



CARL J. KENNEDY BRANCH 704  
**THE LETTER CARRIER REPORTER**

PROUDLY SERVING

TUCSON • GREEN VALLEY • SIERRA VISTA • CASA GRANDE •

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

March 2021

Email Address: [nalcbranch704@outlook.com](mailto:nalcbranch704@outlook.com)

Printed by Branch 704

# Congratulations on your Retirement!

**Pete Tadeo**

Rincon Station

**Justin Brandt**

Globe Station



WEBSITE: [www.nalcbranch704.org](http://www.nalcbranch704.org)

*Branch Meeting Thursday March 4, 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,

I hope everyone had a great Valentine's Day with your loved one and you all are staying healthy. Covid-19 vaccines in Tucson online registry begins at 9:00am. Registration for nearly 12,000 COVID-19 vaccine appointments begins at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 16, for a state site at the University of Arizona in Tucson. Registration will be available in English and Spanish at <http://podvaccine.azdhs.gov> or 844-542-8201.

The school campus had already been offering the vaccine to employees and students during the daytime but now as the Arizona Department of Health Services' third mass-vaccination site, will be able to eventually run 24/7. I know I have been looking forward to receiving the vaccine not only for myself, but my parents and it has been very hard to get any definite instructions for how to go about getting on a list or appointment to get the vaccine. I am looking forward to having this rolled out and get the vaccine.

NALC Tentative Contract deadline has been extended to March 1, 2021, if you have not mailed in your ballot to approve or disapprove the ratification of the contract please make sure you mail out your ballot.

Stamp out Hunger Food Drive is currently moving forward to have it in May. We have been reminding members if you can go to the NALC.org website where we are still having a Donor Drive for the food bank you can donate \$10.00 or more to your choice of food banks in Tucson and it will be credited to the branch total donated monies received. It isn't just that the union supports the food bank every year, it is about families in need and kids going hungry now because there are so many families using the food banks due to the pandemic. Any help you give now will be helpful and we will focus on the food drive in May as usual if National moves forward with picking up food.

The Branch Executive Board has received Brother Steward Love Appeal, on 01/28/21 the Executive Board met and discussed and voted on the merits of his appeal. The Branch Executive Board voted to uphold the decision of the Election Committee by denying appeal.

The Choice vacation period shall begin with the week containing May 1<sup>st</sup> and remain for a period of (52) consecutive weeks ending with the last full week in April, excluding the (3) three-week period immediately preceding Christmas and the (1) one-week period containing Christmas. Each carrier may make the following selections during the Choice Vacation. Each carrier may make the following selections during the Choice Vacation bidding: 1) One 5-day period or Two 5-day periods. 2) One 10-day period. 3) One 10-day period and One 5-day period. 4) One 15-day period.

No employee may select three separate five-day periods prior to the establish deadline. Scheduling of annual leave for the Choice Vacation Selection period shall be by bidding seniority/relative standing within. Annual leave will be done in triplicate on PS Form 3971. The second copy of PS Form 3971 will show the action taken (approve/disapproved) and returned to the employee no later than April 1, 2021. Check with your stewards to know what the annual leave quota is for your station.

Branch 576 will be the Host Branch for the 2021 Arizona State Convention. The dates are still being determined by Arizona State President Jeff Clark, as soon as they have any more information, we will inform the membership.

Branch meetings are being held each month at the hall, we have room for 30 in person attendance and we also have the web-ex meeting available. Because we have a limited space for in-person attendance I encourage you to make your reservations early and if you would like to attend by web-ex please call us with your email for the invitation to be sent to you. I encourage all members to attend and participate.

I have mentioned the teleconferences that were held to discuss the Cherrybell Station still being on the cutting list from Postmaster General Dejoy at the branch meetings. We have a plan to get ahead of any action being taken by Postmaster Dejoy which include Collect anecdotes/stories from postal workers, letter carriers, customers and small businesses on the type of delays experienced and what it would mean if the plant were not there. We will prepare resolutions in response to USPS recommendations after anticipated release in February and generate letter of support at the appropriate time from small businesses and customers. The web-ex meetings are with, no particular order:

Michael Moriconi - APWU Local 255, Kathy Walter - NALC Branch 704, Steve Valencia - Jobs With Justice, Cecilia Valdez - Pima Area Labor Federation, Tucson Mayor Romero, Councilmember Fimbres, Nate Sigal - Mayor Romero staff, Mark Kerr - Councilmember Fimbres staff, Andrew Greenhill - City of Tucson Intergovernmental Affairs, Tracy Tucker - COT Federal Lobbyist

If you have any customers that could be affected should Cherrybell close please have them go to the web site <https://docs.tucsonaz.gov/Forms/Protect-Cherrybell-Request-for-Testimonials> fill out The Cherrybell online survey that is active to collect information and help us to ensure Cherrybell does not get closed. We could use your help to direct the customers to the Tucsonaz.gov so they can help us gather information to protect the Cherrybell Station. If you would like to do more, please call the branch for information.

Amber Underwood Financial Secretary has resigned her position due to family. Amber has participated as the Financial Secretary, conventions, State Trustee, District Safety, LCPF advocate, and Branch meetings, as some of the activities she has taken on for the branch for over 25 years. She has to place family first now, but she has expressed she will still continue to be involved in the branch in the future when possible. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this time Amber and I know I speak for the branch in praying for a positive outcome for your family. I have

Appointed Letty Ramos as Financial Secretary to replace Amber Underwood I hope you join me in welcoming her to being the Financial Secretary for Branch 704.

Stay safe  
In Solidarity  
Kathy Walter

## Vice President Article

In this article and future articles, I am going to provide facts and history about the postal service and about our job as city letter carriers. Please let me know if you find this of interest. If you do, I will continue to provide facts and history about the Postal service and our jobs as postal employees.

**Did you know that everyone had to go to the post office to get mail-until the Civil War helped change one man's mind?**

In 1863, Free City Delivery-I.e., free delivery of mail at your home-was first launched in Cleveland, Ohio. Joseph Briggs, a postal clerk at the Cleveland Post Office, is said to have come up with the idea over the previous winter when he saw so many women customers who were forced to wait in long lines at the post office, freezing and fretting, since the only way to get news of their loved ones fighting in the war was via the mail. His Free City Delivery idea was such a success that it quickly spread to other cities before becoming a national norm. What's more, Civil War veterans got first dibs on applying for the newly created mail carrier jobs. One other postal innovation prompted by the Civil War was the creation of money orders, so that the Union soldiers could send their money home safely.

A very important event occurred during the period of March 18 thru March 25, 1970 that every present and future Postal Employee should appreciate! Time magazine had the headline that read "The strike that stunned the country." What was it? It was the US Postal Strike of 1970. The strike lasted eight days. President Nixon called out the United States armed forces and the National Guard in an attempt to break the strike and to help process that mail. The strike crippled the nation's mail system. The stock market fell due to the strike's effect on trading volume. Some feared that the stock market would have closed entirely.

The strike began in New York City and spread across the country. The strike against the federal government was regarded as illegal and the largest wildcat strike in the US history. It led to the first national postal stoppage in the US. Approximately 200,000 workers participated in the strike. It

was the first and largest walkout ever against the Federal Government.

What caused the strike? At the time, postal workers were not permitted by the law to engage in collective bargaining. Striking postal workers felt wages were low, benefits poor and working conditions unhealthy and unsafe. A lot of postal workers actually qualified for food stamps. The US Post Office Department's management was outdated and, according to the workers, hazardous. Postal union lobbying of Congress had proven fruitless. Some could call it collective begging. But the immediate trigger for the strike was a Congressional decision to raise the wages of postal workers by only 4%, while Congress raised their own pay by 41%.

The result of the strike was that the Post Office Department finally figured out it needed postal workers. It went into serious bargaining with the postal unions. Within one day, they reached a preliminary agreement and the postal workers went back on the job. After, a final agreement was hammered out a month later, the postal workers won a 6% wage increase. The summer, President Nixon signed the Postal Reorganization Act giving postal workers an additional 8% raise.

The Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 transformed the post office into the more corporate United States Postal Service and guaranteed collective bargaining rights (though not the right to strike). Postal workers and the unions earned the right to bargain collectively for wages, benefits and working conditions. Postal workers and the union also achieved a binding arbitration process for resolving contract disputes. The point to this overall is all the improvement the postal workers' salary and working conditions because of the union and its members! I urged all NALC members to recruit co-workers to join the union! The more members we have the more powerful the union becomes.

We are lucky to have a member who was involved in the strike! His name is Ray Root! If you should see him please go up to him and thank him for what he and the other strikers did for us and our union!

Please, as a member become more involved in our branch and the union. You can volunteer to become trainers for the new CCA's at your station. Volunteer at the branch office, learn about NALC history, attend branch meetings in person or through Zoom, become a customer connect coordinator or a food drive coordinator for the branch or your station. Sign up to receive updates about legislative activities that affect postal workers and their families and then contact our legislative representatives to ask them to vote for or against the bill. **Remember that Congress, the Senate, and the**

**President can wipeout all that you and the union has achieved with the passage of legislative action and a signature!!!**

Please be safe and mask up!

In Solidarity,  
Mark Follet  
Vice President

## Contract Talk

Q: What Phase is Letter Carriers in for COVID-19 vaccinations?

A: The CDC has recommended that all Postal Service employees be included in Phase 1b. This phase also includes front-line essential workers such as firefighters, police officers, grocery store workers and public transit workers.

Q: When will Phase b begin to be implemented in Pima County and other countries in Arizona?

A: Currently there is no specific date for implementing Phase 1b in Pima County. Please check with your County Health department for a specific date.

Q: I heard that some City Letter Carriers had or will have received the vaccination is this true?

A: Yes, some city letter carriers that deliver on Davis Monthan Air Force base have received the vaccinations through the base.

Q: Will the US Postal Service provide COVID-19 vaccinations for its employees like the Military?

A: Discussions between NALC and the Postal Service regarding the distribution of the vaccine to letter carriers are ongoing. Should an agreement arise, and distribution schedule made the NALC will notify all letter carriers.

Q: Who should you contact if you have questions about COVID-19 vaccinations?

A: If you have questions about the vaccines, you should consult with your doctor or health care professional, state and county health department website and the CDC website.

Please stay safe and mask up!

In Solidarity,  
Mark Follet  
Vice President & Coronado Steward

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 2021-03 Issue #03  
Organization: National Association of Letter Carriers,  
2950 N. Country Club Road, Tucson, AZ 85716-1912

### MEETING DATES

**BRANCH MEETING- Thursday, March 4, 2021 @ 7:00 pm**

**STEWARDS MEETING- THURSDAY, March 18,2021 @ 5:30 pm**

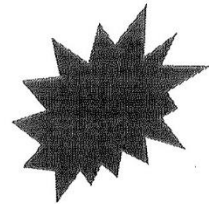
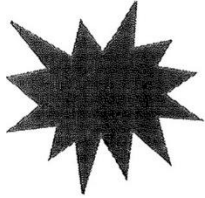
**E-BOARD MEETING- THURSDAY, March 25, 2021 @ 6:00 pm**

# TUCSON PREMIUM TAX LLC

2030 E BROADWAY BLVD SUITE 11

TUCSON, AZ 85719

---



**JESUS ALVAREZ, TAX ADVISER**

Own and operated by a **Sun Station** carrier and NALC member with  
Years of experience in **TAX PREPARATION, BOOKKEEPING and  
ACCOUNTING**

Experience in Individual and Business Returns, e.g., Rentals, Self Employed,  
Partnerships, Corporations, Business filings and incorporations.

**40% OFF \***

WHAT YOU PAID LAST YEAR FOR TAX PREPARATION

Call for appointment at **(520) 271-0534**

Office open all year, evenings and weekends for your convenience by appointment.

I offer the same or similar services as the larger tax companies. These includes bank service and e-file but with a better and more personal experience with access to other financial services as needed.

\*Offer good for New Customers showing a receipt to another Firm or Tax Preparer.

**Paid AD**

# Chaplain's Corner

Remember the acrostic H.A.L.T. It means  
toy should avoid becoming too hungry, angry,  
lonely, or tired. Why? Simply because that is  
when you get discouraged and are in danger  
of making some very costly decisions.

Charles F. Stanley-  
Walking with God

"Come to me, all who are weary and heavy-  
laden, and I will give you rest. Take My Yoke  
upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle  
and humble in heart, and You Will Find Rest  
For Your Souls. For My Yoke is easy and My

Burden is light"

Mathew 11:28-30

Chaplain  
**Rick Evans**  
520-248-9643

## Condolences

**Alice Leon for the loss of your brother Ralph**

**Vince Trujillo and Danny Trujillo for the loss of their dad Eddie  
Trujillo lifetime member.**

**Angela Gutierrez for the loss of your grandmother.**

**Family of Michael J Keaveney**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Get Well**

**Eddie Luna**

# Health Benefit Report

## Know the signs of a heart attack in women

A heart attack occurs when one or more arteries that feed the heart with blood and oxygen gets completely blocked by a clot or plaque. This means that the affected parts of the heart will soon die if not treated in time at a hospital. Of significance for women, according to the Heart & Stroke 2018 Health Report, is the early signs of a heart attack are missed in 78% of women, and their heart attacks are more fatal. This is due to the fact that the majority of heart research has been focused on men. Blood test and electrocardiograms sometimes come out as normal because they were designed more for men's hearts. This leads to an inaccurate diagnosis of anxiety and heartburn. Some of the signs of a heart attack are often the same for men and women and may include

chest and/or upper body discomfort, sweating, shortness of breath, nausea and/or lightheadedness. However, women can have a heart attack without chest pressure. They may also experience the following symptoms: Dizziness or faintness, Upper back pressure, Extreme fatigue. These symptoms, without crushing chest pain, could be early signs that can recur weeks before an actual heart attack. When these signs occur, it is best to chew 160 milligrams of aspirin and call 911.

The best of health to you and yours,

**Bruce Jenkins**

Health Benefit Representative

## Formal Step-A Report

During the months of December 2020 and January 2021, **12** grievances were resolved at the Formal Step-A Level.

A summary of the settled grievances are listed below:

### **FORMAL STEP-A:**

- Settled **1** 7-Day Suspension by getting it reduced to a 3-month LOW.
- Settled **2** Letter of Warnings by getting 1 reduced to a 3-month LOW and 1 reduced to an Official Discussion.
- Settled **5** grievance's where management improperly forced non-ODL carriers to work overtime by getting those carriers paid the appropriate premium payment and ODL carriers paid for the missed opportunities.  
**(Total: \$3,239.36).**
- Settled **1** grievance's where management failed to pay a carrier their call-in guarantee by getting that carrier paid  
**(Total \$230.80).**
- Settled **2** Equalization for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2020 and 16 carriers will start the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2021 in the Negative.
- Settled **1** Failure to Post Vacancy by now having Steward, Station Mgr./Supv. to jointly initial, date stamp and post to the vacancy board.

Management's failure to follow the contract cost the USPS **\$ 3,470.16** the last two months.

In Cooperation and Unity,

**Kimberly S. Davis**

Formal Step-A Representative (Acting)

**National Association of Letter Carriers  
 Carl J. Kennedy Branch 704  
 2950 N. Country Club Road  
 Tucson, AZ 85716-1912  
 Telephone: 520-323-2117  
 February 2021 Newsletter**

**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 TUCSON, AZ  
 PERMIT 982**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**BRANCH OFFICERS**

KATHY WALTER	PRESIDENT
MARK FOLLET	VICE PRESIDENT
DON HICOK	RECORDING SECRETARY
AMBER UNDERWOOD	FINANCIAL SECRETARY
ALEXIS PADILLA	TREASURER
BRUCE JENKINS	HBA REPRESENTATIVE
GENE KELLEY	RETIREE REPRESENTATIVE
JOHN THOME	SERGEANT-AT-ARMS



**TRUSTEES**

**PETE TADEO**

**MIKE DONNELLY                      KIMBERLY DAVIS**

**TIFFANY EGGERT                      JC MENA**

**CHAPLAIN**

**RICK EVANS**

**FORMAL A REPRESENTATIVE**

<b>KIMBERLY DAVIS</b>		<b>323-2117</b>
	<b>SHOP STEWARDS</b>	
VACANT	BISBEE	520-432-2626
RAY DEVELLIN	CASA GRANDE	520-836-7221
KIMBERLY DAVIS	CASAS ADOBES	531-0693
VINCE TRUJILLO	CHERRYBELL	388-5182
MICHAEL DURAN	COOLIDGE	520-723-3011
MARK FOLLET	CORONADO	571-7245
DIMAS GONZALEZ	CORONADO	571-7279
JOE SCARAMELLA	DESERT FOOTHILLS	615-9032
BARBARA MADDUX	DOUGLAS	520-634-3631
TIFFANY EGGERT	FT LOWELL	290-9723
VACANT	GLOBE	928-425-2381
VACANT	GREEN VALLEY	648-0095
LILLIAN VALDEZ	MISSION	889-8828
KAREN HERRINGTON	MOUNTAIN VIEW	744-7097
VINNY ERRICO	RINCON	296-2816
VACANT	RINCON	296-1279
AL MARTINEZ	SAFFORD	928-428-0220
JENNIFER BRANUM	SAN MANUEL	520-385-9341
ALEXIS PADILLA	SAN XAVIER	883-3284
AL MARTINEZ	SIERRA VISTA	520-458-0554
KERK YOUNG	SILVERBELL	388-9257
ALFREDO DELGADO	SILVERBELL	388-9572
JC MENA	SUN	881-1276
TONY RODRIGUEZ	SUN	881-1254
VACANT	WILLCOX	520-384-2689



