

National Association of Letter Carriers

Branch 782

E.A. Baker Union Update



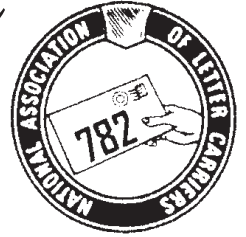
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CALIFORNIA CITY
McFARLAND
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MOJAVE
TEHACHAPI

BAKERSFIELD
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RIDGECREST
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CHARTERED FEBRUARY 25, 1901



NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER 2016

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF NALC GOLDEN EMPIRE” BRANCH 782 AND DELEGATES TO THE 2017 STATE CONVENTION

NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the election of officers of NALC Branch 782 and delegates to the 2017 State Convention will be held at the regular Branch meeting on September 27, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. at the Branch 782 Union Office located at 2628 “F” Street, Bakersfield, California. Candidates must accept nominations at the time made or, if absent, in writing to the Branch Recording Secretary within three (3) days after the nomination is made. Nominations may be submitted in writing provided that they are received by the Branch Recording Secretary prior to the closing of nominations at the regular branch meeting in September. Candidates may accept nominations for only one office. Upon nomination, every nominee must certify that he or she had not served as a supervisor for the 24 months prior to being nominated.

Nominations will be held for the following Branch offices: **President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Sergeant-at-Arms, three (3) Trustees;** and, **MBA/Health Benefits Representative.** By virtue of the positions, Branch 782 President and Vice President shall be delegates to both the National and State Conventions.

The term of office will be three (3) years.

ELECTION

The election will be conducted by secret ballot at the regular meeting on November 22, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. at the Branch 782 Union Office, 2628 “F” Street, Bakersfield, California. Any member who, for any reason, will be unable to vote on November 22, 2016, may obtain absentee ballots by submitting a signed written request to the Election Committee, Golden Empire Branch 782, 2628 “F” Street, Bakersfield, California 93301. Absentee ballots must be requested after nominations have been closed but no later than November 8, 2016.

Write-in votes are not permitted.

ELIGIBILITY FOR BRANCH FUNDS

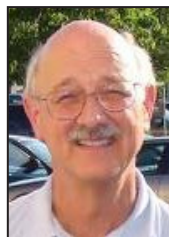
Of the delegates from the Bakersfield local area selected to the State Convention and National Convention, the requirements of eligibility for Conventions funds will be; attendance at ten (10) of the twelve (12) regular General Meetings just prior to the State Convention; and then (10) of the twelve (12) regular General Meetings just prior to the National Convention.

Of the delegates selected from the outlying Associate Offices (excess of thirty miles from Bakersfield), the requirements of eligibility for convention funds shall be: attendance at least two (2) meetings (any combination of regular General Meetings and/or Quarterly Area Meetings) in the twelve months just prior to the State Convention.



at the

Mike:



Choices Really DO Have Consequences



Every day we make hundreds of choices. Some have very little impact on our life. Others could turn out to be potentially life altering.

Some choices, when taken by themselves, might have only a minor effect on our life; but —taken in conjunction with other choices — could have a major impact.

One example would be the choice we make to come to work as scheduled. As long as we report to work on time there are no negative consequences to that choice. But, *repeated* instances of reporting late could lead to a major consequence like losing your job.

Sometimes, our choices not only effect our own lives. Sometimes, hundreds or even thousands of others might be impacted by decisions that we choose to make.

I am thankful for all those who have made the choice to join the Union!

I am *very* thankful for all those in our local Branch who have made the choice to be members! ***In all of the cities which make up Branch 782, over 95% of all Carriers***

have made the choice to join the NALC! And? There ***IS*** strength in numbers.

Unfortunately, fourteen (14) non-members have chosen to let the rest of us carry them.

But, I am also extremely thankful for all those who not only made the choice to belong to the National Association of Letter Carriers but who have decided to become active as national, state and local Branch officers! I shudder to think what it would be like now if all the national officers we have been fortunate to have over the years had made the choice not to join the union or not to run for an office in the union.

Think about what the NALC might be like if past national Presidents Vincent Sombrotto or Bill Young had not made the choice to join the union and run for national office.

For this reason, I want to point out a very important concept. *Each* one of us will make the choice as to whether we vote and who we vote for in the upcoming presidential election.

We stand at a crossroad in November. Do we make the choice to believe those whose stated agenda

is to dismantle the Post Office and bust unions? Or, do we make the choice to vote to protect the middle class and all the gains that have been achieved in the last 80 years?

Without a doubt, the choice you and other voters make ***WILL*** effect your job and your future. Do ***YOU*** want to privatize the Post Office? Do ***YOU*** want to lose your collective bargaining rights? Do ***YOU*** want to be at the mercy of management without any representation by the union? ***DO YOU???***

These are real possibilities that exist. *I guarantee that your choice of whether you vote and who you vote for ***WILL*** have consequences.*

The choice is up to ***YOU*** as to whether you let the improvements and protections won by the middle class labor movement be thrown out so that the multi-rich can have even more money and power.

The choice is yours. ***Make your vote count as if *YOUR* job depends upon it!*** It just might...

Choices we make do — and will — have consequences.

MIKE TOWERY
NALC Branch 782 President



Important “Must Read”



August 26, 2016

Rare FEGLI “Open Season” started September 1

Starting on September 1, 2016, career Letter Carriers were given have an *extremely* rare chance to increase an important benefit of being a federal employee (*WITHOUT* undergoing a major life event), through an “Open Season for Federal Employees Group Life Insurance (FEGLI)” that begins on September 1 and runs through September 30.

During this “Open Season” — *THE FIRST ONE IN 12 YEARS* — career Carriers and most other federal employees may enroll in FEGLI for the first time, or increase their coverage, *without taking a physical exam* or waiting for a “qualifying life event” such as marriage, divorce, death of a spouse or the joining of the family by an eligible child.

Career Letter Carriers are automatically enrolled, when hired, in the basic FEGLI coverage *unless they decline the coverage*. Carriers who are happy with their existing FEGLI coverage don’t need to do anything during “Open Season” to continue coverage already in place. Carriers can *reduce* or *cancel* their FEGLI coverage at any time without waiting for an “Open Season”. **However, it’s been TWELVE YEARS since the last “Open Season”!!!**

For a postal employee, the cost of basic insurance is covered completely by the Postal Service. The basic insurance amount is equal to the greater of a) the employee’s annual rate of pay (rounded up to the next \$1,000) plus \$2,000; or, b) \$10,000, plus an extra benefit for certain employees based on their age. This costs you nothing!!!

There are three optional forms of coverage available for those who **already have basic coverage**, and **EMPLOYEES MUST TAKE ACTION TO ELECT ANY OF THESE OPTIONS. THEY ARE NOT AUTOMATIC.** So, what options do you have? **Option A**, with a straight \$10,000 benefit; **Option B**, with a benefit of up to five times basic salary; and **Option C**, coverage for a spouse and eligible children. Employees pay the full cost for the three optional insurance choices (including options for spouse and family coverage). That cost depends on the age of the employee.

Enrollment during this rarely offered “Open Season” requires submitting a completed Form SF-2817. For complete information about FEGLI and the choices available, go to OPM.GOV/LIFE.

For Retirees weighing their options: See NALC Director of Retired Members Ron Watson’s column in the April 2016 issue of *The Postal Record*. There is quite a **HEFTY** cost to electing FEGLI coverage after hitting later-life birthdays!

Outside of “Open Season”, eligible employees can enroll or increase their coverage by taking a physical exam or having a qualifying life event and by filling out Form SF-2822. **Once approved for basic coverage, an employee can enroll in Option B and/or Option C within 60 days.**

Visit OPM.GOV/FEGLIOPENSEASON for more information

Article courtesy of the 44 *Magnum* published by Manchester, New Hampshire NALC Branch 44 in August 2016. (Thank you Pete Prunier!)



Welcome New Members!!

Jose Cruz
 Benny Gutierrez
 Luis Morelos
 Octavio Martinez
 Christina Duran
 Shanice Johnson
 Jannet Bobadilla

Minutes of the August 2016 General Meeting

The regular meeting of Branch 782 was called to order by President Mike Towery at 7:00 p.m. on the 23rd day of August, 2016 at the Branch office, Bakersfield. The flag salute was led by Sgt. at Arms, Jerry Patterson. All members of the Executive Board were present. The stewards were present from Arvin, Brundage, Camino Media, Delano, Downtown, East Bakersfield, Hillcrest, Lamont, McFarland, Oildale, Shafter, South, Stockdale, Taft and Wasco. Also present was the Newsletter Editor, Basil Zuniga; S.A.N.E., Fred Acedo; Webmaster, Rick Plummer; Photographer, Anita Holderman; Assistant Treasurers, Debbie Guillet and Lucinda Martinez; Assistant Financial Secretary, Marcie Rodriguez; Assistant Recording Secretary, Norma Hamer; OWCP Rep, Rick Gerdes and Frank Martinez and Paul Greenfield of the Social and Recreation Committee. The minutes of the July 26, 2016 minutes were read and accepted with no additions or corrections.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP: Applications were received from: Janet Bobadilla, Shanice Johnson, Luis Morelos, Jose Cruz, Octavio Martinez, Benny Gutierrez and Christina Duran

Mike Towery reported that there are only 2 of the 68 CCA's in the city are non members.

REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES: Teresa Ortega reported that the picnic planning is going great; it will be at Jastro Park on October 9th. She has had a lot of requests for the Taco Truck again, she is working on dessert. We have a 40" TV for the drawing. She asked for volunteers to run the games. Debbie Guillet, Evelyn Gauthier and Tami Foshee volunteered to take care of the games. Basil Zuniga reported that last month Pam Smith and several Carriers from Hillcrest folded the newsletter. Next month is Brundage Station's turn. He thanked Fred Acedo for letting him know when a Branch member has passed away. Frank Martinez of the Social and Recreation Committee reported that there are

tickets available for the circus. Contact Santa Clarita for tickets. They are also working on tickets for the BC football games. They are trying to get the Soc and Rec committee to purchase the tickets and give them to employees. Kim Gerdes reported that there were down to 875 books left.

UNFINISHED BUSSINESS: Molly Biggar reported that thanks to Norma Hamer and all the members who donated their 50/50 drawing winnings we have reimbursed the Branch for the Food Drive cards. Debbie Guillet made a motion that the 50/50 Drawing proceeds be donated to MDA.

NEW BUSINESS: Darryl Holderman asked if the DSI employees have a responsibility to notify the station and the Carriers that they are in their zone for the day. Mike Towery will bring it to the Safety meeting. A discussion was conducted on safety rules at T intersections and Carrier's rights and responsibilities toward the DSI. Be sure to let your Steward know if you feel you are being "overly observed." If the DSI sees a Carrier doing certain things they must notify management and then management is supposed to come out to the street and follow the Carrier.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION: Kim Gerdes reported that calendars are here, Stewards should see her after the meeting to get their calendars. Debbie Guillet discussed the Retirement workshop she attended at the Convention. FERS employees minimum retirement age is 56 – 57 with 30 years service. Mark Ramirez reported that he attended 7 classes and reported on each one. Judy Kiyoshi discussed that CCA's will be getting more training. John Ortega reported that the Branch was well represented. All delegates were in attendance at workshops and the general session. He thanked the "lunch lady" for bringing in lunch so the delegates could remain in the session. Jerry Patterson discussed the contract negotiations, many of the resolutions involved CCA's. Basil Zuniga informed the members present that the way our local meetings are conducted is how the convention is conducted except with up to 9000 members. He discussed social media issues. The Postal Service employees people to search social media to find carriers who are posting inappropriately. Rick Plummer informed the members that the NALC now has an app. There is lots of interesting information. Tami Foshee discussed Postal Banking and the speakers from Japan and Wales. Frank Martinez attended an OWCP class. John Ortega discussed Jason Nelson a CCA who attended the NALC history workshop and then gave a speech at the convention. Members can watch his speech on you-tube. He also reported that there will be infor-

mation for the workshops on the NALC website. Basil Zuniga thanked Kim for the reservations. Kim informed the member that her "awesome" assistant took care of the reservations this year and did a great job. Anita Holderman reported that the next National Convention will be in Detroit, any member who attends meetings, is nominated and voted by the members can attend the convention. Basil reported that Paul Greenfield drove down to the convention for the day. Mike Towery informed the members that there will be an Open Season for Life Insurance beginning September 30. This is the first time in 12 years that there has been an open season for life insurance. Mike continued that the negotiations are still going; the NALC is pushing very hard for CCA benefits. John Ortega reported that the contract has been extended; the NALC is fully prepared to go to arbitration, but would rather work out an agreement with USPS. Debbie Guillet thanked the Executive Officers for being so great.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: Anita Holderman reported money collected for August 2016 is \$21,306.25.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Molly Biggar reported:

	June	July
Beginning Balance	\$62,448.30	\$64,852.54
Dues & Income	\$12,061.11	\$12,309.05
Total Balance	\$74,509.41	\$77,161.59
Total Expenses	\$ 9,656.87	\$ 6,895.26
Ending Balance	\$64,852.54	\$70,266.33

50/50 MDA Drawing was won by Evelyn Gauthier.

There was a drawing for t-shirts which were won by Stephanie MacLaughlin and Marcie Rodriguez.

The Drawing for \$200.00 would have been won by Christopher Arana if he had been present.

There were 39 members and 5 guests present.

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

KIM GERDES
NALC Branch 782 Recording Secretary

"OuT tHeRe"



**Non-Members
September
2016***

Downtown Station
Sarah Kirby
Javier Cruz
Daniel Zuniga

South Station
100% UNION!!!

Brundage/East Bakersfield
Vicky Guerrero

Hillcrest
100% UNION!!!

Dole Court
100% UNION!!!

Stockdale
James Oh
Marty Martinez

Camino Media
100% UNION!!!

Arvin
100% UNION!!!

Avenal
100% UNION!!!

California City
100% UNION!!!

Delano
Cynthia V. Quebral
Daniela Barreto

Lamont
100% UNION!!!

Ridgecrest
G. D Schatz

Shafter
M. D. Voights
L. M. New

Taft
K. J. Hughes

Tehachapi
B. C. Den Beeman
Christian Rosales

Trona
100% UNION!!!

Wasco
100% UNION!!!

*CCA names are in Italics



**Where
would
we be
without
a Union?**

**These
fourteen
people
don't
care...**

NALC CONVENTION

CHRONICLE



COVERING THE FIRST SESSION: MONDAY, AUG. 15, 2016



President Fredric Rolando used his keynote address to explain to the delegates where the union stands on contract negotiations, legislation and politics, union building and other issues.

NALC: 'WE ARE A FAMILY. WE ARE A UNION.'

Branch 782 Delegate Reports

The elected delegates from Branch 782 attended the national convention in Los Angeles. Here is a list of the Usual Suspects; VP John Ortega, Mike Meza, Basil "Editor" Zuniga, Jerry Patterson, Frank Martinez, Randy "the Beast" Courson, Shari "Onion" Sharp, Norma "Cowgirl" Hamer, Debbie "Wild" Guillet, Evelyn "Quiet" Gauthier, Tammy Foschie, Judy "Smoker" Kiyoshi, and Mark Ramirez. Paul Greenfield was also there!

I haven't attended a convention for a few years, and this one (with the variety of work shops that were available) made me realize that ALL Letter Carriers — Active and Retired — MUST! be involved in "OUR" union! It is crucial that we participate in the Letter Carrier Political Fund.

The percentage of unionized workers in this country has plummeted from 35% during the last 30 years to just 7% at present!! If this isn't a RED FLAG to us union members, I really don't know what it would take to cause one to be alarmed. I attended six workshops at our convention, and all were excel-



lent. They were not too long and drawn out, just the straight facts and time for questions *and* answers.

"Communicating Our Message" was the first class, and our speaker was Phil Dine, NALC's Director of Communications and Media Relations. Mr. Dine explained the importance for Letter Carriers knowing the facts about our jobs and the Postal Services. We don't receive any public funding, and we provide goods and services to this country 7 days a week at a reasonable cost.

"Will You Be Ready?" was the second class. Mutual Benefit Association Director Myra Warren, spoke about the NALC's insurance plans, and planning for our end-of-life events. Myra covered wills, probate, trusts, power of attorney, and funeral services.

"NALC History in Video" was my third class.

Before the Postal Strike, Letter Carriers were paid \$3.00 per hour and that only increased to \$4.00 per hour *after 21 years of service*. Most Carriers were eligible to apply for food stamps. They worked second jobs. All this changed with the 1970 Strike, which, now deceased, past NALC President Vince Sombrotto was instrumental in calling. Present at this class were Barry Weinstein, and Jose Ramos who were among the many Carriers who walked off their jobs.

The USPS future of “**Last Mile Delivery**” NALC’s Chief of Staff Jim Sauber and NALC’s Research Director Jim Holland discussed our growing role in E-Commerce and delivery from the internet. They cited statistics from the increased package volume from Amazon, and our delivery 7 days a week. They also addressed USPS plans to replace our aging fleet of vehicles.

“**Postal Reform Panel and updates**” The topics covered were our lobbyists’ role in keeping Congress informed on Postal Issues, Keeping Door to Door delivery, 6 and 7 day delivery, etc. They also highlighted our Postmaster General Brennan’s ability to be receptive to the needs of the service and willingness to discuss important issues with NALC president Rolando and his staff. They pointed out that Congressman Darrel Issa is no longer on the Budget Committee that oversees postal issues and that this has had a beneficial effect for the USPS.

NALC Health Benefit Director Brian Hellman reported that our package had been submitted to OPM for 2017. He could not report any particulars, as public discussion is not allowed by OPM. Health care issues were his main topic. Brian reminded *all* members to have all of yearly exams. All men and women would benefit by doing this. Additionally, the NALC page has links provided by CIGNA for our improved health, weight loss, stop smoking, dental discount cards, plus many shopping discounts.

“**Labor Movement ‘Raising Wages’ Campaign**” This work shop was given by Bruce Simon, NALC General Counsel. He has been with our union since the 70’s and serves as NALC chief legal representative. Rusty Hicks who is in charge of the Los Angeles Federation of Labor, also spoke. Mr. Simon stated the NALC is supporting Hilary Clinton for president of the United States because she has proven to be **PRO-LABOR** and someone the NALC can communicate with. Mr. Hicks stated the Letter Carriers have a strong union with very good benefits, and most unions look at our union and attempt to negotiate benefits into their contracts similar to ours.

Mr. Simon made it **VERY CLEAR** that our benefits and pay can change quickly if we don’t monitor Congress and act on important Postal issues. He said, “Donating to the Letter Carrier Political fund is job insurance, and the union is only as strong as our weakest link.

Citizens United **MUST BE OVERTURNED**. All Carriers are affected by bad legislation — Active *and* Retired Carriers.

Vote in November, and remember “**DON’T CUT OFF YOUR NOSE TO SPITE YOUR FACE**”.

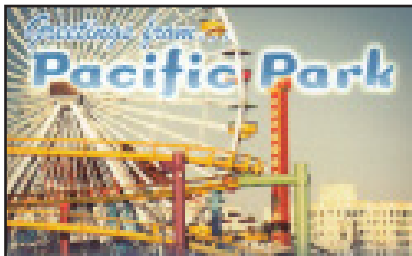


Our NALC national officers KNOW what the best direction is for the betterment of OUR union. They are in Washington D.C. because we elected them to be there, with their ear to the ground, to protect our Rights and our Benefits. **WE MUST SUPPORT NATIONAL PRESIDENT ROLANDO AND THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL!!! THEY SUPPORT US!**

MARK RAMIREZ
Retiree and NALC HBP Representative

A big thank you to all of the Branch 782 members who were your representatives at the NALC Convention in August!

Randy Courson, Evelyn Gauthier, Debbie Guillet, Tammy Foschie, Norma Hamer, Judy Kiyoshi, Frank Martinez, Mike Meza, John Ortega, Jerry Patterson, Mark Ramirez, Shari Sharp, and Basil Zuniga




Pacific Park
THE FUNNIEST AMUSEMENT PARK ON THE SANTA MONICA PIER

Enter code to share your photos and watch video at:
www.blababooth.com

ID CODE: **DRVJ-YB8MG**

A Funny, Memorable Photo Booth Incident involving delegates and “Close” Friends

I was asked to accompany Shari Sharp, Norma Hamer, Debbie Guillet, Evelyn Gothier and Tammy Foshee to the Santa Monica Pier for dinner on Thursday evening after the National convention ended for the day.

We arrived at the pier via the Metro. Our reservations required a one hour wait.

There were five Union Sisters and me — Mark Ramirez. That said, there was a photo booth across from Bubba Gump’s restaurant, and the ladies said, “Lets all pile into the photo booth and take a group photo!” (Tammy had a phone call so she opted out of this crazy idea.)

It was around 8pm, the weather was very cool, and the lighting was very poor inside the booth. Shari, Norma, Evelyn, and Debbie crammed themselves into an area designed for two people... “NOT” four...

I was handed a limp, well worn, extremely wrinkled \$5 bill, and instructed to put it in the money slot. It’s dark, no light inside the booth, and I am leaning in, blocking what little outside light there was.

There was not a bill tray, just a slit/hole for the paper money. I am cold and it’s dark. And? “I don’t perform well under pressure!!”

All four ladies are yelling “Put it in, Mark!” “Hurry up and Put it In!” “Just Put it in, Mark!” “Mark, Put it In!”

After about a minute, I realize, I have been attempting to put this wrinkled money in the wrong hole, and I make that clear. The four Union Sisters are packed into this confined space, and continue to yell, “Just Put it In, Mark !”

I was doing the best I could with what I had to work with. I said, “I CAN’T put it in. It’s TOO wrinkled!” And that was the truth!

After about 90 seconds, I was able to insert this wrinkled \$5 bill into the opening. “Now, climb in,” the ladies Yelled!

As the photo shows.....there was only enough room for the top of my head and one eye.

There was a couple standing with their children waiting to use the photo booth. They looked very confused as we five adults exited the photo booth.

Our dinner was great, but the photo booth/fun house idea made the evening!!!!

You can’t make this stuff up. Sometimes, things just happen... LOL

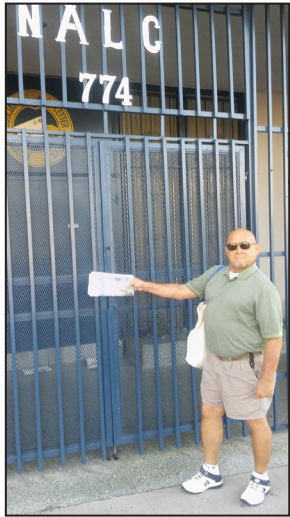
MARK RAMIREZ
 Retiree, HBP Representative
 NALC National Delegate
 “Money Launderer”
 “Poet Lariat”

“OuT tHeRe”



It was a nice walk to see where the poems were displayed

Many Branch 782 members know that Mark Ramirez has long been considered our “Poet Lariat”. Whether extolling the virtues of a Branch Officer or sharing his symphonic view of something that we should be made aware of, his humor and convictions bind themselves into what is usually an entertaining and thought provoking look at his subject matter.

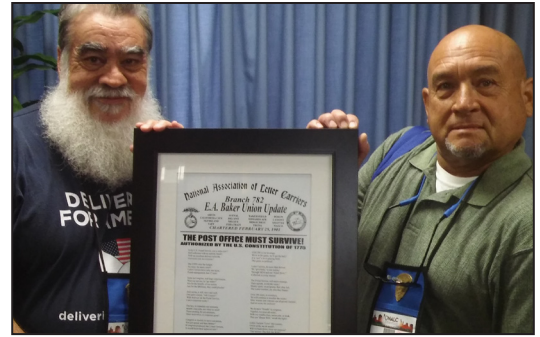


Mark Ramirez, clowning around, pretends to deliver mail to 774 Valencia Street.

Some of his poems have been shared with our National Officers and others have made their way into the possession of other NALC Branches. Two of Mark’s poems (one which was written on the occasion of the death of past NALC President Vincent R. Sombrotto and another which is a call to arms to protect the future of the USPS) are featured prominently in the building which is home to Los Angeles Branch 24.

On Monday morning, between breakfast and the time when the convention was due to start, Mark and I made a “pilgrimage”. We traversed quite a number of city blocks to 774 Valencia Street and found that the front door was still locked because it was early.

Walking around the corner to the back parking lot, we saw a few Branch 24 members starting to arrive. When we explained that we were there to see their building and to search out Mark’s poem, we were invited in. The folks we encountered were very hospitable and, after giving us a tour, showed us to two locations where Mark’s work was exhibited.



One of the poems was in Branch 24 President Larry Brown’s office. The other hung on a wall in Overby Hall. (If you recognize the name “Overby” consider yourself an NALC old-timer...)

When asked to share how he felt when he’d seen where and how his poems were being displayed, Mark had this to say, “It was really great to see each of the poems. But, it’s really not about me. It’s about giving honor to Vinny Sombrotto. He was such an amazing person. Jim Souza and Larry Brown both shared stories with me about how sharp Sombrotto was and how phenomenal his memory was. To see that Larry shared my appreciation of him and my poem was an affirmation that others, like me, really treasured Vinny! The other poem was about ensuring the continued existence of the USPS. Larry Brown understands that, too.”

BASIL ZUNIGA

Norma is thankful for the Union!

First off, I’d like to thank the members for electing me to go to the 70th biennial convention. The theme of the convention was Solidarity in Action. “We are a family, we are a union”.

There were several workshops that were offered from managing branch finances, filing a claim and filing a grievance for OWCP, retirement information, negotiating technics, just to name a few.

There is a much younger generation out there who are not aware of unions, have no knowledge about what unions stand for, what unions can do.

Your union is not only here to help fight for you when one gets into trouble or when management violates the contract; they are here to help fight for your benefits, your wage increases, to protect our jobs, just to name a few.

If we all band together, we can all continue to fight for what is right!

There are still Carriers who do not pay any dues and receive all the benefits, wage increases, and other perks paid for by the rest of us... I wonder if they would be thinking that the minimum wage that is paid (California minimum wage is \$10 per hour) to other workers would be enough for them to do this job?

I wonder if they would ever take the time to look at a video or to read a book to see how our union was started, grew, and became the strongest union in our nation.

This leads me to let you know that if you are either a City Letter Carrier or a City Carrier Assistant, you should check out the website for the NALC. There is a wealth of information available there; from books and manuals to download/use for research, to the many benefits that are available, to the government affairs that affect us.

I personally have several of these manuals and handbooks downloaded onto my phone. It makes for quick reference if I need to look something up. There is also an app for the NALC for those of us with smart-phones that’s also a helpful tool.

Since we live in a very hot climate, there is also the OSHA app that you can check out to see what the heat index is. We live in an armpit valley and have poor air quality. Keep yourself hydrated. Don’t fall victim to a heat stroke or heat exhaustion.

In closing, band together. Be safe. Do your job well. Be consistent.

In solidarity,

NORMA HAMER
Shafter Shop Steward
Delano Shop Steward

Some NALC Convention Thoughts from Basil Zuniga

The recent 2016 NALC National Convention was a celebratory event underpinned by a sense of historic struggle and a marshalling of energy and purpose.

As a theme, “Solidarity in Action” captured much of what went on during the five days of debates and decisions on the convention floor as well as the education that went on during the many early morning and late afternoon workshops. And, in many different locations and forums, the socializing that occurred in the gathering of delegates over the course of those early morning breakfasts, morning and afternoon class attendance, and evening exploration of the sights and sounds of Los Angeles added to the formation of “team building” by all of the NALC Branch delegates who’d been elected to represent their members.

Even as I write this, I realize that there is no way that I can capture the essence of the experience. But, let me try...

For those of you who have never had the honor to be a delegate, it’s hard to convey how it feels to walk through an exhibit hall. You enter the convention floor in what seems to be a river of people, and see **THOUSANDS** of chairs arranged in sections which represent the fifteen NALC regions filled by Letter Carriers from all over the United States.

There is a buzz created by thousands of conversations which is punctuated, occasionally, by heartfelt greetings as people you haven’t seen in two years come over to see how you are doing.

And then, it all starts to come together as **thousands** rise to a stirring rendition of the *Star Spangled Banner* sung by extremely talented Letter Carriers who, each day, launch the day’s events. Followed, in unison, by a heart-felt Pledge of Allegiance, delegates then bow their heads in prayer led by representatives of various faiths.

And, this is only the start.

So many people were involved in what happened over the course of the life of this

2016 Convention. Many were our elected national officers.

NALC President Fred Rolando performed admirably in his duties. (As an aside, I want to point out a very significant change in the way that our conventions play out. I attended my first NALC National Convention in 1984. Over the course of a number of conventions after that, President Sombrotto never allowed the faces of members who spoke from the floor to be viewed on the large video screens to be seen by all of the delegates. President Rolando has made much of what transpires at the convention more transparent. **Each** and every Letter Carrier who steps up to the microphone to oppose an issue, offer support, request information or speak under “Personal Privilege” does so on an equal footing. And what they share is seen on those giant video screens by *all* of the delegates who are assembled.)

As has been noted by others before me, I want to point out something very important: Our National Officers are Letter Carriers. They know what we go through because they’ve done it, too! When we convene in a national event like this, they are accessible to us. They are involved in teaching the classes that we attend. They walk among us as we go to and fro. We see them up on the dais, but they aren’t removed from us...they are US!

And, they are energized by us when we reach out and tell them about our struggles and our successes. While they understand our frustrations on the workroom floor on so many levels, they need *us* to be the “wind under their wings” as they do what they do.

But, it’s not only those elected NALC national officers who carry our standard in the fight for our Rights and Benefits. In so many different ways, it is the numerous NALC staff people who do so much to support our cause! Many of them were involved in the many workshops which were presented each and every day.

Paying attention to all that went on during the convention was made much easier by

the work of the folks working the video cameras. Delegates were able to see each and every thing that happened while in session. That made it easier to understand the issues that were being discussed, debated and decided upon.

Weaving through the crowd were members of the *Postal Record* staff. They were busy taking pictures and gathering impressions of all that transpired. And what they did was very helpful to NALC members who weren’t even at the convention!

For example, the picture at the top of page 6 comes from a report from the *NALC Convention Chronicle* on the events of the first day of the convention. The *Chronicle* is published each day and reports **for you** the events, speakers, decisions, awards and other meaningful occurrences.

Although you didn’t know it, the picture which opens the Branch 782 delegate reports on page 6 was probably taken by Mike Shea who works for the *Postal Record*. If he hadn’t taken this picture, it wouldn’t have been available for me to use in this newsletter.

Mike Shea is the same guy who was instrumental in featuring Fred Acedo and his work in some past issues of the *Postal Record*. I don’t know if you appreciate what he did then or at the Convention, but I do! Thanks, mucho much, Mike!!!

There also seemed to be an army of folks manning Branch sales booths and staffing the areas where delegates could obtain information about Social Security, OWCP, CIGNA, the NALC Veterans Group, the Thrift Savings Plan, the Letter Carrier Political Fund, and much, much, much more. Many, many Letter Carriers were also involved in the nuts-and-bolts activity of registering all of the delegates and passing out bags, maps and convention badges.

NALC Branch 24 was the host Branch. Their members were an active group! Easily visible in their yellow shirts on one day, they would show up the next day in white shirts and would be just as helpful in answering questions. Their Sergeant-at-Arms would tirelessly scan people entering the convention floor to admit only those who were properly credentialed.

It should probably go without saying that I am thankful that enough of you were pleased with what I do on your behalf that you voted for me to attend this national convention as your delegate. I did not take this responsibility lightly. And — because it is something that **does** deserve to be said to **EACH** of you — **THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO BE YOUR REPRESENTATIVE!**

I want to make sure that each of you understands that the training presented at the Convention addressed so many varied issues and interests. I attended many of the workshops for you.

Obviously, many of the classes were geared at the methods and understanding needed by NALC advocates in the grievance and arbitration system. Makes a whole lot of sense, doesn't it? And, Branch 782 delegates who are Shop Stewards or Officers were duly present at many of those workshops.

But, there were also classes presented on things that any NALC member in any Branch **NEEDS** to be aware of.

Most NALC members are unaware that one of the initial things that the NALC prioritized 125 years ago was insurance for Letter Carriers that would provide a benefit to survivors of deceased members. ***The NALC Mutual Benefit Association is an insurance option for us that may—in many respects — be better for us than the for-profit companies that compete for our insurance dollars.***

Your Mutual Benefit Association (MBA) celebrated a 125th birthday on August 7, 2016.

The NALC website records its primary focus in 1891 "... In its early years, MBA offered a simple death benefit policy which Letter Carriers could purchase for a modest fee. This early policy was an extremely important feature of the MBA because the federal government did not provide death benefits for postal employees, a fact which, all too often, left a Carrier's family without any income when the Carrier died." That vision has remained intact and has expanded. "MBA continues to record strong year after

strong year. Total assets continue to increase over previous years by millions of dollars, and surplus increases by hundreds of thousands. Despite the stock market decline, MBA was continuing to outperform other life insurance companies, just as it had done for more than 100 years.

Today, the MBA has over \$224 million of life insurance in force and can claim over \$194 million of admitted assets. The organization continues to serve Letter Carriers and their families nationwide—not only by providing insurance protection, but through other activities as well. Thanks to the unfailing support of its members and the expert guidance of its Board of Trustees, MBA can easily look forward to another 100 years of success."

Life insurance is an important thing. It is for this reason that I have devoted so much space to the Mutual Benefit Association. This is **your** program. It is a non-profit option for **you**. Profits are returned to **YOU**. If you have a policy with someone else, those profits go into someone else's pocket... Check out the MBA. You may be really surprised!

I also attended a class that detailed how parents of college-eligible dependents could do more to maximize the potential for their children to win scholarships. Decrease the burden of paying for your child's college education! Another workshop dealt with natural disasters while another emphasized the importance of conveying our message to news reporters.

I learned a lot at "Letter Carriers and Social Media". One of the two most important issues is the fact that the NALC has unveiled a new App which can be downloaded to smartphones. As the information was being presented, I called Branch 782 Webmaster Rick Plummer to give him a heads up. A few minutes later, he texted me to say that he'd downloaded the App and was playing around with it.

Additionally, as I reported at the August general meeting, many Letter Carriers have posted pictures and comments on various social media platforms which have opened up a personal "can of worms". We saw some extremely cute pictures of dogs and USPS vehicles. And, so what?

The overarching message presented at this workshop was: "Be extremely careful about *WHAT* you post and *WHEN* you make the time to do it. **DO NOT DO/POST/SHARE ANYTHING WHICH COULD BE HELD AGAINST YOU!**"

Ask me about what else I might have come away with. But, if you really want to see more for yourself, I will pass along this information from the NALC website: "Further coverage will be included in the combined September-October edition of *The Postal Record*, which will be mailed out at the end of September. Later, Branches in attendance at the convention will receive, as usual, a DVD containing selected videos shown at the convention as well as the convention proceedings transcript book... Convention workshop materials will be posted online soon—please check back." And, there will be "...links to the daily *Convention Chronicle*, selected videos, and Flickr photo albums."

You may wonder why the NALC convenes every two years in an event like this. The answer is simple: The assembled delegates determine the course that the NALC takes to achieve certain goals. The issues which are most important to our members are established as platforms in future efforts to improve our Contract with the USPS, to achieve legislative goals or to enhance our Rights and Benefits.

At the risk of writing even more boring comments, it is important to note that a large amount of energy and time was devoted to improving the circumstances that our CCAs face. Almost half of the proposals (generated by Branches in all of the different regions) dealt with ways to improve the Rights and Benefits of CCAs.

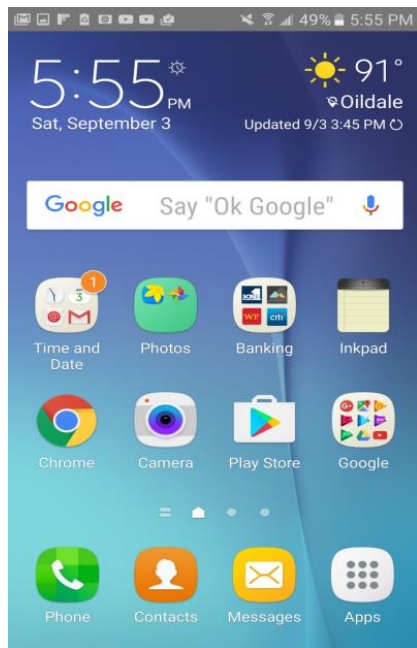
There were many impassioned speeches from the microphones. The Executive Council presented their rationale on rulings that they made. Debates were held on how to refine language to address the issues in a way which might best ensure success in achieving our mutual goals.

(If you know anything at all about layout and design, you know that I should have broken up this page with pictures or white space. I didn't. There was just too much information I felt you should know about...)

Get the New "NALC APP" for iPhone and Android!

Have you heard about the recently released NALC App for Android and iPhone? If you haven't you really should check it out. It contains a multitude of invaluable information for the new carrier as well as the old-timers; things like "News" "Government Affairs", the "Workplace", and Member Benefits.

Thanks to Basil Zuniga I was privileged to be among the first to be able to download and check out the new App. The first step is to go to the App Store on your iPhone or the



Play Store on your Android device. Search for "NALC Member App". Download, install, and run it. I have the Android and you can see my Play Store on my phone. If you can't find the Play Store on your Android, or the App Store on your iPhone, ask any kid over 5 and he/she will point you to it. Once you have this button on your screen, you are ready to jump in and explore.



The App is really easy to navigate and will give you the latest information available. Here on the opening "Home" screen at the bottom of the first page, you'll see "News", which at the current time explores Postal Facts:., Coverage of NALC's 70th Biennial Convention in L.A.. FEGLI

Open Season, Convention grievance moratorium, the NALC statement on USPS' FY 2016 Q3 financial report and lots of other informative articles to keep you up to date on current affairs.

The next tab, under "Gov't Affairs" you have access to important things like your Congressional Directory. Do you know who your congressman is and how to contact him/her? You will after you've checked here. Check out the Bill Tracker to see what bills pertain to the USPS as well as who they are sponsored by. There is a list of Committees, Issues, Fact Sheets, Letter Carrier Political Fund Sign up, Legislative Updates, The Hatch Act (be familiar with all the "Do's and Don'ts"), Events and Activities as well as bills that might of interest to all letter carriers.



The next tab of interest is the **Workplace Resources** tab. This covers things like the 2011-2016 NALC National Agreement, The USPS-NALC Joint Contract Administration



Manual, the Handbook M-39, Management of Delivery Services, March 1998 as well as revisions to the M-39 after March 18, 2004, the M-41: City Delivery Carriers Duties and Responsibilities, March 1998 (our Bible) as well as Revisions to the M-41 after April 5, 2001. It also includes the Employee and Labor Relations Manual, CCA Resource Guide and the very important COLA and Paycharts



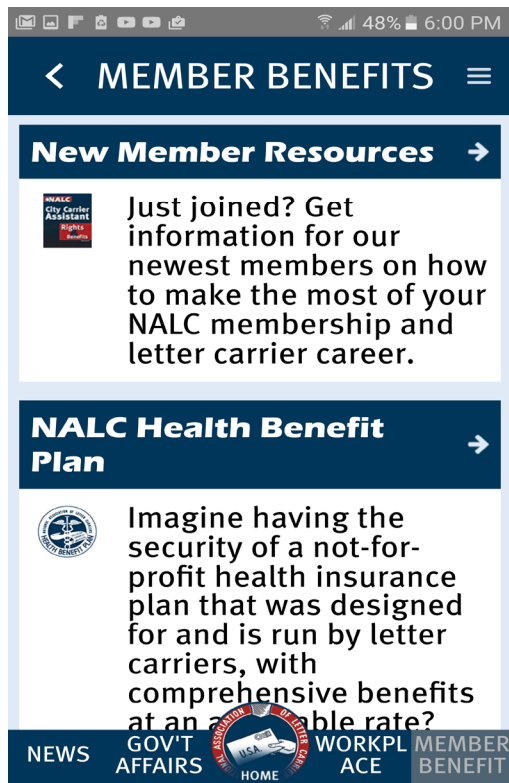
So, if I'm not a Shop Steward or Branch Officer, give me an example of what else I might like in this App...

Are you curious about when your long weekends are next year? Are you dreaming about that once-in-a-lifetime trip to Tahiti in 2018 and wonder how you can "manage" your SDO to be part of your scheduling plans?

You can go to a link from the App which will show you those SDO days off through 2020. Or, maybe, you are thinking about bidding to a new route and wonder if and when the SDO on that route might land on December 25 or your birthday. Use the App! Put in the "letter day" for any assignment and check out every year until 2020.

Think this is something that you might like?

Last but certainly not least, is the **Member Benefit** tab where you can get New Member Resources as well as information about the NALC Health Benefit Plan, MBA (Mutual



Benefit Association) reasonably priced life insurance, information on Death Benefits, Nalcrest (where retirees can enjoy retired living), Postal Employees' Relief Fund, Scholarships for children of NALC Members. There are plenty of other pieces of valuable information afforded here that have not been mentioned; valuable material that will make a difference for you as you begin or continue your postal career.

So do yourself as big favor and get this app now while you're thinking about it. Peruse it at your leisure or use it to refer to your contract or official duties.

Article provided by Rick Plummer, Webmaster, Branch 782, NALC

2016 NALC HBP Info

At a glance...



NALC Health Benefit Plan	1-888-636-6252
*Hospital Pre-Certification	1-877-220-6252
Mental & Substance Precertification	1-877-468-1016
Prescription Drug Program	1-800-933-6252
CVS/Caremark Specialty Pharmacy	1-800-237-2767
Durable Medical Equipment	1-888-636-6252
"24/7 Nurse Hotline"	1-877-220-6252
CVS/CareMark Pharmacist	1-888-636-6252
Solutions for Caregivers (24/7)	1-877-468-1016
CIGNA PPO Locator Line	1-877-220-6252
CIGNA Organ Transplant Approval	1-800-668-9682
Quit for Life (Tobacco Cessation)	1-866-784-8454
CIGNA Health Rewards (Discounts)	1-800-558-9443
CIGNA Plus (Dental Discount)	1-877-521-0244
Disease Management Program	1-800-227-3728
OPM Retirement Info Center	1-888-767-6738
Federal Information Center	1-800-333-4636
Social Security Administration Info	1-800-772-1213
PostalEase Human Resources USPS	1-877-477-3273
Quest Lab Services (Bakersfield)	(661) 631-8520
LabCorp Lab Services Bakersfield	(661) 631-9258
Shared Services Option 5 live person	1-877-477-3273

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

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"

NALC Health Benefit Plan Members:

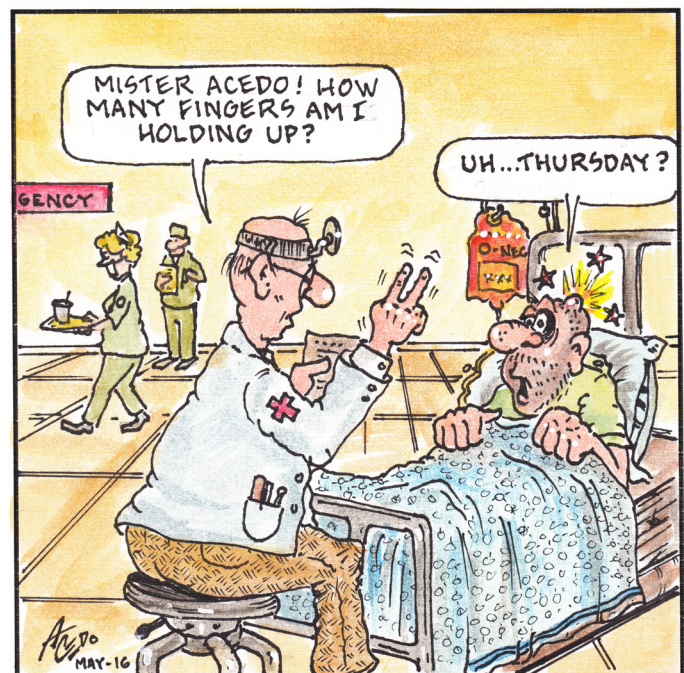
All members High Option, Consumer Driven Plan, and Value Option Plan members can go to our NALC website located at www.nalchbp.org "click on" High Option, Consumer Driven, or Value Option then under your health plan choice "click on" Member Resources...then choose Health Risk Assessment... then click to register. You will need to create a user name, and password. The program will ask you to choose "one" of three valuable incentive gifts before completing health assessment survey:

1. \$40.00 CVS gift card (LIMIT: Two \$40 CVS gift cards per family)
2. Family CignaPlus discount dental program (one calendar year)
3. Wearable activity tracking device (one calendar year)
Two wearable tracking devices per family

The assessment takes about 25 minutes, and is very simple to complete.

"This is a summary of some of the features of the NALC Health Benefit Plan High Option. Detailed information on the benefits for the 2016 NALC Health Benefit Plan can be found in the official brochure (RI 71-009). All benefits are subject to the definitions, limitations, and exclusions set forth in the official brochure."

"OuT tHeRe"



Mark Ramirez, HBP Representative (661) 398-6075



Health Prescription: Thoughts from Mark Ramirez!

VOTING

The "Ballot" is stronger than the "Bullet."

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

The margin is narrow, but the responsibility is clear.

JOHN F. KENNEDY

Vote for the man/woman who promises the least; they will be the least disappointing.

BERNARD BARUCH

Half of the American people never read the newspaper. Half never-voted for President. One hopes it is the same half.

GORE VIDAL

Democracy is a form of government that substitutes election by the incompetent many for appointment by the corrupt few.

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

No matter whom you vote for, the Government always gets in.

When he first ran for office, he appealed to the voters: "I never stole anything in my life, All I ask is a chance".

Voting is a right, best exercised by people who have TAKEN THE TIME to learn about the issues.

TONY SNOW

By voting, we add our voice to the chorus that forms opinions and the basis for actions.

JENS STOLTENBERG

Democracy is not just voting for leaders; it's really premised upon ordinary citizens UNDERSTANDING THE ISSUES.

HOWARD RHEINGOLD

A functional media is as important to DEMOCRATIC FREEDOM AS VOTING.

JAY GRIFFITHS

"Inside every Cynical person there is a disappointed Idealist".

OUTTHERE

FOR STRESS RELIEF
THERAPY
PLACE ON HARD SURFACE AND
BANG HEAD AGAINST BLACK
CIRCLE.



AED NALC
BR.
4-13 782

"Bipartisan usually means that a larger-than-usual deception is being carried out."

"If you can't beat them, arrange to have them beaten"

"Just, cause you got the monkey off your back, doesn't mean the circus has left town."

"The real reason that we can't have the TEN COMMANDMENTS in a courthouse: You cannot post "Thou shalt not steal" "Thou shalt not commit adultery" and "Thou shalt not lie" in a building full of lawyers, judges, and politicians. It would create a hostile work environment.

GEORGE CARLIN

"We in America do not have a government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate".

THOMAS JEFFERSON

MARK RAMIREZ

Retiree, NALC Health Benefit Representative
Golden Empire Branch 782

CCAs to Regular Carriers

Rights and Benefits as Career Employees

The following is some information that CCAs (City Carrier Assistants) should be aware of: In the upcoming months, Management plans to begin converting CCAs to career status in mass quantities before the political mailing season.

This was announced (at least by the San Francisco Postmaster) who declared that approximately 100 or more San Francisco CCAs will be converted by the end of the summer. And our union office is seeing these trends elsewhere within the cities which are a part of Branch 214. For example, San Leandro will be converting three effective July 23, 2016.

CCAs must be aware of the following rights and benefits because it is unlikely that management will inform them of their new entitlements as career Carriers:

1) CCAs converted to career may have the right to sign the overtime desired list within the first two weeks of becoming career Carriers.

Many postmasters within our branch have signed an agreement to do this. CCAs should check with their shop steward to verify if that agreement exists.

2) CCAs converted to career have thirty (30) days to apply for health insurance.

They must request the forms from management. If they miss this 30-day period, they must wait until our general postal open season in November in order to apply for health benefits coverage.

by Lili Beaumont, President
NALC Branch 214

Newly converted CCAs may also apply for the FEGLI or Federal Employees Life Insurance and the Thrift Savings Fund which is the 401K of the Postal Service. *In fact, CCAs who contributed to the NALC Retirement Fund may transfer those monies to their Thrift Savings Fund by simply filling out a form.*

3) Section 512313 of the ELM requires that former City Carrier Assistants who have completed ninety days of continuous employment without a break in service must complete a 90-day qualifying period, not probationary period, following their conversion to career status before they may be credited with or may take annual leave.

Basically, CCAs converted to career cannot take annual leave until the 91st day after their conversion date.

4) CCAs will be converted to career based on their "relative standing" or seniority date within their installation.

If they are projected to be converted, they should receive a letter from management notifying them of their conversion and its effective date. Enclosed with that letter or forthcoming in another letter should be a list of

all the residual vacancies asking the CCA to select which routes they wish to be assigned in order of their preference. This is called "preferencing".

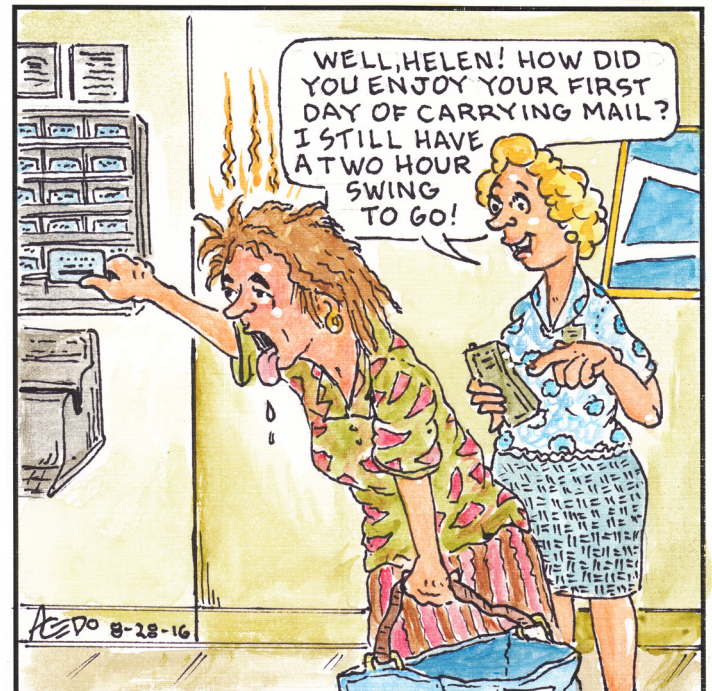
If there are more CCAs converted than there are routes, those CCAs without a route will be deemed an Unassigned Regular (and be assigned to a station if in San Francisco). Management may assign Unassigned Regular carriers a schedule but if they do not, the Unassigned Regular's schedule becomes whatever schedule they worked during their first week as an Unassigned Regular. Their schedule will be fixed work hours with a rotating day off and off.

5) CCAs converted to career carriers now have the same contractual rights and benefits as all other career Carriers and should inquire of their Shop Steward or with the union office what those are.

Should any of our newly converted CCAs have any questions, please contact us at the union office (415) 362-0214 as soon as possible and at any time. And, congratulations on being converted to career!

Article courtesy of the San Francisco, CA
July/August 2016 NALC Branch 214 Voice

"OuT tHeRe"



HOW TO AVOID A DOG BITE

OUT THERE



by David Jones, Trustee
NALC Branch 1100

Put a safe amount of space between yourself and a dog if you see the signals indicating that the dog is uncomfortable and might feel the need to bite. When putting space between yourself and a dog that might bite, **NEVER turn your back on him and run away**. A dog's natural instinct will be to chase you.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU THINK A DOG MAY ATTACK

If a dog that may attack you approaches you, follow these steps:

Resist the impulse to scream and run away.

Remain motionless, place your satchel in front of you, and avoid eye contact with the dog.

Once the dog loses interest in you, slowly back away until he is out of sight.

If the dog does attack, "feed" him your mail satchel or anything that you can put between yourself and the dog.

I have been visiting post offices throughout the Branch. Two offices I visited during the summer (Whittier and Garden Grove) conducted dog-bite prevention demonstrations. Below are some tips offered by the American Humane Society aimed at avoiding dog bites. I have adapted them to apply to mail delivery. I hope they are helpful to you.

How do you avoid being bitten by a dog? Start by **BEING AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS**. *Be aware of which houses on your route own dogs. ALWAYS carry your satchel and dog spray as you deliver your route. ALWAYS assume that a dog may see you as an intruder or a threat. DO NOT attempt to pet or befriend a dog while on your route.*

PAY ATTENTION TO THE DOG'S BODY LANGUAGE

tensed body or stiff tail
pulled back head and/or ears
furrowed brow
eyes rolled so the whites are visible
yawning or licking tongue
intense stare or backing away

If you fall or are knocked to the ground, curl into a ball with your hands over your ears and remain motionless. Try not to scream or roll around.

The Postal Service has specific protocols in place to follow with regard to dog bite prevention. Please be certain you know what they are in your office. Additionally, **ALWAYS** have your satchel. **ALWAYS** have your dog spray. **ALWAYS** case in your dog warning cards.

Report any loose or stray dogs to your supervisor right away so that animal control can be notified. Bottomline: *If you feel unsafe or threatened by a dog and feel you cannot complete delivery, call your supervisor immediately.* Your supervisor will give you further instructions. **IF YOU ARE BITTEN, CALL YOUR SUPERVISOR IMMEDIATELY.**

Even though the dog days of summer are over as you receive this newsletter, it is important to keep diligent and avoid dog bites all year around!

Article courtesy of the July-August-September 2016
Garden Grove, California NALC Branch 1100 Union Carrier



FACE PAINTING & BALLOON ANIMALS

N.A.L.C.

BRANCH 782'S

50/50 DRAWING

LASER TAG

MEMBER RAFFEL

ANNUAL PICNIC

Sunday October 9, 2016

Jastro Park (section 1)

11am - 3pm

Serving from 11am - 1pm

Bounce House

GAMES

STREET TACOS, RICE & BEANS

MEMBERS & HOUSEHOLD	\$FREE
GUESTS	\$10.00
QUESTIONS? CONTACT TERESA ORTEGA @ 661-2013086	



Branch Officers

President	Mike Towery	(661) 331-9171
Vice-President	John Ortega	(661) 809-8140
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Financial Secretary	Anita Holderman	(661) 487-5353
HBP & MBA	Mark Ramirez	(661) 398-6075
Sargeant-at-Arms	Jerry Patterson	(661) 699-2462
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Trustee	Teresa Ortega	(661) 391-8026
Trustee	Darryl Holderman	(661) 332-9201

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Lamont (93241)	Mike Munoz	(661) 304-5516
McFarland (93250)	Bonnie Whitbey	(661) 302-7354
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Hillcrest Station (93306)	Pam Smith	(661) 979-5854
Brundage Station (93307)	John Ortega	(661) 809-8140
Dole Court (93308)	Shari Sharp	(661) 364-5544
Stockdale Station (93309)	Randy Courson	(661) 345-0256
Stockdale Station (93309)	Maria Valenzuela	(661) 496-5929
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California City (93504)	Ryan Gerstl	(761) 373-4180
Boron (93516)	Paula Hogg	(760) 373-8963
Edwards AF Base (93523)	Mike Meza	(805) 625-4541
Ridgecrest (93555)	Lynnel Howell	(760) 382-3030
Tehachapi (93561)	Paula Hogg	(760) 373-8963
Trona (93562)	Lynnel Howell	(760) 382-3030

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

Rick Plummer, Webmaster



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

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

General Meeting Tuesday September 27, 2016 7:00 p.m.

Branch 782 Office
2628 "F" Street
Bakersfield, California

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

Branch 782 Picnic

**When and Where
Details
on
page 18**

"OuT tHeRe"



Each and EVERY month, Branch 782 sponsors a drawing to encourage **YOU** to come to our Meeting*. *There was no winner in July 2016!!!*

This month YOU could win \$200!

*The fine print: To win the money **YOU** have to be present when **YOUR** name is drawn!

Check out the web version of your newsletter at WWW.782NALC.COM.