

THE MAIL CALL

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Van Nuys, CA



11



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT By CALVIN BROOKINS

Contract Ratified !

Our contract that was negotiated by the NALC at the National level has been ratified by the membership. NALC members throughout the nation have ratified a new five year National Agreement with the U.S. Postal Service. This agreement will be retroactive to November 20, 2001.

Eighty eight percent (88%) of the membership that voted approved of the tentative settlement reached by the union's negotiating team on April 24, 2002. The break-down is 94,732 accepted and 12,866 rejected, according to those numbers less than half of the membership nationwide voted on this new contract.

The first year 1.8 percent wage increase will be implemented shortly and retroactive back pay calculation made as soon as practicable. Letter carriers who retired after November 17, 2001 will receive full back pay for work between November 17, 2001 and the date of their retirement. Their annuities also will be adjusted accordingly. The November 2001 increase will raise their high three average salary and therefore their monthly annuities.

The annualized amount of any COLA generated by the increase in the CPI-W between October 2001 and July 2002 will be paid as a one time cash payment. The cash payment, to be included in September 27 paychecks, will not become part of basic pay. The amount of the cash payment will not be known until the Consumer Price Index for July is released in mid August.

Only city carriers in a pay status during pay period 19 (August 24-September 6) of 2002 will be eligible to receive the cash payment. Those in a full-time regular pay status will receive the full amount of the cash payment. Hourly rate employees (part-time flexibles carriers and part-time regulars) will receive a pro rata portion of the payment based on their number of paid hours in the 26 pay periods prior to September 7, 2002.

See my article in the June issue of the MailCall for a complete breakdown of what the new National Agreement includes.

The Management Service Points (MSP)

Back in March of 2002 the NALC and the USPS reached an agreement on the MSP scan points.

The following reflects the parties understanding of MSP:

"The parties agree that management will determine the number of scans on a city delivery route. Time credit will continue to be given during route count and inspections and will be credited in total street time.

MSP does not set performance standards, either in the office or on the street. With current technology, MSP records of scan times are not to be used as timecard data for pay purposes. MSP data may not constitute the sole basis for disciplinary action. However, it may be used by the parties in conjunction with other records to support or refute disciplinary action issued pursuant to Article 16 of the National Agreement.

City letter carriers have the option of using a personal identification number (PIN) other than the last four digits of their social security number.

Section 432.33 of the Employee and Labor Relations Manual (ELM) remains in full force and effect when MSP is implemented. It provides that "Except in emergency situations, or where service conditions preclude compliance, no employee may be required to work more than 6 continuous hours without a meal or rest period of at least a half hour."

Lunch locations for both the incumbent and carrier technician on a city delivery route continue to be determine in compliance with Section 126.5.b(2) of the M-39. PS Form 1564A "Delivery Instructions" lists the place and time that city letter carriers are authorized to leave the route for lunch. However, the parties recognize that, consistent with local instructions and operational conditions, city carriers may be authorized to leave at a different time and place. Notwithstanding this, the parties agree that city letter carriers will scan MSP scan points as they reach them during the course of their assigned duties."

In a nut shell, this means that management can use MSP scan points and we as carriers must scan them.

In Unionism

"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 AT THE CONCLUSION OF 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	6	5	4	6	3					
ENCINO	6	6	6	5	3	5					
CIVIC CENTER	1	2	1	1	1	1					
PANORAMA CITY	1	1	3	2	3	4					
SHERMAN OAKS	6	6	5	5	5	6					
SUN VALLEY	1	0	0	1	0	1					
TARZANA	1	1	0	2	2	1					
RETIREE'S	4	4	7	5	4	6					
TOTAL	25	27	27	25	24	27					

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

NEXT MEETING
6:30 PM

JULY
2nd
"2002"

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

July 2, 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 3 will be July 27, Aug 24, & Sept 28, 2002 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar.....We hope to see you there.

Thank You
Frank Brash

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Art Bocek

Employee Claims

When personal property of a letter carrier is lost or damaged at work may file a claim for reimbursement with the Postal Service. Article 27 of the National Agreement sets forth the rules for such "employee claims."

The property must be "personal property" and subject to a \$10.00 minimum. This includes cash, jewelry, clothing and carrier uniforms as well as other items that are worn or otherwise brought to work. Automobiles and their content are excluded from Article 27 claims. However, if a letter carrier's automobiles is damaged by "the negligent or wrongful act" of the Postal Service, the carrier may seek recovery under the "Federal Tort Claims Act." To initiate a Tort Claim, a carrier needs to complete and submit Form 95.

Understand that the standard for establishing liability under the Tort Claims Act is different than the standard for reimbursement under Article 27, because they treat fault differently. The Postal Service must pay a claim under Article 27 unless it was "caused in whole or in part by the negligence or wrongful act of the employee" - whether or not there was negligence on the part of the Postal Service. However, to recover under the Tort Claims procedure the employee must establish that the damage was the fault of the Postal Service.

Possession of personal property at work under Article 27 must have been reasonable or proper under the circumstances, and the loss or damage must have been suffered "in connection with or incident to the employee's employment while on duty or while on Postal Property." In determining whether these requirements were met, arbitrators generally evaluate: (1) whether it was necessary for the employee to have the lost or damaged item in his or her at work, and (2) whether the item's value was so great that the employee should not have risked losing or damaging it at work.

The Postal Service need not pay a claim when a loss was caused in whole or part by the negligent act of the employees. "Negligence" means a failure to act reasonable prudent or care. The loss or damage will not be compensated when it resulted from normal wear and tear associated with day-to-day living and working conditions. The amount of the loss claimed must reflect the depreciated value of the property.

Article 27 requires an employee to file a timely claim within 14 days after the loss or damage occurred. Section 645.2 of the Employee and Labor Relations Manual (ELM) provided Form 2146, Employee Claim for Personal Property, must be filed document a claim. However, this section also provides. "any written document received within the period allowed is treated as a paper claim if it provides substantiating information." Claims should be supported with evidence such as sales receipt, a statement from the seller showing the price and date of purchase, or even a statement from a seller about the replacement value.

FOOD DRIVE 2002 IS BIGGEST SUCCESS



FOOD DRIVE UPDATE

Hello fellow union Brothers and Sisters. This year marked the 10th anniversary of the National Food Drive. I just wanted to let you all know what a fantastic job you did collecting food this year, as always. The seven offices in our Branch, 2462 collected over 81,600 pounds of food. That is about 10,000 pounds more than last year.

I especially thank my office coordinators for your commitment and dedication. Without your help this task would be so much more difficult. So THANKS to TIA WILSON, JEFF JACKSON, VELMA McCLINTON, BOB JOHNSON, LINDA BROOKINS, TRACY MULLINAX, IRWIN SCHNYDER, and especially CALVIN BROOKINS. You are so great !!! This year, again I would like to thank those managers and carriers and clerks who gave up their days off to help pick up and sort food. You truly know the meaning of community service.

Thanks must go to all the volunteers that come to the stations and spend hours and hours sorting and picking up the food and then delivering it all to the food bank. Thank you all very much !! Thanks to GINA MIRABELLA for your years of dedication and service to MEND, our food bank, and to your commitment to this food drive.

I would also like to mention that we had flyers donated to the Branch by TARIX PRINTING in Tarzana. The owner told me that as long as we do this Food Drive, they would donate all the flyers we need every year. He said it's a wonderful thing that we do this every year. I agree, it is a wonderful thing.

Thanks !

Janette Dolabson

PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES

Proposed to amend Article III, Section 1. which now reads,

Section 1. The Regular Meeting of Branch 2462, shall be held on the First Tuesday of each month, at 6:00 PM at 6910 Hayvenhurst Ave., Van Nuys, California, or at such date, place and time as the Executive Board or the Branch may designate.

Proposed change,

Section 1. The Regular Meeting of Branch 2462, shall be held on the First Tuesday of each month, at 6:30 PM at 6910 Hayvenhurst Ave., Van Nuys, California, or at such date, place and time as the Executive Board or the Branch may designate.

Signed by Velma McClinton, Roger Askew, Bob Johnson

Proposed to amend Article IV, Section 6. which now reads,

Section 6. The election will be held on the Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday following the Memorial Day holiday (Monday) of the election year. The election shall be conducted by balloting at the stations. Provisions for voting of retirees and of absentees will be afforded, in accordance with such regulation as are applicable for these elections.

Proposed to read,

Section 6. The Election Committee shall mail one ballot to each member not less than thirty (30) days prior to the June election meeting. the Committee shall enclose a notice of election of Officers of the Branch, instructions to eligible voters, a ballot, a secret ballot envelope, and a prepaid reply envelope.

Signed by Velma McClinton, Roger Askew, Bob Johnson

Proposed to amend Article IV, Section 10 . which now reads,

Section 10. Elections shall be held at each station by secret ballot according to 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.

Proposed to read,

Section 10. The Branch election shall be conducted by mail balloting and held according to rules and regulation adopted and promulgated by the Executive Board of Branch 2462, N.A.L.C., which shall not be in violation of the rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the Rules of the National Executive Council.

Signed by Velma McClinton, Roger Askew, Bob Johnson

Proposed to amend Article VI, Section 1, 5, & 6 which now reads,

ARTICLE VI SHOP STEWARDS AND EDITOR

Section 1. Shop Stewards shall be elected by the membership of their respective stations and elections shall take place at the stations by the members.

Section 5. The Editor shall be elected in accordance with the rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the Executive Board and with the approval of the membership.

Section 6. The editor shall administer the duties of the Branch publication, as determined by the membership, under the direction of the Executive Board. The editor shall:

- (A) Receive, edit and transmit, on a regular basis, all articles and contents of such publication to the publisher.
- (B) Administer all aspects of advertising in such publication, such as approving, billing, and collecting monies from all advertisers.
- (C) Be responsible for sufficient monies on deposit at all times with the USPS for postage on said publication.
- (D) Assume any and all responsibilities, not included as specific responsibilities of the publisher of said publication, as may be directed from time to time by the membership and/or Executive Board.

Proposed changes

ARTICLE VI SHOP STEWARDS

Section 1. Shop Stewards shall be elected by the membership of their respective stations and elections shall

take place at the stations by the members. At a time and place to be determined by the Election Committee.

Delete Section 5

Delete Section 6

Signed by Velma McClinton, Roger Askew, Bob Johnson

Proposed to amend Article XII . Section1, 2 & 3 which now reads,

ARTICLE XII FUNDS

Section 1. All funds of the Branch shall be deposited in such bank or savings institution as the Branch may determine, provided that the Treasurer may retain a sum not to exceed Twenty Dollars (\$20) in his/her hands for current expenses.

Section 2. The President of the Branch shall be allowed to retain a sum not to exceed Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25) in his/her hands for current expenses.

Section 3. The Recording Secretary and the Financial Secretary of the Branch shall be allowed to retain a sum not to exceed Ten Dollars (\$10) in his/her hands for current expenses.

Proposed changes

Section 1. All funds of the Branch shall be deposited in such bank or savings institution as the Branch may determine.

DELETE SECTION 2

DELETE SECTION 3

Signed by Velma McClinton, Roger Askew, Bob Johnson

Proposed to amend Article XIII,. which now reads,

ARTICLE XIII CHARGES

Section 1. Any member of the Branch, who shall violate the Constitution or By-Laws of the Association or Branch may have charges preferred against them and if such charges are proved, shall be fined, reprimanded, suspended or expelled as the laws may direct or the Branch may determine. Any officer of the Branch, who shall fail or neglect to discharge the duties of their office or who may be guilty of gross misconduct, may be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at the Regular Branch Meeting after which charges have been preferred against them specifically setting forth the failure, neglect or misconduct and a Resolution therefore has been offered. Such officer, however, must be given the opportunity to defend themselves in accordance with Article 10 of the Constitution for the Government of Subordinate and Federal Branches.

Proposed to read,

ARTICLE XIII

EDITOR

Section 1. The Editor shall be appointed by the Executive Board and approved by the Membership at a Regular Branch Meeting.

Section 2. The Editor shall administer the duties of the Branch publication as determined by the Executive Board.

Signed by Velma McClinton, Roger Askew, Bob Johnson

Proposed to change Article XIII to Article XIV

Signed by Velma McClinton, Roger Askew, Bob Johnson

Proposed to change Article XIV to Article XV

Signed by Velma McClinton, Roger Askew, Bob Johnson

Proposed to change Article XV to Article XVI

Signed by Velma McClinton, Roger Askew, Bob Johnson

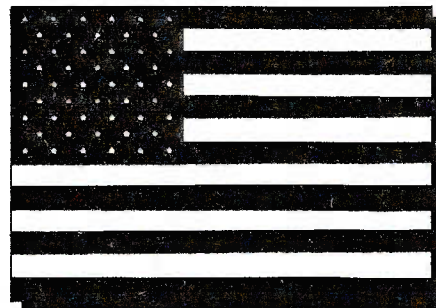
Proposed to amend Article IX, Section 1 . which now reads,

Section 1. Each Regular member shall pay monthly dues equal to two (2) hours base pay for a NALC Grade 1, Step D, Letter Carrier employed by the United States Postal Service

Proposed to read,

Section 1. Each Regular member shall pay monthly dues equal to two (2) hours base pay, plus an additional 10% for a NALC City Carrier 1, Step D, Letter Carrier employed by the United States Postal Service

Signed by Velma McClinton, Roger Askew, Bob Johnson, Gloria Henry, Steve Seyfried, Michelle Hall, Terry Hall, Kevin Donohue.



**HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE
JULY 4TH HOLIDAY**

"THE MAIL CALL"

BRANCH 2462, NALC

Steve Seyfried, Editor
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Van Nuys, CA 91406

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Branch Meeting Minutes

June 4, 2002

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 6:33 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sgt.-at-Arms ASKEW

MOMENT OF SILENCE--Retired member RAY MUSE

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

PRESENT---BROOKINS, BOCEK, SEYFRIED, McCLINTON JOHNSON, RATHBONE, HENRY, ASKEW, DONOHUE

ABSENT--M. HALL, T. HALL

MOTION TO POSTPONE ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES M/S/F

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAILCALL

CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP--KATHLINE MASSARO, EFRAIN MARTINEZ, DELCY PENA, ELSA MARCOE, DARRYL HORN

BILLS READ MOTION TO PAY

M/S/C

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AUDIT--TRUSTEES There will be an audit sometime before the July meeting. Exact date will be posted

RETIREES 6 present tonight. On the Sick List is DICK MILFS & WADE OSWALD we wish them a speedy recovery

MBA--T. HALL No Report

HBR--DONOHUE Dental plan now available through Delta. Contact Kevin at Encino for more information

SAFETY & HEALTH--JOHNSON Safety violators are to receive extra observations by management

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT---JOHNSON

TREASURERS REPORT--McCLINTON

COLCPE \$ 565 currently in the fund
POLITICAL NEWS--ASKEW Bill moving through Congress which would repeal the Windfall Tax. Very important that we contact our Rep's and support this bill.

VICE-PRESIDENT BOCEK Grievances are up at Sherman Oaks working hard.

PRESIDENT BROOKIN's REPORT New National contract has been ratified by the members. Dog awareness week was a big success, over 250 carriers and supervisors attended. Carriers were interviewed by media personalities and food was provided by the Postmaster. Food Drive was huge success this year. We collected more than ever before, watch for articles in the MailCall. Looks like the National Convention hotel for the Branch will be the Windham.

OLD BUSINESS--NONE

BY-LAWS

There were several By Law amendments submitted, they will be published in the July MailCall and voted on at the July Regular Branch meeting.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ NEW BUSINESS

MOTION--Branch purchase 2 tickets to the San Gabriel Valley COPE Fundraiser. Cost \$ 60.00

M/S/C

MOTION--Branch send the July MailCall 1st Class

M/S/F

Underlined means unanimous vote

COLCPE DRAWING

\$ 4 STEVE SEYFRIED--SHERMAN OAKS

\$ 5 JEFF JACKSON--PANORAMA CITY

\$ 5 JEFF AUSLANDER--SHERMAN OAKS

\$ 5 KEITH MOWER--RETIREE

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:26 PM

FOOD DRIVE at Van Nuys Main

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

Due to the size of our office we had two co-chairs *Robert Johnson* and myself. With that Bob set up the area outside the Credit Union office, picked up the food from carriers out on the street, and helped with transferring volunteers back to the Mend office in Pacoima. *Pat Helm* for her contribution in the preparation of her famous homemade pizza and deviled eggs to the volunteers who separated the goods which letter carriers brought from there routes. A special recognition to our youngest participant this year *Danielle Munoz* (approx. six years of age) which push hampers of bags after food had been taken out across the parking lot to the trash receptacle. Replenishing them with empty equipment with the assistant of *Mario Pena*. Danielle also help with taking food out of the postal vehicles and placing them on the tables for distribution. Their were a number of you whom had clocked out and ask if we need any additional help.

VALLEY SECESSION - start educating yourself now, make an inform decision on November 5, 2002. Every one who lives, works, or does business in the City of Los Angeles will be affected.

Velma J. McClinton