

The Official Newsletter of NALC Branch 1439

The 1439'er

Members in Action



It's been a couple of busy months for the members and officers of NALC Branch 1439. (LEFT) The officers of Branch 1439 pose for a picture at the 2008 California State Association of Letter Carriers convention that was held in Los Angeles in April.

(RIGHT) Dave Dixon (Left) and Bruce Miller receive honors for their long membership in the NALC. In Rancho, Frank Ayala and John Brandt received similar honors. More about these and other events, including the 2008 Food Drive, is inside...



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NALC Branch 1439
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Executive Officers

President Robert Ortiz
Vice President Harold Kelso
Secretary Mark Lesch
Treasurer Dennis Martin

Stewards

Rancho Cucamonga Carlos Jauregui
Rancho Cucamonga Richard Spears
Rancho Cucamonga Pedro Urena
Ontario Main Office Jose Lopez
Ontario Main Office Jose Aguilar
Ontario Downtown Station Alex Case
Ontario Plaza Station Luis Hernandez-Tello

Trustees

Rancho Cucamonga Dale Jordan
Rancho Cucamonga Sue St Jean-Silva
Rancho Cucamonga James Worthy

Branch Meetings

Branch meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month. The meeting location is the Rancho Cucamonga Senior Center, 11200 Baseline Road in Rancho Cucamonga, just west of Milliken Avenue on the grounds of Central Park. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. To submit items to the Branch meeting agenda prior to the meeting, please contact Secretary Mark Lesch at (760) 951-8201 or at the Ontario Downtown Station (909) 984-2937, or via email at branch1439@linkline.com

1439'er Information

The 1439'er is the official publication of the National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 1439, Ontario—Rancho Cucamonga, California. All members are invited to submit articles for publication. All articles must be typewritten and signed by the author, and must be submitted by the twentieth day of the month preceding publication. The editor reserves the right to edit, delete or reject an article for the good of the branch. To submit an article send it to the Branch post office box listed above, in care of Mark Lesch, Editor, or submit via email to mlesch@linkline.com

The 1439'er is produced with computers, software and equipment owned by NALC Branch 1439.

Branch 1439 Affiliations

NALC Branch 1439 is affiliated with the Central Labor Council of San Bernardino—Riverside Counties, and the International Labor Communications Association (ILCA).

Useful World Wide Web Information

NALC National Web Site

<http://www.nalc.org/>

NALC Contract Administration Unit

<http://www.nalc.org/depart/cau/index.html>

NALC Health Benefit Plan

<http://www.nalc.org/depart/hbp/index.html>

Office Of Personnel Management

<http://www.opm.gov/>

OWCP San Francisco Region Office

<http://www.dol.gov/dol/esa/public/contacts/owcp/9sf.htm>

President's Report

By Robert Ortiz

President, Branch 1439

First of all, I'd like to thank everyone who participated in the Food Drive. The food we collected will help food shelters continue their missions through the summer months. Special thanks to Mark Lesch, our food drive coordinator, and those employees who gave their time to organize and execute the barbeques.

As our state convention in Los Angeles was wrapping up, our branch was presented an award. This award was for being 95.5% organized. We should all be proud of that! At our June branch meeting, I openly discussed a list given to me by the business agent of our six non-members. Perhaps the first union was the Three Musketeers, or they were the first to show unionism (all for one and one for all!).

When you join our union you add your voice to thousands of letter carriers across the nation. The union is a force of all co-workers gathered together with one voice. The joining of our voices together gives us the power to negotiate for the benefits and the pay rate that we have. It is also how we win grievances against management when they treat any of us unfairly.

Of course, no one wants to file grievances. However, it is not something we get to choose. Even

the fastest worker can be injured at work or have personal problems interfere with work. Management has no loyalty. No matter how long you work without problems or difficulty, when you do have problems, management may become vindictive and unforgiving. There is always the possibility that someone in management will take a personal disliking to you. There are any number of reasons why conflict with management can arise and it is not something you can just choose to avoid. It will have to be dealt with and having the union behind you gives you both the power and support to win those conflicts.

Not all unions are as responsive and effective as ours; I have to point out that the union, by definition, is made up of the people involved in it. If there is something about the union that you disagree with or are not satisfied with, it is your responsibility to get involved and attempt to enact the changes you feel are necessary. You cannot effect changes if you are not a member, or if you don't participate in the union.

It is likely that you will have the need of the union at something during your postal career. However, even if you are one of the lucky few who does not, you are still benefiting from the united voices of the brother and sisterhood of letter carriers across the country. Our union has fought for and won all of the benefits we currently enjoy, and they con-

tinue to fight to retain and add to the benefits that we will enjoy in the future. Management would like to eat away at our benefits, and the union has to be watchful and persistent not to lose any of our hard fight for benefits. If you want your voice heard, you have to add your voice to ours. If you want the voices of your fellow letter carriers to support and protect you, join the union. Because in a union, we are all for one and one for all.

There was a time when workers of this country had no rights, no representation. At the cost of lives, workers joined together, formed unions and fought for rights. Now those times are forgotten. We take for granted the eight-hour day and minimum wage, and other benefits that blood was spilled to obtain. Unions have been so successful, that we can take many rights for granted as they have become laws. It's unfortunate that we don't carry the memory of the courageous fight that was fought for the rights we enjoy today. Now, all postal workers have to do is join and pay dues to belong to a union, and some employees even grumble about having to pay dues.

Most of you reading this know and understand why we need unions I ask you to share this article with our non members let them understand the importance of many voices together for a common cause. ♦

Know Your Rights

by Jose Aguilar

Ontario Main Office Steward

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters. In April of 2008 The California State Association of Letter Carriers held a convention in Downtown Los Angeles at the Wilshire Grand Hotel. Among the training classes this year were OWCP, Article 12/Withholding and Postal Inspectors/OIG interrogations.

One of the classes that I attended this year was the OWCP class. I chose this class because many times when a carrier gets injured on the job, they are uncertain about their rights. A few weeks ago one of our sisters got attacked by a dog. This carrier had multiple puncture wounds, one in her arm and one in her leg.

This was a very vicious attack. Our sister did what she was expected to do. She called her

supervisor and waited patiently, bleeding for over one half hour. When the supervisor finally arrived his biggest concern was splitting the route, so when I saw this sister sitting on a stool bleeding and crying I went over and started going through our first aid kit looking for something to bandage her wounds. Meanwhile, Robert Ortiz went and told management that she need medical treatment ASAP.

Don't let this happen to you, Brothers and Sisters. If you get hurt on the job and you need first aid right away, call 911 and let the paramedics call your supervisor. Know your rights. You are entitled to fill out a Form CA-1 and check continuation of pay. You are entitled to 45 days of continuation of pay. Due to our new contract the first 3 days are waived but if you are out more then 14 days you are entitled to get those days back. All you need to do is fill out a Form 3971.

When choosing a doctor make sure you go to a doctor you trust and a doctor that is willing to work with you. Going to a postal doctor is not always the right way to go, because they don't always have your best interests in mind and their first concern is to get you back to work regardless of the way you feel. Brothers and Sisters, don't let this happen to you, know your rights, become educated by talking to your stewards. *

OWCP Soup

Hopefully you will work safely and never have need for any of the myriad of forms produced by OWCP for reporting an on-the-job injury. Below is a quick summary of some of the more common forms. As always, see your steward if you are injured on the job.

- CA-1 Notice of Traumatic Injury and Claim for Continuation of Pay/ Compensation
- CA-2 Notification of Occupational Disease
- CA-2a Notice of Recurrence
- CA-7 Claim for Compensation
- CA-10 What A Federal Employee Should Do When Injured At Work
- CA-16 Authorization for Medical Treatment
- CA-17 Duty Status Report
- CA-20 Attending Physician's Report
- OWCP-915 Claim For Medical Reimbursement

My Experience at the State Convention

By Dennis Martin
Branch 1439 Treasurer

As Treasurer of Branch 1439 I was encouraged to take a class given by a member of the Department of Labor (DOL) called "proper book keeping practices." Every union branch must submit a report to the Department of Labor showing the union's income and expenses. The report shows where the union got its income and how that income was spent. These reports are not only checked by the DOL but are open to public scrutiny and questions. Audits will happen if there are any faults found. The class was

long but informative if one must fill out and submit a report to the Department of Labor. The most important lesson I received from this class is the importance of documenting all transactions as well as possible.

During the afternoon I attended an OWCP class and a National Re-assessment class. OWCP is about work-related injuries and the proper procedures used to report the injury and the forms needed to report and receive treatment for the injury. There was a tremendous amount of information for one class and at least 20 forms, so I will visit the NALC web

site and get further information about OWCP. Remember, report the injury to a supervisor before getting off the clock and fill out a Form 13 or a Form CA-1. Report the injury to a union steward and follow their advice.

The third class dealing with national reassessment concerned employees who have been injured and cannot return to their assignments. These people have been put on light duty work, but now the post office is reassessing these employees and trying to get them back to either carrying mail or working in a job outside of the post office. The union is fighting this but employees on light duty must keep the union informed of what is happening. Also, light duty employees should not sign any agreements without a union representative being present.

The second day of the convention was spent electing state officers and voting on resolutions that would be presented to the national convention. Some of these resolutions were serious and others were humorous but all were discussed and voted upon.

The great thing here was to see democracy in action. Everyone that wanted to was allowed to speak and have an opinion before a vote, including our National President Bill Young. It is an important process and great to see.

I found the trip useful and interesting and hope to go again. ♦



Branch 1439 Secretary Mark Lesch accepts an award from Region 1 NBA Manny Peralta for Branch 1439 placing second in organization among branches with 100 to 300 members

2008 Food Drive Totals Off Slightly



Ontario Plaza Station Steward Luis Hernandez-Tello helps to load food headed for the food bank at the Ontario Main Office

The 2008 NALC Food Drive took place on May 10, 2008. Locally, letter carriers in Ontario and Rancho collected a total of 28,402 pounds of food. This total was roughly 1,500 less than in 2007. Nationally, letter carriers set a new record, collecting over 73 million pounds of food. The NALC Food Drive continues to be the largest one-day food collection event in the country.

In both Ontario and Rancho, our postmasters deserve a great deal of praise for being very supportive of our efforts. Both Rancho Postmaster Roy Pardon and Ontario OIC Darren Dilks provided funds for the after-work barbeques. In addition, Darren allowed the use of the 9-ton truck in Ontario, making it much easier to transport the food from the stations to the Main Office.

Our thanks go out to all who pitched in to make our efforts worthwhile. Special thanks to Robert Villa, Tania Rojas, Gary Marselle, Joe Aguilar, Alex Case, Pedro Urena, Carlos Jauregui and Rancho clerk Becky Felton for their hard work. In addition, thanks to Lori and Alyssa Ortiz for volunteering in Ontario.

Food collected in Rancho was donated to the GAP Food Bank. Food collected in Ontario was donated to the SOVA Hunger Project. Both food banks were highly appreciative of our work. SOVA's Rosa Lopez related that due to skyrocketing energy costs and record foreclosure rates, SOVA is experiencing a greater demand for donations than ever before.

In closing, the planning for the 2009 Food Drive is already underway! We need your input to help improve our collection totals for next year. If you have any suggestions, comments or criticisms please relate them to the officer or steward in your unit. ♦

HOW DARE THEY !

By Cheryl Durant

Rancho Alternate Steward

Recently, the Postal Service Board of Governors approved increases in salaries as follow;

Postmaster General, \$186,600.00 to 258,840.00 (39%)

Deputy Postmaster 186,000.00 to 235,000.00 (26%)

Chief Financial Officer 186,000.00 to 215,000.00 (15%)

Chief Human Resources 183,100.00 to 225,000.00 (23%)

Chief Marketing Officer 183,000.00 to 225,000.00 (23%)

General Council and Senior VP 177,000.00 to 215,000.00 (21%)

Senior VP for Operations 183,000.00 to 215,000.00 (17%)

Chief Technology Officer and VP from 177,800.00 to 205,000.00 (15%)

Wow! Letter Carriers received 8.85% over five years. Whoopee! That breaks down to a measly 1.77% a year, compared to their average of 19% a year. All together their salaries increased by 180% for a year.

The United States Postal Service plans \$1 billion in cost reductions this year to reduce a projected \$2 billion loss caused in part by

a slowing economy, Postmaster General John Potter said in prepared testimony for the U.S. House Subcommittee, Federal Workforce, Postal Service and the District of Columbia, "We cannot simply wait for a recovery." In addition, Potter said the cost reductions combined with \$735 million in additional revenue to come from postal-rate increases that occurred in May 2008, will help reduce the forecasted loss to \$265 million.

Who in the hell gets a raise when there is a projected \$265 million loss? Only in government!

The Government Accounting Office (GAO) recently came out with a report that in 2006 the USPS spent \$13,500 at a restaurant in Orlando, Florida entertaining customers and employees (I guess our invitations got lost in the mail). How many services and first class stamps do we need to sell to pay for these salary increases and the dinner in Orlando?

Recently, management started calling us in the office to tell us how much pivot time (aka down time) we have. How Dare They! I would start at the top and work my way down. The results will be better. ♦

Next Branch Meeting!

At the next branch meeting, we will discuss grievance activity and the recent labor management meeting. Also up for discussion are future events such as the NALC National Convention and the Ontario-Rancho Employee Picnic. Bring your questions and appetite to the meeting as refreshments will be served. As always, two \$50 door prizes will be awarded. Make your plans now to attend!

Tuesday, July 8, 2008 at 7:00 P.M.

Rancho Cucamonga Senior Center

Central Park Area, Baseline and Milliken in Rancho Cucamonga



Ontario — Rancho Post Offices Employee Picnic

All Employees and Families of Ontario and Rancho Post Offices Invited!

Fun Activities and Events for Adults and Children!

Many Prizes to be Awarded!

Food and Drink Provided by NALC Branch 1439 and Ontario-Rancho Offices!

Volunteers Needed!

Sunday, August 10, 2008

10:00 A.M. — 6:00 P.M.

Red Hill Park in Rancho Cucamonga

**(Park located just east of Carnelian on Baseline
Road, across from Alta Loma High School)**