

# National Association of Letter Carriers

## Branch 782

### E.A. Baker Union Update



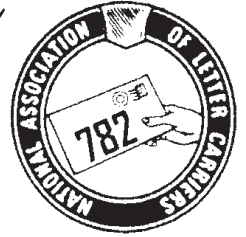
ARVIN  
CALIFORNIA CITY  
McFARLAND  
TAFT

AVENAL  
DELANO  
MOJAVE  
TEHACHAPI

BAKERSFIELD  
EDWARDS AFB  
RIDGECREST  
TRONA

BORON  
LAMONT  
SHAFTER  
WASCO

**CHARTERED FEBRUARY 25, 1901**



NUMBER 6

WEB VERSION

JUNE 2020

From the desk of  
**Bryant J. Almario**  
**NALC Region 1**  
**National Business Agent**



Serving Letter Carriers in California, Hawaii,  
Nevada and the territory of Guam

*In response to Covid-19 impacts on USPS operations, the following directives were issued on June 2, 2020.*

*The moratorium on implementing route adjustments and conducting 3999s and 1838-Cs has ended. Attached are two standard work instructions for examiners which Letter Carriers should be aware of if/when being checked.*

#### Standard Work Instruction For Maintaining Social Distancing While Conducting a PS Form 1838-C — Purpose: To limit the exposure of COVID-19 for Letter Carriers & Examiners

Establish designated areas to maximize social distancing and eliminate obstructed views:

- On a daily basis, all available mail will be counted prior to carrier reporting
- Office personnel will place letters, flats and SPRs on case ledge, floor or other staging area(s) established prior to start of count
- Ensure a 6 ft. marker is placed outside of the time clock, distribution cases and carrier cases
- Examiner will retrieve and count parcels in a separate designated area

Examiners will remain at least 6 ft. away from the carriers at all times in the office; this includes:

- Clock ring activities
- Vehicle inspections
- Driver's License Checks
- Service/Safety Talks
- Withdrawal of mail from distribution
- Monitoring carriers at the carrier case
- Retrieving accountable items Examiner and carrier will wear face coverings in accordance with local ordinances and when social distancing cannot be maintained
- Use disposable gloves and other PPE, as applicable
- Observations must be achieved from a safe distance of at least 6 ft. between the examiner and the carrier, when possible
- Require carriers to place any mail withdrawn/retrieved in designated staging area
- Avoid direct hand-to-hand contact of the mail and/or inspection related documents with the carrier

**RECOMMENDATION:** When handling mail and/or inspection-related documents, usage of disposable gloves by the carrier and examiner is highly recommended

- When coming and/or going to/from common areas or break(s), all employees should wash hands and/or use hand sanitizer

**KEY POINTS:** Regularly wash hands or use hand sanitizer; this includes before and after break(s)

- Practice good respiratory etiquette and hygiene

*Continued on page 2...*

# From the desk of NALC Region 1 NBA Bryant Almario

(continued from front cover)

Examiners will remain at least 6 ft. away from the carrier at all times in the office, including during:

- Clock ring activities
- DPS / FSS retrieval
- Vehicle load & unload
- Retrieving and returning empty equipment
- Comply with social distancing at all times
- Examiner and carrier will wear face coverings in accordance with local ordinances and when social distancing cannot be maintained
- Practice good respiratory etiquette and hygiene
- Sanitize DCD before and after use

Examiners will remain at least 6 ft. away from the carrier at all times on the street; this includes:

- Mail delivery
- Relay / Reloading
- Accountable delivery
- Package delivery
- MSP / CPMS scan & collection
- Lunch / breaks

- Observations, notes and DCD entries can be made from a 6 ft. distance
- Examiner and carrier will wear face coverings in accordance with local ordinances and when social distancing cannot be maintained

If a vehicle is needed, examiner must utilize a separate vehicle

- Examiner and carrier are prohibited from being in the same vehicle
- Wear seatbelts at all times
- While vehicle is in motion, examiners must operate vehicle safely, professionally, and without distraction
- Do not attempt to utilize the DCD or take notes while driving

The official source of USPS COVID19 information can be found on the USPS Blue Page

June 4, 2020

## “It is agreed that there will be no further expansion of this Case Consolidation Test.”

NALC and the Postal Service have settled a national-level grievance regarding the Postal Service’s unilateral testing of Consolidated Casing. This settlement (M-01923) requires that half of the 62 test sites to be returned to their original route structure by July 31, 2020. The remaining 31 test sites will continue through November 27, 2020.

The task force established by the memorandum of understanding (Re: City Delivery Task Force) will begin analyzing data from the test sites by July 20, 2020, to determine its application to future testing. Absent **JOINT AGREEMENT** (emphasis added) by the parties to either continue the test or to jointly conduct alternative testing in these sites, the test sites WILL BE returned to their original route structure by January 22, 2021. Additionally, it is agreed there will be no further expansion of this Case Consolidation Test.

The local parties will jointly work through the transition of returning routes in the test sites to their original structure. Assistance and guidance will be provided by the appropriate NALC National Business Agent (NBA) and USPS Area Manager, Labor Relations (AMLR), or their designees. Once it is determined which sites will end testing first, that information will be immediately provided to the appropriate branch president.

Source — NALC website which can be located at NALC.ORG

## So, what WAS “Consolidated Casing” and why is this settlement important?

**NALC Director of City Delivery Christopher Jackson (in the May 2019 Postal Record) reported on a USPS proposed unilateral test.**

“Carriers performing casing duties will report early in the morning and will have their start times adjusted accordingly. USPS states that casing-assignment carriers

may start as early as 5:45 a.m. These carriers will case a total of six routes, three at a time, and prepare them for street delivery.

The newly designed consolidated case will consist of three pieces of casing equipment in the traditional horseshoe design with one complete route in each piece of equip-

ment. The cases will have double-sided address labels on plastic strips affixed to the case that can be reversed. USPS uses various methods for attaching these labels. This case labeling method is commonly referred to as 2-into-1 casing for offices already using this system. The casing carrier will case three routes for delivery, pull down the routes, switch the case labels,

then case and pull down three additional routes. For example, the caser will case and pull down routes 1-3, then switch the case labels and case routes 4-6.

Full-time letter carriers performing casing assignments may be given additional street duties to fulfill their eight-hour requirement.

Carriers performing street duties will report later in the day, with start times scheduled to coincide with the projected time the casing duties are complete. Assignments with street duties may be adjusted with additional deliveries to make up for the loss of office time.

USPS states that these carriers will report in two different groups, with the first group to begin tour approximately 8 to 8:30 a.m. and the second group perhaps an hour or an hour and a half later. All letter carriers performing street duties will obtain their own accountable items prior to leaving for the street, and afternoon return-to-office duties will not change.

Some of you may recall the caser/streeter concept that USPS tested in 2011. This test involved some letter carriers performing office duties for multiple routes while the remaining carriers delivered on the street. This test is slightly different based on the proposed case configuration. In caser/streeter, each route maintained its own case, while in this test, multiple routes will be combined into one case."

In sixty-three units all over the country, the USPS put their test into affect. The NALC filed national level grievances. And, now, it seems that the process is being discontinued.

What did one Letter Carrier have to say about this "consolidated casing" thing? Oklahoma City Steward Casey Ritchie wrote this for the NALC Branch 458 *Sooner Script* in January 2020:

"...EVERY route has been consolidated into ONE piece of equipment.

Many routes have cells **with entire city blocks in one 1 inch cell**. Because Casers have to case mail in these conditions, it is time consuming to put all the mail in delivery order. Often, Carriers are sent to the street with mail out of delivery order.... Because of all of these things, it is no surprise that mis-delivery is happening!

### **Management can say it's working, but I respectfully disagree.**

Ask any of the Carriers at Westside if it's working. Ask the Carriers that start at 8:30 am and don't get off work until 7 pm or later. Ask the Casers that start at 5 am and don't leave until after 5 pm on a regular basis."

NALC Branch 79 member Edward Johnson, Jr had this to write in the October 2019 *Seventy-Niner*: "Most of what management has told us about the process is vague and not set in stone. I'm still not convinced they know what they're doing.

They have large sheets of paper taped to the walls with check lists of items needed to be completed and have already been falling behind on the timeline they made for themselves. Stand up after stand up management states that it's working great in other cities and carriers are loving it. I don't buy it.

The latest item to be worked on was the newly adjusted routes.

The routes needed to be adjusted to 7:45. So of course they used Carrier Optimal Routing (COR) System. Any one who has been through a COR route adjustment knows the pains. COR it seems takes the delivery addresses and shuffles them like a pack of cards and deals out the "Optimal" route.

Instead of presenting these new routes to the carriers who know the area, supervisors and managers from other stations spent several days driving the area to follow the new lines of travel. Well that didn't work and a week later they gave

the edit sheets to the carriers for editing. At that point it took many hours to fix the lines of travel.

In this process management has picked the carriers who will case/ carry and those who will only carry with no regard to seniority or most provisions of our national agreement.

Each case/carry carrier will be casing 5-6 routes each day. Each route is supposed to take at most 1 hour to case.

Out the door is the old 5 shelf case with 2 max deliveries per cell. **Now it's a 6 shelf case in one piece of equipment with up to 7 deliveries per cell.** [emphasis added]

And to make things even better, labels will be taped to a tube of pvc pipe clipped to the shelf so that they can rotate allowing up to 3 routes per one 6 shelf case. That will save big time in the office functions of being a carrier, 15 mins per case one manager mentioned.

The case/carry carriers will start at 5 am to get the routes ready. In the first weeks there will be phases of carriers start times coming in at 7:30, 8:45, and 9. With an end goal for just 2 phases.

Walking 8 hrs straight sounds not too appealing. ODL carriers even more. I know there will be issues with that.

Management like to to throw things out to see what sticks before they even think about the effects it will have on carriers. Got a vacation hold or vicious dog? Who knows. Got a forward or a temporary forward? Who knows.

There are far more questions than answers."

It is important to realize that this test was done on a unilateral basis. The USPS did not seek NALC input or advice.

Do you think that things would have been better if they had?

# **No Minutes from the May 2020 General Meeting. It was cancelled. Also cancelled, the June meeting.**

# With a Few Clicks, YOU Can Help Save YOUR Job

By Eric Ellis,  
CSALC District 4 Officer



The provisions favorable to us won't move forward unless we put heat on enough Senators to push them over the finish line.

Here's what you can do as Letter Carriers: Go to [nalc.org](http://nalc.org), click on Take Action, follow the prompts to send a message to your Congressman and both Senators. **But they can't hear from just Letter Carriers and other postal employees.** So, get your family and friends to go to [heroesdelivering.com](http://heroesdelivering.com) and get *THEM* to send a message to their representatives as well! And, if you have friends living in Utah, Colorado, Arizona, Tennessee, Montana, and Kansas — that is to say, states with Republican senators — get *THEM* on the [heroesdelivering.com](http://heroesdelivering.com) site as well. And don't be shy about posting it on social media!

This shouldn't be a hard sell, folks. Over 90 percent of registered Democrats and Republicans support funding for the USPS in the next stimulus package. NOW all we need to do is guide our co-workers as well as family and friends to help us out. WE deliver for America. Now it's time for America to deliver for us.

**B**y now, you are probably aware that we have a new Postmaster General. I read posts on social media about how worried people are about Louis DeJoy is going to split us up, slash our salaries and benefits, AND privatize the Postal Service. Yeah, he *gave* all this money to Donald Trump, *is* a big-time Republican donor, *and* ran a logistics company that did business with the USPS for decades. My answer to all this is . . . . **“AND?”**

Remember what past Postmasters General attempted to do to us? PMG “Carvin” Marvin Runyon wanted to eliminate our cost of living adjustments and slash how much annual and sick leave we earn. PMG William Henderson said the postal service would be privatized. PMG Patrick Donahoe attempted to eliminate Saturday mail delivery as well as delivery to the door, and also stated — on his way out the door — that new employees don't deserve defined pensions.

Now did any of those things happen? **NO!** Why? Because they couldn't have happened without the approval of Congress. But guess what? All the aforementioned hits to our work and benefit structure are now on the table. *Without a funding package approved by Congress, we may be out of business by the end of the year.* And everyone — from the major postal unions to the outgoing Postmaster General to the Postal Board of Governors — agrees **that unless our employer is included in a future stimulus package**, we could be a thing of the past.

We're not talking about paper losses anymore. In the past, we could say that we were making an operational profit, that all our losses were caused by the pre-funding requirement. Now all of us who still carry notice the loss of first-class letters and flats. On my route, I guesstimate I'm taking roughly 30 percent less mail to the street. Yes, we do get more parcels now; but, it goes without saying, that parcel delivery is more labor-intensive than delivery of letters and flats! It's also more labor-intensive for the plant to process parcels. A double-whammy!

You don't have to be a rocket-scientist to see that (barring a resurgence of people paying their bills by mail) our jobs will change in some way, shape or form.

And *THAT* is if we can get past the current situation we find ourselves in; that is to say, the loss in first-class mail volume that is causing the USPS to lose money. The House recently passed a stimulus package that provides the Postal Service \$25 billion as well as hazard pay. It also, if enacted, would remove all conditions on money we receive as well as place oversight over us with the Office of Inspector General. The Senate is now sitting on it.

## “OuT tHeRe”



This Fred Acedo **OuT tHeRe** cartoon was first published in the Branch 782 newsletter in 1995. Politically, things haven't changed. Will you?



# SIGN ME UP!

## How to contribute to the Letter Carrier Political Fund using ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFER

Through a **MONTHLY** Electronic Fund Transfer, NALC members can contribute directly from their bank account to the Letter Carrier Political Fund (NALC's PAC). On the 1st of every month, the Political Fund will automatically (and without a fee) deduct from your bank account the amount you choose to contribute (ex: \$5 donation each month for twelve months, totaling \$60 for the year).

### Electronic Fund Transfer Authorization

Fill out and return this form with a **voided check** to the address below

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (your name) hereby authorize my bank to deduct from my checking account the **MONTHLY** sum of:

\$25  \$20  \$15  \$10  \$5  Other: \$\_\_\_\_\_ **PER MONTH** and forward that amount to the Letter Carrier Political Fund (NALC's PAC) (Maximum amount per year is \$5,000). I make this authorization voluntarily and may revoke it at any time by notifying the Letter Carrier Political Fund in writing.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_ OR Postal Record number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

### ATTACH A VOIDED CHECK HERE.

Please send this completed form and your voided check to:

**The Letter Carrier Political Fund**  
100 Indiana Ave NW,  
Washington, DC 20001-2144

Your Postal Record Number (circled):

\*\*\*\*\* AUTO\*\* 5- DIGIT 54321  
XXXXXXXX LC 9876 W 13 08  
Letter Carrier  
1234 Main Street  
Anywhere, US 54321-9999

By making a contribution to the Letter Carrier Political Fund, you are doing so voluntarily with the understanding that your contribution is not a condition of membership in the National Association of Letter Carriers or of employment by the Postal Service, nor is it part of union dues. You have a right to refuse to contribute without any reprisal. Any guideline amounts are merely suggestions, and you may contribute more or less than the guidelines suggest and the union will not favor or disadvantage you by reason of the amount of your contribution or your decision not to contribute. The Letter Carrier Political Fund will use the money it receives to contribute to candidates for federal office and undertake other political spending as permitted by law. Your selection shall remain in full force and effect until cancelled. Contributions to the Letter Carrier Political Fund are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. Federal law prohibits the Letter Carrier Political Fund from soliciting contributions from individuals who are not NALC members, executive and administrative staff or their families. Any contribution received from such an individual will be refunded to that contributor. Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, name of employer and occupation of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year.

Staple your voided check here

# Mike Munoz is now a Retiree!!!

Mike started out on his postal journey on June 15, 1985 as a Letter Carrier in Redondo Beach, California. After three years, he transferred to the 93203 delivery area — Arvin, California.

One may wonder why anyone would *ever* want to leave Redondo Beach. Well, it WAS expensive. And, when he got to Arvin, the hundred and ten degrees temperature made *him* wonder why, too!!

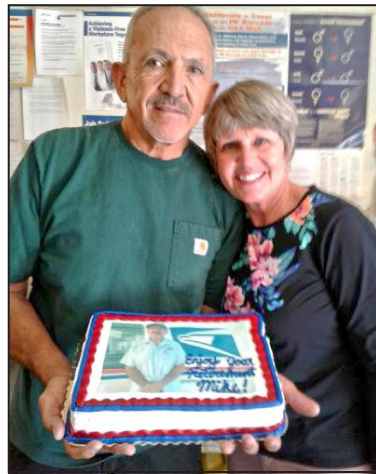
His new assignment presented him with an opportunity to become aware that **THERE ARE A LOT OF DOGS ROAMING THE STREETS IN ARVIN!** Out on the street, he was attacked on a regular basis. But, for the most part, he was able to escape unscathed, breathe deep and just carry on.



(l-r and smiling) Linda Perkins, Jerry Gomez, Mike Munoz, Roy Rosales, Jeri Jimenez and Cristina Ford

Unfortunately, he *was* bitten twice. As a result, he is a member of a “Club” that numerous Letter Carriers all over the country have joined!

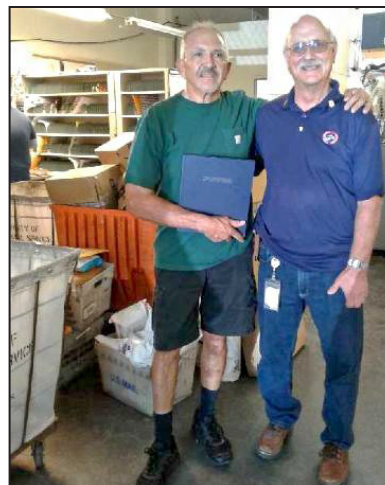
After working his way through the joys of being a PTF and a junior Regular, he found a long-time home. The customers on Route 003 are going to miss the Carrier that they’ve seen coming through their various neighborhoods for the last ten years. And, if truth be known, Mike is really going to miss most of them, too. More importantly, he is **REALLY** going to miss the folks that he’s been working with for the many years in Arvin!!!



When Mike first walked through the door at his new unit, Dean Scott and Roy Rosales were already there. “It still feels amazing that I am now retired just like them.” This year seemed like the time for him to “jump”, too. The icing on the cake was that his wife, Linda, retired from teaching in the same week that he did. They are in the process of relocating to Sacramento **and** downsizing. Mike is looking forward to having less time to have to devote to the upkeep in his larger old home! Mail arriving at their new address is going to find them part of a community of other retirees and Mike and Linda’s adventure **IS** going to continue.

Another reason that Sacramento is such a draw is that two of their children live there. **So, too, do six of their grandchildren...** Pretty much a no-brainer if you think about it!

When Mike was asked if he had one specific funny memory about his life as a Letter Carrier which stood out, he responded with, “I don’t have any one specific memory. We have **LOTS** of good ones. Lots of time to laugh at lots of good times! I really had a good life as a Carrier.”



All pictures courtesy of Mark Munoz

## “OuT tHeRe”



## OUT THERE



Mike Munoz: “I had this cartoon on my case for over 10 years... I pulled it down the day I retired and brought it home!”

## Dear Sisters and Brothers from Branch 782,

I am so excited to write this article!! After 35 years of carrying mail I have turned in my retirement papers and become one of the “Last Punch Bunch”.

It was a privilege to serve as the NALC Steward at Arvin and then more recently also at Lamont. I would like to thank our Branch President, Mike Towery; Vice President John Ortega and every one on the Executive Board — past, present and even future. It is important that I also send out my thanks to former Branch President Frank Thomasy

We are very blessed to have the Officers in our Branch that oversee the needs of the membership. These are men and women who work tirelessly with little pay, yet with character, integrity and perseverance! Yes! We should all be thankful for the national and state NALC! Because of them, we have a decent middle class salary. We have health and life insurance, pensions 401(k)s, MBA insurance, benefits and investments!

I would like to thank my Postmaster from Arvin, Tim Bettis. I know that — as I’ve gotten older and the job has gotten harder — I have an appreciation for a supervisor who helped me perform to the best of my ability by treating me with common courtesy and respect. I wish him and his family the best!

To our young members: **PLEASE** be thankful for what union membership means and be thankful for your Steward and all the Branch Officers! Finally, I am going to miss ALL of the Arvin employees! You have ALL really been a family to me. Truly!

Sincerely, God bless!  
MIKE MUNOZ

P.S. I would like to thank our editor Basil and his assistant for the great work they do in keeping us all informed — especially the outlying members who cannot make it to the meetings in person. And, Thank You Fred Acedo for all of your great cartoons!!



Mike Munoz joins the Last Punch Bunch

from the  
**editor-guy**

I have known Mike Munoz for many, many years. As he walks out the door and into a new life there are a few things that I want to share.

We both used to have hair which was much darker. Even though he worked in Arvin and I in Bakersfield, we both shared the same kinds of experiences as Letter Carriers in the southern San Joaquin Valley — the winter fog and those hot, hot summer days with the “dry heat”.

There was *never* a time that I would contact him and ask for help that he would let me down. Mike was truly, “one of the good guys” that I came to know and respect.

There are a number of things that come to mind as I think about him.

Mike worked in Arvin. His office was the only delivery unit in the city. For those of us who work in cities large enough to have multiple delivery units, our reality is a little different. If we tire of delivering in a certain zone in the city, we can bid a new route in a new zone. If there is a chance to move to a new case in a building closer to where we live, we can try to bid that assignment.

In Arvin — as well as other smaller cities — an entire career can be spent working with, and delivering to, pretty much the same people. The only way to continue working as a Letter Carrier is to transfer to an entirely different city.

To put this in perspective: Imagine if you were hired two months after a group of Carriers were hired in a small city. They spent their entire careers and you were *always* junior to them (vacation sign-ups, bidding, etc.). I recall hearing of one guy in a small town who, after working for twenty-eight years, retired as a PTF. I’m glad that Mike didn’t have to do that! (Humberto Rosales should be glad, too!)

Although I know that Mike does have assorted aches and pains accumulated over the course of an entire career carrying mail, I also know that he has continued to be always be upbeat and positive. This approach to life will stand him in good stead as the adventure that he and Linda have been on is going to continue away from his old work world in Arvin.

Mike, have a **REALLY LONG** retirement full of good health and good times!!



Originally published April 2005



Originally published March 2016

# Good Riddance!

What can I say about Mike Munoz that's nice? Now, **THAT'S** a challenge... I think the best thing he did was to retire. Good Riddance!

NOW, — at the age of 34 — **I GET TO BE THE HEAD GUY — #1, "THE MAN"!**

But, joking aside, Mike was a great guy and **AWESOME** Shop Steward! Any time I had a question, he always found an answer. **For thirty years in Arvin, it was the Mike Munoz and Roy Rosales Team!** They ruled this office with “old-timers” iron fists.

Arvin was always a very noisy office in the morning with those two around. Then, Roy retired and it got a little quieter. Now, that Mike has also left the building, there is silence.

Yes, we notice that both Arvin dynasties are gone. And, the “new blood” full-time Carriers are here to pick it up!!

But, we will **NEVER** see a guy like Mike ever again.

Thank you, Mike, for the good service and don't forget to swing by every once in a while!

HUMBERTO ROSALES

P.S. Don't turn into an uncle like Roy!!

## OUT THERE



Originally published in 2002





Originally published January 2005



Originally published December 2015



Originally published February 2017



Originally published January 2016

# KNOW WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE AN OLDTIMER?

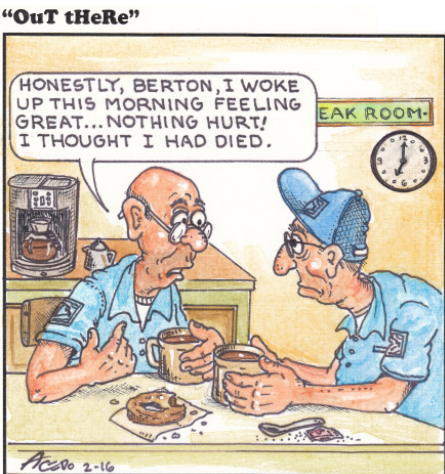


WHY WOULD YOU EVER WANT TO RETIRE???



YOU CAN BE AN OLD TIMER, TOO. YOU DO IT ONE DAY AT A TIME... HANG IN THERE! BE PROFESSIONAL.

FRED ACEDO  
P.O. BOX 6532  
BAKERSFIELD, CA  
93386-6532



Originally published April 2016

Originally published October 2008

**S.A.N.E.\*** Fred Acedo explores a number of themes in his cartoons. One interesting approach is when he pictures Letter Carriers as seen through the eyes of USPS management. More often, S.A.N.E. Fred Acedo points out how supervisors, managers and postmasters look to us. Their mis-management is celebrated through a variety of many numerous, humorous, and onerous examples of what they do.

\*S.A.N.E. — Special Assistant Newsletter Editor

This article originated in Seattle, Washington. You may not work there, but the info is still important!

# CCA Converting to Career? Use YOUR Benefits!!

By Kevin Gottlieb, NALC Branch 79 V.P.

**Last summer, the Postal Service did away with the classroom training for CCAS converting to career employees. Now, local management MUST ensure the newly converted employees are provided the proper conversion orientation.**

This training is done on management's computer and must be done as expeditiously as possible, *as the new career employee has a 60-day time limit to sign up for Health Benefits.*

After completing the training mentioned above, the NALC is afforded the opportunity to speak to the newly converted career employee. Normally, the NALC presentation should occur immediately after the 90-minute computer course.

The employees who could not elect a Health Benefit Plan due to late or never being provided the career conversion training and/or NALC Health Benefit Plans presentation may apply for an exception under ELM 523.31, "IF the HRSSC determines that an employee was un-

able, for causes beyond control, to enroll or to change enrollment within the prescribed time limits, it **MAY** accept the enrollment within 60 days after notifying the employee of its determination."

The above wording comes from a Step B decision out of the Auburn Installation. (\*See note). At Formal A, we invoked the Ricks Pyle agreement, which when invoked, will cover all installations within Branch 79. If you are having trouble getting a carrier these trainings or getting the training yourself, please contact your shop steward or the Branch 79 office.

I have been going around and training local stewards to be able to give this training in their office to their newly converted career employees. This is addressed in our National Agreement Article 17.6.

Some of the items that are brought up during NALC conversion training are talking about your health benefits, specifically the NALC Health Benefit Plan. Other topics that are of importance to the newly career employee: **life insurance, vision insurance, dental insurance, Thrift Savings Plan, how to read the Letter Carrier Pay Schedule & pay stub, automated bidding and answering questions that are brought up.**

If you have any or additional questions about your conversion to career, please call the Branch 79 office and hopefully we can answer your questions.



Originally published November 2008



Originally published July 2007

## Always NALC Pride!

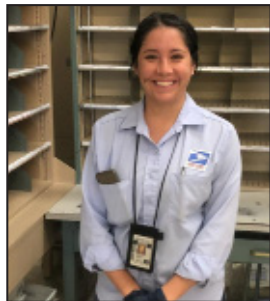
**\*NOTE:** This information is based on a decision in one unit represented by Branch 79 in Washington State.

While it may not be applicable outside that area, the basic concepts should still apply to CCA Rights and Benefits at conversion because "the clock is running" when some basic decisions **MUST** be made by the new Regular...

Check with your unit Steward

This article is courtesy of the Seattle, Washington NALC Branch 79 November 2019 Seventy-Niner.

# Congratulations to the newly converted Branch 782 Regulars!!



Jeanette Madrid — 93304



Juan Salcido — 93308



Levi Prinz & Javier Soto — 93307

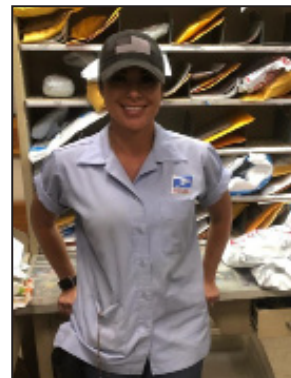


Kelsey Jameson — 93555

Marlon Baredo — East Brundage  
 David Barrera — Stockdale  
 Cheryl Bear — East Brundage  
 Kelsey Jameson — Ridgecrest  
 Kuldeep Rai — Stockdale  
 Jeanette Madrid — South  
 Fernando Mari — Delano  
 Rolando Martinez — Stockdale  
 Ryan Miranda — Ridgecrest  
 Hector Nunez — Downtown Bakersfield  
 Elias Pichardo — Hillcrest  
 Levi Prinz — East Brundage  
 Crystal Ramos — East Brundage  
 Amie Rice — Hillcrest  
 Brandon Risner — Hillcrest  
 Juan Salcido — Dole Court  
 Javier Soto — East Brundage  
 Carrie Taylor — East Brundage  
 Michelle Watts — Camino Media



Amie Rice — 93306



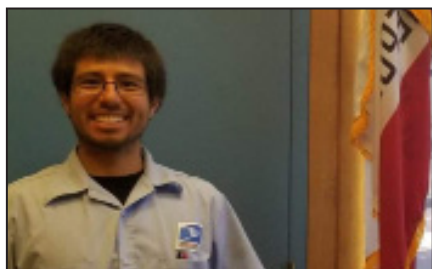
Michelle Watts — 93313



Left to right: Rolando Martinez, David Barrera, Kuldeep Rai — 93309



Hector Nunez — 93301



Ryan Miranda — 93555



Left to right: Carrie Taylor, Crystal Ramos, Cheryl Bear, Marlon Baredo — 93305/7



Thanks to Assistant Editor Paul Greenfield for hunting down and compiling this information!

# Worried about whether you or yours have the Coronavirus???

If you and your family are enrolled in the NALC Benefit Plan, the COVID-19 lab test is covered when utilizing the QUEST labs with little or no cost to you. You may need to request a Lab slip from your family physician who can send a FAX requesting this blood test to QUEST.

If you need further information regarding the possible out of pocket when using other LABS, please contact the NALC Health Benefit Plan at 1-888-636-6252

Please, wear an approved CDC cloth mask when out and about to protect not just yourself but others you might come in contact with. This COVID-19 virus is here, and we must take precautions and adjust to this Pandemic. A single saliva droplet can contain up to 3,000 viruses. The head of a straight pin can hold up to 100,000 viruses. Any currents of air whether inside or outside can allow this virus travel a long distance.

Please, stay healthy, safe and informed about this Pandemic!!

MARK RAMIREZ

The Golden Empire NALC Branch 782 NALC Health Benefit Plan Representative

## Latest [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) update:

*As of June 16, 2020, there have been 2,104,346 Covid-19 cases identified in the United States and the U.S. territories. There have been 116,140 deaths — **fourteen have been Letter Carriers**. Two months ago, on April 16, there were 632,548 cases and 31,071 deaths.*

*About 900 of the currently quarantined postal employees have tested positive for the virus, and approximately another 400 are presumed to be positive. Another 2,100 postal employees who tested positive in the past have recovered and returned to work. Of all these numbers, about thirty percent are Letter Carriers. Recent numbers might seem to show a rising trend.*

*However, we should all be aware that this is a situation which is still in flux...*

### Even old-fart Retirees are struggling...

**Fred Acedo**  
Branch 782 S.A.N.E.



“Going stir whacko, ready to go back to work.”

**“HeLP!!!”**

**Rick Plummer**  
Branch Webmaster



“Even in Texas, ‘shelter in place’ is driving me nuts!!! But, carry mail? Nope. Not *THAT* nuts!”

### “OuT tHeRe”



# 2020 NALC HBP Info

## At a glance...



NALC Health Benefit Plan  
 \*Hospital Pre-Certification  
 Mental & Substance Precertification  
 Prescription Drug Program  
 CVS/Caremark Specialty Pharmacy  
 Durable Medical Equipment  
 "24/7 Nurse Hotline"  
 CVS/CareMark Pharmacist  
 Solutions for Caregivers (24/7)  
 CIGNA PPO Locator Line  
 CIGNA Organ Transplant Approval  
 Quit for Life (Tobacco Cessation)  
 CIGNA Health Rewards (Discounts)  
**CIGNA Plus (Dental Discount)**  
 Disease Management Program  
 OPM Retirement Info Center  
 Federal Information Center  
 Social Security Administration Info  
 PostalEase Human Resources USPS  
 Quest Lab Services (Bakersfield)  
 LabCorp Lab Services Bakersfield  
**Shared Services** Option 5 live person  
 Medicare  
 Suicide Hotline  
 Suicide?? Talk With Someone...

1-888-636-6252  
 1-877-220-6252  
 1-877-468-1016  
 1-800-933-6252  
 1-800-237-2767  
 1-855-511-1893  
**1-877-220-6252**  
 1-888-636-6252  
 1-877-468-1016  
 1-877-220-6252  
 1-800-668-9682  
 1-866-784-8454  
 1-800-558-9443  
**1-877-521-0244**  
 1-800-227-3728  
 1-888-767-6738  
 1-800-333-4636  
 1-800-772-1213  
 1-877-477-3273  
 (661) 631-8520  
 (661) 631-9258  
**1-877-477-3273**  
 1-800-633-4227  
 1-800-784-2433  
 1-800-273-8255

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

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

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

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

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

*\* Call for approvals Organ Transplants,  
 DME Surgeries InPatient*

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

**PPO Deductible: Per Calendar Year**  
 \$300 "Individual"  
 \$600 "Self & Family" or "Self Plus One"

Many immunizations are Free (Adult/Child) when administered at a PPO pharmacy/facility. Some will require a prescription from the Doctor.

### URGENT CARE

**Sendas Urgent Care:** 9450 Ming Ave., Bakersfield (661) 587-2500  
 M-S 8 a.m. - 9 p.m. Saturday/Sunday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
**ASK FOR OTHER LOCATIONS**

**Accelerated Urgent Care:** 9710 Brimhall, (661) 829-6747  
 9500 Stockdale Hwy, (661) 735-3943 8 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. daily  
**ASK FOR OTHER LOCATIONS**

*Our PPO doctors and facilities—through (OAP Network) CIGNA—save us and the Plan thousands of dollars and it is top notch care at a discount rate. You don't lose anything! You are saving money for the best care!!!*

**MARK RAMIREZ**

**NALC Branch 782 Health Benefit Plan Representative**

**(661) 204-5592**

## How do you find NALC/CIGNA (PPO) (OAP) Providers and Pharmacies?

Go to **NALC.ORG**.

Under "Member Benefits"  
**NALC Health Benefit Plan,**

Click on **HBP Website (Center of Page)**

Under **Quick links,**

Click on "Locate Network Retail Pharmacy" - or **CIGNA.**

Click on **Healthcare (OAP) Online Provider Directory**

The NALC Consumer Driven HP and the Value Option HP can utilize this **CIGNA PPO/OAP NETWORK** or by calling 1-855-511-1893.

**OPTUMHEALTH BEHAVIORIAL SOLUTIONS** is also available to the Consumer Driven/Value Option. You must pre-certify. Call 1-877-468-1016.

**We DO have a Dental Discount Program!**  
 Call Mark Ramirez for details...

There may be no monthly Branch 782 General Meetings, but information *IS* still available! If you are Active, stay in touch with your Shop Stewards. Retirees have newsletters. There is even an extended color web version — and even more information — on the Branch 782 website at [WWW.782NALC.COM](http://WWW.782NALC.COM). And, there's more, too!

## Looking for the latest NALC news? Give it a listen!

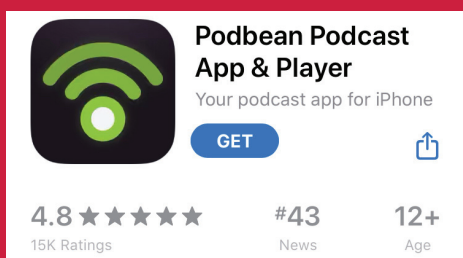
**NALC has launched the new podcast “You Are the Current Resident” on Podbean and other popular podcasting venues, including iTunes, Spotify and Google Play.**

During each episode, NALC Executive Vice President Brian Renfroe and Assistant to the President for Contract Administration Mark Sims discuss vital topics affecting the letter carrier craft and the union. The show's format also includes interviews with other NALC leaders to talk in depth about issues affecting letter carriers and the union.

The COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on letter carriers and the Postal Service have dominated early episodes since the podcast debuted in March.



### Accessing the podcast is easiest on Podbean



**The Podbean app is available in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store**

On smartphones, simply go to the Apple App Store or Google Play Store and download the Podbean Podcast App & Player. Once you have downloaded the app, open it and create an account (or sign on as a guest) and go to the search icon at the top and enter “You Are the Current Resident.” From there, you can listen to the available episodes and can click “Follow” to receive updates when new episodes are released.

On your computer or mobile browser, go to the web address [youarethecurrentresident.podbean.com](http://youarethecurrentresident.podbean.com) and click on the play button of the episode you wish to listen to.

## Retraction: The Editor-guy is sorry

*I apologize, Page 11 of the May 2020 web version listing CCAs who were recently converted to Regular contained erroneous information. Updated and corrected, it is on page 11 in the June 2020 web version of the newsletter. I apologize to anyone who was offended.*

# FMLA: Don't Stay Home Without It!

By Suzanne Miller, Editor  
NALC Branch 82

When I began working for the Postal Service, my uncle gave me some advice. He told me I must *never* be late, *never* get sick, and *never* get hurt. I knew he had retired from USPS after working some 30 or so years, so I had no reason to doubt his advice, but it did sound a little unrealistic. However, it didn't take me long to realize that he wasn't exaggerating. When I started in 2014, many of my fellow CCAs didn't make it to conversion. Still others were fired in their second probation. I learned quickly that **attendance matters** and if you suffered an injury, especially in your first 90 days, you would probably be fired.

Six years later, I'm serving as Steward at Rose City Park, and my uncle's advice is ringing true again. Since peak season ended, I have done 17 attendance based investigative interviews. In a station with 44 routes, that's a significant number. While some Carriers have several tardies and/or absences listed, others missed only three times in the quarter. Many of those had notes or receipts from a doctor. One even underwent a surgery. What was true in all cases was illness.

We all worked exceedingly hard throughout December, and it's not surprising that we didn't all come out of it unscathed. And what about our children? Aren't we supposed to do the right thing and keep them out of school if they're ill and contagious? And shouldn't we do the same for ourselves? I guess it depends who you ask.

I want you all to know that management doesn't really care why you missed work. What feels like a perfectly valid reason to you will not matter to them. Only the numbers on the page will determine your fate. Your immediate supervisors might be sympathetic to your situation (maybe), but it is out of their hands anyway.

If you have to miss more than one or two days in a quarter, you have two options. Plan ahead. That is, make sure you and your family members fall ill on your scheduled AL, or at least with enough advanced notice to get some time approved.

Or, cover yourself with FMLA. I know that a lot of Carriers think that a common cold should not warrant the time and paperwork spent on becoming FMLA approved. Others are not aware of it at all. Some actually have a case number but don't want to use it unless things are really dire. Well, I want you to know that *things ARE dire*. If you want to protect yourself from discipline, you must take advantage of the Family Medical Leave Act.

It's true that it's not for everyone — you must have been an employee for a year to qualify. So many of our CCAs aren't there yet. Not every situation will be covered, but many will be, and isn't it worth it to do that for yourself? It can save you from a visit to a little room with your supervisor and shop steward and ultimately the letter of warning (or worse) that will follow.

After such events, many Carriers feel confused as to why they're getting questioned and punished for using their sick leave benefit. As our Chief Steward has said, the discipline is *NOT* about using your sick leave; it's about *irregular attendance*. While they are not the same thing, one certainly leads to the other.

That usually leads to feelings of anger and apathy and a rather unhappy workplace. I want to encourage you all to avoid this scenario. Call the hall for answers to FMLA questions you may have. Protect yourself from undeserved and unwanted discipline.

And please, take it from my Uncle Tom (retiree, Denver), do your best to show up on time, every day, without injuries.

Courtesy of the Portland, Oregon NALC Branch 82 March 2020 *B-Mike*. Suzanne, you are doing so amazingly well in your new gig with the *B-Mike*. This Editor-guy is impressed and looking to steal more...

## The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) guarantees eligible Letter Carriers up to 12 weeks of leave each postal leave year, for:

A new child in the family—by birth, by adoption or by placement in foster care;

Caring for a family member with a serious health condition;

The employee's own serious health condition that prevents him or her from performing the job, or Qualifying exigencies arising out of the fact that employee's family member is on or has been notified of "covered active duty" in the Armed Forces.

The FMLA also guarantees eligible letter carriers up to 26 weeks of leave in a single 12-month period to care for a "covered servicemember" with a "serious injury or illness" if that servicemember is their spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin.

The FMLA guarantees time off, whether paid or unpaid. The type of leave taken depends on the reasons for the leave, an employee's earnings and the usual postal leave regulations. There are eligibility criteria, medical certification guidelines and other detailed rules governing letter carrier rights to FMLA leave.

SOURCE: [HTTPS://WWW.NALC.ORG/WORKPLACE-ISSUES/CONTRACT-ADMINISTRATION-UNIT/FMLA](https://www.nalc.org/workplace-issues/contract-administration-unit/fmla)

# Dicktation

by John “Cementhead” Dick,  
NALC Branch 3126 Alternate Steward

*Farmington Steward and Union Brother Emery Johnson was escorted out of the Farmington station by Farmington Hills police on the morning of March 2nd, 2020. He was placed on Emergency Placement and as of the date that I am writing this article, March 15th, 2020, he has not returned to work. He was placed on Emergency Placement by Farmington supervisor John Smith for the following reason:*

*Brother Johnson wrote an article for this publication, New Vision.*

*John Smith deemed Emery’s article, printed in the February 2020 edition on page 23 — titled “Less threats, more respect” so outrageous and threatening that he placed our Union Brother on Emergency Placement and had the police escort him out of the building in front of all his co-workers.*

*One line in particular was the reason stated for the Emergency Placement. It was forty eight words stating an opinion. Read it for yourself.*

“If you remove Christopher Carlisle’s name from the reports about the 1991 Royal Oak shooting and replace them with Jeff Price’s name and change the date to some current date this year of 2020, it may not be far off if threatening and intimidating behavior is not stopped.”

Info is presented WITHOUT the context of the Royal Oak incident or the original article. Additionally, there is more that can be reported: As of this date, June 16th, 2020 Brother Johnson is still sitting at home waiting to return to his beloved duties as a Letter Carrier No charges have yet been brought against him from Farmington management.

His first and only Investigative Interview concerning these perceived “threats” was held on June 1st, 2020.

A much fuller update about Brother Emery Johnson is anticipated in the July Branch 782 newsletter.

There are those amongst us who have a taste for leather. I am not referring to the fashionistas who love the latest style of leather shoes and pants, or those, like me, from the biker culture who love their black leather jackets festooned with patches and medallions from years of travel and

adventure. I am talking about those who love the literal taste of leather, those who would slide their tongue across a grimy boot sole and roll their eyes back in ecstasy at the foulness of the flavor. I am talking about the “BOOT-LICKERS”.



Some of these **BOOTLICKERS** have a home. This is a place where they can sow their obsequious seeds in the hopes of rising through the ranks of postal management. Their home is the Farmington station. And through their sycophantic obsession, they have created one of the greatest cases of injustice to one of our members that I have ever witnessed.

Brother Johnson is sitting at home right now collecting no pay because he wrote an article for this newsletter. This is unprecedented in the history of *New Vision*. For the simple act of stating his opinion about the toxic workplace environment that exists at the Farmington station, this Brother was removed from his source of income. I have mentioned the **BOOTLICKERS**. Now let's talk about the **BOOT**.

Jeff Price was the Farmington postmaster until February 28, 2020. On that Friday he announced that he was going back to his former position in Detroit District Labor Relations. In a talk that he gave to Farmington employees that morning, he insisted that the move was his choice.

I have no doubt that it wasn't his choice. I have heard from more than one reliable source that he bemoaned the fact that he was being demoted. During that goodbye speech he gave a final parting shot to the Farmington employees: "I hope I don't see any of your names come across my desk when I get to Labor because that won't be a good thing."

I can see the loathsome toady John Smith, who placed Brother Johnson on Emergency Placement, salivating at that thinly veiled threat. Salivating at the thought of another lick of **THE BOOT**.

I have had extensive dealings in the Farmington station over the last several years and I can tell you readers that I have *never* seen a more dysfunctional station. Masses of mail were getting delayed on a regular basis; tens of thousands of dollars were being paid out in overtime violations; employees were having meltdowns on the workroom floor; and, recently two female supervisors had a profanity-laden screaming match that almost ended in fisticuffs before being broken up by other supervisors.

Farmington was a steaming kettle with a lid ready to blow. Brother Johnson decided to write about it.

Emery's article first appeared as an email that I received on January 12th, 2020. I was collecting statements from the Farmington Carriers about the toxic work environment, and I took those statements to a special Labor/ Management meeting that was held at Detroit District headquarters on January 16th, 2020.

Jeff Price was attempting to belittle the Union's position that Farmington had immense workplace issues, so I read that particular line from Brother Johnson's statement about the comparison to the environment in Royal Oak before the 1991 shooting. In attendance were many higher-ups from the Detroit District. No one batted an eye. No one called it threatening.

The article was printed in *New Vision* for the February edition. I took the newsletter mailing to the plant on January 28th and was happy to see that it arrived in my mailbox on January 30th.

Jeff Price receives a copy of every *New Vision*. Jeff Price was forced out of his position as Farmington postmaster on February 28th. Brother Johnson was placed on Emergency Placement on March 2nd because of the perceived "threats" presented in that article.

***That article was circulated and read for over a month before this venomous action took place. Is that how you handle a genuine "threat"?***

It is sickly obvious what occurred to Brother Johnson. As a parting shot, Jeff Price had his **BOOTLICKER**, Supervisor John Smith, do his dirty work.

And John Smith is not the only one still in contact with **THE BOOT**. Other supervisors in that office are still in daily contact with their Puppet master. I won't give you the satisfaction of seeing your names in print, but we know who you are. You have been seen chatting on the phone with the **BOOT**. Jeff Price is still trying to pull your strings, little puppets, and we are on to you. Do the right thing and distance yourself from him. He will only harm your career. You will be a better supervisor if you learn how to think on your own.

I am fully assured that the Union will be successful in getting Brother Johnson back to work soon. We just received the Farmington Hills police report and it supports our position. The report reads, in part: "*Upon arrival officers made contact with John Smith (Supervisor). Smith allowed officers to read the "threat" written by Emery Johnson. Officers did not perceive the article as a threat. He did not make any threats towards employees or management.*"

These highly trained professionals support the Union's position. In this scurrilous attack on Brother Johnson's integrity, it is woefully clear that the wrong person was escorted by police out of his workplace, in front of his coworkers; that person should have been Jeff Price.

When I first hired in, one of the old-timers gave me these words of wisdom in regards to why the Union wins in these types of circumstances: ***There are more of us, we are organized, we are unified, we work harder, AND WE ARE SMARTER!***

Hang in there, Brother Emery Johnson. We got your back.

Solidarity Forever!!!

Article courtesy of the Royal Oak/Madison Heights, Michigan NALC Branch 3126 March 2020 *NEW VISION*.

**Editor-guy note:** I met with "Cementhead" at the NALC national convention in Detroit after having read many of his articles through the years. ***HE IS A TRULY DEDICATED*** Letter Carrier activist!

# THE VP's COMMENTS

by John J. Pfiffner,  
NALC Branch 373 V.P.

**A**s you have read in the past, I have always been supportive of the CCAs. *I can't reiterate enough how ill-treated this class of Letter Carriers have been and continue to be, by an abusive employer.*

I have written in support of them and believe that Regulars, no matter how bad they have it with being mandated parts, still have it easy in comparison to the CCAs.

The CCAs were hired to be an auxiliary workforce for our employer. *They were NOT hired as sub-humans.* CCAs have it rough and we Regulars don't need to make their lives at work any worse.

However, that being said, I feel the need to unload on the CCAs — but in a supportive way.

If CCAs feel abused by management, then YOU need to let your union officers and

stewards know about it, because **THAT IS WHAT YOU ARE PAYING UNION DUES FOR!** If management is intimidating YOU to do things YOU don't want to do, or feel is right, then YOU need to let YOUR union officers and stewards know about it. **THAT IS WHAT YOU ARE PAYING UNION DUES FOR!**

If management is giving you too much work to get done in a day, and you feel like you have to run all day to get it done, then you need to let your union officers and stewards know about it. **THAT IS WHAT YOU ARE PAYING UNION DUES FOR!** If management uses foul language in front of you or towards you, then you need to let your union officers and stewards know about it. **THAT IS WHAT YOU ARE PAYING UNION DUES FOR!**

If management belittles you in any way because it doesn't feel you work hard enough, then you need to let your union officers and stewards know about it. **THAT IS WHAT YOU ARE PAYING UNION DUES FOR!** If management calls you into the office for any reason, then you need to let your union officers and stewards know about it. **THAT IS WHAT YOU ARE PAYING UNION DUES FOR!**

If you ask management for something, such as your uniform allowance, and it blows you off, then you need to let your union officers and stewards know about it. **THAT IS WHAT YOU ARE PAYING UNION DUES FOR!**

I was having a conversation with a CCA at the Winter Dinner explained to him that management had a golden opportunity when

an arbitrator created the CCA position as an auxiliary workforce at half the wages of Regulars. I told the gentleman that management should have taken advantage of it and treated CCAs with dignity and respect. In return it would have gotten greater productivity out of them. I told him that instead management treats the CCAs as a disposable workforce.

The CCA I was talking to lit up in recognition because that was the summation of all we had been talking about. The CCA then went on to tell me how he was being treated in a certain way and I gave him advice on how to handle it.

Also, CCAs need to consider the following: Once you get past your 90 days, there is little management can do to you *as long as you work quietly and diligently.* There is no street pace!

You don't have to work as fast as others and if you don't, you don't need to worry about your hours getting cut. How many hours are you *and* the Regulars working right now? Think they'll cut yours hours when management can't even staff a Carrier on every route?

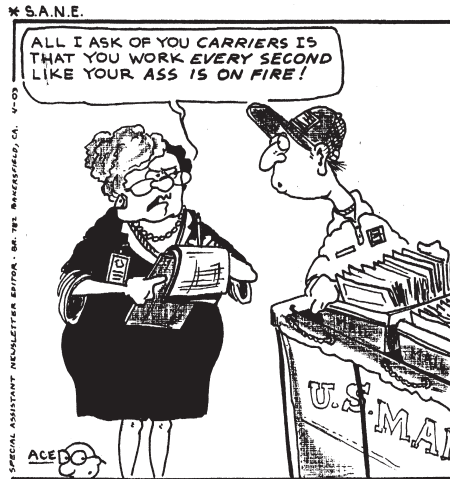
Plus, as long as you are respectful of others, and work safely, you never need to worry about discipline because management has to have 'just cause' to issue it. And that is just to high a bar for management to get over most of the time when they try!

The point I am trying to make with this article is that CCAs pay union dues! YOU are entitled to and deserve the same level of respect and support from the NALC as Regulars!

If you believe that management is not treating you in a fair way then you need to let your union officers and stewards know about it, because we can't help you if you don't let us know what is going on.

As a CCA, it will take a long time to learn all the work floor rules. And you may not have the personality, fortitude or desire to butt heads with management if you feel you are wronged. That's okay. But the very least you can do is let one of your branch officers and stewards know because we are in our positions because we want to help you in any way we can.

Please, please take advantage of our knowledge and willingness to help because **THAT IS WHAT YOU ARE PAYING UNION DUES FOR!**



Originally published August 2004

"OuT tHeRe"



Originally published 1995

Courtesy of the Cedar Rapids, Iowa NALC Branch 373  
February 2020 Eastern Iowa Reporter

# Support the USPS and the NALC

By Kevin Gottlieb, NALC Branch 79 V.P.

Congratulations to us!! According to the Pew Research Center Survey that was released on April 9, 2020: **The results showed that over 91% of respondents have a favorable view of the USPS, higher than any other federal agency.**

The Pew Research Center contacted 1,013 U.S. adults to get their opinion and the consensus was favorable to the USPS.

“Postal Service employees continuously display a remarkable commitment to public service,” said Postmaster General Megan J. Brennan. “It is rewarding to see Americans’ appreciation of the Postal Service reflected in this new survey, especially as our employees continue to provide an essential service, including the delivery of vital mail and packages to every community during the coronavirus pandemic.” (From postalnews.com)

*The reality is that our favorability is in spite of the need to overcome on a daily basis those obstacles that management has created. That makes the 91% favorability that much more impressive. It is because of the craft employees’ commitment that we received such a high favorability.*

The Postal Service — and their employees — are deemed essential employees, and on a daily basis, they must get to work. Customers nationwide are thanking Letter Carriers for delivering their mail while having to deal with the possibility of coming in contact with the virus and maybe bringing it home.

While mail volume is dropping, a push by President Trump to not bail out the Post Office is very disturbing while other companies and agencies are getting assistance. The part that bothers me the most is that the Postal Service is the largest non-

military employer of veterans.

There has been a push by the NALC to get you to contact your members of Congress and tell them the Postal Service needs help until the crisis is over. The NALC has made it easy for you to contact your Congressional members. Go to [nalc.org](http://nalc.org) and it’s right there on the front page.

Another push us for Letter Carriers to put money back in to our employer.

Letter Carriers and other employees of the Postal Service have made a push, that on payday, to purchase stamps. I know it’s wonderful and easy to have online bill payer, *but WE need to support our employer!* Do not only purchase stamps, but use them, too!!

Another way Letter Carriers can support our job is to contribute to the Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF). Just a couple dollars on payday goes to our friends in Congress — Democrat or Republican — who are supportive of NALC legislation.

It does matter if you are a Republican, Democrat, Conservative, Liberal, etc.

What we *ALL* have in common is that we are Letter Carriers and the LCPF will only contribute to those candidates who will support the issues important to Letter Carriers (no matter how they identify).

So, to my Brothers and Sisters of the NALC, I ask that you contribute to the LCPF. Joining the LCPF is like having

insurance to protect your job and our collective bargaining rights.

Think about the power our PAC would have if *ALL* Letter Carriers could make a contribution of \$5.00 a pay.

“The Letter Carrier Political Fund identifies and contributes to candidates who support issues important to letter carriers and to ensure decisions that impact their lives are made with their best interests in mind.”

The easiest way to become a member of the Letter Carrier Political Fund is to contribute through automatic payroll deduction. Contact the branch office with questions about how you can contribute.

(ya ya! I stole some of my article from a previous article I wrote.)  
Until next time... stay healthy and be USPS & NALC proud!

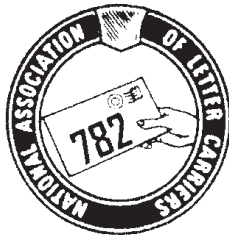
Courtesy of the Seattle, Washington NALC Branch 79 May 2020 *Seventy-Niner.*

## “OuT tHeRe”



Originally published May 2011

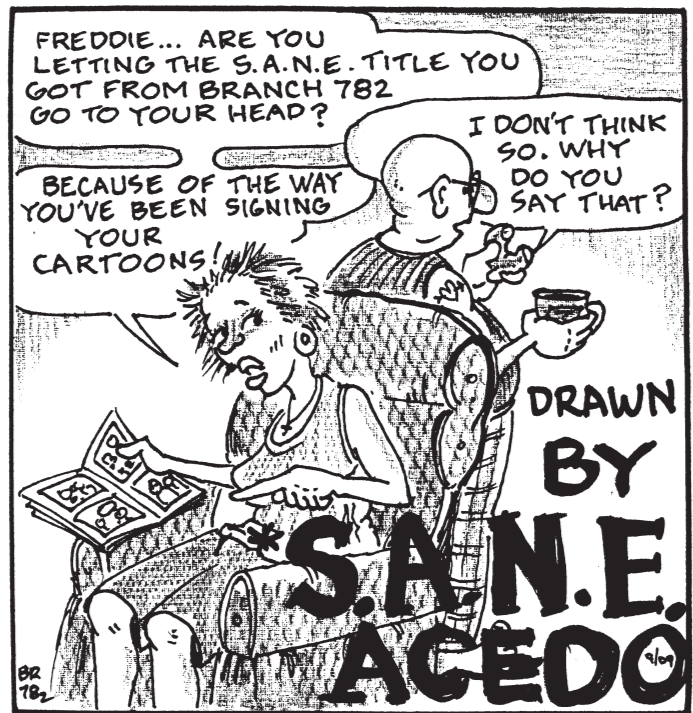
By making a contribution to the Letter Carrier Political Fund, you are doing so voluntarily with the understanding that your contribution is not a condition of membership in the National Association of Letter Carriers or of employment by the Postal Service, nor is it part of union dues. You have a right to refuse to contribute without any reprisal. The Letter Carrier Political Fund will use the money it receives to contribute to candidates for federal office and undertake other political spending as permitted by law. Your selection shall remain in full force and effect until cancelled. Contributions to the Letter Carrier Political Fund are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. Federal law prohibits the Letter Carrier Political Fund from soliciting contributions from individuals who are not NALC members, executive and administrative staff or their families. Any contribution received from such an individual will be refunded to that contributor.



# from the editor-guy

The *NALC Editor Resource Book* is Volume II of Fred Acedo cartoons. It presents almost 1100 of Fred Acedo's cartoons published in our newsletter from 2003 - 2016. This book builds on the almost 500 cartoons in the original **Out tHeRe** book which featured his work from 1993 through 2002. *Welcome to Volume II!*

You may have questions about how this book can be used or whether or not it will be a good investment. You can call me at the phone number listed below. You can write to me, or you can e-mail me at BRZIII@AOLCOM. I would be glad to answer your questions or give you an idea of how this product can be a creative tool for your current or future NALC editor in presenting information to NALC members. *(Please follow this trail \*\*\* )*



This book is an excellent book of clip art designed specifically for, by and about NALC members and our world. (Yes. I am biased. I believe that this **IS** an excellent book of clip art! I hope that you agree...)

Additionally, an index is provided that links ALL of the cartoons in both the original **Out tHeRe** and in Volume II to assist editors in searching out cartoons by topic (e.g. dogs, injuries, supervisors, etc.).

BASIL ZUNIGA

- • • • •
- **Please send me one or more *NALC Editor Resource Books!* I want Fred's cartoons!** •
- Base cost is **\$30** but you can donate more. (Cost covers wear & tear, paper, toner, etc.) •
- **\*\*\* SPECIAL OFFER:** I will include a copy of **Out tHeRe** with this order. **500 more cartoons!** •
- **When you order, please indicate if you are an NALC Editor!** •
- **Please make check payable to Basil Zuniga, Branch 782 Editor-guy** •
- • • • •

Please include \$7.90 for USPS Priority Mail postage.

NALC Branch 782 ● 2628 F Street ● Bakersfield, California ● 93301 ● (661) 205-1603

Curious about what you might be getting? Check out the sample featured on the following page.



Especially in the Covid pandemic, an **Out there** cartoon can be a little relief...

"Out there"



"Out there"



"Out there"



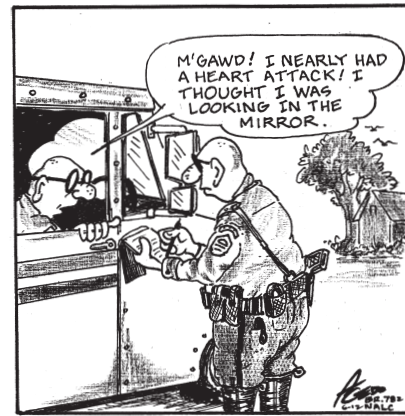
"Out there"



"Out there"



"Out there"



"Out there"



"Out there"



"Out there"



"Out there"



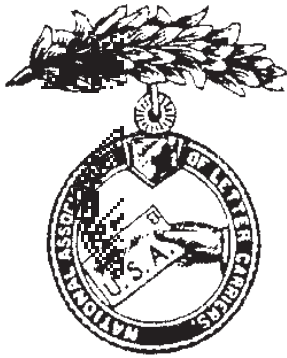
"Out there"



"Out there"



Have an idea for a cartoon? Mail your thought to Fred Acedo, S.A.N.E., P.O. Box 6532, Bakersfield, CA 93386-6532



# Branch Officers

<b>President</b>	<b>Mike Towery</b>	<b>(661) 331-9171</b>
<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>John Ortega</b>	<b>(661) 809-8140</b>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<b>Kim Gerdes</b>	<b>(661) 301-9676</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Teresa Ortega</b>	<b>(661) 391-8026*</b>
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	<b>Anita Holderman</b>	<b>(661) 487-5353</b>
<b>HBP &amp; MBA Rep.</b>	<b>Mark Ramirez</b>	<b>(661) 204-5592</b>
<b>Sargeant-at-Arms</b>	<b>Ryan Woommavovah</b>	<b>(661) 322-7624*</b>
<b>Chief Trustee</b>	<b>Mike Meza</b>	<b>(805) 625-4541</b>
<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Paul Salazar</b>	<b>(661) 303-3603</b>
<b>Trustee</b>	<b>David Treto</b>	<b>(661) 865-8922</b>

*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. E-mails are preferred...

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, Ex-Editor-guy  
(C) (661) 205-1603  
e-mail: brzii@aol.com

Paul Greenfield, Assistant Editor  
(C) (661) 203-7802

The "S.A.N.E."\*  
Fred Acedo, Cartoonist  
\*(Special Assistant Newsletter Editor)  
P.O. Box 6532  
Bakersfield, CA 93386-6532  
e-mail: outthere5150@yahoo.com

Anita Holderman, Branch Photographer  
Dholderman@bak.rr.com

## NALC Branch 782 Shop Stewards

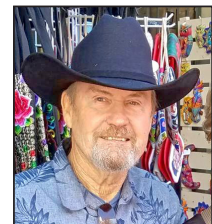
Arvin (93203)	Vacant	(661) 331-9171
Avenal (93204)	John Ortega	(661) 809-8140
Delano (93215)	Vacant	(661) 331-9171
Lamont (93241)	Mike Munoz	(661) 304-5516
Lamont Alternate	Manuel Alvarenga	(661) 331-9171
McFarland (93250)	Fernando Soto	(661) 792-2335*
Shafter (93263)	Norma Hamer	(661) 619-1465
Taft (93268)	Mike Meza	(805) 625-4541
Wasco (93280)	Norma Hamer	(661) 619-1465
Downtown Station (93301)	Teresa Ortega	(661) 391-8026*
South Station (93304)	Mike Meza	(805) 625-4541
South Station Alternate	Judy Kiyoshi	(661) 817-5529
East Bakersfield (93305)	Paul Salazar	(661) 303-3603
East Bakersfield (Alternate)	Ryan Woommavovah	(661) 322-7624*
Hillcrest Station (93306)	Mike Meza	(805) 625-4541
Brundage Station (93307)	John Ortega	(661) 809-8140
Dole Court (93308)	Shari Sharp	(661) 364-5544
Dole Court (93308)	Denise Ream	(661) 304-6625
Dole Court (Alternate)	David Treto	(661) 865-8922
Stockdale Station (93309)	Randy Courson	(661) 345-0256
Stockdale Station (93309)	Maria Valenzuela	(661) 496-5929
Camino Media (93311/13)	Mike Meza	(805) 625-4541
Camino Media (Alternate)	Paul Salazar	(661) 303-3603
Mojave (93501)	Delga Loza	(661) 824-8332
California City (93504)	Ryan Gerstl	(761) 373-4180
Boron (93516)	Paula Hogg	(760) 373-8963
Edwards AF Base (93523)	Vacant	(661) 331-9171
Ridgecrest (93555)	Lynnel Howell	(760) 382-3030
Tehachapi (93561)	Vacant	(661) 331-9171
Trona (93562)	Lynnel Howell	(760) 382-3030

OWCP Representative	Rick Gerdes	(661) 301-9675
USPS Social Recreation Rep.	Paul Greenfield	(661) 203-7802

\* Denotes Post Office Phone Number

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

**Rick Plummer, Webmaster**





National Association of Letter Carriers  
“Golden Empire Branch 782”  
2628 “F” Street  
Bakersfield, California 93301  
(661) 331-9171

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

**FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED**

**DUE TO THE  
CONTINUING  
COVID-19 PANDEMIC,  
AND FOR THE  
SAFETY AND HEALTH  
OF ACTIVE AND  
RETIRED  
LETTER CARRIERS AND  
THEIR FAMILIES, IT IS  
NECESSARY TO  
CANCEL THE  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING  
SCHEDULED FOR  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24**

*Latest Covid-19 updates from the NALC?  
See the national NALC website.  
Also, stay in touch with your Branch  
782 Officers if you have questions!*

***Almost Unimaginable — Two USPS buildings burned and looted***

PATCH.COM posted “On Thursday (May 28), as protests built in intensity, the Postal Service announced it was suspending mail service to ZIP codes 55104, 55114, 55406, 55407 and 55408, an area affecting 58,000 homes and businesses...”

The Lake Street Station on East 31st Street and the Minnehaha Station on 27th Avenue South in Minneapolis, Minnesota suffered extensive damage on May 29, 2020, almost burned to the ground, and may have to be razed.

As reported in the online publication *CITY PAGES*, (WWW.CITYPAGES.COM) “...Tyler Vasseur, a City Letter Carrier with the National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 9, says...’They were able to get all the mail, all the packages, out of the bulidings...”

***On a happier note, Arvin Shop Steward  
Mike Munoz is now a Retired Carrier!***

***See Details  
on pages 6 - 9***

***Congratulations! You made it to the web version of the Branch 782 newsletter! Thanx!!!***