



CARL J. KENNEDY BRANCH 704
THE LETTER CARRIER REPORTER

PROUDLY SERVING

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SAFFORD • DOUGLAS • GLOBE • WILLCOX • COOLIDGE • SAN MANUEL • MIAMI • BISBEE

January 2021

Email Address: nalcbranch704@outlook.com

Printed by Branch 704

Retirement Congratulations...

Larry Paul

Cherrybell Station



Abdul Ali

Sierra Vista Post Office



← **Art Higven**
(from Sun Station)
**Belated Retirement
Congratulations!**

WEBSITE: www.nalcbranch704.org

Branch Meeting Thursday January 7, 2021 is to begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. Please call Office to make your reservations to attend in person or call us with your email address information if you plan on attending remotely via the Web-X.

****Reservations must be made every month.****

President's Report

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
The ballots were counted on December 4, 2020 the results are on this newsletter. I am thankful for your continued support as your President for the next three years, I commit to doing my best for the branch members and continued working to ensuring the branch has strong representation for all members. This year has been a hard year for all of us with Covid-19 and the challenges this has posed to the members and the branch, yet we have persevered at work and at the branch office with your help and activism from retired and active members. The new year may present challenges that we will face but I am confident we will continue to move forward in strength and unity as we have in the past. I want to Con-gratulate Mark Follet as Vice President, Pete Tadeo, JC Mena, Kimberly Davis, Tiffany Eggert, and Mike Donnelly as trustees for the branch. I look forward to working with those elected by acclamation in October and those voted into positions to the Executive Board, together ensuring the NALC Branch 704 continues to be healthy, strong, inclusive, and working in "solidarity" for the betterment of the members. I thank you for your vote of confidence, and I am deeply honored.

Covid-19 in Tucson is affecting more postal employees than in July when we hit the highest count in the city and at the post office. The virus is very contagious, in some instances one employee will have symptoms and go get tested to come up with a positive diagnosed only to find out that those friends they took breaks with, also came up positive. We can look forward to the end of the virus at some point now that a vaccine has been made, unfortunately it will be months before enough people have had the vaccine to hopefully see any results. Meanwhile the virus is very much a part of our lives both at work and at home,

which still requires us to be careful of catching the virus and bringing it to family or friends. By the numbers: The District for AZ and NM is at presumed confirmed COVID-19 cases (643) and under observation for COVID-19 (441). Tucson has 81 cases since November 1 to present that have been impacted due to covid-19, In the news medical officials are stating the number will go higher in the coming months, I encourage everyone to wear the masks, and social distance for yourself and family and friends. To those members that have lost family this year either due to Covid-19 or other causes I send my heartfelt condolences to you and your families.

We have a Tentative National Agreement between NALC and USPS, to read the agreement go to the NALC@ORG or check the NALC Bulletin posted at your station. I want to send a thank you to our National Officers for their hard work in negotiating a tentative National Agreement, the countless hours and days preparing and attending negotiations with President Fred Rolando's leadership has provided us a very good contract. Once our members have had a chance to read it and decide whether or not to accept the tentative agreement there will be a ratification vote. The Executive Council unanimously recommends ratification of this contract. The tentative agreement provides four annual general wage increases and seven cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs). In addition, effective Nov. 19, 2022, a new top step (Step P) will be added to the career letter carrier pay scales, which will be \$444 annually greater than Step O. The agreement also provides for the automatic conversion of city carrier assistants (CCAs) to career status no later than after 24 months of relative standing, providing full fringe benefits and peace of mind to non-career carriers. It also maintains existing protections against

subcontracting and layoffs. These are just some of what is on the tentative agreement, to read all the proposals on the agreement go to NALC.ORG as there is too much for the newsletter.

I was disappointed we couldn't have the December branch meeting Dinner in the hall unfortunately restaurants are not providing meals for large gatherings at this time. At the December Branch meeting the 2021 Branch Budget was voted and approved by the members. We will have Stewards Elections at Silverbell, Cherrybell, Desert Foothills, Coronado, and Casa Grande and Coolidge. The results of the elections for those stations will be posted in next month's newsletter. Stewards that were elected by acclamation at stations, I want to thank you for your continued dedication to representing members and all your hard work enforcing the contract and the new stewards coming on board I extend my welcome. I congratulate you and commend your efforts on behalf of the branch and the membership.

Stewards Elected by Acclamation:

Bisbee: Elvia Molina
 Casas Adobes: Kimberly Davis
 Douglas: Barbara Maddux
 Fort Lowell: Tiffany Eggert
 Green Valley: Claudio Retes
 Mission: Lillian Valdez
 Mountain View: Karen Herrington
 Rincon: Vinny Errico
 San Manuel: Jennifer Branum
 San Xavier: Alexis Padilla
 Sierra Vista: Al Martinez
 Sun: JC Mena and Tony Rodriquez

Wishing you a joyous holiday season and continued success in the New Year. The Executive Officers and I hope the New Year brings you good health, much happiness, and plenty of prosperity! We hope your New Year is filled with lots of joy, laughter, and good cheer. Stay Safe.

In Solidarity
 Kathy Walter
 President

December 4, 2020 Branch 704 Election Results

PRESIDENT # of Votes
Kathy Walter **237**
 Stuart Love 106

VICE PRESIDENT # of Votes
Mark Follet **191**
 Claudio Retes 92
 Ray Devellin, Jr 42

TRUSTEES (5 Total) # of Votes
Kimberly Davis **225**
 Dimas Gonzalez 167
JC Mena **233**
Michael Donnelly **176**
Pete Tadeo **241**
Tiffany Eggert **206**
 Joseph Bertel 107

Vice President Article

It's hard to believe we are into a brand-New Year. I hope the New Year finds you and your family healthy and happy. While this year, like many others, start out with personal resolutions it also reminds us all that if we are to be successful in providing for ourselves, our families, and our loved ones, we must work hard and work together to overcome the obstacles that we face. If you care about your way of life you do everything you can to protect it. We all have to make sure we continue to protect our rights, benefits, and our way of life.

Looking back on the year it's amazing that we have been able to accomplish as much as we have with so many changes not only with the Postal Service, the elections and everything else that has been going on. It truly is incredible with such a small group of activists we have been able to be successful in so many different areas.

In the coming year there will most likely be many more changes to the way that we do things in the Postal Service. I can only hope the New Year will bring more stability to our jobs and ensure that we keep our rights, benefits, and our way of life. Many of the things we do as a Union is not an easy task. We always seem to be the underdog and must fight for every inch. It's absolutely sad and disappointing that the Postal Service does not recognize the value City Letter Carriers bring to the service and to our customers.

I want to thank all of our Branch Officers, and Union Activists who have gone above and beyond the call of duty this past year in supporting this Branch and its members. Please take a moment to thank your Officers and those Activists in the stations as well as our active Retirees, as they certainly deserve

our sincere appreciation and gratitude for their efforts.

I want to especially thank our Stewards who work very hard for our members and are constantly bombarded with many difficulties from management just to protect the rights of our members. Without these people and there's so many more that I could mention but this newsletter is not long enough. Without their help and dedication, we would not nearly be as strong as we are now. If you see any of these people at a meeting, your station, or wherever, please let them know that you appreciate their help. It's many times a very thankless job and those people do it out of the goodness of their hearts.

Fraternally,
Stuart Love
Vice President

Attention Postmaster, 1 Monthly issue consisting of at least, 25% non-advertising matter in each issue of the Carl J. Kennedy Branch 704, The Letter Carrier Reporter Volume 2021-01 Issue #01
Organization: National Association of Letter Carriers,
2950 N. Country Club Road, Tucson, AZ 85716-1912

Meeting Dates

**BRANCH MEETING - Thursday,
January 7, 2021 @ 7:00 pm**

**STEWARDS MEETING - Thursday,
January 21, 2021 @ 5:30 pm**

**E-BOARD MEETING - Tuesday,
January 28, 2021 @ 6:00 pm**

Chaplain's Corner

Simple Truth

Well, it is hard to believe this year is almost over. What a challenging year it has been with so much that has occurred and is still going on. It has certainly been a very trying time for so many. A lot of sorrow, pain, and negativity.

But there is something to be positive about. This is the time of year people celebrate the birth of Christ. Just a simple truth.

Probably the most well-known scripture of the bible says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 This gives hope and a choice. Have a Merry Christmas.

God Bless,
Chaplain Rick Evans
Rick7evans@gmail.com
520-248-9643

Condolences

Terrie Ward on the loss of your Son.

Royce Kelly on the loss of your Nephew.

Vince Trujillo on the loss of your Uncle.

Danny Trujillo on the loss of your Uncle.

Family of Ernie Catalano.

* * * * *

Get Well

Pete Espino

Keith Gaub

Health Benefit Report

How to Boost Immunity This Winter

Nothing can guarantee you won't catch a cold, the flu, or the coronavirus this winter. But certain foods can bolster your immune system to help you more effectively fend off germs. "The more colorful your produce, the better, because the compounds that create those bright green, red, yellow, and orange shades are antioxidants," says Chaya Lee Charles, RN. Antioxidants—such as vitamins A (in the form of beta carotene) and C—protect immune cells from damaging oxidation.

"Vitamin A helps regulate the immune system and protects against infections by keeping skin and tissues in the mouth, stomach, intestines,

and respiratory system healthy," says Lauri Wright, PhD. And it's easy to get in vegetables, such as sweet potatoes, carrots, broccoli, spinach, and red bell peppers, that are plentiful all winter. Citrus fruits are a great source of vitamin C, which stimulates production of infection-fighting antibodies.

It has been a pleasure serving you these many past years!

The best of health to you and yours,
Ray Root 885-4983
Health Benefits Representative

Rally

11/17/2020 at Casas and Sun Station

11/22/2020 at Rincon Station

I want to thank all brothers and sisters that attended the Rallies to "Save the Post Office" and "Thanking our employees for being Heroes" during the crisis caused by the Covid-19 Virus. Jobs for Justice, PALF, and APWU put these rallies together to bring awareness to the public on sorting machines having been removed from the Plant and the plan from Postmaster DeJoy to remove more in the spring, affecting our ability to sort mail in Tucson.

They also wanted to bring awareness to the continued hard work Postal Employees are doing for our customers and the nation by delivering essential services to those that are at risk of contracting Covid-19 and requiring to self-isolate to stay safe like our senior citizens and those that have compromised health issues.

All postal employees have been putting themselves in harm's way to deliver to America and people needed reminder that they are Heroes. We had a very good turnout at the Rallies, Casas Adobes had about 20 volunteers, Sun had 50 volunteers, Rincon had 50-55 volunteers comprising of active and retired letter carriers, volunteers from Jobs for Justice, PALF, and APWU employees. It was good seeing our brothers and sisters joined in solidarity to protect and appreciate what we do working for the Postal Service. Each and every one of our employees that work for the Post Office should not forget, You, are Heroes to our customers and the nation, Thank You for all your service, and have a Safe and Joyous Holiday.

Kathy Walter
President

Informational Rallies held at Casas Adobes, Rincon and Sun Stations.



National Association of Letter Carriers
 Carl J. Kennedy Branch 704
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 Telephone: 520-323-2117
 January 2021 Newsletter

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KATHY WALTER	PRESIDENT
STUART LOVE	VICE PRESIDENT
DON HICOK	RECORDING SECRETARY
AMBER UNDERWOOD	FINANCIAL SECRETARY
ALEXIS PADILLA	TREASURER
RAY ROOT	HBA REPRESENTATIVE
GENE KELLEY	RETIREE REPRESENTATIVE
MARK FOLLET	SERGEANT-AT-ARMS



TRUSTEES

PETE TADEO	
MIKE DONNELLY	BRUCE JENKINS
VACANT	JC MENA
CHAPLAIN	
RICK EVANS	

FORMAL A REPRESENTATIVE

STUART LOVE		323-2117
SHOP STEWARDS		
VACANT	BISBEE	520-432-2626
WADE ALFORD	CASA GRANDE	520-836-7221
RAY DEVELLIN	CASA GRANDE	520-836-7241
KIMBERLY DAVIS	CASAS ADOBES	531-0693
VINCE TRUJILLO	CHERRYBELL	388-5182
VACANT	COOLIDGE	520-723-3011
MARK FOLLET	CORONADO	571-7245
DIMAS GONZALEZ	CORONADO	571-7279
JAVIER RAMIREZ	DESERT FOOTHILLS	615-9032
BARBARA MADDUX	DOUGLAS	520-634-3631
TIFFANY EGGERT	FT LOWELL	290-9723
VACANT	GLOBE	928-425-2381
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LILLIAN VALDEZ	MISSION	889-8828
KAREN HERRINGTON	MOUNTAIN VIEW	744-7097
VINNY ERRICO	RINCON	296-2816
VACANT	RINCON	296-1279
VACANT	SAFFORD	928-428-0220
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KERK YOUNG	SILVERBELL	388-9257
CATRINA RUIZ	SILVERBELL	388-9572
JC MENA	SUN	881-1276
TONY RODRIGUEZ	SUN	881-1254
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