

# THE MAIL CALL



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## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**By Roger Askew**

### **CONTRACT - MONEY**

As I write this month's article we have received no news as to when the additional payment will be made. I do feel that it will probably be given to us in a separate check. As soon as the date for the payment is known I will be letting the shop stewards know. Additionally, we are all scheduled to attend a training session next week in Anaheim and if National Business Agent Dale Hart has any information we will be providing it to you. What I do know for sure, is that on November 20th, 1999 each of us will be making an additional amount of money (well deserved I might add). For those at the top level, it will mean about \$ 18.99 per hour. This raise was provided to us by the recent national level arbitration decision and not by some gratitude on management's part. Each of us has earned this well deserved benefit. So on Friday December 10th when it shows up on our pay checks, step right up to that check and say thanks to the union. We should all feel proud of the jobs that our national leadership team did in this matter.

### **RETIREE'S NIGHT**

On Friday October 22nd, 1999 the annual retiree's night took place at the Encino Glen Restaurant. Approximately 90 members and their families gathered to honor those that preceded us. Among those attending were National Business Agent Dale Hart in the San Francisco Region and his Administrative Assistant Joan Hurst. Jackie White, the Director of Education for the California State Association of Letter Carriers and Trustee from Branch 24 in Los Angeles was also able to attend.

We chose this event to honor two members from our branch who have belonged to the National Association of Letter Carriers in excess of fifty years. To Lee Fenstermacher and Marvin Goldstein, a note of congratulations and thanks for making the NALC and Branch 2462 a great union. With the addition of these 2 members Branch 2462 now has a total of 11 Gold Card members. The other nine Gold Card recipients are, Frank Brash, Bernard Seigel, Harry Brenneman, Robert Kopczynski, Al Danker, Ray Kelwin, Harold Vogler, Keith Mower and Harry Hurst.

For as long as I can remember Frank and Katherine Brash and Frank and Jo Rimkus have organized this event. I would like to thank them for the countless hours they spend in making this a successful event.

### **OPEN HOUSE**

The branch will be holding an open house on Friday, December 10th beginning at 4:30 PM. We will start serving

dinner at 6:00 PM. If you would like to stop by and have some food and enjoy the holiday season take the time and join us.

### **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.

(Continued on Page 5)

## **SPECIAL NOTICE NO BRANCH MEETING IN DECEMBER INSTEAD !!!!**



**BRANCH 2462  
HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE  
FRIDAY EVENING  
DECEMBER 10, 1999  
BEGINS 4:30 P.M.  
DINNER AT 6:00 P.M.  
FREE FOOD  
FREE DRINK  
LOTS OF FUN FOR ALL**

"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.

## RETIREE'S CORNER

by  
**FRANK RIMKUS**

Our Annual "Retirees Nite" was another delightful evening on October 22, 1999 at the Encino Glen Restaurant at the Encino-Balboa Golf Course. A total of 72 persons attended. Last year we had 95. the attendance is becoming smaller each year.

The group included 21 Retirees, 20 wives and guests of Retirees, 1 widow, Mrs. Thedalea Jones and her daughter came down from San Simeon, Ca. Dale Hart, National Business Agent, Joan Hurst, Regional Administrative Asst. and Jackie White, of Branch 24, Los Angeles. Also 26 active letter carriers and their guests.

The Retirees attending were: Joe Adams, Tom Beckwith, Frank Brash, Mike Brash, Karyn Cummings, James Durando, Lee Fenstermacher, Marvin Goldstein, John Haynes, who came the farthest....Crossett, Arkansas, Harry Hurst, Raleigh Johnston, Robert Kurzhals, Rod Leftwich, John Mikan, Keith Mower, Frank Rimkus, Dennis Rukstalis, Odil Sabbe, Ken Pendergast, James Tukesbrey and George Woytowich.

Among the active carriers and their guests were: Karen Aguilar, Roger Askew, Terry Beauvais, Art Bocek, Calvin Brookins, Jason Colello, Larry and Janette Dolabson, Bob Enz, Teenamarie Gallegos, Terry and Michelle Hall, Bob Johnson, James Martin, Velma McClinton, Jess Pasillas, and Irwin Schnyder.

After a delicious dinner of Breast of Chicken or Brisket of Beef the highlights of the evening got started. The recognition to honor 2 Retirees who have reached 50 years membership in the NALC, namely Lee Fenstermacher, Branch 2462 Parliamentarian, and Marvin Goldstein, who by the way, retired from New York Branch 36 and when he came out to Van Nuys joined our Branch 2462.

Following the acknowledgments came the drawing of the door prizes. When that portion of the evening ended it was time to say good night and head for home. These annual reunions are always heart warming to gather with friends and recall fond memories. May God bless us all to enjoy the coming holidays and welcome the new millennium.

**H. B. R. REPORT**  
by  
**JAMES TUKESBREY**

First I want to thank the Branch for sending me to the Nations Capital for my 15th year as Health Benefits Representative. The classes were, as usual, enlighting and informative. The dates for Open Season this year are, November 8th. through December 13th., and I hope the Active Carriers of this Branch will consider coming into the Plan. It is your plan and you should support it. Remember you must belong to a (FEHB) Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan for five years before you Retire, in order to keep it in Retirement.

## ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
MAIN OFFICE	11	0	7	12	5	8	6	7	8	5	10
ENCINO	8	6	6	8	8	8	8	6	9	7	6
CIVIC CENTER	2	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
PANORAMA CITY	1	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	0	1	2
SHERMAN OAKS	6	7	5	5	5	5	4	7	4	5	5
SUN VALLEY	1	1	1	2	1	2	0	1	1	1	2
TARZANA	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
RETIREE'S	7	5	5	8	6	7	7	7	6	6	6
TOTAL	37	22	29	40	29	32	28	31	30	27	33

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

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

**January**  
**4th**  
**"2000"**

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

**January 11th**

**BRANCH OFFICE.....818-786-8505**

## "RETIREE CORNER"

Our December 18th (3rd Saturday) Breakfast Meeting will be held at Cocos Restaurant, 15701 Roscoe Blvd. (Just west of the 405 Freeway, across from Anheuser-Busch). It will begin at 09:00 AM. This will be our last Annual Before Christmas get-together. (Retiree and Wife/Friend/ or Single. Please mark your calendar.....We hope to see you there.

Thank You

**Frank Rimkus**

## **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**By**  
**Calvin Brookins**

### **Limited duty (Obligation ELM section 546.141)**

When an employee has partially overcome the injury or disability, the USPS has the following obligation.

When an employee has partially overcome a compensable disability, the USPS must make every effort to assign the employee to limited duty consistent with the employee's medically defined work limitation tolerance (see ELM 546.611). In assigning such limited duty, the USPS should minimize any adverse or disruptive impact on the employee. The following considerations must be made in effecting such limited duty assignments.

1. To the extent that there is adequate work available within the employee's work limitation tolerances, within employee's craft, in the work facility to which the employee is regularly assigned, and during the hours when the employee regularly works, that work constitutes the limited duty to which the employee is assigned.
2. If adequate duties are not available within the employee's work limitation tolerances in the craft and work facility to which the employee is regularly assigned within the employee's regular hours of duty, other work may be assigned within that facility.
3. If adequate work is not available at the facility within the employee's regular hours of duty, work outside the employee's regular schedule may be assigned as limited duty. However all reasonable efforts must be made to assign the employee to limited duty within the employee's craft and to keep the hours of limited duty as close as possible to the employee's regular schedule.
4. An employee may be assigned limited duty outside of the work facility to which the employee is normally assigned only if there is not adequate work available within the employee's work limitation tolerances at the employee's facility. In such instances, every effort must be made to assign the employee to work within the employee's craft within the employee's regular schedule and as near as possible to the regular work facility to which the employee is normally assigned.

### **Violent Behavior and inappropriate comments:**

All carriers must remember to not let their frustrations get them into trouble, be careful about the comments you make to your fellow employee. Try not to ever approach another employee because you are upset about something that they may have done, it is the job of the supervisor to correct and resolve problems.

If you as a craft employee approach another employee in a hostile manner you could be facing disciplinary action under the Joint Statement on Violence and Behavior in the Workplace.

You must also be very careful about the comments you make to other employees, while your comment may be in a joking manner the person you direct that comment towards may not perceive it that way therefore that comment can be offensive to that person.

So be careful about what you say to people and do not let your frustrations get the best of you.

### **Discussions:**

In the July issue of the MailCall I wrote a brief statement about what to do when you are called into the office for an official discussion. I am going to write about this again because I have notice that most carriers are not doing what I am suggesting even though it is for your own good.

Remember discussions are between the supervisor and the employee there should not be anyone else present and it should be done in private. If the supervisor or manager does not tell you this is an official discussion do not be afraid to ask I would highly suggest that you ask, so there is no confusion about whether it is an official discussion or not.

You should always make a note about what the discussion was about with the date and time written on it and what supervisor had the discussion with you. This will help you remember when you were given a discussion and what was said during this discussion. Article 16 section 2 of the national agreement states that after the discussion there is no prohibition against the supervisor and/or the employee making a personal notation of the date and subject matter for their own personal records. It is up to you to protect yourself as far as a discussion is concerned.

### **Picnic Committee Meeting:**

There will be a picnic committee meeting held on December 3rd 1999 at the union office at 6:00pm. All members that wish to take part in helping me look for a place to have next year's picnic are welcome to attend this meeting. We will be looking for ideas about next year's picnic so come with any ideas you may have.

In Unionism

## **HEALTH NOTES** **by** **JAMES TUKESBREY, H.B.R.**

Don't mistake Flu for a Cold. Many people mistake the Flu for a common cold, which is also caused by a virus, when in fact the two conditions are different in terms of symptoms, treatment and seriousness. Knowing the warning signs allows cold and flu sufferers to treat symptoms properly and ward off a potentially more debilitating health condition such as pneumonia. Here are some ways to distinguish between the two:

**COLD.....**Starts with minor sniffing and sneezing, rarely involves the lungs or cough. Generally no muscle aches or fatigue. Generally non-debilitating. Fever, if present, rarely exceeds 99.5 degrees.

**FLU.....**Comes on rapidly, with Lung congestion and cough, accompanied by muscle and backache. Generally debilitating, with chills and fever up to 104 degrees.

## **SOCIAL SECURITY AND YOU**

**by  
VELMA J. McCLINTON**

Will Social Security be around after the year 2032? Our President says "yes" if his plan is implemented. President Clinton identifies two stages. 1. To invest in the stock market. 2. To give the majority of the governments budget surpluses through the year 2014.

Necessary conditions have face us. Now, we must look at the changes that our life expectancies are longer. Benefits and wages in many instances are declining. I do not see the administration as being inadequate by looking at ways to prolong and revitalize Social Security.

To maintain existing views would be perceive as not focusing on the problem which has been created. One hundred seventy six million current and former people have received Social Security. Remember, Social Security protection covers retirement, survivor, and disability. How would Domenici (Senate Budget Committee Chair) and Archer (Means Committee Chair) grant someone that works under them, control of the financial practices without giving any directions?

President Clinton has been advice and reviewed the plan regarding Social Security before addressing the issue. I feel the direction should be to capture as many years as possible for Social Security benefits. In reading the Washington Post article it seems that the administration is taking the same approach as President Clinton, by wanting to place approximately 2.7 trillion into Social Security. My views are that there will be enough surplus from the budget in order to carry out "consensus and action".

Congress should not bind themselves into a set amount (percentage or dollar) to withdraw from the surplus in order to give to Social Security. This would appear that Congress could preconceive the future. President Clinton demonstrates that he does not have all the answers. President Clinton has ask that Congress and the White House, also look at other course of actions that can be taken.

Gains to change the way Social Security has done business has been made. The mere fact that people are thinking about and voicing their opinions. Nothing is wrong with paying off the national debt from the Treasury securities. This would provide lower interest payments. I agree with Sperling (national economic adviser) comment regarding President Clinton Social Security proposal "is the most fiscally responsible, pro-savings, pro-debt -reduction plan ever proposed".

In listening to Dean Baker (I did not get his title) President Clinton is not taking away how the program is administered. Presently, it is dispende at a cost of 7/10 of 1% with little waste or fraud. An example, would be Chile which administrative expenditures are at 15%.

Bakers position:

- Social Security is a big success story
- Not a big problem
- Privatization will not solve anything

David Cohen (AFL-CIO Assistant Director Department of Education) on the other hand points out that "one needs strength behind Social Security in order to provide for

working families". Cohen surveyed the group and ask you to stand if a question applied. A few of the matters that raise were, how many are plan to retire in five years? How many have relatives retired? Receive disability? Most of the room was standing.

We as participants were also inform that for the past 60 years Social Security has never bounce a check. Cohen also touch on Social Security lies, myths, and information that has been deprive. Why? Because education is needed. Meet with your Congressional Person either in person (set up an appointment), hand written letter, or by phone. A question and answer period followed.

The next step is an action plan in which the AFL-CIO has brought forward. They want all of us to unite with the campaign to "strengthen Social Security for Working Families." Those like William Shipman, The Heritage Foundation, Cato Institute, and J. Patrick Rooney (one of the supports of Proposition 226) wants:

- Private retirement accounts
- Increase the age
- Heighten taxes
- Reduce benefits

One must "know your enemy" in order to defeat them.

Social Security is the retirement plan for families, though it should only be a supplement. As workers continue to supply money, along with the dollars generated from surplus, Social Security should remain healthy.

Now is a good time to discover how much money you have contributed to the Social Security Administration. For more information contact 202-637-5000/800-772-1213 7AM to 7PM or websites: [www.aflcio.org/socialsecurity](http://www.aflcio.org/socialsecurity), [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov), [www.epi.net.org](http://www.epi.net.org), [www.ourfuture.org](http://www.ourfuture.org)

All "conclusions are thought out yet open to dispute"

Note: The preceeding article was based on a forum attended by Ms. McClinton at the Meany Center in Washington D.C.

**DON'T LET TIME  
RUN OUT !!!**



**THE JOB YOU SAVE MAY BE  
YOUR OWN**

**SEND A CHECK TO  
COLCPE TODAY**

# **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

(Continued from Page 1)

## **CONVENTIONS**

Although it seems a long way off, both State and National Conventions will be held next year (May & July). We have received our convention calls from both the national headquarters and the California State Association. Our branch will be represented at these important sessions by up to thirty of our members. If you plan on submitting any proposed amendments to the national constitution or any resolutions for consideration in our next National Agreement they should be submitted for action soon. The national constitution requires that any amendments that are to be printed in the official booklets must be received no later than 60 days prior to the convention. In other words, by the May branch meeting action must be taken by the branch.

## **HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN**

Once a year the postal service has what is known as Open Season. This year the open season is from November 8th through December 13th. During this period of time you can change your health benefit insurance plan. I have personally held the NALC Health Benefit Plan since 1968. The plan has undergone some difficult times, but as of this moment I would give the plan an A in both benefits and convenience. You can change the insurance plan you have by contacting the personnel office (simply request a form 2809). Give it some thought and time. You will not have this opportunity again until late next year.

## **HOLIDAY SEASONS**

By the time you read this the Thanksgiving Holiday will have come and gone and the Hanukkah and Christmas season will be close at hand. On behalf of all of the members of the executive board, I would like to wish you and your families the best of holiday seasons and a great New Year.

## **BIG TURNOUT AND LOTS OF FUN AT THE ANNUAL "RETIREE NITE"**

Pictured above. National Business Agent DALE HART (c)  
with New Gold Card Members LEE FENSTERMACHER (l)  
& MARVIN GOLDSTEIN (r)

Photos by Frank Rimkus

# "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 November 2, 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 6:02 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by TEENAMARIE GALLEGOS.

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

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

**ABSENT**--NONE

MOTION TO ACCEPT MINUTES FROM SEPT. & OCT. MEETING AS PRINTED IN MAILCALL M/S/C  
CORRESPONDENCE READ  
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

MARISA GUILLERMO--DAVID SWIRE

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

COLCPE--GALLEGOS \$ 468 in fund

RETIREES--RIMKUS There were 6 retirees present at tonight's meeting. The Retiree Dinner was great success, and came in \$ 604 under budget. On the Sick List we have GENE BRECKMAN, JESUS GARZA, STEWART KNUTSON, FRANK HOZINSKY, TOME HOFF & JOSE MACARANAS. We wish them a speedy recovery.

TRUSTEES All is well in the branch finances.

The budget meeting will be on January 6th. and the Audit will take place on Jan 13, 2000.

DISTRICT 6--McCLINTON Year 2000 will be a census year, if you would like to be a census taker, contact Velma.

Next meeting of District will be in Glendale on Sunday, Nov. 14th. at 10 AM

SAFETY & HEALTH None

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT--JOHNSON

TREASURERS REPORT--McCLINTON

MBA--T. HALL No Report

HBR--TUKESBREY See article in Mailcall

VICE-PRESIDENT--BROOKINS Final report given on 1999 Picnic. Total expenditures were \$ 11,990. Ticket sales to non-members and member guests were \$ 2,506.72. Net cost to the Branch was \$ 9483.28. Watch for info on picnic committee meeting in December Mailcall.

PRESIDENT ASKEW At the October meeting there were 32 members nominated to be convention delegates 28 accepted their nomination. The delegate cards have

arrived and will be filled out and returned to National with the

registration fees. The National Agreement has been settled as reported at the last meeting, we still do not know when the retro-checks will be issued. Thanks to Frank Brash and Frank Rimkus for an outstanding job with the Retiree Dinner. 2 members received their Gold Cards and we presently have 11 Gold Card members in our Branch. Next Shop Steward meeting will be on Nov 17th. The 2000 calendars have arrived, they will be passed out to active members at their stations, any Retiree who wishes to have one may contact the Branch office and we will get one to you.

OLD BUSINESS--MOTION....Remove from Table motion to re-file Labor Charges against the Van Nuys Post office, on Sec 8a(4),8a(5),& 8s(1) of the National Labor Relations Act M/S/F  
CALL FOR DIVISION--YES---16, NO--6

MOTION TO REMOVE FROM TABLE

PASSES

MOTION--Branch act on untabled motion M/S/F  
CALL FOR DIVISION---YES--8. NO--14 MOTION FAILS  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ  
NEW BUSINESS

MOTION--Branch hold the Open House on Dec 10, 1999 at the Branch office. Doors open at 4:30 pm for snacks and drinks, Food at 6 pm M/S/C

MOTION--Branch hold a toy drive at each station, and at the Open house. Toys to be donated to USMC, Toys for Tots M/S/C

MOTION--Executive Board be empowered to conduct any and all business of the Branch from Nov 3, 1999 through Jan 3, 2000 M/S/C

MOTION--Branch donate \$ 100 to the L A County Federation of Labor "Turkeys & Toys" M/S/C

MOTION--Branch donate \$ 100 to Salvation Army, Van Nuys, for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Total donation \$ 200 M/S/C

MOTION--Branch donate \$ 100 in food to St. Elizabeth food Pantry & Luis Cristo Food Kitchen. Total donation \$ 200 M/S/C

UNDERLINED DENOTES A UNANIMOUS VOTE

COLCPE DRAWING

\$ 3 VELMA McCLINTON--VAN NUYS MAIN

\$ 3 TEENAMARIE GALLEGOS--VAN NUYS MAIN

\$ 3 ELAINE BOYD--VAN NUYS MAIN

\$ 3 KEITH MOWER--RETIREE

MEMBERSHIP DRAWING \$ 25

SEPTEMBER---VELMA McCLINTON--VAN NUYS MAIN

DECEMBER----JANETTE DOLABSON--TARZANA

MEETING ADJOURNED---7:45 PM

SPECIAL THANKS TO HAROLD FLANNIGAN  
FOR BRINGING PIZZA FOR ALL WHO ATTENDED  
THE MEETING TONIGHT !!!!