

THE MAIL CALL



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Calvin Brookins

I would like to start my article this month by thanking all of the members for having the confidence in me and again electing me as President by acclamation. I would also like to thank the Executive Board members who chose not to run for re-election for a job well done. Finally I would like to congratulate all of the Executive Board members and the shop stewards who were elected for another term.

Again with route inspections and postal reform looming, and all of the other changing working conditions that letter carriers are having to deal with, we have some tough times ahead and some difficult challenges to deal with. I promise I will put my best efforts forward and together we will face all of the challenges that come our way and deal with each and every one of them.

Postal Reform

Letter carriers should familiarize themselves with H.R. 22 and S. 662, These are bills that are currently in the House of Representatives and on the floor of the Senate that will deal with postal reform. These bills if passed could make major changes to the Postal Service as we know it today. They will have direct impact on the Postal Service.

H.R. 22, the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, was introduced to the House of Representatives by Representative John Mchugh a Republican from New York. Other key persons involved with the bill are Tom Davis, a Republican from Virginia, Henry Waxman, a Democrat from California, and Danny Davis, a Democrat from Illinois.

This legislation is similar to the postal reform legislation introduced in the House during the last session of Congress. The House Government Reform Committee drafted the final language and the Committee by a unanimous vote of 39-0, sent the bill to the full House for consideration. This bill has a strong bipartisan support.

The NALC has endorsed H.R. 22 as voted out of committee. H.R. 22 will allow needed reforms to our current postal regulations that would bring much needed revenue back to the Postal Service while still retaining the current benefits and bargaining rights we participate in.

We will continue to support the bill unless negative amendments, that would hurt our benefits, are added during the debate. In order to prevent this from happening, please

take the time when called upon to contact your Congressional Representative and ask them to take the action requested by the NALC.

Republican leaders in the House decided to put off until after the July 4th recess any floor debate or votes on H.R. 22.

The Senate bill, S.662, was co-authored by Senators Susan Collins, a Republican from Maine, Tom Carper, a Democrat from Delaware and George Voinovich, a Republican from Ohio. The two bills are similar in many ways.

The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee voted on June 22nd 15 to 1, to approve postal reform legislation drafted by Chairman Susan Collins (R-ME) and Tom Carper (D-DE) and send it to the Senate floor. This is the latest action on the long road to revamp the 1970 Postal Reorganization Act.

The only vote in committee against the bill came from Senator Tom Coburn (R-OK), who voice White House objection to a provision that would transfer from the Postal Service to the Treasury Department responsibility for paying military pension benefits of retired postal employees. USPS is the only government agency required to pick up such costs.

(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 October Meeting on October 4, 2005. Election if needed, will be held in December 2005 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 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 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 to the goals of the NALC, permission is granted to copy and/or use any material in this publication with our best wishes.

Renewing Prescription's with Caremark & Telephone NALC Health Plan by Lee Fenstermacher, Retiree

ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
MAIN OFFICE	1	2	1	3	3	2	2				
ENCINO	3	7	6	6	6	4	6				
CIVIC CENTER	4	5	3	3	2	3	3				
PANORAMA CITY	1	3	2	3	2	2	1				
SHERMAN OAKS	4	5	6	8	4	3	4				
SUN VALLEY	1	1	2	1	1	2	3				
TARZANA	1	2	1	1	1	2	2				
RETIREE'S	4	5	4	6	4	4	4				
TOTAL	19	30	25	31	23	22	25				

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

**NEXT MEETING
6:30 PM**

**AUGUST
2nd
"2005"**

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

August 2, 2005

**BRANCH OFFICE.....818-786-8505
O P C PERSONNEL OFFICE....818-374-5600
RETIREMENT PERSONNEL....661-775-7030**

"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 August 27th and September 24, 2005 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar.....We hope to see you there.

Thank You

Frank Brash

For years, I have been sending my prescriptions to Caremark (NALC Health Plan) via U. S. Mail. Depending on the number of prescriptions sent it would take sometimes up to 15 days. My renewal dates differ and I can sometimes order 5 or 6 at a time. In checking on the status of renewal's I figure it takes 3 to 4 days (via U.S. Mail) to get to Caremark and another 3 to 4 days travel back to me after renewal, total time about 13 to 15 days.

Recently I tried via telephone and internet and found out, on each, that I can complete the cycle in 4 to 5 days, as opposed to 15 days. This saves filling out the forms and postage also.

To renew your prescription, go to their website, www.caremark.com then:

1. Log in with "user name & password" click
2. On the left side of the screen click on "refill a
3. Scroll down and you will get a list of
4. At bottom of screen find verify order box

In Caremark you can check on the status of your order as follows, you will get an E-Mail message that 1. Your order has been received then, another one later that your order has been shipped.

More information about your prescription may be obtained after logging in by clicking on:

1. My prescription
 - A. Check order status
 - B. Detail order
2. A. View prescription history
 - B. Prescription detail

The telephone renewal is as follows, dial 1 (800) 933-6252, then at the prompt punch # 3, then again at the prompt # 1. A representative will then come on the line with his/her name and ID #. You should then tell them that you wish to renew a prescription. They will take you through the process from there.

Active prescriptions are prescriptions that are renewable only. A prescription becomes "active" when started with a prescription from your Doctor.

Make sure you give Caremark your Internet name. If you have any further questions please call Lee Fenstermacher at (661) 257-9417

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Calvin Brookins

(Continued from Page 1)

President Young praised the action of the Senate Committee as a positive step toward eventual reform of the government's postal laws that will enable the U.S. Postal Service to be more competitive and financially viable and thereby protect the jobs and livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of letter carriers and other postal employees.

However, the union opposes a provision in the Senate bill dealing with the banking of amounts of allowable, but unused, postage rate increases in a manner that could have a negative impact on collective bargaining. President Young is optimistic that Senators Collins and Carper will work with the NALC to resolve that issue as legislation proceeds. The House bill does not include such a provision.

All letter carriers as well as other postal employees need to be ready to act when called upon so that we will have our voices heard on Capitol Hill. Watch your e-mail from NALC headquarters to all of you who are E-Activists.

Standing together we can make a difference in protecting our benefits and insuring the future of the USPS.

Deliver those coverages

A very good source made me aware that Postal Inspectors are out on the street going behind letter carriers checking to see if they are delivering all of the coverages. They are also counting coverages prior to delivery and counting how many deliveries are on a route and checking to see if they have all been delivered.

Point is, make sure that you deliver all coverages (ADVO, PENNSAVERS etc.) Don't jeopardize your job just to avoid delivering coverages, Remember that is mail also.

COLA

The projected accumulation for the sixth of eight regular cost-of-living adjustments under the 2001-2006 National agreement declined to \$577.00 following the release June 16th of the Consumer Price Index for CPI-W for May

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT

2005 SHOP STEWARD RESULTS

Main Office--	ELAINE BOYD BOB JOHNSON SANDRA GALEANA
Encino--	JULIUS RIBAS TRACY MULLINAX
Panorama--	JEFF JACKSON
Civic Center--	JOHN BURTON
Tarzana--	JANETTE DOLABSON
Sun Valley--	KATHY CRAWFORD

Art Bocek

Representation / OWCP

Section 8127 of the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) provides that an employee or survivor may authorize an individual to represent them before any proceeding under the Act. Any knowledgeable member of the NALC can represent an employee or survivor provided that no fee or gratuity is charged.

OWCP's regulations require an employee or survivor to provide OWCP with written notice of any appointment of a representative. While OWCP has traditionally furnished representatives of the NALC general information regarding the injuries or deaths of employees within the NALC's bargaining unit, it is necessary to furnish the written and signed notice when performing more than routine services for an employee or survivor (e.g., representation at a hearing). In order to avoid any unnecessary delays, an employee requesting the assistance of an NALC representative should always provide written authorization. OWCP's regulations limit employees or survivors to only one representative at any one time. For example, an employee cannot be represented by an attorney and an NALC representative at the same time. Naming more than one NALC representative, however, counts as only one appointment.

Time / OWCP

The Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) requires that an employee give written notice of injury or occupational disease and file claim for compensation within specified time periods. If the employee fails to meet the appropriate time limitations, the claim will be denied even if it is otherwise valid. Forms CA-1, CA-2 and CA-7 are provided for the purpose of giving written notice of injury and claiming compensation. The time limitations imposed by the FECA do not apply to minors under the age of 21 or an incompetent individual while he or she is incompetent and does not have a duly appointed legal representative.

For injuries and deaths on or after September 7, 1974, the law provides that a claim for compensation must be filed within three years of the injury or death. Even if a CA-1 or CA-2 is not filed within three years, compensation may still be allowed if written notice of injury was given within 30 days or the immediate superior had actual knowledge of the injury or death within 30 days after occurrence. This knowledge may consist of written records or verbal notification; an entry into an employee's medical record may also satisfy this requirement if it is sufficient to place the agency on notice of a possible work-related injury or illness. For traumatic injury, the statutory time limitation begins to run from the date of injury. Since traumatic injuries are identifiable as to time and place of occurrence, meeting this time limit is fairly obvious. Although the FECA provides a three-year time frame for entitlement, it should be noted that in order to qualify to receive Continuation of Pay (COP), a CA-1 for a traumatic injury must be filed within 30 days of the date of injury. For a latent condition or occupational disease claim, time begins to run when an injured employee who has a compensable disability becomes aware, or reasonably should have been aware, of a possible relationship between the medical condition and the employment. Where the exposure to the identified factors of employment continues after this knowledge, the time for filing begins to run on the date of the employee's last exposure to those factors.

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Van Nuys, CA 91406

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Branch Meeting Minutes
July 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 6:45 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS ROGER ASKEW

MOMENT OF SILENCE-All of our Military men and women who have sacrificed their lives in the Service of our Country.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS
PRESENT--BROOKINS, BOCEK, SEYFRIED, McCLINTON, JOHNSON, MULLINAX,, JACKSON, ASKEW, J. DOLABSON
ABSENT---HENRY--HALL

GUEST--DALE HART NALC National Business Agent
MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAILCALL
CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

VILMA FLORES---MARY WEAVER

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

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT---JOHNSON

TREASURERS REPORT--McCLINTON

ELECTION---SEYFRIED Thanks to the election committee for an outstanding job with the Branch elections.

Those members were ROGER ASKEW, JANETTE DOLABSON, VELMA McCLINTON, BOB JOHNSON and LEE FENSTERMACHER. Results of the Shop Steward Elections were announced and will be published in the August Mailcall.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE ELECTION

COMMITTEES REPORT M/S/C

PRESIDENT BROOKIN's The Rap session in August being held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida will be attended by myself and VELMA McCLINTON. This decision was made because of special Secretary-Treasurer training which will be conducted during that time. We will resume Shop Steward training classes in August. I have been waiting for the newly elected members to be installed, which will take place tonight. I will be putting together a Contract Administration Unit. (CAU) I have asked VP ART BOCEK, Financial Sec. BOB JOHNSON and HBR JANETTE DOLABSON to be a part of this team. I may or may not add other members in the future. All Shop Stewards should be watching closely for Article 8 Violations at their stations. We hear that people are not being called in on their non scheduled day off, who may be entitled to the work. Just because MGR's don't want to bring these people in, does not negate their obligation under Article 8 of the National Agreement. Our next COLA projection has dropped to \$ 5.77, that amounts to 27 cents per hour or 22.20 per pay period.

Congratulations to JANETTE DOLABSON and ALEX GARCIA who had recently on the Floor of the U S Senate.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION--Branch pay \$ 78.78 to the L A County Federation of Labor to update our membership.

M/S/C

MOTION--Branch purchase 2 Retirement Manuals for the Branch Office, from the National.

Cost not to exceed \$ 70.00

M/S/C

UNDERLINED DENOTES UNANIMOUS VOTE

MEMBERSHIP DRAWING-- \$ 300

LISA DAVIS--MAIN OFFICE

Sister DAVIS was not present at the meeting therefore the money will be rolled over to the AUGUST meeting. August's membership drawing will be for \$ 300.00. All members are eligible to win, but you must be present at the meeting to win.

MOTION--Postpone remaining Branch business to the August meeting and proceed immediately to the Rap Session and Installation of Branch Officer's and Shop Stewards

M/S/C

MEETING ADJOURNED 7:30 P.M

The Branch held a short Rap Session with the National Business Agent. The newly elected Branch Officers and Shop Stewards were then sworn in for their new 3 years term.

DINNER and refreshments were served to all..

UNION SOLIDARITY
NEVER BE AFRAID TO STAND UP FOR
YOUR RIGHTS--YOU ARE NOT ALONE

