★ SOLIDARITY

**★** EDUCATION

★ ORGANIZATION



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF TRI-VALLEY BRANCH 2902 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS AFL-CIO

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MEMBER: LOS ANGELES FEDERATION OF LABOR, AFL-CIO

MEMBER: TRI-COUNTIES CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO

VOLUME 65, NO. 2

CIRCULATION 2,500

MARCH - APRIL 2023

# **Beware!**

By James Perryman, President

iolence can escalate from words to actions. Family members against family members; neighbor against neighbor; and Postal worker against Postal worker. Where does it end? Violence has been known to end in murder, feuds and even wars. So much of the violence in our world is caused by jealousy and/or hatred. Violence can also be caused by someone or some group

wanting what someone else may have. We need to examine how we respond to the injustices we suffer.

Could we be as generous to reach out to assist. guide, and educate someone or a co-worker? I'm sure that most of us will never have to worry about someone causing physical harm to us because we are more popular or have more than another. But when we look at some of the news headlines, we can name actors and actresses, sports stars and political figures, etc. who have been harmed just for those reasons. We will never be able to prevent people from acting out of jealousy in our world. However, we can be satisfied with what we have and not be jealous of our neighbor. We can also refrain from retaliation when faced with the actions of others.



### **ATTENTION**

The membership vote on the Branch 2902 proposed By-Laws changes read at the General Membership meeting on 1/19/23, will be discussed and take place at the General Membership Meeting at the Jon Gaunce Union Hall on April 20, 2023.

### **Theft On the Rise**

Robberies occurring while delivering mail are happening more frequently now and we must be on alert. Many Americans receive monetary payments in the mail to provide for their families and pay for household responsibilities such as food, clothing and mortgage/rent. Additionally, many Americans have converted to ordering

their household goods, including medical prescriptions online. In the meantime, the new popular way of purchasing goods online is continuing to increase. While the online orders create revenue for the Postal Service, which is great news for us. unfortunately there is a downside. Thieves and opportunist are lying in wait to attempt to rob and steal from Letter Carriers during the delivery of checks and other mail of monetary value. Robbery and assault are serious crimes. While money is often the motivation, these incidents are considered crimes of violence because they involve the threat or actual use of physical violence.

Moreover, the number of Letter Carrier imposters has increased as well. It's been reported that this current

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type of theft is happening across the country. Furthermore, mail at the Postal installation docks has been stolen by thieves wearing Letter Carrier

uniforms. They also have been seen breaking into Postal vehicles to steal mail and personal belongings while Carriers were delivering swings on their routes.

I wrote this article to bring awareness to Letter Carriers and provide some basic prevention tips. The basic rules of prevention are to be sensible and to be alert. The following tips will also help reduce the risk of robbery or assault.

### **Safety Tips on the Street**

- Always be aware of your surroundings. Do not wear headphones while delivering routes; it will prevent you from hearing outside noises.
- Report any suspicious activity or person immediately to the Police/Sheriff Department by calling 911 and then call your supervisor.
- Avoid carrying large sums of cash, or displaying expensive jewelry in public.
- Secure the mail in the back of the vehicle when delivering park and loop routes or any time the vehicle is out of your sight.

### **Basic Street Smarts**

- Wherever you are on the street, in an office building or shopping mall or driving, stay alert and tuned in to your surroundings.
- Trust your instincts. If something or someone makes you uneasy, avoid the person or leave.
- Know the neighborhoods where you work.
- Check out the locations of police and fire stations, public telephones, hospitals and restaurants in the areas where you work.

### If Someone Tries to Rob You

- Don't resist. Give up what they want even if it includes your personal property – don't give up your life.
- Report the crime to the police as soon as possible.
   Try to describe the attacker(s) and provide relevant information accurately. Your actions can help prevent others from becoming victims.
- Don't try to be a hero, do not approach and/or engage in combat with the suspect.

A reminder to Letter Carriers, the threat of being victimized while delivering mail is currently on the rise and we must do everything in our power to protect ourselves and each other. Also be mindful that Letter Carriers have a right to work in a safe environment. Using the above-mentioned tips should provide assistance while exercising this right. Stay safe brothers and sisters, please be on alert.

Note, if safety stand-ups and/or make-up safety stand-up talks are not being conducted in your office, this may be a contractual safety violation, and you should notify your Shop Steward immediately. Management must comply with the Joint Contract Administration Manual (JCAM) in regards to safety of Letter Carriers which reads in relevant part:

### **ARTICLE 14 Safety and Health**

### 14.1 Section 1. Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of management to provide safe working conditions in all present and future installations and to develop a safe working force. The Union will cooperate with and assist management to live up to this responsibility.

### **Fraudulent PostalEase Access**

As if we all don't have enough to worry about between the assaults happening, pressures of work in general and stress of life, now we need to beware of our information being stolen. If you have used or plan to use PostalEase, please read this in its entirely on *NALC.org* and take the proper precautions.

USPS has confirmed that some Postal Service employees are unknowingly providing their user names and passwords to criminal websites, while attempting to access PostalEase.

It is reported that employees are using Google and attempting to access PostalEase. Over several recent days, approximately 119 postal employees attempted accessing PostalEase using Google; however, Google's routers redirected their searches to third-party, criminally-run websites that mirror the look and access of PostalEase. Unfortunately, their logon credentials were hacked, and some accounts were compromised.

The USPS Corporate Information Security Office (CISO) is working with the Postal Inspection Service to facilitate notice to the impacted employees. Formal notification to all postal employees is forthcoming.

USPS reports that representations have been made at the district level confirming Postal Inspectors are contacting impacted employees, as well as employees who may have unknowingly been compromised, and requesting their EINs and passwords. Postal Inspectors have not contacted postal employees and requested their EINs and/or passwords. Employees should never provide user names and/or passwords to anyone.

USPS has informed NALC that PostalEase has not been breached by any third party. Employees accessing PostalEase via the official postal website have not experienced security breaches.

Specific banking industry standards require financial institutions to provide relief in certain situations. However, several third-party websites were criminal scams, and likely, some of the lost monies will not be returned. USPS does not have the total dollar loss currently available. USPS states liability for the hacking, bank account breaches and lost monies remains with Google.

Financially impacted employees should immediately contact the Eagan ASC Helpdesk at (866) 974-2733. Staff members are available to assist.

If you become aware of any employee experiencing access issues to PostalEase, they should immediately contact (877) 477-3273 to request assistance.

Additionally, to assist USPS with identifying our affected members, NALC has created a section on the NALC Members Only portal of the NALC website that will allow affected individuals to identify themselves as victims of this scam. NALC members, after logging into the Members Only portal, will see in the upper right-hand portion of their Member Information page, a check box with the words in red lettering, "Check here if you have been a victim of the fraudulent PostalEase Access."

NALC will then provide this information to USPS to assist in identifying those who may have been affected.

### **Security Enhancements to LiteBlue**

Recently, the Postal Service learned of fraudulent websites intended to trick Postal employees into providing their LiteBlue login credentials. These websites did this by appearing in popular search engines with similar names and web addresses to LiteBlue. Unfortunately, some Postal employees have fallen victim to these fraudulent websites. Many employees had their entire paychecks rerouted to the criminals' bank accounts, instead of being deposited into their own.

To improve the security of LiteBlue, the Postal Service has implemented multifactor authentication (MFA) when logging in. MFA provides an extra layer of security and may already be familiar to most through online accounts at financial institutions by confirming a code received via text message or through an app.

Effective January 15, when employees sign in to LiteBlue they will be required to reset their Self-Service Profile (SSP) password, verify the last four digits of their Social Security Number (SSN) and set up their multifactor authentication preferences. The January 17, 2023 Mandatory Stand-Up Talk Multifactor authentication now required for LiteBlue can be

found here, and instructions and videos to help setup MFA can be found here. All Letter Carriers should take these steps as soon as possible to further secure their accounts.

As with any website, be sure to check you are on the genuine website before entering any credentials. Users can avoid fraudulent LiteBlue sites by typing the web address directly (www.liteblue.usps.gov).

### **Best Wishes**

Effort produces results. It's true in sports, in business, and also in serving as a NALC Shop Steward. This is true when we sacrifice our time in service to others, and or make monetary donation towards a good cause. When we do our part willfully and faithfully, we will see great things happen from our efforts.

I, like many others had the opportunity to work with Greg Gaddis, who is retiring from his roles of Shop Steward and Branch Trustee. His hard work and dedication provided excellence to the NALC brand. He conducted union business in a profound manner that demonstrated tenacity that I admired and respected. Moreover, Greg represented a served the Branch well as a Chief Shop Steward and Trustee well beyond his retirement years from the Postal Service.

Mr. Gaddis has a talent of working through adversity, he was an example of when the going gets tough the tough get going. Even in times of frustration while doing the work as a Shop Steward, which most union advocates experience throughout their career, Greg addressed union related matters professionally, and was able to see the forest in-between the trees which in most cases resulted in success.

I have a few fond memories with Greg while working daily with him at the Branch. However, the fondest times were dealing with his reactions whenever there were problems with the branch computers or problems with our internet connections. I'll just put it like this, hell has no fury like Greg Gaddis without the use of his computer at work. And, needless to say, I had to learn how to maintain the efficiency of our computers and internet quickly. And, for the reasons that I just stated above, I will always be grateful and thankful for Greg, and I wish him a happy and blessed retirement.

That's all for now, but I'll be back with more. God Bless you all.



## **BRANCH 2902 PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGES**

All proposed changes are in bold

### **Proposed Change #1:**

## Article IX Section 1: Currently Reads:

SECTION 1. The president shall preside at all meetings of the branch and enforce the National Constitution, Branch By-Laws, and such rules and regulations as the branch may adopt. He/She shall have the authority to assign officers and other representatives for the purpose of engaging in organizational activities, policing the Collective Bargaining Agreements, investigating and settling grievances, unfair labor practice charges, E.E.O. complaints, and related activities, as the needs of the branch, from time to time may require. Likewise, he/she shall have the authority to decertify or remove any steward or representative for malfeasance of office, dereliction of duty, dishonesty, in accordance with the general superintendency provisions on the National Constitution. The president shall perform all duties as outlined in the National Constitution for Subordinate Branches. The president shall, by virtue of his/her office be first delegate to the state and national conventions or duly called conferences or meetings. The president shall, by virtue of his/her office be chief shop steward of the branch. For faithful performance of his/her duties, he/she shall receive level CC2 and Step O plus twentyfive (25) percent salary per annum, payable every two weeks. The president or his/her designee shall visit the installations within the branch at least once each month.

### **Proposed to Read:**

SECTION 1. The president shall preside at all meetings of the branch and enforce the National Constitution, Branch By-Laws, and such rules and regulations as the branch may adopt. He/She shall have the authority to assign officers and other representatives for the purpose of engaging in organizational activities, policing the Collective Bargaining Agreements, investigating and settling grievances, unfair labor practice charges, E.E.O. complaints, and related activities, as the needs of the branch, from time to time may require. Likewise, he/she shall have the authority to decertify or remove any steward or representative for malfeasance of office, dereliction of duty, and/or dishonesty, in accordance with the general superintendency provisions on the National Constitution. The president shall perform all duties as outlined in the National Constitution for Subordinate Branches. The president, shall, by virtue of his/her office be first delegate to the state and national conventions or duly called conferences or meetings. The president shall, by virtue of his/her office be chief shop steward of the branch. For the faithful performance of his/her duties, he/she shall receive Carrier Technician Level Step P plus twenty-five (25) percent salary per annum, payable every two weeks. The president or his/her designee shall visit the installations within the branch at least once each month.

### **Proposed Change #2:**

## Article IX Section 2: Currently Reads:

SECTION 2. The executive vice-president shall preside in the absence of the president and in case of death, resignation, disqualification, refusal or neglect of the president to discharge the duties incumbent upon the president, until the next election shall be held and his/her successor duly installed. The executive vice president shall, by virtue of his/her office, be a delegate to the state and national conventions or duly called conferences or meetings. He/She shall be alternate chief shop steward. He/She shall have primary operational responsibility for giving guidance and direction regarding interpretation of contracts, the processing of grievances, and the processing of Unfair labor Practice charges. He/She shall exercise direct supervision over the vice-presidents. For the faithful performance of his/her duties, he/she shall receive CC2 level Step O plus fifteen (15) percent salary per annum, payable every two weeks.

### **Proposed to Read:**

SECTION 2. The executive vice-president shall preside in the absence of the president and in case of illness, injury, death, resignation, disqualification, refusal or neglect of the president to discharge the duties incumbent upon the president, until the next election shall be held and his/her successor duly installed. The executive vice president shall, by virtue of his/her office, be a delegate to the state and national conventions or duly called conferences or meetings. He/She shall be alternate chief shop steward. He/She shall have primary operational responsibility for giving guidance and direction regarding interpretation of contracts, the processing of grievances, and the processing of Unfair labor Practice charges. He/She shall exercise direct supervision over the vice-presidents. For the faithful performance of his/her duties, he/she shall receive Carrier Technician Level Step P plus fifteen (15) percent salary per annum, payable every two weeks.

### **Proposed Change #3:**

### **Article IX SECTION 8:**

### **Currently Reads:**

SECTION 8. The editor of the branch newsletter, <u>THE MAILBAG NEWS</u>, shall be paid 8 hours lost time at the CC2 Step O rate per issue, payable bimonthly.

### **Proposed to Read:**

SECTION 8. The editor of the branch newsletter, <u>THE MAILBAG NEWS</u>, shall be paid 8 hours lost time at the **Carrier Technician Level Step P** rate per issue, payable bimonthly.

## BRANCH 2902 PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGES ARE SUBMITTED BY THE MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING AS FOLLOWS:

Branch President - James C Perryman Jr Branch Executive Vice President - Albert Reyes Branch Financial Secretary Treasurer - Mary Stanley



# **Job Security**

By Albert Reyes, Executive Vice President

andates are unpopular. No one likes to be mandated. Regardless if it's on or off your assignment, hearing the words "you are mandated" can be frustrating. After filling out a PS Form 3996, the first reaction may be to question the supervisor's instructions. Are all overtime carriers, PTFs and CCAs maxed out before mandating me? Short staffing in some offices, call-outs and retention doesn't help. The coronavirus pandemic has ensured that the Letter Carrier craft will remain in an important position in the Postal Service. Mandating is nothing new; however, the coronavirus pandemic has only heightened the Article 8 provision of the National Agreement over the last three years.

Looking back three years, the hottest topic for front-line workers was hazard pay and childcare. Relief and recovery efforts helped Carriers when they could not be at work. Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) and Emergency Federal Employee Leave (EFEL) all played an integral part in job security. For many Carriers, when the stay-at-home orders were issued to quarantine, they requested this leave to protect them from losing their positions, seniority and benefits. Many Carriers were out for weeks, if not months, using this protected leave.

On the other hand, those Carriers showing up to work and not utilizing the leave were most likely being man-dated regularly. Nobody knew how long the pandemic would last or the mandates. Many Carriers left the Postal Service because of fear of spreading the virus to their loved ones at home. Many Carriers started looking for work elsewhere because of these daily mandates resulting in childcare issues. Schools were closed. Online learning was the new way of homeschooling. Who was going to stay home with the kids? However, the mail still must be delivered.

Also, in 2020, many companies, including the Postal Service, were hiring because of the stay-at-home orders. With families staying home, the work was piling up. Online orders were the safe way to get household items. Parcels had doubled in some offices. Many companies needed to hire extra employees to meet the additional demands. Companies such as Amazon, Google, Microsoft, eBay, Netflix, Facebook, Disney, Zoom, Yahoo, FedEx and Twitter, are just a few that needed immediate assistance. Here we are, several months into 2023, and these same companies face high-profile lavoffs.

Here are some of the significant cuts. All numbers are approximations. Amazon has begun a fresh round of job cuts to eliminate more than 18,000 employees – the most

significant reduction in Amazon's 28-year history. Google has announced plans to lay off 12,000 individuals from its workforce. Microsoft has estimated to let go of 10,000 employees. Another company, eBay, has announced a 4% reduction to its workforce, about 500 employees. In May, Netflix, the streaming service, will be eliminating 150 jobs. In late June, they plan to announce that they will lay off another 300 individuals.

Facebook, a parent company of Meta, has announced plans to eliminate 13% of its staff, more than 11,000 employees. Disney could lay off as many as 7,000 employees. These numbers would be roughly 3.2% of its 220,000 global employees. Zoom, unveiled plans to cut 15% of the company's workforce-approximately 1,300 positions. Yahoo plans to cut more than half of its business division by the end of the year, affecting more than 1,600 employees. FedEx has announced it will slash 10% of its officer and director team and close 90 office locations. Twitter has cut half of its staff equalling 3,700 jobs.

What about the Postal Service? Fast forward three years later, and the mandates are still front and center in some offices. To help those offices, the Postal Service and NALC have implemented a memorandum of agreement (M-01988). A total of 283 installations will be added to the all-career model, with over 4,000 PTF positions created through the agreement. This memo will be available on the NALC website as of January 20, 2023. I briefly wrote about the memo in the January/February 2023 Mail Bag News. The memo is still relevant to this day and is updated when needed. Job security, right?

Released in February, also on the NALC website, was the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) under the 2019-2023 National Agreement. This increase is our current contract's seventh and final regular cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). The annual increase of \$208 will be added to every Step in Table 1 and Step P in Table 2. The adjustment will also be applied to Steps A through O in Table 2. The updated increase has been applied to the new pay chart. The increase will take effect in early March. COLAs only apply to career Letter Carriers.

So while some of the companies we use daily are cutting positions, the Postal Service is increasing, and so is the Letter Carrier pay scale. Many individuals will say this is just not enough and want more. The fact is that the Postal Service could only exist with the Letter Carrier craft. Employees

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## **Support Those Who Support Us**

By Alex Lopez, Senior Vice President

i everyone. I'd like to take this opportunity in this issue to write about the Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF). How many of our rank-and-file carriers even know about it? My guess is that unless you come to the monthly meetings, not many are even aware. But the LCPF is our non-partisan political action committee established for the purpose of electing qualified candidates who support Letter Carriers and who are committed to maintaining a strong and innovative US Postal Service. Every year the NALC through its Political Action Committee (PAC) fends off attacks in Congress that threaten Letter Carriers' collective bargaining rights, retirement benefits and our livelihood. Private corporations like UPS and FedEx would love nothing more than to kneecap the Postal Service and limit its ability to compete with them. And guess what? As private corporations, they are able to give tens of millions of dollars directly to candidates and PAC's that support their agenda, while the Postal Service, as a government agency cannot. That is why it's up to us, the NALC, and the other Postal unions to fill in that void. We've been largely successful so far and we want and need to continue helping elect House and Senate candidates who will protect us, promote our issues and deliver for carriers in Washington. It is up to us to have a seat at the political table.

The Postal reform Law of 2022 is the most recent success of the LCPF. It took years of lobbying Washington to get it passed. The law repealed the requirement that the Postal Service pre-fund retiree health benefits decades in the future, and made changes to our health benefit program, among other things the bill does. The NALC is currently lobbying for HR 4268, the federal retirement fairness act. This bill would give retirement credit to anyone who spent time as a CCA, by allowing them to buy that time. It would also apply to anyone who spent time as a Casual or TE way back in the day. CCAs, casuals and TEs currently get zero time credit towards their retirement calculation at the end of their career. This bill would fix that, adding years to their total service, therefore increasing the annuity they receive when they retire.

But all the gains the union has fought for can be taken away with the stroke of a political pen. Just like they can give those gains to us, they can also take them away. In December of 2022, the rail workers of America were set to go on strike after months of negotiating with the railroad companies. Their unions and the rail companies had come to a tentative agreement on a contract. But the membership rejected it. So what ended up happening? Congress stepped

in and imposed the contract on the rail workers. I happen to believe the workers were right to reject that contract, but I bring this up as an example of Congress meddling in labor's affairs. Something like that is unlikely to happen to Letter Carriers because we cannot strike, and we have binding arbitration if the parties cannot come to an agreement for a new contract. It does however highlight why it's important to already have allies in Congress, so in time of need, they're there regardless of political party.

For as little as \$5 a pay period, you can help protect Letter Carrier jobs. That's it. That's about the same or less than some of you spend on a cup of coffee at (anti-union) Starbucks. And that coffee isn't even that good. I know what you're all thinking. "Alex, we already give money for our union dues". Yes, you do, but unfortunately it against federal law to use union dues for political purposes. Five bucks too much? Ok I understand. Consider \$1, \$2, \$3 or \$4. Every little bit counts, and collectively it all adds up. Currently, only 4.83% of our Branch Members give to the LCPF. Not gonna lie. It's kinda pathetic. We need to do better. And signing up is simple. You can give through payroll deduction, electronic transfer, OPM annuity or check. The forms and instructions for signing up that will assist you are printed right here in the *Mail Bag News*.

Thank you to all who already contribute, I hope more of you will consider it. I am the LCPF coordinator for the Branch, and will be glad to assist you. Contact me directly or through the Branch. Together we can save the USPS from privatization, bankruptcy and the loss of jobs for Letter Carriers.

On another subject, please inform your Shop Steward if Postal Management is asking you for medical documentation when you call out sick. Let your Steward investigate as to why they are asking you for such a request. Especially if your absences are of three days or less. Generally speaking, Management shouldn't be asking for medical documentation for absences unless it's for more than three days, you're on restricted sick leave, or they have a solid reason to believe you're not really sick, like if you call out, and then they hear from a coworker that you told that you would really be at Disneyland. I haven't heard of anyone being put on restricted sick leave in years. If they do ask for documentation, bring it in and file a grievance immediately. Your Steward may be able to get your co-pay and mileage refunded. Thank you for reading. Stay strong.



## SIGN ME UP!

How to contribute to the Letter Carrier Political Fund using PostalEASE — ONLINE Enrollment

### Using Postal EASE - ONLINE Enrollment

#### Online Enrollment

- Login to USPS's Postal Ease website at <a href="https://ewss.usps.gov">https://ewss.usps.gov</a>
  You may also get to the Postal Ease website through the USPS
  LiteBlue website See the instructions below
- Click 1 agree\*
  Enter your Employee ID number and Password and click "Submit"
  If you have not yet set up a password click the link provided on the
  page or go to:
  - https://ssp.usps.gov/ssp-web/welcome.xhtml
    If you forgot your password click the link provided on the page or go
- https://ssp.usps.gov/ssp-web/ein/Verification.xhtml Under Payroll click "Allotments / Payroll Net To Bank"

- 6. Citck: "Allotments"
  7. Enter the 9-digit Financial Institution Routing Number: 0 6 4 0 0 0 0 1 7
  8. Enter your 17-digit Account Number \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 0 0 3 4 9 5 2 5 3 5
  85e instructions in step D at right
  9. Enter Account type as "checking"
  10. Enter amount of your Allotment: \$
  77 the maximum yearly amount is \$5,000
  11. Citck VALIDATE
  12. Citck SUBMIT
  13. Print or write down your confirmation number for your records

To get to Postal Ease through Lite Blue:

- Got to www.liteblue.usps.gov Enter you employee ID and Password and click "Log On" Click "My HR"

- Click "Employee Apps"
- Begin at step 1 above

#### BEFORE YOU START, YOU'LL NEED

- A. Your 8-digit Employee ID Number (on
- your paysitub)

  B. Your USPS password

  C. Your Postal Record Number (Located on the back cover of your Postal Record magazine, above your name. Or call 202.393.4695 to get your Postal Record Number). See the example below

\*\*\*\*\* AUTO\*\* 5- DIGIT 54321 XXXXXXX891.C 9876 W 13 08

D. To create your personal account number, insert the seven digits of your Postal Record Number to the spaces

v. 0034952535

### Using Postal EASE -Enroll by PHONE

Through PostalEASE, active letter carriers can contribute directly from their USPS paychecks to the Letter Carrier Political Fund (NALC's PAC) by designating the Political Fund as one of the three payroll "allotments."

#### **ENROLLMENT BY PHONE**

#### Call PostalEASE toll-free at 1.877.4PS.EASE (1.877.477.3273)

- When prompted, select "1" for PostalEASE
   Enter your 8-digit Employee ID Number and your USPS 4-digit PIN
   Select "2" for payroll options
   Select "1" for allotments
- action to complete Allotment Worksheet and select "2" to
- continue.
  Select "3" to ADD a new allotment
  Enter the following Financial Institution Routing Number: 0 6 4 0 0 0 0 1 7
  Select "1" to continue processing allotment
  Select "1" to "enter the allotment now"

- 8. Select "1" to "enter the allotment now"

  9. Enter your 17-digit Account Number (See step D at left)

  10. Enter "1" for Checking

  11. Enter amount of allotment: \$\_\_\_\_\_\_ / pay period Maximum yearly amount is \$5,000

  12. If amount is correct, select "1"

NOTE: If you already have three allotments, you must cancel one to contribute to the Political Fund through PostalEASE. To do so, follow the instructions above but instead of selecting "3" to add a new allotment, select "2" to cancel an allotment.

After completing your entry, stay on the phone for the following information:

Con	Confirmation Number:										
our	allot	ment	will be	ome effect	ive on:						
				_		_					

Keep this information for your records and future reference.

#### BEFORE YOU START, YOU'LL NEED:

A. Your 8-digit Employee ID Number

B. Your USPS PIN

C. Your Postal Record Numbe C. tour Postal Record Number (Located on the back cover of your Postal Record magazine, above you name. **Or** call 202.393.4695 to get your Postal Record Number).

Your Postal Record Number is on the cover of NALC's monthly magazine

\*\*\*\*\*\* AUTO\*\* 5- DIGIT 54321 XXXXXXX89 LC 9876 W 13 08 1234 Main Stre Anywhere, US 54321-9999

D. To create your personal account number, insert the seven digits of your Postal Record Number to the spaces below:

\_\_\_\_0034952535

### Using ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFER

Through a MONTHLY Electonic Fund Transfer, NALC members can contribute directly from their bank account to the Letter Carrier Political Fund (NALC's PAC) On the 1st of every month, the Political Fund will automatically (and without a fee) deduct from your bank account the amount you choose to contribute (ex: \$5 donation each month for twelve months, totaling \$60 for the year)

#### **Electronic Fund Transfer Authorization**

	(your na	me) hereby authorize my bank	to deduct from my checking
account the MONTHLY sum of:			
3\$30 \$25 \$20 \$15 \$10 \$10 \$10 \$10 \$10 \$10 \$10 \$10 \$10 \$10	AC) (Maximum amo	ount per year is \$5,000). I mak	e this authorization
iignature:			Date:
Full Name (please print):			
ostal Record #:	Routing #:	Account #:	
Address:			
*itus		State:	Zip Code:

### ATTACH A VOIDED CHECK HERE.

Please send this completed form and your voided check to: The Letter Carrier Political Fund 100 Indiana Ave NW, Vashington, DC 20001-2144



### Using Your Retirement ANNUITY

Using your **Annuity**, retired NALC members can contribute directly from their CSRS or FERS annuities to the Letter Carrier Political Fund (NALC's PAC) on a monthly basis. This is a convenient way to make regular donations to the political action fund similar to the payroll system available to active carriers.

### **Enroll by Phone**

Call the NALC Retirement Office at 202.662.2877 anytime or toll-free at 1.800.424.5186 Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon or 2 to 4 p.m. (ET). (Note: you will need your CSA retirement Claim number.)

### **Enroll Online**

- Go to www.servicesonline.opm.gov
  Enter your CSA number, beginning with the letter A and ending with a zero. SAMPLE: A22222220
  Enter your PIN (Personal Identification Number). If you don't know it, click Using Services Online for help with one.
  Once you've entered your CSA number and PIN, click Log In.
  On the next page, click ALLOTMENTS TO ORGANIZATIONS.

- Select the Letter Carrier Political Fund (Formerly COLCPE)

  Enter the amount of your monthly contribution. (Maximum yearly amount is \$5,000)
- Click SAVE
- 10. On the next page click YES (if correct), then print the next page for your records

### **Enroll by Mail**

Complete this form and send to

NALC Retirement Department, Attention: Letter Carrier Political Fund, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144 \_\_\_ (your name) wish to contribute to the Letter Carrier Political Fund. I authorize the Office of Personnel Management to withhold the amount below from my monthly annuity payments □\$30 □\$25 □\$20 □\$15 □\$10 □Other:\$\_\_ \_\_\_\_ (Maximum amount per year is \$5,000) and forward that amount to the Letter Carrier Political Fund (NALC's PAC). I make this authorization voluntarily and may revoke it at any time by notifying the Letter Carrier Political Fund in writing. Signature: Full Name (please print): \_\_\_ \_\_ Branch: \_\_

By making a contribution to the Letter Carrier Political Fund, you are doing so voluntarily with the understanding that your contribution is not a condition of membership in the National Association of Letter Carriers or of employment by the Postal Service, nor is it part of union dues. You have a right to refuse to contribute without any reprisal. Any guideline amounts are merely suggestions, and you may contribute more or less than the guidelines suggest and the union will not favor or disadvantage you by reason of the amount of your contribution or your decision not to contribute. The Letter Carrier Political Fund will use the money it receives to contribute to candidates for federal office and undertake other political spending as permitted by law. Your selection shall remain in full force and effect until cancelled. Contributions to the Letter Carrier Political Fund are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. Federal law prohibits the Letter Carrier Political Fund from soliciting contributions from individuals who are not NALC members, executive and administrative staff or their families. Any contribution received from such an individual will be refunded to that contributor. Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, name of employer and occupation of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year

Save Your Job! Use Your Voice! Contribute to the Letter Carrier Political Fund!



# **CSUN Scholarship Opportunity**

### Do you have a student planning to attend CSUN Fall 2023?

The **Guravitz-Shaw Scholarship** is available for kids of NALC members. Fred Shaw, a CSUN graduate, retired from the Woodland Hills Post Office after 36 years on the job. Fred and his wife, Lisa Guravitz, then moved to Carpinteria where Fred served on the City Council and Lisa serves on the Fire Board. They feel very fortunate to be able to offer this Annual \$1,000 scholarship.

### Requirements are as follows:

### **Applicants:**

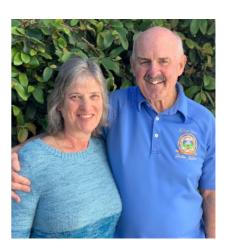
- Must be a child of members of the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC), whether active, retired, or deceased.
- Priority will be given to applicants whose parent is or was (if deceased) an NALC member from the Tri-Valley Branch 2902.
- Must submit verification of union membership (parent, whether parent is active, retired, or deceased).
- Must have a GPA greater than or equal to a 2.50.
- Award is intended for the 2023-2024 academic year.
- Students may apply and be awarded more than once.
- All enrolled CSUN students who meet criteria regardless of financial need or citizenship status are encouraged to apply.



Login to the <u>Matador Scholarships</u> portal to begin the general scholarship application and once completed, search for the scholarship with either "Guravitz" or "Shaw."

Application period is March 13, 2023 through May 31, 2023

One recipient will be randomly drawn from the eligible applicants.





# **Food Drive is Here**

### An Opportunity to Help Those Who Need it Most

By Mary Stanley, Branch 2902 Food Drive Coordinator t

he New Year has just started, yet here we are already into March. It is time again for preparations in our NALC's 31st Annual Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. It is scheduled for May 13, 2023, the second Saturday in May.

I will be contacting all the Shop Stewards (both active and retired) of our Branch's offices to make sure all are as ready as can be for this year's Food Drive. As Branch 2902 Food Drive coordinator, it is also my responsibility to contact each of the Post Office's management and Food Banks/ Pantries coordinators to keep them informed for a successful Food Drive.

If there are any members who would like to offer any suggestions, comments, or good/ experiences regarding the Food Drives, feel free to email me at br2902mjstanleyfooddrive@gmail.com. I look forward to working with all involved in our annual NALC Food Drive community service event.

I would like to Thank You in advance for your support and involvement for a successful Food Drive. Oh, I almost forgot:

### Pictures, Pictures, Pictures.

For all those working the day of the Food Drive, Please Do Not Forget to take lots of pictures of the "food collected" with the carriers and volunteers.





## **CCA Retirement Savings Plan**

By Chris Alessi, MBA/NSBA Representative

his Maturity Income Plan is for all the CCA's out there. Your MBA has an excellent plan for you, as long as your a member of the NALC.

You can start up right away just by contributing as little as \$15 a pay period. The new interest rate for 2023 just got Bumped up to **2.8% for this year**. You can contribute annually up to \$6,500 if you are under 50 years old, and up to \$7,500 if you are 50 years old and above. This a great way to start your nest egg growing and you can choose how much you want to contribute and how often.

There are Tax Deferred Benefits that can be deducted from your federal tax with a <u>Traditional IRA</u>. In addition your earnings accumulate tax free until time of withdrawal. There is Tax Free Benefit with a <u>Roth IRA</u> if you have had the plan for five years and you are at least 59<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> years old at time of withdrawal. At that time you will pay no tax at all.

These Plans are also good for your spouse and children 18 years and older. Your NALC stands behind every policy written by the MBA, which was created in 1891. There are income limits on these plans. For those who choose a Traditional IRA, you can earn up to \$83,000 for singles and up to \$136,000 for married. For a Roth IRA, you can earn up to

\$153,000 for singles and \$228,000 for married. There is also a Deferred Annuity plan where you can put in as much as you want with no income limits. It is taxed deferred until time of withdrawal, then you will pay taxes on the earning only, not the principle. You can choose how you receive your savings with monthly payments as long as you live, a joint annuity payable during the joint lifetimes of two people, and a lifetime annuity with a guaranteed minimum 5, 10, 15 or 20 years. If you need cash, you can keep the plan and make partial withdrawals any time after one year, subject to certain minimums and limitations. However, during the first six years you'll pay a surrender charge. You also can surrender your plan for its full cash value anytime. All CCAs who choose this plan can transfer their funds from a Traditional or Roth IRA to the Thrift Savings Plan once they become career Letter Carriers and the surrender charge will be waived.

I highly recommend this plan. Personally it was the best thing I ever did. I started my plan in 1998, back when the interest rate was 7.5% with a 4.5% guarantee, I am so glad I made the choice to get the Roth IRA.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call me. In closing I wish you all a Great Spring and be safe out there, God Bless You all.

### **Treasurer's Report**

1/1/2023 - 1/31/2023						
General Account Previous Balance Receipts Sub-Total Disbursements Total-on-Hand Payroll Account	\$115,917.12 \$59,378.11 \$175,295.23 (\$22,511.90) <b>\$152,783.33</b>	C.D. 6 mos .350% rate-Premier C.U#1 C.D. 6 mos .250% rate-Premier C.U#2 C.D. (1) year .598% rate Premier C.U #3 MM Cert #21 26 wks .200% rate-USPS-C.U. MM Cert #18 26 wks .250% rate-USPS-C.U. MM Cert #19 26 wks .250% rate-USPS-C.U.	\$89,486.47 \$12,123.64 \$114,545.47 \$25,697.55 \$23,610.84 \$69,710.42			
Previous Balance Receipts Sub-Total Disbursements Total-on-Hand	\$91,271.14 \$15,000.00 \$106,271.14 (\$42,118.23) <b>\$64,152.91</b>	MM Checking #8 26 wks .250% rate-USPS-C.U.  MM Checking #8 26 wks .250% rate-USPS-C.U.  C.D. 6 mos .380% Priority One C.U.  Shares acct USPS-C.U.	\$46,831.56 \$34,025.48 <u>\$7.11</u>			
General Account (New)		Total of Contingency Fund	\$416,038.54			
Previous Balance Receipts <b>Total-on-Hand</b>	\$10,100.00 <u>\$0.00</u> <b>\$10,100.00</b>	Retiree Fund Retiree Luncheon				
Receipts	\$0.00	Retiree Fund Retiree Luncheon  Mary Stanley	\$10,331.94			
Receipts Total-on-Hand Payroll Account (New) Previous Balance Receipts	\$0.00 \$10,100.00 \$5,100.00 \$0.00	Retiree Fund Retiree Luncheon				



## A New Congress and a Big Agenda

## Social Security for now is off the table

By David Hyman, Branch 2902 Trustee & Political Liaison

he 118th Congress is in session with the GOP having 218 members and the Democrats 213.

HR 82 was reintroduced in January by Garret Graves (R-LA) and Abigail Spanberger (D-VA). The Social Security Fairness Act of 2023 has 158 co-sponsors including our local members Julia Brownley, Mike Garcia and Brad Sherman. This bill will repeal the government pension offset which affects millions of retirees covered by the CSRS retirement system. Those who live in Tony Cardenas' district should contact his office to encourage him to get onboard. After all he did support it last time.

Regarding Social Security, it was re-assuring to hear that President Biden got bi-partisan support for for his position of no cuts to Social Security and Medicare at his February State of the Union speech. The President will not allow cuts to be made to Social Security and Medicare during the debt ceiling battles that lie ahead in Washington. Time will tell if some members of Congress that labor does not support still want to hold these programs hostage in upcoming debt ceiling legislation.

Labor will be fighting two California referendums that qualified for the November 2024 ballot. The initiative process that California uses was started over 100 years ago for the people to use the direct democracy process because of corporate power in the legislature at the time. The

California legislature passed two bills labor supported last year and corporations that are against the implementation of these new laws have put these two bills on hold by having them qualify for a vote by the people of California. In 2022, the legislature passed AB 257 to boost wages and working conditions for the 550,000 California fast food restaurant workers. They also passed an environmental safety measure, SB1137 that would ban new oil drilling near homes and schools within 3,200 feet. By placing the referendums on the ballot they were able to defer the implementation of these new laws until the people have had their say at the ballot box. The corporations that are against these new laws hired signature gatherers to qualify the two referendums that would rescind the laws labor supported. If the two ballot proposals are defeated next year, these two bills will then take effect.

The Women's National Basketball Players Association (WNBPA) has recently affiliated with the AFL-CIO. This new partnership demonstrates the labor movements commitment to gender and racial diversity. The unions of the Major League Baseball Players Association are also affiliated with the AFL-CIO.

And speaking of baseball, it is now time for spring training. Go Dodgers!

## **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS**

### **Mandatory Overtime**

One purpose of the Overtime Desired List (ODL) is to excuse full-time carriers not wishing to work overtime from having to work overtime. Before requiring a non-ODL carrier to work overtime on a non-scheduled day or off his/her own assignment on a regularly scheduled day, management must seek to use a carrier from the ODL, even if the ODL carrier would be working penalty overtime. However, if the Overtime Desired List does not provide sufficient qualified full-time regulars for required overtime, Article 8.5.D permits management to move off the list and require non-ODL carriers to work overtime on a rotating basis starting with the junior employee. This rotation begins with the junior employee at the beginning of each calendar quarter. Absent an LMOU provision to the contrary, employees who are absent on a regularly scheduled day (e.g. sick leave or annual leave) when it is necessary to use non-ODL employees on overtime will be passed over in the rotation until the next time their name comes up in the regular rotation.

Management may seek non-ODL volunteers rather than selecting non-volunteers on the basis of juniority. Normally, carriers not on the Overtime Desired List may not grieve the fact that they were not selected to work overtime.

The provisions of Article 8.5.D do not apply in the case of full-time letter carriers working on their own assignment on a regularly scheduled day. That situation is governed by Article 8.5.C.2.d as amended by the letter carrier paragraph above.



## Make a Difference

By Durim Kamberi, Simi Valley Shop Steward

eing an NALC Shop Steward is a vital role that ensures that the rights of workers are protected. As a Stew-

ard, you have the opportunity to be a voice for your fellow employees and advocate for their needs in the workplace. Not only does this position allow you to make a positive impact on the lives of your coworkers, but it also provides you with valuable leadership and communication skills that will benefit you throughout your career.

The most important responsibility of an NALC Shop Steward is to ensure that the collective bargaining agreement (CBA) is being upheld by the employer. This includes monitoring compliance with wage and benefit provisions, as well as working conditions and safety standards. Stewards are also responsible for investigating and addressing any possible grievances and/or complaints from Letter Carriers that could lead to a grievance and representing them in meetings with management. This is especially crucial in ensuring that Carriers are being treated fairly and not being taken advantage of by the employer.

In addition to protecting the rights of Carriers, union Shop Stewards also play a crucial role in building a strong, cohesive union. They serve as a liaison between the union and the employees, keeping members informed about union activities and encouraging participation in union events and meetings. Stewards also work to promote unity and solidarity among employees, which is essential for the success of the union. A strong union is able to negotiate better wages, benefits and working conditions for its members. This is why it's important to have someone who is dedicated to building a strong union, and that is what a Steward does at the local level.

Being a union Shop Steward is also an opportunity to develop valuable leadership and communication skills. Stewards must be able to effectively communicate with both employees and management and be able to mediate disputes and negotiate solutions. They must also be able to

lead and inspire others, and be able to work effectively as part of a team.

Furthermore, being a union Shop Steward is a great way to give back to your community. The NALC has a long history of fighting for social and economic justice, and as a Steward, you will have the opportunity to be a part of this important work. From advocating for fair wages and benefits to fighting discrimination and harassment in the workplace, you will be making a meaningful difference in the lives of your coworkers and in the community as a whole. This is especially important in today's society where there's a growing income inequality, and where more and more people are struggling to make ends meet. By being a Steward, you can help make a difference in the lives of those around you.

It's important to note that being a Steward is not always easy and it's not for everyone, it can be a demanding job that requires a lot of time and energy. However, the rewards of the job far outweigh any challenges that may arise. It's a fulfilling and rewarding job that will give you a sense of purpose and the opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of your coworkers and in your community.

In conclusion, becoming a union Shop Steward is an opportunity to make a positive impact in the lives of your coworkers and in your community. It is a way to ensure that the rights and fair treatment of workers are protected, to develop valuable leadership and communication skills, to be a part of the important work of promoting social and economic justice and to be part of a network of like-minded individuals who are working towards the same goal. It's not always easy, but the rewards far outweigh any challenges that may arise. If you're passionate about standing up for the rights of workers and making a difference on the workroom floor, consider becoming an NALC Shop Steward. If you have questions about how to get started, don't hesitate to contact the Branch office and speak with either James or Albert about how to get involved. If there is no Steward in your office, attend a general membership union meeting at the Jon Gaunce Union Hall in Chatsworth and see what we are all about.

## **Job Security**

continued from page 5

from the companies listed above could have used a Union advocate regarding their job security and rights. Article 8 mandates are not popular; however, the right to see your Shop Steward should be exercised if improperly mandated.

Rather than expressing frustration on being mandated, take a different approach and know that work is still available in your office. Your Shop Steward will investigate relevant Article 8 issues once you notify them. Offices will be staffed

to complement. Mandates will eventually slow down, but most importantly, NALC will continue to have your best interest for a long and sustainable future. There will always be room for more incentives and higher wages but think back to three years ago. Are we, as Letter Carriers, better today than three years ago? Continue to watch out for one another. Educate each other. If you still need to do so, download the NALC app, and as always, be safe out there!



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## Daughter of a Letter Carrier

## ESTATE PLANNING & CRISIS PLANNING ATTORNEYS

### THE TRUTH ABOUT ESTATE PLANNING, WILLS, TRUSTS & PROBATE

- A Will alone does **NOT** avoid probate court. A Trust DOES avoid probate court.
- Probate is **VERY** expensive and the fees are set by statute. Example, an estate of \$500,000 (FMV Home \$490,000 and \$10,000 in bank accounts) has **statutory fees of \$26,000**. This can be avoided with proper planning including a Trust.
- If you don't have a legal plan, everything **does not** automatically go to your spouse or kids. It passes via intestate law which may not be what you would want.
- If you don't have a legal plan and you can't make decisions for yourself, a judge will decide who gets to make decisions for you and it is expensive to go through.

# WILLS | TRUSTS | PROBATE (SOMEONE PASSES AWAY) | TRUST ADMINISTRATION DISCOUNTS FOR LETTER CARRIERS (805) 518-9633

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\*Legal Advisory



### **MARCH**

Where: Golden Panda

1825 Madera Rd.

Simi Valley

When: Tuesday, March 21, 2023

**Time:** 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

**APRIL** 

Where: Golden Panda

1825 Madera Rd.

Simi Valley

When: Tuesday, April 18, 2023

**Time:** 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

# Brookfield Uniforms

Lori Stewart

Retired Letter Carrier & NALC Branch 2902 Shop Steward – 35 years of service –

Moorpark, CA 93021 Email: Lschultzy@aol.com Office: 805.368.0444 Toll Free: 800.527.0606

The *Mail Bag News* is the official publication of Tri-Valley Branch 2902 (Chatsworth, California) of the National Association of Letter Carriers. All opinions expressed are those of the individual author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the NALC or its officers. The *Mail Bag News* welcomes articles and letters to the editor; however the editorial staff of The *Mail Bag News* assumes complete authority to decide which letters are presented for publication. Anonymous articles are not accepted. Permission is hereby granted to re-print articles. We just ask that you give the author and the publication appropriate credit.

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Alex Lopez

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• Bob Golden

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- Louie Rodriguez
- Rochelle Harvey
- Ray Hill

### **WEBMASTER**

Larry Orcutt

### **SHOP STEWARD LIST**

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Sylmar S.S.

Sylmar Alternate S.S.

Sanuel Sabedra

Fernando Aguilar

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Simi Valley Chief S.S.

Simi Valley S.S.

Alternate S.S.

Glen Lopez

Mt. McCoy Station S.S. Sal Lopez
Thousand Oaks Chief S.S. Alex Lopez
Walter Williams

Alternate S.S.

Newbury Park S.S.

Ventura Chief S.S.

East Ventura S.S.

Rochelle Harvey Mary Stanley Alex Lopez Laura Rowe Anthony Casian

Woodland Hills Chief S.S. Call Union Hall

### **Letter Carrier Political Fund**

By making a contribution to the Letter Carrier Political Fund, you are doing so voluntarily with the understanding that your contribution is not a condition of membership in the National Association of Letter Carriers or of employment by the Postal Service, nor is it part of union dues. You have a right to refuse to contribute without any reprisal. The Letter Carrier Political Fund will use the money it receives to contribute to candidates for federal office and undertake other political spending as permitted by law. Your selection shall remain in full force and effect until cancelled. Contributions to the Letter Carrier Political Fund are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. Federal law prohibits the Letter Carrier Political Fund from soliciting contributions from individuals who are not NALC members, executive and administrative staff or their families. Any contribution received from such an individual will be refunded to that contributor. Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 per calendar year. Any guideline amount is merely a suggestion, and an individual is free to contribute more or less than the guideline suggests and the Union will not favor or disadvantage anyone by reason of the amount of their contribution or their decision not to contribute.

### THE MAIL BAG NEWS

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# ATTENTION ALL DIRECT DUES PAYING RETIREES!

## MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE AND PAYABLE, JANUARY 1, 2023

Please remit your \$24 to the Branch Office: 21540 Prairie Street, #C Chatsworth, CA 91311

Attn: Mary Stanley, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

## **Calendar of Events**

Daylight Savings Time begins

MAR	12	Daylight Savings Time begins
MAR	16	Regular Branch Meeting* 7:00 pm
		Union Hall - Chatsworth (Dinner served)
Mar	21	Retiree Lunch* 11:00 am
iviai		Golden Panda - Simi Valley
ADD	•	•
APR	6	Executive Board Meeting* 6:00 pm
		Executive Council Meeting* 7:00 pm
APR	18	Retiree Lunch* 11:00 am
		Golden Panda - Simi Valley
APR	20	Regular Branch Meeting* 7:00 pm
		Union Hall - Chatsworth
		Vote on Proposed Branch
		By-Laws Changes
MAY	4	
WAT	4	Executive Board Meeting* 6:00 pm
		Executive Council Meeting* 7:00 pm
		(Dinner served)  NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRILERS
MAY	13	NALC Food Drive
MAY	14	Mothers Day
MAY	16	Retiree Lunch* 11:00 am
		Golden Panda-Simi Valley
MAY	18	Regular Branch Meeting* 7:00 pm
IVIPAT	10	Union Hall - Chatsworth
MAY	29	Memorial Day - Holiday