

THE MAIL CALL



Published by
Branch 2462, NALC
Van Nuys, CA

VOLUME 42

MAY

2005

NUMBER 4

PRESIDENT'S REPORT **By Calvin Brookins**

Route Inspections

As I write this article Sherman Oaks 91423/91403 zones, Panorama City 91402 zone and Encino 91436 zone are all preparing to go through a six (6) day count and route inspection. By the time this publication of the MailCall is received in your homes these stations will have gone through a route inspection class put on by RAA Chris Jackson from our National Business Agent office.

The NALC at the National level has put together route inspection material which includes a special pocket-size handbook. This special pocket-size handbook will be sent to every active letter carrier member to assist them in protecting their rights during the week of count and inspection. The route protection pocket handbook is an easy to handle reference for carriers, which highlights major route inspection and adjustment procedures. Hopefully the pocket size handbooks will be in your hands soon.

Call me a skeptic, but I seriously doubt that the upcoming route inspections will do anything but properly adjust the routes to eight hours. I believe that our current route inspection system is flawed and over the years of seeing route inspections and adjustments do nothing but cause frustrations between the supervisor and the carrier, has convinced this writer that as long as we continue to use this system we will most of the time not get route properly adjusted. I am a firm believer that the only way to get fairly adjusted route in today's world is to adjust the route according to how long it actually takes that carrier to do it. Instead of adjusting the routes based on averages.

Management inspects and adjusts routes in the spring when mail volume is lighter. Then a higher level manager tells you that they are aware that in the months of September, October and November the mail volume will be higher and it will take you longer. But as soon as those months arrive here comes your supervisor fresh out of ASP taking everything that they were fed literally with DOIS in hand and telling you that you can or should be doing your route in less time.

So exactly what did the route inspection and adjustment that you had while the mail was lighter in the spring time do for you "absolutely nothing"? Makes you wonder "what is it good for".

So carriers that mean that we will have to watch them very closely, and make sure that they do everything within the con-

NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS & ELECTION OF SHOP STEWARDS

This is official notice to members of Branch 2462 that nominations for Shop Stewards will be held at each office from June 13 - 18, 2005. There will sign up sheet posted for this purpose. The terms of Office shall be for a three year period.

ELECTION

The election shall be conducted by secret ballot at each Station on June 21 & 22, 2005 during the regularly scheduled break times and between 5 & 6 pm. The counting of the ballots will take place at 6910 Hayvenhurst Blvd. # 101, Van Nuys, California at 8:00 pm on Thursday, June 30, 2005. The Election shall be conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the Executive Board of Branch 2462, NALC, which shall not be in violation of the rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the Rules of the National Executive Council.

finer of the archaic route inspection system that we currently have in place.

New Reform Bill

Chairman Susan Collins (R-ME) of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, proposed her long awaited version of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2005 in the U.S. Senate March 17, setting the stage for months of critical debate on major reform of the U.S. Postal Service. Her offering of S. 662 follows introduction of a similar bill (H.R. 22) with the same title in the House of Representatives earlier this year. Passage of the legislation would be the first significant reform in more than 30 years.

(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 NIGHT OF 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

Joint Statement on Violence and Behavior in the Workplace

In brief, the language contained within the "Joint Statement on Violence and Behavior in the Workplace," is quite clear regarding the USPS as an institution and all of us who serve that institution must firmly and unequivocally commit to do everything within our power to prevent any incidents of work-related violence for the basic right of all employees to a safe and humane working environment to prevail. We all know in our daily work duties sometimes there is good possibility of a heightened level of stress in the workplace; but still there is no excuse for and will be no tolerance of violence or any threats of violence by anyone at any level of the Postal Service; and that there is no excuse for and will be no tolerance of harassment, intimidation, threats or bullying by anyone. Each and every employee at every level of the Postal Service should be treated at all times with dignity, respect and fairness. The USPS needs to serve the public efficiently and productively and the need for all employees to be committed to giving a fair day's work for a fair day's pay, but this does not justify actions by management that are abusive or intolerant because they are "Making the Numbers" or an excuse for the abuse of anyone. Those who do not treat others with dignity and respect will not be rewarded or promoted and those whose unacceptable behavior continues will be removed from their positions.

Obedience to Orders

Under Section 666.51 of the ELM, an employee must obey the instructions of their supervisors. If an employee has reason to question the propriety of a supervisor's order, the individual will nevertheless carry out the order and immediately file a protest in writing to the official in charge of the installation, or appeal through official channels.

Maintain Mutual Respect Atmosphere

Section 115 of the M-39, sets out the basic rules and rights governing management and employees in their dealings with each other, but it is the front-line manager who controls management's attempt to maintain an atmosphere between employer and employee which assures mutual respect for each other's rights and responsibilities.

The only time one can refuse to comply with an order is when such an order is either illegal, immoral, or an unsafe act. Don't let "Miss-Management" bait you into a situation, whereby, you now must defend your position, or actions. Let management be the offenders of the "Joint Statement on Violence and Behavior in the Workplace." Let management be the ones defending a position for their careers because of inappropriate actions.

"Follow the Instructions and Grieve It Later, for it is Better to Be Safe Rather than Sorry"

ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	S	O	N
MAIN OFFICE	1	2	1	3						
ENCINO	3	7	6	6						
CIVIC CENTER	4	5	3	3						
PANORAMA CITY	1	3	2	3						
SHERMAN OAKS	4	5	6	8						
SUN VALLEY	1	1	2	1						
TARZANA	1	2	1	1						
RETIREE'S	4	5	4	6						
TOTAL	19	30	25	31						

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

NEXT MEETING

6:30 PM

MAY

3rd

"2005"

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

May 3, 2005

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

"RETIREE CORNER"

Our Breakfast Meeting will be held at Hart's Restaurant, (Corner of Saticoy and Balboa). It will begin at 09:00 AM. The date for the next 2 will be May 28th & June 25, 2005 (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)

Here are some of the highlights of this proposed bill:

It would protect postal employees' rights to collective bargaining while streamlining the impasse resolution process with mandatory mediation.

It would provide the Postal service with greater flexibility to adjust rates of competitive services.

Repeal the escrow account provisions of the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) pension funding reform law, saving the USPS some \$3 billion per year and return to the Treasury Department the liability for military pension benefits earned by former soldiers who now work for the USPS.

Mandate changes in workers' compensation benefits for postal employees, including a three day waiting period before continuation of pay (COP) benefits commence under OWCP and the conversion into a retirement annuity at age 65 of workers' compensation benefits earned by totally or partially disabled postal employees.

The NALC opposes the workers' compensation changes in the bill, but supports advancing postal reform through the Congress. Pay attention to the NALC website for any action plan they may come down from NALC Headquarters.

COLA

The projected accumulation for the sixth of eight regular cost-of-living adjustments under the 2001-2006 National agreement stood at \$156.00 following the release March 23rd of the Consumer Price Index for CPI-W for February.

Thrift Saving last open season:

Over the past two decades, letter carriers and other federal employees have been given just two chances per year to start contributing to the Thrift Saving Plan if they were not already doing so. During these twice a year open seasons they could also adjust the level of their contributions and how much money was invested in the various TSP funds. But the upcoming April 15- June 30 open season will be TSP's last, and every day will be an open season.

Last December Congress passed a law to eliminate open seasons after the federal retirement Thrift Investment Board which administers the TSP, told lawmakers its new computer record keeping system would allow participants to begin and change contribution levels at any time.

At the April 5, 2005 branch meeting I had the pleasure of presenting Mike Brash his 50 year Gold Card. It is really great when you can look around and see men who have been members of this great union of ours for 50 years. Regardless of what anybody tell you 50 years is a long time to do anything. I commend all of the Gold Card members of Branch 2462, because they are the ones who paved the way for those of us

who are still active letter carriers. They are a major reason why we enjoy the benefits that we have today.

On behalf of Branch 2462, I would like to congratulate Mike Brash and wish him well and hope he enjoy the benefits of his well deserved Gold Card.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of Branch 2462 for their support over the last two years. I would also like to thank them for the confidence that they have in me and for allowing me to represent the branch for another term. As I was nominated for President and elected by acclamation.

In Unionism

Legislative Liaisons Lobby in Washington, D.C. Branch 2462 Officers Robert Johnson (L) and Roger Askew (R) meeting with Congressman Howard Berman (C) in his office. Letter Carriers from all over California were Lobbying for Postal Reform and other Carrier concerns.

Below Brother Askew (R) meets with Congressman Brad Sherman (M) and members of his staff.

**BOB ENZ
FOR
MBA REPRESENTATIVE**

A little history: I have been a member of M.B.A. since it was first offered and have used it. What a help when your off work and need the extra money. I have been a delegate to the last 8 State and National Conventions, a Steward for 15 years Safety Representative, Step 2 Designee, on the last 3 Local Negotiation teams, a member of the Contract Administration team.

I promise to make available all M.B.A. plans offered at each station, Help explain all plans, Help file claims, and help solve any problems a member is having with their individual plan. It is time for a change. Elect me, Bob Enz, for M.B.A. Representative for our Branch

In Unionism

**LARRY DOLABSON
FOR
TRUSTEE**

Hi, My name is Larry Dolabson and I am seeking your vote for the office of Trustee for Branch 2462. I have been a letter carrier for 20 years and am currently a carrier in the Encino office. I have been active in Branch business for many years and have been a Delegate to the National Conventions in Orlando, Las Vegas, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Hawaii.

I would consider it an honor and a privilege to serve the members of this branch and help oversee the way this branch spends our money. Please consider me when you cast your vote for this office. Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,

Larry Dolabson

**JEFF JACKSON
FOR
TRUSTEE**

24 Year Letter Carrier
24 Year NALC Member
Shop Steward 12 years Panorama City
Delegate to 5 National Conventions
Food Drive Coordinator for years at Panorama City
E. I. Team Member
2004 Ray Kreyer Award Winner
Current Executive Board Member (Trustee)
Regular at Union Meetings
Have attended many Union Training Sessions
I would be proud to serve the Members of Branch 2462
Please Vote !!!!

TRACY MULLINAX

**FOR
TRUSTEE**

I, Tracy Mullinax, am running for the office of Trustee of Branch 2462. I have been an active Union member of this Branch since 1985 and have been an elected Delegate to the prior 4 National and State Conventions. I, believe that going forward, it will be vitally important for our Branch Funds to be spent in a meaningful and productive manner. I would like to carry on the great tradition of this Branch's finances and increase our surplus. I received my Finance Degree from UCLA in 2002 and believe this will be beneficial not only now but in the future. I also have served as the Food Drive Coordinator of Encino for 10 years and Sherman Oaks for 2 years. I have also served as a Trustee for the past 2 years. I have attended and participated in all E-Board meetings.

Please VOTE FOR TRACY MULLINAX FOR TRUSTEE

**RICHARD REIMER
FOR
TRUSTEE**

I will oversee the allocation of our Union funds. I have been one of your Delegates over the years to the National Convention. I have been in the Postal Service over 30 years, working at the Sherman Oaks Post Office.

I believe I can provide excellent service as a Union member in good standing. I will do my best to serve you. Vote for Richard Reimer for Trustee.

In Unionism

Retiree Mike Brash (seated) receives his 50 Year Membership GOLD CARD and Letter of Recognition from National Association of Letter Carriers. Presenting the award are (Standing L to R) Former Presidents Jim Tukesbrey, Frank Brash & Current President Calvin Brookins

Health Benefits Update

by

Janette Dolabson

**Health Benefits Representative
Branch 2462**

For those of you who have the NALC Health Benefit Plan you may be happy to know that you can fill your long-term maintenance medicines line at www.Caremark.com. It's an easy-to-use online pharmacy, and much more. You can also find the latest health and drug information. If you have long-term maintenance medicines that you take on a regular basis, you may consider taking advantage of using the online pharmacy for: Convenient 90-day prescriptions, Lower out-of-pocket costs, Easier refills, Timely refill reminders, and Useful prescription estimates. You will need to register the first time you visit even if you have used RxRequest.com in the past. This protects the privacy. The one-page registration form will ask for a few lines of information and it will ask you to create a user name and password for yourself. The next time you visit the site, all you will need to enter is your user name and password. It's that simple. To order a prescription the first time, print out and complete a mail service order form from the site and mail it to Caremark with your doctor's handwritten prescription. It is important that you ask your doctor to write your prescription for 90 days with refills. Your order will arrive by mail in 10-14 days.

Thanks for your time

U. S. POSTAL SERVICE
E A P
*LIVING HEALTHY---WORKING
WELL*
1-800-EAP-4-YOU
(1-800-327-7341)
TTY: 1-877-492-7341

DON'T LET TIME RUN OUT !!!

SEND A CHECK TO

COLCPE TODAY !!

NALC Can Count On Me!

Please fill out this form to be included in the NALC's Activist Database

Name: _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home # _____ Cell # _____

Email _____

Congressional District _____ Branch _____

This form builds the Legislative and Political Department's activist database. It is not used for any other purpose. The database is comprised of letter carriers the NALC can count on to take action on legislative and political alerts. Communication is often via email. Regular mail is used when it is necessary to send pertinent materials and phone calls are made when time is of the essence. Therefore, all information is necessary to lay the foundation for a strong grassroots operation.

Please Mail to:

**National Association of Letter Carriers
Legislative and Political Department
100 Indiana Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20001-2144**

Food Drive Update

by

Janette Dolabson

**Food Drive Coordinator
Branch 2462**

Guess what time it is again? That's right, it's food drive time again. On May 14th we will be collecting food for the food bank MEND in Pacoima. Last year we collected so much more food than the previous few years and it is due to your hard work and dedication. For those of you who don't take annual just because it's food drive day, I thank you. Most of us really do like to feel we make a difference in someone else's life.

With this food drive you all do. We will work hard and get no extra support from our managers but it will be worth it. We will collect enough food to service this food bank through the lean summer months when food donations are low and need is high. I am looking forward to seeing how much food we can collect this year. Hopefully it will be so much that we will need extra trucks to get it all moved out. That would be so cool. Letter Carriers totally rock when it comes to giving, and caring!!! I am proud to be among you!!!

In unionism

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

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VICE-PRESIDENT BOCEK Picnic will be on
 June 12, 2005 at Rancho San Antonio Boys Town.

Branch Meeting Minutes
April 5, 2005
 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 ROGER ASKEW

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

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

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAILCALL
 CORRESPONDENCE READ

EXCUSED--ROGER ASKEW & BOB JOHNSON were excused and counted as present at the March meeting as they were on assigned Branch business

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP--DANNY PHAM

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TRUSTEES All is fine
 SAFETY & HEALTH NALC-USPS now have joint safety committee. District level is 4 from each side. Local members will be selected by the Postmaster & Pres Brookins
 RETIREES 6 present tonight. Date for Retiree Luncheon will be Oct 23rd. Watch for more information soon.

SPECIAL GUESTS--Gina & Joe Mirabella from Mend spoke briefly to the membership regarding their organization & to say they are looking forward to the NALC Food Drive in May

MBA--T. HALL No Report
 HBR--DOLABSON Watch for article in Mailcall
 COLCPE \$ 219.00 in the fund

DISTRICT 6--McCLINTON Mayorial race is in full swing. Also reported on ongoing activities in the S F Valley
 LEGISLATIVE--ASKEW Both Roger and Bob Johnson thanked the Branch for sending them to Washington, D C. Trip was very successful, met with many Rep's and expressed the needs and desires of Letter Carriers

FOOD DRIVE--DOLABSON T-Shirts should be in by the end of April. You may wear them the week preceding the Food Drive. Food drive will be 2nd Saturday in May.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT---JOHNSON

TREASURERS REPORT--McCLINTON

PRESIDENT BROOKIN's New Route inspection handbooks have been shipped out we hope to have them very shortly. TSP will be having its last open season from April 15 through June 30. After that every day will be considered open for Thrift Savings, which will allow you to make changes any time of the year.

OLD BUSINESS

SPECIAL PRESENTATION--Retiree MIKE BRASH was honored for his 50 years of membership in the NALC. He was given a letter from National President Bill Young & received a GOLD MEMBERSHIP CARD which entitles him to free membership dues for the rest of his life. Refreshments were provided by the Branch.

NOMINATIONS FOR BRANCH OFFICERS

PRESIDENT--CALVIN BROOKINS
VICE-PRESIDENT--ART BOCEK
RECORDING SECRETARY--STEVE SEYFRIED
TREASURER--VELMA McCLINTON
FINANCIAL SECRETARY--ROBERT JOHNSON
TRUSTEE--LARRY DOLABSON--JOHN BURTON--RICHARD REIMER--TRACY MULLINAX--JEFF JACKSON
SGT-AT-ARMS--ROGER ASKEW

HBR--JANETTE DOLABSON
MBA--JEFF AUSLANDER--JULIUS RIBAS--ROBERT ENZ
UNDERLINED DENOTES ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION
 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION--Branch donate \$ 100.00 to the AVON WALK FOR BREAST CANCER, in support of member KAREN OLIVER

M/S/C
 MOTION--Branch purchase a new desk top computer and a new laptop computer from Dell. Cost not to exceed \$ 1700.00 M/S/C

MOTION--Branch purchase 1 ticket to the Brother Outsider screening on April 15th. Cost to the Branch \$ 40.00 M/S/C

UNDERLINED DENOTES UNANIMOUS VOTE

MEMBERSHIP DRAWING-- \$ 250
 JAY ROTH--RETIREE
 Brother ROTH was not present at the meeting therefore the money will be rolled over to the MAY meeting. May's membership drawing will be for \$ 275.00. All members are eligible to win, but you must be present at the meeting to win.
 COLCPE DRAWING

\$ 5 JANETTE DOLABSON--TARZANA--DONATED
 \$ 5 MIKE BRASH--RETIREE
 \$ 7 JANETTE DOLABSON--TARZANA--DONATED
 MEETING ADJOURNED 8:49 P.M.