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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Roger Askew

### FOOD DRIVE

Saturday May 10, 1997 has been assigned the annual National Association of Letter Carriers-USPS food drive date. Make plans to participate in this worthwhile event. 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. This year Campbell's Soup Company will be supplying the announcement cards for the food drive.

### GRIEVANCE ACTIVITY

I have been asked a number of times why I don't use the Mail-Call as a way to management bash concerning grievances. My personal opinion is that when we receive monetary awards from Step 3 representatives or a decision from an arbitrator is that these are personal matters. I can tell you this though. Within the last 3 months we have received news from both of the above mentioned sources that a total in excess of \$ 100,000.00 in awards has been given to letter carriers that we represent. Each member of the contract administrative unit is aware of these issues. In last months Mail-Call I questioned why management is not held accountable for these matters. One-Hundred Thousand Dollars is a lot of money!!! If these amounts would be taken from the managers salaries or god forbid the stations budgets, then the issues that are pending in the grievance procedure would be reduced noticeably! I can't wait till next year when management informs us that there is no money available for carrier salary increases.

### RAP SESSION

Every other year a rap session is held for the purpose of informing the members on issues that are pending at the national level. At last months branch meeting the membership passed a motion to send me to this important session. It will be held in Chicago, Illinois on Sunday, April 6th. I want to get answers to some important issues.

First, are you aware of the legal suit against a former union employee at national headquarters concerning missing funds? I recently read an article stating that this individual has been found guilty in a Maryland Court. The money that was taken is being returned. My concern is what safe guards are being taken to prevent this from occurring again?

Second, I want to get an update on the legislative issues that are pending on Capital Hill. We must always be

(Continued on Page 3)

## NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS OF BRANCH OFFICERS & SHOP STEWARDS

This is official notice to members of Branch 2462 that nominations for the following offices will be held at the regular branch meeting April 1, 1997 at 5:30 p.m. at the Branch Union Hall 6910 Hayvenhurst Ave # 101, Van Nuys California. The Offices are President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Sgt-at-Arms, Three (3) Trustee's, Health Benefits Representative, and Mutual Benefits Representative. Also the position of Editor. No one may be nominated for more than one (1) office, Except, Editor, who does not serve on the Executive Board. Candidates must accept nomination at the time made or, if absent, in writing to be received by the Branch Secretary no later than April 3, 1997. The terms of Office shall be for a two year period. Candidates elected shall be delegates to the National and State Conventions as stated in the Branch By-Laws.

Shop Steward nominations and election will be held at the individual Stations.

## ELECTION

The election will be conducted by secret ballot at all Carrier stations on May 27, 28, 29, 30 1997. the Election shall be conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the Executive Board of Branch 2462, NALC, which shall not be in violation of the rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the Rules of the National Executive Council. Retiree's will receive their ballots by 1st class mail no later than May 9, 1997. Any member who, for any reason, will be unable to vote at the Stations, or has not received their ballot, may obtain an absentee ballot by writing to the Election Committee, Branch 2462, NALC, 6910 Hayvenhurst Ave., Suite #101, Van Nuys, California, 91406 or by calling (818) 786-8505. Requests for absentee ballots must be received by the Election Committee no later than May 9, 1997, Absentee ballots must be returned to the Election Committee no later than 5:00 PM on May 30, 1997. write-in votes are not permitted. The counting of the ballots will take place on Friday, May 30, 1997 beginning at 6:00 PM, at the Branch Meeting hall, 6910 Hayvenhurst Ave., #101 Van Nuys, CA. All candidates and members may observe the counting.

"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.

## Agenda 2000. Postscript by Jason Colello

Over the past three months I have written about our Postal environment, by interpreting the current actions of upper management. I do not own a crystal ball, nor do I have some keen extra sensory perception similar to that of Nostradamus. However, I simply watch management through open eyes, and understand that management acts only on their own behalf (\$168 million in management and supervisor bonuses). Some of you brothers and sisters might find my *accusations* negative and preposterous. Fair enough, but let me offer you the latest from the Postal propoganda front; perhaps your eyes will open.

Pages 4 and 5 of the February 97' issue of *Pacific Area Update* contain some disturbing information concerning the future of the Postal Service. Management is supporting postal reform legislation, first introduced (and defeated) in 1996 by Congressman John McHugh (R-NY). Mr. McHugh is chairman of the House Government reform and Oversight Postal Service subcommittee, and his *sights* are clearly set on reforming the Postal Service right into privatization. "Postmaster General Marvin Runyon says the Postal Service [management's Postal Service] is looking forward to helping make the bill work in the best interests of the American people." HR 22, an identical postal reform bill, has been introduced to congress this year.

The next alarming piece informs us that Runyon has briefed "financial analysts on Wall Street about the USPS." This piece further adds that Runyon "gave the analysts a prospectus and presentation on USPS's impact on business and its position in its major markets. The point of the exercise was to point out that the Postal Service is in business because it sells its products and services in a competitive marketplace." The only point being made is that Runyon *is introducing* the Postal Service to private industry as a potential acquisition. This is like a private industry debutante ball, wherein Runyon is the Draconian father, eager to rid himself of his daughter (the USPS). He presents his daughter's virtues (assets) to an audience of only the highest bidders.

In simplified terms, Runyon is tempting private industry about the profit possibilities of the Postal Service. With an already established network of over thirty-thousand post offices and over two-hundred years experience of mail delivery, the Postal Service is a prime target for those in business land. Why pay exorbitant amounts of money creating a delivery system, when you can buy one that already exists, for far less money.

The USPS practically sells itself. All Runyon has to do now is eliminate all of the Postal service's union labor.

On page 8 of the February, 1997 issue of *Branch Nine News* (Branch 9, Minneapolis, MN.), there is an article that contains Runyon's comments ("In his own words") to a Postal Council Meeting. During that National Postal Policy Council Meeting in Washington, DC (on December 4, 1996), Runyon spoke of saving \$1 billion in costs by reducing positions and consolidating work, among other target areas. He spoke of spending tens-of-billions of dollars on "automation equipment, product and service support systems, and more vehicles [notice the terms 'spending' and 'letter carriers' are not included in the same sentence here.]. Runyon continued by adding that he and *management* "are taking a good, *long look* at private sector labor-to get the quality we need at lower costs than in-house work [now he mentions 'letter carriers']. We are going to put the best talent

## ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
ANNEX III	8	7	6									
ENCINO	6	6	4									
CIVIC CENTER	2	2	3									
PANORAMA CITY	2	1	3									
SHERMAN OAKS	9	8	9									
SUN VALLEY	0	2	2									
TARZANA	1	1	1									
RETIREE'S	6	7	7									
TOTAL	34	35	35									

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

NEXT MEETING  
**\*\*6:00 PM\*\***

**April 1st  
1997**

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

**April 15 th**

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

### "RETIREE CORNER"

Our monthly fourth (4th) Saturday Breakfast Meeting will be held at Carrow's Restaurant (Roscoe & Tobias) at 09:00 am in Panorama City. The date will be **April 26, 1997**. Please mark your calendar's and we hope to see you there. Regular Carriers are also welcome, if it is your day off.

Thanks

Frank Rimkus

and expertise in the marketplace to work for our customers." If that last sentence were true, Runyon and management would realize they *have* the most talented and experienced individuals, Letter Carriers, already in place, giving total service to all customers. This, however, is not the case. Runyon wants us gone, union and all.

It is with information such as the above, that I can formulate a model of management's folly (*Agenda 2000*); they are the ones who are preposterous and negative, all I did was open my eyes and focused on the 'beast'. I can understand why people go through life with their eyes closed to the world; because the more one expands their vision, the monster of reality comes within dangerous focus. Let me tell you that management's monster is as real as that supervisor breathing down your back.

## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Art Bocek

### Controversion of an Injury Claim

The supervisor is responsible for ensuring immediate appropriate care when an employee is injured while in the performance of duty. Management is responsible for advising the employee of his or her rights to be treated by their own physician for the injury. Management is to provide the employee with either Form CA-1 or Form CA-2.

In case of a traumatic injury, Section 544.14 of the ELM states that management must advise the employee that if the injury is disabling the employee has the right to:

1. To elect either continuation of regular pay for up to 45 calendar days;
2. To use annual or sick leave. An employee may subsequently request COP in lieu of previously requested sick and/or annual leave. However, such a request must be made within 1 year of the date of the OWCP's approval of the claim. Whichever is later.

Management's responsibility to an employee in Section 544.15 of the ELM states: "Inform the employee whether continuation of regular pay will be controverted and whether or not pay will be interrupted."

Section 545.51 of the ELM states on what basis of information submitted by either the employee or independent investigation can the USPS controvert a claim and terminate continuation of pay. They are as follows:

1. The disability is a result of an occupational disease or illness as defined in 541.2 (The employee may apply for compensation or take annual leave or sick leave, but the employee is not entitled to continuation of regular pay for an occupational disease or illness under FECA.)
2. The injury was caused by:
  - a. The employee's willful conduct,
  - b. The employee's intent to bring injury or death to self or another person,
  - c. The employee's intoxication by alcohol or illegal drugs was the approximate cause of injury,
  - d. The first absence caused by the injury occurred 90 days or more after the injury,
  - e. The employee failed to make the initial report of the injury until after employment was terminated,
  - f. The injury was not reported on Form CA-1 within 30 days of the injury.

Under Section 545.21 of the ELM, continuation of pay will not be interrupted as part of a disciplinary action, nor will it be terminated as result of a disciplinary action that terminates employment, unless final written notice of termination, for cause, was issued to the employee prior to the date of injury.

### Locker Inspections

Section 41, 3J of the National Agreement states: "The employer agrees that, except in matters where there is reasonable

cause to suspect criminal activity, postal management or inspectors shall not inspect lockers unless the employee or the Union representative has been given the opportunity to be present. For general inspection, where employees have had prior notification of at least a week, the above is not applicable.

Just recently at one of the city carrier units, management open an employee's locker. What was found was approximately 1 ' of mail matter. Remember, there is **absolutely no reason** for any employee to place mail matter in a personal locker. Check your locker, and then secure the locker with a lock. Don't let this happen to you.

### Working Off the Clock

According to Article 41, Section K of the National Agreement, signed and agreed upon by both the Postal Service and the NALC, it clearly states: "Supervisors shall not require, nor permit employees to work off the clock." Provisions contained within the regulation of the "Fair Standards Act," working off the clock is not an option. When management either mandates or allows you to work off the clock, management wins with "Free Production," you lose both pay and respect. What do you want?

" You can't exercise your rights, if you don't know your rights."

See you at the next union meeting.

"Lets talk."

## Presidents Report (From Page 1)

watchful of our Representatives and Senators and keep them informed of our issues.

Third, I want to find out what if anything is being done about the backlog of grievances that are pending in the system. There's an excess of 100,00 grievances pending at the national level. It it my feeling that this is a management decision to flood the process with grievances. Issues that were routinely handled at the Step 1 level are now being appealed to the Step 3 level to be resolved. This is a time consuming process that only drags the issues out. In next months issue of the Mail Call I will tell you what I have learned.

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT!!

If automation is the savior of the postal service and it is such a great stride into the future why is it that we have to work together to make it work??? Seems to me that it should just work by itself and not need any interference from outside sources (i.e. management). It also seems to me that we would be better served by carriers casing the D.P.S. mail instead of the present system.

Recently we have all been viewing a series of video presentations by management. One of the statements made by the moderator is that if we have any suggestions to let our managers know....

How long have we been requesting earlier starting times? They just seem to get later and later. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that if we start later we will be getting to our patrons later. Don't they think that business customers would like their mail before they go to their afternoon break?

All during these presentations we are told that we must deal with the needs of our customers and meet their needs or else they will seek other avenues to receive the product. We are trying but local management has been blocking us. How long will it take upper management to realize what we have been telling them for 10 years???

# "THE MAIL CALL" BRANCH 2462, NALC

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

Address Correction Requested

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

per day to attend the Southern Calif Training session

## Branch Meeting Minutes March 4, 1997

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 6:35 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, TUKESBREY, BROOKINS, BOCEK, JOHNSON, HENRY  
**ABSENT**--MICHELSEN, McCLINTON

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAILCALL  
CORRESPONDENCE READ

### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

MARIE FODDLE--ARNOLD SANTA-ISABEL

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

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

SOCIAL REC--GALLEGOS No Meeting held  
COLCPE--ENZ \$ 160 in the fund

RETIREES--RIMKUS There were 7 retirees present at tonight's meeting. On the Sick List we have, LARRY STUTLEY, RAY KELWIN, BOB KURZHALS, MIKE BRASH, IRVING BRECKMAN, ALAN KEOGH, WALT KENWAY & JOANN LOBENBERG. We wish all a speedy recovery.

TRUSTEES No Report  
HBR--TUKESBREY No Report  
DISTRICT 6--McCLINTON No Report  
EDITOR--SEYFRIED Any questions can be addressed to the Editor by calling the Union Office.

VICE-PRESIDENT--BOCEK Working on MailCall

SAFETY & HEALTH--HENRY No Report

MBA--HENRY New Maturity Income Fund for supplemental retirement available. Contact Gloria.

PRESIDENT ASKEW Food Drive Co-ordinator this year will be VELMA McCLINTON. Branch filed over 600 grievances in 1996. National Rap Session will be April 6th in Chicago. Branch is currently at 92% organized. HR 22 is still in Congress, write and tell them to vote NO. Branch installation dinner will be held at Encino Glen Restaurant on June 20th. The 91411 zone of the Civic Center will be moving into the Main Office (Barn) on March 15th. Annex III will be moving to Main Office on March 22nd.

### EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

### NEW BUSINESS

MOTION--Branch pay any Shop Steward, Alternate Steward or Contract Administration member \$ 150

in Manhattan Beach on April 18 & 19. Branch will pay mileage if you carpool from the Branch. Anyone attending 1/2 day session will receive \$ 75 M/S/C

MOTION--Branch send the President and two legislative liaisons to the Congressional Breakfast on April 20th. in Manhattan Beach. Cost \$ 67.50 plus mileage. M/S/C

MOTION--Branch send the President or his designee to the National Rap Session in Chicago on April 6th Cost to the Branch \$ 650 M/S/C

MOTION--Branch renew the liability insurance for the Branch office. Cost to the Branch \$ 617 M/S/C

MOTION--Branch extend janitorial contract with Dave Mackaman for one year. Cost to Branch \$ 90 0 M/S

MOTION TO TABLE M/S/C

### COLCPE DRAWING

\$ 4 ROGER ASKEW--ENCINO--DONATED

\$ 4 JANETTE DOLABSON-TARZANA-

DONATED

\$ 4 JESS PASIAS--ANNEX III

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT--JOHNSON

TREASURERS REPORT--JOHNSON

MEETING ADJOURNED----8:45 PM

## Smart Ways to Treat Cold Weather Woes

Jim Tukesbrey, H.B.R.

COMMON COLD---Drink lots of fluid, get plenty of rest and take over-the-counter medicines, such as pain relievers, decongestants and antihistamines (which relieve sneezing) as needed.

SORE THROAT---Gargle with salt water (an old home remedy). If the pain is really bad ask your doctor to prescribe viscous Lidocaine a topical anesthetic. Antibiotics are indicated only for sore throats caused by a Type-A streptococcus. Type-A can be detected by a simple office test. Otherwise, at least half the time antibiotics don't help.

SINUSITIS---Apply hot facial compresses or inhale steam to relieve pain and swelling. You probably need an antibiotic if you have facial swelling, sinus tenderness and a fever over 101 degrees that persists for more than 24 hours, or if you experience coughing and a runny nose for ten days. surgery can open up the sinus passages when sinusitis is chronic.

COUGH---Take a cough suppressant if your cough is keeping you awake. Antibiotics are generally not necessary unless symptoms don't improve after ten days or if you have an underlying chronic disease like Cystic Fibrosis or emphysema.