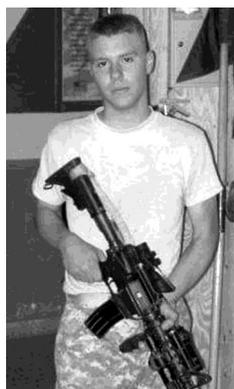
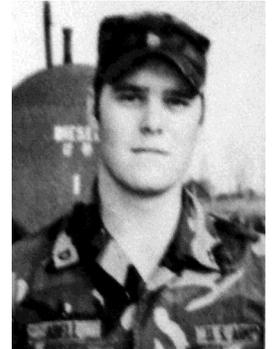


849 EXPRESS

National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 849 ♦ Fort Collins, Colorado ♦ Volume 17, Issue 4 ♦ November 2021



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE



CAN YOU IDENTIFY YOUR CURRENT — AND RETIRED — BRANCH 849 CO-WORKERS? ANSWERS ON PAGE 7.

Active Union Members

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

Robert Abbott, Brian Abell, Aaron Arns, Steven Artlip, James Atkinson, Carla Barnett, Gregory Barrow, Dale Baumgartner, Dean Biggs, Jordan Bliemeister, William Bond, Lauren Bowyer, Travis Brooks, Zack Calder, Alice Castle, Skylar Cantu, Jackie Carlson, Kent Chao, Qinfang Cooper, Joshua Coronado, Frank Covington, Kristian Culver, Melanie Wolfe, Rochelle Deckard, Claude Decrescenzo, Martin De Los Santos, Angel Diaz Santana, Alexander Dick, Scott Dockstader, Aaron Donegan, Candace Dolph-Garcia, Gordon Emslie, Danielle Fake-Moorman, Gary Fink, Shannon Foley, Jerad Formby, Jacob Foss, Vania Gallardo-Rodriguez, Jason Garcia, James Geary, Duane Gentz, Brendan Gilson, Matthew Gorman, Virginia Greene, Patterson Haynes, Lauren Heinisch, Mae Helms, Kyle Henry, Mark Hoffman, Danielle Jackson, Jenilee Jackson, Kristin Joachim, Gwen Jones, Kyle Kirkley, Powell Knudsvig, Brian Koval, Michelle, Kriske, James Kunze, Stephanie LaFave-Kiel, Kimberly Laughren, Savonh Laychaypha, Eric Ligotke, David Livingston, Brianne Macintyre, Dany Mam, Paul Markley, Clint Massey, Edwin May, Kevin McDaniel, Kimberly McTernan, Jacquelyn Melton, Fred Mendez Jr., Christian Merrell, Michael Middleton, Bryce Miller, Ayellana Moore, Michelle Morales, Monty Morris, Erik Nau, Barbara Olarnik, Gus Pasillas, Rex Paul, Todd Perkuhn, Robert Pierdzioch, Boo Pinson, Patricia Porter, Nicholas Pratt, Buzz Puschnig, Cynthia Ransil, Jacqueline Raynes, Rik Raynes, Keith Ressler, Jeff Rokosz, James Sambrano, Jim Sanchez, Avry Sieh, Nima Sherpa, Joseph Shroba, Zach Smith, Anthony Sorto, Seth Stepleton, Drew Stivers, Charles Trainer, Jennifer Trujillo, Karen Ulvang, Chris Vandewalle, Lauren Vandewalle, Adam Van Fleet, Lauri Weaver, Jerry Wetzler, Jason Williams, Jesse Wilson, Melanie Wolfe, Brian Zentmire.

Retired Union Members

GOLD CARD/LIFETIME MEMBERS

Paul Kipping (67 years); Roger Cogburn (61 years); Raymond Neel (58 years). 52 years: John Edwards, John Gallegos, Melvin Hartung, William Hergenreter, Grover Hill, Bobby Kimberling, William Mares, Thomas Meek, Jerome Nycz and Donald Schelly.

Diane Adams, Jim Allen, Rick Atkinson, Michael Bezenar, Don Brown, Mike Casey, Paul Couperus, Dennis Custer, Karen Czarnecki-Kelly, Rita DeWitt, John Franz, Steve Graham, David Ham, Stephen Hill, Gerald Hoffman, Thomas Hunsader, Lili Jacobs, Cynthia Kestrel, Dennis Ketterling, Bob Lauer, Alex McEwan, Laurie Meek, Ceci Morgan, Michelle Nickolson, Nancy Olsen, Mark Orlowski, Donald Reinholz, Tommy Robinson, Paul Roggy, Leonard Russ, Anita Smith, Jack Spies, Ron Sundsted, Judy Sweek, Bob Vise, Melissa Whitehouse, 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, David Breault, Lyn Brown, Caren Campbell, Nancy Fitzgerald, Jerry Gaudot, Dusty Koenig, Josh Mayes, Anna Null, Scott Roth, Patricia Schneidmiller, Richard Spring, Suzanne Wadsworth, Donna Wagner, Jeff Wallace.



LCPF contributors

Rick Atkinson, Dennis Custer, Danielle Fake-Moorman, Virginia Greene, Jenilee Jackson, Kristin Joachim, Dennis Ketterling, Jim Kunze, Stephanie LaFave-Kiel, Fred Mendez, Michael Middleton, Gus Pasillas, Boo Pinson, Keith Ressler, Jeff Rokosz, Leonard Russ, Joseph Shroba, Judy Sweek, Karen Ulvang.

Why join the Letter Carrier Political Fund?

The Letter Carrier Political Fund identifies and contributes to candidates who support issues important to letter carriers.

- Joining the Political Fund provides letter carriers with the opportunity to build electoral and legislative power required to ensure decisions that impact their lives are made with their best interests in mind.
- Only NALC members can contribute to the Political Fund.
- Union dues are not used, and cannot be used, for political contributions.
- Political fund contributions are *voluntary* and can stop at any time. There is no open season.
- We encourage Political Fund members to make suggestions for political contributions and to attend local fundraisers.
- Political Fund members are encouraged to attend local events for members locally who support letter carrier legislative priorities.

How do I become a member and/or contribute?

The easiest way to become a member of the Letter Carrier Political Fund is to contribute through automatic payroll deduction. Contact your branch leaders with questions about how you can contribute.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A heartfelt thank you to our Military Veterans

Thank you to all Veterans and Active Military members for your service and the sacrifice you and your families have made. Many of our local members are Military Veterans and a few are still active members of the military. You all represented the United States and us when you volunteered for the armed services, and a thank you does not seem sufficient enough to show my appreciation.



Danielle Fake-Moorman

We are going into the holiday season, and for the first time in my career we are just about

fully staffed. We have had a lot of CCAs hired on during the past year and quite a few transfers in. Welcome to all of you! We also have had quite a few retire and transfer out, and that will soon result in quite a few conversions. We just have to wait for the routes to go up for bid and see which go unbid. Congrats to our latest retirees!

We held nominations at the October meeting for State and National Convention Delegates. We had quite a few nominations, and elections will be held at our November meeting for State Convention Delegates and National Convention Delegates, and to determine who the alternates for each convention will be.

December Exclusion Period: The Penalty Overtime Exclusion period for calendar year 2021 as referenced in Article 8 will begin Pay Period 26-21 Week 1 (December 4) and end Pay Period 01-22-Week 2 (December 31).

The process for Annual Leave bidding in both offices began Nov. 1. Jenilee and Stephanie are getting that done for the main office, and Gus and Danielle J are handling Old Town Station. I will help as needed. We had a few changes to our LMOU Annual Leave bidding after negotiations this year, and those changes should benefit all carriers. The Annual Leave Calendar committee came up with



Military Veterans at Old Town Station got together for a photo last week. Standing, from left, are Travis Brooks, Gordon Emslie, Kristian Culver, Todd Perkuhn, Gus Pasillas, Steve Artlip and Kyle Kirkley. Bottom row are Martin De Los Santos and James Sanchez.

the summary sheet thanks to Jenilee, and we hope this helps summarize and further explain our bidding process for all, but especially our newer carriers. I know it can be a little confusing. If you need further explanation, there is a copy of the LMOU for the Fort Collins Installation in every route book at every case. It also can be found on our website. But if you do have questions, please feel free to request steward time and ask one of us.

Most of the grievances we have had locally are a result of leave and pay issues. We have had many grievances due to management not complying with prior grievance resolutions. In one meeting they agree to a resolution and then never follow up with it, whether it is to issue a payment or to do a specific action. This results in more grievances because supervisors won't do what they agreed to the first time. There still are clock ring changes occurring by management without the proper documentation. Stay diligent about checking your hours and time on the virtual timecard. If you see a discrepancy, please bring it to a union steward immediately. In most cases, a simple fix can be done by notifying management.

However, if there is a bigger issue and management fails to correct it, please let us know. We want to ensure clock rings are complete and done properly to ensure the correct assignment to the right route. If a route doesn't get moved to properly it can mess up our route adjustment process if and when we have one.

I thank you all for your continued support and am proud to be a member and the president of our branch here in Fort Collins and to have served you all for almost 14 years. I also have taken on the role of Colorado State President and am enjoying utilizing the information I learn there within our branch. I would be remiss if I didn't thank each and every one of you for your membership, assistance, friendship and comradery. Our branch is a family, and it is important to be understanding and support one another. A special thanks to the many members who have stepped forward in some capacity to aid your fellow members in some form; Steward, Safety, Leave Calendar, Alternate Steward, Officer and Newsletter Editor.

We couldn't do what we do as a branch and be as successful without all of you. I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season. Make it a great one.

**In Unity
Danielle Fake-Moorman**

REGIONAL RAP SESSION/OWCP

If you think you caught Covid on the job, file a claim

I want to thank the union for sending me to the Regional Rap Session in September. I spent two-and-a-half days learning updates on things that affect our jobs and attended as many classes as I could, ranging from Legislation, OWCP, CCAs and more.

We were fortunate to have a session with National President Fredric V. Rolando. Fred updated us on what the national officers are doing to improve our jobs. They are working with the Postmaster General on a plan for the future of the post office. There are many things happening in Congress that can and will affect our jobs. To stay on top of the changing issues, you can find the most current information at NALC.org.

Fred touched on the staffing problems that many branches are experiencing. We are in better shape than many other branches. In our region, both Denver and Phoenix are having trouble hiring and keeping CCAs. National is working with the post office to help the areas that are having trouble hiring.

I attended an Office of Workers Compensation Programs (OWCP) basic and advanced workshop. I am working on learning as much as I can to help the carriers in our branch. If you had Covid-19 and think you contracted it at work, you need to do a workman's comp on it. It was brought up at the training that we need to file the workman's comp as we have no idea how Covid-19 will affect us in the long run. If you don't have a claim and something in the future causes problems due to Covid-19, you may not be able to get your expenses paid. I was also given information to help with filling out the paperwork and how to make sure that you get your medical bills paid. If your claim is denied, there are ways to fix it. When filing a claim, you need to be as detailed as possible and report the incident asap.

Health Benefit training: On Sept. 26, I did a virtual training on a basic understanding of the NALC Health Plan. That was followed by a more detailed two-day training Oct. 17-18 that covered several of the great programs that are available to you through their plan. One of the new programs for 2022 is Musculoskeletal through Hinge Health. This will help with the joint pain

Federal Employees Health Benefits Open Season

Active career only / 2022 Biweekly Rates				
NALC Union Plan	High Option	Increase amount	NALC CDHP	Increase amount
Self	\$98.28	+\$6.81	\$54.64	\$2.19
Self +1	\$234.35	+\$14.90	\$120.54	\$0
Family	\$202.02	+\$11.14	\$128.18	\$1.27
NOTE: NALC ONLY.....Family is Cheaper than self + 1				
Blue Cross Blue Shield	High Option	Increase amount	Basic Option	Increase amount
Self	\$127.47	+\$7.38	\$80.18	+\$4.72
Self +1	\$289.61	+\$15.99	\$196.13	+\$14.15
Family	\$314.11	+\$21.80	\$212.29	+\$18.83



To learn about the different benefits with the different health plans visit [https:// opm.gov/healthcare-insurance](https://opm.gov/healthcare-insurance)

To learn about Dental and Vision coverage available go to <https://benefeds.com>

For changes to your health insurance employee should call HRSSC 1-877-477-3273

or Go to <https://liteblue.usps.gov> and go through the "Postal Ease" portal

OPEN SEASON FOR CHANGES IN HEALTH BENEFITS FOR 2022
NOVEMBER 08 – DECEMBER 13, 2021



we get from our everyday work. Other wellness programs under the high option plan include: Healthy Rewards, Specialty Connect, Solutions for Caregivers, Substance Use Disorder program, Weight Management and Preventive Care. There are many benefits available, and you can find these on the health benefit website.

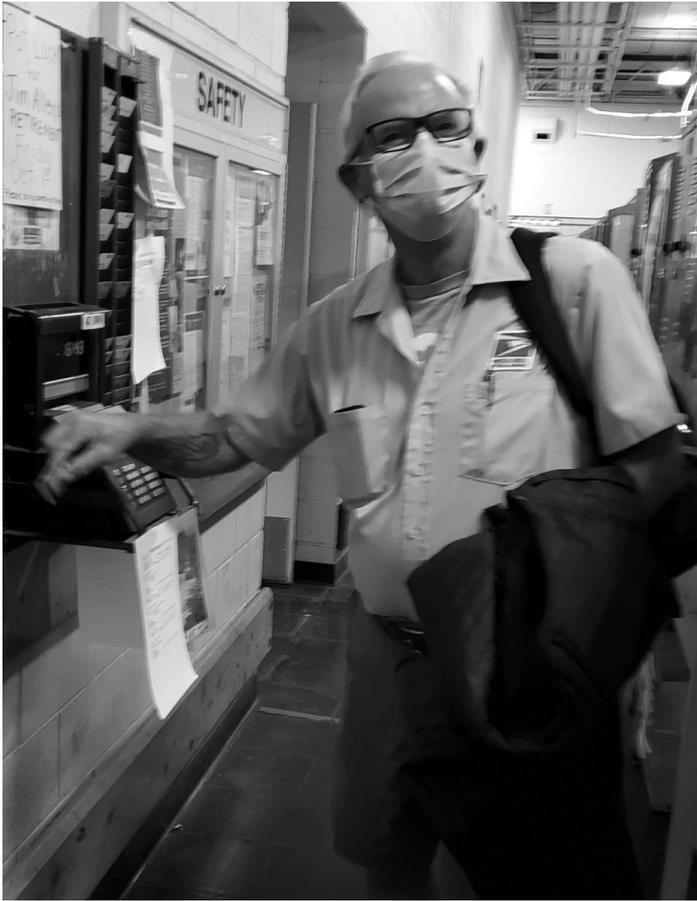
There is a new member portal and mobile app that gives the ability to search by claim number, payee and provider. There also is a Telehealth Virtual Visits that cost only \$10 and

can be used anywhere, even when you're away from home. It cost less than an urgent care visit, and the wait time is running around 10 minutes. The Wellness Incentive program rewards you for reaching your health and wellness goals. You can earn valuable health savings to use toward eligible medical expenses.

If you have questions, call or text me (970) 222-4025. Open season is November 8 to December 13.

Virginia Greene

Last punch



Jim Allen, left, and Paul Couperus retired in October. Jim retired at the top of the seniority list with 41 years of service for the post office and 45 years of government service, counting his time in the military. Paulie worked for 35 years, in Golden and at both Main and Old Town in Fort Collins. His father was a letter carrier for more than 30 years in Denver. He will always be remembered for his endless string of one-liners, including “Faster!” “Can I go home now?” and “Welcome to the Post Office!” Both have held positions in the union at various times, and they will be missed by their customers and their co-workers.



Jim Allen was given a big sendoff by customers in one neighborhood on his route during his last day delivering mail.



Carriers at Old Town Station, above, and the Main office, below, got into the Halloween spirit by dressing for the occasion.

Annual Leave bidding runs through Nov. 23

It's that time of year again for Annual Leave bidding! Round 1 bids for 2022 were due Nov. 1, Round 2 was due on Nov. 8, and Incidental will be due between 7:15 a.m. (one hour before the station start time) and noon on Nov. 23.

One major change that was negotiated into our Local Memorandum of Understanding this year was that CCAs no longer have to wait until after the incidental round to bid. They are now included in our first round.

During the first and second rounds, we are allowed a higher percentage of carriers to be granted Annual Leave during a week. If that leave time is later cancelled, then that spot still remains open, with the higher

percentage granted for that week. Ideally, we would have been able to negotiate a higher percentage of carriers to be allowed overall, but this was a sort of compromise that could allow the first and second round percentages to be applied to more weeks throughout the year.

Remember that incidental leave is granted on a first-come, first-serve basis on Nov. 23, so make sure you get your bids in early that day! Hopefully the rest of the bidding season goes smoothly, and know that Danielle Jackson and I are both working hard to get the finalized calendars posted as soon as possible.

Here's to a great end of 2021!

Jenilee Jackson



Branch 849 Veterans

Answers from Page 1



**Robert Abbott
Brian Abell
James Allen
Gregory Barrow
William Bond**



**Michael Casey
Martin De Los Santos
John Edwards
Gordon Emslie
William Hergenreter
Paul Kipping
Kyle Kirkley
Brian Koval
Kimberly McTernan
Tom Meek
Fred Mendez, Jr.
Michael Middleton
Gus Pasillas
Todd Perkuhn
Paul Roggy
Ronald Sundsted
Jason Williams
Gary Winkler**

**Aaron Arns
Dennis Custer
Gary Fink
Steven Graham
Melvin Hartung
Rex Paul
Keith Ressler**



**Michael Bezenar
Leonard Russ
Robert Vise**



**Steven Artlip
Travis Brooks
Gerald Hoffman
William Mares
Ray Neel
James Sanchez
National Guard
Angel Diaz Santana**



James Sanchez	Fred Mendez, Jr.	Kimberly McTernan	Martin De Los Santos	Todd Perkuhn
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

James Allen

Robert Abbott	Tom Meek	Gregory Barrow	Brian Koval	Brian Abell
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Rex Paul	Steven Artlip	Gary Fink	Kyle Kirkley	Gordon Emslie
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COSALC scholarship deadline Feb. 22

The deadline to apply for Colorado State Association of Letter Carriers Scholarships is Feb. 20, 2022.

The COSALC Scholarship Application and requirements can be downloaded on the website, www.cosalc.org/cosalc-scholarship/

For more information, contact COSALC Scholarship Chair Evelyn Pisani at (303) 902-4735 or email evelynpisani@cosalc.org

There also are National Association of Letter Carriers Scholarships available. For more information, search Scholarships at the nalc.org website.



With Veteran's Day being celebrated this month, we thought we would remind all members about the importance of the Wounded Warrior Leave so they can share it with their fellow members and veterans.

This information was collected out of the Letter Carrier Resource Guide that can be located and downloaded on www.nalc.org. You may also contact NALC Headquarters, and they will mail a hard copy to your address on file by calling (202) 393-4695.

If you want to find out more information on the NALC Veteran's Group, please go to the NALC Community Services webpage, www.nalc.org/community-service/nalc-veterans

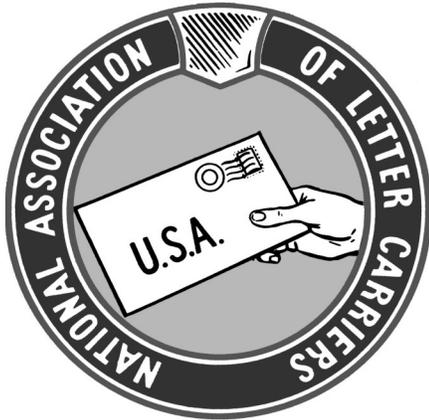
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FORT COLLINS, CO 80522**

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**SECOND-PLACE AWARD
General Excellence
Small Branch Publication
2020 NALC Convention**

Address Service Requested

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



NALC BRANCH 849 HOLIDAY PARTY

4:30-7:30 p.m., December 12, Fort Collins Senior Center

Sign-up Sheet is located on the Union Office Doors.
Please rsvp by Dec. 5 or email dya25@comcast.net

- White Elephant Gift Exchange (bring a gift; one per group). Kids under 18 can participate in a separate Gift Exchange if they would like to bring a separate gift of their own. Reminder: Kids will be in their own gift exchange
- Raffle Prizes for Members. Must be present to win; Gifts for kids under the age of 18.
- MDA Raffle – 2 game systems, Visa gift cards and other prizes. If you can't make it to the party, you can buy tickets and specify where you want your tickets to go for the larger prizes. \$5 each ticket or \$20 for 5 tickets.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS BRANCH 849

Branch 849 Officers

Officers' 2-year terms run through Dec. 31, 2022

President Danielle Fake-Moorman
 Vice-President, Sergeant at Arms and Health Benefits Rep Stephanie LaFave-Kiel
 Treasurer Virginia Greene
 Secretary Karen Ulvang
 Trustees Jim Kunze, Fred Mendez Jr., Boo Pinson

Stewards

Danielle Fake-Moorman Chief Steward, Formal A Rep, installation, Informal A Rep, OTS (970) 217-7384, dya25@comcast.net
Stephanie LaFave-Kiel Informal A Rep, Main Office. (970) 970-800-1471, eldercares@hotmail.com
Jenilee Jackson Informal A rep, Main Office. (970) 405-1159, jenelsbernd@gmail.com
Gus Pasillas Informal A rep, Old Town, (706) 575-8007 gus.pasillas@gmail.com
Virginia Greene OWCP Representative, Main and Old Town. (970) 222-4025, lagmom@msn.com

Alternates: Main Post Office: Lauren Vande Walle
Old Town: Jeff Rokosz, Gordon Emslie, Danielle Jackson

State Convention Delegates: Danielle Fake-Moorman, Stephanie LaFave-Kiel, Virginia Greene, Jenilee Jackson, Jim Kunze, Fred Mendez, Gus Pasillas, Boo Pinson.
Alternate: Judy Sweek.

Food Drive Coordinator

Vacant

Safety captains

Main Post Office: Stephanie LaFave-Kiel
Old Town: Danielle Jackson

Health Benefits rep

Virginia Greene
 (970) 222-4025, lagmom@msn.com

MDA coordinator

Virginia Greene
 (970) 222-4025, lagmom@msn.com

Director of retirees

Joseph Shroba
 (970) 214-2075, jolietjs@gmail.com

LCPF coordinator

Karen Ulvang
 (970) 290-8400 ulvangkaren@gmail.com

Customer Connect coordinator

Main: Lauri Weaver **Old Town:** Gus Pasillas

Branch Meetings are at 6:30 p.m. the 2nd Tuesday of every month, except Tuesdays following a holiday (it is then moved to the 3rd Tuesday) at the Fort Collins Senior Center, 1200 Raintree Drive. Dinner served free of charge. All members present are entered in a drawing for a \$25 gift card!