

# THE

# MAIL CALL



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## 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.

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 Injury Compensation Department 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 25, 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.

(Continued on Page 2 )

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## ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
ANNEX III	3	7	4	8								
ENCINO	3	3	4	3								
CIVIC CENTER	1	1	2	2								
PANORAMA CITY	3	3	3	3								
SHERMAN OAKS	8	6	6	7								
SUN VALLEY	1	2	2	1								
TARZANA	0	0	0	1								
RETIREE'S	7	10	9	7								
TOTAL	26	32	30	32								

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

### NEXT MEETING

5:30 PM

**May 7th**  
**"1996"**

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

**May 14th**

BRANCH OFFICE.....818-786-8505  
SICK CALL  
FRANK RIMKUS..... 818-892-7118  
POST OFFICE  
EMERGENCY CALL-IN.....818-782-8502

## ATTENTION--RETIREE'S

Our monthly fourth (4th) Saturday Breakfast meeting at 9 AM at Carrows Restaurant in Panorama City...Roscoe and Tobias, will be on **May 25, 1996 and June 22, 1996.** (Caution--June has five Saturdays). Please mark those dates on your calendars. **ACTIVE CARRIERS:** You are always welcome to attend when your long week-end coincides with the above dates.

Thanks  
Frank Rimkus

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

### 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.

## EDITORIAL

Stephen L. Seyfried, Editor

### Postal Service Pulls Plug on E I Process

The U S Postal Service has notified the NALC that its voluntary participation in the formal E I Process has been withdrawn because the process no longer serves its needs or goals. The Postal Service also stated that Postal Management remains "committed to the principles and practices of employee involvement/quality of work life and to continuing its efforts to achieve such mutual goals".

Well it has finally happened, after much lip service, the Postal Service has sunk EI. While many have debated whether or not EI was worth having, it has at least over the past 14 years given Letter Carriers a forum to air their views and ideas. In many cases it has failed, but in many Stations it has been a success. The Postal Service say's that the process "has become an entrenched bureaucracy that is unresponsive to the mainstream goals of the Postal Service and unable to address the root causes of conflict in the workplace or to foster empowerment of Letter Carriers". So what else is new, the same could be said for the entire Postal Service itself. It remains to be seen what will come in place of EI, but the words of Postmaster General Runyon in regards to employees being the Service's biggest asset, **ring hollow.** This was our only input into the system, and like it or not, we are now really out of the loop.

## COLCPE

**HAVE YOU SENT YOUR  
CHECK**

?

## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Art Bocek

### Bonus

To paraphrase the words of the infamous bandito in the movie "Treasure of Sierra Madre," "Conscience...Conscience...Management has no stinking Conscience." That is how I feel about the management and the way carriers are treated in Van Nuys. Large cash bonuses go to the Area Vice Presidents and District Managers (\$11mil), others to receive promotions, "to be name later", when a mere \$500.00 per station is given for carriers in the form of all you can eat while on your 10 minute office break from the "Roach Coach." Once again, is management throwing its most valuable asset, the employee, a mere bone or a boner?

### Ca-1 / Ca2 / Ca-2a Form Reporting

After completing any Dept. of Labor, "OWCP" form, prior to relinquishing the form to management, you should do the following: (1) round date the form, (2) have the supervisor sign the form, and have a photocopy of the completed form for your records. You only need a copy of the portion of the form that you have fill out. You may ask, "why is all this work necessary?" Well, in Van Nuys there seems to be a problem in the forms arriving at OWCP in a timely manner not to mention if at all. So, cover your act, (cya) or more appropriately, protect yourself from management's inability or intentional mismanagement of OWCP cases.

### EXFC

The concept of every piece everyday in itself is not bad. As long as the Postal Service doesn't mind carriers delivering business mail after completing their residential areas at approximately 4:30 PM or even later, who cares? Well, a number of business patrons ask carriers delivering the "PM" business mail, "What do you want me to do with this mail now." My employees are about to go home now, and banks are closed. Patrons ask, "Why can't the Postal Service do the job correctly the first time by getting all the mail there at the same time if not earlier?" In order to answer to their question, you should ask them, "Do they know the story on how the Postal Service first started?" The story goes something like this: When the Postal Service first started approximately 200 years ago, it was called the "Pony Express." It cost \$20.00 to send a letter across the continental United States, from Washington, DC to San Francisco and it took about four days. Now with modern technology and air travel, the cost for delivery of a letter has been greatly reduced and now it cost \$.32 an ounce, but the Postal Service is still working on the 4 days!!!

### Wolney's Pond

The waters of Wolney Pond have once again disappeared. The new roof has just been recently completed on Main Office. I wonder if the reason for the Main Office work floor being dry right now is because of the expert workmanship from the lowest bidder or is it because it has not rained lately? Oh well, only time will tell. I suspect management will now go all out in getting Main Office ready as a large carrier unit. Well don't hold your breath unless you are a tie. I wonder just how long it will take the Postal Service to change "Wolney's Pond" into "Wolney World?"

### Picnic Meeting Notice

A second picnic meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 30, 1996 at 6:30 p.m. at the union office. If you are interested in helping in this year's picnic or have any new ideas, please attend this meeting. All are welcome.

## "RUN FOR VELMA"

Thank You in advance for supporting my Pilgrimage to Chicago as a Democratic Delegate for the State of California, representing the 26th. Congressional District. The "Run for Velma" is a fund-raiser for me VELMA J. MCCLINTON. I was elected as a delegate to the 1996 Democratic National convention in Chicago. This convention is very important because I truly want President Clinton & Vice President Gore to be reelected. Please join me, on SUNDAY, JUNE 30TH, for the "Run / Walk for Velma" so that our dreams will be a reality on November 5, 1996. By participating you will help send a delegate to Chicago who will support and maintain labor issues and Together we can stand as one and make a difference.

*Velma McClinton*

## POST OFFICE SCORES HIGH IN THE VALLEY

Mail delivery in the San Fernando Valley area ranked second in the nation between December 9 and March 1st, according to an independent assessment of service, the U.S. Postal Service has reported.

The San Fernando Valley area district scored a 94 percent on-time success for delivery of first-class mail during the winter mailing season, officials said.

Of the 83 cities and areas surveyed by Price Waterhouse to measure first-class mail service from collection box to delivery, only Wichita, Kansas scored higher.

Congratulations to the men and women of the United States Postal Service for their excellent work and service.

## IN MEMORIAL

JON GAUNCE

LETTER CARRIER---PRESIDENT  
N A L C BRANCH 2902

# "THE MAIL CALL"

## BRANCH 2462, NALC

6910 Hayvenhurst Ave., # 101

Van Nuys, CA 91406

Address Correction Requested

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
VAN NUYS, CA  
PERMIT No. 314

### Branch Meeting Minutes April 16, 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 RUSS DELFINO. The invocation was led by FRANK RIMKUS

#### ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

**PRESENT**--ASKEW, SEYFRIED, JOHNSON, BRASH, BOCEK, TUKESBREY, HENRY, McCLINTON, BROOKINS, MICHELSEN

**ABSENT**--ENZ

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAILCALL  
CORRESPONDENCE READ

#### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

CHERI HODEK---JUANMEDEL MITRA---ALEX GARCIA

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

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

SOCIAL REC--GALLEGOS

NONE

COLCPE

\$ 330 in the fund

RETIREEES--RIMKUS

There were 7 retirees pre-

sent at tonight's meeting. March Breakfast had 22 attending.

Discovery Credit Card is now being accepted at all Post Of-fices. Retiree Nite will be on Friday, October 25, 1996 at the Encino Glen Restaurant at the Encino golf course. Cost will be \$ 7.50. On the Sick List we have, BOB KURZHALS, TOM

NAPOLI, GEORGE WOYTOVICH, DAN SAUNDERS, RAY KELWIN, WILLIAM LOLL, FRANKIE HAFNER, BOB ENZ & DENNIS RUKSTALIS. We wish them a speedy recovery.

**TRUSTEES** Bills read and approved.

Waiting for mileage bills, Postage placed in wrong item #, it will be corrected. Electricity running high.

HBR--TUKESBREY

NONE

DISTRICT 6--McCLINTON

Next meeting will be on

May 9th. at 6pm, at Branch 2200, Pasadena. General Election will be on Tuesday Nov 5th. Postal Record Straw Vote came out with Clinton on top, Dole 2nd. Write or call Congress, they are now trying to attack the G Fund in your FERS Thrift Savings Plan. Branch uniform bank has been a big success--if you need uniforms or have extra items to donate, bring them into the Branch office.

**EDITOR**--SEYFRIED

Any questions can be ad-dressed to the Editor by calling the Union Office.

**MBA**--HENRY

Reported on the article in the Postal Record on Accidental Death Benefit & various pro-grams offered. Questions may be directed to GLORIA HENRY at the Union office or the Sherman Oaks Station.

**VICE-PRESIDENT**--BOCEK

Picnic Committee meeting

will be on Tuesday, April 30th, 6:30 pm at the Union Office.

#### FOOD DRIVE--MICHELSEN

Coordinators have been

chosen & ready to go. All food will be donated MEND, except Sherman Oaks. Sherman Oaks' food will be donated between several smaller organizations & will be coordinated by DAN RATHBONE. JC Penney will be donating the flyers to be passed out announcing the Food Drive. Food Drive T-Shirts are available for sale. Contact Leslie for details.

**PRESIDENT ASKEW**

Spoke briefly on Food

Drive, State Convention, National Convention. Congratulations to VELMA McCLINTON & GLORIA HENRY for being selected as Delegates to the Democratic National Convention in San Diego. Gold Cards will be presented to 4 members at this years Retiree Nite Dinner. Also spoke briefly on APWU Na-tional Convention coming in August, Presidential Survey, New legislation challenges to OSHA, the recent COLA increase and his upcoming COP meeting in Cincinnati.

#### OLD BUSINESS

#### RECONSIDER MOTION---

The motion passed at last months meeting to support VELMA McCLINTON for the position of District 6 Rep. was reopened and amended to read--Support VELMA McCLINTON for any office she seeks on the State Board

M/S/C Janitorial Bids which were received were read to the Branch

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

#### NEW BUSINESS

MOTION--Branch send all Stewards , any Alternate steward, HBR and Executive Board member to the

California State Convention training classes, on

Thursday, May 16th. Each member will receive \$ 150

for the Full day or \$ 75 for a half day

M/S/C

MOTION--Branch award the Janitorial contract to DAVE MACKAMAN for a period of 1 year, for the amount of \$ 75 per month, as per his bid.

M/S/C

MOTION--Branch purchase 1 copy of CSRS & 1 copy of the FERS Retirement booklets at a cost of \$ 9.95 each. Total cost to Branch \$ 23.90.

M/S

**MOTION**

**TO**

**TABLE**

M/S/F

DIVISION CALL ON TABLE MOTION YES-10 NO-15

AMMEND--Publication must have a Union label

M/S/F

ORIGINAL

MOTION

#### PASSES

MOTION--Branch purchase computer program "Click Book". Program will be used to setup and print Local Agreements & By-Laws in a booklet form. Cost not to exceed \$ 60

M/S/C

MOTION--Branch purchase 30 copies of the National Agreement. Cost of \$ 2.90 each.

Total Cost not to exceed \$ 90

M/S/C

#### COLCPE DRAWING

\$ 5 JIM TUKESBREY--RETIRED--DONATED

\$ 4 TROY YOUNG--ANNEX III

\$ 4 ED CARLIN--SHERMAN OAKS

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT--JOHNSON

TREASURERS REPORT--JOHNSON

MEETING ADJOURNED---8:00 PM