

THE MAIL CALL



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Roger Askew

Last month, the editor reprinted an article submitted by the President of the Special Delivery Messenger craft. In the article a number of accusations were made.

First: both the APWU and the NALC have agreed to the language in Article 12 of the national agreement and we both should abide by it.

Second: The NALC has intervened in the APWU because of a juridical dispute in the delivery of Express Mail. It seems the APWU would like the delivery of Express Mail to be done by the clerk craft which I take exception to. The delivery of Express Mail should be done by the carrier craft.

Third: The Special Delivery Messengers that were excessed into the carrier craft has been grieved by the NALC (Step 1 filed in October of 1996 when we were supplied notice of the excessing). We have even supplied some of the information that is being used by the APWU in the National Level Arbitration case.

Fourth: A statement was made in the letter that the NALC should be more concerned about the benefits that the Special Delivery Messengers have lost (the Special Delivery Messengers are represented by the APWU). Our Branch has taken specific action to place Article 41 (3.0) into our local agreement. If the Special Delivery Messengers had such language in their contract maybe some of their concerns would have been answered.

Fifth: When 1998 comes around where do the excessed messengers fit in on bidding for annual leave? This is also an issue in our grievance. Our grievance also has contentions that management failed to bargain in good faith with our local branch concerning the number of carriers that are assigned to the Van Nuys Post Office.

Sixth: I take exception to any member of the Special Delivery Messengers coming into the carrier craft and bumping senior carriers from assignments that they would like to bid on. The NALC has a long history of not allowing bumping rights and this should be enforced. On a personal note, I would have a problem with any other union member coming into the craft that I am in and then bidding on an assignment that I wanted when that specific individual had been a member of another craft. Seniority is one of the biggest rights that we as letter carriers have and I find it very hard to believe that any other sister union would ask a fellow union member to give that up!!

The Board of Governors has granted the postal service the right to discontinue Special Delivery service on April 2, 1997. This action by the board of governors would leave only the delivery of Express Mail to the messengers. As President of this branch it is my obligation to the membership to fight for the work that should be done by carriers.



BRANCH 2462 INSTALLATION DINNER

Friday June 20, 1997

Encino Glen Restuarant

(Corner of Burbank & Balboa)

6:00 pm Happy Hour

7:00 pm Dinner

Price is \$ 8.00

For Tickets or further information

Contact your Shop Steward

Another issue that the NALC is addressing in our grievance is the fact that when the Special Delivery Messengers were excessed into our craft they should have been given withheld positions and not been made unassigned regulars. Does the writer of the letter suggest that we not represent the messengers that are now carriers? Statements made by the author of this letter have made some accusations about pressure being felt and showing a battle action to the membership. I suggest that she should evaluate her statement and then look into the mirror!!!!

CALIFORNIA STATE TRAINING

On Friday May 18th and Saturday May 19th, the branch sent fifteen stewards and officers to the annual training conducted by the California State Association. Classes were held in grievance documentation, grievance arguments, OWCP, legislation and Article 12. The session concluded on Saturday in a three hour Rap Session with the National Business Agent Dale Hart and his staff. Each time this type of training is conducted by our leaders I feel it is important to avail ourselves of this educational opportunity.

(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	8	7	6	8								
ENCINO	6	6	4	7								
CIVIC CENTER	2	2	3	1								
PANORAMA CITY	2	1	3	1								
SHERMAN OAKS	9	8	9	10								
SUN VALLEY	0	2	2	3								
TARZANA	1	1	1	1								
RETIREE'S	6	7	7	6								
TOTAL	34	35	35	37								

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

NEXT MEETING
6:00 PM
June 3rd
1997

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

June 10th

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 **June 28, 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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (cont from page 1)

The weekend concluded with a Congressional Breakfast hosted by the State Association. Speakers included Congresswomen Lorita Sanchez, Lucille Roybal-Allard, and Maxine Waters from the State of California along with Congressmen Neil Abercrombie from Hawaii. The delegates who attended the national convention in Orlando will remember the speech given by Representative Ambecrombie. He is quite a spokesmen for the labor movement and he once again held our attention. Each of the speakers gave us an insight into the attacks that are taking place on the working class in Washington DC. As I have said many times we must be vigilant as to what our elected leaders are doing on capitol hill. Whatever gains we have made through collective bargaining can be taken away with a stroke of the pen.

WILLIAM DOHERTY SCHOLARSHIP

For many years the National Association of Letter Carriers has sponsored a scholarship award. This year the winner is Angela Chang. She is the daughter of Young Chang from the Encino station. Angela has a 4.7 grade point average and will be attending Princeton University this fall. On behalf of the Executive Board and all the members of Branch 2462 congratulations Angela! Further congratulations go to both of her parents whom I am sure have spent many hours in seeing that this moment is well remembered along with well deserved. She will receive the amount of \$ 800.00 per year for the next four years.

ELECTIONS

The election for branch officers will be held on May 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th. Please take the time to review the ballot and vote for those who you feel will do the job for the next two years. The retirees ballots and those who requested an absentee ballot were mailed out the week of May 5th. If you do not receive your ballot please contact the union office. Elections for shop stewards will take place at each carrier unit. An announcement will be posted at each unit with regard to the elections of shop stewards. The position of shop steward can not be over emphasized. The hours for all branch officers and stewards are long but the rewards are great. Whoever is your choice, please take the time to vote. The ballots will be counted by the election committee on Friday May 30th at 6:00 PM. If you would like to stop by the branch office and view the results please do so. The counting of the ballots was well attended two years ago and hopefully a few more will show up this year.

FOOD DRIVE

Another year has gone by and another food drive is behind us. As of Saturday evening (May 10) the branch collected over 89,500 pounds of food for local food pantries. The final amount will not be know until next week, as our patrons continue to bring food to the post office. Thanks to all of the food drive coordinators. You made a hectic day go a little easier. A special pleasure was to see the children of our members helping out with the separation of the food.

Enough for now, have a Great Holiday and enjoy.....

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Art Bocek

Recurrence

The definition of a recurrence is a spontaneous return, or increase of disability due to a previous injury or occupational disease without intervening cause, or a return or increase of disability due to a consequential injury. A recurrence is distinguished from a new injury by the criterion that in a recurrence no other event other than the previous injury accounts for the disability. If a recurrence occurs, the employee should file Form CA-2A.

Recurrence of Disability

Section 545.25 of the ELM states: "If an employee suffers a recurrence of disability from an injury for which OWCP has approved the initial claim, and the employee is again unable to work, the control /point promptly completes Form CA-2A."

If the recurrence happens less than 6 months following the most recent medical treatment received by the employee, under Section 545.252, ELM, the control/point may authorize the required medical care by use of Form CA-16.

If the recurrence happens more than 6 months after most recent medical care, in Section 545.252, ELM, authorization for further medical care is obtain from OWCP.

Section 545.254, ELM, states: "If the recurrence happens 6 months or more after the employee returned to duty following the original injury, a statement from the employee must accompany Form CA-2A. The employee's statement must:

- a. Describe the employee's duties upon return to work;
- b. State whether the employee had any other injuries or illnesses;
- c. Give a general description of the employee's physical condition during the intervening period and;
- d. Explain why the believes the present condition is related to the original injury."

Section 545.255, ELM, states: "An employee who suffers a recurrence of a job related disability may elect to receive continuation of regular pay (COP) if eligible, or charge the absence to sick or annual leave, or take LWOP and file for injury compensation benefits from OWCP. Continuation of regular pay (COP) is available as an option only:

- a. If the 45-calendar days were not all used during the initial period of disability, and
- b. If the recurrence is within 90 days of the date the employee returned to work following initial disability. Regular pay may not be continued, even if some portion of the 45 days remains unused. In this case, the employee is entitled only to sick annual leave or to OWCP compensation.

Time Limits

Once an employee has filed Form CA-1 or Form CA-2, according to Section 545.3. ELM, it is the responsibility of Injury Compensation Office (Control/Point) to submit:

- a. the completed Form CA-1 or CA-2 to the appropriate OWCP district office within 10
- b. any other information or documentation that have some bearing on the claim.

Remember, "Either Use or Loose Your Rights."

See you at the next union meeting.

"Lets talk."

The Graceful Flight of Vultures

by

Jason Colello

I keep telling myself that I have seen and heard my share of the bizarre, and that there is nothing left within these mortal confines of life to shock me. Silly me, I forgot I still work for the Postal Service; always to ooze inane rhetoric and superfluous hyperbole from an orifice that belongs to defecation.

Stupidity in point: During January, 1997 the *Washington Post* reported that Postmaster General Marvin Runyon was being investigated by the US department of Justice for possible violations of conflict-of-interest laws pertaining to Runyon's attempts to fill Postal lobbies with Coca-Cola vending machines.

Turns out that straight-shooting Runyon owns stock in Coca-Cola, and when this investigation came to be, Mr. Special interest sold his stock.

To compliment the above hi-jinx, I bring to your attention the most current management video we have been privy to; the driving safely video. I could rant all day about the unintentionally humorous little film, with its quirky dialogue and its deadpan actors, I will not. It is, however, what was in the background of one scene that grabbed my throat; a deliberate shot of a Coca-Cola vending machine.

As the announcer was uttering his vapid ramblings about vehicle safety, the camera framed him and the vending machine as if this inanimate object was to respond about the virtues of mass caffeine consumption.

How utterly vile this man (term used loosely), Runyon, of big business is, using every possible tool in his profit arsenal to generate sales; including subliminal messages to unsuspecting employees. When capital gains call, bastards listen.

And I thought I had seen it all. What was I thinking? The *Manchurian Mailman* I will not become. Looks like I have **lost** my taste for any and all Coca-Cola products; if Runyon's nasty hands have touched it (or can profit from it), I'll have nothing to do with it.

No matter how the Union struggles to help management from self induced embarrassment, Runyon continues to create the fodder to bury the Postal Service in a deep grave of redundant absurdity. God help us!

I Thought You Should Know..

April 16, a day as similar as any other day, was the day that brought darkness into my world, for my friend, Edward Zenex, succumbed to cancer. His courageous battle lasted nine months, and on that day in April....

I was to meet Ed in Panorama City, where he had been working for over a year since his transfer from Philadelphia; I was a rookie flex. We began our friendship when 1 became a regular on his T-6 string, and I received my first lessons in professionalism from him.

Always quick to smile, Ed always had honest laughter for those of us bold enough to tell him jokes. He had a peculiar way of laughing that, the funnier the joke, the louder he laughed. It was a character! And his zoo calls -especially his elephant- would brighten even a supervisor Grinch's day.

I had never seen Ed turn down a favor asked, he always had time to help anyone; never asked why. He never once in my recollection complained about whose swing he was carrying, or why.

(Continued on Page 4)

working days after it is received by the employee

"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

Branch Meeting Minutes May 6, 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 VICE PRESIDENT ART BOCEK at 5:40 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by LARRY DOLABSON. The invocation was led by FRANK RIMKUS

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

PRESENT--BRASH, TUKESBREY, BOCEK, JOHNSON, HENRY, McCLINTON, BROOKINS

ABSENT--MICHELSEN, ASKEW, SEYFRIED, ENZ

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAILCALL WITH CORRECTION--APPOLOGIES TO JASON COLELLO FOR MISPELLING HIS NAME

CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

SUSAN WOODSON, IRIS TOVAR

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COLCPE--DOLABSON \$ 180 in the fund

RETIREEES--RIMKUS There were 8 retirees

present at tonight's meeting.

DISTRICT 6--McCLINTON HR 198 Postal Service

Reduction Act comes up for vote soon. All Representatives will be in their districts on May 24th. Everyone should write or call about this bill. It could effectively put the Postal Service out of business if it passes as currently written. Strawberry workers are still picketing and need your support.

VICE-PRESIDENT--BOCEK OWCP important for Stewards to get last chance agreement.

FOOD DRIVE Cards should go out on Thursday 5/8. Branch elections will be held May 27 - 30. The vote counting will be held at the Branch office on May 30th at 6:00pm. All members are welcome to come, refreshments will be served. Web site is on line, currently working on an OWCP web page. Angela K. Chang, daughter of Member has received a William C. Doherty scholarship from the National. Congratulations to Angela. Dave Mackaman has declined the janitorial position offered by the Branch. Anyone who is interested may submit a bid to the Executive Board.

MBA--HENRY Allowance has been sent
DPS--BROOKINS Problems with re-

lay cards. Projected dates for DPS in Van Nuys is March of 1999, and Tarzana in March, 2000. Management may go back 18 months to use information from route inspections. They are

projecting route elimination's for every office. Management is

failing to take input from NALC. Carriers need to know what time wasting practices are.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION--Pay tax bill of \$ 97.10 from the city M/S/C

MOTION--Executive Board spend up to \$ 1,000 from the contingency fund to repair air conditioner M/S

AMMEND--If the Branch is responsible for the repairs M/S/C

MOTION--Branch notate when a member leaves early M/S

MOTION TO TABLE M/S/C

MOTION--Branch meeting time be changed to 6:30 PM for the June, July and August meetings M/S/F

MOTION--Branch meeting in June start at 6:00 pm M/S/C

COLCPE DRAWING

\$ 6 ED CARLIN--SHERMAN OAKS--DONATED

\$ 5 DAN SADA--SHERMAN OAKS--DONATED

\$ 5 ELAINE BOYD--VAN NUYS MAIN

\$ 5 CALVIN BROOKINS--CIVIC CENTER--DONATED

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT--JOHNSON

TREASURERS REPORT--McCLINTON

MEETING ADJOURNED---7:25 PM

The Secretary would like to give a Special Thank You to JANETTE DOLABSON for taking the minutes in his absence.

I Thought You Should Know..(from pg 3)

He never complained about those double-coverage, political mail days; "it's only paper!" Ed would extol to one of us complainers, flashing that contagious smile of his.

One of the most remarkable attributes to Ed's arsenal, was that of his uncanny ability to befriend *everybody* he met. Not suspicious, two-faced friendship, but genuine and honest friendship. Even supervisors were not immune to Ed's gravitational pull, they actually treated Ed with honesty and mutual respect! Perhaps there is still hope for management yet? We'll see.

Ed's wife Linda, and daughter Nicole are left carry on, memories to hold that can never be flesh. However, memories last longer than flesh, and a great deal of us have brilliant memories of Ed that should keep his spirit immortal for eons to come. Linda has lost her husband, and she grieves. Nicole has lost her husband, and she grieves. Nicole has lost her father, she also grieves. I too grieve, for my friend is gone. But it is you, who have never met Edward Zenex, that I grieve for the most. Never to know a great, yet simple man whose love of family and fellow man could not be outshone by the brightest star in the heavens.

Perhaps, if you and I should meet, I will share a memory with you about Ed. A man who was probably the closest thing to perfection one human could hope to attain. I thought you should know....