

MAIL CALL

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

**Altadena, Glendale, La Canada, Montrose, Pasadena
Santa Clarita, South Pasadena, Sunland and Tujunga**

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VOLUME NO. 36

CIRCULATION 1000

SEP/OCT 2023

From The Desk of the President

Brother Mario Cuarto – On August 25, 2023, one of our fellow members, Mario Cuarto, passed away while on duty. Brother Cuarto was 58 years old with 29 years of service with the Postal Service and worked in the Santa Clarita, Newhall Post Office. After Letter Carrier Cuarto delivered a package to a customer, the customer noticed Brother Cuarto was in the vehicle for about 10 or so minutes. The customer went to check on Brother Cuarto to make sure everything was okay and found him unresponsive. The customer called the paramedics, but it was, unfortunately too late, and Brother Cuarto was pronounced dead on scene. Brother Cuarto's passing is currently being investigated by OSHA to determine if it was work related or due to natural causes. Our deepest sympathies go out to Mario Cuarto's family, friends, and his fellow co-workers. Brother Cuarto is survived by his two sons.

Contract Negotiations – I attended the Committee of Presidents (COP) meeting in Las Vegas on October 14-15, 2023. National President Brian Renfroe gave updates on several issues such as contract negotiations, Medicare Integration and the Technology Integrated Alternate Route Evaluation and Adjustment Process (TIAREAP). As for the contract negotiations, President Renfroe did not disclose much information in terms of when we will reach an agreement or conclude the interest arbitration process. He did state they have come a long way to agreeing on many of the disputes, but still have a few items pending.

Medicare Integration – Medicare Integration for Postal Employees is right around the corner. Letter Carriers that are enrolled in the FEHB (Federal Employee Health Benefit) as a retired carrier or a carrier that is 64 years or older as an active or retired employee by January 1, 2025, will have a special enrollment period. This will allow them to enroll in Medicare Plan A and B from April 1, 2024 through October 1, 2024 without having to pay the 10% penalty per

year if they had not previously enrolled in Medicare Part A and B. All other employees under the age of 64 and an active carrier by January 1, 2025, will be required to enroll in Medicare upon eligibility of reaching 65 years of age with two exceptions. The two exceptions are: if you have another health benefit plan, for example, through your spouse or through the VA, or if you move out of the country and Medicare is not available. More information for Medicare Integration will be available in the future.

Route Adjustments (TIAREAP) – President Renfroe also spoke about how the Postal Service and the NALC are attempting to include the TIAREAP process in our Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). Throughout the nation, both parties have jointly adjusted many offices with TIAREAP. This has been a far better result than Management evaluating and adjusting routes on their own. If the agreement is made to include the TIAREAP process into our CBA, the TIAREAP process will be in effect for the term of our new contract.

Health Benefits Open Season – In addition to the COP, the NALC held a Health Benefit Seminar which was attended by our Health Benefit Representative Keith Lineman and me. There was a great deal of useful information about what our NALC Health Plan has to offer. Mr. Lineman's article on Page 7 explains in depth as to why letter carriers should consider enrolling in the NALC plan. And remember, staying healthy is a very important part of our duties as an active or retired letter carrier. Our duties as an active letter carrier, as you well know, include major physical activities daily. Luckily, we get a lot of exercise performing our duties which results in staying active for most of our days. Eating nutritious meals, staying hydrated and getting a good night's sleep all play a big role in remaining healthy.

**Be safe. Stay well. In Unionism,
Serop Karchikyan**

NON-MEMBER ROSTER - BRANCH 2200

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	POST OFFICE	PL	REG/CCA	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	POST OFFICE	PL	REG/CCA
Gonzalez	Heather	Altadena	10	R	Frigillana	Abraham	Pasadena	0	R
					Gonzales	Gary	Pasadena	6	R
Banh	Kelly	Glendale	121	R	Ho	Raymond	Pasadena	7	R
Daghbashyan	Rafik	Glendale	161	R	Lam	Tung	Pasadena	8	R
Esguerra	Benito	Glendale	141	R	Mejia	Gerald	Pasadena	5	R
Hovhannesian	Azad	Glendale	104	R	Moreno	Jose	Pasadena	4	R
Isajani	Derik	Glendale	161	R	Phan	Johnny	Pasadena	5	R
Kim	Ki Hoon	Glendale	0	CCA	Robles, Jr	Arturo	Pasadena	0	CCA
Mazariegos	Thelma	Glendale	162	R	Truong	John	Pasadena	6	R
Ngo	Danny	Glendale	121	R	Victorio	Rodel	Pasadena	5	R
Phung	Phan	Glendale	161	R	Wang	David	Pasadena	1	R
Rodriguez	Linda	Glendale	161	R					
Soldatenko	George	Glendale	104	R	Chavez	Anthony	Santa Clarita	620	R
Suh	Uk Sun	Glendale	141	R	David	Noel	Santa Clarita	620	R
Wen	Raymond	Glendale	104	R	Davinroy	Andrew	Santa Clarita	320	R
					Navarro	Junzky	Santa Clarita	120	R
Luu	Hong	La Canada	101	R	Ybarra	Jose	Santa Clarita	120	R
Asuncion	Joel	Pasadena	6	R	Helstrom	Paula	Sunland	320	R
Barsamian	Razmik	Pasadena	6	R	Srirathu	Rawat	Sunland	320	R
Carrillo, Jr	Ismael	Pasadena	7	R					
Chau	Sy	Pasadena	3	R	Mousesian	Vahik	Tujunga	500	R
Estrada	Angela	Pasadena	1	R	Sugiarto	Albertus	Tujunga	500	R

Branch 2200 will pay \$100 to the first member (President not eligible)
to sign up a non-member in a pay status on this list, with a completed, signed Form 1187.
Payment processed upon completion of probation and first successful deduction.
See your shop steward for forms or contact the Branch office at 626-798-6122.
Our goal is 100% Membership!!

And....From the Desk of Vice-President

Lately the calls and concerns of the membership are “What is going on with our new National Agreement? Is it done? Are we getting a big raise?” I have been approached on the workroom floor about this important matter and have even seen new faces of city carriers attend our steward training and membership meetings to get updates about the lack of a new agreement.

As of writing this article, there is no word that a new tentative agreement has been reached by the parties and the next step is to schedule a hearing date with the Arbitration panel. The NALC has stated that they have a strong case ready to be presented in interest arbitration. However, it is still their hope that they come up with an agreement mutually and thus, they continue to negotiate with Management at the national level. President Brian Renfroe insists on holding those discussions as private as possible to keep dialogue open and allow for parties to bargain with some form of trust as to what is discussed behind closed doors. While in some ways I do understand our Presidents approach, I also understand our members concerns about the changes and demands city carriers want to obtain in this new contract agreement.

If you’ve turned on the tv at home or read the news on your phone, then you know that throughout our country, labor has had enough of working and not being able to make ends meet. The news has bombarded us with repeated information of several labor groups going on strike or threatening to go on strike pending their expiring contract. You have also seen that many of these laborers have been successful in obtaining significant wage raises that reward them for their respective work. Some companies and states have even raised the minimum hourly wage for certain groups of workers. In California, Governor Gavin Newsom signed a law (AB 1228) raising fast food workers hourly wage to \$20.00 starting sometime next year. You may ask, why do you tell us about fast food workers? Well, brothers and sisters, across the country starting pay for most installations that hire City-Carrier Assistants (CCA) currently start new hires at \$19.33. To add fuel to the fire, USPS is unable to retain many of these new hires due to a variety of reasons such as poor working conditions, poor management, non-flexible long work hours and scheduling.

In fact, in 2022, the Office of Inspector General released their report regarding retention of new employees, which includes the CCA positions, and found that over 60 percent of new employees resign from the USPS. While that number is staggering, it is not a surprise for I personally experienced the struggle when I served nearly three years as a CCA, before converting to full-time. I have also seen new employees burn out right in front of my eyes and there is little I can do besides protecting the few contractual rights they have in our contract and grieving these matters.

Local management has done very little to change their “old ways” of mistreating city carriers and treating us like automatons. Upper Management has begun to ding up local management for CCAs that quit and for a retention rate that is not in par with Headquarters goals. This will likely mean a bad annual review and possible lower wage increases for supervisors. One must wonder whether that will make Management change their ways or become more hostile towards the city-carrier.

In California, the cost of living has negatively impacted city carriers who work in this state along with other metropolitan areas where the cost of living is significantly higher than rural America. So, to that I say enough is enough! The time to reward the city-carrier for being the most important position in the USPS is now! I write this article to ask that all city-carriers, whether on Table 1, Table 2, or Table 3 of the letter carrier pay schedule, demand fair and significant wage increases from those that bargain on our behalf. All city carriers deserve to be able to provide for their families on a 40 per hour work week and if we do not achieve this goal in collective bargaining, the USPS will continue to struggle with hiring and retaining new employees. This will lead to continued forced overtime mandated onto city carriers who have been carrying mail for many years. This vicious cycle must end, and it can begin to do so, if all city-carriers stand together and demand the end of this current pay tier system. You may contact our elected national officials through phone line or email and demand higher wages. Complaining about it is a starting point, but true change requires more effort, and no good thing ever came easy.

**Respectfully and in solidarity,
Sisters and Brothers – Calvin Rich**



Calvin Rich capturing Financial Secretary Amy Lee and their son, Marcus, both at work on Labor Day 2023

2024 Carl J. Saxsenmeier

Scholarship Program

The California State Association of Letter Carriers (CSALC) is now accepting applications for the 2024 Carl J. Saxsenmeier Scholarship Program. **All applications must be received by the Scholarship Chair by January 7, 2024.** The Chair will send scholarship packets to all applicants by the end of January 2024. The scholarships are available to the 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 2024 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.

Derek J Simpson
Saxsenmeier Scholarship Chair
18315 E Bellbrook St
Covina, CA 91722-2754
Phone: 626-384-1746 (Text Preferred)

Saxsenmeier Scholarship Application
(PLEASE PRINT)

Student's Name _____

Home Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Home Telephone _____ Cell _____

Email Address _____

NALC Member's Name _____ Relationship to Applicant _____

NALC Member Signature _____ Applicant's Signature _____

Please have your **Local NALC Branch Officer Complete**. It's required for verification of member in good standing. **(* See requirements above if you qualify)**

NALC Branch Officer Signature _____ Title _____

NALC Branch Officer Print Name _____ Branch # _____

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING – September 13, 2023

The meeting was called to order via Zoom and in-person at 7:03 p.m. by President Serop Karchikyan. The pledge of allegiance was led by Sergeant-at-Arms Ric Roldan and there was a moment of silence for our departed brothers and sisters since the last meeting, specifically for Santa Clarita carrier, Mario Cuarto, who died while carrying his route. The roll call was answered by twelve officers and stewards in good standing.

Motion (Lee/Siechert) passed to waive the reading of the minutes and accept as emailed and printed for members at the meeting. Motion (Temblador/Trieu) passed to excuse Jan Siechert from the October meeting. Thank you note was read from National Legislative and Political Organizer John Beaumont. Motion (Rich/Siechert) passed to waive the reading of the list of bills, they be accepted as printed and emailed, and warrants be drawn and bills be paid. Motion (Rich/Temblador) passed to waive the reading of the Treasurer's Report and accept as emailed and printed for members at the meeting. Motion (Lee/Lineman) passed to accept the following membership applications on the first reading: A. Ashlock, C. Colletta, N Cueva, A. Grigorian, D. Hayes, A Huete, A. Markari, K. Nguyen, S. Palacios, J. Soto, D. Velasquez, W. Watts II, C. Wright. **Welcome!**

MDA Coordinator Carolyn Zorn reported on fund raising activities including a shoe drive. Sister Zorn also updated on legislative activities, including Dolores Huerta Spirit Awards and Congressional Representative Judy Chu luncheon. Trustee Leroy Collier updated with the 8-22-2023 audit report in process.

Motion passed to accept the following Executive Board Recommendations #1 (Burskey/Temblador) The Branch send Calvin Rich to the 2024 Advanced Formal A Training at the Maritime Institute, with the Branch to pay for lost time or non-scheduled hours and pay travel, lodging, and per diem #2 (Rich/Trieu) The Branch spend up to \$500 for flowers and a donation to the Cuarto family. The 2023 Picnic Report was read and a motion (Rich/Zorn) passed to accept the report as printed/emailed to the members.

Vice-President Calvin Rich reported on plant closure in New Jersey and potential others creating some reduction in workforce. The Branch thanked Vice-President Rich for providing the meal for the meeting.

Motion (Lee/Temblador) passed to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m. Submitted by,

Nancy Norman
Secretary-Treasurer

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING – October 11, 2023

The meeting was called to order via Zoom and in-person at 7:02 p.m. by President Serop Karchikyan. The pledge of allegiance was led by Sergeant-at-Arms Ric Roldan and there was a moment of silence for our departed brothers and sisters since the last meeting. The roll call was answered by eleven officers and stewards in good standing.

Motion (Lee/Roldan) passed to waive the reading of the minutes and accept as emailed and printed for members at the meeting. Motion (Rich/Roldan) passed to waive the reading of the list of bills, they be accepted as printed and emailed, and warrants be drawn and bills be paid. Motion (Lee/Trieu) passed to waive the reading of the Treasurer's Report and accept as emailed and printed for members at the meeting.

MDA Coordinator Carolyn Zorn read a thank you letter from National MDA Vice-President regarding donations sent to the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Motion (Collier/Temblador) passed to have the thank you letter printed in the next Mail Call. Sister Zorn also reminded the members that the shoe drive for MDA ends at the November membership meeting. Legislative updated on issues regarding informational pickets and the return of involvement from the Auxiliary Committee.

HB Representative Keith Lineman announced open season is November 13 through December 11, encouraging members to check out the NALC Health Benefit Plan. Audit report was read and motion (Collier/Burskey) passed to accept the report.

Motion (Zorn/Collier) passed to send Carolyn Zorn and Leroy Collier to the 2024 LA Fed MLK Celebration. Mail Call article was requested from attendees after the celebration. Vice-President Rich discussed the idea of bargaining for locality pay and President Karchikyan addressed questions regarding CCA conversions and filling vacancies in offices.

The Branch thanked Tina Giancanelli for providing the meal for the meeting.

Motion (Lee/Trieu) passed to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Submitted by,

Nancy Norman
Secretary-Treasurer

TREASURER'S REPORT SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2023

INCOME	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER				
NALC Active Rebate	25,268.80	25,314.80	SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER TRANSFERS			
NALC Retiree Rebate	228.14	0.00	FROM	TO		AMOUNT
Direct Dues	116.08	446.48	Checking	Convention		4,046.68
Interest-Dividend	862.55	894.51	Checking	Mikita		100.00
Other Income (Picnic Ticket Sales)	1,135.00	0.00	Checking	Building		4,046.68
			Convention	Checking		600.58
TOTAL INCOME	\$27,610.57	\$26,655.79				
EXPENSES	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER				
Branch Picnic	2,684.15	0.00				
Car Allowance	500.00	500.00				
COP Meeting	0.00	551.35	ACCOUNT BALANCES			
Food Drive	0.00	0.00	8/31/2023			
Gardening	162.00	0.00	General Checking	\$154,271.91		
Insurance	0.00	0.00	Mikita Scholarship	\$4,188.34		
Internet	108.80	108.80	Building Fund	\$348,183.81		
Mail Call	122.08	93.90	Convention/Training	\$111,512.12		
Meeting Meal/Raffle	75.00	75.00				
Mileage	0.00	0.00	TOTAL ACCOUNTS	\$618,156.18		
Miscellaneous**	0.00	500.00				
Office Expenses	105.47	367.77				
Office Supplies	37.18	52.64	ACCOUNT BALANCES			
Officer Benefits	1,784.82	2,107.54	9/30/2023			
Officer/Steward Salary	16,941.52	17,359.42	General Checking	\$148,122.45		
Payroll Taxes/Filing	1,366.47	1,423.12	Mikita Scholarship	\$4,238.51		
Per Capita Tax	0.00	0.00	Building Fund	\$351,045.42		
Postage	153.99	225.99	Convention/Training	\$113,552.09		
Professional Fees	0.00	3,825.00				
Retiree Bonus	100.00	0.00	TOTAL ACCOUNTS	\$616,958.47		
Seminars/Education	600.58	3,128.87				
Tax - Property	0.00	0.00				
Telephone	126.03	126.69	ACCOUNT BALANCES			
Utilities	316.36	13.60	10/31/2023			
Website Fees	0.00	0.00	General Checking	\$143,122.11		
			Mikita Scholarship	\$4,288.69		
			Building Fund	\$353,941.72		
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$25,184.45	\$30,459.69	Convention/Training	\$114,996.06		
NET INCOME	\$2,426.12	-\$3,803.90	TOTAL ACCOUNTS	\$616,348.58		

**MLK 2024 LA County Fed

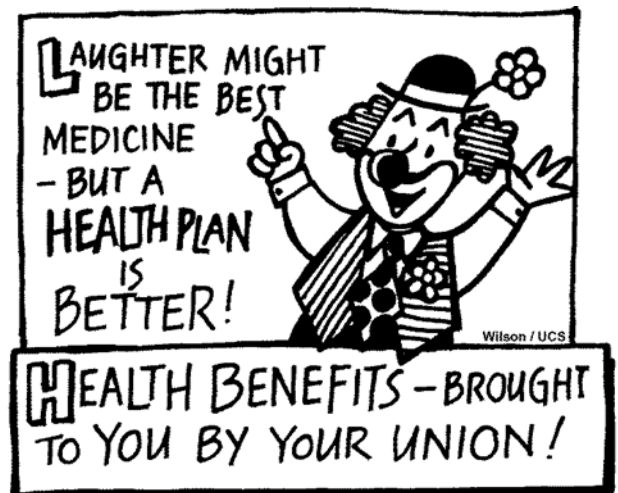
ARE YOU MONITORING YOUR HEALTH.....PLAN?

It's that time of the year when the leaves are falling, the days are cooler, darkness comes earlier and carriers start planning next year's vacations, (how many holiday weeks should I put in for?). It is also Open Season which allows carriers the opportunity to keep their current health plan or change to a different plan. Open Season will run for 4 weeks, from Monday, November 13th through Monday, December 11, 2023. What a perfect opportunity to review our health plan and make sure that it meets our needs. Unfortunately, the latest forecast predicts health care costs to go up anywhere between 7% and 8%. Sure, that is a bit lower than last year but it is still an increase that nobody would care to see. Open Season allows carriers the perfect opportunity to compare several health plans and choose one that fits their needs and the needs of their family.

If this seems a little overwhelming, don't worry. I got your back. I know the perfect health plan. It's a plan that allows you to choose your doctor, has low copays, outstanding prescription drug coverage and attentive customer service. It's a plan that understands the needs of carriers. What plan is it, you ask? It's the NALC Health Benefit Plan. The NALC Health Benefit Plan provides comprehensive coverage for carriers and their families. It is a plan administered by our Union, with the intent of providing the best coverage at the lowest possible price. I stated earlier about the expected increase in premiums. The NALC Health Benefit Plan was able to keep their rate increase below 5% for plan year 2024. Signing up for the NALC Health Plan can be easily done through *POSTALEASE*. Please allow me to remind everyone that Open Season is from Monday, November 13th through Monday, December 11th, 2023. As the NALC says, **"UPGRADE YOUR HEALTH TO A UNION THAT DELIVERS."** By Health Benefits Rep Keith Lineman



L to R: President Karchikyan, HBP Director Stephanie Stewart and our HBP Representative Keith Lineman at the HBP Seminar



**WISHING YOU ALL THE VERY
BEST HOLIDAY SEASON
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR
STAY SAFE OUT THERE!!**

– From Branch 2200 Officers
and Shop Stewards –

**Meeting Attendance
September/October 2023**

Officers:

President Serop Karchikyan – P/P
Vice President Calvin Rich – P/P
Secy-Treasurer Nancy Norman – P/P
Financial Secy Amy Lee – P/P
Sergeant at Arms Ric Roldan – P/P
Health Benefits Rep Keith Lineman – P/P
MBA Representative Vinh Trieu – P/P
Trustee Leroy Collier – P/P
Trustee Rob Burskey – P/P
Trustee Jan Siechert – P/E

Stewards:

Glendale Main Office: Calvin Rich – P/P
Glen La Crescenta: Artur Aghakhanyan – A/A
La Canada/Montrose: Tina Giancanelli – P/P
Pasadena GMF 01: Kevin Nguyen – A/A
Pas Jackie Robinson 03/04: Carolyn Zorn – P/P
Tujunga: Rob Burskey – P/P

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Wednesday, November 8th

@ 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 13th**

@ 7:00 p.m.

****DECEMBER HOLIDAY MEAL @ 6:00 P.M.!!!**

In-Person/Zoom

1310 N Oxford Ave

in Pasadena

Zoom Check in @ 6:50 p.m.

**Raffle Tickets for In-Person Attendance
Drawing at December meeting
Winner must be present in person!**

CAROLYN ZORN – RETIREMENT 2023

**After 30 years of service to USPS,
Carolyn Zorn has hung up her boots!
On behalf of all officers and members
of Branch 2200, President Karchikyan
thinks Carolyn for her many years of
dedicated service to the NALC.**

Best wishes in retirement, Carolyn!!

