

National Association of Letter Carriers

Branch 782

E.A. Baker Union Update



ARVIN
DELANO
MOJAVE

AVENAL
EDWARDS AFB
RIDGECREST
TEHACHAPI

BAKERSFIELD
LAMONT
SHAFTER
TRONA

BORON
McFARLAND
TAFT
WASCO



CHARTERED FEBRUARY 25, 1901

VOLUME LXXXI NUMBER 4

APRIL 2010

at the



Mike:

Okay, you've heard about it from your managers.

What about the NALC "Fact" sheet to keep in mind...

Eliminating Saturday Delivery is *NOT* the Answer

The U.S. Postal Service faced the worst crisis in its history. It was expected to lose \$6 - \$7 billion in 2009.

Although the collapse of the housing and financial sectors in late 2008 was responsible for the largest decline in mail volume since the Great Depression in the 1930's, the main cause of the financial crisis is the decision advanced by the Bush administration in the Postal Reform Law of 2006 to *require* the USPS to prefund its future retiree health benefits—a 75-year liability— in *just* 10 years.

The cost of this unaffordable prefunding payment (\$5.4 billion in 2009) accounted for most of the projected loss. The annual cost will rise to \$5.8 billion by 2016.

While the NALC is working with postal management to address the crisis with the Interim Route Adjustment Process, Congress must take action to relieve this prefunding burden to preserve affordable, universal service!

Postal management's proposal to deal with the crisis:

ELIMINATE SIX-DAY MAIL DELIVERY.

Continued on Next Page...

This is NOT a sensible solution to the USPS's financial crisis.

The Postal Service estimates that by eliminating one-sixth of its delivery service, it can cut operating expenses by \$3.4 billion or 4.6 percent—not the 16.6 percent you might expect.

The model it used to estimate potential savings is based on many unproven assumptions and did not specifically study the elimination of Saturday delivery, the day most Americans are home to receive packages.

To date, no study has been conducted to estimate how a reduction in delivery days would affect mail volume and delivery costs in the remaining five days or how different types of mailers would be affected.

A study conducted on behalf of the Postal Regulatory Commission suggests that total cost savings by eliminating one delivery day could be as low as \$1.9 billion or just 2.5 percent of total postal expenses.

The Postal Service is rushing to judgement.



In letters to employee groups dated June 11, 2009, USPS management requested input on a study of the feasibility of weekday-only delivery with replies due back by June 19, 2009. In July it informed the unions that it planned to finish its review in *three* weeks. The USPS appeared to be recycling an old IBM study it used for the PRC Universal Service investigation. A more thoughtful and serious study is needed.

The proposed reduction in delivery services would be the most radical change to postal operations in the 230-plus year history of the U.S. Mail. No such policy decision should be made after just a few weeks consideration, much less without a comprehensive study of its effects.

SIX-DAY DELIVERY MAKES THE POSTAL SERVICE UNIQUE.

One of the defining characteristics of the U.S. Postal Service is its policy of nation-wide uniform pricing with six-day delivery. Competitors don't deliver...or charge high premiums for Saturday delivery, while the USPS provides affordable universal delivery as mandated by the Constitution.

American businesses value six-day delivery.

Business in the United States is conducted six days per week—and in many sectors seven days. Small and large businesses alike, from individual entrepreneurs to large-scale financial firms, rely on the delivery of the mail six days per week to operate successfully. Saturday delivery is especially important to growing companies like eBay, Netflix and Caremark, and has long been vital for news magazines.

The elimination of Saturday delivery will make the USPS less valuable to business and accelerate electronic substitution.

American citizens value Saturday delivery too.

Billions of prescriptions are delivered through

OUT THERE



the mail each year—a two-day delay in their delivery would seriously inconvenience senior citizens and others.

Delayed delivery of payments, subscriptions and food products would adversely affect millions of households.

Rural communities would be disproportionately affected.

Americans living in rural areas where the Postal Service's competitors do not deliver or where broadband connectivity is not available rely especially on six-day USPS delivery and would be adversely affected by any service cuts.

Farmers rely on the delivery of seeds and other products through the mail. Citizens who live far from retail outlets need the USPS for mail-order delivery.

Broad coalition of stakeholders favors six-day delivery.

According to the PRC's 2008 study of universal service, parcel shippers, direct marketer, magazine publishers and other major mailers along with consumer advocacy groups and the seven postal employee groups agreed: The elimination of six-day delivery would hurt business and consumer interests while costing thousands of jobs.

So, what, specifically, does this mean to the the people who pay for our services?

Let's take a look at what "They"—one of the biggest customers that the USPS has might have to deal with.

Written by Ethan Epstein, this next article addresses some issues on what a misguided USPS decision could do to the biggest USPS corporate customer and how Postal Service cutbacks could

hurt Netflix's bottom-line...

Maybe Your Emphatically and "Oh-So-20th Century" Brick-and-Mortar Movie Rental Store isn't Dead After All

In the face of naysayers who have long predicted its demise, Netflix has had a remarkable few years. In 2005, the Los Gatos, California-based DVD rental service boasted 4.2 million subscribers and enjoyed net earnings of \$41.9 million. Last year, the company netted \$115.9 million, and its bright red envelopes made their way into the homes of 12.3 million subscribers nationwide. The company's NASDAQ-listed stock price tripled in that period.

Continued on Next Page...

OUT THERE



2010 is shaping up to be another stellar year. On February 25 of this year, Netflix enjoyed a red-envelope day of sorts: It surpassed former industry leader Blockbuster in movie rental revenue for the first time. Meanwhile, as mom-and-pop rental stores close up shop and Blockbuster enters a period of major retrenchment (the Dallas-based company recently announced plans to close 500 stores), Netflix's subscriber base looks set to expand.

Netflix is in many ways the epitome of the 21st century company: It's based in Silicon Valley; it sells its services exclusively online; and, it employs a hip hit of Web-speak in its name. But even as it boasts many of the trappings of a New Economy juggernaut, Netflix is still almost entirely reliant on that most 19th century of institutions—the United States Postal Service. Indeed, Netflix is the Postal Service's biggest corporate customer.

And sadly for Netflix, its big partner is also in the red—the Postal Service lost \$3.8 billion last year.

In an effort to stop the bleeding, on Wednesday, the USPS took the first step toward eliminating

Saturday mail delivery—it asked the Postal Regulatory Commission for an opinion on the matter. (Congress still has to approve the change.) The USPS says it hopes to implement the change in fiscal year 2011.

In addition to eliminating Saturday delivery, the Postal Service has also said that it wants to raise postage fees. If these changes are implemented, Netflix's finely tuned business model could suffer a serious blow.

Among other things, Netflix's success relies on its remarkable efficiency and its affordability. The least costly subscription plan, which allows a subscriber to rent one movie at a time, costs only \$8.99, and the most expensive (which allows the subscriber to have four movies out simultaneously) tops out at \$23.99.

And delivery really is *remarkably* fast: The company generally delivers in just one business day, and has 58 warehouses nationwide, meaning that you rarely stray far from one. A subscriber can expect that if he sends back a DVD on a Monday afternoon, he will receive a replacement on Wednesday. To maintain these speeds, Netflix warehouse employees are expected to process a minimum of 650 discs per hour.

Slower and costlier mail service could put an end to that. The elimination of Saturday delivery would mean that Netflix subscribers will have to endure two consecutive days of no service—nothing to scoff at in a time when consumers have come to expect high speeds and (nearly) instant gratification.

AND SATURDAY IS A BIG MOVIE DAY.

The blogger who runs the online bible for Netflix fanatics, "Hacking Netflix", said via telephone that many subscribers have come to expect to receive movies on Saturdays and may be very disappointed. On the plus side for Netflix's balance sheet, the blogger did note that the elimination of Saturday delivery could mean lower labor costs as warehouse shifts are eliminated. However, as the USPS claims that mail would still be transported and that post offices would

still be open on Saturdays, it is not clear if this is the case.

Higher postage costs will pose another serious problem. Postage costs have already increased four times in the past three years. To combat these cost increases, the company has simply continued to fine-tune its automation and squeeze costs out of its warehouse and distribution network. The company has also slapped on costs for premium services, such as a \$1-per-month fee on Blu-Ray discs. This has eased the cost pressure somewhat, but it's a precarious balance. As far back as 2008, Netflix said publicly that it was considering raising subscription prices. Right now, Netflix needs to collect \$2 per rented DVD in order to maintain profitability and is said to spend roughly 78 cents on postage for each rented DVD.

In total, Netflix estimates that it will spend \$600 million on postage in 2010. A rise in postal rates will obviously skew this formula, and generate pressure on the bottom line. If Netflix can't mitigate these higher

costs through yet more automation, the company will face two options.

It could slow down turnaround time, and therefore reduce the number of DVDs that it sends each month: That is, it could sacrifice speed for affordability. Alternatively, Netflix could instead elect to sacrifice affordability for speed and raise subscription prices to compensate for higher postage fees—a gambit that the company would be loath to attempt in this economy.

Either way, Netflix may have to give up one of its hallmarks: bargain-basement prices or light speeds. And these reduced speeds, of course, will come in addition to the elimination of Saturday delivery. And don't look to the Internet to save this Internet company, either. In recent years, Netflix has increased the availability of films that subscribers can stream instantly onto their personal computers, game consoles, Internet-enabled televisions, and soon iPhones. Currently, some 17,000 of Netflix's

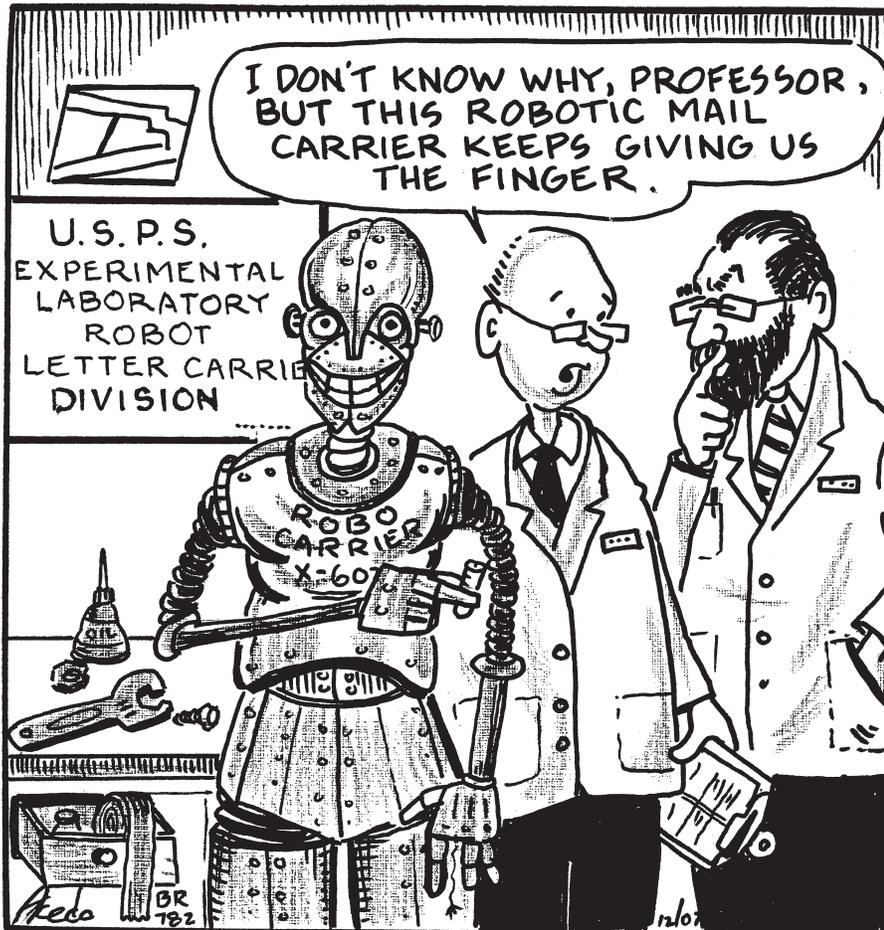
roughly 100,000 titles are available for instant streaming. But while instantly streamed movies obviously eliminate postage costs, they are not a cost-free proposition for Netflix.

Analysts suggest that the streaming technology itself is very cheap—it costs roughly five cents to stream 90 minutes of content—but the licensing fees can be exorbitant. Netflix won't release the data on how much it pays for online licensing, but it can apparently be quite expensive. Dan Rayburn, an analyst with Streaming Media, has said that he's seen some streaming movies that cost as much as \$4 per play.

Even if Netflix did wish to abandon mail delivery altogether, it wouldn't be possible. Hollywood studios actively limit the number of films they allow to be streamed, because they

Continued on Next Page...

OUT THERE

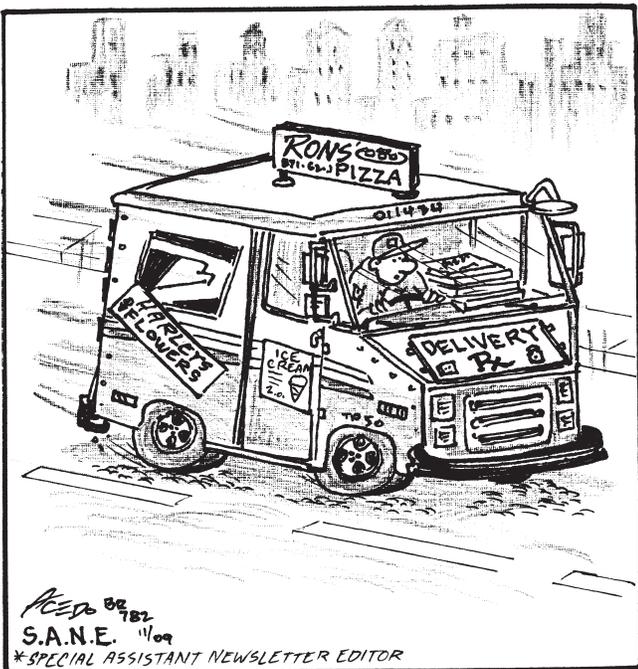


want to avoid cannibalizing their highly profitable DVD businesses. (Studios collect about 80 percent of the sales of DVDs.) That's a big reason why Reed Hastings, the founder, CEO, and Chairman of the company, recently told Bloomberg News that he expects Netflix to continue mailing DVDs for 20 more years.

Ultimately, then, Netflix is going to be faced with higher postage costs and slower delivery speeds.

Maybe your emphatically unsexy and oh-so-20th-century brick-and-mortar movie rental store isn't dead after all...

And, just in case you think that this is about Netflix...



Not just Netflix: Other businesses, people, stand to lose if Saturday mail is cut

This internet article was written by Geoff Williams, a frequent contributor to *WalletPop*. He is also the co-author of *Living Well with Bad Credit*.

There's been a lot of talk lately about the possibility of the U.S. Postal Service eliminating Saturday mail delivery service, and a lot of discussion about what this will mean for Netflix and its subscribers. After all, the U.S. Postal Service is a big part of Netflix's business model, delivering movies to people who want to watch them over the weekend. According to *The Big Money*, Netflix will spend \$600 million of its dollars on the postal service deliveries in 2010.

Obviously, there are plenty of people who think that no delivery on Saturdays is no big deal. *WalletPop* contributor Jennie Phipps wrote in February, 'Who cares if the Post Office ends Saturday delivery? Short answer: No one.'

Well, actually I don't believe that to be the truth. No disrespect to Jennie, but there are plenty of other businesses beyond Netflix and individuals that are going to take a hit. Here's a list of the businesses and people who I think will miss Saturday mail deliveries the most:

Online businesses beyond Netflix:

Hundreds of online businesses send out packages to their customers on Saturdays. Without Saturday delivery, customers who order products on a Friday night will now have to wait until Monday morning at the earliest until their package is shipped out. Granted, the same customer could choose to pay extra and have their order shipped via FedEx, but in this economy, many won't want to spend the extra money. That's where things could prove detrimental to businesses. Customers who shop online over the weekend that know they can't get their product shipped out quickly may hold off on making the purchase or scrap it altogether. Or, they could drive out to a store where they can get it more quickly.

Saturday delivery is a valuable tool in the entrepreneur's arsenal.

While getting rid of Saturday deliveries won't destroy a business it could take a bite out of sales. Of course, it should be pointed out that the while delivery service is slated to be eliminated, the post office will remain open.

Depending how this shakes out—if delivery service is eliminated (and that hasn't been decided yet) — entrepreneurs might be able to drive to the post office and send out their packages from there. That may or may not be feasible, of course, depending how many packages we're talking about. Whatever happens, if Saturday mail goes, it's going to be inconvenient for some business people.

“Yes, our business will suffer if the postal service kills Saturday delivery,” said Inga Vaschenkova, the brand manager at *ItsHotcom*, which specializes in diamond watches and jewelry. “While we mostly use FedEx to ship out domestic orders, quite a few customers request their orders will be shipped by USPS. If we can't guarantee Saturday delivery by postal service, we'll have some unhappy customers, no doubt. Because of this inconvenience, we'll have no other choice but to switch to FedEx 100% for all our shipments... **and USPS will lose our business.**”

Keith West-Harrison, an Albuquerque-based spa consultant who has a business specializing in sustainable beauty products (and whom I know from writing about him in quite a few AOL Small Business articles years ago), dropped me a line through Twitter, saying, “We rely on Saturday service to get our shipments out for our wholesale business. We would be in trouble without it.”

People without Internet access:

Believe it or not, there are plenty of people who don't have access to the Web and online bill payments. Yes, there are still people who mail bills on Saturday, timing it so that the utility or credit company receives their money by Monday. Of course, they can send bills out on Friday instead, but some people are working so hard during the week, consumed with work and family, that they don't get around to paying their bills until the weekend.

The elderly and disabled:

If you depend on disability payments or a Social Security check, then you may have to wait a couple of extra days to receive it. That could make for a long weekend if you're stretched for cash.

Representative Jo Ann Emerson (who represents the Eighth Congressional District in Southern Missouri) wrote a thoughtful blog post on PostalEmployeeNetwork.com, saying that “elderly and disabled residents in these rural counties rely on the Postal Service to come to them, because they often cannot go to the Post Office.”

Magazines and newspapers:

Monthly magazines won't be affected, but weekly magazines that arrive in the mail on Saturday, allowing readers to leisurely pore through them over the weekend, may have to adjust their editorial calendars so they can get their publication to readers earlier in the week.

In rural areas, newspapers are delivered via the U.S. Post Office. “Many of these are papers of record,” wrote Rep. Emerson, “and many more daily papers would lose advertising revenue by being forced to drop one issue per week.”

As if newspapers and magazines didn't have enough trouble already.

Catalogs:

Like magazines, catalogs are probably best thumbed through over the weekend than during a busy, harried work day. For any that are timed to arrive on Saturday, some publishers might be rethinking that.

Freelance contract workers:

Yes, as a freelance writer, I have some experience in this area, but obviously there are freelancers far beyond the writing world. There are freelance artists, photographers, builders, architects, web designers, business consultants—you name it—and many of them get their paychecks delivered through the postal service.

A little over a year ago, I wrote a post for *Wallet-Pop*, griping about the possibility that the postal service might eliminate at least one day during the week. I wasn't thrilled by the idea back then.

Five Day the Wrong Way!

I am sure that on every Letter Carrier's mind is the Post Office's 5-day delivery plan. I don't want to spread doom and gloom, or be a preacher, but...below you will find a few things taking place in Washington that will greatly affect us. I ask you to pay close attention to those items. It is time to educate yourself and to get involved. We are going to need *YOU* to save our jobs.

The NALC'S web site is *your* site. It is there to educate you about all we are involved in. There is a link on the home page titled "5-Day the Wrong Way". It will give you the info on reducing to a 5-day delivery schedule and why we are opposed to it. Under the quick links, you can see the Postmaster General's testimony before the Senate Subcommittee. He admits under oath that if the financial relief we are seeking is provided then we don't need to go to five-day delivery. If Congress were to change the language requiring the post office to deliver six days a week, there would be no legal barriers to prevent the Post Office to later reduce delivery to 4...then 3...then who knows? Zero?

One way to help is to either call, write, or e-mail your Representative in Congress. Ask him or her to co-sponsor House Resolution 173: "Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should

take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of its 6-day mail delivery service." Other ways to get involved include:

1. Sign up with the NALC e-Activist Network to receive periodic e-mail Action Alerts on issues important to NALC members. Join with tens of thousands of Letter Carriers and supporters to make your voice heard!

2. Most important! Sign up for COLCPE (COMMITTEE ON LETTER CARRIER POLITICAL EDUCATION). *ALL WE ARE ASKING FOR IS \$5 EACH PAYCHECK. THE EASIEST WAY TO DO THAT IS BY ALLOTMENT. \$5 WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM YOUR PAYCHECK BEFORE YOU EVEN MISS IT.*

If you say that you already have two (2) allotments, well guess what? We now have three! This money is used for helping get the people we need in Congress—whether it be a Democrat or a Republican. You can go to the NALC web site and sign up, it takes just a few minutes. Or, you can call me @ 661-979-5854 and I can answer any questions you might have and sign you up.

So, you see that much is coming our way. We are a strong union but we can be so much stronger. I urge you to not sit on your hands and let other people fight the fight. Come to your Branch meetings! *GET INVOLVED!!*

PAM SMITH
Branch 782 COLCPE Coordinator

Obama Gets Behind Six-Day Delivery

President Obama's budget proposal for Fiscal 2010, which begins October 1, requires the continuation of six-day delivery by the Postal Service. Also included in the section about the USPS was a pledge by the administration to work with postal unions and other stakeholders to keep the Postal Service strong for years to come. The President's stand on six-day delivery was revealed with the same language used by every President since 1984. In setting the amount in the budget for "revenue forgone"—the amount paid to USPS to cover the costs of free and reduced rate mail—the spending plan says payments will be made "provided that 6-day delivery and rural delivery of mail shall continue at not less than the 1983 level...." The budget proposal also states, "The Administration will work with the Postal Service, its employee unions, the Congress, and other stakeholders to make sure the Postal Service has the tools and authorities it needs to remain viable as a pillar of the American economy and a vital public resource through the current crisis and over the long haul."

While the support for six-day delivery was welcome, language in a separate section proposes changes in the Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) that could be a problem. The

NALC is checking the possible ramifications of those proposals and will act to protect Letter Carriers' interests. These are some key talking points:

The Postmaster General said before the Senate Appropriations Committee that he would not need to cut a delivery day if the retiree health benefit pre-funding reforms and the USPS CSRS overfunded pension fund were addressed.

The Postal Service and the media have run with a 5 day delivery plan that has not yet been subject to review by the Postal Regulatory Commission or received the required approval by Congress.

Universal Service to every household in every community nationwide—at affordable rates—is what makes the Postal Service unique.

Elimination of Saturday delivery will open the door to additional cuts in delivery days down the road and drastically raise the potential for delivery on Saturday by other companies who can deliver packages or letter mail if the USPS is not there.

Further information, including a link to the appropriate budget language, is available on nalc.org.

Finally, I would urge each member of Branch 782 to read the following page and take the appropriate action!!!

Basil, can we also put this in? It's of vital importance that *ALL* Union Members send our message to our Politicians! Thanks!

Protect 6 Day Delivery Alert

PHONE CALL PLAN— Hello my name is _____ and I am a Letter Carrier in (City, State) and I am calling you for something important to me.

I am calling in response to the Postal Service's proposed Action Plan that was released on Tuesday. I want to relay to the (depending on your particular Congressional District) Congressman/woman or Senator Boxer or Feinstein that Letter Carriers in California:

- 1) Oppose the elimination of Saturday delivery. It would adversely affect small businesses, senior citizens and people who rely on prescription drugs delivered through the mail and it would unnecessarily eliminate tens of thousands of good jobs.
- 2) I urge the Congressman/woman/senator to oppose the elimination of Saturday delivery or to refrain from taking a position on it until Congress and the Postal Regulatory Commission have time to carefully study the issue.
- 3) Letter Carriers support many components of the Postal Service Action Plan, specifically the call for Congress to reform the crushing and unfair burden to pre-fund future retiree health benefits that is the main cause of our financial difficulties.

Can you please pass my message along to your boss? Thank you very much.

Once you have made your call, please draft a hand written letter to your U.S. Representative and both U.S. Senators. We ask that you fax the letter and then send it by mail. The letters should be written by you and should include the following points in your own words:

- 1) Say that you are writing to share your views as a letter carrier and as an NALC leader concerning the Postal Service's Action Plan ("Ensuring a Viable Postal Service for America). One of the key parts of the plan is the elimination of Saturday delivery
- 2) But: Use Points 1 and 2 from above.
- 3) Letter carriers support many of the other suggestions in the USPS action plan. For example, NALC fully supports Congressional action to fix the onerous and unfair retiree health benefit pre-funding schedule. The payment schedule was based on flawed OPM methods and is the biggest financial challenge facing the Postal Service — costing \$5.5 billion per year. Greater product and pricing flexibility is also important.
- 4) In addition, we agree with the Postal Service regarding the over-funded CSRS pension fund. A recent OIG study concluded that the Postal Service CSRS pension fund remains over-funded by \$75 billion. A transfer of these funds to the retiree health benefit fund would fully fund that liability and place the Postal Service on firm footing going forward.
- 5) The Postal Service's plan also calls for greater "workforce flexibility." NALC is committed to seeking win-win solutions on all workforce issues in the appropriate venue, which is at the bargaining table. NALC and the USPS have effectively responded to the economic crisis over the past 18 months in a flexible way within our existing labor contract and will continue to do so when the contract is renegotiated in 2011. (For example, we negotiated MIARAP -- an "expedited process to align routes with mail volume levels.")
- 6) Congress should not interfere with postal collective bargaining, and should not make any hasty or unbalanced changes to the interest arbitration process provided for by law.

I hope you will consider the views of postal employees and customers before taking any position on the Action plan. Congress and the Postal Regulatory Commission should be given ample time to study these issues before making any hasty decisions that will strike at the core of the United States Postal Service and its mission. Thank you very much for your consideration.

YOUR NAME AND YOUR ADDRESS

The below sites can be used to obtain contact information (phone and mailing) for your Members of Congress: "www.senate.gov" and "www.house.gov"

DIANA CHAVEZ
Branch 782 Legislative Liaison

Minutes of the March 2010 General Meeting

The regular meeting of Branch 782 was called to order by President, Mike Towery at 7:00 p.m. on the 23rd day of March 2010, at the Branch office in Bakersfield. The flag salute was led by Sgt. at Arms, Jerry Patterson. All members of the Executive Board were present. The stewards were present from Arvin, Avenal, Brundage, Camino Media, Delano, Downtown, Hillcrest, Lamont, Dole Ct., Shafter, South, Stockdale and Taft. Assistant Stewards from Brundage, E. Bakersfield and South were present. Also present was the Newsletter Editor, Basil Zuniga; SANE, Fred Acedo; Br. Photographer, Anita Holderman; Asst. Treasurer, Debbie Guillet; and Emma Gonzalez and Frank Martinez of the Social and Recreation Committee. The minutes of the February 23, 2010 minutes were accepted with no additions or corrections.

REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Teresa Ortega reported that the Picnic is "just around the corner". It will be April 11th from 11 – 4 with dinner being served from noon until 2 p.m. BoBo the clown and the "Face Painting Lady" are confirmed. Basil Zuniga reported that Brundage did a really good job. He thanked Molly Biggar for "cooking the dinner." Next month will be Dole Court's turn. Teresa Garcia has the information for the Food Drive Posters, Mabel Bullis will take care of the T-shirts, she will let the coordinators know the cost.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Andrew Garcia withdrew his motion to donate money for the Softball Tournament. John Ortega reported that the postmaster said there should be enough money in the Social & Recreation Committee budget to cover the expenses for the tournament.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION: Mike Towery reported that effective April 1st Jerry Patterson will be the Steward in Wasco, Mabel Lyons will be Assistant Steward, Gracie Silva will be Steward in Delano and Chris Chretien will be Special Assistant to the Editor in charge of special projects.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION: Basil Zuniga showed the members present a video about the Carriers who didn't go on strike after Hurricane Alicia in Houston Texas in 1983. Ten months after being removed the carriers were returned to work.

Kim Gerdes reported that John Ortega, Pam Smith and Diana Chavez will be attending the LABOR 2010 CAMPAIGN SCHOOL in Las Vegas, April 22-25. The members attending the CSALC Training May 20-22 in Pasadena are John Ortega, Pam Smith, Jerry Patterson, Mike Meza, Emma Gonzales, Norma Hamer, Randy Courson, Frank Martinez and Diana Chavez. If anyone

can not make either training please let Kim know ASAP so that reservations can be cancelled. Mike Towery reported that the Second Steward Meeting will be on March 31st. The Budget Meeting will follow the Steward Meeting. Mike also reported that TE's are not being rehired as their anniversary date comes up.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: Anita Holderman reported that \$13,084.31 was collected for February.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Molly Biggar reported-

Beginning Balance	\$43,599.27
Dues & Income	\$13,136.52
Interest Income	\$ 5.52
Total Balance	\$56,741.31
Expenses	\$ 8,867.11
Ending Balance	\$47,874.20

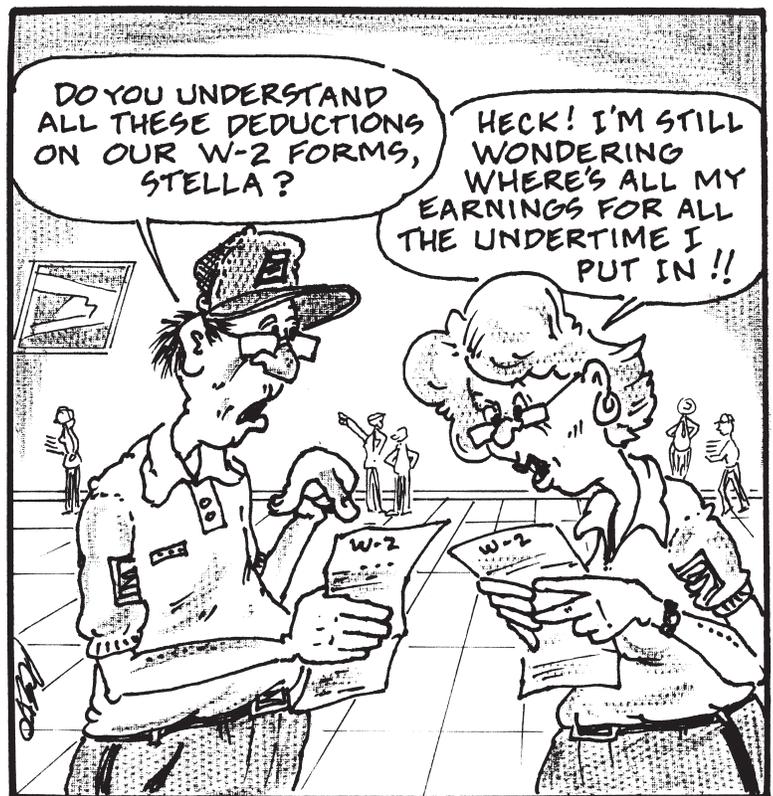
MDA 50/50 DRAWING was won by Shari Sharpe

GENERAL MEETING DRAWING for \$500.00 would have been won by David Bridges if he had been present.
46 MEMBERS PRESENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

KIM GERDES
Branch 782 Recording Secretary



"OUT THERE" - ALCEDO - BR 782, BAKERSFIELD, CA, 2-09

NON-MEMBER LIST February 2010

402 OF THE 427 CRAFT EMPLOYEES IN
CITIES WE SERVE ARE
NALC MEMBERS!

WE HAVE ACHIEVED A TOTAL OF 94.4%.

DOWNTOWN STATION

Dale Pearce
Javier Cruz

SOUTH STATION

100% Union!!!

EAST BAKERSFIELD

100% Union!!!

HILLCREST

100% Union!!!

BRUNDAGE

David Kinglee

DOLE COURT

100% Union!!!

STOCKDALE

James Oh
G.S. Saran
A. White

CAMINO MEDIA

F. Medina, Jr.

ARVIN

100% Union!!!

AVENAL

100% UNION!!!

BORON

100% Union!!!

CALIFORNIA CITY

100% Union!!!

DELANO

C. V. Quebral
L. A. Campos

EDWARDS

100% Union!!!

LAMONT

100% Union!!!

McFARLAND

100% Union!!!

MOJAVE

100% Union!!!

RIDGECREST

S. R. Pierce
H. G. Blanco
L.M. Montano
Y.P. Chea
T.P. Garcia

SHAFTER

L. M. New
M. D. Voights

TAFT

B. W. Krier
K. J. Hughes

TEHACHAPI

V. L. Johnson

TRONA

S. L. Walent
B. R. Dame
K. K. Treat

WASCO

100% Union!!!



Michael Allan Freeman
December 8, 1950 - March 12, 2010

Michael Allan Freeman, 59, resident of Eakersfield and

retired U.S. Postal Worker will have a visitation on Thursday, March 18, from 3-7 p.m. in the Chapel of Beloved Care, 115 18th Street, with an hour of meditation from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Funeral Services will be held Friday, March 19, at 11:00 a.m., in the New Life Community Church, 1820 Gem St., Tulare, CA. Interment will follow in Tipton/Pixley Cemetery with Military Honors.



Now is a good time to transfer to Portland



Thanks to a grievance win Portland, Oregon is now adding 40 city letter carriers through e-transfer. We have open routes so a carrier would be transferring in as a PTF but could opt on a vacant route and would be converted to regular within six months. Now is a good time to transfer to Portland Oregon. Let your Brothers and Sisters know. For more info, contact Branch 82: 503-493-5903

A Tale of Two Picnics

To say the least, springtime weather can be interesting... During the picnic setup, Branch 782 members "warmed up" the bounce house and maze as spring breezes kept picking up. Keeping tablecloths on tables soon became challenging.

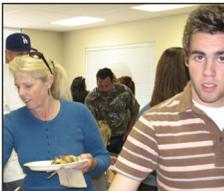
As the winds began to gust and dust, someone noticed that a "rather large" tree branch had fallen...

A decision was made to seek a safer site. "Where do we go???"

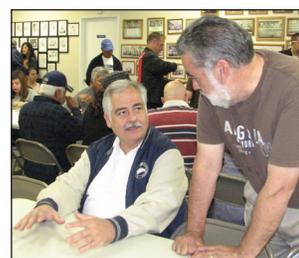
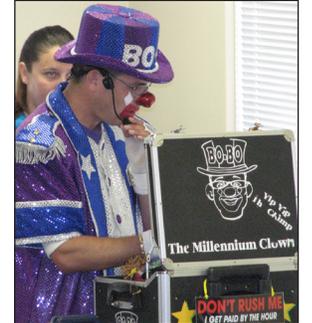
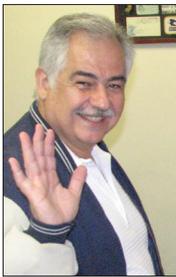
The picnic moved to the Branch office and the party was on!



No...It's not what it looks like! Actually. Really. Truly. Teresa Ortega, Branch 782 Picnic Coordinator, is "sacrificing" her body as she lies on the tablecloths which were threatening to blow away. And...Branch Photographer, Anita Holderman, couldn't resist making sure that her actions were "captured" on film. Ask "Manny" Peralta about pictures...



...And, it most definitely was a



Great, Great Party for All!

More pictures on next page...



...Better Next Year???

It's that time again for our NALC Annual Food Drive which is coming up on May 8, 2010. For the last couple of years, Brundage has successfully raised huge monetary donations each year to help our community. In return, by meeting a donation goal, our management team has graced us with various rewards such as a supervisor/manager delivering mail for a day and washing employees cars during a car wash/b-b-q event.

Not only are we helping our community, we get to see management and employees uniting together for a great cause. We are so blessed to have the things we do have and we don't realize that there are others struggling to just have essential things, such as food on the table.

The economy is getting back on it's feet but not fast enough as people need to continue to provide food and shelter for their families day to day.



**LETTER CARRIERS'
FOOD DRIVE
SAT. MAY 8, '10**



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF LETTER CARRIERS**

**Stamp
Out
Hunger**

FOOD DRIVE

This year, we at Brundage want to continue our past success by coming up with another eventful affair. Please join us by helping us sustain our objective in helping where it counts the most.

We have pitched the idea to have management wear a chicken suit in front of our station but it didn't fly. I wonder why they didn't go for it.

Dole Court station said that some of their supervisors were willing to wash cars last year so why not combine forces this year? We all know they are the most "competitive" station around. Are there any other stations inclined to get on board with us? We have a humongous lot that we all can gather together to celebrate a momentous occasion. When else can we take advantage of management's generosity?

If no one comes up with something new, we can do another car wash or I guess I can keep pressing the chicken idea...



MABEL BULLIS
Brundage Station

Brundage Biggest Loser: Couples!!!

There have been Biggest Loser competitions before I got involved and I'm sure there will be long after me. When I first started this at Brundage in January 2009, I was excited to think that FINALLY, I could not only help change myself but also help motivate others that were in the same "rut" that I was living in. And, we could all strive for a better and much healthier life.

It's hard! When you have been large most or all of your life, it's hard to change anything over night. We see a year of dieting as, "Oh my Gosh! That's a **LONG, LONG** time!!". But, aren't we mostly thinking by November/December...Wow, has a year already gone by? And, then we also think, "If I had only stuck with it, I could be skinnier now."

What will or can make a person change something that they've done all their lives or have known nothing different than being large? Do we just accept what we've done to ourselves after all these years? Do we say, "I'm older now and it's just too hard"? or "My spouse loves me for me so I'm happy with myself as I am"?

Don't get me wrong, if you are completely happy and content with how you look, then that's "GREAT"!!! Everyone should be happy and enamored with themselves. You should look in the mirror and say, "Damn, I'm SEXY"!! I do. But when the clothes start getting tighter and then bigger and you put a pair of jeans in front of you and say, "OH my GOSH! My butt can't be *that* BIG?" And **THEN** when you finally get it on, after sucking up every little air you had, it's actually tight on you. You sit there, slowly breathing so the buttons won't pop off, and say to yourself, "It's time to make a change". Hopefully, our "Couples", did...

On April 1, 2010, we completed our Brundage Biggest Loser: Couple's Edition. Unfortunately, for our station, nobody from Brundage actually won this time around. But I am happy with the outcome by far.

We had a great turnout. Ten stations participated with a total of 94 competitors, ranging from Carriers, Management, Clerks, Rural Routes, even people from the Plant, also with family and friends joining together to make this a "Spectacular" event! The combined total weight was 20,361 pounds. That's a huge chunk of weight!

So many opponents started off strong. But at the end, there were only 2 teams that surpassed all. I'm not talking about little numbers, I'm talking about over 20% weight loss as a team.



The Winners!!! Glenn and Diane Ryder

The winners were both from Dole Court Station. The 1st place winners are Letter Carriers Glenn and Diane Ryder (21.29% weight loss); and, the 2nd place winners are Letter Carriers Jeff Honor and Laura Gordon (20.69% weight loss).

Glenn Ryder lost a surprising 45 pounds. He felt he needed to lose some weight and also needed as much motivation as possible. He picked the right partner that was equally competitive and worked just as hard. He said the first 2 months were easy but after the second weigh in, he knew they were in 2nd place so that's when the competitive spirit kicked in and he went for it. The last month was the hardest thing he had ever done.

Diane Ryder lost a shocking 32 pounds. She too, said that it was probably the hardest thing they've ever done. She was miserable carrying the extra 25 pounds. Knowing that a lot of teams dropped out, their odds of winning some money went up, so that, was motivating to her. Glenn and Diane motivated each other by sticking to their diets and exercising every night. She didn't think that they would catch Jeff and Laura but they wanted to try. They didn't want to work that hard just to get 2nd place. They had a lot of obstacles to overcome such as Valentine's Day, their wedding anniversary, the Super Bowl, the bowling tournament, and Glenn's birthday. Most of all, exercising took time away from their 2 1/2 year old.

Laura Gordon also lost an amazing 32 pounds. She said she had a great partner and couldn't have been more proud of Jeff. He held them up for 2 months straight. She has a kid in college and winning the money is always beneficial.

Jeff lost an astonishing 70 pounds!! Something I can only imagine I will do for myself one of these days. He was the epitome of why people should make a healthier lifestyle change. He stayed motivated throughout the competition because he set a weight loss goal for himself and stuck with the plan until he achieved it. Having a partner was his biggest motivator because he doesn't like to let people down so it made him try even harder. "I joined to change my life. Money comes and goes but your health is

way more important". He stopped eating fast food 3 times a day and changed that to going to the gym twice a day.

They all did a phenomenal job. As a whole, we lost an unbelievable 1,225 pounds. I commend each and every one of the 94 competitors by coming out and trying to change a lifestyle that you're so used to living. Again, it's not an overnight change and it shouldn't be just for the money. For some people it's to look sexy in the mirror but for others it's a health factor. Remember, we only have one life to live. Live it to the best and fullest.

MABEL BULLIS
Brundage Steward

Side note: Round 2?

This was the first Couples Edition and it had a great turn out. But I did hear that next go around, people want to keep it as an individual competition. Some say it was hard for people who didn't have partners that stayed on track and others felt bad letting their partner down.

The combined total weight was 20,361 pounds. That's a huge chunk of weight!

I hear some people want to get another one going. Please call me up and let me know when.

Grand Finale Results!!!

Brundage Station: Stacy Castillo (Clerk) - Enoch Moya (PTF Carrier) 4.98%; Mabel Bullis (T-6 Carrier) - Kaesia Shein (Sister) 3.86%; Maria Gutierrez (Carrier) - Vicki Guerrero (TE Carrier) 16.36% **4th Place**; Juanita Sullivan (Clerk) - Lonnie Sullivan (Spouse) 2.85%; Ruben Gonzales (PTF Carrier) - Amanda Gonzales (Spouse) 5.76%; Kim Williams (Carrier) - Judy Roberson (Carrier) 2.15%; Carrie Kendrick (204B) - Mike Bettes (Management) 5.09%; Yvonne Esquivel (T-6 Carrier) - Oscar Esquivel (Spouse) 1.86%; Beatriz Munoz (PTF Carrier) - Sonya Camacho (Rural Route Carrier) 2.90%; Shurie Amick (Carrier) - Kim Pumphrey (T-6 Carrier) 1.85%; Kimmie Gardea (Rural Route Carrier) - Rudy Gardea (Spouse) 10.84% **6th Place**

East Bakersfield: Jeff Harrington (E.B. Carrier) - Tony Esquivel (E.B. Management) 4.93%

Shafter: Melanie Davis (Shafter Carrier) - Norma Hamer (Shafter Carrier) 7.32%; Amanda Oneill (Stockdale Carrier); Shawnie Hamer (Shafter Carrier Daughter) 0.76%

South Station: Andrew Garcia (South Station PTF Carrier) - John Ortega (Stockdale Carrier) 9.71% **8th Place**

Arvin: Jeri Jimenez (Arvin Carrier) - Patricia Dorsey (Friend) 6.2%; Linda Perkins (Arvin Rural Route Carrier) - Beatriz Nerio (Arvin Clerk) 5.04%; Roy Rosales (Arvin Carrier) - Cynthia Gomez Moreno (Arvin Rural Route Carrier) 5.69%

Hillcrest Station: Sally Herrera (Hillcrest Management) - Alice Nelson (Stockdale Carrier) 14.83 **5th Place**; Carol Newton (Hillcrest Carrier) - Peggy Merjil (Hillcrest Carrier) 7.09%

Stockdale Station: Randy Courson (Stockdale Carrier) - Trisha Courson (Daughter) 1.29%; Caroline White (Stockdale Carrier) - Debbie Courson (Spouse of Randy Courson) .97%; Beatriz Rodriguez (Stockdale Carrier) - Jose Salinas (Son) 9.57% **9th Place**;

Tina Harbour (Stockdale Carrier) - Sheirlyn Sharpe (Stockdale Carrier) 6.73%; Francisca Davis (Stockdale Carrier) - Elsie Florez (Stockdale Carrier) 3.87%; Cindy Flores (Stockdale Carrier) - Alma Marquez (Stockdale Carrier) 3.42%

Camino Media Station: Tina Munoz (Camino Carrier) - Gabriel Munoz (Spouse) 5.49%; Gina Garcia (Camino Carrier) - Mark Garcia (Spouse) 4.04%; Nick Faderly (Camino Clerk) - Amanda Myers (Spouse) 1.09%; Kalle Coronado (Camino Carrier) - Mike Coronado (Spouse) 6.03%; Margie Cruz (Camino Carrier) - Anita Certuche (Camino Carrier) .64%

Pegasus Plant (GMF): Yvonne Garcia (Pegasus) - Paul Pineda (Pegasus) 4.84%; Debbie Heer (Pegasus) - Ricky Heer (Camino Media Clerk) 1.27%

Dole Court Station: Fernando Gonzalez (Dole Court Carrier) - Oscar Salazar (Dole Court Carrier) 8.38% **11th Place**; Jennifer Gonzalez (Dole Court Carrier) - Paul Hernandez (Dole Court Carrier) 10.22% **7th Place**; Laura Gordon (Dole Court Carrier) - Jeff Honor (Dole Court Carrier) 20.69% **2nd Place**; Mike Copeland (Dole Court Carrier) - Dahlia Garcia (Dole Court Carrier) 4.89%; Cindy Jimenez (Dole Court Carrier) - Adolfo Jimenez (Dole Court Carrier) 1.54%; Glenn Ryder (Dole Court Carrier) - Diane Ryder (Dole Court Carrier) 21.29% **GRAND WINNER!**; Hermie Encinas (Dole Court Carrier) - Deborah Jones (Dole Court Clerk) 5.65%; Priscilla Robertson (Dole Court Carrier) - Brenda Rhodes (Dole Court Carrier) 8.66% **10th Place**; Araceli Hernandez (Dole Court Carrier) - Laura Vega (Dole Court Carrier) 5.35%; Mona Renner (Dole Court Carrier) - Teresa Suarez (Dole Court Carrier) 5.03%; Teresa Garcia (Dole Court Carrier) - Sabrina Bonilla (Dole Court Carrier) 7.91%; Sharon Davis (Dole Court Carrier) - Ted Davis (Spouse) 16.29% **3rd Place**; Angie Garcia (Dole Court Rural Route Carrier) - Bex Bougher (Dole Ct Rural Route) 4.41%; Jamie Gonzalez (Dole Court Supervisor) - CeCe Hernandez (Stockdale Carrier) 3.45%

Monday thru Friday 8-5 with weekends off is everyone's "Dream Job", Right????

That is what my desire was when I began my career. I started my career with the Postal Service as a Tour 1 (Graveyard Shift) PTF Automation Clerk. I spent seven years performing these duties, mostly 6 days a week with Sundays off. Not quite the "Dream Job" yet but still a good job. When I switched crafts to become a Carrier, I knew the schedule Carriers worked—every Sunday off and a rotating day the rest of the time with a three-day weekend every five weeks.

Still not quite the "Dream Job"; yet, still a very good job.

If you've been watching the news, reading the paper, hearing your co-workers talk or being asked by your customers, that "Dream Job" may be right around the corner for the Carrier craft, but at what cost?

The Postmaster General has testified before Congress asking them to allow the Postal Service to go to five-day delivery. He stated that the Postal service "could" save \$3.4 billion dollars per year, if it were allowed to do this. The Postal Regulatory Commission stated it would be more like \$1.9 billion. Either figure is a lot of money, but only a small percentage of the Postal Service's operating budget: between 4.6% or 2.5% based on which figure you believe to be correct.

The impact it would have on the Carrier workforce is a higher percentage: 16.6% of Carrier positions would be eliminated (approximately 26,000 jobs). Where does the 26,000 come from? The PMG stated that the Postal Service would get to this number by eliminating the 13,000 TE's it currently has and the rest through attrition.

Some questions that I have concerning this issue are:

1) *How much revenue would be lost, not delivering that one day a week?*

2) *How much OT will be used to recover from the extra day of no delivery?* There will be no TE's to hand swings off to.

3) *If we're not delivering it, who will?* The rest of the country is not going to stop doing business on that one day.

4) *What about our customers who rely on our service?* The Postal Service states that the polls they conducted show that Americans are about 2 to 1 in favor of going to five-day delivery.

Hmmm...let's talk about that poll.

The USPS poll consisted of four choices: 1) Raise postage; 2) Close customers' Post Offices; 3) Lay off employees; or, 4) Five-day delivery. If those were my only options I would choose #4, too.

Anyway, back to my questions: 5) *How many more jobs will the FSS machines absorb?* I do not believe there is any way that the Postal service can avoid laying off career employees if it switches to five-day delivery and the FSS's are implemented nation-wide.

The switch from six day delivery to five day delivery can only be enacted by Congress. It is time, for us—as a Craft—to contact our representatives in Congress and voice our opinions.

It doesn't matter what side of the political aisle you are on. This is about our jobs, not politics. The OIG recently released a study it did on the Postal Service's overpayment of Pre-Funded Retirement Health

Benefits. The figure they arrived at was \$75 billion was overpaid. Our Union has contended this for some time.

The main focus the Postal Service should be addressing is getting this money returned and using it to offset the prefunding requirements that were made in the Postal Accountability Act of 2006.

PMG Potter testified in March 18th, 2010 testimony to the Senate Postal Subcommittee that if these overpaid funds were returned to the Postal Service, there would be no need to go to five-day delivery.

The Postal Service has spent hundreds of millions of dollars to study five-day delivery and now has a website for the public to visit, detailing their plans for five-day delivery. Our Union—the NALC—has also created a website: "5 Day Is The Wrong Way". The website may be reached by logging on to nalc.org and then clicking on the "5 Day Is The Wrong Way" link. Please inform your customers about our website, when they ask about the five-day issue.

Monday through Friday 8-5 a "Dream Job"? Not for me.

Respectfully,
JOHN ORTEGA

OUT THERE



H. RES. 173

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of its 6-day mail delivery service.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 13, 2009

Mr. GRAVES (for himself, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of its 6-day mail delivery service.

Whereas the United States Postal Service has announced that it may need to reduce the frequency of its mail delivery service from 6 days a week to 5 days a week;

Whereas 6-day mail delivery service is an essential service that the American people have relied on since 1912, particularly working families that depend on the Postal Service for the timely delivery of their paychecks;

Whereas Social Security is the primary or sole source of income for many senior citizens, and any delay in the delivery of their Social Security checks would make it difficult for them to purchase even essential items, such as food and medicine; and

Whereas reducing mail delivery service to 5 days a week would inevitably cause not only delays in the delivery of mail, but higher postal costs, due to the many hours of additional overtime that the Postal Service would require in order to handle the resulting back-up of mail: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of its 6-day mail delivery service.

MIARAP?? Re-RAP??

Many of you have had many questions about how recent route adjustments were put into effect. This is my attempt to roll all of the many questions into an article...

The Modified Interim Alternate Route Adjustment Process (MIARAP) Chapter 2—which was dubbed “Re-RAP”—was recently completed for our District in February 2010. The process was created to make routes as close to 8 hours as possible in a declining mail volume environment. The leaders of the Postal Service and the NALC at the headquarters level reached this agreement in an attempt to save the Postal Service. Both sides achieved something in this agreement. The Postal Service saves money and the NALC has a “voice” in the adjustments. This process also helped eliminate the amount of grievances that are involved with a six-day count.

The MIARAP agreement can be read on the nalc.org website in the MRS Index section (M-1703) My partner and I review all of the data for a route for the time period selected. We choose an office time for the route based on three factors: 100% to standard, the regular Carrier’s average and the regular Carriers’ input. We choose a street time for the route based on four factors: the regular Carriers’ average, the base street time, 3999 time, and the regular Carriers’ input.

In all phases of this process, you—the Regular carrier—have a “voice”. The “voice” is what this article is about.

Your first opportunity is in the Initial Consultation Process. My partner and I must agree on the evaluated time for your route and this step is your first opportunity to give us input on your routes’ value. Review the times on your scripts. There are three different sections on the script for you to make comments. Make comments if you agree or disagree with the times shown. We read your comments and look into all issues that we read. The more information you can give us, the more it helps us in evaluating your route properly. You know your routes better than anyone.

If you think your route is short or long give us specific addresses and street names to work with in your comments. Review your Route Information Cards to see the volumes that we used to evaluate your route. Keep

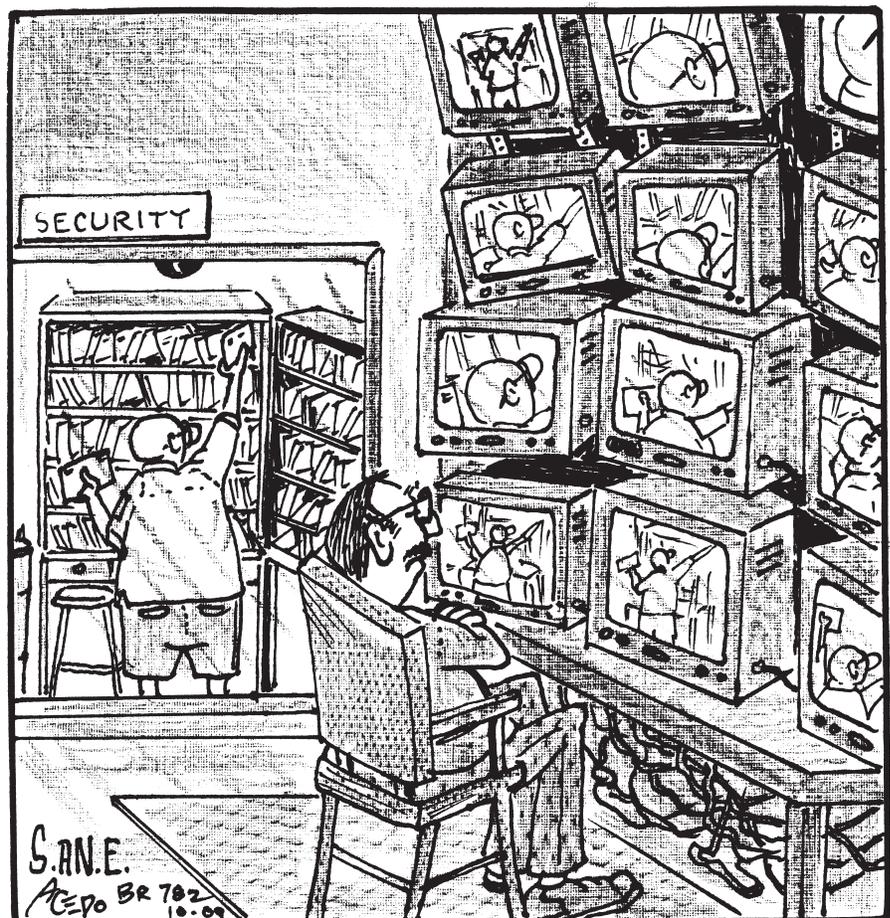
notes if you have to. It is very hard to remember what happened on your 3999 day that was two months ago. Comments stating “No Mail”, “No Parcels”, “No Accountables” are hard for us to sort through. Be specific in your comments, so we can look into your issue. Have your office contacts make comments on your comments.

The second time you have a “voice” is during the Adjustment Consultation Process. It is during this step that you learn what your route was evaluated at and what territory—if any—is proposed to be added or removed on your route. We read these comments very closely. We are looking for any negative comments regarding safety issues, the territory being moved not making sense or two Carriers in same area. As for getting “undesirable” territory that usually depends on where your route is located.

As of today, the new MIARAP agreement has not yet been signed. The info we have recieved is that the USPS and the NALC are waiting for the rest of the nation to complete the “RE-RAP” phase. If there are any changes to the process, I will inform you through the newsletter and our Branch membership meetings.

Respectfully,

JOHN ORTEGA
Branch 782 MIRAP Coordinator





On a cool, sunny, Sunday morning in March, the U.S.P.S. invaded the bowling lanes of Southwest Lanes. It seemed like hundreds of carriers, clerks and management along with family and friends got together and had a “Battle”!

This is the third year I have participated in “trying” to bowl. I say trying because this is pretty much a once-a-year thing. I think I practiced twice before that Sunday. Having said that, I still enjoyed throwing that ball down the lane! South station had four teams in “The Battle”. Here are the results of South’s teams:

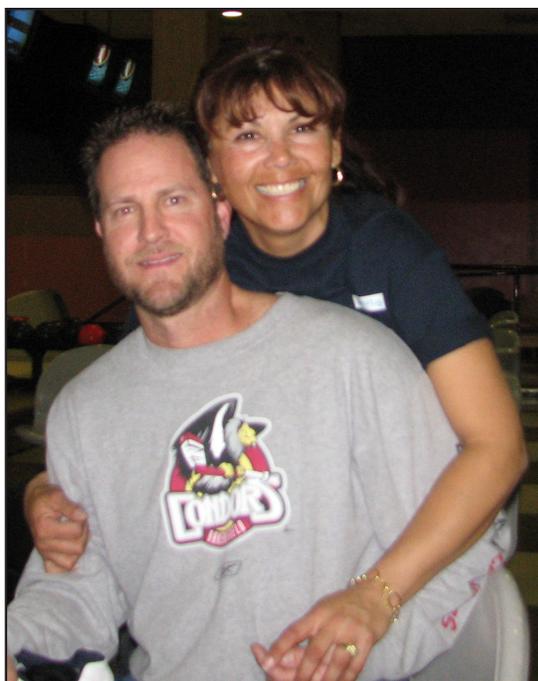


Overall results:

3rd Place with a 638 average—**SOUTH STRIKERS**: Andrew Garcia, Les Shaw, Mike Zaragoza, and Ralph Ramirez



14th Place with a 509 average—**MISFITS**: Darryl Holderman, John Rosso, Tommy Herrera, and Richard Kramer



15th Place with a 506 average—**SPARE ME**: Annette Meza, Judy Kiyoshi, Melissa Kelly, and Amy Panicia



29th Place with a 425 average—**DANGEROUS DAMES**: Tatia Boone, Anita Holderman, Kellie Martinez, and Denise Dilley

Overall top male and female bowlers:

5th Place Male—Ralph Ramirez: 188 avg.



5th Place Female—Annette Meza: 146 avg.

9th Place Female—Melissa Kelley: 139 avg.

10th Place Male—Andrew Garcia: 162 avg.

I don’t know what my average ended up being, but I’m pretty sure I was nowhere near these top bowlers! I would like to congratulate all who participated. I had a GREAT time and I hope everyone else did too! I hope to see more people at the lanes next year!

ANITA HOLDERMAN
A Proud South Station Letter Carrier!



How Did Everyone Do?

Information submitted by Jeff Harrington

CHAMPIONS - E.B. (707avg) George Vaquera, Brian Shellcross, Greg Baraza, Jeff Harrington. (Kentucky St. Kids)		
2nd PI - Dole Ct (678avg) Sherri Sharp, Antony Avery, Jeff Honor, Dean Looker (Dole Ct. Dawgs)		
3rd PI - South (638avg) Andrew Garcia, Les Shaw, Mike Zaragoza, Ralph Ramierez (South Strikers)		
4th PI - Plant (617avg) Cynthia Zamora, Henry Davis, Jason Johnson, Winnie Fortson (Fantastic Four)		
5th PI - Stockdale (612avg) Brian Davis, John Ortega, Alex Dang, John Hardin (Fab4)		
6th PI - Camino (587avg) Mike Meza, Ray Moya, Jordan Merino, Ceasar Rivera (Where's The Beer?)		
7th PI - Auburn (552avg) Pam Smith, Ronnie Mireles, Roel Alaniz, Paul Dietze (Sick Of the Split)		
8th PI - Tehachapi (547 Avg) Carol Whelchel, Michelle Bettes, Rob Brown, Bill Lewis (Toilet Bowlers)		
9th PI - Brundage (530avg) Enoch Moya, Ruben Gonzales, Cassius Hooper, Joe Dangler (Pin Knockers)		
10th PI - Auburn (522 Avg) Peggy Merjil, Vincent Gonzalez, Paul Hernandez, Ralph Clyburn (Over The Hill Gang)		
11th PI - Downtown (520avg) Lana Lewis, Lorraine Clemons, Steve Friedle, Art Evans (Diamond Divas)		
12th PI - Delano (519 Avg) Cindy De Leon, Gracie Silva, Junior Vaquera, Louis Campos (Delano Outlaws)		
13th PI - Dole Ct (511avg) Sabrina Bonilla, Dan Vasquez, Chris Chreatian, Kevin Vandiver (3 Beautys & The Beast)		
14th PI - South (509avg) Daryl Holderman, John Russo, Tommy Herrera, Richard Kramer (MisFits)		
15th PI - South (506avg) Annette Meza, Judy Kyoshi, Melissa Kelly, Amy Paniccia (Spare Me)		
16th PI - Dole Ct (505.5avg) Diane Ryder, Cindy Jimenez, Glen Ryder, Aaron Witherspoon (Pin Heads)		
17th PI - Taft (505avg) Bobby Krier, Tina Phillips, Paul Olivarez, Lupe Brewer (Amazinly Average)		
18th PI - Shafter (497avg) Carmen Vizzard, Norma Hamer, Valerie Tweedy, Isreal (Balls Of Thunder)		
19th PI - Dole Rural (496avg) Frank Herrera, Albert Sanchez, Joanna Weeks, Darwin Mamaradlo (Professional Amatures)		
20th PI - Management (493avg) Mark Hutchinson, Tim Bettes, Steve Blanton, Manual Davis (4584's)		
21st PI - Lamont (481avg) Maria Ramirez, Rebecca Rainbolt, Martin Patino, Martin Garcia (LamontSter)		
22nd PI - Plant (480avg) Chalene Cantu, Rudy Meja, Juan Martinez, Sara Owens (Postal Strikers)		
23rd PI - Stockdale (477avg) Tina Harbour, Cindy & James Flores, Carmen Zuniga, Darlene Medina (Dolls Rollin Balls)		
24th PI - Arvin (459avg) Serina Ornaez, Roy Rosales, Jeri Jimenez, Christina Ford (Kool Katz)		
25th PI - Auburn (458avg) Isabel Betancourt, Ozzie Ruiz, Michelle Minkey, Allan Conners (2 plus 2)		
26th PI - Brundage Rural (456avg) Lisa Wilcox, Kimmi Gardea, Stacy Castillo, Sonia Camacho (Striking Ladies)		
27th PI - Dole Ct (444avg) Jennifer Gonzalez, Lucinda Martinez, Jason Munoz, Paul Hernandez (Wild Turkeys)		
28th PI - Auburn (437avg) Patti Arismendez, Shari Coronado, Bernadine Maestas, John Vasquez (Spare Me the Details)		
29th PI - South (425avg) Anita Holderman, Tasha Boone, Kellie Martinez, Denise Dilley (Dangerous Dames)		
Last Place - EB (400avg) Joy Cordova, Christine Leal, Barbara Gonzalez, Robert Guerrero (Robert & The Brunettes)		

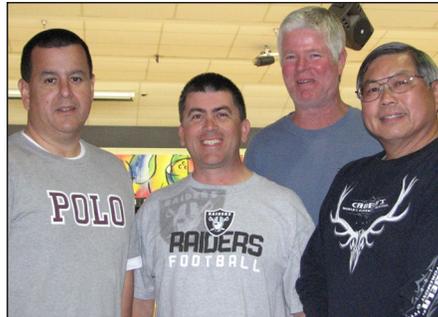




Greg Baraza - Top Bowler!!

Top Male Bowlers

1. E.B. Greg Baraza -229 avg
2. Dole Ct. Anthony Avery -205avg
2. Delano - Junior Vaquera -205avg
4. Plant - Henry Davis 189avg
5. South - Ralph Rameriz - 188avg
6. Dole Ct. - Jeff Honor - 178avg
7. Tehachapi - Bill Lewis -177 avg
8. E.B. - Jeff Harrington - 175 avg
9. Stockdale - John Ortega - 171avg
10. South - Andrew Garcia - 162avg



Top Female Bowlers

1. Plant - Winnie Fortson - 170avg
2. Delano - Serina Ornanlez 151avg
3. E.B. -Joy Cordova -150 avg
4. Auburn - Bernadine Maestas - 148 av
5. South - Annette Meza - 146avg
6. Tehachapi - Carol Whelchel 144avg
6. Lamont - Maria Ramirez -144avg.
8. Dole Ct. - Sherri Sharp - 141avg
9. South - Mellisa Kelly -139avg
10. Dole Rural - Joanna Weeks - 135avg



Top Games

- Jorge Vaquera Jr -249
- Greg Baraza - 247/226/218
- Anthony Avery - 234
- Jeff Harrington - 227
- Ralph Ramirez - 209
- Cassius Hooper - 202
- Bill Lewis - 193
- Andrew Garcia - 191



from the editor-guy

I am absolutely certain that in every single delivery unit in this country, a fellow employee has had to deal with the death of a loved one. And their loss is felt by all of us.

The first hint is usually when we notice that somebody isn't at work. Then, we find out it's because a family member has died. Soon, a card is passed from case to case and we write our condolences. Sometimes, we take up a collection. And, management may even work things out so that as many of us as possible can go to the funeral to pay our respects.

South Station—where I work—seems to have had quite a few of those days when we discover that someone we work with everyday has suffered a loss.

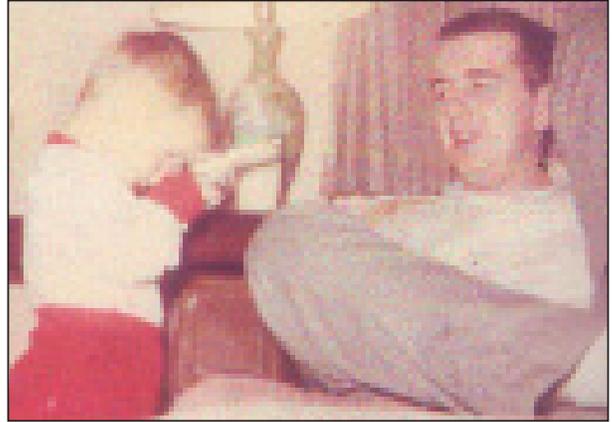
Recently, as we stood in line waiting to clock on, we all noticed that David Bridges had posted by the time clock a page of pictures of him and his Dad. One showed David as an infant. His older sister, Debbie (who eventually retired as a Letter Carrier out of Bakersfield's Dole Court) is in this picture with David.



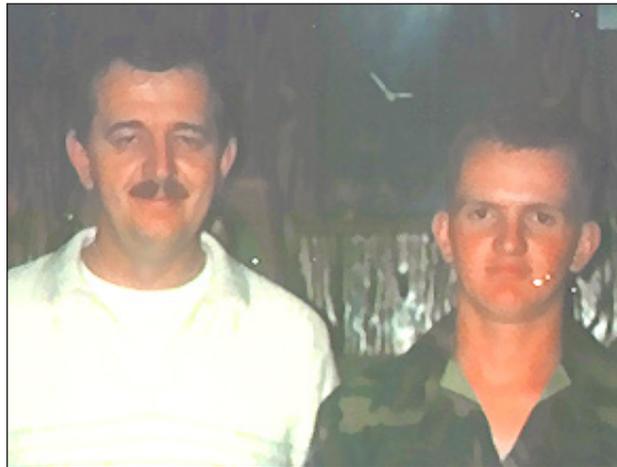
You probably knew her as Debbie Wiles. David laughed as he pointed out that the reason he's crying in the picture is because Debbie was singing. What are brothers for, right?

Also interesting is that David's dad was around twenty years old in that picture. That means he was around seventeen when Debbie was born. He started young!

Other pictures David shared were "slices of life" at different points in life with his Dad. "Caught" forever is a shot of David as he played "Gun-Gun" as his dad tries to relax.



David's father was named Fred Bridges. After spending his early years in Mojave, his family moved to Bakersfield. At age *fourteen*, he started working for the Bakersfield



Rubber Stamp Company. He learned a trade there which eventually allowed him to retire many years later from the Bakersfield City Schools printing department.

David shared that—when he was younger—he was in need of a little "structure" in his life.

So, David decided to join the United States Marine Corps. He served with Marine Airwing

Group-24 from 1979 through 1983 and was stationed in MCAS Kaneohe Bay, HI; MCAS Iwakuni Japan; and Naval Base Subic Bay Philippines after boot camp in San Diego.

A cornerstone for him today is in a line which you may have heard" ***"NOT SO LEAN, NOT SO MEAN...BUT STILL A UNITED STATES MARINE!*** And, to further illustrate his ties to that great organization, every November 10, David always makes sure that everyone knows that date is the birthday of the USMC!

When David's enlistment ended, he spent a few years working in the oilfields. But, he knew that he wanted to find career work doing something else which might be a little different.

Fred Bridges was always a hard worker. His son, David, has carried on that tradition since hiring on with the Postal Service on October 25, 1986. This is evident as he was selected as the 2008 South Station Carrier of the Year. He is always the epitome of what it means to be a professional Letter Carrier!

Currently, although assigned to Route 401, David can often be found casing mail on different routes and preparing them for delivery before he begins work on his own assignment. He does what's needed to get the mail delivered. He is extremely appreciated by everyone in management as well as all of the Letter Carriers and Clerks who work with him.

David Bridges started out his career as a part-time flexible working in the 93304 delivery zone. He finds it a little interesting that *he* is now considered “one of the old-timers”.

He recalls some of those “old” Letter Carriers who were around when he first started out: Steve Gomez, Bill Marchand, Frank Diaz, Don Gomez and Joe Lewis. All of them are retired now. And, when he thinks about it, today he has more time working as a Letter Carrier than some of them did when he first met them... He chuckles when he thinks about Bill Marchand because Bill started working for the USPS around 1959—and David hadn’t even been born when Bill started out as a sub.

Through the years, his family has always been the most important thing to him. Having his Dad around has been a great thing. One special picture shows David with his father, Fred, and Fred’s father “Grandpa Robert” and other family members. Another picture shows his Dad and David’s daughter, Sarah, being strapped into her car seat. Speaking of Sarah...one of the inset pictures with the text from Fred’s obituary shows him taking her first-ever fish off the line.



David Bridges, of course, isn’t the first person to deal with this kind of an event and he won’t be the last. Ironically, John Rosso, another South Station Letter Carrier, is now going through gut wrenching end-of-life issues with *his* father. And this after losing his Mom only about six weeks ago.

However, our prayers and heart-felt sentiments will always be with those faced with life’s difficulties and anguish.

That’s what we do...

Fredric Gene Bridges June 25, 1941 - March 30, 2010

Fredric Gene Bridges, also affectionately known as Grandpa and Papa, 68 years old, Bakersfield, California, was embraced and welcomed by his Lord and Savior on Tuesday, March 30th, 2010, after a courageous battle with cancer. He was born in Mojave, California to Robert and Ruby Bridges. He leaves

behind the love of his life, his loving wife of 38 years, Pam Andreatta Bridges. He is also survived by his brother and sister-in-law Bobby and Bonnie Bridges, sister and brother-in-law Sharon and Bill Timmerman, brother-in-law and wife Don and Rose Andreatta, sister-in-law Myrna Legan, his daughters and sons-in-law Deborah and Max Wiles, Traci and Brian Turner, Nicki and Michael Morris, his sons and daughters-in-law David and Marianne Bridges, Dwayne and Crystal Bridges, twelve grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. He attended East



High School and retired from the Bakersfield City School District as a supervisor for the printing department. The family would like to express their heartfelt thanks to all those who provided such compassionate care and the many others who offered their prayers and support during this difficult time. Fred’s favorite pastime was fishing, and we take comfort in knowing he is in heaven where every catch is a keeper.



Anita

"Bringin' it into focus"



As informed NALC members, you all should know that on the fourth Tuesday of every month Branch 782 has it's general meeting. Information is passed to you, questions are asked and answered, and you may see someone you haven't seen in a while and/or meet new friends who also do the work that you do.

And—just to make sure you know—don't forget about the monthly drawing for \$\$\$ MONEY \$\$\$. This month the amount is \$500!!!!

But, did you know that on the Wednesday prior to the meeting, a handful of Carriers come together to fold, staple and address the newsletters including *this* one you are holding right now? Many bring their kids and they love to help. Dinner and non-alcoholic drinks are provided for all.



Basil, our newsletter editor, has a schedule so that each station takes a turn at the task. You,

don't have to wait for your station's turn.

Come and represent when it's your station's turn and come help on any another month. Come help anytime! The process takes a couple of hours or less and you get to eat afterwards. Basil is extremely grateful for all of the help.



May 19th is the next folding of newsletters with the general meeting being on May 25th. Come to *your* NALC office at 2628 F St. and have a little fun and some great food.

The pictures on this page were taken during the "folding, stapling, addressing, counting, bundling, etc." which was done by members from East Bakersfield Station. (...Did I mention, you WILL be fed?)

ANITA HOLDERMAN



Branch Officers

President	Mike Towery	(661) 331-9171
Vice-President	Darryl Holderman	(661) 332-9201
Recording Secretary	Kim Gerdes	(661) 834-2059
Treasurer	Molly Biggar	(661) 832-0393
Financial Secretary	Anita Holderman	(661) 332-9201
HBP & MBA	Mark Ramirez	(661) 834-5011
Sargeant-at-Arms	Jerry Patterson	(661) 699-2462
Chief Trustee	Lucinda Martinez	(661) 327-2898
Trustee	Bill Curtis	(661) 323-1107
Trustee	Danny Blair	(661) 397-8107

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
brzii@aol.com

Juan R Rodriguez, Assistant Editor
(H) 854-0635
(C) 661-912-7553

The "S.A.N.E."*
Fred Acedo, Cartoonist
*(Special Assistant Newsletter Editor)
P.O. Box 6532
Bakersfield, CA 93386-6532

Anita Holderman, Branch Photographer
(661) 589-1683

Christopher A Chretien (Kree-shun)
Branch 782 Special Project Facilitator
(559) 801-8645

NALC Branch 782 Shop Stewards

Avenal (93203)	Vacant	
Arvin (93209)	John Ortega	(661) 809-8140
Delano (93215)	Gracie Silva	(661) 325-5526
Lamont (93241)	Darryl Holderman	(661) 589-1683
McFarland (93250)	Robert Campos	(661) 805-1034
Shafter (93263)	Norma Hamer	(661) 619-1465
Taft (93268)	Mike Meza	(805) 625-4541
Wasco (93280)	Jerry Patterson	(661) 699-2462
Wasco Alternate (93280)	Mabel Lyons	(661) 900-8892
Downtown Station (93301)	Kim Gerdes	(661) 834-2059
South Station (93304)	Darryl Holderman	(661) 589-1683
South Station Alternate	Judy Kiyoshi	(661) 817-5529
East Bakersfield (93305)	Paul Salazar	(661) 303-3603
East Bakersfield Alternate	Teresa Ortega	(661) 201-3086
Hillcrest Station (93306)	Pam Smith	(661) 979-5854
Brundage Station (93307)	Mabel Bullis	(661) 496-5679
Brundage Station Alternate	Emma Gonzalez	(661) 333-7547
Dole Court (93308)	Mike Towery	(661) 331-9171
Dole Court Alternate	Shari Sharpe	(661) 364-5544
Stockdale Station (93309)	Randy Courson	(661) 345-0256
Stockdale Station (93309)	John Ortega	(661) 809-8140
Camino Media (93311/13)	Mike Meza	(805) 625-4541
Mojave (93501)	Vacant	
California City (93504)	Paula Hogg	(760) 373-8963
Edwards AF Base (93526)	Larry Beem	(661) 949-2280
Tehachapi (93561)	Mary Morphis	(661) 822-6614
Trona (93562)	Vacant	
Boron (93516)	Paula Hogg	(760) 373-8963

Branch 782 Website

www.782nalc.com

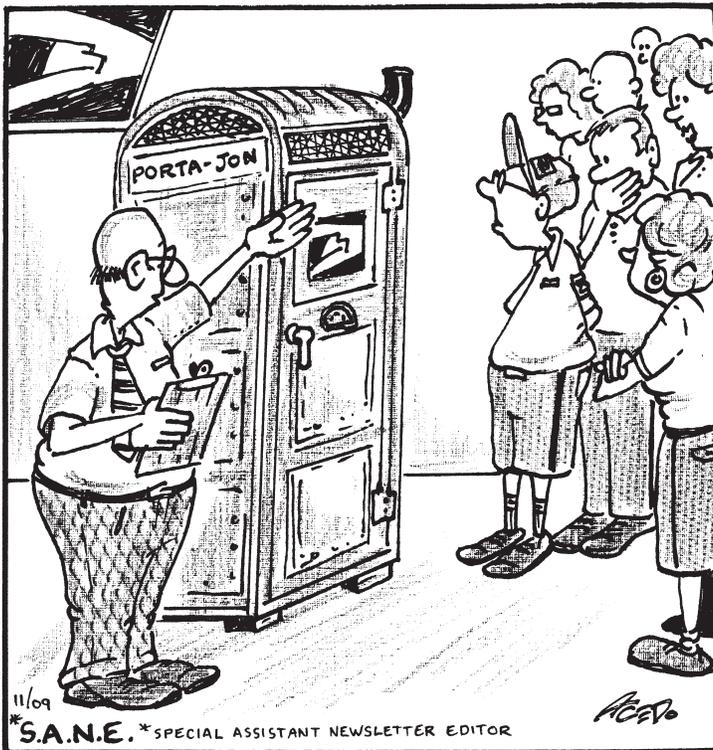
Rick Plummer webmaster@www.782nalc.com



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME-VALUE MAIL—PLEASE EXPEDITE



11/09
*S.A.N.E. *SPECIAL ASSISTANT NEWSLETTER EDITOR

IN AN ATTEMPT TO ADDRESS YOUR PERSONAL NEEDS
THESE WILL BE ERCTED AT EVERY SCAN POINT.

April 2010 Branch 782 General Membership Meeting Drawing

\$500

THERE IS ONE "CATCH"...
YOU HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN.

Come to the General Membership Meeting on Tuesday April 27, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

NALC Branch 782 Office: 2628 F Street, Bakersfield, California 93301