



THE MAIL CALL

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11



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IN REMEMBRANCE

THIS ISSUE OF THE MAIL CALL IS DEDICATED TO
OUR MEMBERS WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY IN 2001

ARTHUR FREY	RETIREE
MARVIN GOLDSTEIN	RETIREE
CLARENCE DETTMAN	RETIREE
C. F. STROH	RETIREE
HARRY HOLMGREN	RETIREE
CATHERINE BRASH	AUXILLARY OFFICER

PRESIDENT'S REPORT By CALVIN BROOKINS

As I write this article, we still do not have a new contract, NALC President Vince Sombrotto announced November 20th that bargaining for a new contract to replace the 1998-2001 National Agreement has been extended through the holidays and into the new year. The old contract was to expire at midnight November 20th 2001.

Relevant terms of the 1998-2001 National Agreement, presently covering all 241,000 letter carriers in the United States and its territories, will remain in full force and effect until a new contract is reached. The agreement to extend bargaining was reached at a meeting November 20 by Sombrotto and NALC Executive Vice President William Young with USPS Vice President for Labor Relations Anthony Vegliante and Doug Tulino, Manager, USPS Labor Relations, Policies and Programs.

Sombrotto said the motivating factors were the recognition by both parties that the combination of the September 11 terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington D.C., as well as the continuing anthrax threats, had consumed the attention of the negotiators and prevented them from focusing on key contractual issues.

There is still time for the parties to negotiate a contract that can be sent to the members for ratification, therefore I urge all members of the branch to be patient. No one can predict what kind of contract we will get or how much of a raise we will get, especially with the USPS management claiming that they are close to being out of

money. I myself would like to see a contract that includes some changes in working conditions.

Another year has come to an end for branch 2462, this up coming year will prove to be a challenging one for letter carriers, not only do we have to deal with supervisors and managers that think they no how long our routes are. So they continue to try and force letter carriers to do the routes in the amount of time that they think the route is. We have to also deal with possibility anthrax in the mail, and who knows what other bio-terrorism act that may come alone next. All letter carriers should continue to be vigilant, and be aware of your surroundings and watch out for any suspicious persons and items while out on the street.

The branch had its annual open house at the union office on December 7, 2001, it was another success we had a great turn out. I estimated about 135 people there, I counted 110 and some people had left at that time. Everyone there seem to have enjoyed themselves, there was plenty of food to eat, speaking of food I would like to thank Harold Flannigan a letter carrier from the main office for preparing the food and helping make this years event a joyous one. I would also like to thank all of the people who helped get the office set up and those who help clean up afterward.

Critical Vote Set on USPS Future

All NALC members are urge to call their U.S. Senators immediately to urge support for \$1.1 billion to be included in the Defense Department Appropriations Bill for Postal Service sanitizing of mail.

(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.

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**

January 8, 2002

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)

Call the U.S. Capital switchboard: (202) 224-3121 and ask for your senators' office.

This is a critical vote to provide the Postal Service with the tools to regain the confidence of the American people in light of the anthrax threat. If the Postal Service does not obtain the money it needs now, it faces the prospect of drastic reductions in service that will affect every letter carrier and other postal employee as well as all postal customers.

The NALC has joined with 21 other unions, trade associations, and major mailers in urging Congress to provide the necessary funds to the Postal Service to screen and sanitize mail through June 2002.

Anthrax Update as of 11-19-01

USPS Employees on 60-Day Medication: 8,137

In Washington DC area: 3,225

In New York/New Jersey area: 4,912

USPS Facilities to be Tested: 279

Total Tested so Far: 278

Total Negative Results: 225

Total Awaiting Results: 32

Total Positive Results: 21 (including 19 decontaminated and now open)

USPS Employees

With Confirmed Inhalation Anthrax: 4

With Confirmed Cutaneous Anthrax: 2

USPS Facilities Now Closed: 2

Santa Clarita plant has also been tested, as of the writing of this article all of the results were not in, here is the results that I have gotten from Labor Relations so far.

I hope every member and their family had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

In Unionism



By Art Bocek

Court Leave, Section 516 ELM

Court leave is the authorized absence from work status (without loss or reduction in pay, leave to which otherwise entitled, credit for time or service, or performance ratings) of an employee who is summoned in connection with a judicial proceedings, by a court or authority responsible for the conduct of that proceeding, to serve as a juror or to serve as a witness in a nonofficial capacity on the behalf of a state or local government, or witness in a nonofficial capacity on behalf of a private party in a judicial proceeding to which the Postal Service is a party or the real party in interest.

Court leave is granted to all full-time and part-time employees. Certain part-time flexible employees are granted jury duty leave as provided and governed by applicable collective-bargaining agreements. All other employees are ineligible for court leave and must use either annual or LWOP to cover the period of absence from postal duties for court services but retain any fees or compensation received incident to such court service.

If an employee reports to court service and is excused by the court for the balance of the day, or performs court service for only part of the day, the employee is entitled to full compensation for the day in question. The employee is required to report to the postal installation for the balance of the postal tour of duty provided:

(1) an appreciable time of tour is enveloped and

(2) it is feasible to report to work and complete the tour. The combined court service and postal duty may not exceed 8 hours.

Employees who are eligible for court leave and who have a conflict with court duty and work schedules have the following options:

(1) Work their postal tour of duty in addition to performing court service.

(2) Have their work schedules change temporarily to conform to hours of court services. (Employees who do not choose this option may not have their work schedule changed and are expected to report for Postal duty upon completion of their court service.)

Employees who choose to have their work schedules change temporarily to conform to court services hours submit Form 3189, Request for Temporary Schedule Change for Personal Reasons, as soon as possible, together with Form 3971, requesting such schedule change to appropriate postal official. Employees who exercise this option receive full compensation for period of court service including any night differential.

No overtime is allowed for court service performed while an employee is on court leave or for a combination of postal work and court service.

Pregnancy is a condition which eventually requires the employee to be absent from the job because of incapacitation. Absence because of pregnancy or confinement is to be treated like any other condition which incapacitates the employee from performance of duty. As a means of accommodation this temporary incapacitation, appropriate leave is available. Maternity absence is not a separate type of leave. The same leave policies, regulations, and procedures apply to absences for maternity reasons as those which generally apply to request for leave.

Maternity absences may be a combination of sick leave, annual leave and LWOP:

a. Sick Leave. To the extent available, sick leave may be used to cover the time required for physical examinations and periods of incapacitation.

b. Annual Leave or LWOP. absences due to reasons such as the need for a period of adjustment following the birth and recuperation, or for time to make arrangements for the care of the child, may cover only by the use of available annual leave or LWOP if requested by the employee and approved by the installation head. An employee need not exhaust sick and annual leave prior to requesting LWOP.

As soon as it is possible, an employee should inform her supervisor of the intention to request leave for maternity reasons and indicate the type of leave desired, approximate dates and anticipated duration of time needed. The length of absence from duty for maternity reasons is jointly determined by the employee, her physician and management.

Installation heads make every reasonable effort to accommodate request for light duty or temporary reassignment to other work available for which the employee is qualified and which is requested due to maternity reasons. Such requests are accompanied by appropriate medical recommendations.

Male employees may request annual leave or LWOP only for the purpose of assisting or caring for (1) their minor children or (2) the mothers of their new born children while they are incapacitated for maternity reasons. Approval of leave for these reasons is consistent with Postal Service policy for granting leave in any other situation where leave is requested due to the incapacitation of an employee's spouse. Each such leave requests considered on its own merits.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

TO ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES FROM THE OFFICERS OF BRANCH 2462.

CALVIN BROOKINS **PRESIDENT**
ART BOCEK **VICE PRESIDENT**
STEVE SEYFRIED **SECRETARY**
ROBERT JOHNSON **FINANCIAL SEC.**
VELMA McCLINTON **TREASURER**
GLORIA HENRY **TRUSTEE**
DAN RATHBONE **TRUSTEE**
MICHELLE HALL **TRUSTEE**
ROGER ASKEW **SGT-AT-ARMS**
KEVIN DONOHUE **HB REP**
TERRY HALL **MBA REP**

**"THE MAIL CALL"
BRANCH 2462, NALC
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Van Nuys, CA 91406**

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**IMPORTANT NOTICE
BRANCH MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS**

By
Lee Fenstermacher

In Article XIII Fund, Section 12 of the Branch By-Laws it states as follows "One Hundred Dollars (\$100) will be given to the next of kin of any active and/or retired member in good standing. Retired members must have retired as a Letter Carrier."

In the last several months the subject of knowing name and address of the next of kin of members in order to send this \$ 100 to them has come up at Branch Meetings.

Back in October 1987 a motion was made and passed to conduct a survey of all members of the name, address and telephone number of their next of kin.

Therefore we are asking every active and retired member to cooperate with us to fulfill this project. Please fill out the following form completely and mail it to Branch 2462, NALC, 6910 Hayvenhurst Ave. # 101, Van Nuys, California 91406.

We are asking you to name two (2) "next of kin" only because one may outlive the other.

Thank You

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION		
MEMBER LAST NAME	FIRST	DATE
FIRST NEXT OF KIN		TEL #
ADDRESS		
SECOND NEXT OF KIN		TEL #
ADDRESS		

**CARRIERS AND FAMILIES ENJOY
GREAT NIGHT OF FOOD AND FUN
AT BRANCH 2462 ANNUAL HOLIDAY
DINNER**

