



# BRANCH 193

## Bulletin

Campbell ♦ Gilroy ♦ Los Gatos ♦ Milpitas ♦ Morgan Hill ♦ San Jose ♦ Saratoga

### Messages from the President

No. 5 - 09 November-December 2009

Danny Laffan

The National Reassessment Program (NRP) has made its way to San Jose and some of our members are being sent home with only a partial day of work. While limited duty carriers are entitled to compensation for the time when no work is available, our members are not being treated fairly in the assessment of what work is available. Many limited duty carriers have work they have in the past and could now be doing but management is refusing to allow them to do that work stating that it is no longer necessary. This creates a very frustrating situation for all involved. Simply put the NRP was put into place when management changed their position regarding their responsibility to provide work to employees injured in the performance of their duties. Up until a couple of years ago, management took the position they had the right to make work for those injured on the job. They even argued that point in many arbitrations. It was their position that they could create work within the employees' limitations to provide eight hours of work per day. That position has changed and now management claims that they have no obligation to provide work other than operationally necessary work to injured employees. When that work has been complete the employee is now sent home and told to claim compensation from the Department of Labor (OWCP) or use their sick or annual leave. The NALC strongly disagrees with this position and we will be filing grievances on behalf of our members who are denied work; however, this will not eliminate the hardships our members face. We are committed to minimize the negative impact this program will have on injured employees.

#### Too many or Not enough?

About a month ago I attended a meeting in Oakland during which I was told that according to a spreadsheet provided by the Pacific Area that offices within our branch had "extra" carriers. San Jose had thirty-four extra and the smaller offices had between one and six extra carriers. As letters were being sent to the junior regular carriers stating that they would be reassigned, I received another spreadsheet showing that up to fifteen reserve assignments would be created in San Jose to accommodate carriers being excessed from other installations. I realize that the information I am being provided makes no sense. I would offer that until management figures out which set of numbers is correct there should

be no movement of carriers to other installations. It is my hope that management will realize this conflicting information is creating anxiety for those involved and that they will take immediate action to correct the situation.

#### Holidays are Approaching

The holiday season is upon us once again. It is important to realize that during this season we often find ourselves hurrying to get things done and that we sometimes lose our focus on the things that are important. Step back and take the time to be thankful for the blessings that have been bestowed upon us and to help those who are less fortunate. This year more families are in need than in the past. Do whatever you can to help make others holidays as pleasant as your own. Spend quality time with your family. Do the things that you enjoy. Have fun and laugh out loud together. Stay focused and be safe. I wish all the members of Branch 193 and their families a very happy holiday season.

### Stanley Halfacre Elected Vice President

Stanley Halfacre was elected by acclamation to the Position of Vice President of Branch 193 NALC at the October 14th Branch Meeting. Stanley will take over as Vice President at the end of the year when President Danny Laffan retires and Laurie Duarte assumes the duties of the President of Branch 193. Stanley served as Vice President during 2007 & 2008 and I am confident that he will continue to provide quality representation for the members of our branch over the next two years. Congratulations, Stanley!



*The Branch 193 Bulletin is published by Branch 193, National Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO. Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of Branch 193. We invite all members to contribute articles for publication. The Editor retains the right to edit, delete, or reject any article for the good of the Branch..*

#### Branch 193 Bulletin

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## NOTICES - NOTICES

### **Holiday Party Scheduled for December 9, 2009**

Our annual Holiday party will be held on Wednesday, December 9th. Admission is free. A buffet dinner will be served starting at 6:00 PM. Balloon twisters and a face painter will be available from 5:45 to 8:15 PM. This year's raffle will have a variety of prizes. Santa is scheduled to arrive at 7:15 PM so don't be late. Remember to bring a present for your children and we will make sure Santa gets it to them. Mark your calendars for this fun event.

### **Building Dedicated to Tony Cortese**

On Sunday December 13th we will dedicate our building at 1060 Minnesota Avenue in San Jose to Past President Tony Cortese. An Open House will be held from 12 to 3 PM. Light refreshments will be served. Mark the date on your calendar and plan to drop by for the ceremony

### **Gift Cards to be Mailed**

Once again, the membership approved a motion to purchase and distribute a \$60 Safeway Gift Card to all members who meet the established criteria. Accordingly, all active members who have belonged to Branch 193 for more than six months and all retirees who were members for at least five years prior to retirement will receive a gift card. The cards will be mailed to the membership in early November so make sure we have your current address on file. As you know cards not received cannot be replaced unless the original first class mailing is returned to the Branch.

### **FERS Sick Leave Credit Passed**

On October 28th, President Obama signed the 2010 National Defense Authorization Act, which includes a provision to allow all federal workers under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) who retire between now and 2013 to get half credit for their surplus sick leave. Full credit for unused sick leave takes effect in 2014. Employees under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) already receive credit for sick leave when they retire. Many thanks to all those who donate to COLCPE and support the E-Activist network for their work in achieving this benefit for our members.

### **Christmas Period Identified**

December 5th through January 1st has been identified as the Christmas period for 2009. Keep in mind there is no penalty pay during this period.

## MDA Bowl-A-Thon Breaks Record

Our MDA Bowl-a-thon held on Sunday, November 1st at Cambrian Bowl raised over three thousand six hundred dollars to help find the cure for muscular dystrophy and related diseases. This dollar amount far exceeds the proceeds from last year event and sets a record for our Branch. Shop Stewards Bob Krauth and Pam West volunteered to coordinate this event and they did an outstanding job. They took the job on with a short time frame to prepare but that did not hinder their effectiveness. Many thanks to Bob and Pam for a job well done. Branch 1427 joined us in this event and about seventy bowlers filled the lanes and bowled for three hours. It was great to see everyone enjoying the afternoon. There was quite a variety of talent displayed. We had bowlers who scored in the 230-260 range along with bowlers who scored in the 30-60 range. The common thread was everyone was enjoying themselves. It was great to see soon to be eighty-nine year old Trustee Tom Steward step in when President Danny Laffan suffered a minor injury. Special thanks to the carriers from Foothill Station who raised over five hundred dollars in sponsoring carrier Frannie Ramirez to participate. Laurie Duarte, Tommy Jean, Sharon Epp and Jackie Lanto teamed up with Frannie for a team total of over nine hundred dollars in sponsorships. Congratulations and thanks to everyone who participated for your efforts.



## Health Benefit Plan Open Season

The Federal Employees Health Benefit open season dates are set for November 9, - December 14, 2009. The 2010 Health Benefit Plan Brochures will be mailed out soon so take a minute to review the Plan. The NALC Health Benefit Plan gives our members tools to compare the costs for covered services and hospital comparison. By visiting [www.nalc.org/depart/hbp](http://www.nalc.org/depart/hbp), our members can compare our Network provider average allowances with the standard (non-PPO) Plan allowance. How do you enroll in the NALC Health Benefit Plan? If you have access to PostalEASE through the Employee Web on the intranet or through an Employee Self-Service Kiosk, you may enroll in the NALC Health benefit Plan by following the screen instructions. Otherwise, call PostalEASE at 1-877-477-3273, option 1. The screen will ask for your Employee ID # (on pay stub) and your USPS Pin #. If you do not have or know your USPS Pin #, contact the Human Resources Shared Service Center at 1-877-477-3273 before December 14, 2009. For annuitants, you may call OPM's Open Season Express line at 1-800-332-9798, or you can log onto OPM's Open Season Online at [www.opm.gov](http://www.opm.gov). retire/fehb, to make an open season health benefits enrollment or change.

In order to keep overall insurance costs down, rates have increased minimally. The new premium is \$44.57 for self and \$86.11 for family. In 2010, you'll pay just \$15 co-payment for office visits, consultations, and routine physicals exams, including school, camp and sport physicals, when you use a CIGNA PPO provider. Our preventative care benefit for adults includes 100% coverage for routine adult screenings, such as mammograms, osteoporosis and colorectal screenings, routine pap, diabetic and PSA testing, and certain adult routine immunizations endorsed by the CDC, when performed by a CIGNA PPO provider. You now pay nothing for covered lab services performed by LabCorp or Quest Diagnostics, previously, you paid 10%. The NALC offers a great deal on medications. You now pay only \$5 for a 90 day supply of NALCSelect generic medications purchased through mail order and only \$4 when Medicare is your primary payer. You now pay only 20% of the cost for a 30 day supply of generic drugs at any NALCSelect pharmacy and 10% if Medicare is your primary payer. These are just a few examples of benefits that the NALC Health Benefit has to provide. Even with the constant rising costs for health care, the plan has been able to negotiate a premium that will meet the expectations of our members. I cannot stress enough that, in order to achieve the lowest possible premiums and highest possible benefits, the Plan needs to have more active carriers as members

*To learn more about the NALC Health Benefit Plan, a Health fair has been scheduled for November 13, 2009 from 6am-10am and from 5pm-10pm at the GMF. Please attend and I will answer any questions that you don't understand.*



## Stewards Attend Training in Burlingame

Branch 193 Shop Stewards and officers attended a training sponsored by the California State Association and our National Business Agent on October 23-24, 2009. Stewards attended classes on grievance investigation, grievance writing, burden of proof, the Joint Statement on Violence and Behavior in the Workplace MOU, MDA Fundraising, Labor 2008-2010 and a class on COLCPE and E-Activist programs. Classes were held on Friday morning and afternoon plus Saturday morning. On Saturday afternoon a rap session with our National President Fred Rolando was conducted. President Rolando updated attendees on a variety of issues that we are facing in this ever-changing world we are living in right now. His message was strong and clear – the NALC will continue work diligently in protecting the rights of our members and we will do whatever we can to help the Postal Service survive the negative impacts the current decline in volume has created.

I want to thank the Branch 193 stewards for conducting themselves in a very professional manner during the course of this training and I was very proud to see that twenty members attended the Congressional Breakfast held on Sunday morning.

## Plenty of Fun and Games at Family Picnic

On September 13th, over two hundred seventy members, family and friends gathered at Coyote Ranch for our annual Family Picnic. Early morning overcast lifted as guests started to arrive and the day was full of sunshine. Picnic committee members did an outstanding job of organizing the day's activities from bingo to the afternoon's water events. There was plenty of music and the dance area was full of people enjoying the event. Once again, this family style event garnered a very positive response from those in attendance. Many thanks to all who helped make this day very enjoyable.



## OFFICERS

Danny Laffan \_\_\_\_\_ *President*  
 Laurie Duarte \_\_\_\_\_ *Vice President*  
 Bill Cunningham \_\_\_\_\_ *Second Vice President*  
 Pat Mulligan \_\_\_\_\_ *Recording Secretary*  
 Sharon Epp \_\_\_\_\_ *Financial Secretary*  
 Stanley Halfacre \_\_\_\_\_ *Treasurer*  
 Guillermo Martinez \_\_\_\_\_ *Sgt at Arms*  
 Jackie Lanto \_\_\_\_\_ *HBP/MBA Rep*  
 Laurie Lykam-Halfacre \_\_\_\_\_ *Trustee*  
 Jim Miller \_\_\_\_\_ *Trustee*  
 Joe Rosa \_\_\_\_\_ *Trustee*  
 Kelvin Kamachi \_\_\_\_\_ *Trustee*  
 Lin Zhou \_\_\_\_\_ *Trustee*  
 Guillermo Martinez \_\_\_\_\_ *Legislative Liaison*  
 Steven Munyon \_\_\_\_\_ *Editor. Scribe*

## Branch 193 Shop Stewards

*Almaden Valley* \_\_\_\_\_ Dan Degn & Pam West  
*Bayside* \_\_\_\_\_ Al Navarette & Bob Foster  
*Berryessa* \_\_\_\_\_ Henry Semillano & Lawrence Wenceslao  
*Blossom Hill* \_\_\_\_\_ Steve Miller & Tom Cerna  
*Cambrian Park* \_\_\_\_\_ Ray Gauthier & David Martinez  
*Campbell* \_\_\_\_\_ Rosie La'auli & Vacant  
*Station D* \_\_\_\_\_ Vittorio Forde  
*Foothill* \_\_\_\_\_ Art Parrilla  
*Gilroy* \_\_\_\_\_ Debra Masten  
*Hillview* \_\_\_\_\_ Manny Aguilar & Victor Barrientos  
*Los Gatos* \_\_\_\_\_ Kevin Janton  
*Los Gatos Dell* \_\_\_\_\_ Ian Davies  
*Milpitas* \_\_\_\_\_ Joel Baclig & Raj Kanda  
*Morgan Hill* \_\_\_\_\_ Angel Montelongo  
*Parkmoor* \_\_\_\_\_ David Judd & Sean McArthur  
*Robertsville* \_\_\_\_\_ Theresa Hernandez & Al Denison  
*St. James Park* \_\_\_\_\_ Chris North & Laurie Duarte  
*Saratoga* \_\_\_\_\_ Robert Vanderpool  
*Seven Trees* \_\_\_\_\_ Moe Bedolla & Ronnie Hodges  
*Westgate* \_\_\_\_\_ Tommy Rivera & Vince Ramirez  
*Willow Glen* \_\_\_\_\_ Bob Krauth & Jack Dusthimer  
*Collection Officer* \_\_\_\_\_ Vera Martinez-Krauth

## Important Dates

Nov. 11 \_\_\_\_\_ **Veterans' Day Holiday**  
 Nov. 18 \_\_\_\_\_ Executive Board Meeting  
 Nov. 26 \_\_\_\_\_ **Thanksgiving Day Holiday**  
 Dec. 9 \_\_\_\_\_ **Branch Holiday Dinner**  
 Dec. 17 \_\_\_\_\_ Executive Board Meeting  
 Dec. 25 \_\_\_\_\_ **Christmas Day Holiday**  
 Jan. 1, 2010 \_\_\_\_\_ **New Years Day Holiday**  
 Jan. 13 \_\_\_\_\_ Branch Meeting

Branch Meetings begin promptly at **7:00 PM:**  
**Italian American Heritage Foundation**  
 425 North 4th Street San Jose, CA 95112  
 Board Meetings begin promptly at **7:00 PM:**  
**Union Office**  
 1060 Minnesota Avenue, Suite 9, San Jose, CA 95125

## Deadline

The Deadline for the **Jan/ Feb 2010** issue of the Branch 193 Bulletin is **Wednesday December 30, 2009**. News stories, articles, letters to the editor, drawings, cartoons, business cards, and/or photographs should be submitted to:

**Editor • Branch 193 Bulletin •**  
**P.O. Box 5721 • San Jose, CA 95150**

## More Bowlathon pictures



## Did you know that:

The Managed Service Points (MSP) initiative is a national program intended to facilitate management's ability to assess and monitor city delivery route structure and consistency of delivery service. The following reflects the parties' understanding of MSP; The parties agree that management will determine the number of scans on a city delivery route. Time credit will continue to be given during route count and inspections and will be credited in total street time. MSP does not set performance standards, either in the office or on the street. With current technology, MSP records of scan times are not to be used as timecard data for pay purposes. MSP data may not constitute the sole basis for disciplinary action.

## In Memoriam

Deepest Sympathy to the families & friends of our departed brothers and sisters

**Roy Cauble,**  
**Cezar Enchanto**  
**James McGuffee**  
**Jesus Romero**  
**George Underwood**

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW RETIREES

Danny Acheta \_\_\_\_\_ St. James Park  
 Hans Theil \_\_\_\_\_ Hillview Station

## ELECTION MAILING

Ballots for our National Convention Delegates Election will be mailed on Nov. 12th. If you do not receive your ballot by **Nov. 20th**, please contact the Union Office at (408) 288-8138  
 Deadline for ballot return is  
**Dec 9th at 5 p.m.**



## Vikki Gibson

INDEPENDENT REPRESENTATIVE

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[mysilpada.com/vikki.gibson](http://mysilpada.com/vikki.gibson)

CALL ME TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN EARN FREE JEWELRY!!!

## JACKPOT

Retiree **Andrew Grgich**, did not attend the Septemer Branch Meeting. And did Not win the \$404.00 Jackpot. **Nora Soulik**, from Berryessa Station, did NOT attend the October meeting, and did Not win the \$449.00 Jackpot. Come to our next Branch Meeting, and see how much the Jackpot has grown..