

National Association of Letter Carriers

Branch 782

E.A. Baker Union Update



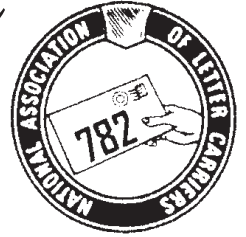
ARVIN
CALIFORNIA CITY
McFARLAND
TAFT

AVENAL
DELANO
MOJAVE
TEHACHAPI

BAKERSFIELD
EDWARDS AFB
RIDGECREST
TRONA

BORON
LAMONT
SHAFTER
WASCO

CHARTERED FEBRUARY 25, 1901



NUMBER 3

WEB VERSION

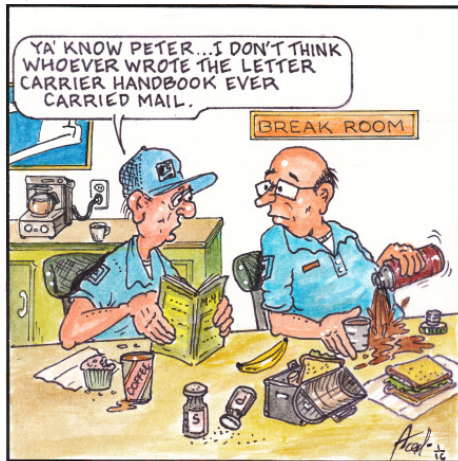
MARCH 2017

at the
Mike:

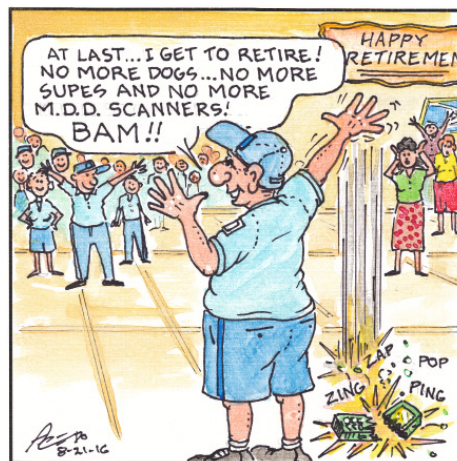


It has been a really busy month. Most are. Here are a few things to consider about this job we have. Thank you, Fred Acido!! Hope to see you each of you March 28th...

"OuT tHeRe"



"OuT tHeRe"



"OuT tHeRe"



OUT THERE



OUT THERE



OUT THERE



THANKS TO JOSE GONZALES-FLORESVILLE TX.

Minutes of the February 2016 General Meeting

The regular meeting of Branch 782 was called to order by President, Mike Towery at 7:00 p.m. on the 28th day of February, 2017 at the branch office, Bakersfield. The flag salute was led by Sgt. at Arms, Frank Martinez. All members of the Executive Board were present. The stewards were present from Avenal, Brundage, Camino Media, Downtown, East Bakersfield, Edwards, McFarland, Oildale, Shafter, South, Stockdale, Taft and Wasco. Also present was the Newsletter Editor, Basil Zuniga; SANE, Fred Acedo; Webmaster, Rick Plummer; Photographer, Anita Holderman; Asst. Treasurers, Debbie Guillet and Lucinda Martinez, OWCP Rep., Rick Gerdes and Paul Greenfield and Frank Martinez of the Social and Recreation Committee. The minutes of the January 24, 2017 meeting were read and accepted with no additions or corrections.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP: Applications were received from Amber Lafferry, Shafter; CarieJo Taylor, Hillcrest; Henry Gasca and Markeitta Wilson, Dole Ct.; Elias Pichard and David Barrera, Stockdale and Janet Trejo, Camino Media.

REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Teresa Ortega reported that the Picnic planning is "fine. Basil Zuniga reported that last month Hillcrest folded the newsletter. Next month will be Dole Ct. Basil discussed a newsletter from Milwaukee that used one of Fred "color" cartoons. Paul Greenfield reported that the Social and Recreation Committee will be getting Dodger tickets this year. Kim Gerdes reported that 130 books were sold this month thanks to Basil's hard work. There are 703 remaining. Mark Ramirez discussed the 24 hour nurse available to NALC Health Benefit members. He also shared the PPO providers that were in the last newsletter. He reminded members that they can save money by using the PPO providers.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

John Ortega reported that there will be a vote on the proposed By-Laws changes at the March General meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: Mike Towery reminded the convention delegates to put in their leave slips now. Please do not wait until the last

minute. He also reported that the new Carrier Academy has been postponed due to the ceiling repairs at Crestmont Station after the rains. The new hires have been told they will have to wait for their training.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION: Mike Towery reported that the Steward Meetings this month will be on the 8th, 15th and 22nd. There will be a meeting in Santa Clarita for the Food Drive. He also shared that a CCA was caught throwing mail away in order to make his return time. Basil Zuniga shared some of Fred's "questionable" cartoons. Mike acknowledged and congratulated new retiree John Rosso.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: Anita Holderman reported that \$13,846.93 was collected for the month of February.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Molly Biggar will give her report next month.

The MDA 50/50 Drawing was won by Jeff Harrington.

The drawing for \$500.00 would have been won by Mike Underwood if he had been present.

There were forty-nine members and two guests present.

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KIM GERDES
NALC Branch 782 Recording Secretary



Welcome New Members!!

Amber Lafferry
CarieJo Taylor

Henry Gasca
Markeitta Wilson
Janet Trejo

Elias Pichard
David Barrera

Proposed By-Laws Changes

Proposed new language is in **bold italics**.

CURRENT LANGUAGE

ARTICLE III MEETINGS

SECTION 1. The regular meeting of this Branch shall be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month, excluding December, at 7:00 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 NEW LANGUAGE

ARTICLE III MEETINGS

SECTION 1. The regular meeting of this Branch shall be held on the fourth **Wednesday** of each month, ~~excluding~~ **except for the months of November and** December, at 7:00 P.M. at the Branch 782 Union Office, 2628 "F" Street, Bakersfield, California. The **November and** December meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of the month.

PROPOSED NEW BY LAW — NO CURRENT LANGUAGE

ARTICLE X

SECTION 10. A drawing using the current membership roster provided by the Financial Secretary will be conducted at the regular meeting of the Branch with the beginning amount of fifty dollars. If the member whose name is drawn is not present at the meeting, the amount will increase fifty dollars each successive month until it reaches five hundred dollars and will remain at five hundred dollars until there is a member present whose name is drawn. Once there is a winner, the amount of the drawing will start again at fifty dollars. Members must be present to win unless their absence is due to attendance at the State of National Conventions.

Non-Members February 2017*

Downtown Station

Sarah Kirby
Javier Cruz
Daniel Zuniga

South Station

Aloalii Maui Jr.

Brundage/East Bakersfield

Vicky Guerrero

Hillcrest

100% UNION!!!

Dole Court

100% UNION!!!

Stockdale

James Oh
Marty Martinez
Daniel Zuniga

Camino Media

100% UNION!!!

Arvin

100% UNION!!!

Avenal

100% UNION!!!

California City

100% UNION!!!

Delano

Cynthia V. Quebral
Daniela Barreto
Oscar Maya

Lamont

100% UNION!!!

Mojave

Alexander Keller

Ridgecrest

G. D. Schatz
Erik Bennand

Shafter

M. D. Voights
L. M. New

Taft

K. J. Hughes

Tehachapi

B. C. Den Beeman

Trona

100% UNION!!!

Wasco

100% UNION!!!

*CCA names are in italics

Recommendation of the NALC Branch 782 By-Laws Committee

On January 18, 2017 a By-Laws Committee meeting was conducted concerning two submitted By-Laws changes. The meeting was chaired by Branch 782 Vice-President John Ortega and consisted of Paul Salazar and Gilroy Manglicmot, who were appointed to the committee by Branch 782 President Mike Towery.

The first submitted proposal was in regards to changing the General Meeting day from the 4th Tuesday of each month, excluding the month of December (3rd Tuesday), to the 4th Wednesday of each month excluding the months of November and December (3rd Tuesdays). The Committee's recommendation was one of approval.

The second submitted proposal was regarding new language concerning the monthly membership drawing. It stated that the beginning balance would begin at \$50.00 and increase each month, if there was not a member present whose name was drawn, by \$50.00 up to a maximum of \$500.00. Once a member was present and won the drawing, the balance would once again begin at \$50.00. The Committee's recommendation was one of approval.

As per NALC Branch 782 By-Laws, the proposed changes were printed in the February 2017 and March 2017 *E. A. Baker Union Update* newsletters and will be voted upon by the membership at the March 28, 2017 General Membership Meeting.

Respectfully,

JOHN ORTEGA
Branch 782 Vice-President

Rolando walked in the door on June 24, 1978... and he is retiring on March 31, 2017!!!

Almost **FORTY** years of delivering mail in Bakersfield has been a tale of “Up the Hill, Down the Hill”. As the third most senior Letter Carrier in Bakersfield in 2017, Rolando can share quite a few memories of what he went through.

Like the vast majority of us, when asked why he did this job for so long, he exclaims: “I did it for my family!” However — *when you find out that he and his wife, Vicki, adopted FOURTEEN children and had OVER A HUNDRED foster children live with them through the years* — you may start to consider yourself a little bit of a “light-weight”... On the other hand, he didn’t start out with the intent of having such a large family...

Rolando Trevino grew up in Lamont and after graduating from Arvin High School in 1970, he spent a few years in the fields picking a variety of crops (grapes, oranges, corn,); and he moved irrigation pipes and did numerous other tasks for the farmers in the area. He became a member of the United Farm Workers and eventually worked for Sandusky Metal Cabinet before working at Standard Brands Paint Store at 930 19th Street in Bakersfield. He then went to Bakersfield College to learn how to become a welder. Hired by Palmer’s Welding Company, he decided to change careers when he almost blew up the shop. The supervisor there informed him that he had heard that the USPS was looking for employees and that a test was coming up. Seemed like perfect timing to him. He eventually took two tests: The “Clerk-Carrier Test” and the “Carrier Test” and passed them both.



Picture on Rolando’s 1969-70 Arvin High School ASB Card

When he went in for his USPS interview, he was asked a question that required him to be honest. The question was, “If there was a strike by postal employees, would you strike?” Rolando considered himself a “Union Man” and he told the truth. He said that, if he had to, he would strike. (In fact, he had just come back from picketing with Cesar Chavez and the UFW.)

In May 1978, he began two weeks of training with Karl Herrera in the Bakersfield Downtown Station. At the end of training, he was offered a choice of working at either Oildale, Brundage or Hillcrest. Because it was closer to Lamont where he lived, he chose to be a 93306 Letter Carrier. And? While he was occasionally sent to carry three hour or five hour swings at the Annex, **Hillcrest is where he spent his ENTIRE career!!**

When asked who some of the “Old Timers” were when he started out, Rolando had no problem remembering the following names: Mely Villagomez, Manuel Estrada, Mike Gonzalez, Benny Aguilar, Oscar Maclin, Joe McKinley, Ray Pettus, Jim Perkins, Danny Lujan, John Wonderly, Fred Acedo, Lewana Bowes, Chuck and Mary Sutton, and Ed Combs. Each name seemed to generate a colorful story of some kind. [Since the Editor-guy isn’t sure if there is a statute of limitations, ask Rolando if he wants to share.]

However, Oscar Maclin does fill a special memory!

When he started, Rolando was asked to carry a route after the Regular had thrown it up. He brought back all kinds of mis-cased mail and the Regular jumped all over him because he’d done this. Apparently, others knew that (name deleted) was a pretty bad caser. Oscar Maclin jumped in, defended Rolando, and it made Rolando realize that he might be able to do this job.

Six months after he was hired, Rolando made Regular and he was assigned to his first route because the Regular Letter Carrier, Dick White, was sent to be a new Carrier Trainer.



December 15, 1978

He was on that route, 601, for about a year until he bid 605. After that, for about two years, he was on a T-6 assignment servicing Routes 601, 614, 615, 609 and 608. In succession, he then bid Routes 608, 609, 629; and, wound up on his final “home” (Route 616) in 2004.

He also shared that Sally Herrera (the “Mom” of Hillcrest Station) kinda sorta became his “second wife” because she made sure that he was always doing what he was supposed to do!

So... How in the heck did Rolando Trevino find himself in the “family way”???

When Rolando met Vicki Rivas in October 1984, she had a son and three foster children. Rolando had never considered being a father. Really. He *never* had. But, the longer they dated, the more he fell in love with Vicki. Then, when Vicki sadly found out that she would no longer be able to have children, Rolando felt that adoption might be a good option. And — in order to make Vicki an “honest woman” — they married two months later on December 21, 1984. As a couple, they then submitted an application for a baby boy.

Two weeks later (on a Friday) he received a phone call from the agency. “Well, Rolando, are you ready? We got you a baby! It’s a girl... Do you want her?”

(You may have read that Rolando and Vicki have fourteen children. They also now have twenty-five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren!! In fact, grandbaby Lincoln is the newest addition. Born on January 24, 2017, he is the latest addition to this amazing family!) More importantly (because Rolando and Vicki feel that children have the absolute right to be loved), if someone were to drop off a baby in a basket on their doorstep, they would take that baby in and give it all of the best love that they had to offer!! The point that Rolando stresses is: **Working as a Letter Carrier gave him the opportunity provide for each and every one of the children that were brought into the life that he and Vicki had chosen to embark on.**

He also acknowledges that he couldn’t have survived his career in the Postal Service without some good people. Rolando was asked, “Who are some of the good supervisors or managers that

you had in your career?" With no hesitation on his part, the following names came to mind: Ron Carlon, Richard Rodriguez, Art Ornelas, Bill Elms, Leonore Menchaca and Homer Ruiz.

There is a flip side to that question. "Who were some supervisors you remember who didn't do a good job?" With no prompting, Rolando remembered John Smith, Carl January, and Alex Silva.

Dogs happen to be part of the world that Letter Carriers inhabit. Rolando remembers the very first time that he had a dog come at him was on Camino Primavera. The owner was Timothy Lemuchi, a *very* prominent local Bakersfield attorney.

But, Rolando didn't care about that!

All he knew was that there was a **GIANT** Great Dane who came at him so suddenly that he had no chance to defend himself. He closed his eyes. Then, with his paws on Rolando's shoulders, the dog started to lick his face...

The second dog situation was memorable in a different way. There was a dog on Cypress Street. He used to come out and take the mail from the Regular Carrier. Rolando didn't know that. When the dog came out and came at him, Rolando sprayed the dog with pepper spray. The owner confronted him with, "Did you spray my dog?" (Has this ever happened to anybody else????)

As Rolando looks back at his career, an interesting observation came up. He sees group pictures which were taken at different points along the way that he travelled. They don't seem to be taken any more. He's sad about that. Those pictures are "slices of life" which change. He shared one picture of the employees at Hillcrest in the 1980s which is special to him.

Health is something that — too often — is taken for granted. It is a fact that Rolando is very familiar with.

Rolando suffered a stroke on the July 4th weekend in 2009. He was off work for some eight months.

He is extremely glad that he had all of the Sick Leave that he had "saved" through the years!

The last year and a half of his career hasn't been easy, either. Rolando has been dealing with issues with both of his knees. Because he wasn't able to perform his normal Letter Carrier duties, Rolando was forced to work Tour III at the GMF. (In case you don't know what Tour III is, the starting time is 22:30 and you work until 06:00. However, he survived this, too.

Rolando does have some advice for any who might care.

Honoring Thirty-Nine Years of Service

Please join us for a Retirement
Celebration for Rolando Trevino

Date: Saturday, April 8th, 2017

Time: 6:00pm to 8:30pm

Cost: \$10.00/per person

Address: 6401 Lamplight Street

***Gate Code: #1234**

If you are not able to join us for dinner but would like to attend the celebration, please feel free to join us. All individuals who will be eating will receive a ticket at the door.

**Please RSVP with the number of guests
& Pay by Saturday, April 1st to:**

Vicki Trevino at 331-4791

6105 Royal Coach Dr., Bakersfield, CA 93306

Adults Only Please

*The Community Clubhouse does **NOT** allow
Alcohol in or around the premises.*



"If you have a chance, go back to school! If you stay, do what they tell you! But, remember! Customer relations are very important!!! Back "in the day", we knew our customers. They knew us! Being a Letter Carrier is a good job. But **YOU** are going to have to protect that job! I remember when I had good supervisors who understood that the customers were **THE** reason that we were in business. If you can remember that — **even if your supervisors don't** — you might be able to someday retire, too..."

30 Years and 14 Days!

In late 1986, Victoria “Vickie” Vidal was working in a school system when staff cuts were announced. Victoria realized she would be looking for a job. Sister-in-law Sylvia Vidal (who was a USPS clerk) suggested that she take the Post Office test.

On January 17, 1987, Paul Skinner, Mike Underwood, and Victoria were hired and were soon trained by Ray Pettus at the GMF.

Memories start to bubble out when she is asked about the thirty years to which she dedicated herself as a USPS Letter Carrier in Bakersfield, California.



Victoria Vidal clocks “Out to the Street” at 09.27. **THE last time!**

Her first unit was South Station. Her OJI was Mike Freeman on Route 428 and she was directed to “shadow him” on his route for three days to learn how to do her job.

But, Mike had a bit of a problem. The manager at that time, Alex Silva, had a policy that NO Carrier was allowed to talk during the first hour of casing. Especially since it was her first day, she knew that she would have questions and was concerned about how her OJI would be able to fully answer them.

A long-haired, bearded guy on Route 427 leaned around the case, said to Mike that it would be within his duties as OJI to explain the job to her and emphatically told to Mike that it was *his* responsibility to make the effort to train her correctly because *THAT* was his job. Victoria found herself encouraged by what she’d heard.

A short three days later, she found herself assigned to Route 407. (That particular route was extremely hard to case because it was so broken up. Additionally, the majority of the stops were “in the Hood”.)

Victoria was determined that she was going to learn how to do the job well; and — because she’d grown up in Wasco — she didn’t feel intimidated by the neighborhood where she would be delivering.

In fact, after being assigned to the route on January 21, she did so well that she passed probation in April and didn’t leave until

the route was awarded to the winning bidder, Pat Kennedy.

Victoria was also “awarded” something else. Because John Trice started to call her something, so did other people. But, she confides that she never really liked being called “Vickie”. She always considered herself “Victoria”.

As a newly-minted Regular, Victoria was transferred to the 05s in East Bakersfield. Again — for some reason — she found herself delivering in some more “very challenging” neighborhoods. (Water Street ring a bell in anyone else’s memory?)

At East, she encountered interesting individuals there like Rudy Magana and she experienced a series of “firsts”: 1st time she heard a supervisor tell her, “I’ll send you some help”; and, the 1st time a dog came at her and her only option was to notch a “victory” with a mid-attack kick.

An experience with a customer left her extremely scared because Victoria was a woman. And, yes, in case you didn’t realize it, female Letter Carriers often have different things that they have to deal with simply because they are women...

Victoria had just handed a certified letter to a man. He must’ve been really expecting it; because, he grabbed Victoria around the arms in a tight bear hug and wouldn’t let her go. Her arms were trapped. She didn’t know what to do! She was really, *REALLY* scared!

Eventually, he let her go, but to this day — if she thinks about it — it still causes her some anxiety.

After awhile, Victoria was once again sent back to South Station as an unassigned Regular. Because Mike Freeman was now a 204-B, she was assigned to his vacant route. 428 also had a lot of deliveries “in the Hood”. One day, she was on the street when a car passed her and a gun, which had been tossed out of the window, hit the road and skidded right by her. “Why am I *here*??”

Soon after that, she heard that there was T-6 position (707, 702, 711, 712 and 713) opening up at Brundage. She bid and won that assignment.

Victoria remembers that there were three 07 Carriers named Beverly (“The Good”, “The Bad” and “The Ugly”). While there was a Vickie *and* a Victoria, most people felt that two “Vickies” worked there.

While at Brundage she lived in the 09s. In 2001, the Carrier who delivered to her home was Danny Wallace. When Danny

Wallace had to vacate Route 927 due to health issues, he told her that Route 927 was coming up for bid. He suggested that she try to get it. Victoria wound up bidding on and then delivering on the route where she lived thanks to Danny!

Through the years, delivering *and* living on Route 927 added new twists. Customers on her route eventually knew where she lived. They knew where to find her. They were all her neighbors; and, because she knew them as neighbors, one particular event stands out in her memory.

One day, while delivering, she saw a young boy walking down the street with a man and a dog. She didn’t recognize the man but she knew where the boy lived — and he was **NOT** close to his home.

She asked the boy where he was going. The man answered and told Victoria that this nice young boy was helping him with his dog. Although he didn’t say anything, *there was a look of fear in the boy’s eyes.*

Victoria picked him up, and because she knew where he lived, she told him that she was going to take him home. She did. Later, the boys parents drove by where she was. Their son was crying in the back seat. The parents were looking for the man who they felt had been a possible kidnapper.



A gift to remind Victoria where she’d planted her roots...

Although hip and knee issues might have hastened her decision to retire, Victoria knows that the time is right. “I want to take at least a year “off”! And, I am looking forward to **MY** projects and no longer have to deal with ‘30 Minute Dinners’. I am going to be cooking up a storm. My husband is really, *REALLY* happy!”

He Knew It Was Time!

Part II

Last month's newsletter featured information about the pending retirement of Hillcrest's Alan Smith on February 31, 2017.

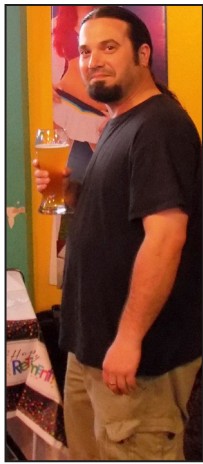
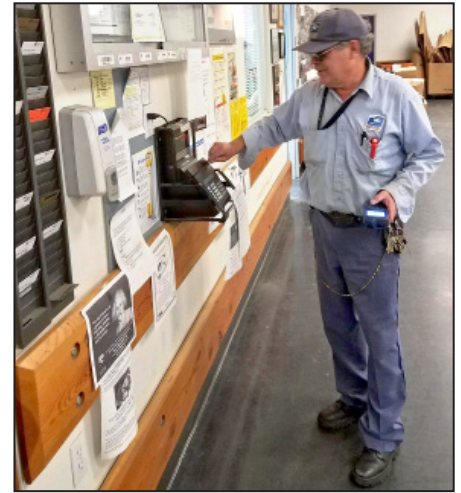
Here are pictures of his last day at work — and the moment when Alan became a member of "The Last Punch Bunch"!!! And then? *There was a great party!*



"I know I can make it..."



It's time. Okay. Deep breath. Ready. Set. Come on clock!!! Ready. Set. And...SWIPE!!!



March 11, 2017



Pictures courtesy of the Hillcrest NALC Shop Steward Pam Smith

“POST-MARKED”

by Mark Ramirez,
NALC Branch 782 Health Benefits Representative

A father, son and grandson went to the country club for their weekly round of golf. Just as they reached the first tee, a beautiful young blonde woman carrying her bag of clubs approached them. She explained that the member who brought her to the club for a round of golf had an emergency that called him away. She asked the trio whether she could join them.

Naturally, the guys all agreed.

Smiling, the blonde thanked them and said, “Look, fellows, I work in a topless bar as a dancer, so nothing shocks me anymore. If any of you want to smoke cigars, have a beer, bet, swear, tell off-color stories or do anything that you normally do when playing a round together, go ahead. But, I enjoy playing golf; and, consider myself pretty good at it. So, don’t try to coach me on how to play my shots.”

With that the guys agreed to relax and invited her to drive first.

All eyes were fastened on her shapely behind as she bent to place her ball on the tee. She then took her driver and hit the ball 270 yards down the middle, right in front of the green. The father’s mouth was

agape. “That was beautiful,” he said. The blonde put her driver away and said, “I really didn’t get into it, and I faded it a little.”

After the three guys hit their drives and their second shots, the blonde took out an eight iron and lofted the ball within five feet of the hole.

The son said, “Damn, lady! You played that perfectly!” The blonde frowned and said, “It was a little weak. But, even an easy seven would have been too much club. I’ve left a tricky little putt...” She then tapped in the five-footer for a birdie.

Having the honors, she drove first on the second hole, knocked the heck out of the ball, and it landed nearly 300 yards away smack in the middle of the fairway!

For the rest of the round, the statuesque blonde continued to amaze the guys, quietly and methodically shooting for par or less on every hole.

When they arrived at the 18th green, the blonde was three under par and had a very nasty 12-foot putt on an undulating green for a par.

She turned to the three guys and said, “I really want to thank you all for not acting like a bunch of chau-

vinists and telling me what club to use or how to play a shot, but I need this putt for a 69 and I’d really like to break 70 on this course.

If any one of you can tell me how to make par on this hole, I’ll take him back, pour some 35-year-old Single Malt Strathmill Scotch in him, and fix him a steak dinner. And then? I’ll show him a very good time the rest of the night...”

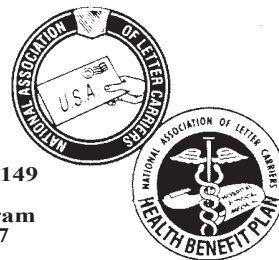
The yuppie son jumped at the thought! He strolled across the green, carefully eyeing the line of the putt and finally said, “Honey, aim about 6 inches to the right of the hole and hit it firm. It will get over that little hump and break right into the cup.” The father knelt down and sighted the putt using his putter as a plumb. “Don’t listen to the kid, Darling. You want to hit it softly 10 inches to the right and let it run left down that little hogback, so it falls into the cup.” The old gray-haired grandfather walked over to the blonde’s ball. He picked it up and handed it to her and said, “That’s a gimme, sweetheart.”

The blonde smiled and said, “Your place or mine?”

REMEMBER . . . OLD AGE AND TREACHERY WILL OVERCOME YOUTH AND SKILL EVERY TIME

2017 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

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

“Out tHeRe”



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

PPO Deductible: Per Calendar Year
\$300 “Individual” 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

Prescription Drug Program is excellent. Retail (Network) Mail Order Medicare (Primary) See Brochure Too Extensive to List All.

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

Preventive Care Children/Adults Available (See Brochure) Prevents Serious Illnesses, Flu, Tetanus, Pneumonia, Shingles
Many immunizations are Free (Adult/Child) when administered at a PPO pharmacy/facility.
Some will require a prescription from the Doctor.



Health Prescription: Advice from Mark Ramirez!!

Important message! What to take to bed with you — NOT a joke!

PUT YOUR CAR KEYS BESIDE YOUR BED AT NIGHT.

Tell your spouse, your girlfriend, your children, your neighbors, your parents, your bartender, your Letter Carrier, your Dr's office, the check-out girl at the market, *tell every single person you know to do this one thing and...*

IF YOU HEAR A NOISE OUTSIDE YOUR HOME, OR SOMEONE TRYING TO GET IN YOUR HOUSE, JUST PRESS THE PANIC BUTTON FOR YOUR CAR!

This tip came from a Neighborhood Watch coordinator: Next time you come home for the night and you start to put your keys away, think of this: ***THEY ARE A SECURITY ALARM SYSTEM THAT YOU ALREADY HAVE AND THEY REQUIRE NO INSTALLATION.*** They will go off from most everywhere inside your house and will keep honking until your battery runs down or until you reset it with the button on the key fob chain. They work if you park in your driveway or garage.

If your car alarm goes off when someone is trying to break into your house, odds are the burglar/rapist won't stick around. After a few seconds, all the neighbors will be looking out their windows to see who is out there and sure enough the criminal won't want that. And, remember to carry your keys while walk-

ing to your car in a parking lot. The alarm can work the same way there. This is something that should really be shared with everyone. Maybe it could save a life or a sexual abuse crime.

P.S. I am sending this to everyone I know because I think it is fantastic. Would also be useful for any emergency, such as a heart attack, where you can't reach a phone. My Mom has suggested to my Dad that he carry his car keys with him in case he falls outside and she doesn't hear him. He can activate the car alarm and then she'll know there's a problem.

Please pass this on even if you've read it before. It's a reminder. You need to double check the range/distance of your keys to the vehicle! Make sure it works from your bedroom!

Aphorism: A concise statement of a truth, adage or maxim

In the Postal Service way of doing things, no job is complete until the blame is assigned...

We have enough "Youth". How about a fountain of "Smart?..."

A Fool and his money can throw a heck of a party...

Money isn't everything. But it sure keeps the kids in touch...

If at first you don't succeed, sky-diving is not for you...

We were born naked, wet and hungry. Then things get worse...

Contrary to all of the health nuts out there, "Red meat is **NOT** bad for you." Fuzzy, green meat is...

"Artificial Intelligence" is no match for "Natural Stupidity"...

Congressmen should wear uniforms like NASCAR drivers. Then, we could identify their corporate sponsors...

What is the reason Politicians try so hard to get re-elected? They would hate to have to make a living under the laws they've passed...

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

With January and February come and gone, I can't help being haunted by the parcel volume in December. I have to say, the last two Christmas seasons have brought the most parcels I've seen since UPS went on strike in the 90's (yes, I am that old). We handled it fine back then and 20 years later we are now competing.

What separates us from UPS is we do not stop in red zones or double park. Nor do we jog to the door and ding dong ditch our parcel delivery. We make every effort to get the packages in the customer's hands even when the mailer has "Carrier-Leave If NO RESPONSE". That means knock and wait for a response.

In a post Christmas stand up, our Postmaster applauded the Carriers for having less notice left parcels this Christmas season than last. My thoughts were, what is the theft ratio this year compared to last?

I know Amazon instructs us to 'leave if no response' but my fear is that some of the new Carriers assume that delivering UPS style is the correct way.

It's only correct in management's eyes when we're making the numbers but what happens when a customer makes a complaint for "knocking and dropping" a parcel we are not authorized to leave? Or worst, trip and fall while jogging up to the door? You could be disciplined. So here's a little advice from a Shop Steward, "Never ASSUME, you will only make an ASS out of U and ME, ASS/U/ME."

Parcels should only be left on porches when they are part of the Carrier Release Program or the customer has provided written directions for an alternate delivery location (per Handbook M-41).

Remember, just because you assume (there's that word again) that the neighborhood is safe, it doesn't give you authorization. Only the mailer or the addressee can authorize you to leave the parcel when there is no response. Delivering to a third party, such as an apartment manager, is only an alternate

OUT THERE



We are NOT the UPS

by Rene Guerrero,
Trustee and Shop Steward and
Long Time NALC Branch 231 Carrier

Handbook M-41 — City Delivery Carriers Duties and Responsibilities

322.312 When the Carrier Is Not Authorized to Leave Ordinary Parcels

a. When someone is usually available to receive parcels. When an ordinary or unnumbered insured parcel is not delivered on the first attempt and the carrier knows that someone at the address is usually available to receive parcels, do not leave Form 3849, Delivery Notice/Reminder/Receipt. Write the date and the carrier's initials and route number near the address and return the parcel to the office. Place the parcel in the gurney at the carrier's case. Attempt a second delivery on the next delivery day. If the parcel is not delivered after the second attempt, complete and leave Form 3849. Legibly endorse the form with the following information:

- (1) Article number (if applicable)
- (2) Date
- (3) Sender's name
- (4) Type of mail
- (5) Article requiring signature at time of delivery (if applicable)
- (6) Addressee's name and address
- (7) Amount due (if applicable)
- (8) Date and time customer can pick up article at post office.

location for the addressee with a written approval. You nor the manager has the authority to determine where to leave a customer's parcel, no matter how much easier and faster it is.

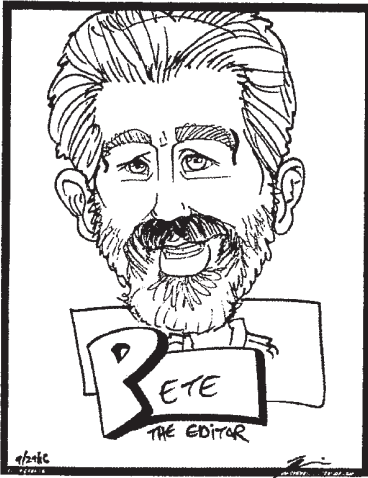
There's also a part in Handbook M-41 that you may not know of. It gives us an option to make a second attempt for customers that are usually available to receive parcels. After the second attempt if nobody is available we leave a PS Form 3849, yes they still exist so use them.

I stress to everyone, especially with route counts coming soon, read Handbook M-41, City Delivery Carriers Duties and Responsibilities. The M-41 will benefit you for route inspections by freshening you up on proper delivery procedures.

I also suggest this to the CCAs because Sunday parcel delivery isn't different from a normal weekday. I hear that some stations are instructing carriers to deliver parcels other than Amazon's on Sunday. Because you're not the Regular Carrier and won't know which customers have a written request on file, make sure the package has a Carrier Release before leaving it on the porch.

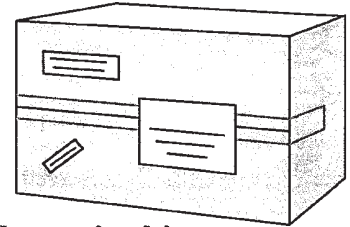
Remember, we are not UPS and never ASSUME that we deliver like them.

Article courtesy of the Fresno, CA
NALC Branch 231 *Postmans's View*
published in March 2017



Big BOX is in Big Trouble!

By Editor Pete PRUNIER



Some people will say that it has been a long time coming, but the truth be told, another technology has caught up with the big box department stores. The culprit is Amazon. The internet giant has got many of the national stores taking a step backwards. This week JC Penny announced it would close 140 stores. Sears headquarters is laying off 130 people this month. It appears every retailers sales are off and the internet is to blame.

Some retailers are fighting back. Bed Bath and Beyond has been aggressive with in store coupons and free shipping on a lot of their items on the site. Best Buy has a price match in their store that allows consumers to shop with their smart phones. A few other smaller retailers shifted to the internet and seem to be holding their own. The trouble is that every time you turn around another store is in trouble or closing. Tonight I heard that Bobs Stores is reorganizing in some way.

All of this brings us to our favorite big box Walmart.

Walmart was featured recently in the Wall Street Journal. Warren Buffett dumped 900 million in shares and Walmart has been under performing against the market. But Walmart is fighting back. They recently purchased two e-commerce sites to sell their products. They ditched a \$49 program for free shipping and now will offer over 2 million products to ship for free on their site.

One thing is for sure, The War is On!

Whoever wins this war, one thing will be sure, the internet sales and parcel post will sky rocket.

Now I will pose a new problem for you. There was an increase in parcel post this year of around 40% in the USPS. Fedex and Big Brown were running at full capacity. All three companies cannot hire enough help. Amazon is expanding to do some of it's own deliveries but that will only slow some of the growth on the big three.

Here is some food for thought. You can start almost

any industry in this country with capital backing, but to start a parcel service for the United States takes mega money. You need a national fleet of vehicles, warehouses in every city, and logistics that would boggle the mind. A fourth company to help out seems out of the question. So all of this new work will fall on the big three.

The requirement to work for the Postal Service is a safe driving record, drug free, felony free and good physical condition. All this for around \$16 an hour and a 7 day work week. Fedex and UPS pay even less. I wonder what is going to happen in the next 1 to 5 years as this parcel post escalates and more labor is needed? Will parcels sit on floor waiting to be delivered? Will wages rise to hire more carriers? Or maybe the internet could price itself right out of the market it created.

Just thinking about it!

Pete

Article courtesy of the Manchester, New Hampshire 44 MAGNUM published by NALC Branch 44 in March 2017. Thank you to my buddy Pete!!!



2017 Bakersfield Postal Softball Tournament

Sponsored by Soc & Rec

SUNDAY, APRIL 30TH

Tournament Starts at 8am

Where: Polo Community Park
(Old Farm Rd & Noriega Rd)

Who: Bakersfield Postal Employees,
Spouses and children (ages 15 & older)

Cost: \$100 per Team Co-ed (Minimum 2 Girls)

Rules: Sign up deadline is April 21st.

Coaches Meeting: Friday April 21st at 7 pm

Batting Cages at Sam Lynn

Money Due at meeting

IMPORTANT:

ALL players, spouses and children must be assigned from station they are playing for. Violators subject to forfeiture of games.

Questions/Sign Up

Call or Text Andrew Garcia 661-912-1087

or Glenn Ryder 661-900-6928

11TH ANNUAL BATTLE OF THE STATIONS

February 19th 2017 • Regency Lanes • 820 Real Rd. • Bakersfield, CA 93309

A BIG THANK YOU TO THE BAKERSFIELD SOCIAL REC COMMITTEE

Oh boy! If you didn't come out and play in the "Battle of the Stations" 11th Annual bowling tournament on February 19th, you missed out on a true afternoon of fun! We had one hundred and twelve bowlers on twenty-eight teams from all eight stations along with A.O.'s represented by Shafter, Delano, Taft, and Tehachapi.

The bowling alley was filled with Letter Carriers, CCA's, Clerks, Mail Handlers, Custodians, Maintenance, and Rural Carriers. Some Management personnel from our AO's joined in the excitement. Family and friends came to watch their favorite team take on the challenge of who was the best Station.

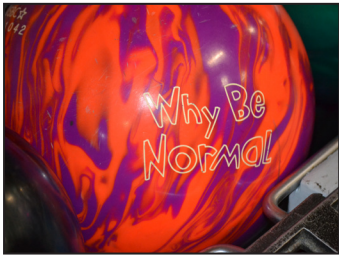


This year we tried a couple of new things. We pushed back our starting time to 5 p.m. to give CCA's/RCA's that must work Sunday Hub the opportunity to participate. And, many did come out!



We also decided to keep the Tournament at Regency Lanes this year; but, unfortunately, that decision came with some hiccups and small headaches. With all the rain, we have had this season — especially *that* weekend — there were a few roof leaks that hampered the lanes with problems when a few lanes kept breaking down. This year's teams scores reflect inconveniences caused by delays. (Low scoring.)

But, with DJ Sixxx pumping out the tunes, everyone still looked to be having a whole lot of fun!! We gave out a lot of prizes this year!!



Girls Divisions 1st place went to the Mixed team "Here 4 Da Turkeys" (Sheila Wiley, Judy Kiyoshi, Annette Ortega, and Kim Pumphey). The Co-Ed Division 1st place went to the Auburn "Royal Pins in the Butt" (Roel Alaniz, Ronnie Mireles, Valerie Tweedy, and Paul Hernandez). Men's Division 1st place went to Dole Court's "The Unknowns" (Jeremy Reed, Jordan Castillo, Jeff Harrington, and Ozzy Ruiz).

Overall, Dole Court had the top two bowling teams (combined points) to take home the trophy as the "2017 Battle of the Stations" Champs!

Continued on next page...

2017 Tournament

Top 5 Female Bowlers Total Pin Fall

1. Valerie Tweedy (Auburn 493)
2. Stacy Adams (Camino 452)
3. Diane Ryder (Dole Ct 418)
4. Lorriane Clemmons (Downtown 396)
5. Juanita Lopez (Dole Court 395)

Top 5 Male Bowlers Total Pin Fall

1. Jeff Harrington (Dole Court 560)
2. Ralph Ramirez (Camino Media 530)
3. Antonio Avery (CaminoMedia 533)
4. Jorge Vaquera (Wasco 510)
5. John Rosso (South 501)

Top Stations Total Pin Fall

1. Dole Court 3262
2. Camino Media 3130
3. Auburn 2890
4. Taft 2884
5. Plant 2881
6. Tehachapi 2528
7. Brundage 2518
8. Downtown 2505
9. Stockdale 2495
10. Shafter 2241
11. South 2060

Top High Individual Game

- Male - John Ortega - 235
Brundage
- Female - Stacy Adam -204
Camino Media

Our Top Female bowler went to Auburn's Valerie Tweedy (164 Average) and Top Male bowler went to Dole Court's. Jeff Harrington (187Average).

Some of our top raffle prizes included two tickets to the Cinderella Broadway show which were won by Downtown's Steve Friedle. Two tickets to the Jeff Dunham show were won by Dole Court's Jordan Castillo. And, the BIG Prize — a 50 inch 4K Smart television — went to Dole Court's Paramdeep Dhillon. Many more prizes were given out.



Lane #3
Camino Media

Damaged Conditions
Stacy Adames
Melinda Hernandez
Jennifer Martin
Candace Brown

Lane #4
Stockdale

Dolls Rollin Balls
Marcy Rodriguez
Tina Harbour
Maria Valenzuela
Laura Romero

Lane #5
Mixed

Here 4 Da Turkeys
Sheilia Wiley
Judy Kiyoshi
Annette Ortega
Kim Pumphey

Lane #6
South

Girls just Want to have fun
Tatia Boone
Christine Leal
Kellie Martinez
Stacey Flippin

Lane #7
East Brundage

E.B. Girls
Cindy Jimenez
Bianca Salinas
Liz Navarro
Anna Jimenez

Lane #8
Mixed

1st Class Divas
Angie Garcia
Catrina Mebane
Sandra Rodriguez
Teresa Suarez

Lane #9
Mixed

Special Co-Eds
Juanita Lopez
Elizabeth Sanchez
Dylan Whittington
Rodel Pangaldan

Lane #10
Mixed

Team CoCo
Sara Owens
Paul Pineda
Christina Guajardo
Luis Acosta

Lane #11
Dole Court

Prestige Worldwide
Glen Ryder
Diane Ryder
Kevin Vandiver
Shari Sharpe

Lane #12
Auburn

Royal Pins in the Butt
Roel Alaniz
Ronnie Mireles
Valerie Tweedy
Paul Hernandez

Lane #13
Dole Court

Bi-Polar Rollars
Albert Sanchez
Kimberly Vine
Maureen Parcell
Ray Sanchez

Lane #14
Camino Media

Camino's Most Wanted
Soledad Arcila
Joel Blanco
Antonio Avery
Ralph Ramirez

Lane #15
Shafter

Balls of Thunder
Melissa Johnson
Carmen Vizzard
Melissa Almaguer
Israel Cedillos

Lane #16
Delano

The Guzzlerz
Gracie Silva
Serina Ornelaz
Cindy Deleon
Jorge Vaquera

Lane #17
Auburn

Balls of Fury
Justin Gerber
Eric Zuniga
Erica Moya
Samuel Audilett

Special thanks go out to Ralph Ramirez, Liz Sanchez, Adrian Santa Cruz, DJ Sixxx, and Christian Rodriguez for all of their help and support.

Next year's tournament will be on February 18, 2018. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** And, by popular demand, we will be trying our hardest to get the tournament back to SouthWest Lanes.

Congratulations to Dole Court on winning their Fourth Title! Many pictures were taken. There were pictures of each team. There were action pictures of bowlers, high-fives, congratulations and looks of disgust. Some of those pictures are in this newsletter, others will be in the web version of the newsletter and all of

Lane #18
South
South Side Strikers
Neil Kramer
Mark Andresen
Kristina Scott
Ped Ton

Lane #19
Taft
Alley Cats
Tyler Young
Lisa Conners
Jeff Simpson
Debbie McClain

Lane #20
Downtown
We're The Ones
Steve Friedle
Gene Shebley
Jeri Jimenez
Lorraine Clemons

Lane #21
Stockdale
Stockdale Swingers
Ashley Yoc
Jannet Bobadilla
Nathan Barnett
Richard Manzo

Lane #22
East Brundage
4 Stooges
Ruben Gonzales
Sal Garcia
John Ortega
Angie Hernandez

Lane #23
Dole Court
The Unknowns
Jeremy Reed
Jordan Castillo
Jeff Harrington
Ozzy Ruiz

Lane #24
Dole Court
FireBalls
Mariano Gonzalez
David Treto
Juan Beltran
Paramdeep Dhillon

Lane #25
Plant
Maintenance Ball Bearings
Alfredo Velasco
Vince Avila
Adrian Rivera
Chad Newton

Lane #26
Tehachapi
The Mountain Men
Dave Thomas
Rob Brown
Buddy Turner
Bill Lewis

Lane #27
Camino Media
Original Goofballs
Jose Crisantos
John Rosso
Ray Moya
Mike Meza

Lane #28
Plant
The Bowling Stones
Neil Moralez
Johnny Martinez
Jason Johnson
O.C. Johnson

Lane #29
Stockdale
Fat Kids are Hard to Kidnap
Anthony Zuniga
Andrew Hennessee
Marty Martinez
Franciso Herrera

Lane #30
Camino Media
King Pins
Cesar Rivera
Allen Murray
Santiago Ornelas
Manual Ramirez

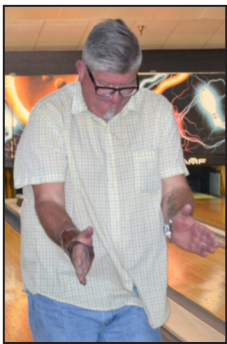


them can be seen on the Branch 782 website. Look for them at: WWW.782NALC.COM.

If you have any suggestions on our bowling tournament. Feel free to email me at "Jeffharrington@hotmail.com".

JEFF HARRINGTON
93308

"Just Another Day in Paradise"



Tournament Historical Records

Top Male Bowlers

- 2008**
Jeff Harrington - 614
East Bakersfield
- 2009**
Ralph Rameriz - 564
South Station
- 2010**
Greg Barraza Jr. - 687
East Bakersfield
- 2011**
Greg Barraza Jr. - 612
East Bakersfield
- 2012**
Greg Barraza Jr. - 612
East Bakersfield
- 2013**
Greg Barraza Jr. - 648
East Bakersfield
- 2014**
Antonio Avery - 661
Dole Court
- 2015**
Antonio Avery - 561
Dole Court
- 2016**
John Ortega - 537
East Brundage
- 2017**
Jeff Harrington - 560
Dole Court

Top Female Bowlers

- 2008**
Lorraine Clemmons - 490
Downtown
- 2009**
Teresa Pflieger - 492
Camino Media
- 2010**
Winnie Fortson - 510
Plant
- 2011**
Bernadine Maestas - 420
Auburn Station
- 2012**
Denise Dilley - 474
South Station
- 2013**
Christina Sanchez - 476
Taft
- 2014**
Lou Gutierrez - 506
Auburn Station
- 2015**
Diane Ryder - 471
Dole Court
- 2016**
Diane Ryder - 492
Dole Court
- 2017**
Valerie Tweedy - 493
Auburn

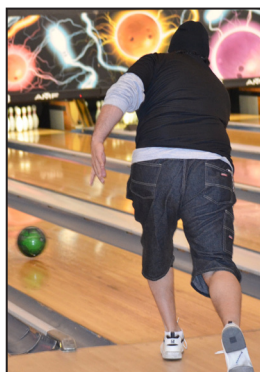
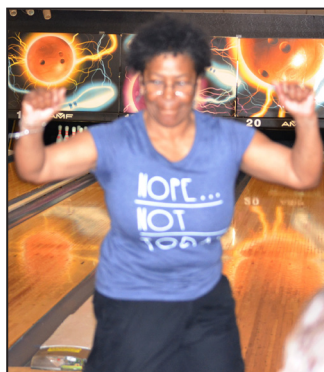


See a whole lot more pictures on the on next page... Check them out!!!



Somebody told them they were going to have fun... Somebody was right!!!



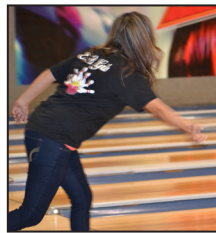


Continued on next page...

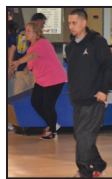
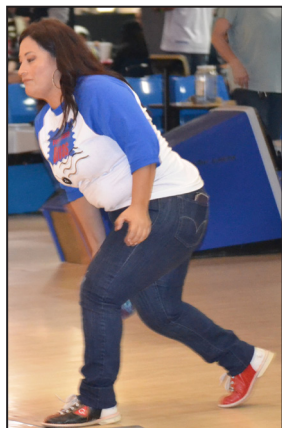


Creating "the good old days"...

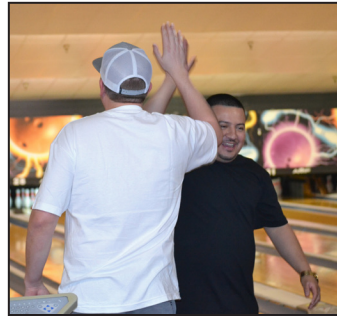
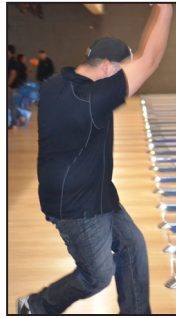
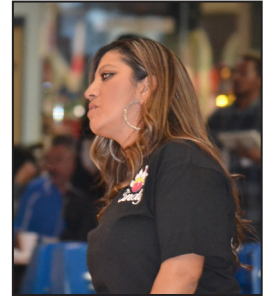




And, maybe you'll get to do this next year, too!!



Another page? Yup.



Thank you for the pix, Adrian Santa Cruz!!!





See some of the winners on next page...



Valerie Tweedy
Top Female Bowler



Jeff Harrington
Top Male Bowler



Paramdeep Dhillon
Grand Prize Winner

11TH ANNUAL BATTLE OF THE STATIONS



Who will be the Champs and the Big Winners in the next tournament??

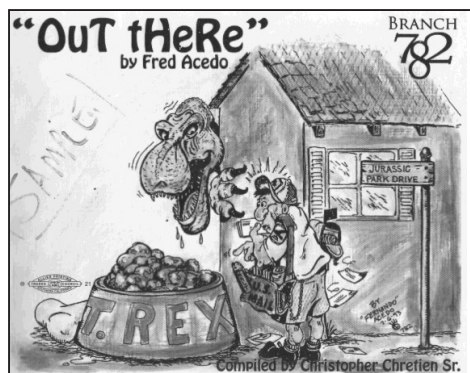
Fred Acedo is the NALC Branch 782 Special Assistant Newsletter Editor (S.A.N.E.). His original book, **Out tHeRe**, featured cartoons from 1993 to 2002. The *NALC Editor Resource Book* serves as Volume II in Fred's body of work for our Branch from 2003 through July 2016. Together, the two books incorporate almost 1600 illustrations that we published over the course of twenty-three years!

More importantly, the Resource Book is a clip-art asset designed for NALC newsletter editors.

As an incentive to buy the *NALC Editor Resource Book* (Volume II of the cartoons), you will find the original **Out tHeRe** book included with your order, Gratis! (That means **FREE!!!**)

Dear Kim Gerdes, NALC Branch 782 Recording Secretary 2628 F St. Bakersfield, CA 93301-1816

Please send me _____ **Out tHeRe** book (s)! Items mailed via USPS Priority Flat Rate.



Name and address for shipping:

Each book is \$7.00 But you can get two for \$10.00!

Why could you use more than one? The books make great picnic prizes meeting raffle prizes, for MDA or for other projects. Buy one as a Christmas present for your T-6! Buy a copy for a retiring Branch officer! Buy one for your library! Buy one to help us out! **NALC Branch 44 made \$46 for their MDA raffle using one book as an incentive!!!**

Please make out your checks for your copy/copies of Out tHeRe payable to NALC Branch 782 and mail them to Kim Gerdes!

Dear Basil Zuniga, NALC Branch 782 Editor-guy 2628 F St. Bakersfield, CA 93301-1816

Please send me one or more *NALC Editor Resource Book* (s)!

Base cost is **\$30** but you can donate more... it will help offset the costs to print the original book.

A: Resource Book _____ X \$30.00 = _____

B: \$7.00 **Out tHeRe** book X FREE = **FREE!!!**

C: \$6.45 Flat Rate Priority Mail Postage

A + B + C

Amount due with order

Please let me know if this order is for an NALC Branch Editor!!!

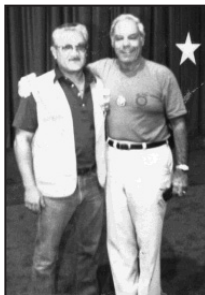
Make checks for "NALC Editor Resource Book" payable to Basil Zuniga, NALC Branch 782 Editor-guy. Orders printed when received.

from the editor-guy

“Hi, Basil. This is Paul Salazar. I was told that Jesse Avalos passed away yesterday. Just thought you might want to know in case you want to include something about it in the newsletter.”

Not the kind of text that I enjoy getting.

As I recall, “Chusie” was a pretty feisty and scrappy guy. He wasn’t afraid to mix it up with management, other Carriers, or customers when he wanted to get his point across. The picture to the right shows him with then-national NALC Vice President Tony Huerta who was also ever ready to go to bat for what he believed in.



When my postal career began in 1979, Jesse was the Branch 782 Vice-President. And, I got to know him — *or so I thought*. As with each of us, we are so much more than appears at first glance...

He became a Letter Carrier shortly after graduating from Bakersfield High School in 1956. He then began what was supposed to be a two year enlistment in the U.S. Army in 1959. But he wasn’t discharged until 1962 due to a “Berlin Wall involuntary extension” while stationed in Germany. At the end of his time, he was able to return to his postal job because absence had been due to a military service.



(I didn’t know that about his “history”. Or — to this day there seems to be some mystery — how “Chusie” became his name. *That’s* just what he was called.)

Mary Lou Ruiz *did* know who he was and what he was called! Her older brother had married Jesse’s younger sister, but she didn’t think that Chusie even knew who she was.

Apparently, he did... After Mary Lou graduated from high school in 1962, they were married on December 28, 1963.

Their first home was an apartment close to 8th and Union Avenue. Jesse delivered mail all day and then he took night classes to earn an AA degree from Bakersfield College thanks to the G.I. Bill.

Busy in other ways, Jesse and Mary Lou welcomed a son, Victor Jesse (“V.J.”) on August 1, 1964. He was followed in due course by siblings Derrek on July 25, 1967; Tommy on June 2, 1970; and, Sonja on January 28, 1977.



The Branch 782 Executive Board in the Winter of 1983
(l-r) Basil Zuniga, Frank Thomasy, Mark Ramirez, John Ross, Vice-President Jesse Avalos, President Tony Chavez, Linda King, George White, Mary Bryant and John Wonderly.

His participation in the NALC was birthed when a Letter Carrier friend, Art Bermudez, got into some kind of trouble. Jesse wanted to help him out and learned that becoming active in the Union would be a good start. Jesse soon found himself a Shop Steward.

Mary Lou wanted to be supportive of what he was doing and became active in the NALC Auxiliary along with Ann Suniga, Mary Ross and others. They formed life-long friendships together through this.

Chusie’s active participation as an officer of Branch 782 ended in 1984 when he was promoted to a USPS management position as a maintenance supervisor. ***However, while he was no longer a Letter Carrier, he remained an NALC member for the rest of his life.***



Jesse Avalos, featured in a story in *The Bakersfield Californian*, is shown in this picture while delivering mail in the Oildale area.

There were many people in Jesse’s life that were life-long friends. Fred Castro and been his friend since Kindergarten. While a Letter Carrier, other names were added to the list as John Duran, Bob Cruz, Richard Ramirez, Buddy Gallegos and Keith Schooley became more than just names as their friendships blossomed through many hours spent working on each other’s home improvement projects.

And, they proved to be true friends!

As Chusie’s health declined in the last few years, each of these individuals would often visit him either at home or during one of his hospital stays. He *always* appreciated that they remembered him!

Most of us don’t realize how good we have it until our health deteriorates. In 2012, Jesse contracted the West Nile Virus and it impacted his immune system. More recently, because of a diagnosis of chronic kidney disease, he had to begin dialysis in February 2017.

While undergoing dialysis in his second week of treatment, Jesse went into cardiac arrest when he suffered a stroke. He never regained consciousness. The last two weeks and two days of his life were spent in the hospital. Mary Lou and the rest of Jesse’s family — faced with an agonizing choice — made the decision to unhook him from life support on March 9.

However, they all knew that Jesse would **NOT** have wanted to live that way. He had always been so very active for his entire life. Even after retirement in 1991 capped his thirty-five years of federal service, he didn’t slow down at all.

At times like this, many memories come to mind. Mary Lou shared that (because of his military background) Chusie *always* shined

his uniform shoes until the children became old enough to take over that chore. When asked how much he paid his kids for this service, his daughter, Sonja, exclaimed, “He *never* paid us. But, he would gladly have paid his grandchildren to to shine those shoes!”

Seven year old Alina is the “caboose” in Chusie’s grandchild train. She demonstrated how loudly she would have to talk to get her grandfather’s attention as he

had gotten to be so hard of hearing. But, just because he was who he was (and he remained feisty and scrappy to the end), Jesse enjoyed making Alina work at it!



His most important thing was "Family". Jesse was so very actively involved in the lives of so many different family members!

There were so many testimonies presented as people gathered on the evening before his funeral. Many cited the impact that Jesse's tough love had made on them when they were young. Others spoke about the way that Chusie would invest so much of his time and talents to helping them work on their homes.

There was also a zest to Chusie's life. He worked hard and he also knew how to have a good time!



"Chusie", Bob Cruz and Ruben Fabela enjoying life on a bright sunny day.

There are numerous pictures of Jesse, beer in hand, surrounded by friends and family at a variety of gatherings.

Many of the postal people shared memories with each other about some of Jesse's exploits with them and even with his customers. (It was a different post office back then...)

There seemed to be an unending supply of "Do you remember the time that Chusie..." kinds of stories that were shared by those who had been around him at different points in his life.

While there is no way that I can present a full listing of all of the former co-workers



In this picture, Jerry Lockett is shown clowning around with him at Jesse's retirement party in 1991.

who showed up to honor him at the funeral, I wish I could. It was impressive! Here is just a short incomplete list: Mike Towery, "Wimpy", Richard Rodriguez, Frank Diaz, Homer Ruiz, Frank Thomasy, Art Ornelas, Raul "Foo Foo" Alonzo, Zeke Lopez, Jo Ann Rowles, Bill Holland, John and Vernoica Rugnao, Karl Hererra, Mark Carter, Teddy Martinez, Bob Cruz, Buddy and Frances Gallegos, "Duke", John Duran, Alfred Martinez, Ruben Fabela, and Joe Santa Cruz.

The thread that seemed to run through this tapestry that Chusie wove throughout all of his interactions was generosity. He was generous with his time and was truly willing to do whatever needed to be done and worked hard at anything he decided that he needed to accomplish.

He accomplished a lot!

"Chusie", Rest in Peace.



Chusie passed away on March 9, 2017. He was born September 12, 1938 in Bakersfield, CA. He attended Garces and Bakersfield High Schools. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving as a Combat Engineer in the Vietnam era in Germany from 1959 - 1962. He was employed by the U.S. Postal Service for over 30 years.

Chusie is preceded in death by his parents, Victor and Frances, and sister Babe (Mary Ellen). He is survived by his wife, Mary

Lou; brother Johnny; children VJ (Vicky), Derek (Ricardo), Tommy (Gabby), and Sonja; grandchildren Erika, Therese, Tommy, Tori, Marcus, Issac, Tonie, Joshua and Alina; great-grandchildren Andrew and Aubri; and numerous extended grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins and godchildren.

In earlier years, Chusie was an avid sportsman, enjoyed hunting, fishing, and anything that involved socializing. He was a self-

taught man with skills that included carpentry, building and fixing anything he put his mind to. In later years, he enjoyed everything involving his children and grandchildren. It brought him happiness to gather for barbecues and yearly trips to Bishop. He loved to watch his grandchildren's sports activities and overall accomplishments. The only time he spent away from his family was to golf with his close buddies. Many would see Chusie relaxing outside in the front yard known as "the wall" where he waved and talked to everyone.

There are not many men who hold the qualities that our dad had. He will be greatly missed and the loss will continue to be felt by all of us.

A viewing was held on Sunday, March 19th from 4 - 8 p.m. and there was a Rosary at 6 p.m. at Greenlawn Mortuary (3700 River Boulevard). Graveside services followed at 11 a.m. on March 20th at Union Cemetery (730 Potomac Avenue).

Obituary published in the March 17, 2017 *Bakersfield Californian*

and more from the editor-guy...

The passing of Chusie Avalos marked a milestone for all of his family members. It should also be noted that his story is also a look at the history of Branch 782 and of the Postal Service itself.

Remembering and honoring Chusie pays homage to an entire generation of individuals who paved the way for an improved life for those of us who followed.

Jesse started his postal career in 1957. Seeds of change which led to the postal strike in 1970 were already beginning to bloom. As is noted in *Carriers in a Common Cause*, a 1956 "...Postal Record reported that 'the average American family' earned \$5,520 a year before taxes while the average Letter Carrier earned \$4,400 — \$1,120 a year less..."

In 1957, it had been four years since there had been a \$400 pay raise. And, there would be no pay raise until 1960. Why? Any pay raises had to be approved by Congress. Because there was no collective agreement in place, Letter Carriers had to rely on "collective begging".

Additionally, changes to the duties of Letter Carriers had been instituted by PMGs Donaldson and Summerfield as they pursued a strategy of keeping postal wages as low as possible.

As indicated in another passage from *Carriers in a Common Cause*, "By 1960, Letter Carriers were having serious financial difficulties. A substantial number of them could not even qualify for an FHA loan to buy a home..." Carriers mounted a campaign to lobby Congress on their behalf and a pay bill was passed in June. But, President "Eisenhower, in his last year as president, vetoed the legislation... NALC lobbied firecefully for a veto override and was victorious. On July, 1, 1960, Congress overwhelmingly overrode the veto — **one of only two of the 169 vetoes to be overridden in eight years...**"

To accomplish such a feat was not something that would have been attempted by someone who was feeble or who would be easily cowed. Although Jesse was serving his country in the United States Army at that time, after his discharge he returned to find a situation that required his willingness to continue the fight for Rights and Benefits he felt were his due!



(left to right) Bertha and Tony Chavez, Ann and Richard Suniga, Chusie and Mary Lou Avalos, John and Penny Wonderly as Branch 782 and Auxiliary 458 delegates to a national convention in 1982. While the photographer isn't known, it may have been Branch 782 member "E.A." Baker.

Through 1949, Carriers had no health insurance because those benefits were not provided for any federal workers. **In 1950, the NALC created its own Health Benefit Program** — that action by NALC Letter Carriers led the way to passage of the Federal Employee Benefits Act of 1959.

We have Jesse and his generation to thank for so very much we may take for granted.

Obviously, where we work today is an entirely different organization than the one where Jesse Avalos found himself in the mid-1950s. If you listen to some of the stories from people who were there, you wonder how they would get away with some of the things that they did.

Disputes between co-workers were often settled "out on the back dock". And, given Chusie's temperment, he wouldn't shy away from situations where he felt that he had been wronged. Accounts of how he would offer "attitude adjustments" were shared at his funeral by the many, now-retired, postal workers in attendance.

One time, Jesse came in from the street. His shirt was torn and he looked a little scuffed. Asked what happened he replied, "I had a problem with a dog. The owner called me an S.O.B. and I couldn't let that go!" That same spirit led him to resolve issues at Branch meetings or picnics that required his special attention. Size or number of opponents didn't matter to him.

Moreover, there were countless tales of how Jesse's generosity and willingness to help others were part of his nature as well. It is perhaps because he was so willing to give of himself that others also invested themselves in his life.

Chusie's story is part of the history of NALC Branch 782. Here is one perfect example which illustrates that.

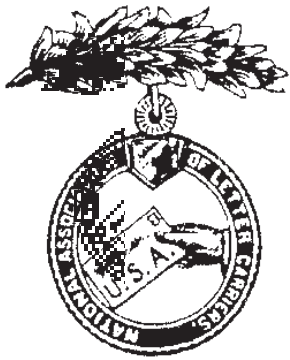
After he added an extra living area to the back of his home, he built an entire second floor. And, he did this with the help of many of his co-workers. One Letter Carrier who showed up to work and drink beer with everybody else as they gathered was Ed "E.A." Baker. (**"E.A." is the individual for whom our newsletter is named!**)

"E.A." (the Reverend) and Chusie would conduct "bible studies" while sipping from their Budweisers during construction.

One day, while working upstairs, he told Jesse that he wasn't feeling well. Taken to the hospital, it was found that he had had a heart attack; and while there, he kept trying to tell others how they had to finish the NALC newsletter. He died there.

The Avalos family know that the ghostly footsteps they hear upstairs are "E.A." and they smile. He and Jesse are probably going to be finishing that bible study...

BASIL ZUNIGA



Branch Officers

President	Mike Towery	(661) 331-9171
Vice-President	John Ortega	(661) 809-8140
Recording Secretary	Kim Gerdes	(661) 834-2059
Treasurer	Molly Biggar	(661) 832-0393
Financial Secretary	Anita Holderman	(661) 487-5353
HBP & MBA	Mark Ramirez	(661) 398-6075
Sargeant-at-Arms	Frank Martinez	(661) 703-4212
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.

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

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

Basil Zuniga, Editor-guy
(H) (661) 397-4330
(C) (661) 205-1603
e-mail: brzii@aol.com

Juan R. Rodriguez, Assistant Editor
(H) (661) 859-5314
(C) (661) 247-5960

The "S.A.N.E."*
Fred Acedo, Cartoonist
*(Special Assistant Newsletter Editor)
P.O. Box 6532
Bakersfield, CA 93386-6532
e-mail: Fred.acedo@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)	Blanca Ibarra	(661) 725-1526
Lamont (93241)	Mike Munoz	(661) 304-5516
McFarland (93250)	Bonnie Whitbey	(661) 302-7354
Shafter (93263)	Norma Hamer	(661) 619-1465
Taft (93268)	Mike Meza	(805) 625-4541
Wasco (93280)	Joanne Layton	(661) 204-4928
Downtown Station (93301)	Teresa Ortega	(661) 391-8026
South Station (93304)	Judy Kiyoshi	(661) 817-5529
South Station Alternate	Darryl Holderman	(661) 487-5353
East Bakersfield (93305)	Paul Salazar	(661) 303-3603
East Bakersfield (Alternate)	Angie Hernandez	(661) 322-4813
Hillcrest Station (93306)	Pam Smith	(661) 979-5854
Brundage Station (93307)	John Ortega	(661) 809-8140
Dole Court (93308)	Shari Sharp	(661) 364-5544
Stockdale Station (93309)	Randy Courson	(661) 345-0256
Stockdale Station (93309)	Maria Valenzuela	(661) 496-5929
Camino Media (93311/13)	Mike Meza	(805) 625-4541
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)	Mike Meza	(805) 625-4541
Ridgecrest (93555)	Lynnel Howell	(760) 382-3030
Tehachapi (93561)	Paula Hogg	(760) 373-8963
Trona (93562)	Lynnel Howell	(760) 382-3030

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

Rick Plummer, Webmaster



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

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

General Meeting Tuesday March 28, 2017 7:00 p.m.

Branch 782 Office
2628 "F" Street
Bakersfield, California

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

Each and EVERY month,
Branch 782 sponsors
a drawing to encourage

YOU

to come to our Meeting*

*There was no winner
in February 2017...*

*This month YOU
could win \$500!*

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

OUT THERE



Memoria in
aeterna

Jesse "Chusie" Avalos

September 12, 1938 – March 9, 2017

Additional details on pages 20 - 21...

Check out the web version at WWW.782NALC.COM. More pages. More "Schtuff". More "Amore" for Letter Carriers!!!