

THE MAIL CALL



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Roger Askew

RAY KREYER AWARD

As I announced at the last branch meeting the selection for the 1997 Ray Kreyer Award will be done at the Executive Board meeting on Thursday August 28th. 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.

SAFETY

The Van Nuys District is currently in the process of establishing a new safety program throughout the district. I attend very few district meetings since the unilateral decision to abolish the Employee Involvement Process but felt that this type of meeting could be beneficial to letter carriers. As President of this branch I am concerned about the safety record within the Van Nuys Installation. No person wants to get injured in the performance of their jobs.

The new program is called STOP. The program is designed after a similar process installed at the DuPont company. The process has been in place at DuPont for a number of years and it has been successful in reducing safety related injuries. Each of us should very concerned about our personal safety. How easy is it to cut a corner here and a corner there and place your safety in danger. Each of us has the responsibility of performing our jobs in a safe manner. If this requires additional time in the office and additional time on the street, TAKE THE TIME. Each steward will be given the same training and follow up sessions are scheduled for the next 6 months. The two concerns that I have about the process, is that it will not be a flavor of the month program (remember the SEALS-how soon we forget) or the program will be used to discipline carriers. If what we are attempting to do is change the behavior pattern that leads to accidents then I am in favor of the new program. If all management is attempting to do to obtain additional information to discipline carriers then forget it!!!

RATE INCREASE

Recently the postal service has submitted a rate increase request to the postal board of governors. The increase would result in a one cent increase in the price of a first class stamp. It does strike me as funny that this increase

SPECIAL NOTICE

In accordance with Article V of the NALC Constitution and Article V of the By-Laws of Branch 2462, NALC, notice is hereby given for the Nomination and Election of Delegates to the State and National Convention, Nominations will be held at the October Meeting. Election will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, November 11th., 12th., 13th., as provided in Article IV of the By-Laws of Branch 2462 NALC. All members, in good standing, are eligible to be nominated. Any member, not in good standing or who has not attended at least Nine (9) regular meetings during the twelve (12) months prior to their nomination as a Delegate shall not receive any expenses from *the Branch*. Any member who has less than one (1) year membership in this Branch who shall have attended at least three fourths (3/4) of those regular meetings, from his/her acceptance into membership, prior to their nomination as a Delegate or Alternate may receive expenses. All members of the Executive Board, by virtue of their office, shall be Delegates to all National and State Conventions. This Branch shall elect a Full Delegation to all National and State Conventions.

would take place in calendar year 1998. Must be a rare item to have an increase in postage the same year as negotiations are taking place for our national agreement. I can hear top managers crying already about the inability to give carriers a raise in salary. I can hear them wailing at the wall about how we have to be business conscience and competitive in the market place. All the while managers receive a bonus for the terrific job they are performing in managing the postal service. A recent line from Jerry McGuire seems appropriate in the matter.... Show me the Money!!!

END OF TERM REPORT

Article 6 of the Constitution for the Government of Subordinate and Federal Branches requires the Branch President to make a report at the end of his/her term. Elsewhere in this issue you will find that report. I would encourage you to review and make yourself aware of what's going on with the branch.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Each of us has at one time had one manager run the entire operation within our facility. In thinking back I find it quite ironic that during the period of time that one manager was in charge of the entire unit, that is a week that the office made the budget!!!!!! Something to think about eh.. Maybe instead of short sighted managers pushing the idea of route redesign we should look into *management redesign*.....

"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.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Calvin Brookins

ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH S	J O	F N	M D	A M	J J	A
MAIN OFFICE	8	7	6	8	6	5
ENCINO	6	6	4	7	5	6
CIVIC CENTER	2	2	3	1	1	1
PANORAMA CITY	2	1	3	1	1	2
SHERMAN OAKS	9	8	9	10	6	9
SUN VALLEY	0	2	2	3	3	3
TARZANA	1	1	1	1	1	0
RETIREE'S	6	7	7	6	8	7

TOTAL 34 35 35 37 31 35 27
MEETING PLACE OF BRANCH 2462, NALC
6910 HAYVENHURST AVE., SUITE 101
VAN NUYS, CALIFORNIA

NEXT MEETING
6:00 PM

August 5th
1997

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

August 12th

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 dates for the next two will be **August 23, 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

Solidarity

Solidarity to any Union and its Members are very important. The definition of Solidarity is unity of purpose: The definition of Union is act or instance of uniting: So as you can see Union and Solidarity go hand in hand. It is very important that we unite and show solidarity for the purpose of protecting our contractual rights and helping our Union Brothers and Sisters protect their rights.

If management sees that we are looking out for one another they will be less likely to try to harass and intimidate Letter Carriers. So let's show some solidarity and look out for that Carrier that is working in the case next to you. Another key to solidarity and unity is knowledge, so make yourself knowledgeable of your contractual rights and help your Shop Stewards protect your rights, as well as the rights of other Letter Carriers. Remember United We Stand, Divided We Fall.

D. P. S. Report

As you all know by now there has been a ruling on the long awaited fourth bundle issue. The ruling is as follows:

Any route that is using the composite bundle method in a D.P.S. environment will not be required to carry a fourth bundle. This only applies to D.P.S. offices and normally only occurs on Pennysavers and Advo days. We only have one D.P.S. office, which is Sun Valley, so to you Carriers in Sun Valley, those of you who are using the composite bundle method, if you are required to carry four bundles you need to contact the Union office or your Shop Steward.

Contract Talk

There are Article Eight violation almost on a daily basis at stations that are represented by Branch 2462. There are several things that you, as a Letter Carrier, must be aware of in order to protect your rights under the National Agreement. If you have signed the Maximum Overtime desired list (10 or 12 hours) you have made yourself available for any overtime available on any route within your station, including your non-scheduled days. If you have signed the Work Assignment list, you made yourself available for any overtime on your assignment, on your regular day, this does not include your non-schedule day. If you have not signed one Overtime Desired list, nor the Work Assignment list, you may still be required to work overtime, but prior to you being required to work overtime, management must utilize all of their Auxiliary Assistants.

An Auxiliary Assistant is considered to be Carriers on the Maximum O.T. List, PTF's T.E.'s and Casuals. If management requires you to work overtime on an assignment other than your own, it is the Union position that management must Max that Auxiliary Assistant up to twelve hours. If management requires you to work your non-schedule day and you are not on any list or only on the Work Assignment, all OTDL Carriers should be Maxed out to twelve hours. If you are not on any list and management requires you to work overtime on your own assignment, on your regular schedule day, then management must Max out the Auxiliary Assistant to ten hours. If you are required by your supervisor to work overtime and you are not on any list you should request to see your Seward or call the Union office.

Remember in order to protect your rights you must know your rights

OWCP Report by Art Bocek

First Aid

A first aid case as defined in Section 543.13 of the ELM as: "normally any work related minor injury that receives immediate and one-time treatment by the Postal Medical Officer (PMO), private physician or contract physician, health nurse. However, two visits may be necessary when a second visit is a follow up of a minor injury to confirm that the employee has fully recovered."

Emergency Treatment

Section 543.14 of the ELM states: "An employee needing emergency treatment in addition to first aid must be sent to the nearest available physician or hospital, or the employees or employee's representatives choice. When appropriate, a supervisor accompanies the employee to the doctor's office or hospital to make certain that the employee receives prompt medical treatment. Animal bites or eye injuries are always considered medical emergencies. In the event that there is doubt as to the emergent nature of the injury, it should be handled as an emergency. The "FECA" (Federal Employee Compensation Act), guarantees the employee the right to a free choice of physician. The physician who provides emergency treatment is not considered the employee's initial choice of physician for follow-up medical treatment."

Informing Employee

Under Section 543.21 of the ELM, when more than first aid or emergency medical treatment is required, an employee will be fully informed of the employee rights under FECA.

Section 543.3 ELM, General Procedures

If non-emergency treatment of an injury or illness is required, Section 543.221 states: "The injured or ill employee may be treated by a physician of the employee's choice."

When an employee does not select a physician, Section 543.222 states: "The employee is referred to the USPS medical unit, if available for diagnosis and initial treatment. Referral to the USPS medical unit cannot be made if it would cause harmful delay. The medical officer who provides treatment is not considered the employee's initial choice of physician, and the employee may select a physician at anytime following treatment by the USPS medical unit."

In Section 543.223 states: "In all other instances, including cases in which the employee declines treatment by the medical unit, the employee must be referred to a private physician or hospital of choice as provided by the FECA. In non-emergency situations, a postal supervisor is not authorized to accompany the employee to a medical facility or physician office."

Outside Treatment

If an employee does not elect to receive treatment at a USPS medical unit, under Section 543.23 of the ELM, the employee may select a physician or hospital within approximately 25 miles of his or her home or work site. The physician who is selected by the employee should be contacted by the control/point to determine if the physician is available and will accept the employee for treatment. If not, the employee must select another qualified physician or hospital.

Exclusive Medical Care

Under Section 543.31 of the ELM, it states: "Medical unit or other USPS personnel must not interfere with the medical care prescribed by the employee's physician attending physician. Contact with a physician or physician staff should be limited to the medical condition of the employee or the employee's ability to return to full or limited duty."

According to Section 543.32 of the ELM, Form CA-17 is sent to the treating physician or hospital for completion only when it is necessary to determine the employee's medical condition or the employee's ability to return to full or limited duty.

ATTENTION BLOOD DONORS !!!

Are you a regular blood donor ??

Would you like to become one ???

If so, you may qualify for special recognition from the NALC. Any member who has given a gallon or more of blood is entitled to a certificate from the Union, suitable for framing. Requests for the award must be submitted by a Branch Officer and addressed to NALC Director of Safety and Health, Bill Dunn at headquarters. Certificates are returned to the Branch for presentation by an Officer to the Member. The serve as an excellent incentive for Branch sponsorship of or participation in Blood Drives

HEALTH BENEFIT NOTES

BY

JIM TUKESBREY, HBR

Do not use a portable heater, lantern or stove while sleeping in an enclosed area such as a tent, camper, or other vehicle. Every year about 30 Americans die and 450 are seriously harmed by Carbon Monoxide poisoning from the use of such devices in tents or campers. High altitudes and alcohol consumption worsen the effects.

Carbon Monoxide, an odorless, colorless gas is especially toxic for infants, pregnant women, the elderly, smokers and those with heart disease or circulatory problems.



REMEMBER

BRANCH 2462 ANNUAL PICNIC

SEPTEMBER 7, 1997

RANCHO SAN ANTONIO

SPECIAL REPORT

By Roger Askew
President - Branch 2462

Pursuant to Article 6 of the Constitution for the Government of Subordinate and Federal

Branches the following report is submitted to the membership for review. The report covers the term ending July 1997.

GRIEVANCE ACTIVITY

Since July of 1995 the branch has processed 1161 grievances against management for violations of the National Agreement. There are 63 cases pending at the Step 3 level along with 19 grievances have been certified for arbitration by the National Business Agent. All of the grievance activity since 1993 has been logged on to the office computer and each shop steward is supplied updated reports when ever they are requested. We now have the capability to track grievances by office and by any individual member that request it.

FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITY

The end of June shows a balance of \$ 87,172.72. Four times during the last two years the Trustees have conducted regular audits of the branch books and all was found to be in order. The branch has maintained the practice of informing every member by publishing monthly reports that are available at the regular monthly meetings. The Financial Secretary and Treasurer have seen to it that all of the required reports have been filed with the Department of Labor and the Internal Revenue Service.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

The process of Education & Training is an ongoing one. During the annual budget meetings held in February of each year the membership has chosen to budget approximately 13-15% of the yearly income of the branch to see that training is received. The branch has continued to send two members to the Health Benefits Seminar each year. Two training sessions were held for shop stewards, one in October of 1995 and one in Manhattan Beach in April of 1997. We have held training sessions at the branch office that have been conducted by the national business agent office. We have held sessions for the Panorama City and Sun Valley office's on the proper method of route inspections. In addition, we encourage attendance at all training sessions held in conjunction with the state and national conventions. The business agents office always conducts a training session prior to the state convention and each day of a national convention training sessions are held prior to the business sessions. I can report that each of the shop stewards was in attendance at the Contact Administration Units training session that was conducted by Vice-President Bill Young along with the other resident officers in Orlando Florida.

CONVENTIONS & SPECIAL MEETINGS

In August of 1996 the branch sent 28 delegates to the national convention held in Orlando, Florida. Of those 28 delegates, 10 were at their first national convention. To the best of my knowledge this is the largest number of delegates we have ever sent to a national convention. The state convention was held in North Hollywood in May of 1996. Over the three days of business sessions there were 11 delegates that were in attendance. The branch authorized the Branch President to attend one C.O.P. (Committee of President's) meeting that was held in Cincinnati, Ohio. The president & Financial Secretary attended a session held in Washington DC. in Au-

gust of 1995 for the purpose of fiduciary responsibilities. I along with Secretary Seyfried attended a session in Washington DC. in May of 1996. I also attended the Special Session that was called for by President Sombrotto in March of 1997 in Chicago Illinois.

RECOGNITION

Over the last two years two of our members were selected to be legislative liaisons for the 26th and 24th Congressional districts in California. Velma McClinton has the position in the 26th district (Howard Berman's) and Robert Johnson holds the title in the 24th district (Brad Sherman's). Within the last 6 months Calvin Brookins has been selected by the National Business Agents office to the D.P.S. Co-ordinator for the southern section of the Van Nuys District. His knowledge can only help the membership during the next two years when we undergo route examinations within the five city wide offices. Velma McClinton continues to represent carriers in the capacity of District 6 officer for the C.S.A.L.C. (California State Association of Letter Carriers) In February of this year we were informed that Angela Chang was receiving the William Doherty Scholarship Award. Only 15 of these awards are given out each year and this is a tremendous honor for Angela. The branch presented four Gold Cards to members that have been in the National Association of Letter Carriers for over Fifty years. Last October we honored Keith Mower, Robert Kopczynski, Ywed Shipp and Alfred Danker for their commitment to this union. Two of our members had the honor of being selected a delegates to the Democratic National Convention held in Chicago Illinois. What can you say but great job to Gloria Henry and Velma McClinton. The branch can be very proud that of the 17 carriers that were selected from the state of California 2 are from our branch. Of the 63 carriers that attended this convention from across the nation 2 were from Branch 2462.

SPECIAL THANKS

For the branch to operate it takes a large amount of people and time. I would like to thank the following people for their continued contribution to the membership of Branch 2462. Dale Hart, Manny Peralta, Joan Hurst, Al Apfelbaum, Jim Stankowich and all those who work at the business agent office. Art Bocek, Calvin Brookins, Robert Johnson and Robert Enz for their efforts on the Contract Administration Committee. Art Bocek for his work in the area of Vice-President, O.W.C.P. - E.E.O.'s and the chairmanship of the picnic. Robert Johnson, Velma McClinton, Frank Brash and Calvin Brookins for seeing to it that the finances are always in order. Gloria Henry, Frank Rimkus and Lee Fenstermacher for the work they do on committees. A special word of thanks to Steve Seyfried and Tim McLaughlin for the countless phone calls I make to them concerning the office computer. To Steve Seyfried for the job he is doing on the mail call and for his friendship I will always be grateful. Thanks to Janette Dolabson, Art Bocek, Robert Enz, Ann Scarborough, Frieda McKinnis, Calvin Brookins, Jeff Thomas, Jess Pasillas, Terry Hall, Jeff Jackson and Jim Martin for the every day effort of representing letter carriers as shop stewards for this branch. Of all those listed above the work could not be done without some very special people.

To: Tisa Askew, Karen Bocek, Mary Seyfried, Barbara Johnson and Linda Hamilton, you have my appreciation and thanks for allowing us to do something we enjoy.

Branch 2462 Installation of Officers 1997



Newly installed officers of Branch 2462

Top Row L-R

Frank Brash, Jim Tukesbrey, Terry Hall, TeenaMarie Gallegos, Dan Rathbone, Ann Scarborough

Bottom Row L-R

Velma McClinton, Roger Askew, Calvin Brookins, Robert Johnson

Special Guests ----->
Pictured L-R

Regional Administrative Assistant

Manny Peralta

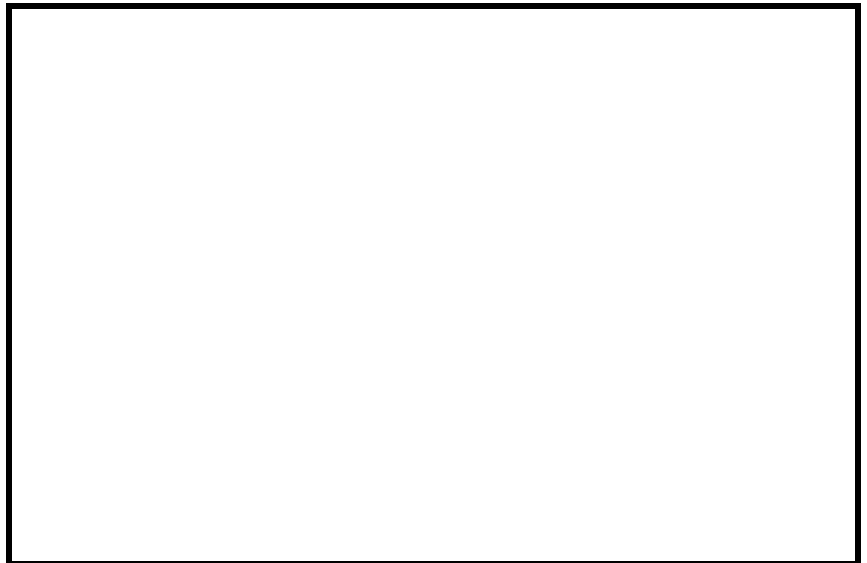
Installing Officer

National Health Benefits Director

Tom Young

National Business Agent

Dale Hart



Branch 2462 Officers
Pictured L-R----->

Vice President

Calvin Brookins

President

Roger Askew

Treasurer

Velma McClinton

Financial Secretary

Robert Johnson



"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

July 1, 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 6:08 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by BOB ENZ. The invocation was led by FRANK RIMKUS

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

PRESENT--ASKEW,SEYFRIED,BROOKINS,TUKESBREY JOHNSON,GALLEGOS,BRASH,SCARBOROUGH, RATHBONE HALL

ABSENT--McCLINTON

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAILCALL
CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

STEVEN SMITH

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COLCPE--GALLEGOS \$ 263 in the fund

RETIREEES--RIMKUS There were 7 retirees present at tonight's meeting. On the Sick List we have MICHELLE HALL, RICHARD TRACY.

DISTRICT 6--McCLINTON NO REPORT.

VICE-PRESIDENT--BROOKINS Branch Picnic will be held on September 7, 1997 at Rancho San Antonio Brother BOCEK will continue to do the planing. Watch for further information.

MBA--HALL NO REPORT

DPS--BROOKINS Decision regarding 4th bundle has been handed down. Still problems to be ironed out. We will continue to monitor this situation .

HBR--TUKESBREY NO REPORT

ELECTION COMMITTEE The full election committee report was presented and accepted on a voice vote.

PRESIDENT ASKEW Attended the political liaison meeting at Branch 24. Postmaster Runyon in under investigation for conflict of interest regarding his involvement with Coca-Cola. The current Budget being considered in Washington D.C. would cost Active Letter Carriers \$ 370 -

\$ 400 per year for increased retirement contributions. Let your Congressional Representative know of your displeasure with this item in the new budget being considered. The dates for the National Convention have been set they will be July 26-31, 1998 in Las Vegas Nevada. The following are the new committee assignments for the Branch. Chief Shop Steward--CALVIN BROOKINS, Contract Administration Team--ROGER ASKEW, CALVIN BROOKINS, BOB JOHNSON,

ROBERT ENZ, & LESLIE MICHELSEN Safety and Health--GLORIA HENRY, Light Duty--BOB JOHNSON, By-Law--LEE FENSTERMACHER & STEVE SEYFRIED (2 others will be appointed later), Budget--BOB JOHNSON, VELMA McCLIN-

TON, FRANK BRASH, DAN RATHBONE & ANN SCARBOROUGH. We are still looking for a volunteer to head the MDA Committee.

BY-LAW CHANGES-----The three proposed By-Law changes were presented the following are the results:

Motion to accept change to By-law ARTICLE III, SEC.1 as printed in the Mailcall

M/S/C

Motion to accept change to By-law ARTICLE V, SEC. 2

M/S/F

DIVISION-----YES-----13, NO-----11 MOTION FAILS

CHALLENGE--The chair is challenged regarding the ruling that changes to By-laws must be by a 2/3 majority

Motion to accept the recommendation of the committee

of disapproval of By-law change to ARTICLE V, SEC. 4

M/S

AMMEND--Shop Stewards shall be delegates to National Conventions by virtue of their office.

M/S/F

DIVISION-----YES-----16, NO-----8 MOTION FAILS

OLD BUSINESS

MOTION--Remove the motion from the table regarding

excuse for MICHELLE HALL presented IN June MOTION TO

M/S
TABLE

M/S/C

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION--Regular Branch Meeting scheduled for Tuesday September 2, 1997 be changed to Tuesday September 9, 1997 due to the Labor Day Holiday

M/S/C

MOTION-- Excuse MICHELE HALL from the July meeting due to a long term illness

M/S

CHAIR RULES--Motion will be placed with the other excuse from the June meeting as tabled.

MOTION--Branch President invite "Friends of Labor" to the Picnic

M/S/C

MOTION--Branch send ART BOCEK to the summer school for EEO Counselors 1997 in Washington D.C. Cost not to exceed \$ 3000.

M/S

MOTION TO TABLE

M/S

DIVISION-----YES-----13, NO-----14 MOTION TO TABLE FAILS

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION

M/S/F

DIVISION-----YES-----13, NO---14 ORIGINAL MOTION FAILS

COLCPE DRAWING

\$ 3 RICHARD REIMER--SHERMAN OAKS

\$ 3 RICHARD REIMER--SHERMAN OAKS--DONATED

\$ 3 RICHARD REIMER--SHERMAN OAKS--DONATED

\$ 3 ED CARLIN--SHERMAN OAKS

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT--JOHNSON

TREASURERS REPORT--McCLINTON

MEETING ADJOURNED---8:07 PM