

THE MAIL CALL



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Roger Askew

SAFETY

As President of this branch I am still concerned about the safety record within the Van Nuys, Tarzana and Sun Valley Installations. No person wants to get injured in the performance of their job. Each of us should be very concerned about our personal safety. How easy is it to cut a corner here and cut a corner there and place your safety in danger. Each of us has the responsibility of performing our job in a safe manner. If this requires additional time in the office and additional time on the street, TAKE THE TIME. A successful day would be described as one that when you end tour in the afternoon, you have not injured yourself nor have you been involved in any type of accident.

PERSONNEL FILES

Every once in a while I have a chance to review the personnel file of one of our members. I'm concerned that each of us is not aware that the postal service has three separate files on each one of us. The first one is kept in the personnel department. The second one is kept at each respective station and the third one is referred to as the supervisors private notes. It is the personnel department one that gives me the most concern. When I was reviewing this carrier's file last month I observed that some past discipline was still in the file. Some of the discipline was over 10 years old. Each of us should request that we be allowed to review what is in your files at least once every 18 months. If you see that any discipline that is over two years old is still in your file, then you should request that it be removed. When you make this request the file will be sent to an appropriate authority and then it will be removed. Request that when it is removed that it be returned to you. This will make sure that it has been removed. Our lives have changed over the years and decisions that we made when we first hired into the postal service may not be our wishes now. Verify all of the paperwork that is in the personnel folder. Make sure that your beneficiaries are still the ones you want and that the postal service is aware of who they should contact in case of any emergency.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

The National Convention is only a few months away. We will be sending twenty-eight members to the convention in Chicago, Illinois and twelve delegates to the state convention in Monterey. Many items will be discussed at these semi-annual events. The time to submit any proposed resolutions for the next national agreement or any proposed amendments to the national constitution is now.

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. If you are at fault or if you know of someone who is let them know. Why anyone work for the postal service without getting paid is beyond me!!

POSTAL MANAGEMENT

The next time you are questioned about your 3996 and how you are responsible for the future of the postal service, keep this in mind. Within the last week an excess of 100 managers attended a session in Burbank. Now if each of those managers make approximately \$200.00 per day (counting benefits) that's \$400.00 in salary for a period of two days each. Multiply the \$400.00 per manager by the 100 managers in attendance and that's a total of \$40,000 in salary alone for those two days. Now add a daily per diem of \$100.00 per manager (room and meals) and you come up with a minimum of \$50,000 for the conference. That's \$50,000.00 of the postal services revenue that was spent. The real questions are the following. Did we really miss having those managers at our station? Was the mail moved? Could the mail be moved each and every day without some high cost labor? The next time your manager tells you that your one hour request for help will break the budget just remember the above story..

PICNIC MEETING NOTICE

The last two years our annual picnic was held at Magic Mountain, I myself felt that it was a success and everyone who was in attendance seem to have enjoyed themselves. However this year I want to look at some other options I have another place in mind that may be more like a traditional type picnic. If you would like to have some input on this matter you are invited to a picnic committee meeting to be held at the union office.

The office is located at 6910 Hayvenhurst Ave. #101.
The meeting will be held on Friday March 3, 2000.
The meeting will begin promptly at 6:00pm and end at 7:00pm.

CALVIN BROOKINS
PICNIC CHAIRMAN
PP

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**By
Calvin Brookins**

Privatizing the USPS.

I recently read a very interesting article in the Federal Times, where Postal Rate Commissioner Ruth Goldway publicly called for the privatization of the U.S. Postal Service. Why would a consumer advocate and liberal Democrat push to privatize the Postal Service?

In a January 19 commentary in the Washington Post Ruth Goldway wrote " Simple: Because it would be the best way to save the institution from oblivion and put government resources to their most efficient and socially responsible use."

Part of Goldways argument was based on the delivery of bills in an electronic format that could mean a 30 percent loss in revenue for the postal service, according to some estimates. Goldway also states that if the postal service fails to adapt to electronic communications, consumers could pay the price in the form of higher postage rates. Currently the postal service lacks the flexibility it needs to change its services because such proposals are subject to a 10-month approval process by the Postal Rate Commission.

Goldway also argued that privatization would be a boon to the government because the postal service would be subject to corporate income tax and state corporate and sales taxes. And postal employees would benefit as well with stock ownership in the venture. Goldway estimates the postal service could generate \$100 billion in an initial public offering.

In my own opinion, there is no doubt that postal employees holding stock in this company would bring about a certain accountability factor currently lacking in the U.S. Postal Service. I would remind you that there are compelling arguments both pro and con.

An attempt at moderate postal reform came in the form of HR 22, a bill first introduced in 1996. The bill was under consideration by the House Government Reform Committee when Congress adjourned in November. Many in the postal community do not expect the bill to be passed this year.

The legislation does not propose privatizing the service. But it does propose granting more flexibility to the postal service to set postal rates, and it calls for creation of a postal service-owned private corporation that would sell non-postal products.

This is one of those issues that we will have to watch and wait to see how it turns out, however if you are a registered voter you may get to play a role in the outcome of all this, so stay tune.

The Issuance of Discipline.

All carriers must be aware that when they are issued a letter of warning or a suspension notice by their supervisors, they have 14 days of which to file a grievance or have the union file a grievance on their behalf to challenge the discipline. It is the employees right under article 15 section 2 step 1. The union does not have the right to be present when management issue written discipline to an employee, it is also the employee responsibility to notify the union once they receive any written discipline.

Management is not required to notify the union as to when and whom they have issued discipline. Remember fellow union members, the union can not fight against unjust discipline if you do not notify us that you have received some form of discipline. If you receive any kind of discipline request to see your shop steward or call the union office immediately.

Non Members.

Now that we have received money and raises from the postal service, remember this was all fought for and won through arbitration by the National Association of Letter Carriers. Those non-members must be reminded that they were also the beneficiaries of what the NALC fought so hard for using dues paying members money. Now is the time for all of us to ask that non-member to sign up with the union.

Remind them that they do not get paid holidays, guaranteed paid vacation, sick leave, and the hourly salary that they get just because management likes them. Do not accept the lame excuses either, such as I can't afford it, the cost of living for 1999 alone covers almost all of their union dues for one year.

Everyone benefits from the work of the union; everyone should pay their fair share! Invite a non-member to join.

To the Editor of *The Mail Call*

Just last week, Branch 2462 vice president Calvin Brookins was at Encino station doing DPS work when he approached me with some news concerning an article of mine ("Power") that was printed in the January 2000 issue of *The Mail Call*. Calvin told me that during his last meeting with Van Nuys postmaster Woody Dewitt the above mentioned article was brought-up by our postmaster. Mr. Dewitt believed some of the information contained in my article was not of fact, that I did not have all the facts.

The point of dispute arises from my comparison of two separate postal vehicle accidents (one by a carrier and the other by a supervisor), and the eventual outcome-crime and punishment, so to speak. I asserted that the letter carrier was facing disciplinary action, while the supervisor was not disciplined (even after not reporting the accident) and eventually enjoyed a promotion.

Mr. Dewitt claims that this supervisor "was" indeed disciplined for his actions, and hence his opinion on what I had written. Furthermore, it appears that there are other supervisors who also disagree with what I had written. So once Calvin had informed me of this situation, I offered the following: If our postmaster were to show me any documentation backing up his claim that the supervisor involved in the accident was disciplined, I would make a written correction in *The Mail Call*.

At the February 1, 2000 Branch meeting I asked Calvin if he had a chance to speak to Mr. Dewitt about my offer, the answer was no. But Calvin reiterated that he would bring up my offer the next time he met with Mr. Dewitt. So, we'll just have to wait and see what Mr. Dewitt's response will be.

However, I still stand by my claim that management is nearly immune to any discipline, while letter carriers face discipline whenever they're on duty-and sometimes when they're off the clock! I've seen it; you've seen it. There is no parity between craft and management.

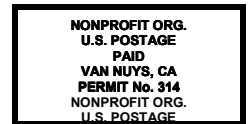
Jason D. Colello

"THE MAIL CALL"

BRANCH 2462, NALC

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

Address Correction Requested



Branch Meeting Minutes February 1, 2000 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 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by TEENAMARIE GALLEGOS. MOMENT OF SILENCE--ED ZULETA--TARZANA ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

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

ACCEPT MINUTES AS PRINTED IN MAILCALL M/S/C
CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

ELIJAH NELSON

BILLS READ & MOTION TO PAY M/S/C

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COLCPE--GALLEGOS \$ 888 in fund

RETIRES--RIMKUS 7 retirees present

TRUSTEES Audit was held on 1/1/00

all books balanced and were found to be in good order

DISTRICT 6--McCLINTON 2000 will be an important election year for labor. Be ready to help candidates.

SAFETY & HEALTH None

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT--JOHNSON

TREASURERS REPORT--McCLINTON

MBA--T. HALL No Report

HBR--TUKESBREY No Report

VICE-PRESIDENT--BROOKINS DPS, high-rise system will begin soon in Van Nuys. Picnic meeting notice in next Mailcall

PRESIDENT ASKEW Hotel reservations have been mailed off for convention. Any delegate incurring expenses for upcoming conventions should turn in a receipt for reimbursement. Local negotiations will probably start in March.

OLD BUSINESS

By-Law changes--The follow are the results of the voting on the proposed By-Law changes.

Chair challenged on notification of By-law changes M/S/F

Proposed change to ARTICLE III, Sec 1 M/S/C

Proposed change to ARTICLE IV, Sec 1 M/S/C

Proposed change to ARTICLE IV, Sec 12(A) M/S/C

Proposed change to ARTICLE V, Sec 4 M/S/F

Proposed change to ARTICLE V, Sec 6 M/S/F

Proposed change to ARTICLE VIII, Sec 4 M/S/C

DIVISION-----YES-----24, NO-----5

Proposed change to ARTICLE VI, Sec 6(B) M/S/F
Proposed change to ARTICLE XII, Sec 4 & 10 M/S/C

Proposed change to ARTICLE XII, Sec 6(A) M/S/C

Proposed change to ARTICLE XII, Sec 6(B) M/S
AMEND--amount to \$.35 M/S/F

ORIGINAL PROPOSED CHANGE PASSES

DIVISION-----YES---18, NO---9

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION--By-Law CHANGES regarding the Contingency Fund increases will be in effect immediately M/S/C

MOTION--Branch renew the subscription to the Postal Record. Cost \$ 16 M/S/C

MOTION--Branch renew the bond for officers for calendar year 2000. Cost \$ 145.00 M/S/C

MOTION--Branch place a Formica top on the computer table. Cost not to exceed \$ 300.00

MOTION--Accept the budget as printed in MailCall with the following hold outs, Item's # 42, 4, 29, 38 49, 19, 20, 21, 26, 22 M/S/C

MOTION--Raise Item # 42 to \$ 960

Chair rules that motion is out of order, Chair is challenged, M/S/F

Challenge Fails

MOTION--Accept Item # 42 as printed M/S/C

MOTION--Accept Item # 4 as printed M/S/C

MOTION--Accept Item # 29 as printed M/S/C

MOTION--Lower Item # 38 to zero money M/S/F

MOTION--Accept Item # 38 as printed M/S/C

MOTION--Accept Item # 49 as printed M/S/C

MOTION--Accept Item # 20 as printed M/S/C

MOTION--Accept Item # 21 as printed M/S/C

MOTION--Accept Item # 26 as printed M/S/C

MOTION--Reduce Item # 22 to zero money M/S/C

MOTION--Create an additional item titled COLCPE

FUND PRIZE,-----CHAIR RULES MOTION IS OUT OF ORDER

MOTION--Change meeting date for next month to MARCH 14TH. M/S/F

COLCPE DRAWING

\$ 2 FRANK BRASH--RETIREE
\$ 2 GLORIA HENRY--SHERMAN OAKS--DONATED
\$ 2 GLORIA HENRY--SHERMAN OAKS--DONATED
\$ 2 TIA WILSON--SUN VALLEY
\$ 2 JIM TUKESBREY--RETIREE--DONATED

CONGRATULATIONS TO VELMA McCLINTON for being elected as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention

Branch sang HAPPY BIRTHDAY to FRANK RIMKUS--RETIREE, & ED CARLIN--SHERMAN OAKS
MEETING ADJOURNED---9:10 PM