

# THE MAIL CALL



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## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**By Roger Askew**

### **POSTAL INSPECTORS**

We have recently had another letter carrier speak to a postal inspector without a Shop Steward present. Why any letter carrier would talk to a postal inspector without union representation is beyond me. Please remember, if you are ever asked to answer questions from a postal inspector, have a union steward present. If there is any one single thing I've learned in thirty plus years in the postal service is that you should never be alone in a room and answering questions from these people. They are not your friends. They will try any tactic to get you to say something to incriminate yourself. Please ask for a union steward if you are ever approached by a postal inspector. The first question that you should ask is "Can this conversation lead to disciplinary action against me or another carrier?" If the answer is yes, then wait for a union steward to be present. When you make such a request the inspectors must wait for a shop steward to be present before the interview can continue.

### **NATIONAL CONTRACT**

On April 14th, 2000 those of you who have not received the bonus check will be paid. These funds will be part of your regular check. I would guess the best part of not receiving these long over due funds is that it means you are one of our members who is eligible to retire sooner than the rest of us. I have had a couple of members inform me that they did not receive the original amount due. In both of these cases these members were due their regular step increases when the original payment was made. I have contacted the national business agent office with those of you who are in this category. If you feel that you still have not received the correct amount let your shop steward know. They will contact me and I will add your name to the list. Please give the steward your social security number and your pay location. This will expedite the processing of the paperwork.

### **FOOD DRIVE**

Just a reminder that the annual food drive will take place on Saturday, May 13th 2000. As I have said before, this is a joint project between the National Association of Letter Carriers and the United States Postal Service. We have been successful in the past with our efforts and hopefully we will succeed this year. Janette Dolabson has agreed to be the branch coordinator for the annual event. She will be keeping you informed at your respective stations by way of the coordinators for each respective unit.

### **NATIONAL CONVENTION**

By the time you read this, there will be less than three months to go before the national convention is held in Chicago, Illinois. Our branch will be sending 27 delegates to this convention. You should let your delegates know about how you feel on upcoming issues. How you personally feel about the area cost of living. At the last couple of conventions this has been voted down by the delegates, but each convention this issue comes up. Talk to your delegates and let them know how you feel. They are attending this convention to vote for you, the membership. For the first time in over fifteen years there will be a delegate present from each station. I imagine that other topics discussed will range from DPS to the Health Benefit Plan. In addition each delegate will be addressing those areas that affect our working conditions. So talk to them and let them know how you feel.

### **PICNIC**

Our by-laws call for the vice-president to be the chairman of the picnic committee. Calvin Brookins has received two proposals for this annual picnic. Each year someone approaches me and asks that we consider a different location. The two locations that have given to us are the Los Angeles Equestrian center in Burbank and Magic Mountain. At the April branch meeting we will be deciding which one of these locations we will be going to. If you want your vote to count you need to be present at this meeting.

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

Each one of us has a goal that some day we will be able to retire from the postal service and enjoy the fruits of our labors. Recently a member of our branch has decided that enough is enough and has joined that "this is the last time I have to swipe my badge through the transactor" club. After 30 plus years, Darrell Dick from the Sherman Oaks station has decided that he has completed his last 3996. Darrell will be spending some time in Texas with his family and then plans to return to the Los Angeles area and work at the studios in Burbank. Enjoy your time Darrell, you deserve it and have earned it.

**IN MEMORY OF**  
**ED ZULUETA**  
**LETTER CARRIER--TARZANA**  
**TONY PETULLO**  
**RETIREE--BRANCH 2462**

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## Vice President Report:

By

**Calvin D. Brookins**

### Know your rights

You are allowed union representation at all investigative interviews including Postal Inspector's interrogations. However you must request it. Article 17 section 3 of the National Agreement states....If an employee requests a steward or Union representative to be present during the course of an interrogation by the Inspection Service, such request will be granted...

Management will also ask you questions after you have had a vehicle or industrial accident. This is when you should really be careful about answering questions about that particular accident. Right after the accident management comes off as if they are so concern about you, then they start to ask questions about how the accident happened even though you do not have union representation present. Then management takes that information they gathered from their questioning and your answers and uses it against you in the form of discipline.

Here is what you should do any time management start to ask you questions following any kind of accident. Before you answer any questions you should ask management could these questions and my answers lead to discipline? If their answer is yes or maybe or I don't know then you should request union representation prior to you answering any questions.

I have seen too many disciplinary letters issued for accidents, where the carrier involved have given answers that incriminate themselves, these answers was given without a steward being present. Remember the burden of proof is on management to prove that you were working in an unsafe manner. Just because you have had an accident do not mean that discipline should automatically be issued.

The bottom line is, for you to know your rights under the contract, and to be aware that when management question you about how the accident happened they will use that information to discipline you for not working safely. However I do want you to work safely and follow all safety rules, do it for yourselves and for your family so you can go home at the end of the day to your family without being in pain.

Remember you have a right to have union representation present during all investigative interviews.

### PTF Carriers

If you request sick/annual leave for work hours during the beginning of the week, check your pay stub to be sure that you properly paid. Sick leave or annual leave hours at the beginning of the week may result in work hours at the end of the week being overtime. Management may not go back at the end of the week and make your sick leave or annual leave a non-scheduled day in order to avoid paying you overtime for Friday work hours.

(Continued Page 3)

## ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
MAIN OFFICE	7	8	8								
ENCINO	8	8	8								
CIVIC CENTER	1	1	1								
PANORAMA CITY	1	2	2								
SHERMAN OAKS	7	6	5								
SUN VALLEY	2	2	1								
TARZANA	1	1	1								
RETIREE'S	5	7	5								
TOTAL	32	35	31								

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

### NEXT MEETING

**6:00 PM**

**April  
4th  
"2000"**

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

**April 11th**

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

## "RETIREE CORNER"

Our next 2 (4th Saturday) Breakfast Meetings will be on April 22, 2000 and May 27, 2000. It 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. Please mark your calendar.....We hope to see you there.

Thank  
**Frank Rimkus**

You

## May I See Your Identification Please?

by  
**JASON D. COLELLO**

Identification badges are a simple item, yet contain pertinent information about the individual wearing it; who that individual is, their function and most of the time a picture of said individual. As letter carriers, we wear our I.D. badge just above our left breast pocket, the USPS logo. This logo identifies us as authorized personnel of a government installation, that our presence within a postal installation is, in fact, authorized. (That is, of course, when we are on duty or waiting to begin duty.) Other postal employees who perform duties at numerous postal installations other than the one they are assigned to must wear a postal I.D. badge above their belt; a verification of that individual's presence within the installation is authorized. However, many of these individuals choose not to wear their I.D. badges for whatever reasons, leaving us carriers in the dark as to who this person is and what their intentions are.

Anti-U.S. government terrorism is on the rise, with groups and factions seeking ways to attack US's global presence. Two U.S. embassies in Africa were car-bombed with heavy casualties. Hundreds of U.S. marines lost their lives in a terrorist action a few years back. And most recently a Y2K terrorist plot was foiled at a border check. Needless to say, the U.S. government is a popular target for the terrorists of the world.

Being a branch of U.S. government, the Postal Service is a target of opportunity for terrorists across the globe. The leaders of the Postal Service have recognized this threat, and have issued stand-ups about the possibility of terrorist attacks on the Postal service. Many times we carriers have been told that if we see someone unfamiliar to us on the workroom floor, we are to challenge them (if you do not feel threatened yourself) to their identity and the nature of their presence on the workroom floor. But that's where management's involvement in our safety ends.

With management's micro-managing and wanton revenue (wasteful) expenditure, there are many unfamiliar faces walking the floors where we carriers work. Furthermore, most of these unfamiliar faces do **NOT** wear postal I.D. badges; they just go about their business as if we carriers are either mind readers or just plain ignorant. These individuals just come in, talk to a supervisor and then do their thing, with no I.D. visible. And as you know, it gets better!

On many occasions I have respectfully challenged these individuals with no postal I.D. visible, and with every challenge I get the same management ignorance: "I checked in with so-and-so," to which I reply "you may have checked in with so-and-so, but I still don't know who you are. You are issued a postal I.D. badge that you **must** display!" Out of all my challenges only two non-I.D. badge wearing individuals rummaged through their personal belongings to produce a satisfactory postal I.D., and these two individuals pissed and moaned while they did so. All of the other non-I.D. badge wearing personnel just ignored me and went about their business.

Once again, we have management praising concerns for our safety and then they blatantly ignore and blow off our safety because these non-I.D. badge **IDIOTS** refuse to wear their I.D. badges. I guess these non-I.D. badge wearing **IDIOTS** feel that wearing their I.D. badge clashes with their management-salaried wardrobe!

Well, I'm fed up with this situation. The next time I confront one of these non-I.D. badge-wearing individuals, I will attempt to escort them outside the building unless they provide me with the proper postal identification. And if they blow me off, as is the norm, I'll call 911 and report an unauthorized individual within the post office. I.D. badges are issued for a specific purpose, and **must** be displayed. Stand up and take notice management, I will not stand by and watch you preach safety, and then let your minions ignore the safety concerns you so cherish-or claim to cherish.

## Vice-Presidents Report (Continued from Page 2)

However, if your sick leave or annual leave is for Friday and you have already worked 40 hours this leave will not be paid.

### Picnic

Recently myself and four other members of the branch went to the equestrian center in Burbank to sample the food and to look at the picnic area in order to determine if we should have our next picnic there.

The food was very good and the area for a picnic was neat and grassy. They offer a variety of games, food and events. This is more of a traditional picnic setting. I think every member should prepare to come out and plan to have a good time. I am trying to work the picnic this year so that each member who attends will not have to pay for his or her ticket, however there will be a \$3.00 charge for each guest of a member. I will be giving a complete update at the April branch meeting, there will also be flyers posted at each station.

### Spring Forward

Don't forget daylight saving time beginning April 2nd 2000; set your clocks ahead one hour.

### In Unionism

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

# "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

March 7, 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 6:05p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by TEENAMARIE GALLEGOS.

MOMENT OF SILENCE--TONY PETULLO--Retired

SPECIAL ACTION--The Secretary read 2 appeals that the Branch recieved from Member DAN RATHBONE. The Branch will respond to these appeals and they will be forwarded to the National Offices.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

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

**ABSENT**--BRASH

ACCEPT MINUTES AS PRINTED IN MAILCALL WITH FOLLOWING CORRECTION---Motion to place top on computer table passed.

CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

ERIC JULINEK

BILLS READ & MOTION TO PAY M/S/C

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COLCPE--GALLEGOS \$ 912 in fund

RETIREEES--RIMKUS 5 retirees present. On the Sick List is ED CARLIN. We wish him a speedy recovery

TRUSTEES Audit was held on 1/13/00, not on 1/1/00 as recorded in last months mailcall.

EDITOR SEYFRIED New deadlines for the mailcall will begin in May. Watch for exact deadline dates.

DISTRICT 6--McCLINTON Scholarship essay contest being held, contact Velma for further info. Senate Bill 984 currently moving through the State Senate, to try and establish a holiday honoring Cesar Chavez. Boycotting Office Depot, they will not allow their employees to deliver to any Union Offices. 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 has begun in Sherman Oaks, Civic Center and Main Office. Pan City and Encino will follow soon. . Picnic is still in planning , however final decision will be made at the April Regular Meeting. Current choices include Magic Mountain and L A Equestrian Center.

PRESIDENT ASKEW Hotel reservations for convention have been made, still waiting to hear which hotel. Any delegate who has already incurred expenses should turn in a receipt for reimbursement. Receipts for station expenses still have not been received from Panorama City, Sun Valley and Sherman Oaks, Stewards please turn these in. No date set yet for local negotiations. Janette Dolabson has been appointed to chair the Food Drive.

OLD BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION--Any delegate who attends the State Convention will receive \$ 450 for all expenses M/S/C

MOTION--Remaining money in the Contingency Fund will be divided equally between all Delegates attending the National Convention M/S

AMEND---No Delegate will receive more than \$ 1500 for the National Convention M/S/C

MOTION--Branch donate \$ 100 to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society

M/S/C

MOTION--Branch will pay \$ 200 for future utilities, gas, electricity, phone M/S/F

## COLCPE DRAWING

- \$ 2 RICHARD REIMER--SHERMAN OAKS
- \$ 3 RICHARD REIMER--SHERMAN OAKS--DONATED
- \$ 3 KEITH MOWER--RETIREE

MEETING ADJOURNED----7:45 PM

