



# THE MAIL CALL

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11



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## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT By Calvin Brookins

### Convention Update

On Monday August 19, 2002 the convention was called to order for the first session, President Sombrotto opened the 63rd Biennial NALC Convention by emotionally thanking letter carriers for giving him a wonderful life. He also went on to tell the delegates about the monumental challenges that we will be facing in the years to come, but assuring them that with strong new leadership and the support of all members of the NALC the union will enjoy a bright future.

Sombrotto told the 8000 delegates, it's our job to make sure that the letter carrier's who started working yesterday will have the same kind of future all of us have had. President Vincent R. Sombrotto has served as the President of the NALC for 24 years and he has done a great job in leading this Union to where it is today, and it will be hard for whom ever succeeds him. But there is one person waiting and willing to continue on with the work and challenges of this great union of ours. His name is William H. (Bill) Young, a California brother from branch 52 in San Luis Obispo, California. I don't want to sound like I am campaigning for him but he is definitely my choice to be the next President of the NALC.

Sombrotto went on to say that he had enjoyed the "marvelous and unparalleled opportunity to serve" the members of the NALC. We all wish Sombrotto well in his retirement. There was a Convention Chronicle sent back to every station, I urge all members to take a few minutes to read them, they give you a complete update of what went on at the Convention in Philadelphia.

One thing that was discussed at the convention was the future of the U S Postal Service, and how letter carriers can best shape the changes that inevitably will come in order to assure good jobs in the years ahead.

### Dues Increase

In July there was a lot of discussion that took place regarding a proposed union dues increase, this discussion was quite lengthy which should not be a surprise because the discussion that took place at the May Executive Board meeting among eleven people was also lengthy. This same discussion took place at the August meeting which was also

(Continued on Page 2)



## BRANCH 2462 "RETIREE NITE" SUNDAY AFTERNOON OCTOBER 20, 2002 ENCINO GLEN RESTAURANT

16821 Burbank Blvd. Encino, California

**Doors Open 1:00 P.M.**  
**Price is \$ 5.00**  
**Retiree's and Active Carriers**  
**are Welcome**  
**We will be Honoring 3 New**  
**GOLD CARD Recipients**  
**TOM GERALDI**  
**ALAN KEOGH**  
**TOM BECKWITH**  
**For Further Information**  
**Contact the Union Office**  
**or**  
**FRANK BRASH**

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## ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
MAIN OFFICE	5	6	5	4	6	3	4	3	3		
ENCINO	6	6	6	5	3	5	5	5	6		
CIVIC CENTER	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2		
PANORAMA CITY	1	1	3	2	3	4	2	1	4		
SHERMAN OAKS	6	6	5	5	5	6	14	9	20		
SUN VALLEY	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	2		
TARZANA	1	1	0	2	2	1	2	1	2		
RETIREE'S	4	4	7	5	4	6	4	5	5		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>44</b>		

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

**NEXT MEETING**  
**6:30 PM**

**OCTOBER**

**1st**  
**"2002"**

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

**October 1, 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 2 will be October 26, & Nov 16, 2002 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar.....We hope to see you there.

Thank You  
**Frank Brash**

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

lengthy. There was a notice put in the MailCall notifying all members that this issue would be discussed and voted on at the September meeting which was held on Tuesday the 3rd of the month.

At the September meeting this issue of the dues increase was discussed for one and one half hours, afterward a vote was taken regarding the increase of union dues that vote was done by secret ballot. The proposed dues increase was passed by the membership present at the meeting by a vote of 33 to 9 in favor of increasing the union dues. This increase will not take effect until early 2003 probably in late January.

I do not want anyone to get the wrong idea, the branch is not going broke, this is merely a step to take care of the future. The California State Association of Letter Carriers passed a motion at the last state convention to raise state dues, in the past when this has happen the branch has not passed this increase on to the members of this branch. We can not continue to cover this and expect the surplus that we have to not be effected. However, we have to consider that with the increase of everything else in this world of ours we have to consider that the rent of this building is going to continue to increase. In November we will know exactly how much the increase will be. Any questions regarding this issue please feel free to contact me at the union office.

### COLCPE

Committee On Letter Carriers Political Education (COLCPE). COLCPE is the most effective way to make your voice heard in Washington DC, the NALC does not use union dues to make contributions to political candidates. COLCPE is the way that we as letter carriers send our message to Congress through our Union. COLCPE is a way of telling certain politicians that we appreciate their support, and that we have the resources to help them get elected.

COLCPE contributions go to the candidates for U.S. Senate and House of Representatives who support our views and interests on certain issues. We donate COLCPE money to both Democrats and Republicans who have pledged their support for NALC positions on a wide range of issues from health care to social security. You as an everyday letter carrier can help support COLCPE, by sending your contribution by check or money order to:

COLCPE  
 100 Indiana Ave. N.W.  
 Washington D.C. 20001

**In Unionism**

**O.W.C.P. Report**  
**by**  
**VICE PRESIDENT**  
**ART BOCEK**

**OWCP's Purpose**

The Federal Employee's Compensation (FECA) program provides Federal employees who sustain work-related injury or illness with benefits such as medical care, wage loss replacement and help in returning to work. The Federal Employees' Compensation Act or FECA, ( 5 U.S.C. 8101 et seq.) is administered by Office of Worker's Compensation (OWCP.)

**Types of Injuries**

Injuries are either traumatic or occupational. A "traumatic injury" is defined as a wound or other condition of the body caused by external force, including stress or strain. The injury must be identifiable as to time and place of occurrence and member or function of the body affected, and caused by a specific event or series of events within a single day or work shift. An "occupational disease or illness" is produced by systemic infections; continued or repeated stress or strain; exposure to toxins, poisons, fumes, etc.; or other continued and repeated exposure to conditions of work environment over a longer period of time. A longer period of time means anything beyond a single day or work shift.

**How to File Claims**

Report every injury to your supervisor immediately. Submit written notice of injury on Form CA-1, "Notice of Traumatic Injury and Claim for Compensation of Pay/Compensation," if you sustained a traumatic injury. Submit written notice of injury on Form CA-2, "Notice of Occupational Disease and Claim for Compensation," if injury was an occupational disease or illness. Obtain claim form from management. Complete the front page of the claim form and submit the form to management. The employing agency will complete the back page and forward the claim to OWCP. Don't forget to make a photocopy prior to giving the original copy of the front page of the completed claim form to management. Management is required to give you the bottom portion of the claim form signed as a receipt of filing. Photocopying is necessary in order to protect oneself from either misplaced, or lost forms by management.

**Evidence Needed for your Claim**

Traumatic Injury, Form CA-1 should describe clearly how the injury occurred using a supplement statement, if necessary. A medical report that includes a history of how the injury occurred, findings, diagnosis, and an explanation of how your condition is related to the injury must be submitted with the claim.

Occupational Disease or Illness, Occupational disease or illness are usually much more complex than traumatic injuries and require more extensive evidence. A narrative statement should be submitted by the injured worker along with a comprehensive narrative medical report. This is particularly important for emotional conditions. Your

statement should describe specific work factors that you believe caused your medical condition. Specific details must be provided and the general terms should be avoided. For example, if you do a lot of lifting, describe the types of material lifted, weights, how often lifting is required, and the type of lifting. For emotional conditions, you must describe specific events, dates, those involved, and how the event(s) caused your condition. Vague and general statements are not acceptable. Medical reports for occupational disease or illness must include a history, findings, a diagnosis and an explanation of how specific work factors are related to the condition. For emotional conditions, the medical report should be from a psychiatrist or licensed psychologist (note: an MFCC is not considered a licensed psychologist under FECA). The report should be in narrative form and include a history, findings, a diagnosis, and explain how your condition is related to specific factors of your employment. It is insufficient for the treating physician to merely state that your condition is work related. The physician should provide a rationalized opinion on how your condition is related to specific factors of employment.

**EEO COMPLAINT FILING**

In order to have a complaint accepted for investigation, the aggrieved person must believe that he or she has been discriminated against on the basis of the factors protected by the status that the EEOC enforces-race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age (over 40), disability or retaliation for having participated in activity protected by various civil rights.

Under EEOC regulations, aggrieved individuals must seek EEO counseling within 45 days of the date of the matter alleged to be discriminatory, or in the case of personnel action, within 45 days of the effective date of the personnel action.

After requesting for an EEO counseling, an EEO counselor must conduct a final counseling with the aggrieved person within 30 days of the initial counseling contact. The time period can be extended if the aggrieved individual and the agency agree in writing to do so. Any extension, however, may not exceed sixty (60) days. Where the agency, or the unit of the agency where the counseling occurs, has an established alternative resolution procedure, and the aggrieved individual agrees to participate in the procedure, the pre-complaint processing period shall not exceed ninety (90) days. The EEO counselor must inform the aggrieved person that he or she has the right to file a formal complaint after 30 days, unless the time is extended.

Deadlines to remember:

1. 45 days to file for EEO Counseling
2. 30 days to complete counseling
3. 15 days to file formal complaint
4. Extensions may not exceed 60 days



# "THE MAIL CALL" BRANCH 2462, NALC

**Steve Seyfried, Editor**

**6910 Hayvenhurst Ave., # 101  
Van Nuys, CA 91406**

**Address Service Requested**

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
VAN NUYS, CA  
PERMIT No. 314

## **Branch Meeting Minutes September 3, 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 6:40 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sgt.-at-Arms ASKEW

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

### **ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS**

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

**ABSENT**--M. HALL, T. HALL

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

### **APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP--NONE**

### **BILLS READ MOTION TO PAY**

M/S/C

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**AUDIT--TRUSTEES** The audit was conducted and the books were found to be in balance and in good order.

**RETIREES--BRASH** 5 present tonight. Retiree Dinner will be held on October 20, 2002 at Encino Glen. There will be a full informational ad in the October Mailcall. Hope to see everyone there for a good time.

**MBA--T. HALL** No Report

**HBR--DONOHUE** No Report

**SAFETY & HEALTH--JOHNSON** No Report

**EDITOR--SEYFRIED** No Report

### **FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT---JOHNSON**

### **TREASURERS REPORT--McCLINTON**

**COLCPE** \$ 623 currently in the fund  
**VICE-PRESIDENT BOCEK** Still working hard on grievances at Sherman Oaks. Picnic is ready to go. Special arrangements have been made for Retirees. Reserved parking spots and a cart shuttle from the parking to the picnic grounds will be provided.

**PRESIDENT BROOKIN's REPORT** Will be attending the COP meeting in Los Angeles on October 27 & 28th. NALC calendars are again being offered for sale. The Executive Board has recommended that each member receive one, we will be voting on this at tonight's meeting. We will be accepting nominations for the Ray Kreyer Award. The selection will take place at the October Board meeting and the award will be presented at the Retirees Dinner on Oct 20th. If you wish to nominate someone for the award submit a brief written bio and your reasons for the nomination. OPF and the NALC have agreed to new rules regarding the purging of Personnel records. If you wish to review your

record you can contact Personnel Office at the Main Post Office on Sherman Way and make an appointment to review your record. There is a new Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program being offered. Call 1-800-582-3337 for further information. Local negotiations will begin in October.

### **OLD BUSINESS--NONE**

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ NEW BUSINESS**

**MOTION**--Branch donate \$ 100 to the Kid Glove Boxing Foundation.

M/S/C

**MOTION**--Branch renew the membership in the L A County Federation of Labor AFL-CIO, for one year. Cost to the Branch \$ 448.44

M/S/C

**MOTION**--Branch order 500 Bass Calendars @ \$ 2.75. Total cost to the Branch \$ 1375.00  
Each active member will receive one calendar  
Retirees who request a calendar will receive one.

M/S/C

Underlined means unanimous vote

At this time a discussion was held on the Motion to raise the Branch Dues by 10 %. This discussion lasted 1 and 1/2 hours. Some of those who spoke were STEVE SEYFRIED, MEL BARCEGA, ROGER VEGA, TEENAMARIE GALLEGOS, WILMER VILLENUEVA, TRACY MULLINEX, BOB JOHNSON, GLORIA HENRY, ROGER ASKEW, FRANK BRASH, DAN RATHBONE, SIMO MITREVSKI, BLAIR BALL, VELMA McCLINTON, ART BOCEK & CALVIN BROOKINS. After the discussion those in attendance voted by Secret Ballot. The results were as follows:

On the question whether Branch 2462 should increase their dues by 10 %. FOR--33 AGAINST--9

### **THE DUES INCREASE WAS PAST**

This change will take place sometime after January 1, 2003

### **COLCPE DRAWING**

\$ 5 ART BOCEK--ENCINO  
\$ 5 KAREN AGUILAR--PANORAMA CITY  
\$ 5 CLIFF KELLEY--TARZANA--DONATED BACK  
\$ 7 ART BOCEK--ENCINO

### **MEETING ADJOURNED 9:15 PM**

The Editor would like to Thank JANNETTE DOLABSON for her help in the taking of the minutes at the September Meeting.