



The Centennial Sentinel March 2023

Sisters & Brothers of the COSALC,

We hope that you enjoyed the first edition of the Centennial Sentinel in February and were able to gain some information from the publication. As stated, we will be continuing this monthly on months that we don't have a COSALC newsletter until January 2024. Please reach out to us if you need assistance so we can help direct you to the office that can answer your questions.

We did receive a few email responses last month and there was a drawing as mentioned. The winner of the \$25 gift card was Gary Sandoval from Grand Junction – Branch 913. We will be having another drawing for those that respond to this issue.

Is an email worth it?

Here is our challenge to you once again. We would like some feedback from each and every one of you on this publication. All we are asking is an email sent to sentinel@cosalc.org with your name and branch number. Every member who sends us an email will be included in a drawing for a \$25 gift card for a store of your choice depending on where you are in Colorado. We will make contact with you to determine the choice of the gift card so that it can be redeemed.

Negotiations - full speed ahead!

The NALC started negotiations on February 22nd, 2023, for the national agreement with the USPS in Washington, DC. The April edition of the NALC Postal Record is full of important information on the negotiation process and what the NALC is looking for during the process. Please follow the updates at www.nalc.org.

COSALC State Convention

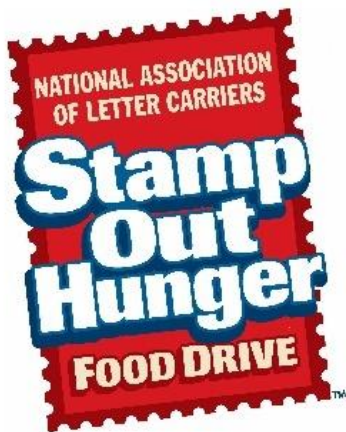
The COSALC holds an annual convention and this years convention is being sponsored by NALC Branch 47 (Denver) and will take place in Blackhawk, CO on April 19-20, 2023. Early registration will begin the night of April 18th and there will be elections and a dinner on the night of April 20th. If you are a delegate from your branch, please reach out to COSALC to inquire on what expenses will be covered for you to attend the convention by emailing sentinel@cosalc.org. We look forward to seeing you at the convention if you are a delegate for your branch.

Where to gain access to information

All contact information for COSALC Officers and Executive Board Members including emails & phone numbers can be found on the COSALC web site, www.cosalc.org. While the COSALC is here to assist any member throughout Colorado, we encourage grievance issues to be addressed by calling the NBA's office at 720-828-6840. You may also visit www.nalcregion4.org to get additional contact information and many great publications that local stewards and branch offices use daily. Click on the training and download tab to see what downloads are available as well as future training dates.

Coffee with COSALC

The COSALC started a new morning Zoom call in January 2023 called 'Coffee with COSALC'. We have had great success over the past couple of months with great questions during these calls. If you are interested in joining us, we conduct the calls in the morning between 7:00am – 8:00am. If you'd like to participate, please email coffee@cosalc.org and you will be added to the list to receive the link and additional updates that are distributed. We've already been addressed on the calls by Region 4 RAA John Robles on several different regional updates and hope to have national officers on future calls. This format is a great way for all of us to be involved from the comfort of our own homes while getting educated and staying updated on information.



PUT YOUR NON-PERISHABLE DONATION IN A BAG BY YOUR MAILBOX.
WE'LL DELIVER IT TO A LOCAL FOOD BANK.



LETTER CARRIERS' FOOD DRIVE

SECOND SATURDAY IN MAY

PUT YOUR NON-PERISHABLE DONATION IN A BAG BY YOUR MAILBOX.
WE'LL DELIVER IT TO A LOCAL FOOD BANK.

National Partners



Join the fight to Stamp Out Hunger!

Tips for a successful food drive:

- Have a station potluck or BBQ, ask carriers or supervisors to volunteer to run the grill! Pass a hat around the station for cash donations to fund the potluck or BBQ.
- Help pick-up food donations on overburdened routes, ask management to volunteer to help pickup food donations on routes.
- Ask family members to assist with sorting food items for the food banks and they can also help by picking up food donations on routes.
- Make this a positive community event and ask for volunteers from your routes.
- Put a food donation bin in the post office lobby.
- Hang food drive posters, banners, and flyers in the post office lobby and yard signs in drive up areas.
- Have a volunteer carrier coordinate the food drive at your station as a local contact with the food pantry collecting the donation for your station.
- Don't overload your satchel, try bringing food donations to the curb and go back with your vehicle to pick up donations rather than carrying with your satchel.
- Put tubs out at MCBU's with a food drive flyer on tubs, ask businesses and apartment managers to assist with food collections.

Delivering cards is not an option - they have paid G-10 postage provided by the Postal Service and our customer!

We need volunteers to help facilitate this year's food drive, you can help in many ways.

**For more information contact:
Letter Carrier Jeffrey Frey, 720-323-9015**

1970 A Strike Is Called

Frustrated Branch 36 members had already raised their voices protesting the federal government's indifference to their plight and their own union's ambivalence, and they became enraged in early February 1970, when Nixon deferred a wage increase scheduled for July 1st. But the spark that lit the fuse was the news that on March 12th, a House committee approved a bill reflecting the Nixon-Rademacher compromise.

What was the compromise?

In late 1969, Nixon invited NALC President Rademacher to meet privately with him to forge a settlement on postal pay and postal reform. The two men met in the White House on Dec. 18th and managed to reach a compromise: Nixon would support a 5.4 percent pay increase effective Jan. 1, 1970, while Rademacher agreed to the idea of an independent "postal authority" to replace the Post Office Department. Under this new authority, a ban on strikes would be retained in exchange for allowing postal unions to bargain collectively with their employer over wages, hours and working conditions. Binding arbitration would be the last resort for issues the parties could not resolve. While Rademacher and the NALC Executive Council worked with the Nixon administration to hammer out the details of this agreement, many members grew understandably angry when Nixon in early February 1970 deferred a wage increase that had been scheduled to take effect on July 1.

Also, Postal workers contrasted their treatment with the 41 percent salary hike Congress had given itself just the year before. They were furious. The delay by Congress was the last straw.

The Meeting

At a Branch 36 meeting in March 1970, the words were loud and clear: “No, no! Not enough! Strike! Enough talk! Strike!” and the members demanded a strike vote. Raucous debate verging on a brawl ended with an agreement to meet again the next Tuesday, March 17, and hold a strike vote at that time. March 17, 1970 at the Manhattan Center dragged on until around 10:30 p.m. Some 30 minutes later, the results were announced to the members: 1,555—yes; 1,055—no. NALC’s largest local had chosen by a 3-to-2 margin to strike against the U.S. Government regardless of whether the national union joined the strike. Although not all the members had voted, almost every letter carrier in Branch 36 stayed out. Immediately, over 25,000 postal clerks and drivers— members of the giant Manhattan Bronx Postal Union—honored the picket lines.

And then the wildfire swept the nation: Branch 34, Boston, Massachusetts; Branch 157, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Branch 1, Detroit, Michigan; Branch 40, Cleveland, Ohio; Branch 84, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Branch 214, San Francisco, California; Branch 9, Minneapolis and Branch 28, St. Paul, Minnesota; Branch 47, Denver, Colorado and Branch 11, Chicago, Illinois. In large and small communities alike, from coast to coast, letter carriers and postal clerks walked off their jobs, joined the picket line, and dug in for the duration. By March 23, the strikers numbered over 200,000 strong.

The Results

As soon as the New York strikers returned to their jobs, Rademacher and other postal union leaders, assisted by the AFL-CIO, began round-the-clock negotiations with the Post Office Department. By April 2, the parties reached an agreement they believed would satisfy the demands of the carriers and clerks who, at great personal risk, had defied both the federal government and their national leaders. The “Memorandum of Agreement” expressed the postal unions’ and the department’s accord in four basic areas: pay increases totaling 14 percent—6 percent retroactive to December 27, 1969, and another 8 percent effective whenever a postal reform bill was enacted; support for the establishment of an independent postal authority; collective bargaining over wages, hours and working conditions with unresolved issues to be settled through final and binding arbitration; and “compression” of the time required for postal workers to reach the top step of their grade level from 21 years to eight.

August 12, 1970, the Postal Reorganization Act became law. Letter carriers and other postal workers had, at long last, achieved full collective bargaining with their employer. The postal reform legislation, that was supported brought collective bargaining to postal employees, freeing them from “collective begging. Still, only with the strike could carriers have achieved substantial economic and legislative gains. The long struggle of letter carriers for dignity and justice had taken a great step forward. The strike—what news magazines at the time termed the “Revolt of the Good Guys”—was an uncoordinated, spontaneous uprising of aggrieved workers, longing not only for economic justice but also for a voice and a recognition of their dignity and humanity.

In the end, the strikers changed the Postal Service and their union

NEVER FORGET

The majority of the information shared came from Carriers in a Common Cause

**In Solidary,
Bryan Sanders “OB”**