

National Association of Letter Carriers

Branch 782

E.A. Baker Union Update



ARVIN
CALIFORNIA CITY
McFARLAND
TAFT

AVENAL
DELANO
MOJAVE
TEHACHAPI

BAKERSFIELD
EDWARDS AFB
RIDGECREST
TRONA

BORON
LAMONT
SHAFTER
WASCO

CHARTERED FEBRUARY 25, 1891



VOLUME LXXXIII NUMBER 7

AUGUST 2012

Johnny on the Spot



The 68th NALC
National Convention
was held from July
23rd—July 27th in
Minneapolis,
Minnesota.

Branch 782 was able to send eleven delegates to this biennial event. I was fortunate to be one of the delegates and would like to thank the membership for the opportunity to be a part of such a historic event that occurred.

The week consisted of morning training classes that ran from 7:30 am until 9:30am. (Think about what time we had to wake up including travel time...) The general session of the convention was from 10 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. (with no lunch time). The day concluded with more training classes which ran from 3:15 p.m. until 5:15 pm. It *WAS* a long day. *Each day on-the-clock for 9.75 hours.*

Our delegates attended classes and the general sessions each day. President Fred Rolando (pronounced Row-lan-doe) addressed the membership concerning what is happening at NALC Headquarters. They are preparing for interest arbitration on a new contract which should begin sometime in August.

They are also talking with Congress to oppose HR-2309 (The Darrel Issa Bill) if that Bill makes it to the floor. The Issa Bill is a poison pill which will lead to lost jobs, lost wages and to us being stripped of our rights to collectively bargain for our wages and benefits.

President Rolando has also been very busy rebutting all of the negative misinformation that is being put out in the media.

There were many speakers during the course of the week that addressed the membership and pledged their support towards our cause. If you would like to hear more, come to this month's general membership meeting on Tuesday August 28th.

Respectfully,

JOHN ORTEGA
NALC Branch 782 Vice-President

MINNEAPOLIS 2012



As a delegate to this year's NALC National Convention, I would like to start off by giving my thanks to all the members of Branch 782 for sending me to Minnesota.

I have to start out by telling you that Minneapolis pretty much has it all! From regular people you would see in any city to not sure what/who you're looking at...



From a regular restaurant and bar to a “pedal bar” rolling down the street. From a high school hockey team to the greatest football team in the world: *the MINNESOTA VIKINGS!* And, of course, (for Mike Meza) from a smooth, lite adult beverage to something called the “Angry Hippie”... Oh, what an exciting city!!

As the delegates descended on Minneapolis, we started off with the usual morning classes offered each morning. I would have to say there was a very good variety this time around: Trustee training, legislative, Branch Secretary-Treasurer training, OWCP, City Delivery, NALC Health Benefits, MBA, Contract Administration Unit, and more.

The one really new training was a week long Steward training class. This is the one class that I think many of us took to see just what it would involve. We studied a situation which involved a removal and we went through the whole process all the way to the arbitration hearing. We did an extensive case study from the Steward's job at the first fact finding to the formal A meeting. It then featured how the DRT team and the union representatives at arbitration used the information developed by Stewards to present the case.

This class showed just how important it is to get things right all the way through the process. Just a few missed details at the original investigation could easily mean the difference between winning a case and seeing an employee removed.

I think all those in this class got the message to do your job right and honestly and the outcome will usually go your way. I did miss one session of this class to attend a FERS training class to see if there was anything new in my future for early retirement. (*No, Mike Towery I can't go yet*).

One thing did stand out at this year's convention—and *it was a very important issue!*

This issue is the urgency to fix the pre-funding obligation that is sinking the USPS.

Nothing new stopping this has been done yet; but, our NALC president is working hard to fix this problem. He needs all the support of our members to convince Congress to stop this requirement.

Thank you again for sending this delegate group to the convention. I hope we all represented our Branch well.



Your Delegate,

DARRYL HOLDERMAN

Hi, Basil...

OK, here you go. First paragraph is in the “think bubble” of a hypothetical Letter Carrier working in Anytown, USA....

“Gee! Circulars again?!? It’s like I get them every week! Yesterday I had full coverage cable company ads in my D.P.S. ...And the other day, that new local gym—Hunk O’ Body—had their flyers mailed to every address on my route! Don’t they know the gym is a waste of time? Especially on my route! I have lots of senior citizens! Nobody noticed when I ‘wasted’ several of those flyers. And these Red Plums? People just throw them away. My patrons won’t even miss them.”

The preceding conversation (in part or whole) may have passed through each one of our brains at some point in our careers as Letter Carriers. Thinking about it is one thing... But start throwing away deliverable mail, and you are asking for **BIG TROUBLE!**

Somebody or a business has paid to have their mail/flyer/circular delivered to the addressee. *IT IS NOT UP TO YOU* to determine if that mail is worthy of delivery. *An item that is addressed to “resident, occupant, etc.” is to be delivered unless the address is vacant, there is a dog hold or there is a P.O. Box delivery.*

I’m sure you have noticed the decline of first class letters. The delivery of standard rate items are job security!

You are paid by the hour and have been entrusted to deliver **ALL** deliverable mail. Fill out a 3996 form if you cannot complete your route in 8 hours. Be stern (not rude) with your supervisor if you feel that your assignment will take more than eight hours to deliver all of the mail.

Don’t exaggerate or embellish the time requested.

I’m sure this isn’t the first time you have heard this sermon.

An item that is addressed to “resident, occupant, etc.” is to be delivered unless the address is vacant, there is a dog hold or there is a P.O. Box delivery.

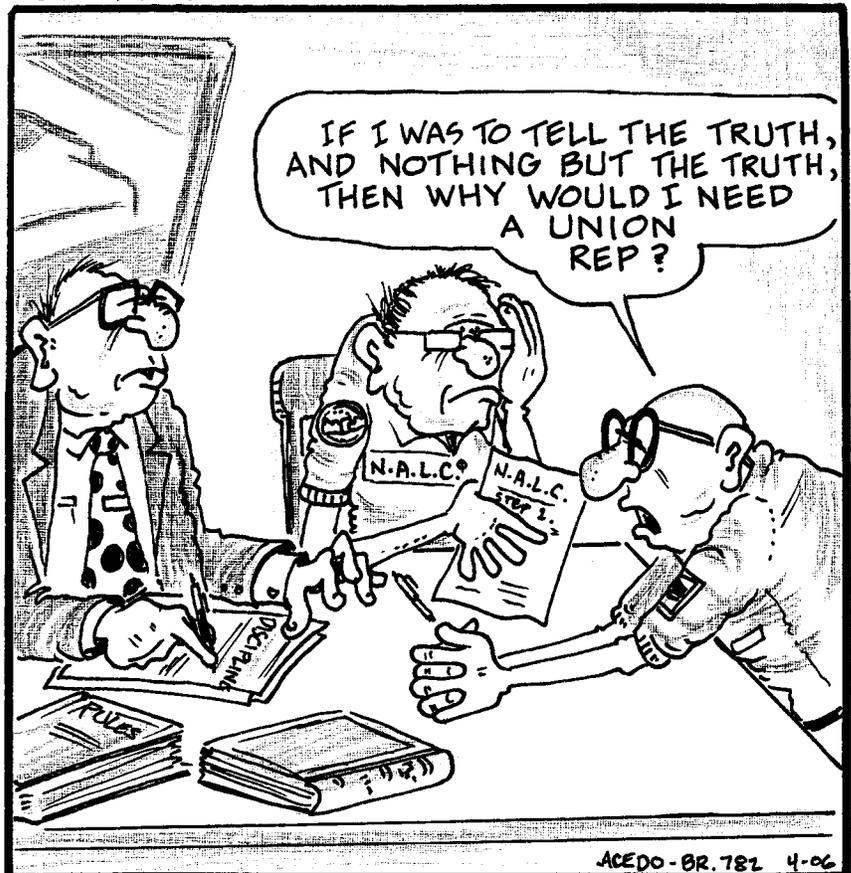
The fact is, Letter Carriers *have* been fired for discarding “good” mail. So? You don’t really care to do your job? Please do yourself and your Shop Steward a favor and quit. Really.

For those of you that want to cut corners and are trying to make your jobs easier: “Sorry. This if not an easy job.”

Please do your job! Safely and consistently.

ANITA HOLDERMAN

OUT THERE



Minutes of the June 2012 General Meeting

The regular meeting of Br. 782 was called to order by President Mike Towery at on June 26, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the Branch office, Bakersfield. The flag salute was led by Sargeant-at-Arms Darryl Holderman. All members of the Executive Board were present except Vice President John Ortega. The Stewards were present from Camino Media, East Bakersfield, Downtown, Hillcrest, Lamont, Oildale, Shafter, South, Stockdale, Taft and Wasco. Also present was the Newsletter Editor Basil Zuniga; S.A.N.E. Fred Acedo; Webmaster Rick Plummer; Photographer Anita Holderman; Assistant Secretary Mabel Bullis and OWCP Representative Rick Gerdes. The Minutes of the May 22, 2012 meeting were read by Assistant Secretary Mabel Bullis. The Minutes were accepted with the correction that there were four guests at the May meeting.

REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

TEES: Teresa Ortega reported that the picnic will be October 7. She has tentatively booked Laser Tag for four hours, which will cost \$1200.00. Basil Zuniga reported that the folding went well. The Web version of the newsletter has a lot of photos. He thanked Photographer Anita Holderman for all the pictures. Next time it will be Brundage Station's turn. He is hoping that EB and Brundage will work together. The July newsletter will be one sheet to remind members of the meeting on July 24th. Frank Martinez of the Social and Recreation Committee reported that the Softball Tournament went well. There were 8 – 10 teams. They are still looking for a location for 3-on-3 Basketball. Basil asked for results of the softball tournament for the newsletter.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Molly Biggar reported that the fiscal year begins of July 1. She passed out copies of the proposed 2012–2013 Budget. She told the members present to ask questions as she goes over the budget, but please hold any suggested changes until she has finished. And remember, that any additions to one category must come from another category. Teresa Ortega made a motion to add \$1500.00 to the picnic, seconded by Rick Gerdes. A discussion was held. \$1100.00 would come from the HBP Seminar and \$400.00

from the Building Maintenance Fund. A vote was taken and the motion passed. Webmaster Rick Plummer thanked Anita Holderman for all the photos, he stated that he needs to be careful what he asks for, he now has pictures coming out of his ears. The web site is 782nalc.com, be sure to check out the photos.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION: Mike Towery reported that there was a mistake last month during the General Meeting Drawing. He was not aware that a number had been drawn, and he asked CSALC President John Beaumont to draw a number. The first number drawn belonged to Fred Acedo, who was at the meeting. The Executive Board voted to give the money to Fred. Tonight the drawing will be for \$50.00. Kim Gerdes reported that it is time to order the Color Coded Calendars. She made a motion that the branch purchase 275 calendars. Seconded by Teresa Ortega and passed. Norma Hamer reported that the "Fill the Satchel" campaign will be on September 9th. President Mike Towery presented Shari Sharpe and Norma Hamer with a special color copy of the Newsletter, with all the Food Drive photos, and thanked them for all their hard work in making the Food Drive a success. Molly Biggar reported that the Audit and Budget meetings will be July 18th following the Second Steward Meeting. Mike Towery reported that the Steward Meeting will be on

OUT THERE



July 11th. Mike has received a copy of the scheduled dates for routes inspections from District. There will be 1770 routes inspected next year. He is considering doing minor adjustments in the city. He is hoping to limit the impact in the zones. District has agreed to minors. Basil Zuniga informed the members present that if they are thinking about retirement and hoping for a buy out, they should read the Director of Retirees report in the *Postal Record*.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: Financial Secretary, Anita Holderman had to leave the meeting early and will report for June and July at the August General Meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Molly Biggar will present her report at the July General Meeting.

The MDA 50/50 Drawing was won by Jerry Patterson.

The General Meeting Drawing for \$50.00 would have been won by Larry Beem if he had been present.

There were thirty-five members present.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

KIM GERDES
Branch 782 Recording Secretary

Minutes of the July 2012 General Meeting

The regular meeting of Br. 782 was called to order by President, Mike Towery at 7:00 p.m. on the 24th day of July, 2012 at the branch office, Bakersfield. The flag salute was led by Steward Jerry Patterson. The members of the Executive Board present were: President Mike Towery; Recording Secretary Kim Gerdes; Treasurer Molly Biggar; and, Trustee Danny Blair. The Stewards were present from E.B., Hillcrest and Wasco. Also present was OWCP Representative Rick Gerdes and S.A.N.E. Fred Acedo. Attending the National Convention were: Vice President John Ortega; Financial Secretary Anita Holderman; Sargeant-at-Arms Darryl Holderman; Trustee Mabel Bullis; Newsletter Editor Basil Zuniga; Stewards Mike Meza, Shari Sharpe, Norma Hamer, Judy Kiyoshi and Randy Courson. The minutes of the June 26, 2012 meeting were accepted as read with no additions or corrections.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP: An application was received from Glenda Sue Beaver.

REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES: No committee members were present at the meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Treasurer Molly Biggar presented a copy of the proposed 2012–2013 Budget with the changes made from last month's meeting. Mark Ramirez made a motion to pass the budget retroactive to July 1, 1012. Seconded by Mickey Cameron and the motion passed. Mike Towery reported that 73 books have been sold at the convention by the delegates.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION: Mike Towery reported that he has received notification that the starting

times will be changed to 7:00 a.m. at Hillcrest, South and Downtown Stations. He reported that six PTF's will be transferring into Bakersfield. Three TE's have not been rehired after their break. The District is over compliment for TE's and Bakersfield will lose three of their TE's.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: Financial Secretary Anita Holderman is at the convention and will report at the August meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Molly Biggar reported:

	May 2012
Beginning Balance	\$73,233.45
Dues and Income	\$11,186.93
Interest Income	\$ 6.40
Total Balance	\$84,426.78
Expenses	\$12,202.65
Ending Balance	\$72,202.13

	June 2012
Beginning Balance	\$72,202.13
Dues and Income	\$10,946.84
Interest Income	\$ 5.79
Total Balance	\$83,154.76
Total Expenses	\$ 9,783.75
Ending Balance	\$73,371.01

MDA 50/50 Drawing: No tickets were sold at the meeting

The General Meeting Drawing for \$100.00 would have been won by George Duarte if he had been present.

There were twenty-one members present.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

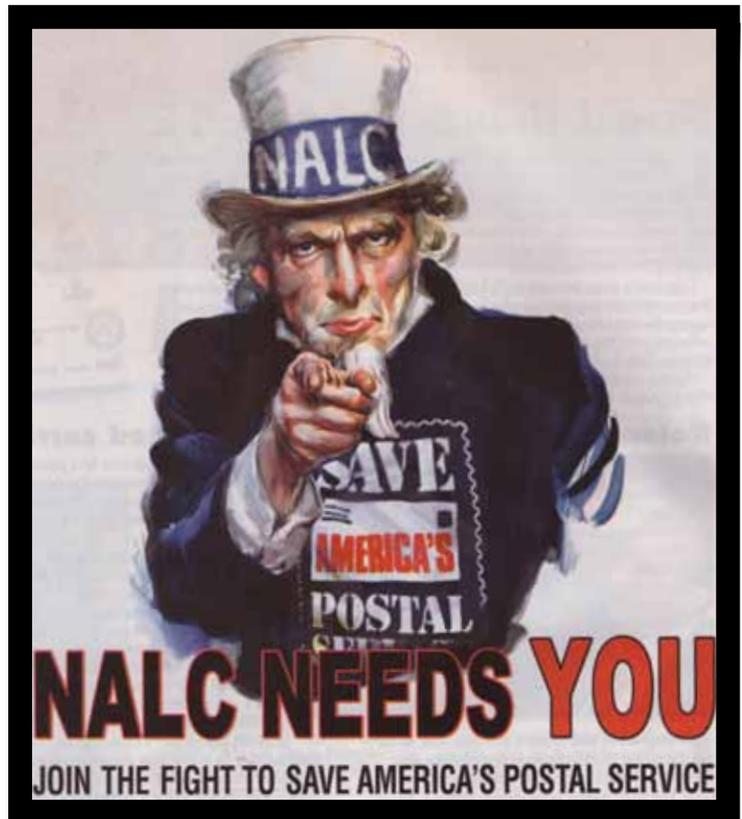
Respectfully submitted,

KIM GERDES
Branch 782 Recording Secretary

NON-MEMBER LIST APRIL 2012

*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!!! | TEHACHAPI (93561)
100% UNION!!! |
| DOWNTOWN (93301)
D. Pearce
J. Cruz | TRONA (93562)
100% UNION!!! |
| SOUTH STATION (93304)
100% UNION!!! | RIDGECREST (93555)
B. J. Leroy
L. M. Montano
H. G. Blanco
S. R. Pierce |
| EAST BAKERSFIELD (93305)
100% UNION!!! | |
| HILLCREST (93306)
100% UNION!!! | |
| BRUNDAGE (93307)
D. Kinglee | |



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

from the
editor-guy

Sobering. This is the word that comes to my mind when I think about the recent NALC national convention.

You may not want to hear this, but...

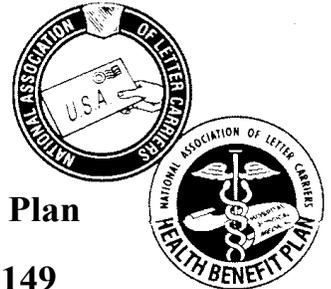
The fact of the matter is that Letter Carriers face a different landscape in the future than has ever been experienced by those who went before us. Do not delude yourself into thinking that your work world is going to be the same one that you walked into when you were first hired. Whether you have two years with the Postal Service or you have over thirty years, walk into the changes with your eyes open. You've been repeatedly warned.

What kind of changes? Seniority to bid an assignment. What's seniority got to do with it? Retirement with benefits...maybe at age 67. "I want to talk to my Shop Steward." What's a Shop Steward? Overtime pay for work over eight hours in a day? How quaint!

BASIL ZUNIGA

2012 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
CareMark Specialty Pharmacy	1-800-237-2767
Durable Medical Equipment	1-888-636-6252
NURSE ASSISTANT (24/7)	1-877-220-6252
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)	1-800-870-3470
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

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, Chattanooga, TN
37422-8004.

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 accupuncturist. Chiropractic! State licensed chiropractor or D.O. only.

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

** 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. MAIL ORDER PRESCRIPTIONS when NALC is primary: 60 day supply \$8 generic, \$43 name brand; 90 day supply \$12 generic, \$65 name brand; 90 day supply \$5 for NALCSELECT generics (certain drugs); 90 day supply \$7.99 NALCPREFERRED generic (certain drugs), **MEDICARE PROGRAM** (when Medicare is primary); Retail network pharmacy: you pay 10% of cost of generic, 20% of cost for name brand, **MEDICARE PRIMARY** (mail order); 60 day supply \$7 generic, \$37 name brand; 90 day supply \$10 generic \$55 name brand; 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.

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

FOR THE LOVE OF MINNESOTA!

What more do I have to say about Minnesota?

That's where this year's 68th Biennial NALC Convention was held.

I was fortunate enough to attend this year's Convention in Minneapolis—or was it in the “Twin Cities”? I was a little bit confused at first because everyone kept telling us we were in the Twin Cities...but all the signs said Minneapolis. Hmmm...

So first thing we did was ask the local guy on the corner, “So, answer this: are we in the Twin Cities or are we in Minneapolis?” His first comment to us was, “Duh, you're in both.” (We knew that). He then told us, “Minneapolis is one of the Twin Cities and the other is Saint Paul—the capital of Minnesota. These two cities are separated by the Mississippi River. In the late 1860's these two cities were linked by a suspension bridge and soon after were nicknamed the Twin Cities.” Now who didn't know that?

At this year's convention, there was a *lot* to talk about. With the presidential and congressional elections coming up, and all the changes in the Postal Service that are happening, no one can predict the future but you have to try to prepare for it. NALC President Fred Rolando talked about how the Postal Service wants to do away with Saturday and door-to-door delivery. This will destroy the postal service.

President Rolando also said we must protect ourselves for all changes that come forward now whether its downsizing or changes to your route times. We need not to depend on the Postal Service to lead us. We need to lead ourselves or be out of a job. We can't stop change. It's going to happen. We just need to be prepared and work through it the best way we can.



It's hard to express to others that have not been to a convention what kind of connection there is when you have 9,000 or 10,000 Carriers from all over the United States in one gigantic room all with the same passion. We were all just trying to save jobs of the working families. What really impressed me is how many retired Carriers you meet that show up to support the active Carriers now. They know how important this battle is to save Carriers' jobs. They get it. Now *WE ALL* need to get it!

Talk to other Carriers in other states and they will tell you the same things are happening all over. One Carrier did make a good point when she asked all the Carriers when was the last time they sent a card or letter in the mail. *That's* something to think about. Who doesn't like to get something nice in the mail?

We had a lot of fun on the ten shuttle rides to the convention and back sitting next to a different person from a different state every time. You would be surprised how much you can find out about someone in ten minutes. You make a lot of friends on the bus rides. It's weird how everyone I talked to knows of Bakersfield or has at least heard of it.

It was a great time there. People are friendly and the city was very clean. I learned a lot—like what a rooster sounds like at 4 a.m. I hope to go to the next convention in 2014 and learn more!

SHARI SHARP





The Word from Norma!

I'd like to start off by thanking the union members for electing me to attend the 68th biennial convention. There are a lot of issues that

are at hand that ALL postal employees need to get involved in! There are politicians out there that just want to do unions in and they are NOT speaking the truth to the American public about the what is really going on with the United States Postal Service! We need to have our voices heard and speak up about them!

I have personally heard some union members say, "I hope the union is doing their job." YOU ARE THE UNION! Read the NALC website. Get involved. YOU can make a difference. One should never depend on others to take action for one's self.

The more people that get involved—*this means YOU*—the louder our voices will become. Support your NALC President Fred Rolando. Call your Congressman. Share with your friends and families. Encourage them to share with their friends and families. Their voices can double, even triple ours. We all can make a difference.

I attended all but one of the steward training classes; they were offered all week long. I found out how important it is to make sure that you have all the necessary documents for a case. What did I learn? Always be prepared. Don't show up without making sure that you can follow what happened.

These classes were entertaining as well because there were skits that were done along with them. You just weren't following a packet of paper.

I worked the booth at least once a day to help sell the Fred Acedo **Out tHeRe** cartoon book. I can't remember off the top of my head how many books were sold, but we were able to make some sort of a dent in our inventory.



The "Stamp Out Hunger" class was also informative. Found out that there are a lot of companies out there that want to help Letter Carriers get bags out to our customers so that it will be easier for us to help the needy.

I know that the bags were a pain; however, it was reiterated by all other delegates in that class that they helped!!! ***The bags brought in more food from more people from all over the nation!*** I surely do hope that we get them again next year! Whether they are paper bags or plastic, they work! There is no doubt about it...

I also attended the MDA class. The MDA national spokesperson this year was Bryson Foster. For a 12 year old young man, he is quite the character! He hosts his own radio show at his school and reports on sport highlights and statistics. He told us delegates in attendance that he loves the MDA camp the most. Why? He told us, "MDA camp is a great place to where I can get my groove on!" He loves to dance!

AND...speaking of MDA, it *is* that time of year again for our "Fill the Satchel" drive!

We are in need of volunteers to give a few hours of their time on Sunday, September 9th from 11a.m. to 3 p.m.



I know that Sundays are sometimes one's only day off. But, if you could possibly find it in your heart to spend a few hours to help collect money so that we could possibly send a child (or even two) to MDA camp; just look at what those heartfelt hours would mean to them!

We will be at the same location: Rosedale Highway in the Target shopping center, on the corner with IHOP, Wendy's, and Starbucks. Last year we raised enough funds to send just one child to camp. Let's all show our support and send at least two this year!

I know we can do it if we have the volunteers. Come on out and show your support for this worthy cause!

In Solidarity,

NORMA HAMER

Hi Basil,

My computer is down so I am doing this on my phone. I hope it works.

What I See From Up Here...

Greetings branch 782 members! I would first like to thank all of the members that allowed me to represent you at our 68th biennial national convention. I won't give you the normal rundown of how informative the classes were or the number of guest speakers that were in attendance. I *will* tell you that I **DID** have a great time and the knowledge I gained is invaluable. So, again, I say thank you.

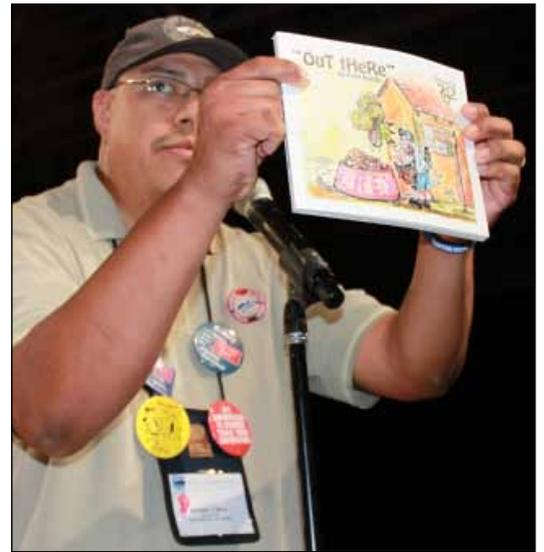
What I would like to talk about is the apathy that has run wild throughout our membership. It may only be my own station that has formed my opinion; but, I do feel it is all over. Part of my evidence is the turnout at our general meetings. What really bothers me about that are the questions the very next day, "So, what did they say at the meeting?" "What is going on with our Contract?" And, of course, "What is the union going to do about...?".

Doesn't every member understand that **WE** are the UNION. "The union" does not consist of the Executive Board and the Stewards. "The union" *is* the membership. Every one of you that pays your dues is "the union".

I understand we cannot make every meeting; but, this our only means of staying informed. I usually don't accept any excuses. If any of you know me, you should understand the sacrifices we make to attend these meetings and remain educated. I just feel there isn't enough effort by our members to educate themselves and stand up for their own Rights.

I originally became a Steward because I was tired of watching management walk all over my fellow Carriers. I know not everybody will take the same path, but we all have a voice and I wish everybody would use it!

Recently, I was told by a fellow Carrier that if running the routes and doing the things we know we aren't supposed to do would cause them to lose their job then, "Oh, well". That infuriated me and I came to the realization that this may be the views of a great number of Carriers! ***This has to change!!!***



Most of us don't know what it's like to speak in front of almost ten thousand people. Pictured here is Mike Meza asking the delegates to support our efforts to sell the Fred Acedo's "Out There" cartoon book.

Although I was not very nice with the way I spoke to the Carrier about those comments, I later apologized for the raising of my voice and my blunt words.

I want to make clear my message that this organization is one that many of us (should be all of us) want to depend on to take care of our families and take us to retirement. Maybe you don't care much about *your* future or the future of your families but I know many of us do! Be cognizant of your fellow Carriers and think twice before you do management's bidding.

In closing I would like to ask all of you to come to the meetings, go to the websites, read the contract...get informed!

I know some of you are saying that's what your Stewards get paid for. Yes. We do. But, the best way to empower yourself is to get educated.

Thanks again for allowing me to represent all of you.

Respectfully,

MIKE MEZA
Branch Steward



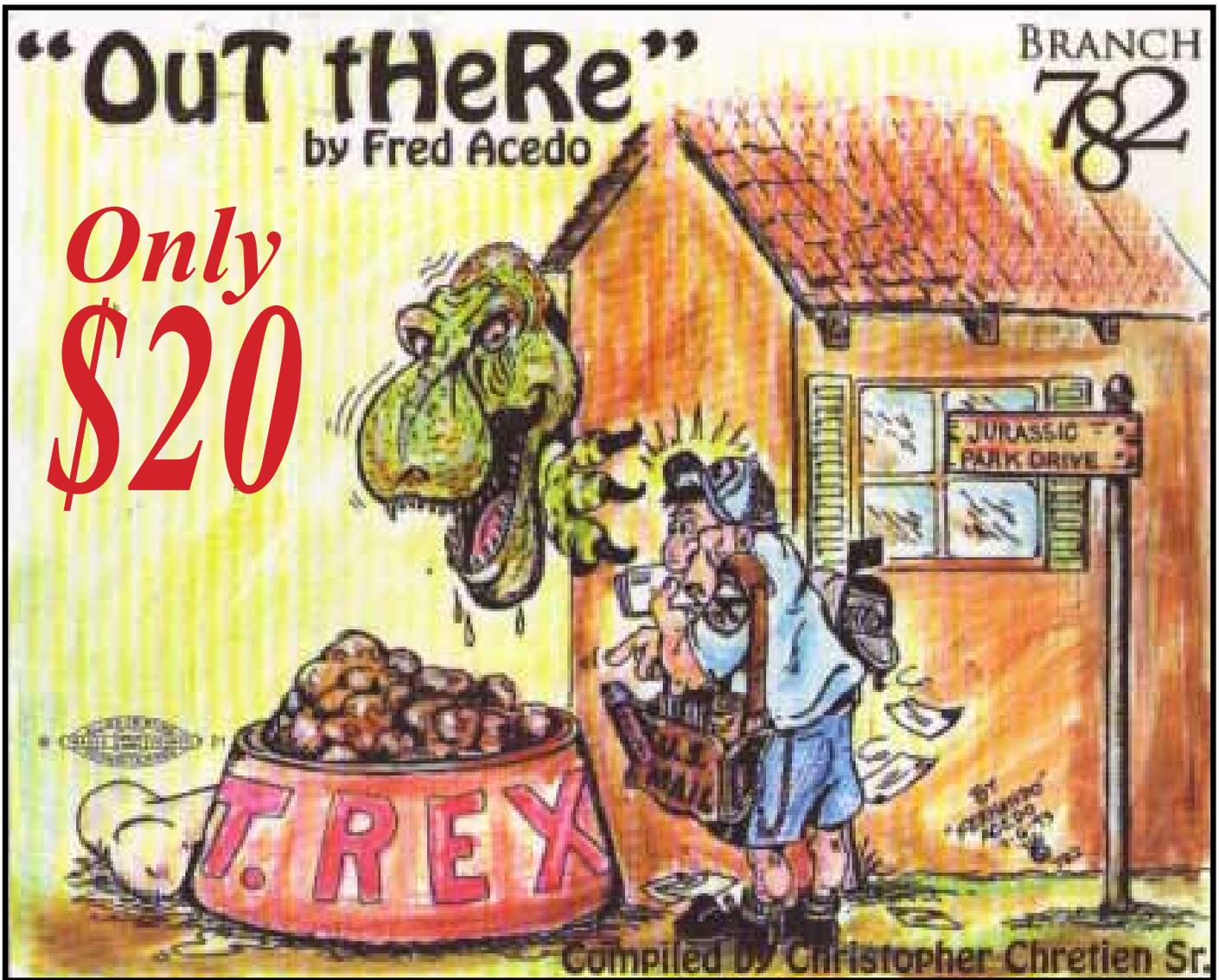
Thanks to our waitress, this picture captures (l-r) Darryl Holderman, Mike Meza, Basil Zuniga and Anita Holderman enjoying the evening while waiting for dinner to arrive.

Editor-guy Note: I let Mike know that I had read something in another newsletter a few years ago that made me think about his article. An NALC editor thanked a member for being the first person to ever "text" an article. As far as I know, Mike Meza may be the the second person in recorded history to use his phone to share his thoughts with you in an NALC newsletter...

“Out there” by Fred Acedo

BRANCH
782

Only
\$20



So what is this advertising message about? **THIS** is an MDA fundraiser. We are asking for **YOUR** help!!!!!!

We envisioned that all 2,500 copies of this book would be sold at the national NALC Convention in Anaheim in 2010. Didn't happen. We still have about 1500 copies of this book waiting to be sold before we can make our anticipated MDA donation. And—to add a little twist—a member made a motion at our general meeting that we had to sell **ALL** of the books before we could make our donation...

The book (about, for and by members of the NALC) chronicles the work of Branch 782 S.A.N.E Fred Acedo through the first nine of his nineteen years producing outstanding glimpses into who we are.

So...you may ask, what can you do? **ORDER A BOOK!!!**

Contact Kim Gerdes at (661) 301-9676; or, try her at the following e-mail address: “krgerdes91@hotmail.com”. **PLEASE** help us out!



A Photo Essay

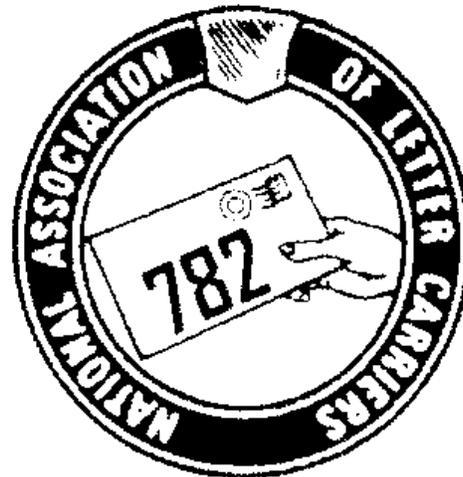
by Anita Holderman
Branch 782 Photographer



Minneapolis, Minnesota made all of the delegates to the NALC 68th Biennial National Convention feel extremely welcome. It was a beautiful city and a wonderful setting for such a historic gathering of Letter Carriers.



All Branch 782 delegates used their own annual leave to serve as delegates to the convention. Each of your delegates—whether they were a “rookie” at their very first national convention or whether they had attended numerous conventions in the past—dedicated themselves to being *your* delegates.

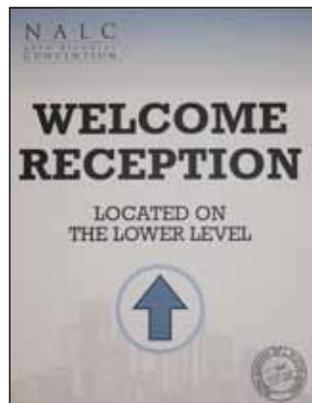


If you have never been fortunate to be present when the NALC gathers together in such an event, this is my attempt to share...

Pictures appear in (more or less) order. They will take you from the opening scenes to some of my last views.



There was a “Welcome, Delegates!” Reception



We were treated to a great carnival for the delegates and their family members! It was a great time!!!

Continued on next page...

The reception featured good entertainment and great food



And, after the welcome... we all went to work enthused!!!



Continued on next page...



We also all went to work selling those amazing Fred Acedo “Out There” books.

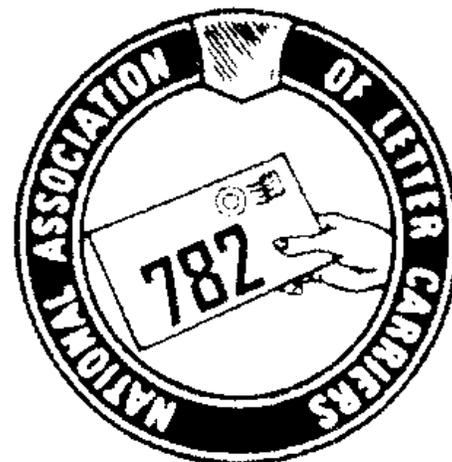
More on this later...

Take a look at one of our training classes!



Continued on next page...

But—it wasn't *all* work.



Continued on next page...



But, it was followed by *more* work & training...

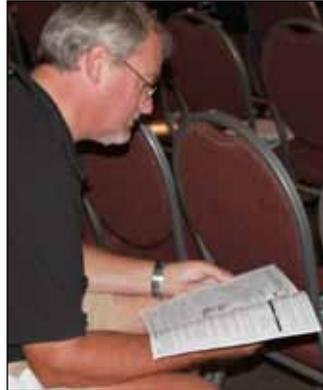


And, on the convention floor, we heard the words of our current and past NALC Presidents.

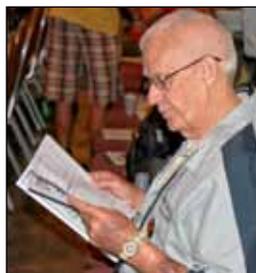
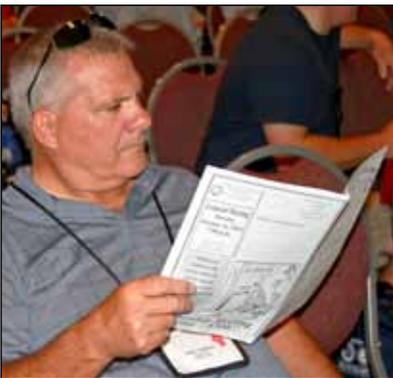
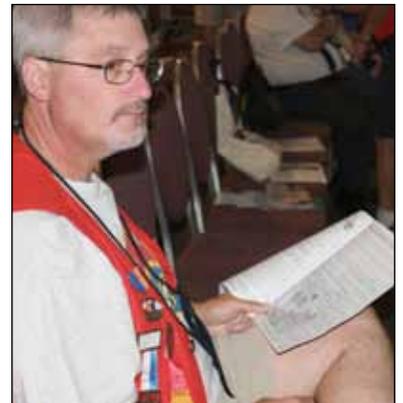
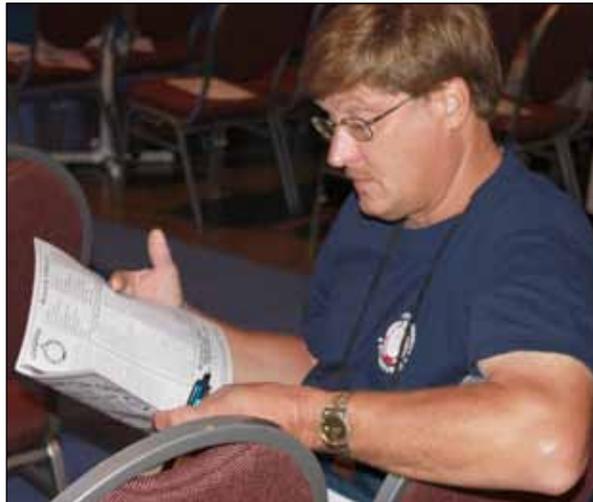
Continued on next page...



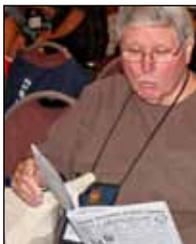
We met old friends and we made new ones...



And, Basil had us working distributing old newsletters that we shared with delegates from all over the country.



Work is fun? Yes, it is...



We cheered!
We got excited!
Really!!!

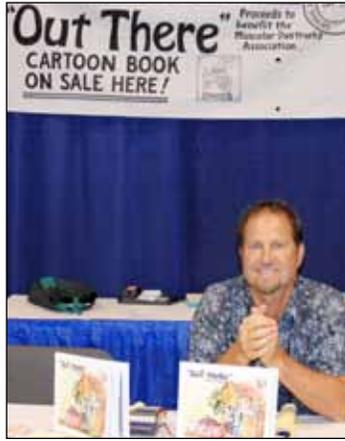


One amazing fact that you may or may not know: All NALC National Officers are accessible to each and every NALC member...

Music was a big part of the whole thing we did!



Fine Print Comment: No one was safe from the camera when the object is to capture what we did as *YOUR* delegates to this great convention.



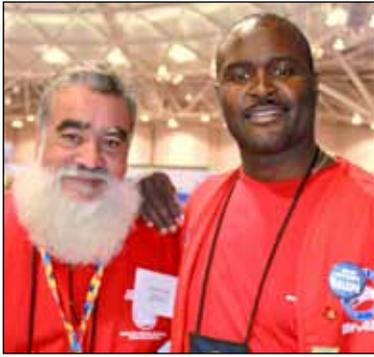
We ALL did our best to sell as many of the Fred Acedo "Out There" cartoon books as we could!



WHY were we there? OUR FIGHT! OUR FUTURE!



Continued on next page...



It WAS a sea of red!!!



At the end of the day, some of the delegates chose to get back to our roots as NALC activists...

Historical Fact:

The birth of the NALC happened when "... August Dahlman of Milwaukee called the initial first convention to order on August 29, 1889 *in the meeting hall above Schaefer's Saloon* at 244 West Water Street in Milwaukee."

There is no record of what delegates did after meeting. But...what do you think???

Source: *Carriers in a Common Cause—A History of Letter Carriers and the NALC*

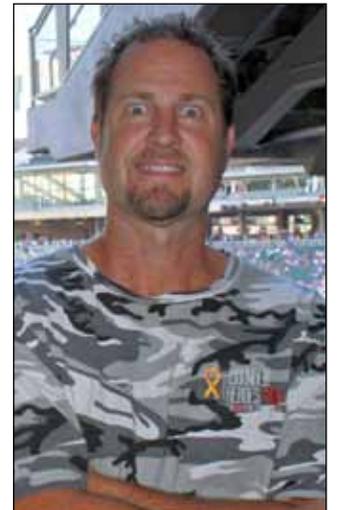
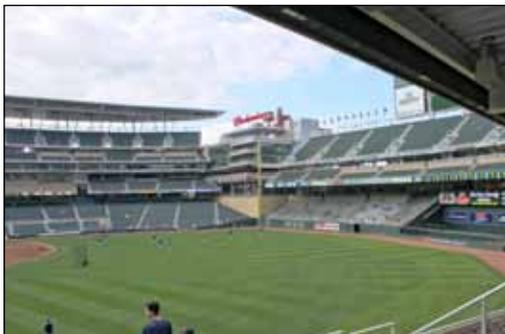


It was an honor for all of us to represent you!!!

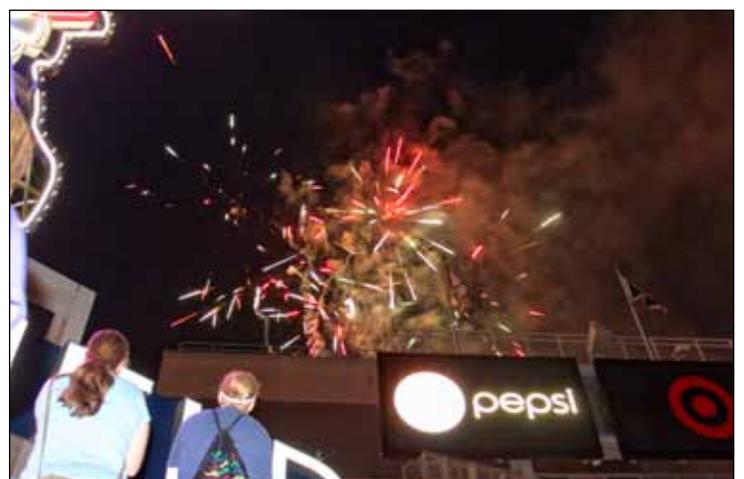


We saw things we never expected to see... Bunnies?

Yes. We even got to see bunnies!



The 2014 NALC National Convention will convene in the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Can you be a delegate? Yes!!!! Attend each of our monthly meetings...



"OUT THERE"

OUT THERE



OUT THERE



HAVE AN IDEA FOR FRED???

FRED ACEDO
BR. 782 S.A.N.E.
P.O. BOX 6532
BAKERSFIELD, CA
93386-6532

*...YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU MIGHT GET...

OUT THERE



By FRED ACEDO



If Congressman Issa has *his* way, this really could be what's in your future...

Jerry Patterson Joins “Last Punch” Bunch!

Jerry Patterson started his retirement on Aug 3rd of this year. This capped almost thirty-one years of service.



It seems fitting that I should be writing this article because I have known him my

whole life. I also had the great pleasure of working with him and being trained by him. I am his oldest daughter, Deven.

Jerry started at the Shafter Post Office in December of 1981. He made many friends there and in May of 1990 he had an accident that left him paralyzed—or so they told him. But, Jerry is a fighter and when they told him he’d never walk again he proved them wrong. When they told him he’d never be able to carry mail again, he showed them just how dedicated he was to his family and to his job.

He is the hardest working, most honest, and most loyal person I know and I always strive to be like him.

Jerry made Shafter his work home for the first eighteen years where he was

involved in the union as a member and as a Shop Steward. He also served as Branch 782 Sergeant-at-Arms for four years. In June of 1990, he decided to go a few miles north to Wasco where he made his new work home for his remaining thirteen years and was—once again—the unit Shop Steward.

Jerry has had many experiences over the years. He was in the Wasco paper after he saved one of his customers from drowning. He walked in the “Relay for Life” the last two years; and in 2011, he dedicated his 40 mile walk to his now deceased, dear friend, Les Armstrong.

Also, Jerry contributed to the Combined Federal Campaign to help others for years. He is such a giving person!

Now that Jerry has joined fellow Brothers and Sisters in the last punch bunch, he fills his days with “honey dos”, and “honey don’ts”. With any luck, I will have free kid care in the near future...

DEVEN PATTERSON

Who Might You Be?

*You might be big or small
When you get the call.
You might be 25 or 33.
Who might you be?*

*You start off slow then get fast
Wondering how long this will last.
Year 1, then 2, and then 23.
Who might you be?*

*Early morning to late at night,
I’m here and there and then out of sight.
Here I come, you see me.
Who might you be?*

*Park, walk and drive
And, every now and then, we save lives.
Step by step easy as it could be.
Who might you be?*

*Day by day you walk your beat
Through rain, snow and even in the heat.
Hoping for that shade from the tree,
Who might you be?*

*You slip, fall and sometimes trip,
Break an arm, leg or even a hip.
But you’ll be back on the route and proud to be.
Who might you be?*

*A long time has passed.
And this day is the last!
A Letter Carrier of the NALC.
That’s who you be:
Now a tired yet
happy Retiree!!*



JERRY PATTERSON
Wasco Shop Steward

from the editor-guy

Words are the best thing we have to share something with others that has been “rattling around” in our head. Often, words don’t quite capture what we mean to say—but they’re what we’ve got to work with...

With that said, I want to offer my congratulations to Jerry Patterson. Months ago, he began telling folks that he had decided to retire in 2012. He even wrote an article where he referenced his plans.

His retirement still caught me by surprise.

I received Norma Hamer’s convention article and she noted that she had attached a picture commemorating Jerry’s joining that really cool club called “The Last Punch Bunch”. What??? Already??!?!??

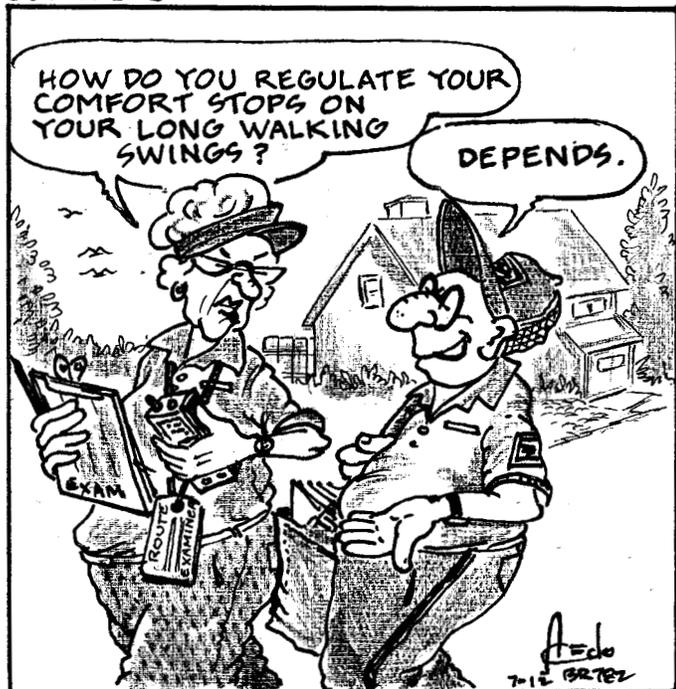
As I read the article submitted by his daughter, Deven, I got to remembering. By virtue of his active involvement in Branch 782, Jerry has been a delegate at numerous state and national NALC Conventions over the course of the last thirty years. He has also used up a lot of his annual leave to attend countless training sessions. He has travelled far and wide to gain information on how best to serve the needs of the Letter Carriers with whom he worked. He did this while dealing with all of the “normal life” ups, downs struggles that everyone experiences.

And, speaking of travel, much of that was done driving back and forth from his home to Bakersfield to participate in either the two monthly Shop Steward Meetings or the regular monthly general meeting. Since Jerry has lived either in Shafter or Wasco, the *one-way* distance has usually been between twenty to twenty-eight miles each time. Speaks volumes for his dedication.

OUT THERE



OUT THERE



Working in a city other than Bakersfield, Jerry has sometimes exhibited frustration with some of the resolves to Bakersfield grievances when they have been shared in meetings. In most cases, the resolves do not apply to offices other than Bakersfield and he has had to face the challenges on how to improve conditions where he works. He never gave up.

Speaking of work conditions, there are still more than a few Letter Carriers around who remember a man named John Smith. I first met him when he was the manager at Bakersfield’s Stockdale Station. He had a certain way about him. He seemed to revel in his mission to torment people. However, while he was at Stockdale, there were some 90 - 100 people who could be his “target” — and he shared the joy. When he became post-master in Shafter, there were less than ten targets for him...

As Jerry can probably recall, those were *not* the “good ol’ days”; however, he did learn a whole lot about being a Steward.

BASIL ZUNIGA



ERNEST KIRKLAND

DIRECTOR OF RETIRED MEMBERS

What have/will you fight for?

The recent release of Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe's "Postal Service Health Benefits and Pension Programs" and "Workforce Optimization" white papers a week before negotiations opened made it clear that letter carriers and other postal employees are in a fight.

The release of these "position papers" had a more shaking effect on me than the subsequent DC earthquake. I started reflecting on the efforts toward benefit gains that had been made in our profession just in my postal career. I wonder if the members and even non-members recognize the effect on their jobs and future if these attacks are allowed to happen.

Have you ever taken the time to consider the benefits and job protections that have been granted to most of us before we even became city letter carriers? Let's look at some of our core benefits and where they came from. The list is in the order of occurrence and, while not all-inclusive, it provides a good picture.

- **1863**—Free city delivery created the first 449 modern-era carriers.
- **1879**—Pay scales established for carriers in large cities, based upon service time (fixed at \$800 and \$1,000 per year). Smaller cities were capped at \$850 regardless of years of service.
- **1983**—Pendleton Act provided permanent status to postal employees. Prior to this, jobs were received and eliminated by the elected party of the day.
- **1884**—City letter carriers started to receive 15 days of vacation per year. Prior to this, carriers worked seven days a week, 52 weeks a year, 10 to 12 hours per day for the fixed pay.
- **1888**—The eight-hour workday became law. (The post office said this meant 56 hours per week.)
- **1889**—The National Association of Letter Carriers is organized.
- **1890**—NALC sued the Post Office Department over the eight-hour day/56-hour week mandate and won an award of \$3.5 million in 1893.
- **1912**—Mann Sunday Closing Act eliminated the seven-day week. Carriers now had one day a week off. They were still working seven days prior to this passage.
- **1916**—First Federal Employee Compensation Act created protecting carriers for the first time should they be injured at work and unable to continue working.

- **1920**—Ten days of sick leave per year granted.
- **1920**—Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and Disability Retirement became law, which guaranteed workers a retirement.
- **1949**—Equalization of all letter carriers into same pay structure regardless of city size. Note that it took 70 years to accomplish this. (See 1879).
- **1960**—Federal Employee Health Benefit Plan (FEHBP) created. The NALC had already established its own Health Benefit Plan that year, which continues to be one of the top plans today.
- **1970**—Postal employees strike, which led to the creation of USPS. Strike was over years of pay neglect for postal employees. (Top pay salary was \$8,442.)
- **1971**—First National Agreement provided for a "no-layoff clause."
- **1983**—Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) and Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) founded.
- **2011**—Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe initiates his "white papers" requesting the right to:
 - Lay off workers by breaking agreements in the existing contracts. (See 1971.)
 - Pull the USPS from CSRS and FERS and create a new retirement system more in line with the private sector (less benefits, more contributions from employees). (See 1920.)
 - Pull the USPS from the FEHBP and create a more private sector, less costly health benefit plan for postal employees (fewer coverage higher employee premiums). (See 1960.)
 - Eliminate 120,000 career positions and replace them with a more "flexible workforce" (part-time, low-pay, fewer-benefit workers). (Current salary for CC-1 top pay is \$56,507. See 1970 above.)

From the creation of the modern-day delivery in 1863 until the present, letter carriers have fought to achieve good pay, good benefits and a secure job. We who are the beneficiaries of those fights and actions stand in the crosshairs of an uncaring employer. We can continue to live off the fights of others or we can continue the struggle.

If you do not contribute to the protection of your job through being an e-Activist, volunteering through the Carrier Corps and contributing to COLCPE, then your future is left to someone else. Do you trust them? I do not! ☒



Branch Officers

President	Mike Towery	(661) 331-9171
Vice-President	John Ortega	(661) 809-8140
Recording Secretary	Kim Gerdes	(661) 834-2059
Treasurer	Molly Biggar	(661) 832-0393
Financial Secretary	Anita Holderman	(661) 487-5353
HBP & MBA	Mark Ramirez	(661) 834-5011
Sargeant-at-Arms	Darryl Holderman	(661) 332-9201
Chief Trustee	Lucinda Martinez	(661) 327-2898
Trustee	Danny Blair	(661) 397-8107
Trustee	Mabel Bullis	(661) 496-5679

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
(661) 397-4330
brzii@aol.com

Juan R. Rodriguez, Assistant Editor
(H) (661) 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
(559) 801-8645

NALC Branch 782 Shop Stewards

Avenal (93203)	John Ortega	(661) 809-8140
Arvin (93209)	Mike Munoz	(661) 304-5516
Delano (93215)	Gracie Silva	(661) 325-5526
Lamont (93241)	Darryl Holderman	(661) 332-9201
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
Downtown Station (93301)	Kim Gerdes	(661) 834-2059
South Station (93304)	Darryl Holderman	(661) 487-5353
South Station Alternate	Judy Kiyoshi	(661) 817-5529
East Bakersfield (93305)	Paul Salazar	(661) 327-7637
Hillcrest Station (93306)	Pam Smith	(661) 979-5854
Brundage Station (93307)	John Ortega	(661) 809-8140
Dole Court (93308)	Mike Towery	(661) 331-9171
Dole Court (93308)	Shari Sharpe	(661) 364-5544
Stockdale Station (93309)	Randy Courson	(661) 345-0256
Camino Media (93311/13)	Mike Meza	(805) 625-4541
Mojave (93501)	Vacant	
California City (93504)	Russell Day	(760) 373-8963
Boron (93516)	Paula Hogg	(760) 373-8963
Edwards AF Base (93526)	Larry Beem	(661) 949-2280
Tehachapi (93561)	Mary Morphis	(661) 822-6614
Trona (93562)	Lynnell Howell	(760) 371-1039
Ridgecrest (93555)	Lynnell Howell	(760) 371-1039

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

Rick Plummer, Webmaster



National Association of Letter Carriers
"Golden Empire Branch 782"
2628 "F" Street
Bakersfield, California 93301
(661) 325-5526

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

General Meeting

Tuesday
August 28, 2012
7:00 p.m.

Branch 782 Office
2628 "F" Street
Bakersfield, California

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

OUT THERE



Come to this month's general membership meeting and find out what your delegates have to share from the recent NALC National Convention.

It is important to invest your time and your energy to learn more about how to survive some of the changes which may be in YOUR future. Don't be caught unaware...

Don't forget to check out the web version of this newsletter! More is better... Go to out WWW.782NALC.COM