

January 3, 2021

Monday, December 14, 2020 I went to get my car smogged. Tuesday, December 15, 2020 I was downtown after getting a haircut and wanted to take a deposit to the bank. When I got there I could not find the blue bag with the deposit in it. I looked, but it was nowhere to be seen. I went home, believing I may have left it there. Upon arriving home I turned my house upside down and inside out, as well as the car. I called my friend who had given me a ride on Monday to pick up my car and the office of the Auto shop where the work had been done, but neither one reported finding the missing bag. I searched my house and car a few more times, and then had to sit down to gather my wits and decide what to do next. I called the bank and the lady who helped me put a lock on my debit card and left a message for the downtown Visalia branch of the Bank of the Sierra to call me asap. I received the call that afternoon and set up an appointment for the next day, Wednesday, at 10am. I then called the Chair, Sheri, and the Secretary, Traci, to inform them of the circumstances and made arrangements with Sheri to meet me the Wednesday for the 10am appointment at the bank.

I arrived at the bank on time and Sheri came a few minutes later. Antoinette was the person who helped us. After some preliminary questions for clarification, Antoinette recommended closing the checking account and opening a new one. In order to do this, Sheri called Traci and made a motion to close the account, I seconded it and Traci concurred with our motion. We then, with Antoinette's assistance, drafted a short letter of intent/authorization to proceed with these changes. I latter took the letter to Traci for her signature and brought it back to the bank. But, in the meantime Antoinette closed the compromised account and opened a new one. She also cancelled the old debit cards and issued new ones to both Sheri and I. The checks had also been lost, so she printed a few for me to have on hand if needed. Our business concluded, Sheri left and I went to get Traci's signature as mentioned above. The next day, Antoinette called me and informed me that the bank auditors wanted a few changes to the letter of intent, so I went and got it, took it once again to Traci for her signature and returned the letter to Antoinette.

The errant blue bag has shown up, intact. It had managed to land in a bag of items returned to me by a friend who had borrowed them. I wanted to use the item in the bag, and so finally emptied it and there was that blue bag. Happy was I to see that cause of so much trouble, secure at last knowing that it had not fallen into unfriendly hands.

Cynthia Chandler

Treasurer, San Joaquin Valley Intergroup