



# BRANCH 193

## Bulletin

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

### Messages from the President

No. 1 - 10 February - March 2010

Laurie Duarte

I would like to start by saying thank you to all the Officers and Members that have given me support and encouragement while I was in the Vice President position for Branch 193. Now as your Branch President I am still just as committed to doing the best job in representing all of you I can. I look forward to visiting the Offices soon so that I can introduce myself or to see old friends and co-workers. You are cordially invited to attend YOUR branch's monthly meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of the Month located at the Italian American Heritage Hall 425 N. 4th St. San Jose CA 95112 come down and meet other members and gain some knowledge of your rights.

#### Update on Excessing

There has been no new news on the possibility of excessing carriers to other cities or installations. The Postal Service is hiring 18 new TE carriers for our area so if Management is saying that our area is in need of additional temporary carriers then how can they excess any of the workforce they have now to someplace else? It just isn't making any sense. I hope to get the correct information in early February so that then management can take the appropriate action to correct the situation and hopefully ease the carrier's minds.

#### Do Not Mail

Many state legislatures are currently considering passing bills that would create "Do Not Mail" registries that would prevent mailers from sending direct mail (std. mail) to those who sign up, just as "Do Not Call" registries prevent homes from receiving calls from tele-marketers. However, a "Do Not Mail" registry would be an extremely negative development for letter carriers, mailers, and postal patrons alike. This would threaten our jobs. Direct mail now accounts for more than 50% of the mail delivered. The Forrest Ethics committee is meeting with different City Councils to try and get resolution approved that would urge Congress to pass such a registry. The Board of Supervisors in San Francisco approved a non-binding resolution that urges Congress and the California State Legislature to adopt state and federal Do Not Mail registries on March 31, 2009. They met with the City Council in Berkeley on January 20, 2010, Oakland

is next and then San Jose. The California State Association of Letter Carriers President, John Beaumont is currently working closely with the Union Branches to educate the membership, get the information out to the workroom floor and ask that you volunteer some of your time if you live in San Jose so that we can head off this attack of our livelihoods at the City Council level. You will be trained on this issue so that we can educate local lawmakers on how this is not a positive way to go green. Think about how important this is for your future and be ready to step up and take this challenge on.

#### HAPPY RETIREMENT DANNY

I would like to thank Danny Laffan for all the years of service he has given to Branch 193. From EI, Vice President, and President, Danny has been a pillar of strength and knowledge for all the membership. He has an ease about him that makes everyone feel comfortable no matter what task was being talked about or being finished. He has personally given me encouragement and help in many different areas. I wish that he and his wife Lucy have many happy and healthy retirement years ahead of them. Enjoy your grandkids, shark games, fishing, traveling, sleeping in, relaxing, soap operas, or where ever your path takes you to.

Laurie Duarte

#### Notice of Vacancy in Office

Notice of vacancy in the office of Treasurer-due to Stanley Halfacre becoming Vice President, One (1) Trustee position-due to Laurie Halfacre appointed as Treasurer until elections, and Health Benefit/MBA rep-due to Jackie Lanto resignation. Nominations to fill these mid term vacancies will be held at the April 14, 2010 Regular Branch Meeting. Candidates must accept the nomination at the meeting, or if absent, in writing. An election (if needed) will be held at the April 14, 2010 Regular Branch Meeting located at Italian-American Heritage Hall 425 N. 4th St. San Jose CA 95112.

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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[www.nalcbbranch193.com](http://www.nalcbbranch193.com)

# Thank You for Your Support

Submitted by Danny Laffan

As the end of my tenure as your President rapidly approaches, my mind has gone into a reflective mode. My brain has conjured up many recollections from the opportunities that I have been given to represent the membership of Branch 193. The memories will stay with me forever. I thank you for the trust you placed in me and the support you have given to me through the years. It has truly been an honor and privilege to serve the membership of this branch.

My career started thirty-seven years ago as a PTF carrier at Station D. A young man who grew up in South Boston, MA sent to San Jose's East Side and thrown into the vortex of frenetic activity known in the seventies as heavy Christmas mail. All carriers would come in on Sunday to case your route only to pull it down using blue "fusing" cards so you could blend this mail with the mail to be cased on Monday. I remember delivering parcels well into the evening. There was no UPS, FedEx or DHL we had all the parcels. It was a whole new world for me. Very different from anything I had experienced, yet very satisfying by the end of the day. A feeling of accomplishment came with the completion of the appointed rounds. Senior carriers provided support and encouragement to new employees. There was solidarity amongst letter carriers. I was a part of an organization that was providing the American public with a valuable service. We felt trusted and took considerably more pride in our work than carriers are allowed to do today. The hustle and bustle of trying to keep up with the supervisor's computer has made it difficult to maintain the sense of ownership we felt in the early years of my career. Acknowledgement of a job well done has slipped on the priority chart considerably through the years.

Things have changed constantly since I began my career. Some changes have been helpful in our quest to provide the best service possible to our customers

and some have hindered that mission. There was a notable distinction in the results when labor and management worked together to implement a change. It is my hope that future changes will be done jointly to provide the best possible result. We need to be a partner in creating the future of the Postal Service. We rely on the Postal Service to provide us employment so we can support our families; therefore, the survival of the Postal Service is of utmost importance to us. We must make certain that we do everything we can to ensure that the Postal Service succeeds in adapting itself to survive these difficult times and prosper in the future.

My emotions are very mixed as I enter retirement. I am sad that I will not be actively engaged in representing the interests of letter carriers on a daily basis. I feel a deep sense of gratitude to the officers, stewards and membership of this branch. I am very thankful for the support that you have given to me as I served as your President. The words of encouragement I received as I visited stations were my main source of energy during the difficult days. I am happy that I will now have more time to spend with family and friends. I look forward to spending time relaxing with my wife, trying to keep up with my grandchildren, visiting with friends and enjoying life in general.

Once again, thank you for the support you have given me. I ask that you continue that support for President Laurie Duarte and the officers and stewards of Branch 193. Always remember that our strength comes from the unity of the membership. Keep abreast of the issues and support the Union!

Thank you and May God Bless you all!!

## NALC Branch 193 Howard Quackenbush Scholarship

### Eligibility Criteria:

Applicant must be son, daughter, grandchild or legally adopted child of an active, retired or deceased letter carrier. Stepchildren are eligible if they live with the member in a regular parent-child relationship. The applicant's parent or grandparent must be a member in good standing of the NALC at least one year prior to December 31, 2009.

### Requirements:

Category I - Applicant must be in grade 12 of high school, have an SAT score of 900 or above and a 2.75 grade point average or above in their secondary school. Grade transcripts and a copy of the original printout of

SAT scores must be mailed with the application.

Category II - Applicant must be in grade 13 or above and have a 2.75 grade point average or above, commencing with grade 13. Grade transcripts must be mailed with the application.

All category I and II applications must be postmarked on or before March 31, 2010

### Regulations:

The scholarship is to be used toward pursuing an undergraduate degree at an accredited college of the recipient's choice. Winners may accept other college

scholarship assistance in addition to the Branch 193 award. If the winner suffers certified serious illness, the scholarship will be held in abeyance for not more than one year.

### Method of selection:

Eight \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded at the April 2010 branch meeting. Four names from Category I and four names from Category II will be drawn at random.

### Terms of award:

A check in the amount of \$1,000 will be given to the winners after proof of entrance is given to Branch 193.

## Application for 2010 NALC Branch 193 Scholarship

I am the  son  daughter  grandchild of  active  retired  deceased letter carrier,

\_\_\_\_\_ of Branch 193  
first name middle name last name

In the city of \_\_\_\_\_ Station \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
first name middle name last name

Student's Address \_\_\_\_\_  
city state zip

Telephone Number ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed form to : NALC Branch 193, P.O. Box 5721, San Jose, CA 95150-5721.  
Must be postmarked by March 31, 2010.

### Check one of the following:

#### Category I:

*I am a senior in high school.  
Enclosed are copies of my SAT  
and grade transcripts from  
high school.*

#### Category II:

*I am in the 13th grade or above.  
Enclosed is a copy of all my  
collage transcripts.*



## Building Dedication

On December 13, 2009 the Union office building was renamed and dedicated in honor of our past President Tony Cortese. A motion was made by Dan Degn back in 2007 to rename the building and it has finally happened. Tony had the foresight to buy the building located at 1060 Minnesota Ave. in San Jose back in the early 90's so that the member's dues would not have to be spent on monthly rent. Tony led us through many tough times and changes with his 20 plus years as Branch President and what a wonderful way for the Branch to show their appreciation. Tony's wife Barbara was there to lend a helping hand with the unveiling of the new sign and what a beautiful smile it brought to her face. If you're ever driving down Minnesota Ave or in the area come by and check out the Tony Cortese Building sign and be proud that you're a member of Branch 193.

Thank you to all the members that helped clean up and brought in food for the special day.

## Holiday Party 2009

On December 9, 2009 over two hundred, members and family attended the Branch's Annual Holiday Party. Everyone ate pasta, mixed veg., salad, garlic bread, and dessert. The face painters and balloon

twisters were a big hit again and Santa even made a special visit for the little ones. I hope all enjoyed the night. Thanks goes out to all that helped make this another successful holiday event for Branch 193.



## Election Results for the 2010 National Convention

Ballots Mailed  
– 1440

Ballots Returned  
– 625

Ballots Counted  
– 617

Ballots Returned, Undeliverable – 3

Ballots Voided/Unable to Verify – 5

**Ballot Results**

441 – Danny Laffan  
369 – Laurie Halfacre  
330 – Sharon Epp  
296 – Guillermo Martinez  
291 – Tom Stewart  
291 – Bob Krauth  
268 – Theresa Hernandez  
255 – Vera Krauth  
244 – Steve Miller  
224 – Tommy Rivera  
207 – Jim Miller  
198 – Tom Cerna

198 – Vince Ramirez  
179 – Chris North  
177 – Kelvin Kamachi  
174 – Steve Munyon  
174 – Joe Rosa  
172 – Al Denison  
171 – Ray Gauthier  
162 – Art Parrilla  
161 – Henry Semillano  
159 – David Martinez  
154 – Victor Barrientos  
151 – Vittorio Forde  
118 – Moe Bedolla  
106 – Angel Montelongo

The top fifteen (15) are paid Delegates to the 2010 National Convention held in Anaheim CA on August 9-13, 2010. I would like to thank the election committee chair- Patrick Mulligan and the election committee- Frank Pieracci, Lorie Nikitin, Barbara Estrada, Rosie La'auli, Jackie Lanto, Shirley Dominquez, Meiling Chan, Bill Cunningham, Fernando Gallegos, Jasbir Saggi, Gene Lorenzo, Stanley Halfacre, and Laurie Duarte for their time and effort in stuffing the ballots and counting them. Observers – Steve Munyon, Sharon Epp, Laurie Halfacre, David Martinez, and Danny Laffan also in attendace. Laurie Duarte-President, Stanley Halfacre-Vice President, and Bill Cunningham-2nd Vice President are also paid Delegates by virtue of their position and Branch 193 By-Laws.

## OFFICERS

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

## Branch 193 Shop Stewards

*Almaden Valley* \_\_\_\_\_ Dan Degn & Pam West  
*Bayside* \_\_\_\_\_ Al Navarette & Ernie Arrañaga  
*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 & Mike Cisneros  
*St. James Park* \_\_\_\_\_ Chris North  
*Saratoga* \_\_\_\_\_ Robert Vanderpool  
*Seven Trees* \_\_\_\_\_ Moe Bedolla & Ronnie Hodges  
*Westgate* \_\_\_\_\_ Tommy Rivera & Mike Trader  
*Willow Glen* \_\_\_\_\_ Bob Krauth & Jack Dusthimer  
*Collection Officer* \_\_\_\_\_ Vera Martinez-Krauth

## Important Dates

Feb. 10 \_\_\_\_\_ Branch Meeting  
 Feb. 15 \_\_\_\_\_ **Presidents Day Holiday**  
 Feb. 24 \_\_\_\_\_ Executive Board Meeting  
 Mar. 10 \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Members Only B-B-Q  
 Mar. 14 \_\_\_\_\_ **Daylight Savings Time Begins**  
 Mar. 31 \_\_\_\_\_ Executive Board Meeting  
 Mar. 31 \_\_\_\_\_ Branch Scholarship App.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ And Safeguard/Smilesavers due.  
 Apr. 14 \_\_\_\_\_ Branch Meeting  
 Apr. 28 \_\_\_\_\_ Executive Board 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 **April/May 2010** issue of the Branch 193 Bulletin is **Friday, March 26, 2010.**

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**

## In Memoriam

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

**Al Sposito Station D**  
**James Travers WGS**  
**Lewis Wilson Los Gatos**

## Welcome New Memebers

Denchai Khaothong \_\_\_\_\_ Parkmoor  
 Phan Lam \_\_\_\_\_ Parkmoor  
 Robert Lubich \_\_\_\_\_ Almaden Valley

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW RETIREES

Al Denison \_\_\_\_\_ Robertsville  
 Trudy Fujii \_\_\_\_\_ Westgate  
 Lucy Laffan \_\_\_\_\_ St. D  
 Don Melrose \_\_\_\_\_ Almaden Valley  
 Teressa Rouse \_\_\_\_\_  
 R. C. Tomboc \_\_\_\_\_ Bayside  
 A. C. Tulio \_\_\_\_\_ Robertsville  
 Gonzalo Tuyor \_\_\_\_\_ Foothill

## NOTICES - NOTICES

### Safeguard/Smilesavers Dental Plan

The annual premium of \$36 for those enrolled in the Safeguard/Smilesavers Dental Plan is due NOW. Please make checks out to NALC Branch 193 and mail your payment to NALC Branch 193 P O Box 5721 San Jose CA 95150. If payment is not received by March 31, 2010 your dental coverage may be suspended.

### Members BBQ

The Annual Members BBQ will be held on Wednesday, March 10, 2010. A choice of steak or chicken with all the fixings will be available. Tickets are \$3 and will be available from your shop steward in February. Retirees are free of charge just a phone call to the Union

Office (288-8138) is needed so we can be sure to have enough food. Remember this event is for members only. Mark the date on your calendar and come join your fellow carriers for an evening of camaraderie.

### 2010 Branch Scholarship Information

An application for the 2010 Howard Quackenbush Scholarships is located inside. All eligible high school seniors and college students are encouraged to apply. We will award eight \$1000 scholarship by random draw at our April Branch Meeting. Deadline for submission of applications is March 31, 2010. If you have a child or grandchild entering or attending college don't miss this opportunity.

## River Rock Casino Bus Trip

Members, family, and friends the branch is doing a MDA fundraising trip to River Rock Casino on Sunday, March 21, 2010. The cost will be \$50.00 per person and the bus will be leaving from the Parkmoor Station parking lot at 1545 Parkmoor Ave. San Jose CA 95128 at 7:45 am. River Rock Casino is located in the Alexander Valley about 40 minutes north of Santa Rosa approximately 2 ½ hrs. drive from San Jose. You will receive round- trip transportation with drinks and light snacks, \$20.00 free slot play or table match play and \$5.00 food credit voucher valid in the Quail Run Buffet or Oak Bar. We will be at the Casino for approximately 5 hours of Las Vegas style gaming and then return home. Come have some fun and help out the MDA. There is a 40 person minimum per bus so it will be on a first to pay first reserved space policy. The last day to get your money in is March 10, 2010, so get your money in early to reserve your seat today. See your Shop Steward for more information or call the Branch Office (408) 288-8138.

## JACKPOT

**Nora Soulik** from Bayside Station was not at the November Branch Meeting, **Retiree Tim Daves**, was not at the December Branch Meeting, and **Al Lopez** from Station D was not at the January Branch Meeting to collect the Jackpot. Come to our February Branch Meeting, and you could walk away with the \$586.00 jackpot in your pocket