

THE MAIL CALL



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT **By Calvin Brookins**

Route Inspections

Well the time has come. Management has scheduled route inspections for three zones that are represented by branch 2462. I have made mention in several issues of the MailCall in regards to letter carriers doing their routes the way that it should be done. Following all of the rules especially the safety rules. It is very important that we as letter carriers do our routes the proper way. Because management is only looking to eliminate routes, and if you have been cutting yourself short for the last year and a half such as skipping lunch, cutting your 10 minute street break or running your route making it appear shorter than it really is, then you are your own worst enemy.

All carriers that are not being inspected need to start doing their routes in the proper manner, believe me it will help you in the long run. The following zones have been scheduled for route inspection this spring. Sherman Oaks 91423 zone April 9, 2005, Panorama City 91402 zone April 23, 2005, and Encino 91436 zone April 30, 2005.

I will contact the National Business Agent and ask him to schedule one of his Regional Administrative Assistants to do route inspection classes for each zone. Each station will be notified when they are scheduled.

Customer Connect

We currently have two offices on line with customer connect, which is Tarzana and Sherman Oaks. The next roll out of customer connect will involve some 35 offices, which will take place in the very near future. The offices of concern for Branch 2462 are Sun Valley, Encino, and Van Nuys Main office. I have also submitted the following names to our National Business Agent for the assignment as Customer Connect Coordinators, Tia Wilson at Sun Valley, Ray Mola at Encino, and Sandra Galeana at Van Nuys Main Office. For those of you who have not yet experience customer connect I will give you a brief overview.

Customer Connect is a joint venture between the NALC and the USPS, at the national level, designed to increase revenue. It utilizes the letter carrier to identify small packages sales opportunities. We as letter carriers are out on the street everyday and we see where UPS, FED EX, DSL

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NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS OF BRANCH OFFICERS & SHOP STEWARDS

This is official notice to members of Branch 2462 that nominations for the following offices will be held at the regular branch meeting April 5, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. at the Branch Union Hall 6910 Hayvenhurst Ave # 101, Van Nuys California. The Offices are President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Sgt-at-Arms, Three (3) Trustee's, Health Benefits Representative, and Mutual Benefits Representative. No one may be nominated for more than one (1) office. Candidates must accept nomination at the time made or, if absent, in writing to be received by the Branch Secretary no later than April 7, 2005. The terms of Office shall be for a three year period. Candidates elected shall be delegates to the National and State Conventions as stated in the Branch By-Laws.

Shop Steward nominations and election will be held at the individual Stations.

ELECTION

The election shall be conducted by secret mailed ballot. All ballots will be mailed First Class to the home addresses of eligible members no later than May 9, 2005. The Election shall be conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the Executive Board of Branch 2462, NALC, which shall not be in violation of the rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the Rules of the National Executive Council. Ballots must be mailed back to the Election Committee, P. O. Box 57151 Sherman Oaks, California 91413 and must be received by 5:00 p.m. on June 1, 2005. The counting of the ballots will take place on Thursday, June 2, 2005 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at 6910 Hayvenhurst Ave., # 101 Van Nuys, California. All candidates and members may observe the counting.

IN MEMORY OF
WILBUR DALTON
RETIREE
BRANCH 2462

"The MailCall" is published monthly by "Heart of the Valley Branch 2462, NALC, 6910 Hayvenhurst Ave., Suite 101, Van Nuys, CA 91406 in the interest of and for the Letter Carriers of the Van Nuys Post Office and its Stations. ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION MUST BE IN THE HANDS OF THE EDITOR ON THE 21ST DAY BEFORE THE REGULAR BRANCH MEETING. ALL ARTICLES MUST BE TYPED OR ON COMPUTER DISK WITH SINGLE LINE SPACING. The Editor reserves the right to delete any article he deems necessary, improper, or unfit. All opinions expressed are those of the writer and are not necessarily those of the Editor or Branch 2462, NALC. The views expressed in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official views of the U.S. Postal Service. In the hopes that any material contained herein may be of benefit to your Branch and the goals of the NALC, permission is granted to copy and/or use any material in this publication with our best wishes.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	S	O	N
MAIN OFFICE	1	2								
ENCINO	3	7								
CIVIC CENTER	4	5								
PANORAMA CITY	1	3								
SHERMAN OAKS	4	5								
SUN VALLEY	1	1								
TARZANA	1	2								
RETIREE'S	4	5								
TOTAL	19	30								

**MEETING PLACE OF BRANCH 2462, NALC
6910 HAYVENHURST AVE., SUITE 101
VAN NUYS, CALIFORNIA**

**NEXT MEETING
6:30 PM**

**MARCH
1st
"2005"**

**DEADLINE DATE FOR THE NEXT
ISSUE OF "THE MAIL CALL" IS**

March 1, 2005

BRANCH OFFICE.....818-786-8505

"RETIREE CORNER"

Our Breakfast Meeting will be held at Hart's Restaurant, (Corner of Saticoy and Balboa). It will begin at 09:00 AM. The date for the next 2 will be March 26th & April 23, 2005 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar.....We hope to see you there.

Thank You
Frank Brash

In Last Months MailCall this By-Law change was misprinted. The corrected change is printed below.

BY-LAW CHANGE # 2

Proposed to amend Article VII, (Officers), Section 1 which now reads:

Section 1. The elective officers of this Branch shall be a President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, MBA Representative, Health Benefit Representative and a Board of Trustees composing of three (3) members.

Proposed to read:

Section 1. The elective officers of this Branch shall be a President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Health Benefit Representative and a Board of Trustees composing of three (3) members.

Signed by, **VELMA McCLINTON, TRACY MULLINAX,
STEVE SEYFRIED, ROGER ASKEW**

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT

Art Bocek

Route Inspections - Route Adjustments

By now you all must know of the upcoming route inspections. Both management and union are taking their respective positions and getting ready. Well, I have a story about another carrier units route inspection and adjustment. Route inspection and adjustments are like the story regarding the person who jumped off the Empire State Building, and was asked at each and every floor "How are you doing?" The response back was "**So Far, So Good.**"

Management inspected Smallville Station. Management eliminated 5 routes out of the total of 51 routes. Well, lets us all get out our pencils and pads to see just how management worked "The Numbers." Five (5) routes at 2080 hours per year equals to 10,400 hours saved, and the District Office in charge of Smallville Station improved the savings by cutting out an additional 12,000 hours out of the budge for Smallville Station. Management was as happy as "pigs in mud." Oh well, "**So Far, So Good.**"

So lets do our own "Crunching" of the numbers. By now you probably have figure it out, and much to the amazement of the remaining 46 routes in Smallville, an additional 50 minutes was added to their street time. Just to fill you in with some inside dirt about Smallville's numbers before management's "**hoeing**" of the numbers, the week prior to the route inspection, overtime was running about 5.1%. The week after inspection OT went up to 7.9%. After Smallville's routes were adjusted according to management's "**hoed**" numbers, OT went up to 21.8 % and currently is at the same percentage today.

Lets see now, before inspections Smallville's 51 routes at 2080 hours per year at lets say at \$20.00 per hour works out to \$2,212,600.00 per year. After route inspection and adjustment of Smallville's remaining 46 routes at 2080 hours per year times \$20.00 per hour comes out to \$1,913,600.00. Heh, that's a savings of \$208,000.00 per year or is it?. What about the **OT**?

By my own "extrapolating," before inspections 51 routes at 5.1% of **OT** come out to \$162,300 per year for overtime. Now after inspection, 46 routes at 21.8 % **OT** equals to \$625,740.00 of overtime. Before inspection, \$2,212,600.00 + \$162,00.00 **OT** equals to \$2,283,900.00. After inspection and management's "**Hoeing**" of the numbers equals to \$1,913,600.00 + \$625,740.00 **OT** equals to \$2,539,340.00.

Management is currently **paying \$255,440.00 additional per year after eliminating 5 routes** at Smallville Station. It has been reported many carriers at Smallville Station have made over \$70,000.00 in 2004. Rumors have it now there are many request in from the carriers at Smallville Station for another route inspection and adjustment to have an additional 5 routes eliminated in order for the remaining 41 carriers to be making 6 figure incomes. "**So Far, So Good.**"

Oh well, knowing management as I have for the past 35 years, and have seen just what management has done in the past with inspect and adjustments in Van Nuys, I can only conclude:

"There's Gold On Them Thar Routes."

2005 CHANGES TO YOUR TSP PLAN

by

Tracy J. Mullinax, Trustee

A. NEW LIFECYCLE FUNDS TO BE INTRODUCED IN 2005

1. What is a Lifecycle fund?
 - is a target asset allocation or target maturity fund
 - combines the advantages of indexed and managed funds
 - can increase investment returns over career
2. Why are L Funds needed?
 - Overall, TSP participants are too conservative: 25% are in the G fund only
 - No difference between CSRS and FERS allocations
 - just 16% do Inter-Fund Transfers; 45% never make any changes at all
 - there is evidence of "chasing returns": a Volatile G fund share
3. Failure to Rebalance
 - CSRS and FERS employees who have invested outside the G fund have allocated their TSP funds in remarkably similar fashion, despite differences in age and life circumstances
4. How the "L- Funds" will work?
 - L Funds will be comprised of existing TSP index funds (G, F, C, S and I Funds)
 - Participants would enroll in L Fund options based on age and number of years to go before they plan to make use of their TSP savings
 - Examples of L Fund options:
 - a 27 year-old enrolls in "2034 L Fund" initially
 - 75% equities (C,S,I); 25% bonds (G/F).
 - Over time, gradually shift away from equities(riskier) to bonds (less risky).
 - a 47 year-old enrolls in "2014 L Fund:"
 - Balanced investment (50% C,S,I; 50% G); shift to bonds later

B. OPEN SEASON UPDATE

1. President Bush was expected at press time to sign into law effectively ending the twice a year open seasons held by the TSP since its creation in 1986. Postal and federal employees will be able to initiate, modify or terminate TSP contributions at any time.
2. Under the old law, participants could stop making TSP contributions at any time, but would have to wait one or more Open seasons to resume their payroll contributions. Moreover, participants could not increase or decrease their level of TSP contributions outside of the Open season periods. Under the new law, which takes effect following one last Open season next year, letter carriers and other federal employees will not have to wait for an Open season to resume or modify the level of their TSP contributions.
3. The last official Open Season will run from April 15th to June 30th of 2005 and elections made during that time will use the old rules and procedures. New rules and procedures will be developed for elections made on or after July 1st.

**NEXT MONTH: ATTENTION: CARRIERS UNDER THE
FERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM; 144.3% RETURN
GUARANTEED ON YOUR MONEY.
NO GIMMICKS!!!
I'LL SHOW YOU HOW.**

"THE MAIL CALL"
BRANCH 2462, NALC
Steve Seyfried, Editor
6910 Hayvenhurst Ave., # 101
Van Nuys, CA 91406

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Branch Meeting Minutes
February 1, 2005
 By
 Steve Seyfried, Secretary

The Meeting was held at the Branch 2462 Union Hall 6910 Hayvenhurst Ave, Van Nuys California. It was called to order by PRESIDENT CALVIN BROOKINS at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS ASKEW
 MOMENT OF SILENCE--WILBUR DALTON Retiree and all the Military men and women who have sacrificed their lives in the Service of our Country.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

PRESENT--BROOKINS, BOCEK, SEYFRIED, McCLINTON, JOHNSON, HENRY, JACKSON, MULLINAX, ASKEW, DOLABSON

ABSENT--HALL

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAILCALL WITH CORRECTIONS--One of the By-Law changes was printed incorrectly. In the proposed change for By-law # 2 the words "MBA Representative" should have been deleted. The corrected change will be reprinted in the March Issue of the Mail-Call

CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP--JOHN McDEVITT, TIMOTHY PEREZ, RICHARD ABRIGO, BRUCE LOWELL, JESS PETERSEN, MARVIN CALARA

BILLS READ--MOTION TO PAY M/S/C

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AUDIT--TRUSTEES There was an audit held on Mon, Jan 31, 2005. Books look good & all went well & everything is in order.

SAFETY & HEALTH Continue to work and drive in a safe manner. Blitz's are back again.

RETIREES 5 present tonight. On the SICK LIST we have HARRY HURST, KEITH MOWER, MIKE BRASH & MONTY MOORMAN. We hope that they are better soon. Special note that Retiree FRANK RIMKUS celebrated his 90th Birthday--Congratulations Frank !!

MBA--T. HALL No Report
HBR--DOLABSON No Report
COLCPE \$ 180 currently in the fund
FOOD DRIVE--DOLABSON This years food drive will be on Saturday May 14, 2005

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT--No Report

TREASURERS REPORT--McCLINTON

VICE-PRESIDENT BOCEK Plans for the Picnic are in the works. We are shooting for June 12, 2005 at Rancho San Antonio Boys Town in Chatsworth.

PRESIDENT BROOKIN's Route inspections will be held in some of the Van Nuys offices this spring. NALC Food Drive will be on May 14, 2005. Last year we collected almost 71 million pounds nationally and we hope to better that this year. I am happy to announce that JANETTE DOLABSON will again be the Coordinator for our Branch. Thanks again Janette. Postal Relief legislation has been submitted again in the new Congress. HR 22 is an effort to bring finality to changes to the existing 34 year old Postal Reorganization Act. The current COLA stands at \$ 192.40.

OLD BUSINESS--NONE

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION--Branch adopt the Budget for 2005 as printed in the Mailcall holding out items # 29 & 12 M/S/C

MOTION--Branch adopt Item # 29 as printed in the Mailcall M/S/C

MOTION--Branch eliminate Item 12 Fails for lack of a Second
MOTION--Branch adopt Item # 12 as printed in the Mailcall M/S/C

MOTION--Branch pay the Bulk mail permit fee.
 Cost to the Branch \$ 150.00

MOTION--Branch Bond the 5 line Officers of the Branch. Cost to the Branch \$ 240.00 M/S/C

MOTION--Branch donate \$ 500.00 to the Tsunami Relief Fund Solidarity Center M/S/C

MOTION--STEVE SEYFRIED continue as Editor of the MailCall for the next year M./S/C

MOTION--Branch add \$ 4000.00 to budget item # 26 for a total of \$ 15,000.00 M/S/C

DIVISION CALLED--YES-15 NO--9 MOTION CARRIES

MOTION--Branch pay mileage at \$.32 per mile for actual miles driven on Branch business M/S/C

UNDERLINED DENOTES UNANIMOUS VOTE

MEMBERSHIP DRAWING-- \$ 200

GUS AGUILAR--RETIREE

Brother AGUILAR was not present at the meeting therefore the money will be rolled over to the March meeting. March's membership drawing will be for \$ 225.00. All members are eligible to win, but you must be present at the meeting to win.

COLCPE DRAWING

\$ 5 KAREN AGUILAR-PAN CITY--DONATED
 \$ 5 VELMA McCLINTON--MAIN OFFICE
 \$ 7 CLIFF KELLEY--TARZANA

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:03 P.M.