



THE MAIL CALL

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT By Calvin Brookins

Recently I attended my first Committee of Presidents meeting held in Los Angeles. It was interesting to hear about all of the different issues that letter carriers are facing in other areas of the country. In parts of Texas the union is dealing with issues such as rural delivery versus city delivery. What management is doing is taking newly built communities that should be city delivery and unilaterally making it rural delivery; this is an issue that the NALC at the National Level has been dealing with.

Clearwater Florida and Tampa Florida are having problems with management using Highway Contract Routes instead of city delivery. It was suggested we continue to file grievances in an effort to fight the growing problem until the NALC at the National level get those grievances resolved that are held in front of National level Arbitrators.

They are also dealing with issues of excessing in Texas; they have letter carriers that have been excessed over 100 miles away from their former work location. They also have part time flexibles working 56 to 60 hours a week. Does that sound familiar?

I had some private conversation with some of the other presidents there and it seems that we all have the same concerns, which is carrier compliment. My own opinion is that management has not properly staffed the stations especially in the five Van Nuys city stations. It appears that this is a concern in other parts of the country as well, that would explain why letter carriers are delivering mail at 7,8, and 9 o'clock at night. However, I believe that staffing is only one part of the problem at main office, the other part of the problem at that station is that I believe that management did a terrible job on the recent route inspections.

Another concern from Branch 9 was the issue of postmasters and/or managers dictating the issuing of discipline and having a supervisor meet at the informal "A" and that manager or postmaster meeting at the formal "A". There was no real advice on how to deal with this issue. I believe that we have to properly document, investigate, and make the right arguments in all of our grievances regardless of which management person meets on the grievance. If we do everything right most of the time we will be successful.

(Continued on Page 3)

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



**BRANCH 2462
HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
FRIDAY EVENING
DECEMBER 14, 2002
BEGINS 5:30 P.M.
DINNER AT 6:30 P.M.
FREE FOOD
FREE DRINK
LOTS OF FUN FOR ALL**

IN MEMORY OF OUR FELLOW UNION MEMBER

JIM DURANDO

Editor note: Brother Durando's name was misspelled in the last edition of the Mail Call. We wish to appologize to his family for the error.

"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.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT 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.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish every member and their families a Joyous and Happy Holiday Season. I look forward to serving you as Vice President in the coming New Year.

In Unionism

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	4	5
ENCINO	6	6	6	5	3	5	5	5	6	6	7
CIVIC CENTER	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
PANORAMA CITY	1	1	3	2	3	4	2	1	4	4	3
SHERMAN OAKS	6	6	5	5	5	6	14	9	20	6	9
SUN VALLEY	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	2	2	2
TARZANA	1	1	0	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	3
RETIREE'S	4	4	7	5	4	6	4	5	5	4	5
TOTAL	25	27	27	25	24	27	33	26	44	31	35

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

NEXT MEETING
6:30 PM

JANUARY

7th

"2003"

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

January 7, 2003

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 November 16, 2002 & December 21, 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)

M.D.A. Muscular Dystrophy Association

At this COP meeting we were privileged to hear a report from a region coordinator from MDA, she stated that MDA started in 1952, and the NALC joined the fight in 1953 with a drive to raise money over that Thanksgiving holiday. She also gave thanks to the NALC for their efforts over the years. She also talked about how some of the funds are used that are donated, she went on to state that the funds are not only used to find cures, but are also used for support groups for the kids and their families. It also pays for a summer camp for kids with MDA diseases this allows kids with neuromuscular diseases the opportunity to enjoy a place such as a summer camp. This is something that most of our children get to experience on more than one occasion in their lives. This also gives the parents of these kids the opportunity to get a break and have a little time to themselves.

We also got to hear from Sonia Villa, Sonia is a PTF who works at the post office in Los Angeles and is a member of branch 24 in Los Angeles. Sonia introduced us to her daughter Alexis. When Alexis was 18 months old she was diagnosed with a form of muscular dystrophy called Spinal Muscular Atrophy Type 3. SMA causes lower motor neurons in the base of the brain and spinal cord to disintegrate, preventing them from delivering electrical and chemical signals that muscles depend on for normal function.

Because of this disease, Alexis who is now six, has a hard time running, playing, walking and doing many of the things that most kids do without even a second thought. She will eventually be required to use a wheelchair and have a shortened life expectancy. As one of MDA's original sponsors, letter carriers around the country have donated not only money but also countless hours of their own time helping MDA in the quest for a cure.

Our branch has not been involved in raising money for this worthwhile cause in the recent past, however, I would like to change that so I am looking for someone, any member of the branch who would be interested in becoming the next MDA coordinator for branch 2462. Anyone who is interested should call the branch office.

There is a MDA fundraising effort going on right now and we have kits at the union office. The MDA and the NALC will be celebrating their 50th year together in raising money for a cure, the NALC has been a huge supporter of MDA over the last 50 years and we hope to continue to fight for a cure together. Our NALC chapter of MDA is asking us to help raise money to buy research minutes. It costs \$53.00 for one minute of research. They are asking each NALC member to raise at least \$53.00 to help "Jerry's kids" and the adults battling over 40 neuromuscular diseases.

From now until December 31st every letter carrier that raises at least \$50.00 will receive one ticket into three drawings for a dinner for two at Outback Steakhouse, the Cheesecake Factory, or Spago's. I urge all members to

participate in this fund-raiser as it is for a good cause. If you would like one of the kits please call the union office.

Working in the Dark

Is it safe to work in the dark? Well that depends on a lot of different circumstances. It may be in some situations; it may not be in other situations. When darkness causes a safety hazard then it is unsafe to work in the dark. There have been a number of arbitrators who have ruled that darkness in and of itself is not necessarily unsafe. So carriers need to be careful when they refuse to work in the dark because of safety. It is up to the carrier to establish that the darkness has established an unsafe condition. Remember the burden of proof is on you to show that it was unsafe to continue to deliver in the dark. You must be specific such as, I can't see where I am walking, I can't see steps, I hear dogs but can't see them, etc.

One thing you can count on for sure if you have to deliver mail in the dark it will definitely take longer. Once it gets dark I strongly suggest that you at that point start to work out of your vehicle using the light in your vehicle to finger and prepare the mail for delivery. You should drive from house to house in order to deliver the mail as safely as possible. Management wants to give you a flashlight and send you out in the dark, remember you can not possibly hold mail on your arm, DPS mail in one hand, finger the mail with the other hand and hold a flashlight all at the same time.

Remember management requires you to work safely at all times so when you have to work in the dark you have to be extra careful because it is hard to see and here in Van Nuys, Sherman Oaks, Encino, and Panorama City there are no street lights in these residential neighborhoods.

The bottom line is if every carrier had to work the last hour of a route in the dark and did it as safely as they are required to it would take them twice the amount of time to complete those deliveries.

Remember work smarter not harder.

On behalf of the Executive board and my family, I would like to extend best wishes for the holidays to all members of branch 2462 and their families.

In Unionism

ATTENTION MEMBERS & FAMILY

To All Members of Branch 2462

Please invite your spouse to join
the Auxiliary.

We are trying to get moving again
to help out the Branch.

We meet on the 4th Saturday of the
Month at Coco's on Roscoe by the
405 Frwy at 9 AM
for breakfast (buy your own).

Nadine Cano
President, NALC Auxiliary 1389

For more information call:

(818) 786-2632

"THE MAIL CALL"
BRANCH 2462, NALC
Steve Seyfried, Editor
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Van Nuys, CA 91406

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Branch Meeting Minutes
November 5, 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 6:44 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sgt.-at-Arms ASKEW

MOMENT OF SILENCE--In memory of JERRY ASKEW Father of ROGER ASKEW

Motion was passed to suspend the meeting and allow a guest speaker to address the meeting. DESIREE DAHM from MDA spoke briefly about the 50th anniversary of NALC support of MDA. She presented a special cake and left packets to help us raise money for MDA. If you would like to participate in the fund raiser, there are prizes !!!!!, contact your Shop Steward or call the Union Office.

MOTION--Branch rescind the motion that the President purchase a Lap Top computer, not to exceed \$ 1500.00 M/S MOTION RULED OUT OF ORDER BY THE CHAIR

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

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

ABSENT--NONE

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAILCALL

CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

CHERI HODEK--KEITH SMITH--TISA ASKEW

BILLS READ MOTION TO PAY M/S/C

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AUDIT--TRUSTEES The Budget meeting will be on January 9, 2003 and the Audit will be conducted on January 16, 2003..

RETIREES--BRASH 5 present tonight. Retiree Dinner was big success, with over 90 attending. Final report will be submitted at the next regular meeting.

MBA--T. HALL No Report

HBR--DONOHUE Open Season for Health Plan insurance will be from November 11th through December 9, 2002. Make sure that you check out the NALC Health Plan, the prices are very competitive and the benefits are some of the best around.

SAFETY & HEALTH--JOHNSON No Report

EDITOR--SEYFRIED No Report

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT---JOHNSON

TREASURERS REPORT--McCLINTON

COLCPE \$ 521 currently in the fund

VICE-PRESIDENT BOCEK Still working hard on grievances at Sherman Oaks. Branch needs to look into TDY equipment for the Union Office. Picnic was enjoyed by all who attended. There were 79 Branch members attending, Total attendance was 375. Money spent was \$ 18,450. Money collected from guests was \$ 1900.00. Total Cost of the 2002 Picnic was \$ 16,550.00

PRESIDENT BROOKIN's REPORT There will be a pay increase of 1.5 % effective November, 2002. NALC National elections are finished and we congratulate BILL YOUNG on his being elected President. Also congratulations to ART BOCEK on receiving the Branch 2462 RAY KREYER AWARD . The 30 day negotiating period for the Local Memorandum of Understanding for Van Nuys passed on October 30th. The Postmaster did not contact the Union regarding opening negotiations and neither did we. Therefore our LMOU will remain the same with only dates being changed. This is also the case with Tarzana. Sun Valley's LMOU was changed slightly. Shop Stewards and members will receive a copy of the new LMOU as soon as they are finalized and published.

OLD BUSINESS--NONE

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION--Branch pay ROGER ASKEW 5 hours of Lost Time to attend the Open Season Health Fair for Federal employees on November 13th. M/S/C

MOTION--Branch renew the subscription for 2 copies of the Federal Employee Almanac for 1 year. Cost to the Branch \$ 30.55 M/S/C

MOTION--Branch donate \$ 200.00 to the Labor Committee Turkeys & Toys program M/S/C

MOTION--Branch take the \$ 200.00 received anonymously and use it to help street people M/S/C

MOTION--Branch allow Brother RATHBONE to clean the Office carpet. Cost not to exceed \$ 100 M/S/C

MOTION--Branch donate \$ 100.00 to the William C. Doherty Scholarship fund in honor of VINCENT R. SOMBROTTO for his 24 years of service M/S/C

MOTION--Branch move every November meeting to either the Monday before or Wednesday after M/S/F

MOTION--Executive Board be empowered to conduct any and all business of the Branch from November 6, 2002 till January 7, 2003 M/S/C

Underlined means unanimous vote

COLCPE DRAWING

\$ 6 ROGER ASKEW--ENCINO--DONATED
 \$ 6 IRWIN SCHNYDER--SHERMAN OAKS
 \$ 10 RICHARD MORENO--SHERMAN OAKS

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:58 PM