



BRANCH 193 Bulletin

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

Messages from the President

No. 3 - 08 July-August 2008

Danny Laffan

Branch 193 suffered a great loss on Sunday June 22nd when former Treasurer and Gold Card member George Katai passed away. George was 87 years old and has been a member of Branch 193 since 1954. He was our Treasurer from 1961 to April of this year. George was a gentle man of few words; however, his actions demonstrated his belief in and dedication to the National Association of Letter Carriers. No one worked harder for Branch 193 than George Katai. He was always going here or there to pick something up or drop something off. George assisted Presidents John Yakobovich, Howard Quackenbush and Tony Cortese in transforming Branch 193 into the respected Branch that we are today. He was always available to assist in whatever needed to be done. I hesitate to even try to calculate how much time George Katai has donated to the membership of this Branch. George was an excellent letter carrier also. He started at Saint James Park as all temp subs did back in the fifties. He reported every day and went to the swing room and waited to see if he would be given any work each day. His career led him to Station D and Berryessa Station. I first met George at Station D in 1972. He was on the job almost twenty years as I started my career. George was very professional in the performance of his duties. He was very neat, his uniforms always clean and pressed. Even then he didn't say much but he set an excellent example for us rookies to follow. George cared about his customers and would often do things to help them with their mailing needs. He once found over \$6000 in two unstamped, unaddressed and unsealed envelopes during a routine pick up of a collection box. George turned the money over to his supervisor making sure he got a receipt. He also cared about his fellow letter carriers. George actually gave up his nice mounted route in the East foothills so that another carrier who was having problems with some personal issues on his route could get away from an unhealthy situation and continue with his postal career. George Katai cared about people and was always willing to help. At his services last Sunday, the word generous was used often to describe George. Whether it was the bags of fruit that you were given whenever you visited George and Peggy or the helping hand in car repair or home improvements, people remembered George as a very generous person. He was a great asset to this Branch and we will surely miss him.

On behalf of the entire membership of Branch 193, I want to thank Peggy and the entire Katai family for sharing George with us through the years. We truly appreciate your sacrifices. I am sure that Tony and Howard were there at the pearly gates on June 22nd to usher George through to eternal happiness. Thank you for everything you did for us George. Rest in Peace, Brother!

Major Change on the Horizon - Again

You know you have been around too long when you hear the message that supervisor and managers are sending recently for the fourth or fifth time. I can't remember how many times I have heard the message. We are going under, mail is going to continue to decline to the point we won't have our jobs, etc. I do know that each time this type of messaging surfaces the bottom line is always the same - we (letter carriers) need to do more work in less time if we expect to have a job in the future.

Letter Carriers have always and will continue to do their share in protecting the survival of the Postal Service. We have worked hard to ensure that our employer will continue to be able to provide us with a means of supporting our families well into the future. The recent Postal Reform Act is an example of how we have helped secure the future of the Postal Service. The NALC led the effort to ensure that Congress gave our employer the structure

continued on next page

OFFICERS

- Danny Laffan *President*
- Stanley Halfacre *Vice President*
- Laurie Duarte *Second Vice President*
- Pat Mulligan *Recording Secretary*
- Sharon Epp *Financial Secretary*
- Al Denison *Treasurer*
- Gene Lorenzo *Sgt at Arms.*
- Guillermo Martinez *Legislative Liaison*
- Christine Hernandez *HBP/MBA Rep*
- Tom Stewart *Trustee*
- Laurie Lykam-Halfacre *Trustee*
- Jaswinder Nijjar *Trustee*
- Joe Rosa *Trustee*
- Guillermo Martinez *Trustee*

Branch 193 Bulletin

1060 Minnesota Ave., Suite 9
San Jose, CA 95125-2461
(408) 288-8138

www.nalcbranch193.com

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and flexibility needed to move strongly into the future. President Young made some very difficult decisions in the process of our ensuring that legislation passed through Congress and was signed into law by President Bush. Believe me when I say that this Union has been and is very interested in the survival of the Postal Service. You as a member of the NALC have shared in that effort.

The reality of our situation is that major change is on the horizon. Each time our organization has approached change of this magnitude, the message given to craft employees has always been in the doom and gloom category. Postal management has traditionally looked at the worst-case scenario in these situations and then tries to convince letter carriers that it is up to us to save the organization by doing more work in

less time. I believe part of the problem is that the projections that were made when the Postal Service first looked at implementing DPS Flats have proven to be inaccurate. This is creating some problems which coupled with a loss in volume and rising fuel costs are causing concerns about the future. We must always be vigilant about being prepared for what the future will present and the messaging should be more along the lines that we have to work together to ensure the changes do not negatively impact the organization. If you were to look at our history, you would find that working together and facing challenges head on has been the most effective approach. We have overcome major change before and we will survive this difficult time also. We need to set aside the gloom and doom approach, stop arguing over fifteen minutes and jointly address the challenges this organization is facing. Letter carriers have and will continue to

do their part in ensuring the survival of the Postal Service. Do the best you can, take pride in your work and things will come together.

Family Picnic

This year the Branch decided to hold our Annual Family Picnic at Coyote Ranch in South San Jose. Save the date (September 7th) on your calendar and plan on coming out and enjoying an old time family picnic with a western theme. There will be plenty of food, beer, wine, soda and activities to keep you busy or you can kick back in the shade and watch all the fun. Park hours are from 10:30 AM to 4:00 PM with lunch served from 12:30 PM to 1:45 PM. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$16 for children (4-11) and are available through your shop stewards or by calling the Union Office at 288-8138. Place your order now and we will see you on September 7th.

Golf Tournament Raises Money for MDA



On June 8th sixty four golfers hacked and hewed their way around the Villages Golf and Country Club in a charity event sponsored by Branch 193. It was a beautiful sunny day filled with cheers and laughter as the foursomes proceeded around

this beautiful course. Everyone seemed to enjoy the day. Closest to the Pin prizes were won by Rick Merkal, Jason Garcia, and Chris North. The long drive prizes went to John Locquio (321 yards) and Andrea Merkal. Parkmoor carrier Juan Cortes, John Locquio, Fred and Jessie De la Pena won the tournament with a score of 61. Seven Trees carriers Rosendo Rapisura , Fred Campinella , Tony Cudal and Frank DeVera finished second with a score of 62. The big winners were Jerry Kid's as the event raised nearly \$2000 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. I would like to thank the businesses that sponsored a hole or donated prizes for the raffle that was conducted. Please remember these businesses as you choose where to spend your entertainment dollars. I would also like to thank the committee that worked hard to make this event successful. Special thanks to Laurie Halfacre and Vera Krauth for their efforts on the raffle.

Sponsors

- San Jose Moose Lodge #401
- Pacific Printing
- Tropicana Foods
- Dynasty Foot Spa
- Chili's Restaurant – Eastridge
- Garden Theatre Barber Shop
- Macaroni Grill – Eastridge
- The Villages Golf & Country Club
- Dorothy Cabanyog



Champions



2nd place



3rd place

Retirement Dinner Dance – 2008

On Saturday May 17th over one hundred and seventy letter carriers and their friends and family came together to honor those who retired since the last Retirement Dinner. Appetizers were served as guests arrived followed by a fabulous buffet dinner provided by Joe Peralta Catering. After a short program acknowledging our honored retirees, it was dancing to music provided by Westgate carrier Vince Ramirez. Past Financial Secretary Richard Jackson and his wife Dar came from Thailand and Hillview/Blossom Hill retiree Danny Chavez came in from Texas to join the festivities. All who attended had a good time. Special thanks to all those who helped make this event a success.



Rose Esparza places 50 yr. pin on gold card member Louis Esparza



Leo Flores & Wife Gigi



Paul & Cathy Brewer



Anna & Frank Scarf



Mark Farrelly



Jimmy Cha



David Caudillo



TONY CORTESE FOOD DRIVE

I would like to thank all of the Carriers, Management, Fed Ex Employees, and The Teamsters Union Drivers, who all supported the 2nd Annual Tony Cortese Food Drive on May 10, 2008. I would also like to give special thanks to Theresa Hernandez, Food Drive Coordinator, all the office's Food Drive Coordinators, Vicki Martinez, Management Coordinator, Steve Preminger, Logistics Coordinator, Danny Laffan and Stanley Halfacre, Food Drive

Support Team and all the volunteers who came in on their day off to help and those who stayed late making sure that everything was done. I hope all enjoyed their BBQ's with the money supplied by your Branch and the drinks supplied by Management.

This year's Branch collection total is 98,103 lbs. which is down from last year by 48,258 lbs. or 33%. Times are tough for many families right now and The Second Harvest Food Bank is feeding more families than ever before so even though the food collection total was down it is much appreciated and needed. SO AGAIN, THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

Laurie Duarte

Food Drive Coordinator



Proposed By-law Changes - 2008 First Reading - Regular Branch Meeting June 11, 2008

Underline=New Language

Article 3, Section 1. Meetings

Present language: The regular meeting is to be held at 7:30 PM on the second Wednesday of each month.

New language: The regular meeting is to be held at 7:00 PM on the second Wednesday of each month.

Present language: If necessary, the Executive Board may change the dates and locations.

New language: : If necessary, the Executive Board may change the dates, locations and/or times.

Article 5, Section 8. Nominations and Elections

Present language: The President shall appoint an officer to serve until such election can be held.

New language: The President shall appoint an officer to serve until an election is held.

Article 6, Section 2b. Duties of Officers

Present language: For the faithful performance of the above duties, he/she shall receive, starting in April of 1989, the sum of \$40,000 per annum payable bi-weekly.

New language: For the faithful performance of the above duties, he/she shall receive, starting in June, 2008, the sum of \$64,515 per annum payable bi-weekly.

Article 6, Section 4. Duties of Officers: Second Vice President.

Present Language: None

New language: add before last sentence of Section 4: The Second Vice President by virtue of his/her office shall be a delegate to the State and National Conventions.

Article 6, Section 11. Duties of Officers. Shop Stewards

Present language: . If a shop steward has five (5) unexcused absences from Board meetings in a calendar year, he/she may be considered resigning the position. The Branch President will send a letter to that shop steward notifying him/her of the automatic resignation. Within 30 days, a new shop steward election will take place. If no candidates volunteer for election,

the Branch President will appoint a new shop steward. The former shop steward will be eligible for re-election in the next regular election.

New language: None. Delete the present language.

Article 6, Section 14. Duties of Officers
Present language: If a Branch officer has 5 unexcused absences from Board meetings in a calendar year, he/she may be considered resigning the position.

New language: None, delete Section 14.

Article 6, Section 15.

Change Section 15 to Section 14

Article 8. Member Benefits

Present language: None

New language: add new Section 3 to read: Monies shall be made available from the General Fund for the funding of the following annual events: the Members BBQ, the Retirement Dinner, and the Holiday Party.

Article 9, Section 1. Delegates

Present language: Nominations for delegates to convention will occur in odd numbered years.

New language: Nominations for delegates to convention will occur in the month of October of the year preceding the convention.

Article 10, Section 4. Committees

Present language: The President shall appoint other committees at such time as he may deem advisable.

New language: : The President shall appoint other committees at such time as he/she may deem advisable.

Article 14, Section 12. Salaries and Bonds

Present language: The President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary and Treasurer shall be covered in a blanket position bond.

New language: add Second Vice President after Vice President: The President, Vice-President, Second Vice President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary and Treasurer shall be covered in a blanket position bond.

NALC FOOD DRIVE 2008					
STATIONS:	2007	2008	+	-	
ALMADEN VALLEY STATION	5262	5586	324		6%
BAYSIDE STATION	1990	1939		51	-3%
BERRYESSA STATION	5935	4623		1312	-12%
BLOSSOM HILL STATION	8738	5049		3689	-42%
CAMBRIAN PARK STATION	8725	5780		2945	-34%
CAMPBELL POST OFFICE	14585	5548		9037	-62%
FOOTHILL STATION	4343	3263		1080	-25%
GILROY POST OFFICE	5251	3604		1647	-31%
GMF	12	0		12	
HILLVIEW STATION	9911	7855		2056	-21%
LOS GATOS DELL	6103	3370		2733	-45%
LOS GATOS MAIN	4828	1462		3366	-70%
MILPITAS POST OFFICE	5551	3005		2546	-46%
MORGAN HILL POST OFFICE	5850	4139		1711	-29%
PARKMOOR STATION	6751	5210		1541	-23%
ROBERTSVILLE STATION	8041	8588	547		7%
SARATOGA STATION	7470	6257		1213	-16%
ST. JAMES PARK STATION	5381	3538		1843	-34%
SEVEN TREES STATION	5897	3296		2601	-44%
STATION D	3181	1853		1328	-42%
WESTGATE STATION	13230	9040		4190	-32%
WILLOW GLEN STATION	9326	4582		4744	-51%
TOTALS:	146361	98103	871	48258	-33%

Branch 193 Shop Stewards

Almaden Valley.....	Dan Degn & Pam West
Bayside.....	Al Navarette & Bob Foster
Berryessa.....	Henry Semillano & Lawrence Wenceslao
Blossom Hill.....	Steve Munyon & Bill Cunningham
Cambrian Park.....	Herman Echevarria & Ray Gauthier
Campbell.....	Vacant & Rosie La'auli
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.....	Mike Campbell & Lin Zhou
Morgan Hill.....	Angel Montelongo
Parkmoor.....	David Judd & Vacant
Robertsville.....	Paul Allen & Theresa Hernandez
St. James Park.....	Kelvin Kamachi & Chris North
Saratoga.....	Candice Wurthmann
Seven Trees.....	Herb Olivera & Moe Bedolla
Westgate.....	Tommy Rivera & Barbara Estrada
Willow Glen.....	Leo Torres & Bob Krauth
Collection Officer.....	Vera Martinez-Krauth



**Branch 193 Family Picnic
Coyote Ranch
Sunday, September 7, 2008
10:30 AM – 4:00 PM**



- Old Time Family Picnic Fun- Western Theme
- BBQ Chicken & Tri-Tip with all the fixings plus Beer, Wine & Soda
- BBQ Chicken Drumsticks & Beef Hot Dogs for the kids
- Plenty of Activities – Bingo, Live Music, Face Painting, Arts & Crafts, Horseshoes, Balloon Toss, Softball, Volleyball, Petting Zoo and more
- Come and Join the Fun
- Adults - \$20 Children (4-11) - \$16 Tots (0-3) Free
- Deadline for tickets is August 27, 2008



Contact your Shop Steward or Call the Union Office at 288-8138 for tickets

Important Dates

July 30	Executive Board
Aug 13	Regular Branch Meeting
Aug 27	Executive Board Meeting
Sep 7	Family Picnic - Coyote Ranch
Sep 10	Regular Branch Meeting
Sep 24	Executive Board Meeting

Branch Meetings begin promptly at 7:30 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

JACKPOT!!

Manjinder Deol from Westgate Station was not at the May Branch Meeting, Retiree James Namba was not at the June Branch Meeting and Emmanuel Vincente from St. James Park Station was not at the July Branch Meeting to collect the \$1,000 when their names were called for the jackpot.

DEADLINE!

The Deadline for copy of the September/October 2008 issue of the Branch 193 Bulletin is Friday August 29, 2008. 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

2008 Howard Quackenbush

**Scholarship
Award Winners**

Category 1 – High School Seniors

- Shane McCormack –Grandson of Retiree Leroy Wheeler
- Helen Wong – Daughter of Retiree Kong Wong
- Kelvin Lu – Son of Gary Lu (St James Park)
- April Perez – Daughter of Gerry Cayetano (Parkmoor)

Category 2 – College Students

- Suzanne Jackson – Daughter of Retiree Richard Jackson
- Alexander Sosa – Son of Patricia Newton (Hillview)
- Jessica Garcia – Daughter of Maria Garcia (Collectors)
- Erica Sanchez – Daughter of Laura Sanchez (Gilroy)

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
OUR NEW RETIREES**

- ALFRED BRUNO - PARKMOOR
- RONALD BINGHAM- BERRYESSA
- ROBERT FUJIMOTO - ST JAMES PARK
- VINCENT JOHNSON - BLOSSOM HILL
- VIOLETA LOVGREN - CAMPBELL
- JON THOMPSON - PARKMOOR

In Memoriam

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

**GEORGE KATAI
FRANCIS WALKER**

Moving.....

Let us know of any changes in your mailing address!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone number _____

Mail changes to:

**NALC Branch 193
P. O. Box 5721
San Jose, CA 95150**

**Welcome
New Members**

- Cynthia Ayala
- Joseph Gural
- Rodney Itatani
- Carl Kwong
- Norman Nunal
- Romeo Olivetti
- Haiu Vang