

THE MAIL CALL



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Roger Askew

RAY KREYER AWARD

As I announced at the last branch meeting the selection for the Ray Kreyer Award will be done at the Executive Board meeting on Thursday September 28th. Each year the branch selects a member that has contributed to the union above and beyond the call of duty. If you have someone in mind that you would like to see receive this award please submit her or his name as soon as possible. The executive board will vote on this and the award will be presented at the annual Retiree's Nite in October.

BRANCH OFFICE

Every two years the branch sends a number of delegates to the national convention. This year is no different. I'm asked all the time whether or not someone will be available to answer questions while we are gone. This year most of us will be in Chicago during the week of July 31st. I'm making arrangements for someone to answer calls off the answering machine at the union office. If something comes up please contact us through the branch office and someone will answer your calls. In the event they are unable to answer your questions, they will have our number in Chicago where we can be reached in case of an emergency. Please keep this in mind during this time. We will be returning on Friday August 4th late in the evening and Calvin or I will contact you on Saturday or Monday.

POSTAL INSPECTORS

Once again we have 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.

PICNIC

On June 11th, the branch held it's annual picnic at the Los Angeles Equestrian Center in Burbank. Special thanks to Vice President Calvin Brookins for the wonderful job that he did. Although we did not have to be involved with the cooking again this year I know for a fact he spends countless hours making sure all of the arrangements went well. I believe that the 400 plus carriers and their families had a great time. This year we decided to return to a more traditional type of picnic with all of the traditional type of games and activities. We always have some people who complain about either the location of the picnic or the time of year we hold it. I would suggest that those of you who would like to change it next year become involved with the picnic committee. They start in April or May of each year to plan the event.

(Continued on Page 3)

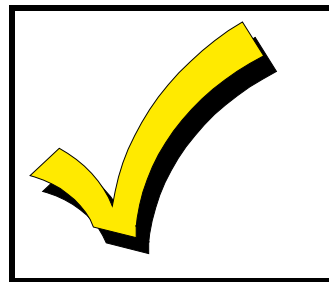
IMPORTANT REMINDER

**THERE WILL BE NO REGULAR
BRANCH MEETING IN THE MONTH OF
AUGUST.**

**THIS IS DUE TO THE NATIONAL
CONVENTION**

**THE NEXT REGULAR BRANCH
MEETING WILL BE ON**

**TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 5, 2000**



"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.

Vice President Report:
By
Calvin D. Brookins

Picnic Report

Well the picnic has come and gone the carriers that I have talked to seem to have had a good time, and they were pleased with the picnic. There was over 400 people who attended the event held at the L.A. Equestrian Center. However there was some concerns that was brought to my attention by a member at the last union meeting, the concern was that some of the people at the picnic felt like the portions of the food was not enough and they also felt intimidated about asking for more. This was the first I had heard of this and I will address this with James Production.

Some members have already suggested that we have the picnic there next year, there were eleven retirees at this year's picnic I hope they will help us to encourage more retirees to attend next years picnic. However no plans have been made at this time as to where the next picnic will be held but the L.A. Equestrian Center will be taken under consideration.

We as usually had a lot of great prizes this year including cash prizes. I would like to congratulate those who were the lucky winners, below you will find their names, and station and what they won.

- Gloria Padilla, Panorama City \$20.00
- Dennis Teubner, Civic Center \$20.00
- Ray Mola, Encino station \$20.00
- Dennis Rustalis, retired Encino \$20.00
- Sylvia Cordero, SunValley \$20.00
- Lonyel Perkins, VanNuys Main \$20.00
- Maria Juarez, Panorama City gift cert-Red Lobster
- Karen Aguilar, Panorama City gift cert-Red Lobster
- Kellie Salazar, VanNuys Main gift cert-Olive Garden
- Sol Oro, Encino gift cert-Olive Garden
- Tracy Mullinax, Encino gift cert-El Torito
- Ray Scholl, Panorama City gift cert-El Torito
- Marc Modrac, SunValley gift cert-Outback
- Danny Tran, Panorama City gift cert-Outback
- Velma McClinton, VanNuys Main compact disc player headset
- Michelle Hall, VanNuys Main cassette player headset
- Bella Simmons, VanNuys Main \$50.00
- Marcos Plannells, Encino \$50.00
- Monty Moorman, Encino \$50.00
- Jesse Richmond, Sherman Oaks shelf stereo component set

The Grand Prizewinner was:
Wayne Carlin, Tarzana station \$400.00 gift cert from Best Buy

I would like to thank all the members and their families for attending the picnic and I would also like to thank all of those who help me keep track of things during the picnic. I hope to see you all at next year picnic.

In unionism and solidarity:

ATTENDANCE CHART
BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
MAIN OFFICE	7	8	8	13	5	7	7				
ENCINO	8	8	8	5	8	6	8				
CIVIC CENTER	1	1	1	1	2	1	1				
PANORAMA CITY	1	2	2	2	2	2	2				
SHERMAN OAKS	7	6	5	4	5	5	6				
SUN VALLEY	2	2	1	2	0	2	1				
TARZANA	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				
RETIREE'S	5	7	5	7	7	7	6				
TOTAL	32	35	31	35	30	31	32				

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

NEXT MEETING
6:00 PM

September
5th
"2000"

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

August 10, 2000

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

"RETIREE CORNER"

Our next (4th Saturday) Breakfast Meetings will be on August 26, 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 You
Frank Rimkus

The Last Line of Defense

by
JASON D. COLELLO

"The last line of defense." It seems that no matter what the organization, there is always a "last line of defense" built within its infrastructure. Baseball has its pinch hitters and their bullpen, politics has its spin doctors to cover up damage created by an elected official, NATO had its ground forces in case the air strikes failed in Kosovo and corporations have their secret "last line of defense" weapons to seize market share and or sales. But all told, "the last line of defense" is simply where a group or organization turns to when all of their other avenues have failed to produce. When all the numbers on vast amounts of paper and hard disk failed to add up in the real world, "the last line of defense" is called upon to save the day. And it's no surprise that the Postal Service's last line of defense "is" the letter carrier.

DPS, the postal wonder drug to cure all of the USPS's ills is turning out to be nothing more than a terminal disease in itself. DPS cases mail worse than a casual, everything gets cased up; CFS, FOE, mark-ups, vacation holds and even mail for other routes and regions. A nightmare to say the least, but not to worry because the USPS has its "last line of defense" within the carrier craft to right the wrongs of mis-management. We'll catch all of that mis-cased and delayed mail and right the DPS wrong. We'll physically take those pieces of perpetual loop mail, the mail for other states that always wind up back in the DPS stream with delays of up to a week, and do what the DPS machine and management couldn't do and get it on its way to its correct destination. "The last line of defense."

Furthermore, when these all mighty DPS machines can't process all of the volume (most likely a plant manager's decision to get the mail out 'now.') to be loaded into its gaping but finicky mouths, the unloaded mail volume is directed to the carrier via residual mail. Because we carriers are the "last line of defense"; when machines or other humans can't do their job, it's up to us to save the day for the USPS and the bonuses of our local fearless leaders.

And what is management going to do with all of those late arriving Express mail and Priority Mail (Priority, my you-know-what) parcels that show up when the troops are leaving? Supervision starts begging any and all carriers to take an express here, or a priority there. Grabbing carriers-you know, "the last line of defense"-as they come off the street to make additional runs on these late arriving pieces of mail.

When delivery customers have issues or concerns about anything, they are mistreated by cold hard statistical pencil jockeys, leaving us carriers to repair damages created by management's doctrine of customer service.

It doesn't matter to management, because we carriers are their "last line of defense." We'll right all the wrongs, we'll deliver the DPS orphan mail, we'll deliver the late express and priority mail, we'll smooth over the patron. It all comes down to delivering mail. Management can devise all the half-baked programs they desire, but it comes down to delivery-and that can't be quantified or programmed. Only a human can deliver 'physical' mail, and only a human can interact with human patrons on their assignments. And when all of management's little pricey toys can't live up to their expectations; when all of their glorified paperwork amassed by non-productive pencil pushing desk jockeys can't get the mail delivered, it is the task of "the last line of defense" to get the job done. **WE LETTER**

CARRIERS ARE WHAT KEEPS THE POSTAL SERVICE ALIVE. Without us, the mail won't get delivered-end of story and end of bonuses.

So believe me when I tell you, you ARE the most important cog in the USPS machinery. Be proud, no matter what type of BS those management lackeys will try to lay upon you. **WE ARE THEIR LIVELYHOOD; THEY CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT US!** (But they can attempt-and are trying-to destroy us. I will discuss this in a future issue of *The Mail Call*.)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT **By Roger Askew**

(Continued from Page 1)

WHAT HAS THE UNION DONE FOR ME:

I'm often ask this question by both union members and those who have chosen to take the free ride. In researching the matter I ask you to take notice of the following items:

Prior to 1970	As of 2000
Level 5 pay for all carriers	Level 6 (NALC grade1)
No OWCP rules	OWCP rep from branch & National Business
21 years to reach top level pay	12 years to reach top step
Probationary period of 1 year	Probationary period of 90 days
No overtime pay or breaks	Overtime @ 1.5 times and
2 breaks per day	Guaranteed Wash up time
No Wash Up time	Ten paid holidays
Seven paid holidays	Life Insurance paid in full
You paid a portion of your life insurance	Employer pays about 85%
You paid a large portion of health insurance	Out-of-schedule pay given if changed
Schedule could be changed week to week	Pay for fractions of an
Hours of work rounded off hour in hundredths	Article 15 grievance procedure
No procedure for filing grievances	Article 41 and protections
No protection for bidding rights of bidding rights	Collecting Bargaining
No National agreement	Shop Stewards elected
Agreement	No lay off or reduction in employment)
No Shop Stewards	
bi-annually	
No job security	

Please remember to act in a safe and professional manner. A successful day is to return to your home and family at night and not be hurt or involved in any type of accident.

"THE MAIL CALL" BRANCH 2462, NALC

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Address Correction Requested

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PERMIT No. 314

The Uncle Matty presentation made during the May Branch meeting should be released within the next week. A schedule for training sessions at the national convention will be given to each delegate during the meeting to follow. This is an excellent opportunity to receive some additional information to bring back to your respective station.

OLD BUSINESS--THE FOLLOWING BY LAW CHANGES WERE ACTED UPON BY THE BRANCH.

Branch Meeting Minutes July 11, 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 6:00p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by ROBERT ENZ.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

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

ABSENT--NONE

ACCEPT MINUTES AS PRINTED IN MAILCALL

CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP--NONE

BILLS READ & MOTION TO PAY M/S/C

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COLCPE NO REPORT
RETIREES--RIMKUS NO REPORT
TRUSTEES Books will be audited on

July 19th. At 6:00 pm.

EDITOR SEYFRIED Apologies to JANETTE DOLABSON for my failure to publish her article on the Food Drive in the July issue of the Mailcall.

SAFETY & HEALTH None

MBA--T. HALL None

HBR--TUKESBREY Working on two cases.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT--JOHNSON

TREASURERS REPORT--McCLINTON

VICE-PRESIDENT--BROOKINS Picnic was a great success, have received mostly good feedback on the site and other aspects. Total turnout was 415 people, of those 110 were members. Total cost was \$ 16,250. DPS one bundle system is coming. Management will be in charge and will implement within the year.

PRESIDENT ASKEW Some possible changes in Article 15 may be coming, we will be monitoring this in the future. Local negotiations will take place from October 2, 2000 through the next 30 days. We are restricted to the items listed in Article 30 of the National Agreement. I have received nothing but favorable comments about the picnic from the membership. Congratulations to Vice President BROOKINS on once again organizing a successful picnic. The national has reached agreement on three memorandums. We will receive some clarification on these at the national convention.

Motion--Amend Art III, Sec 1 as printed in Mailcall M/S/C
Motion--Amend Art IV, Sec 1 as printed in Mailcall M/S/C
Motion--Amend Art IV, Sec 12(A) as printed in Mailcall M/S/C
DIVISION----YES--19, NO--5 MOTION PASSES

Motion--Amend Art V, Sec 4 as printed in Mailcall M/S/F
Motion--Amend Art V, Sec 6 as printed in Mailcall M/S/F
Motion--Amend Art VI, Sec 6(B) as printed in Mailcall M/S/F
DIVISION----YES--10, NO--15 MOTION FAILS

Motion--Amend Art VIII, Sec 4 as printed in Mailcall M/S/C
Motion--Amend Art XII, Sec 4 & 10 as printed in Mailcall M/S/C
DIVISION----YES--19, NO--8 MOTION PASSES

Motion--Amend Art XII, Sec 6(A) as printed in Mailcall M/S/C
DIVISION----YES--20, NO--6 MOTION PASSES

Motion--Amend Art XII, Sec 6(B) as printed in Mailcall M/S/C
DIVISION----YES--19, NO--4 MOTION PASSES

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION--BYLAW changes on Article XII, Sec 6a and 6b, be retro active to 2/1/2000 M/S/C

DIVISION CALLED YES--17 NO--9 MOTION PASSES

Motion--Branch purchase a Fax machine.
Cost not to exceed \$ 400 M/S/C

MOTION--Branch empower the Executive Board to handle any and all business until the September General Branch meeting. M/S/C

MOTION--Delegates who left the State convention early, pay the Branch the money they did not spend for the time they did not stay M/S/F

UNDERLINED DENOTES UNANIMOUS VOTE

COLCPE DRAWING

\$ 3 ED CARLIN--SHERMAN OAKS
\$ 3 FRANK BRASH--RETIREE
\$ 3 JAMES TUKESBREY--RETIREE--DONATED
\$ 3 HYMAN ROLL--RETIREE

MEETING ADJOURNED----8:30 PM

REFRESHMENTS WERE SERVED FOR A SHORT PERIOD AND THEN THE DELEGATES TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION HELD A BRIEF MEETING.