



Published by  
Branch 2462, NALC  
Van Nuys, CA

# IN REMEMBRANCE

**THIS ISSUE OF THE MAIL CALL IS DEDICATED TO  
OUR MEMBERS WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY IN 1998**

- JACOB DUMELLE .....**
- WILLIAM FALK.....**
- YEWED SHIPP.....**
- LOUIS BRASH .....**
- LARRY STUTLEY .....**
- ELDEN "DUTCH" IRELAND.....**

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**By Roger Askew**

### NATIONAL AGREEMENT

As you are no doubt aware by now the National Association of Letter Carriers was unable to reach an agreement with the postal service on November 20, 1998. The parties were unable to come to an agreement on the economic issues that would give each of us a well deserved pay raise. The Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 provides for fact-finding and then arbitration. During the period of fact finding, an agreement may still be reached. President Sombrotto and all of the National Executive Council were disappointed by the action of the postal service and their failure to put forth a fair wage package. I am sure that our national officer's will be more than up to the task if the negotiations go forth into arbitration.

I would like to highlight some alleged fair contract proposals that postal management thought was fair. In January of 1999 each carrier would receive \$ 950.00 and in March of 2000 each carrier would receive another \$ 950.00. There would be no cost of living adjustments during the contract. A reduction in the amount of money our employer would contribute into the health benefit program that we can chose from would be reduced to 69% in the year 2001. Our employer thought enough of our efforts to make such a gesture is less than hilarious. I am glad our national leadership told the postal service NO!!.

Let's see, over the last five years our employer has made a excess of 7 BILLION dollars in profit. With over 200,000 letter carriers employed by the USPS this would mean

our employer would have to spend less than 400 million dollars on the carriers who by their own words have help make this enormous profit possible. What would happen to the over 6 BILLION left over? My response to this is HOG WASH!! I'll see you in arbitration. On the other side of the bargaining table I can tell you the offer the NALC made was:

- 1) All level five carriers would be promoted to a level six and the existing differential
- 2) The life of the contract would be for a period of 4 years.,
- 3) In each of the four years carriers would be given a 3% increase in basic salary,
- 4) The cost of living formula would be maintained,
- 5) Convert all employees to full time regulars and maintain a full time work force,
- 6) Article 21 would be revised so that the postal service would return to the 85%-15% ratio that is paid on our health insurance.

(Continued on Page 3)

"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.

**LISTEN**

When I ask you to listen to me,  
and you start giving me advice,  
you have not done what I asked.

When I ask that you listen to me,  
and you begin to tell me why I  
shouldn't feel that way,  
you are trampling on my feelings.

When I ask you to listen to me,  
and you feel you have to do  
something to solve my problems,  
you have failed me,  
strange as that may seem.

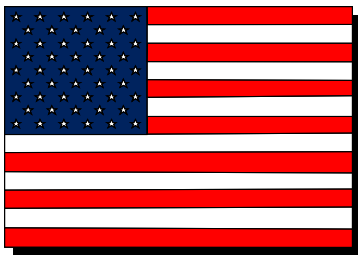
Listen: all I ask is that you listen.

Not talk or do...just hear me,  
when you do something for me  
that I need to do for myself,  
you contribute to my fear and  
feelings of inadequacy

But when you accept as a simple fact,  
that I do feel what I feel,  
no matter how irrational,  
then I can quit trying to convince you  
and go about the business of understanding  
what's behind my feelings.

So, please listen and just hear me,  
and if you want to talk,  
wait a minute for your turn...and  
I'll listen to you.

Anonymous  
(Submitted by Frank Rimkus)



**ATTENDANCE CHART  
BRANCH MEETINGS**

MONTH                    J F M A M J J A S O N D

ANNEX III  
ENCINO  
CIVIC CENTER  
PANORAMA CITY  
SHERMAN OAKS  
SUN VALLEY  
TARZANA  
RETIREE'S

TOTAL

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

**NEXT MEETING  
6:00 PM**

**January  
5th  
1999**

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

**January 12th**

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

**"RETIREE CORNER"**

Our January 23, 1999(fourth saturday) break-  
fast 9AM meeting will be held at Cocos Restau-  
rant(15701 Roscoe Blvd. just west of the 405 Freeway  
across from Anheuser-Busch) This will be the begin-  
ning of sixth year(Retirees Breakfast Get-together). Be  
sure to mark your calendar and we hope to see you  
there.

Thank You  
Frank Rimkus

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Continued from Page 1)

I probably shouldn't be so negative about management's offer but after watching most of our contacts in the past go to arbitration I had high hopes that a contract could be negotiated and sent to the membership to be ratified. No way will we take a reduction in pay and the elimination of our COLA's while the company continues to make such large profits. I hope that prior to my retirement date I will have the privilege of seeing management finally come to the bargaining table in good faith and stop with these games. We should get serious about these negotiations and stop sending them to an arbitrator to be resolved. Hopefully this will be resolved without going to an arbitrator. As more information becomes available I'll be letting you know. On Thursday December 17th, I returned from the National Business Agents office and I can report to you that both sides have agreed to return to the negotiation table on January 5, 1999.

## OPEN HOUSE

On Friday December 4, 1998 the branch held an open house for all of our members. An excess of 115 members and their families participated in this event. The evening concluded with a dinner of bar-b-cued chicken, beef, spare ribs, and all the good stuff that goes with it. It takes a lot of effort to see that events like this take place. Thanks to Calvin and Linda Brookins for their help. In addition, each member of executive board takes part in the event and thanks to all of them.

## WORKING OFF THE CLOCK

For as long as I can remember we have had certain members and non-members who continue to work off the clock. For the life of me I can't understand why. These are the same individuals who will complain about how invalid the route inspections are and how management is cheating them out of a fair route adjustment. With the upcoming implementations of route inspections and Delivery Point Sequencing, it would be to all of your best interest if you stopped this practice. If you are at fault or if you know of someone who is let them know. Why would anyone work for the postal service without getting paid is beyond me!!

## BY-LAW AMENDMENTS

According to our by-laws, any amendments that are to be submitted to the membership must be done in either January or June of each calendar year. The membership then votes on the proposed amendments at the February and July meetings. If you wish to make any changes in the by-laws they must be submitted to the Recording Secretary in writing and signed by at least 3 members in good standing.

## IN CLOSING

As the new year is right around the corner we face many challenges. During the next year we will be undergoing route inspections at three of our stations, Sherman Oaks, Civic Center and Panorama (we will be conducting training sessions in the union office prior to the inspections beginning). You add these to the usual agenda and you can see that times will be busy. On behalf of all of the members of the executive board I would like to wish you and your families the best of New Years.

# CORRECTION TO THE BRANCH MINUTES OF OCTOBER 6, 1998

The minutes of October 6, 1998 incorrectly stated that the Committee of Charges members, appointed by PRESIDENT ASKEW in the misconduct case against Sister LESLIE MICHELSEN brought by Brother JEFF JACKSON, would make a report and recommendations to the Branch. This was incorrect. The Committee will make a report only. The SECRETARY wishes to apologize to the Branch. These were my words to summarize the proceedings as they occurred, not the words used verbatim.

STEVE SEYFRIED  
RECORDING SECRETARY  
BRANCH 2462

# COLCPE DONATIONS DECEMBER 1998

KAREN AGUILAR .....	\$ 100
JAMES TUKESBREY .....	\$ 25
GREG WEEKS .....	\$ 25

# ATTENTION RETIREE'S

Retirees that are not on dues check-off, dues are due and payable for 1998. Retirees dues are \$ 18 per year and are payable at the beginning of each year. Please make check payable to Branch 2462, NALC. Mail check to Branch 2462, NALC, 6910 Hayvenhurst Ave. Suite # 101, Van Nuys California 91406. Attn: Bob Johnson, Financial Secretary.

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

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**VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT  
BY  
CALVIN BROOKINS**

The Christmas holiday season is upon us and I would like to wish all the members of Branch 2462 and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We recently had a Christmas get together at the Branch office and I for one was very pleased with the turn out. The food was brought in from Rattlers in Santa Clarita and it was very good. I think everyone there had a good time.

Well our contract has expired and the NALC and the USPS has not reached an agreement, while the NALC was preparing to go to binding arbitration the USPS ask them to come back and resume discussions. Maybe the two parties will reach an agreement after all and we as letter carriers will get to ratify a contract.

As I write this article the NALC and the USPS were still talking, even though our union leaders at the national level would rather get a negotiated contract, I am very confident that if they have to go to arbitration they are very prepared to do so. The USPS initial offer was more like a slap in the face I hope they have a better offer after asking the NALC to come back and resume discussion. Lets hope for the best.

I would like to congratulate all of the part time flexible carriers who were converted to full time regular as of 12/5/98.

**DPS.( Delivery Point Sequencing)**

Civic center station will be next to go on DPS starting February 2,1998, preparation is the key. The carriers at Civic Center as well Panorama City and Sherman Oaks should start to prepare for DPS. There are decisions that you will play a role in such as work methods. There are two approved work methods that were agreed upon by the parties at the national level back in 1992.

The work methods are the vertical flat case method which is where you take your non DPS letter mail and case it into your vertical flat case with your flats pull it down and carry it as one bundle. This means that once you get out on the street you would have to work letters and flats together off of your arm.

The other work method is called the composite bundle method. This is where you take your non DPS letter mail and case it into your letter case pull it down and carry it as a third composite bundle. With this method you will be fingering from two different letter bundles a small residual

bundle and a DPS bundle. Lets get prepared if you have any questions please give me a call at the union office or come to the next meeting I will be glad to answer any questions that you may have about DPS.

**Things to remember:**

The M-41 handbook list several items you are required to sign for as accountable items, some of those items are accountable mail such as registered mail, certified mail, express mail, and COD mail, you are also required to sign for arrow keys.

The following items you are not required to sign for delivery confirmation parcels, scanners, and collection box cards, and EPED cards, those items are not listed in the M41 handbook. If you are being instructed to sign for any of the above items ask to see your shop steward or call the union office.

Remember protect your rights.  
Be safe through out the holidays.

In Unionism

**HAPPY  
NEW YEAR**

**TO ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR  
FAMILIES FROM THE OFFICERS OF  
BRANCH 2462.**

**ROGER ASKEW .....**  
**CALVIN BROOKINS .....**  
**STEVE SEYFRIED .....**  
**ROBERT JOHNSON .....**  
**VELMA McCLINTON .....**  
**FRANK BRASH .....**  
**DAN RATHBONE.....**  
**ANN SCARBOROUGH.....**  
**TEENAMARIE GALLEGOS .....**  
**JIM TUKESBREY .....**  
**TERRY HALL.....**