

849 EXPRESS

National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 849 ♦ Fort Collins, Colorado ♦ Volume 14, Issue 2 ♦ May 2018

Special delivery



Paul Markley unloads the tubs of food he collected on his route May 12 during the NALC's 26th Annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. Early totals indicate that the food drive should exceed last year's record numbers in Fort Collins. More photos, Pages 4-5.

HEROES

Carrier's call for help aids ailing driver

City Carrier Assistant Dany Mam was nearing the last mailbox on her route earlier this year in Fort Collins when she noticed something unusual on the street.

"There was a vehicle coming north, and he stopped kind of right next to me," she said. Mam thought that the driver had been waiting for her. When she looked a minute later, "He was still in the same

position. There were a lot of cars coming. Everyone had to move around him."

She began watching the driver, and he appeared to be shaking uncontrollably. "All of a sudden, he went in reverse and hit the mailbox I was just at."

Mam quickly pulled her LLV over, waited for cars to pass and then approached the vehicle to check on the man. "I see



Continued on Page 7 Dany Mam

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Danielle Fake-Moorman



Grievances? We have loads

Grievances and their pursuit remain the highest priority of your Union because they are the direct means to positively effect change in our work conditions. Just when you thought management would look at making our jobs easier, not harder, they come out with a mandatory "Use the Vehicle Load Feature" on the scanner. We are filing grievances on this for both offices. Please write a statement to help the grievance file.

■ **The Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive** was May 12. So far, 24,172 pounds of food were collected at the Main Office and 14,044 pounds at Old Town Station. Thank you Michelle Robinson, Melissa Whitehouse and Mae Helms for helping us organize another year for the food drive. Anyone willing to volunteer to help us organize the Food Drive next year, please let us know.

■ **MDA Bowlathon** – This year's event was February 25, and we raised \$1,080, an increase from last year! Being a Letter Carrier is more than just a job. We are involved in our community. This is one of the things we do that no other carrier does. We can stand out from the rest. Thank you to Gerry Hoffman for organizing another great MDA Fundraiser. What a great turnout.

We also have poker tournaments periodically to raise

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Active Union Members

Thanks for being part of the NALC, we truly need to say united!

Robert Abbott, Brian Abell, John Adams, Jim Allen, John Altizer, Aaron Arns, Steven Artlip, Joshua Barlass, Natasha Barlass, Ayellana Benjamin, William Bond, Lauren Bowyer, Sean Bowyer, Pamela Budkovich, Lois Buffington, Brian Buster, Zack Calder, Skylar Cantu, Kent Chao, Nicholas Christiansen, Travis Cobb, Christopher Collins, Charles Corbett, Gina Cordova, Paul Couperus, Jeremiah Cox, Karen Czarnecki-Kelly, Rochelle Deckard, Claude Decrescenzo, Martin De Los Santos, William Dewey, Candace Dolph-Garcia, Jenilee Elsbernd, Gordon Emslie, Danielle Fake-Moorman, Gary Fink, Jason Garcia, Janae Gaudot, James Geary, Duane Gentz, Clay Gomez, Gabriel Gonzales, Uamala Gopalakrishnan, Virginia Greene, Kayte Hay, Mae Helms, Lynda Hickey, Kathryn Hicklin, Karin Higgins, Abigail Hoffman, Gerald Hoffman, Mark Hoffman, Jose Ibarra, Danielle Jackson, Lili Jacobs, Doug Jepson, Kristin Joachim, Mike Jones, Tamyjah Jordon, Christopher Keller, Dennis Ketterling, James Kunze, Kimberly Laughren, Stephanie Lafave-Kiel, Eric Ligothe, David Livingston, Brianne Macintyre, Dany Mam, Paul Markley, Clint Massey, Edwin May, Kevin McDaniel, Alex McEwan, Fred Mendez Jr., Stephen Meyers, Jonathon Millward, Tara Millward, Aaron Nation, Barbara Olarnik, Rex Paul, Robert Pierdzioch, Todd Perkuhn, Boo Pinson, Patricia Porter, Nicholas Pratt, Buzz Puschnig, Cynthia Ransil, Jacqueline Raynes, Rik Raynes, Dennis Reffner, Donald Reinholz, Michelle Robinson, Jeff Rokosz, James Sambrano, Jim Sanchez, Joseph Shroba, Kent Simpson, Zach Smith, Drew Stivers, Matt Sukiennik, Scott Summerhays, Charles Trainer, Karen Ulvang, Chris Vandewalle, Lauren Vandewalle, Jerry Wetzler, Melissa Whitehouse, Laurie Wiedeman, Jason Williams, Frederick Yates, Brian Zentmire.

Retired Union Members**GOLD CARD/LIFETIME MEMBERS**

Paul Kipping (63 years), Roger Cogburn (57 years), Raymond Neel (55 years), Wally Liggett (52 years).

Diane Adams, Rick Atkinson, Michael Bezenar, Don Brown, Mike Casey, Dennis Custer, Rita DeWitt, John Edwards, John Franz, John Gallegos, Steve Graham, David Ham, Melvin Hartung, William Hergenreter, Grover Hill, Stephen Hill, Thomas Hunsader, Cynthia Kestrel, Bobby Kimberling, Bob Lauer, William Mares, Tom Meek, Laurie Meek, Ceci Morgan, Michelle Nickolson, Jerome Nycz, Nancy Olsen, Mark Orłowski, John Rinne, Tommy Robinson, Paul Roggy, Leonard Russ, Don Schelly, Michael Scobey, Anita Smith, Jack Spies, Ron Sundsted, Judy Sweek, Bob Vise, Gary Winkler.

RETIREE BREAKFAST: 8 a.m. 2nd Monday of the month, The Breakfast Club, 121 W. Monroe Drive, Fort Collins.

Non-Members

Sign up a non-member and become eligible to win a \$40 Gift Card

Michael Abeyta, Dean Biggs, David Breault, Lyn Brown, Wayne Brown, Caren Campbell, Nancy Fitzgerald, Jerry Gaudot, Dusty Koenig, Josh Mayes, Anna Null, Bill Offerman, Scott Roth, Patricia Schneidmiller, Richard Spring, Garrett Stone, Suzanne Wadsworth, Donna Wagner, Jeff Wallace

Calendar

May 18-19 – NALC State Convention, Aurora

June 12 – Branch 849 monthly meeting

July 8 – Branch 849 Annual Summer Picnic

July 10 – Branch 849 monthly meeting

July 15-21 – NALC National Convention, Detroit

August 14 – Branch 849 monthly meeting

September 11 – Branch 849 monthly meeting

September 20-22 – Regional Rap Session, Oklahoma City

October 16 – Branch 849 monthly meeting

November 13 – Branch 849 monthly meeting

IN MEMORIAM

Rico Vasquez

City Carrier Rico Vasquez passed away March 3 at age 51. A celebration of his life was held March 11 at Good Shepherd Church in Loveland.



Rico grew up in California, graduated from Cypress High School and attended Rancho Santiago Community College. He was a lifelong Oakland Raiders fan. A City Carrier since 1999, he transferred in 2013 from Longmont to Fort Collins, where he worked at both the Main and Old Town offices.

His wife, Deana Young-Vasquez, and former wife, Denise Millison Vasquez, posted a special request shortly after his passing:

"We have been overwhelmed with all the support and condolences we received after Rico's passing. Thank you, everyone, for your kind words. We would like to ask all his friends to do something for us. We would like everyone to take a moment to share stories and/or photos of Rico with us. We would like to make a book for his family, especially his sons Brendan and Bennett so that they can know how special their Dad was through the people who knew him. This book will also be shared with his future grandchildren who won't have the joy of knowing him in person but will have the joy of knowing him through those who loved him. Please email your memories, photos and stories to CelebrateRico@gmail.com. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

Vice-president's report

New carriers can benefit from mentors, union meetings

Hello, everyone. I hope you all are doing well. Welcome to the new CCAs who have joined us. I hope to see all of you at the monthly union branch meetings. For your first visit, you receive \$25, and dinner is always provided. This also is a great way to learn where your union dues go and what they are used for. If you are having a problem with something, chances are you are not the only one, and union meetings are where you can find out how to best handle the situation.

Being new to the post office can often be very overwhelming. Thankfully, the union stewards are always here to help, as are our mentors and On the Job Instructors (OJIs). Look to these people when questions and problems arise. Communicate often with your supervisors as well.

Some common problems lately have been getting badges and time cards, as well as questions about insurance and how to read your pay stub. Stewards Danielle Fake-Moorman, Mae Helms and I have a "how to read your pay stub" cheat sheet available upon request. We also have all the infor-

mation you may need for signing up for the USPS Non Career Health Insurance plan.

The NALC's annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive was May 12. It has been very successful in our installation and continues to provide relief to people in need across the country, a large number of which are children. The food drive may only be one day, but as anyone who has worked for the post office knows, we'll be picking up stray bags of food for weeks.

A big thank you to Freddy Mendez and Lauren Bowyer for their excellent On the Job Instruction for our new CCAs. Freddy and Lauren have been wonderful. They are the only two OJIs at the Main Office, and we definitely could use a couple more. If you are interested in becoming an OJI, please let the union office know so we can approve it with management and get you trained.

Stephanie LaFave-Kiel
NALC Branch 849
Vice President
Informal A Shop Steward

Supporters/Participants

Aaron Arns, Rick Atkinson, Brian Buster, Dennis Custer, Danielle Fake-Moorman, Virginia Greene, Mae Helms, Gerry Hoffman, Kristin Joachim, Dennis Ketterling, Jim Kunze, Stephanie Lafave (LCPF coordinator), Fred Mendez, Jeff Rokosz, Leonard Russ, Drew Stivers, Judy Sweek, Karen Ulvang.



By making a contribution to the Letter Carrier Political Fund, you are doing so voluntarily with the understanding that your contribution is not a condition of membership in the National Association of Letter Carriers or of employment by the postal service, nor is it part of union dues. You have a right to refuse to contribute without any reprisal. The Letter Carrier Political Fund will use the money it receives to contribute to candidates for federal office and undertake other political spending as permitted by law. Your selection shall remain in full force and effect until cancelled. Contributions to the Letter Carrier Political Fund are not deductible for income tax purposes. Federal law prohibits the Letter Carrier Political Fund from soliciting contributions from individuals who are not NALC members, executive and administrative staff or their families. Any contribution received from such an individual will be refunded to that contributor. Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name mailing address, occupation and name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 per calendar year. Any guideline is merely a suggestion, and an individual is free to contribute more or less than the guideline suggests and the Union will not favor or disadvantage anyone by reason of the amount of their contribution or their decision not to contribute.





Stamping out hunger

It was wet and overcast on May 12, but it turned out to be a beautiful day to collect bags of food for the NALC's 26th Annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. Carriers at Fort Collins' Main and Old Town offices brought in more than 38,000 pounds of food, an increase over last year's one-day totals, according to Andrew Gorgol, Food Resource and Transportation Manager of the Food Bank for Larimer County. Pictured clockwise from top left are Dennis Ketterling, John Altizer, Janae Gaudot, Alex McEwan, Jeremiah Cox and Joseph Shroba.



President's report

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money for MDA. Keep an eye out for the next one.

We all need to stick together (crazy idea for a Union, eh?). The question is not what has the union done for me, but what have you done to help yourself and your union. What have you done to help the people who are fighting for our union and the National Agreement? Ask yourself, are you doing everything that you possibly can to help ensure that you and your neighbor in the case next to you will have a job next year? Let us make sure that our Local union and our National union have what they need to fight for each and every one of us every day.

It's really simple. Look at everything the Union has done for us as letter carriers. Do you think we would have the job/pay and benefits that we have if it weren't for the union? Things aren't always perfect, and we need help to get management to follow the contract, as this is an ongoing battle. The only way to do that is if we all pull together and file grievances, educate ourselves and communicate. If you are a member, come to the union meetings and become informed. Get involved in the simple daily things at work and care about your job. It only takes minimal time and effort to help those who are fighting for our jobs. Thank you to those of you who already are supporting your local union. It is much appreciated.

How you can help

Our Union at both the National and Local Levels are already preparing for our Next Contract Negotiation.

■ **Give to LCPF** – Even if it's as little as \$5 a paycheck, donating to the Letter Carrier Political Fund helps our National Union members fight for us with Congress and on Capitol Hill. We need this to get support behind our cause. If you think that we have nothing to do with politics, you are sadly mistaken. Who decides whether we get to keep 6-day delivery or not? Yep, you got it: Congress does. To all those that give already, THANK YOU!! Consider upping your contribution. I recently went from \$10 a pay period to \$15 a pay period.

■ **Download the NALC App** – This is so easy even a cave-man can do it. Stay informed of legislative issues that affect our jobs, and act when there is a bill that would negatively affect our jobs.

Your local union conducted LMOU Negotiations in November. Last newsletter, I identified those arguments we made that were Impassed. We have received a response back regarding several issues. We were successful in all of them but one so far.

The Article 10 (Leave – including CCA's in the Percentages) was Impassed – no resolution yet. It is scheduled to be heard in front of an arbitrator in the next 2 months.

We received the following resolutions, which will be added to our LMOU. (We will get updated copies in each route book in both offices as soon as we get the Article 10 language back.)

Article 8: Section 2B

City Carrier Assistants shall be utilized within the installation (includes all stations), regardless of which station they are assigned.

Article 8: Section 9

Article 8 Section 9 provides reasonable wash-up time for a letter carrier who performs dirty work. Any city letter carrier, on an individual basis, shall be granted such time as is reasonable and necessary for washing-up after performing dirty work and incident to personal needs. Such wash-up time is in addition to the five (5) minutes daily personal time in the office provided for in the M-41 and M-39 handbooks.

Article 14: Section 1

The meetings of the Safety and Health Committee will be held during the second week of the first month of each calendar quarter, consistent with the National Agreement and to conform to other crafts at this installation. The exact date of the meeting will be determined by the committee. The President of Branch 849 or their designee shall serve as a member of the Labor/Management and Safety and Health Committee. Minutes of the meeting will be given to the attending representatives of Branch 849 and posted on the official bulletin boards. **The minutes will be given no later than 14 calendar days after the meeting is held.**

Article 17: Section 3

Management will record the minutes of all Labor/Management meetings and give the attending committee members a copy. **The minutes will be given no later than 14 calendar days after the meeting is held.** Three days after receipt of the minutes by the NALC and local management, if there are no suggested additions, deletions and/or corrections to the minutes, they will be considered as accepted and will then be posted if there is concurrence by fellow unions that attended the meetings.

■ Hold Management accountable for all Contract Provisions, including our Local Contract/LMOU.

We as a Branch are keeping things organized, and with that are looking to find any Branch 849 memorabilia: Pictures of events, newspaper clippings, etc. I have kept most things organized since I have been in office, but there isn't much before about 2010. So, if you happen to have anything regarding a member of the Branch, or the Branch in general, please send it to me in an email, or bring it by and hand it to me. If you are a current or former officer and have branch records at your home, please bring those records to the Union offices. Both Old Town and the Main office have room for all of our Branch records in the Union offices.

Thank you all for your help in making our Local Branch 849 so successful. Throughout the years, we have been able to do so much and learn to help fight for our members.

In Unity,
Danielle Fake-Moorman

DONATE YOUR UNUSED/LIGHTLY USED UNIFORMS

Please bring in your older/lightly-used uniforms. We are accepting donations. The uniform closet at Old Town Station is available for donated uniforms to our new members.



Bowling For MDA

Branch 849 raised \$1,080 during its annual Bowl-A-Thon fundraiser Feb. 25 at Chippers Lanes. Proceeds benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Participants in this year's Bowl-A-Thon were Fred Mendez, Gerry Hoffman, Stephanie LaFave-Kiel, James Sambrano and retired union members Michael Bezenar and Mark Orlowski.



Mam

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a silhouette, and something isn't right. I asked, 'Are you OK?' He turned toward my voice, but he wasn't really there."

Mam called her manager, who in turn called 911. She also went to the door of the house where the accident had occurred to inform the people who lived there. She stayed with the man

until an ambulance arrived. Paramedics determined that the driver had low blood sugar and that he had had a seizure.

The first-year letter carrier doesn't think she's a hero. "I was just helping someone in need. I was happy I was there and got the call in. Who knows what could have happened."

Reprinted from The Postal Record

Postal funnies



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
LETTER CARRIERS BRANCH 849

849 EXPRESS
PO BOX 849
FORT COLLINS, CO 80522

Send article submissions to Joe Shroba
Email: jolietjs@gmail.com

Address Service Requested



Save the date: Branch 849 Family Picnic is July 8

When: 2-5 p.m. Sunday, July 8 on the west side of the park.
Where: Fossil Creek Community Park, 5811 S. Lemay Ave., south of Harmony Road across from South-Ridge Golf Course. Picnic will be Check back on NALC Branch 849's website, www.nalcbranch849.org, or its facebook page for more details as the event draws near.

Supporting MDA means supporting a barrier-free week at summer camp for more than 80 children living with muscle disease in Colorado and Wyoming.



Deliver
the Cure
with **MDA**

RSVP | Gerry Hoffman | 970.412.0595

Branch 849 Officers

Officers' 2-year terms run through Dec. 31, 2018

- PresidentDanielle Fake-Moorman
- Vice-President (Includes Sergeant at Arms) and Health Benefits Rep Stephanie LaFave-Kiel
- TreasurerVirginia Greene
- SecretaryBrian Buster
- Trustees Paul Couperus, Jim Kunze, Tara Millward

Stewards

- Danielle Fake-Moorman** Chief Steward, Formal A Rep, both offices. (970) 217-7384, dya25@comcast.net
- Stephanie LaFave-Kiel** Informal A rep, both offices. (970) 800-1471, eldercares@hotmail.com
- Mae Helms** Informal A rep, main office, OWCP Specialist. (970) 590-0452, maehelms2@gmail.com

Alternates

- Main Post Office:** Gerry Hoffman
- Old Town Station:** Brian Bluster, Todd Perkuhn, Jeff Rokosz, Karen Ulvang, Drew Stivers

Safety captains

- Main Post Office:** Duane Gentz (co-chair), Paul Markley
- Old Town:** Drew Stivers

Branch Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. the 2nd Tuesday of every month, except Tuesdays following a holiday (it is moved to the 3rd Tuesday) at 2810 Meadowlark Ave. Dinner is served free of charge. All members present are entered in a drawing for a \$25 gift card!

Health Benefits representative

Stephanie LaFave-Kiel
(970) 800-1471, eldercares@hotmail.com

Delegates to National Convention

Danielle Fake-Moorman, Stephanie LaFave-Kiel, Virginia Greene, Brian Buster, Drew Stivers, Judy Sweek, Jim Kunze, Gerry Hoffman.
Alternates: Karen Ulvang, Boo Pinson

Director of retirees

Rick Atkinson
(718) 687-2651, ricatoni@hotmail.com

MDA coordinator

Gerry Hoffman
(970) 412-0595, ghof182109@comcast.net

Customer Connect coordinators

Boo Pinson (main), Melissa Whitehouse (Old Town)