



BRANCH 193 Bulletin

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

Messages from the President

No. 2 - 11 November - December 2010

Laurie Duarte

Flat Sorting System (FSS)

The machines are in place and are scheduled for the burn in date of January 10, 2011. All Branch 193 offices are scheduled to go online in January or February of 2011. Management cannot make a carrier doing park and loop delivery carry over 3 bundles so there will be a couple of different options available. The Union will continue to update you on the options so come to the Branch meetings (2nd Wednesday of the month) to get updates on all the issues.

Contractual Raise

Effective November 20, 2010 the basic annual salary for each grade and step shall be increased by an amount equal to 1.85% of the basic annual salary for the grade and step in effect as of November 24, 2006. You should see the increase on your December 10, 2010 paycheck. This is our last contractual raise per the 2006-2011 National Agreement.

This is one of the many things the Union has negotiated for the betterment of its members and will continue to do so in future negotiations.

Holiday Gift Cards

The \$50.00 Safeway gift cards will be sent out the 2nd week of November. If you have moved recently please notify your Shop Steward or the Union Office immediately with your new address. No Gift Card will be reissued unless the Union receives it returned in the mail undeliverable.

State Convention Delegates

Ballots for the State Convention Delegates are scheduled to be mailed out November 3, 2010. The ballot needs to be back at the Union Office by 4:00 pm December 8, 2010. The elected delegates will be announced at the Regular Branch Meeting on December 8, 2010. Good Luck to all.

BRANCH HOLIDAY PARTY

Ho, Ho, Ho. It's that time of year again to start thinking about our Annual Branch Holiday party. On December 8, 2010 @ 6:00pm at the Italian American Heritage Hall located at 425 N. 4th St. San Jose, CA 95112. Come join the fun, food, and good time. We will have face painting, balloon sculptures, prizes and Santa will be there. Don't forget to bring a gift for your child and your camera so that you can get a picture with Santa. The Holiday party is for your entire family. So, bring your family out and have a great time

NALC National MDA Bowl-A-Thon

The second annual Bowl-A-Thon will be held on November 7, 2010. It will be held at Cambrian Bowl 14900 Camden Ave. San Jose, CA from 1:30-3:30pm. There is a minimum pledge of \$50.00 per bowler. Pizza and a soda will be provided to the participants. Come have some fun and help support the MDA. See your Shop Steward for the pledge form and additional information or contact the Union Office (408) 288-8138. Thanks go out to Bob Krauth and Moe Bedolla for taking on this worthy task.

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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Check Out Our Website at
www.nalcbranch193.com

November 2nd Election Recommendations

California Executive Offices

Governor **Jerry Brown** (D)
 Lieutenant Governor **Gavin Newsom** (D)
 Attorney General **Kamala Harris** (D)
 Secretary of State **Debra Bowen** (D)
 Treasurer **Bill Lockyer** (D)
 Controller **John Chiang** (D)
 Superintendent of Public Instruction
 **Tom Torlakson** (D)
 Insurance Commissioner **Dave Jones** (D)

Board of Equalization

District 1 **Betty Yee** (D)
 District 2 **Chris Parker** (D)
 District 4 **Jerome Horton** (D)
 United States Senator ... **Barbara Boxer** (D)

United States Representatives in Congress

CD 1 **Mike Thompson** (D)
 CD 7 **George Miller** (D)
 CD 8 **Nancy Pelosi** (D)
 CD 9 **Barbara Lee** (D)
 CD 10 **John Garamendi** (D)
 CD 11 **Jerry McNerney** (D)

CD 12 **Jackie Speier** (D)
 CD 13 **Pete Stark** (D)
 CD 14 **Anna Eshoo** (D)
 CD 15 **Mike Honda** (D)
 CD 16 **Zoe Lofgren** (D)
 CD 17 **Sam Farr** (D)

California State Senate

8 **Leland Yee** (D)
 10 **Ellen Corbett** (D)
 12 **Anna Caballero** (D)

California State Assembly

District 20.....**Bob Wieckowski** (D)
 District 21.....**Rich Gordon** (D)
 District 22.....**Paul Fong** (D)
 District 23.....**Nora Campos** (D)
 District 24.....**Jim Beall** (D)
 District 28.....**Luis Alejo** (D)

Santa Clara County

Santa Clara County Supervisor
 **District 1 Forrest Williams**

San Jose City Council

District 5 **Xavier Campos**
 District 7 **Madison Nguyen**
 District 9 **Donald Rocha**

 Campbell City Council **Evan Low**
 Gilroy City Council..... **Art Barron**
 Mayor of Milpitas **Pete McHugh**

Ballot Measures

Proposition 20 Redistrict Cong. Dists.
 **Vote NO**
Proposition 27 Eliminate Commission
 on Redistricting **Vote Yes**
Measure A Healthy Kids Initiative
 **Vote Yes**
Measure G Evergreen Bond Measure
 **Vote Yes**
Measure V San Jose Binding Arbitration
 **Vote No**
Measure W San Jose Retirement Benefits
 **Vote No**



NALC FACT SHEET

Department of Legislative and Political Affairs — National Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO
 100 Indiana Ave. NW — Washington, DC 20001-2144 — 202-393-4695 — www.nalc.org © NALC
 July 22, 2010

Support H.R. 5746: United States Postal Service's CSRS Obligation Modification Act of 2010

On July 15, 2010, Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA) introduced H.R. 5746, the United States Postal Service's CSRS Obligation Modification Act of 2010.

Lynch, who is chairman of the House Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce, Postal Service, and the District of Columbia, is the first member of Congress to author legislation that attempts to address a decades-old accounting error that led the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to overcharge the Postal Service, by billions of dollars, for payments into the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS).

Lynch's legislation takes a big step toward making sure the Postal Service is treated in a fair and equitable manner, allowing it to overcome the very difficult financial challenges it currently faces. Even so, H.R. 5746 only addresses the CSRS overcharge and does not repeal or reform the retiree health pre-funding payment schedule. The USPS must still deal with the onerous, legally mandated, annual pre-funding payments into the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefit Fund (PSRHBF). (For more on these additional challenges, see the 'Save the Postal Service: Demand Fairness in USPS Pension and Retiree Health Funding' Fact Sheet.)

H.R. 5746 takes the necessary first steps toward ensuring a financially sound future for the United States Postal Service. The bill was drafted with two major components, taking into consideration the recent Segal Company Report issued by the Postal Regulatory Commission:

1. It calls on the OPM to recalculate the USPS surplus in the Civil Service Retirement System, using a methodology that fairly allocates the cost of pensions between the Post Office Depart-

ment and the U.S. Postal Service as proposed by the Segal Report.

2. Then, once the accurate "postal surplus" is determined by the OPM, the agency would have 90 days to write regulations that include directions for how and when the surplus will be transferred to the PSRHBF.

H.R. 5746 does not address the legally mandated pre-funding payments into the PSRHBF, which are costing the USPS \$5.5 billion annually. Rather, it simply fixes the massive over-funding to the postal CSRS account and directs the surplus "refund" to be transferred into PSRHBF. Additional legislation would be necessary to repeal the future scheduled pre-funding payments to the PSRHBF.

Additionally, the date of the transfer for the overcharge is less important than the acknowledgment by Congress and the OPM that the USPS has sufficient assets to cover all its retirement obligations. Since the PSRHBF already has \$37 billion in it, and since the surplus transfer from the CSRS pension fund would likely leave the PSRHBF fully funded, passage of H.R. 5746 makes an irrefutable case for the repeal of the pre-funding payment.

The Lynch bill would transfer surplus CSRS assets paid for by ratepayer and employee contributions—not taxpayer funds—to the Postal Service's retirement health fund, and it would have absolutely no effect on any current or future federal retiree's annuity.

The NALC supports swift passage of H.R. 5746.

Donation total's for Eddie Lin Fund

I would like to thank everyone who donated money to the Hao Yun "Eddie" Lin Fund. Eddie is our fallen brother from Garden Grove Branch who was attacked by a dog and suffered head trauma and later died at the hospital. He is survived by his wife and three small children. Donations are as follows:

July Branch Meeting: **\$259.00**
 Convention Delegates: **\$100.00**
 Bayside: **\$46.00**
 Berryessa: **\$126.00**
 Blossom Hill: **\$100.00**
 Cambrian Park: **\$67.00**
 Hillview: **\$103.00**
 Westgate: **\$80.00**
 Willow Glen: **\$78.00**
 Grand Total: **\$959.00**

COLOR CODED CALENDARS

The color coded calendars for 2011 are in. For only \$5.00 (the same price as last year.) you can see what days you have off. See the Holidays, and all the events of the year. See your Shop Steward and get yours today, before they are all gone.

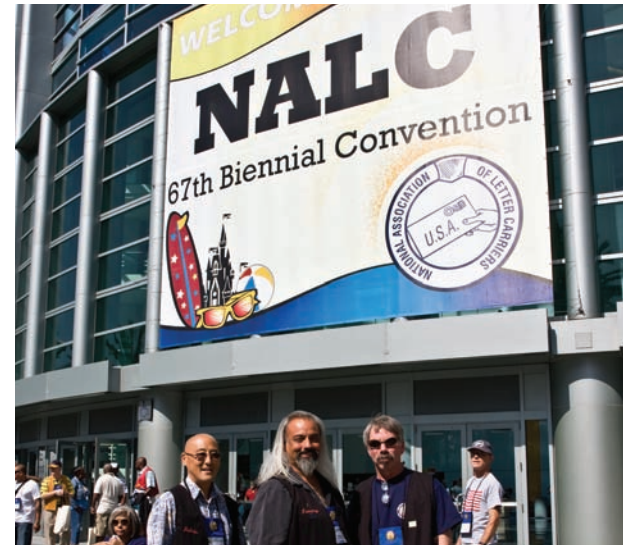
H. R. 5746 WRITING CAMPAIGN

Please help write you Congressman or Congresswoman to support H. R. 5746

NATIONAL CONVENTION

The 2010 National Convention was held in Anaheim August 9-13. President Rolando's keynote speech was loud and clear that 5-day is the wrong way, abandoning a day of service would harm the customer and force them to find alternative deliver methods is just lunatic. Lower volume and the fact that the USPS isn't taking the steps or foresight to develop new products and new services to help save the Postal Service has made the Union to take on the task. Prefunding of the Retiree Health Benefits some \$5.5 billion a year something that no other government or private business is required to do have been a major part of the Postal Service financial woes. The need for contributions to COLCPE is a continuing factor for labor backing members in all political fields and to become a member of e-activist are all vital parts in trying to keep us viable.

The contract is due to expire in November 2011. The Union will be trying to due early negotiations to get the best possible new contract for the Letter Carriers while looking to extend and enforce the ban on out-sourcing City Carrier jobs , win more work for Letter Carriers through assignment of new deliveries, develop a better and fairer system for evaluating route adjustment, and wage bargaining.



2011 Carl J. Saxsenmeier Scholarship Program

The California State Association of Letter Carriers (CSALC) is now accepting applications for the 2011 Carl J. Saxsenmeier Scholarship Program. All applications must be sent to the Scholarship Chair by January 7, 2011. The Chair will send scholarship packets to all applicants by the end of January 2011. The scholarships are available to the dependent 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 2011 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.

Jeff Parr Saxsenmeier Scholarship Chair, 1177 Levine Dr-Santa Rosa, Ca 95401, 707-523-1818

Saxsenmeier Scholarship Application *(Please Print)*

Student's Name _____ NALC Member's Name _____

Home Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Home Telephone _____ Cell / Fax _____ Email Address _____

Applicant's Signature _____ NALC Member Signature _____ Relationship to Applicant _____

Local NALC Branch Officer Signature required for verification of member in good standing:

NALC Branch Officer Signature _____ Title _____

Branch Officer Printed Name & Number _____

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*

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW RETIREES

Alan Cheung*St. James Park*
 Chris Estores*Robertsville*
 Pete Gabriel*Parkmoor*
 Joseph Gural*Berryessa*
 Ed Mario*Berryessa*
 Rosendo Rapisura *Seven Trees*
 Melvin Taira *Blossom Hill*

JACKPOT

Zygmunt Teodorczyk from Blossom Hill Station was not at the July Branch Meeting, Connie Alvarado from Morgan Hill Station was not at the August Branch Meeting, and Fred Barreto from Milpitas was not at the September Branch Meeting to collect the \$\$ when their names were called for the jackpot. Come down to the October Branch Meeting and see if you can walk away with the \$618.00 Jackpot.

Important Dates

Oct. 27Executive Board Meeting
 Nov.10 Regular Branch Meeting
Nov.11 **Veterans' Day Observed**
 Nov.17Executive Board Meeting
Nov.25 **Thanksgiving Holiday**
 Dec. 8Regular Branch Meeting-Holiday Party
Dec. 25**Christmas Holiday**
 Dec. 29Executive Board Meeting
Jan. 1**New Year Holiday**
 Jan. 12 Regular Branch Meeting
 Jan. 26Executive Board Meeting
 Feb. 9 Regular 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 **December/January 2011** issue of the Branch 193 Bulletin is **Friday, November 19, 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

Health Care Coverage for Dependents Extended to Age 26 must Enroll in Open Season: Nov. 8-Dec. 14, 2010

Affordable care act was signed into law on March 23, 2010. This law allows married children to be covered, removes dependency requirements, removes residency requirements, and does not require a child to be a student or have prior or current insurance coverage to be placed on their parent's "self and Family" enrollment. For the FEHB program, this provision is effective as of January 1, 2011.

Who is Eligible? Children between ages 22 and 26, married children (but not their spouse or their own children), children with,

or are eligible for employer-provided health insurance, step-children, children incapable of self support, and foster children. All are eligible for coverage up to age 26.

The NALC Health Benefit Plan will be notifying current enrollees of these changes by way of letters included in the Open Season materials you may also get the latest information online at nalc.org/hbp. Open Season is Nov. 8-Dec. 14, 2010. You must enroll your child during open season and it will take effect on January 1, 2011 so watch for your packet in the mail.

BRANCH PICNIC

Fun, Food, Beer, Drinks, Music, Games and a Dunk-Tank to raise funds for MDA.

The Branch picnic was all that and more. Saratoga Springs is where it all happened. The weather was great. Lots of picnic tables and all the Beer, Soda, wine you could drink. Vince Ramirez set up his D.J. system. THANK YOU. And we listened to great music as we Dunked, Bob Krauth for \$60.00, Danny Laffan \$78.00, Laurie Halfacre \$79.00, Ray Gauthier \$52.00, Bill Cunningham \$14.00, and the big winner Tommy Rivera \$90.00 for a total of \$373.00 for MDA. Thank you all



very much. If you missed out on all the fun, start thinking about next year.

Did you know that:

PS Form 3971 can be your best friend. If you have ever had your pay check not what you thought it should be. It could have been because of PS Form 3971. If you are out on sick leave, annual leave, FMLA, EAL, IAL, jury duty, leave for doctor's appointment, or even LWOP you should be using PS form 3971. On the back of the form there are important information that all carriers should know. There are boxes that carriers can check that may apply to the type of leave being requested. So, when filling out the leave form PS 3971, flip it over and check the box that corresponds to whatever type of leave you are asking for. Remember to fill it out completely, legibly, and as soon as possible. When management is authorizing you the leave ahead of time fill out this form get it signed approved so that there will be no misunderstanding later. MAKE SURE YOU KEEP A COPY signed by a supervisor and one of the boxes under Official Action on Application should be checked off.

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**