

THE MAIL CALL



Published by
Branch 2462, NALC
Van Nuys, CA

VOLUME 33

SEPTEMBER

1996

NUMBER 9

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Roger Askew

NATIONAL CONVENTION

We have just returned from the bi-annual convention held in Orlando Florida. The event took place from Monday August 12th through Friday August 16th, 1996. The sessions were held from 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM each day. In addition to the regular business sessions, the national officers offered daily training classes from 7:30 until 9:30 each morning. Our branch sent 26 delegates to the convention.

Although I have mixed emotions about the convention, the positives clearly outweigh the negatives. On the plus side is the fact that the branch was well represented by each of the delegates in attendance. I was pleased that one-third of the delegates that we sent were at a national convention for the first time. I was pleased that the morning training sessions were well attended by our delegates. I was pleased that the delegates in attendance overturned the recommendation of the committee and reestablished the contract administration manual.

I was disappointed by the fact that four of our delegates voted against the area (territorial) cost of living allowance. At a recent branch meeting the branch voted unanimously to support an area cost of living. I was disappointed that the national executive council will now decide at what location the conventions are to be held in. It has been a long standing practice that the delegates decide four years in advance which city we will be holding the conventions.

The delegates considered 47 resolutions concerning the national agreement, 4 resolutions concerning legislative issues, 27 general resolutions and 18 proposed amendments to the constitution. All in all it was a very busy and productive week.

I can only speak for myself, but a highlight of the week was the speech given by Vice-President Al Gore and Congressional Representative Neil Abercrombie of Hawaii. What great speeches!!! Both of these people showed a great passion for the working class.

Throughout the week-long session, the one constant issue that was brought forth was the importance of the national elections to be held in November. We should always remember that whatever gains we have made since the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 can be taken away with a fountain pen. What ever individual stated that "We should reward our friends and punish our enemies" could not have made a better statement. The bottom line on the first Tuesday in November is that our jobs, as we know them, are at stake. More on this subject next month.

(Continued on Page 3)

1996

PICNIC

EXTRAVAGANZA

SUNDAY, SEPT. 8th

10:00 am - 4:30 pm

RANCHO SAN ANTONIO BOYS TOWN

21000 Plummer St. (at Desoto)

In the West San Fernando Valley

DIRECTIONS: 118 FREEWAY - Take 118 Freeway to Desoto Exit. Go South 1.5 miles to Plummer St. Turn right.

101 FREEWAY - Take 101 Freeway to Desoto Exit. Go North to Plummer - Turn Left.

TICKETS

Members, spouse & children living at home
Single members & 1 guest in lieu of spouse

Guests: Limited supply

Children under 6

Children 6 to 12

CARRIERS

Picnic sign-up sheets will be available at each carrier station. You **MUST** sign up to receive tickets. **Guests must be listed on sign-up sheets to receive tickets and prepaid. There is a limited supply of guest tickets. First come - First served. LAST DAY FOR SIGN UP IS August 30, 1996**

RETIREE'S

Contact **FRANK RIMKUS** (818) 892-7118 or Branch Office (818) 786-8505. Tickets will be picked up at the gate registration table the day of the picnic. **TICKETS MUST BE ORDERED BY August 30, 1996**

FOOD

All you can eat will be served from **12:30 pm too ??**
Chicken, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Potato Salad, Ice Cream and much, much more.

DRINKS

Beer, Wine and Soft Drinks will be served

PICNIC GAMES

18 Lawn Games will Start at 11:00 am

Strolling Clown will entertain from 12:30-2:30 pm

Up to 10 games of Bingo from 2:30 - 4:00 pm

SUPER HERO'S WILL APPEAR AT 2:30

DOOR PRIZES FOR UNION MEMBERS ONLY--MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

SWIMMING POOL

Olympic size pool with diving board.
Children's Rides and Action Heroes

Bingo

"COME AND ENJOY THE FUN"

"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	7				
ENCINO	3	3	4	3	3	6	6	6				
CIVIC CENTER	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	2				
PANORAMA CITY	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3				
SHERMAN OAKS	8	6	6	7	5	5	7	7				
SUN VALLEY	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	0				
TARZANA	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1				
RETIREE'S	7	10	9	7	8	8	6	5				
TOTAL	26	32	30	32	29	28	29	31				

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

5:30 PM

September 3rd
1996

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

September 10th

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

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 **September 28th**. Please mark those date 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. While you have your calendar handy...turn to October and mark the 25th (4th Friday) that date is our Annual Retirees Nite Dinner. More details will be fourth coming in your mail during September. Please make plans to attend that evening
Thanks
Frank Rimkus

MESSAGE BEHIND THE MADNESS

In ten plus years of membership in this union, I have noticed that some of our brothers and sisters who have attended previous N.A.L.C. conventions, have written articles of their experience to 'The Mail Call', and I shall not differ from this tradition.

It however, would be easy on my part, to give you a sanitized, just the facts, blurb. I could also hop on my union soap box and cry about our national president, Vincent Som-brotto's bullet train, engineering the acceptance of committee approved motions, and manipulating the derailment of motions not approved by the same committee, all in the guise of democracy.

Nor will I even attempt to begin disseminating to you the pertinent information I had collected in four separate seminars, all related to upper-managements destruction of the U.S.P.S.. There is just to many facts to relay to you in limited space.

The MESSAGE, however, IS what the entire convention was about; THAT WE ARE AT WAR!

The MESSAGE screamed through the assembly hall as vice president of the United States, Al Gore spoke to the cheering masses. The MESSAGE exploded into verbal shards of solidarity and democracy from guest speaker Neil Abercrombie (D), representative of Hawaii. The MESSAGE reverberated through all the seminars, as sleepy brothers and sisters listened intently. But most importantly, the MESSAGE has echoed throughout myself, to anger me, strengthen me, and hopefully, to help unite other brothers and sisters with the sharing of this MESSAGE.

Let it be known, management has declared war on us, with such weapons in their arsenal as unilateral D.P.S., customer perfect, delivery redesign, global positioning systems, EXFC and other salvos yet to be exposed.

We, as carriers, must stand fast, shoulder to shoulder, against the PILLAGING of OUR service. We must grieve when grieved upon, we must stand up for or brothers and sisters, and most importantly, we, as carriers, must be professional in our duties. To take the time necessary to do the BEST job we can, and to follow management's rules, no matter how ludicrous, safety permitting, as they invent them. We must follow the articles of the contract, as not to give upper-management the upper-hand. Work smarter, NOT harder.

We shall fight upper-managments 'declaration of war' with our own, and WE WILL WIN!

As for those of you brothers and sisters who see through management blinders, and feel there is no war, that management only does what's best for you, only makes you the first casualties of war.

Your brother in arms
Jason D. Colello

Vice-President's Report: (continued from Page 3)

Mutual Respect

Section 115.4 of the M-39 outlines management's obligations to their employees to properly investigate, to resolve problems without grievances, to admit when employees are right and to maintain an atmosphere between employer and employee which assures mutual respect. By now you have pretty much come to the conclusion that many supervisors have never read this section or have trouble understanding it's meaning. Making the "Almighty Budget" of the Postal Service is not an excuse for the abuse of anyone.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Art Bocek

Presidential Election

This November, voters will be asked to cast votes in order to elect the next "President of the United States." This upcoming election will ultimately decide if labor unions are to survive. This means your job. No matter what party you belong to, your vote needs to be for a candidate that is pro labor. There is a lot of pressure by many officials in Washington, DC to "Privatize" the Postal Service. If the Postal Service is privatized, you can guarantee your salary and benefits will definitely drop and possibly the Postal Service as we know it today. The Postal Service is betting on this upcoming election that a new president and sufficient numbers of new "Labor Unfriendly's" will be elected, therefore, it will be easy to privatize the Postal Service. In a nut shell, if you don't vote for a candidate that is friendly to labor's points of view, you will have only yourself to blame for either working at the same job but for much less, or in the unemployment lines. Find out what candidates are pro labor no matter what their party affiliation and vote. Remember, those who vote will tell those who don't vote what will be next incoming.

Global Tracking

In an office somewhere in Texas, the Postal Service is currently testing a "Tattle Tale" tracking device. Management indicated the reason for this device being placed in postal vehicles is for carrier's safety. This "safety" device has a panic button. The panic button is to be used by the letter carrier when and if an emergency exists. If management responds to the panic button in the same manner management now answers phone calls, what a pure waste of \$ 52,000.00. Yes, the cost of the "Big Brother" device is \$52,000.00 for each and every vehicle installed with the device. This device will not only tell management your position, speed, and direction traveling, but also if the doors or windows open or closed, and seat belt or harness is on or off. This new system gathers information from approximately 120 functions. This system can have Form 3999 printed at the station from daily route activities. The tracking is done via satellite in a system very similar to "Tele-Track." Management called a meeting in order to inform the local union president of this new tool of management. Management expected the union to get upset and indicate the filing of numerous and various grievances. Much to management's amazement, the local union president got up from the meeting and "Thanked" the Postal Service for accomplishing the one very thing the NALC has not been able to accomplish in over 107 years. This being the delivery of all routes in a professional manner as written in the rules and regulations. Management immediately retorted back that the project was just in a testing mode only. Imagine, routes being done by the rules and regulations and in a safe manner. Boy, can you image that, what a concept! The big question is: "Does the Postal Service have enough bonus money saved to pay for this new system and whatever it will cost to continue operating management's new toy?"

Area Wages

After a heated discussion on the convention floor regarding area wages a vote was called, sides were chosen and people voted. The area wages resolution was defeated. In listening to arguments for and against area wages, it was my feeling that this issue was splitting the union: those who have area wages verses those who do not have area wages. It was hard to understand why those who were receiving area wages were not willing to give to others who work and live in areas that were expensive. I forgot that the branch had voted to vote unit rule when I voted. I felt at the time that all letter carriers should be paid the same no matter where they live or work.. The area wage proposal on the floor would only give area

wage increases to some other areas, but not to all. Therefore, prior to the next convention, with the help of this branch, a resolution will be submitted whereas all letter carriers be paid the same wages as those letter carriers in areas now receiving area wages. This will bring parity of pay to each and every letter performing the same letter carrier work no matter where you live or work. This will eliminate constant struggle between those who have and those who do not.

(Continued on Page 2)

Presidents Report:

(continued from Page 1)

LEGISLATIVE FORUM

It was great to see over 60 members of the branch in attendance at the legislative forum on Friday July 26th. Thanks to Velma McClinton for the hard work in putting this together. Mike Memkus for Washington DC., John Beaumont from the California State Association of Letter Carrier and Manny Peralta from the National Business Agents office were there to conduct the session. We must be constantly aware of the issues before congress.

The two main bills that are now pending are H.R. 210 (Privatizing of the Postal Service) and H.R. 3717 (the bill recently submitted and is waiting action). We have made some great strides over the last two years. On a positive note would be the passing of Hatch Act Reform and the passage of the Family Medical Leave Act. On the negative side would be the consideration of changing the retirement calculation from the high three to the high five and the legislation that is ending concerning the revising of the Federal Employee Compensation Act (F.E.C.A.).

Also discussed at this forum is the importance that we return labor friendly people to the halls of congress. Howard Berman who has a 100% voting record over the last two years has earned our support. We must consider the retirement of Anthony Beilenson from the 24th Congressional District. Mr. Beilenson had a 100% voting record over the last two years on letter carrier issues. With the retirement of Carlos Moorhead from the 22nd Congressional district we should be working for the election of a candidate who will support letter carrier issues. Doug Kahn has been nominated by the Democratic party as a candidate who we should consider. All in all, you can see the importance of what is going to happen on that Tuesday in November.

PICNIC

By now you should have already signed up for the annual picnic at Rancho San Antonio. The event is scheduled to be held on Sunday September 8th. Have a good time!!!

MORE POLITICS

On a last thought about the upcoming national elections. The issue is not whether you are voting for a Democrat or a Republican. The issue is who will be serve you and your family. What is at stake on this date is our jobs. It is no great secret that the present Postmaster General is attempting to tear apart the postal service. If he has his way H.R. 210 would become a federal law and the jobs we now have and the security they provide could be at stake. When you arrive at that polling place consider what is best for you and the jobs we now have!!!!

"THE MAIL CALL" BRANCH 2462, NALC

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

Address Correction Requested

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U.S. POSTAGE
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VAN NUYS, CA
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Branch Meeting Minutes August 6, 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 5:35 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS ENZ. The invocation was led by FRANK RIMKUS

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

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

ABSENT--None

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAILCALL
CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP----NONE

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SOCIAL REC--GALLEGOS

No Meeting held

COLCPE--ENZ \$ 561 in the fund

RETIREEES--RIMKUS There were 6 retirees pre-

sent at tonight's meeting. On the Sick List we have, LARRY STUTLEY, AL WALLACE, CHARLES SHELTON, MICHELLE HALL, CHESTER PIELOCH, DENNIS RUKSTALIS, M.E.

GRIFFEN. We wish them a speedy recovery.

TRUSTEES The books were audited on July 25th. at 5:30 pm at the Union office. There were some suggestions on the handling of Lost Time and changes will be made.

HBR--TUKESBREY None

DISTRICT 6--McCLINTON Next meeting will be on

Sept. 12th 6 pm at Branch 2902. District 6 elections will be

held. 1st Presidential will be held in St Louis on Sept. 25th.

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

VICE-PRESIDENT--BOCEK None

SAFETY & HEALTH--HENRY None

MBA--HENRY None

PRESIDENT ASKEW National Convention begins Monday August 12th. 26 Delegates will be attending, the largest number we have ever sent. Legislative Workshop held at the Branch Office was great success. About 70 people attended and it was very informative. I will be meeting with BRAD SHERMAN & HOWARD BERMAN. RAY KREYER award nominations should be submitted, in writing to the Executive Board before Sept 1st.

OLD BUSINESS None

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION--Branch make every effort possible to contact the immediate family or next of kin of any deceased member, to send flowers.

Cost not to exceed \$ 50

M/S/C

MOTION--Branch authorize the Executive Board to spend up to \$ 500 for Computer hard drive repairs or replacement.

M/S/C

MOTION--Regular Branch Meeting in November be moved from the 1st Tuesday to the

1st. Wednesday due to the National Elections M/S/C

MOTION--Branch reimburse DAN RATHBONE

\$ 15 for buying Breakfast for the Legislative Liaisons at the Retiree Breakfast

M/S/C

MOTION--TRACY MULLINEX be paid 4 months of SHOP STEWARD salary, for replacing BOB ENZ at the ENCINO station.

M/S/C

DIVISION CALLED----YES----21, NO---5 MOTION CARRIES

COLCPE DRAWING

\$ 4 BOB JOHNSON--ANNEX III--DONATED

\$ 4 KEITH MOWER--RETIRED--DONATED

\$ 3 TROY YOUNG--ANNEX III

\$ 3 JIM TUKESBREY--RETIRED--DONATED

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT--JOHNSON

TREASURERS REPORT--JOHNSON

JANETTE DOLABSON gave a brief report on the Crystal Sutton Dinner which honored the NALC FOOD DRIVE.

PRESENTATION--25 year pin given to BOB ENZ

MEETING ADJOURNED---7:20 PM

BROTHERS AND SISTERS

I would like to thank all of you for the opportunity to be a delegate at the 60th N. A. L. C. Convention in Orlando, Florida. The sight of thousands of delegates from all over the U. S. makes you realize that we here in Van Nuys are not alone. The problems that exist here are the same all over the U.S. One message above all others was echoed by one speaker after the other--no matter what your political beliefs, it is imperative that we elect people to political office who are friends of all federal employees and of Letter Carriers in particular. The future of the Postal Service has never been more in danger that it is at this time in history. We must all vote in November for those who are sympathetic to the cause of Letter Carriers

Once again, Thank You all and VOTE IN NOVEMBER
Ed Carlin