When you ask most Americans what they know about Anaheim, California, you’re most likely to hear one thing—Disneyland. But the many letter carrier-delegates to this summer’s 67th Biennial National Convention who look beyond the Anaheim Convention Center door will find within a short drive plenty of attractions that offer a chance to discover the nature, history and culture of Southern California. Here are some of the more popular destinations for delegates to explore while in the area for the 67th Biennial Convention.
Temecula

South and east of Anaheim lies the Temecula Valley, boasting more than two dozen wineries and more than 3,500 acres of vineyards. Visitors will find tasting rooms to suit all interests, from lavish resorts to quaint chateaus.

If some excitement is more to your liking, head to the Pechanga Resort and Casino to try your luck. Built by the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians, the $262 million resort complex includes seven restaurants, a cabaret lounge, a nightclub with five bars, a bingo hall and, of course, an 85,000-foot casino.

Temecula Valley Winegrowers Association: 800-801-9463, temeculawines.org
Pechanga Resort & Casino: 888-PECHANGA, pechanga.com

San Clemente

California has always been known as a surf spot, and San Clemente is ground zero for the surfing community in the state. After heading southeast from Anaheim, visitors will find world-renowned surfboard shapers and manufacturers, along with the home base for three surfing magazines. For those looking to get on board, head out to the beach where beginners can attend a surf school or where experienced waveriders can catch swells all year round.

San Clemente Chamber of Commerce: 949-492-1131, scchamber.com

Laguna Beach

For those looking to get under the water, rather than ride on top of it, make your way over to Laguna Beach, just a short drive northwest from San Clemente. Originally named by the Spaniards as Canada de las Lagunas (Canyon of Lakes), visitors have long traveled to see the close cluster of welcoming beaches. The calm waters also make for a perfect scuba diving and snorkeling spot to check out the schools of colorful fish and wonderful underwater environment. While anyone can snorkel, certification is required for scuba diving. If you are already certified, you can rent equipment in town. Fortunately, for those who aren’t certified but would still like to give it a try,
the certification requirement can be
fulfilled by diving with a licensed
instructor as part of a course, which
can also be found here. But be warned:
classes can fill up quickly on weekends
during the summer.
Laguna Beach Visitors Center: 800-
877-1115, lagunabeachinfo.com

Catalina Island
While it might seem like most of
California has been paved over for
freeways, there’s one area that offers
up a slice of what an unspoiled Califor-
nia was like. Take one of the many
ferries from Newport Beach or Dana
Point to beautiful Catalina Island off
the coast of Orange County. About a
million tourists visit the island every
year, and for good reason. Most of
the island is controlled by the Catalina
Island Conservancy, balancing conser-
vation, education and recreation.
Cars are limited on the island (there’s
a 10-year-long wait list to bring a car
there), but if you’re willing to hoof it,
you’ll find nearly 50 miles of rugged
coastline along with plenty of hiking and
mountain biking paths. Visitors must
obtain a permit for hiking (free) and
mountain biking (fee), and declare
where they intend to explore. Or if
you’re looking to stay in town, rent
one of the ubiquitous golf carts.
Catalina Island Chamber of Com-
merce & Visitors Bureau: 310-510-
1520, catalinachamber.com

Dana Point
Besides being a launching point for
Catalina, Dana Point is also a hub for
deep sea fishing and whale-watching
cruises. Fishing boat excursions are
available from a number of local opera-
tors, who will sell you a fishing license
and rent tackle. Half-day and longer
charters are available and will allow
you a good run at sea bass, halibut,
bonita, yellowtail and barracuda.
If you just want to look, catch a
whale-watch tour. Though the migrat-
ing season for California gray whales
will have passed by the start of the
Anaheim convention, you’ll still have
an opportunity to catch a glimpse of
blue, finback and humpback whales,
along with several species of dolphin
and all types of other marine life. Be
sure to bring your binoculars.
Dana Point Harbor Information Office:
949-923-2255, danapointharbor.com

Costa Mesa
No day trip would be complete
without a chance to go shopping, and
Orange County has just the place for
you—South Coast Plaza. Referenced in
TV shows and movies, including “The
OC,” “Laguna Beach: The Real Orange
County,” “Clueless” and “Beverly Hills
90210,” the mall is the third largest in
the country and only a short trip due
south from Anaheim. Twenty-four mil-
lion visitors annually make the trip to
the mall’s 280 stores, which include
many luxury shops, such as Harry
Winston, Tiffany’s, Cartier, Montblanc,
Louis Vuitton, Prada Gucci and more.
As the mall’s owners like to say, it’s
“the ultimate shopping resort.”
South Coast Plaza: 800-782-8888,
southcoastplaza.com

Yorba Linda
Anyone who fondly remembers
Richard Nixon for helping to create the
United States Postal Service and estab-
lishing a living wage for letter carriers
should head to Yorba Linda, home of
the Richard Nixon Presidential Library
and Museum. The 37th president was
born in Yorba Linda in 1913, the son
of a rancher. After his death, Nixon was
buried on the grounds of the library.

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The museum offers a narrative of Nixon’s life and career, an exact replica of the East Room of the White House, and the government helicopter used during his presidency through to his final trip from the White House after his resignation. There is also an extensive collection of memorabilia, formal clothing and photographs of Nixon and his family.

Nixon Presidential Library and Museum: 714-983-9120, nixonlibrary.gov

Buena Park

If roller coasters and cartoon characters are more your speed, then Orange County has just the place for you—no, not Disneyland (information on Disneyland will be featured in an upcoming issue of The Postal Record). Knott’s Berry Farm theme park, with Snoopy as its mascot, has been entertaining families since the 1940s. Grown up from a roadside berry farm and pie stand, Walter Knott built a ghost town to entertain travelers as they stopped for a bite.

Over the years, the park was more visited by locals than tourists, coming to see the “summer-long county fair.” In fact, for a long time, the park was not seen as competition with Disneyland, as the “two Walts” kept up a friendship and partnered on community causes. Since then, the park has added a number of roller coasters and thrill rides while still keeping the charm of its former days.

Knott’s Berry Farm: 714-220-5200, knotts.com

Convention Breakfast for Retirees

As part of the 2010 NALC National Convention, the Retirement Department will host a breakfast on Wednesday, August 11 at 7:30 a.m.

Tickets to this event may be purchased now for $25 each. Delegates are urged to order tickets by completing the form below and returning it along with a check (payable to the NALC Secretary-Treasurer) to:

NALC Retirement Department
Attention: Convention Breakfast
100 Indiana Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001-2144

You will receive confirmation by return mail and can pick up your tickets prior to the breakfast at the Retirement Booth in the Convention Center in Anaheim.

Yes, I will be attending the Convention Retirement Breakfast on Wednesday, August 11.

Enclosed is my check for $__________ for ________ tickets at $25 each.

Name ___________________________________________________________________________________________

Branch ____________________________ Title (if applicable) ____________________________

Address _________________________________________________________________________________________

City ____________________________ State ___________ Zip __________________