of Letter Carriers

2009 CARL J. SAXSENMEIER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The California State Association of Letter Carriers (CSALC) is now accepting applications for the 2009 Carl J. Saxsenmeier Scholarship Program. All applications must be sent to the Scholarship Chair by January 10, 2009. The Chair will then send scholarship packets to all applicants by the end of January 2009. All requested items must be returned in one packet and completed packets with no missing items must be returned to the Chair by April 4, 2009. The scholarships are available to the dependent children or grandchildren of members of NALC Branches within the State of California who have not served in a supervisory capacity in the previous two (2) years from the date of 2009 award announcement. Applicant's parent / grandparent must be a member in good standing of the NALC for at least one year prior to making application. Applicant must be a high school senior when making application. Saxsenmeier Scholarship awards are issued in the year of graduation and are not renewable.

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

Walter Johnson – Saxsenmeier Scholarship Chair
913 E Willow Cr - Hanford, CA 93230
559-582-0814

Saxsenmeier Scholarship Application (Please Print)

Student's Name _____

NALC Member's Name _____

Home Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Home Telephone _____

Cell / Fax _____

Email Address _____

Applicant's Signature _____

NALC Member Signature _____ Relationship to Applicant _____

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

NALC Branch Officer Signature _____ Title _____

Branch Officer Printed Name _____

Branch Number _____ Branch City _____ Date _____

General Meeting Pot Luck**

POT LUCK or GUESS WHAT?

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

*December 16, 2008
After the
General
Meeting...*

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

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

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

"Yes, I wrote this"

MARK RAMIREZ
Branch 782 HBP Representative (retired)

**Basil, we need to post a reminder in the November newsletter about the sign up for those wishing to bring a dish. A sign up list will be available at the November General Meeting.

Mark

OUT THERE



**REYES
CASTRUITA** **RC'S RETIREMENT**

24 Years of Service
Brundage Station

Party

SATURDAY

NOW/22/2008

Benji's
French Basque Restaurant

4001 Rosedale Hwy

\$25.00 per person **7:30 PM**

Contact Emma Gonzalez @ 333-7547 RSVP. Deadline is Nov 16th

FASTEN YOUR SEATBELTS!

We're entering uncharted territory. The Postal Service has never experienced the sustained loss of mail volume we're going through right now. The Postal Service has never before spread such rumors about layoffs in conjunction with an early-out offer. Management is threatening to go to all-street routes even before the arrival of automated flats, and the NALC will challenge that concept. We've never before had routes being withheld for expected excessing under Article 12 in the numbers and distances we're seeing now. And, right after the first of the year, route inspections will start in Buffalo.

As this is being written, the potential good news is that we are going to have a letter carrier friendly President and Congress. However, even that is tempered by the fact that the new President is being handed a real mess to clean up. And if the results on November 4th are not what we're desperately hoping for, we'll have a steeper mountain to climb. We need the Employee Free Choice Act signed into law so more workers have the opportunity to form unions. Unions are the last defense for middle class workers; we are all that stands in the way of drastic wage and benefit cuts.

Article 12 is a National Agreement provision that can be very confusing and complex. In general, it allows management to withhold residual vacancies for regular, career employees from other installations who have become excess to the needs of their Post Office.

Management has declared Article 12 withholding in several instances, including a 500-mile radius from Boston, Mass for 313 clerks and 1,787 Grade 1 and Grade 2 letter carriers and a 250-mile radius from Cleveland, Ohio for 121 clerk positions. Their rationale is primarily due to the implementation of automated flats, the Flat Sequencing System, in 2009.

In Branch 3 we are already experiencing possible Article 12 ramifications in Niagara Falls, Lancaster/Depew, Hamburg and Lockport, due to a combination of low mail volume and route inspections. This theory of too many employees for the available workload has spread throughout the country and has led to rumors of possible layoffs.

Our national president Bill Young was quoted in the October 13th issue of the Federal Times, "There are not going to be any layoffs in the Postal Service. I'm not concerned about that, and I don't want my members to get concerned about that."

So even setting aside the layoff issue, this is going to be a time of great uncertainty and anxiety for all of us, especially PTFs, TEs and junior regulars. We will monitor and enforce all provisions of Article 12 to protect our membership as much as possible and to minimize any adverse impact on our individual members.

It's no coincidence that the Branch 3 offices threatened by Article 12 are those who were given the full route inspection treatment; including the improper use of management's COR route adjustment program. However, management is back again, looking for more reductions.

Along with Vice-President Larry Kania, I met with the Buffalo Postmaster to explore the options of reaching another agreement, and, as expected, we're not even close. We attempted to develop a route adjustment process that would mandate a joint agreement on the value of the street time for each route and perform a mail count to establish office times. However, management isn't willing to let that kind of process play out without using either the COR program or knowing beforehand that they would get the results they're looking for. They are determined to eliminate at least 35 routes in Buffalo, and as far as we're concerned, the routes are already too tight on the street to even consider either option.

Our first COR grievance, from Southside Station in Buffalo, is scheduled for arbitra-

tion on October 29th. We will share that result and the expected inspection schedule for 2009 with the membership as soon as possible.

We will start conducting route inspection classes for affected stations before the end of the year and we are upgrading our grievance/arbitration abilities to prepare for this unprecedented assault on letter carrier jobs. In the next few weeks, I will be appointing a ten member Branch 3 Inspection Team to represent the members in the stations during the inspections and, most importantly, during the post-inspection period when grievances will be initiated to challenge management's adjustments.

We'll be going through some tough times for a while, due to internal Postal Service issues like FSS and Article 12, along with problems caused by the economy collapsing around us.

Don't let it become worse than it really is by letting rumors get the best of you. We're amazed by some of the stories we hear in the Union office; it appears in some cases, people just make it up as they go along, kind of like some supervisors in the grievance procedure.

Call the Branch office to get the facts; we'll tell you what we know. Unless we're in the middle of sensitive negotiations, or it's an issue that's personal and confidential to an individual member, we're not in the business of keeping secrets from the membership. We'll get through this, the United States Postal Service is still an essential part of the fabric our country and the National Association of Letter Carriers will make sure to keep that way. At the deadline of this issue going to press, we received information that National has reached agreement on an Interim Alternate Route Adjustment Process. A copy of the agreement has been sent to the Stewards. See the *Postal Record* for more information.

Abridged article courtesy of the November 2008 Buffalo, NY *Branch 3 Buzz*

Good-bye, Emmett!!

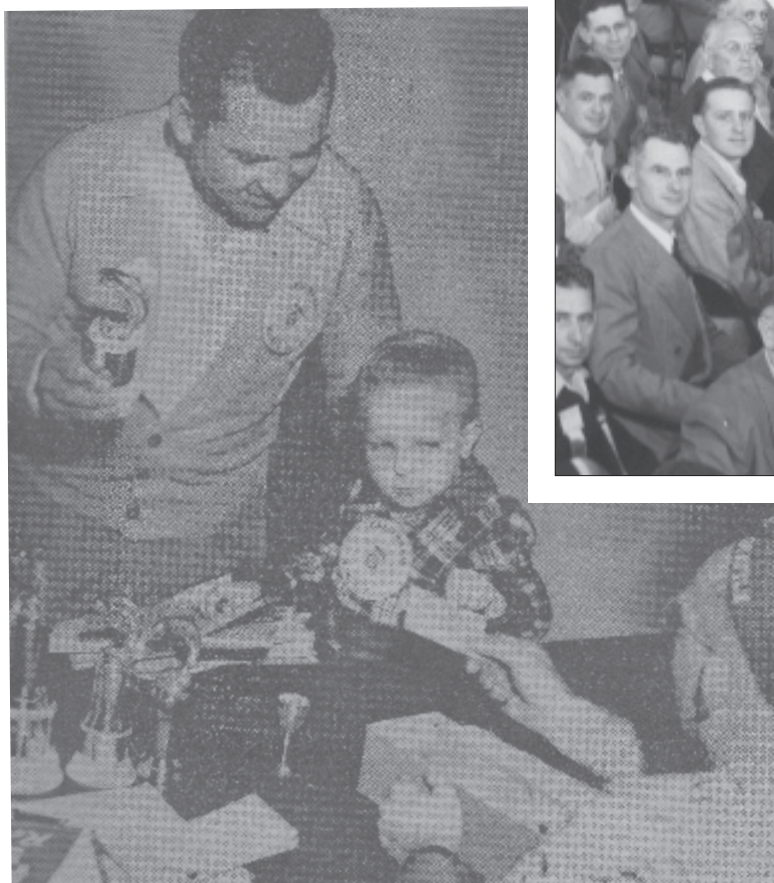
When Emmett Dosier retired on June 30, 1972 with thirty-four years of federal service, he probably would have been unable to predict that his career as a Retiree would stretch over thirty-six years!

If you do the math, you will calculate that the year that Emmett began his postal career was 1938...

Emmett was one of eight children (he had four brothers and two sisters). His family settled in Taft after travelling from the East during that time in the 1920's when times were extremely rough. He learned to do many things when he was young and always seemed to be busy swinging a hammer or doing all of the other work that had to be done.

Before he began with the Post Office, Emmett had worked in grocery stores (the A&P and Safeway in Taft).

His wife doesn't know what those first few years were like when Emmett was a sub. He was the Carrier who came in to have lunch April 1, 1941 at Hughes Drug Store when she worked there. She jokes that she doesn't know if the April Fools joke was on him or on her!



WHAT'S UP, POP?—Emmett Dosier, delegate from Bakersfield, Calif., to National Association of Letter Carriers convention opening here this Monday (editor note: 1950), examines one of trophies to be awarded in convention's salmon derby, while his son Richard, 4, is "registered" by Frank Greene. —*Seattle Post Intelligencer* photos



April 29, 1950 — 23rd Biennial Convention of the California State Association of Letter Carriers. Emmett is seated in the front row in the dark suit almost directly in front of the podium. To his left is another former Branch 782 member Dick Powell.

On October 11, 1941 he and Virginia were married—a marriage which lasted more than sixty-seven years!

A daughter, Judith, was born on August 1942. If you know your history, you know that this was just a few short months before a "day that will live in infamy"—December 7, 1941. That Day would change their lives.

Like many other young men of that time, Emmett did his patriotic duty. He enlisted and served in the Army Air Corps. His term of service took him away from Bakersfield. And his young family was able to go, too.

Despite all of the humor about the Army taking skilled cooks and making them clerks, because of his background with the Post Office, Emmett was assigned to the military postal service.

Following the end of WWII, Emmett picked up his post office career where he had left off and returned to carrying mail. He also availed himself of a new benefit and received the first VA loan made in Bakersfield. That \$24,000 loan enabled him to purchase a home at 815 31st street which was finished on 1946. (Actually it wasn't really finished. Emmett personally swung that hammer again and added on three rooms, two bathrooms, a carport, and numerous other improvements.)

1946 was eventful for Emmett and Virginia in another way. A son, Richard, was born on October 7, 1946. This was just a few days before the fifth anniversary of their marriage was celebrated.

Through the years, the Dosier family attended many of the Letter Carrier picnics in Bakersfield. Emmett and Virginia even remember the time that NALC President William Dougherty came and joined in the fun. They were both impressed by how nice a man he was.

Emmett became an even more active Letter Carrier when he became more involved in the NALC. He and Herschel Street, James Carter, Dick Powell and many others worked through and survived some of the turbulent time of the 1940's and 1950's.

As recorded in the history of the NALC and reprinted from the NALC website: "On October 19, 1949, the NALC finally achieved one of its longstanding objectives — equalization of wages for all Letter Carriers. This meant city delivery Carriers began receiving the same wages regardless of the size of the community in which they worked.

A year later, Letter Carriers were dealt a setback, however, when Postmaster General Jesse Donaldson (a former Carrier himself) reduced residential deliveries to once a day. This ended the traditional twice-a-day deliveries that gave customers better service and Letter Carriers a break in their on-the-street workday.

Tough times for Letter Carriers continued under President Dwight D. Eisenhower (elected in November, 1952) who, despite his general popularity, proved no friend of Letter Carriers as he repeatedly vetoed pay raises and allowed the Post Office Department to operate under a 'daddy knows best' attitude during his administration."

During Emmett's term as Branch 782 President from 1950 to 1952, the world was much different than it is today. Letter Carriers faced "demerits" if they showed up at work with unshined shoes or wrinkled shirts. Emmett's wife, Virginia, recalls those many nights of washing those woolen pants and soaking them in starch before putting them on a stretcher—all to achieve that tight, knife-edge crease.

In conjunction with his duties as Branch 782 President, Emmett was a delegate to the both the California State Association of Letter Carriers convention and the National convention of the NALC in 1950. (Two of the pictures that he kept from that time were provided for this testimonial by his survivors.)

He ended his City Carrier duties with a route close to Mercy Hospital. He then became a Rural Carrier. Subsequent to that he worked at the Vehicle Maintenance Facility and ended his postal career as an accident investigator.

Following his retirement in 1972, Emmett went on to partner in business with former Letter Carrier James Carter in a Civil Service insurance company for federal and postal employees. It was a successful venture which was eventually sold at a profit.

Ever active, almost up to the last few days of his life, Emmett's quiver was full and he lived the reality of 2 Timothy 4: 7-8.



When this family picture was taken on May 14, 1944 — Emmett, Virginia and Judy—Emmett was serving his country in the Army Air Corps.

**Emmett
Nathan Dosier**
1914 - 2008

Graveside Services for
Emmett Dosier
will be held on
Friday,
November 7,
10:00 a.m. at
Greenlawn
Southwest
Memorial Park,
2739 Panama
Ln. A Memorial
Service will follow at 11:30
a.m. at First Assembly of God
Church, California Ave.

Emmett Dosier was 94 years
old when he passed away on
November 2, 2008. He was
born in Patterson, Arkansas on
September 21, 1914. He
moved to California in 1929.
He lived in Bakersfield for over
67 years. There he married
Virginia in 1941 and served in
the U.S. Army during WWII.
Emmett was employed by the
U.S. Postal Service for over 25
years. After that he owned his
own insurance company,
C.S.E. He was a devoted
member of Bakersfield First
Assembly for 60 years.

Emmett is survived by his
wife, Virginia; daughter and
son-in-law, Judy and Ray York;
son and daughter-in-law,
Richard and Mary Doster; and
sister, Jessie McLaughlin. He
was a loving grandfather to
Steve and Lisa Castle, Mike
and Heather Castle, Sean Dosier
and Michael and Sheri Penyes.
He was a beloved great-
grandfather to Travis, Taylor,
Brandon, Alexandra, Madison,
Alec and Cerecia; and uncle to
many aunts and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, donations
can be made to Bakersfield
First Assembly towards
Foreign Missions & Ministries.
Visitation is scheduled for
Thursday, November 6, from
4-8 p.m. at Greenlawn
Southwest Mortuary.

Greenlawn Southwest
FUNERAL HOME

Whacked

-Don Nokes
Seattle, WA Branch 79

How can you prevent yourself from getting hammered when management is handing out discipline like ice-cream in Hades? Is there any way you can prevent a surly, determined supervisor from lowering the boom? Believe it or not, the best way to avoid getting whacked is to file a grievance. Don't run. Don't argue. Don't protest—just file, file, file. It helps to take notes, too. Keep a pad and a pen handy, and soon as they start popping off, start jotting down.

Most supervisors don't have a leg to stand on when it comes to doing real work. One supervisor at West Seattle Station, when I asked him how he'd gotten into management, told me that he'd been a Letter Carrier, but when he cut half his foot off at home mowing his lawn, they had made him a supervisor. "Cut your foot off?" "Just half?" (Well, I guess that would qualify you for the position.)

OUT THERE



Another supervisor I had, not much to say about him, rumor has it he's still in prison. Another one attended A.A. meetings on a semi-regular basis, which is a good thing. But he had so many other "issues" that he certainly shouldn't have been supervising anything other than himself. He'd scream at me on the workroom floor, and then call me into the office to apologize. "I'm sorry I yelled at you, Don. It's not your fault. I've got some other problems that are bothering me." (Ahhhh! What

do you say to something like that? "Oh, that's okay, little guy. Here, let me fix you a sugar teat, and you can lay your head on my shoulder and I'll pat your back until you feel better. It's probably just gas.") That's what I call getting whacked. Insulted in public and apologized to in private. But, you know what, I didn't know any better then. I do now - file, file, file.

If you're a Letter Carrier, and you're strapping on a pouch every day, and climbing Main in the darktime and the daytime. the bitter cold, the blazing sun and the freezing rain, then please, don't ever listen when a supervisor tells you that you're not working hard enough. I'm not saying you need to argue, or refuse to work, or walk off the workroom floor. You've got two ears. Use one as an entry port and the other as an egress. And if you can find some other Carriers with some bona fide spine, then you can file a grievance for violation of Mutual Respect memorandums, but don't just stand there and let yourself get whacked. Whack back! File, file, file!! There's plenty of "deadwood" in the post office and it's floating around the workroom floor, attached to clipboards, and soaking up a salary...they're called supervisors.

We've got the numbers. We can do the math. It's time to send the playground bullies packing, but to do so, you must file, file, file.

What's the point to file, file, file? Well, yes, as a matter of prevention, to prevent yourself from becoming road kill on the workroom floor. But more to the point, to empower the employee, to rid ourselves of needless dead weight supervisory personnel and take charge of the workspace we occupy on a daily basis.

It takes a little and a lot to empower the employee. A little, or better said, a minimum of contractual knowledge—and a lot of chutzpah. It's difficult to see a toe-to-toe tet a' tet with a supervisor as an enlightening opportunity, but it is. It's a chance for both employees to grow. It's an empowering experience, or it certainly can be.

Every obstacle we overcome is an opportunity for us to grow. Sure, you may be seen as a troublemaker, especially by your supervisor. They're not taught how to manage the mail, they're taught how to harass, demean and belittle—but not to manage, and so you will "make trouble" each time you require them to manage. But if you view this obstacle as an opportunity, for them to learn and you to learn as well, then growth is in store for both. Once you learn the simple contractual rules that govern the Carrier commitment process you've not only enlightened yourself, but you've opened the door for others to walk through, as well.

If you'd care to blog on about empowering the employee and other quibbles and bits, you can catch up and converse with me on the Internet at: <http://a-wags-tale.blogspot.com/>

This article courtesy of the October 2008
The Seventy-Niner published by Seattle, WA NALC Branch 79.

Does a PTF Need to Know Anything???

On November 11, 2008 a number of local Branch 782 Part Time Flexible Letter Carriers attended a meeting to review some of their rights and benefits as PTFs.

Branch 782 President Mike Towery and Vice-President Darryl Holderman conducted a wide-ranging discussion about many things which all PTFs need to know.

The formal agenda included these following topics: Full-Time Flexible Memorandum; Opting; Gurantees; Call-In or Stand By; Fact Finding or "Day in Court" (Weingarten Rights); FMLA; On-the-Job Injuries and Choice of Physician; Local Memorandum of Understanding; Bereavement Leave; Thrift Savings Plan; Health Benefits; FERS: Minimum Retirement Age; Pay Raises; Step Increases; Sick Leave and documentation; COLCPE (Committe on Letter Carrier Political Education; Contracting Out; FERS Sick Leave Reimbursement; and, Universal Service.

Branch Vice-President Darryl Holderman wanted to underscore the following issues which came out of that meeting: PTFs are guaranteed 40 hours a week when on an opt. Management cannot take you off of your opt. You are entitled to 8 hours on your opt.

As a PTF (or Regular) you should be enrolled in the Thrift Savings Plan! You should be contributing at least 5% so the U.S.P.S. matches that amount. You may not realize how important this is now...but you will if you don't donate *at least* this amount!

If you are injured on the job, the first thing you should do is notify your supervisor. DO NOT wait till the end of the day or when you wake up the next morning when you are hurting.



If you are injured on the job, you have the right to go to your own doctor. A "company doctor" will look out for the interests of the company. *Your* doctor will look out for *your* interests...

You are entitled to Family Medical Leave as long as you have worked 1250 hrs. Management cannot discipline you if your sick time is under FMLA.

You can take up to three days of Bereavement Leave and use sick leave, annual or LWOP.

When it's all said and done, there is a very simple concept at work here: ***IF YOU DON'T KNOW YOUR RIGHTS, YOU HAVE NONE...*** Become a professional Letter Carrier by knowing and protecting those Rights. You may think, "That's the Union's job." Guess what? YOU are the Union...



**SATURDAY
FEBRUARY
14 2009**

POST OFFICE HOLIDAY DINNER

Presented by Social
and Rec. Committee

MARRIOTT

(801 Truxtun Avenue)

**6-7 pm Social
7-9 pm Dinner
9-? Dance**

For Information & Tickets
Stella De Avila 392-6301
Emma Gonzalez 392-6197
Kathy Chavez TOUR 2

**\$1500 In Prizes
Raffles**

**Professional Photography
Live Band**

Semi-Formal Attire

Adults Only

No-Host Bar



Customer Connect

Customer Connect (CC) is not a flavor of the month program. This past year through leads submitted by Carriers—just like you—the Postal Service was able to bring in \$298 Million dollars in annual revenue. This program works because of your efforts. Many of our Brother and Sisters have submitted leads and captured much needed revenue by doing nothing more than talking to their customers and then having the Business Development Team (BDT) follow up. Through the collective efforts of mail Carriers across the nation CC has brought in \$533 million dollars since it's inception. That was just 4 years ago

Our Customers really like the everyday service you provide. Just by scanning your parcels (DELCONS) making sure Express mail deadlines are met and your good attitude meets all the customers needs.

The program is designed to have all of the Carriers work it at their pace. Only

1 or 2 leads a month, that's all we are asking. It doesn't have to be a business that is already established. We are finding out there are a lot of Mom and Pop 'E-Bay' businesses that use the competition. When they find out about our on-line discounts and free Carrier pick-up, they become even more pleased with the Postal Service.

This in just the 5th week of the Fiscal Year and the the Sierra Coastal District is already going to break 1 million dollars!!! In the Pacific Area we are going break \$4 Million.

Make an investment in your future and submit a lead. It's easy. If you see one of your patrons using competitors, you have your opening. "I see you're using (insert company name here) FedEx, UPS, DHL. We deliver 6 days a week and we have no surcharges. Would you be interested in talking to someone? We might be able to save you time and money".

If they are interested have them fill out the CC card, drop it in the CC box and your

NALC or Management coordinator will submit the lead and the Area Representative will do the rest.

By the way, I am your Area Representative. My name is John Sanchez. My commitment is to you — the Carrier. If you don't believe in this program and don't submit leads it doesn't work. Help me help you and together we can make our future more secure. Submit a lead this month!

Thank you for your consideration

JOHN SANCHEZ**
Small Business Specialist
Sierra Coastal District

**John Sanchez has 32 years with the USPS—The last 28 years as a Letter Carrier. NBA Dale Hart appointed John as NALC coordinator for Customer Connect in the Sierra Coastal District from February 2005 until August 2005, when the detail ended.

He became Canoga Park NALC Branch 4006 VP in February 1996 and later became President and held that position until April of 2008. He is still a proud member of Branch 4006. A very active Branch in the San Ferenando Valley.

FedEx vs. UPS vs. the Postal Service

How many times have you might find a customer near exasperated? To track on the ground mail, we refer to send 46 packages from Mail.com.com to various Bay Area locations to find out how the three major carriers perform. Each carrier sent 15 packages, with each shipper containing a paperback book (The Consumer Reports Buying Guide).

Our destinations were as far as New York City and as far as Lake County, Calif. We tracked the books: the bag, box, or envelope, based on the shipper's instructions, dropped at the packages included with the books and other, and used regular rate by the way they started (weight, etc.) FedEx Express Mail for

The Postal Service, and Next Day Air Letter for UPS.

Only package we checked its destination, the next day, but prior to the shipper placed it by air mail as shipment. The Postal Service was the least expensive by far.

For local and King's service delivery for from 15 miles or more, but as the price is going to be sending the books, it charges a flat rate of \$18.99 (flat rate for ground delivery and local) and monthly spent on ground delivery and local and distance (around 1,200 miles) and \$29.25 to send our book test by air to Oregon and \$29.25 to Manhattan. The California \$49.97 and \$37.99, respectively.

When we checked prices to send a 5-pound package from New York to California regular rate, day, two day and slower ground. The Postal Service was again. The first two categories are a close or tied in the ground category. And unlike the other carriers, the Postal Service does not add a fuel

surcharge, which is adjusted monthly by the other carriers. In September it was about 10 percent for domestic ground shipments and 22 percent for air shipments. The book service is a good example of a service that is being pushed online.

And how the Postal Service, an independent part of the U.S. government's budget, is the only carrier with the legal jurisdiction to force carriers to have an independent financial and other carriers even if they are not in the air, but the delivery network that already exists.

If you are a letter carrier, you will have more than next-day FedEx and UPS have the edge. But if you are a sender, you will have the edge. The Postal Service is the only carrier that is not a business, depending on destination and shipping time.

Bottom line: All things delivered next day mail is promised, but the good old U.S. Postal Service is often the best by far.



Shippers, 3 time frames

Charges to send a 5-pound package from Yonkers, N.Y. to Falmouth, Calif., as of late September:

Shipper	Next-day air	2-day air	Ground
Postal Service	\$34.85	\$26.00	\$ 4.55
FedEx	73.50	42.00	10.00
UPS	73.50	42.00	11.50

from the editor-guy

I have some questions for you.

Who were some of the “old-timers” when you started out? Each one of us will obviously have a different set of memories.



Who were some of the folks who had about thirty years of postal service when *you* first walked onto that workroom floor wherever you started out? Could you even begin to appreciate what those “old-timers” had gone through before you started this job???

The reason that I ask this is because I recently came across an old Bakersfield seniority list.

The senior Carrier was Frank Tesch. His seniority date was August 1, 1949. I was hired in October 1979. I got to thinking about that. I remember working with Frank. Hmmm. Hmmm, again...



(First off though, let me tell you that I am not an “old-timer”. Might have something to do with the fact that my eighth child, Genevieve, is only nine years old. I have quite a long time to go until I can even begin to think about retiring... You’ll have to take a “contract” out on me to get my route! God’s sense of humor?)

When Frank Tesch first started out, there might have been “old-timer” Letter Carriers on the floor who started carrying mail in 1919... If you look at this picture of those “old time” Carriers, you see that *they* had volume to deal with!

When younger Carriers keep hearing about how we don’t have “any volume” anymore, I wanted to share a picture which was taken in the 1990’s of the mail *just* for Cliff Fehdrau’s route. And, in case you don’t recognize Cliff’s name, he was an “old-timer” for someone you may be working with today...

BASIL ZUNIGA



POSTAL NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Nov. 12 , 2008

Contact: Gerald J. McKiernan
(O) 202-268-2599

gerald.j.mckiernan@usps.gov
usps.com/news

**Statement of Gerald J. McKiernan
Manager, Media Relations, USPS**

40,000 Layoffs at the Postal Service – NOT TRUE

A news story currently in wide circulation is reporting that the Postal Service will soon layoff 40,000 employees. This story is not accurate. Originating out of Shreveport, LA, the story does quote a Postal Service spokesperson. Unfortunately, that spokesperson was in error. The Postal Service is not laying off employees. Efforts to match our workforce to a reduced workload are focused on voluntary early retirements. Voluntary early retirement has been offered to a number of employees and to date, 3,685 employees have accepted the offer.



Branch Officers

E.A. BAKER UNION UPDATE is published monthly by Merged Branch 782 of the National Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO.

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the writer and are not necessarily those of the publication staff or of the Officers of the Branch.

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The Official
Notice
of Election
of
Officers of
NALC Branch 782
is posted on
Page 5

OUT THERE



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Memorium*

**Emmett
Nathan Dozier**

1914 — 2008

See story on pages 16 - 17

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Details on pages 10 and 11...