

National Association of Letter Carriers

Branch 782

E.A. Baker Union Update



ARVIN
DELANO
MOJAVE

AVENAL
EDWARDS AFB
RIDGECREST

BAKERSFIELD
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SHAFTER

BORON
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TRONA

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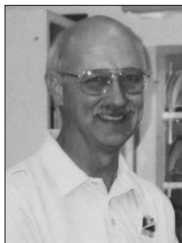
OUT THERE



S.A.N.E. - SPECIAL ASST. NEWSLETTER EDITOR - P.O. BOX. 6532 BAKERSFIELD, CA. 93386

at the

Mike:



I want to congratulate Joe Lewis for his much deserved retirement this month from the Bakersfield Post Office.

A few days before his retirement Joe, along with ten other Carriers, received “One Million Mile Club” plaques at the National Safety Council Safe Driver breakfast held on February 27th at Hodels’ Restaurant.

I want to thank Bakersfield Postmaster James Brouillard for all his time and support in setting up Bakersfield’s first “Million-Mile” award ceremony.

I also would like to thank Carriers Diana Chavez, Sam Walker and Carmen Castillo, and Supervisor Sylvia Baca for making all the arrangements necessary for the event to be a success.

Highway Patrol Officer Greg Williams was there along with news crews from the television stations and reporters from the local newspaper. Postmaster Brouillard presented plaques, pins and Postal Service jackets to the Carriers. Somehow—and unexpectedly—I was “volunteered” to be interviewed by the local television stations. I thought I noticed, out of the corner of my eye, Station Manager Mike Bettis grinning. (He probably was thinking that he was glad it wasn’t him being interviewed.)

Congratulations to Cliff Fehdrau, Mickey Cameron, Alex Dang, Paul McCarthy, Mike Newton, Lee Collaso and Phillip Krause, Paul Shaw and Mike Hall! Paul and Mike were unable to attend.

In the last four months, three of Bakersfield’s senior Carriers have retired: Clifford Fehdrau, Buddy Gallegos, and Joe Lewis. I wish them well and hope all of them are enjoying their retirement. They will be missed. I know the Oildale station sure does not seem the same without Buddy Gallegos there.

Sometimes, we take for granted that the retirement benefits will always be there. In a “perfect” world, the Postal Service and the U.S. government would recognize the contributions of the Letter Carriers and would reward them accordingly in their retirement years. However, in the “real” world, it seems that our wages and benefits are always under attack by the Postal Service, Congress or the President.

The non-partisan Committee on Letter Carrier Political Education (COLCPE) fund was created in 1975 to support candidates for federal office who support Letter Carrier interests.

Some Carriers ask why they should pay extra when they already pay union dues. It is against the law for the union to use dues to lobby congress. As NALC President Young has stated in the February *Postal Record*, “Our job security, our pay, and our benefits— they can all be wiped away with the single stroke of a pen. Our work on Capitol Hill never ends.”

As I looked through the February 2007 Postal Record I was proud to see the hundreds of Carriers who have donated to the fund. But

at the same time, I was disappointed to find out that only 4 percent of the entire NALC membership donated and that there were only six union Brothers and Sisters listed from Branch 782. A special thanks to Diana Chavez, Bonnie Hershberger, Daniel Lujan, Jerry Patterson and Pam Smith for their donations.

In an attempt to increase the donations from Branch 782, I have appointed Pam Smith as Branch 782 COLCPE coordinator.

“ How can you afford not to donate to the COLCPE fund? ”

You might consider the following information if you are undecided about whether or not you want to donate to the COLCPE fund.

In February 2007, The Congressional Budget Office released their most recent ideas for decreasing the country's deficit. Once again, the federal employees are the target for reductions in benefits. *They recommended that the retirement benefits be calculated from an average of the highest four or five years instead of the highest three as it is now.* This would cost the Civil Service retirees an estimated \$3140 to \$6530 over five years and FERS retirees \$1060 to \$2190 over five years.

They also want to restructure the governments matching contributions to the TSP. *They want to increase the federal employee's contributions to their pensions by .5 percent.* Currently Civil Service employees pay 7 percent of their salary and FERS employees pay .8 percent.

They want to change the formula for cost-of-living adjustments to retiree's pensions which would mean *a loss of about \$1230 over five years for CSRS and a \$300 loss for FERS over five years.*

These are just a few of the recommendations made.

Not only do we have to fend off the attacks by the Government Budget Office, but the Postal Service has taken the position that they want to contract out new deliveries without regard to the effect it will have on our jobs or the service provided to the public.

The national union is currently lobbying Congress to prevent contracting out mail delivery. But (regrettably) just like everything, it costs money. If you think contacting mail delivery won't happen, you should read an article in the March 10, 2007 *Fresno Bee* about the Postal Service contracting out mail delivery to independent carriers in the Copper River Development... The Postal officials interviewed stated that postal patrons will see no change in service levels. Obviously, that is coming from someone who probably never carried mail.

My question to all the union Brothers and Sisters is ***“How can you afford not to donate to the COLCPE fund?”***

Five dollars a pay period donated now has the potential of saving you hundreds of dollars in the future. That is quite a return on your investment. Five dollars equates to less than 10 minutes of overtime each pay period. If you do not want to donate the five dollars a pay period, donate one or two dollars and then increase it gradually over a period of time.

It is such a small price to pay to secure our job and benefits and you will find out that you will never miss it. It is up to all of us to join together to and donate so that we can fight the attacks on our benefits. Your job and retirement benefits may depend upon it.

MIKE TOWERY
Branch 782 President

Just in Case You Think "Contracting Out" is not an Issue...

DISTRICT MANAGER
SEATTLE CUSTOMER SERVICE & SALES DISTRICT



October 1, 2006

SUBJECT: Growth Management/Contract Delivery Service (CDS)

MEMORANDUM FOR: Postmasters/Station Managers

As we begin to develop strategies to meet the new fiscal year's challenge, it is clear one of the most important tasks as well as one of the more under utilized strategies is Growth Management. Establishing low cost, highly efficient delivery in growth areas is the simplest method to achieve the productivities required in the new fiscal year.

While most managers are familiar with strategies to improve efficiencies through development of Centralized delivery points, clustering curblines or use of CBU's; often overlooked is the option of placing delivery in "CDS", Contract Delivery Services, formally known as Highway Contract Rout (HCR). By doing a cost analysis, new deliveries often provide the postal service with an option to select the type of delivery that would benefit the service and our customers.

As new areas of growth are identified in your delivery area, identification of the most appropriate delivery method is **essential** prior to establishing delivery. All new delivery must be reviewed to determine the best delivery method. Operation Programs Support must be contacted if the delivery is other than incidental fill-in-delivery and provided the following information to assist in this effort:

- Location/Address of the new growth
- Name of the new development
- The total number of deliveries for the new growth
- Type of deliveries – residential, business, apt.
- The expected first date of occupancy
- Details of the delivery in the area
- Additional growth projected near this territory (1-2 years)
- Route number the new growth would be assigned to if not assigned to CDS.

It is my expectation that Growth Management receive the highest attention in the new fiscal year. Missed opportunities to provide a preferred method of delivery is a management failure. New deliveries provide a one-time opportunity to avoid establishing costly and/or inefficient delivery. Do not miss this opportunity.

Questions may be directed to Brad Harbeck at (206) 442-6021 in Operations Programs Support.

Harold J Matz
District Manager

Proposed By-Laws Amendment Branch 782

Two By-Laws changes were submitted to the By-Laws committee on February 27, 2007.

They will be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of Article I, Section 3 (“By-laws may be amended at any regular meeting of the branch, provided the amendment has been submitted in writing at the last previous regular branch meeting, and suitable notification to members shall be made at least ten (10) days before the regular meeting at which the vote is to be taken. The By-Laws committee will review the proposed changes and recommend approval, disapproval, or no recommendation of the proposed changes. The proposed changes will be published in the “E.A. BAKER UNION UPDATE” one month prior to being voted on by the Branch membership at the Branch General meeting. A simple majority is needed for passage.”).

A discussion will be held at the general meeting on March 27, 2007. The proposed By-Laws Amendments will be voted on at April 24, 2007 general meeting.

The proposed changes are in underlined Italic bold print.

ARTICLE III MEETINGS

Current language: SECTION 1. The regular meeting of this Branch shall be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month, excluding December, at 7:30 P.M. at the Branch 782 Union Office, 2628 “F” Street, Bakersfield, California. The December meeting will be held on the third Tuesday of the month.

Proposed to read: SECTION 1. The regular meeting of this Branch shall be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month, excluding December, at 7:30 P.M. at the Branch 782 Union Office, 2628 “F” Street, Bakersfield, California. The December meeting will be held on the third Wednesday of the month.

ARTICLE X FUNDS

Proposed New Section

SECTION 9. All traveling and/or accommodation expenses incurred by any branch member on union business must have receipts accompanying their expense vouchers. All hotel receipts must be turned into the branch to verify billing. Any expenses of a personal nature (phone calls, premium television movies, “wet bar items”, spouse’s expenses) must be paid by the branch member prior to check out at the hotel.

DIANA CHAVEZ
Chairperson, By-Laws Committee

Shop Steward Training

Branch 782 will be hosting Shop Steward Classes scheduled on Wednesday April 4th and May 2nd.

Our National Business agent Manny Peralta will be sending Bryant Almario, our Regional Administrative Assistant, to conduct the classes. Mr. Almario has sent out an invitational flyer to other Branches, inviting them to take advantage of the classes being given.

I hope that all shop stewards locally and the outer cities of Bakersfield take advantage as well.

The first class will consist of information detailing with Article 31, 17 and 16 and the second class will contain some Legislative issues that will be conducted by the State and then continue with some Article 8 information if time permits.

Anyone interested in attending please contact me at (661) 331-4592. The branch will provide a light snack & refreshments.

DIANA CHAVEZ
Branch 782 Vice-President

Minutes of the February 2007 General Meeting

The regular meeting of Branch 782 was called to order by President, Mike Towery at 7:30 p.m. on the 27th day of February at the branch office, Bakersfield. The flag salute was led by Sgt. at Arms, Jerry Patterson. All member of the Executive Board were present. The Stewards from 01, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, Camino Media, Delano, Lamont, McFarland, Shafter and Wasco were present. Also present was the Newsletter Editor Basil Zuniga, Asst. Editor Mark Hutchison, Webmaster Rick Plummer, OWCP Representative Rick Gerdes, Safety and Health Representative Danny Blair, and Frank Martinez and Anita Holderman of the Social and Recreation Committee. The Minutes of the January 2007 meeting were read. Jerry Patterson made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Seconded by Emma Gonzales and the motion passed. The communications were read.

REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES: Teresa Ortega reported that she will begin making picnic arrangement in June, after the park is reserved. Jeff Harrington discussed the Bakersfield Jam tickets.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: At the January meeting a motion was made that the Branch donate \$200.00 to buy trophies and prizes for a Bowling Tournament arranged by Jeff Harrington. Jeff spoke in favor of the motion. A discussion was held and a vote was taken. A division was called for. The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS: Basil Zuniga would like to represent the Branch by attending the Memorial Services for Tony Cortese. Diana Chavez made a motion that the Branch pays mileage and per diem for Basil to attend the service. Seconded by Darryl Holderman and passed. Diana Chavez read the By-Laws changes submitted to the Committee. The By-Laws Committee will meet on March 7th following the Steward meeting. The proposed changes will be published in the newsletter and voted on at the next meeting. Mike Towery reported that Pam Smith will be the COLCPE Chairperson. She will work to get more members will contribute to COLCPE. A discussion was held regarding Legislative issues and the need for members to become more involved.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION: Mike Towery reported that Gail Sprague is the new Steward at Stockdale. James Oh has decided to take a break. Randy Coursen will also be Steward effective March 1st. Jeff Harrington will be the reporter/photographer for the Newsletter. Emma Gonzales will replace Anita Holderman on the Social and Recreation Committee. He thanked Anita and James for their years of



service to the Branch. Mike reported on the Labor/Management Meeting. The Postmaster has requested to hire 15 carrier employees. The request has been approved by District. He is now waiting to hear if Area has approved the request. The auxiliary routes at Dole Ct. have been posted. The Postal Service position is that carriers can park in "Red Zones" in no other safe spot is available. Mike has met with the Postmaster to set boundaries for Rural and City routes. The Postmaster agreed to purchase hard plastic trays. Molly Biggar made a motion to move funds from the Building Fund to Miscellaneous to cover the Bowling Tournament prizes. The motion was seconded by Mark Hutchison, and passed. Mike talked about the Award Breakfast for carriers who have driven "One Million Miles" or 30 years without an accident. Mike Towery reported on the information from the Rap Session. He will get more information to the members as soon as it becomes available. Bill Curtis reported on an article in the Pacific Area Update that the "Area" has approved the purchase on 5856 new vehicles and the LLV will be given to Rural Carriers. Mike reported that postage rates will increase to 41 cents within 60 days. The postage for the second ounce will be 17 cents.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION: Mike Towery reported that National will be giving a Steward Training Class on April 4th and May 2nd from 6:30 until 9:30 at the Branch office. Frank Thomasy volunteered to take over the planning of the Retirement Luncheon. Basil Zuniga reported that he decided not to purchase the warranty for his computer. He has had several volunteers who will be able to work on the computer if it is needed. Mike Towery reported on the Regional Arbitration regarding Article 8 and the window of operation. The Arbitration is from Virginia it is not a National Arbitration and therefore not precedent setting, but is citable. Mike Bettles and Postmaster Jim Brouliard ("JB"), will meet with Mike and Diana regarding the Arbitration Decision. A discussion was held. Mike reported that he would like to have

a class for PTF's every quarter. If there is enough interest the class could be held once a month. He also reported that Animal Control will be going to each office to discuss dog problems. Mike also reported that "JB" will attend a meeting in the future. Diana Chavez reported that "JB" will be working to get more favorable publicity for the Postal Service in the media. Mike reminded the members that Daylight Savings Time will start early this year.

REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES: Teresa Ortega reported that she will begin making picnic arrangement in June, after the park is reserved. Jeff Harrington discussed the Bakersfield Jam tickets.

The time will change on March 11 and will last until November 4.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: Anita Holderman reported that \$5,938.56 was collected for the month.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Molly Biggar reported:

Beginning Balance	\$50,461.23
Dues and Income	\$11,716.48
Interest Income	\$ 14.73
Total Balance	\$62,192.44
Expenses	\$16,863.57
Ending Balance	\$45,328.87

The COLCPE Drawing was won by Devin Patterson.

The Drawing for \$500.00 would have been won by Myrl Fink who was not present.

There were 34 members present.

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Gerdes

Branch 782 Recording Secretary



The fight is never about grapes or lettuce. It is always about people.

Cesar Chavez
Born March 31, 1927

NON-MEMBER LIST January 2007

DOWNTOWN STATION

J. Cruz
D. Pearce

SOUTH STATION

100% Union!!

EAST BAKERSFIELD

100% Union!!

HILLCREST

P. L. Morelos

BRUNDAGE

D. Kinglee
E. Miller
A. Shultz
U. Singh

DOLE COURT

S. Webb

STOCKDALE

R. Huston

CAMINO MEDIA

100% Union!!

ARVIN

100% Union!!

AVENAL

100% Union!!

BORON

100% Union!!

CALIFORNIA CITY

100% Union!!

DELANO

C. V. Quebral

EDWARDS

100% Union!!

LAMONT

100% Union!!

McFARLAND

MOJAVE

100% Union!!

RIDGECREST

H. Blanco
G.E. Burgwald
Stan Pierce

SHAFTER

Lori New
May Voights

TAFT

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

TEHACHAPI

100% Union!!

TRONA

B. R. Dame
K. K. Treat

WASCO

100% Union!!

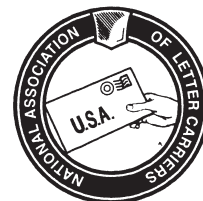
Do you know where these carriers work? They are not paying dues! D.A. Velasques, K.J. Ibarra, R.G. Campos, R.L. Ector, R.A. Day, G. Garcia, F. Medina, Jr., M.S. Diaz, J.G. Gonzalez, T.M. Phillips



CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS

Affiliated with AFL-CIO • California State Federation of Labor



1/30/2007

Dear Mike:

Each spring your California State Association of Letter Carriers awards eight Saxsenmeier Scholarships of \$1,250 each. Children and grandchildren of both active and retired California Letter Carriers are eligible to receive this award. The winners are selected by a panel of professors from the California State University system.

Your State Association is made up of over 70 branches; however fewer than 12 of these branches donate to this fund. The CSALC is asking for all our branches to help us maintain this program and contribute what they can to this worthwhile cause. We realize that a few branches have their own scholarship funds. The vast majority do not. By donating to the Saxsenmeier Scholarship Fund, your branch will help students achieve their educational goals. As you are aware, the cost of college tuition is continually rising. Many Saxsenmeier Scholarship recipients have been the first in their families to attend college.

We are asking your branch to consider donating soon to this important program, as the current selection is approaching. Your contribution will make a difference, especially if multiplied by the generosity of all the branches in your State Association.

We would also like to personally thank those branches, whom on their own, have been making annually and semiannually donations to the scholarship fund. Your generosity is sincerely appreciated. and it is our hope that more of our branches will also participate so that we can keep this program strong and viable for all of our children for years to come.

Please make checks out to:

Saxsenmeier Scholarship Fund
c/o CSALC
626 Jefferson Avenue, #4
Redwood City, CA. 94403

If you have any questions please contact me at (650) 368-6252.

Sincerely,

John Beaumont

John Beaumont
President
California State Association of Letter Carriers

2007 NALC HBP Info

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



Branch 782 Representative
Mark Ramirez
(661) 834-5011

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

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

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

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

Contact Information

Preferred Provider Cost
\$20.00

Co-pay per office visit

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

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



Harrington's Spotlight

“WEBMASTER”



The man behind our website Mr. Rick Plummer. A retired Letter Carrier out of Dole Ct. Rick, started his postal career in November of 1971. (The year I was *born*... I laughed with him)

He started off as a Sub for 5 years at the old Annex on California before making regular in 1976 and headed off to Route #605 at the Hillcrest station. In the mid 80's he bid over to the old Oildale station on Minner, and for the next 6 years bid on different routes 806,809,815,819. When the early 90's rolled around. Rick decided to give 204B'ing a shot and said that he did enjoy that part; but, during the ASP program he realize that he didn't want to

pursue that avenue anymore. He actually did C.F.S. Supervisor for a few years at the GMF through the mid 90's and in 1998 Rick decided to go back to carrying mail

He bid on routes #1206 and #1207 before bidding on his final rout of #815 Rick called it quits in January of 2003 after 32 years of service along with fellow carriers Ray Scroggins and Joe Jones.

After retiring four years ago, Rick has done a little bit of travelling. Rick is an avid fisherman. He spends one month every year in September in Sacramento fishing. He can tell story after story about fishing or what types of fish are out there (like those that got away???) . He has pictures of him and fish that he has caught over the years on the walls. His favorite type of fish is salmon or halibut. He recalled that—back in the day (“7 and 1”)—he and Mark Carter would run their routes on certain days and then take off to go fishing for a couple of hours before it would get dark.

As we were in the office talking about the website and fishing, in came Rick's three-year old lab named Ty. **That was the coolest dog!** I would tell Ty easy commands like, “Sit”. Ty probably thought I was an idiot (LOL). Rick said, “Watch this!” He tells his dog, “Ty, go get my shoes.” And there Ty went into the bedroom and brings back one shoe. Then he turns around, goes back, and brings back the matching

shoe. *How cool was that!* Then Rick would say, “Ty, go get my pajamas”. There Ty would get up and head off to the bedroom; and, a minute later, come back with pajamas in his mouth!! I asked Rick what other things has he taught him. Ty can go get the car keys and...Rick is teaching him how to turn off the lights using the light switch. Awesome dog!!

I asked Rick what he has missed about the post office since he has left. His reply was his co-workers and customers. Sometimes he sees some mail trucks at a local eatery during lunch time. He will go in looking to see some familiar faces only to see new faces instead.

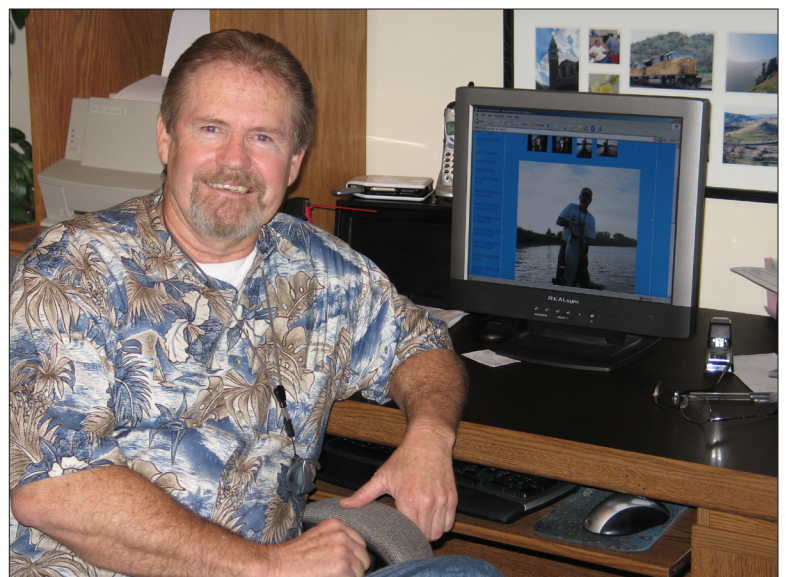
I told him that President Bill Young had suggested a plan that would allow retired Carriers to come back to part-time work on Saturdays and asked if he would be interested. Not even a response—just a quick laugh out loud.

Rick hasn't had the chance to do very much lately due to personal reasons, but he looks forward to doing and seeing things in the upcoming years like going to the gun range to practice a new hobby.

One of his goals is to head off to Alaska to do some fishing up there. The other is keeping up and expanding our Branch 782 website.

Thanks Rick for the things you do for our Branch and I wish you well on many more happy and healthy retirement years to come.

JEFF HARRINGTON5



Harrington's Corner

www.782NALC.COM

As I browse through our branch newsletter each month. I always come across this little 4 inch by 4inch advertisement in the Branch Officer section. A advertisement that reads "782NALC.com".

It's a website that our Union pays for each month for the members. A website that most of it's members don't realize it is there for them. It is loaded with lots of pictures and different links that—with just a click—members can get almost any information at their disposal. Things like FMLA, T.S.P., or what happen at last month's meeting.

You can also check out "New Vacancies" that come up. Just in case you happen to be on vacation for a couple of weeks and want to see what is available. This website is jammed packed with different materials.

Of course the website doesn't just make itself. There has to be a webmaster who can creatively build a web engine with different internet languages and graphics and mold it together for the members to access it with ease.

That webmaster would be our own Branch member, Rick Plummer. A retired Letter Carrier out of Dole Court, Rick has spent countless hours the past few years adding and perfecting the website. One of his favorite things is to add photos and stories of Carriers around the Branch. One day he would like to have most of Carriers from each unit along with a personal note from them.

Rick stated that since he has been retired he is out of the loop. He would enjoy having Carriers e-mail him stories/ photos of events a their units. Things like retirements, potlucks, picnics, or even things like "Battle of the Stations".(Hint)

He also likes e-mails with suggestions at "webmaster@www.782nalc.com". So when you need some information, forms, or need to ask a question but are too shy to ask it in person, go to our website and click your way to answers that you need.

There is also a new link which will take you to "Harrington's Corner" (www.782nalc.com/Harrington). It soon will have past, present, and future articles that you may want to revisit one day.

I would like to thank Rick for his time and dedication spent on the website for the members of Branch 782.

"Just another Day in Paradise"

JEFF HARRINGTON
93305

“VIEWS FROM THE SOUTH”

To the editor Guy:

Thank you so much for the article you wrote, it was real nice. You're right, I guess I went over twenty years or more as a Shop Steward. So much for the one year!

In the almost twenty two years I learned a lot and met a lot of good people I made some Carriers happy and some not so happy, but for the most part it was worth all those years of being Shop Steward for the best station.

I am so happy to have had the opportunity to work with everyone I have met through the years as a Carrier and Shop Steward. There is only one reason I would regret leaving and that is having to leave all my good friends and co-workers but remember I'm still alive and well and only a phone call away (cell 330-0810 or home 283-0184).

“Darryl Romero”...I like the sound of that. But can you fill my shoes? You may have a little ways to. I'm sure by now you've realized it's not always easy to make everyone happy. Be patient you'll be able to deal with the different personalities and moods. (Remember you'll always be my hero!!) Anita will always be your better half.

Basil, thanks again for the article and for all those years of being a good friend. I have always valued your opinion even when you were the instigator causing good humor in the morning when it was well needed. We had a lot of good times at South Station, Conventions and training classes. I have lots of good memories to keep me going.

As far as the “Views from the South”, someone else will have to write them because *this* Woman is through writing her “Views from the South”.



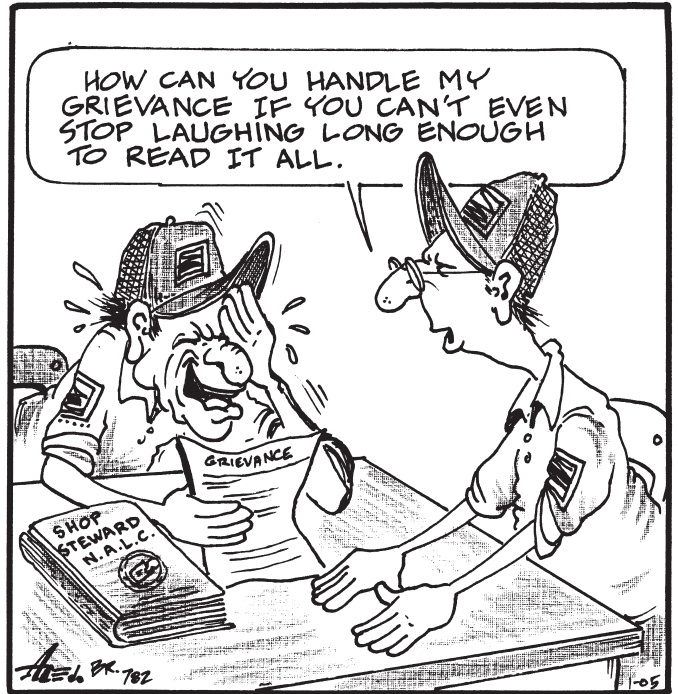
May God bless all of you and keep you in good health always.

Love Always
Your X-Shop Steward South Station

MARGARET A. ROMERO

P.S. Jerry, thank you for that nice little write up you are my dear friend always. Call me soon.

OUT THERE



OUT THERE BY FRED ACEDO



S.A.N.E. - SPECIAL ASSISTANT NEWSLETTER EDITOR - P.O. Box 6532 BAKERSFIELD, CA. 93386

Where:
Westchester Lanes
1819 30th St.
Bakersfield, CA 93301
(661) 324-4966

When:
April 22nd
Sunday • 2 pm
(Check-in 1:30 pm)

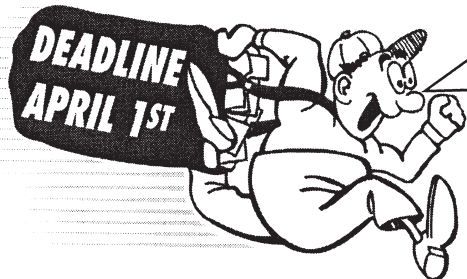
Cost:
\$60.00 per team
(\$15.00 per person)
Includes 3 games and shoe rental.
(Trophies if your team is that good)



Get your shoes, get your back stretched and your competitiveness spirit ready. Join our first annual Bowling extravaganza. Team up with your co-workers at your station and get a shot at having bragging rights on what station truly has the best carriers.

You will need a 4-person team. (men, women, mixed)

Deadline: April 1st. I will need teams who want to participate on sending the money, check, M.O. and the names of each player to me by this date to reserve the lanes. I only have so many lanes reserved. First to pay first to play.



Camino,
Brundage,
Dole Ct.
We're not
"CHICKEN"
are we?

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Jeff Harrington

For more info: 378-0975 after 4 pm
Send everything to P.O. Box 30084 at 93385

Top postal officials visit, vow delivery will improve fast

BY MARK J. KONKOL, Staff Reporter
Chicago Sun-Times

March 13, 2007

U.S. Postmaster General John Potter and his top deputy were in Chicago Monday to address mail "service issues" here.

Their visit came the day after the Sun-Times reported Chicago's in-town, overnight delivery service is the worst in the nation and affects almost every neighborhood.

RELATED STORIES

- Mail here worst in nation
- Blog: Old mail on Tuesday?

After meeting with executive staff and touring two post offices, deputy postmaster general Patrick Donahoe said he's confident Chicago postmaster Gloria E. Tyson can turn things around. "You will start seeing change . . . in the next couple weeks."

Donahoe, who visited the Jackson Park and Fort Dearborn post offices, said Chicago is hiring about 100 new mail carriers and launching community advisory committees to address complaints.

"Everybody deserves great service and it's our responsibility to deliver it and that's what we're going to do and Gloria will make sure it gets done," Donahoe said.

Anyone interested in joining a committee may call (312) 983-8392 during business hours.

Mail reportedly discovered

For now, mail delays here remain a reality. On Sunday, loads of undelivered mail -- much unsorted and post-marked in mid-February -- was found at the downtown processing plant and shipped to several neighborhood offices, sources said.

A South Side office received about 90,000 pieces of mail from mid-February and early March, a source said.

A spokesman for the post office's Great Lakes Region said he couldn't confirm those reports, but that any "backlog in the system" will be reduced as improvements are implemented.

At the Ravenswood post office, which until recently had 16 routes without permanent carriers, mail delivery isn't the only concern.

OUT THERE



Ravenswood dumping alleged

Last week some standard delivery mail was allegedly thrown out, sources said. On March 4, a group of "casual employees" at that post office were told to unbundle "local values" ad mailers, put them in plastic bags and toss them in a Dumpster, according to an employee working that day. Ravenswood post office manager Michael Fields said he did not remember mailers being thrown out. Fields did say that some undeliverable "local values" are thrown away.

Ald. Richard Mell (33rd), who plans to call for City Council hearings on problems with mail delivery citywide, said he aims to "embarrass the hell" out of the Postal Service -- and put heat on members of Congress who should be riding herd on the agency.

Contributing: Fran Spielman

mkonkol@suntimes.com

“ Chicago is hiring about 100 new mail carriers...to address complaints.

You make South Station proud...

Joe Lewis

Million Mile Club Recipient...41 years of dedicated service for the United States Postal Service

Retirement Party

DON PERICO'S RESTAURANT

4701 White Lane

March 31, 2007 Saturday, 6:30 pm

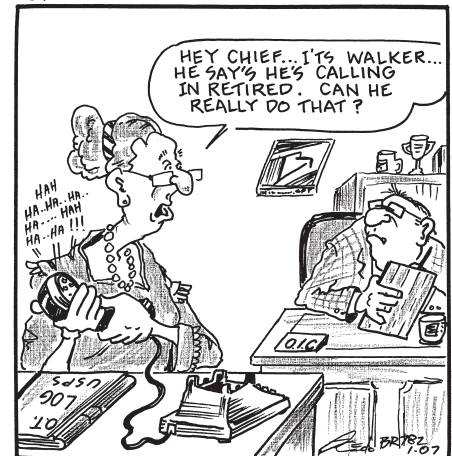
\$15 per person includes tax/tip



Joe Lewis (far left) in a 1951 photo taken with his JBA team at the location where Memorial Hospital now sits.



OUT THERE



Contacts:

Anita Holderman - 487-5353

Alma Kirby- 496-0600

from the editor-guy

I attended a memorial service for Tony Cortese in San Jose on March 10. Most of you in our Branch didn't know Tony. From a Letter Carrier standpoint, he was the long-time President of NALC Branch 193 and dealt with all of the normal (?) things that Branch presidents have to contend with.



Repeatedly, I have told many people that I have no idea why anyone in their right mind would *ever* want to be the leader of any labor organization. Ultimately, I know that much of what they do is sparked by a certain passion that they have to ensure that people are treated fairly and within whatever rules and regulations exist. And, at the core of this passion exists more than a little compassion and empathy.

This was a given with the Tony Cortese that I knew. He was passionate. (He was Italian!) He was compassionate. He *truly* cared about people.

When he became heated about an issue, there was a certain poetry to how he said what he said. You had no doubt about where he stood. He wasn't a big man, but he moved mountains in the defense of his members and to address issues which could be crucial to the needs of many people in his community.

A testament to this is the fact that not only did the San Jose Postmaster and the District Postmaster speak at length about Tony at the memorial; so, too, did two Members of Congress. Zoe Lofgren and Mike Honda shared many of their personal memories of their interactions with Tony through the years.

As speaker after speaker (ranging from his son-in-law; Letter Carriers like Dale Hart, Manny Peraltal; and, others) came to the microphone to pay tribute, there were hints at many of Tony's accomplishments on behalf of other people.

I learned that his wife, Barbara, was the love of his life. His grandchildren Austin and Ashley (who also spoke at the memorial) were the focus of much of his energy and devotion. And many profited from his ability to fix problems without the need to resort to grievances. Much of this, I would have thought, just went with the territory of being a good person and a committed activist.

I have to admit (although I knew him and had spent a little time with him at various times) I still learned at least one absolutely amazing thing.

John Beaumont, the President of the California State Association of Letter Carriers, made it a point to set the record straight on one important matter.

If you've managed to read this far, bear with me. I'm getting to the crux of what I want to address.

Most of you know that last year, **OVER SEVENTY MILLION POUNDS OF FOOD** were gathered in the *one day* NALC Food Drive! We all did that. Each of us doing just a little bit accomplished more than what we could have ever been able to do just working as one individual.

And you know what?

Tony Cortese and the members of Branch 193 assisted their communities through their own Letter Carrier food drive for about four to five years prior to our National Union establishing their program with the rest of the country. Based on their accomplishments—and as a result of the drive and vision which one man, Tony Cortese, had—an amazing event occurs each and every year one day in May. Letter Carriers all over this country deliver more than the mail!

Yes.

One person can make a difference. Tony did. You can, too. Especially if you do it in union with others who also care.

BASIL ZUNIGA

“ *One person can make a difference. Tony did.* ”



**LETTER CARRIERS
FOOD DRIVE
Saturday, May 12, 2007**

Seventy Million Pounds in Just One Day? A Lot of Pasta, Tony!

Honesty, integrity, thoughtfulness, credibility, and compassion are some of the words that many people use to describe past NALC Branch 193 President Tony Cortese. Whether it was fighting to increase wages for his membership, protecting their benefits, or just spending quality time with his family Tony put his heart and soul into everything he did.

Over the past 27 years Tony served as President of NALC Branch 193. During his career Tony always took a genuine interest in legislation and politics on issues which affected the future of the NALC as well as those which would help our brothers and sisters from other labor organizations.

Tony and Branch 193 were instrumentally involved in the beginning of careers for several elected officials in the Bay Area. He had developed a relationship early on and became one of the first supporters for Congressional Representatives: Don Edwards, Zoe Lofgren, Mike Honda, Anna Eshoo, Pete Stark and our new friend in Congress Jerry McNerney. Tony's early involvement in all of these representatives careers eventually led to these members becoming staunch supporters of the NALC and our issues.

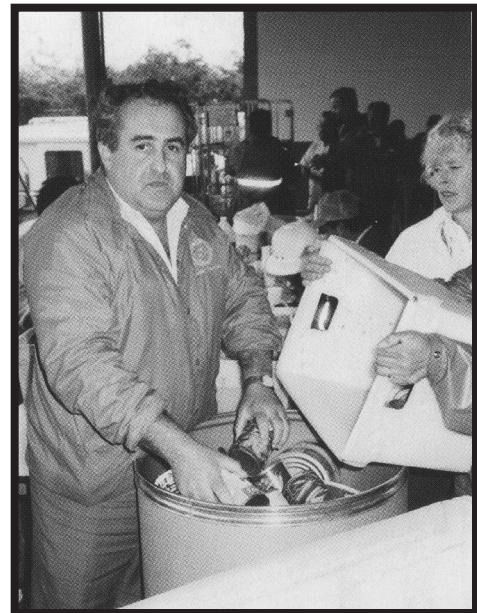
Tony would always keep the will of his membership at the forefront of his thoughts. Through his persistence and uncanny knack for negotiations, Tony was able to produce results that led to many benefits for his members as well as other NALC members nationwide. Tony always made sure that all of Branch 193 events were family orientated and went out of his way to make sure everyone knew that their children were always welcome at their events.

He loved his wife, Barbara, and his family with all his heart. His grandchildren, Austin and Ashley, were all he could talk about. Our union has just lost a great leader.

At our recent CSALC-NBA Seminar in the bay Area President Young told our membership that the NALC is a better union overall due to the leadership and actions of NALC Branch President Tony Cortese.

Tony will be dearly missed by all of us.

John Beaumont
California State President



**“Tony” Cortese
1942 — 2007**

IN FRED ACEDO'S WORLD "OUT THERE"

THESE ARE THE DOG DAYS OF LETTER CARRIERS

OUT THERE



By FRED ACEDO

OUT THERE



OUT THERE



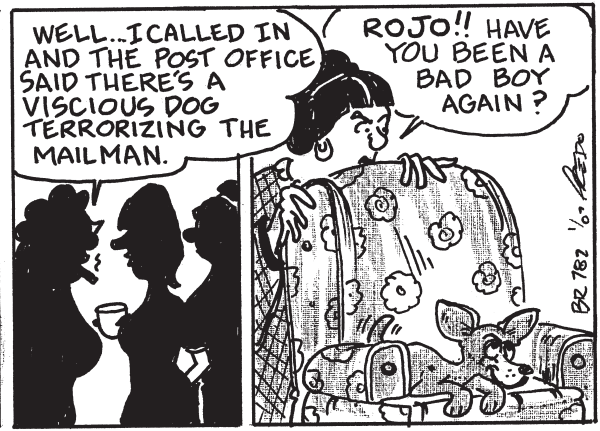
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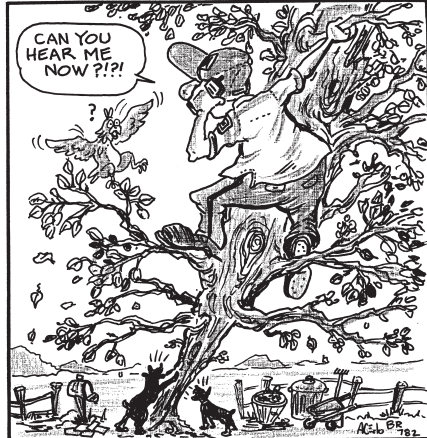
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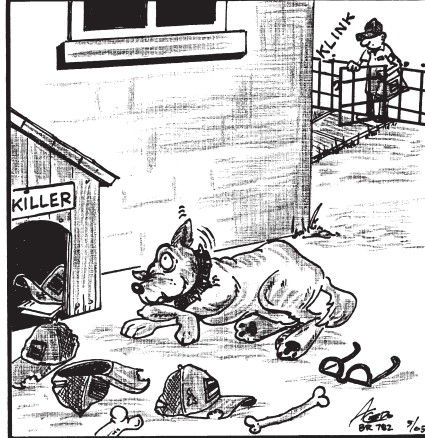
OUT THERE



OUT THERE



OUT THERE



IN THE REAL WORLD,
DOG ATTACKS ARE
SERIOUS BUSINESS.
BUT LETTER CARRIERS
ALL OVER THE WILL
IDENTIFY WITH THE
HUMOR IN THAT
REALITY WE LIVE.



Branch Officers

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

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

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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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OUT THERE

***Mid-Eighty
Degree
Temperatures
by mid-March?***

***It looks like
it's going to be
some Summer
this year...***

