

MAIL CALL

Published by
ANTHONY TRIPOLINO BRANCH 2200, N.A.L.C.

SERVING
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CIRCULATION 1000

SEP/OCT 2016

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Greetings All: WOWthe holiday season is right around the corner. It is amazing how quickly this year is passing.

NALC Health Benefit Plan - With the end of the year approaching, we once again come upon an open season for signing up, or changing, our health benefit plan. As most of you know, I have spent the last couple of months out on medical leave. That included a total of 10 days in the hospital and two surgeries, which created a huge bill for services provided. By being a member of the NALC Health Benefit Plan and making sure I was using doctors and a hospital that are within the plan, my financial obligation for services was minimal. Our health benefit plan picked up almost all the costs. Therein lies one of the most important reasons as to why every NALC member should be enrolled in the NALC Health Benefit Plan. Another reason is that our health benefit plan is owned and operated by staff from the NALC. That's right - as an NALC member, you are part owner of the health plan and are treated as such when calling the plan. When calling in to our health benefit plan, there are no computers that you have to maneuver through in order to speak with a human being. There is no double talk from a smooth talking insurance agent. There are only professional individuals on the other end of the phone that actually want to help you with your questions and problems. Our rates are very competitive and, in most cases, the most economical. Every member needs to check out the NALC health benefit plan by viewing benefit brochures and 2017 rates at our website (nalchbp.org).

The open season for joining or changing health plans is from November 14, 2016 until December 12, 2016. I strongly suggest that each and every one of you check out the NALC Health Benefit Plan prior to the closing of open season.

Poor Management - Once again, management is on the attack and going after carriers for ridiculous things. The difference this time around is that many supervisors are improperly trained rookies who couldn't cut it as letter carriers and decided to take the easy way out by sitting on their butts in the office as wanna-be supervisors. These supervisors can be very dangerous, as they have no experience in a management position, an inability to communicate effectively, and zero people skills. However, they think they know everything, and they have no problem taking advantage of letter carriers, who are the backbone of the Postal Service. They have no problem, blaming everyone, but themselves, and no problem pinning the wrap on a letter carrier.

The Postal Service continues this pattern of promoting unscrupulous individuals, with the problem further magnified by the lack of training available to new managers. The new supervisors are trained by the more senior supervisors who were never trained on how to do the job or how to deal with people effectively. This pattern of poor management behavior is handed down from one to the next and continues on year after year. Perhaps someday the Postal Service will break it down to the basics, recognize how ineffective their game plan is, and make some effort to properly train supervisors. Until such time, letter carriers will continue to take the brunt of the blame for everything that fails.

We can combat this by simply not allowing management to bully, intimidate, or scare us. We can write statements and contact the union office when we, or our fellow carriers, are mistreated by management. And we need to continue doing our jobs as we know how. Dot the i's and cross the t's. Scan every MSP and delivery piece with delivery confirmation. Make sure that express mail and Amazon Fresh meet their guarantee times.

Desk of President – Continued Next Page

Desk of President – Continued from Front Page....

Be safe and efficient both in the office and on the street. Simply give an honest day of work for an honest day of pay. There are far too many incidents of missed scans, safety infractions, and vehicle accidents. Collectively, as a group, we need to work on improving and not fall short of doing our part.

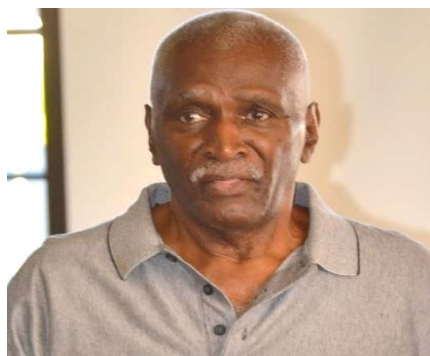
Having said that, when your supervisor or manager speaks to you, I would recommend that you listen to what they say. There is no need to argue with them. When they are finished bitching at you, simply say, "I will do my best," and walk away. The more argument that takes place, the more management wins. Let them say their piece and be done with it. If you get pissed off and go to the street, they have won and probably ruined a good part of your day. I am not condemning all managers but unfortunately, from my view, there are many more bad ones than good. I am not naive enough to believe that every letter carrier is a saint. There are some among us that bring down every letter carrier with their antics.

Donald A. Smith (D.A.) - It is with great regret that I inform you all of the passing of one of Branch 2200's strongest leaders. Donald (D.A.) Smith, an Executive Board member, and retired letter carrier from Pasadena, Zone 91105 lost his battle on September 22, 2016 after a lengthy stay in the hospital, due to complications from an elective surgery in May of this year. D.A. will be missed by family, friends, and members of Branch 2200 who were lucky enough to have known him.

In the short time that I knew D.A., he was the quiet type who would sit on the sidelines and evaluate everything that was being discussed, consider what he heard, and then offer a reasonable solution to the problem at hand. He never tried to strong arm a decision and seemed to consider everything going on, and then brought his thoughts to the table. The sign of a true leader. D. A.'s passing has affected all of us who had the pleasure of knowing him. He will truly be missed.

Til Next Time....

By Mike Wylly



D.A. Smith
Retiree Banquet
October 2013



Donald A. Smith 1934 – 2016

Submitted by Nancy Norman

While it should not have been a surprise, it was. Forever union member/steward/trustee Donald Smith, aka D.A. or from some really old days, Fundi, took his last breath on September 22nd, after an approximate 4 to 5 month attempt to recover, following an elective surgery. I was at a family wedding in Puerto Rico, thus I was unable to make his service, though I am grateful to his daughters for reading the below tribute to my friend:

D.A. was my work "soulmate." We did all things work together...that included checking our vehicles in the morning, hanging out/rolling our eyes during long, wordy stand-ups, listening to KPFK and sharing notes/thoughts, and trudging out to the parking lot for fire drills...as organized as those were, we were all sure to be dead should a fire have ever happened. But we always enjoyed the moments to commiserate over world problems. We were like frick and frack, yin and yang, our black and white mixup....different, but the same.

I met D.A. on October 23rd, 1976, when at 22 years old, I walked onto the floor of the United States Postal Service, North Fair Oaks Annex at 535 N Fair Oaks...funny dumb stuff, I still remember the address. That building was flattened many, many years ago, now an employee parking lot across from the GMF. I met D.A. along with Joe Heredia and Walter Beard and Gilbert Diaz....there were many others, of course. Oh, the memories. D.A. introduced himself right away as the shop steward and offered help to me....I didn't know I would need help and had never heard of a shop steward. What is that? I'd grown up in an almost all-white community, so was fascinated by all the color in the place and absolutely loved the pot luck meals we would have on occasion – every kind of food you might (or might not) imagine. It was a whole new world for me. One of the things that impressed me about D.A. was his discussion of his wife, Margie, and his girls. **Continued....**

Continued....When you work with a bunch of guys and it has always been a bunch of guys (I was the 4th female carrier of 310 carriers in Pasadena), talk is sometimes raunchy. D.A. wasn't like that; never, ever talked down about Margie. I loved that.

D. A. took me to my first union meeting in December 1976 and as most of you may know, the rest is history. D.A.

and I did peace rallies and other events - he was always fighting for the common person, the littlest guy. He retired around 1990 and following that, we rode to Santa Clarita meetings together, catching up on family stuff. But when D.A. retired, my life at the post office changed forever....I never made/found another friend like him. Sure, there were others, but not the same. Sometimes you only get one soulmate in the life of your everyday work. He was mine. Just a few years back, I had trouble with a co-worker...it was bothering me in a big way and I was unable to sort out how to manage or handle it. I finally called D.A. and asked him to meet me....in between juggling schedules with his grandkids, he agreed to do so. It was, for a few moments, like the old days...he was listening carefully and asking questions. He didn't have all the answers, but helped enough to work past the trouble. It has been tough to watch him struggle over these last few months and he will be missed by many, for sure by me....he deserves as great a sendoff as anyone, and so I close with a BIG and heart felt good-bye my brother, soulmate, friend. We'll always miss you.

**Nancy (Meyer) Norman, Secretary-Treasurer
Retired Carrier/Pasadena 91105**

Another View – I asked Jan Siechert some questions about D.A.'s Service, and here is her (slightly edited) email to me (Nancy Norman): This is just a rough sketch of that day. There were about a dozen people that I saw and knew.....union members and Pasadena letter carriers, both active and retired. Leroy Collier gave the eulogy. He told about his first arbitration case, involving a customer saying that D.A. Smith had been rude to her. D.A. recommended that Leroy talk to some of the customers on his route. One customer even appeared at the arbitration, telling the Arbitrator that D.A. was the nicest person she knew and that everyone on his route felt that way. The Arbitrator ruled in D.A.'s favor. From that example, Leroy made it known that if you knew D.A., you knew he was a nice and caring man.



His daughters got up and talked about him. Touching stories, how he was always funny, telling jokes, very punctual, always loving but would discipline them if they were out of line.

One of D.A.'s grandsons' told of his granddad's advice to him, as to how to approach a policeman: Naked. So he can see you don't have a gun. Some of the other people

who spoke were: a niece, a son-in-law, neighbors, a librarian, and childhood friends of his daughters. The stories had me crying sometimes. Stories of how supportive, protective and loving he was. One daughter talked about how he drove her to nursing school every day and spent the day at her school and drove her home. When she graduated, D.A. told her he felt that he had graduated from nursing school also.

One of his daughters read your letter. It was really touching. I knew you were good friends, but I didn't know how much he meant to you. His wife, Margie, got up and talked at the end. She told of how she was always late and D.A. was always punctual. When they got married, people at the post office gave their relationship six months. She was 14 years younger than he. D.A. would take test drives to new places, just to make sure he was on time. She mentioned that this was the first time in her life that she would be alone, as she had left her mom's home, to live with D.A. She spoke of the little things she misses. Now she has to remember to take out the trash on Tuesday. Sometimes it sits on the street for days. She asked people to stop by and say hi! If I ride my bike up her street, and see the trash cans out, I'll bring them in and say hi!

After the service, I walked with Joe Henderson to the parking lot. Because his car was blocked in, we talked for a long time about D.A. He talked about their early days together. Joe, Tracy, and D.A. used to have lunch together every day. They used to meet on Sundays to go over grievances. He remembered what fast friends you two were from almost the beginning of your time at the post office. There were tears amongst the family, but there were hugs and they supported each other. The whole service made me wish I had known D.A. better. I was very moved by the love in the room for D.A.

**Jan Siechert
Retired Carrier/Pasadena 91101**

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

September 13, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Vice-President Serop Karchikyan. The pledge of allegiance was led by Sergeant-at-Arms Ric Roldan and there was a moment of silence for recently departed brothers and sisters. The roll call was answered by nine officers and stewards in good standing. A brief update was given regarding the status/health of President Wyly and Trustee D.A. Smith. Motion passed to waive the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting, accepted as printed in the Mail Call (Costanzo/Temblador). Motion passed to excuse Serop Karchikyan from the August meeting, Jan Siechert and Mike Wyly (with an amended excuse) from the September meeting (Temblador/Trieu). Motion passed that warrants be drawn and bills be paid (Collier/Costanzo). Motion passed that the Branch pay Vice-President Karchikyan a \$20 per day car allowance while replacing the Branch president (Collier/Munoz).

Manny Ibarra from Glendale Main Office was introduced to the membership and welcomed to the meeting. Motion passed to accept and **welcome** the following applications for membership: David Alvazian, Daniel Baltierra, David Barajas, Terry Beasley, Jorge Bobadilla, Wendy Centeno, Krystian Delacruzrutiaga, Anthony Donno, Erica Edmond, Eric Estrada, Jose Guerra, Tashma Herbert, Tofazzal Hossain, Marlene Jimenez, Andres Ramiriz, Rubin Kim, Sungju Lee, Sonia Lira, Juan Lopez, William Mangram Jr., Rafik Manook, Danielle McLay, Matthew McMullen, Christopher Moore, Denise Morales, Martha Munoz, Schuyler Navailles, Edwin Ohanian, Stephanie Ruiz, Andrew Shin, Gustavo Sierra, Stephanie Spalter, Hector Trinidad, Marina Trujillo, Lorena Uthe, Jorge Vargas, Edward Villanueva (Temblador/Kasenko). **Welcome!!**

HBR Representative Washington reported on NALC Health Benefit plan and Artur Aghakhanyan was presented with "Carriers for a Common Cause," for his recent commitment to the Letter Carrier Political Fund. Precinct walking in Las Vegas on October 22-23, with rooms and buses covered by national was discussed. MBA Representative Vinh Trieu announced that life insurance is in open season, the first time since 2004.

Motion passed to accept the following Executive Board recommendations: the Branch approve the banquet for retirees, with the same offers/parameters as previous banquet years (Burskey/Costanzo). The Executive Board recommendation that: the Branch commit \$100 expenses for each volunteer to Las Vegas precinct walking on Dump Trump bus weekends, set up by National was amended to read: the Branch will pay up to \$100 receipted expenses (meals and mileage to buses) for each volunteer to Las Vegas precinct walking on Dump Trump bus weekends, set up by National (Burskey/Costanzo).

Motion passed to adjourn (Costanzo/Burskey) at 8:50 pm.

Submitted by,



Nancy Norman

Secretary-Treasurer

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

October 11, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Vice-President Serop Karchikyan. The pledge of allegiance was led by Sergeant-at-Arms Ric Roldan and there was a moment of silence for departed brothers and sisters since the last meeting, most specifically with sympathies to the D.A. Smith family. Motion was passed that the meeting be adjourned in the name of D.A. Smith (Collier/Zorn). The roll call was answered by eight officers and stewards in good standing. Motion passed to waive the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting, to be printed in the Mail Call (Costanzo/Siechert). Motion passed to excuse HT Tran from the September meeting and Rob Burskey from the October meeting (Temblador/Siechert). Motion passed that warrants be drawn and bills be paid (Costanzo/Siechert).

Motion passed to accept applications for membership: Saul Acevedo, Elpie Aguilera, Lawrence Anderson, David Archer, Lukas Astrauskas, Aris Bayandorian, Anthony Bonoli, Gilbert Ceballos, Jonas Cordoviz, Tony Cuzul, Kevin Debord, Sheray Farris, Cynthia Gomez, Anthony Gonzales, Jarvin Gutierrez, Anthony Khou, Lashaun Kimble, Rita Ludena-Arias, Felipe Mendez, Luis Monge Jr, Christopher Mosher, Marlene Ortiz, Heng Peng, Elisabeth Pilipina, Omar Ramirez, Maya Rhodes, Benjamin Sanchez, Crystal Sanchez, Adam Senen, Natalie Smith, Sherinda Tape, Ivan Valdez, Jonathan Van Norman, Alberto Vasquez, Norma Vega, Steven Vorgitch, Grigor Yessaian, Justin Zasueta (Siechert/Costanzo). **WELCOME to ALL!!**

HBR Washington reported on NALC Health Benefit Plan and the upcoming open season. Carolyn Zorn reported that \$60 was donated to MDA from attendees at the Retiree Banquet. Sister Zorn also reported on legislative activities including phone banking, precinct walking and busing to Las Vegas for "Dump Trump" events. She also spoke to a number of propositions on the November ballot. Vice-President Karchikyan reported on safety issues, cameras in staff cars and later starting times. Recommendation to notify National Business Agent office with any problems regarding safety issues.

Motion passed to adjourn at 8:14 p.m. in honor and memory of D. A. Smith (Temblador/Siechert).



Submitted by,



Nancy Norman

Secretary-Treasurer

TREASURER'S REPORT SEP-OCT 2016

| INCOME | SEP | OCT | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|--------------|--|--|
| Active Rebate | 22,715.73 | 22,968.48 | ACCOUNT BALANCES | | | |
| Retiree Rebate | 269.15 | 0.00 | 10/31/2016 | | | |
| Direct Dues | 80.37 | 0.00 | General Checking | \$79,134.81 | | |
| Interest-Dividend | 209.49 | 0.00 | Mikita Scholarship | \$4,972.12 | | |
| Other Income | 0.00 | 0.00 | Building Fund | \$241,573.02 | | |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$23,274.74 | \$35,070.33 | Convention Fund | \$36,434.82 | | |
| | | | | | | |
| EXPENSES | SEP | OCT | TOTAL ACCOUNTS | \$362,114.77 | | |
| Building Repairs/Improvements | 0.00 | 0.00 |  | | | |
| Car Allowance | 0.00 | 200.00 | | | | |
| COP Meeting | 0.00 | 0.00 | | | | |
| Food Drive | 76.09 | 0.00 | | | | |
| Gardening | 0.00 | 0.00 | | | | |
| Insurance | 2,390.00 | 0.00 | | | | |
| Internet | 104.64 | 104.64 | | | | |
| Mail Call | 117.37 | 115.98 | | | | |
| Mileage | 168.48 | 0.00 | | | | |
| Miscellaneous | 0.00 | | | | | |
| National Convention | -671.00 | 0.00 | | | | |
| Office Expenses | 114.27 | 573.02 | | | | |
| Office Supplies | 0.00 | 394.65 | | | | |
| Officer Benefits | 0.00 | 125.48 | | | | |
| Officer/Steward Salary | 8,210.40 | 9,193.02 | | | | |
| Payroll Taxes | 743.85 | 942.29 | | | | |
| Per Capita Tax | 27.50 | 27.50 | | | | |
| Postage | 97.73 | 47.99 | | | | |
| Professional Fees | 0.00 | 0.00 | | | | |
| Publications & Newsletters | 0.00 | 0.00 | | | | |
| Retiree Banquet | 100.00 | 1,262.82 | | | | |
| Retiree Bonus | 200.00 | 200.00 | | | | |
| Seminars & Education | 613.84 | 480.00 | | | | |
| State Convention | 0.00 | 0.00 | | | | |
| Telephone | 357.98 | 188.71 | | | | |
| Utilities | 309.08 | 12.38 | | | | |
| | | |  | | | |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$12,960.23 | \$13,868.48 | | | | |
| NET INCOME | \$10,314.51 | \$21,201.85 | | | | |
| | | | <p><i>"Now, keep in mind that these numbers are only as accurate as the fictitious data, ludicrous assumptions and wishful thinking they're based upon!"</i></p> | | | |

2017 Carl J. Saxsenmeier

Scholarship Program

The California State Association of Letter Carriers (CSALC) is now accepting applications for the 2017 Carl J. Saxsenmeier Scholarship Program. **All applications must be received by the Scholarship Chair by January 6, 2017.** The Chair will send scholarship packets to all applicants by the end of January 2017. 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 2017 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 _____

**Meeting Attendance
September/October 2016**

Officers:

President Mike Wyly - E/A
Vice President Serop Karchikyan - P/P
Secy-Treas Nancy Norman - P/P
Financial Secy Frank Costanzo - P/P
Sergeant at Arms Ric Roldan - P/P
Health Benefits Rep Walter Washington - P/P
Trustee Donald Smith - A
Trustee Carolyn Zorn - P/P
Trustee Leroy Collier - P/P
MBA Representative Vinh Trieu - P/A

Stewards:

Verdugo Viejo - Serop Karchikyan - P/P
Raymond Annex 01: Kevin Nguyen - A/A
Raymond Annex 06: H.T. Tran - E/P
Jackie Robinson 03/04: Carolyn Zorn - P/P
Tujunga: Rob Burskey - P/E
South Pasadena: Vinh Trieu - P/A
La Canada/Montrose: Tina Giancanelli - A/A

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

**Tuesday, November 8th
7:00 p.m.**

and

**Tuesday, December 13th
7:00 p.m.**

**Union Office
1310 N Oxford Ave
in Pasadena**



CSALC Scholarship Application is inside.
Our Mikita Scholarship Application
will be in the next issue of the Mail Call.
If you are not on our mailing list,
call to receive an application
or visit our website: www.nalc2200.org

Visit www.nalchbp.org to see the NALC
rates for 2017 and the 2017 summary of
benefits. The NALC Health Plan is NON-
PROFIT and built for NALC members.

**NALC BRANCH 2200
1310 N Oxford Ave
Pasadena CA 91104**