

THE MAIL CALL



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Van Nuys, CA

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Calvin Brookins

First of all I would like to thank the branch for sending me to the California State Association of Letter Carriers Convention in Palm Springs. I believe it was well worth it, the stewards were able to get some valuable insight from the training that was done by the National Business Agent's office. Those stewards who attended the casual/complement training done by RAA Joan Hurst seems to have gotten a lot of interesting information from that training. Some of the delegates and stewards attended the OWCP training done by RAA Manny Peralta, which they was able to get more out of than any other OWCP training in the past.

Overall I think the training and convention went very well there was a lot of information dissiminated over that weekend. From what I gathered I from President Bill Young's presentation the mail verification process we just went through is some kind of effort to adjust routes in the future using data from a certain month during the year. Example, the carrier, the union and management will pick a month, they will look at how much time it took that carrier during that month if all parties agree then the route will be adjusted to that time. So if all parties pick the month of September and it took the carrier 9 hours a day to do that route during that time period the route will be adjusted accordingly. There may be more to exactly how this process will work, and I am sure we will be given more information on this in the near future such as at the National Convention in Hawaii.

H.R. 4341 Headed to House Floor on 40-0 Vote; Retains Bargaining Rights and Six-day Delivery

Letter carriers won a significant victory on the road to postal reform May 12 when the House Government Reform Committee voted 40-0 to report out H. R. 4341, The Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2004, and send it to the House floor. It was the first time in over three decades that major postal reform legislation has won committee approval in the Senate or House. The bipartisan document contains several points critical to the NALC and letter carriers. This bill includes retention of universal service to all Americans, six day delivery of mail, and Private Express Statutes, and the continuation of collective bargaining rights. A new postal regulatory commission would not have power to alter collective bargaining agreements or establish pay comparability standards. Just as Bill Young said, "While it is not a done deal...this is a good first step".

Retiree/COLCPE

As I reported in last month issue of the MailCall, 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)

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 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 National Agreement stood at \$416.00 following release of the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for April. The \$416.00 annual accumulation equals 20 cents per hour or \$16.00 per pay-period.

(Continued on Page 3)

"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	4	2				
ENCINO	8	7	5	6	5	5				
CIVIC CENTER	1	1	1	1	1	2				
PANORAMA CITY	4	4	2	6	4	3				
SHERMAN OAKS	5	2	4	9	4	4				
SUN VALLEY	0	2	2	2	2	2				
TARZANA	2	2	2	2	1	1				
RETIREE'S	5	6	4	5	5	6				
TOTAL	29	28	23	36	26	25				

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

**NEXT MEETING
6:30 PM**

**JULY
6th
"2004"**

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

July 6, 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 June 26th and July 24, 2004 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar.....We hope to see you there.

Thank You

Frank Brash

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT ART BOCEK

Compensation by OWCP for Disability, Form CA-7

According to Section 545.8 of the ELM, when the medical evidence shows that a disability resulting from **traumatic injury** is expected to continue beyond 45 day period, the employee is to be given a Form CA-7 "**by day 30**" of the COP period. The employee completes the front side of the Form CA-7, the control office (Injury Comp.) completes the reverse side, and sends the completed CA-7 with any accompanying medical documentation to OWCP "**by day 40**" of the COP period. When a disability is the result of an **occupational disease or illness**, Form CA-7 is completed and submitted to OWCP "**not more than 5 working days after receipt from the employee**" (as if this will ever happen in our life time.)

You ask me, why am being so cynical? Well, I have been assisting letter carriers in receiving benefits and I just don't know how to say the way I feel about management's mistreatment of employees after requesting benefits without using a few expletives that are just plain not printable on paper. Management demands of it's employees that you work in a safe manner but then drives you to do more and more, in less and less time. After a claim is filed by you for benefits, you then become one of the "**unclean**." Management all to often issues discipline without proving "just cause" or just because of the mere fact an accident happens, therefore, "**you must be at fault**." Management needs to understand and accept the fact of life that employees are going to get hurt or sick on the job and it the management's responsibility to make sure you are taken care of in both medical and financial needs. Since management is always telling how good they are and what they are doing for the good of the company, maybe we the employees should work in the same manner as management in the chart below? So I will leave it up to you fellow brother and sisters and to your good judgment to review the latest OWCP's "**CA-7 Submission Timeliness Report**" and make your own judgment on how management takes care of its employees in getting and keeping financial needs to an injured or ill employee and see if my cynicism is correct. What kind of a report card are we seeing in regards to how management makes sure the injured or sick employee are taken care of in a timely manner or is management just starving the employee back to work by delaying benefits owed to the employee? This is you vice president, I welcome your comments.

CA-7: FY 2003 Performance; 2nd Quarter FY 2004 with comparison to FY 2003; Cumulative FY 2004 with comparison to FY 2003

FY 2003 Performance	FY 2004 2nd Qtr Claims Received	FY 2004 2nd Qtr Timeliness	2nd Qtr Results vs. FY 2003	FY 2004 Cumulative Timeliness	Cumulative Results vs. FY 2003
49.1%	20,520	60.2%	22.6%	56.8%	15.7%

FOOD DRIVE 2004

STAMPING OUT HUNGER

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Calvin Brookins

(Continued from Page 1)

2004 Food Drive

I would like to take this time to thank Janette Dolabson for doing such a great job as the food drive coordinator for the branch, as most of you know by now the food we collected this year far exceeded the amount of food we collected last year. This year we collected a total of 135,265. So a great big thank you go's out to Janette Dolabson from Tarzana for her work on the food Drive this year, we could not have accomplish this without her efforts.

The following is a letter that I received from MEND regarding the recent food drive, I believe this letter should go to every active letter carrier who picked up food from their route.

Dear Mr. Brookins:

You and the National Association of Letter Carriers are to be commended for the outstanding efforts you put into the "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive you conducted this year! All of the extra advertising and publicity efforts on your part resulted in an amazing increase over last year's drive – and make it possible for MEND to feed many thousands more who are hungry in our community!

Thank you for once again choosing MEND to be the beneficiary of your food drive! This year we have seen a significant increase in the number of applicants whom we are serving through our food bank – more than 30,000 each month! The outpouring of donations received through your May 8, event will carry us through the sometimes lean summer months when other sources of canned and packaged goods tend to drop off.

Please inform your fellow Letter Carriers of our gratitude!

Sincerely,

Signed
Marianne Haver Hill
Executive Director

FOOD DRIVE UPDATE

by
Janette Dolabson

DON'T LET TIME RUN OUT !!!



SEND A CHECK TO

COLCPE TODAY !!

Branch 2462 Food Drive Coordinator

Dear union sisters and brothers, Another food drive has past and once again you all have done such and outstanding job. I am so thrilled to tell you that we collected a lot more food then we did last year. Every station increased the food intake over last years totals. This year we collected over 135,000 pounds of food. I can't tell you how important this food is to the families that need it in this community, and you all should be so proud of what you do. Last year we collected around 58,000 pounds. So you can see how much we improved from last year. I would like to mention some of the people that have helped us get this enormous job done. First, thanks to Calvin Brookins who helps me get organized and mails all the forms and orders the cards, and much more.

Thank you so much to my coordinators Tracy Mullinax, Gloria Henry, Velma McClinton, Bob Johnson, Jeff Jackson, Ricky Williams, and Tia Wilson. You are all such dedicated and outstanding individuals. I would also like to thank a few managers that went above what was expected of them. Ray Bryant from Civic Center did a wonderful job of getting the managers to the meetings and letting them know what to expect and what to do. Without his help it would have been difficult to get the managers involved and positive about the Food Drive. From Sherman Oaks, I would like to say thanks to the extra effort from Phill Fudally. In Tarzana, thanks to Greg Motola for your help. It is nice to know that there are some managers that actually see the importance of this food drive rather then just how it will effect their budget. There are also some individuals that volunteered their personal time and came in and helped pick up food or sort or helped out in other ways. Thanks to Alex Garcia and your two kids for the tremendous help you gave to us in Tarzana. Thank you to Donna Villanueva, Steve Seyfried and Sonya Ruiz in Sherman Oaks. Linda Brookins in Civic Center. Panorama City, thank you to Karen Aguilar, J. M. Florendo, and Eddie Hernandez. In Encino, thank you to Art Bocek Ann Scarborough, Juve Lombardo, Larry Dolabson Pete Axt, Bob Enz, and Retired Carrier Roger Askew. I am sure there were also carriers in Main office and SunValley that gave extra effort also and I want the thank you too.

This year I would like to give a special shout out to Letter Carrier Randy Kent in Encino. Every year he proves just what a little dedication and effort can do. We collect so much food off of his route that they have to make two or three trips out there to empty his truck because it is over flowing with food. It was a great year for our food bank M. E. N. D. But it did not come without its challenges. Thank you Gina Mirabella, as usual another terrific job. You are one of the hardest working people I know and I hope that some of you Letter Carriers will go out and see what they do there at the foodbank. It is amazing.

I am honored to help serve in this effort every year and so should all of you. It's so nice for us to have a day when we are working together for such a great cause. Maybe some day it will carry over into other areas. Hey, we can dream right?

In Unionism

FOOD DRIVE 2004

F

STAMPING OUT HUNGER

PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES

CHANGE # 1

Proposed to amend Article IV, Section which now reads:

Section 7. The President shall appoint an Election Committee and Chairperson as soon after the Meeting in which nominations are made, as possible. The members of this Committee shall not be candidates for the election. The names of the Committee shall be sent to and posted at all carrier units. The names will be published in The Mail Call.

Proposed to Read:

Section 7. The President shall appoint an Election Committee and Chairperson as soon after the Meeting in which nominations are made, as possible. The members of this Committee shall not be candidates for a contested office/position. The names of the Committee shall be sent to and posted at all carrier5 units. The names will be published in The Mail Call.

Signed by, ROGER ASKEW, JEFF JACKSON, BOB JOHNSON, ART BOCEK, STEVE SEYFRIED

CHANGE # 2

Proposed to amend Article IV, Section 12 which now reads;

Section 12. (A.) If an elective officer, or representative of the Branch is absent three (3) Meetings without having been excused by the Branch, or if a person resigns his office, his office shall then be declared vacated in accordance with Article X of the National Constitution, Government of Subordinate and Federal Branches and an election held to fill the office in accordance with Article V of the National Constitution of the NALC. Any branch officer who is assigned or appointed to any Branch, State or National assignment or appointment shall be considered excused from any and all Branch meetings during the assignment or appointment. However, the Branch Officer must request such excuse to the Branch within thirty (30) days from the last months meeting of such assignment or appointment.

Proposed to read:

Section 12. (A.) If an elective officer, or representative of the Branch is absent three (3) Meetings without having been excused by the Branch, or if a person resigns his office, his office shall then be declared vacated in accordance with Article X of the National Constitution, Government of Subordinate and Federal Branches. Any branch officer who is assigned or appointed to any Branch, State or National assignment shall be considered excused for that meeting & considered present for attendance purposes.

Signed by, ROGER ASKEW, JEFF JACKSON, BOB JOHNSON, ART BOCEK, STEVE SEYFRIED

CHANGE # 3

Proposed to amend Article IV, Section 12 B:
Which now reads:

(B.) In the event of a vacancy of any elective office, including Shop Steward, the President may have the power to immediately make an appointment to that office until the next Regular Branch election.

Proposed to read:

(B.) In the event of a vacancy of any elective office, including Shop Steward, the President shall have the power to immediately make an appointment to that office until the next Regular Branch election.

Signed by, ROGER ASKEW, JEFF JACKSON, BOB JOHNSON, ART BOCEK, STEVE SEYFRIED

CHANGE # 4

Proposed to amend Article V, Section 2 which now reads:

Section 2. Election shall be held in November of the year preceding the convention year.

Proposed to read:

Section 2. Election shall be held in December of the year preceding the convention year.

Signed by, ROGER ASKEW, JEFF JACKSON, BOB JOHNSON, ART BOCEK, STEVE SEYFRIED

CHANGE # 5

Proposed to amend Article V, Section 3 which now reads:

Section 3. The nomination shall be conducted in the same manner and under the same rules as for candidates for regular office. The election shall be held at the stations, but provisions must also be made for absentee and retiree voting.

Proposed to read:

Section 3. The nomination shall be conducted in the same manner and under the same rules as for candidates for regular office. If necessary, the election of Branch delegates shall be conducted by mail balloting and held according to rules and regulation adopted and promulgated by the Executive Board of Branch 2462, N.A.L.C., which shall not be in violation of the rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the Rules of the National Executive Council.

Signed by, ROGER ASKEW, JEFF JACKSON, BOB JOHNSON, ART BOCEK, STEVE SEYFRIED

(Continued on Page 5)

PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES (Continued from Page 4)

CHANGE # 6

Proposed to amend Article VI, Section 4 which now reads,

Section 4. Alternate Shop Stewards will also be elected at the stations.

Proposed to read:

Section 4. Alternate Shop Stewards shall be appointed by the Branch President.

Signed by, ROGER ASKEW, JEFF JACKSON, BOB JOHNSON, ART BOCEK, STEVE SEYFRIED

CHANGE # 7

Proposed to amend Article VII, Section 2 which now reads:

Section 2. All officers shall be elected Biennially and hold office for two (2) years or until their successors are duly elected and installed.

Proposed to read:

Section 2. All officers shall be elected for three (3) years or until their successors are duly elected and installed.

Signed by, ROGER ASKEW, JEFF JACKSON, BOB JOHNSON, ART BOCEK, STEVE SEYFRIED

CHANGE # 8

Proposed to amend Article XII, Section 5 which now reads:

Section 5. The Officers of the Branch are duly authorized to make expenditures not to exceed Two Hundred dollars (\$200) in case of emergencies.

Proposed to read:

Section 5. The Bonded Officers of the Branch are duly authorized to make expenditures not to exceed Two Hundred dollars (\$200) in case of emergencies.

Signed by, ROGER ASKEW, JEFF JACKSON, BOB JOHNSON, ART BOCEK, STEVE SEYFRIED

CHANGE # 9

Propose to amend Article VIII, Section 1 which now reads:

Section 1. The duties of the Officers shall be as prescribed in Article VI of the Constitution for Subordinate Branches of the National Association of Letter Carriers.
Propose to read:

Section 1. The duties of the Officers shall be as prescribed in Article VI of the Constitution for Subordinate Branches of the National Association of Letter Carriers. If an Executive Board member of the Branch is absent four (4) Executive Board Meetings during a 12 month period of time without having been excused by the Executive Board, his/her office shall then be declared vacated in accordance with Article X of the National Constitution, Government of Subordinate and Federal Branches.

Signed by, ROGER ASKEW, JEFF JACKSON, BOB JOHNSON, ART BOCEK, STEVE SEYFRIED

CHANGE # 10

Propose to amend Article VIII by adding a new Section 9:

Propose to read:

Section 9. The duties of the Trustee's shall include reviewing and initialing all vouchers and warrants on a weekly basis. In addition, to these duties he/she shall perform such duties as the Branch President may from time to time direct.

Signed by, ROGER ASKEW, JEFF JACKSON, BOB JOHNSON, STEVE SEYFRIED

Health Benefits Report by Janette Dolabson HBR

I would like to let all those members of the N.A.L.C. Health Plan know that they should have all received their new membership cards. If you have not, please call the number on your current card and let them know that you have not received them. The new cards should not have your Social Security number on them, however, that will still be the number you use to access your information when you call.

This is the time of year when our Director of the Plan, Tom Young, and his staff will be getting together their cost projections for next years benefits. I would like to thank those of you who have helped make this plan so successful by just being part of it. Obviously the more members the stronger the plan. You know as I do that this is the best Health Plan offered by the Postal Service and I hope that when Open Season comes this fall that more employees will find that out by joining.

Here is a few tips from my monthly HBR news letter. Spring is here and just around the corner is summer and as many of you know that means it is peek season for sinus problems. Did you know that Chronic sinus infections make you feel tired and lower your pain threshold? People don't usually connect being fatigued and having aches and pains with sinus infections. Make sure you let your doctor know if you are suffering from these symptoms and have him/her check your sinuses. There are treatments available to help stop these infections.

Thanks for your time

Branches of the National Association of Letter Carriers

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

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Branch Meeting Minutes
June 1, 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 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS ASKEW
MOMENT OF SILENCE--In memory of 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, JACKSON, DOLABSON,
ABSENT--HENRY, MULLINAX, 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 We will be scheduling an audit to be held before the end of July, watch for date in Mailcall.

SAFETY & HEALTH Continue to work and drive in a safe manner. Van Nuys is now "blitzing" stations looking for safety and vehicle violations.

RETIREEES 6 present tonight. Planning is now under way for the Retiree Dinner in October. Watch for a specific date in upcoming Mailcall's

MBA--T. HALL No Report

HBR--DOLABSON There will be an article in the July Mailcall.

FOOD DRIVE--DOLABSON 2004 Food Drive was a big success. We collected in excess of 135,000 pounds of food. Congratulations to all who helped make this one of our most successful Food Drives yet. Look for a Food Drive article in the July Mailcall.

EDITOR--SEYFRIED No Report

COLCPE \$ 164 currently in the fund

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT---JOHNSON

TREASURERS REPORT--McCLINTON

VICE-PRESIDENT BOCEK Picnic is ready to go. Shop Stewards will be passing out the tickets at each station. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the picnic.

PRESIDENT BROOKIN's Thank you for sending me to the State Convention. Training and Convention sessions were very interesting. The OPM has approved the NALC's request and it is now possible for Retiree's to make contributions to COLCPE from their monthly annuity. If you

we will tell you how to sign up. Projected COLA is currently at \$ 416.00. There was a resolution passed at the State Convention to make the office of State President full time. This passed and the current President JOHN BEAUMONT was reelected by acclamation. Food drive was a big success, thanks to all who pitched in and did a great job. The Postal Reorganization bill (HR 4341) has passed out of committee in the House of Representatives on a 40-0 vote. It now goes to the House floor for a full debate and then hopefully a vote. We will be watching this bill with great interest, since it will no doubt impact our jobs for many years. Retirement Planning seminars will be offered by the Postal Service, look for flyers and info at your stations or ask your Shop Steward. The Postal Service plans to use real City Letter Carriers in nationwide commercials promoting the USPS. SONIA RUIZ from Sherman Oaks Station has been selected to represent the Van Nuys City offices. She will be in competition with other Carriers from all over the country. We wish her luck and hope that she makes the final cut.

OLD BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

NEW BUSINESS

BY-LAWS There were by-laws presented and read at tonight's meeting. They will be printed in the July Mailcall and voted on at the July meeting.

MOTION--Branch renew the Certificate of Deposit that matures on June 14, 2004 at the Postal Credit Union for 6 months at the highest rate available M/S/C

MOTION--Branch provide an award plaque or certificate of appreciation to any member who distinguishes themselves in the NALC Food Drive. Awardee to be selected by the President and the Food Drive Coordinator. M/S/C

UNDERLINED DENOTES UNANIMOUS VOTE

MEMBERSHIP DRAWING-- \$ 25

ELAINE BOYD--MAIN OFFICE

Sister Boyd was not present at the meeting therefore the money will be rolled over to the July meeting. July's membership drawing will be for \$ 50.00. All members are eligible to win, but you must be present at the meeting to win.

COLCPE DRAWING

\$ 3 JULIUS RIBAS--ENCINO
\$ 5 BOB ENZ--ENCINO
\$ 5 STEVE SEYFRIED--SHERMAN OAKS
\$ 9 TIA WILSON--SUN VALLEY

MEETING ADJOURNED 7:41 P.M.