



CARL J. KENNEDY BRANCH 704

THE LETTER CARRIER REPORTER

PROUDLY SERVING

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November 2020

Email Address: nalcbranch704@outlook.com

Printed by Branch 704

Steward Election Notice

Per Article VII, Section 1 of the NALC Branch 704 By-Laws:

Shop Stewards shall be elected for three (3) year terms that coincide with Executive Board terms of office. The notice inviting nominees for election to steward shall be posted for a period of five (5) calendar days, beginning the Monday following the December branch meeting. If an election is held, the station election committee shall notify the President and Recording Secretary of the name(s) of the new Shop Steward(s) not later than the third Thursday of the month of December. Unfilled positions, or subsequent vacancies shall be appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of the President. The President may remove any steward or alternate steward who was appointed to office.

WEBSITE: www.nalcbranch704.org

Branch Meeting Thursday November 5, 2020 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,
Nominations for Branch Officers and Delegates to the 2021 State Convention occurred at our October 1, 2020 branch meeting. The Branch will have elections for the positions of President, Vice President and Trustees for the next three-year term.

All other Executive Officers were elected by acclamation. I want to congratulate Treasurer Alexis Padilla, Recording Secretary Don Hicok, Financial Secretary Amber Underwood, SGT at Arms John Thome, Health Benefit Rep Bruce Jenkins, Retiree Rep Gene Kelley, for being elected by acclamation.

The Election Committee is reporting the ballots for the election of the Executive Board Officers of Branch 704, will be mailed on Friday, December 4, 2020 to eligible voting members. Please vote as soon as you get the ballot and envelope. Once you receive the ballot, you can return it as soon as possible.

Ray Root our Health Benefit Rep for the past 45 years had elected to step down from the position this year. Ray's dedication, loyalty, and hard work on behalf of the branch and its members is be an inspiration to all union members on what a union member does to support their fellow brothers and sisters. I as branch president, along with all the branch members wish to thank you for your service to branch 704 over the past 45 years and hope to continue seeing you at the union meetings.

Steward Elections – Per our Branch By-Laws Steward elections will be held this December for all stewards' positions in every office we serve. A posting will be placed on the NALC bulletin board at every office and will be posted for the period of five calendar days. Any member interested in representing your fellow carriers in the role of steward needs to place their name on the steward posting during the posting period. In the event there are more names than authorized under Article 17 for your station we will conduct a station steward election. I may be calling on some of our members to serve on a station election committee if the need arises. Stewards are elected to a three-year term coinciding with officer elections.

Post Office Local Election Mail Task Force – Local election mail task force consists of Tucson management and each craft union Steward (Unless otherwise named by President of each Local Union). The team will meet

and cover the material provided to determine what should happen with political and election mail for different scenarios on Thursday, Oct. 15, 2020. The representatives will hold a joint standup and inform all employees this task force has been formed Friday, Oct. 16th. Meet as a team that Friday, Oct. 16 and complete the attached Election Mail Retail and Delivery Checklist daily starting October 19,2020.

We encourage letter carriers that are serving on these task forces to have daily conversations with other task force members about the status of operational protocols and communication locally. Should any questions arise, letter carriers should contact a steward, or branch office.

NALC Branch 704, 1642 and 6156 are holding a Labor 2020 Phone Bank October 23, 2020 from 6:00 to 8:30pm.

Arizona is now the number one Western Battleground State for the 2020 election. Winning here will give us the opportunity to elect Vice President Joe Biden and also elect Captain Mark Kelly to the US Senate along with pro-labor candidates at all local, state, and federal levels. To help turn the tide in our state we have set up the following NALC Virtual Phone Bank and Training in partnership with the Arizona AFL-CIO. We need your help to please participate in this event.

If you've never participated in a phone bank it is simple, you will need a computer and your phone, that is it. When you RSVP for the Virtual Phone Bank there will be a short zoom **training on Thursday 10/22/2020 at 7:45pm** to walk you thru what to do. The script is already written, all you need to do is follow the script provided and instructions to record the response. NALC along with other unions are endorsing the Biden ticket and will only contact fellow union members for the phone bank.

Please type <https://actionnetwork.org/forms/nalc-10-23> and click on the RSVP for the Virtual Phone Bank and join fellow activists in protecting your job, wages, retirement and the future of the Postal Service **October 23, 2020 at 6:00pm to 8:30pm.**

Arizona has been delivering political and election mail to customers. Please insure all political and election mail is treated as first class mail. If your are not sure ask a
President Article (Cont. on pg. 3)

President Article (Cont. from pg. 2)
manager or steward. Do not assume if you do not know
the answer.

In Solidarity
President
Kathy Walter

It will be getting dark out sooner: please watch out for
pedestrians if it gets dark on you delivering mail. Stay
safe.

* * * *

Congratulations...

On your Conversion!

Diana Metcalf

Ben Dunn

Ann Taylor

Jesus Santellanes

Oscar Daniel

On your Retirement!

Loan Mack

Green Valley Post Office

George Daley

Coolidge Post Office



* * * *

Meeting Dates

BRANCH MEETING - Thursday, November 5, 2020 @ 7:00 pm

STEWARDS MEETING - Thursday, November 19, 2020 @ 5:30 pm

E-BOARD MEETING - Tuesday, November 24, 2020 @ 6:00 pm

Vice President Article

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the membership for placing my name in **nomination** for **NALC Branch 704 President for the 2021-2023 election term**. I was honored to accept the nomination at our October 1st Branch meeting.

Besides the office of President, the following Branch Officers were contested for the upcoming election cycle **Vice President** and **5 Trustee positions**. The following names were placed in **nomination** for Vice President, **Claudio Retes, Mark Follet** and **Ray Develin**. The following names were placed in **nomination** for Trustee, **Pete Tadeo, Dimas Gonzalez, Mike Donnelly, Kimberly Davis, JC Mena, Tiffany Eggert,** and **Joseph Bertel**. I was happy to see a lot of our younger carriers getting involved and running for office during this election cycle, as they are the future of Branch 704.

I would also like to add none of the successes that this Branch has had in the last 3 years would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of not only your Branch Officers and Stewards, but also to the many members who have contributed to those successes. I would also like to thank all of our current and past Officers who have served this Branch during this last Election term. Without their dedication to their jobs and the members of this Branch we would never have been able to accomplish what we have. Many Officers were elected to yet another term and if elected I look forward to working with them to continue our mission.

The following Branch Officers were elected by acclamation for the 2021-2023 election term, Recording Secretary **Don Hicok**, Financial Secretary **Amber**

Underwood, Treasurer **Alexis Padilla**, Sergeant at Arms **John Thome**, Retiree Representative **Gene Kelley**, and Health Benefit Representative **Bruce Jenkins**.

Open Season for the Federal Employees' Health Benefit Plan runs from **Monday, November 9 through Monday, December 14, 2020**. I am very happy to report that the changes being implemented to the plan make the plan even better than it was before. The NALC dares every active Letter Carrier to compare our plan, the one that we own to any plan out there. If you've received your Health Benefits Brochures, you can clearly see that many of the plan rates are going up and benefits are decreasing. Not so with the NALC Plan. The NALC Plan has a very small increase in the bi-weekly premiums but are far outweighed by the extra added benefits this year. I hope that every Shop Steward and everyone with the plan talks about it on the workroom floor as this can serve us in more than one way. First of all, every Letter Carrier that signs up with the NALC Plan will receive top notch benefits and the best Health Plan in the entire Federal Employees Health Benefit Program. So once again, I encourage every active Letter Carrier and every Retiree that does not belong to the plan to please compare our plan with any other plan available out there. I'm sure that you will find that the NALC Plan is the number one plan by far.

Fraternally,
Stuart Love
Vice President

Chaplain's Corner

Prayer is the choice tool God has given us to reach Him, speak to Him, plead our case before Him, and receive all we need from Him. Unfortunately, we take prayer – one of the greatest blessings He has given us – for granted. Taken from Walking With God. Dr Charles Stanley. "Let everyone who is Godly pray to You in a time when You may be found; surely in a

flood of great waters they will not reach him. You are my hiding place; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with songs of deliverance."

Psalm 32:6-7.

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

Contract Talk

The COVID-19 pandemic has had many effects on city letter carriers. One has been on annual leave. Many letter carriers had choice leave scheduled and then canceled their leave because vacations and events were rescheduled as a result of the pandemic.

On Sept. 3, NALC and USPS agreed to Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Re: Annual Leave Carryover for Leave Year 2021, M-01928 in NALC's Materials Reference System (MRS), which aims to alleviate this problem.

Article 10 of the National Agreement covers general leave provisions such as choice of vacation period, vacation planning and sick leave. Article 10, Section 2 specifically incorporates Employee and Labor Relations Manual (ELM), Section 510, which contains all the rules and procedures related to the Postal Service leave program. Section 512.32 of the ELM below contains the provision regarding annual leave carryover.

512.32 Maximum Carryover, 512.321 Maximum Carryover Amounts

The maximum carryover amount, i.e., the maximum amount of previously accumulated annual leave with which an employee may be credited at the beginning of a year is as follows: a. Bargaining Unit Employees. The maximum leave carryover for bargaining unit employees is 55 days (440 hours).

Normally, the maximum carryover amount is 440 hours, as explained in the ELM. Accumulated annual leave in excess of 440 hours at the end of the leave year is not carried or rolled over into the next year.

M-01928 temporarily raises the maximum carryover to 520 hours from leave year 2020 to leave year 2021. M-01928 states: The parties agree that for leave year 2021, regular work force career employees covered by the USPS-NALC Agreement may carry over 520 hours of accumulated annual leave from leave year 2020 to leave year 2021. In all other respects, the ELM provisions for payment of accumulated leave are not changed because of this Memorandum. This MOU will expire December 31, 2021.

As the carryover maximum will return to 440 hours from the 2021 leave year to the 2022 leave year, care should be taken to ensure that no employee be required to forfeit any part of his/her annual leave.

In Solidarity
Kathy Walter

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 2020-10 Issue #10
Organization: National Association of Letter Carriers,
2950 N. Country Club Road, Tucson, AZ 85716-1912

Condolences

Julia Loreto on the loss of your Father.

Christie Foley on the loss of your Brother-in-Law.

Ken Bertschy on the loss of your Nephew.

Ronnie Bertschy on the loss of your Cousin.

Randy Lopez, Sr. on the loss of your Mother.

Belated Condolences

Jose Pro-Enriquez on the loss of your Brother.

Get Well

Tiffany Eggert.

Branch Elections

Nominations for branch officers were made at the last branch meeting. Some of the positions were filled by acclamation, this means that only 1 individual was nominated for that position and will fill that position for the next 3 years.

The office of President, Vice President, and Trustee will be selected by ballot mailed out to each member of the branch. You have a choice as to whom will represent the branch in each of these offices. Your vote is important, so please give considerable consideration as you choose your selection for these positions.

All positions of branch officers are members of the Executive Board and have a voice in how the branch

should function. Every position is important to the direction that branch 704 takes in the next 3 years. It is my hope that more members will become interested in branch business and get engaged in the operations of the branch in the future.

In closing, your voice matters. Don't remain silent, vote for the individual that you feel will best represent our branch for the next 3 year.

In Solidarity,
Gene Kelley
Retiree Representative

Health Benefit Report

Three Nutrients You Need Now

Older adults are at risk for some common deficiencies that lead to poor energy, but you shouldn't self-diagnose. Check with your doctor, who will run tests to find out whether you need supplementation.

Iron

According to an article in the American Journal of Hematology, anemia is common in older adults. At least 10 percent of those 65 and older are thought to have it--almost 40 percent of men and 22 percent of women 85 and older. Low iron is a common type of anemia; red meat, eggs, and spinach are good food sources, but you may need more.

Magnesium

This hard-working mineral is important for energy and heart, nerve, and muscle function, among

many other things. Almost half of Americans—and 70 to 80 percent of those older than 70—fail to meet their daily magnesium needs. Whole grains, nuts, legumes, and many vegetables contain magnesium.

Vitamin B12

Up to 15 percent of people may be running low on this crucial vitamin. Because of changes in the gastrointestinal tract as you age, your body is less able to absorb vitamin B12 from foods, and a deficiency can lead to fatigue and cognitive changes, among other problems. Chronic use of acid-blocking medications can affect B12 absorption, too.

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

**Vote
STUART LOVE
FOR
PRESIDENT NALC BRANCH 704**

NALC Branch 704 President July 2010 – May 2016

**NALC Branch 704 Vice President January 2009 - June 2010 &
October 2019 – Present**

**9 Years Tucson Formal A Designee 2006 - June 2010 and Dec
2016 to Present**

Certified NALC Arbitration Advocate 2007 – Present

26 Years Shop Steward

Vote for experience, dedication, and practical leadership.

Payed Political Advertisement

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**Vote
CLAUDIO RETES
FOR
VICE-PRESIDENT NALC BRANCH 704**

**NALC Branch 704 Interim Vice President April 2019 - June
2019**

Past NALC Branch 704 Branch Trustee

6 Years Shop Steward

**Designated Shop Steward to handle grievances at outlying
Associate Offices**

Vote for experience, dedication, and practical leadership

Payed Political Advertisement

**National Association of Letter Carriers
 Carl J. Kennedy Branch 704
 2950 N. Country Club Road
 Tucson, AZ 85716-1912
 Telephone: 520-323-2117
 November 2020 Newsletter**

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

BRANCH OFFICERS

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
VACANT	SHOP STEWARDS	
WADE ALFORD	BISBEE	520-432-2626
RAY DEVELLIN	CASA GRANDE	520-836-7221
KIMBERLY DAVIS	CASA GRANDE	520-836-7241
VINCE TRUJILLO	CASAS ADOBES	531-0693
GEORGE DALEY	CHERRYBELL	388-5182
MARK FOLLET	COOLIDGE	520-723-3011
DIMAS GONZALEZ	CORONADO	571-7245
JAVIER RAMIREZ	CORONADO	571-7279
BARBARA MADDUX	DESERT FOOTHILLS	615-9032
TIFFANY EGGERT	DOUGLAS	520-634-3631
VACANT	FT LOWELL	290-9723
CLAUDIO RETES	GLOBE	928-425-2381
LILLIAN VALDEZ	GREEN VALLEY	648-0095
KAREN HERRINGTON	MISSION	889-8828
VINNY ERRICO	MOUNTAIN VIEW	744-7097
VACANT	RINCON	296-2816
VACANT	RINCON	296-1279
ROSE BUNKER	SAFFORD	928-428-0220
ALEXIS PADILLA	SAN MANUEL	520-385-9341
AL MARTINEZ	SAN XAVIER	883-3284
KERK YOUNG	SIERRA VISTA	520-458-0554
VACANT	SILVERBELL	388-9257
JC MENA	SILVERBELL	388-9572
TONY RODRIGUEZ	SUN	881-1276
VACANT	SUN	881-1254
	WILLCOX	520-384-2689