

THE MAIL CALL



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT By Calvin Brookins

The Good, the Bad & the Ugly

This is what National President William H. Young titled the report he gave at the NALC National Rap Session in Minneapolis, Minnesota. President Young gave an extensive report on President Bush's postal commission recommendations. You must remember to keep the report in perspective the commission report alone is not decisive; it is just a report, one voice among many voices. Do not over react. The NALC has already started to prepare to face the future. Every letter carrier should have already received the video. Presentations by the NALC Executive Council members to NALC activists have been planned. These presentations are designed to prepare all letter carriers as activists. The plan is to have all carriers who have chosen to be an activist for the NALC to be ready at a moments notice to contact their political representatives either by E-mail, phone or in writing.

The NALC has put together its own reform check list, this check list is a brief summation of what the NALC believes the postal service needs to get through postal reform.

- Commercial freedom for USPS: New revenues and services to replace lost volume and revenues
- Sensible rate-setting process
- Maintain universal service
- Protect collective bargaining

The postal service must have the freedom to create new revenues and services to replace lost volume and revenues. The rate setting process must be changed. The one in place now does not serve the Postal Service well.

We must maintain universal service. Eliminating Saturday delivery will not give letters carriers the day off. Mailers can not afford to lose the revenue that is in the mail on Saturday. If we do not deliver on Saturday UPS and Fed Ex will attempt too.

Collective bargaining has worked well, the postal service, NALC and letter carriers have shared in the success of collective bargaining. In short don't mess with collective bargaining. President Young talked about some key findings in the commission report:

The American public strongly backs USPS

The following is the result of an American viewpoint

- 79% have favorable view of USPS.
- 64% satisfied with value they receive for the money
- 78% satisfied with letter carriers (43% extremely)
- 73% reject the need for major overhaul.
- 43% say only minor changes are needed.
- 30% say the system works extremely well as is.
- 64% oppose privatization (vs. 24% support).
- 71% to 24% oppose private access to mailboxes.

These reports are important for the support of carriers and important toward the restraints of the commission.

Long term viability of the USPS is in doubt

The following is a mail volume outlook:

Total mail volume declines by 0.7% per year (10% by 2017). First class mail volume declines 1.6% per year (20% by 2017). Bills that are paid by mail are expected to declines by 3 to 6% per year from 2002 to 2017. 44% of all retirement checks are automatically deposited. AP 11-2003 YTD first class mail volume has declined 2.6%.

Core strengths the first and last mile

Maximizing the first and last mile:

The following are quotes from the commission report.

"...the postal service should focus on its true core competency: delivery of the mail, the first and last mile reach that makes the postal service unique." -page 84.

"The real strength and unique value of the postal service is its daily connection to virtually every American. No other service delivers to as many addresses as the postal service....the postal service should pursue wherever possible opportunities to leverage its extensive delivery network while benefiting from the complementary strengths of the private sector."-page 88.

(Continued on Page 3)

SPECIAL NOTICE

In accordance with Article V of the NALC Constitution and Article V of the By-Laws of Branch 2462, NALC, notice is hereby given for the Nomination and Election of Delegates to the State and National Convention, Nominations will be held at the November Meeting on November 4, 2003. Election if needed, will be held in January 2004 and will be conducted by mail., as provided in Article IV of the By-Laws of Branch 2462 NALC. All members, in good standing, are eligible to be nominated. Any member, not in good standing or who has not attended at least eighteen (18) regular meetings during the twenty-four (24) months prior to their nomination as a Delegate shall not be eligible to receive any expenses from the Branch. Any member who has less than one (1) year membership in this Branch who shall have attended at least three fourths (3/4) of those regular meetings, from his/her acceptance into membership, prior to their nomination as a Delegate or Alternate may receive expenses. All members of the Executive Board, by virtue of their office, shall be Delegates to all National and State Conventions. This Branch shall elect a Full Delegation to all National and State Conventions.

"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.

ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
MAIN OFFICE	2	20	4	5	4	2	2	3	5	3	
ENCINO	6	7	6	6	5	4	6	5	6	6	
CIVIC CENTER	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	2	1	1	
PANORAMA CITY	3	4	4	4	5	6	5	5	4	5	
SHERMAN OAKS	8	6	4	5	5	6	4	6	6	6	
SUN VALLEY	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	
TARZANA	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	
RETIREE'S	3	5	5	4	6	5	4	6	5	6	
TOTAL	27	47	28	29	30	27	27	31	31	31	

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

**NEXT MEETING
6:30 PM**

**NOVEMBER
4 th
"2003"**

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

November 4 , 2003

BRANCH OFFICE.....818-786-8505

"RETIREE CORNER"

Our Breakfast Meeting will be held at Coco's (Located at 16835 Sherman Way, Corner of Sherman Way & Balboa). Please note that this is a new meeting place ! It will begin at 09:00 AM. The date for the next Breakfast will be November 22,2003 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar.....We hope to see you there.

Thank You

Frank Brash

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT by ART BOCEK

Death from Occupational Illness or Disease, Section 542.22 ELM

If an employee dies as result of an occupational disease, the control point office or point immediately reports the death as describe in 542.211. If for any reason it is impracticable for the control or point to report the employee's death due to occupational illness or disease, any official of the USPS or any person acting on behalf of the deceased employee's survivor(s) may make the report. A duplicate copy is forwarded to the regional Director of Human Resources.

In all cases "Time Limits" according to Section 542.22 ELM, notice must be given within 30 calendar days from the day of death. In cases of death due to occupational disease or disability, the 30 calendar day period specified in this section does not apply until such time as the deceased employee's survivor(s) or official supervisor should by the exercise of reasonable diligence, be aware that the employee's death was due to an employment-related occupational disease or disability. The failure to give notice within the specified time period may result in a loss of compensation rights if claim for compensation is not filed with 3 years.

Rap Session Report

First, I would like to thank the branch and its members for sending both Calvin and myself to the rap session last September. I attended two (2) sessions. One being on "Route Inspections" the other on "Intervention."

The session regarding route inspections gave out information indicating that the NALC is still in negotiations with the Postal Service, and are very close in signing an agreement regarding new methods of route inspections and adjustments. Since the Postal Service has not signed on the dotted line as of the date of the rap session, the NALC was apprehensive in giving out any details. It was indicated that both management and the union were very close in making an agreement and just as soon as an agreement has been inked, the details will be made readily available.

Now, the session regarding "Intervention" gave out information stating a "Joint" partnership agreement had been reached, whereby, problems within the Postal Service that have not been corrected could be addressed. If a problem exist and grievances have been filed, whatever they maybe, over and over again, will cause a "triggering effect" whereby, outside NALC representative and outside Postal Management will be sent to resolve the issues and eliminate the problem. Now, did I say a "Joint" partnership, the street goes both ways. The same as a supervisor or manager can trigger an intervention, so can a shop steward. Currently, this new process is being tested at a number of sites, and it is this vice presidents opinion that it works anything like DRT process, it will be a positive step in assuring "Mutual Respect and Contract Compliance by both parties.

PRESIDENTS REPORT (from page 1)

This part of the report clearly indicates that the commission favors preserving the work that letter carriers do.

Cost cutting favored over revenue generation

The commissions view is, the USPS should adopt a cost cutting strategy, not a revenue generation strategy.

The NALC completely disagrees with this particular finding.

Recommendations - The Good

Privatization rejected, there is no public support to privatize the postal service. Privatizing the postal service would undermine universal service and destabilize private delivery.

Monopoly retained, USPS monopoly is key to universal service, will be needed for years. However, it is subject to review and there could be a gradual narrowing of that monopoly.

Mailbox reserved for the USPS, the public opposes opening mailboxes for delivery other than to the postal service, because of security issues. There is a possible limited opening to FedEx and UPS possible access fees for the USPS.

Commercial freedom, there could be pricing flexibility within rate ceilings. An expansion of negotiated services and agreements, this would permit the postal service to earn profits, invest and retain earnings.

Recommendations - The Bad

To create a powerful Postal Regulatory Board, this board will be responsible for designing an incentive based regulation with rates indexed to the measure of inflation and to investigate complaints. This board will also take on key policy making duties from Congress in an effort to define and narrow the scope of the monopoly. This board will also refine the definition of universal service and adjust the six day delivery. Another responsibility will be to define and conduct hearings on pay comparability and the rulings to be binding on the collective bargaining parties.

The Postal Regulatory Board will be focus on downsizing their mission reads as follows, "To provide high quality, essential postal services to all persons and communities by the most cost-effective and efficient means possible at affordable and where appropriate, uniform rates." This language aims to facilitate contracting out. It also seeks to restrict USPS commercial activities to essential services, defined as hard-copy mail, periodicals, media mail and parcels.

The NALC can accept some oversight on the USPS if it has nothing to do with collective bargaining and universal service.

Recommendations - The Ugly

Unacceptable Commission Recommendations,

Collective bargaining attacked by a pay comparability standard, which would amend the definition of comparability in the law to include benefits, leave and job security. The commission intention with this is to end and I quote "best of both worlds" status of postal employees. It will also give the PRB power to enforce comparability standard, resolve pay premium debate through PRB hearing. The PRB will be allowed to identify comparable sectors and rule on pay premium if found to exist. PRB will be able to impose a two-tier pay schedule on new employees and set a time table for eliminating it for current employees.

There will be a new 180 day limit on the collective bargaining process. There will be a mandatory mediation process; the mediator will become the neutral chair of the interest arbitration panel if mediation fails. This process would eliminate the union and management arbitrators and all three arbitrators will be neutral. This process will also call for mandatory good faith offers of a settlement after the hearings. A last

best final offer will have to be made, the arbitration panel must pick one, but can fashion their own award if both Last Best Final Offers violate comparability. The arbitrators are bound to follow PRB ruling on comparability.

Another unacceptable commission recommendation is the resetting of the bargaining table. This recommendation would repeal the benefit guarantee in the Postal Reorganization Act. It would require unions to negotiate for pension and health benefits. Prohibit no lay-off protection in labor contracts for future employees. There will be cuts in Workers Compensation, there will be a three day waiting period, and benefits will be capped at 67% of base pay. Mandatory transfer to FERS rolls at retirement age.

The NALC rejects the commission's collective bargaining proposals. NALC supports the Commission call for legislative reform, greater commercial freedom, added pricing flexibility and a focus on optimizing the last mile. The report tilts too heavily toward cost cutting and downsizing at the expense of revenue generation and transfers too much Congressional power to the PRB. The NALC will work with the coalition of mailers, USPS vendors, management associations and unions to advance reform.

The goal is to create a large bipartisan consensus for comprehensive reform. The key components of postal reform remain commercial freedom, universal service at affordable rates, and respect for the collective bargaining rights of postal employees.

It is very critical that every member of the NALC get involved in the Reform battle. The NALC is asking every letter carrier to sign up and become an NALC Legislative Activist. All you have to do is fill out a card and have your name added to the NALC Data-base. When the NALC calls, be prepared to contact your members of Congress by writing a letter, sending an E-mail or making a phone call. Remember it is your job, pay and benefits that you're trying to protect. To become a Legislative Activist see your shop steward or call the union office.

NALC has a long term strategy for dealing with postal reform and intends to stay the course with the Presidential Commission. Since 1995 NALC has been planning for postal reform by education of its members and by leading a coalition of employee groups and major mailers to advance bi-partisan reform. President Young has presented testimony to the commission, met with commission members as well as Deputy Treasury Secretary Peter Fisher, and rebutted testimony given by those bent on reducing our pay and benefits. NALC intends to be in the room when the final postal reform package is crafted and is working to that end by keeping lines of communication open with the major players in the postal reform arena.

As President William H. Young has said, "We cannot do this without you; we need each and every one of you".

"We need the help of all letter carriers to assist the union in continuing its historic mission of defending letter carrier wages, working conditions and job security because the battle to save the Postal Service has just begun."

As President of Branch 2462 I urge all members of this branch to get involved and sign up as an e-Activist.

"THE MAIL CALL" BRANCH 2462, NALC

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FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT---JOHNSON
TREASURERS REPORT--McCLINTON
VICE-PRESIDENT BOCEK

Thanks for send-

Branch Meeting Minutes October 7, 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 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS ROGER ASKEW
MOMENT OF SILENCE--In memory of all military personnel who have lost their lives since our last meeting.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

PRESENT--BROOKINS, BOCEK, SEYFRIED, McCLINTON, JOHNSON, HENRY, JACKSON, MULLINAX, ASKEW, DOLABSON

ABSENT--HALL

MOTION to Suspend Branch Business for a guest M/S/C
GUEST SPEAKER--KIM SEGA a National NALC Legislative Assistant appointed by PRESIDENT BILL YOUNG spoke on the importance of signing up to be a NALC Legislative Activist. There are forms available at the Branch Office and also they have been mailed to every members home address. It is very important that each member signs and returns this card so that National can contact you regarding upcoming concerns regarding the Postal Commissions Report on the Post Office and other important information.

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAILCALL

CORRESPONDENCE READ

MOTION TO PAY BILLS M/S/C

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

ALLAN DINGCONG, ERIC POWERS, ROSALINDA TALAVERA, JONATHAN LIMAYO, FRANK GONZALEZ, GUY TAYLOR, FEDERICO DEVERA, ALBERT NASIRI, ALFRED MORINO, RAMIRO REYES, MILENA ZENA.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TRUSTEES New inventory has been taken in the office and a new sign up sheet is now posted for Members who wish to borrow Branch equipment.

SAFETY & HEALTH Still doing street observations so remember to work and drive in a safe manner at all times.

RETIREEES 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 MONTY MOORMAN.

COLCPE \$ 338 in the fund
DISTRICT 6--McCLINTON Legislative Training class will be held on November 2, 2003 at Branch 24.

ing me to the National Rap Session in Minneapolis, will have an article in the Mailcall.

PRESIDENT BROOKIN's The nominees for the RAY KREYER AWARD are JEFF JACKSON & GLORIA HENRY. tive duty in the Middle East since September 11, 2001. Mark also presented the Branch with a plaque from the Air Force and a Flag which was flown over Afghanistan during a combat mission he took part in. Our thanks and best wishes go out to MARK. New Health Benefit prices for all plans are now available, contact your Shop Steward to get a copy.

OLD BUSINESS--NONE

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

MOTION--Branch purchase 2 2004 Federal Employees Almanacs. Cost not to exceed \$ 31.00 M/S/C

MOTION--Branch pay any member who attends the November 2, 2003 Legislative Activist training session at Branch 24 \$ 50.00 for the entire day M/S/C

MOTION--Branch cancel the December meeting and hold an OPEN HOUSE. Place, Date and Time will be announced at a later date. M/S/C

MOTION--Branch purchase a W-2 Tax Kit from Intuit for 25 employees. Cost not to exceed \$ 75.00 M/S/C

MOTION--Branch pay ART BOCEK \$ 45.12 for Mileage for the month of September M/S/C

UNDERLINE= UNANIMOUS

COLCPE DRAWING

\$ 5 RICHARD REIMER--SHEMAN OAKS
\$ 5 JAMES TUKESBREY--RETIRED--DONATED
\$ 5 STEVE SEYFRIED--SHERMAN OAKS
\$ 10 TRACY MULLINAX--ENCINO

The Branch served cake and refreshments in honor of member RICHARD REIMER being selected as the Western Regional Hero of the Year. Rick gave a brief synopsis of his trip to Washington, DC where he was honored by the Postal Service and the NALC for his deeds. Congrats to Rick !!!!!

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:20 p.m.

Special Thank You from JACK WINKLE for the sympathy and support the Branch showed at the passing of his daughter.