

849 EXPRESS

National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 849 ♦ Fort Collins, Colorado ♦ Volume 15, Issue 2 ♦ May 2019

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS Stamp Out Hunger FOOD DRIVE

Mark Hoffman unloads his van May 11 after a day of delivering mail and collecting donations from customers during the 27th Annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. Early estimates from the Food Bank for Larimer county show nearly 30,000 pounds of food collected locally.



Union strong for 65 years



Paul Kipping, 98, was awarded a pin recognizing his 65 years as a member of the NALC. For more about Kipping, turn to Page 3.

50-year Gold Card Club welcomes 10 new members

Welcome to the Gold Card Club! NALC members who have completed 50 years of membership in NALC are awarded a Life Membership Gold Card that entitles them to all privileges of membership in NALC without payment of dues.

Our director of retirees has kept up with ensuring our longtime members receive the Gold Card and pin sent from the National office. We had intended to do a special dinner recognizing all of our retirees and honoring our 50-year Gold Card members. However most do not live locally and we did not get the response needed to make that happen. We did put together something nice to honor the 50-year Gold Card members and



have made the trip out to some of the people who are close to present them.

Congratulations to John D. Edwards, John F. Gallegos, Melvin G. Hartung, William J. Hergenreter, Grover C. Hill, Bobby L. Kimberling, William Mares, Thomas H. Meek, Jerome Nycz and Donald E. Schelly. Thank you for your years of support. We hope retirement has treated you well.

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Active Union Members

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

Robert Abbott, Brian Abell, Jim Allen, Aaron Arns, Steven Artlip, Kelley Backes, Joshua Barlass, Carla Barnett, Gregory Barrow, Ayellana Benjamin, William Bond, Luke Borley, Lauren Bowyer, Sean Bowyer, Pamela Budkovich, Lois Buffington, Brian Buster, Zack Calder, Skylar Cantu, Kent Chao, Travis Cobb, Christopher Collins, Taryn Contento, Paul Couperus, Karen Czarnecki-Kelly, Rochelle Deckard, Claude Decrescenzo, Martin De Los Santos, Candace Dolph-Garcia, Jenilee Elsbernd, Gordon Emslie, Danielle Fake-Moorman, Gary Fink, Shannon Foley, Jason Garcia, Janae Gaudot, James Geary, Duane Gentz, Clay Gomez, Gabriel Gonzales, Virginia Greene, Kayte Hay, Mae Helms, Kathryn Hicklin, Karin Higgins, Gerald Hoffman, Mark Hoffman, Jose Ibarra, Danielle Jackson, Lili Jacobs, Kristin Joachim, Mike Jones, Dennis Ketterling, Brian Koval, James Kunze, Stephanie Lafave-Kiel, Kimberly Laughren, Eric Ligothke, David Livingston, Brianne Macintyre, Dany Mam, Paul Markley, Clint Massey, Edwin May, Kevin McDaniel, Alex McEwan, Fred Mendez Jr., Bryce Miller, Jonathon Millward, Tara Millward, Barbara Olarnik, Gus Pasillas, Rex Paul, Todd Perkuhn, Robert Pierdzioch, Boo Pinson, Patricia Porter, Nicholas Pratt, Buzz Puschig, Cynthia Ransil, Jacqueline Raynes, Rik Raynes, Donald Reinholz, Jeff Rokosz, James Sambrano, Jim Sanchez, Nima Sherpa, Joseph Shroba, Kent Simpson Zach Smith, Drew Stivers, Matt Sukiennik, Scott Summerhays, Gina Sweeney, Charles Trainer, Karen Ulvang, Chris Vandewalle, Lauren Vandewalle, Lauri Weaver, Jerry Wetzler, Melissa Whitehouse, Jason Williams, Jesse Wilson, Frederick Yates, Brian Zentmire.

Retired Union Members

GOLD CARD/LIFETIME MEMBERS

Paul Kipping (65 years); Roger Cogburn (59 years); Raymond Neel (56 years); Wally Liggett (54 years). 50 years: John Edwards, John Gallegos, Melvin Hartung, William Hergenreter, Grover Hill, Bobby Kimberling, William Mares, Thomas Meek, Jerome Nycz and Donald Schelly.

Diane Adams, Rick Atkinson, Michael Bezenar, Don Brown, Mike Casey, Dennis Custer, Rita DeWitt, John Edwards, John Franz, Steve Graham, David Ham, Stephen Hill, Thomas Hunsader, Cynthia Kestrel, Bob Lauer, Laurie Meek, Ceci Morgan, Michelle Nickolson, Nancy Olsen, Mark Orłowski, Tommy Robinson, Paul Roggy, Leonard Russ, 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, John Adams, Dean Biggs, David Breault, Lyn Brown, Wayne Brown, Caren Campbell, Nancy Fitzgerald, Jerry Gaudot, Dusty Koenig, Josh Mayes, Anna Null, Scott Roth, Patricia Schneidmiller, Richard Spring, Garrett Stone, Suzanne Wadsworth, Donna Wagner, Jeff Wallace



Bowlathon brings in \$920

The MDA Bowlathon March 31 at Chipper's Lanes raised \$920 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Freddie Mendez rolled a 242 game right out of the gate to lead all bowlers.

Calendar

- May 27** — Memorial Day
- June 11** — Branch 849 regular meeting
- June 15** — Fundraiser for Candace Dolph-Garcia
- July 4** — Independence Day
- July 9** — Branch 849 regular meeting

Stay informed online

In order for you to keep up to date on the latest news concerning our jobs log on to these sites:

- www.nalcbranch849.org;
- Postalreporter.com
- NALC.org
- UnionPlus.org — Union Members benefits
- liteblue.usps.gov — all of your HR info and discounts for postal employees

Get the app: The NALC app is available on Apple and Android phones. It contains links to workplace resources, including the National Agreement, the JCAM, the MRS, CCA resources and more.

RETIREE REPORT

Branch honors 65-year member, WWII Veteran

One of the first things Paul Kipping did when he began his career as a letter carrier in 1954 was join the union.

"I joined right away," the 98-year-old Kipping said. "The president of the union was my buddy. I went to a lot of meetings."

That was 65 years ago. Last week, NALC Branch 849 honored its longest-standing member with a pin commemorating his support and membership.

There was just one Post Office in Fort Collins when Kipping carried mail. It was at 201 S. College Ave., and now houses the Museum of Art. Old Town Station was years from being built. Old Town, as we know it today, didn't even exist.

"We had wool uniforms and I started out walking a route. My first route started just across from the Armstrong Hotel. The Post Office was a block away.

"Later, I would catch the trolley car on Pitkin Street and back up to the Post Office. As long as you had a bag, it didn't cost us anything to ride it."



Paul Kipping, displaying some of his service awards from his postal career.

Kipping is a Veteran of World War II, having served from 1941 to 1945 in the National Guard and in a field artillery unit during the New Guinea Campaign that lasted from 1942 to the war's end in 1945.

"I was in from Sept. 16, 1941 to Aug. 19, 1945. In March and April of '42, I spent 31 days on a ship to Melbourne, Australia. We spent six months in Australia, then we went to the islands to fight."

"I never shot my gun. But I saw a guy get shot in the head. It was awful. But,

he was the enemy. He was coming in at night, stealing our rations."

It was never reported – until now – that Kipping once saved a child's life while delivering mail.

"The last five years I drove a jeep from the River Bridge on North College to the area by the country club. There was a trailer park on North College. At the time they called it North College Plaza. I was in a building putting mail in boxes. Someone came over and said, 'there's a little girl in a car, and the car is going in circles.' The mother had left the car running and the girl was hanging on to that steering wheel. It just went round and round in tight circles. If she would have let go, that car would have crashed into one of the trailers. I went out there and grabbed onto the doorknob and shut the key off.

"Nobody ever said a word about it. I just went back to my business and never reported it. I guess if I would have, I would have gotten some kind of recognition for it."

Joseph Shroba
849 Express Editor

Privatization and what it would mean for you and me

Hello everyone, I hope you are all doing well as this newsletter reaches you. Today I would like to speak about what privatization of the United States Postal Service is and means to each of us as well as for the customers we serve. This has been a hot issue of late and many of the questions I answer in my own branch concern privatization and what the impact would be to each employee. I answer by stating that the National Association of Letter Carriers does not endorse attempts to privatize the Postal Service for many reasons. Privatization has in some instances provided services to the public; however, in the long run what we are seeing as a nation is that privatization tends to benefit private entities over the public. Many services are slashed, and quality of services falls dramatically so that private owners can profit.

Privatization of mail services in other countries are a good place to look if you would like to see the effect of privatization. The privatization of mail services throughout Europe shows a drop-in employment, services and service quality while prices increase across the board. In Germany, the privatization of that country's postal services created 16,000 jobs, which sound pretty good until you consider it also cut 38,000 jobs for the Deutsche Post, which is the German Postal Service. The lowering of the number of Postal Service jobs is a trend also seen in the UK, Belgium and France. The outcome of this trend is the inevitable reduction in postal

retail hours, mail delivery and wages, which have dropped by as much as 30 percent in Europe. This ultimately affects all customers and businesses that rely on postal services. How many of us live in rural areas, which would most certainly be affected with privatization?

Now, privatization of the United States Postal Service is a very real issue that the National Association of Letter Carriers is currently fighting. The best defense is education and, more importantly, involvement. My favorite tool to keep myself informed on these current events in the free NALC app, which can be downloaded to any smartphone. Here you can track current bills that have been or are being introduced that would affect our jobs and working conditions. There are two bills, House Resolutions 99 and 33, that address the suggested restructuring and eventual privatization of the United States Postal Service. The NALC endorses both of these bills, which "express that Congress should take all appropriate measures to ensure that the United States Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the Federal Government and is not subject to privatization."

Remember that everyone can make a difference. Even if you cannot physically participate, you can donate to the Letter Carrier Political Fund and/or call your representatives.

Stephanie LaFave-Kiel
Branch 849 Vice President

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF LETTER CARRIERS
**Stamp
Out
Hunger**
FOOD DRIVE

Customers responded and carriers delivered during the 27th Annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive on May 11. Early estimates from the Food Bank for Larimer county show nearly 30,000 pounds of food collected locally, with donations still rolling in.





Some individuals request dog food for their pets (we volunteered at the Weld Food Bank). Thanks to the National Association of Letter Carriers for what you are doing for our neighbors less fortunate.

5-11-19
Letter Carriers!
Thanks for helping with the Food Drive!



President's report

Continued from Page 1

The Food Drive is a great way for us as Letter Carriers to give back to our community. We are the face of the Postal Service in the community. Thank you to everyone who participated and went the extra mile to pick up food for those in need. Those we help are forever grateful. They didn't expect to not be able to afford food. It could happen to any of us.

We need some positions filled within the branch. Most of these positions are being done by the same few people. When you have too much piled on your plate, there are inevitably things that don't get done or aren't done as well as if one person was doing just one of these. They aren't difficult positions, and they do not take up a lot of your time.

- We have the customer connect spot open at Old Town Station. (All of this work is done on the clock)
- We have the Food Drive Coordinators spot open at Old Town Station and the Main Office. (95 percent of this work is done on the clock.)
- We have the LCPF (Letter Carrier Political Fund) Coordinator spot open for both Old Town and Main. (This work is done mostly at meetings/after hours and involves contacting/signing up those not contributing.)
- Safety Captain at the Main Office. (All of this work is done on the clock.)
- MDA Coordinator. (Most of this is done off the clock – planning events to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.) Gerry Hoffman is retiring soon, and we need to fill this spot.
- Informal A Stewards at both Old Town Station and the Main Office. (We can take 2-3 more stewards. Most of the work is done on the clock; however, there are trainings required to improve your skills.)

Thank you to all who are contributing to make our branch more effective and benefit our members and all of our jobs.

Thanks to everyone who came out to the MDA Bowlathon on March 17. We had a good turnout, and raised \$920 for MDA. If you couldn't make it but would like to donate, it is never too late. We try to hold quarterly events to raise money for MDA. Get the money to Gerry Hoffman or me, and we can ensure it gets to MDA on behalf of our branch. Your donation stays in Colorado and its tax deductible.

We will be voting on a few bylaw changes at the June 11 meeting. Please see the proposed changes on Page 7 that the executive board has presented for members to vote on. We are trying to streamline some issues that have been brought up regarding reimbursement for conventions. The intent is to make it clear so everyone knows what is and isn't reimbursed by the branch prior to those costs being incurred. We also want to put the main focus on training for our active members representing our membership. Knowing how to do our jobs as officers and stewards is very important to the success of our branch. Please feel free to ask questions if you



William Hergenreter, right, is presented with his NALC 50-year Gold Card, pin and framed certificate by Branch 849 Director of Retirees Joseph Shroba. Others honored were John Edwards, John Gallegos, Melvin Hartung, Grover Hill, Bobby Kimberling, William Mares, Thomas Meek, Jerome Nycz and Donald Schelly.

don't understand something being proposed.

■ **WE NEED A NEW MEETING LOCATION.** Starting in 2020, we will need a new location for our monthly union meetings. If anyone has any ideas or thoughts, please let me know. The church we have used for years has been great, and only takes a small donation every year for us to utilize. A few thoughts that have been thrown around are a restaurant that has a meeting room we can use, and just pay for food. If you know of any, please let me know. We also will check with the Fort Collins Senior Center on the price of renting a room.

Management has been issuing a lot of discipline lately. Attendance is the current focus. Please make sure that if you are issued discipline, give it to a steward ASAP. We have only 14 days to file a grievance from the day you receive it.

With summer right around the corner, please make sure you take care of yourself and stay hydrated. Only you know what it takes to keep yourself safe. Some need to drink every hour, some can drink only water, some need a sports drink such as Gatorade periodically, and others need to get inside where it's cool. Some of us need all of the above. Don't take your safety for granted, and don't let anyone push you to be unsafe just to make the numbers and get back fast.

**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.

By-law changes up for vote at June 11 meeting

By-laws of branches may be amended at any regular meeting of the branch, provided the amendment has been submitted in writing at the last previous regular branch meeting, and suitable notification to members shall be made at least ten (10) days before the regular meeting at which the vote is to be taken. A two-thirds vote of the membership present is necessary to approve any change in the By-laws of Branch 849. By-laws

must be submitted in duplicate to the Chairman of the Committee of Laws and shall not become effective until approved by the Committee of Laws, as provided in the Constitution; except for by-laws fixing the amount of initiation fees, dues, and reinstatement fees, or the time and place of meetings, which shall become effective at the time determined by the Branch.

ARTICLE V

Current Language:

Section 2.

Branch 849 will pay reasonable, documented expenses for eligible delegates to the NALC National Convention, not to exceed 1/7 (or fraction found by dividing the number of delegates attending) of the available funds in the special account per delegate. Expenses may include travel and lodging.

Proposed Language:

Section 2.

Branch 849 will pay reasonable, documented expenses for eligible delegates to the NALC National Convention, not to exceed **the fraction (found by dividing the number of delegates attending by the number of delegates allowed)** of the available funds in the special account per delegate. Expenses may include travel and lodging. **Travel and lodging expenses to be paid to eligible delegates to the National Convention will not exceed the day prior to the convention opening through the day after the National Convention concludes. (ex: Sunday-Saturday if National Convention runs Monday-Friday)**

To be eligible to receive funds available you must meet the following criteria:

a. Delegates shall be expected to be in attendance at all business sessions of the national convention in order to be reimbursed.

b. Delegates shall be expected to attend a minimum of 4 trainings (before/after business session) at the national convention in order to be reimbursed.

ARTICLE V

Current Language:

Section 3.

Branch 849 will pay reasonable, documented expenses for eligible delegates to the Colorado State Convention, not to exceed 1/7 (or fractions found by dividing the number of delegates attending) of the approved budgeted amount. Expenses may include travel and lodging.

Proposed Language:

Branch 849 will pay reasonable, documented expenses for eligible delegates to the Color-

do State Convention, not to exceed **the fraction (found by dividing the number of delegates attending by the number of delegates allowed)** of the available funds in the special account per delegate. Expenses may include travel and lodging.

To be eligible to receive funds available you must meet the following criteria:
a. Delegates shall be expected to be in attendance at all business sessions of the state convention in order to be reimbursed.

ARTICLE V

Current Language:

Section 7.

The Board of Trustees shall submit for review a budget for the coming calendar year. Submission will be at the October meeting each year.

Proposed Language:

The Board of Trustees shall submit for review a budget for the coming calendar year. Submission will be at the October meeting each year. **The Budget shall be posted in each station on the NALC Bulletin Board between the October and November meeting, and voting to approve the budget shall be at the November meeting each year.**

ARTICLE V

Current Language:

Section 13.

Officers holding elected positions and Stewards using Leave without Pay (LWOP) while on Union Business are entitled to reimbursement as follows for a maximum of five (5) days per calendar year. Reimbursement will be at the current rate earned by the individual at the time of the LWOP usage. Reimbursement will require a copy of both the approved 3971 and the appropriate pay stub showing LWOP used. These five (5) days of LWOP may not be used for State or National Convention.

Proposed Language:

Section 13.

Officers holding elected positions and Stewards using Leave while on Union Business are entitled to reimbursement as follows for a maximum of five (5) **days/40 hours per**

calendar year. Reimbursement will be at the current rate earned by the individual at the time of the **Leave** usage. Reimbursement will require a copy of the approved 3971, and copy of paystub showing current pay rate. These five (5) days of **Leave** may not be used for State or National Convention.

ARTICLE V

Current Language:

Section 14.

Elected delegates to the State Convention shall be entitled to reimbursement for a maximum of one (1) days of LWOP, and elected delegates to the National Convention shall be entitled to reimbursement for a maximum of three (3) days of LWOP while attending the Convention (s). Reimbursement will be at the current rate earned by the delegate at the time of LWOP usage. Reimbursement will require a copy of both the approved 3971 and the appropriate pay stub showing LWOP used.

Proposed Language:

Elected delegates to the State Convention shall be entitled to reimbursement for a maximum of one (1) day of **Leave**, and elected delegates to the National Convention shall be entitled to reimbursement for a maximum of three (3) days of **Leave** while attending the **National** Convention (s). **In the odd years when there is no National Convention, the designee(s) attending the National Rap Session shall be entitled to reimbursement for a maximum of three (3) days of Leave while attending the National Rap Session.** Reimbursement will be at the current rate earned by the delegate/designee at the time of **Leave** usage. Reimbursement will require a copy of the approved 3971 and copy of paystub showing current pay rate.

ARTICLE V

Current Language:

Section 15.

The Treasurer of Branch 849 will be advanced the sum of \$200.00 to be placed in the Petty Cash box and used for approved Branch expenditures.

Proposed Language:

Remove (Renumber sections 16/17 to 15/16)

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF LETTER CARRIERS
BRANCH 849**

**849 EXPRESS
PO BOX 849
FORT COLLINS, CO 80522**

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

Address Service Requested



Benefit for Candie Dolph-Garcia

**7 p.m. June 15
Meadowlark Church of Christ
2810 Meadowlark Ave.**

Candie lost her husband Robert suddenly on April 8. Come help support a wonderful lady who is going through a very hard time. There will be a spaghetti or pulled pork dinner, a bake sale and silent auctions until 8:30 p.m. Asking for a donation of \$5 or more for the food. Contact: Virginia Greene, (970) 222-4025. Hope to see you there.

Branch 849 Officers

Officers' 2-year terms run through Dec. 31, 2020

President Danielle Fake-Moorman
Vice-President, Sergeant at Arms and Health Benefits Rep Stephanie LaFave-Kiel
Treasurer Virginia Greene
Secretary Brian Buster
Trustees Paul Couperus, Jim Kunze, Fred Mendez Jr.

Stewards

Danielle Fake-Moorman Chief Steward, Formal A Rep, Informal A, both offices. (970) 217-7384, dya25@comcast.net

Stephanie LaFave-Kiel Informal A rep, Main Office. (970) 800-1471, eldercares@hotmail.com

Virginia Greene OWCP Specialist, Main and Old Town. (970) 222-4025, lagmom@msn.com

Alternates

Main Post Office:
Fred Mendez Jr.,
Lauren Vande
Walle

Old Town

Station: Brian
Buster, Jeff Rokosz,

Safety captains

Main Post Office:
Duane Gentz
(co-chair), Stephanie
LaFave-Kiel

Old Town:
Tara Millward

Health Benefits representative

Stephanie LaFave-Kiel
(970) 222-4025, eldercares@hotmail.com

Customer Connect coordinators

Main: Boo Pinson
Old Town: vacant

MDA coordinator

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

Director of retirees

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

Branch Meetings are at 6 p.m. the 2nd Tuesday of every month, except Tuesdays following a holiday (it is then 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!