

# THE MAIL CALL



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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Calvin Brookins

### COLCPE

Remember everyone must get involved with COLCPE, the COLCPE campaign is vital, and your union does not use your union dues to fund political issues or opponents. All funds that the NALC uses for this purpose come from money that is donated to COLCPE by ordinary letter carriers like you or fund raisers that are done at the branch, state, or national level. We now have available to us as letter carriers the opportunity to have COLCPE deducted from our paychecks. If you do not have two allotments already coming out of your paycheck you are eligible to have COLCPE deducted via payroll deduction. I would like to see every active letter carrier who is a member of branch 2462 pledge at least \$5.00 a pay period to COLCPE through payroll deduction.

It is my understanding that the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is expected to soon give the go ahead for check off of COLCPE donations by retired members through their annuity payments.

California State Association of Letter Carriers, (CSALC) has rolled out their statewide COLCPE 2004 raffle, tickets are available for \$25.00 for a book of six or \$5.00 per ticket. There are great prizes this year and listed as follows; First prize: \$1000.00, Second prize: Satellite Car radio or \$500.00, Third prize: Digital Camera, Fourth prize: Portable MP3 Player. To purchase raffle tickets contact the union office, I only have 20 books so act fast. Let's get involved in the COLCPE campaign and protect your letter carrier career, your future benefits and retirement.

### COLA

The projected accumulation for the fourth of eight regular cost-of-living adjustments under the 2001-2006 National Agreement stood at \$166.40 following the release of the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for February.

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## IN MEMORY OF

**ODIL SABBE**  
**RETIRED GOLD CARD MEMBER**  
**BRANCH 2462**

## 2004 PICNIC EXTRAVAGANZA

SUNDAY, June 13th

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 5--28--04**

### RETIREE'S

Contact 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 5--28--04**

### 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 + Carnival Games +Moon Bounce  
Bingo + Co-ed Softball game +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.

## ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	S	O	N
MAIN OFFICE	4	4	3	5						
ENCINO	8	7	5	6						
CIVIC CENTER	1	1	1	1						
PANORAMA CITY	4	4	2	6						
SHERMAN OAKS	5	2	4	9						
SUN VALLEY	0	2	2	2						
TARZANA	2	2	2	2						
RETIREE'S	5	6	4	5						
TOTAL	29	28	23	36						

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

**NEXT MEETING  
6:30 PM**

**MAY  
4th  
"2004"**

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

**May 4, 2004**

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

### "RETIREE CORNER"

Our Breakfast Meeting will be held at Cocos Restaurant, 16835 Sherman Way (Corner of Sherman Way and Balboa). It will begin at 09:00 AM. The date for the next 2 will be May 22nd and June 26, 2004 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar.....We hope to see you there.

Thank You

Frank Brash

## VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT ART BOCEK

### Penalty for False Statement

Section 542.31 of the ELM states: "Any employee, supervisor or representative who **knowingly makes a false statement** with respect to a claim under FECA may be subject to a fine of not more than \$10,000.00 or 5 years in prison or both."

### Penalty for False Claimf180,BGeneva,0,0,0;

Section 542.31 of the ELM states: "Any employee, supervisor, or representative who, with respect to a claim under FECA, enters into an agreement to obtain the payment or allowance of **any false or fraudulent claim** maybe subject to a fine of not more than \$10,000.00 or 10 years in prison or both."

### Penalty for Refusal to Process Claim

Section 542.33 states: "Any employee or supervisor responsible for making reports in connection with an injury who **willfully fails, neglects, or refuses to do so; induces, compels or directs an injured employee to forego filing a claim; or willfully retains any notice, report or paper required in connection with an injury** may be subject to a fine of not more than \$500.00 or 1 year in prison."

### Criminal Penalties for False OWCP Claims

Under Section 20 CFR 10.16 it is a crime to file a false or fraudulent claim or statement with the government in connection with a claim under FECA or to **wrongfully impede** a FECA claim. It is the jurisdiction of the Department of Justice to handle prosecution for such criminal activity.

The Federal Employees Compensation Act prohibits the taking action discouraging the reporting of an accident or the filing of a claim for compensable injury, the same as it is not the policy of the Postal Service to induce or compel or discourage employees in reporting of accidents or injuries. There are numerous arbitrations prohibiting management from taking action against an employee, therefore causing a "**Chilling Effect**" for the filing an on the job injury claim.

So then, why is it that many employees are quite often are afraid to report an injury to management? Could it be that employees are just as interested in the Postal Services numbers and well being or have employee's been sufficiently conditioned or threaten over the years by the way management treats an injured employee in spite of regulations prohibiting such action against an injured employee? I welcome your thoughts.

**DON'T LET TIME**

**RUN OUT !!!  
SEND A CHECK TO  
COLCPE**

# **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

## **By Calvin Brookins**

(Continued from Page 1)

### **Moratorium on Route Inspections**

On April 1, 2004 the NALC and the Postal Service entered into an agreement that placed a moratorium on all new route counts and inspections beginning April 3, 2004 through August 31, 2004. The agreement also allows the parties to start a joint process to verify cased mail volume. Below I have reprinted the full agreement that was signed by the parties.

"United States Postal Service Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President Patrick R. Donohue and the National Association of Letter Carriers President William H. Young, have announced that the parties have reached agreement to place a nationwide moratorium on all route inspections from April 3, 2004, through August 31, 2004.

In addition, the parties have agreed on a process to verify cased mail volume for a period of time beginning on April 5, 2004, where possible, but in all delivery units no later than April 12, and concluding on May 28, 2004. During this time frame, letter carriers will have an opportunity on a daily basis to agree upon the case mail volume that is being recorded into the DOIS system. Any disputes regarding the amount of cased mail volume to be recorded will be resolved by a supervisor and a union representative designated by the local branch president. The union's representative will be provided a copy of the DOIS worksheet with the cased mail volume totals for each route at the end of each workday.

The National parties are continuing their discussions regarding a comprehensive approach to the issues related to delivery services and letter carriers as agreed to in our transformation memorandum."

Signed	Signed
Patrick R. Donohue	William H. Young
Chief Operating Officer	President
Executive Vice President	National Association of
United States Postal Service	Letter Carriers, AFLCIO

Route inspections that started before April 3 are not included in the moratorium. President Young stated that this is an effort to get a handle on the correct cased mail volume that exists in the delivery units today. As of the writing of this article, I have heard a lot of speculations about how this information will be used and I will leave that, as it is "speculation".

During the time period of April 3, 2004, through May 28, 2004, there will be no minor route adjustments, no special inspections, and no route counts and inspections of any kind. Carriers who have qualified for special inspections under Section 271 of the M-39 handbook will have those inspections dealt with in the fall. The parties have agreed that during this period no office assistance will be provided to the regular carriers working on their own route. However, management does have the right to provide office assistance to a route being covered by a PTF, T-6, or RC on a particular day. By now the process should have been explained to every letter carrier, if you have any questions see your shop steward or call the union office.

### **Membership Drawing**

Beginning with the next meeting on May 4, 2004, there will be a monthly drawing from the names of the entire membership, that drawing will begin with \$25.00 and increase \$25.00 each month that there is no winner. No more than \$300.00 will be given away at a time. If there is no winner when the pool reaches \$300.00 that \$300.00 will carry over for the drawing at the next meeting. The drawing at that meeting will be for the same \$300.00. Once a member of the branch has won that \$300.00, the drawing will start over again at \$25.00.

All members will be eligible to win, you must be in attendance at the meeting to win, and the drawing could take place at anytime during the meeting and that time will not be announced. The members of the Executive will not be eligible to participate. So please come and join us at the branch meeting and fellowship with other letter carriers active and retired.

### **Willoughby Appointed NBA**

The NALC now has its first woman National Business Agent; she is Judy Willoughby the former RAA from Atlanta Region 9. I am sure Judy will do a very good job in that position and on behalf on branch 2462 I would like to congratulate her on her new position.

### **Rancho San Antonio 2004 ART BOCEK-PICNIC CHAIRMAN**

Mark on your calendars, "June 13th" as the date for this year's picnic at Rancho San Antonio. Plans are in the works to make this picnic bigger and better than last years. Posters and sign up sheets for tickets will be sent to the stations, last day to sign up at the stations will be May 28, for both the picnic and Salsa Contest. Members and their wives are free (1 guest ticket in lieu of spouse) immediate family (sons and daughters living at home and under 18) are free. Retirees and their spouse are free (1 guest ticket in lieu of spouse) please call by May 29th the union office (818-786-8505) for tickets (to be picked up at the gate upon arrival).

Picnic will start at 11:00 am through 4:00 pm. Food will be served from 1200 (noon) till 2:30 pm. Judging for the "Salsa Contest" will start at 11:30 am, 1st prize is \$ 100.00, 2nd prize is \$ 50.00, and 3rd prize is \$25.00. Adult guest tickets are \$ 20.00, children guest (7-17) tickets are \$10.00, guest children (6 and under) are Free. Guest tickets need to be paid for when tickets are distributed prior to picnic date.

"Non Union Employees" need not show, for member and member family tickets are not transferable to either guests or non members. Non members can sign up as a member at the picnic in order to attend the picnic. Guest tickets are valid only when union member is present at the picnic.

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

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TREASURERS REPORT--McCLINTON  
VICE-PRESIDENT BOCEK

Picnic will be on

**Branch Meeting Minutes**  
**April, 2004**

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 6:35 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS ASKEW  
MOMENT OF SILENCE--In memory of ODIL SABBE Retired Gold Card Member and all the Military men and women who have sacrificed their lives in the Service of our Country.

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS**

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

**ABSENT**--NONE

**MOTION**--TEMPORARILY SUSPEND MEETING M/S/C

**GUEST SPEAKER**--GINA & JOE MIRABELLA from MEND, gave a brief talk on the food bank at MEND. They are looking forward to the Food Drive on May 8th.

**MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAILCALL**

**CORRESPONDENCE READ**

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

JORGE MIRANDA, CHRIS WARNER, EDDY CHOI, FERNANDO RODRIGUEZ JR., TAM VU, ALLEN SHACKELFORD, EDGAR ARELLANO, REIBERT GALOSO, JESUS CRISOSTOMO, CHRIS JONES, ROMAN DE LA TORRE, YVONNE HIGGINS, GARY ROUGH

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**AUDIT**--TRUSTEES All is well  
**SAFETY & HEALTH** Continue to work and drive in a safe manner. Management is still out on the street doing observations.

**RETIREEES** 5 present tonight. The Retiree Breakfast had a good turnout last month.

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

**HBR**--DOLABSON New membership cards are in the mail. Discard the old card when you get the new one. If you do not receive one by the end of April, contact me at the Union Office.

**FOOD DRIVE**--DOLABSON All is going well in planning for the May 8th Food Drive. Cards and Posters are on the way, and we have ordered T-Shirts.

**EDITOR**--SEYFRIED No Report

**COLCPE** \$ 118 currently in the fund

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT**---JOHNSON

June 13, 2004 at Rancho San Antonio. There will be a planning meeting on Monday April 12th at 7:00 pm.  
**PRESIDENT BROOKIN's** State Convention will be held at the Riviera Resort & Racquet Club in Palm Springs on May 21 - 22, 2004. The CSALC and National Business Agents office will be conducting joint training session classes on the Thursday preceding the Convention. Automatic Payroll deductions for COLCPE is now available. I encourage all members to take advantage of this easy way to contribute. If you have any questions on how to sign up, contact your Shop Steward or the Union Office. We understand that Retired members will soon be able to contribute through their annuity payments. NALC now has its first woman Business Agent, she is JUDY WILLOUHY from Atlanta region 9. President Brookins gave information on PARS and the Nationwide Moratorium on route inspections.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**MOTION**--Branch donate \$ 100 to sponsor a table at the Boys from California Nite fund-raiser M/S/C

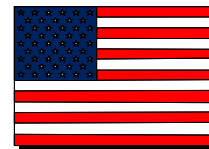
**MOTION**--Branch have a monthly attendance drawing. It will start at \$ 25 and increase by \$ 25 each month. All members will be eligible to win, you must be in attendance at the meeting to win. Executive Board will not be eligible to win M/S/C

UNDERLINED DENOTES UNANIMOUS VOTE

**COLCPE DRAWING**

\$ 3 CLIFF KELLEY--TARZANA--DONATED  
\$ 4 CLIFF KELLEY--TARZANA--DONATED  
\$ 5 VELMA McCLINTON--MAIN OFFICE  
\$ 8 CALVIN BROOKINS--CIVIC CENTER

**MEETING ADJOURNED** 8:49 P.M.



**SUPPORT AND REMEMBER OUR FIGHTING  
MEN AND WOMEN. THEY SERVE TO  
PROTECT YOUR RIGHT TO BE FREE AND  
LIVE IN PEACE**