

National Association of Letter Carriers

Branch 782

E.A. Baker Union Update



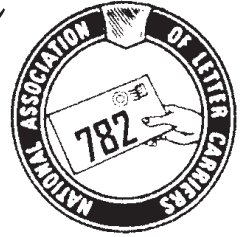
ARVIN
CALIFORNIA CITY
McFARLAND
TAFT

AVENAL
DELANO
MOJAVE
TEHACHAPI

BAKERSFIELD
EDWARDS AFB
RIDGECREST
TRONA

BORON
LAMONT
SHAFTER
WASCO

CHARTERED FEBRUARY 25, 1901



NUMBER 11

WEB VERSION

NOVEMBER 2019

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF NALC GOLDEN EMPIRE BRANCH 782 AND DELEGATES TO THE 2020 STATE CONVENTION AND DELEGATES TO THE 2020 NATIONAL CONVENTION

ELECTION

Elections will be held for the following Branch offices: **three (3) Trustees**. The term of office will be three (3) years.

Elections will also be held for the Branch 782 delegates to the State and National Conventions.

The election will be conducted by secret ballot at the regular meeting on November 20, 2019 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 20, 2019, 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 6, 2019.

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.

By virtue of the positions, Branch 782 President and Vice President shall be delegates to both the National and State Conventions.



A member raised a concern that all pictures from the picnic had not been in the newsletter. She went on to state that, "Not everybody has a computer to find the web version." The Editor-guy mistakenly thought that printing costs were an issue at that time; and, it is now apparent that he was wrong and he apologizes.

Picnic pictures continued on pages 8 - 13...

Minutes of the October 2019 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 October, 2019 at the branch office, Bakersfield. The flag salute was led by Sgt. at Arms, David Treto. All members of the Executive Board were present except HBP/MBA Representative, Mark Ramirez who was at the Health Benefits Seminar in Las Vegas. The stewards were present from Avenal, Brundage, Camino Media, Downtown, East Bakersfield, Hillcrest, McFarland, Oildale, Shafter, South, Stockdale, Taft and Wasco. Also present was the Newsletter Editor, Basil Zuniga; Assistant Newsletter Editor/ Social and Recreation Committee Rep., Paul Greenfield; Photographer, Anita Holderman; Assistant Treasurer, Debbie Guillet; Assistant Recording Secretary, Norma Hamer and OWCP Rep., Rick Gerdes. The Minutes of the September 25, 2019 meeting were read by Asst. Recording Secretary, Norma Hamer and accepted with the correction that the raffle tickets for the lottery ticket bouquet sold for \$10.00 each. The ending balance of the treasurer's report was \$68,655.05 and the winner of the MDA 50/50 drawing did not donate the winnings back.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND STANDING COMMITTEES:

Teresa Ortega reported that the "Picnic is OVER!!" She went on to say that she always gets a lot of help! She thanked Paul Greenfield, who was in charge of the games for the first time. She thanked those who helped with check in, BBQ and her #1 helper who "Is kinda cute!" There were 75 prizes; only 19 members in attendance did not win a prize. Paul Greenfield reported that the web version of the newsletter has about 200 photos. He thanked Anita for all the photos. He reported there are photos from the softball tournament, Dole vs. Brundage. He discussed the retirement of Elroy Miller and Dennis Crenshaw. Ralph Ramirez, from South Station, shared information about the November 24

"1st Annual Corn Hole Tournament" to be held at 1933, 7900 Downing Ave. They will have 2 person teams, \$20.00 per person entry fee. Kim Gerdes reported that 2 books were sold, 586 remain. Paul Greenfield reported that the Social and Recreation Committee has Disney on Ice tickets. He has sold all the ones he had, but contract Cathy Chavez for more tickets. He reported that the Social and Recreation Committee has \$3315.09 in their checking account and another \$1000.00 in savings. He also reported that tickets for Holiday Lights at CALM will be available again this year.

NEW BUSINESS: Teresa Ortega made a motion that dinner for the December General Meeting be catered, with members bringing desserts. Seconded by Debbie Guillet and passed.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION: Mike Towery reported that the November General Meeting will be the third Wednesday, November 20 and the December General Meeting will also be third Wednesday of the month, December 18. The Steward meetings for November will be on October 30 and November 13. Mike discussed the contract negotiations. He also discussed the "Executive Orders" for government employees that are making their way through the court system. If the orders stand, the Postal Service will be next!

IMPROVEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION: Norma Hamer reported that the Lottery Bouquet brought in \$3380.00 for MDA; she collected an additional \$10.00 donation after the drawing. The 50/50 Drawing made \$160.00. Mike Towery reported that Stockdale will change their reporting time to 7:30 and Mojave will change to 8:00. The Color Coded Calendars are here! Stewards should see Norma following the meeting to get the calendars. \$5.00 for members, please get the money in ASAP.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: Anita Holderman reported that for September 2019 the total was \$13,845.42 and for October the total was \$13,701.58.

TREASURERS REPORT: Molly Biggar reported:

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$68,655.05 |
| Dues and Income | \$21,063.94 |
| Total Balance | \$89,718.99 |
| Total Expenses | \$11,933.54 |
| Ending Balance | \$77,785.46 |

IT'S NOT LEGAL ADVICE. IT'S LEGAL KNOWLEDGE.

By Randy Courson, NALC Branch 782 Shop Steward

We spend our lives collecting stuff. *Yet (most times), we never consider what will happen to this "stuff" when we die..*

Most everyone has heard the term "Last Will and Testament". This requires a formal

writing. There **HAVE** to be witnesses. **AND?** *There are many other requirements that have to be rigorously adhered to in order to be valid.*

What many people don't know is that California is one of the states which recognizes a **"Holographic Will"**.

THAT is a written document which legally expresses what is to happen to **YOUR** stuff.

This document has to be **"TOTALLY"** in the handwriting of the person disposing of his or her stuff and signed by him or her. (You can see why a good Trust & Wills Attorney will never tell you about this type of Will. It would be bad for business...)

REMEMBER: It's **NOT** legal advice. It **IS** legal knowledge.

The MDA 50/50 Drawing was won by Norma Hamer, who donated it back to MDA. (\$16.00/\$16.00)

The Drawing for \$500.00 would have been won by Elisa Hutton if she had been present.

There were 43 members present (11 Veterans, 12 Retirees, 4 CCA's, and 2 visitors).

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

KIM GERDES
NALC Branch 782 Recording Secretary

Non-Members as of October 2019

There are only 12 non-members in all of the cities we serve!

Downtown Station
Sarah Kirby
Javier Cruz

South Station
Chanthorn Ped
Jason Macknicki

Brundage/East Bakersfield
100% UNION!!!

Hillcrest
100% UNION!!!

Dole Court
100% UNION!!!

Stockdale
James Oh
Daniel Zuniga

Camino Media
100% UNION!!!

Arvin
100% UNION!!!

Avenal
100% UNION!!!

California City
100% UNION!!!

Delano
Cynthia V. Quebral
Daniela Barreto

Edwards AFB
100% UNION!!!

Lamont
100% UNION!!!

Mojave
100% UNION!!!

Ridgecrest
Kelly Treat

Shafter
Laura M. New

Taft
K. J. Kaczmarek

Tehachapi
100% UNION!!!

Trona
100% UNION!!!

Wasco
Eun Chong

CCA names are in italics

**Each and EVERY month,
Branch 782 sponsors a drawing
at the General Meeting
to encourage**

YOU

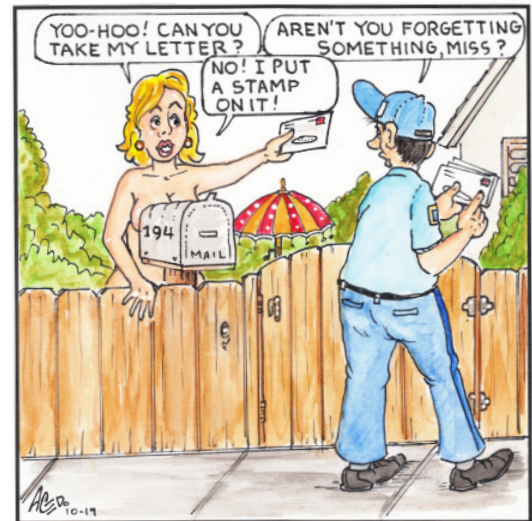
**to come to our
monthly Meeting***

Last month, Elisa Hutton could have won \$500!

**YOU could win
\$500 this month!!!**

*THE FINE PRINT: To win the money
YOU have to be present when YOUR name is drawn...

"OuT tHeRe"



OUT THERE



OUT THERE



**Each one of NALC Branch 782 S.A.N.E.
Fred Acedo's OuT tHeRe cartoons
is a self-contained message ...**



April 29, 2019

MANAGERS, OPERATIONS SUPPORT
MANAGERS, DELIVERY PROGRAMS SUPPORT

SUBJECT: Packages Delivered by Private Carriers

The following protocol supercedes any previous instructions and is to be followed in the event packages are delivered to a USPS mailbox by a private courier and/or delivered without postage:

- Our carriers are to collect the package and return it to the office
- The delivery unit must contact the company the same day and provide them with an opportunity to collect the package by the end of the following business day
- The contact with the company must be documented and include the date/time/company name/name of individual contacted/phone number used to make contact
- Notify Headquarters Delivery Operations so that this matter may be addressed with the customer on a national basis, as appropriate.

The protocol outlined above is consistent with the following regulations:

Handbook M41, Section 131.23, General Precautions: When you find in a mail receptacle mailable matter on which postage has not been paid, addressed to, or intended for the person in whose receptacle it is deposited, take the matter to the post office for treatment as provided in DMM 8.2

Handbook PO-603, Section 352.4, Mailable Matter Not Bearing Postage: When you find mailable matter in a box without postage paid addressed to, or intended for, the person in whose box it is deposited, take the matter to the Post Office for treatment in accordance with DMM 8.2

Domestic Mail Manual, Section 8.2.1, Handling Mail With Omitted Postage: Matter of any class, including that for which extra services are indicated, received at either the office of mailing or office of address without postage, is endorsed "Returned for Postage" and is returned to the sender without an attempt at delivery. If a mail recipient attempts to return or forward the mail without paying additional postage when required, the mail is endorsed "Returned for Postage" and returned to the recipient. If no return address is shown, or the delivery and return addresses are identical, or the delivery and return addresses are different but for the same person or organization, the piece is treated as dead mail.

Please send these notifications to HQ.Del.Strategy.Plan@USPS.Gov

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. McAdams", written over a white background.

Kevin L. McAdams

cc: Area Vice Presidents

475 L'ENFANT PLAZA SW
WASHINGTON DC 20260-1600
(202) 268-6500
(202) 268-3331
www.usps.com

Information courtesy of the October 2019 Reading, Pennsylvania NALC Branch 258 NALCASTER

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

He Doesn't Want the Union in His Life; Doesn't Mind the Benefits, Though

by *Eric Ellis,*
CSALC District 4 Officer



For those who still toil away carrying mail, there is the presence of a Shop Steward who represents the tip of the spear of unionism.

Any person who serves as Steward puts his or her job at risk, as management often places a target on the holder of the position because he or she

enforces the Contract which represents the “law of the land” on the workroom floor. And, in regard to dealings between the union and management — generally, “Render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar’s” (Matthew 22:21).

Speaking of which, where **DO** our raises and other benefits come from?? Did they just fall out of the sky, like manna from heaven?? Did the Postal Service just hand them to us, like a generous benefactor who always desires our well-being and happiness?? **NO!** They were won!!!

Let’s look at the not-too-distant past for the answer: Prior to 1971, Collective Bargaining — you know, the process by which every three to five years the NALC and the USPS meet to haggle over **YOUR** standard of living — did not exist.

And what was the result? **Most Letter Carriers qualified for welfare!**

In reality, those who don’t pay the dues that support the mechanism by which the Contract is enforced and economic benefits accrue to each individual Letter Carrier **DO STEAL** from us that do!

USA President Dwight D. Eisenhower promised our then-NALC President William Doherty that Doherty would “never sit on his doorstep, that he would always be welcome if he had a problem.”

WELL... President Doherty was **NOT** permitted to meet with President Eisenhower during the eight years he was in office. *And, then — for good measure —* **EISENHOWER VETOED FOUR PAY RAISES** for Letter Carriers during his presidency! The last pay raise veto was overridden by Congress.

Furthermore, it was the lack of congressional regard for Letter Carriers that led to the postal strike in 1970 — the result of which led to President Richard Nixon’s signing of legislation creating the United States Postal Service (from the old Post Office Department). **THAT** decision is what led to Collective Bargaining.

And, what followed the enactment of the 1970 version of postal reform! **WE LETTER CARRIERS ENTERED THE MIDDLE CLASS!**

Does anyone out there wish to return to “the good old days” when a Carrier had to work two or three jobs to support a family?

OF COURSE NOT...

And the bottom line protection for us is the representation our union provides for us — not only on the workroom floor — but also in contract negotiations **AND** in the legislative arena!

And, my friends, *that* needs to be paid for! **THAT** is the power of what working together collectively can accomplish!

If you don’t want the union in your life, then go work at non-union shops such as Wal-Mart or Target. You can then accept non-union wages and benefits...

*I prefer to stick with the union and receive pay and benefits that I receive working in a union shop that I **know** I need to protect!*

I joined the National Association of Letter Carriers as a “baby” in May 1993 at the age of 23. (That makes me a dues-paying member of 26 ½ years).

Recently someone came up to me and complained that a non-union Letter Carrier wanted to participate in an activity reserved for dues-paying members.

I replied the obvious solution: *“If the person in question wanted to perform the task in question, he can join the union.”* I was told something interesting, *“He doesn’t want the union in his life.”*

He doesn’t want the union in his life?!?!?

If I had had a chance to respond to that, I would have said, *“Fine. If he doesn’t want the ‘union in his life’ he can give back the yearly raises, cost-of-living adjustments and all the other protections!*

And, it doesn’t end there. **THE NALC DOES MUCH MORE FOR THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBER THAN HE OR SHE REALIZES!!**

FIRST, THE OBVIOUS...

Before the postal strike of 1970, we had “collective begging”. That is to say, the NALC and other postal unions *begged* Congress for raises. And did they get them? **HELL NO!**

We “Oltimers” knew her as Diana Chavez...

Hired on October 26, 1985, brand-new PTF Carrier Diana Chavez showed up at Bakersfield’s South Station where she reported to station manager Allen Connor and supervisor Henry Garcia. They then introduced her to On-the-Job-Instructor.



(l-r) members of the Branch 782 Executive Board sometime in the 1990s: Mark Ramirez, HBP Representative; Kim Gerdes, Recording Secretary; Mike Towery, Vice-President; Frank Thomasy, President; Diana Chavez, Financial Secretary; Molly Biggar, Treasurer; and Bill Curtis, Chief Trustee

At that time, it had been decided that the best thing to do with new Letter Carrier employees was to put them on T-6 assignments for orientation. With her OJI Mike Freeman, Diana spent her first three days on Bill Marchand’s string and, as she recalls, **“They felt like they were really ugly routes. Lots of walking. Lots of dogs. Lots of mail to carry. Park-and-loop all day. I went home exhausted every day!”**

Diana was hired with Susie Chow and Rudy Fierro and she still remembers wondering what they were experiencing in the 09s.

It was a hard transition for her. Like others she knew who were now Carriers (specifically Chris Jensen and Bill Curtis) her background was in office work in the Welfare Department. The physical nature of her new job was daunting.

She didn’t give up, passed probation and in time became a Regular Carrier assigned to Route 401 and then bid Route 417.

Based on a variety of personal experiences, Diana knew that it would serve her best interests if she learned about the rules,

JOIN US FOR A

Retirement Celebration

HONORING DIANA HERRERA

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND AT 5:00 PM

DON PERICO'S RESTAURANT (BAR SIDE)
2660 OSWELL ST. #133, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306

RSVP TO JOSH BY OCTOBER 21ST AT
661-281-8343
ADULTS ONLY PLEASE



Branch 782 Legislative Liaison Diana Chavez exhorting members to become active in protecting our legislative Rights at a General Meeting in the mid-2000s.

regulations and Rights that were important in doing the best she could in her chosen profession. Involvement in the local Letter Carriers union seemed to be a pretty obvious choice and Diana was soon participating in a variety of union activities and functions. She was the elected NALC Branch 782 Financial Secretary for 20+ years and served as the Legislative Liaison after Bill Curtis until Pam Smith took over that job on our behalf in 2011 or 2012.

While on Route 417, Diana had suffered a serious on-the-job ankle injury. Eventually, due to the long term after effects of her accident, she came to the realization that she would no longer be able to carry mail. Faced with either quitting the Postal Service, or taking advantage of an opportunity to possibly lateral to a Clerk craft job, she decided that she could still continue to be productive for the USPS.

Thus, in 2006, Diana's journey took her to a VMF job and later to AMS Growth Management at the Bakersfield GMF. She found it was very interesting and a completely different environment. She productively worked there — still a Letter Carrier — until 2013 when a management decision returned her to work at South Station.

Because she had learned to stay on top of all of the varied responsibilities required in the AMS job, she was soon reinstated in that role. After lateraling to Clerk, she won her final job as VMF Clerk Storekeeper.

At this time, Diana admits that she has yet to realize that she is retired. Although her plans are to sleep in every morning, she



Diana Hererra, not usually at a loss for words, shares at her retirement soiree!

still wakes up early. (*Do you think that this might change in time?*)

She had a great time at her retirement dinner which was attended by about sixty people!





Br. 782's ANNUAL PICNIC

FACE PAINTING
BALLOONS

50/50
DRAWINGS

JASTRO PARK
October 13, 2019
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

RAFFLE & BAKE

MEMBER RAFFLE

WE WILL BE IN SECTION 1 SERVING 11AM-1PM

MEMBERS & HOUSEHOLD \$FREE
GUESTS \$10.00

CCA'S who have to unfortunately work and would like to send their household, please see your shop steward

TO BENEFIT (MDA) MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

LOTTERY BASKET W/\$250.00 IN SCRATCHERS

RAFFLE TICKETS ARE \$10 EACH
CONTACT NORMA HAMER @ 6616191565

QUESTIONS? CONTACT TERESA ORTEGA @ 6612013086





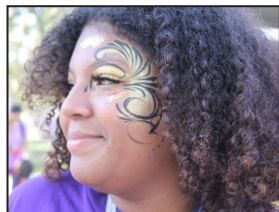
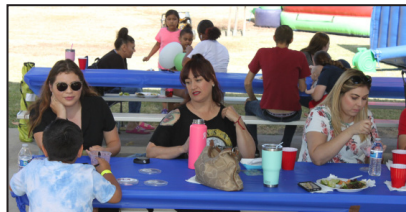
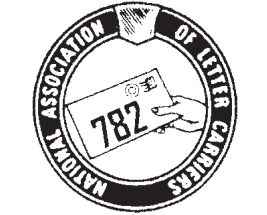
October 13, 2019

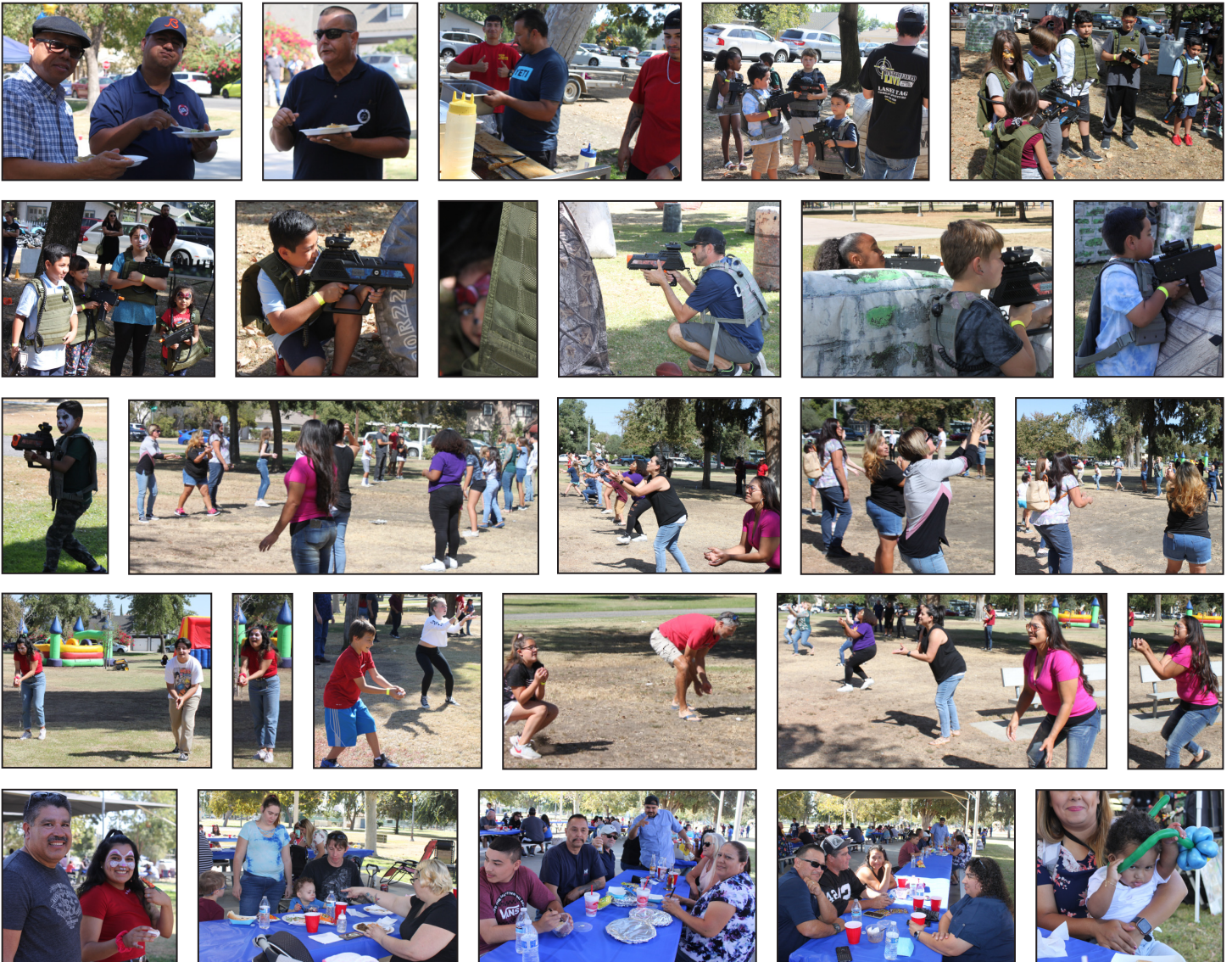


Those Branch 782 members and their families who were there had a great, great time!!!



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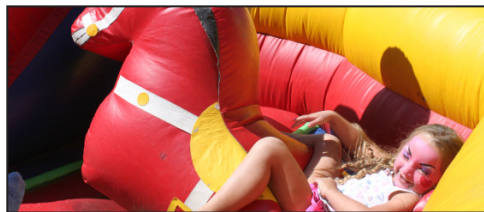




Picnic pictures courtesy of Branch 782 Photographer Anita Holderman



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Br. 782's ANNUAL PICNIC

FACE PAINTING
&
BALLOONS

JASTRO PARK
October 13, 2019
 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

50/50
DRAWINGS

MUSIC
&
DANCE



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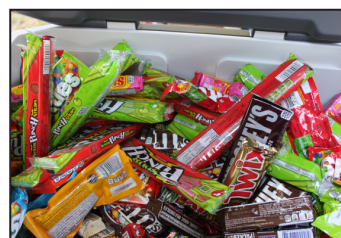
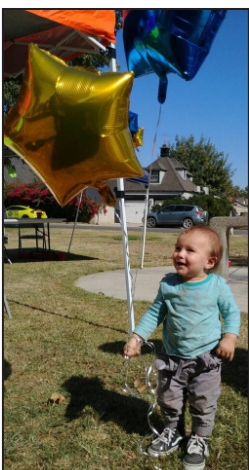
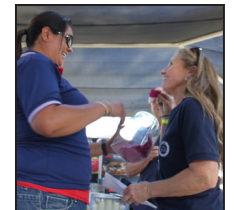
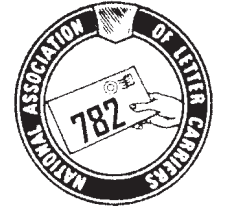
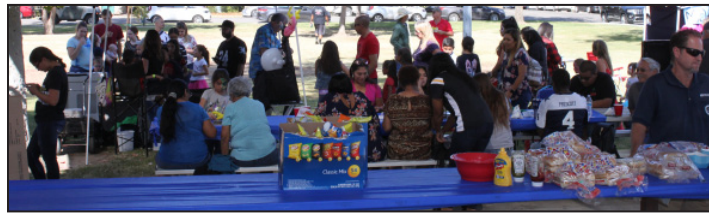
CONTACT NORMA HAMER @ 6616191466

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GUESTS \$10.00

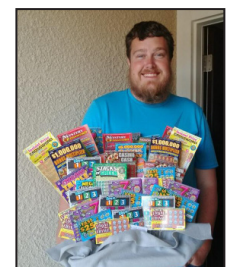
QUESTIONS? CONTACT TERESA ORTEGA @ 6612013086



Who won the bouquet of lottery tickets!?!?

Matt DiMaggio is the winner!

We collected \$3,380! He will let me know if there are any winners.



NORMA HAMER
Branch 782 MDA Coordinator

THANK YOU BRANCH 782 VETERANS!!!



With all due respect: A Heartfelt “Thank You for Your Service!” to Each and Every Military Veteran!!!

Former Branch 782 member Gail Gahart e-mailed this info to Retiree Bill Curtis

After nearly two decades since it was pulled from the Mojave Desert at China Lake Naval Station, the B-29 Superfortress known as “Doc” will bring its B-29 Doc Flight Experience and ground display tour to Inyokern, CA and the China Lake area.

“Doc” will arrive at Inyokern Airport and will be available for B-29 Doc Flight Experience rides, along with ground and flight deck tours Wednesday, Oct. 9.

“Nineteen years ago, B-29 ‘Doc’ left California for Wichita to be restored after a team of heroes worked diligently with Tony Mazzolini to rescue the historic warbird from the Mojave Desert,” said Josh Wells, ‘Doc’s Friends’ general manager and executive director. “The tour stop in Inyokern and the area surrounding China Lake was added thanks to a team of volunteers and warbird enthusiasts from the China Lake area who traveled to see ‘Doc’ during the Chino, CA, tour stop a week ago. After overcoming logistical and scheduling matters, we were thrilled to add one last stop on our California and western tour.”

Why would she think that this kind of information would be important to him?

Bill Curtis (a retired Letter Carrier since August 2008) served two tours in Vietnam (67 - 68 and 68 - 69) first on a destroyer escort and later as a member of the USN “Brown Water Navy”.

In 1995, Bill drove his 1951 Chevy truck to Meadows Field in Bakersfield to see a B-29 (“Fifi”). He was able to park “up close and personal” by the amazing aircraft which was on a flying tour to honor the 50th anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb which ended WWII.

There are many postal employees who are military veterans. Other Postal people, like Gail Gahart, understand that sacrifice and service should be honored!



At one time, Bill’s old truck was referred to as the Branch 782 limo...



Branch 782 member Pat Farr was also there with his son, Clay, in 1995

When he received Gail Gahart’s message that “Doc” would be landing close by in October, he knew that he had to go to Inyokern to relive his first experience .

Part of the reason he wanted to go there was to honor the fact that young Clay Farr had been there at Meadows Field in 1995. Unfortunately, Clay gave his life for his country in 2006. It was important for Bill to honor Clay’s life as well as his death as an American hero *and all others as well...*

Bill feels that it is so interesting that there is such a connection between those who have served in the military. Despite the changes in technology, weapons and even the way that uniforms look, it is still young men who put themselves in harm’s way to accomplish the assigned missions.



Bill Curtis took this picture of Branch 782 member Patrick Farr in the nose of the B-29 named “Fifi” in 1995 with his then- ten year old son, Clay P. Farr



Freedom is NOT free...

The Department of Defense announced the death of Specialist Clay P. Farr, 21, of Bakersfield, California who was supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. He died in Baghdad, Iraq when an improvised explosive device detonated near a HMMWV during patrol operations. Farr was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 71st Cavalry, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division of Fort Drum.

Farr is survived by his father and stepmother, Patrick and Silver Farr; his brother, Chad Farr; and his mother, Carrol Alderete. Farr's mother said he was destined for the military. "We knew from an early age that he would be in the service," she said. "He was born with dog tags on. In kindergarten, camouflage was his favorite color -- until his teacher told him it wasn't a color. In elementary school, he dressed as a soldier for Halloween with face paint."

This abbreviated information adapted from <http://www.arlingtoncemetery.net/>

A FEW FACTS ABOUT THE VIETNAM WALL

There are 58,267 names on the wall.
39,996 were just 22 or younger.
8,283 were 19. 33,103 were 18.
12 were 17 years old.
5 soldiers were 16.

There are 3 sets of fathers and sons on the wall.
31 sets of parents lost 2 of their sons.
997 were killed their first day.
1,448 were killed on their last day.
8 women were on the wall, nurses.
244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the war and 153 of them are on the wall.

Source: Facebook page



History Denied
 Since 1893, the U.S. Postal Service has been designing and issuing stamps to commemorate significant events, places and people in American history. After protests from Japanese government

officials and intervention by President Clinton, the Postal Service reluctantly rescinded a planned stamp commemorating the swift conclusion of WW II through the use of atomic bombs.

This is the only commemorative stamp ever rescinded by the U.S. Postal Service. Ironically, the announcement was made public by the White House on December 7, 1994, exactly 53 years to the

day after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor. This commemorative poster stamp was created in place of the cancelled stamp to honor the sacrifices made by a generation of Americans.

A commemorative stamp to honor this event was never issued, but here is a recap of that stamp.

2019 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 1-855-511-1893
“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

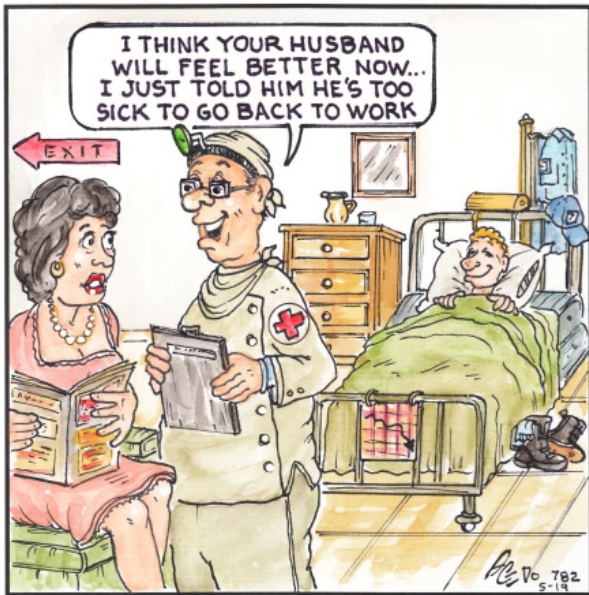
NALC Drug Prescription “Claims” Filing
 P.O. Box 521926
 Phoenix, Arizona 85072-2192

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

* Call for approvals Organ Transplants, DME Surgeries
 InPatient

“OuT tHeRe”



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!!!

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...

MARK RAMIREZ
 NALC Branch 782 Health Benefit Plan Representative
(661) 398-6075

WE MUST SUPPORT OUR UNION IN EVERY WAY WE CAN. STRENGTH IS IN NUMBERS AND DEDICATION!!!

I have listed the new 2020 NALC Health Benefit Premiums for the NALC High Option, Consumer Driven, and Value Option Health Plans, and the Open Season Enrollment Dates.

Our NALC Health Benefit Plans were created to provide our NALC Union membership with a **“NOT FOR PROFIT”** health benefit package that is rated in the top Health Plans in the federal network which allows our members choices in health plans. Please remember, our union supports its members with the Letter Carrier Political Action Fund, and at the bargaining table for our pay and cost-of-living (COLA) package, and our National Contract and Local Contract.

Please compare our union owned Health Benefit Plan during this Open Season and enroll in **YOUR** NALC Health Benefit Plan, it is here to serve our union membership with competitive premiums and excellent health benefit services, Nation-Wide and World-Wide.

The “For Profit” health plans are in business to make large profits for their board of directors and share holders. The NALC Health Benefit Plan is NOT profit driven !!!

MARK RAMIREZ
NALC HBP Representative
The Golden Empire Branch 782

OPEN SEASON FOR YEAR 2020 BENEFIT SELECTION FOR NALC HEALTH PLANS WILL BE NOVEMBER 11th THROUGH DECEMBER 9th 2019

2020 premiums listed are bi-weekly for Active Duty with Retirees/Annuitant premiums paid on a monthly basis

| Type of Enrollment | Enrollment Code | Active Duty (Bi-weekly) | Annuitant (Monthly) |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| High Option Self Only | 321 | \$87.56 | \$196.82 |
| High Option Self and Family | 322 | \$181.15 | \$408.94 |
| High Option Self + One | 323 | \$211.31 | \$473.01 |
| CDHB Self Only | 324 | \$52.45 | \$118.38 |
| CDHB Self and Family | 325 | \$120.63 | \$272.26 |
| CDHP Self + One | 326 | \$115.72 | \$261.17 |
| Value Option Self Only | KM1 | \$43.05 | \$97.16 |
| Value Option Self and Family | KM2 | \$99.05 | \$223.54 |
| Value Option Self + One | KM3 | \$94.97 | \$214.34 |

Our National trustees and officers have finished negotiations with OPM for our NALC Health Benefit Plan package and bi-weekly/monthly premiums for active and retired NALC members. Point of information: *Our union-owned Health Benefit Plan is a fee-for-service, “NOT FOR PROFIT” health benefit plan with NALC Letter Carriers and their families health care needs in focus.*

Our NALC union is stronger when our membrs support OUR union’s health benefit plan, MBA, and the Letter Carrier Political Action Fund. We — as union members — are fortunate to belong to a union who supports its members. So, we must support OUR union!

Congratulations to our newest Retirees!!!

Lynn Hunter
6/2/2001* – 10/31/2019

OUT THERE



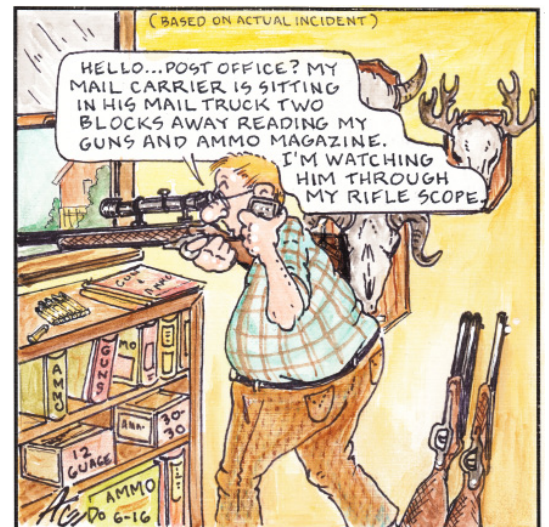
GETTING READY TO SWIPE: "Are you going to take my picture? I'm not sure I really want anyone to take this picture. It's not that big a deal..."
AFTER THE SWIPE (With a big grin!): "That feels REALLY GOOD!!! Finally! I am a member of the Last Punch Bunch! The very last swipe!"

* Letter Carrier Seniority Date preceded by time as a Clerk at the Bakersfield GMF

Why would any Letter Carrier ever want to retire??

"OuT tHeRe"

"OuT tHeRe"



"OuT tHeRe"



"OuT tHeRe"



"OuT tHeRe"





Brundage Station (93307) on June 23, 1993

Front Row (sitting): Tracy Hilo, "Kool Aid" Thompson, Sandy Hanson, Rick (Rural Carrier), Rupinder Singh, Art Ornelas (Postmaster), Mike Freeman, Richard Sanders, Frank Thomasy (Branch 782 President), Elroy Miller

Row 2: Judy Roberson, Lonnie Neal, Beverly Hill, Steve Nieto, Vicki Lewis, Carmen Castillo, Billy McKenzie, Frank Martinez, Frank De La Hoya, Deanna Black
Row 3: Eliani Gifford, Vincent Gonzalez, Beverly Moland, Rosie Padilla, Pattie Edwards, ??, Mary McKenzie (Rural Carrier), ??, Sandra May Billingsley, (Clerk)

Brundage
Station
(93307)
in 2008



Elroy Miller
2/9/1991 – 10/31/2019



An Open Letter from
Cherilyn Morgan

11/18/2000 - 10/31/2019

Due, in part, to her father's ill health and a desire to be with him, Cherilyn Morgan was honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy in March, 2000 after 16 years.



Cherilyn Morgan and Bakersfield Postmaster Joe Yuson

She had learned that the U.S.

Postal Service provides military veterans an avenue whereby their service years can count toward post office retirement. Cherilyn applied and was interviewed by manager Linda Bell and began her postal career in the summer of 2000 as a "Casual" — a new hire who assists Regular Carriers on their routes.

She remembers the classroom training she received. It was held downtown in the bottom floor of the very old historic post office building. It still bore signage over a door that read "U.S. Prohibition Dept." from back in the 1920's! There was an awe-inspired moment when she felt like she had stepped back in time. The classroom instructor was Basil Zuniga, who was clearly well-chosen for the job. He spoke from a vast wealth of knowledge and good humor. Cherilyn says she hated when the training ended, because she really loved his colorful and illustrative stories!

She was happy to start working at the 93301 Bakersfield Downtown Station located in an old and beautiful part of town. Her on-the-job instructor, OJI Kim Gerdes, could not have been more helpful, especially when demonstrating the handling of the postal vehicle in the busy downtown business area. Cherilyn really enjoyed delivering the mail in the nice quiet neighborhoods off the main streets.

Cherilyn was transferred, after about a year, to the 93309 Stockdale Station in the southwest side of town, a much bigger station with many more routes. During her time there, she became what is called "PTF" (Part-Time Flexible). She says, *"I was on probation for 3 months, and there's really nothing part-time about it. You work 6 days a week, 10 hours a day, and think you'll never survive...but I did and I lived to tell about it (smile)."*

While at the Stockdale Station, Cherilyn was sent out on the route with Carrier Sunny Casper. Sunny's was a walking route, and Cherilyn learned the fine art of delivering the mail while walking from house to house. It was very pleasant because the neighborhood was nice (dog-free) and the weather cooperative. Sunny was organized. She remembers that Sunny was very particular about not discarding the plastic advo straps with the discarded advos. You were to tie them together, so as not to have so many loose straps everywhere, and then throw them away in the regular waste. Cherilyn always did it that way from then on. Thanks, Sunny!

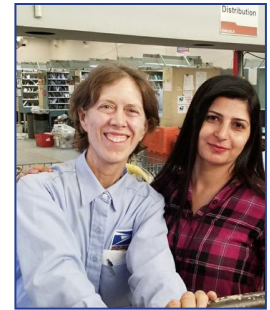
Stockdale was one of the last stations to have a gas station on its compound. It was wonderfully convenient to gas up right there.



Br. 782 President Mike Towery, too



With Cindy Jimenez and Sal Garcia



Cherilyn and Window Clerk Preet Kaur

Cherilyn was sad when the tanks were removed and the Carriers had to buy gas at local gas stations.

At the Stockdale Station, she was given the memorable opportunity to drive a postal jeep. The LLV is the vehicle that Carriers typically use now. The jeeps were definitely cooler-looking and sporty, but because of their age they were already going out of circulation. There didn't seem to be many of them around, so she is glad she had the chance to drive one (twice).



She had looked forward to driving the jeep; but, unfortunately, did not like the experience at all. The inside of the jeep was certainly not comfortably roomy enough for the mail (and certainly would not be sufficient

for the huge volume of parcels now received). Also the brakes were very loose. Even with the emergency brake on, the vehicle "acted like it wanted to move on its own." With this situation, Cherilyn felt it was "scary" to be behind the wheel. She was relieved when she was able again to drive the plain-looking but sturdy LLV. (Speaking of its appearance... Once, while driving up the street in the LLV, Cherilyn saw a young child waiting for her by the gate. He was very visibly disappointed that the truck did not turn out to be the ice cream truck.)



Behind the LLV wheel on her last day...



Cherilyn Morgan and Adela Carrasco out on the street...

Stockdale was the station where, after a couple years or so, Cherilyn finally became a "Regular!" She soon got the opportunity to have her own route.

She remembers Irene Pasos as being the phenomenal Shop Steward there at the time. Irene told her that Route 500 was becoming available at the 93305 Kentucky Street Station and urged her to

bid on the route. It turns out that the route served the neighborhood where Cherilyn grew up. She was more than excited when she was awarded the assignment.

The area to which Cherilyn was assigned is called “La Loma” (a region she already new has lots of dogs. She felt relatively safe delivering mail there, though, because Route 524 (a “stop and hop” route) was an all-driving route. Cherilyn said that a Carrier once joked that “A Carrier is not a real Carrier until he (or she) gets bitten by a dog.”



Most of the 93305 Crew: (l-r) Gurminder Saran, Cheryl Bear, Carie Taylor, Robert Guerrero, Cindy Guerrero, Ruben Gonzales, Christina Barajas, Gurprett Gill (“Singh”), Jessie Guadia, Mark Sanchez, Cherilyn Morgan, Juan Rodriguez, Anna Gonzals, Sal Garcia, Cervando Gonzales and Joy Cordoba

During her postal years, she was bitten a few times by heel nippers and yappers. She became a “real Carrier,” however, when she was bitten by a huge hound dog who had mysteriously come from around the back of the house. He literally had not been at the street mailbox when she put the mail in it. According to a witness, Cherilyn was returning to her vehicle when the dog silently sneaked up behind her. He bit her (hard) in the back of the leg, then turned around and “sauntered” back up the sidewalk to the house with not even a growl. (There was no chance for using dog spray.)

Cherilyn ended up with five stitches, but the wound healed with no scar. The customer later built a perimeter fence.

The remainder of Cherilyn’s postal career was spent at the 93305 station. Although it started out on Kentucky Street, the personnel later moved (in October 2011) to Brundage Lane where zip codes 93305 and 93307 share the same building. Cherilyn loved the huge parking lot at Brundage and all the new faces at the station.



Emma Castruita, Kim Pumphrey, Cheryl and Rosa Medina

She was very moved by the warm welcome given to the 93305 station by then 93307 Station Supervisor Crystal Southwood. Cheryl

will always remember the kind words Crystal said to them and for the great goodies prepared for them. Cherilyn believes that it was an excellent way to start the “family” they became.

No family unit is complete without a pet, and this postal family almost got one. Early one morning as the Clerks were sorting parcels, they noticed a very friendly young cat who kept coming through the open doors on the dock. They had already put her back outside several times. Finally they decided to put her in a storeroom temporarily to have her out of the way.

During the day Juanita Gomez fed her off and on. At day’s end, when no one showed interest in keeping the cat, Cherilyn decided to take her home. She named her “Juanita” (after the sympathetic Clerk, who was also Cherilyn’s childhood friend). Cherilyn calls the cat “Miss Nita.”

At the Brundage Station, Cherilyn was always intrigued by the “secret walkway with windows” way up near the ceiling that surrounds the workspace. She had heard that in former

days the workers were watched “from above” to ensure honesty in the handling of the mail. There is a ladder, in one of the rooms off the work floor, that leads up to the walkway. Cherilyn was disappointed that she was never able to go up into the “mysterious” upper corridor. She was told that, due to its disuse, “The walkway may now be unsafe.”



Clerk Juan Peraza and Cheryl at her parcel hamper one more time...

With periodic adjustments, Cherilyn’s Route 500 (at some point) became Route 524. The route’s street scheme varies somewhat. Sometimes the streets continued eastward across River Blvd., and one adjustment even took her north of Columbus Street. Most of her time on the route however, the route remained essentially the streets bordered by River Boulevard., Alta Vista Drive., Columbus Street. and Bernard Street.

Cherilyn says in her own words, *“In that ‘square’ of city streets, I lived my postal life most of 20 years! I definitely worked in a colorfully diverse area with lots of life going on — kids, mothers walking their children to school, school busses, homeless persons, police officers, shady-looking characters — my unforgettable friends... and the neighborhood canines and*

Continued on next page...



'dog catchers'! I never would have traded my route for another 'nicer' neighborhood. Some of those neighborhoods seemed lonely, because all I ever saw were gardeners. I never wanted to transfer somewhere else, because I truly loved my customers! I found, over the years, that I had interesting

Getting ready to join "The Last Punch Bunch"!! stories to tell (just like Basil) about my experiences, because I had such an awesome route with incredible people."



Cervando Gonzales and Ruben Gonzales also know that it is a very special day!

Cherilyn had customers who treated her very special. Through the years she quite often received water on a hot day; fresh fruit from someone's yard or field; homemade food, and small gifts. She was even given a young

kitten born in the back parking lot of an auto shop on her route (Celedon Smog and Automotive). The owner let her take "Rosie" home. (The name was inspired by co-worker, Rosie Padilla). The kitten has grown up to be fat and happy cat!



Through the years, many good memories will be spurred by these pictures which capture slices of Cherilyn's life on 10/31/19

One nice couple made Cherilyn some goodies, and put them in the mailbox for her. They did not realize that she was not on the route that day. Robert Guerrero, her relief Carrier, found the goodies in the mailbox and took them to give her. The man of the house saw Robert drive off with the goodies. He ran out of the house and into the street yelling, "Get back here! If you eat those goodies, I hope you get a cavity!"

Cherilyn got the goodies the next day from the customer, and Robert's funny story too!

Sam's Burgers at 809 Goodman St. is a fast food business on Route 524. On the restaurant wall hangs a photo of Cherilyn standing by the postal truck. The former owner, Mr. Ahn of King's Grill, was also a photographer and took photos of his customers. When the new owner took over, he removed all the photos except hers! Postal customers often told her, "Oh, guess what, I saw your picture on the wall at Sam's!" (Maybe her photo was good for his business! Or maybe he was glad she frequented his eatery!)

Cherilyn happily retired from the post office on October 31, 2019 with over thirty-six years of federal service! She is considering for her future the possibility of helping in the rescue and care of animals (and people, too!). For now, she is just reveling in the sweet freedom that retirement offers!

A hearty acknowledgment goes to station manager Mary Ronquillo for spearheading the awards presentation by Postmaster, Joe Yuson; Manager, Customer Service Operations Erica Tovar; and NALC Branch 782 union President Mike Towery. Mary decorated case 524 with sparkly danglies and provided Cherilyn with items to wear — a retirement necklace and a feathery hat (at least it wasn't a dunce cap or cone head!). She was recognized and honored with many tokens of appreciation!

Cherilyn states that much thanks goes to all of her friends and co-workers at Brundage for making great experiences to remem-



Jessie Guadia, newly-minted Cherilyn and George Duarte



Anna Gonzales and Cherilyn pause for a hug in Anna's case

ber forever! *“Life at Brundage was both chaotic and fun, difficult and wonderful, sometimes all at once. I think this post office station is the best station in Bakersfield!”* She has heartfelt gratitude for the warm and loving send-off that her station gave her on the day she retired.



Gurpreet “Singh” Gill, Robert Guerrero, Emma Castruita and Cheryl as Station Manager Mary Ronquillo reads from the official retirement proclamation.

She says, *“Thank you, thank you to my superb supervisor Teresa Garcia (whom I admire for her exceptional communication and organizational skills, and positive attitude!). I value her for the time and thought she put into making something nice happen for me with the last day potluck and card signing. And... I cannot forget to thank fellow Carrier Joe Dangler (“Mr. Sweets”) for making a scrumptious, yummy chocolate cheesecake for the potluck. It’s commendable that he came on his day off to celebrate my special day.”*

Cherilyn continues, *“Many kudos to Cindy Jimenez and Ruben Gonzales for so graciously being willing to act as my ‘official’ retirement*



Yes. Cherilyn anticipates time in her retired life to keep that car of hers sparkling clean!!!

photographers and to collect for me the cell phone photos from those who took them. The utmost appreciation goes to Basil Zuniga, who willingly and tirelessly(?) coordinates the narrative and pictures into a beautiful tribute, highlighting a monumental part of a per-

I remember meeting Cherilyn when I first started as a casual at Downtown station in late 2000. She was a PTF Carrier there at the time. I came to help her and another Branch 782 now-retired Carrier, Steve Lubrec deliver mail at some apartments near Smart and Final off of F Street.



Paul Greenfield, Cherilyn and Br. 782 Vice-President John Ortega

Fast forward a little under eight years, and after my approximate three years as a PTF carrier, I was promoted to Regular and picked a T-6 assignment at the old 93305 East Bakersfield Kentucky Street station in May of 2008.

One of my routes on that T-6 string was Route 500. Cherilyn was the Regular. She was very welcoming to me and would always come by and chat about what new things were happening on her route. (It was also very refreshing to finally have scheduled days off!!)

My time at E.B. ended in November of 2009. Oddly enough, I would become Cherilyn’s T-6 again on the same route at a different station — Brundage. In July 2014, my new T-6 assignment at Brundage had route 524 added to it. (Numerically, the route number had been changed to 524 but it was the same old Route 500 that I remembered.)

I remember being glad to get her route added to my string. Not much had changed on the street or the in the office on the case. It was nice being back in familiar surroundings. Again, like at E.B., Cherilyn would always come by and let me know all the new happenings out there on 524.

Throughout these years, Cherilyn has become a good friend! She would always trade days off if I needed a day that was hers or if someone else on my T-6 string needed her day that week.

PAUL GREENFIELD
Branch 782 Assistant Editor

son’s life and work. I will have lasting images that bring instant recall of great things in my life for many years to come.”

She concludes her thoughts with these words: *“Wonderful memories of my post office experience are what I have at the end of my career. Even a lot of the bad times make funny stories now!*

I have to say I am very proud to have worked for the U.S. Postal Service. I enjoyed the work, though it is physically hard and often very stressful. The people at my places of work through the years have been, to me, the BEST! I cannot say enough good things about them. I applaud the older friends at work because of their stick-to-it attitude, and I encourage the new ones to “hang in there,” because they too can make a good life with the opportunity they have.

I LOVE YOU GUYS, ALL OF YOU!”

Your friend,
CHERYLYN MORGAN
Route 524

Thank you to the many photographers who provided visual memories for this special day for ALL of the various projects in this effort: Ruben Gonzales, Paul Greenfield, Jeff Harrington, Cindy Jimenez, Preet Kaur, Juan Rivera, Melody Morgan, Juan Peraza, Paul Salazar and many others!

A Guest Editorial for your consideration...

Dick Ciechon – A Messenger of Hope

By Steve “The Kid” O’Connell
NALC Branch 44

N.H. Merged Branch 44 is mourning the death of retired member Dick Ciechon at age 81. Retired and some senior letter carriers that worked with Dickie in Manchester remember his passion for his job. Union functions-monthly branch meetings, picnic, Christmas party, state conventions, holiday parade, route inspections training- you would see Dickie.

I arrived at the funeral parlor to pay my respect to Dickie, and was “Blown Away” seeing him in his Letter Carrier Uniform. I momentarily lost my composure, then focused on what I was experiencing. How absolutely proud this former marine looked in his immaculate uniform. I probably will never see this again!

I first met Dickie in June 1977. I was a casual making \$5.67 an hour. One morning the scheduling supervisor gave me my assignment, and issued me a left drive jeep. I began an auxiliary, delivering busy Union St. with emergency flashers going, the route description called for a dismount. I carefully checked my side and rear mirror prior to dismounting. Out of nowhere a truck sped by, missing my feet by inches. The truck pulled over, not to check on me, but to curse me, yelling profanities at me, then attempted to start a fist fight. I turned to my left to see another postal jeep arrive, and later learned Dickie witnessed the whole thing. The truck driver took one look at Dickie, and was gone “In a Flash”.

I should of reasoned postal management’s disregard for safety on that June day in 1977, Non the less a deep respect, admiration, and friendship began with Dickie. I vowed to return the favor, a union need to assist Dickie when he

needed me. The summer of 1977 was a learning experience. Letter Carrier WW II, Korea, and Vietnam Veterans, like Dickie Ciechon, nicked name me “The Kid”. In Manchester, letter carriers worked a EPM-Expedited Preferential Mail-System. What that meant is if you were scheduled, or called in to cover a route-you clocked in at 6AM. You went out to the garage to inspect your assigned vehicle. Then you went to the head case to withdraw first and second class letter and flat mail hand sorted by senior city clerks. Parcels were wheeled over to the route at 7AM. At 7:30-7:45 the accountable cart would arrive at route case. At 8 AM a bell would ring signifying a hot case pull at the head case. Then you would finish sequencing flats, strap out, denote flat relays, load your satchel, tray flat relays, and pull down all letters in delivery sequence.

By 9 AM most carriers clocked out to street. Routes were mostly completed by 2:30 pm. Most letter carriers were off the street by 3:30 pm. **Once we got to the winter season, a sincere effort to remind all letter carriers of the walking and driving conditions-a concern for safety.**

More than 25 years later, I had the opportunity to defend my brother, and friend Dickie against an incompetent, lazy, second generation postal manager, who choose to harass Dickie one morning. Thank you, Pres. Dan Yianalopolos for asking me to be a temp alt. steward. I was there when my brother Dickie needed me that day!

It is important to reflect on the legacy of Dick Ciechon, and how he should be remembered!

1. Support your union brothers/sisters on the workroom floor. Be prepared to document write a fact filled statement on managements actions to harass, intimidate, bully any letter carrier. Remember that bullseye may be on your back one day! **DO NOT BE AFRAID.**
2. Always be thankful for those union letter carriers that came before you.

Dick Ciechon Continued

↓
1. Earl "Shorty" Boisvert, Roger Tellier, Artie Dunn, Andy Felch, and current union brothers Dan Yianakopolos and Pete Prunier who are still sacrificing family time to the NALC will always be heroes to me.

2. Donate to COLCPE! Dick Ciechon always donated, even in retirement!

3. Keep your composure! As previously mentioned managements tactical engagement to issue discipline is part of the postal culture of failure. Remember the 7020 request to see your union steward.

4. Continue to give your customers great service. 95% of business and residential customers appreciate what we do. Be honest in your duties. Let them you had nothing to do with that territorial adjustment to change delivery from morning to late afternoon. For that 5%, if they swear, insult or harass you (like hostile) on a daily

basis document everything. This happened to me, years ago. A union brother, Steve Magdziasz composed an accompanying written statement that supported the business hostility towards letter carriers. The delivery was taken from me, and instead of postal management, notifying the postal inspectors, investigating and curtailing delivery, gave the delivery to the relay, parcel post carrier.

5. Uniform appearance. Be professional! Look professional! Act professional in a system that is managed for failure. Don't forget I floated Dickie Ciechon. I know first hand, how he was loved by all his patrons.

My wszyscy kochamy cie bracie !

In Solidarity

Steve "Kid" O'Connell

PS. Any union brother/sister with an I phone or electronic device, please play "Moonlight in Vermont" sung by Margaret Whiting in memory of all the fun times with Dick Ciechon

Article courtesy of the award winning *44 Magnum* published by Manchester, New Hampshire NALC Branch 44 in their June - July 2019 issue. A big thank you to Editor Pete Prunier, my Brother from another Mother!

from the editor-guy

I know none of us in Branch 782 ever knew Dick Ciechon. And yet, we did...

Those of us who were in the military "knew" him because he was a WWII, Korea and Vietnam veteran. That alone would merit that we pay respect to him.

And, although he carried mail in New Hampshire, there is no doubt that he dealt with many of the same circumstances and issues with which Carriers in all regions of the country are familiar. So, even though we may not have walked all the same streets he personally did, we still know his world. It is also our world.

It is important to note that he brought to the workroom floor a certain Attitude — *the capitalization is intentional.*

One story that is still told: Almost 50 years ago, a fight started to break out between two Carriers in the workroom floor. "Dickie" told the brand-new employee named Pete Prunier, "Grab the little guy

and pull him back into that case!" Dickie grabbed the other one and brought any potential altercation to an end.

A supervisor walked around the corner, asked what was going on and "Dickie" responded with: "*Gidowdahere!! This is MY floor.*"

Pete (who would go on to retire after more than 43 years as a Carrier) pointed out that things, in the early 1970s, would sometimes become stressful and "Dickie" would jump on the ledge at his case and start singing. Folks would laugh and the tension would ease.

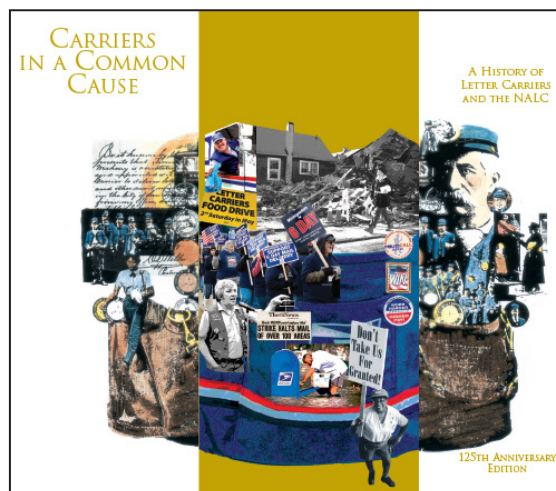
Each of us have memories of those who we used to work with. We also make memories with those who still clock in when we do. EACH person is a part of the tapestry into which every single one of us is woven.

One point made by Steve "Kid" O'Connell in his article and fitting tribute to Dick Ciechon is this: "*Always be thankful for*

those union letter carriers who came before you." This is so true! It's something we should take to heart and remember.

An excellent overview of the history of the NATIONAL Association of Letter Carriers is in a book called *Carriers in a Common Cause — A History of Letter Carriers and the NALC*. We are more than just what goes on in our own cities and towns.

BASIL ZUNIGA



DOHERTY & DONELON SCHOLARSHIPS

Deadline: This form must be returned to NALC Headquarters no later than December 31, 2019.

Eligibility

- Applicant must be the son, daughter or legally adopted child of a letter carrier NALC member in good standing—active, retired or deceased. Stepchildren and grandchildren are eligible if they live with the letter carrier in a regular parent-child relationship.
- Applicant's parent must be a member in good standing of NALC for at least one year prior to making application.
- Applicant must be a high school senior when making application and must submit the form provided at right, signed by the NALC member and an officer of the member's NALC branch. This form must be returned to NALC Headquarters by December 31, 2019.

Requirements

- All applicants must take the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) or the American College Test (ACT) in either their junior or senior year. A copy of the official scores from the administering organization must be received at NALC Headquarters by midnight, March 31, 2020. (Computer-generated print-outs of test scores will not be accepted.)
- All biographical questionnaires and secondary school reports must be received at NALC Headquarters by midnight, March 31, 2020.

Regulations

- Scholarship is to be used toward pursuing undergraduate

ate degree at an accredited college of recipient's choice.

- Winners may accept other college scholarship assistance in addition to the NALC award.
- Any change of schools or course of study must be done only with the permission of the NALC Scholarship Committee.
- A transcript of grades must be forwarded to the committee at the end of each school year.
- If winner suffers certified serious illness, scholarship will be held in abeyance for not more than one year.
- If unusual conditions are going to require an interruption in schooling, recipient must state reason(s) in writing to the Scholarship Committee and request that the scholarship be held in abeyance. Request(s) will be reviewed by the Committee and a decision rendered.
- If the NALC member is suspended by his/her local NALC branch or enters supervision, scholarship will be cancelled.

Terms of awards

- The official scholarship judges will award one William C. Doherty Scholarship in each of the five USPS Regions and one John T. Donelon Scholarship. Winners are judged on the basis of secondary school records, personal qualifications and test scores. As in the past, the scholarship judges will consist of experienced persons in the educational field. Decisions of the judges will be final.

- Doherty Scholarship awards will be \$4,000 per year and the Donelon Scholarship award will be \$1,000 per year. Each scholarship is renewable for three consecutive years thereafter providing the winner maintains satisfactory grades. Award money will be deposited annually with the college. It will be credited to the winner's account to be drawn upon under the rules and regulations which the college has established for handling scholarship funds. Award money is to be used for required college fees, including room and board and transportation fees.
- Children of NALC national officers are not eligible.

In honor of NALC's president from 1941 to 1962, the **William C. Doherty Scholarship Fund** will again award five \$4,000 scholarships to children of members in good standing. The **John T. Donelon Scholarship Fund** will award one scholarship in honor of Donelon, longtime NALC assistant to the president. Applicants must be high school seniors and must meet all of the following eligibility criteria to be considered.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Date _____ (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Please send instructions as to how I can compete for a scholarship award. I am a senior in the 2019-20 school year.

I am the daughter son active
 *stepdaughter *stepson of retired
 *granddaughter *grandson deceased

letter carrier _____

of Branch No. **782** City _____ State _____

My name is _____

My address is _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone No. _____

Signature of branch officer

Signature of NALC parent member
(or spouse if deceased)

Printed name of branch officer

Last 4 digits of Social Security No. _____

Title _____ Date _____

This form must be returned no later than December 31, 2019, to the NALC Scholarship Committee, in care of the National Association of Letter Carriers, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144.

* Stepchildren and grandchildren are eligible if they live with the letter carrier in a regular parent-child relationship.

2020 Carl J. Saxsenmeier

Scholarship Program

The California State Association of Letter Carriers (CSALC) is now accepting applications for the 2020 Carl J. Saxsenmeier Scholarship Program. **All applications must be received by the Scholarship Chair by January 3, 2020.** The Chair will send scholarship packets to all applicants by the end of January 2020. The scholarships are available to the children or grandchildren of members of NALC Branches within the State of California who have not served in a supervisory capacity in the previous two (2) years from the date of 2019 award announcement. Applicant's parent / grandparent must be a member in good standing of the NALC for at least one year prior to applying. Applicant must be a high school senior when applying. Saxsenmeier Scholarship awards are issued in the year of graduation and are not renewable.

Jeff Parr
Saxsenmeier Scholarship Chair
1177 Levine Dr-Santa Rosa, Ca 95401
707-523-1818

Saxsenmeier Scholarship Application
(Please Print)

Student's Name: _____

NALC Member's Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City / State/ ZIP _____

Home Telephone: _____

Cell / Fax: _____

Email Address: _____

Applicant's Signature: _____

NALC Member Signature: _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

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

NALC Branch

Officer Signature: _____

Title: _____

Branch Officer

Printed Name: _____

Branch Number: _____

782



from

Kim Gerdes

Recording Secretary

We hope you consider ordering a Fred Acedo **Out tHeRe** cartoon book!!

Over 130 pages of cartoons featuring our Letter Carrier world can now be yours for an amazingly low cost!!

To make life simple, request as many copies as you want by clipping the form at the bottom of the page and returning it & payment via USPS mail to Branch 782.

"OuT tHeRe"



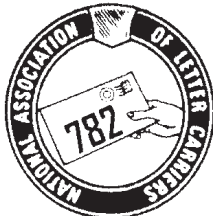
You can also order by contacting me via e-mail at "krgerdes91@hotmail.com". Or, you can call me at the phone number on the bottom of this page. The book and projected shipping costs are provided below. You can even share *your* work life with family and friends with this book as a Christmas gift...

Finally, I want to present you with an example of Fred's work. Enjoy!

Dear Kim Gerdes, NALC Branch 782 Recording Secretary

Please send me _____ **Out tHeRe** book (s)! I know people who will love them!

Name and address for shipping:



One book is **\$7**. Two books cost **\$10**. (Postage: Call for the best possible rates on the order.)

We ship via USPS Priority Mail Flat Rate box. (For larger orders, these are still the best rates.)

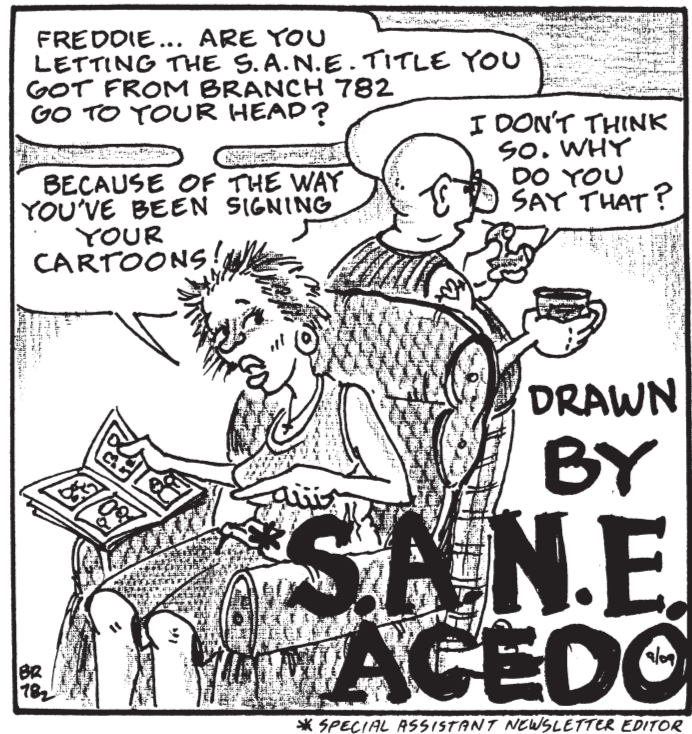
NALC Branch 782 ● 2628 F Street ● Bakersfield, California ● 93301 ● (661) 301-9676



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

*** S.A.N.E. (Special Assistant Newsletter Editor) More than a term of endearment — an actual title of respect...**

SCOREHOLIO

 UNITED STATES
POSTAL SERVICE

CORN HOLE

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PRESENTED BY
SOCIAL REC
COMMITTEE

**\$40 PER
TEAM
(2 PLAYERS)**

**BOARDS
AND BAGS
PROVIDED**

NOVEMBER 24TH

POSTAL EMPLOYEES ONLY

CHECK IN & WARM UPS @ 10:30 | BAGS FLY @ 11:30

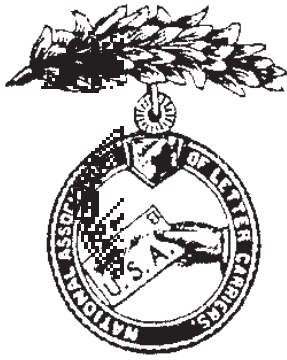
1ST, 2ND, 3RD PLACE CASH PAYOUTS

4 GAME ROUND ROBIN INTO DOUBLE ELIMINATION



**7900 Downing
Ave
Bakersfield 93308**

**To Register Or For
More Info Call Ralph
661-340-3186**



Branch Officers

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| President | Mike Towery | (661) 331-9171 |
| Vice-President | John Ortega | (661) 809-8140 |
| Recording Secretary | Kim Gerdes | (661) 301-9676 |
| Treasurer | Molly Biggar | (661) 832-0393 |
| Financial Secretary | Anita Holderman | (661) 487-5353 |
| HBP & MBA Rep. | Mark Ramirez | (661) 398-6075 |
| Sargeant-at-Arms | David Treto | (661) 865-8922 |
| Chief Trustee | Teresa Ortega | (661) 391-8026 |
| Trustee | Paul Salazar | (661) 303-3603 |
| 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. 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.**

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e-mail: brzii@aol.com

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

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*(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) | Mike Munoz | (661) 304-5516 |
| Avenal (93204) | John Ortega | (661) 809-8140 |
| Delano (93215) | Vacant | (661) 331-9171 |
| Lamont (93241) | Mike Munoz | (661) 304-5516 |
| McFarland (93250) | Fernando Soto | (661) 331-9171 |
| 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) 331-9171 |
| 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 |
| CCA Representative | Gilroy Manglicmot | (661) 301-2156 |
| USPS Social Recreation Rep | Paul Greenfield | (661) 203-7802 |

**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
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General Meeting Wednesday November 20, 2019 7:00 p.m.

Branch 782 Office
 2628 "F" Street
 Bakersfield, California

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

Congratulations to the newest Branch 782 Retirees!!

Tony Zaragoza – 4/12/1986

Elroy Miller – 2/9/1991

Cherilyn Morgan – 11/18/2000*

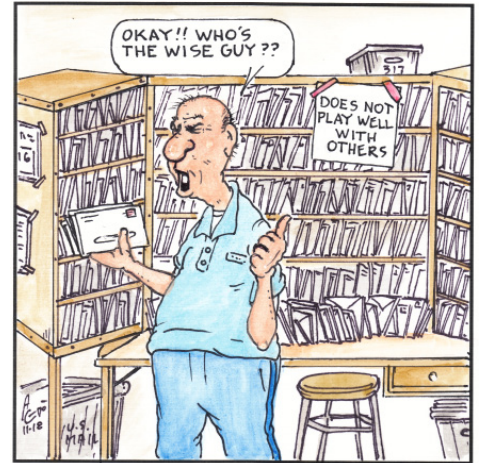
Lynn Hunter – 6/2/2001*

*Local Letter Carrier Seniority Date not necessarily total postal/federal service

Also, Congratulations to former Branch 782 Officer!!

Diana Herrera (aka Chavez)

"OuT tHeRe"



**THIS VETERANS' DAY — NOVEMBER 11, 2019
 WE HONORED ALL THOSE WHO
 HAVE SERVED OUR COUNTRY**

Please Note:

November General Meeting
 will be on the **THIRD**
 Wednesday of the month.

"OuT tHeRe"



"OuT tHeRe"



"OuT tHeRe"



This is the 32 page web version of the NALC Branch 782 newsletter. Cool, huh?