



THE VOICE



OF THE GOLDEN GATE LETTER CARRIERS

BRANCH #214

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS, AFL-CIO

January/February 2009

Award-winning newspaper

Vol. XXXIX, No. 1

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY *That was the year that was*

By Bill Thornton, Vice President

2008 brought potential changes to the lives of injured workers as the Postal Service began the National Reassessment Process (NRP) Phase 2 that had as its purpose the reduction of compensation for the Postal Service but has been challenged by the union in its abandonment of the longstanding accepted responsibility of management to “make every effort” to find injured employees work and an attempt by the Postal Service to reinterpret their responsibilities under federal law and the national agreement and to only provide “necessary work.” As with most Postal Service programs, the process has been proceeding slowly and only about 40 injured

Injured carriers are being challenged as to their rights to work within the post office.

carriers working in Branch 214 offices had been scheduled for interviews between November 2008 and March 2009. So far the results have been mixed with most carriers receiving acceptable job offers but also some cases that have resulted in grievances that are being held in abeyance at Formal A of the grievance procedure pending national decisions.

Management Abuses Article 16.7

San Francisco management continued to abuse 16.7 Emergency Placement, including the practice of placing

A so-called hostile environment charge is being used against stewards.

carriers and particularly stewards on 16.7 suspensions. Typically, a supervisor will assert that they felt “threatened” by the carrier/steward. They drag out the tired

“creating a hostile environment” and sections on the memo from Violence in the Workplace Memos. The carrier is out with no pay and is normally eventually brought back.

(The Boy Who Cried Wolf/*The Shepherd Boy and the Wolf*, Aesop. “. . . a shepherd boy who entertained himself by calling out wolf. . . villagers who came to his rescue

Top postal officials have come under fire on ethics questions.

found that the alarms were false and that they had wasted their time. When the boy was actually confronted by a wolf, the villagers did not believe his cries for help and the wolf ate the flock, and the boy himself. The moral: Even when liars tell the truth, they are never believed. The liar will lie once, twice, and then perish when he tells the truth.”

For accusations against management misbehavior we have to jump through hoops to make our case. An added twist when the union attempts to call management to task for abusive supervisors, is for management to dredge up an old trick from the gangster movies, intimidation of witnesses. Whoa! Unfair Labor Practices have been filed with the National Labor Relations Board.

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Photo by Norma Leonardo

Carrier George Hernandez, retiree from Bryant Annex, Station 'G,' route 1414, with 40 years of service, waiting to clock out on his last day, and telling us "Good luck, I'm gone forever."

Charity work

Branch 214 Raises \$5000 for MDA in 2008

By Karen Schuler, Secretary-Treasurer

I just wanted to thank all of you who generously donated items for the auctions, purchased items at the auctions and donated money to bail Officers Lili Beaumont, Karen Eshabarr and Karen Schuler out of the lock-up. This was a very large group and we can't thank you individually by name.



We raised enough money to send six campers to MDA summer camp this year. We continue with our efforts for MDA for 2009. The branch is sponsoring a booth at the camp in August so the campers can mail a postcard home. We continue to sell sodas at the branch meetings and auction off donated items.

We plan to have several events this year with possibly a Branch Bowl, or Giants game. For those who would like to help organize these events, please contact Karen Schuler at 415-362-0214.

Please submit your favorite recipes for the branch cookbook that Sheila Gardner and Roberta Bojo are putting together, with the proceeds to benefit MDA. Thanks again to all of you.

Branch Officers

- Lili Beaumont President
- Ray Fong Executive Vice-President
- Bill Thornton Vice-President
- Karen Schuler Secretary-Treasurer
- Karen Eshabarr Field Director
- June Buccat. Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
- Charles Gonzalez Sergeant-at-Arms
- Franklin Woo NALC Health Benefits
- Leonard Cruz. Safety and Health
- Cathy Simonson EEO Officer
- Mike Callahan MBA representative
- Kim Truong Director of Organization
- Roberta Bojo Trustee
- Stanley Lew Trustee
- Sheila Gardner. Trustee

Voice Staff

- Ivars Lauersons. Editor
- Edwina Wu Associate Editor
- Gerry Lee Graphics

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T.V. 214 Schedule

SAN FRANCISCO, AT&T Cable Channel 29:
 Every third Sunday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
 January 18, 2009; February 15, 2009;
 March 15, 2009

Do not mail

The threat is real

By Lili Beaumont, President

Over the past couple of years several states have attempted to introduce legislation that would establish a "Do Not Mail Registry". Proponents of these bills try to convince legislators that this legislation is similar to the "Do Not Call Registry" that went into effect a few years ago. However, they fail to point out that having advertising mail delivered to your front door is not the same as having dozens of intrusive phone calls each night when you sit down to dinner.



Many of these proposals call for the establishment of a state "Do Not Mail Registry" and require the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs "to work with postal authorities and private entities to ensure that persons on [the] registry do not receive unwanted solicitations." This legislation, if enacted, would have a devastating impact on postal employment and threaten thousands of jobs in the private sector that depend on the United States Postal Service.

Recently there has been movement by one of our state environmental coalitions to try to introduce this "Do Not Mail Registry" legislation as a resolution by the San

This is not at all like the "Do Not Call at Dinner Time" law.

Francisco County Supervisors during their December Board meeting. After a few union members spoke on this issue the San Francisco County Supervisors agreed to move the resolution into committee where it would get a hearing before bringing it back for a vote.

Our California State Association of Letter Carriers has been working to try to derail this initiative which would

The "Do Not Mail Registry" will cost jobs.

inevitably reduce postal revenue even more. During the last San Francisco Labor Council meeting, California State Letter Carriers President John Beaumont presented a resolution, supported by our Branch, putting the San

(continued on page 4)

Resolution Opposing Statewide "Do Not Mail Registry"

Whereas the citizens of the City and County of San Francisco as well as the entire State of California are experiencing one of our deepest economic recessions in the past 50 years; and

Whereas the United States Postal Service makes up one third of the entire federal workforce in California of which over 90% are unionized craft employees; and

Whereas direct (advertising and non-profit) mail account for more than 50% of mail delivered by the postal service; and

Whereas establishing a "Do Not Mail" registry would be an extremely negative development for the continued employment of union letter carriers, clerks, mailers, and postal patrons alike; and

Whereas if we were unable to deliver that mail to our customers, it would slash our revenues and adversely affect service levels in ways we can't begin to predict; and

Whereas other unions such as the Laborers International and the International Association of Machinists also have jobs that rely upon the United States Postal Service

Therefore be it Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council goes on record opposing any action of the San Francisco Supervisors to pass a resolution requesting a Statewide Do Not Mail Registry, and

Be it Further Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council will bring its full support and assistance in defeating any such resolution brought forward by the City and County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors, whether in committee or by an action of the full board, and

Be it Finally Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council transmits this resolution to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and all State Assembly and Senate Representatives which represent the City and County of San Francisco as well as to the California State Federation of Labor.

Submitted by John Beaumont, NALC 214, and adopted by the San Francisco Labor Council on January 12, 2009.

Respectfully,

Tim Paulson
Executive Director

OPEIU3 AFL-CIO 11

Beaumont (continued from page 3)

Francisco Labor Council on record as opposing any movement by the San Francisco City Council to adopt a "Do Not Mail Registry" resolution. The Labor Council voted unanimously to accept the NALC's resolution. (See resolution opposing statewide Do Not Mail Registry on this page.)

In order for us to protect our jobs we need your help as Branch 214 members. If you are a registered voter in the City and County of San Francisco we need you to

If you are a San Francisco resident, contact your supervisor.

write a letter, in your own words, to the County Supervisor for your neighborhood expressing your concern over any resolution going forward from the council asking for a "Do Not Mail Registry". Please ask them to consider your job as well as those of the thousands of Letter Carriers and other Postal employees who live or

work in the City of San Francisco. Please remind them that a "Do Not Mail Registry" would severely impact the postal service's ability to generate revenue which may cause lay-offs and that is why you strongly object to any "Do Not Mail Registry" resolution or legislation.

In these tough financial times we need city council, state, and federal legislative representatives who should

Our politicians should be concerned with keeping jobs, not eliminating them.

be looking out to protect our existing jobs and create more jobs for working families, not attempt or motion to increase the number of people on the unemployment lines.

To follow is a listing of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and their contact information. If you are unsure who your San Francisco County Supervisor is, you may go to www.sfgov.org or to their general email address: board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org.

San Francisco Supervisors Contact Information

Please send all your correspondence to:

**Board of Supervisors, San Francisco City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689**

District	Supervisor	Room #	Phone	E-Mail
1	Eric MAR	284	554-7410	Eric.L.Mar@sfgov.org
2	Michela ALIOTO-PIER	274	554-7752	Michela.Alioto-Pier@sfgov.org
3	David CHIU	264	554-7450	David.Chiu@sfgov.org
4	Carmen CHU	260	554-7460	Carmen.Chu@sfgov.org
5	Ross MIRKARIMI	282	554-7630	Ross.Mirkarimi@sfgov.org
6	Chris DALY	273	554-7970	Chris.Daly@sfgov.org
7	Sean ELSBERND	280	554-6516	Sean.Elsbernd@sfgov.org
8	Bevan DUFTY	268	554-6968	Bevan.Dufty@sfgov.org
9	David CAMPOS	272	554-5144	David.Campos@sfgov.org
10	Sophie MAXWELL	279	554-7670	Sophie.Maxwell@sfgov.org
11	John AVALOS	256	554-6975	John.Avalos@sfgov.org

Computers and steward help

Welcome to the 21st century

By Juan Dominguez, shop steward, San Rafael

On September 3, 2008 Branch 214 made a historic move in adopting *nalcbayarea.com* as its official website. The website had just turned one year old when it was called to action, and it did not disappoint, for this website was born to be the one.

At the August branch meeting brother Arnold Jones made a motion that *nalcbayarea.com* become the branch's official website. That motion was tabled pending talks with the website owners, who are myself, Cherry Vargas, and Ron Caluag. We also had to discuss and look into some legalities. On September 5, 2008 Branch President Lili Beaumont and Executive Vice-President Ray Fong met with Cherry and Ron to discuss the motion and the concerns discussed at the Branch meeting.



The conclusion to that meeting was to proceed with the motion.

Final approval

On September 12, 2008 all the branch officers and *nalcbayarea.com* owners met to finalize the motion and

This website was born to be the one.

to brainstorm some ideas of what the website should look like and what it should include. For the results, view it for yourself at *nalcbayarea.com*.

This website was created with the union activist in mind, specially catering to the shop stewards. The site was a brain child of Cherry Vargas and Ron Caluag, and

The website was created with the union activist in mind.

let me tell you, they loaded this puppy up with everything you would ever need to file or research anything postal.

Everything for grievances and information

Some of the things that you will find at this website are NALC & USPS Manuals, grievance forms ready to be filled out, downloads from the San Francisco B-TEAM,

arbitration decisions, S.F. District policies and standard operating procedure (SOP), Branch 214's LMOU'S, and the latest issues of *The Voice*. There are also links to OWCP, USPS Lite Blue, TSP, etc. There is scholarship

Most information we need is downloadable from the site.

information and blank applications, route check information and forms, EEO information and forms, retirement information, MDA, COLCPE. I can go on and on but I'd rather you check it for yourself.

Thanks to Spence Burton

I would like to thank Spence Burton for being the first to create and maintain the branch's website. He was a visionary and did a fine job staying up with the

Extra forms for tracking overtime are available.

technology. Branch 214 had a website earlier than most branches, and offered information online ahead of our national web site.

Carrying on with members in mind

Remember that this website was created with you, the member in mind, so please let us know what you think of the website. You can register to receive updates and

We are open to suggestions from members.

important information. If you have any work pictures, give them to your shop steward so he can share them with us and possibly post them on the website.

Some things that are yet to come are, posting the bulletin board on the website monthly, as soon as it is created,

See you in cyberspace. Log on.

also posting the approved minutes on the website as soon as they are typed and approved.

I am proud to say that Branch 214 now has a website that is possibly the best out there for branches our size, or any size for that matter.

Once again, thanks to Cherry Vargas and Ron Caluag who have worked their butts off to make this a premier website. See you all in cyberspace.



Photo by Ron Calluag and Cherry Vargas

Vernon Capps (left), Larry Sullivan (seated), and Bob Mesick making a point at the annual lunch.



Photo by Ron Calluag and Cherry Vargas

Past President Branch 214 George Pieraldi and Mrs. Pieraldi at December lunch.

Working too fast

Going above and beyond

By Bobbi Turner, Golden Gate shop steward

You go to work all smiles and clock in knowing you're going to go above and beyond. It hasn't been even a half hour on the job and management doesn't even say hello to you but greets you with a 2 hour pivot because they know you will go above and beyond. You take no breaks and case the route like the wind, even two or three routes because you go above and beyond. You delay mark-ups, forget vacation holds and don't even think of casing mail to the right address because you have no time to get it right the first time, you're going above and beyond.



Don't let management dictate every move

You let management dictate your every move and turn you on and off like a computerized light bulb. They mistreat you in every way without a care for your safety, your

Don't let management dictate every move.

health, problems or any obligations but to the post office. Everyone sees that they treat you like dirt, but you don't complain, whine or even bother that they are violating the contract along with your respect, cuz they know you're going above and beyond.

Out the door in a hurry

Your route is pulled down and you are out the door and on to the street (even before break time) cuz you go above and beyond. You'll have your satchel on one shoulder

Above and beyond is not to do the impossible.

full of mail and carrying a sack of mail in the other hand running for the bus cuz you can't wait for the relays or you won't make your pivot and that would not be going above and beyond.

Don't forget safety and accuracy

You sprint on the routes without a care for safety and accuracy, not to mention you are killing off the route by running like "Speedy Gonzales". By the way, did I men-

tion you are going above and beyond? And after delivering 2 whole routes you still have an hour to spare when you clock back in the station, proud, exhilarated and ambitious knowing you've gone above and beyond.

Maybe handle other craft work as well?

You make time to do other craft work like clerk jobs, mailhandler's jobs, maybe even the janitor's job. Maybe you should apply for those crafts too! You will do what-

You are not alone in the everyday struggle.

ever it takes to get your guaranteed 8 hours of work and why should you care what other people think, you're going above and beyond. By the time you clock out, you have just did the "one man or woman bandstand". So management will be thinking and trying to figure out "why do we need all these carriers if we have one that will go above and beyond."

You are not alone

This goes out to all my fellow carriers who have lost sight along the way of the true meaning of going above and beyond. I know you feel that everyday is a struggle,

You do not have to go above and beyond your job requirements.

to be harassed and abused and mistreated everyday with all these vindictive violations put on you to do your job. It seems like you're the only one and there is no one to talk to or nowhere to go, but I am here to let know you are not alone, cuz I too, used to go above and beyond.



Bobbi Turner receiving her "Newcomer of the Year" award at annual lunch, December 2008.

Photo by Ren Callag

Norma Leonardo Station 'G,' received award as "Unionist of the Year," thanking the audience from podium.



Photo by Ron Calluag and Cherry Vargas



Photo by Ron Calluag and Cherry Vargas

Joe and Mrs. Desimone, Daly City, retiree at annual lunch, December 2008

Branch 214 Meetings

Branch meetings, 7:00 P.M.

February 4, 2009	ILWU Hall, 400 North Point, SF
March 4, 2009	ILWU Hall, 400 North Point, SF
April 1, 2009	ILWU Hall, 400 North Point, SF

Steward meetings, 4:30 P.M.

February 4, 2009	Union Office, 2310 Mason St., SF
March 4, 2009	Union Office, 2310 Mason St., SF
April 1, 2009	Union Office, 2310 Mason St., SF

Retiree social meeting, 12:30 P.M.

Feb. 2, 2009	740 Del Monte Ave., South SF
April 6, 2009	740 Del Monte Ave., South SF
June 1, 2009	740 Del Monte Ave., South SF

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Martin Eng (TE-PCA)
Carmen R. Guadron (Marina)
Jennifer Hightower (TE-Diamond Heights)
Terrie Kyer (TE-180)
Juan Rosas (TE-180)
Monica Tidwell (San Rafael)
Tiffany Vallier (TE-Redwood City)

IN MEMORIAM

Bobby Smith (Former Novato Carrier)



Photo by Ron Caluag and Cherry Vargas

Executive Vice-President Ray Fong (left) presenting lifetime achievement award to San Leandro retirees Sue Garshol and Roland Garshol.



Photo by Ron Caluag and Cherry Vargas

Karen Schuler, Secretary-Treasurer, presenting "Steward of the Year" award to Sue Garshol at annual lunch, December 2008.

Thornton (continued from front page)

What's good for the goose: Postal Service Inspector General resigns—gambling on job

“Two weeks after being questioned by ABC News about his travel expenses and gambling habits, the head of the US Postal Service’s Inspection Service abruptly announced his retirement.”

“Alexander Lazaroff announced his retirement earlier this month saying, ‘after 37 years of federal service, I feel

Various means are used to pressure carriers to speed up.

that it’s time for me to begin a new chapter in my life.’ Indeed. Allegations of arranging travel to casinos on the government dime were being investigated.

“An ABC News investigative team recorded Lazaroff at a casino in Phoenix in late September, during a conference he arranged at a nearby resort.”

Potter

Postmaster General Potter, another so-called friend of Angelo’s (Mozelo), has been under investigation for allegedly receiving special treatment on his mortgage from Countrywide. (One point shaved and a waiver of fees).

Union/carrier cooperation

Carriers have been busting their asses for the Postal Service and the union has been taking the load off management with active participation in the MRA-Minor

Many carriers saw the value of their Thrift Plan decline.

Route Adjustments, running the annual leave bids and currently coordinating the in house bids in San Francisco. And let us not forget carriers/union participation in Customer Connect to increase revenues.

Management says thank you in a strange way:

Flex Time/Pivoting/Speed Up/Accidents

San Francisco management thanked carriers for all the hard work by ending the flex time that has been in place in San Francisco since the 1991 labor management agreement that established it.

Pivoting, etc

Pivoting continued as mail volume dropped precipitously. Pivoting had been in Postal Service manuals for many years, going as far back as the old Post Office Department but only in recent years has it been utilized. Management continued to use computer data to attempt

to push carriers to run routes. Accidents have increased commensurately.

With the pivoting came the resurrection of that old saw, “carrier commitment”. Carriers are barely at their cases when the supervisor wants them to “commit” to leaving at a certain time, etc. Among intelligent responses:

The unthinkable is still the ultimate failure of the post office.

“I’ll let you know when I get all my mail.” There is no reference to “carrier commitment” in any handbook or manual. The Reporting Requirements of 131 M-41 still apply. The 3996 still applies, when a carrier is unable to complete all work in 8 hours or approved time. This applies even in days of low volume. The union is aware that management likes to keep these forms under virtual lock and key, kind of like CA-1s, CA-16s, etc. that management finds inconvenient to issue.

Minor route adjustments, jointly agreed upon by union and management, were initiated, a result of declining mail volume and the Postal Service’s financial problems.

Trees don’t grow to the sky

Many carriers saw the values of TSPs decline. This and the real estate decline have been a shock and an ugly historic event. The Branch itself had its own real estate

We had two picket lines against abusive management.

woes, perhaps discovering the truth about buying real estate with others, relatives or otherwise or playing cards with a guy named doc. The building at 2310 Mason St had been bought with the San Francisco Teachers Union.

To say the least, things have not turned out as planned at 2310 Mason, with the building falling into disrepair, although reportedly becoming “green”. How many people does it take to get a leaky roof fixed?

Is this the “War of the Roses”?

Postal Service says bah humbug—ends practice of allowing volunteers to answer letters to Santa.

Thinking about the unthinkable

But the elephant in the room is the possibility of layoffs and the possible ultimate failure/demise of the Postal Service.

Ironically, the percentage of carrier participation in COLCPE, the lobbying Political Action Committee for the union continues to be in the single digits in the Branch. Are open discussions about the end of the Postal

(continued on page 12)

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS, AFL-CIO

Award-winning newspaper

January 2008

OFFICERS BEGIN 2008-2009 NALC PRESIDENT YOUNG AT NBA MANNY PERALTA INSTALLS

Bill Young, National President NALC, attended the January officer installation meeting. Here he presents gavel to re-elected Branch 214 President Lili Beaumont.

From left, being sworn in for new term Vice-President, Lili Beaumont, President, Vice-President, and Carol Maggio, AS.

New Field Director Karen Esb and Franklin Woo, NALC Health Benefits Representative, being sworn in.

Cathy Simonson, EEO officer, left, and new Secretary-Treasurer

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March/April 2008

INJURIES, FLEX-TIME, THIRP Hot issues facing ca

By Lili Beaumont, President

P.S. It seems that my article on the National Reassessment Process (NRP) sparked much feedback from our readers. Many of you called to inquire about its contents. Here are some clarifications regarding the NRP, the vocational rehabilitation process and disability retirement.

- 1) The NRP begins when a limited duty carrier is requested by management to submit updated medical information pertaining to their work-related injury. This information request, pursuant to the regulations in the Employee Labor-relations Manual (ELM), must be in writing to the carrier.
- 2) Those eligible for vocational rehabilitation are
 - places in Br used in other c wide campar that there is
 - have e before adde star tiv by

More information on vocational rehabilitation.

assigned a counselor who will interview you and assess your qualifications for other jobs. These counselors are hired under the Department of Labor/OWCP, and OWCP is not interested in training anyone in the vocational rehabilitation process. In reality, what they do is har you complete a questionnaire to assess your qualifications, and present you with a list of occupations for to review and select one. At this point, the limited carrier doesn't have a choice - he/she must choose

- 3) With regards to disability retirement - the service must send you correspondence to announsr to separate you. You should respond to ing. You should also contact the NALC imv u hesitate. (more than fourteen days) yo rights to dispute or appeal their intent o act promptly.

we: ou may know by now, managr Francisco District has unilateral agreements they had with the ... still Valley (to name some

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Vol. XXXVIII

RESULTS OF PICKETING San Francisco locations are tar

By Lili Beaumont, President

e marched in two picket lines in San Francisco abusive management. The first was on May 2, Bryant Street Annex and the second at Pacific Annex (PCA) on June 20. This is a report on the and the aftermath.

We Deliver For You.

STOP THE ABUSE

w.usps.

"We deliver abuse for you" is the unintentional message as this picketer outside PCA on June 20, 2008.

Support from everywhere!

Collectively, on 3 branch joined the p union brothers and up. Carriers from sor before mov picket sympath

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THE VOICE

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September/October 2008

EARLY OUT

A resolution was offered at the national convention in Boston by the Oregon and Washington State Associations to allow kilts to be worn by male carriers. The national agreement resolution number (MUGs) was titled "Male Unbuttoned Garments (MUGs)", and argued that since skirts and culottes were allowed for women carriers, kilts would provide a comfortable counter-part for men. This resolution was disapproved by our national union and their floor. The photo shows two carriers wearing the proposed kilts outside the convention floor.

The MDA summer camp is filled with activities for kids from crafts to motorcycle rides. Our branch raises funds for MDA, and this is an example of the money at work. See the story inside on page 14 and other photos at camp. This photo shows Clo the Cow and our camper, thirteen year old Allan.

ALSO

- Views
- Whimsical
- Current
- From the floor
- Views on p
- The best man
- The best man

Report on Den national conve

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May/June 2008

16TH ANNUAL LETTER CARRIERS FOOD DRIVE WE CARE!

Carl M age 11

Saturday May 10, 2008

FOOD DRIVE WINNING T-SHIRT ENTRY

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November/December 2008

For Obama in Nevada 2008

Part of the Branch 214 volunteer group of carriers for Obama in Reno, Nevada, November 2, 2008.

For list of all volunteers, see page 7.

ALSO INS

- Minor route adjustments
- Postal accountability
- Costing voters
- Calendar 2008 and 2009
- Economic analysis
- Labor's rewards

Thornton (continued from page 10)

Service an incentive or disincentive to participate in COLCPE and to fight for Postal Service survival?

Summer in the City—Branch 214 conducts two picket lines against management abuse

During 2008 Branch 214 conducted two picket lines, the first at Bryant Annex at 16th and Bryant in San Francisco and the second at Pacific Carrier Annex at 19th and Ortega. The results of the Bryant Annex picket met with significant success, ridding the workroom floor of a supervisor who had been a constant source of grief for carriers. The Postmaster was momentarily shocked at the expression of first amendment rights by letter carriers.

Unfortunately, the PCA picket did not result in concrete results like the Bryant Street picket, but both picket lines were inspiring examples of union solidarity.

Obama wins—Branch 214 activists campaign in Nevada

Branch 214 carriers joined carriers from other branches and walked precincts in Reno for Barrack Obama in the key state of Nevada. Obama's star took off in the Iowa

**Our ultimate good news is
the election of labor friendly
Barack Obama.**

caucus early in 2008 and he barely looked back. Not since Franklin Delanore Roosevelt (FDR) in the 30's did America see a politician stir people's emotions and raise their spirits.

Labor reward? The appointment of Hilda Solis as Secretary of Labor and Tom Daschle as Health and Human Services Secretary in anticipation (that may be too hopeful a word) of passage of Employee Free Choice Act (an



Photo by Ron Caluag and Cherry Vargas

Bill Thornton and Berta Quezada at the annual lunch in December 2008.

important step in the ability of unions to organize) and of Universal Health Care.

At the Al Smith Dinner in October 2008 (a roast with John McCain) Obama was his normal eloquent self, even at a humorous event: "And I have no doubt if we come together at this moment of crisis with this goal in mind, America will meet this challenge and weather this storm. And, in the words of Al Smith, "walk once more in eternal sunshine."

We could use a little sunshine.



Photo by Ron Caluag and Cherry Vargas

Retiree Mark Robbins, Embarcadero Postal Center, entering hall for annual lunch, December 2008



Photo by Ron Caluag and Cherry Vargas

Retiree Wing Woo (right), Station 'G,' and Dr. Woo honored at annual Branch 214 lunch, December 2008.



Photo by Ron Caluag and Cherry Vargas

Retiree Teodoro Bautista of Redwood City ponders events at annual lunch, December 2008.



Photo by Ron Caluag and Cherry Vargas

Marina Station retiree Harry Lee and wife Louisa enjoying annual lunch in December 2008.

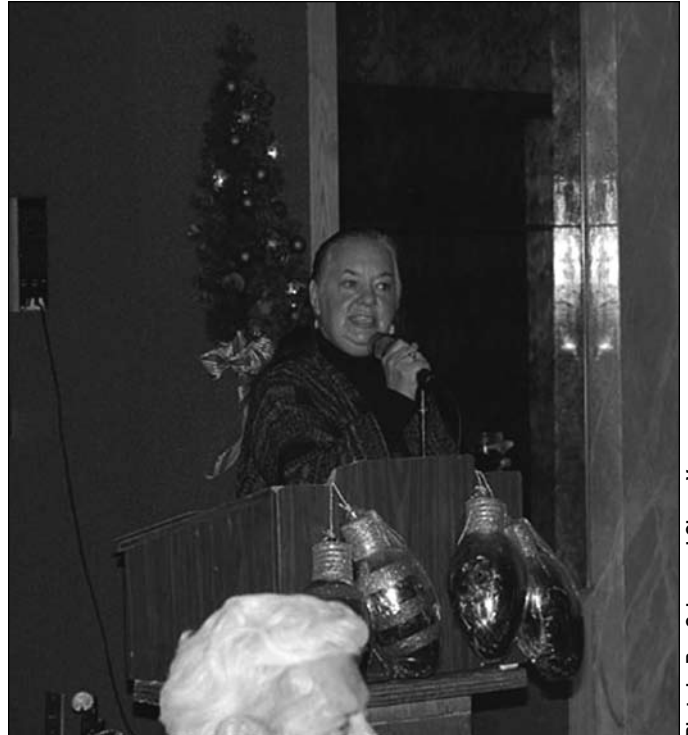


Photo by Ron Caluag and Cherry Vargas

Vicki Sawicki, Embarcadero Postal Center retiree addresses group at annual lunch.



Photo by Ron Caluag and Cherry Vargas

San Rafael retiree Sheila Gardner and husband Ken relaxing at Branch 214 annual lunch.



Photo by Ron Caluag and Cherry Vargas

Leland Chune (right) enjoying retirement with fellow Pacific Carrier Annex chief steward Audrey Davis.

Photo by Ron Caluag and Cherry Vargas



Marilyn Green, retiree from Station 'P', one of many retirees honored at the annual Branch 214 lunch, December 2008, speaking from the podium.

Photo by Ron Caluag and Cherry Vargas



Judith Staats, retiree from San Rafael Civic (right), with shop steward Laurie Mackey, at annual Branch 214 lunch.

Photo by Ron Caluag and Cherry Vargas



George Hernandez (right) from Station 'G' with friends at annual lunch, Vicky Guerron (center) and Barbara Ornelas.

GOLDEN GATE BRANCH NO. 214
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS, AFL-CIO
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RAIN GO AWAY

We've all heard of the saying "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds." But is this supposed to apply to casing the mail in the post office?

One carrier did just that, casing mail in the rain at Bryant Annex. On one particular day, it was raining inside the building as well as outside. The supervisors ignored the

carrier's complaints about getting wet at his case. He had to talk to the shop steward who then informed the manager and the maintenance people to solve the problem. In the meantime, the steward provided an umbrella so that the carrier could case his mail without getting soaked.

We just hope he didn't get disciplined for casing too slow.
—E. Wu

Photos courtesy Norman Leonard

