

THE

MAIL CALL



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WAHOO!!!!



"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.

Day of Choice---Election Day November 5th

by
Velma McClinton

Applauds go out to those who attended the special meeting here at our Union hall and for articles that were in last months issue of the MailCall regarding legislation.

What is needed is for You to.....

A ct
C hallenge yourselves
H elp register others to vote
I nvite others to go to the polls
E ducate prior to the elections
V ote on election day
E nd up with Congress back in the hands of the Labor /Union/ Work friendly Democratic Party

Now is the time to get involved and support issues that affect Letter Carriers. Let's emphasize our common concern.

J O B S E C U R I T Y

The only real question to ask yourselves..... Is **BILL CLINTON** a part of the Postal Service not being Privatized ? **The answer is YES!!** Thanks to all who supported me to the Democratic National Convention in every capacity. I have been a part, and attended many functions, but this one was outstanding. My purposes for running were:

1. Re-elect Bill Clinton as President.
2. Working to elect Pro-Labor candidates.
3. Show that working people can make a difference.

It was a truly unique experience I will always remember. Issues were made clear, I saw a melting pot throughout the entire assembly. Now that the Hatch Act has been repealed and our rights as citizens have been restored, I urge everyone to participate in the process. The work will be hard, but the rewards will be great !!!

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	6			
ENCINO	3	3	4	3	3	6	6	6	5			
CIVIC CENTER	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	1			
PANORAMA CITY	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	2			
SHERMAN OAKS	8	6	6	7	5	5	7	7	8			
SUN VALLEY	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	0	2			
TARZANA	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1			
RETIREE'S	7	10	9	7	8	8	6	5	8			
TOTAL	26	32	30	32	29	28	29	31	33			

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

5:30 PM

October 1st
1996

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

October 15th

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

"RETIREE CORNER"

During the month of October 1996 we will have two (2) important events. **FIRST:** On October 19th (3rd Saturday) will be our monthly Breakfast meeting, 9 AM at Carrows Restaurant in Panorama City...Roscoe and Tobias. **SECOND:** The following Friday, October 25th. our annual "Retirees Nite" will be held at the Encino Glen Restaurant, located at the Encino-Balboa Golf Courses in Encino, California. I hope you retirees have received your September letters and made your reservations accordingly. A delightful evening is planned.

Thanks
Frank Rimkus

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

BRANCH PICNIC

On September 8, 1996 the branch held it's annual picnic at Rancho San Antonio Boys Home in Chatsworth. Approximately 500 members and their families came for a day of fun, food, and a general good time.

Thanks go to Art Bocek again for the job he does in the organization of this annual event. It takes a lot of time and effort to put the picnic together and Art spends many hours preparing for the days activities. A special thanks to those who showed up early to cook for the membership. To "Mr. Chicken" (Calvin Brookins) and "Ms. Chicken" (TeenaMarie Gallegos) for those hot hours over the grill. To Steve Seyfried for the fact that he allows me to take the blame for dropping hamburger patties in the Bar-B-Que charcoal. To Velma McClinton who happens to be in the right place at the right time to help out. To Fernando Miranda who shares those long gloves and hot advise. To Larry and Jannette Dolabson who help put the condiments together. To Tony Brooks who just showed up to help out. Your effort was well appreciated and it makes the day go a lot smoother. To Frank and Katherine Brash and Frank and Jo Rimkus who help out with the check in. Thanks!!!!

NATIONAL ELECTIONS

At last months branch meeting the membership chose to endorse the following candidates in the upcoming general election on November 8th. As you go to the polls on this very important day I ask that you consider Congressman Howard Berman for the 26th Congressional District, Brad Sherman for the 24th Congressional District, and Doug Kahn for the 22nd Congressional District.

In asking that you support these candidates I believe that I should include a reason for this request. Howard Berman is the incumbent Congressmen. Over the last two years Congressmen Berman has a 100% voting record on the issue that effect letter carriers. He deserves our support and our vote.

Bob Johnson and I have met with Brad Sherman. During these face to face meetings we discussed issues that effect our working lives. He supports the expanding of the Family Medical Leave Act that was passed by Congress two years ago. He has also stated that he would oppose any such legislation that would privatize the postal service or any legislation that would dismantle the postal service.

I have also met with Doug Kahn. Velma McClinton, Gloria Henry, Calvin Brookins and I worked on his campaign two years ago when he ran for congress. He has assured us that he would also oppose any changes in the structure of the postal service as we now know it.

All of the above are just a few of the reasons why we should support candidates that support us. The time to speak up is the first Tuesday in November. So please don't forget to VOTE.....

Message From the N. A. L. C. Health Benefits Representative

On October 7 - 9, 1996 President Askew and myself will be in Las Vegas for a Seminar on the N.A.L.C. Health Benefits Plan. If any member has any problems or questions you would like me to check on, please send them to me at the Branch office. While in attendance I will have access to the main computer bank in Reston, Virginia. This would be an opportune time to settle any problems.

Jim Tukesbrey, HBR.

Safety Is Everyone's Business

by
Gloria Henry

Station Manager Dave Aultman recently had a Safety Stand Up that involved Safety Trivia. This new approach to Safety was an enlightening and entertaining experience for most Letter Carriers at the Sherman Oaks station. There was active participation by Letter Carriers, the first time that Carriers at the Sherman Oaks station had open participation in the Safety process. Believe it or not, most Carriers and Clerks too, were totally involved in answering these Safety Questions. The reward for a correct answer was a half book of stamps. Carriers were competing with enthusiasm and for the moment Safety was their top priority. It made those present at the station happy and also boosted Carrier moral.

As the Safety coordinator at Sherman Oaks, along with Jerome Garcia and Ernesto Fernandez, we got very positive feedback from other Letter Carriers in the station. To their surprise they realized that Safety can play a positive roll in their lives. I would have to give Dave Aultman a that-a-boy for his creativity and for a job well done. He is showing Carriers that he is committed to Safety and he is consistent in giving Safety stand-ups to those who are off on the day of the original stand-up. I would hope that all Station Manager's are following in his footsteps by giving Safety stand-ups on a consistent basis, and being creative with their Safety approach to Carriers

Safety and Trivia Test

How many of these questions can you answer ?

1. How many mirrors are on an LLV ?
2. How many violation points are charged against a driver for a reckless driving conviction in California ?
3. How many muscles in a elephant's trunk ?
4. How many breath's does an average adult take each minute ?
5. To reduce strain from over-reaching, how close to your body should you arrange tools / parts you need to reach for frequently ?

ANSWERS--Are on page 5

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Art Bocek

Wolny Pond

Recently, I had the opportunity to visit the "pond" only to observe that the pond has turned into a dumping ground for empty tubs, stacks of bagged sacks, and other postal garbage. The pond some day, one day, is suppose to transform into a carrier unit. This is to happen after the construction of rest-room's, breakroom and other refinements have been completed. Only the roof has been fixed, but "NO" air conditioning has been placed on the roof. Why are the Van Nuys letter carriers being directed by those who can't manage.

Why can't management who are supposedly managing, get a proper building for letter carriers ready? Answer: management is too busy thinking, or is it stinking up new programs designed to make more work for letter carriers. Carriers are being told to become "Aquatic Animals" human sponges and just to absorb any additional time. For example the EXLAX program. A new program, soon to be announced in your area is "Collection Card Pick Up Game." This new game is where every day letter carriers must take out a colored plastic card to collection boxes, placing this card in the collection box and then removing from the collection box a different colored plastic card. This other card then is returned to the office and placed in an area with other cards to show if the collection box was tapped. I guess management either doesn't trust it's employees or are just to lazy to check boxes? Makes sense to me!

Could it be the reason as to why our beloved "unknown postmaster" is always performing other details other than his own job assignment is because of the shame of having the key to the largest "dump" for the Postal Service in the valley or is he in search for the right promotion bonus? Is it possible for you to do a good job, but not attend all meetings, promotions are not assured? Don't forget, I still have that sealed envelope with my 2 promotion guess that start with "S". Word on the street say one of my guesses has been awarded, but what about the other? .

Maybe a new game should be designed similar to "Where is Carmen San Diego," but it would be called "Where is the Unknown Postmaster Today?"

Joint Statement on Violence in the Workplace Arbitration Award

National Arbitrator Carlton Snow, just recently issued a decision whereby letter carriers are to provided with a work environment free of hostile management. This arbitration decision will now provided the NALC the ability to demand accountability by management whenever they fail to adhere to the precepts of the Violence in the Workplace Statement.

Arbitrator Snow states: "The grievance procedure of the National agreement may be used to enforce the parties' bargain, and arbitrators have available to them the flexibility found in arbitral jurisprudence when it comes to formulating remedies, **INCLUDING REMOVING A SUPERVISOR FROM HIS OR HER ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES.**"

If you observe any improper actions or threats by management, make a written note of the improper action, time

and date. Bring this information to the attention of your shop steward or call the union office. Lets make sure that everyone can come to work and be in a truly hostile free environment.

Bonus Phonies

A seal program was set up by management in order to give out prizes to employees. After talking to some letter carriers, one can only come to the conclusion the program is a complete success for management only. Its management's feeling the seal program is a complete success, because only a few seal and I mean only a few have been awarded to letter carriers. For just the mere price of printing a few seals, and by not awarding the seals, no prizes are given to employees, therefore, the seal program is a success. Once again, letter carriers see management for what they are, "Bonus Phonies."

Just recently, management offered baseball tickets for a price of \$3.00. There was no offer of transportation or paid parking. I hope the manager who thought up this great bonus didn't suffer a "mental hernia" coming up with this monumental deal. Such great things come from great stinkers or is it thinkers? Can't wait to see what the next bonus will be.

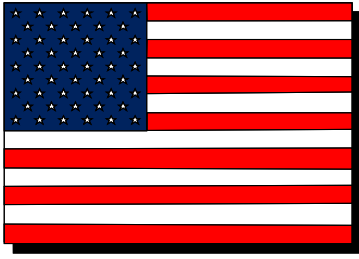
Picnic Report

By the amount of smiles, one can only conclude that everyone had plenty of food, drink and fun at this years picnic. Seeing parents laughing and smiling while their the children were having fun on the rides is what picnics are all about. There were some change in the food service lines in order to make the line move quickly. Everyone was taken care of within an hour, so at this time, I would like to thank all those who helped with the picnic. They are as follows: Roger Askew, Steve Seyfried, Calvin Brookins, Fernando Miranda, Tina Marie Gallegos, Velma McClinton, Larry and Jeanett Dolabson, Robert Johnson, Frank and Katherine Brash, Frank and Jo Rimkus. Once again, Thank You.

Elections

No matter what your party you belong to, you need to vote. This election is very important to all letter carriers because this election will definitely effect carriers jobs and benefits. There are politicians running for election that are not friendly to you or your career and want to "privatize" the Postal Service. If this happens, wages will be smaller and benefits will be change and not for the better for the employee. Find out which candidates for election are friendly to both you and your job, and then vote your conscience.

**DON'T FORGET TO WRITE THAT CHECK
TO COLCPE TODAY !!!!! THE JOB
YOU SAVE
MAYBE YOUR OWN**



N. A. L. C. BRANCH 2462
PROUDLY ENDORSES
THESE CONGRESSIONAL
CANDIDATES

HOWARD BERMAN
26th Congressional District

BRAD SHERMAN
24th Congressional District

DOUG KAHN
22nd Congressional District

Remember your VOTE only counts if you remember to go to the polls on Election Day.

GO VOTE ON
NOVEMBER 5TH.

Safety Quiz Answers

Answers to Quiz on Page 4

1. Seven
2. Two points
3. Over 100,000
4. Fourteen
5. Within 16 inches

Building To Win
Building To Last
by
Velma McClinton, District 6

34 Million of those who Voted in 1992 chose not to vote in 1994, 19,000,000 were women. The results were that a Republican majority was elected to the House of Representatives and the Senate, and a new era of anti-Labor/Union legislation was passed. Luckily for us, we still had a Democratic President in office to veto these anti-worker bills before they could become law. We cannot afford to see these numbers this year on Tuesday, November 5th.

We as Letter Carriers are the best organized Union in the United States and we must do everything in our power to see that Union/Labor "Friends" are elected to office this time. We must be organized to:

- A. Defeat Privatization of the Postal Service
- B. Show the American people that the Postal Service is placing profit ahead of service.
- C. Mobilize around issues that directly effect our jobs and lives.
- D. Believe that we can make a difference by Voting in the Election.
- E. Participate in the election process by phone banking, precinct walking and supporting our candidates prior to election day.
- F. Lobby to protect the retirement benefits of Retired Letter Carriers and those who will one day be retired.

This years election will be a close race. In 1992, 29 Congressional races were lost by 5,000 votes, which represented only 5 votes per precinct and 7 races were lost by less than 1,000 votes. Yes, we are threatened. The issue here is survival of the Postal Service, and our jobs, as we know it today. You have but one choice, and that is to get out and cast your Vote for the candidates that support our views. Get out the message to your friends and family. Nothing will stop a handwritten letter to you Congressional Representative. It is still the most effective way of persuasion in the halls of Congress. We are now "UnHatched" so there is no excuse for standing on the sidelines !!!

After November 5th. there will be a light at the end of the tunnel. Whether it is the light of employment and prosperity or an Anti-Worker freight train is up to you.

Don't Forget To Vote

"THE MAIL CALL" BRANCH 2462, NALC

Steve Seyfried, Editor
6910 Hayvenhurst Ave., # 101
Van Nuys, CA 91406



Address Correction Requested

MOTION--Branch place Sparkletts water in the Branch Office. Cost is \$ 23 per month
M/S/C
MOTION--Branch endorse HOWARD BERMAN for Congress in the 26th District

Branch Meeting Minutes September 3, 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

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

PRESENT--ASKEW, SEYFRIED, BRASH, ENZ,

TUKESBREY, BROOKINS, HENRY, JOHNSON

ABSENT--BOCEK, McCLINTON, MICHELSEN

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 \$ 661 in the fund

RETIREEES--RIMKUS There were 8 retirees present at tonight's meeting. On the Sick List we have, LARRY

STUTLEY. We wish him a speedy recovery.

TRUSTEES All is well

HBR--TUKESBREY Las Vegas Seminar coming up soon. Watch for article in Mail Call.

DISTRICT 6--McCLINTON None

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 video tapes have been ordered. Branch has installed Sparkletts water for trial period. Branch will vote on continuing service.

TOM YOUNG, DALE HART, MANNY PERALTA and JOAN HURST will be attending the Retiree Dinner on October 25th.

Branch will vote on placing Branch phone number and address in the NALC National Directory

OLD BUSINESS All Delegates to the National Convention gave brief reports on their feelings and experiences.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

NEW BUSINESS

M/S/C
MOTION--Branch endorse BRAD SHERMAN for Congress in the 24th District

M/S/C
MOTION--Branch endorse DOUG KAHN for Congress in the 22th District

M/S/C
MOTION--Branch give the money from the COLCPE Fund as follows--HOWARD BERMAN 26th District \$ 100, BRAD SHERMAN 24th District \$ 250, DOUG KAHN 22nd District \$ 250.

M/S/C
MOTION--Branch place the Office address and Phone number in the NALC National Directory M/S/C

MOTION--Branch donate \$ 100 to the BIG BROTHERS of LOS ANGELES M/S/C

MOTION--Branch provide refreshments at the October Meeting. Cost not to exceed \$ 250 M/S/C

MOTION--Branch donate \$ 100 to the United States Marine Corps "Toys for Tots" M/S/C

COLCPE DRAWING
\$ 3 FRIEDA McKINNIS--SHERMAN OAKS
\$ 3 FRIEDA McKINNIS--SHERMAN OAKS
\$ 3 ANN SCARBOURGH--SHERMAN OAKS

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT--JOHNSON

TREASURERS REPORT--JOHNSON

GLORIA HENRY gave a brief report on the DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION which she attended as a Delegate.

SPECIAL THANKS to JANETTE DOLABSON for helping take the Minutes at the September meeting until the Secretary could arrive.

MEETING ADJOURNED----7:30 PM

Branch 2462 COLCPE DONATIONS

George O'Brien (Ret).....
Jacob Dumelle (Ret).....
Bernice Harkness (Ret).....
Edward Kuzman (Ret).....
Joyce McQueary (Wid).....
Casmire Marko (Ret).....
Raymond Dodge (Ret).....
Joseph Barrett Jr. (Ret).....
Harry Kemp (Ret).....
Larry Kneitel (Act).....
Robert Wafler (Ret).....