

THE MAIL CALL



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Van Nuys, CA

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Roger Askew

BRANCH NOMINATIONS

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At last months meeting nominations were held for branch officers. The election will be held on May 29, May 30, May 31 and June 1st. I have appointed Steve Seyfried from the Sherman Oaks station as Election Chairperson who will appoint the Election Committee at each station. Research who the candidates are and vote for the one who best represents your views. Cast your ballot from the individuals who you feel can perform the duties of the office they are seeking. But most of all, vote. If you would like an absentee ballot please let Steve know by contacting him at the union office (818) 786-8505. Elsewhere in this issue of the Mail-Call, candidates have submitted articles about themselves. Read each one carefully and select the candidate of your choice.

FOOD DRIVE

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The nationwide Food Drive is close at hand. Saturday, May 12th has been set aside for this effort. By the time you read this article the actual day for the food drive will be two weeks away. Please help with what ever you can do. Each station has been assigned a Food Drive coordinator and they will be having stand-ups to keep you informed.

PERSONAL STUFF

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At last months branch meeting nominations were held for officers. As most of you are aware by now I have chosen not to run for another term as President. There are a number of reasons for this decision and I feel you are entitled to know some of them. It is my personal belief that the President of the branch should not be retired. Although there is nothing in the national constitution that prevents a retired letter carrier from holding the office of President, I believe that the president of our branch should not be retired. I will be eligible to retire in November of next year and I may chose to leave. Also as most of you are aware, our retirement is based on your high three years and this is also a major reason I have chosen not to run again. I also wish to spend some additional time at home. Besides most of the patrons on my route in Encino would like to see a regular letter carrier. I also believe that I am leaving the office of President in good hands.

Calvin Brookins will make a great President. His knowledge of the national agreement, his history as a advocate for the union, his track record as a witness in our recent

NOTICE OF ELECTION OF BRANCH OFFICERS & SHOP STEWARDS

The election will be conducted by secret ballot at all Carrier stations on May 29, 30, 31 & June 1, 2001, and during the Regular Meeting held at the Union Office on June 5, 2001. The Election shall be conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the Executive Board of Branch 2462, NALC, which shall not be in violation of the rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the Rules of the National Executive Council. Retiree's will receive their ballots by 1st class mail no later than May 11, 2001. Any member who, for any reason, will be unable to vote at the Stations, or has not received their ballot, may obtain an absentee ballot by writing to the Election Committee, Branch 2462, NALC, 6910 Hayvenhurst Ave., Suite #101, Van Nuys, California, 91406 or by calling (818) 786-8505. Requests for absentee ballots must be received by the Election Committee no later than May 11, 2001, Absentee ballots must be returned to the Election Committee no later than 5:00 PM on June 5, 2001. Write-in votes are not permitted. The counting of the ballots will take place on Tuesday, June 5, 2001 immediately after the adjournment of the Regular Branch Meeting. 6910 Hayvenhurst Ave., #101 Van Nuys, CA. All candidates and members may observe the counting.

history making award to the upgrade to a level 6 salary, and his commitment to the membership are a great example of the leadership we can expect from him in the next years.

Prior to making this decision, I spoke with a number of the long time members of the Executive Board. Each of those members I spoke to, including President-elect Brookins asked me to run for one more term, but I just feel the time is right for me to leave. Hopefully I will be able to stay involved as a member of the Executive Board as I have been nominated for another position.

I have received a number of awards in my life time, but being elected president of our branch and representing 600 active and retired letter carriers has been a tremendous honor.

(Continued on Page 2)

"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.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Roger Askew

(Continued from Page 1)

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE THE LESS THINGS CHANGE....

In the June 1999 issue of The Mail Call I wrote an article entitled "THINGS THAT STRIKE ME FUNNY". I thought I would reprint it here. Although some of the numbers might change slightly the article seems appropriate 2 years later, so here goes,

The Postmaster General stated that the postal service will experience a 281 million dollar short fall in fiscal year 1999. Mr. Henderson has called for drastic cuts and says he plans to shrink the Washington, D.C. Headquarters staff by 500 positions. The Postmaster General goes on to further state that the projected shortfall is not actual, but is a projection of what is to happen in the final half of this fiscal year. It seems strange timing to me that this revelation occurs while the carrier craft is heading to binding arbitration on our contract. For the last five years the postal service has made record profits on the backs of letter carriers. Over this period of time our organization has made a profit in excess of five BILLION dollars and now for them to say a projected deficit exist seems a little strange to me. Could it possibly be that our management leadership is attempting to distort the truth due to the upcoming arbitration case for our contract? How much of this is true and how much is posturing is anyone's guess. But it does seem strange that with all the record profits over the last couple of years for the postal service to suddenly show a deficit just prior to our arbitration. Presently the postal service has record mail volume and a profit of 803 million dollars for the first half of the year. Does all this lead us to think that our organization is losing money. I think not!! As I said last month " Show me the Money" Mr. Henderson and stop these ill conceived statements!

Does this sound familiar. The APWU is now presently in arbitration and the Letter Carrier crafts contract is up in November of 2001. Even the Postal Board of Governors has now gotten on the band wagon. A recent letter submitted by them to President Bush has indicated that the process of binding arbitration has become an over burden to them. It is my opinion that if the arbitration clause of Article 15 is removed from the National Agreement then we can expect to return to the collective begging stages that we were in during the later parts of the 1960's. I find it absolutely amazing that management at the national level is unable to convince a neutral third party of their needs and then blame the system. What a joke!!

In all my years (32 to be precise) in the postal service I can not believe that there is a more micro managed district in the United States Postal Service than the Van Nuys Cluster. It would be my suggestion that if they wanted to save some hours at the district level then they would be better served letting some of the high priced top level managers return to the craft they came from. The recent decision to set forth precise guidelines for the conversion to VFC is a great example. It seems that carriers can convert to any configuration that they want as long as it is approved by the District leadership. What a great ruse..

Enough, enjoy and be safe..

ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	S	O	N
MAIN OFFICE	5	7	5	7						
ENCINO	5	10	7	8						
CIVIC CENTER	1	2	0	1						
PANORAMA CITY	2	3	3	6						
SHERMAN OAKS	5	5	6	6						
SUN VALLEY	0	1	2	2						
TARZANA	1	1	1	1						
RETIREE'S	4	6	6	4						
TOTAL	23	35	30	35						

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

**NEXT MEETING
6:30 PM**

**May
1st**

"2001"

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

May 8, 2001

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

"RETIREE CORNER"

Our 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. The date for the next will be May 26, 2001 (4th Saturday) Please mark your calendar.....We hope to see you there.

Thank You

Frank Rimkus

Vice President Report:

By

Calvin D. Brookins

It is time for the members of NALC branch 2462 to elect their branch officers that will serve for the next two years. Nominations were held at the branch meeting on April 3, 2001.

I would like to thank the membership for having the confidence in me and electing me by acclamation to the office of President. I assure you that I will do the very best job that I can do according to my ability in representing the members of this branch. My main focus is to protect the rights of the membership and to protect the integrity of the branch, the NALC and the contract.

I would also remind everyone that we have a lot of challenges ahead of us. I ask all members including those on the Executive Board to put aside any differences they may have so that we can move forward and deal with these challenges as a united group in solidarity.

Challenges

As we all have heard by now the USPS have projected a \$2 billion to \$3 billion deficit this year, which presents a challenge to the NALC as most of you know this is the year we will again attempt to negotiate and bargain for a new National Agreement. You can bet the farm that the USPS will be using that as part of their argument.

The USPS and the postal Board of Governors has launched an attempt to take away the binding arbitration part of our collective-bargaining for a new contract, in the past when the USPS and the NALC has not been able to reach an agreement the parties would then go to binding arbitration. Since 1984 the NALC has gone to binding arbitration four times in each of those times we were pretty successful.

The NALC as well as the APWU have expressed outrage over this brutal attempt, National President Vince Sombrotto (NALC) states "If they present legislation that takes away collective bargaining, then we go back to what we called in the days prior to 1970 - collective begging"

The increases in salaries and benefits of bargaining unit employees have totaled less than 25% of the expected deficit. I myself wonder what impact on postal operation revenue does those workers not represented by unions have, such as executives, postmasters, managers, supervisors and other non-union employees. Remember most of those employees got bonuses last year on top of their salaries. Management in the Van Nuys District took a trip to Palm Springs to be awarded those bonuses. It will be interesting to see if they get bonuses this year with the projected deficit and all.

The postal Board of Governors has already sent a letter to President Bush regarding raising rates and reducing service. Management would love to take away collective-bargaining as we know it today so they could offer us pennies during contract renewal time.

There have also been reports on the news regarding the possibility of eliminating Saturday delivery. Although the USPS states that this would be a last option never the less it is an option. This is another threat to the well being of letter carriers and their jobs. The way I see it this could very well threaten our jobs and a fair living wage.

All of the above things that I have written about are challenges that this Union and letter carriers will have to face in the future, we will have to take on these challenges together as one. Remember we must focus on progress not perfection.

Again I would like to show my deepest appreciation to the membership of branch 2462 for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your next President over the next two years.

In Unionism

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

by

LEE FENSTERMACHER

HOW DO YOU VOTE FOR THE OFFICERS OF YOUR BRANCH ?

There are occasions when in the course of the progression of any organization competition for some offices is a "healthy" situation. With this in mind let me discuss with you the question of how do you come to the conclusion in your voting. Do you cast your vote when there is more than one nominee.

1. Because you think he/she has the ability, do you think he/she will fulfill the obligations of the office for the betterment of the organization.
2. If you think he/she has the ability, do you think he/she WILL fulfill the obligations. (There is a difference, you know)
3. Do you just think he/she is a nice guy and you will vote for him/her.
4. Do you blindfold your eyes and play "Pin the Tail on the Donkey" ?
5. If you know none of the nominees do you vote for the first person on the ballot, or,
6. He is a good friend of mine.

There may be many more reasons I could suggest in the way to cast your vote, but I will leave that up to your imagination. I am sure most of you are doing the best for the betterment of the organization

TERRY HALL FOR MBA REPRESENTATIVE

I'm currently your MBA Representative and the senior Shop Steward at Van Nuys Main Office. I have served you as Convention Delegate for three National Conventions, served as the Editor of the Mail Call, and fought for you as a Shop Steward since 1993. As MBA Representative I act as the liaison between you and the Union Mutual Benefit Association, but more importantly if I'm your MBA Rep then I am also a voice on the Executive Board for you. A Voice that can speak for you just as I do as Shop Steward. As MBA Rep I will also be an automatic voice for you as a Convention Delegate as is all Executive Board positions.

I'm College educated and hold a Bachelor of Arts Degree. I've worked as a stock clerk and all the way up to a manager in Retail, so I've seen it from the bottom up and from the top down. I'm a Shop Steward which means I see it from the middle (sometimes caught there). Keep me as MBA and you keep my persistence at representing you. Vote me down and I believe you'll lose a valuable asset on the Executive Board, at Conventions, and on the Workroom Floor. The Union is a collection of many to promote the common good; the Executive Board is the collection you choose to speak for you at the Local level. Make a vote for yourself elect Terry Hall MBA Representative.

MICHELLE HALL FOR TRUSTEE

I've served this Union faithfully for many years and now I wish to extend that participation to include a seat on the Executive Board as Trustee. I hold a College Degree in Business Administration / Finance. A Trustee functions to oversee the operations and use of your money in the everyday business of the Union Local and my education uniquely suits me for this type of position to work for you.

I regularly attend the Union meetings, have been a Delegate to the last three National Conventions, and currently hold the Alternate Steward position at Van Nuys Main Office. I also frequently observe the Executive Board meetings and have a good understanding of its functionality.

Trustees are the Watchdogs that protect the assets from misuse and abuse; this is part of the checks and balances built into the system to prevent any one from misappropriating your Union funds. This Local has good assets and they are there to finance your representation and I will continue this tradition of reserving your monies to promote and protect you, the backbone of this Union. The Backbone of the Postal Service. A vote for me is a vote for you---Michelle Hall for Trustee.

TEENAMARIE GALLEGOS FOR

SGT-AT-ARMS

Hi Everybody, it's Teena! Once again elections are here and you need to do your Union duty to elect representatives that are willing to support you, fight for you, and be a thorn in the side(s) of those who choose to neglect that responsibility. I've served you as Convention Delegate, Trustee, and currently hold the position of Sargent-at-Arms. You know I'm not afraid to speak up on your behalf. As Sargent-at-Arms I oversee the Union meeting attendance and the COLCPE donations. This is important for two reasons: the attendance record determines who will receive funds to represent you at conventions, the forum that dictates what the National ultimately will work toward as far as your contract is concerned; and, COLCPE are those funds donated by carriers to support political education and advancement to keep carriers in a bargaining position as to negotiate a Contract.

Sargent-at-Arms is "The Gatekeeper", the overseer that allows the productive to pass and keeps the riff-raff from wasting your time, money, and resources. I will protect your representation from those who would rather hit the clubs, the course, or meander off rather than putting in a full effort to promote your position, your welfare, and your livelihood.

Teenamarie for Sargent-at-Arms--A vote for self-preservation, a vote against the self-serving.

BOB ENZ FOR MBA REPRESENTATIVE

A little history: I have been a member of M.B.A. since it was first offered and have used it. What a help when your off work and need the extra money. I have been a delegate to the last 6 State and National Conventions, a Steward for 12 years, Safety Representative, Step 2 Designee, on the last 3 Local Negotiation teams, a member of the Contract Administration team and the appointed SGT-AT-ARMS when Russ Delfino resigned due to health problems.

I promise to make available all M.B.A. plans offered at each station, Help explain all plans, Help file claims, and help solve any problems a member is having with their individual plan. It is time for a change. Elect me, Bob Enz, for M.B.A. Representative for our Branch

In Unionism

**ROGER ASKEW
FOR
SGT-AT-ARMS**

COMMITTED TO SERVING BRANCH 2462

* TRUSTWORTHY

* DEDICATED

* LOYAL

* DEVOTION TO LABOR

TO MEMBERS OF BRANCH 2462

I was nominated for the office of Sergeant At Arms. I am asking for your support for this position. I am the best qualified candidate for this office. Below are just a few of my qualifications:

I Promise to provide the best service to the membership in the position of Trustee. Please when you cast your vote for Trustee, Cast your vote for GLORIA HENRY.

In Unionism

- Union member since July of 1969
- President of Branch 2462 for 8 years
- Treasurer of Branch 2462 for 18 years
- Member of the Budget Committee for 18 years
- Shop Steward at the Encino Station
- Local Negotiations team member 5 of the last 6 local
- Delegate to 14 consecutive National & State
- Chairman of the Election Committee 1986 through
- Executive Board Member 26 years
- Member of the Picnic Committee
- Branch representative at numerous National & State

memorandums
Conventions
1992

**RICHARD REIMER
FOR
TRUSTEE**

Functions, route inspection, contact administrative schools, OV

As the future unfolds for letter carriers, we must be prepared. The recent letter sent from the Board of Governors to President Bush ought to bring this need to the very front. This letter would have the Postal Board of Governors recommend that the binding arbitration section of Article 15 of our National Agreement be changed. This should make every letter carrier in Branch 2462 contact their Congressmen immediately and express their outrage at such a recommendation from the highest making policy makers in the Postal Service. Without binding arbitration, our employer would have no need to negotiate a fair contract with the carrier craft. We need to have experienced officer's who are ready to meet the challenges of the future.

I wish to express my appreciation for the job Frank Brash has done for being the rock of our union Branch 2462, as a Trustee for so many years. Job well done Frank. I have been nominated by a long time friend Irwin Schnyder to run for the office of Trustee.

I will oversee the allocation of our Union funds. I have been one of your Delegates over the years to the National Convention. I have been in the Postal Service 30 years, working at the Sherman Oaks Post Office.

We need officers that have knowledge of the National and Local Agreements. I will meet these challenges.

I believe I can provide excellent service as a Union member in good standing. I will do my best to serve you. Vote for Richard Reimer for Trustee.

In Unionism

As you vote for officers you should vote for Commitment, Experience, Leadership and Dedication to the membership of Branch 2462. Vote Roger Askew for the position of Sergeant At Arms.

**GLORIA HENRY
FOR
TRUSTEE**

**"THE MAIL CALL"
BRANCH 2462, NALC
Steve Seyfried, Editor
6910 Hayvenhurst Ave., # 101
Van Nuys, CA 91406**



Address Service Requested

**Branch Meeting
Minutes
April 3, 2001
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 6:33 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sgt.-at-Arms GALLEGOS
MOMENT OF SILENCE--To remember all members who have passed in the last year
ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS
PRESENT--ASKEW, BROOKINS, SEYFRIED, McCLINTON JOHNSON, BRASH, RATHBONE, BOCEK, GALLEGOS, T. HALL, TUKESBREY
ABSENT--NONE
GUEST--GINA MIRABELLA from MEND made a small presentation to solicit food from the NALC FOOD DRIVE.
MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAILCALL
CORRESPONDENCE READ
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
JOSEMORALES, JESUSBAROT, LITICIA VALDOVINOS
BILLS READ MOTION TO PAY M/S/C
COMMITTEE REPORTS
AUDIT--TRUSTEES All is well with the books
There will be an audit some time before the installation of new officers. Exact date will be posted later.
RETIREES 4 present tonight. On the Sick List is HYMAN ROLL we wish him a speedy recovery
MBA--T. HALL No Report
HBR--TUKESBREY No Report
FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT---JOHNSON
TREASURERS REPORT--McCLINTON
COLCPE \$ 203 currently in the fund
VICE-PRESIDENT BROOKINS We will be voting tonight on the Picnic. Routes being vacated at Stations need to be filled. If you know of any of these routes please contact the Union office.
PRESIDENT ASKEW's REPORT Updated convention chart is posted in the office, take a moment to check and verify that the meetings you have attended are noted. The Shop Steward Training class will be in April, in Pasadena. The Congressional Breakfast will be on Sunday April 29th. A motion was passed to allow any member who wishes to attend a free ticket. Contact the office if you wish to go seating is limited. The dispute resolution process started in Van Nuys on March 24th. Training has taken place and all Stewards except for one has received the training. Steward

copies of the Joint Cam (2000) and the hard bound copy of the National Agreement have been received. If you are a Steward and have not received these items, see either Calvin or myself.
NALC FOOD DRIVE is scheduled for Saturday May 12th.
NOMINATIONS FOR BRANCH OFFICERS
PRESIDENT.....
VICE PRESIDENT
RECORDING SECRETARY
FINANCIAL SECRETARY
TREASURER.....
TRUSTEE.....DAN RATHBONE, MICHELLE HALL, GLORIA HENRY, RICHARD REIMER,
TEENAMARIE GALLEGOS (WD), ROGER ASKEW (WD), BOB ENZ (WD) ROGER ASKEW
HEALTH BENEFITS REP JASON COLELLO (WD)
MUTUAL BENEFITS REP.....TERRY HALL BOB
ENZ
EDITOR
* ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION
(WD) CANDIDATE WITHDREW NAME
OLD BUSINESS
EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ
NEW BUSINESS
MOTION--Any new member who joins and does not have a recommending name, the name of the new member will be placed as the recommending person
M/S/C
DIVISION---YES--13, NO--10 MOTION
PASSES
MOTION--Branch hold the Membership Appreciation day at the L A Equestrian Center M/S/F
DIVISION-----YES--22, NO--9 MOTION
PASSES
MOTION--Branch change the starting time of the May-June-July regular meetings to 6:30 pm M/S/C
MOTION--Branch send all food collected in the food drive be sent to MEND
M/S/C
AMEND--Exclude the food from Sherman Oaks M/S/F
DIVISION---YES--5, NO--23 ORIGINAL MOTION
PASSES
MOTION--Branch allow any candidate of a contested office to submit an article for the May Mailcall. Not to exceed 300 words.
M/S/C
Underlined means unanimous vote
COLCPE DRAWING
\$ 3 JESS PASILLAS--MAIN OFFICE
\$ 3 ART BOCEK--ENCINO
\$ 3 TONY BROOKS--SHERMAN OAKS
MEETING ADJOURNED 8:21 PM