

# National Association of Letter Carriers

## Branch 782

### E.A. Baker Union Update



ARVIN  
DELANO  
MOJAVE

AVENAL  
EDWARDS AFB  
RIDGECREST

BAKERSFIELD  
LAMONT  
SHAFTER

BORON  
McFARLAND  
TAFT

TEHACHAPI

TRONA

WASCO



CHARTERED FEBRUARY 25, 1901

VOLUME LXXIX NUMBER 4

MAY 2007

at the



# Mike:

*The arbitrator panel for the national contract arbitration has finally been chosen with meetings set up for September and October. It is estimated that a decision will be rendered by the arbitration panel sometime in November 2007— an entire year after the contract expired in November 2006.*

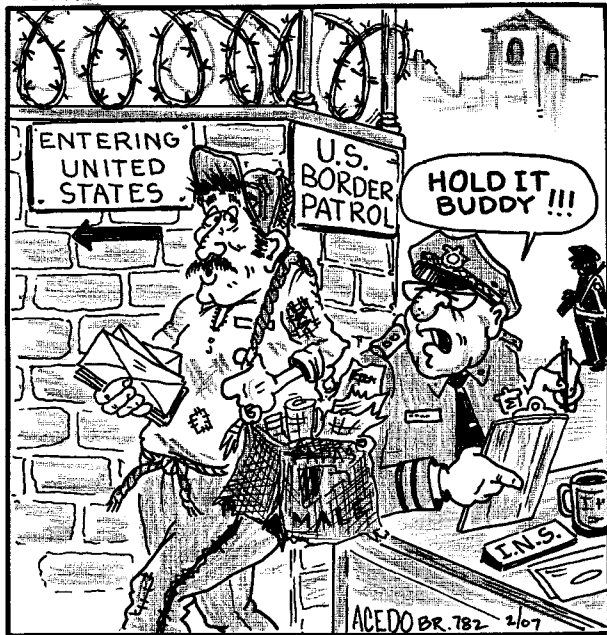
The Postal Service has decided not to wait for either the outcome of the contract arbitration nor the national grievance concerning contracting out.

They appear to be going all out to expand the use of the contract routes, now called Contract Delivery Service. In April, letters were sent out by the Sierra Coastal District Operations Support to retirees explaining contract delivery service and how retirees would be able to obtain a bid package to submit their offer. The letter stated that they “are creating a list of potential bidders for these routes (Contract Delivery Service) in areas to include the following counties: Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Kern and Tulare/Kings.”

*Continued on next page...*

The only requirement stated in the letter was that the “contractors must be at least 21 years of age and possess a valid driver’s license” and “requires that you have a vehicle no more than 5 years old to deliver the route”.

OUTRÉ



One sentence of particular interest in the letter stated “The Postal Service presents this exciting opportunity to join one of the nation’s trusted organizations committed to providing timely, consistent and accurate mail service.” It seems ludicrous that they state how trusted the Postal Service is but at the same time they want, as stated in the NALC fact Sheet on contracting out, “to risk the trust and good will of the nation’s mailers and the American people by using no-benefit, high-turnover contractors?”

Some Carriers seem to think that contracting out would not affect them because they already have a route. If the Postal Service is allowed to contract out new deliveries, it is speculated that they might follow with contracting out routes as they become vacant. If this were to happen, it would slowly decimate the Carrier craft with fewer and fewer routes available for City Carriers. Carriers would no longer be able to bid to another route and would be stuck on the same route.

I am confident that the national officers of the Union will do everything possible to stop the contracting out of mail delivery. I am also confident that *we* can do something. Some Carriers have asked what they can do to help.

First, *we* can donate to the COLCPE fund. The national union is currently lobbying congress to prevent contracting out mail delivery. But, regrettably—just like everything else—it costs money. And just as importantly, *we* need to write our congressman and senators and express *our* opposition to contracting out mail delivery.



I recently wrote Congressman Kevin McCarthy concerning contracting out mail services and asked his support of H.Res 282. His response was very disappointing and he quoted the USPS position that contracting out has been authorized by numerous laws. It doesn’t appear that he will be supporting any limits on contracting out. I urge every Carrier to write and express your concerns. The future of the Postal Service and future Letter Carrier jobs may depend upon it.

Until all these issues are decided either through arbitrations or through legislation, Carriers must continue to do their jobs professionally and continue to provide quality mail service to the public.

MIKE TOWERY

KEVIN McCARTHY  
22ND DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

1523 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE  
BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2915

4100 EMPIRE DRIVE, SUITE 150  
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309  
(661) 327-3611

5805 CAPISTRANO AVENUE, SUITE C  
ATASCADERO, CA 93422  
NORTH COUNTY: (805) 461-1034  
SOUTH COUNTY: (805) 549-0390



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0522**  
May 9, 2007

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HORTICULTURE AND  
ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL FARM  
COMMODITIES AND RISK MANAGEMENT

COMMITTEE ON  
HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

RANKING MEMBER  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS,  
CYBERSECURITY, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
SECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
PROTECTION

ASSISTANT REPUBLICAN WHIP

Mr. Basil R. Zuniga  
2412 Hasti Acres Drive  
Bakersfield, CA 93309-4734

Dear Basil:

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the United States Postal Service (USPS) practice of contracting out mail carrier services and your support for H.Res. 282.

I believe it is important to ensure that the United States has a reliable and affordable postal system. The USPS is an independent agency that is governed by the USPS Board of Governors, which has the authority to review and set practices and policies for all aspects relating to postal matters, including contracting out carrier services. According to USPS, contracting out services has been a long-standing tradition for postal operations, and has been authorized by numerous laws throughout history. However, I understand the concerns you expressed in your correspondence about ensuring reliability of mail delivery by contractors and the value-added service of U.S. Postal Service employees. According to the USPS, all carrier contractors are: (1) screened for criminal history and fingerprinted, (2) trained to ensure quality service, and (3) subject to the identical criminal penalties that postal employees are who mishandle the mail.

H.Res. 282, which would express the sense of the House that the USPS should discontinue the practice of contracting out mail delivery services, was introduced on January 5, 2007. H.Res. 282 has been referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform for review. As your Representative in Washington, be assured that I have noted your comments and will keep them in mind as I work with my colleagues in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress to ensure that we have a world-class postal service.

Thanks again for contacting me on issues of importance to you.

Sincerely,

KEVIN McCARTHY  
Member of Congress

KOM/kr1

# UP ON THE HILL

LAST MONTH I HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO GO TO WASHINGTON D.C. WITH DIANA AND BASIL, TO LOBBY CONGRESS TO STOP CONTRACTING OUT ROUTES. I GOT TO SEE HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO HAVE CONGRESS SUPPORT THE ISSUES THAT EFFECT OUR JOBS AND FUTURES, AND NOT JUST LETTER CARRIERS. CLERKS, RURAL, MAILHANDLERS, AND EVEN SUPERVISORS ARE AT RISK. THERE WERE LETTER CARRIERS THERE FROM 18 STATES, AND QUITE A FEW CONGRESS PEOPLE GOT BEHIND US.

THE POST OFFICE IS ALREADY CONTRACTING OUT CITY ROUTES IN MANY STATES INCLUDING CALIFORNIA. THEY HAVE GOT TO BE STOPPED!! THEY ARE NOW GOING AFTER ALL NEW TERRITORY. IF WE GIVE THEM AN INCH THEY WILL TAKE A MILE. WHO'S TO SAY IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE THEY COME AFTER YOUR ROUTE OR ONE THAT YOU MIGHT WANT IN THE FUTURE.

I URGE YOU TO HELP PROTECT YOUR JOB!

FIRST: **GET INVOLVED.** YOUR UNION NEEDS EACH AND EVERYONE OF US. THERE IS STRENGTH IN NUMBERS.

SECOND: IF YOU'RE NOT AN E-ACTIVIST, GOT TO THE NALC WEB SITE AND **SIGN UP** IT IS EASY.

THIRD: WRITE, CALL, E-MAIL YOU REPRESENTATIVES. **LET THEM KNOW WHERE YOU STAND.** INFORMATION AT THE BOTTOM.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST. **CONTRIBUTE TO COLCPE!** (COMMITTEE ON LETTER CARRIER POLITICAL EDUCATION) COLCPE IS RAISING CLEAN MONEY TO PROTECT OUR JOBS AND SERVE THE INTERESTS OF WORKING FAMILIES. YOUR PRESIDENT IS ONLY ASKING FOR \$5 PER PAY PERIOD, EITHER BY ALOTTMENT OR ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFER FROM YOUR CHECKING ACCOUNT. THINK OF IT AS JOB INSURANCE! YOU INSURE YOUR HOUSE, YOUR CAR, YOUR HEALTH WHY NOT YOU JOB. THERE IS ALSO A CONTEST.. IF YOU DO THIS, YOU WILL BE ENTERED IN A RAFFLE TO WIN 2 ROUND-TRIP AIRLINE TICKETS TO ANY CITY IN THE U.S. OF YOUR CHOICE. THAT CONTEST RUNS UNTIL JUNE 30, 2007. THE SECOND CONTEST RUNS FROM JULY 1, 2007 - NOVEMBER 30, 2007. THAT PRIZE WILL BE A TRIP FOR TWO TO THE 2008 SUPERBOWL (INCLUDING AIRFARE ,TICKETS, PER DIEM). I CAN HELP YOU WITH ANY OF THESE. YOU CAN CALL ME @ 661-979-5854.



With these smiles, you would have thought that Basil Zuniga and Diane Chavez weren't worried about frostbite...



Pam Smith, Diana Chavez, and Basil Zuniga and the cold winds in Washington, DC prepare to join in the information picketing at USPS Headquarters.

-THE BEST WAY TO E-MAIL CONGRESSMAN KEVIN McCARTHY IS: KYLE.LOMBARDI@MAIL.HOUSE.GOV

GETTING OFF MY SOAPBOX NOW, I WOULD JUST LIKE TO SAY TO CONNIE CRIMMINS, JANICE MONTIJO, AND DAN FELIX THAT WE HOPE YOU GET WELL SOON; AND, WELCOME RICHELLE OUR NEW PTF, AND ROSIE OUR NEW CASUAL.

PAM SMITH  
93306



# Contests for 2007!

## Contest 1

February 1–June 30, 2007

## Contest 2

July 1–November 30, 2007

### National Contest

NALC 66th Biennial National Convention  
Boston, MA  
August, 2008

NALC will have an exciting COLCPE raffle at the National Convention in Boston. All "Gimme 5" contributors will be eligible for the raffle as well as any convention delegate who signs up for "Gimme 5" at the convention. Details for this contest will be announced at a later date.

NALC launched the first of two five-month COLCPE contests on February 1. The winner of the first contest will receive **two round-trip airline tickets to the city of their choice within the United States** (trip to be taken within 18 months of winning the raffle). To be eligible for the raffle you must fulfill one of the following:

- 1 If you are already a "Gimme 5" automatic contributor (\$5 a pay period by PostalEase, \$10 a month by EFT, or \$5 a month for retirees through OPM Annuity Deduction) and you get two new NALC members to sign up for "Gimme 5" automatic deduction, you will be entered into the raffle. For each additional two new contributors you recruit, your name will be entered again.
- 2 If you are a new "Gimme 5" contributor, your name will be entered into the raffle. Once you have signed up for "Gimme 5" payroll deduction, you too will be eligible to recruit new "Gimme 5" contributors for additional raffle entries.
- 3 If you are currently an automatic payroll contributor at less than \$5 a pay period and you increase your deduction to meet the "Gimme 5" level, you will be entered into the raffle.

An existing automatic contributor whom you recruit to increase his/her contribution to the "Gimme 5" level counts as a new recruit.

The COLCPE Coordinator representing the branch of the winner will receive a \$200 Best Buy gift certificate.

NALC will launch the second five-month COLCPE contest on July 1. The winner of the second contest will receive **a trip for two to the 2008 Super Bowl (including travel, tickets, per diem)**. To be eligible for the raffle you must fulfill one of the following:

- 1 If you are already a "Gimme 5" automatic contributor (\$5 a pay period by PostalEase, \$10 a month by EFT, or \$5 a month for retirees through OPM Annuity Deduction) and you get two new NALC members to sign up for "Gimme 5" automatic deduction, you will be entered into the raffle. For each additional two new contributors you recruit, your name will be entered again.
- 2 If you are a new "Gimme 5" contributor, your name will be entered into the raffle. Once you have signed up for "Gimme 5" payroll deduction, you too will be eligible to recruit new "Gimme 5" contributors for additional raffle entries.
- 3 If you are currently an automatic payroll contributor at less than \$5 a pay period and you increase your deduction to meet the "Gimme 5" level, you will be entered into the raffle.

An existing automatic contributor whom you recruit to increase his/her contribution to the "Gimme 5" level counts as a new recruit.

The COLCPE Coordinator representing the branch of the winner will receive a \$200 Best Buy gift certificate.

In order to receive a raffle ticket for signing up two new NALC automatic "Gimme 5" contributors, you must fill out this form for every two new contributors you recruit. Please note that for each two new contributors you recruit, you need to send in a separate pledge form to receive an additional raffle ticket. (Additional copies can be obtained on the NALC website or by making copies of this form.)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please Print

#### FIRST NEW CONTRIBUTOR

(or contributor increasing to the "Gimme 5" level)

Name of new contributor: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch number: \_\_\_\_\_

New contributor signature: \_\_\_\_\_

#### SECOND NEW CONTRIBUTOR

(or contributor increasing to the "Gimme 5" level)

Name of new contributor: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch number: \_\_\_\_\_

New contributor signature: \_\_\_\_\_

One raffle entry for the member who recruited two new "Gimme 5" contributors should go to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch number: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Existing contributor signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please note that this form is only a pledge to sign up as a new "Gimme 5" contributor. Raffle entries will only be made if the new contributor is on the "Gimme 5" rolls by June 30, 2007 for the first contest, and by Nov. 30, 2007 for the second contest.

If you are signing up to become a "Gimme 5" contributor on your own (without being recruited) or increasing your deduction to meet the "Gimme 5" level (without being recruited to do so) you do not need to submit this form. Every new "Gimme 5" contributor who signs up between 2/1/07 and 6/30/07 will automatically be entered in the first raffle, while those who sign up between 7/1/07 and 11/30/07 will automatically be entered in the second raffle. This form is ONLY for those who are recruiting new contributors.

**Please send this completed form no later than 6/30/07 (for the first contest) or 11/30/07 (for the second contest) to:**

National Association of Letter Carriers  
Attn: "Gimme 5" Contest  
100 Indiana Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20001

# Minutes of the April 2007 General Meeting

The regular meeting of Branch 782 was called to order by President Mike Towery at 7:30 p.m. on the 24th day of April, 2007, at the Branch office in Bakersfield, CA. The flag salute was led by Sargeant-At-Arms Jerry Patterson. All members of the Executive Board were present. The Stewards from 01, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, Camino Media Delano, Lamont, McFarland, Shafter and Wasco were present. Also present were the Newsletter Editor Basil Zuniga; Assistant Editor Mark Hutchison; Webmaster Rick Plummer; Injury Compensation Representative Rick Gerdes, and Social and Recreation Committee members: Emma Gonzales and Frank Martinez. The minutes of the March 27th 2007 meeting were read and accepted with no additions or corrections.

**NEW MEMBERS:** Applications for membership were received from Cathleen Ann Gonder, Tina Marie Dill and Elroy Miller.

**REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES:** Frank Martinez reported that tickets for Pacific Movies Theaters are on sale for \$5.50, Disneyland Tickets and tickets to the Dodger Game on June 10th are also on sale. Contact Stella at 392-6301 for more information. The Committee is working on a Deep Sea Fishing Trip. Pam Smith reported that after attending the Legislative trip to Washington DC she sees how really important the need for COLCPE is. We need to support the politicians who support us. Basil Zuniga reported that Brundage Station folded the Newsletter last month. They did a great job. Basil explained the problems with the newsletter and apologized to the members. He reported that next month it will be Dole Court's turn.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Molly Biggar reported that the excess equipment will be donated to BARC if Branch members do not want it. Diana Chavez read the proposed By-Laws changes: Article III Section 1. The regular meeting of this Branch shall be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month, excluding December, at 7:30 p.m. at the Branch 782 Union Office, 2628 F Street, Bakersfield, California. The December

meeting will be held on the third Wednesday of the month. The By-Laws Committee recommend approval of the change. A discussion was held. A vote was taken, and the recommendation was defeated. Article X, Section 9—All traveling and/or accommodation expenses incurred by any branch member on union business must have receipts accompanying their expense vouchers. All hotel receipts must be turned into the branch to verify billing. Any expenses of a personal nature (phone calls, premium televisions movies, "wet bar items", spouse's expenses) must be paid by the branch member prior to check out at the hotel. The By-Laws Committee recommends approval of the change. A discussion was held and a vote was taken. The recommendation was upheld.

**GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:** Mike Towery reported that 2 PTF's will be promoted to regulars. Approval to hire 8 - 10 PTF's has been approved. He reminded the members that the Steward Training class will be on Wednesday, May 2. Diana Chavez reported on the Washington DC trip. She asked that all members e-mail or write a letter to Congressman Kevin McCarthy to oppose HR 282. She asked members go to the NALC website for more information. If you belong to e-Activist your letter could be sent through e-Activist. The COLCPE 50/50 Drawing was won by Kim Gerdes who donated her winning back to COLCPE. The Drawing for \$500.00 would have been won by Nicanor Manalo who was not present. Mike Towery introduced Postmaster Jim Brouillard who was in attendance to speak to the members present and to answer any questions. Mike asked that members identify themselves and the station where they work when asking questions. Mr. Brouillard explained to the members how important the VOE (Voice of the Employee) and Customer Satisfaction surveys are to him. He then answered all the questions from the members.

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Molly Biggar reported that \$6,773.33 was collected for the month.

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

Beginning Balance	\$50,072.19
Dues and Income	\$11,882.39
Interest Income	\$ 13.93
Total Balance	\$61,968.51
Total Expenses	\$15,958.33
Ending Balance	\$46,010.18

There were 46 members present.

The meeting adjourned at 9:42

Respectfully submitted,

KIM GERDES  
NALC Branch 782 Recording Secretary



*Mike Towery reported that 2 PTF's will be promoted to regulars. Approval to hire 8 - 10 PTF's has been approved*

# The Biggar Picture

NALC BR 782 INVENTORY REDUCED IN 2007:

Sharp SF 7900 Copier  
 MAC Personal Laser Writer  
 MAC SE 30 HD 520  
 Power MAC 7200/120 PC Compatible  
 MAC Performa 550 with keyboard & mouse  
 Curtis document holder for monitor

PacBell Multi Media L197  
 16X CD ROM Drive & 3 1/2 in Floppy  
 Keyboard  
 Mouse  
 Monitor with Screen Saver

2 - Speakers

TOSHIBA - Satellite 305CDS Laptop  
 INTEL Pentium CD & 3 1/2 in Floppy

SONY Monitor CPD 200SX

UMAX Page Scanner S-6E

Keyboard

CANON BJC 1000 Printer

Padded Folding Chair - broken



Forever Stamp.

*Forever Stamp.*

***Forever Stamp????***

*Basil Zuniga  
 Letter Carrier*

## NON-MEMBER LIST May 2007

### DOWNTOWN STATION

J. Cruz  
 D. Pearce

### SOUTH STATION

*100% Union!!*

### EAST BAKERSFIELD

*100% Union!!*

### HILLCREST

P. L. Morelos

### BRUNDAGE

D. Kinglee  
 A. Shultz  
 U. Singh

### DOLE COURT

S. Webb

### STOCKDALE

R. Huston

### CAMINO MEDIA

*100% Union!!*

### ARVIN

*100% Union!!*

### AVENAL

*100% Union!!*

### BORON

*100% Union!!*

### CALIFORNIA CITY

*100% Union!!*

### DELANO

C. V. Quebral

### EDWARDS

*100% Union!!*

### LAMONT

*100% Union!!*

### McFARLAND

### MOJAVE

*100% Union!!*

### RIDGECREST

H. Blanco  
 G.E. Burgwald  
 Stan Pierce

### SHAFTER

Lori New  
 May Voights

### TAFT

B.W. Krier  
 C.L. Sanchez  
 A. C. Ramirez

### TEHACHAPI

*100% Union!!*

### TRONA

B. R. Dame  
 K. K. Treat

### WASCO

*100% Union!!*

*Do you know where these carriers work? They are not paying dues! D.A. Velasques, K.J. Ibarra, R.G. Campos, R.L. Ector, R.A. Day, G. Garcia, F. Medina, Jr., M.S. Diaz, J.G. Gonzalez, T.M. Phillips*

# "OUT THERE" DOGGIN' IT...

OUT THERE

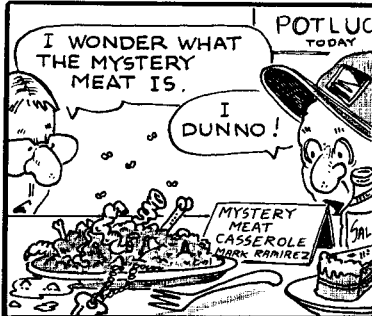


OUT THERE



## IN FRED ACEDO'S WORLD, WE'RE ALL STARS...

OUT THERE



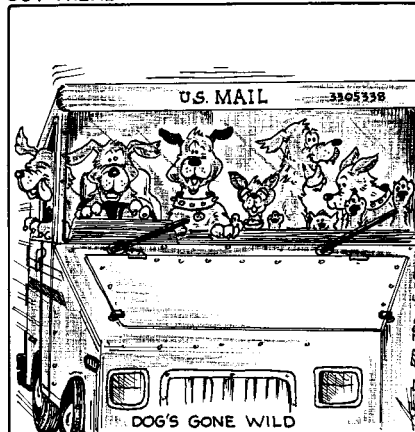
BY FRED ACEDO



OUT THERE



OUT THERE



OUT THERE



OUT THERE



# 2007 NALC HBP Info

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



Branch 782 Representative  
**Mark Ramirez**  
**(661) 834-5011**

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

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

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

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

## Contact Information

### Mark's Postal Humor

A woman went to the Post Office to buy stamps for her Christmas Cards.

"What denomination?" asked the clerk.

"Oh, good heavens! Have we come to this?" said the woman. "Well, give me 30 Catholic, 10 Baptist ones, 20 Lutheran, and 40 Presbyterian."

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

# ***HAPPY RETIREMENT, ISOLDE!!!***

MARCH 30, 2007 WAS ISOLDE MARROQUIN'S LAST OFFICIAL DAY WORKING FOR THE USPS.

SHE WAS A LETTER CARRIER FOR 21 YEARS AT THE HILLCREST STATION,

NO EASY FEAT.

SHE WAS OFF WORK WITH A FOOT



SURGERY SO SHE DIDN'T GET THE CEREMONIAL LAST PUNCH. WE DID, HOWEVER GET TO HAVE A POTLUCK IN HER HONOR, AND THEN ON APRIL 21, 2007 WE HAD HER RETIREMENT PARTY AT DON PERICOS. SHE WANTED TO BE ABLE TO WALK HOME.

SHE IS LOOKING FOWARD TO TRAVELING, WITH A TRIP TO CHINA PLANNED.

ANYWAYS, ISOLDE IT WAS A GREAT RUN AND YOU ARE SURELY MISSED!! DROP IN ANYTIME. BEST WISHES!

PAM SMITH  
93306 SHOP STEWARD

# "FROM-THE CHRONICLES OF DOWNTOWN"

BY: Mark Hutchinson  
Seniority#228

As Downtowns' newest shop steward, I have learned a lot in the short months. The phrase I hear the most is, "We are more than willing to work together.." from management. Which means to me...I'm on my own. Let me tell you being thrown into the fire has been hard. I have general knowledge of the contract. If it weren't for Mike Towery, I don't know how I would do it.

On a normal day I work 10 hours...Somewhere in between customer service, scan points, and making sure I am following the rules I have a responsibility to represent the workers. Downtown is unique in a way that other stations are not. The employees are not unified like lots of other stations are. In the past, for the most part, employees negotiated one-on-one with management to benefit their own needs. The only purpose for the union was to make sure the overtime people got their hours and to fight any discipline handed out.

Now, I have complaints of harassment, overtime violations, mandating, and other things that need addressing. Employees tend to come to me with concerns when they think management won't know it was them that gave me the information. I always start by telling them they need to put in a request to talk to me. They will always say, "No that's okay. I just thought you should know." Not that I would get any time to check into it...

Someone once told me, "The union only gets involved when they have to.." Let me tell you when Frank Thomasy was the shop steward he had the union process down to a science. Being retired he would call Thursday, tell them to run the clock rings for that week and have them ready Friday. He would then swoop in, pick them up, hear any concerns, and then take it home. By Monday he would come in with any grievances that he had found and the resolutions all nice and neat with a bow like it was Christmas. Then management

would sign them with hardly any fight... Now when Thursday rolls around I ask for the reports it is put off. On Saturday when I need to balance the annual and overtime books, the reports still need to be printed. When I get information that there is a violation, I talk to management first with positive feed back. Then I usually take my time at home to print up the grievances and even then management will question if the grievance is valid by the next day.

Is it me? I was raised to be nice and respect people.

Does that make me weak? I guess in dealing with management it might. Working together is something I understand. Getting the job done is something I understand too...but there's a right way to do it. I honestly thought that if I worked with management we could ease tension in our office. Instead, I feel that they have seen it as weakness and have taken advantage. For the most part they pretend not to know the rules of the contract. Do we have that luxury? Next time you are being disciplined for not following instructions due to a safety violation can we tell them "I didn't know"?

In reading this article back I thought that maybe I am being too harsh or rash. Sure I am frustrated at times but I still want to believe that we can work as one in an employee/management team effort. How do I make everyone happy?

I don't.

OUT THERE





# Battle Of The Stations

## **Fantasic Four (Hillcrest)**

13th place (461 avg.)  
Carol Newton  
Peggy Merjil  
Paul Hernandez  
Ralph Clyburn

## **Stud Muffins (E.B)**

Tied 15th place (439 avg)  
No Show  
Joy Cordova  
Frank Martinez  
Geore Vaquera

## **Strike Masters (South)**

2nd place (avg. 554)  
Les Shaw  
Neil Kramer  
Mike Zaragoza  
Ralph Ramirez

## **Nameless (E.B.)**

18th place (avg. 397)  
Teresa Ortega  
Barbra Gonzales  
Paul Salazar  
Dan Medina

## **No Time to Spare (Brundage)**

17th place (avg. 432)  
Maggie Ferreria  
Ruben Gonzalez  
Francisco  
Enoch Moya

## **3 Amigos & A Chiva**

3rd place (avg. 554)  
Ronnie Mireles  
Roel Alaniz  
Vince Gonzales  
Ozzie Smith

## **Victorious Secret (Stockdale)**

Last Place :( avg. 346)  
Tina Harbour  
Beatrice Rodriguez  
Yuriana Rubio  
Darlene Medina

## **The Misfits (South)**

4th place (546 avg.)  
Darrel Holderman  
Joe Dangler  
Tommy Herrera  
John Rosso

## **9 er's (Stockdale)**

5th Place (avg. 545)  
Alex Dang  
Anthony Zuniga  
Steve Friedle  
James Oh

## **Cowboy & The Chicks (Hillcrest)**

12th place (avg. 482)  
Pam Smith  
Valerie Tweedey  
Mona Rener  
David Rener

## **Fab 4 (StockDale)**

Champions! (avg. 608)  
Brian Davis  
Angel Vega  
Steve Blanton  
John Ortega

## **Dangerous Dames (South)**

Tied 15th place (avg. 439)  
Anita Holderman  
Tatia Boone  
Denise Dilley  
Kellie Martinez

## **Kentucky Street Kids (E.B.)**

6th place (avg. 522)  
Jamie Paddock  
Cindy Jimenez  
Greg Baraza  
Jeff Harrington

## **Pin Heads (Dole Ct)**

9th place (avg. 499)  
Jennifer Gonzalez  
Kelly Reyes  
Paul Hernandez  
Chris Mesa

## **Britney Spares (Dole Ct.)**

7th place (521 avg.)  
Diane Ryder  
Teresa Garcia  
Glenn Ryder  
Andrew Garcia

## **Strikes R Us (Camino)**

8th Place (avg. 508)  
Ray Moya/Luke Lopez  
Everette Jennings  
Mike Mesa  
Laura Davis

## **Trouble! (DownTown)**

11th place (avg. 491)  
Debbie Anderson  
Sabrina Bonilla  
Lorrian Clemons  
Rick Rangle

## **Mixed Nuts (Dole Ct)**

19th place (avg. 382)  
Yolanda Agredano  
Johnny Boyd  
Manuel Daviss  
Nick Roberts

## **MANDATED! (Down Town)**

14th place (avg. 444)  
Chasiti Harrington  
Mark Hutchinson  
Art Evans  
Ralph Moeller

## **The Gigglers (Shafter)**

10th place (avg. 492)  
Serina Ornelaz  
Cynthia Deleon  
Norma Hamer  
Carmen Vizzard



# Harrington's Spotlight



NALC Region 1 Administrative Assistant, Bryant Amario recently conducted training at the Branch 782 office with California State Association of Letter Carriers President John Beaumont. Members of various NALC branches in the southern San Joaquin Valley participated in a program which spanned two evenings.

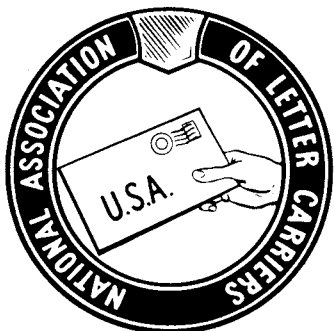
Showcasing his passion for the need for Letter Carriers to be politically active, John addressed a variety of issues. He pointed out the need for even brand-new NALC Shop Stewards to understand the impact that our elected representatives can have on our rights and benefits. Furthermore, he also used his personal experiences in the grievance-arbitration process to underscore how important it is for all Stewards to document and prepare their grievance packages as if each and every grievance will go to arbitration.



Bryant, using the Joint Contract Administration Manual as a platform, addressed foundational concepts for the issues which arise out of some specific contract articles. Each of the attendees was encouraged to actively participate by asking any questions they had. Many did. Brian was able to cite specific incidents in cases in which he had been involved or which had been worked on in the office of National Business Agent Manny Peralta.

NALC Branch 782 President Mike Towery was pleased with the turnout and was encouraged that so many advocates made this investment. He also appreciated the sacrifice of time at home to prepare for their work for the membership.





***Need Help Fast???***  
***President Mike Towery***  
***Cell Phone: (661) 331-9171***

## from the editor-guy

Last month—like most months, I suppose—was interesting. Four things in my “NALC world” were out of the ordinary.

First, I travelled to Washington, DC as a Branch 782 delegate to the western states bi-annual Congressional lobbying effort. Secondly, the Bakersfield Postmaster attended the general membership meeting. For almost two hours, he spoke about numerous issues and fielded questions until no one seemed willing to bring up any more questions. Thirdly, I was able to attend one of the two training sessions which were conducted at the Branch office.



Last, I was told that one of our members was so upset at something about the newsletter that he wanted to be taken off the mailing list. Subsequently, I phoned him to talk about his concerns. As we spoke I shared that I was also upset.

He felt that the pictures which were in last month's newsletter were pretty crappy. I informed him that he couldn't have been half as upset as I had been. The pictures *were* crappy. But, I explained to him what I also want to share with you.

Typically, when I am done with the newsletter I transfer the file in a PDF format from my computer to a thumb drive. (If you don't know what I'm talking about, don't worry. It's just what I do.) I then take the thumb drive to the printer and the quality of the pictures are pretty close to what I see on my computer screen.

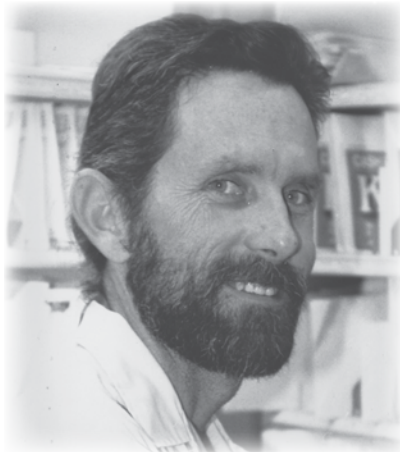
Last month, I gave the thumb drive to Mark Hutchinson, the Branch 782 Assistant Editor, so that he could take care of updating and printing our mailing labels. I got permission to buy another thumbdrive. I finished the newsletter a little after midnight on the morning that we were leaving to go to Washington at around 3:00 a.m. I put the new thumb drive in the computer and nothing happened. Usually, there is a “ding” to indicate that the computer knows it's there.

Obviously, there was no way that I could replace the defective thumb drive at that time in the morning. I printed out the newsletter on my printer at home. My wife then took the newsletter to the printer where it was xeroxed and then printed out. Each step resulted in a degradation of the quality. But, if you want to see the better quality pictures, and in color, go the Branch 782 website...

With that said, I would like to publish some more pictures of the Letter Carriers honored at Million Mile Safe Drive ceremony. Mickey, hopefully, the quality will be better this time!

---

## Max Wiles



How many people can say they've been in the postal service their entire lives? I can! Thanks to my daddy, Max Wiles.

He began his postal career as a Letter Carrier on April 25, 1973. That was 7 months after I was born. He carried mail out of almost every station in the city. Everyone seemed to know the mailman with the ponytail. He was even featured in the *Bakersfield Californian* with one of his customers that walked with him during his delivery route.

In January 1998—after 25 years of carrying mail, my dad decided to change crafts and become a janitor. In October of the same year I started my postal career. Boy, now my life changed. Instead of me crying when my daddy was out walking his route in the lightning, my daddy was worried about me being okay out in the 110° heat. You can imagine the phone calls, weekly visits, and the holidays in our house with nothing but postal talk.

I have to say the post office has been good to our family. After 37 years of hard work, sweat, and tears my dad has decided to retire. I wish my dad a long, healthy, and happy retirement. I love you dad!

Melissa Badawy #502

## What to do in case of active carrier's death

1. Notify employee's immediate supervisor.
2. Notify postmaster.
3. Notify personnel section (if any).
4. Contact the following for accounts or benefits:
  - a. The local NALC union office;
  - b. If veteran, the veterans' Administration local office;
  - c. Local bank or postal credit union;
  - d. Social Security Administration local office;
  - e. Insurance companies for policies on life (if NALC Mutual Benefit Association, write 100 Indiana Ave., N.W., Room 510, Washington, DC 20001-2144 or call 202-638-4318; if Federal Employees Group Life Insurance, contact local personnel office): hospitalization (if NALC Health Benefit Plan, write 20547 Waverly Court, Ashburn, VA 22093 or call 703-729-4677); house; and automobile;
  - f. Internal Revenue Service local office;
  - g. U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM), Employee Service and Records Center, Boyers, PA 16017 or the NALC retirement office, 100 Indiana Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20001-2144. You can phone the NALC retirement office toll-free at 800-424-5186 on Monday, Wednesday, or Thursday, 10 a.m.-12 noon and 2-4 p.m. (Eastern time).
5. Change name on all important papers to survivor's name.
6. Notify station superintendent (or supervisor) or postmaster of the time and place of memorial services.
7. Have mortuary officials obtain enough certified death certificates for your needs. They can advise how many.
8. Give immediate supervisor locker keys and badge.
9. Fill out these forms (available in some post offices from personnel section or postmaster): SF 2800—application for death benefit; SF 1153—claim of designated beneficiary for unpaid compensation; SF 1155—claim for unpaid compensation, no designated beneficiary; FE 6—claim for benefits, Federal Employees Group Life Insurance.
10. Check with USFS personnel section or postmaster for annuity for yourself and any minor children.
11. If previous marriage, have divorce papers. If present marriage, have marriage license.
12. Contact the station's personnel office about your potential eligibility for Annuity Protection Plan payments.

## What to do in case of retired carrier's death

1. Notify Office of Personnel Management (OPM), Retirement Programs, Employee Service and Records Center, Boyers, PA 16017. In your letter include: full name of deceased; exact date of birth; exact date of death; CSA claim number, address, relationship and signature of person entitled to survivor benefits.
2. For quicker action, notify NALC's Director of Retired Members, 100 Indiana Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20001-2144, or call toll-free 800-424-5186 Monday, Wednesday, or Thursday, 10 a.m.-noon and 2-4 p.m. (Eastern time). NALC will alert OPM so that survivor benefits will commence as quickly as possible, and will send you Forms SF 2800—application for death benefit, survivor annuity and FE 6—claim for benefits, Federal Employees Group Life Insurance. Remember that survivor annuities are not paid automatically. You must apply to OPM to receive benefits.
3. Return any uncashed checks to the address on the accompanying Treasury Department envelope. If payments are made directly to a financial institution, notify it of the retiree's date of death and request any future checks be returned to the Treasury Department.
4. Contact the following for accounts or benefits:
  - a. The local NALC union office;
  - b. If veteran, the Veterans' Administration local office and the commanding officer of local military installation;
  - c. Local bank or other financial institutions;
  - d. Social Security Administration local office;
  - e. Insurance companies for policies on life (if NALC Mutual Benefit Association, write 100 Indiana Ave., N.W. Room 510, Washington, DC 20001-2144 or call 202-638-4318); hospitalization (if NALC Health Benefit Plan, write 20547 Waverly Court, Ashburn, VA 22093 or call 703-729-4677); house; and automobile;
  - f. Internal Revenue Service local office.
5. Change name on all important papers to survivor's name.
6. Have mortuary officials obtain enough certified death certificates for your needs. They can advise how many.
7. Gather miscellaneous necessary papers such as birth certificate, marriage license, divorce decree, death certificates of deceased children or spouses or other documents establishing identity of relationship of survivor.

**NOTE: If spouse of retired carrier dies, call NALC retirement office to obtain the forms to: restore annuity to full amount switch health coverage from family to self (unless dependent children); change beneficiary of government life insurance.**

**KEEP THIS PAGE WITH YOUR IMPORTANT PAPERS**



# Harrington's Corner

Oh boy, if you didn't come out and play in the "Battle of the Stations", you missed out on a true afternoon of fun. The bowling alley was filled with letter carriers, couple of casuals, and a custodian. Even management joined in the excitement. Family and friends came to watch the their favorite team take on the challenge of who was the best station. Twenty teams from all 8 stations participated along with one A.O. from Shafter.



As teams checked in, it was nice to see the team spirit of different offices. Matching bright color shirts, team logos, and big smiles. As for many of us have moved from office to office over the years. It was nice to see many of the carriers inter-act with each other. For many it had been awhile since they had seen some of their fellow carriers.

To my surprise, most of the people knew me.

All 80 bowlers showed up and we started on time. Without a hitch the hooted and the hollering was filling the room. Hi fives, cheering, and strutting was everywhere. After the first game, Stockdale's Fab 4 was out in front and never

looked back. After two games Stockdale had 1st and 3rd place locked in with South's Strike Masters holding on to 2nd. After each game a prize was drawn. Prizes winners included Stockdale's Tina Harbour (target gift card), South's Ralph Ramirez (MP3 player), and Shafter's Serena Ornelaz (Black Angus Card).



\$162 dollars was raised for COLCPE that was won by E.B's Paul Rodriguez. As the tournament ended and the points were totaled. Stockdale walked away with the plaque (which can be seen at your union office) South held on to 2nd and Auburn's 3 amigos's and a chiva moved up from 5th to take 3rd. The feedback I have gotten is that everyone can't wait until next year. I can't wait until next year. It will be bigger and better.

I like to thank everyone that participated and hope that you had a blast. I also like to thank Branch 782 for donating money for the plaque and a prize. Congratulations to Stockdale on winning the first annual "Battle of the Stations". Many pictures were taken and can be seen on our website [www.782nalc.com](http://www.782nalc.com). Just click on the Harrington corner link. Next years battle I am planning on President's day holiday weekend. I would love some feed back on that date. [Jeffharrington@hotmail.com](mailto:Jeffharrington@hotmail.com)

"Just Another Day in Paradise"  
Jeff Harrington 93305



# Branch Officers

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

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

The information contained in this publication is true and complete to our best knowledge. All recommendations, on equipment and procedures are made without guarantees on the part of the authors or of the organization. Because the quality of equipment, services and methods are beyond our control, the organization and its publication authors disclaim all liability incurred in connection with use of this information.

Information in this publication may not be used for illegal purposes.

We invite all members to contribute articles for publication. Copy, if possible, should be double-spaced (but doesn't have to be) but **MUST** be signed by the contributor.

The Editor retains the right to edit, delete, or reject the article for the good of the Branch (and even this is subject to persuasion).

In the hope that material contained herein may be of benefit to the goals of the National Association of Letter Carriers, permission is hereby granted to other NALC Branches to copy or use material and/or cartoons promulgated in this publication with our best wishes...but remember to cite/give us some credit.

Basil Zuniga, Editor-guy  
(661) 397-4330  
brziii@aol.com

Mark Hutchinson, Assistant Editor  
(661) 325-5526

The "S.A.N.E."\*  
Fred Acedo, Cartoonist  
\*(Special Assistant Newsletter Editor)  
P.O. Box 6532  
Bakersfield, CA 93386-6532

<b>President</b>	<b>Mike Towery</b>	<b>(661) 331-9171</b>
<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>Diana Chavez</b>	<b>(661) 872-7345</b>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<b>Kim Gerdes</b>	<b>(661) 834-2059</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Molly Biggar</b>	<b>(661) 832-0393</b>
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	<b>Anita Holderman</b>	<b>(661) 589-1683</b>
<b>HBP &amp; MBA</b>	<b>Mark Ramirez</b>	<b>(661) 834-5011</b>
<b>Sargeant-at-Arms</b>	<b>Jerry Patterson</b>	<b>(661) 203-9718</b>
<b>Chief Trustee</b>	<b>Darryl Holderman</b>	<b>(661) 589-1683</b>
<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Danny Blair</b>	<b>(661) 397-8107</b>
<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Bill Curtis</b>	<b>(661) 323-1107</b>

## NALC Branch 782 Shop Stewards

Avenal (93203)	Vacant	
Arvin (93209)	Vacant	
Delano (93215)	Jerry Patterson	(661) 599-6859
Lamont (93241)	Mark Ramirez	(661) 834-5011
McFarland (93250)	Jerry Patterson	(661) 599-6859
Shafter (93263)	Jerry Patterson	(661) 599-6859
Taft (93268)	Vacant	
Wasco (93280)	Jerry Patterson	(661) 599-6859
Downtown Station (93301)	Mark Hutchinson	(661) 325-5526
Downtown Station Alternate	Kim Gerdes	(661) 834-2059
South Station (93304)	Darryl Holderman	(661) 589-1683
East Bakersfield (93305)	Teresa Ortega	(661) 201-3086
East Bakersfield Alternate	Jeff Harrington	(661) 327-7937
Hillcrest Station (93306)	Pam Smith	(661) 325-5526
Brundage Station (93307)	Emma Gonzalez	(661) 325-5526
Dole Court (93308)	Mike Towery	(661) 862-8033
Dole Court Alternate	Debbie Guillet	(661) 325-5526
Stockdale Station (93309)	Gail Sprague	(661) 325-5526
Stockdale Station Alternate	Randy Courson	(661) 325-5526
Camino Media (93311/13)	Teresa Ortega	(661) 201-3086
Mojave (93501)	Vacant	
California City (93504)	Paula Hogg	(760) 373-8963
Tehachapi (93561)	Mary Morphis	(661) 822-6614
Trona (93562)	Vacant	
Boron (93516)	Paula Hogg	(760) 373-8963
Ridgecrest (93555)	Lynnell Howell	(760) 371-1039

**Branch 782  
Website**

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

Rick Plummer

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

## Brookfield Uniforms

UNION MADE

To Order Call

**JUDE BARNARD**

800-843-3333

CALIFORNIA CITY, CA

PHONE: (661) 323-1227

National Association of Letter Carriers  
"Golden Empire" Merged Branch 782  
2628 "F" Street  
Bakersfield, California 93301  
(661) 325-5526

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

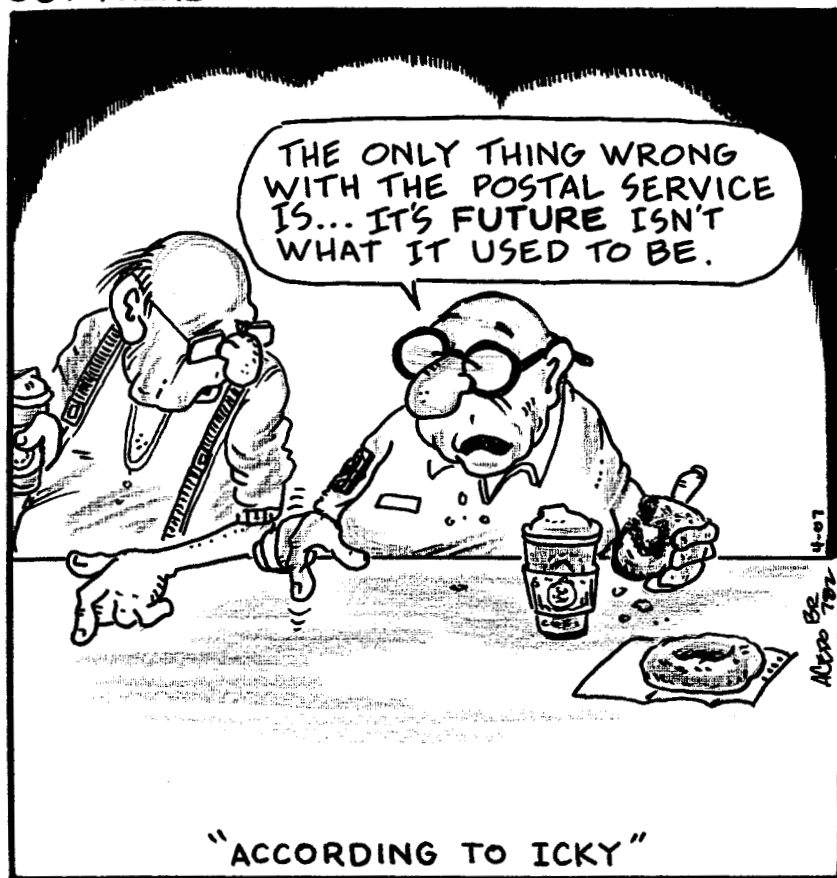
**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**TIME-VALUE MAIL—PLEASE EXPEDITE**

**General Meeting  
Tuesday  
May 22, 2007  
7:30 p.m.**

**Branch 782 Office  
2628 F Street  
Bakersfield, CA**

**OUT THERE**



**I**f you are "here" long enough, you realize that we're all just passin' through. As Carriers, we see people come and go. People quit, get fired, and some die on the job. And, we celebrate the ones that get to retire. Eventually, one day, we all "check out". The real trick is to realize that we have to live each and every day of our lives as if *this* is the day...

### **Frank Maltone**

*Nov. 5, 1936 - May 6, 2007*

Services will be held Saturday, May 12th, 3:00 p.m., at Stine Road Baptist Church, 3001 Stine Road. Frank went to be with his Lord Sunday evening. He spent his last day at home surrounded by loving family and friends. Standing at his side holding his hands, he was ushered into Heaven by his two favorite girls; his wife, Kate Maltone and his daughter, Cindy McAtee.



Frank was born November 5, 1936, in Gowen, Oklahoma and was the sixth child born to Peter and Nola Maltone. As a child, Frank spent his early years growing up in Lodi, CA. After high school Frank served in the Army in the mid 50's as an aerial photographer in Korea. After his service Frank became a letter carrier for the Post Office. After 37 years, Frank retired in October of 1992.

Frank loved to golf every week with his family and friends. When he wasn't on the course you'd find him tending to his tomatoes and roses.

Frank is survived by his wife, Kate Maltone of 25 years; his sons, Tony and Jeff Maltone; and daughter, Cindy McAtee; brothers, Pete and Louis Maltone and Harley Sides; 9 grandchildren; good friend, Paul Swafford; and many family members and friends.

A special thanks to his big brother, Louis Maltone and his wife, Janice who were always there.

[www.bakersfield.com/obits](http://www.bakersfield.com/obits)