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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Roger Askew

### NATIONAL CONVENTION

From July 27, 1998 through July 31, 1998 over 9100 delegates attended the 61st Bi-Annual convention of the National Association of Letter Carriers in Las Vegas, Nevada. Flanked by a sign at the podium that read "A glorious past - A grand future", President Sombrotto opened the convention with a 45 minute speech. President Sombrotto told the record setting convention that the National Association of Letter Carriers will demand its fair share of the record profits when contract negotiations open with the postal service on August 20, 1998.

President Sombrotto then recapped the long history of the NALC and the constant struggle that continues to this day with management. Reeling off a long list of statistics, President Sombrotto talked of the past efforts of the NALC membership that laid the groundwork for today's letter carrier. He spoke of the struggles in the past when letter carriers were required to work 10-12 hour days (no overtime) and 365 days per year. In addition, letter carriers were given no paid vacation time. That struggle continues today with issues of automation and the constant attack we seem to be under in the private sector to take our jobs.

When the business of the convention started the delegates voted on 102 national agreement resolutions, 40 general resolutions, 13 legislative resolutions and 66 proposed amendments to the constitution of the National Association of Letter Carriers. As you can see the week was extremely busy. You add the above to the four key speakers and you have a full agenda. Of the speakers that spoke to the convention the highlight was an address given by Tipper Gore, wife of the Vice President. She thanked us for the continued support she and her husband receive from our union and responded by calling letter carriers the heartbeat of America. In addition we were able to hear from the Honorable Congressman from California Henry Waxman who supplied us with a report of some of the problems we face in the immediate future.

During the convention the delegates were called upon 4 times for teller votes. One of the teller votes came on resolution #13. This resolution would ask that a territorial cost of living raise be given to those of us in a high cost of living area. The resolution lost by a count of 5181 votes against it and only 1786 delegates in support of it. An additional highlight for the week was the picketing that was done on Wednesday afternoon. It was quite a sight to see an excess of 8,000 delegates hit the street in support of the strike of the concrete workers. You combine that with a temperature in excess of 110 degrees and the solidarity is something I will

remember for a long time. It was great to see the famous Paradise Road closed down by 8,000 letter carriers and the support they were giving to other union workers.

Each delegate from our branch was asked to attend at least one workshop during the week. At last month's union meeting I asked each delegate that was present to make a short remark of their impressions of the convention, and to give a brief report on the workshop they attended. As President of Branch 2462 I only say you were well represented by those in attendance. Each delegate was present for all of the sessions with only a short break during the speeches for some comfort time. It was a nice feeling to look around on Friday afternoon and see that at least 40% of those that had registered for the convention were nowhere to be seen and that 10% of the delegates from Branch 2462 were still sitting in their chairs and voting on the appeals of fellow union brothers and sisters.

When the final report of the credentials committee was made it showed that 9116 delegates registered for the week long convention making it the largest convention ever. Nationwide 784 branches were in attendance and all of the 50 states were represented.

All in all I thought the convention was a great example of how our union works. I would have to say on a personal note that the events of Friday led me to think we should look into how appeals are ruled on. To this day I'm not certain if the action the convention took was based on the facts of the matter or of the emotions of the appellants and delegates. Based on findings of a committee on charges,

(Continued on Page 2)

## 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.

**President's Report**  
**(Continued from Page 1)**

three members from a branch in Texas were found guilty of misconduct and suspended from the union for 3 years. The members were charged with circulating confidential medical information about another union member. Subsequently, the action was reduced to a one year suspension by the Committee of Laws. The appellants then made an accusation that branch funds were expended and that officers were under investigation by the Office of Labor Management Standards and that branch officers had tried to keep the books closed from members for over ten years.. After two votes (including a teller vote) both of the appeals were upheld by those delegates voting and the decision of the branch overturned. I'm not sure that justice was given to either side in this matter. Could this happen in our branch? I think not. We have a long standing policy on the security of medical information and we have always been open and forthright with all financial records of our branch. Each month we publish a financial statement that includes all expenditures and receipts during the previous month. We must see that the safeguards that we have established are kept in place and that the Trustee's continue to audit the books on a bi- yearly bases.

If you need more information on the events that took place just ask a delegate as to their impression of the conention. Elsewhere in the Mail-Call you will find additional information, so read about the events that effect your work, life, and the conditions that we enjoy.

**SAFETY**

By the time you have read this, each station will have been awarded some safety recognition awards. I would have to say "It's about time". One of our primary responsibilities as letter carriers is to work in a safe and professional manner. I would have to say thanks to Postmaster Dewitt for finally taking a step in the right direction and rewarding craft employees that have a safe record. If you feel you should have qualified for this recognition and did not receive an award, please let me or your shop steward know. I will contact the Postmaster and clarify the reason why you were not given this recognition. What ever the case, be safe in your work and do not let your supervisor intimidate you into working in an unsafe manner.

**ANNUAL PICNIC**

By the time you read this the annual picnic will be close at hand. If you have a change of heart and would like to attend the picnic please contact either vice-president Brookins or me. 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. 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 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.

Enough for now. Enjoy your labor day holiday and remember the sacrifices that were made to see that this holiday is a national holiday. You truly do deserve a holiday as a member of LABOR.

**ATTENDANCE CHART**  
**BRANCH MEETINGS**

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
MAIN OFFICE	5	2	6	7	6	6	6	6	6		
ENCINO	8	8	6	6	7	8	9	7			
CIVIC CENTER	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2			
PANORAMA CITY	2	2	1	2	2	0	2	3			
SHERMAN OAKS	9	4	7	11	5	5	5	7			
SUN VALLEY	0	1	1	0	1	1	2	2			
TARZANA	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	0			
RETIREEE'S	7	4	4	7	6	7	6	8			
TOTAL	33	23	27	36	29	29	32	35			

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

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

**September 1st**  
**1998**

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

**September 15th**

**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 **Coco's Restaurant (15701 Roscoe blvd just west of the 405 across from Anheuser-Busch)** at 09:00 am in Panorama City. The date will be **September 26, 1998** Please mark your calendar and we hope to see you there.  
 Thanks  
 Frank Rimkus

## Vice President Report

By  
**Calvin Brookins**

The National Association of Letter Carriers has just held its 61st Biennial Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. There were a lot of interesting topics discussed, and several interesting workshops that took place. The convention opened on Monday July 27th by President Vincent R. Sombrotto, he declared that letter carriers will claim a fair share of record postal profits. He also challenged the delegates to follow the example of the unions founders to "fight, fight, fight and never surrender" in the struggle to improve the lives of members and preserve the Postal Service. President Sombrotto quoted the new Postmaster General William Henderson as saying he wants a negotiated contract, we will see once contract negotiations starts. I for one believe letter carriers played a major role in all those billions of dollars in profits. Our national leaders seem to be optimistic about getting a negotiated contract.

President Sombrotto also talked about the proud history of the NALC, looking back over the 109 years of history, he noted that letter carriers struggles with harsh treatment dates back to the inauguration of city deliver in 1863. for decades carriers worked 10 to 12 hour days, seven days a week, with no sick leave, no vacation, no retirement benefits and no job security. After letter carriers won paid vacation, they still faced 12 hour days and it took years and a Supreme Court case to win an eight-hour day. Along the way carriers were subjected to the "spotter system" of street observation, when paid postal spies could have carriers fired just on their say so, and the infamous gag orders early in this century, when letter carriers were denied the constitutional rights enjoyed by other citizens. Over years and years of struggling NALC members have persevered. They did not give up nor did they quit, they proved that if you stick together you can be successful. That history of battles and victory extends through the 1970 postal strike and the advent of collective bargaining, with letter carriers receiving better pay and benefits. so the next time you hear someone say what has the union done for me, remind them about the pay and benefits they receive by working for today's postal service. A lot of carriers risked their livelihood years ago so we as letter carriers could have a better way of life today.

National Agreement resolutions, deal with issues that the delegation wants our national leaders to attempt to negotiate into the national agreement. Here are some of the resolutions that were approved by the contract administration unit. Allow carriers to take time off to observe religious holidays, except in cases of emergencies. Prohibit the issuance of discipline for use of sick leave to provide dependent care. Require the immediate payment of back pay upon receipt of arbitration decisions calling for such pay. Set up a joint NALC-USPS training program for newly hired letter carriers. Increase the ratio of stewards to carriers in the work place. Add the NALC logo to letter carriers uniforms. Incorporate a "no contracting out" clause in the national agreement. Place reasonable restrictions on the ability of managers to change letter carriers permanent starting times.

Retirement Resolutions, the committee members presented their recommendations on twelve retirement resolution, two of which generated particular interest. Rejecting the committee's position, the delegates by voice vote adopted resolution 7 calling for accumulated sick leave hours to be credited toward retirement annuities for FERS employees as they are now for CSRS employees. It took a teller vote to deal with resolution 10 calling for development of a training seminar for branch directors of retirees. Delegates rejected the proposal by a tally of 2,954 to 2,508.

### DPS

Well here is the latest from the Van Nuys district, the manager of operation program has informed me that the district wants to turn all remaining offices on DPS by the end of fiscal year 1999. That means by September of 1999, what that means is there will be fall route inspections probably as early as September or October of this year. However they still want to offer the alternative method, which is turning on DPS first and doing route inspections four weeks later. I have discussed the concerns of the NALC with management at the district level. There are certain things that need to be in place before DPS is turned on, such as all signed agreements/documents, bundle break cards. It would be to management's advantage to make sure all class labels are proper and in place. Some offices have not finished their class labels, other offices have barely started working on their labels. Civic Center is one office that has been working on their labels and that just started when Al Santos got there, before that we had a revolving door of managers and supervisors and none of them seemed to be serious about getting the labels done. Well Civic Center and Panorama City may be the next two offices to go on DPS in Van Nuys. do you think their class labels are ready, probably not. Main Office and Sherman Oaks may have until the spring to get those labels ready. I do not think they can make it. If any of those managers happen to read this I hope they see the light and start working on those class labels ASAP. It could save the Postal Service money in the long run. (GOOD LUCK DPS IS HERE)

### PICNIC REPORT

Picnic tickets will be at your office very soon, some of you will have your tickets before you receive this Mail Call. Prepare now to pay for your tickets upon receipt, the picnic will be held at Magic Mountain this year. The date is August 30, the picnic starts at 11:00 am, the food will be served at 11:30 to 1:30. The park opens at 10:00 am. Come out for lots of fun, games and prizes. Hope to see you there.

In Unionism

### WELLNESS FACTS

by  
**JIM TUKESBREY, HBR**

#### Calcium For Men Too!

After age 50, men should consume 1200 mg of calcium per day. In a recent study men took calcium supplements to boost their daily intake from 700 mg to 1200 mg. The results were that they experienced significantly reduced rates of bone loss. some men may see a supplement to meet the 1200 mg level, but food sources of calcium are preferred. Sources include low-fat milk, yogurt and green leafy vegetables.

## ***Good-bye, Sin City***

The 61<sup>st</sup> NALC biennial convention is in the books, and I'm glad its over. Some good things happened, some not so good things happened, and some things just never happened. Sounds like life, doesn't it? Over eight thousand (more on this number later) sisters and brothers were in attendance for this extravaganza of union politics. The forum in which "we" tell our leaders what to do: well, guess again, this is life baby and it doesn't always cooperate. I do know I'm glad to get out of Vegas, that town just grates me to no end. However, I did find it a fitting site to hold our biennial circus and magic act, led by ringmaster and magician Vince Sombrotto, live from Sin City. So just sit back with a hand full of quarters in one hand, and this issue of *The Mail Call* in the other, and read my report on this convention; it's a winner! The waitress will be over in a minute to bring you a watered down drink.

**The setting:** what better a place to hold our 61<sup>st</sup> biennial convention, then the lovely Lost Wages. Where the slot machines act as vacuum cleaners and the waitresses seem almost human-like. It is almost fitting that we come to Las Vegas with hopes of winning the proverbial contract jackpot after many years of coming away from the tables with only the shirts on our backs. The weather was hot, and the politics WERE EVEN HOTTER. On July 27, 1998 the show would open to carriers from around the nation. And yes, Vince "was" in the building!

**Workshops, hard Danishes and bad coffee.** During this week of high stakes solidarity, many workshops convened during the morning hours before the general sessions. I will, and can only, comment on those workshops that I attended—two cups of "swill" and a Danish provided me questionable sustenance. The publication workshop stressed ways to write effective articles that generate interest in the union. This would be accomplished with short, sweet and concise writing skills, of which you have discovered I possess none of!

Delivery into the 21<sup>st</sup> century workshop pointed out trends that effect our jobs, and the growing network of competition that lurks in our postal shadows. One may think electronic mail (e-mail) would be a major enemy, however, this workshop pointed out that e-mail also generates postal business; such as Amazon.Com, the on-line book retailer who receives orders electronically and ships those orders via Priority mail. Remember the doomsayers whom projected the demise of the postal service with the advent of the telephone. Message being: the Postal service will survive as long as it takes appropriate actions as new information delivery methods present themselves.

The Contract Administrative Unit (CAU) workshop parlayed a number of issues ranging from recent arbitration decisions (such as the four year old Nixon day of mourning grievance); to the ongoing grievance concerning the Rural carrier craft and territory designation (we say the territory is ours, the rural craft says its theirs, and the post office agrees with the rural carriers); to the necessity to maintain a professional stature.

The foreign delivery workshop focused on growing trends of the globalization of information delivery (deregulation of state operated mail delivery and multi-national involvement in said delivery), and both the threat, and advantage of competition within the delivery marketplace. Guest speaker Robert Bjorkenwall presented the workshop with his country's move into the future, which could easily serve as a model on how to deregulate the "right" way. This, coming from a progressive country in which over 85% of its population is unionized, both white and blue-collar.

Overall, these workshops moved their bets from management issues to the higher risk stakes of globalization of mail services and increasing competition.

**What did he say?** As always, the delegation was privy to a vast array of pro-union guest speakers. Except this time, some of our speakers hailed from halfway across the globe—a global trend, perhaps? The first speaker was from our part of the country. Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA) took a very roundabout way in his speech, discussing a Patient's Bill of Rights and republican voting habits. In essence, he warned of the necessity that letter carriers get personally involved with their elected representatives—to vote pro-labor and urge representatives to vote for labor.

President elect John Wilhelm of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union, thanked the NALC for its support of the six year, four month, and ten day strike by the Culinary Workers Local 226 against the Frontier Hotel in Vegas. Mr. Wilhelm's speech was a passionate summary of what those five hundred strikers endured for over six years—no striker crossed the picket line and they finally got their contract, while also maintaining seniority for the strike period. This speech was augmented by the appearance of some of those striking sisters and brothers, theirs was a courageous gamble against the establishment with their horse coming in for the payday.

Kurt Van Haaren, president of the German Postal Workers Union, spoke lengthy installments of his speech in his native tongue, while being interpreted by a lady with just-as-thick of an accent. The hard to follow translation coupled with the delegations rude personal ramblings made this speech a push. I caught bits and pieces of Mr. Van Haaren's speech, and what I heard had "important" and "excellent" stamped all over it. What a shame.

AFL-CIO president Sweeney simply spoke of the necessity for all union sisters and brothers to get involved in politics, and to organize "all" workers as well.

Robert Bjorkenwall of the Swedish Service and Communications union took his thick Swedish accent to the microphone, though he spoke in English. As with Mr. Van Haaren's speech, Mr. Bjorkenwall's was drowned out by his accent and the ramblings of the delegation. Once again, there was greatness in what little I heard, but the intended effect of information sharing was not to be had. What a pity that the pit boss, Vince, did not intervene and make the delegation afford respect to our gracious union brothers from the other side of the pond.

Tipper Gore, the "Second" Lady, had none of the problems those two foreign speakers had, everyone shut-up and listened—pit boss Vince made sure of it. Mrs. Gore was eloquent and concise with her speech, commending carriers as being a vital and necessary part of the success of our nation. She also lamented that carriers are the heartbeats of the communities in which we work in. Mrs. Gore concluded by stating that the Democratic Party will continue to fight for letter carriers and labor.

**The Vince Sombrotto Southern Pacific Railway.** I cannot comment on all of the resolutions (contractual, general, legislative, retiree and constitutional), because of the sheer enormity of resolutions dealt with. I will, however, present you with a sampling of resolutions and appeals that generated fierce debates and overlooked microphones. The VSSP Railway was moving at high speeds, and the delegation had little power in derailing this behemoth.

National Agreement resolutions 76 and 77 asked to include "domestic partners" in the payment of Postal benefits and to receive equal treatment, respectively. Naturally, the CAU recommended disapproval, citing that "this issue was too controversial." Pit boss Vince assured that only the maker of the resolutions and he himself debated these issues--though delegates wishing to speak in favor of these resolutions, our own delegate Leslie Michelson included, were ignored. The quick votes came and the "house" had won again.

In contrast to the above VSSP "see--the fleecing of--America" train folly, a branch (I don't recall which) lip-synched a spoken pro-NALC song, which was followed by a vote to make this "song" the official NALC song. The debate ensued and many delegates (me included) did not feel the NALC should have an official song. The vote came: a resounding "NO!" Then the VSSP boarded. Vote number two: still no! Pit boss, ringmaster and conductor Vince then rose to the occasion and issued a third vote: still no. Sorry 'Vegas convention, the pit boss never loses; vote number four: passed, so ordered, next order of business. This is a true story girls and boys.

The defeat of NALC Constitution Amendment NO. 1 (Members' Bill of Rights) was a heartbreak. This amendment if passed--would have included a ten part "Members' Bill of Rights" to the preamble of the NALC Constitution--just as America has the "Bill of Rights". The CAU stated that they disapproved this amendment because the NALC had never discriminated against any member in the past and that it (the amendment) would send out the message that the NALC "needs" a "Bill of Rights". One simple argument stated, "America has a 'Bill of Rights', why not the NALC?"

Three brothers from Houston Branch 283 were appealing separate one-year suspension from the NALC for the alleged charges of circulating a fellow sister's medical condition. Keep in mind, Branch 283 has been roiling in turmoil for many years with branch finances and other sordid dealings. Brother number one had his appeal denied by the delegation. Brother number two--up against the same charge--spoke more on the issues of what Branch 283 had been doing, and saw his appeal approved. In light of this new information, the delegation requested to reconsider the first brother's appeal, and the VSSP started to gain steam once again. Conductor Vine stalled this reconsideration for "over an hour", claiming once we voted, it was final--wrong! If a delegation wishes to reconsider a previous vote, the "chair" must recognize the will of the delegation. After all of the stalling, a teller vote was finally initiated: 2159 for the brother's appeal, some 1500 against. What of the third brother's appeal for the same alleged charge? DENIED. Next order of business.

Now, I did not vote against the CAU's recommendations all of the time, some of their recommendations were logical and made practical sense. I simply let my conscience be my guide, and placed my "bets" accordingly.

**Over 9000 delegates, and all of those empty seats?** There were over 9000 registered delegates to this sin city convention, but "teller votes" always proved otherwise to the attendance to this convention. True, people go to the bathroom; true, people need to eat; true, people get sick, but thousands at a time! Perhaps some delegates see the convention as a vacation and are hypnotized under the "I need to get all of my vacationing done regardless of the convention" spell. Whatever the scenario, delegates are sent to do a UNION job, and should do so! Check out the following teller vote tallies, and make your own assumptions.

On Monday, a vote on territorial-COLA was defeated by a 5-to-2 margin, 6967 total votes. On Wednesday, a vote on retiree resolution number 10 was defeated, with a total of 5462 voting. On Friday, the final day of the convention, two teller votes were taken. Voting on appeal number 28 (brother

#1 from Branch 283) tallied a total of 3659 votes. The final teller vote saw the defeat of General resolution number 10 (that individual Branches relinquish control of rental units in the NALCREST retirement community in Florida) with a total vote count of 3511.

When the convention adjourned at 3:45 P.M. on Friday, there were perhaps 1500 delegates still in attendance!

On the positive side of the "chip", Branch 2462's delegation was always in attendance (save for pit stops and sustenance) and present from opening to closing of the sessions!

**My convention highlight.** This came at 1:45 P.M. on Wednesday, when the entire delegation of over 6000 (not 9000!) joined a picket line to support a small handful of people striking against Precision Concrete for unfair working conditions. The sight of the picket line: the Convention Center itself! Thousands of delegates screamed pro-union union chants and blocked all traffic on Paradise Road. I realize that other delegates have marched in support for much larger demonstrations (such as the 50,000 plus-march for those striking against the Frontier Hotel some years ago), but this demonstration on Wednesday was my first; and it affected me profoundly with utter pride in the good that unionism "can" do.

### **The good, the bad and the ugly.**

#### **The good:**

- w The demonstration against Precision Concrete.
- w Tipper Gore's speech.
- w Branch 2462's attendance to the convention.
- w No waiting lines for the women's bathrooms.

#### **The bad:**

- w Other Branches attendance.
- w The disrespect shown to the foreign guest speakers.

#### **The ugly:**

- w The waiting line for the men's bathrooms.
- w The "song" fiasco.
- w The "Vince Sombrotto Southern Pacific" railroad of

All in all, it was an interesting convention, not unlike those in the past, in that the NALC executive board may be passionate about their stance on many issues; but do not "see" or "accept" the needs of its body--us. However I am optimistic that the "body" will break free one day and set forth on journey that will steer clear of any railroad tracks.

As the convention finally pulls itself away from the executive board "crap" table, with the pit boss tallying up the house's winnings, I am reminded of an image I saw after Branch 2462's delegate dinner: a nude-bar with the statement "Welcome NALC delegates" emblazoned on its marquee. "Come on in and we'll show you a good time, but leave your morals at the door."

Good-bye, Sin City.

**Jason D. Colello**  
**Elected delegate to the**  
**61<sup>st</sup> NALC Biennial convention**

**"THE MAIL CALL"**  
**BRANCH 2462, NALC**  
**Steve Seyfried, Editor**  
**6910 Hayvenhurst Ave., # 101**  
**Van Nuys, CA 91406**



**Address Correction Requested**

HEALTH & SAFETY--HENRY  
 EDITOR SEYFRIED

No Report  
 Dead line for articles in the

**Branch Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**August 4, 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 6:05 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by TEENAMARIE GALLEGOS. The invocation was led by ROGER ASKEW

MOMENT OF SILENCE--CLARE JONES  
 CHARGES--MOTION--THE CHARGES PENDING AGAINST BROTHER TERRY HALL BE CARRIED OVER UNTIL THE SEPTEMBER MEETING M/S/C

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS  
**PRESENT--**ASKEW, BROOKINS, SEYFRIED, McCLINTON, JOHNSON, BRASH, RATHBONE, SCARBOROUGH, TUKESBREY, GALLEGOS, T. HALL  
**ABSENT--**NONE

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAILCALL WITH CORRECTIONS--Donation to the Doherty Scholarship fund was \$ 175 not \$ 225. Also it was reported at the July meeting that State Delegates ROBERT JOHNSON and GLORIA HENRY each reimbursed the Branch \$ 350 and \$300 respectfully from funds they received from the Branch as they were paid by State as Committee members.

CORRESPONDENCE READ  
 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP  
 SUSANA SIDA, STEVE TO, CHUN CHUANG

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

COLCPE--GALLEGOS \$ 630 in the fund  
 RETIREES--RIMKUS 8 retirees were present  
 TRUSTEES Audit on 8/13/98, 5:30 pm  
 DISTRICT 6--McCLINTON Next meeting is Sept 10th

at 7pm to be held at our Branch Hall. State convention was \$ 13,040 over budget, mostly due to extra charges because delegations did not stay at the convention hotel. Northrup amendment was defeated in Congress, but we will have to watch, it may resurface on another bill. Branch members will again be supporting BRAD SHERMAN for congress, if you wish to volunteer contact the Union office. 139 million dollars have been withdrawn by people from Wells Fargo bank in a labor protest. Southern Calif Training session will be held in Anaheim sometime in the winter of 1999,

MBA--T. HALL Carriers who currently have policies with MBA, will continue to receive benefits as long as they continue to pay their premiums.

September Mail Call is Tuesday August 11, 1998  
 HBR--TUKESBREY Plan is hoping to bring down premiums in 1999. We need more Active members to participate in the Health Plan. Currently 22% of Branch 2462 members belong to the Health Plan.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT--JOHNSON  
 TREASURERS REPORT--McCLINTON  
 VICE PRES REPORT--BROOKINS 2 new shop stewards from Sherman Oaks and 1 from Civic Center will begin training. Branch has contacted NBA and will be holding training classes soon.

DPS--BROOKINS Possibility that all stations in Van Nuys would go on-line in physical year 1999(see article in MailCall), Picnic sign-up is proceeding.

PRESIDENT ASKEW Gave a brief overview of the National Convention. Annual RAY KREYER AWARD will be presented at the Retiree dinner. If you would like to nominate someone send in a resume as to why you feel this person should be considered. RETIREE NITE will be on OCTOBER 23, 1998 and the Branch will be presenting 2 Gold Cards to members FRANK BRASH & BERNARD SIEGEL in recognition of their 50 years of membership in the NALC. Article 8 training class will be held on Aug 14, 1998. Recent arbitration decision regarding the Nixon day of mourning is being implemented at Van Nuys. Shop Stewards have been provided a copy of those members who are eligible to receive 8 hours of administrative leave. A special thanks to FRANK RIMKUS & JEFF THOMAS who came in and covered in the office while Branch delegation was in Las Vegas JEFF AUSLANDER & RICHARD BETTESS have been appointed as the new Shop Stewards at the Sherman Oaks station.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ  
 OLD BUSINESS Each Delegate who attended the National Convention gave a brief report of their experiences and impressions.

NEW BUSINESS  
 MOTION-- Branch order 15 Contract Administration manuals. Cost to the Branch \$ 300 M/S/C  
 MOTION--The nominees, those who nominate the nominee, the votes the nominees receive for the RAY KREYER AWARD be published in the Mail Call after the nominee is announced M/S/C

COLCPE DRAWING  
 \$ 3 ROGER ASKEW--ENCINO--DONATED  
 \$ 3 FRANK RIMKUS--RETIREE  
 \$ 3 KEITH MOWER--RETIREE

MEETING ADJOURNED----8:40 PM