

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



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at the

Mike:



Branch 782 Part of a Terrific Letter Carriers' Annual Food Drive with 101,100 Pounds!!!

Sharp Increase in Food Collected Helps in Time of Struggling Economy, Natural Disasters

WASHINGTON—The annual food drive of the National Association of Letter Carriers collected more than 74.4 million pounds of food to help restock food banks, pantries and shelters around the country—an impressive result rendered all the more necessary by the struggling economy and the multiple recent natural disasters.

The May 11 effort garnered 74.4 million pounds of food, an increase of 5 percent over last year! The total food collected was the second most in the Drive's 21 years, and the increase was the highest in a decade.

“This demonstrates in clear fashion the value of the unique postal network, which goes to 151 million addresses six days a week,” NALC President Fredric Rolando said. “It also shows the remarkable connection between Letter Carriers and the communities they serve—a bond that serves the nation well.”

The nation's largest single-day food drive, the NALC effort is held annually on the second Saturday in May in 10,000 cities and towns in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Guam. From major metropolitan areas to small rural towns, residents put out non-perishable food donations on that day, which Letter Carriers collect as they deliver mail along their postal routes.

Continued on next page...

Continued from page 1...

“Letter Carriers see first-hand the needs in the communities where we work, and we’re honored to be able to help people in need by leading an effort that brings out the best in so many Americans,” Rolando said.

The effort by 1,400 NALC Branches around the country would not have been possible without the contributions of the national partners: Feeding America, Campbell Soup Co., AARP, Valpak Direct Marketing Systems, Valassis/Red Plum, U.S. Postal Service, United Way Worldwide, AFL-CIO, Uncle Bob’s Self Storage, GLS Companies, Source Direct Plastics and the Publix grocery store chain. Rural letter carriers and other postal employees, plus members of other unions and civic volunteers, also helped, as did Family Circus cartoonist Jeff Keane.

“We could not have accomplished this without the hardworking team of partners we have, all committed to ending hunger in our country,” Pam Donato, NALC community services coordinator, said.

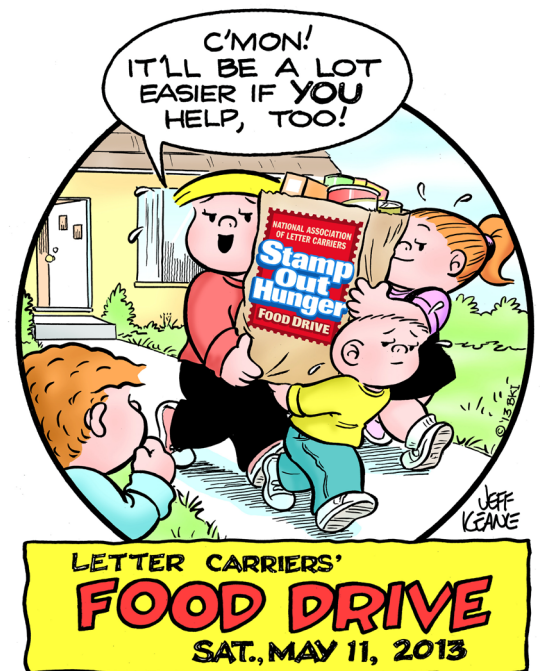
The Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive never has been more important than in these times, with hunger a growing problem—affecting about 50 million people around the country, including 17 million children and nine million senior citizens. Pantry shelves filled up through winter-holiday generosity often are bare by late spring. And, with most school meal programs suspended during summer months, millions of children must find alternate sources of nutrition.

The natural disasters the country has recently endured—including the tornadoes in Oklahoma and Super Storm Sandy along the East Coast—magnified the needs.

Oklahoma residents who contributed to record collections soon became recipients of the public generosity. “Thanks to Oklahoma City area Letter Carriers, nearly 320,000 pounds of food was collected during the Letter Carriers’ Food Drive,” said Rodney Bivens, executive director of the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, a member of the Feeding America network. “These much needed donations were immediately available to families and individuals impacted by the May tornadoes.”

And some Northeastern areas affected by Hurricane Sandy, including in Vermont and New Jersey, set food-collection records despite the hardships residents had been through.

“These events show the good will of people, good will that in such times is both more necessary and more impressive,” NALC President Rolando said.



101,100 Pounds = Branch 782 Record!!!

Johnny on the Spot



On June 13, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA) released what he termed a “discussion draft” of a possible postal reform bill that he hopes to introduce in the near future.

“This discussion draft has a number of major problems that need to be addressed before it is used as the basis of actual legislation,” NALC President Fredric Rolando said, noting how the draft includes many of the damaging and fundamental flaws that were included in H.R. 2309, Rep. Issa’s attempt at a postal reform measure in the last session of Congress.

For example, Issa’s draft calls for the *immediate* elimination of Saturday delivery by “Text-Enhance” mail service—taking away from 35 million Americans door-delivery of the mail and replacing it with cluster-box delivery, and compromising the security of the mailbox by allowing access to non-USPS employees.

The only bright point is this is only a “discussion draft” and he is seeking input from his colleagues in Congress. That opens the door for us all to contact our Representatives and let them know that this is an ill advised plan.

While I know some of you would not object to having weekends off, I hope you believe me when I say that this would only be the beginning of the end for the Postal Service as we know it. Even more damaging than losing a day of delivery is the measure to eliminate our monopoly on the mail box. It would open the door for anyone to start a delivery service and take away business from us. 5-day would become 4-day, then 3-day... and, thus, there would be no full time workforce. This is what has happened to other postal services in other countries!!

Bakersfield is still in the process of doing minor route adjustments in COR. In case you didn’t know, COR is the computer generated program that is “supposed to” optimize the routes in the most effective way. Ask those Letter Carriers who have been “CORed”...

At any rate, South Station minor adjustments are completed and have been implemented. Downtown and Stockdale are completed and are awaiting implementation. Hillcrest is almost completed.

While there have been more than a few snafus doing minor adjustments, I still stand by doing the adjustments jointly (USPS *and* NALC) as opposed to just going through a full blown count-and-inspection. In working jointly, we *do* have a voice in the process. I have never personally been through a full blown inspection, but have heard enough negative comments from fellow Brothers and Sisters that have to know that minor adjustments are a better way.

Finally, there is something else that is very important to address as I close my message this month.

We have a new batch of delivery employees (CCA’s) who have been coming on board in various of our units. They are going to be the next career work force and the next leaders of our great Union someday. We are not the only ones that realize this. Management does, also. And—it seems to me—management is grading them harder than they did when we it was TE’s who were starting out.

We have had a few CCA’s let go already either for performance or attendance. If you can please take a minute to introduce yourself and give them any pointers you might have, they will remember it forever. Please help them survive to become productive, efficient and proud Letter Carriers who allow the USPS to prosper.

Remember what it was like when you first started and who it was who helped you. Pay it forward and let these new employees know one day it will be their turn to pay it forward, also.

Respectfully,

JOHN ORTEGA
NALC Branch 782 Vice-President

Minutes of the May 2013 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 May 2013 at the branch office, Bakersfield. The flag salute was led by Steward Mike Meza. All members of the Executive Board were present except Financial Secretary Anita Holderman, Sargeant-at-Arms Darryl Holderman, and Trustee Lucinda Martinez. The Stewards were present from Arvin, Avenal, Camino Media, Downtown, Lamont, Oildale, Shafter, South, Taft and Wasco. Also present was Newsletter Editor Basil Zuniga; S.A.N.E. Fred Acedo and Assistant Secretary Mabel Bullis. The minutes of the April 23, 2013 meeting were read by Assistant Recording Secretary Mabel Bullis and were accepted.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP: Applications were received from Humberto Rosales and Terry Lynn Lyster.

REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES: Newsletter Editor, Basil Zuniga reported that the folding got done fairly early. Next month will be Dole Court's turn. He informed the members that the web version of the newsletter has lots of color photos and an article about the tornado in Moore, OK. Mabel Bullis reported that fifteen books were sold last month with a balance remaining of 1236.

NEW BUSINESS: Treasurer Molly Biggar has copies of the proposed 2013-2014 Budget for members who would like a copy. The Budget will be voted on at the June meeting, and become effective July 1. Basil Zuniga presented retired Carrier Luther Lane with a color copy of the newsletter. Mike Towery thanked Basil for putting together the article about Luther and his wife. John Ortega presented newly retired Mary Breeding a color copy of the newsletter with photos of her retirement party.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION: Mike Towery reported that the Plant will move on June 1st. The 935 zip codes will move, the 933 and 932 will remain in Bakersfield until June 2014. There will be no Clerks excessed to the Carrier craft this year. There has been discussion



about selling the GMF. Mike reported that the Local Negotiations are finished and he thanked all those who helped with them.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION: Mike Towery thanked Shari Sharp and Norma Hamer for all their work on the Food Drive. They did a great job! The branch total so far is 101,101 pounds. Norma and Shari presented a certificate to the Food Drive Coordinators who were present from South and Brundage stations. Mark Ramirez presented Kim Gerdes with a color copy of the poem he wrote in the newsletter. Mike Towery talked about the tornado effects on the Carriers in Moore, OK.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: Anita Holderman will report at the June meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Molly Biggar reported:

Beginning Income	\$73,921.87
Dues and Income	\$12,139.63
Interest Income	\$ 6.10
Total Balance	\$86,067.60
Total Expenses	\$14,061.38
Ending Balance	\$72,006.22

The 50/50 Drawing was won by Norma Hamer.

Mark Ramirez donated chocolates to be raffled. They were won by Mabel Bullis, Bill Marchaund, Ralfie Ochoa, Barbara Wiles and Norma Hamer.

Mike Towery presented Stephanie MacLaughlin with a color copy of the newsletter with photos of her retirement party.



The Drawing for \$500.00 would have been won by Alex Dang if he had been present.

There were 31 members present.

The meeting adjourned at 7:37.

Respectfully Submitted,

KIM GERDES
NALC Branch 782 Recording Secretary

Editor-guy Note: A big Thank You to Norma Hamer and her I-Phone for these pictures from the May meeting which are on pages 2 and 3!



\$500?

YOU have a chance to win!

What do YOU have to do???

Attend the Branch 782 meeting on June 25, 2013.

And? We'll probably have your picture somewhere, too...

NON-MEMBER LIST JANUARY 2013

If we all don't stick together now, there's going to be no one left to blame... We ALL should be Carriers in a Common Cause. Really? YES!!

AVENAL (93203)
100% UNION!!!

DOLE COURT (93308/12)
S. Hancock
D. Morris

ARVIN (93209)
100% UNION!!!

STOCKDALE (93309)
J. Oh

DELANO (93215)
L. A. Campos
C. V. Quebral

CAMINO MEDIA (93311/13)
100% UNION!!!

LAMONT (93241)
100% UNION!!!

MOJAVE (93501)
100% UNION!!!

McFARLAND (93250)
100% UNION!!!

CALIFORNIA CITY (93504)
100% UNION!!!

SHAFTER (93263)
L. M. New
M. D. Voights

BORON (93516)
100% UNION!!!

TAFT (93268)
M. R. Marin
B. W. Krier
K. J. Hughes

EDWARDS AFB (93526)
100% UNION!!!

WASCO (93280)
100% UNION!!!

TRONA (93562)
100% UNION!!!

DOWNTOWN (93301)
S. Kirby
J. Cruz

RIDGECREST (93555)
B. J. Leroy
L. M. Montano
H. G. Blanco
S. R. Pierce

SOUTH STATION
(93304)
100% UNION!!!

EAST BAKERSFIELD
(93305)
100% UNION!!!

HILLCREST (93306)
100% UNION!!!

BRUNDAGE (93307)
D. Kinglee



**We are an "Open Shop".
MEMBERSHIP IS VOLUNTARY.
366 Letter Carriers are in the complement
assigned to cities represented by
our Branch. ONLY 17 ARE NON-MEMBERS.
We are 95.4% organized!**

2013 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
**Drug Prescription Retail	1-800-933-6252
CVS/CareMark Specialty Pharmacy	1-800-237-2767
Durable Medical Equipment	1-888-636-6252
NURSE ASSISTANT (24/7)	1-877-220-6252
CVS/CareMark Pharmacist	1-888-636-6252
Enhanced Eldercare Services (24/7)	1-877-468-1016
CIGNA PPO Dr's & Facilities	1-877-220-6252
CIGNA Transplant Approval	1-800-668-9682
Quit Power (Smoking Cessation)	1-877-521-0244
CIGNA Health Rewards (Discounts)	1-800-558-9443
CIGNA Dental Discount Program	1-877-521-0244
Disease Management Program	1-800-227-3728
MEDICARE Managed Care Plan	1-800-633-4277
OPM Retirement Info Center	1-888-767-6738
Federal Information Center	1-800-688-9889
Social Security Administration Info	1-800-772-1213
PostalEase Human Resources USPS	1-877-477-3273
Quest Lab Services (Bakersfield)	(661) 631-8520
LabCorp Lab Services	(661) 631-9258
Shared Services (Retirees Info!!!)	(661) 477-3273

NALC Health Benefit Plan
20547 Waverly Court
Ashburn, Virginia 20149

NALC Prescription Drug Program
P.O. Box 94467
Palatine, Illinois 60094-4467

NALC Drug Prescription "Claims" Program
P.O. Box 521926
Phoenix, Arizona 85012-2192

Optimum Health Behavioral Solutions
P.O. Box 30755
Salt Lake City, Utah 84130-0755
Questions: 1-877-468-1016

"Non"-Medicare Claims Submit to CIGNA
(Payor I.D. 62308) or mail to
P.O. Box 18804, Chatanooga, TN 37422-8004.

* Failure to pre-certify for in-patient hospitalization will result in a \$500 reduction in benefits paid by our Plan. **YOU MUST** notify the Plan prior to undergoing radiology/imaging with doctor name and dates. Call: 1-877-220-6252.

** NALC Drug Prescription Program is **MANDATORY** generic (unless specified by your doctor, at additional cost to member). Preferred retail pharmacy 1st and 2nd fills, you pay 20% of cost of generic/30% of name brand/45% non-formulary. MAIL ORDER/CVS PRESCRIPTIONS (when NALC is primary): 60 day supply \$8 generic, \$43 name brand, \$58 non-formulary; 90 day supply \$12 generic, \$65 name brand, \$80 non-formulary; **MEDICARE PROGRAM** (when Medicare is primary) Retail network pharmacy: you pay 10% of cost of generic, 20% of formulary, 30% non-formulary. **MEDICARE PRIMARY** (mail order); 60 day supply \$7 generic, \$37 formulary, \$52 non-formulary; 90 day supply \$10 generic, \$55 formulary, \$70 non-formulary; 90 day supply \$4 for NALCSELECT generic (certain drugs); 90 day supply \$4 for NALCPREFERRED generic (certain drugs); NALCSENIOR generic antibiotics are available **FREE** for a 30 day supply, when Medicare is primary (certain antibiotics only).

MAIL ORDER SPECIALTY DRUGS (Bio-Tech drugs—**VERY EXPENSIVE**): **Your** cost for a 30 day supply is \$150; 60 day supply is \$250; and, 90 day supply is \$350. Some drugs (e.g. bio-tech asthma, diabetes, organ rejection, etc.) require prior approval before dispensing. You **MUST** call the Plan 1-800-237-2767.

Our PPO doctors and facilities—through CIGNA—save us and the Plan thousands of dollars and it is top notch care at a discount rate. You don't lose anything. You are saving money for the best care!!! For example: *CIGNA Weight Loss Program (877) 220-6252

Mark Ramirez, NALC Branch 782 HBP Rep.
(661) 834-5011

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

Preferred Provider (PPO) Deductible:
\$300 Individual,
\$600 Self & Family—
Per Calendar Year

Some Websites for You...

Center for Disease Control	http://www.cdc.gov
American Public Health Assoc.	http://www.alpha.org
American Cancer Society	http://www.cancer.org
American Heart Association	http://americanheart.org
American Lung Association	http://www.lunusa.org
Diabetes Foundation	http://www.diabetis.org
YOUR Personal Health Record	http://www.nalc.org/depart.hbp
Asthma Information Center	http://www.ama.assn.org/special/asthma

Accupuncture!! Must be a state licensed or certified accu-puncturist. Chiropractic! State licensed chiropractor or D.O.

Check out this PPO: Sendas Northwest Urgent Care
3409 Calloway Suite 101
Bakersfield, California 93312
Phone: (661) 587-2500
Hours: M-F 8:00 am - 9:00 pm; Sat & Sun 9:00 am - 7:00 pm

Useful reminders and information for members

By Franklin Woo, NALC Health Benefit Plan Representative

During the 2012 Open Season, the NALC Health Benefit Plan (NALC HBP) picked up approximately 3,331 new members for 2013. Congrats to the Plan and to those who have joined their Union Owned / Union Operated health benefit plan! Branch 214 picked up about 20 new members for 2013. Also, a lot of thanks should go to those members who have remained with the NALC Health Benefit Plan. Please note that Branch 214 still has many members that have remained with the Plan since 1960! Thank you very much for your continuing loyalty and support for the NALC!



Identification cards for new enrollees

The NALC Health Benefit Plan will send you an identification (ID) card when you enroll. You should carry your ID card with you at all times. You must show it whenever you receive services from a Plan provider or fill a prescription at an NALC CareSelect retail pharmacy.

By now, all new enrollees for 2013 should have received their ID cards. If you haven't received your ID cards for whatever reasons or if you need replacement cards, please call the NALC HBP (toll-free) at 1-888-636-NALC (6252) and ask to speak with a Customer Service Representative (CSR) during business hours (8:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M., EST).

Our health plan once again picked up new members for 2013.

The 'effective date' of coverage for all Active employees is 01/12/2013. The 'effective date' of coverage for all Retirees / Annuitants is 01/01/2013.

Please note that **all** ID cards for the members and their eligible dependents will **only** show the names of the members and not that of any dependents. Also, take a few moments to look over both sides of your ID card. It gives you important information. For example, on the back side of the ID card, it tells your medical provider where to submit your medical claims. Next, it reminds

providers that they must call (1-877-220-6252) to precertify any outpatient high tech radiology before scheduling procedure.

Precertification of radiology/imaging services

The following outpatient radiology/imaging services need to be precertified:

- CT/CAT - Computerized Axial Tomography;
- MRI - Magnetic Resonance Imaging;
- MRA - Magnetic Resonance Angiography;
- NC - Nuclear Cardiac Imaging Studies; and
- PET - Positron Emission Tomography.

Exceptions

You do not need precertification in these cases:

- You have another health insurance that is the primary pay-or including Medicare Part A & B or Part B only.
- The procedure is performed outside the United States;
- You are admitted to a hospital; or
- The procedure is performed as an emergency.

Warning

The NALC HBP may deny benefits if your provider fails to precertify these radiology procedures.

Physician care

If the NALC HBP is primary and if you are calling a doctor's office for the first time for a possible appointment, ask the receptionist if the doctor *belongs* to the CIGNA PPO network. To double check this, you could also call the Provider Locator at 1-877-220-6252 (this information is on the back of your ID card). Your copayment per visit with a doctor belonging to the CIGNA PPO network is \$20.

For any possible health plan changes or related questions outside of the annual Open Season

For active employees, you can contact the Human Resource Service Center (HRSC) at 1-877-477-3273 and listen to the available options.

For Retirees/Annuitants, you can contact the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) at 1-888-767-6738 and listen to the available options.

Further assistance

To further your better understanding of what the NALC Health Benefit Plan can do for you and your family members, please review your 2013 NALC HBP brochure and its attachment. Please contact the home office toll-free (1-888-636-6252) or leave me a message at 1-415-362-0214 for any assistance. Thank you for belonging to your own plan, the NALC Health Benefit Plan for 2013.

Article courtesy of the May - June 2013 issue of *The Voice* published by NALC Branch 214 in San Francisco, CA.

from the editor-guy

I got an e-mail from Mario Muniz the other day. Let me share it with you.

"Wed, Jun 5, 2013 2:48 pm

Basil, Homer Ruiz called me a while ago and wanted to know if it was Frank Tesch 'The Old German' that just passed away. Can you confirm it? Let me know. Brother, Hope you're doing well.

S/F Mario"

I hadn't heard anything. However, I did receive an e-mail later from Frank's son.

"Wed, Jun 5, 2013 9:03 pm

Hi Basil,

Just to let you know that dad died Saturday afternoon at Rosewood.

Services will be graveside at Greenlawn on River Blvd this Tuesday, 6/11 at 9:00 am. If anyone from the PO or any his coworkers would like to attend it would be appreciated.

The service will be small & brief with no viewing scheduled and with a hope to have military honors."

I realize that most of you probably don't remember working with Frank Tesch. But, I think that I would honor him by letting you know a few things about him.

Frank Tesch was an "old timer" when I started delivering mail in the late 1970's. I mean he was *REALLY* an old timer! I mean he had been carrying mail over thirty years!

Wait a minute. I've been carrying mail for over thirty years. Hmm...

But, I never knew about Frank's personal story because he never shared it. I didn't know that he was a WWII Veteran. I certainly didn't know that he had fought on Guadalcanal. And,

because he was an old timer, he didn't really have much to do with a guy like me who was just walking in the door.

On the other hand, he might not have had much to do with me because one of the first things that I started doing when I started working for the USPS was letting my hair grow. It grew and grew. Pretty soon I had a pony tail. And my beard got pretty long, too. Looking at some of those pictures makes me laugh now.

(In my defense: I had worked every day after school and weekends from my sophomore year in high school until my sophomore year in college at a grocery store in Wasco. The owner was also a WWII veteran who insisted that his male employees have short hair, wear ties or bow ties during work hours—and who would absolutely not have allowed *any* kind of facial hair. And this was in the 1960's and 70's...Woodstock, Jimi, etc. After six years in the Coast Guard, all that hair I had was just making up for lost time!)

Frank was always a serious, "Business First" kind of guy. I remember the first time that I really saw him smile. I mentioned to him that it was my birthday. The date was August 26. He asked me what I'd said. So I repeated to him that it was my birthday. He told me that in all of his years in the military and with the Post Office he'd never met anyone else who shared that same day as a birthday with him.

Somehow that seemed to change our relationship. I'm glad about that.

Moreover, I am fascinated now to explore some of the things that were in Frank's background. He was a young nineteen year old kid when he was getting bombed and strafed at Schofield Barracks. He was in his early 20's when he was involved in all of the battles that the "Tropic Lightning" was involved in. I never knew *that* Frank.

Written words can never adequately capture the essence of who a person is. However, I think that you will appreciate Frank if you read what's on the next page.

I want to thank Mario Muniz for a number of things. Thank You, Mario for letting me know about Frank's death. And, Thank You, for being able to attend Frank's funeral! I tried. I asked my supervisor if she might be able to let me go. Didn't work out. Thank You—also—for your "report" about Frank's funeral. Your comments motivated me to give honor to Frank Tesch for his service to the country as a combat infantryman.

BASIL R. ZUNIGA

Basil just wanted to report to you about Frank Tesch's funeral.

Only four retired Postal Service people made it to the funeral: Frank Thomasy, Homer Ruiz, Zeke Lopez and me.

I met all three of Frank's sons. One came all the way from Georgia. Frank went with full military services and our Kern County Associated Veterans Group did the services.

It was a short service, but I was honored to be there to show my respect to a *real* WWII American hero. *THAT* is what Frank Tesch was to me—as was my father. They both belonged to "The Greatest Generation" and were true American Heroes of our great country!

Semper Fi!

**MARIO MUNIZ
Retired Branch 782 Letter Carrier
and a USMC Vietnam Veteran**

Franklin (Bud) W. Tesch

August 26, 1922–June 11, 2013

Franklin (Bud) W. Tesch Frank was born in Schofield Wisconsin. He was one of seven children born to William & Helen Tesch including Muriel, Darrell (Butch), Joann, Nancy, Robert and Dawn.

Frank joined the US Army May 1941 when he was nineteen years old and was initially stationed at Schofield Barracks with the 25th Infantry in Hawaii. After the air attack on Pearl Harbor and Schofield Barracks on December 7, 1941, the 25th Infantry moved to beach positions for the defense of Oahu concentrating on Honolulu. Following this defensive position, and with added intensive training, the 25th was eventually tasked with relieving Marines near Henderson Field on Guadalcanal. First elements landed near the Tenaru River on 17 December 1942, and engaged in combat 10 January 1943. They participated in the seizure of Kokumbona and the reduction of the Mount Austen Pocket in some of the most bitter fighting of the Pacific campaign.

The 25th Infantry, under the Northern Landing Force, took part in



the capture of Vella Lavella, 15 August to 15 September 1943. Meanwhile, other elements landed on New Georgia, took Zieta, marched

through jungle mud for 19 days, and captured Bairoko Harbor, winning the island. Elements cleared Arundel Island, 24 September 1943, and Kolombangara island with its important Vila Airport, 6 October.

Organized resistance on New Georgia ended, 25 August, and the division moved to New Zealand for rest and training, last elements arriving on 5 December. The 25th was transferred to New Caledonia, 3 February-14 March 1944 for continued training.



The division landed in the San Fabian area of Luzon, 11 January 1945, to enter the struggle for the liberation of the Philippines. It drove across the Luzon Central Plain, meeting the enemy at Binalonan, 17 January. Moving through the rice paddies, the 25th

occupied Umingan, Lupao, and San Jose and destroyed a great part of the Japanese armor on Luzon. On 21 February, the division began operations in the Caraballo Mountains. It fought its way along Highway No. 5, taking Digdig, Putlan, and Kapintalan against fierce enemy counterattacks and took Balete Pass, 13 May, and opened the gateway to the Cagayan Valley, 27 May, with the capture of Santa Fe. Until 30 June, when the division was relieved, it carried out mopping-up activities.

The division's rapid movements during its campaigns led to the adoption of the nickname "Tropic Lightning".

Frank continued his service in the South Pacific including areas in New Georgia, New Caledonia and New Zealand until the end of 1944. Frank was very proud of his service to our country.

After demobilization in June 1945, Frank returned home to Wausau, Wisconsin in late 1945 where he soon met his wife-to-be Ruth Schulz. After their marriage they moved briefly to Phoenix, Arizona and then relocated to Bakersfield in 1948. Frank and Ruth raised three sons, David, Anthony and Michael at their home in Bakersfield on Castro Lane.

Frank briefly worked for the Bakersfield Police Department before joining the US Postal service where he was a Letter Carrier for over 30 years in Central and East Bakersfield.

Frank and Ruth were married over 60 years until Ruth's death in September 2008. Frank passed away in Bakersfield California June 1, 2013 and is survived by his sisters Dawn and Nancy; his three sons, David, Anthony and Michael; three grandchildren, Megan, Stefanie and Samantha; and many nieces, nephews and great-grandchildren. Graveside services were held in Bakersfield at Greenlawn Cemetery on River Boulevard, Tuesday June 11 at 9:00 am.

(Editor-guy note: Info and pictures adapted from information courtesy of www.bakersfield.com/obits and various other web sources.)



Shoulder sleeve insignia; The overall shape represents a taro leaf, indicating the division's Hawaiian origin

In Memorium

Frank W. Tesch

from the editor-guy

Each month, there is way too much information to put in our newsletter. However, this web version gives me the chance to share something from other parts of our NALC world.

BASIL ZUNIGA



How Screwed Up Is Today's Postal Service?

Vice President
Ron Kania

How's that for a conversation starter among letter carriers? I will wait while you answer that question. Having worked for the postal service for many years, nothing really surprises me anymore. Yes, I still shake my head on a near daily basis on how the postal service is operating. I often ask aloud, what are they trying to do, ruin the USPS? It seems there is always some Wile E. Coyote who thinks they have come up with some great "new" idea that will help the postal service; when in fact their idea does nothing positive for the USPS. I can't remember the last good idea that came from the management ranks. Most of the good ideas come from people that do the work or people that are truly interested in seeing that the USPS survives for many decades to come.

The latest proof that the postal service is truly screwed up is the manner in which they are treating the new hires. Come to think of it they don't treat the career employees much better. This has to change.

Management is hiring CCAs as fast as possible not caring what the outcome will be of processing too many new hires too quickly. The postal service would be stupid not to use as many CCAs as our National Agreement allows. Strictly from a cost perspective it makes sense to maximize that group of workers. I am concerned that hiring this many people at such an accelerated pace will result in far too many new hires not being given every opportunity to be successful in their new jobs. The result will be a higher than normal turnover rate.

I remember when I first got hired. Everything postal was new. You needed to learn quickly on what needed to be done each day. You only know what people would take the time to teach you. If you were never told where the throwback case was you may never find it. If no one told *what* the throwback case was you would never go look for it. If no one explained to you that you need to deviate in order to deliver your domestic guaranteed Express Mail by noon you would never know that it needs to be done. The same holds true for today's new hires.

As a new employee everyday brought a new challenge. It seemed like I would be assigned a new route every day. I recall how happy I would be on those rare occasions when I would actually get the same route on consecutive days. I am sure the same applies to many CCAs. Fortunately for the new CCAs we have numerous residual vacancies and as such I would expect that some CCAs are on the same routes over and over again.

When I first started it was expected that the senior PTF would look up the new PTF to see how they were progressing. Management did not tell the PTF to check on the new carrier; the carriers took it upon themselves to look out for each other. I remember Paul Mueller looking me up on more than one occasion in the beginning (there were others too, but I think Paul was the senior PTF at the station). Sometimes he would take a block or so from me if I was behind and other times he was just checking on me. Paul, I hope that I thanked you back then when you would stop to check up on me. I may not have because I was trying to learn the job, so if I didn't, I want to say it now, Thank you. You don't know how much you helped me. Having someone stop by just to see how I was doing made me feel like this would be a good place to work. When I became the senior PTF I would look up the new PTF just as Paul did with me.

Fast forward to today's post office. Management is hiring CCAs fast and furious. In Milwaukee there are no PTFs to stop by and check on the new carrier. Even if we did have PTFs I can only imagine what a manager or supervisor would do if they "caught" the PTF looking up the new person. I can envision some form of discipline for the PTF carrier not being where they are expected to be. My point is that management does not seem to care much about these new hires. Far too often it seems that management doesn't generally care about any of their employees. It appears to me that management is just doing a job. They have reports to run and numbers to

make. They approach their job as if it is a factory job. Management either doesn't care or know how to properly supervise their employees. Supervising a group of employees is more than just seeing that the work gets done each day. Being a well-respected supervisor or manager encompasses so much more.

These new CCAs are being brought on so quickly they are not being given the time to "learn" the job of being a letter carrier. In many offices these new CCAs are left to only perform street duties on a daily basis. How is a new hire supposed to learn how to case mail if they are not given the opportunity to do it? Then you hear complaints from management that the new hire is not doing very good and they probably won't "make it." I can tell you that no one will "make it" if they are not taught how to do the job and then given the opportunity to learn the job.

Management seems to take the viewpoint that if today's new hire doesn't make it we will just hire someone else. That is exactly what is happening around here. Management recently posted a notice for CCA applications for Milwaukee for the fourth time. It is as if they think that the next group of applicants will be better than the previous group. Management is completely misguided because they forget one very important trait that each newly hired group has in common; they have never worked for the postal service.

Today the USPS employs over 172,000 career city letter carriers. We are extremely good at the jobs we do day in and day out, delivering the nation's mail 6-days a week, but we were just like today's CCAs on our first day. We passed a test and didn't know much else about the postal service. The same is true for these newly hired CCAs. They took a test and they are hired.

Career city letter carriers are not a special species of humans that only *we* can successfully do the job of a city letter carrier. Today's career letter carrier started out just as today's CCAs do. You start out not knowing anything about being a letter carrier, but we evolve into a special species that delivers the nation's mail 6-days a week.

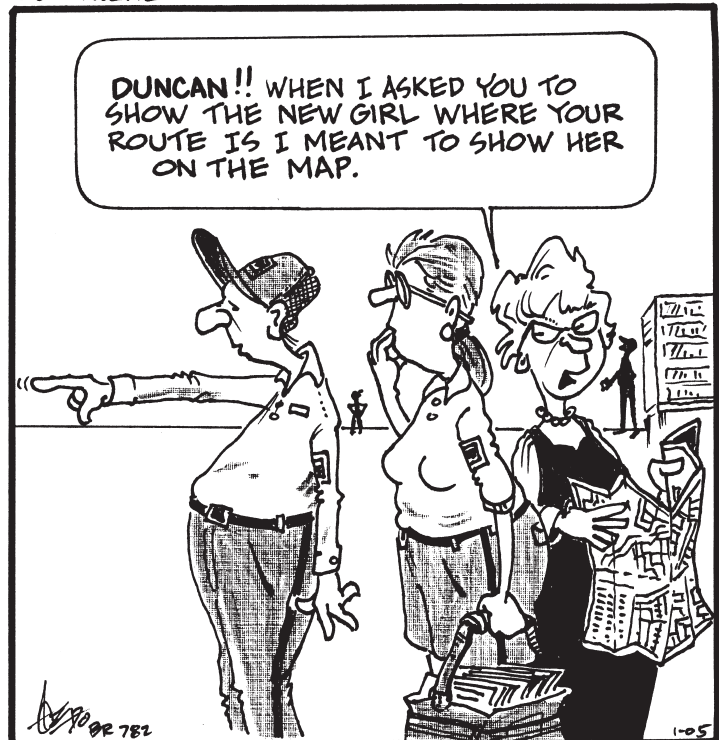
For any CCAs reading this article I feel for you in the way you may have been treated when you first took this job. I know this job is not for everyone. For some, your body may not be able to take the abuse this job hands out. Yes, doing the job of a city letter can take a toll on one's body over time. If you are a new

hire and you feel you need more training or just have questions on what you need to do to succeed in your job, seek out your on the job instructors, shop stewards, or NALC Branch leaders. We will be happy to answer any questions you have and will do what we can to help with any problems that arise at work.

For any management personnel that may be reading this article you need to see that you provide all new hires every opportunity to succeed in this job. If you don't, you will be hiring and training CCAs over and over again until you realize that the higher than normal turnover rate of CCAs might have nothing to do with the new hire but it has everything to do with how the postal service treats its employees.

You only knew what people would take the time to teach you. If you were never told where the throwback case was you may never find it. If no one told *what* the throwback case was you would never go look for it...

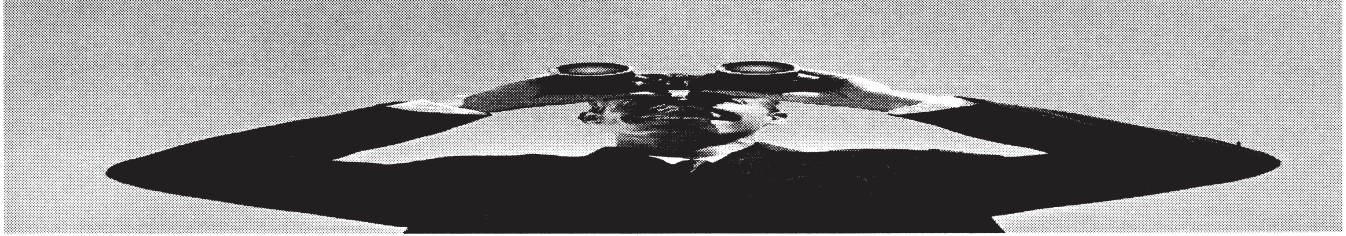
OUT THERE



Article courtesy of the Milwaukee, Wisconsin NALC Branch 2 Pioneer published in June 2013

The View From The Country Club

By Dave Chelseth



What is reasonable anyway?

A simple scenario: Cliff, the carrier, needs to use the bathroom. To use postal terms, we'll say that Cliff needs to make a "reasonable comfort stop." "Reasonable," as in the following from a long ago settled arbitration: "Our position on this matter is that management should not deduct reasonable 'comforts/rest stops from the total street time during route inspections if deduction of the time is contrary to past local practice." Seriously, Google the following: "NALC M-00242". It's in writing. Also, according to Merriam-Webster, reasonable means: "not extreme or excessive." Some other words in Webster's that we'll need to be clear on are: Comfort: "a feeling of relief or encouragement," Stop: "to break one's journey" and Break: "to interrupt one's activity or occupation for a brief period."

So, back to our scenario: It's noon and Cliff, our carrier, is one mile from McDonalds-a restaurant (using the term very loosely) that has both a comfort stop area (a bathroom) and a hot meal option. Cliff drives to McDonalds and takes his comfort stop right before his lunch. To most, that would not be "extreme or excessive." Not so for postal management. In their eyes, Cliff has now extended the time of his lunch. How so? Management sees the time for travelling to and from McDonalds as part of your lunch time and not part of your comfort stop time. Thus, to management the lunch starts the minute Cliff left his route. By the way Cliff, if you're eating at McDonald's every day you might want to watch the DVD called "Supersize Me"...it's not pretty.

From our standpoint, it was reasonable for Cliff to be allowed to make a "comfort stop" before he took his lunch, especially because he had not had one for three hours. If we call this a reasonable comfort stop, then his time for lunch would start as soon as his comfort stop ended, not from the time he left his route. By taking this comfort stop before lunch, he is saving gas. He could have taken it separate from his lunchtime, an hour earlier... but he chose to combine them. By combining his comfort stop with lunch, he is driving two miles less than he would have had he taken it separately. Multiply this by 20 extra trips per month and you're at 40 unnecessary miles driven per month. At 20 mpg (generous), and gas costing \$4 per gallon, you would save 2 gallons of gas per month or \$8. Over the course of a year, that would amount to \$96! Now, you take that \$96 per carrier, multiply that by 100 Duluth carriers, and you get \$9,600 of wasted gas money. Multiply that by all the carriers across the country and you could 'pert near plug the postal service deficit!

Now, we get to the questions: "How many comfort stops are reasonable?" and "Where should I take my comfort stops?" According to Dr. Jennifer Shu, Pediatrician at the Children's Medical Group, "In general, most adults urinate about once every two to four hours when awake, for a total of about six to eight times in a 24-hour period." Of course, management

wants carriers to remain hydrated so that they don't pass out while out on the street (thus creating all SORTS of paperwork that management would have to fill out). So, you'd think that taking three comfort stops during your street time would be well within the realm of reasonable. You'd think that because you are a reasonable person and not a manager.

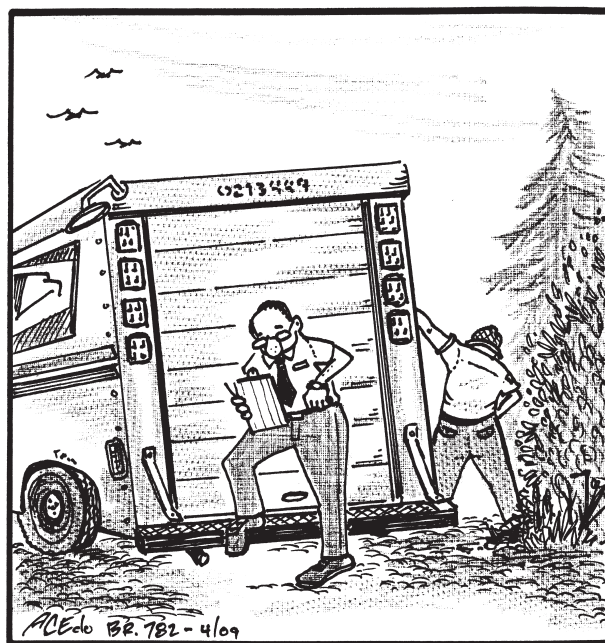
So, where should the carrier take these comfort stops? First and foremost, NOT in the vehicle and NOT in the woods or the tall grass! I'll say no more on that. We need to be clear though, that not all restroom facilities are created equal. At the country club it's easy to get used to the heated toilet seats, the free lotions and colognes, and the restroom attendants. The real world isn't quite so pretty. I'm sure everyone's been in the gas station restrooms that look as if they'd last been cleaned during the Reagan administration. Here's where 'reasonable' gets tricky. Management might not see it as reasonable to drive a few extra blocks to use a clean restroom. I won't get into the details, but suffice it to say that the sanitation of a restroom is probably more of an issue to women than it is to men. Male management MIGHT need to be reminded of this issue.

Another comfort stop issue that management has tried is this: "You should be taking your comfort stops during one of your two 10 minute breaks." Remember, according to Webster, a break is an interruption of one's activity or occupation for a brief period. It doesn't say anything about breaks being comfort stops in either Webster's dictionary NOR in any postal documents. It's just management trying to nickel and dime more time away from the carrier's route. Breaks are breaks. Here again, if you take a comfort stop right BEFORE or AFTER a break management will remove the time you took for that comfort stop from your total route time. Does it make sense? No.

Basically, here's what reasonable boils down to: If you gotta go...go. If you gotta go again in 30 minutes, go. If you gotta go and management's with you don't go right before or after your break or your lunch. Take a swing or go out and deliver a mounted box or two between your comfort stop and your lunch or break. That's management's view of reasonable.

Whatever.

Article courtesy of the Zenith Branch News published by NALC Branch 114 in Duluth, Minnesota.



These are "vintage" Fred Acedo cartoons which have appeared in past issues of our Branch 782 newsletter.

They have surfaced again in this web issue because they seemed to somehow fit with the topic addressed on this page...

Senior Vice President's Report

By Brian Bump
Senior Vice President



WEINGARTEN RIGHTS:

One of the most important rights you have is the right to have union representation during an investigatory interview. An investigatory interview is any questioning by management, the Office of Inspector General (OIG), or the Postal Inspection Service that you reasonably believe may lead to discipline. An investigatory interview is usually defined as questioning by management to search for facts that will be used to determine an employee's guilt, or to decide whether to impose discipline. Page 17-6 of the JCAM states:

Weingarten Rights Federal labor law, in what is known as the Weingarten rule, gives each employee the right to representation during any investigatory interview which he or she reasonably believes may lead to discipline. (NLRB v. J. Weingarten, U.S. Supreme Court, 1975)

The Weingarten rule only applies during an investigatory interview. It does not apply for other types of meetings, such as during an official discussion, a fitness-for-duty exam, or when management is issuing disciplinary action, i.e. handing a carrier a letter of warning.

Unlike Miranda rights, management is not required to inform an employee of their Weingarten rights. An employee must state to the employer that he/she wants a Union representative present; the employer has no obligation to ask the employee if she/he wants a representative. The shop steward cannot exercise your Weingarten rights on your behalf, you must exercise them yourself. This request can be made prior to the start of the interview or at any time during the interview, although it is highly recommended the re-

quest be made prior to the interview beginning.

Your Weingarten rights apply no matter where the investigatory interview is taking place. If a Supervisor, Postal Inspector or OIG agent calls you into the office and asks you questions you reasonably believe could lead to discipline, your Weingarten rights apply. If a Supervisor, Postal Inspector or OIG agent approach you on the street and ask you questions you reasonably believe could lead to discipline, your Weingarten rights apply. If a Supervisor, Postal Inspector, or OIG agent come to your home or call you on the telephone and ask you questions you reasonably believe could lead to discipline, your Weingarten rights apply.

Before you answer any questions during any type of investigatory interview, be sure you request and receive union representation. If you request union representation it must be provided. Page 17-7 of the JCAM states:

Although ELM Section 666.6 requires all postal employees to cooperate with postal investigations, the carrier still has the right under Weingarten to have a steward present before answering questions in this situation. The carrier may respond that he or she will answer questions once a steward is provided.

Once you have been provided union representation, you have the right to a pre-interview consultation with the steward. It is highly recommended that employees ensure their steward or union representative exercises this right. The union representative is there for the employee's assistance, not just as a silent witness. Management is violating the employee's Weingarten rights if they refuse to allow the union representative to speak or attempt to restrict the representative's role to that of a passive observer. Some of the reasons this is

important:

The steward can help a fearful or inarticulate employee explain what happened

The steward can ask for clarification of questions being answered

The steward can raise extenuating factors

The steward can stop an employee from losing his or her temper

The steward can serve as a witness to prevent supervisors from giving a false account of the conversation

Postal Inspectors and OIG agent are trained investigators and will try to make you feel they are your friend, you are in no trouble, and you really have no need for representation. They will in some instances try to have you write a statement or sign a paper waiving your Miranda, Garrity, or Kalkines rights. Always get union representation before writing a statement or signing away any of your rights.

One of the most vital functions of your Union representatives is represent employee in an investigatory interview. In many cases Management, the Postal Inspector, or the OIG agent will attempt to get the employee to confess or make a statement that management will then use to issue discipline to the employee. Please allow us to represent you from the beginning of the investigation by exercising your Weingarten rights.

Be safe,
Brian

2013 Grievance Summary April 01, 2013	
Total	535
Resolved	297
Working	56
Not Received	165
Withdrawn	17
On Hold	0

Article courtesy of the *Swing Room Gazette* published by NALC Branch 133 in Sacramento, CA.

12 Jerry Lonergan

If you have been a letter carrier for a long time (and especially if you've been on the same route for a while), you may have noticed that one day tends to run into the next. The nature of the job can feel repetitious and mundane and sometimes it's like you could do it blindfolded or even in your sleep. Every so often, however, something happens that separates one particular day from the others—something profound that leaves an indelible mark on your memory.

Recently I had not one, but two days that I won't forget. Different days but connected. While delivering a parcel, the customer came to the door and didn't appear well. I asked if he was okay and he told me that his son, who was an attorney in Los Angeles, had been killed earlier that week. Someone shot him in the face. "Wrong place at the wrong time," he said. I offered my condolences as best as I could, but really, what do you say?

About a week later the accountables clerk had me sign for a registered parcel with a return address of a funeral home in L.A. (For those of you who have never had the experience, the parcel was the cremated remains of the son). I dreaded going to the door, hoping the customer wouldn't be home and I could just leave a notice. Callous as that may sound, that's what I was thinking. But he was home and came out to meet me at the mailbox. As he was signing for the parcel, he asked me if I knew what it was. I told him I did and again offered him my condolences for his loss. He walked back to his garage looking like a broken man and I got back in the truck feeling like crap.

As timing would have it, the background check on guns had just been voted on in the Senate. The vote was 54 for expanded background checks and 46 against. The nay vote won 46-54. You read that right: 46 beat 54.

How did this happen? Prior to the vote, Gallup did a poll showing 91% of Americans favored expanded background checks on guns. An overwhelming majority.

First off, the Senate has a rule that in order for legislation to pass, it must have a 60 vote filibuster-proof supermajority. Fifty-four votes wasn't enough.

But something else was going on here and whether you agree with them or not, you have to give credit where it's due. The NRA and pro-second amendment supporters moved legislation in their favor despite public opinion. When they feel their rights are being threatened, they mobilize and do whatever is necessary to win.

What does this have to do with letter carriers, you ask? To draw a parallel, we letter carriers also have a cause just as important to us: to save the Postal Service. When the President signed the continuing resolution, we won a temporary reprieve to keep six-day delivery until September 30. Since then, a number of pieces of legislation dealing with postal reform have been introduced. In order to gain traction, phone calls and emails to your elected representatives are vital. We need to be as passionate and motivated for our cause as the NRA and pro-second amendment supporters are about theirs.

I listen to a lot of political talk radio during the day while I'm out delivering mail. Not too long ago a fellow named Jeff Heitkamp was guest hosting. It just so happens that Jeff's sister is Democratic freshman Senator Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota. Jeff stated that during the days leading up to the vote on background checks, Senator Heitkamp was receiving calls at a 5-1 ratio to vote no. That tells me that while 91% of the American public was for expanded background checks, they didn't make an effort to contact their representatives. The vocal minority succeeded over the silent majority. Of course, North Dakota may not be a good example since a good portion of that population is sportsmen and hunters.

Your future, and the future of this organization, depends on you taking the time to make your voice heard. The rally on March 24 was just the beginning. For you sports fans, it's like game one of a playoff series. President Rolando likened it to March Madness, where you have to keep winning to survive and go on to the next round.

We need to stay focused to save the Postal Service for us, as employees, but also more importantly for the American public, who deserve to keep the best postal system in the world. Are you going to sit on the sidelines and watch, or are you going to get in the game?

Article courtesy of the *Suncoast Letter Carrier's Update* published by NALC Branch 2008 in Tarpon Springs, FL.

Shop Talk

By Jim Falvey, Chief Steward

Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer
Those days of soda and pretzels and beer
Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer
Dust off the sun and moon and sing a song of cheer

As the song implies summer is here. As always when the seasons change, so do the challenges faced by Branch 82 carriers throughout the Portland area. There are the dogs and the bees, kids on bikes and the ever-present distracted drivers and pedestrians. There are sunburns and allergies and all things heat index related. What is different about this year? What is going on this summer that could possibly send carrier's temperatures soaring?

When carriers were issued the new phone that coupled with our scanners (yeah right!) we knew that there was GPS capability because even most basic cell phones come so equipped that we don't even give it a second thought – or do we?

It would appear that local management has decided, on their own, to access the GPS capability and begin to use it to question carriers about their activities on their routes. Since this is new information to Branch 82 we are trying to develop strategy to deal with management's abuse of GPS information. Here is my recommendation to all carriers if management engages you in a conversation about GPS. If management asks you a who, what, when, where, or why question concerning GPS information you should state the following:

"If this discussion could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated, or affect my working conditions, I respectfully request that my union representative, officer, or steward be present at this meeting. Without my Union representation present, I respectfully choose not to answer any questions or participate in this discussion."

In fact, you as a carrier should be invoking these Weingarten Rights anytime management engages you in a discussion where they are trying to get information from you about something that could lead to discipline. Quite frankly, that means just about anything to do with being a carrier. Discipline in Portland is just that, about anything we do as carriers throughout our workday.

Weingarten rights are much more than just having a witness. Weingarten rights are about representation. You pay for it with your dues, the contract guarantees it, and the Supreme Court upholds it. Those of us who don't use their rights, lose their rights. Let's be affirmative from the start and have your steward present at any discussion that could lead to discipline. In Portland that means any

discussion that you are having with management when they take you off the workroom floor to their office. It would include many workroom floor discussions also.

It is too bad that GPS does so much good in the world and USPS management wants to use it for evil. Check your NALC bulletin boards and future B-mikes for more information as we move into the GPS summer of 2013.

Thanks to all the Branch 82 carriers for the extra effort during this year's NALC food drive. The numbers were down a little but once again carriers came through and helped the Oregon Food Bank replenish their bare shelves.

So enjoy those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer- you never know whose watching.

Article courtesy of *The Branch 82 B-Mike* published by NALC Branch 82 in Portland, OR.



"Heat Stroke Awareness"

Around this time every year I like to write an article on the subject of heat and the dangers it can cause to letter carrier(s). I feel this is worth repeating because it just might save a life. Every summer at least a few carriers suffer from heat exhaustion while carrying mail in the Houston, Texas area. A few years back there was a PTF carrier who died from heat stroke.

Carriers should do everything possible to keep cool. Be sure to take your allotted breaks. Drink plenty of water throughout the day. Cool down with wet towels on your forehead and neck. If you feel you are getting overheated, slow down and get out of the sun! Symptoms of heat exhaustion can sometimes lead to heat stroke that requires emergency treatment. Heat stroke occurs when the body fails to regulate its own temperature and body temperature continues to rise, often to 105°F or higher.

A person with heat stroke may stop sweating. Symptoms of heat stroke include confusion, delirium or unconsciousness, red hot and dry skin, even under the armpits. REMEMBER: HEAT STROKE IS A LIFE-THREATENING MEDICAL EMERGENCY!!

If you have any questions concerning this article or any questions concerning NALC Health Benefits, call me at 713-591-0674.

*Branch 283 Health Benefits Representative
Hector R. Salinas*

Article courtesy of the *Houston Letter Carrier* published by NALC Branch 283 in Houston, TX.



DEAR DIARY ...

I don't keep a diary, but if I did, it would probably look something like this:

Sunday:

7AM: Ugh, only one day off from that place. When's my next vacation?

Monday:

8AM: I hate this place

815AM: Just wondering, how do I ever do my job without the same supervisor, making the same announcement, day after day after day after day, like it's the first time we've ever heard it? "Make sure to pull all your holes, LISTEN UP PLEASE, get your mail up and pull down as quickly as possible, blah, blah, blah." Some people just like to hear themselves talk I guess. Amazingly, we all do our jobs even when this supervisor isn't there to tell us how to do so.

8:40AM: My 3996 seems to be getting ignored.

10:05AM: Just leaving for the street, even though DOIS said I should have left: 04 minutes ago. I'll have one of the tie and clipboard brigade at my case tomorrow asking me what I was doing for: 04 minutes I'm sure.

1:35PM: Why do they put MSP's in the middle of a cut? I only have 2 arms ya know.

5:26PM: Outta here!!

Tuesday:

8AM: Yesterday really sucked. At least I'm off tomorrow. I hate this place.

8:15AM: Tuning out supervisor announcement

4:40PM: Just walking back into station. Ugh, the dreaded Post-It note on my timecard. Forced in tomorrow. Thanks for ****!!!@#\$\$%!) telling me at the last minute!!!! I'm supposed to take Mom to the doctor in the morning.

4:42PM: Plead to supervisor. They don't care.

Wednesday:

8:30AM: I spent all night arranging a ride for Mom. Thankfully, my neighbor's son's mother-in-law's uncle came through. I hate this place.

8:40AM: Oh no, I started late so I missed the announcement. What do I do again?

8:45AM: There they are stalking that carrier again at her case. They sure do seem to pick on women and older carriers. I'd call EEO.

1PM: Why do they put letters in the FSS? Bring them over to the DPS machine please!!!!

3PM: How do I fit all of these parcels in my bag with the FSS? Have to drive them off I guess. I'm pretty sure that FSS isn't the time-saving, money-maker those geniuses in management thought it would be. Like they say, the USPS is the only company in the world where management consists of the

willing, not the able. "You suck at the job you were hired for, but want to be able to tell others how to do it? You're promoted!!"

Thursday:

8AM: 3 more days. I hate this place.

8:15AM: There he goes again: blah, blah, blah.

8:55AM: Asked custodian if he can sweep me up some rubber bands. The Manager of Rubber Bands hasn't given us any. He should be disciplined for "failure to perform the duties of his position."

9:45AM: Going to do downtime, even though I didn't leave early.

10:38AM: Just finished "half-hour" downtime.

5:23PM: Outta here.

Friday:

8AM: Only 2 more days. I wonder what kind of nonsense they have in store for today. I hate this place.

8:15AM: SHUT UP!!!! We know how to do our jobs!!!!

8:55AM: Collating 3rd bundle as I pull down.

9:05AM: Collating 3rd bundle as I pull down.

9:20AM: Collating 3rd bundle as I pull down. Hmmm, and DOIS said it only takes: 12-minutes.

Saturday:

8AM: Ugh

8:15AM: Ugh

8:30AM: The pivot plan has changed for the eighth time already today. First, I had downtime, and then forced overtime, then both. Now, I'm not quite sure what it is.

8:40AM: Supervisor looks at me like I'm the idiot because I don't understand what it is exactly that I'm supposed to do from that mess of a pivot board.

10:02AM: At least we took the Saturday papers out on Friday. Terrible customer service for the Buffalo News, but a better Saturday for me.

Sunday:

7AM: Ugh, only one day off from that place. When's my next vacation?

Just a friendly reminder, the deadline for submissions is the third Friday of the month. Adherence to this would greatly help me get the paper out in a timely manner.

You've probably noticed some of the changes we've made to the paper so far. As Editor, I approve. Hopefully you do as well.

Until next time, this is Bill Campbell. A healthy, enjoyable summer to all.

Article courtesy of *The Buzz* published by NALC Branch 3 in Buffalo, NY.

May 28, 2013

Fred Acedo
Br. 782 S.A.N.E.
P.O. Box 6532
Bakersfield, CA 93386-6532

Entering Fred's Out There World

Dear Fred,

I've always enjoyed your cartoons. As the editor of Branch 373's newsletter, I always put at least one of them in each edition. In fact, when I purchased your book at the 2010 National Convention, you signed it for me.

I recently thought of an idea for a cartoon. You might be aware that the scanners have a new cell phone that will be linked with them. These cell phones have GPS. This is my idea:

First Pane: Cell phone and scanner are in a satchel. A dog grabs the satchel in his mouth and runs off with it.

Second Pane: Supervisor at Post Office is looking on a computer map and sees how fast the letter carrier is going. (Supervisor doesn't realize that the dog grabbed it.)

Take care and keep the great cartoons coming!

Sincerely



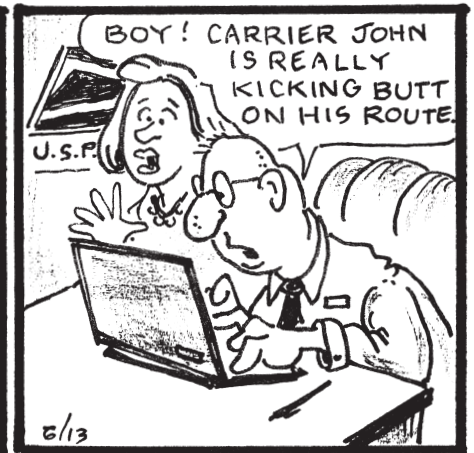
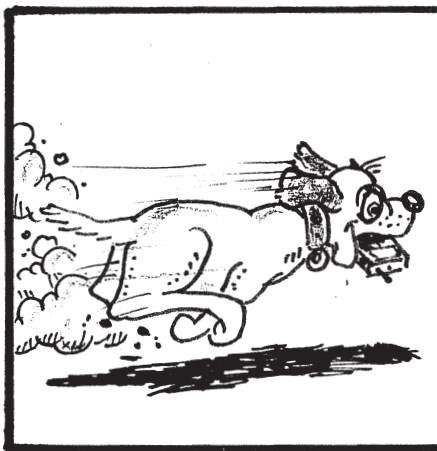
John J. Pfiffner
Vice President
Branch 373
753 43rd ST NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Remember! If **YOU** have an idea for Fred, contact him at:

NALC Branch 782 S.A.N.E.
P.O. Box 6532
Bakersfield, CA 93386-6532

You never know what you might get...

OUT THERE



FRED ACEDO • N.A.L.C. BR. 782



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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) 834-5011
Sargeant-at-Arms	Darryl Holderman	(661) 332-9201
Chief Trustee	Lucinda Martinez	(661) 327-2898
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7:00 p.m.

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*YOU have a
chance to
win!*

*So, what do
YOU
have to do???*

*Attend the
Branch 782
meeting on
June 25,
2013...*

OUT THERE

