

THE MAIL CALL



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT By Calvin Brookins

Limited Duty Job Offers

In the recent past there have been several concerns about limited duty job offers, or rehabilitation job offers. An offer of limited duty or a permanent modified job offer must be written and must include a description of the duties to be performed; the specific physical requirements of the position and any special demands of the workload or unusual working conditions; the organizational and geographical location of the job; the date on which the job will first be available; and the date by which a response to the job offer is required. There should also be information included regarding the pay rate of the position.

Any carrier who has been injured on the job and receives a job offer and has concerns as to whether or not he/she can perform the duties of the job within his/her medical limitations to take the job offer to his/her treating physicians for review. Once an injured carrier has received a job offer in writing, OWCP should also be provided a copy of that same job offer in order to rule on its suitability. OWCP will then issue a suitability finding unless the employee has accepted the job offer. Therefore, an injured carrier should never accept a limited duty or rehab job offer without asking for advice from their shop steward or contacting the union office. If OWCP finds the job offer to be suitable, they will send the injured employee a letter notifying them that they have 30 days to either accept the job offer or provide a written explanation as to the reason for refusing the job offer.

The OWCP claims examiners look at whether or not the job offer is within the medical restrictions of the injured employee. It is important that when you take the job offer to your treating physician that you make them aware of the

(Continued on Page 3)

IN MEMORY OF

ALAN KEOGH
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.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT ART BOCEK

OWCP

The Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) (5 U.S.C. 8101 et seq.) is administered by the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP) of the U.S. Department of Labor. It provides compensation benefits to civilian employees of the United States for disability due to personal injury sustained while in the performance of duty or to employment-related disease. The FECA also provides for the payment of benefits to dependents if the injury or disease causes the employee's death. Benefits cannot be paid if the injury or death is caused by the willful misconduct of the employee or by the employee's intention to bring about his or her injury or death or that of another, or if intoxication (by alcohol or drugs) is the proximate cause of the injury or death.

Medical Benefits

An employee is entitled to medical, surgical and hospital services and supplies needed for treatment of an injury as well as transportation for obtaining care. The injured employee has initial choice of physician and may select any qualified local physician or hospital to provide necessary treatment or may use agency medical facilities if available. Except for referral by the attending physician, any change in treating physician after the initial choice must be authorized by OWCP. Otherwise, OWCP will not be liable for the expenses of treatment. The term "physician" includes surgeons, osteopathic practitioners, podiatrists, dentists, clinical psychologists, optometrists and chiropractors within the scope of their practice as defined by State law. Payment for chiropractic services is limited to treatment consisting of manual manipulation of the spine to correct a subluxation as demonstrated by x-ray to exist. If the physician selected has been excluded from participating in the Compensation Program the OWCP District Office will advise the employee of the exclusion and the need to select another physician.

Compensation for Permanent Effects of Injury

FECA provides a schedule of benefits for permanent impairment of certain members, functions and organs of the body such as the eye, arm, or kidney and for serious disfigurement of the head, face or neck. For example, an award of 160 weeks of compensation is payable for total loss of vision in one eye. In addition, compensation for loss of earning capacity may be paid if the employee is unable to resume regular work because of injury-related disability. This compensation is paid on the basis of the difference between the employee's capacity to earn wages after an injury and the wages of the job he or she held when injured. OWCP may arrange for vocational rehabilitation and provide a maintenance allowance not to exceed \$200 per month. A disabled employee participating in an OWCP-approved training or vocational rehabilitation program is paid at the compensation rate for total disability. If the employee's condition requires a constant attendant, an additional amount not to exceed \$1500 per month may be allowed.

ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	S	O	N
MAIN OFFICE	4	4	3	5	4					
ENCINO	8	7	5	6	5					
CIVIC CENTER	1	1	1	1	1					
PANORAMA CITY	4	4	2	6	4					
SHERMAN OAKS	5	2	4	9	4					
SUN VALLEY	0	2	2	2	2					
TARZANA	2	2	2	2	1					
RETIREE'S	5	6	4	5	5					
TOTAL	29	28	23	36	26					

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

**NEXT MEETING
6:30 PM**

**JUNE
1st
"2004"**

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

June 1, 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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Calvin Brookins

(Continued from Page 1)

physical requirements needed to perform the duties of the position. For example if part of the job offer is to scan parcels but in order to scan the parcels the injured employee has to bend over a parcel tub and lift parcels the doctor would need to know that.

When management makes an injured employee a job offer they must follow the provisions of the Employee Labor and Relations Manual, Section 546.14, if you as an injured letter carrier receive a limited duty or rehab job offer you must request to see your shop steward or call the union office to give us the opportunity to investigate and make sure that management is in compliance with the National Agreement and the Handbooks and Manuals.

RETIREE / COLCPE

Retired members of the NALC are now eligible to make voluntary contributions to the Committee on Letter Carriers Political Education (COLCPE) from their monthly annuity payment under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) or Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has approved the NALC's request for the change.

In order to participate in this manner, retirees must have both a Civil Service Annuity (CSA) claim number and their Personal Identification Number (PIN) available. (To obtain a PIN, contact OPM either by telephone at 1-888-767-6738, in writing at Office of Personnel Management, Retirement Operations Center, Boyers, PA. 16017, or via the Internet at www.opm.gov <<http://www.opm.gov>>)

If you plan to start your COLCPE allotment by telephone, call 1-888-767-6738 and speak with a customer service representative.

If you choose the very quick and simple Internet method, simply go to www.opm.gov <<http://www.opm.gov>> and click on "Employment and Benefits", then "Retirement Benefits." Under "How do I," scroll to "Set up an allotment to an organization" and click "Go." After reviewing the next page, scroll to the bottom and click "Yes" which will allow you to enter your CSA number and PIN. Once these numbers are inputted, click on "Set organizational allotment" which will allow you to scroll and select "Nat'l Assn of Letter Carriers-COLCPE." Enter the amount of your monthly contribution, click "Submit" and it is done!

You will receive a confirmation from OPM in the mail giving you the date your first allotment will begin.

I am hopeful that this information will help the retirees of the branch in participating in the payroll type contribution to COLCPE that the active letter carrier now have. This should make it easier for retired members to participate.

FOURTH COLA

The projected accumulation for the fourth of eight regular cost-of-living adjustments under the 2001-2006 Na-

tional Agreement stood at \$327.60 following release of the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for March. The \$327.60 annual accumulation equals 15 ¾ cents per hour or \$12.60 per pay period.

RESPONSE

Usually I never write a response to an article that I read in some other union news publication. But in this case I am going to make an exception, because what was printed in the May 2004 issue of APWU Newscaster is an outright lie. The author of this article is Patricia Sartain-Bettess a local APWU representative, she wrote;

"apparently the NALC told their members at a recent

First of all let me make it perfectly clear that the NALC has not entered into any kind of deal to place rehab/injured carriers in clerk duties when and if they return to their original duty station. If those carrier in CFS are brought back to their stations management must follow the pecking order of the ELM, Section 546.14 and we the NALC will make sure that management follows the provisions of the ELM as well as the National Agreement. The NALC's job is to protect the rights of letter carriers not the rights of APWU, maybe Ms. Sartain-Bettess should concentrate on protecting the rights of their members instead of taking pop shots at the NALC. I do not know who her source is but I think she needs to make sure that they give her the right information, especially since she seems to want to print her opinions in a publication.

What Ms. Sartain-Bettess needs to understand is that management has an obligation under Section 546 of the ELM and I plan to make sure that they meet that obligation. If she has a problem with management assigning clerk work to an injured carrier then she needs to take that up with management and not with the NALC in their publication, my advise is, cease and desist with the comments especially if she do not have the right information. Enough said.

DON'T LET TIME RUN OUT !!!

**SEND A CHECK TO
COLCPE TODAY !!**



"THE MAIL CALL"
BRANCH 2462, NALC
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PRESIDENT BROOKIN'S

State Convention will be

Branch Meeting Minutes
May 4, 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 ALAN KEOGH 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, DOLABSON, ABSENT--ASKEW, HALL

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAILCALL

CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

DONAVAN HALABY

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. Accidents are up in Van Nuys, management has determined that most accidents occur in the afternoon so they will still be out on the street doing observations, only later in the day.

RETIREES

5 present tonight. On the

SICK LIST we have TROY YOUNG, HAROLD FLANAGAN, BOBBY BORJA & IRWIN SCHNYDER we hope they all have a speedy recovery

MBA--T. HALL

No Report

HBR--DOLABSON

No Report

FOOD DRIVE--DOLABSON

All is going well in planning

for the May 8th Food Drive. T-shirts are in, and if you ordered one, you should have it now. We are having a problem finding volunteers to drive and sort food at the stations on Sat. However we will overcome this problem and look forward to a successful food drive.

EDITOR--SEYFRIED

No Report

COLCPE

\$ 144 currently in the fund

DISTRICT 6--McCLINTON

L A County Fed will be

holding its first ever Convention in September, 2004

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT--JOHNSON

TREASURERS REPORT--McCLINTON

VICE-PRESIDENT BOCEK

Picnic will be on

June 13, 2004 at Rancho San Antonio.

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 for Retiree's. In order to participate you must have a CSA # and a pin #. You may obtain a PIN by contacting OPM either by phone 1-800-767-6738 or in writing at OPM Retirement Operations Center, Boyers, PA, 16017, or via the internet at www.opm.gov. 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. The projected accumulation for the fourth of eight cost of living adjustments stands at \$ 327.60 following the March Cost of living price index. There will be a joint resolution presented at the State Convention to create a full time office of State President. State wide COLCPE raffle tickets are still available, if you would like some they are \$ 25 for a book of 6. The President of the Rural Carriers union has asked his members to participate in the NALC Food drive.

OLD BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION--Branch purchase 20 J-CAM updates

@ 15.00 each. Cost not to exceed \$ 300.00

M/S/C

MOTION--Branch purchase 2 tickets to the HBR

Breakfast at the National Convention. To be used by the HBR Representative and the President, or his designee. Cost to the Branch \$ 40.00

M/S/C

MOTION--Branch co-sponsor the 2004 Van Nuys

Dog Walk on Sunday, May 16, 2004. Cost to

the Branch \$

200.00

M/S/C

MOTION--Branch purchase 1 award plaque from

the NALC store, for the Tarzana printer who has donated supplies for the last 4 food drives. Cost not to exceed \$

60.00

M/S/C

UNDERLINED DENOTES UNANIMOUS VOTE

COLCPE DRAWING

\$ 4 TED DeMAIRE--RETIREE--DONATED

\$ 4 KAREN AGUILAR--PANORAMA CITY--DONATED

\$ 5 RICHARD RIEMER--SHERMAN OAKS

MEETING ADJOURNED 7:41 P.M.

