

THE MAIL CALL



Published by
Branch 2462, NALC
Van Nuys, CA

VOLUME 40

JUNE 2003

NUMBER 6

PRESIDENT'S REPORT By Calvin Brookins

Bush signs CSRS Bill

During the month of March the NALC Launched an aggressive letter writing campaign regarding Senate Bill (S. 380). On April 23rd President Bush signed into law the NALC-endorsed legislation (S. 380) that will correct the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) funding formula and prevent the Postal Service from being forced to overpay pension obligations by \$78 billion.

Bush's action followed passage of the legislation by the House of Representatives on April 8th by a 424-0 vote and unanimous passage by the Senate a week earlier.

Second Contract COLA

The projected accumulation for the second of eight regular cost-of-living adjustments under the 2001-2006 National Agreement stands at \$426.40 following the release of the April 16th Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for March. The accumulation toward the second COLA of \$426.40 annually is equivalent to 20 + cents pr hour, or \$16.40 per pay period.

NO NALC Boycott of Survey

The NALC has not implemented a boycott against the employee opinion survey being conducted by the Postal Service. NALC President Bill Young reminds members that participation in such surveys is strictly voluntary. He emphasized that members should not feel compelled to answer survey questions if they do not want to participate in the survey for any reason, nor should they feel pressured against filling out the forms if they wish to participate. President Young did say that individual NALC branches are free to make their own determination on whether or not their members should participate in such surveys.

Young Testifies

NALC President William H. Young testified for the second time in front of President Bush's Commission on the U.S. Postal Service. He urge the panel to "tread lightly" in making changes to the collective bargaining structure governing postal employees. Young also flatly rejected

(Continued on Page 3)

2003 PICNIC EXTRAVAGANZA

SUNDAY, June 29th

11:00 am - 4:30 pm

RANCHO SAN ANTONIO BOYS TOWN
21000 Plummer St. (just West of Desoto)
In the West San Fernando Valley

DIRECTIONS: 118 FREEWAY - Take 118 Freeway to Desoto Exit. Go South 1.5 miles to Plummer St. Turn right.

101 FREEWAY - Take 101 Freeway to Desoto Exit. Go North to Plummer - Turn Left.

TICKETS

Member, spouse & children (living at home)
Single members (1 guest in lieu of spouse)
Guests: "Limited Supply"
Guest Children 7 to 17
Guest Children under 6

CARRIERS

Picnic sign-up sheets will be available at each carrier station. You **MUST** sign up to receive tickets. **Guests must be listed on sign-up sheet next to the member in order to receive tickets and be prepaid. Member must be in attendance in order for guest admission to picnic.**

Guest tickets are "First come - First served"

LAST DAY FOR SIGN UP IS 6-14--03

RETIREE'S

Contact Irwin Schynder (818) 882-6465 or Branch Office (818) 786-8505. Tickets will be picked up at the gate registration table the day of the picnic.

TICKETS MUST BE ORDERED BY 6-14-03

FOOD

All you can eat will be served from **12:00 pm- 2:30pm**
Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Barbeque Chicken, Soft Tacos, Pasta Salad, Potato Salad, Barbeque Beans, Fresh Fruit, Ice Cream, condiments, and much, much more.

DRINKS

Beer, Wine and Soft Drinks will be served

PICNIC GAMES

Family Lawn Games + Strolling Balloonist + Face Painter + Carnival Games + Ponies rides + Moon Bounce+Bingo Heated Olympic Pool

Salsa Tasting Contest

1st Prize \$100.00, 2nd \$50.00, 3rd \$25.00

DOOR PRIZES FOR UNION MEMBERS ONLY

MEMBER MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

"COME AND ENJOY THE FUN"

"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.

By Art Bocek

Return to Duty After Extended Illness or Injury

Under Section 865.1 of the ELM an employee returning to duty after 21 days or more of absence due to injury or injury must submit a medical documentation of their ability to return to work, with or without limitations. The occupational health nurse or postal physician evaluates the medical report and, when required assist in placing employees in jobs where they can perform effectively and safely.

All medical certification under Section 865.3 of the ELM must be detailed medical documentation and not a statement of ability to return to work. There must be sufficient information to make a determination that the employee can return to work without hazard to self or others.

In instances of hospitalization for mental or nervous conditions, the attending physician's certification must also state that the employee has been officially discharged from the hospital.

In cases of diabetes or seizure disorders, the certificate must state that the condition is under adequate control and describe the method of treatment to ensure that control. The occupational nurse, postal doctor or contract medical provider makes the final medical determination of suitability for return to duty and /or the need for light or limited duty.

When an employee under Section 865.51 of the ELM is unable to perform their duties because of disability, occupational injury, nonoccupational injury, or illness, and who have less than five years of service requirement for disability retirement, may be requested to have a fitness-for-duty examination by a postal or contract physician. If the examination corroborates that the person is unable to perform the duties of the position, he or she may be subject to separation.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	S	O	N
MAIN OFFICE	2	20	4	5	4					
ENCINO	6	7	6	6	5					
CIVIC CENTER	1	2	1	1	1					
PANORAMA CITY	3	4	4	4	5					
SHERMAN OAKS	8	6	4	5	5					
SUN VALLEY	2	1	2	2	2					
TARZANA	2	2	2	2	2					
RETIREE'S	3	5	5	4	6					
TOTAL	27	47	28	29	30					

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

**NEXT MEETING
6:30 PM**

**JUNE
3 rd
"2003"**

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

June 3, 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 June 28, & July 26, 2003 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar.....We hope to see you there.

Thank You

Frank Brash

BRANCH 2462 2003 ELECTION COMMITTEE

The following members of Branch 2462 will serve on the Election Committee for the the Branch Officer's election.

JANETTE
DOLABSON.....CHAIRMAN
JANETTE
DOLABSON.....TARZANA
JoANN LOBENBERG.....PANORAMA
CITY
TIA WILSON.....SUN
VALLEY
HAROLD FLANNIGAN.....MAIN
OFFICE
LINDA BROOKINS.....CIVIC
CENTER
LARRY DOLABSON-KEVIN
DONAHUE.....ENCINO
IRWIN SCHNYDER.....SHERMAN
OAKS
RETIREES.....LEE
FENSTERMACHER
PRINTING & LOGISTICS.....STEVE
SEYFRIED

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

suggestions that postal employees be placed under the Railway Labor Act. Young also quoted "The Commission should recognize the success of postal collective bargaining over the past 30 years and acknowledge the process that is being made in the area of postal labor relations by treading lightly in these areas".

Young also states that "we in the postal community know that our system, while it may not be perfect, works." "Proponents of radical changes have a very heavy burden of persuasion and the Railway Labor Act fails that test miserably. Lets hope the Commission remembers something that President Young said "Letter carriers really do deliver notwithstanding rain or snow or gloom of night - or threats of anthrax or mail bombs." They really do go well beyond the call of duty.

Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA)

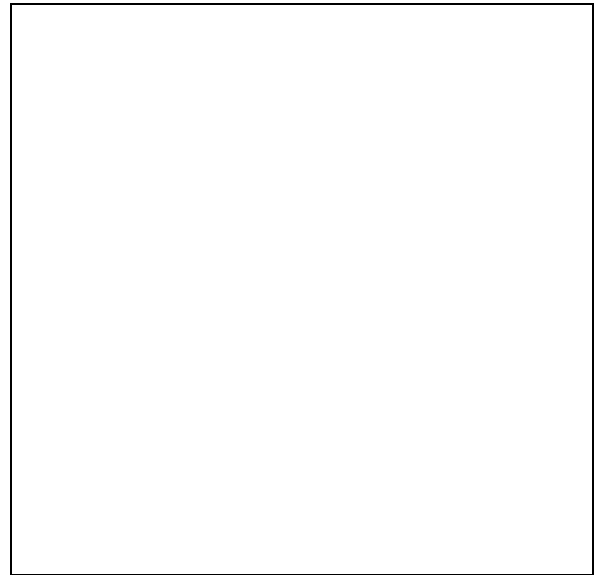
I am still looking for a member of the branch to serve as MDA Coordinator, someone who will participate in MDA fund-raiser and work with our contact person from the local MDA office in Burbank. If you are interested or know of someone who you believe will be a good choice for this task contact me at the union office.

Past President Askew Retires

Roger Askew past President of the branch and letter carrier for 35 years at the Encino station has retired from the postal service. A few weeks ago he was counting down just how many more times he had to carry those penny savers and ADVO coverage's well now he can stop counting he does not have to ever carry those things again. Roger I know I have said this before but I really do appreciate your dedication to this branch and the service that you gave to the members of the branch. On behalf of the Executive Board and the membership of the branch I wish you well in retirement and hope you can find time to spend on the golf course, that is when you are not working on your honey do list.

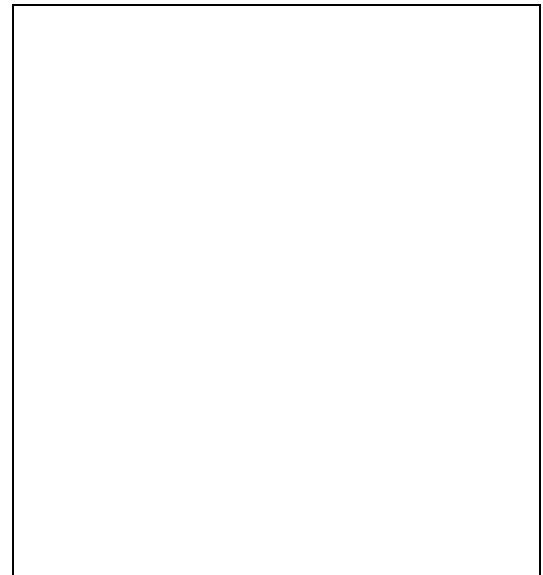
In Unionism

**BRANCH ELECTIONS
ARE UNDERWAY
DON'T FORGET TO
MAIL BACK YOUR
BALLOT. ALL
BALLOTS MUST BE
RECEIVED BY
MAY 29TH.**



ABOVE--PRESIDENT CALVIN BROOKINS (L) PRESENTS PAST PRESIDENT ROGER ASKEW WITH A UNION WATCH AND GIFT ON HIS LAST DAY AS AN ACTIVE LETTER CARRIER.

BELOW--BROTHER ROGER ASKEW MAKES HIS "LAST PUNCH" AS HE RETIRES AFTER 36 YEARS IN THE POSTAL SERVICE

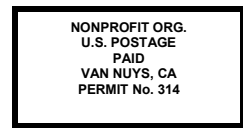


Photos courtesy----TISA ASKEW

"THE MAIL CALL" BRANCH 2462, NALC

Steve Seyfried, Editor
6910 Hayvenhurst Ave., # 101
Van Nuys, CA 91406

Address Service Requested



Branch Meeting Minutes

May 6, 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 6:37 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS ASKEW

MOMENT OF SILENCE--In memory of all military personnel and Members who have lost their lives since our last meeting.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

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

ABSENT--JOHNSON, 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 There will be an audit after the results of the Election are announced. Date will be posted.

SAFETY & HEALTH Another Dog Bite Awareness Walk will be held on May 18, 2003

RETIREES 6 present tonight. Retiree luncheon will be held on Sunday, October 19th. at Encino Glen beginning at 12:30 pm. On the Sick List we have TERRY

HALL & KEVIN CHAN we hope they are better soon.

FOOD DRIVE--DOLABSON All is ready for the Food Drive. Looking forward to having our most successful Drive to date.

MBA--T. HALL No Report

HBR--DONOHUE Latest figures show that over 6,000 new members have joined the Health Plan.

EDITOR--SEYFRIED No Report

ELECTION COMM-DOLABSON Report was read concerning the submitting of Election articles for the MailCall.

Investigation uncovered that some articles submitted were not from the candidates and that these candidates did not know that their names were being used to submit articles.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT--McCLINTON

TREASURERS REPORT--McCLINTON

COLCPE \$ 678 currently in the fund

DISTRICT 6--McCLINTON The new Districting number will not take effect for 6 months.

VICE-PRESIDENT BOCEK Picnic information is in Mail Call Please take time to read it and hope that all will

have a good time. Sign up sheets are now posted at all Stations

PRESIDENT BROOKIN's REPORT Second contract cost of living accumulates to \$ 426.40. There is no NALC boycott of surveys. The NALC at the National level has not implemented a boycott against the employee opinion survey being conducted by the Postal Service. President Young has said, however, that individual branches are free to make their own determination as to whether to participate or not. Mandatory stand-ups should have already been given regarding the SARS threat. If you have not received this stand-up contact the Union Office. I am happy to say that the legislation regarding the CSRS was passed unanimously by Congress and has been signed into law by the President. This is a direct result of our letter writing campaign which was conducted last month, Good Job !!!! National is still trying to complete a system which will allow members to use payroll deductions to donate to COLCPE.

OLD BUSINESS--NONE

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

MOTION--Branch donate \$ 125.00 to the Van Nuys

District Dog Awareness Walk on May 18, 2003. M/S/C

UNDERLINE= UNANIMOUS

Special Presentation President Brookins made a special presentation to newly retired member ROGER ASKEW. Brother ASKEW was given a Retiree Pin to acknowledge his 36 years at the P O and also a Past President's Pin to honor his 8 years as President of our Branch. Congratulations ROGER !!!!!

COLCPE DRAWING

- \$ 3 KAREN AGUILAR--PAN CITY--DONATED
- \$ 4 CLIFF KELLY--TARZANA--DONATED
- \$ 5 JoANN LOBENBERG--PAN CITY--DONATED
- \$ 6 CLIFF KELLY--TARZANA--DONATED

MEETING ADJOURNED 7:45 p.m.

