

THE MAIL CALL



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Calvin Brookins

First of all on behalf of the membership of the branch I would like to extend my condolences to all of the people in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama who lost love ones during Hurricane Katrina.

More Route Inspections

As I write this article Civic Center station and Tarzana post office is preparing to go through route inspections. Again we will be monitoring route inspections and reviewing the data, we will have to wait and see just how many grievances come out of these inspections. As it was for the last inspections it will be a time consuming event.

I can't help for wondering why management would choose to do route inspections in two offices that is for the most part making their so call numbers. While you have a station like Sun Valley that is using a large amount of overtime and penalty overtime, but management bypass this station for route inspections. If any station needs to be inspected and properly adjusted it is Sun Valley. Oh! My mistake, I used the term properly adjusted, let me get this straight the last time that management did an office wide inspection and adjustment at Sun Valley they messed those routes up so bad that the station or the carriers have never recovered.

On second thought may be we don't want an inspection in Sun Valley, if they do the carriers may have to work penalty overtime everyday of each week in that office. We will wait and see just how management will attempt to screw the carriers at Civic Center and Tarzana. The only reason they are doing route inspections in the fall is because they think they can go in and eliminate routes in these offices. Enough on that subject for now.

Rap Session

There are several critical issues that the NALC will have to face during the remainder of 2005 and well into 2006. These issues were discussed during the Rap session in Florida August 27-28. President Young opened the Rap Session by praising all those who would no be deterred by the threat of Hurricane Katrina, which made a direct hit on south Florida just hours before we arrived.

President Young then begin to talk about the issues that the NALC will be faced with in the near and not so near future.

Postal Reform, As S. 662 awaits Senate floor action with some troubling provisions especially those on banking unused pricing authority and exigency rate increases.

(Continued on Page 3)



BRANCH 2462 RETIREE "NITE"

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

OCTOBER 23, 2005

**ENCINO GLEN
RESTAURANT**

16821 Burbank Blvd. Encino, California

Doors Open 12:30 PM

**IN MEMORY OF
CHESTER HELD
RETIREE
BRANCH 2462**

"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.

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	1	2		
ENCINO	3	7	6	6	6	4	6	5	6		
CIVIC CENTER	4	5	3	3	2	3	3	2	3		
PANORAMA CITY	1	3	2	3	2	2	1	3	3		
SHERMAN OAKS	4	5	6	8	4	3	4	3	5		
SUN VALLEY	1	1	2	1	1	2	3	1	1		
TARZANA	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	1	1		
RETIREE'S	4	5	4	6	4	4	4	4	5		
TOTAL	19	30	25	31	23	22	25	20	26		

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

**NEXT MEETING
6:30 PM**

**OCTOBER
4th
"2005"**

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

October 4, 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 Satcoy and Balboa). It will begin at 09:00 AM. The date for the next 2 will be October 22nd and November 26, 2005 (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 Claim, Section 542.32 ELM

Any employee, supervisor, or representative who, with respect to a claim under FECA, enters into any agreement to obtain the payment or allowance of any false or fraudulent claim may be subject to a fine of not more than \$10,000 or 10 years in prison, or both.

Penalty for False Statement, ELM Section 542.31

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 or 5 years in prison, or both.

Penalty for Refusal to Process Claim, Section 542.33 ELM

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 or 1 year in prison, or both.

Health Benefits Update

by

Janette Dolabson

Health Benefits Representative

Just a quick note to let Health Plan Members know what Immunizations the NALC Health Plan covers.

The Health Plan covers:

Adult Routine Immunizations limited to:

Tetnus-diphtheria booster one every 10 years, age 19 and older.

Influenza vaccine- one annually.

Pneumococcal vaccine, age 65 and older.

Childhood Immunizations- ages 3 through 21- limited to:

Immunizations recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Meningococcal immunizations- lifetime limit of 2 vaccinations.

Birth- age 2

Routine immunizations recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

I will be attending the NALC Health Plan Seminar in October where I am hoping to get all the new information for the Health Plan for the next year. If you have anything you would like me to find out for you let me know by calling me at 661 373-2224.

Thanks for you time

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Calvin Brookins

(Continued from Page 1)

President Young stated that the battle is far from over; saying the next few weeks will shape the future of the Postal Service for decades to come. He also expressed concern over a threat of a White House veto and whether anti-worker provisions would be added in House-Senate conference committee after Senate passage. He said the NALC will reevaluate its support if major changes are made.

Contract Negotiations. The NALC has begun working on negotiations for a new National Agreement to replace the contract due to expire November 20, 2006. He said during the next round of bargaining, NALC will seek pay and benefits commensurate with the contribution letter carriers make to the success of the USPS. President Young added that the union's goals include retaining our COLA clause; improving working conditions, and serving the interests of letter carriers everywhere.

The AFL-CIO Mess. A spirited, and sometimes emotional, discussion occurred about the disaffiliation of several major unions from the AFL-CIO and its effect on the NALC and the Labor movement. President Young said that despite the NALC remaining under the AFL-CIO tent at present, he found actions by AFL-CIO leaders undemocratic and insulting toward the NALC membership. "I think our union was disrespected," he said. "Given this, it makes you wonder if AFL-CIO President John Sweeney is trying to force the NALC out of the AFL-CIO." President Young later added, "I believe the NALC should use the next year leading up to the Las Vegas convention to calmly and seriously reconsider our relationship with the AFL-CIO."

Just prior to the AFL-CIO convention, President Young was approached by the AFL-CIO president (Sweeney) who suggested that Young and the members of the NALC should cross the picket line of the striking workers at Northwest Airlines because the striking union is not affiliated with the AFL-CIO. President Young made it clear at the Rap Session how he feels about those who suggest that union members cross picket lines at Northwest Airlines just because they are not affiliated with the AFL-CIO.

He stated, "I want you to know that the guy you elected president does not cross picket lines."

City Delivery. President Young said the union has filed a National-level Grievance regarding the use by USPS of the Delivery Operations Information System (DOIS) and that the union is currently awaiting a response from the Postal Service.

Las Vegas Convention. President Young reported that plans were well underway for the Las Vegas convention to be held August 14-18, 2006. The convention site was moved from Miami to Las Vegas due to the lack of unionized facilities in Miami. NALC Branch 2502 in Las Vegas has graciously made South Florida branch 1071 in Miami the honorary host of the convention in Las Vegas.

COLA

The sixth of eight regular cost-of-living adjustments under the 2001-2006 National agreement will be \$707.00 annually based on the Consumer Price Index for CPI-W for July announced August 16 by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This is equivalent to 34 cents per hour, or \$27.20 per pay period.

The latest COLA raised the total increase in annual pay for top rate carriers (CC Grade 1, Step O) to \$47,396 an-

nually, an increase of \$4,283 or \$164.72 per pay period since the beginning of the contract. It raises the total COLA paid under the current contract so far to \$2,288 annually.

The accumulation towards the 2006 retiree COLA stands at 3.2 percent based on the July CPI-W. The 2006 COLA is to be based on the increase in the CPI-W between the third quarter of 2004 and the third quarter of 2005.

The COLA for Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) beneficiaries in the year 2006, determined on the CPI-W from December 2004 to December 2005, stands at 2.7 percent based on the July data.

Calendars have been ordered as soon as they arrive we will get them in the hands of all members who want them.

Some of the carriers at some of the stations have expressed an interest in taking donations at their respective stations and donating the proceeds to the American Red Cross, Panorama City, Civic Center and Sherman Oaks have already started if you would like to start a drive at your station please see your steward or call the union office. This is to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

We will be taking nominations for the Ray Kreyer Award and will voting on them at the next E-Board meeting. If you would like to submit the name of a member who you believe has given their time and effort to this union over the years or over the past year. Please see any Executive Board member in your station or contact the union office.

I would at this time like to announce the retiring of former National Business Agent from Region #1 and current Director of Health Benefits for the NALC Tom Young. He will be retiring at the end of this year 2005.

Customer Connect

I regret to announce that John Sanchez, President of NALC branch 4006 in Canoga Park will no longer be the customer connect coordinator for the NALC at the district level. Which means we no longer have anyone up there to make sure management do not drop the ball on customer connect. My concerns are without John being there some things will fall through the cracks and management will no follow up on those offices that are no longer putting out that effort.

Let me tell what I believe caused John to be taken out of that position, about two months ago John wrote an article in his branch news letter in that article he told the truth about how the area and district management is micro-managing each of the stations through out the area including the Van Nuys district. Most of you have probably heard by now that your supervisor or station manager cannot even call in an overtime desired list carrier without the permission of the district manager or maybe some postmasters. Well John stated that management could save a lot of money if they would just place casuals in the positions of the District Manager, MOPS and MPOO's. Since they only need people who will set up there and say yes sir. Well some former district manager got his little feelings hurt or maybe it was his ego that got bruised. Well right after a conversation in the hallway between John and this former district manager, John was notified that he was no longer needed to perform the duties he had so admirably and successfully performed.

Guess what, the truth hurts !!

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

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Branch Meeting Minutes
September 6, 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 6:40 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT. AT ARMS ASKEW
MOMENT OF SILENCE--CHESTER HELD retired Branch member and all of our Military men and women who have sacrificed their lives in the Service of our Country. Also a special moment for all those who lost their lives in the wake of Hurricane Katrina on the Gulf coast.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

PRESENT--BROOKINS, BOCEK, SEYFRIED, JOHNSON, McCLINTON, MULLINAX, JACKSON, L. DOLABSON, ASKEW,

J. DOLABSON, ENZ

ABSENT--NONE

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAILCALL
CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

DAVID TRINH--HENRY BIO

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TRUSTEES No Report

SAFETY & HEALTH Safety is still # 1 priority, always work in a safe and professional manner.

RETIREES 5 present tonight. On the Sick List we have JIM TUKESBREY, MIKE BRASH, CHESTER PIELOCH, CANDY VANDERHAM & LORI ORDAZ we wish them a speedy recovery. Remember date for Retiree Luncheon is Oct 23rd.

MBA--ENZ National has certified me as the . Waiting on new forms and pamphlets, plan on having forms at every station in a display rack.

HBR--DOLABSON Article will be in Mailcall

COLCPE \$ 572.00 in the fund

ELECTION--SEYFRIED Final report was submitted to the Branch. Election ran \$ 1.33 over. Thanks to all who helped in this years election.

L A FED--McCLINTON Labor Day parade was held downtown. New head of LA Fed is cutting many programs and funding for several groups. Waiting to see something positive from this new leader.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT---JOHNSON

TREASURERS REPORT--McCLINTON

VICE-PRESIDENT BOCEK No Report

PRESIDENT BROOKIN's Gave brief report on upcoming route inspections at Civic Center and Tarzana, Rap Session in Florida, Postal Reform, Contract negotiations, AFL-CIO mess, NALC take on the Northwest Airlines strike, Congressional Elections, Las Vegas Convention and City delivery update. Calendars have been ordered, they will be passed out as soon as they arrive. Retirees who wish a calendar, should contact the Branch office. Ray Kreyer award nominations are being accepted, if you want to nominate someone contact the Union Office before September 29th.

OLD BUSINESS--NONE

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION--Branch meeting in October begin
at 7:00 pm

M/S/F

MOTION--Branch donate \$ 500.00 to the
Hurricane Katrina Postal Relief Fund

M/S/C

MOTION--Branch send one member, to be
selected by the President, to the Labor Council
for Latin American Advancement Dinner on
Saturday, September 24, 2005. Cost to the
Branch \$ 75.00.

M/S/C

UNDERLINED DENOTES UNANIMOUS VOTE

MEMBERSHIP DRAWING-- \$ 300
NESTER RIVERA--PANORAMA CITY

Brother RIVERA was not present at the meeting. As voted on at the September Meeting the membership drawing will be terminated. We are sorry that no one won.

COLCPE DRAWING

\$ 5 JANETTE DOLABSON--TARZANA--DONATED
\$ 6 JEFF JACKSON--PANORAMA CITY--DONATED
\$ 10 KAREN AGUILAR--PANORAMA CITY--DONATED

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:11 P.M.

SPECIAL NOTE

There will be PIZZA served at the next
Branch Meeting.

Why not plan on attending ???????