

# THE MAIL CALL

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT By Calvin Brookins

### Legislative Alert

Congress has just introduced two bills dealing with correcting the overpayment the Postal Service is currently paying into the CSRS fund. While correcting this overpayment will not effect employee payments or retiree benefits it will however save the USPS approximately 71 Billion Dollars. These bipartisan bills, HR 735 and S 380, would eliminate the un-funded liability for postal CSRS employees by applying the same funding approach used with FERS. It would allow the Postal Service to continue its current operations without seeking a rate increase on our patrons until at least 2006. Even more important this legislation would provide the time needed for congress to enact meaningful long-term postal reform, which would strengthen our position before the current Presidential Postal Commission.

The NALC at the National level has asked us to enact a statewide letter writing campaign to help assist them in getting this legislation passed on Capitol Hill. Therefore, I encourage every member of branch 2462 to write to their State Senators and urge them to support (S 380) and write to your House of Representatives and urge them to support (HR 735).

In this issue of the MailCall you will find a sample letter that you can use to contact your representative in Washington DC. The addresses of your elected officials will be posted on the union bulletin board at your station, if you are not working at a station please contact the union office for the address of your representative. National is also asking that we keep track of the letters that are sent to the elected officials, we can do this by you sending the branch a copy of your letter or by you faxing a copy directly the NALC in Washington. If you have any questions please contact me at the union office.

### 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.

## NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS OF BRANCH OFFICERS & SHOP STEWARDS

This is official notice to members of Branch 2462 that nominations for the following offices will be held at the Regular Branch Meeting April 1, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. at the Branch Union Hall 6910 Hayvenhurst Ave # 101, Van Nuys California. The Offices are President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Sgt-at-Arms, Three (3) Trustee's, Health Benefits Representative, and Mutual Benefits Representative. No one may be nominated for more than one (1) office. Candidates must accept nomination at the time made or, if absent, in writing to be received by the Branch Secretary no later than April 3, 2003. The terms of Office shall be for a two year period. Candidates elected shall be delegates to the National and State Conventions as stated in the Branch By-Laws.

Shop Steward nominations and election will be held at the individual Stations.

### ELECTION

The election shall be conducted by secret mailed ballot. All ballots will be mailed First Class to the home addresses of eligible members no later than May 3, 2003. The Election shall be conducted in accordance with the 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. Ballots must be mailed back to the Election Committee, P. O. Box 56692 Sherman Oaks, California 91413 and must be received by 5:00 p.m. on May 29, 2003. The counting of the ballots will take place on Thursday, May 29, 2003 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at 6910 Hayvenhurst Ave., #101 Van Nuys, CA. All candidates and members may observe the counting.

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.

(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.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

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 nutshell, this means that management can use MSP scan points and we, as carriers must scan them. The following is very important, if you find that the bar-code scan points on your route does not scan properly, or have fallen off to the ground or is no longer at that location or is difficult to scan, you need to notify your supervisor ASAP. Do not take it upon yourselves to place those labels anywhere else other than where management has authorized for them to be. Remember the bar codes belong to the postal service our job is to scan them.

### Discussions

What do I do when I am called into the office for an official discussion?

Remember discussions are between the supervisor and the employee, there should not be anyone else present and it should be done in private. If the supervisor or manager does not tell you this is an official discussion do not be afraid to ask. I would highly suggest that you ask, so there is no confusion about whether it is an official discussion or not.

You should always make a note about what the discussion was about with the date and time written on it and what supervisor had the discussion with you. This will help you remember when you were given a discussion and what was said during this discussion. Article 16, Section 2 of the National Agreement states that after the discussion there is no prohibition against the supervisor and/or the employee making a personal notation of the date and subject matter for their own personal records. It is up to you to protect yourself as far as a discussion is concern.

### In Unionism

## ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	S	O	N
MAIN OFFICE	2	20	4							
ENCINO	6	7	6							
CIVIC CENTER	1	2	1							
PANORAMA CITY	3	4	4							
SHERMAN OAKS	8	6	4							
SUN VALLEY	2	1	2							
TARZANA	2	2	2							
RETIREE'S	3	5	5							
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>28</b>							

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

### NEXT MEETING

**6:30 PM**

**APRIL**

**1st**

**"2003"**

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

**April 1, 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 3 will be April 26th, May 24th & June 28, 2003 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar....We hope to see you there.

Thank You  
**Frank Brash**



# VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## ART BOCEK

### Article 7, "Employee Classification"

Article 7, Section 1 of the National Agreement establishes the employee classifications within the letter carrier craft. It also contains provisions establishing limits on the work hours of non-career casuals and transitional employees in order to protect career employee's and work hours of career employees. If you are not working 8 hours a day, make the steward in your office aware of this fact. The steward then needs to investigate and determine if a non-career employee worked in lieu-of or to the detriment of a career employee. If so, you will be compensated for management's violation of the contract by allowing the non-career employee to work instead of working a career employee.

### Article 41.1.C "Successful Bidder"

Under this section, are the rules regarding the bidding rights of a carrier who is temporarily disabled and unable to work his or her assignment. Such a carrier has the right to bid and be awarded a bid assignment so long as the letter carrier will be able to assume the bid-for assignment within 6 months from the time the bid is placed. Upon management's request the carrier must provide medical documentation showing he or she will be able to do so. If the carrier is still unable to perform the duties of the bid-for position at the end of six months, a second six-month period is permitted if supported by new medical certification. The carrier must relinquish the assignment if he or she cannot work the bid-for position within the one year after the bid. A carrier who bids on a higher-level position under these rules will not receive higher level pay until he or she is physically able to, and actually performs work in the bid-for higher level assignment.

Successful bidders who develop a disability after a position is awarded are entitled to retain the position if the disability is Temporary. If the letter carrier's personal physician determines that the disability results from a medical condition that is permanent and stationary, the letter carrier may be removed from the position and the position posted for bid. In cases where medical condition is not a result of a "job related illness or injury" and there is a dispute over whether the disabling condition is permanent or temporary based upon medical evaluations of the letter carrier's personal physician and the USPS physician, a third physician selected by the parties will be final concerning the employee's medical condition and limitations, if any. In cases where the disability is result of a job-related illness or injury, such disputes are resolved by scheduling a second opinion by OWCP.

### First Aid

A first aid case as defined in Section 543.13 of the ELM as: "normally any work related minor injury that receives immediate and one-time treatment by the Postal Medical Officer (PMO), private physician or contract physician, health nurse. However, two visits may be necessary when a second visit is a follow up of a minor injury to confirm that the employee has fully recovered."

### Emergency Treatment

Section 543.14 of the ELM states: " An employee needing emergency treatment in addition to first aid must be sent to the nearest available physician or hospital, or the employees or employee's representatives choice. When appropriate, a supervisor accompanies the employee to the doctor's office or hospital to make certain that the employee receives prompt medical treatment. Animal bites or eye injuries are always considered medical emergencies. In the event that there is doubt as to the emergent nature of the injury, it should be handled as an emergency. The "FECA" (Federal Employee Compensation Act), guarantees the employee the right to a free choice of physician. The physician who provides emergency treatment is not considered the employee's initial choice of physician for follow-up medical treatment."

### Informing Employee

Under Section 543.21 of the ELM, when more than first aid or emergency medical treatment is required, an employee will be fully informed of the employee rights under FECA.

### Remember

**"The more rights you know and exercise, the less you will bleed from battles against miss-management."**

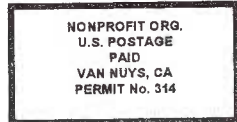
## SPECIAL NOTICE

As printed on the notice of nominations on page one of the MailCall, Branch 2462 will be having Elections this year. The nominations for Officers will take place at the Regular Branch meeting on Tuesday April 1, 2003. Due to time restrictions this is also the deadline for the May MailCall. Therefore any member who intends to be nominated and run for a Branch office, and wishes to have an Election notice or article printed in the MailCall, must have their article ready and submitted by the end of the April meeting. These articles should be no longer than 250 words and either on a computer disk (preferred) or type written.

The Editor.



**"THE MAIL CALL"  
BRANCH 2462, NALC  
Steve Seyfried, Editor  
6910 Hayvenhurst Ave., # 101  
Van Nuys, CA 91406**



**Address Service Requested**

**Branch Meeting Minutes  
March 4, 2003**

**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 6:36 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by BOB ENZ

**MOMENT OF SILENCE--in memory of IVAN SKEY, RONALD MILFS, S. D. GARDNER all Retired Members of Branch 2462**

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS**

**PRESENT**--BROOKINS, BOCEK, SEYFRIED, McCLINTON, JOHNSON, RATHBONE, DONOHUE, T. HALL

**ABSENT**--BRASH, HENRY, ASKEW

**MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAILCALL**

**CORRESPONDENCE READ**

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP--NONE**

**BILLS READ MOTION TO PAY** M/S/C

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**AUDIT--TRUSTEES** No Report  
**RETIREES** 5 present tonight. On the Sick List we have FRANK BRASH. We hope that he will be feeling better soon.

**FOOD DRIVE--DOLABSON** Coordinators have been selected at each Station and things are moving along well. We will be donating our food to MEND in Pacoima again this year. Info on Food Drive T-Shirts will be available soon.

**MBA--T. HALL** Watch for article in MailCall

**HBR--DONOHUE** Plan is still back logged. Those who have not received their membership card can still see their doctor and take their copy of the 2809. This should be sufficient until you receive your new card.

**SAFETY & HEALTH--JOHNSON** Committee has broken down various safety areas by Stations. Dog bites remain a big problem.

**EDITOR--SEYFRIED** See notice in MailCall regarding campaign articles for upcoming Officer Elections

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT**--McClinton

**TREASURERS REPORT**--McCLINTON

**COLCPE** \$ 627 currently in the fund  
**DISTRICT 6--McCLINTON** Possible that the Districts will be reshuffled, we will wait and see.

**ELECTION COMMITTEE** Their will be a new election committee appointed after the nominations are finished at the April meeting.

**VICE-PRESIDENT BOCEK** Handling many EEO's at Santa Clarita. Recommend that the 2003 Picnic be held at

RANCHO SAN ANTONIO BOYS TOWN in Chatsworth on June 22, 2003 if available.

**PRESIDENT BROOKIN's REPORT** The 11th annual Food Drive will be held on May 10, 2003. CSALC/NBA Training classes will be taking place on March 21-22nd in Pasadena. The Branch has passed a motion to send Board members, Shop Stewards and Alternate Shop Stewards. There will also be a Congressional Breakfast on Sunday. NALC President Young took the message of the union to the Presidential Postal Commission no way should the Collective Bargaining provisions or Universal Mail be eliminated. He did point out that the best way the Postal Service could increase productivity would be to eliminate some layers of Supervision. National Rap Session will be held in Minneapolis/St Paul, Minn on September 5-7. I have not made a decision yet as to whether I will attend. First regular COLA adjustment, effective March 8th will be \$ 229. In the April issue of the Mailcall will be a sample letter to send to Congress regarding our Retirement. It would be beneficial to you if you take a few minutes and send one to your Congressional Rep and both of the Senators from California. Remember this is YOUR RETIREMENT they are thinking about messing with, if you dont do anything about it, who will ??? Congratulations to RICHARD REIMER, Sherman Oaks Carrier who helped apprehend 2 purse snatchers while returning home from work.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ  
NEW BUSINESS**

**MOTION--Branch hold the 2003 Picnic at Rancho San Antonio Boys Town on June 22, 2003 if available, and accept the recommendations of the Picnic Chairman in total.** M/S/C

**MOTION--Branch send the President to the Committee of Presidents meeting in Las Vegas on March 30-31, 2003. Cost not to exceed \$ 1000.** M/S/C

**MOTION--Branch order 5 mens & 3 women's NALC watches. Cost to the Branch \$ 640.00** M/S/C

**MOTION--Branch donate \$ 50.00 to the William Doherty Scholarship Fund in memory of IVAN SKEY & RICHARD MILFS** M/S/C

**MOTION--Branch renew the subscription to the Postal Record. Cost to the Branch \$ 16 for 1 year** M/S/C

**MOTION--Branch donate \$ 50.00 to the William Doherty Scholarship Fund in memory of S. D. GARDNER** M/S/C

**COLCPE DRAWING**

- \$ 5 BOB ENZ--ENCINO
- \$ 5 JEFF JACKSON--PANORAMA CITY
- \$ 5 JOANN LOWENBERG--PANORAMA CITY

**MEETING ADJOURNED 8:35 PM**