

THE MAIL CALL



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Van Nuys, CA

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Roger Askew

NATIONAL AGREEMENT

The latest news from Washington, D.C. appears in the recent issue of the NALC bulletin. Management has ended their testimony in front of the arbitration panel. The National Association of Letter Carriers began the rebuttal phase on Tuesday August 16th, 1999. I would expect the rebuttal phase to last from 5-8 days. After that both parties will submit written briefs to support their positions. Upon completion of this phase the arbitrator will have up to 30 days to render a decision. What does this mean to you and me? We should probably have some sort of decision towards the middle of September or the first couple of weeks in October. As soon as the final contract is announced we will be supplying each shop steward with a copy. From information I have been receiving, our national leadership is presenting a case that would make us all proud. The effort to secure a financial increase worthy of our labors has been pursued sparing no expense. We are all too aware that the main issue has to do with Article 9 and the salary and benefits we receive.

IN MEMORY - JOSEPH ILETO

I'm sure we are all horrified about the events that occurred on Tuesday August 10th. For an individual to take another persons life based solely on the fact he was a government employee and a person of a different race is beyond my understanding. All Joseph Iletto was doing was earning a living for his family. Although I spend a lot of time and effort chastising management on how they run the post office, in this matter, upper management deserves some praise. Mr. Ordonez and the senior management staff in the Van Nuys Cluster did the right thing. From the moment the events took place, management had personnel in place to deal with the needs of the family and the needs of the employees at the Chatsworth Post Office. In addition to the personnel being in place, management paid for the cost of the funeral and the other expenses of the Iletto family. Additionally, management saw to it that all of the carriers in Chatsworth who desired to attend the services were placed on administrative leave to attend. To those of you from the Van Nuys branch who delivered mail on Saturday in Chatsworth my thanks and appreciation. Each of those carriers from Chatsworth who I talked to told me the same story of how much they appreciated the effort of those who took their place for this day. Each one told me how deeply they were effected by the overwhelming response from letter carriers in the immediate area. Please take a moment to remember the Iletto family and those carriers and clerks in the Chatsworth Post Office.

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.

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.

Enough.. Enjoy your Labor Day holiday and I hope to see you at the picnic.

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, Friday, November 9th., 10th., 12th., 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.

"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.

**HEALTH NOTES
BY
JIM TUKESBREY, HBR.**

**ATTENDANCE CHART
BRANCH MEETINGS**

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
MAIN OFFICE	11	0	7	12	5	8						
ENCINO	8	6	6	8	8	8						
CIVIC CENTER	2	1	2	1	1	1						
PANORAMA CITY	1	1	2	2	2	1						
SHERMAN OAKS	6	7	5	5	5	5						
SUN VALLEY	1	1	1	2	1	2						
TARZANA	1	1	1	1	1	1						
RETIREE'S	7	5	5	8	6	7						
TOTAL	37	22	29	40	29	32						

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

**NEXT MEETING
6:00 PM**

**September
7th
1999**

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

September 14th

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

"RETIREE CORNER"

Our Monthly (fourth Saturday) breakfast 9AM meeting will be held at Cocos Restaurant(15701 Roscoe Blvd. just west of the 405 Freeway across from Anheuser-Busch) The date for the next breakfast is SEPTEMBER 25, 1999. Be sure to mark your calendar and we hope to see you there.

Thank You
Frank Rimkus

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE.....

isn't being treated aggressively enough. Treatment should bring blood pressure down to 140/90 or lower. Yet in a recent study, only 7 % of hypertensives' whose readings were consistently above that level, go additional treatment. Self-Defense: If your readings remain elevated despite treatment, ask your doctor if your dosage should be increased....or if you should be switched to another blood pressure drug.

NALC HEALTHPLAN--

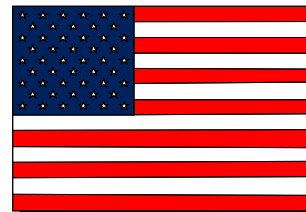
Family member's include--enrollees Spouse-- Unmarried children under age 22, including illegitimate and legally adopted children, stepchildren and foster children, if they live with the employee in a regular parent-child relationship, are also covered. Certain unmarried children over the age of 22, who are incapable of self support because of a mental or medical condition, are also included.

ASPIRIN CAN HELP

Daily aspirin therapy can help people with adult onset (Type II) diabetes, avoid heart attack. Aspirin has long been prescribed to prevent a second heart attack in those who have already had one. Emerging consensus: A daily aspirin tablet also helps these people avoid a first attack. Check with a doctor before beginning aspirin therapy.

C FOR THE HEART

Vitamin C seems to guard against heart disease. I a recent study, individuals who had recently suffered a heart attack had low levels of Vitamin C in their blood. Researchers theorize that Vitamin C helps prevent physiological processes that can trigger heart attack, including blood clot formation, and the rupture of fatty blockages in coronary arteries. Be sure to get at least 200 mg of Vitamin C per day, through diet or supplements. One cup of fresh orange juice contains 124 mg of Vitamin C.



VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**By
Calvin Brookins**

On August 2nd I was called back to Washington DC as a possible rebuttal witness. While I was there I got to sit in on the last part of the NALC's direct testimony and the first part of the U.S. Postal Services direct testimony.

President Sombrotto closed out the direct testimony for the NALC. He reminded the Fleischli arbitration board that the Stark arbitration panel in 1994 did not reject an upgrade to level 6 for letter carriers. He noted that it was premature because only a small percentage of the nation that was on DPS at the time. The USPS has over 97% of all city offices on DPS at this time. There were also a 20 minute portion of a video shown about the informational picketing where the arbitration panel were able to hear from several picketing letter carriers from different parts of the country.

President Sombrotto also testified that the NALC supported automation and that the USPS made billions of dollars, what good for the USPS is good for letter carriers. Included in his testimony was the fact if all processing plants were fully robotized the mail will still have to come to the letter carrier in order for it to get delivered to the proper address.

His testimony also included how the APWU's most important issue in their contract negotiation was job security. NALC's priority is how the work of the letter carrier has changed, gotten harder and more difficult due to automation.

My opinion is that DPS has changed the letter carrier job, it puts the carrier on the street longer and forces the carrier to handle mail on the street that he/she would have otherwise handled in the office prior to going out to the street. Some people refer to letter carrier office work as soft time and street work as hard time, with automation you the letter carrier are doing more of that work that is considered hard time.

The USPS begins their testimony:

The first witness for USPS was John (Jack) Potter, Senior Vice President of operations he was also the head of the negotiation teams which involved separate negotiations with four different unions. His testimony included a wide range of items such as the agreements reached with the clerks, mail handlers, and rural carriers.

He states that the letter carriers job has changed, but there have not been enough changes to what a carrier does to warrant level 6 pay. That is a real creditable statement from someone who was hired in as a casual carrier back in 1978 and hired as a clerk after that casual term was up what does he know about carrying mail (nothing). He also testified on cross-examination that carriers job for all intensive purposes have not changed prior to DPS to after DPS.

He testified that NALC should get the same contract that the other unions settled for because if the NALC get anything different they will have to hear it from the other unions and that the other employees are craft employees also. He also testified that it must be a fair contract because the APWU ratified it 2 to 1, he failed to mention that only 40% of the APWU's membership voted for that ratification. He also states that it was fair contract because the rural carriers union bought in to it, by the way the rural carriers union had negotiated what is referred to as a me to clause. Which allows them to take

whatever one of the other union gets as far as a contract is concern. Why they took what the APWU settled for is beyond me. It might have been smart to wait and see what the NALC got.

He also testified that the agreement with APWU allows contracting out for anything that the USPS had plans for within the next 18 months. (Their contract is only for 2 years) Contracting out was a big issue for the APWU. He also testified that the postal service gain an advantage over APWU as far as the cap on casuals is concern, they went from 6% across the country to 15% within an AP to be monitored at the district level.

I do not know if he was testifying truthfully, but since he was under oath I would like to think so. If he was then I would have to agree with a remark that I heard on cross-examination. A SCAM IS A SCAM IS A SCAM.

Picnic:

Sign up sheets is now posted at every office I will be collecting those sign up sheets by August 26th, you can by tickets up to the very last day by contacting the union office or your shop steward. Sign up now and prepare to have some fun on September 5th. Remember you will not have to go to work the next morning. The picnic area will open at 11:00am food will be served from 11:30 to 1:30 and there will be picnic games, food, sodas, beer, fun and door prizes. You will also have access to the theme park. So come out join us and have a good time.

In closing my family and I would like to extend our deepest condolences to Brother Joseph Iletto's family, coworkers, and members of branch 2902. All this carrier was doing is his job of delivering the mail, this was a senseless killing it is a shame that we still have a group people out there that would hurt another person just because of the color of their skin. Our country has come a long way in the last 100 years but as we approach the new millennium as you can see our country still has improvement to make.

Keep in mind that everyday of the week you as a letter carrier are exposed to this type thing, whether it is a senseless killing like this one or a robbery or an assault. Be aware of your surrounding out there and try your best to be safe.

In Unionism:

**DON'T LET TIME
RUN OUT !!!
THE JOB YOU SAVE MAY BE
YOUR OWN
SEND A CHECK TO
COLCPE TODAY**

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 1999.

GRIEVANCE ACTIVITY

Since July of 1997 the branch has processed 1198 grievances against management for violations of the National Agreement. There are 2 cases pending at the Step 3 level along with 19 grievances that have been certified for arbitration by the National Business Agent. All of the grievance activity since 1993 has been logged on 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.

FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITY

The end of June shows a balance of \$ 97,132.29. 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 has 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 10% of the yearly income of the branch to see that training is received. The branch has continued to send members to the Health Benefits Seminar each year. Three training sessions were held for shop stewards. We have held two training sessions at the Branch office that have been conducted by the national business agent office. We have held sessions for the Tarzana, Encino, Civic Center, Panorama City and Sherman Oaks offices on the proper method of route inspections. In addition, we continue to encourage attendance at all training sessions held in conjunction with the state and national conventions. The national business agents office always conducts training sessions prior to the state convention and each day of a national convention training sessions are held prior to the daily business sessions. I can report that all of the shop stewards who were delegates were in attendance at the Contact Administration Units training session that was conducted by Executive Vice President Bill Young along with the other resident officers in Las Vegas, Nevada.

CONVENTIONS & SPECIAL MEETINGS

In August of 1998 the branch sent 26 delegates to the national convention held in Las Vegas, Nevada. The state convention was held in Burlingame in May of 1998. Over the three

days of business at the state convention there were 10 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 San Antonio, Texas. The Treasurer attended a seminar held in San Diego, California in May of 1998 for the purpose of fiduciary responsibilities. I also attended two Special Sessions that was called for by President Sombrotto. One in April of 1998 and another in May of 1999. Both of these sessions were held in Chicago, Illinois.

RECOGNITION

Over the last two years two of our members continue to be legislative liaisons for the 24th and 26th 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). Calvin Brookins continues to be the D.P.S. Co-ordinator for the southern section of the Van Nuys District. His knowledge can only help the membership as he is now also working as a local business agent for the National Business Agent office and doing arbitration cases for letter carriers. Velma McClinton continues to represent carriers in her capacity of District 6 officer for the C.S.A.L.C. (California State Association of Letter Carriers) Angela Chang continues to receive the William Doherty Scholarship. Only 15 of these awards are given out each year and this is a tremendous honor for Angela. The branch presented three Gold Cards to members that have been in the National Association of Letter Carriers for over Fifty years. In January I presented a card to past President Harry Brenneman in Tucson and in October we honored Frank Brash and Bernard Siegel for their commitment to this union.

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 Hurst, Jim Stankowich and all those who work at the business agent office. Calvin Brookins, Robert Johnson and Robert Enz for their efforts in resolving grievances at the Step 2 level. Art Boccek for his work in the area of O.W.C.P. and E.E.O.'s. Calvin Brookins for his work as chairman of the picnic committee. Robert Johnson, Velma McClinton, Frank Brash, Ann Scarborough and Dan Rathbone for seeing to it that the finances are always in order. 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 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, Randy Kent, Robert Enz, Ann Scarborough, Jeff Auslander, Richard Bettess, Calvin Brookins, Charile Garcia, Jess Pasillas, Terry Hall, Robert Johnson, Jeff Jackson and Mickey 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, Linda Brookins, Mary Seyfried, Barbara Johnson, you have my appreciation and thanks for allowing us to do something we enjoy.



Pictured above (L to R) are the newly elected Line Officers of Branch 2462. Financial Secretary Robert Johnson, Treasurer Velma McClinton, Installing Officer Joan Hurst from the National Business Agents office, Vice President Calvin Brookins, President Roger Askew, and Secretary Steve Seyfried



On the left are the newly elected Branch Trustees: L to R: Art Bocek, Frank Brash and Dan Rathbone

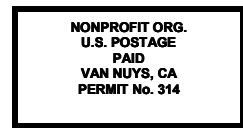


Pictured above are the newly installed Shop Stewards L to R: Jeff Auslander, Sherman Oaks, Harold Flannigan, Main. Jess Pasillas, Main. Bob Enz, Encino. Calvin Brookins, Civic Center. Dave Goldoff, Encino

"THE MAIL CALL" BRANCH 2462, NALC

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

Address Correction Requested



Branch Meeting Minutes August 3, 1999

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 6:03 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by TEENAMARIE GALLEGOS. The invocation was led by ROGER ASKEW

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

PRESENT--ASKEW, SEYFRIED, BRASH, TUKESBREY, McCLINTON, GALLEGOS, JOHNSON, RATHBONE, T. HALL, BOCEK

MOMENT OF SILENCE--JOHN F KENNEDY JR.

ABSENT--BROOKINS

GUEST--CHRIS PRICE, President of Branch 4149, Palm Springs, California

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAILCALL

WITH FOLLOWING CORRECTIONS--VICE PRESIDENT BROOKINS was present at the July meeting. And it takes a 2/3's vote to pass a by-law.

CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP--NONE

BILLS PRESENTED MOTION TO PAY
M/S/C

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COLCPE--GALLEGOS \$ 321 in the fund

RETIREEES--RIMKUS There were 7 retirees

present at tonight's meeting. On the Sick List we have JOHN SHANLEY, DENNIS RUCKSTALIS & JULIUS RIBAS. We wish them a speedy recovery.

AUDIT--TRUSTEES The audit of the branch books was held on July 14th. everything was in order.

DISTRICT 6--McCLINTON HR 22 still moving through Congress, next meeting of District 6, Sept. 9th at Branch 24.

MBA--T. HALL There have been some problems in DC, regarding claims. If you have any problems contact TERRY at Main Office or leave message in Office

HBR--TUKESBREY No Report

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT--JOHNSON

TREASURERS REPORT--McCLINTON

VICE-PRESIDENT--BROOKINS No Report

PRESIDENT ASKEW HR 22 is out of conference committee and going to the full committee. Two pro labor amendments have been attached to this legislation. The Gilman amendment would place a labor representative on the Board of Governors. Negotiations are moving ahead, we should have some form of an answer in September or

October. Info # is 1-877-235-NALC. Shop Steward training classes will take place in November. All Stewards should plan on attending these informative sessions. Current Non-Member list is in the office, Branch is 90.8 % organized.

OLD BUSINESS--NONE

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION--Branch pay General Liability insurance policy for Branch office, through September, 2000
Cost \$ 676

M/S/C

MOTION--Branch renew the subscription to the Federal Times. Cost is \$ 72 for 78 issues

M/S/C

MOTION--Branch send any Shop Steward, Alternate or Executive Board member who wishes, to the So. Cal. Training class in Anaheim on November 19-20. Pay \$ 150 per day for lost time, per diem, & mileage. Also \$ 50 towards a hotel room used on Friday night only. All must attend classes the entire day.

M/S/C

MOTION--Branch purchase 2 tickets to the Congressional breakfast on Sunday Nov. 21 at Anaheim. Cost not to exceed \$ 50

M/S/C

MOTION--Branch pay any training session attendee \$ 50, towards a hotel room on Sat night, provided they attend the Congressional breakfast.

M/S/

AMMEND--Purchase each attendee a ticket, who attends the breakfast. Cost \$ 24.50

M/S/C

MOTION--Branch donate \$ 50 to the Summer Institute for Union Women. Aug 15-19.

M/S/C

MOTION--Branch send the President and his designee, to the EEOC training class in Industry Hills on Aug 26th. Cost not to exceed \$ 800

M/S/C

MOTION--Branch send 2 members, to be chosen by the President, to the Michael Riley Dinner on Aug 14th. Cost \$ 250, to be taken from Public Relations budget.

M/S/C

MOTION--All members who live in Zip Code that begins with 935--be sent Mail Call 1st class

M/S/C

MOTION--All of Sister Rasco-Montalvos' Union Dues be refunded.

M/S

MOTION TO TABLE

M/S/F

DIVISION CALLED FOR--12 AGAINST--13 FAILS

TABLE

ORIGINAL

MOTION

FAILS

MOTION--President or Vice President may invite "Friends of Labor" to the Picnic on Sept 5th.

M/S/C

UNDERLINED DENOTES UNANIMOUS VOTE

COLCPE DRAWING

\$ 3 KEITH MOWER--RETIREE

\$ 3 STEVE SEYFRIED--SHERMAN OAKS

\$ 3 FRANK RIMKUS--RETIREE

\$ 3 JESS PASIAS--MAIN OFFICE

MEETING ADJOURNED---8:20 PM