

*The Official Newsletter of
San Juan, P.R. NALC Branch 869*



VIEWPOINT

September 2023

JULIO M. SANTIAGO PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings brothers and sisters, hoping that you and your family are all in good health. As many of you already know after 16 years Mr. John K. Rivera stepped down as President of Branch 869 due to health issues. I, as Vice-President of this Branch on August 1, 2023, moved up as President of Branch 869. We are all wishing the best and especially good health to Mr. Rivera.

Branch 869 Family Day is scheduled for Sunday October 8, 2023. The same as last year it will be held at Monte Frio Recreation Park. We will be sending out to all Stations a Flash Notice with all the details and information regarding this activity.

As always, it is my recommendation to all members that you do not miss any of our monthly meetings, in which we discuss and present different issues to the membership. It is important to mention that this is an election year. The dates for our next 4 meetings include the date of presentation of nominations for Board of Directors of Branch 869 and the official election day.

September 19, 2023

October 16, 2023

November 21, 2023 – Presentation of nominations

December 19, 2023 – Election Day

Until next time, I am always at your disposition, Union num., 787-250-7011, Cell num., 787-463-8934,

BRANCH 869 INFORMATION

National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 869

311 Eleanor Roosevelt Ave.

San Juan, PR 00918-2719

Phone: (787) 250-7011/7015, email: uniondecarteros869@gmail.com, Fax: (787) 250-7935

BRANCH OFFICERS

Julio Santiago Feliciano	President	(787) 463-8934	jmsf12345@hotmail.com
Margaret Hall	Vice-President	(787) 691-3606	hallmargaret@live.com
Rolando Franquiz	Recording Secretary	(787) 444-9944	rolejobello@hotmail.com
Efrain Navarro	Treasurer	(787) 637-8715	iwscorp@gmail.com
Linda Ramirez	Newspaper Editor	(787) 360-2345	ramirezcaguas@gmail.com
Carlos Burgos	Sergeant at Arms	(787) 938-7866	carlosburgos803@gmail.com
Isidro Moyet	Trustee	(939) 274-6278	moyetmoyetmoyetmoyet@yahoo.com
Christopher Cotto	Chief Shop Steward	(787) 565-2734	cottosanchez.christopher@gmail.com

STEP A's/AREA REP

Michelle Munich	Toa Baja/Levittown	(787) 210-7858	mrsmunich@gmail.com
Jimmy Santiago	Fajardo Shop Steward	(787) 550-7679	elzorro118@gmail.com
Rolando Alicea	Rio Grande Shop Steward	(939) 439-6439	rolusps@gmail.com
Javier Ávila	Carolina MPO	(787) 368-3038	javierdna@live.com

SHOP STEWARDS

Rolando Franquiz	Bayamón Branch	(787) 444-9944	rolejobello@hotmail.com
Pablo Figueroa	Bayamón Branch	(787) 204-9965	
Nancy Medina	Bayamon Gardens	(787) 810-8022	ye-yi2004@hotmail.com
Carlos Burgos	Caguas	(787) 938-7866	carlosburgos803@gmail.com
Erick Báez	Caguas	(787) 469-9145	
Jesús M. Ayala	Caparra Heights	(787) 513-1342	jsus.mat@gmail.com
Héctor Lora	Carolina	(954) 999-6724	hectorlora9@gmail.com
Felix Cotto	Cataño	(787) 444-9715	
Moises Colon	CCU 65th Infantry	(787) 904-6814	
Mario De Jesús	CCU Loíza Street	(787) 223-0504	chavalino@icloud.com
Anthony Duarte	Cupey	(787) 361-5236	anthonydo14@gmail.com
Florentino Reyes	Dorado	(787) 624-9920	
Jimmy Santiago	Fajardo	(787) 550-7679	elzorro118@gmail.com
Margaret Hall	Guaynabo	(787) 691-3606	hallmargaret@live.com
Carlos Berrios	Hato Rey	(787) 608-4222	koria7@yahoo.com
Abimael Estrada	Humacao	(787) 505-7432	
Ernesto Rivera	Naguabo	(787) 874-3115	
Wilson D. Beltrán	Toa Baja/Levittown	(787) 242-1535	
Christopher Cotto	Trujillo Alto	(787) 565-2734	cottosanchez.christopher@gmail.com
William Acevedo	Puerta de Tierra	(787) 722-4134	ccm50@yahoo.com
Rolando Alicea	Rio Grande	(939) 439-6439	rolusps@gmail.com
Marilyn Vera	Rio Grande	(787) 206-8516	
Kebdiel Martinez	Toa Alta	(787) 420-1969	
Christopher Cotto	Trujillo Alto	(787) 565-2734	cottosanchez.christopher@gmail.com
Michael Rivera	Vega Baja	(787) 381-6819	

Vice-President
Margaret Y. Hall

Brothers and Sister, Hope you're all doing well!
A few reminders here:

1. Monthly meeting every third Tuesday of the month. If Monday is a holiday, then the meeting will be held on Wednesday.
2. Grievance committee every other Wednesday.
3. Family Day, October 8, 2023, at Monte Frio Recreation Center
4. Elections will be in December. It is very important that if you need to submit any address correction, please contact me or the Union office.

Hope to see you all!!
787-691-3606
787-250-7011

Extreme Heat

Extreme Heat Checklist

What to Do:



Stay Hydrated

- Drink plenty of fluids. Encourage others to drink plenty of fluids, too.
- Replace salt and minerals with snacks or a sports drink.



Stay Cool

- Stay in an air-conditioned place as much as possible.
- If your home does not have air conditioning, go to your predesignated cool location.
- Wear lightweight, loose clothing and take cool showers or baths.
- Limit your outdoor activity. If you must work outdoors, schedule tasks earlier or later in the day.



Prevent Heat Illness

Check on your friends, family and neighbors. Help them prevent heat illness. Act fast if you notice someone with symptoms.

Anyone can develop heat illness. But, people at greater risk are:

- Older adults
- Infants, children and pregnant women
- People with medical conditions
- Outdoor workers
- People with limited personal resources
- People living in places that lack green spaces

FLASH NOTICE

Branch 869 Family Day 2023 is Schedule for Sunday, October 8, 2023. It will be held at Monte Frio Parque Familiar located at: Carretera 831 Km. 6.5 Bo. Minillas, Sector Pablo Silva Bayamon PR 00956

Monte Frio Parque Familiar has the following facilities:

Kiosk, basketball and volleyball courts, three (3) swimming pools, slides, green areas, ample parking, lunch and all food and drinks will be served at the cafeteria area and the Aguacate Kiosk.

Lunch Menu is as follows:

Rice with peas, rice with onion
Chicken Roasted, Turkey Roasted
Pasta Salad
Flan – Cheese and Vanilla

3 roasted pork served at: 10:00 AM, 2 PM and 4:30 PM

Ordeals in the morning at 10:00 AM and in the afternoon 3:00 PM

Hot dogs and Hamburgers, served at 11:00 AM before and during lunch

Family Day is for our DUES paying Members. Admission will be as follows:

1. Branch members and thir family members: Spouse and dependent children up to 10 years old – **FREE**
2. **Grandchildren, Son / Daughter OVER 18 YEARS** must pay an entrance fee of **\$25.00**
3. Guest accompanying member also will be required to pay an entrance fee of **\$25.00**

Remember the person who will be asking for the entrance fee listed above is a PAYING DUES Branch member, who is working for FREE assisting the Branch in development of the Family Day. Please, be diligent and respectful with these brothers and sisters at the entrance.

Rules & Policies

1. Parking is only at the Designated parking lot.
2. Bottled or any glass receptacle is **NOT authorized**. ONLY plastic, cardboard or aluminum cans are allowed. You can bring your own liquor (beer, hard liquor) make sure is on an authorized container.
3. No firearms allowed.
4. No hammocks allowed.
5. No bicycles, scooters, skateboards, motorized vehicles allowed in the or outside of the premises.
6. No radios, boomboxes allowed.
7. Smoking is allowed at the Designated Smoking Area, located near the Mango Tree before the bathrooms.
8. No pets allowed. Service animals **ONLY**.

When an active letter carrier dies...

- Notify the employee's immediate supervisor, postmaster and Human Resources Shared Service Center (HRSSC) at 877-477-3273. HRSSC will advise about any benefits payable, and how to apply for them. It will provide and render assistance in completing the application for death benefits under the employee's retirement system, as well as the claim for death benefits—Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance (FEGLI) and claim for unpaid compensation.
- Notify the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) at 877-968-3778.
- Notify the letter carrier's NALC branch.
- If the employee was a veteran, notify Veterans Affairs at 800-827-1000.
- Call the Social Security Administration at 800-772-1213.
- Notify banks and other financial institutions.
- Notify insurance companies (life, health, home, automobile, etc.). If the employee had a policy with NALC's Mutual Benefit Association (MBA), call 202-638-4318 between 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. EST, or write to MBA, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Suite 510, Washington, DC 20001-2144.
- If the employee had health insurance through the NALC Health Benefit Plan, call 888-636-6252. If the employee had health insurance through a different Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) plan, call the number on the back of the insurance card. Health insurance coverage for a surviving spouse and dependent children continues automatically if the employee had family coverage at the time of death and if a monthly survivor annuity is payable.
- Obtain a sufficient number of death certificates for your needs from the mortuary.

When a retired letter carrier dies...

- Notify the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). This should be done as soon as possible through its website, by email, by phone or by mail. To report the death of a deceased annuitant to OPM, do one of the following:
 - Visit servicesonline.opm.gov and click on "Report an Annuitant Death." This will take you to an online form to complete and submit.
 - Send an email to retire@opm.gov and include the following information pertaining to the annuitant and survivor(s): Retired letter carrier's full name, CSA number, date of birth, Social Security number, survivor's full name, relationship to the deceased, Social Security number, date of birth, address and phone number.
 - Call OPM at 888-767-6738.*
 - Write to OPM at Office of Personnel Management, P.O. Box 45, Boyers, PA 16017. Provide the information on the deceased and survivor(s) as above.
- *Calling OPM can sometimes take several attempts due to high call volumes. Callers may be on hold for 20 minutes or longer. The NALC Retirement Department staff is familiar with OPM and is well-versed in explaining OPM's processes. Upon request, the NALC Retirement Department will report the death of a retired member to OPM and answer any questions. To contact the NALC Retirement Department, call toll-free at 800-424-5186 on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 2 p.m.-4 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. The NALC Retirement Department also can be reached Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at 202-393-4695. Long distance charges may apply.
- Once the death of an annuitant has been reported to OPM, the OPM will stop payment of the monthly annuity and mail the applicable claim forms to the survivor. In most cases, two forms will be included in the packet:
 - application for death benefits under the retirement system (death benefits include survivor benefits and/or any unpaid annuity balance) and
 - application for Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance (FEGLI)
 - The packet also includes pre-addressed return envelopes, color-coded pink and blue, to facilitate rapid distribution and processing within OPM.
- Notify the bank where annuity payments are deposited, as well as any other of the retiree's financial institutions. Any annuity payments deposited after the date of death will be reclaimed by OPM. Return any uncashed annuity checks to the address on the accompanying Treasury Department envelope.
- Obtain enough death certificates for your needs from the mortuary.
- Notify the retired letter carrier's NALC branch.
- If the retiree was a veteran, notify Veterans Affairs at 800-827-1000.
- Call the Social Security Administration at 800-772-1213.
- Notify insurance companies (life, health, home, automobile, etc.).
- If the retiree had a policy with NALC's Mutual Benefit Association, call 202-638-4318 between 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. EST, or write to MBA, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Suite 510, Washington, DC 20001-2144.
- If the retiree had health insurance through the NALC Health Benefit Plan or any other FEHB plan, the OPM will inform the health plan. When a spouse is entitled to survivor benefits, he or she will receive continuous health insurance coverage as long as they were covered under their spouse's FEHB plan at the time of death. The health plan will automatically change to self-only and be switched to the surviving spouse's name.
- If the retiree participated in the Thrift Savings Plan, contact the TSP at 877-968-3778.

If the spouse of a retired letter carrier dies, call the NALC Retirement Department for instructions on how to restore annuity to full amount, switch health coverage from family to self (unless you have dependent children) and change beneficiaries.