

THE

MAIL CALL



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Roger Askew

ANNUAL PICNIC

Vice-President Brookins has made arrangements with Magic Mountain and the picnic will be held on Sunday August 30, 1998. We will be placing flyers for you to review in each office and an adjacent sign up sheet so that we can make arrangements for the food. In addition, the editor will be placing an announcement in this issue of The Mail Call so that you will be aware of the ticket prices as we need to know the amount of tickets that you will be purchasing. We have made arrangements for the following prices; each member will have the opportunity to purchase up to 4 tickets at a reduced price of \$ 15.00. Each additional ticket that you need will cost \$ 30.00. The regular fare for Magic Mountain is approximately \$ 35.00. As you can see, the value is quite significant, so make arrangements to attend this great time. For those of our retired members who will be attending, you can purchase your tickets by sending the appropriate amount to the branch office located at 6910 Hayvenhurst Ave #101, Van Nuys, California 91406. Make your check payable to Branch 2462 and we will send the tickets to you. The picnic hours are from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm. with the food being served from 11:30 am until 1:30 pm. After we complete the food we will be having our raffles and the Magic Mountain staff will be conducting some of the usual picnic games. You should also know that parking is not included in the price of the ticket. The parking rate at Magic Mountain is \$ 7.00 per vehicle. Please make sure you provide an accurate count of the number of tickets that you will be needing. This should be a great time, and we will also be able to go into the park after the picnic and enjoy ourselves (at no additional expense).

RICHARD NIXON DAY OF MOURNING

We have recently received word of a national level arbitration case. In April of 1994, a national day of mourning was declared when President Richard Nixon's funeral took place. The date of this event was April 27, 1994. All post office were closed by a Presidential Order. For all of those employees whose regular schedule day off it was or who were on annual leave or used sick leave on this day, you will be granted a day of administrative leave. The leave must be taken this year. We have been provided a list for all of those affected letter carriers and will be letting them know by the middle August that they are eligible. If you feel you are eligible and have not been notified, please let your shop steward know. Although you can imagine that I am glad about this decision, it does seem a shame that it took almost 4 years to

receive. Hopefully in the future we can find a process that will expedite the settlement of these types of grievances. Recently a Dispute Resolution Process has been undertaken between the Postal Service and the National Association of Letter Carriers. There are approximately 19 of these test sights throughout the country. The evaluation of this new system should be completed within one year and hopefully modifications to Article 15 can be submitted.

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BRANCH 2462 PICNIC

WHERE: MAGIC MOUNTAIN

WHEN: AUGUST 30, 1998

TIME: 11 AM

FOOD SERVED FROM 11:30 -- 1:30

The sign up sheets for the Branch Picnic to be held at Magic Mountain on Sunday August 30, 1998, are at the Stations now !!! If you are planning to go you need to sign up. Remember that tickets are limited and are \$ 15 each, with a limit of 4 tickets to each member. If you have any questions speak with your Shop Steward or call the Union office. Retiree's should contact either FRANK RIMKUS or call the Union Office to make their reservations.

"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.

Jason's Smiley-Happy Postal Droppings of the Month by JASON COLELLO

Welcome to a world of the unbelievable, the austere, the absurd.

Welcome to the Postal Service, and prepare to get the "drop" on postal absurdity.

Van Nuys District was able to pony-up over \$900,000 for supervisor bonuses, however, there seems to be no money when it comes to keeping the fleet of postal vehicles clean. Perhaps some up-and-coming pencil jockey hatched this brilliant idea with a hard-to-miss angle:

Young upstart: "...and sir, we can save 'x' amount of dollars if we discontinue fleet cleanliness. Besides, El Nino should wash the dirt off the vehicles, and it's free!"

Sub-king: "That's a brilliant idea, we'll save thousands. But better yet, we'll make tens-of-thousands more in bonuses."

Young upstart: "Thank You..."

Sub-king: "...Shut up! I did not give you permission to talk. Now get the hell out of my office. And if you ever try to steal one of my ideas, I'll have you returned to the carrier craft. DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?"

Young upstart: "Sorry sir."

Sub-king: "Don't let the door hit you on the way out. And send in the next wannabe with a suggestion."

Now, I do not think that I am that far from the truth (if any truth exists in the USPS), stranger things have occurred.

I've got my happy face !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O
MAIN OFFICE	5	2		6	7	6	6			
ENCINO	8	8		6		6	7		8	9
CIVIC CENTER	1	1		1	1	1	1		1	
PANORAMA CITY	2	2		1	2		2		0	2
SHERMAN OAKS	9	4		7	11	5	5		5	
SUN VALLEY	0	1		1	0	1	1		1	2
TARZANA	1	1		1	2	1	1		1	
RETIREE'S	7	4		4	7	6	7		6	

TOTAL 33 23 27 36 29 29 32
MEETING PLACE OF BRANCH 2462, NALC
6910 HAYVENHURST AVE., SUITE 101
VAN NUYS, CALIFORNIA

NEXT MEETING
6:00 PM

August 4th 1998

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

August 11th

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

BRANCH MINUTES (Continued from Page 4)

disinterested members will be selected by the PRESIDENT and their report and recommendations shall be presented to the Branch for action at the AUGUST GENERAL BRANCH MEETING ON AUGUST 4, 1998.

MOTION--Branch pay the 3 disinterested members who are appointed as committee members at a Level 5 Step 0, Letter Carrier salary. M/S/C*

* DENOTES UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BRANCH
COLCPE DRAWING
\$ 4 ED CARLIN--SHERMAN OAKS
\$ 3 RICHARD REIMER--SHERMAN OAKS
\$ 3 HYMAN ROLL--RETIREE

Meeting adjourned 8:14 P.M.
VELMA McCLINTON announced that she would not be attending the National Convention in Las Vegas.

"RETIREE CORNER"

ATTENTION:

A change has been made. We have a new location for our Breakfast meetings. Our monthly fourth(4th) Saturday Breakfast Meeting on AUGUST 22, 1998 will be held at COCOS FAMILY RESTAURANT (15701 Roscoe Blvd. just west of 405 freeway across from Anheuser-Busch Brewery) at 9am. Plenty of space for parking at Cocos. We shall meet at Cocos for the rest of the year. Please watch your Mail Call for the dates.

Thanks
FRANK RIMKUS

Vice President Report

By
Calvin Brookins

By the time you receive this issue of The Mail Call every station in the Van Nuys installation will have received a luncheon and raffle. This is for being the best in EXFC (External First Class Measurement System) score. EXFC scores measure the on time delivery of overnight committed first class mail. In a recent issue of The Mail Call I talked about the reward the managers and supervisors received compared to the reward that the carriers received for making these on time deliveries. Well this time the rewards are better than the last time. They are raffling off some very nice gifts. So local management is showing more of an appreciation to the craft employees who make most of the efforts to get the work done. I have never seen this type of appreciation before. I would also like to commend the Postmaster of Van Nuys for the job he has done in the time he had been here. Since he has been here some positive things have happened, He seems to be willing to work with the local union and keep an open mind about it. I hope that will continue. It will be a plus when the rest of our stations go into a DPS environment. Thanks Woody Dewitt Postmaster Van Nuys.

Now on to the National level do you know that when Postmaster General Marvin Runyon left in May, the U.S. Postal Service threw two farewell parties in his honor. The first, an invitation only affair at Union Station, featured a band, cocktails and dinner with two entrees and wine. The second was an intimate reception for lawmakers on Capitol Hill. Their cost \$82,508.09. Officials initially declined to provide cost figures for the May 4th. Runyon dinner, several weeks after a Freedom of Information request was filed with the agency spokesman Frank Brennan provided an estimate of the cost of the parties. The dinner for the head of the Postal Service, an independent federal agency, contrasted sharply to retirement parties given to two members of President Clinton's Cabinet. When Ferderico Pena left employees from the departments of Energy and Transportation, both of which he had headed, threw a farewell party all paid for by government employees cost \$4,183. When Jesse Brown left the Department of Veterans Affairs, the VA gave him a party outside his office. Veterans organizations picked up the tab for the cookies and punch. \$82,508.09 seems to be a lot of money to spend on a couple of parties for someone who was only with the Postal Service for six years. Go Figure.

Picnic Report

A reminder the picnic will be held at Magic Mountain on August 30th. There are flyers posted at each station. Tickets are available now if you would like to purchase your tickets ahead of time please contact the union office or see your shop steward. Please sign up now, however you will be able to purchase tickets up the week prior to the picnic. I will try to get around to all of the stations to have a stand up about the picnic. I will get to some offices before the convention and some after the convention. Lets all come out and have some fun. Hope to see you there.

In Unionism

President's Report
(Conintued from Page 1)

ARTICLE 8

Recently I have had some discussions with the new Postmaster Woody Dewitt. In our conversations he asked what I thought was the single biggest cause of all the grievance we have filed against management. (An excess of over 750 last year alone) I responded that over 75% of our grievance have something to do with Article 8 of the national agreement. In an attempt to reduce the grievances in this area, we will be conducting some joint training. The training will involve each shop steward, each line supervisor, and each station manager. This is the first time in over 5 years we have been involved in any type of joint training with management. The training outline has been completed and we have had the national business agents office review it. The training should take place by the middle of next month and hopefully we can reduce our grievances in this area. I have seen some positive things happen since the Postmaster has been installed and hopefully we can build a better working environment for the letter carriers that we represent.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

As you read this issue of the branch newspaper, we will be attending the national convention in Las Vegas. We will be making arrangements as usual to send a copy of the Convention Chronicles to each station. This is a daily publication that is provided the next day and recaps the events that took place on the previous day. We will have someone place them on the union bulletin board for you to review. You should also be aware that arrangements have been made to have someone answer the messages on the office answering machine. So, if you encounter a situation while on the work room floor that you believe is a problem, please call the office and leave a message. Either Calvin or I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Before closing I would just like to express my sorrow to the family of Jake Dumelle. Jake passed away in June. Although most of us will not remember him, those senior carriers in Sherman Oaks most surely will. Jake was a past President of our branch and had been retired for some years now. I will cherish the days when he would just stop in the union office to say hi. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Barbara and their family.

CORRECTION !!!

In the July issue of the MailCall we listed the names of the Convention Delegates and the Stations in which they worked. The following members are listed with their correct Station.

**CALVIN BROOKINS--CIVIC CENTER
ART BOCEK--ENCINO**

The Editor appologizes to these members for this error.

"THE MAIL CALL"

BRANCH 2462, NALC

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



Address Correction Requested

Branch Meeting Minutes July 7, 1998 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 6:10 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS GALLEGOS.

INVOCATION--ASKEW
 Moment of Silence--JAKE DUMELLE Retiree and Former President Branch 2462

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

PRESENT--ASKEW, BROOKINS, SEYFRIED, JOHNSON, BRASH, SCARBOURGH, RATHBONE, GALLEGOS, McCLINTON, T. HALL

ABSENT--TUKESBREY

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAILCALL

CORRESPONDENCE READ

BILLS READ-----MOTION TO PAY M/S/C

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

TERESA JIMENEZ, DONNA VILLANUEVA, MICHAEL VU, LUIS CABRERA, EVANGELINA MONTES, LADELL SHULER, PHUOC LUU, SHULING JACKSON, RUBEN CU, ELIZABETH BOCANEGRA, RICHARD MORENO, JOSE SAAVEDRA

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TRUSTEE Audit will be held sometime in the month of July. Some outstanding bills still out on Food Drive.

RETIREES--RIMKUS

There were 6 retirees present at tonight's meeting. On the SICK LIST ODIL SABBE. Please note that the Saturday Breakfast has been moved to COCO's in PANORAMA CITY.

COLCPE--GALLEGOS \$ 610 in the fund

HBR--TUKESBREY None

MBA--T. HALL None

DISTRICT 6--McCLINTON Briefed the Branch on requirement of employees of the Branch to fill out form I-9. Nest meeting of District is at Branch 24, at 6:00 pm on July 9, 1998. HR 4104 is heading to the floor of the House of Representatives. This is not good for the workers of the Postal Service. Call your Congressman and urge them to VOTE NO.

HEALTH & SAFETY--HENRY None

OWCP--BOCEK If you have any questions or concerns please contact ART BOCEK at the Branch Office.

FOOD DRIVE--MICHELSEN Food Drive came in \$ 64 under budget. Money still out for T-shirts, expect that this will

be taken care of before next meeting. We collected 52,000 pounds of food, not as successful as past years. We will be discussing how to make next years Food Drive better.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT--JOHNSON

TREASURERS REPORT--McCLINTON

VICE PRESIDENT--BROOKINS Flyers are in for Picnic, Shop Stewards should be making effort to make sure all Carriers know about the Picnic. Date is Aug 30th, from 11 am till 3 pm. Cost is \$ 15 per ticket, limit 4 per member. Additional tickets are available for \$ 30 each.

PRESIDENT ASKEW Delegate meeting will be held Thursday July 23rd. at 7pm. Amount for each delegate is \$ 1000. Proposed amendments will be printed in the Postal Record. LESLIE MICHELSEN has been appointed to a National Convention Committee assignment. HBR seminar has been moved from Las Vegas to Washington, D.C. Dates are Oct 18-21 1998. Article 8 class will be held soon, date will be established ASAP. Recent arb decision regarding the Nixon day of mourning was very good. Special Delivery messengers have been returned to the Clerk craft as of July 1, 1998.

OLD BUSINESS--NONE

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION--Branch send JIM TUKESBREY to the Health Benefits Seminar in Washington, D.C. in October. Cost not to exceed \$ 1500

M/S/C

DIVISION YES----13 NO----8

CHAIR CHALLENGED

CHALLENGE DEFEATED ORIGINAL MOTION PASSES

MOTION--Branch send a representative to the EEO seminar-workshop in Burbank on July 14th. Person to be selected by the President.

Cost not to exceed \$ 400

M/S/C

DIVISION YES---18 NO---7

MOTION

PASSES

MOTION--Branch donate \$ 70 to the William Doherty scholarship fund in the names of JAKE DUMELLE & WILLIAM FALK. The Branch will further donate \$ 35 to this fund in the name of all members who have passed away in calendar year 1998. (DUTCH IRELAND, YWED SHIPP & LARRY STUTLEY)

Total donation is \$ 225.

M/S/C

MOTION--Branch send a 2nd Rep to the EEO seminar-workshop in Burbank on July 14th. Person to be selected by the President.

Cost not to exceed \$ 400

M/S/C

CHARGES FILED--Member VELMA McCLINTON officially charged member TERRY HALL with Mis-Conduct. SECRETARY SEYFRIED read the charges and PRESIDENT ASKEW instructed the Branch as to the procedure. A committee of 3

(Continued on Page 2)