



100 YEARS
OF DELIVERING FOR
AMERICA



THE MAIL CALL

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11



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT By Calvin Brookins

The terrorist attacks that took place in our country on September 11, 2001 was a tragedy that will never be forgotten, now our military is on the front line of what will turn out to be a very long and difficult war. While at the same time postal employees find themselves on the front line of a very different type of war, dealing with the threat of Anthrax.

I would like to this time to give you some information about anthrax, first of all anthrax is a bacteria not a virus it can not be passed from one person to another, we should not be afraid nor should we over-react. However we should be concern but at the same time we should also be vigilant and use common sense.

By now all letter carriers in all of the stations have had numerous stand-ups regarding the procedures that should be used if you find any substance that could possibly be Anthrax, by all means please follow all instructions and procedures. The NALC Director of Safety and Health Al Ferranto is on a special task force with the USPS at the National level they meet everyday at 10:00am to receive the latest information regarding Anthrax. Each day there may be new information or the information from the previous days may have changed.

If you as a letter carrier feel safer or better about wearing masks and gloves, you should do so and will be allowed to. I recommend that any letter carrier who picks up mail from a collection box to use a mask and gloves, as of the writing of this article the use of 775 tubs (white plastic tubs) are permissible for use in collection boxes. All doors leading into the back of carrier stations should be secured, all employees are advise to challenge and question anyone who comes into postal facilities that they do not recognize.

Following the incident in Tustin California management in the Van Nuys District made it mandatory for all employees to wear gloves and masks, that has now changed to a voluntary, but recommended status. There is a plan to test the Santa Clarita Plant for Anthrax Spores as I get the results I will forward them on to the membership.

By now all employees should have taken a picture for a new identification badge, these pictures should have been taken at your work place, if this has not happened please contact your steward or call the Union office.

The latest facts update from the USPS as of November 5, 2001 is as follows:

National Update

- Employees on medication: 16,000 (estimated)
- Facilities being tested by USPS: 267 (under way)- Total tested so far 102 34 awaiting results
- Facilities now temporarily closed: 5
- Employees with confirmed Inhalation Anthrax: 4
- Employees with confirmed Cutaneous Anthrax: 3
- Employees hospitalized: 2
- Employees deaths: 2
- Letters confirmed with Anthrax 3

(Continued on Page 2)

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



**BRANCH 2462
HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
FRIDAY EVENING
DECEMBER 7, 2001
BEGINS 5:30 P.M.
DINNER AT 6:30 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.

ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
MAIN OFFICE	5	7	5	7	5	6	8	5	5	8	6
ENCINO	5	10	7	8	7	7	8	9	5	6	5
CIVIC CENTER	1	2	0	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	2
PANORAMA CITY	2	3	3	6	2	3	3	3	2	2	3
SHERMAN OAKS	5	5	6	6	5	3	6	5	6	4	5
SUN VALLEY	0	1	2	2	2	2	1	0	1	1	1
TARZANA	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
RETIREE'S	4	6	6	4	7	5	5	6	6	7	6
TOTAL	23	35	30	35	31	29	33	31	28	31	29

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

NEXT MEETING
6:30 PM

JANUARY
8th
"2002"

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

December 6, 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 December 15, 2001 (3rd Saturday). This will be the annual Christmas Breakfast so, please mark your calendar.....We hope to see you there.

Thank You
Frank Brash

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Calvin Brookins

(Continued from Page 1)

DC/Baltimore Area Update

- Employees on medication: 4,339
- Employees with confirmed Inhalation Anthrax: 2
- Employees with highly suspicious symptoms: 1
- Employees hospitalized: 2
- Employee deaths: 2
- Facilities being tested: 81 (DC/MD/VA)
- Facilities temporarily closed: 2
- Letters confirmed with Anthrax: 1

NY/NJ Area Update

- Employees on medication: 6,900
- Employees with confirmed Inhalation Anthrax: 2
- Employees with confirmed Cutaneous Anthrax: 3
- Employees with suspicious symptoms: 2
- Employees hospitalized: 0
- Facilities being tested: 13 (under way)
- Facilities temporarily closed: 2
- Letters confirmed with Anthrax: 2

Other Isolated Affected Areas Update

- Facilities closed: 1 (Kansas City, Mo.)
- Employees on precautionary medication:
- Florida: 3,183
- Kansas City, MO: 206
- Indianapolis, IN: 50

Annual Leave

It is time for Annual Leave sign-up again, by the time you receive this publication you will have started to select your annual leave for next year. (2002)

In January of 2001, some carriers signed up and took annual leave during the first two weeks of January only to get a check with leave with-out pay (LWOP) hours on it. In order to try and prevent that from happening this coming January I want to make everyone aware of when your leave for the year 2002 will be available.

The Employee Labor and Relations Manual (ELM) states that "The leave year begins with the first day of the first complete pay period in a calendar year...

Which means that your leave for the year of 2002 will not be available until January 14, 2002. If you take annual leave prior to January 14, 2002 you must have carried over leave from the previous year (2001).

On behalf of my family and the Executive Board of the Branch, I hope all members of Branch 2462 have a very thankful and enjoyable Thanksgiving.

I would also like to wish all members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year on behalf of my family and the Executive Board of Branch 2462.

Be safe, In Unionism

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Art Bocek

OWCP Guidance on Filing for Workplace Exposure

In instances where Federal employees are being tested for possible exposure to anthrax in the workplace, the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP) initial guidelines have not changed. Employers may provide for testing under provisions of 5 U. S. C. 7901 or other legal authority, are advised not to pursue Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) coverage unless an employee actually test positive for exposure.

Postal employees in some areas who have worked in a facility which had a possible anthrax contamination are being immediately provided with antibiotic therapy. The antibiotic therapy offered to these individuals is generally of a prophylactic (preventative) nature rather than treatment of an established injury. As such, this treatment does not represent a reimbursable service under FECA (unless the employee has tested positive for anthrax exposure or is diagnosed as having been infected).

Letter carriers, understandably are concerned for their health and may wish to protect any rights to workers' compensation entitlement. Letter carriers who opt to file a claim, but who have not experienced a known injury should not be discouraged from filing a claim, but the Postal Service can hold the Form CA-1 or Form CA-2 in the employees personnel file unless the employee experiences an illness or a positive exposure test requiring non-prophylactic treatment and/or time loss. Only at that point would it be necessary to forward the claim to OWCP for adjudication. By following this guide will enable OWCP to direct maximum effort towards prompt resolution of claims for actual injuries.

Generally, letter carriers have three years to from the time of injury to claim wage loss compensation and medical care by filing a claim. Thus, letter carriers who do not file until such time as they receive a positive test or diagnosis of illness will be covered for effects of exposure at work. For this emergency, OWCP will also consider a Form CA-1 to be timely filed for Continuation of Pay (COP) if it is filed within 30 days of receiving a positive test or diagnosis of illness as due to anthrax exposure at work.

Letter carriers with no known anthrax exposure illness, but who have experienced illness as result of the prophylactic treatment, would generally be covered under FECA. The employee will have the burden to submit medical evidence of any injury attributable to this treatment. These employees should be given a Form CA-2 (unless the treatment was confined to one day).

OWCP and Anthrax

Due to recent events, letter carriers have many questions regarding OWCP coverage of medical testing, doctor visits, antibiotics, and lost time from work due to possible exposure to anthrax. Below are some answers that should help you become better informed. They are as follows:

1. Medical Testing: The Postal Service is covering the cost associated with preliminary testing for the exposure to anthrax spores. OWCP does not cover these expense.

2. Doctor Visits: Initial visits for preliminary testing are also covered by the Postal Service. However, follow-up visits

may be at OWCP expense---if an "Occupational Link" is established.

3. Antibiotics: The Postal Service has agreed to pay for preventative antibiotic treatments. Once the condition has diagnosed, OWCP will cover all further treatments.

4. Lost Time: When the Postal Service requires testing, employees will remain on the clock during testing. When testing is not required, employees may take sick leave and have tests conducted.

OWCP Policy Regarding Anthrax

Because of recent events, OWCP has been contact by many letter carriers about their concerns regarding workers' compensation coverage of letter carriers who may have been exposed to anthrax. Generally, cost associated with preliminary testing to determine whether an employee may have experienced an anthrax exposure would not be covered under workers' compensation. Services to screen for or prevent occupational diseases can be provided by the employing agency under the provisions of 5 U. S. C. 7901.

The Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP) has no statutory authority to pay for routine screening or preventative services, because the Federal Employees' Compensation Act only provides for medical treatment of an actual injury or occupational disease. However, preventative care can be authorized by OWCP when there is probable exposure to a known contaminate, thereby, requiring disease-specific measures against infection.

When a letter carrier test positive for anthrax exposure, and this exposure likely occurred in the workplace, a claim can be submitted to OWCP. At that time, OWCP can authorize payment for treatment rendered to prevent illness.

BRANCH 2462 OFFICIAL 2001 RE-ELECTION RESULTS

SGT-AT-ARMS

TEENAMARIE GALLEGOS----- 119
ROGER ASKEW-----WINNER----- 228

TRUSTEE

DAN RATHBONE-----WINNER----- 214
GLORIA HENRY-----WINNER----- 255
RICHARD REIMER----- 169
MICHELLE HALL-----WINNER----- 248

MUTUAL BENEFITS REPRESENTATIVE

TERRY HALL-----WINNER----- 187
BOB ENZ----- 156

ENCINO SHOP STEWARD

BOB GOLDOFF-----WINNER-----59
BOB ENZ-----ALTERNATE-----19
ANN SCARBOROUGH-----WINNER-----47

MAIN OFFICE SHOP STEWARD

SERGIO CHAPPARO-----ALTERNATE-----30
TERRY HALL-----WINNER-----56
MICHELLE HALL-----WINNER-----49
TEENAMARIE GALLEGOS-----17
BOB JOHNSON-----WINNER-----32
HAROLD FLANAGAN-----18

"THE MAIL CALL"
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Steve Seyfried, Editor
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**Branch Meeting
Minutes**

November 6, 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 CALVIN BROOKINS at 6:32 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS ROGER ASKEW

**MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR VICTIMS & FAMILIES OF
POSTAL WORKERS**

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

PRESENT--BROOKINS, BOCEK, SEYFRIED, McCLINTON, JOHNSON, RATHBONE, HENRY, M. HALL, ASKEW, T. HALL

ABSENT--DONOHUE

**MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAILCALL
CORRESPONDENCE READ**

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP--JULIO GARCIA

BILLS READ MOTION TO PAY M/S/C

CALL TO OPEN VOTING IN BRANCH ELECTION

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TRUSTEES REPORT Budget committee will meet on January 9, 2002. Audit will be on January 16, 2002.

RETIREEES--BRASH 7 Present at tonight's meeting. The annual RETIREE'S DINNER was a great success, 74 people attended and the dinner will come in under budget.

MBA--T. HALL No Report
HBR--DONOHUE No Report
Safety & Health Committee met last week and were briefed on the concerns over Anthrax.

DISTRICT 6 Reports are that the State Association is planing to ask for a dues increase.

EDITOR SEYFRIED There were no mailcalls sent out last month via first class mail. We will resume in December with the mailings.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT---JOHNSON

TREASURERS REPORT--McCLINTON

COLCPE \$ 309 currently in the fund

VICE-PRESIDENT BOCEK Working on Sherman Oaks grievances. I am very busy !!!! Thanks to JIM TUKESBREY who gave me a new briefcase for my use.

PRESIDENT BROOKINS RAY KREYER AWARD was won this year by FRANK BRASH, the other members who were considered for the award were, DAN RATHBONE, FRANK RIMKUS and KEITH MOWER. Congratulations to FRANK on this well deserved award. Chicago Rap Session was very informative, President Sombrotto spoke about the

need to remain calm and professional in this time of crisis. The national is in constant contact with the Postal Service and they are having daily meetings with the NALC. The USPS will be testing the Santa Clarita Plant on 11/7 and it should be about a week for those results to come in. Contract negotiations are continuing, teams are meeting on the various Articles. On the wage front the NALC is asking for more than a 2 year contract, with wage increases for every year. National Level dispute on the "MPS" are still pending. Expanded NALC website for information is (www.nalc.org) MICKEY MARTIN has finished the repair work on the mens rest room. A very nice job !!! The Executive Board will have a recommendation for the Janitorial Service at the next meeting in January, 2002. Calendars have arrived, Retiree's should contact the Branch, Regular Carriers will receive them at their stations. Health Benefits Open Season will be Nov 12th --Dec 10. Prices for NALC HEALTH PLAN are down, with no reduction in services. Copies can be obtained by calling the Union Office.

**OLD BUSINESS--No word on Bylaw's
EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ
NEW BUSINESS**

MOTION--Branch Open House be held on December 7, 2001. Cost not to exceed \$ 1300.00 M/S/C

MOTION--Regular Branch meeting in January be changed to January 8, 2002 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 the Van Nuys Salvation Army for Thanksgiving and \$ 100 for Christmas. M/S/C

UNDERLINED DENOTES UNANIMOUS VOTE

COLCPE DRAWING

\$ 3 BOB ENZ--ENCINO
\$ 3 BOB JOHNSON--MAIN OFFICE
\$ 3 BOB JOHNSON--MAIN OFFICE
\$ 5 JEANETTE DOLABSON-TARZANA--DONATED
\$ 5 ART BOCEK--ENCINO

**SPECIAL THANKS TO JEANETTE DOLABSON FOR
TAKING MINUTES AT TONIGHTS MEETING**

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:06 PM

