

THE

MAIL CALL



Published by
Branch 2462, NALC
Van Nuys, CA

VOLUME 33

APRIL 1996

NUMBER 4

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Roger Askew

LOCAL NEGOTIATIONS

Our branch has recently completed the local negotiation process within the three installations that we represent. Big thanks to Art Bocek, Leslie Michelsen, Steve Seyfried, Calvin Brookins, Robert Johnson, Robert Enz, Janette Dolabson and Jim Martin. The branch voted to expend up to an amount of \$2000.00 for this process and we will come in under budget. More than 130 hours were put in by these officers.

The agreement reached in Tarzana is not that much different from the last four years. In Sun Valley, we were able to increase the number of leave slots during Thanksgiving and Christmas. In Van Nuys, in regard to annual leave, we decided that we would be better off going to an actual number system over the next four years. We believe that the number of carriers within the Van Nuys Installation will decrease during the next four years, so we will be better off with this type of system than a percentage one. In addition the way we sign up for leave will change in Van Nuys to coincide with the language in the National Agreement. The annual leave that you are presently signed up for will be honored and the new changes will not take place until the calendar year 1997. In addition, at Van Nuys the amount of time required to notify local management for the signing up of spot annual has been reduced to 8 days instead of the previous 10 (this will start on March 1, 1996). The last change in Van Nuys will be how the delegates are placed on the leave chart. At the next Shop Steward meeting each steward will be given an update as to the changes. In addition the branch will be publishing a booklet for each member to have. These booklets should be available to each union member at their respective office by the first week in April. When you receive this booklet, review it and be aware of what your negotiated rights are.

GOLD CARDS

We have recently receive news from the National Headquarters that two (2) of our retired members have qualified for Gold Cards. All you have to do is be a union member for Fifty (50) years to receive this award!!! Bob Kopczynski and Alfred Danker from the Encino office have been issued these cards. I have been in contact with both of these long time union members and they would like to have these presented at the yearly Retiree's Night.

In addition two other members have informed me that believe they qualify. I have sent a letter to Washington, D.C. to ask headquarters to research the records of these two members. If we receive a favorable response then will make their presentations at the Retiree's Night also. The possibility that we could present four of these cards is great! Fifty years is a long time!!

Both Al and Bob are to be congratulated for the support they have given this organization over the years. Consider that both of these individuals started their careers in the Postal Service in the 1940's. Maybe we should ask them the number of changes that have happened to the Postal Service since then.

The next time you think that the union does nothing for you, ask either of these men, or any of the retired members how much the NALC has given them over the years. Ask any active carrier that started prior to the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 what the conditions were like. How often do we take for granted what these men and others before us have left. We have all heard the talk before, but we truly do owe these people a well deserved thanks for creating working conditions for us that are better now than when they started.

FOOD DRIVE

Saturday May 11, 1996 has been assigned the annual National Association of Letter Carriers-USPS food drive date. Make plans to participate in this worthwhile event. I have personally seen the faces on the people that are given the food that we collect. Sometimes we think that it is such a great imposition to take a few moments out of our day. But believe me the look on their faces really makes you glad that you took part.

Smile and be of good cheer!!! Be safe and do the job correctly.....

IN MEMORIAL

GERALD ROBITAILLE

LETTER CARRIER-----SUN VALLEY
NALC BRANCH 2462

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Roger Askew

C.O.P. MEETING

I have just returned from the Bi-Annual Committee of Presidents (C.O.P.) meeting in Cincinnati Ohio. The conference is a Bi-Annual conference for all Branch Presidents and State Association Presidents. The conference was well worth the time and money we have spent. The conference is held over a two day period. One fourth of the time is given to President Sombrotto for an update as to what is going on at the National level. The rest of the time was spent discussing issues that are going on across the country.

The first issue discussed was in the area of ongoing legislation. As I have said many times, we must be very watchful of what is happening in Congress. With the House of Representatives and the Senate controlled by the Republican party, the only positive side is that President Clinton can veto any legislation that would not be in our interest. This makes the national election in November of this year even more important than ever. I guess the short course is, vote for the person that will best benefit you and your family. If all three of the branches in government are controlled by the Republican party we could be in for real trouble. We would probably see a privatization of the Postal Service along with a reduction or elimination of our recently negotiated national agreement (what we were able to win in 1970 can be taken away with one congressional bill) . All of our Retiree's would be effected by an elimination of their cost of living raises.

The seminar then went into area that effect our jobs as carriers. With D.P.S. just around the corner, we should all be very concerned with this. I received notice that the national level arbitration on the Fourth Bundle issue will be presented on April 26th. We should receive word on this issue just about the time the routes in Sun Valley are being adjusted. Management at the national level and the local level have refused to discuss the matter of casing the D.P.S. mail prior to us delivering it. Makes you wonder just how much they are really interested in the success of automation. I had a number of conversations with branch presidents that are presently involved with the automation of mail. By best count we can expect to take from 30 to 45 minutes longer in our street duties. Maybe with most of the routes in Van Nuys in excess of 8 hours we can expect local management to reduce the size of our assignments.!!!

Another area that was discussed was the recent mandate from President Sombrotto concerning the appointment of NALC committee members and E.I. Facilitators. I have personally had the Health Benefit Plan since 1968 and am extremely satisfied with it. I can say without any reservation that this issue will be brought up at the National Convention in Orlando. Each of our delegates must be prepared to vote on this controversial issue. President Sombrotto had made it quite clear that no appointments will be made to any union member unless that have the health benefits plan.

President Sombrotto then held a short discussion on the recent embezzlement of funds from the national headquarters. Although he could not respond to many of the questions

(because of the pending legal action) he did inform us that legal action was being taken against the individual who is responsible. He informed us that the Department of Labor and the Department of Justice are both involved in this matter. In addition a civil suit has been filed in the state of Maryland against the individual. As more details are made known I will let you know.

jury Compensation The Committee of Presidents then passed a unanimous motion to have our national leadership look into having a congressional investigation into the constant delay we have with the InDepartment of the Postal Service. Our local

branch has had a number of problems with forms being either being misplaced or delayed in sending them to the Santa Clarita office.

A total of 273 branch presidents were in attendance. We collected a total of \$ 1021.00 for COLCPE.

GOLD CARDS

We have received word from the national secretary's office that two additional members have qualified for a gold card. We will be presenting 4 of these cards at our annual Retirees dinner to be held on Friday October 27, 1996. Besides for Robert Kopczynski and Alfred Danker, long time members Keith Mower and Yewed Shipp have qualified for these cards. Should be some kind of recognition night. Make plans to be there and honor these well deserving members.

FOOD DRIVE

As you read this article, the Food Drive will be right around the corner. On Saturday May 11, we will be collecting food for local agencies. We have been informed that during the summer months the need is great so please help out. This is a great opportunity for us to give a little back to the communities we serve. The very sight on the faces of the people who run the Food Pantries will let you know that it is wonderful thing to participate in.

By now, most of you are aware of the recent death of President Jon Gaunce of Branch 2902. I have had a number of disagreements with Jon over the years, but one thing I can say for certain is that Jon was totally dedicated to the trade union movement and his passion to represent letter carriers. We should all stop and say a special thought for his wife Sandy, and the members of Branch 2902. We have lost a knowledgeable union officer and a tremendously dedicated union officer.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Art Bocek

"Only in Corporate America!"

Listen my children and you shall hear, of the midnight ride of Postal Insincere. One, if by land, and two if by sea, and we on the opposite shore will be, ready to spread the alarm, to every Middlesex, village and farm. "The Bonuses are here, the bonuses are here,"... just for management. Well, by now you must have guessed what this article is all about, **corporate greed**. There are approximately 85 district managers, and about 30 area vice presidents in the Postal Service. I might have missed a few so let's round the numbers off to 125 upper management personnel. \$11 million dollars in bonuses was distributed to these individuals for all their hard work and efforts. Well, get out your calculators and figure out for yourself what the amount of monetary bonuses were awarded. It is a little more than what any letter carrier makes, don't you say? To make you feel a little bit better, no line supervisor or station manager received a monetary bonus. Don't be worried, be happy as they say. Remember, you get your award every two weeks no matter what it takes in time or cost. Also while you were hard at work delivering mail, supervisors and station managers of Van Nuys, while on the clock were being fed at your expense and expense of the Postal Service, as well as receiving large brass eagles on marble stands for their hard work and efforts in the EXFC project. Letter carriers, on the other hand, were being compensated by either overtime or auxiliary assistance in the name of EXFC. In conclusion, I truly believe this time lower management received the most appropriate award possible, **"The Bird."**

Work Standards

While at the Tarzana Post Office, management posted a list of routes depicting volumes of mail, hours work and indicating that a figure of 17' of mail in a certain amount of time was unacceptable. First, there is no work standard, only "Reasonable Effort." Second, it is a violation of Article 34 of the National Agreement for management to attempt to set up work standards. The posting of name, volumes of mail and work hours per route for any or all employee to see is "Causing and Creating a Hostile Environment." By doing so, management's action is inappropriate and unacceptable and must be grieved. If this happens anywhere, bring the matter to your steward's attention, ASAP.

Jury Duty

Accommodations of employees called for court service is covered in Section 516.44 of the ELM.

Employees who are eligible for court leave and who have a conflict with court duty and work schedules have the following options:

1. Work their postal tour of duty in addition to performing court service. Have their work schedules changed temporarily to conform to the hours of court service. (Employees who do not choose this option may not have their work schedule changed and are expected to report for postal duty upon completion of their court service.)
2. Have their work schedule changed temporarily to conform to the hours of court service. (Employees who do not choose this option may not have their work schedule changed and are expected to report for postal duty upon completion of their court service.)

3. If an employee works their full postal tour of duty in addition to court service, the court service is not charged to court leave. Accordingly, the employee may keep any fees received from the court for jury service. When an employee chooses to work a full postal tour of duty in addition to performing court service, but are required to be in court beyond the starting time of their scheduled reporting time, they report for postal duty as soon as possible after completion of court service and work the remaining hours of their scheduled tour. The hours of court service which overlap the employees' scheduled tours of duty are charged to court leave and the employees remit to the Postal Service that portion of court fee received for the hours charged to court leave. The combined leave and postal work may not exceed 8 hours.
4. An employee who chooses to have their work schedule changed temporarily for personal convenience in order to conform to court duty should file a Form 3189, in conjunction with a Form 3971, as soon as possible, to an appropriate postal official. Such request states that the temporary schedule change is for the employees benefit and is agreed by the local union. Employee who exercise this option receive full pay for court duty to include any night differential if applicable.

In section 516.45 of the ELM it states: No overtime is allowed for court service performed while an employee is on court leave or for a combination of postal work and such court service. Unless you are either on a case or in a jury panel, management has the option to allow a temporary change of schedule for jury service. However, if by "Past Practices" management has allowed temporary changing of schedule for jury service even though an employee is not on either a panel or a case, management may not unilaterally change that practice.

" You can't exercise your rights, if you don't know your rights."
See you at the next union meeting.
"Lets talk."

RETIRED LETTER CARRIER WANTED

If you are a Retired Letter Carrier **DON CHILDS** of **BROOKFIELD UNIFORMS** is looking for you. His company is currently looking for someone from BRANCH 2462 to work in the Van Nuys area.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED YOU MAY CONTACT THE
BRANCH OFFICE AT
(818) 786-8505

Don has graciously offered to donate \$ 100 to the **COLCPE FUND** in the Name of the Branch.

CALL NOW !!! FOR MORE INFORMATION

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"THE MAIL CALL"

BRANCH 2462, NALC

6910 Hayvenhurst Ave., # 101
Van Nuys, CA 91406

Address Correction Requested
Branch Meeting

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Minutes March 5, 1996

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 ROGER ASKEW at 5:45 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS ENZ. The invocation was led by FRANK RIMKUS

MOMENT OF SILENCE

In Memory of Member GERALD ROBATAILLE and So. California AFL-CIO Labor Secretary JIM WOODS.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

PRESENT--ASKEW, SEYFRIED, JOHNSON, BRASH, BOCEK, TUKESBREY, ENZ, MICHELSEN, BROOKINS

ABSENT--HENRY, McCLINTON

GUESTS--L. J. FAY

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAILCALL WITH FOLLOWING CORRECTION

Retired Member DAN RATHBONE donated \$ 14 of the money for the COLCPE Drawing.

CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

CHRISTOPHER MUNSAYAC--JOHNNY YABARRA JR

BILLS READ MOTION--Pay all Bills presented M/S/C

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SOCIAL REC--GALLEGOS "Can" Project has been scraped and the E.I. Projects dealing with recycling of cans will remain in place. Watch for further information.

COLCPE--ENZ \$ 281 in the fund

RETIREEES--RIMKUS There were 9 retirees present at tonight's meeting. On the Sick List we have, RICHARD TRACY, BILL LOWELL, DAN SAUNDERS, DAVID SWIRE, & RAY KELWIN. We wish them a speedy recovery.

TRUSTEES Bills read and approved.

HBR--TUKESBREY Working on a couple of cases.

DISTRICT 6--McCLINTON Legislation is still pending in Congress on raising the Retirement Age, Reducing Retiree Benefits, and Requiring Higher Employee Contributions.

EDITOR--SEYFRIED Any questions can be addressed to the Editor by calling the Union Office.

VICE-PRESIDENT--BOCEK EEO & OWCP cases are very busy. 1996 Picnic Committee meeting will be on March 18th. at 6:00 pm., in the Branch Office.

FOOD DRIVE--MICHELSEN Gave a brief report on the qualifications for organizations to receive food donations. Watch for further information in upcoming articles.

PRESIDENT ASKEW New COLA of \$ 104 will begin on March 16th. check. Thanks to DON CHILDS of

BROOKFIELD UNIFORMS for donating the Name Badges, we expect them to arrive soon. Happy to report that ROBERT KOPCZYNSKI and AL DANKER, both Retired Mem-

bers, have qualified for their GOLD CARDS, for 50 Years of membership in the NALC. They will be receiving this honor at the Retiree Dinner later in the year. If you feel that you too have been a member for 50 years or more, contact the Branch Office. The National office has reported that \$ 3 Million has been embezzled from the Union. No National Officer or member is involved. At this time we are still waiting for more details. Senator Stevens R-Alaska, the Chairman of the Committee which oversees the Postal Service, has gone on record as AGAINST PRIVATIZATION of the Postal Service. Local Negotiations are finished, with nothing going to impasse. We are currently in the process of publishing the new Local & it should be out to the membership by the end of March.

GUEST SPEAKER L. J. FAY campaign director for JEFF LIPOW, who is running for Congress in the 24th District, gave a brief talk. She stated Mr. LIPOW's positions on several issues.

OLD BUSINESS The job requirements for the new janitorial position were read. They will be printed in the Mail-Call.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION--Branch place a 1/4 page advertisement in the State Convention Booklet. Cost \$ 50 M/S/C

MOTION--Branch donate \$ 50 to the AFL-CIO Community Services "Easter Baskets for Abused Children's Shelters" M/S/C

MOTION--Branch support VELMA McCLINTON for the position of District 6 Representative and that all Delegates to the State Convention be required to vote accordingly. M/S/C

MOTION--Branch purchase two computer chairs for the Branch office. Cost not to exceed \$ 225 M/S/C

MOTION--Branch purchase 4, 4 drawer letter size and 1, 2 drawer legal size file cabinets. Cost not to exceed \$ 650. M/S/C

MOTION--Branch pay any Delegate who attends the State Convention, Friday or Saturday, \$ 25 per day. Delegates must attend the Full Day to receive funds. M/S/C

MOTION--Branch donate \$ 100 to the United Farm Workers of America. M/S/C

COLCPE DRAWING

\$ 5 Donated by Retired Member DAN RATHBONE

\$ 4 JIM TUKESBREY--RETIRED--DONATED

\$ 4 BOB ENZ--ENCINO

\$ 3 STEVE SEYFRIED--SHERMAN OAKS--DONATED

\$ 3 STEVE SEYFRIED--SHERMAN OAKS

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT--JOHNSON

TREASURERS REPORT--JOHNSON

MEETING ADJOURNED---8:43 PM