

THE

MAIL CALL



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Roger Askew

INFORMATIONAL PICKETING

On Wednesday June 19, 1996 approximately 70 active and retired Letter Carriers joined in the nationwide picketing of the postal service. After some discussion of the location, it was decided to conduct the picketing at the Civic Center Station located on Van Nuys Blvd. It was decided that all of the branches throughout the San Fernando Valley would join in a combined effort. Of the seventy or so carriers that took part in the picketing we were made up from branches in the San Fernando Valley. Branch 2902 (Tri-Valley), 4006 (Canoga Park), and 2086 (Burbank). Twelve carriers from our branch were present, Art Bocek, Robert Johnson, Velma McClinton, Jeff Jackson, Jess Pasillas, TeenaMarie Gallegos, Calvin Brookins, Linda Hamilton, Troy Young, James Martin, and Candy Vanderham, who joined us on her half hour lunch, and myself. What a sight to see... Seventy carriers carrying picket signs, passing out flyers and informing the general public of who is responsible for the mess of automation and the late delivery of mail. I believe the Los Angeles Times quoted it best when they said that it was a peaceful picket to let the public know of the concerns of letter carriers.

What did seem curious to me is the fact that at least six postal inspectors and a representative from the Employee Labor Relations Department were also on hand. Does it seem strange to you that it takes 3 to 5 hours to get a postal inspector if there's a carrier robbed or assaulted, but if you conduct a peaceful informational picketing there are six of them standing around?? A basic economic question says that if each of these individuals make \$200.00 per day (counting benefits) then the United States Postal Service wasted all that money on watching people walk past. How can they justify being gainfully employed!!! If you or I stood and watched something or someone for 3 consecutive hours we would receive some sort of discipline.

RAY KREYER AWARD

I announced at the last branch meeting that the selection for the Ray Kreyer Award will be done at the Executive Board meeting on Thursday August 29th. Each year the branch selects a member that has contributed to the union above and beyond the call of duty. If you have someone that you would like to submit please let us know as soon as possible. The executive board will vote on this and the award will be presented at the annual picnic on September 8, 1996.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

The National Convention is only a few weeks away. We will be sending twenty-six members to the convention in Orlando. Many items will be discussed at this semi-annual event. At the last branch meeting the members voted that we support a favorable resolution on the issue of area wage. As letter carriers who live in a high cost of living area and I believe this would help our membership. Carriers who reside in Hawaii, Alaska, Gaum, Puerto Rico and a number of other areas already receive an area cost of living increase and we should have this as an agenda item for our next national agreement. The issue of D.P.S. will be discussed also. Our Sun Valley station is already starting this nightmare called automation and the transition is difficult. It is still my opinion that until the postal service is able to bring us a minimum of 90% of our mail in an automated state we should be allowed to case our letter size mail.

BRANCH PICNIC

Our local By-Laws call for the vice-president to be chairman of the Picnic Committee. Art Bocek spends many hours planning and seeing to it that this yearly function goes off well. The picnic is scheduled to be on Sunday September 8, 1996. The event is scheduled to take place at the Rancho San Antonio Boys home in Chatsworth. Plan on attending this event and have some good fun and great food!!

BRANCH OFFICE

Every two years the branch sends a number of delegates to the national convention. This year is no different. I'm asked all the time whether or not someone will be available to answer questions while we are gone. This year most of us will be in Orlando during the week of August 12th. I've made arrangements for someone to answer calls off the answering machine. Frank Rimkus will be in the office on Monday August 12th and Wednesday August 14th. Jeff Thomas will be in the office on Tuesday August 13th and Thursday August 15th. If something comes up please contact us at the branch office and these two members will answer your calls. In the event they are unable to answer your questions, they will have our number in Orlando where we can be reached in case of an emergency. Please keep this in mind during this time. We will be returning on Friday August 16 late in the evening and Art Bocek or I will contact you on Saturday.

"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.

ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
ANNEX III	3	7	4	8	6	3	6					
ENCINO	3	3	4	3	3	6	6					
CIVIC CENTER	1	1	2	2	1	1	1					
PANORAMA CITY	3	3	3	3	3	3	2					
SHERMAN OAKS	8	6	6	7	5	5	7					
SUN VALLEY	1	2	2	1	2	1	1					
TARZANA	0	0	0	1	1	1	0					
RETIREE'S	7	10	9	7	8	8	6					
TOTAL	26	32	30	32	29	28	29					

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

5:30 PM

August 6th
1996

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

August 20th

BRANCH OFFICE.....818-786-8505
SICK CALL
FRANK RIMKUS..... 818-892-7118

C O L C P E DONATIONS

Dan Rathbone (Ret).....
Richard Lukin (Ret).....
Harry Holmgren (Ret).....
Odil Sabbe (Ret).....
Glenn VanDerHam (Active).....
Wilbur Dalton (Ret).....
Joseph Kalman (Ret).....
Raymond Kelwin (Ret).....
Richard Milfs (Ret).....
William Wunderlich (Ret).....
Frank Brash (Ret).....
Frederick Caulfield (Ret).....
Mahlon Green (Ret).....
Charles Lombardi (Ret).....
James Tukesbrey (Ret).....

Last year Van Nuys touted the praises of the Injury Compensation unit as having "saved" 1.5 million dollars. I guess it's easy when you hold back official paperwork from the Dept. of Labor causing them to delay or possibly deny claims---money saved. Or when the station managers with the timekeeper's assistance takes unauthorized and unrequested (on a 3971 as required) sick leave or annual leave for an IOD/ OWCP claim for compensation and then refuse to process the compensation claim telling the employee they're only able to do leave buy back---more money saved. Or when Finance forcibly takes an employee's wages without due process and then refuses to return the illegally taken funds and benefits---even more money saved. AND to top it all off every supervisory or managerial employee involved denies responsibility and merely brushes it off saying "I can't process the recovery". Typical Van Nuys efficiency: "I'm not responsible, therefore I can't do anything", but they gladly walk away with fat EAS paychecks.

GOOD FAITH DEALINGS:

The grievance procedure in Van Nuys is considered by supervision and management to be a joking matter. In Van Nuys there exists many step 1, step 2, and even step 3 decisions that have been favorable to the carrier's position and after many months or even years management still refuses to abide by their own decisions. It seems management's credibility as to spoken or written word is somewhat less than zero. BUT I must admit there are a few reasonable and fair parties in Van Nuys management---as soon as the larger, more powerful, unfair and unreasonable faction identifies them they are actively eliminated. For those select few that have put their livelihood at stake to maintain high integrity and true professionalism, We thank you.

CUSTOMER SERVICE & "EVERY PIECE EVERY DAY":

Now Van Nuys has this new "motto". What's it all about? Well, picture this: you're processing unit is unable to get the mail to the stations at a reasonable time, so you make arrangements to waste time, money, manpower, fuel in order to facilitate delivery of a few pieces of mail in second deliveries to a few customers causing those 32 cent letters (or possibly less) to cost the Postal Service far more than the 32 cents paid. To put insult to injury the managers are having little notices printed and attached to those pieces of mail touting their personal efforts to deliver those few pieces of mail (at great expense / loss) only as it seems to see their own names in print. I guess back-tracking, double deliveries, forced O/T, deviation from routes (we have been directed to leave our routes to pick up redis mail at remote collection/ relay sites), and fuel wasting (non-conservation) are acceptable work ethics after all. What do the customers say when you bring a second delivery hours after the first?

SAFETY FIRST:

Van Nuys is always first to boast "safety is our first concern". Well if so, why then are issues such as poor ventilation, and cooling and heating been ignored or at best been poorly addressed at many Van Nuys stations? Why are batts of decaying fiberglass insulation hanging from the joists in our work areas? Why are areas in our parking lots still full of potholes after several carriers have been injured when trying to cross those lots to load and unload their vehicles? Why are all of these things still a problem when all of these things have been reported to management multiple times? Are we missing something?---Yes the action that goes along with the phrase "safety is our first concern". In Van Nuys safety is only important if it doesn't negatively affect the almighty budget.

SUPERVISORY OPINION:

I'll leave you with a few words of wisdom as quoted by a couple of our supervisors / managers: "A happy employee is an unproductive employee", " safety is our highest priority except for the budget", and "I don't have the answers to the questions".

Food for thought
Terry Hall, Shop Steward

HOW DOES VAN NUYS DO IT ?

INJURY COMPENSATION:

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Art Bocek

Wolny's Pond

Since our beloved Postmaster is too busy playing "Team Leader" with route inspections all over the division, who is steering our ship? Is the USS Van Nuys rudderless since several of the junior officers have just recently been given their own ships to steer? I suspect shortly that once our PM is given another command to rape, burn and pillage the rights of postal employees, another PM will appear at the helm at Van Nuys in order to do the same as the previous commander.

For quite a while our PM has been out playing route inspections. This is a job that any level 15 or 16 could perform. Maybe in the spirit of saving money or for the "Good of the Service" our PM will drop his salary level down to the level of work he is currently performing as a route inspector? Obviously, since our PM is not in Van Nuys performing his duties as PM, why should he receive PM level of pay? Don't worry now, the PM duties were detailed out to other "prospective" Postmaster applicants in order for them to show that they are the "Best" qualified to do the job as postmaster because they were already doing someone else's postmaster job. The Postmaster applicants now have their own ships to steer. While in training as apprentice PM, what level of "Dole," sorry, I meant pay was being paid? Maybe, GAO (Government Accounting Office) ought to look into this matter? And the rich keep getting even richer.

Our beloved Postmaster indicated that our local branch lacked "Leadership." This was because our union notified the Postmaster of our intent of no longer participating in the Step 2a process. The union felt that the Step 2a process was not working and only delaying the grievance process even longer. Well, in my book of definitions "Leadership" means not giving in to management in order to settle grievance at the step 2a level, if it meant to settle for less than what is appropriate.

Maybe, the PM should be renamed the "Unknown Postmaster" to "Unknown Comic?"

Cop or Rat Patrol?

One has to question the intelligence of management when it puts such an "Anal Retentive" person in a position of authority. While on street supervision this person is suppose to file 4584's. This supervisor is in fact the very same person observed driving 30 to 40 mph in the postal parking lot. The same supervisor tells the employee to stop driving the jeep and stay just where they are because of a break light not functioning. Then goes off never to return to give further instructions as to what to do next. This carrier had to dead head 6 blocks using a satchel in order to complete her duties, after waiting approximately 1 1/2 hours for further instructions. Ask yourself this question: "why does this supervisor have a can of 'Halt' spray on his belt?" Is it to ward off attacking dogs, evil spirits, or just station managers? The jury is still out on this question, but if you ask me its the latter. Carriers if they you observe an unsafe act by this or any other supervisor upon returning from street duties request Form 1767 "Hazardous Condition or Situation. Coming from the movie "WIZARD of OZ" the words that best describe this situation is: "What a World, What a Wonderful Crazy World It Is."

Postal Police

Recently, a white patrol car drove up and stopped at a Van Nuys Station. 2 officers got out of the patrol vehicle. The acting station mgr. asked them, "can I help you" and "who are you?" They indicated who they were and what they were. The acting station mgr. indicated that they did not know that Postal Police even existed. Well, how could anyone know? The entire San Fernando Valley is patrolled by only 1 patrol car with 2 officers inside and this only happens when they are released from the Los Angeles area. I guess postal employees in the valley don't rate protection from criminal elements as employees in Los Angeles. Just how many assault, robberies or even deaths of letter carriers will it take before postal police are deployed regularly in the Valley? The Postal Service, even in its own rag, is stating over \$1 million profit in the Pacific Area this AP. Now what about safety and security for the working employees rather than bonuses for

management? Well Postal Inspection Service how about it? Are you going to just twirl your weapons and play FBI and ignore the problem? Just how bad do the numbers have to be in order to get protection for the postal employees working in the valley? Or is it not in the budget to protect? Inquiring minds need to know.

Picnic Notice

Mark Sunday, September 8, 1996 on your calendars for the annual picnic. The picnic will be held at the Rancho San Antonio. Picnic will start at 11:00 am and end at 4:00 pm. Their will be "Food & Fun for All.

DELEGATES TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION Orlando Florida 1996

Jeff Auslander	Sherman Oaks
Art Bocek	Encino
Frank Brash	Retired
Harry Brenneman ***	Retired
Ed Carlin	Sherman Oaks
Jason Colello	Encino
Russ Delfino***	Retired
Larry Dolabson	Encino
Robert Enz	Encino
Lee Fenstermacher	Retired
TeenaMarie Gallegos	Annex 3
Gloria Henry	Sherman Oaks
Michelle Hall	Annex 3
Terry Hall	Annex 3
Jeff Jackson	Panorama City
Robert Johnson	Annex 3
Velma McClinton	Annex 3
Leslie Michelsen	Panorama City
Tracy Mullinax	Encino
Ralph Peterson***	Sherman Oaks
Rich Reimer	Sherman Oaks
Ann Scarborough	Sherman Oaks
Irwin Schnyder	Sherman Oaks
Steve Seyfried	Sherman Oaks
Larry Stutly***	Retired
Troy Young	Annex 3

*** Notes: Will not be in Attendance

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 **August 24th**. Please mark those dates on your calendars. I would appreciate hearing from you retirees that have moved to other parts of the U.S.A. Please drop a note or card to my attention, care of the Branch address, which you will find in your MailCall. Your message will be included in the next "Retirees Corner".
Thanks

Frank Rimkus

"THE MAIL CALL"

BRANCH 2462, NALC

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

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Branch Meeting Minutes July 2, 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 5:40 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS ENZ. The invocation was led by FRANK RIMKUS

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

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

ABSENT--JOHNSON

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAILCALL
CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

DAN TRAN, CAROLYN DOWNING

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SOCIAL REC--GALLEGOS No Meeting held
COLCPE--ENZ \$ 531 in the fund

RETIREES--RIMKUS There were 6 retirees present at tonight's meeting. On the Sick List we have, LARRY STUTLEY, AL DANKER, ALAN KEOGH, DAN SAUNDERS, IRVING BRECKMAN. We wish them a speedy recovery.

TRUSTEES The books will be audited on July 25th. at 5:30 pm at the Union office. There will be a office inventory on July 11th.

HBR--TUKESBREY There are currently 596 members in Branch 2462 of these 83 Active, 92 Retirees & 5 OWCP are enrolled in the NALC Health Benefit Plan.

DISTRICT 6-- GLORIA HENRY who was elected District 6 Rep at the State Convention has resigned her position and VELMA McCLINTON has been appointed. EDITOR--SEYFRIED Any questions can be addressed to the Editor by calling the Union Office.

VICE-PRESIDENT--BOCEK None

FOOD DRIVE--MICHELSEN Gave a brief report on the Food Drive. Her full report is on file in the Union Office. Food Drive did however come in under budget.

SAFETY & HEALTH--HENRY Gave a report on the use of Dog Spray & LLV steering problems.

MBA--HENRY Offering many different policies, contact GLORIA HENRY before you buy any insurance policies on the outside.

PRESIDENT ASKEW Branch will be sending 26 Delegates to the National Convention. There will be a

Delegate meeting on August 6th immediately following the Regular Meeting. Delegates should be present to receive instructions and their checks. Informational picketing on June 19th was a great success. About 70 Carriers from 4 Branches participated. Branch will no longer participate in Step 2 A's. RAY KREYER award nominations should be submitted, in writing to the Executive Board before Sept 1st.

OLD BUSINESS The By-Law amendments that were printed in the MailCall were voted on by the Branch the results are as follows: Proposed Deletion of Article VI, Section 6(b) was defeated. Proposed Change of Article 5, Section 5 was passed unanimously as printed. It will be forwarded to the National Committee for final approval.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION--Branch send Food Drive Coordinator LESLIE MICHELSEN & the PRESIDENT or Designee to the Crystal Lee Sutton Awards Dinner on July 30, 1996. Cost to the Branch \$ 150 M/S/C

MOTION--Branch instruct the Delegates to the National Convention to support any area COLA resolution submitted at the Convention M/S

AMEND--Branch instruct the Delegates to the National Convention to support the best, in their opinion, Area COLA resolution for California M/S

AMEND--Branch instruct the Delegates to the National Convention to support an Area COLA at the National Convention M/S/C

MOTION--Branch donate \$ 100 to the William Doherty Scholarship fund M/S/C

MOTION--LESLIE MICHELSEN be appointed to represent the Branch on the Area Wage committee being organized. M/S/C

MEMBERSHIP DRAWING

\$ 25 - ART BOCEK
\$ 25 - LESLIE MICHELSEN
\$ 25 - STEVE SEYFRIED
\$ 25 - LESLIE MICHELSEN
\$ 25 - JANETTE DOLABSON
\$ 25 - JANETTE DOLABSON

COLCPE DRAWING

\$ 4 TERRY HALL--ANNEX III--DONATED
\$ 3 ROGER ASKEW--ENCINO--DONATED
\$ 3 ROGER ASKEW--ENCINO--DONATED
\$ 2 STEVE SEYFRIED--SHERMAN OAKS--DONATED

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT--JOHNSON
TREASURERS REPORT--JOHNSON
MEETING ADJOURNED---8:46 PM