



# BRANCH 193

## Bulletin

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

### Messages from the President

No. 1 - 11 April - May 2011

Laurie Duarte

#### FSS Route Adjustments

FSS route adjustments are taking place using the Carrier Optimal Routing (COR) process. This process is making massive changes in territory and are causing many headaches for carriers and customers so much that management is driving routes to ensure that the line of travel is correct and does not create any safety issues. If your new route seems to be out of alignment or creates safety issues please notify your shop steward and management so that these issues can be addressed immediately. The agreement on the FSS Route Adjustment process is that it is done unilaterally by management and 60 days after the adjustments are implemented then the local parties (management and union) will review the adjustments to ensure that routes are as near 8 hours as possible. To read more about the agreement read page 30-31 of the April edition of the Postal Record.

#### Saying Goodbye to Parkmoor and Station D

On March 12, 2011 Parkmoor Station Carrier's officially moved to their new home of Willow Glen and on March 26, 2011 another ending of an era presented itself when Station D carriers officially moved to their new home of Foothill. Parkmoor and Station D have been home to many long time Postal Employee's some started out as a Carrier and move into other position within their Postal career's or some stayed their entire Postal career at the same place. It doesn't matter if you worked or were still working at one of these stations it felt like home and family. Moving from one office to another is never easy but in time hopefully the new office will also feel like home and your extended family will grow.

#### KEEPING 6-DAY DELIVERY?

Representative Sam Graves (R-MO) has reintroduced his resolution H.RES. 137 opposing the elimination of Saturday delivery. H. RES. 137 expresses the sense of the House that the Postal Service should take "all appropriate measures" to ensure continuation of six-day mail delivery service. Rep. Graves has said "The elimination of Saturday delivery would make the USPS less valuable to

business and accelerate electronic substitution". Most of our local representatives have signed as co-sponsors for this resolution but if your Congressman is Mike Honda District 15 please write and urge him to also co-sponsor H.RES. 137

The Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) issued an opinion on March 24, 2011 not to recommend the 5-day a week mail delivery. Federal law requires the Postal Service to ask for an advisory opinion from the PRC whenever it seeks to make a nationwide change in its operations. Though its opinion on five-day delivery is purely advisory since only Congress has the authority to permit USPS to drop Saturday delivery. The PRC's findings carry weight with Congress.

Keeping a 6-day delivery seems to make more sense for employees and customers of the USPS and it looks like some members of Congress and the PRC are in agreement. To keep informed on important issues like this one sign up to become an e-activist at NALC.org if you need help in signing up see your shop steward or call the Union Office.

#### Food Drive

The Annual Food Drive will be held Saturday, May 14, 2011. This is the largest single day food drive in the country. Food banks across the country are in higher demand for donations than ever, and again this year we will be happy to help fill Second Harvest Food Banks shelves. The T-shirts and baseball caps to promote this year's campaign can be worn the week prior to the food drive. The Food Bank has also acquired a sponsor (NET- APP) to donate money for the plastic bags that will be delivered by carriers that have mounted, dismount, and centralized cluster box type delivery. The bags seem to greatly increase donations so if you have this type of route, please deliver a bag to your customer and hopefully they will fill it up. I understand there will be an increase workload on this day but I would like to thank you for your assistance in this worthy cause. Please remember to be safe and lift properly some of the bags or boxes are heavier than they look. As usual the Union will provide some \$ to help aid in your thank you BBQ.

*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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## Opinion Corner

### Branch 193 Scholarship Program:

*by Dennis Schneider, Retired*

I suggested and designed the program and the branch readily approved it. After I retired the branch made two revisions and I think the branch should discuss and consider removing those two changes:

(1) The grade point average (GPA) was changed from 3.0 to 2.75. The vast majority of scholarships require at least a solid "B" Average (3.0), therefore, we shouldn't water down the requirements.

(2) The number of scholarships was Four and was changed to Eight. Four is generous for a branch our size and the Branch revenue is shrinking due to fewer letter carriers and that trend continues.

The other suggestion I have is that when I was Branch VP I would attend the high schools' Award Night to present the Letter naming the individual as the winner (the \$1,000 check is delivered after proof of entrance is given to the Branch). This was good exposure for the Branch, many businesses award scholarships and are very visible in their presentations. Students should also be aware of labor unions and their contributions to society. After I left I don't think anyone continued this practice. Let's have the Branch send the VP or any other officer to present the award at the Awards Ceremony. The winning students and the Branch member enjoyed the experience.

### River Rock Casino Bus Trip (MDA Fundraiser)

February 20, 2011 40 members, family, and friends had a great time going to River Rock Casino. Some walked away with a little more money than they arrived with and those that didn't still had a good time and it was all for a good cause. The trip raised \$387 for MDA. I would like to thank all attendees and special thanks go out to our drink tenders Tommy Jean and Laurel Halfacre.

### COLCPE:

*Submitted by Dan Taormino, Retiree*

Br. 193 President Laurie Duarte, VP Stan Halfacre, 2nd VP Bill Cunningham & Branch 193 Executive Board.

It was to my dismay from our last Postal Record, to see the lack of participation in Committee on Letter Carrier Political Education (COLCPE) donations from a few of our executive board members, active letter carriers and retirees. As we know the Postal Service has been under attack the last few years and especially now with the HUGE loss the Postal Service has shown. We know we have been battling against the 5 day work week, FSS and FSS excessing. I believe many union members take a lot for granted and just think these issues will go away or our union will just take care of it. That's not how it works. We must continue to play an active role by strengthening the COLCPE fund to help fight for your job security, your benefits and retiree benefits. These battles cost money. If we do not support COLCPE, our union won't be able to keep the fight going.

On our union website that I maintain, I have a list on the membership page asking the question, "What does the NALC and Branch 193 do for me?" Well, I have the benefits listed below. After you read or hear the list, you tell me how do you think we have these benefits and why we STILL have those benefits?

All I can say is that we need a much better participation from EVERYONE! We need to continue the drive to fight for your job, your benefits and retiree benefits. I suggest that we have a branch contest to see which station can drum up the most in COLCPE Donations.

I know some people have money issues with the downturn in the economy but ask yourself this. What would you rather give up, \$5.00 a check, reduced benefits or your job? I think we ALL know the answer. WE CAN DO IT. Don't sit on the sidelines waiting for someone else to win the game. We are a team, if we all play, we can all win.

In Solidarity

# Members BBQ

March 9, 2011 over 200 Brothers and Sisters attended the annual member's only branch BBQ. The food was good and it was great seeing everyone having a good time and catching up with past and present co-workers. A special thank you to our cooks; Sancho Zabala, Kelvin Kamachi, Tom Tan, Alan Cheung, and Heng Sok. Behind the Bar;

Mike Herrera, Lin Zhou, Dave Caudillo, and Laurie Halfacre. The Raffle guys; Gene Lorenzo, and Tom Stewart. Servers; Laurie Halfacre, Barbara Estrada, Jackie Lanto, Anita Ramirez, Candice Wurthmann, Sharon Epp, and Moe Bedolla. Set-up; Stanley Halfacre. And Clean-Up; Rosie Laauli, Barbara Estrada, and Victor Barrientos.



# Post Office named in honor of Branch President

It's not often a Post Office is renamed in honor of a union president however that's exactly the honor bestowed upon the late Tony Cortese who served as President of NALC Branch 193 in San Jose, California for 27 years before his passing in 2007. Representatives Mike Honda (D-Campbell) and Zoe Lofgren (D-San Jose) who supported the legislation to rename the office in honor of Mr. Cortese were on hand to join Tony's wife Barbara and several hundred Postal employees at the renaming ceremony. Mr. Cortese is widely known as the founder of the NALC Santa Clara County Food Drive, which served as the model for the NALC's national food drive. Over 18 years, letter carriers have collected over 1 billion pounds of food to feed the nation's hungry, and it all started with Tony.



"Having stood on the House floor in support of legislation to designate my district's Westgate Station Post Office in memory of my friend Tony Cortese, it is an honor to see it come to reality," noted Rep. Mike Honda.

"I was honored to have introduced the bill to rename the post office building after Tony," noted Rep. Zoe Lofgren. "Tony was a mediator and a leader who had the amazing ability to bring people together and was deeply respected by both management and his fellow letter carriers. While he is greatly missed, his name and legacy and commitment to his community will live on at the Anthony J. Cortese Post Office and the NALC's food drive."

Submitted by Vince Ramirez



# OFFICERS

Laurie Duarte .....*President*  
 Stanley Halfacre .....*Vice President*  
 Bill Cunningham ..... *Second Vice President*  
 Pat Mulligan .....*Recording Secretary*  
 Sharon Epp ..... *Financial Secretary*  
 Laurie 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*

# Branch 193 Shop Stewards

*Almaden Valley* ..... Pam West  
*Bayside* ..... Ernie Arrañaga & Bob Foster  
*Berryessa* ..... Henry Semillano & Lorie Nikitin  
*Blossom Hill* ..... Steve Miller & Tom Cerna  
*Cambrian Park* ..... Ray Gauthier & David Martinez  
*Campbell* ..... Rosie La'auli & Vacant  
*Foothill* ..... Art Parrilla & Al Lopez  
*Gilroy* ..... Debra Masten  
*Hillview* ..... Manny Aguilar & Victor Barrientos  
*Los Gatos* ..... Kevin Janton  
*Los Gatos Dell* ..... Ian Davies  
*Milpitas* ..... Joel Baclig  
*Morgan Hill* ..... Angel Montelongo  
*Robertsville* ..... Theresa Hernandez & Mike Cisneros  
*St. James Park* ..... Chris North & Maria Marquez  
*Saratoga* ..... Robert Vanderpool  
*Seven Trees* ..... Jason Davalos & Ronnie Hodges  
*Westgate* ..... Tommy Rivera & JoAnn Francisco  
*Willow Glen* ..... Bob Krauth, Jack Dusthimer, & Sean McArthur

# Important Dates

Apr. 13 ..... Regular Branch Meeting/Retirement Q&A  
 Apr. 20 ..... Executive Board Meeting  
**Apr. 28-30** ..... **State Convention**  
 May 11 ..... Regular Branch Meeting  
**May 14** ..... **Food Drive**  
 May 25 ..... Executive Board Meeting  
**May 30** ..... **Memorial Day Holiday**  
 June 8 ..... Regular Branch Meeting  
 June 29 ..... Executive Board Meeting  
**July 4** ..... **Independence Day Holiday**  
 July 13 ..... Regular Branch Meeting  
 July 27 ..... 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

# In Memoriam

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

Frank O'Brien  
 Mike Quinn  
 Francis Zepeda  
 George Silva

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW RETIREES

Warren Doleshel ..... Campbell  
 Linda Gregorius ..... Los Gatos Main  
 Jane Kohtz ..... Blossom Hill  
 Harold Watson ..... Blossom Hill

# What does the NALC and Branch 193 do for me?

- 8 hour day
- Overtime Pay (time & a half)
- Penalty Pay (double time)
- General Wage Increases
- Cost Of Living Adjustments
- Sick Leave
- Annual Leave
- Extended Leave
- Paid Holidays
- Family Medical Leave
- Maternity Leave
- Health Care
- Dental Care
- Collective Bargaining
- Safe Working Conditions
- 100% Representation
- Work Shop/Rap Sessions
- Friends Program
- Retirement Benefits
- Retirement Dinner
- Annual Holiday Safeway Gift Certificate
- Monthly Meetings
- Annual Family Picnic
- Amusement Park Discounts
- Annual Family Christmas Dinner, FREE
- Annual Branch BBQ
- Education and Training in Contract and Legislative Issues
- Branch, State and National Scholarships
- MDA and Second Harvest Food Bank Fundraiser's

And most importantly, YOUR voice and vote on Contractual Issues and Ratification.

*\* We also OWN our office building and lease office space. This helps build and strengthen our branch funds.*

NEED MORE INFORMATION OR WOULD LIKE TO KNOW HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO COLCPE CONTACT YOUR SHOP STEWARD OR THE UNION OFFICE (408) 288-8138

*Submitted By Dan Taormino, Retiree*

# 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 95150-5721**

# Deadline

The Deadline for the June/ July 2011 issue of the Branch 193 Bulletin is Friday, May 27, 2011. 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**

# JACKPOT

**Ranajaskar Dhaliwal** from Cambrian Park Station was not at the January Branch Meeting, **Lorie Nikitin** from Berryessa Station was at the February Branch Meeting and walked away with the \$812.00 Jackpot, and **Humberto Jasso** retiree was not at the March Branch Meeting to collect the \$\$ when his name was called for the jackpot. Come down to the April Branch Meeting and see if you can walk away with the \$250.00 Jackpot.