

The Official Newsletter of NALC Branch 1439

The 1439'er



An Open Letter to all Registered Voters in NALC Branch 1439

Dear Branch Member,

Do you remember when Arnold Schwarzenegger tried to take away union pensions? Phil Angelides helped us fight back. When Schwarzenegger opposed health care, Phil Angelides fought with us. When Schwarzenegger took away lunch breaks, Phil Angelides fought with us in court to restore them.

And when Arnold called his special election for Prop 75 to silence the voice of workers, Phil Angelides stood with us.

Now Phil Angelides is running against Arnold Schwarzenegger. Now is our chance to have a governor who fights for workers.

Phil Angelides has a long history of promoting more investment in our schools. He helped expose Arnold's attempt to gut Prop 98 school funds last year and has a plan to bring more, not less, funding to our schools.

As State Treasurer, Phil Angelides cracked down on corporate tax cheats that relocate offshore to export our jobs and avoid paying taxes. He also led efforts to help California recover when we were ripped off by Enron and WorldCom.

Phil Angelides is endorsed by teachers, nurses, fire fighters, and the NALC. In fact, he's endorsed by every union in the California Labor Federation.

Phil Angelides stood with union members against Schwarzenegger's Special Election attacks. Now we hope you'll help him defeat Arnold!

On November 7th, please join with working families throughout California to elect our kind of Governor - Phil Angelides.

In Solidarity,

Robert Ortiz, President

NALC Branch 1439

The 1439'er

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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

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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

I hope all of you had great summer. I had a good vacation with my family. One highlight was the National Convention. We all gathered in Las Vegas in mid August to take care of the unions business.

As I entered the convention center on the first day session I was in awe over the sight of letter carriers as far as you could see. In fact, the convention had a record attendance of over nine thousand delegates from across the nation. I met so many interesting brothers and sisters. It was easy to start conversations with anyone because we all were there for the common cause.

Some of the highlights of the convention were Brother Dale Hart, our current Business agent, will be mov-

ing to Washington D.C. as the Director of City Delivery. Manny Peralta, our current RAA, will now be our business agent. I congratulate both of them for their accomplishments and many years of service and sacrifice for union members. These positions are well deserved.

Another major change came out of this convention. The state associations will now almost be fully responsible for organizing and training all the political activists within their respective states. Our state association currently does this but in other states it wasn't happening. National will now foot the bill for most other training the states would normally do. I commend our state president John Beaumont and his

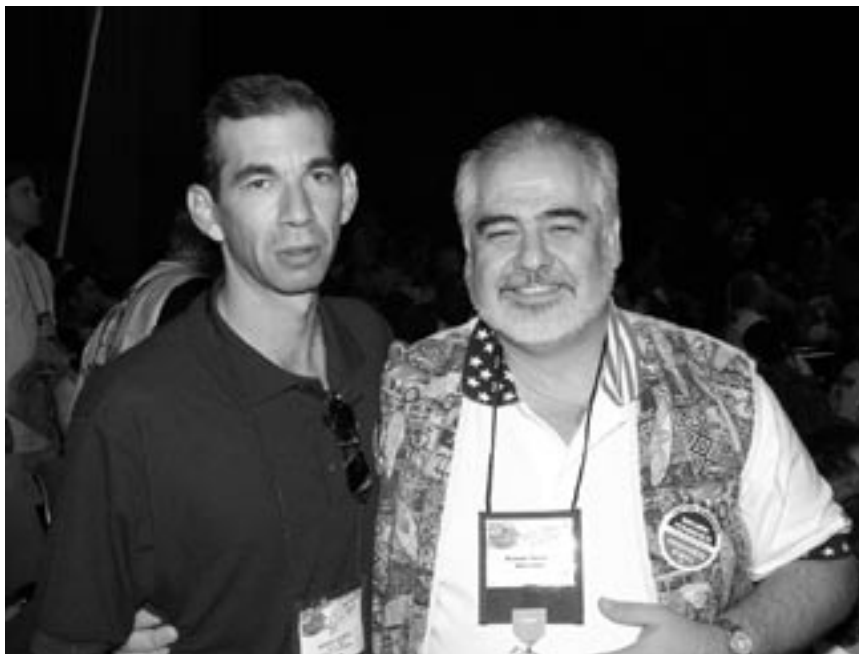
officers for providing excellent training for political activists in California, setting the example for other states.

On the home front I am buried in grievances! We currently have about 200 of them on the GATS (Grievance Arbitration Tracking System) report waiting to be settled. Most of them are Article 8s operational window cases. Let me explain something.

We have a postmaster or OIC in every post office making \$100,000 plus in some cases and they do not have the authority to make a decision! Both of our postmasters agree they should pay the grievances but they were told they can't settle them. They can't adjust a F\$#\$&@G route on there own. I don't even think they can take a CRAP without getting permission from the District manager. They might as well carry a route and just let district run their office!

They tell me, "Well, you are told what to grieve from national." WRONG! We have the authority to grieve, settle, or do what ever in the best interest of our members. A few days ago I told our OIC that we currently have 4 or 5 204bs running this office. I made a suggestion that they could supervise in the morning and hump a route in the afternoon and I will not grieve it. That is approximately 16 hours of street assistance before you mandatory. The other staff can help with their duties in the afternoon. Why should all the extra burdens of mandatory solely be pushed on the carriers?

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Branch 1439 President Robert Ortiz (Left) meets with the new Business Agent-Elect Manny Peralta at the 2006 National Convention.

Convention Short Takes

By Mark Lesch

Here are a few short takes from the 2006 National Convention. By this time you have probably read the complete coverage from the convention in *The Postal Record*, so I will not rehash it here. I will say that the convention ran very smoothly, the classes before and after each session were informative even if overcrowded, and the debates on the convention were lively. There are a couple of items that pertain to Branch 1439 members specifically.

First, at the convention the branch received a compact disk produced by NALC Headquarters that deals entirely with retirement and retirement issues. If you are getting close to retirement please

feel free to contact me using the information listed on Page 2. This disk has a wealth of information and will help you in planning and filling out retirement paperwork, as well as learning about the differences in retiring if you are covered under CSRS or FERS. I have distributed a number of these disks at the Ontario Main Office and Downtown Station, and I will make the same offer to those members working at Rancho and Plaza.

Next, at the convention in one of the classes the idea of Delivery Point Sequencing of flats was discussed. While DPS Flats (or FSS Flats as the USPS calls it) appears to be a ways off, there is a great article online from Sister Roberta Clemmer. Sister Clemmer works in the Carmel, Indiana post

office, which was one of the test sites. In this article Sister Clemmer relates her experiences about DPS flats, and this is very interesting reading into what our future might hold. To find this article, point your web browser to www.nalc116.com and look for the Summer2006.pdf file.

Finally, although this item is not convention related, you still need to know about it. I received the first update about the current contract negotiations the other day, all because I signed up for the NALC E-Activist program. If you have not signed up you should do so ASAP so you can receive these updates also. To sign up for E-Activist, visit www.nalc.org and you can sign up right on the homepage!

LLV-Bque in Ontario!



Early in October, 2006, Ontario Main Office carrier Debbie Bonshire was out working on her route. Parked at an apartment complex and delivering to some NDCBU's, she smelled smoke and wondered if there was work being done in the apartments. Within a matter of seconds it became readily apparent that her Long Life vehicle was on fire! Luckily Debbie was not injured. The same could not be said for this vehicle. Debbie managed to take this picture with her cell phone camera, and the editor thanks her for her contribution.

Looking in at the Las Vegas Convention



(Above) Your branch delegates gathered for a picture. (Above left) Harold Kelso speaks out at the microphone. (Below left) Tom Anderson studies up on the pressing issues being discussed at the convention. (Below right) Dale Jordan shows off the “Gimme 5 for COLCPE” shirts that were distributed to COLCPE donors at the convention.



COLCPE Questions and Answers

By Alex Case

Branch 1439

COLCPE Coordinator

Hi my name is Alex and I am your COLCPE co-ordinator for Branch 1439.

Q. - What is COLCPE?

A. - COLCPE stands for Committee on Letter Carriers Political Education. The committee was formed to raise awareness for the political interests of the nation's letter carriers! Some of our on-going agenda items are:

- Postal Reform (HR22)- a house postal reform bill
- Fighting against privatization
- Lobbying for letter carrier interest issues
- Probably the most important right now, better health care for the nations letter carriers.

Contract negotiations are now ongoing for the new NALC/USPS national agreement. Health care will definitely be a hot topic for this contract, so remember we are all working hard to get the best health care for all of our members and all the nations letter carriers.

Now let me tell you why I was appointed your COLCPE co-ordinator. NALC President Bill Young had each local branch president appoint a coordinator, qualifica-

tions are giving to the COLCPE fund and individuals which show a strong political interest. I was appointed by our local branch president Robert Ortiz.

Our main function other than the political functions are to get each local branch member to contribute to COLCPE mainly with automatic deductions through your bank account or through your bi-weekly paycheck, I am working closely with our branch president and branch secretary to put in place our COLCPE needs and goals for our local branch, but we need your help too!

To give an automatic deduction, the easiest and fastest way is through the <http://liteblue.usps.gov> website, I will be at union meetings early to accommodate individuals who feel more comfortable to have an experienced person help with signing up on the

internet site. Right now we have the "Gimme 5" campaign going on. We are asking all members to contribute at least \$5 per bi-weekly paycheck. Currently I am working on some incentives for many categories of contributing.

Q-Who can contribute?

A-Current or retirees are always welcome to contribute. We even accept one time contributions.

If you would like further info on the COLCPE campaign you can get info from your shop steward, branch president or you can call me @ the Ontario Downtown office (909)391-8525, or always at the branch meetings in Rancho Cucamonga on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm

Thank you again for contributing to this very important campaign issue!

President's Report...continues

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From what I heard there was a lot of crying from the 204Bs. So when you get mandatoried from a 204b ask him or her to help you and we will not grieve it!

I would like to thank all the hard work of our stewards, especially Joe Aguilar along with Alex Case for really stepping up and finding all the violations. It is not easy.

In addition, special thanks to Mark Lesch. Mark does a lot for this branch, making my job easier. Lately when things aren't going well I do a lot of venting to Mark. Thanks for listening.

My last point of concern is the VOE surveys (voice of the employee). DO NOT FILL THEM OUT. We are boycotting them for now. Many of the questions on that survey help management receive their merit bonus. Do you think they deserve a merit bonus? If so fill it out. That's all for now.

Tom's Tale

“If this clown blocks his mailbox one more time . . .” I had to dismount to deliver the mail, and I was not in a good mood. I put the mail into a brand-new, cast iron, English-style mailbox, and slammed the door shut. I heard a loud creaking noise. “CRICK!”

The mail box was now leaning at a 15 degree angle. “Holy #*\$^!” I said. I don’t think the Lord was helping. I decided that it would be a good idea to tilt the mailbox back to its original position. I grabbed the box and pulled forward. I heard another crick, and watched the center pole bent to a 30 degree angle. I cursed again.

I decided that if I lifted up in the mailbox itself, the pole might straighten out. I lifted up. “CRICK, CRICK, CRICK!” The pole fell into three pieces! I was standing there holding the mailbox when I heard a car pull up behind me.

Still holding the mailbox, I turned around to find the lady of the house parked about two feet behind me, looking seriously pissed off. “You broke my mailbox,” she yelled accusingly. “No I didn’t!” I replied. The lady retorted, “Well, what is that thing in your hands?” Talk about a smoking gun!

“Your mailbox committed suicide right in front of me!” I said. The lady, unimpressed with my clever banter,

replied “You have to pay for that!” “I don’t think so!” I said. I walked her brand-new, English-style mailbox up to the porch, set it down, and started to leave. As I left, I heard the lady say, “I have four really big sons who are all brick masons!”

When I returned home, Sam the Golden Retriever had two beers waiting. “Holy @#*(,” I told Sam. He said, “You know, the Lord is getting tired of saving your ass.” I told Sam, “This isn’t fair. I can’t tear a cast-iron mailbox into four pieces with my bare hands!” Sam laughed and said, “Since when is life fair?” I leaned back and thought that every time I tried to do the right thing, the result usually went straight to hell! I decided it was time to change that. I thought back a few weeks, to the National Convention in Las Vegas.

There were over 9,000 delegates there. Our branch had ten delegates. Your delegates attended morning and afternoon classes, and in between participated in the general convention sessions. These sessions generally run from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The convention was very similar to previous conventions that I have attended. There were speeches, videos and band performances. The NALC actually sponsors bands from different branches to attend and perform, which is a carryover from the 1800’s.

The convention was actually very well organized. It ran smoothly and ended on time. The only scary part for me was the election of our national officers.

Out of 28 national offices, only one had a contested election. In all the other races, only one person was nom-

inated, and that person was elected by acclamation. What does this mean?

It means that you are either on President Bill Young’s slate or you are not. It also means that there are no more excuses for the NALC to lose grievances. The delegates have given everything to Bill Young that he needs to kick some ass during our current contract negotiations. I hope Bill understands this. We will find out very soon!

When a young Spartan was going into battle, his mother would say him as she handed him his shield, “Either come home carrying this shield over your head, or come home with your body on top of it!”

I don’t think the situation is that desperate, but William Young had better not come back and say, “The guy from operations didn’t agree.”

18 and 8

Tom ♦

A Special Invitation!

The next Branch Meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 14, 2006. Of course, all branch members are invited to attend. However, we are making a special invitation to these new branch members listed to the right. We extend an invitation to you and your families to come out and see how your union works. We will refreshments for all and special surprises, plus two \$50 door prizes will be awarded to 2 lucky attendees. Make your plans now to attend and please bring your families.

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|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Joyce Buckner | Mari Alfaro |
| Luis Hernandez-Tello | Samuel Goodman |
| Dionicio Delgado | Eric Ngo |
| Janet St Jean-Silva | Aundree Norwood |
| Manuel Somoza Jr | Irma Sanchez |
| Robert Salazar | Arthur Chua |
| Kyaw Maung | Malcom Silva |
| De Lam | Patricia Pargas de Solis |
| Stanley Jenkins | Teri Brewer |
| Irma Elizalde | David Vasquez |
| Ericson Burgos | Keith Mitchell |

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- November 7..... Election Day, Don't Forget to Vote!
- November 11..... Veteran's Day Holiday
- November 14.....Branch Meeting
- November 23.....Thanksgiving Day Holiday
- December 12.....Branch Meeting