



BRANCH 193 Bulletin

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Messages from the President

No. 7- 03 May - June 2007

Danny Laffan

It is with a heavy heart that I assume the office of President Branch 193 NALC. Tony Cortese was my friend even more he was like a brother or father to me. We talked daily often many times during the day. We shared everything with each other. My inner most feelings can not express the loss that I am experiencing as I sit in the chair he occupied for so many years. My visits to the stations are full of stories of how Tony helped so many of our members in their time of need. Tony was a great leader and I am committed to carry on the legacy he has left us. I can't do it myself. I will need your help. I plan to build a team of effective union leaders who will carry on the business of this branch for years to come. If you feel that Tony has made a difference in your life; you can return the favor by becoming actively involved in the challenges this union will face in the months and years ahead. Get involved and become a part of the leadership team.

I want to thank all of you who helped make the memorial service for Tony a success. I have received many compliments on your efforts. We did the right thing and we did it with class. I am sure there were more than a few smiles from above that day. Thank you all so very much.

NOTICE OF ELECTION



In accordance with Article 5, Section 8 of the Branch 193 by-laws, nominations and an election to fill the mid-term vacancy for the position of Vice President, Branch 193 will be conducted at the June Branch meeting.

The June Branch Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 13, 2007 at the Italian-American Heritage Foundation Hall located at 425 N. Fourth St, San Jose, Ca. 95112. The meeting begins promptly at 7:30 PM.

Contract Negotiations

Our attempts to negotiate a new contract with the Postal Service reached an impasse on April 6th. We will now engage the arbitration procedures to gain resolution. An arbitration panel will be assembled and hearings will be scheduled. I am confident that our national leadership will present the strongest possible case on our behalf. I believe we will not see a decision until the fall. Unfortunately the membership will not have the opportunity to ratify this decision. Arbitration decisions are final and binding. The impasse was created by management's refusal to address the issue of contracting out city letter carrier work. This union will not stand by idly as our employer puts systems in place that we erode the public's confidence in the service will provide. Stand ready to act when called upon to educate the public regarding this issue.

In Closing

I would like to congratulate the winners of the 2007 Howard Quackenbush Scholarship and to thank all those who applied. I want to thank you in advance for your efforts in collecting food for the hungry during this year's food drive. Don't forget the Retirement Dinner scheduled for May 5th. See you there.

OFFICERS

- Danny LaffanPresident
- Stanley Halfacre Vice President
- Pat MulliganRecording Secretary
- Sharon EppFinancial Secretary
- George KataiTreasurer
- Gene Lorenzo.....Sgt at Arms.
- Guillermo MartinezLegislative Liaison
- Tom Stewart Trustee
- Laurie Lykam-Halfacre Trustee
- Jas Nijjar Trustee
- Joe Rosa Trustee
- Dan Taormino.....Trustee

Branch 193 Bulletin

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Thank You Branch 193 Membership

As you know, I lost my beloved Tony on February 11th. I want to thank all of you for your support, phone calls, visits and for your generosity of money and kindness. I want to thank the Union for giving Tony the most wonderful memorial service; I was deeply humbled. I am still receiving cards and calls. Thank you for keeping Tony's memory alive. I also want to thank Danny Laffan who was a rock for Tony, our family and me. From day one he respected him as President and the fact that he respected Tony's advice made Tony very happy. Tony loved his job and enjoyed every challenge in helping his brothers and sisters. I know for a fact from many conversations with Tony that he wanted you to support Danny and give him all the respect and help that all of you gave Tony. Tony talked to Danny and Stanley Halacre one day in San Jose for a long time and he was very comfortable knowing they would carry on the Union for all of you in the same way with honesty and integrity and helping any way they can. Tony will always be with all of you in spirit, he truly cared for all of his brothers and sisters in the Union family. Warm feelings about Branch 193 will always be a part of my heart. Thank you and May God bless all of you.

Barbara Cortese

In Memoriam

Deepest Sympathy to the families & friends of our departed sister.

Vera McInnis

Brothers and Sisters...

For years postal clerks have been fretfully frustrated in their careers as they have experienced the fear of insecurity in jobs that many of them assumed would be around forever or, at least until they retire only to see those jobs disappear. Automation has had the greatest impact, but, not far behind has been the rapid expansion of contracting out positions as more and more private retail outlets take on customer service jobs – selling stamps, mailing parcels, etc. And NOW the privateers are after us, the letter carriers.

Privatization has been the rule and the driving force behind the Bush Administration's contempt for a successful US Postal Service and, more specifically, the union workers that make it the best in the world. The Board of Governor's main agenda is to subvert the carrier craft from within because it hasn't had success with a straight out takeover by private industry. Congress saw to that with the recent reorganization – a win for the service and the NALC (with the bizarre exception for postal workers and the 3-day wait for COP). That hasn't stopped them, however. Their tactic now is to contract out all new territory or delivery units (new apartment or business complexes, for instance). There are nightmare stories circulating of some of the contracts that the Postal Services has signed with individuals – like the instance where a contract was signed with a 12 year old son of a convicted felon.

President Bill Young made it clear at a recent training session attended by union stewards and other officials that the NALC will not accept any contract that enables the Postal Service to proceed with this insidious takeover by privateers. As this article is being written, contract negotiations have ended, and we are headed for binding arbitration. Our work is not done. Bill Young and his extraordinary team of national leaders are pressing Congress and private industry (the bulk mailers and others) that has a financial interest in maintaining a viable postal service and professional letter carrier workforce.

Your help is needed. Each of you, as letter carriers, has a vested interest in the success of our union in winning this current battle and other struggles in the future. It is easy to get involved. **Get the information.** Come to the union meetings, visit the NALC website at nalc.org, sign up for e-activist, and contribute to COLCPE. If all of that bothers you, just do something. Your future is at stake!

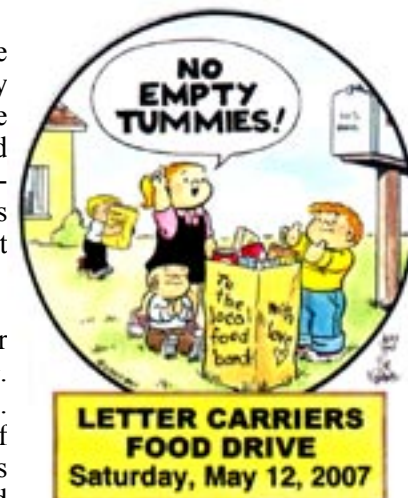
Bob Krauth, Willow Glen Station

Tony Cortese Food Drive to be Held on May 12, 2007

Submitted by Laurie Duarte, Branch 193 Food Drive Coordinator

At the March branch meeting a motion was approved to change the name of the San Jose Food Drive to the Tony Cortese Food Drive. Thanks, Tony for organizing and being the original pilot site for what has grown to be the largest one-day collection of food in the nation. So the Tony Cortese Food Drive this year will be on Saturday, May 12, 2007 and will benefit the Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara County. The food drive collection is totally voluntary and been agreed between management and the union not to cost the Postal Service any additional time or money.

The Food Drive post cards should be delivered a few days prior so that your customers can put out non-perishable items by their mailboxes on May 12th. Your job is to pick up their contributions and bring them back to the office. Please remember to size up the load before lifting. These bags and boxes of food can be heavy so use proper lifting techniques and take some extra tubs to put food in; it'll make it easier. Thank you in advance for your time and effort in supporting the Tony Cortese Food Drive.



2007 Howard Quackenbush Scholarship Winners

Category I (High School Seniors)

Category II (College Students)

Samual Rossi
Jason Bartolo
Kathleen Cabanayan
Vanessa Gaoiran
Andrew Narog (Alternate)

Erica Martinez
Allison Madsen
Alexander Lin
Jasdeep Manik
Jessica Escoto (Alternate)

Congratulations to all the winners and their proud parents. It is always a joy to review the applications we receive and see how well the children and grandchildren of our members are doing in their educational pursuits. Thank you to all those who applied.

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**

IN CELEBRATION

Saturday, March 10 was a warm, spring day. The cloudless, blue sky did nothing to obscure the view from Above. It was a good day to celebrate the life of a man we simply called Tony. Four letters to describe a giant of a man. A cliché, I know, but so true in this case. At about 1:30pm, friends and relatives began arriving at the hall. Some dressed in suits, some more casually, and a good many in letter carrier blue. Young and old, they came from far and wide to celebrate life. By 2 PM the hall was packed, with standing room only available along the walls and in the back. Six hundred was a number used by one to estimate the crowd. The speakers, there were many, all spoke of Tony with fondness, respect and love. Don, Tony's son-in-law and grandkids, Austin and Ashley, struggled bravely with the hurt and their love for Pa-Pa. Labor and management stood together without acrimony to extol the virtues of a man who had helped so many people in so many different ways. From Congress, Zoe Lofgren and Mike Honda presented Barbara Cortese with a statement that was read into the Congressional Record. Branch President Danny Laffan spoke from the heart about many of his personal and fondest memories of working beside his friend for all these years. After Jimmy Kelly and Patti Cramer entertained us with the song "Solidarity Forever," Danny invited all the past and present area Branch Presidents to join him at the podium for the letter carrier salute to Tony: Hip-Hip-Hurray, three times with fists thrust into the air. In closing the celebration, we were all asked to listen quietly to Barbara and Tony's special song, 'In This Life,' by Hawaiian singer Braddah Iz before adjourning to Tony's favorite place-the buffet table.

Some personal thoughts. A small crew arrived at the hall at noon to set up tables and chairs on the patio. The chairs had to be trucked from an adjacent hall across the parking lot. I will not name the crew for fear of being ashamed of myself for forgetting someone who toiled so hard to make this day a success. You all know who you are and know we gave it our all for our friend. Shortly before the Celebration began, the caterer arrived and we dodged people entering the hall to get the food into the kitchen. By the time it began, this old retired guy was exhausted. After the speeches, we rushed to get the ravioli, salad, antipasto and lunch meat trays on the buffet table for the guests. And we kept the best ravioli in San Jose coming. As the crowd dwindled, the crew began the clean-up and dispatched the chair and tables back to their original location. As twilight descended, we said good-bye to Barbara and the kids and grandkids. At 7pm, the few remaining friends locked the hall and went their separate ways. At home, exhaustion invaded my bones and I collapsed into my easy chair for the evening. Half-past midnight found me sitting alone, pondering the events of the day, my mind flooded with memories of my friend. In the silence of the night. I just sat and muttered, "we did the best we could, just as you always did for us." Then off to bed. We all know life goes on. I know Barbara will be fine with time, because she is a survivor and Tony will always be in her heart. Ashley and Austin will grow up to be strong and independent people because of, and for Pa-Pa Tony. On Monday, the mail will be delivered as usual, and next week I will fly off to England to visit my daughter. Yes, life goes on -- with many fond and warm memories.. ----- Patrick Mulligan

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW RETIREES

- JOE ESCOTO - BAYSIDE STATION
- MILDRED FERREIRA - MORGAN HILL
- JIM HIPSKIN - LOS GATOS DELL
- RANDY LEWIS - COLLECTIONS
- PATRICIA PEMBERTON - WILLOW GLEN STATION

Welcome New Members

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Christopher Bautista | Rajesh Kanda |
| Demisse Berbe | Perry Kwok |
| Pamela Bloomfield | Gurpreet Marwah |
| Michael Cadiena | Harpreet Nagra |
| Ramon Castro | Lam Nguyen |
| Kwok Chan | Shailesh Pandya |
| Kuo Chow | Raymond Paralejas |
| Esmeralda Cortez | Ivan Pilipenko |
| Hung Dang | Edwardson Ruiz |
| Mark Del Greco | Manoj Sarad |
| Dorifin Divino | Mandeep Singh (CPS) |
| Ninh Do | Mandeep Singh (WGS) |
| Michel Fuentes | Dian Sutrisno |
| Juvilla Galindez | Tekleyohannes Tiba |
| Steven Gauthier | Lance Wells |
| Kelil Hassen | |

Work Improvement Notification Process Training

Submitted by Henry Semillano, Shop Steward
Berryessa Station

In late January, Branch 193 and San Jose management conducted refresher training on the Work Improvement Notification (WIN) Process. Branch President Danny Laffan made a remarkable presentation about the WIN Process. It was indeed eye opening and caught the attention of the shop stewards and their management counterparts who were at the training.

The WIN Process is a replacement for the issuing of Letters of Warning. It is a cost effective measure in terms of time and money. It also enhances the relationship between the line supervisors and employees. A week after the presentation a dramatic change occurred in several postal facilities, which has been observed by the stewards. Supervisors opt for a discussion instead of the traditional discipline to an employee who has committed a minor infraction. When line supervisors and shop stewards embrace the WIN Process, it will have a lasting effect on the morale of the employees.

Branch BBQ 2007



Branch 193 Shop Stewards

Almaden Valley.....	Dan Degn & Pam West
Bayside.....	Joe Escoto & Bob Foster
Berryessa.....	Henry Semillano & Ron Bingham
Blossom Hill.....	Steve Munyon & Bill Cunningham
Cambrian Park.....	Herman Echevarria & Ray Gauthier
Campbell.....	Mike Harding & Rosie La'auli
Station D.....	Vittorio Forde
Foothill.....	Art Parrilla
Gilroy.....	Debra Masten
Hillview.....	Manny Aguilar & Marlon Valenzuela
Los Gatos.....	Kevin Janton
Los Gatos Dell.....	Ian Davies
Milpitas.....	Mike Campbell & Lin Zhou
Morgan Hill.....	Angel Montelongo
Parkmoor.....	David Judd & Richard Couderc
Robertsville.....	Paul Allen & Theresa Hernandez
St. James Park.....	Laurie Duarte & Kelvin Kamachi
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

JACKPOT!!

Nick Andrade from Willow Glen Station won the \$1000 Jackpot at the March Branch meeting and J.S. Amores from Robertsville Station was not at the April Branch Meeting to collect the \$1,000 when his name were called for the jackpot.

Remembering Tony

Submitted by Qin Fung, Letter Carrier Station D

I met Tony Cortese in 2001 during the orientation of new city letter carriers at Lundy Avenue in San Jose. He introduced himself as President of Branch 193 and talked about the advantages of being a member of the Union. He was very articulate, clear and convincing. I thought here he was the right man for the right position. His leadership was unquestionable. I signed up immediately. I know he was a former letter carrier and later on the President of the NALC Branch 193 in San Jose. He fought tirelessly for the rights of the union members and he was a guardian for the compliance of the Agreement. All postal management respected him and appreciated his efforts to reach a consensus about letter carriers' issues.

I remember the day he gave me his business card and I read carefully: Anthony "Tony" Cortese – President, Dale Jeanguenat Branch No. 193, a very simple card which I kept ever since. It was very useful because whenever I needed, I called him. His answering machine recorded my message and in a short time he always called me back. He promptly heard my questions and answered me adequately. I also talked to him personally

many times. I noticed that he was a good listener and always eager to help those in need. Once, a dog bit me and he gave me a referral for a specific lawyer. Even in a personal matter, he was there to assist me, such as when I was thinking about laser eye surgery. He gave me a referral for the doctor who had already performed his laser eye surgery.

When I learned Tony had passed away, I was shocked and felt very sad because I lost not only my president, but also a friend. I looked at his business card and his phone number. Unfortunately, I know, he will not return my calls anymore. Death is part of human fate. Benjamin Franklin said, "Nothing is certain in life but death..." Life is unpredictable and temporary. The length of human life is unknown. The immortality of the human soul belongs to God.

Tony was an ordinary man but with a strong personality and solid principles. During his lifetime he did what he loved in being a union leader, a fighter. He made all efforts in order to accomplish his mission and he represented the goals, the dreams, and the spirit of the Letter Carriers. Now he is with the Maker and departed brothers and sisters. We will miss him. My deepest sympathy to his family. Rest in Peace, Tony.

NOTICES - NOTICES

RETIREMENT DINNER

The Retirement Dinner and Dance will be held on May 5, 2007 at the Italian American Heritage Foundation Hall located at 425 N First St San Jose Ca 95112. The evening will start with cocktails at 6 PM. Dinner will served at 7 PM. Contact your shop steward for tickets.

FAMILY PICNIC

At the April Branch meeting the membership voted to hold our 2007 Family Picnic at Great America Amusement Park. The final arrangements are being made. More information will be available in the next Bulletin. Set aside Sunday September 9th for a day of fun and food with the family.

Important Dates

April 25	Executive Board Meeting
May 5	Retirement Dinner
May 9	Branch Meeting
May 30	Executive Board Meeting
June 13	Branch Meeting
June 27	Executive Board Meeting
Sept 9	Family Picnic

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

DEADLINE!

The Deadline for copy of the July/August 2007 issue of the Branch 193 Bulletin is Wednesday, June 13, 2007. 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



Let's All Pitch In And Make This
Year's Food Drive Special