

National Association of Letter Carriers

Branch 782

E.A. Baker Union Update



ARVIN
CALIFORNIA CITY
McFARLAND
TAFT

AVENAL
DELANO
MOJAVE
TEHACHAPI

BAKERSFIELD
EDWARDS AFB
RIDGECREST
TRONA

BORON
LAMONT
SHAFTER
WASCO

CHARTERED FEBRUARY 25, 1901



NUMBER 11

WEB VERSION

NOVEMBER 2015

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF NALC "GOLDEN EMPIRE" BRANCH 782 DELEGATES TO THE 2016 NATIONAL CONVENTION

ELECTION

The election will be conducted by secret ballot at the regular meeting on November 24, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. at the Branch 782 Union Office, 2628 "F" Street, Bakersfield, California.

Any member who, for any reason, will be unable to vote on November 24, 2015, may obtain absentee ballots by submitting a signed written request to the Election Committee, Golden Empire Branch 782, 2628 "F" Street, Bakersfield, California 93301-1816, at least two weeks before the election. Absentee ballots must be returned to the election Committee by November 23.

Write in votes are not permitted.

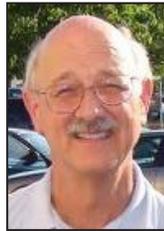
ELIGIBILITY FOR BRANCH FUNDS

Of the delegates from the Bakersfield local area selected to the National Convention, the requirements of eligibility for Convention funds will be attendance at ten (10) of the twelve (12) regular General Meetings just prior to the National Convention

Of the delegates selected from the outlying Associate Offices, (excess of thirty miles from Bakersfield, the requirements of eligibility for convention funds shall be: attendance at at least two (02) meetings (any combination of regular General Meetings and/or Quarterly Area Meetings in the twelve months just prior to the Convention.

at the

Mike:



I want take this opportunity to congratulate Basil Zuniga (who retired effective November 1st) and Tammera Turner (who retired on November 14th).

I wish them both the best and I predict that both will be telling everyone "Why didn't I retire sooner?"

It has been five months since I retired from the Postal Service and I find that I am busier than ever and have not regretted the decision for one minute.

Congratulations to the latest three City Carrier Assistants, Jazmin Martinez, Salvador Garcia and Mallaurie Fletcher who have joined the ranks of the full-time career carriers effective October 31, 2015 after being City Carrier Assistants for 2 years 8 months. In the past year, there have been 21 City Carrier Assistants in Bakersfield converted to full-time career. It is important to remember none of them would be career carriers now had the NALC in the last negotiations not taken the contract to Arbitration and demanded a work force that had more benefits and a direct path to career. Since then the NALC has negotiated agreements concerning the procedures and criteria to convert City Carrier Assistants to full-time career. All this was accomplished because every letter carrier who belongs to the union realizes the value of being an NALC union member. I would hate to begin to imagine what the Letter Carrier job would be like without the NALC being there to defend our rights and negotiate our wages and benefits.

I was happy to see a number of new faces at the October General Membership meeting. It is with pleasure that I announce the appointment of CCA Marisela Rodriguez as assistant Financial Secretary, CCA Vanessa Deluna as alternate shop steward of Arvin and Norma Hamer as assistant Recording Secretary. Norma has always been willing to take on new duties. She has been in charge of the MDA Fill the Satchel, has been one of our Food Drive Coordinators, and has been the Shop Steward for not only Shafter but also Delano. I appreciate all her help and dedication. In fact, Norma, along with Shari Sharp, John Ortega, Mike Meza, Lynnel Howell and I spent Sunday, November 15th in Van Nuys in a class given by the business agent's office concerning the carrier tracking system used by the Postal Service to monitor carriers on the street.

I want to remind everyone that during the November General Membership meeting there will be the election of the delegates to the National Convention in July 2016. I hope to see everyone at the meeting and I want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

OFFICIAL BALLOT	
"Golden Empire" Branch 782	
2016 NATIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATES	
INSTRUCTIONS	
1. Mark a "✓" or an "X" in the squares next to the candidates of your choice.	
2. Do not sign your name--otherwise your ballot will be voided	
3. Do not make any other marks on this ballot	
4. Write-in votes will not be counted. However, a write-in vote does not invalidate the rest of the ballot	
5. Fold the ballot and place in the ballot box	
Vote For Five	
Tammie Foshee	
Teresa Ortega	
Norma Hamer	
Mike Meza	
Frank Martinez	
Denise Ream	
Stephanie Maclaughlin	
Paul Salazar	
Jasvir Sangha	
Barbara Wilde	
Evelyn Gauthier	
Rick Gerdes	
Paul Greenfield	
Kim Gerdes	
Shari Sharp	
Debbie Guillet	
Judy Kiyoshi	
Marisela Rodriguez	
Deven Patterson	
Maria Valenzuela	
Randy Courson	
Molly Biggar	
Basil Zuniga	
Herminia Encinas	
Mark Ramirez	
Jerry Patterson	

SAMPLE

WE WILL NEVER FORGET...

the stench of dead bodies, the look on the face of a dying Marine, the wounded children, the sound of incoming, the red dirt of Khe Sanh, night ambush, elephant grass, malaria pills, rice patties, napalm,

the impact of being hit by an enemy round, the sound of an air strike, calling in medivacs, the silence before a fire fight, the prayers to God, leeches, the size of the rats, landing in a "hot" LZ, sweeping through a vil, graffiti on helmets, willey-pete, piling up dead gooks 6 ft. high, bug juice, the 23rd Psalm, the ace of spades, homesickness, the taste of C-rats, calling in arty, round-eyed girls, when one bandage was never enough, being pinned down, memories of home, the Tet Offensive, humpin' the bush, short timer's calendar, the motto of the 3rd Battalion/26th Marines (3/26), calling in choppers, removing the bandages, the smell of Charlie, photos from home, walking point, the monsoons, pungy pits, the sound of shrapnel flying through the air, R&R, watching a buddy get blown away, pulling the trigger, burning the shitters, booby traps, crossing in the open, digging in, mosquitoes, combat, bagging sand, the wall, the jungle heat, Da Nang, Zippo raids, crawling inside a flack jacket, being afraid for 13 months, the welcome home, gook haircuts, the faces, counting the kills, the gear we humped, snakes, the nicknames, the letters from home, counting the days, being short, entering a hooch, beetle nut, fire missions, picking up what's left, the taste of canteen water, tunnel rats, sit-reps, trip wires, salt pills, mine sweeps, thousand pounders, Phu Bai, the meaning of "Hard Corps," body bags, Christmas 1967, what not to write in the letters sent home, the shots, interrogating enemy prisoners, Ham & Limas, standing watch, bummin' smokes, our last night in country, Malayan whips, building bunkers, Hanoi Hanna, the flight home and...American ignorance.

John Lombardo – 1992

John Lombardo's Vietnam War Index

In Memorium



John Edward Lombardo, age 67, of Barnegat died on Thursday September 19, 2013 at his home. Born in Brooklyn, and formerly of Ringwood, he moved to Barnegat in 2007. He was a Union Electrician with Local 3 of Manhattan for 38 years until his retirement. John was a Vietnam Veteran. He enjoyed coin

collecting, crabbing and fishing. Mr. Lombardo is survived by his wife of 25 years Rose (nee Jesuele), three children John, Michael and Niki, grandchildren Alexander and Gianna, and siblings Resa and Ed. *HE should NEVER be forgotten...*

John Lombardo was never an NALC Letter Carrier. He was an electrician. But? He was a "Union" electrician military veteran!

He might not have understood every single issue that was important to us; but, he would have understood why we would fight for our Rights and our Benefits! He knew about the "pucker factor" when it came to a fight!!!

Like many NALC members, he was a combat veteran! Each and every one of *THEM* — like him — are worthy of our thanks and our respect!!!!

Veterans' Day to you may just be a day that you are glad you don't have to be at work. John Lombardo, and so many others (through so many wars!), suffered in order to make you glad...

Why do we honor each and every one of our many military Veterans on November 11?

Because **they** were **there** for all of us!!!

Minutes of the October 2015 General Meeting

The regular meeting of Branch 782 was called to order by President, Mike Towery at 7:02 p.m. on the 27th day of October, 2015 at the branch office, Bakersfield. The flag salute was led by Sgt. at Arms, Jerry Patterson. All members of the Executive Board were present. The Stewards were present from Arvin, Avenal, Brundage, Camino Media, Delano, Downtown, East Bakersfield, Edwards, Hillcrest, Lamont, Oildale, Shafter, South, Stockdale, Taft and Wasco. Also present was the Newsletter Editor Basil Zuniga; SANE Fred Acedo; Webmaster Rick Plummer; Photographer Anita Holderman; Assistant Treasurer Debbie Guillet and OWCP Representative Rick Gerdes; and Frank Martinez and Basil Zuniga of the Social and Recreation Committee. The Minutes of the September 22, 2015 meeting were read and accepted with no additions or corrections.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP: Applications were received from Parmdeep Dhillon, Dole Ct., Jesse Alexander Bracamonte, Hillcrest, Harvinder Sidhu, Camino and Thomas Lyster, Ridgecrest.

REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Teresa Ortega reported that "It's Over!" She thanked everyone who comes out early and helps; she could not have done it without the help. Mike Towery thanked Teresa for all her work on the picnic. Basil encouraged everyone to check out the website, all the photos are in color. He then reported that last month was Stockdale Stations turn to fold the newsletter, next month will be Camino Media. He also gave a heads up to the AO's; their turn will be in January. Basil also shared that members should check their Electronic Personnel File; make sure that the beneficiaries on all insurance forms are updated. He also suggested that members check the file for discipline and to get it removed. Basil then read a letter from a Retired Carrier, George Payzant, who purchased the **Out tHeRe** book. Frank Martinez of the Social and Recreation Committee reported that they have tickets for the Condor game in November; it will be the "Teddy Bear Toss" game. The cost is \$20.00 plus free gifts. In December there will be tickets to the Melodrama available for a Sunday matinee. Call Lisa at Brundage for tickets. Also tickets for the BC's last home game on November 7 are available for \$5.00. Kim Gerdes reported that there are 1056 books remaining. Mark Ramirez reported that he could not get to the Health Benefit Seminar due to the recent mudslides. He discussed the NALC Health Benefit Plan for 2016. The rates are set by OPM. The NALC plan is owned by the members so the rates stay pretty much the same. For active carriers the premiums are: Self \$60.69, Self + 1 \$136.67, Family \$131.71. For retirees the premiums are: Self \$157.17, Self + 1 \$351.61 and Family \$343.81. He also discussed Durable Medical Equipment.

NEW BUSINESS: John Ortega discussed the proposed By-Laws change for Article VII Section 5. The change in the second paragraph will read "The only authorized signatures for the savings,

checking and the Certificate of Deposit will be the Treasurer, the Financial Secretary, and the Vice President." A discussion was held as to the need for the change. In the current By-Laws, the Chief Trustee signs as one of the signatures on all checks. The change would have the Financial Secretary as one of the signatures and the Trustee would do Trustee work. The Committee's recommendation was one of approval. The members present voted in favor of the Committee's recommendation.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION: Mike Towery reported that three CCA's will be promoted on October 31. These promotions were a direct result of the Memo that the NALC negotiated. One transfer will also take affect on Saturday. Mike discussed the fact that he and John could not attend the meetings in Las Vegas due to the mudslide. He discussed proposed legislation to increase the amount employees contribute to their retirement to 4.4% without receiving any additional amount upon retirement. Mark Ramirez presented a poem he wrote about Ralfie Ochoa the cookie carrier, Fred drew the cartoons. Kim Gerdes asked that all members who are delegates to the Convention to please be sure to sign the book. Basil Zuniga shared that on July 9th he was delivering at JoAnns and when he came out, someone had stolen a tray of mail. He was put on Administrative Leave. On September 9th he was issued a Letter of Removal. Mike Towery worked out a settlement and Basil retired on October 30th. He thanked Mike for everything he did working out a settlement. He retired with 43 years, which included his sick leave and his military time. Darryl Holderman said they are working on a Retirement Party Breakfast on December 6th beginning at 7:00 a.m. at Noriega's. The cost will be \$10.00 at the door, let your steward know if you plan to attend.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION: Mike Towery reported that Carriers in Thorton, Colorado were delivering mail until 11:30 p.m. He also reported that carriers in Ridgecrest are out until 7:30 on a regular basis. The election for compensated delegates will be next month.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: Anita Holderman reported that \$18,477.23 was collected for the month of October.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Molly Biggar reported

Beginning Balance	\$72,453.13
Dues and Income	\$12,505.14
Total Balance	\$84,958.33
Total Expenses	\$14,889.09
Ending Balance	\$70,069.24

The 50/50 Food Drive card drawing was won by Norma Hamer who donated her portion to pay for the cards. (\$25./\$25.) Toni Acedo donated pens she and Fred were given by the Kern County Fair. The winners were, Dicie Wilder, Bonnie Whitbey, Maria Valenzuela, Mark Ramirez, Mike Munoz, Marcie Rodriguez, Bob Mitchell and Ralfie Ochoa.

The drawing for \$100.00 would have been won by Bill Elms, who was not present. There were 46 members present. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

KIM GERDES
NALC Branch 782 Recording Secretary

Non-Member List July 2015*

Downtown Station

S. Kirby
J. Cruz
D. Zuniga

South Station

M. Martinez

Brundage/East Bakersfield

100% UNION!!!

Hillcrest

100% UNION!!!

Dole Court

D. Morris

Stockdale

J. Oh

Camino Media

C. Rodriguez

Arvin

100% UNION!!!

Avenal

100% UNION!!!

California City

100% UNION!!!

Delano

C.V. Quebral
D. Barreto

Lamont

100% UNION!!!

Ridgecrest

G.D. Schatz

Shafter

M. D. Voights
L. M. New

Taft

A. Veach
B. M. Krier
K. J. Hughes

Tehachapi

B. C. Den Beeman

Trona

100% UNION!!!

Wasco

100% UNION!!!



*CCA names are in Italics



Thanksgiving is an emotional holiday. People travel thousands of miles to be with people they only see once a year.

And then? They discover that, ONCE A YEAR IS TOO OFTEN!!

Johnny Carson

THANKSGIVING BLESSING!!

May your stuffing be tasty,
May your turkey plump!
May your potatoes and gravy,
Have nary a lump!

May your yams be delicious,
And your pies take the prize!
And may your Thanksgiving dinner,
Stay off your thighs!

The "Open Season" on Food!!

There are healthy decisions we all should make!

Deep fry it in oil, or should I bake?

The holidays are here, it's open season on food!

When we get hungry, we're just in the mood !

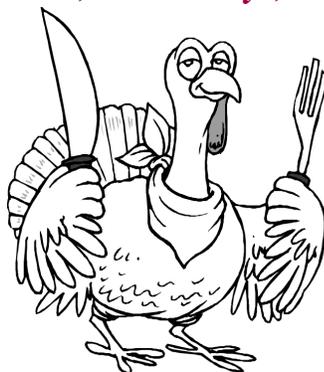
*There's tofu smoked turkey, and imitation ham,
And artificial stuff that comes in a can!*

I want tamales, real turkey, not healthy grains!

I want the bad stuff that tastes good, that clogs up my veins!

I can eat tofu and soy, most of the year!

But, the holidays, it's the bad stuff, and cold beer!



*So, Enjoy your soy protein,
and your veggie surprise!*

*Give me the bad stuff that tastes great,
Not food in disguise!*

by Mark Ramirez
Golden Empire Branch 782

The CSALC Saxsenmeier Scholarship

By Jack J. Woods
NALC Branch 290 Historian

There is a distinct chance that any one of us may see a name not known to us in one of our union publications. We'll see a name like "Carl J. Saxsenmeier".

And, then we might even ask:

Who??????

Jack J. Woods, a long-time NALC Branch 290 member sent the following to the CSALC. Thanks, Jack, for your research and sharing this knowledge with us!!!

Each fall, National Association of Letter Carrier members who read the Santa Barbara NALC Branch 290 *Beast of Burden* see an application for the "Carl J. Saxsenmeier Scholarship Award".

I ask, "**DO ANY OF YOU EVER WONDER WHO THIS CARL J. SAXSENMEIER PERSON WAS?**"

Carl Saxsenmeier, affectionately known as "The Man," was born in the Mission District of San Francisco on March 13, 1914. He attended Saint Peter's Grammar School and Mission High School, where he graduated in 1932. Soon after, he married his wife, Geneva. They moved to the Bayview district near Candlestick Park. They had one son, William, who is a former employee of the Half Moon Bay, CA Post Office.

Began In 1933

Carl began his career with the Post Office (then Post Office Department) in 1933 as a Special Delivery Messenger. During that period, new postal workers were required to report for duty and

wait in the swing room, off the clock, until called for available work. If work were available, he was paid a few cents for each special delivery letter he delivered. He later transferred to the Carrier craft.

Accomplishments

Carl became active in San Francisco NALC Branch 214 in the early fifties. For the first couple of years, he was a Trustee and Chairman of the Branch 214 Barbecue Committee. In 1954, Carl was elected Branch President and served in that position until 1958. The 1958 National Convention of the NALC was held in San Francisco. At this convention, then-National President, William C. Doherty, appointed Saxsenmeier to the newly formed NALC Health Benefits Plan Board of Directors.

In 1961, he became Western Field Director for the National Association of Letter Carriers. (Note: this office today is known by the title of National Business Agent (Region 1), which includes: California, Nevada, and Hawaii.) Carl J. Saxsenmeier served as Field Director until his death on January 19, 1966.

His replacement was Alfred K. May of Branch 24, Los Angeles. Since that time we have had four other Business Agents for the Western Region: Anthony Tripolino (Glendale), Brian Farris (Anaheim), William H. Young (San Luis Obispo), and Thomas H. Young (Anaheim). [Editor note: As of 1994... following Tom were Dale Hart (San Mateo), "Manny" Peralta (Anaheim) and, our current NBA, Chris Jackson (Anaheim).]

Testimonial Dinner

Prior to his death, a testimonial dinner was given for Carl Saxsenmeier, at which fifteen hundred people attended. The dinner was held at the Cabana Hotel in Palo Alto, California. The large attendance attested to the high regard the membership held for THE MAN.

Carl's son, Bill, was at the testimonial and he quotes the featured speaker who honored his father by stating: "The only thing that Carl has above the average person is his highly developed common sense and his love for other people. He is a common man, at home and in the presence of every man, and uses his abilities to the fullest."

To quote Bill Saxsenmeier directly: "**THIS** statement has stayed with me always and I feel it was the greatest thing anyone could say about another."

Scholarship as a Memorial

Carl J. Saxsenmeier was and is a symbol of exemplary leadership. Today we honor his memory by continuing the "Carl J. Saxsenmeier Scholarship Program". What better way to remember a fellow union member who gave his all for the betterment of Letter Carriers — past and present!

We began in 1974 by awarding two five hundred dollar scholarships and expanded the awards to three in 1977, and increased the award amount to six hundred fifty dollars in 1980. Over the years, the Saxsenmeier Scholarship program has prospered and matured. In the 1993 period: two two thousand dollar; two, fifteen hundred; and four one thousand dollar scholarships were awarded.

Sponsorship to State Association

When Branch 214 turned over the sponsorship of the Saxsenmeier program to the State Association on October 2, 1974, there was \$8,329.26 in the Fund. During the first six years of the program, we had been able to award scholarships amounting to \$9,900.00 and still had the original fund amount.

Donations were our only source of income. Three NALC Branches were faithful supporters: Branch 290, Santa Barbara; Branch 1100, Anaheim; and Branch 70, San Diego. One union member, Rose Ann Laskie of Branch 1100, worked tirelessly in raising funds. During this “tin cup” period of the program, we could not expand due to a fickle financial base. **IT WAS NOT GOOD ENOUGH.**

Stable Funding

At the State Convention of May 1976 at Palo Alto, we found the means to provide the Scholarship program with a sound financial base. Branch 290, Santa Barbara and Branch 5509, Goleta co-sponsored a resolution wherein the funds from the National Health Benefits rebate to the California State Association would be deposited into the Carl J. Saxsenmeier Scholarship program to insure its future existence. The resolution was adopted.

Today, twenty years later, we can be justly proud of our great California State Association of Letter Carriers sponsored union scholarship program!

Judging scholarship applicants

The judging of the applications is done by an independent panel of educators, who are experienced in scholarship competition. The Program’s chairman, a CSALC State Officer, collects the applications and turns them over to these impartial experts.

Branch 290 has contributed to this worthy effort for twelve years. First, with myself as Chairman; and then, with Mike Coyle who Chaired the program for four years. [Editor note: This paragraph circa 1994.]

~ Update 2015 ~

Today, CSALC President John Beaumont is proud to share, “We award ten \$1,400 scholarships each year to children and now grandchildren of NALC members. Even with historic low interest rates for the past decade your Saxsenmeier Scholarship Fund has continued to preserve its base and even grow slightly. This accomplishment has been achieved by the many NALC Branches across the state which donate to the Fund each year.”

This annotated article is from the Santa Barbara, CA January 1994 NALC Branch 290 *Beast of Burden*. It was updated by the CSALC in 2015.

There is a scholarship application on the next page...

Dicie Wilder is a retired member of NALC Branch 782. Dicie has a grandson — Cody Wilder. Cody was the recipient of a 2008 CSASLC Saxsenmier Scholarship which has helped him on his journey.

Graduating from Bakersfield’s Centennial High School with a 4.3 grade point average, Cody brought an impressive array of awards to the scholarship selection committee: National Merit Commended Student, California Scholarship Federation Gold Seal Bearer and a recipient of the Presidential Award for Academic Excellence.

Cody planned to attend the University of Southern California with the intention of obtaining a degree in Cinema Arts and Communication while participating in the

Thematic Options Honors Program at that institution.

Eventually, Cody Wilder **DID** graduate with a Bachelor of Arts Degree from USC!

Using that accomplishment as a platform, he has begun the proces of utilizing his skills and training to become a teacher. He is involved in substitute teaching in the Bakersfield area.

Additionally, Cody is putting the final touches on an application to go to another country and use those teaching skills! He hopes to be accepted in the Japanese Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program. We wish him continued success in this endeavor as well!

We congratulate Cody on being rewarded for all of his hard work and tenacity! We

also feel good that the California State Association of Letter Carriers Saxsenmeier Scholarship Fund was able to be the part of this journey that he is on!



2016 Carl J. Saxsenmeier

Scholarship Program

The California State Association of Letter Carriers (CSALC) is now accepting applications for the 2016 Carl J. Saxsenmeier Scholarship Program. **All applications must be received by the Scholarship Chair by January 4, 2016.** The Chair will send scholarship packets to all applicants by the end of January 2016. The scholarships are available to the dependent children or grandchildren of members of NALC Branches within the State of California who have not served in a supervisory capacity in the previous two (2) years from the date of 2016 award announcement. Applicant's parent / grandparent must be a member in good standing of the NALC for at least one year prior to applying. Applicant must be a high school senior when applying. Saxsenmeier Scholarship awards are issued in the year of graduation and are not renewable.

Jeff Parr

Saxsenmeier Scholarship Chair

1177 Levine Dr-Santa Rosa, Ca 95401

707-523-1818

Saxsenmeier Scholarship Application

(Please Print)

Student's Name _____

NALC Member's Name _____

Home Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Home Telephone _____

Cell / Fax _____

Email Address _____

Applicant's Signature _____

NALC Member Signature _____ Relationship to Applicant _____

Local NALC Branch Officer Signature required for verification of member in good standing:

NALC Branch Officer Signature _____ Title _____

Branch Officer Printed Name & Branch

Number _____ Golden Empire Merged Branch 782

DOHERTY & DONELON SCHOLARSHIPS

Deadline: This form must be returned to NALC Headquarters no later than December 31, 2015.

Eligibility

- Applicant must be the son, daughter or legally adopted child of a letter carrier NALC member in good standing—active, retired or deceased. Stepchildren and grandchildren are eligible if they live with the letter carrier in a regular parent-child relationship.
- Applicant's parent must be a member in good standing of NALC for at least one year prior to making application.
- Applicant must be a high school senior when making application and must submit the form provided at right, signed by the NALC member and an officer of the member's NALC branch. This form must be returned to NALC Headquarters by December 31, 2015.

Requirements

- All applicants must take the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) or the American College Test (ACT) in either their junior or senior year. A copy of the official scores from the administering organization must be received at NALC Headquarters by midnight, March 31, 2016. (Computer-generated printouts of test scores will not be accepted.)
- All biographical questionnaires and secondary school reports must be received at NALC Headquarters by midnight, March 31, 2016.

Regulations

- Scholarship is to be used toward pursuing undergraduate
- Doherty Scholarship awards will be \$4,000 per year and the

degree at an accredited college of recipient's choice.

- Winners may accept other college scholarship assistance in addition to the NALC award.
- Any change of schools or course of study must be done only with the permission of the NALC Scholarship Committee.
- A transcript of grades must be forwarded to the committee at the end of each school year.
- If winner suffers certified serious illness, scholarship will be held in abeyance for not more than one year.
- If unusual conditions are going to require an interruption in schooling, recipient must state reason(s) in writing to the Scholarship Committee and request that the scholarship be held in abeyance. Request(s) will be reviewed by the Committee and a decision rendered.
- If the NALC member is suspended by his/her local NALC branch or enters supervision, scholarship will be cancelled.

Terms of awards

- The official scholarship judges will award one William C. Doherty Scholarship in each of the five USPS Regions and one John T. Donelon Scholarship. Winners are judged on the basis of secondary school records, personal qualifications and test scores. As in the past, the scholarship judges will consist of experienced persons in the educational field. Decisions of the judges will be final.

Donelon Scholarship award will be \$1,000 per year. Each scholarship is renewable for three consecutive years thereafter providing the winner maintains satisfactory grades. Award money will be deposited annually with the college. It will be credited to the winner's account to be drawn upon under the rules and regulations which the college has established for handling scholarship funds. Award money is to be used for required college fees, including room and board and transportation fees.

- Children of NALC national officers are not eligible.

In honor of NALC's president from 1941 to 1962, the **William C. Doherty Scholarship Fund** will again award five \$4,000 scholarships to children of members in good standing. The **John T. Donelon Scholarship Fund** will award one scholarship in honor of Donelon, longtime NALC assistant to the president. Applicants must be high school seniors and must meet all of the following eligibility criteria to be considered.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Date _____ (Please print clearly)

Please send instructions as to how I can compete for a scholarship award. I am a senior in the 2015-16 school year.

I am the daughter son active
 *stepdaughter *stepson retired
 *granddaughter *grandson deceased

letter carrier _____

of Branch No. _____ City _____ State _____

My name is _____

My address is _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone No. _____

Signature of NALC parent member (or spouse if deceased)	Signature of branch officer
Printed name of branch officer	
NALC parent's Social Security No.	Title Date

This form must be returned no later than December 31, 2015, to the NALC Scholarship Committee, in care of the National Association of Letter Carriers, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144.

* Stepchildren and grandchildren are eligible if they live with the letter carrier in a regular parent-child relationship.

2015 NALC HBP Info

At a glance...



NALC Health Benefit Plan	1-888-636-6252
*Hospital Pre-Certification	1-877-220-6252
Mental & Substance Precertification	1-877-468-1016
**Prescription Drug Program	1-800-933-6252
CVS/Caremark Specialty Pharmacy	1-800-237-2767
Durable Medical Equipment	1-888-636-6252
"24/7 Nurse Hotline"	1-877-220-6252
CVS/CareMark Pharmacist	1-888-636-6252
Solutions for Caregivers (24/7)	1-877-468-1016
CIGNA PPO Locator Line	1-877-220-6252
CIGNA Organ Transplant Approval	1-800-668-9682
Quit for Life (Tobacco Cessation)	1-877-521-0244
CIGNA Health Rewards (Discounts)	1-800-558-9443
CIGNA Plus (Dental Discount)	1-877-521-0244
Disease Management Program	1-800-227-3728
OPM Retirement Info Center	1-888-767-6738
Federal Information Center	1-800-333-4636
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 Option 5 live person	1-877-477-3273

NALC Health Benefit Plan
20547 Waverly Court
Ashburn, Virginia 20149

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

NALC Drug Prescription "Claims" Filing
P.O. Box 521926
Phoenix, Arizona 85072-2192

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

NALC Consumer Driven Health Plan and Value Option
P.O. Box 18223
Chattanooga, TN 37422-7223
Phone: 1-855-511-1893

** Failure to pre-certify for in-patient hospitalization will result in a \$500 reduction. YOU MUST notify the Plan prior to undergoing outpatient 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 \$4 generic, \$37 formulary, \$52 non-formulary; 90 day supply \$6 generic, \$55 formulary, \$70 non-formulary; 90 day supply \$4 for NALCSE-LECT generic (certain drugs); 90 day supply \$4 for NALCPRE-FERRED 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: *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 (OPA Network) 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!!!

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

OUT THERE



"This is a summary of some of the features of the NALC Health Benefit Plan High Option. Detailed information on the benefits for the 2016 NALC Health Benefit Plan can be found in the official brochure (RI 71-009). All benefits are subject to the definitions, limitations, and exclusions set forth in the official brochure."

The Choice is Yours...

I hope ALL Letter Carriers compare the choices for their health care in the FEHB network during Open Season. **You ONLY have from November 9th through December 14th to make the right choice for yourself and your family!** Your window of opportunity for changing health care plans will be fast approaching the final days before you know it.

Letter Carriers will see that a new category “SELF PLUS ONE” is *more expensive* than “Self and Family”. This is a choice our members will need to consider before opting out of “Self and Family”. I understand the Office of Personal Management (OPM) is viewing this new option to see if it is well received; but, with the premium being higher than “Self and Family”, the jury is still out. The age group might be a factor. There are a lot of empty nests, as the children have moved out of the house.

NALC HBP IS YOUR UNION PLAN!!! IT IS NOT A FOR PROFIT PLAN!!! WE ARE UNION MEMBER OWNED!!!

ACCEPTED NATION AND WORLD WIDE!!! ANY PROFITS MADE ARE RETURNED TO OUR/YOUR HEALTH PLAN!!! AS A PREMIUM PAYING MEMBER, “YOU” STRENGTHEN OUR/YOUR UNION!!!

THERE IS A SAYING, “A CHAIN IS ONLY AS STRONG AS ITS WEAKEST LINK.”

MAKE OUR CHAIN STRONGER!

PostalEASE is your link to enroll in the National Association of Letter Carriers Health Benefit Plan during “Open Season”!!! Choose a Plan which offers you protection all over the country and anywhere in the world where you may need medical care!!

SHOW YOUR UNION SOLIDARITY STRENGTH AND MAKE THE NALC HBP YOUR CHOICE!!!

MARK RAMIREZ

NALC Health Benefit Representative
“Golden Empire” Branch 782

2016 NALC HBP Rates

Type of Enrollment	Enrollment Code	Biweekly		Monthly (Annuitants)		Active NALC Members	Change to Employee
		Gov't Share	Your Share	Gov't Share	Your Share		
High Option Self Only	321	\$213.37	\$72.55	\$462.30	\$157.19	\$60.69	-\$2.22
High Option Self Plus One	323	\$461.02	\$162.28	\$998.88	\$351.60	\$136.67	N/A
High Option Self and Family	322	\$476.06	\$158.68	\$1031.45	\$343.82	\$131.71	+\$7.16
CDHP Self Only	324	\$150.18	\$50.06	\$325.39	\$108.46	\$41.55	+\$2.00
CDHB Self Plus One	326	\$326.09	\$108.70	\$706.54	\$235.51	\$90.22	N/A
CDHP Self and Family	325	\$326.10	\$108.70	\$706.55	\$235.52	\$90.22	+\$4.35
Value Option Self Only	KM1	\$129.30	\$43.10	\$280.15	\$93.38	\$34.05	+\$1.72
Value Option Self Plus One	KM3	\$280.79	\$93.59	\$608.37	\$202.79	\$77.68	N/A
Value Option Self and Family	KM2	\$280.79	\$93.60	\$608.39	\$202.79	\$77.69	+\$3.75

CCA Note — If you are a CCA who has served 360 days, you have three options: 1. You can choose Self Only or Self & Family in the USPS Non-career Plan and receive a \$125 contributions to the premium every two weeks; 2. As an NALC member, you can choose NALC HBP Self Plus One or Self & Family (not Self Only) from the NALC Consumer Driven Plan or Value Option Plan and receive \$125 bi-weekly contribution from the USPS; or 3. You can choose Self Only, Self Plus One, or Self & Family coverage in any plan offered through the FEHB Program, but receive no contribution toward premium costs. If you have *NOT* completed a 360-day period of service, you have *only* one plan option at this time: You can choose to enroll in the USPS Noncareer plan (with either Self Only or family coverage) and receive the \$125 USPS premium contribution.

Most of you know that, for some time now, I have been writing poems acknowledging our Branch 782 members who work toward the good of our Branch and all of our members. This is another attempt to recognize and show appreciation to another solid union member of our Branch.

At the October 27th general meeting, I read a poem that I wrote praising one of our retired Letter Carrier sisters who has been baking cookies for the general meeting members for a number of years. And, she's done this at her own expense! Members in attendance at these meetings have really appreciated those cookies!

I wanted to put into words the gratitude we all have for her act of union kindness and for the cookies she bakes. I have been jokingly calling Rafaela "Ralphie" Ochoa "Cookie Monster" for a while now; but now, I want to share a poem that I was able to "bake" for her!

Thanks to our nationally known Branch artist S.A.N.E. Fred Acedo, and his contribution of art work for this poem, and to Branch 782 Editor-guy Basil Zuniga for placing everything together, it turned out excellent!

As a further token of our appreciation, Ralphie was presented with a gift card along with a framed color edition of her poem. The members who contributed for the gift card were Branch 782 President Mike Towery, Branch 782 Treasurer Molly Biggar, Editor-guy Basil Zuniga, and myself.

I spoke to Ralphie "C. C." (Cookie Cacoey) Ochoa after the meeting. She stated she was totally surprised by this recognition by the Branch for her cookie baking expertise. She went on to say that this nice poem would be hung proudly in her living room.

I would also like to state — for the record — the cookies Ralphie bakes are chocolate chip, peanut butter, snicker doodle, and macadamia nut. So, if *your* Branch doesn't have a member who bakes cookies for *your* Branch meetings..... na, na, na, na, na,.....neener neener! **WE DO !!!!!!!**

MARK RAMIREZ

"Poet at Large"
NALC Health Benefit Representative
Golden Empire NALC Branch 782

"OuT tHeRe"



OUT THERE



Ralphie, The “Cookie Carrier”

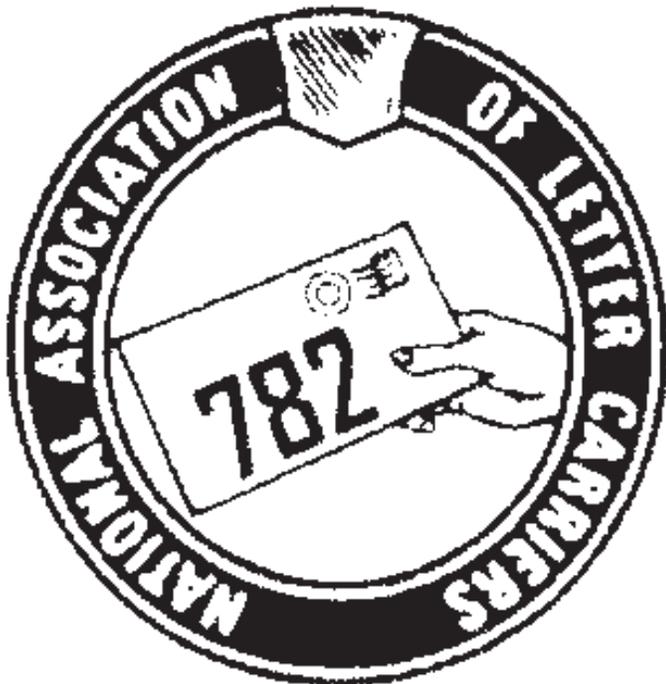
Ralphie is a retired Letter Carrier,
Now, works at a labor she’s lovin’!
Baking her wonderful cookies,
At home, in her warm kitchen oven!

She spoils, our general meeting members,
Her treats, are straight from the heart!
You see, it’s not just cooking,
For Ralphie, it’s called “Baking Art!

I’ll bet her kitchen’s exciting,
Not work, just lots of fun!
Her cookies are so darn tasty,
It’s impossible, to eat just one!

We appreciate Ralphie’s baked goodies,
Savory, real soft and chewy!
So monstrously delicious,
“Ralphie”, is our “Cookie Cacooley!”

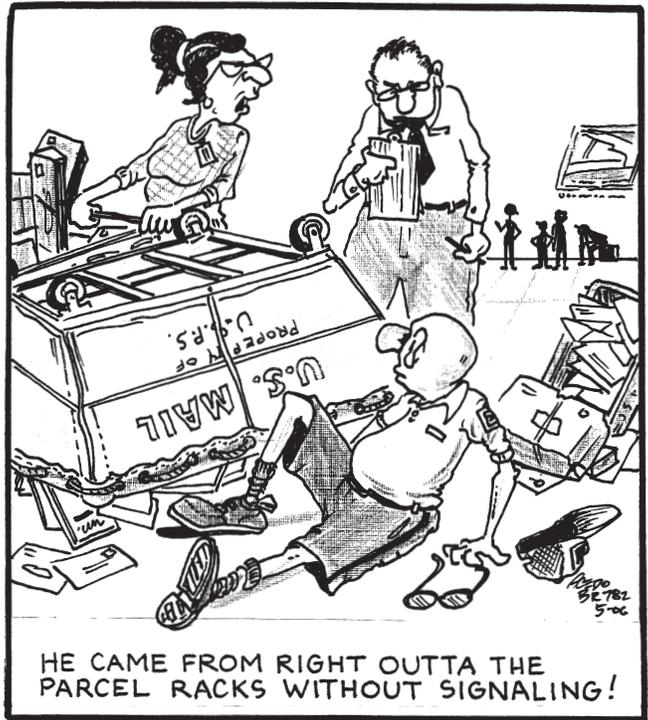
by Mark Ramirez
NALC Health Benefits Representative
NALC Golden Empire Branch 782



OUT THERE



OUT THERE



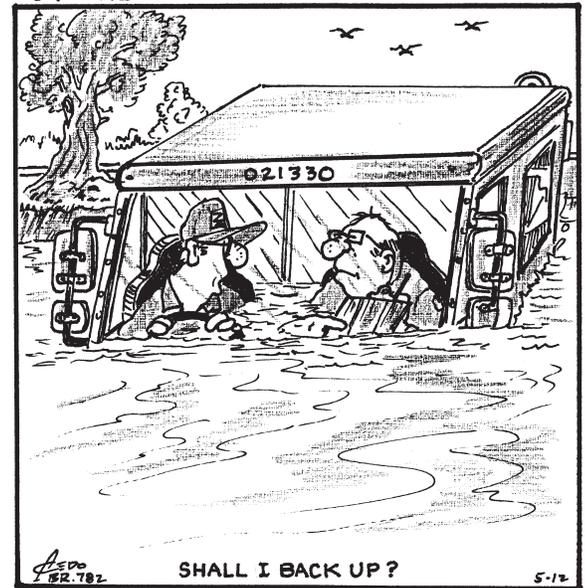
HE CAME FROM RIGHT OUTTA THE PARCEL RACKS WITHOUT SIGNALING!

Have an Idea for Fred?*

"OuT tHeRe"



OUT THERE



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

**But, you never know what you might get...*



from

Kim Gerdes

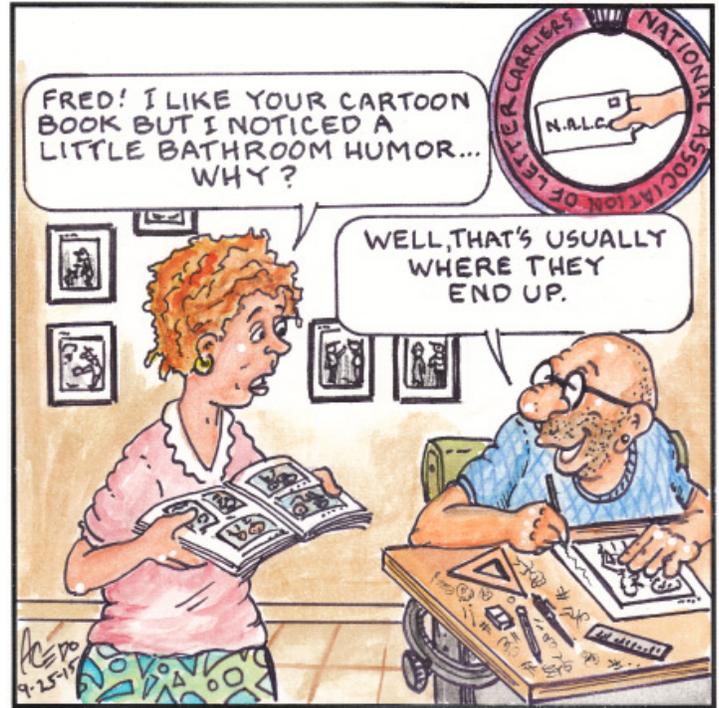
Recording Secretary

We hope you consider ordering a Fred Acedo **Out tHeRe** cartoon book!!

Over 130 pages of cartoons featuring our Letter Carrier world can now be yours for an amazingly low cost!!

To make life simple, request as many copies as you want by clipping the form at the bottom of the page and returning it & payment via USPS mail to Branch 782.

"OuT tHeRe"



You can also order by contacting me via e-mail at "krgerdes91@hotmail.com". Or, you can call me at the phone number on the bottom of this page. The book and projected shipping costs are provided below. You can even share *your* work life with family and friends with this book as a Christmas gift...

Finally, I want to present you with an up-to-now unpublished example of Fred's work. Enjoy!

Dear Kim Gerdes, NALC Branch 782 Recording Secretary

Please send me _____ **Out tHeRe** book (s)! I know people who will love them!

Name and address for shipping: _____



One book is **\$7**. Two books cost **\$10**. (Postage: 1 - 4 books \$5.05 & 4 - 7 books is \$5.75.)
We ship via USPS Priority Mail Flat Rate box. (For larger orders, these are still the best rates.)

NALC Branch 782 ● 2628 F Street ● Bakersfield, California ● 93301 ● (661) 834-2059

No, It's not your imagination.

YOUR SCANNER IS TALKING TO YOU...

With the burgeoning demand for information from mailers and customers alike, the USPS has expanded the functions of our hand held scanners (MDDs) to include **IV** (Improved Visibility) and **SPM** (Service Performance Measurement) programs.

So, what does this mean for Carriers??? More work and much confusion...

Here are some Q and A for these new functions, and some advice on how to protect yourselves from potential discipline.

What is IV?

In short, all scans made on mail as it moves through the postal systems will be made available in real time for those who need access.

So exactly what information will the Carriers be scanning?

This leads us to the SPM functions on our scanners. SPM is measurement of the speed and reliability of mail services.

Internal SPM Sampling is an initiative to have Carriers scan some mail pieces at collection and delivery points to capture service performance information.



Carriers should carry their Mobile Delivery Devices (MDDs) on routes. Carriers will receive randomly generated sampling requests for specific collection points and delivery points on their routes via their MDDs.

These sampling requests include a alert sounder and a *verbal message* instructing the Carrier as to what address is being selected for mailpiece scanning. Carriers should then scan the indicated number of mail pieces to comply with the sampling request to ensure data is captured.

For collection, alerts are triggered by scanning the Collection Point Management System (CPMS) barcode inside a collection box. For delivery, alerts are triggered by geographic location, meaning Carriers receive the alerts as they approach the delivery address.

For delivery, Carriers may receive zero, one, or more sampling requests per day, with an average of one request per route per week.

For collection, 30-40 collection boxes are targeted per day per district. Carriers should only scan mail being delivered —not being collected— up to the specified sampling amount. Carriers or supervisors cannot find out which addresses and collection boxes will have sampling requests. Sampling requests are generated randomly, so there is no way to know about a sampling request until after scanning the CPMS barcode (for col-

lection) or after approaching the sampling location (for delivery).

What should a Carrier do after receiving a sampling request?

The Carrier should follow these general steps:

1. Initiate the Work Order to begin the sampling process.
2. For delivery, confirm if the address is on the current route.
3. Scan up to the number and type of mail pieces indicated in the Work Order. Carriers should only scan one barcode per mail piece.
4. Close the Work Order by confirming that scanning is finished or there are no additional pieces to scan.

What should a Carrier do if the MDD alerts but he or she is not yet ready to process the sampling request?

To postpone a sampling request from the Work Order screen, press Esc to return to the previously displayed screen. To retrieve the request, from the On Street menu, press the W key OR scroll down the menu, select W Work Orders, and press Enter.

How many items should a Carrier scan for a sampling request?

The Work Order displays the number of letters, flats, or mailpieces to scan. In general, Carriers will not be requested to scan more than seven items.

What should a Carrier do if there are not as many mailpieces to scan as requested?

The Carrier should scan as many pieces as possible, up to the number requested. Then, the Carrier should press Enter, and indicate there are no more pieces to scan.

What should a Carrier do if the barcode is damaged or will not scan?

The Carrier should treat the mail piece as a non-barcoded item and try to scan another mailpiece if available.

What should the Carrier do if the alert does not trigger until after the carrier

delivers the mail OR the Work Order triggered, but the Carrier forgot to do the sampling?

The Carrier should not backtrack or pull the mail out of the box for sampling. This could result in scanning mail delivered on a previous day, which would provide incorrect data for the delivery measurement. Instead, the Carrier should not process the Work Order. The following day, all unprocessed Work Orders will be cleared and the MOD reset.

Why does the MDD sometimes alert AFTER the Carrier delivers the mail?

For delivery, sampling requests trigger when the MDD is within a certain radius of the sampling location. If the delivery location coordinates recorded in the system do not quite match the physical delivery address coordinates, the MDD may trigger at a nearby location instead of triggering at the specific delivery address.

Can the MDD tell the difference between a flat and letter being scanned?

There is no way for the MDD to know if a scanned barcode is associated to a letter or a flat. The measurement system can determine if a letter or flat was scanned based on information received from electronic documentation or mail processing equipment (MPE).

What should a Carrier do with the mailpieces after scanning them? Should Carriers treat scanned mailpieces in a special way?

No. Carriers should deliver or collect the mail pieces as appropriate, not hold them out or treat them differently.

What should a Carrier do if he or she receives a sampling request for an address where mail is being forwarded to another address?

Carriers should only scan barcodes for mailpieces being delivered to the address of the sampling request. If mail pieces are being forwarded to another address, carriers should not scan those mailpieces.

What should a Carrier do if he or she receives a sampling request for an address where mail is on hold?

Carriers should only scan barcodes for mailpieces being delivered to the address of the sampling request. If there are no mailpieces being delivered, then the Carrier should indicate there are not any mailpieces to scan for that sampling request.

What should a Carrier do if he or she receives a text message question or instruction via the scanner from Management?

If the instruction can possibly lead to discipline, **NEVER BE**

AFRAID TO ASK FOR

REPRESENTATION

BEFORE RESPONDING!!

Article courtesy of the Rockville, MD
Volume 34 #2 NALC Branch 3825 Unity

"OuT tHeRe"



An "I'm RETIRED!" Breakfast with Basil Zuniga??



You might have questions??
I'VE GOT ANSWERS...

Noriega's is located at 525 Sumner Street in Bakersfield and it is a Basque Restaurant.

7:30 a.m. (or 0750 in USPS time)??? Wait a minute!!!
On a **SUNDAY** morning? Are you kidding???

Nope. This is when breakfast is served. And—if you want—you can join us...

SO, WHAT'S FOR BREAKFAST?? Omelette or Fried Eggs, Potatoes, Basque Sausage or Bacon or Ham, Salsa, Bread, Jack Cheese. Also includes Wine* or Coffee.

The cost: \$10.00

* Wine. Wine? Yes, wine. With breakfast? Yes. That's part of the "ambiance". And, yes, wine with breakfast makes for a really relaxing "after-breakfast" nap!!

The Noriega Hotel was founded by Faustino Noriega in 1893. Taken over in 1931 by Juan and Gracianna Elizalde and has been operated by her family ever since. The original Hotel, after many years, became a boarding house for men only. In 1940, the restaurant business was such that it became necessary to expand, and the present bar and dining room were added. The Noriega Hotel is still the hub of the Basque community and continues to serve exceptional meals to the public as well.

And, no. Basil is not Basque. But—like Jimi Hendrix—he discovered that wine with breakfast with the Basque people can be a path to enlightenment...

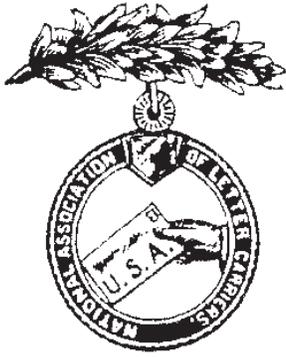
December 6, 2015

Contact your unit NALC Steward for more details and to reserve a spot!



If you are retired — or are from out of town — you can call Darryl Holderman (661) 332-9201 **ONLY** after 5:30 p.m.!!!





Branch Officers

President	Mike Towery	(661) 331-9171
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Recording Secretary	Kim Gerdes	(661) 834-2059
Treasurer	Molly Biggar	(661) 832-0393
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Trustee	Teresa Ortega	(661) 325-5526
Trustee	Darryl Holderman	(661) 332-9201

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

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

The information contained in this publication is true and complete to our best knowledge. All recommendations, on equipment and procedures are made without guarantees on the part of the authors or of the organization. Because the quality of equipment, services and methods are beyond our control, the organization and its publication authors disclaim all liability incurred in connection with use of this information.

Information in this publication may not be used for illegal purposes.

We invite all members to contribute articles for publication. Copy, if possible, should be double-spaced (but doesn't have to be) but **MUST** be signed by the contributor.

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

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

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Trona (93562)	Lynnel Howell	(760) 382-3030

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

Rick Plummer, Webmaster



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

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

General Meeting
Tuesday
November 24, 2015
7:00 p.m.

Branch 782 Office
 2628 "F" Street
 Bakersfield, California

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

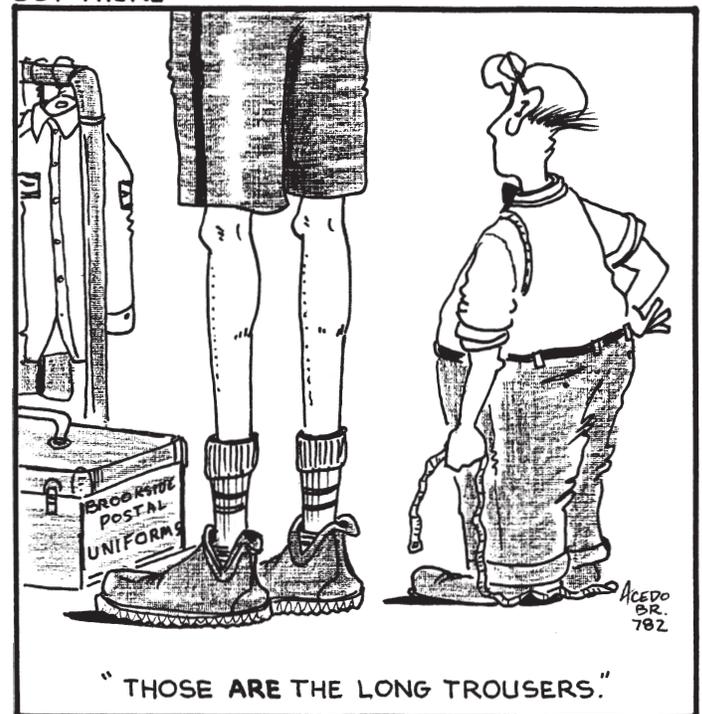
This is the Official Notice of Election of NALC "Golden Empire" Branch 782 Delegates to the 2016 National Convention

See the Front Cover

OUT THERE



OUT THERE



REALLY!!!
YOU
Could Win
\$500??????

Membership has rewards...

Each and EVERY month, Branch 782 sponsors a drawing to encourage YOU to come to our Meeting*.

There was no winner in October 2015!!!

YOU could win \$150!

If no one wins, it will go up by \$50 each month until there is a winner OR it hits the max of \$500.

*The fine print: TO WIN THE MONEY YOU HAVE TO BE PRESENT WHEN YOUR NAME IS DRAWN!

Don't forget to check out the web version of our newsletter at: www.782nalc.com. The colors of the cartoons and the pictures really "pop"!