

THE MAIL CALL



Published by
Branch 2462, NALC
Van Nuys, CA

VOLUME 43

APRIL

2006

NUMBER

3

PRESIDENT'S REPORT **By Calvin Brookins**

Route Inspections

Route inspections have been completed at Tarzana and we have looked over the paperwork we found some issues we were concern with and management have made satisfactory changes to resolve those issues. As Janette and I looked over the data from the recent inspections in Tarzana we found some deductions and some other minor issues that we were concerned about. I had Janette take those issues to the team leader and those issues were immediately resolved.

It really helps when you are actually dealing with someone who has the authority to make a decision. The route inspections at Tarzana will result in one of the two auxiliary routes becoming a full time assignment, which will now create another T-6 position. While the route inspection system is not perfect, Tarzana did not turn out too bad.

Food Drive

The 2006 NALC National Food Drive will be upon us soon, Janette Dolabson will be our food drive coordinator for the branch again this year. Janette will be contacting the station coordinators very soon. I am asking that every carrier in every station give Janette and your food drive coordinator in your station your full cooperation and please be willing to volunteer and help out where ever they need you. With the help of every member of the Branch 2462, we can may this years food drive the most successful we have ever had.

COLA

The seventh of eight regular cost-of-living adjustments under the 2001-2006 National Agreement will be \$478.00 annually based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W) for January announced February 22 by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

This cost of living adjustment will be effective the pay period beginning March 18 (pay date April 7). The seventh COLA of \$478.00 is equivalent to 23 cents per hour or \$18.40 per pay period.

The accumulation toward the 2007 retiree COLA stands at 0.7 percent based on the January CPI-W. The 2007 COLA is to be based on the increase in the CPI-W between the third quarter of 2005 and the third quarter of 2006.

The COLA for Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) beneficiaries in the year 2007, determined on the CPI-W from December 2005 to December 2006, stands at 0.8 percent based on the January data.

Gimme 5 for COLCPE

President Young has started a campaign to return COLCPE to one of the top 10 ranked political action committee (PAC) in the country. Twenty years ago, COLCPE routinely ranked in the top 10 PACs in the country, but has not kept pace and last year, COLCPE ranked 37th among the country's PACs.

President Young has vowed to change that; the key will be to enlist more members to give to COLCPE through automatic deductions from their paychecks or their bank accounts. To do that, two important steps will be taken.

Every branch president with at least 50 members will be asked to appoint a COLCPE coordinator to work with state chairs and the National office on enlisting carriers to sign up for automatic contribution deductions.

A new campaign will be launched called the "Gimme 5 for COLCPE" campaign, asking members to do what 5,000+ active carriers already do: that's give an average of \$5.00 per pay period to COLCPE through payroll deductions.

I have asked Jeff Jackson Trustee and Shop Steward at Panorama City station to represent the branch as the COLCPE coordinator.

I would also like to congratulate those members who names appeared in the February issue of the Postal Record for automatic COLCPE contributions.

Life Insurance Scam

A new identity theft scam is directly targeting Postal Service employees.

Individuals posing as representatives of the Office of Federal Employees Group Life Insurance (OFEGLI) have been asking employees for their Social Security numbers, Employees ID's and USPS personal identification numbers (Pin's). This group surfaced in Pittsburgh under the name **Employee Services Division, UAF**, is based in Silver Spring, MD, and is distributing business cards claiming to represent OFEGLI. If anyone matching this description contacts you, call your local Inspection Service office immediately.

(Continued on Page 2)

"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.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Calvin Brookins

(Continued from Page 1)

Anyone asking for access to any Postal Service facilities who say they are representing OFEGLI should not be allowed on postal premises. **OFEGLI does not solicit employees.** Never divulge your USPS PIN number to anyone, and provide your Social Security number and Employee ID only when using it for a legitimate and official purpose, such as when using PostalEASE or filing a health benefits claim.

If you believe your USPS PIN has been compromised, you can establish a new one by calling the employee service line at (877-4PS-EASE) and pressing 3. You will be prompted for your Social Security number and your current USPS PIN and then prompted to select a new 4-digit USPS PIN.

ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
MAIN OFFICE	2	1	2								
ENCINO	6	5	5								
CIVIC CENTER	2	1	1								
PANORAMA CITY	1	4	3								
SHERMAN OAKS	2	3	5								
SUN VALLEY	0	1	1								
TARZANA	1	0	1								
RETIREE'S	5	6	4								
TOTAL	19	21	22								

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

**NEXT MEETING
6:30 PM**

**APRIL
4th
"2006"**

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

April 4, 2006

**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 next 2 dates will be April 22nd and May 27, 2006 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar.....We hope to see you there.

Thank You

Frank Brash

DON'T LET TIME RUN OUT !!!



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

**Food Drive Update
by
Janette Dolabson
Food Drive Coordinator
Branch 2462**

Guess what time it is again? That's right, its food drive time again. On May 13th 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 its 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

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT

Art Bocek

CA-14 Revised / Replaces Notification Postcard

As part of their new communication initiative, OWCP has revised the process for notifying claimants of their entitlements and claim number. The CA -14 pamphlets will replace the normal postcard notification system.

When an injured employee files a CA-1 or CA-2 for an on-the-job injury, they will no longer receive a little green postcard with OWCP's address and the claim number assigned to their claim. They will now receive a blue pamphlet that outlines all the benefits associated with the Federal Employees' Compensation Act. The claim number will be printed on the pamphlet.

Please retain this pamphlet for your records and do not simply dispose of it once read.

Telephone Inquiries

OWCP has announced that they have launched two new initiatives. The first is a toll-free national Call Center and the other is a toll-free automated Interactive Voice Response system.

The Call Center is intended for use mainly by injured employees who have general questions about their rights and responsibilities when filing a workers' compensation claim. Customer Service Representatives will provide answers to frequently asked questions about claims under the FECA, as well as referral information on the new Central Interactive Voice Response system, the program's web site (new address: www.dol.gov/dol/esa/dfec.htm) and the district offices. Callers will also be able to request single copies of commonly used forms from the Call Center.

The Call Center personnel will not be able to address any case specific questions, such as claims status, bill payments, lost wage claims or medical authorizations. They will refer the caller to their claims examiner at the district office for those types of detail. Information is available in both English and Spanish. The telephone numbers are:

1-866-999-3322 (voice) and 1-877-889-5627 (TTY),

and the lines are staffed from 8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday.

Callers from states where the Call Center is not yet available will hear a "blocking message". This message will refer them to the Central Interactive Voice Response system for the kinds of information that may be obtained there, and also refers them to the program's web site for detailed general information about claims processing. The caller is advised to call the district office for information that cannot be obtained from either of those sources. The Call Center does not have telephone lines connecting it to the district offices. For this reason, it cannot transfer or connect calls, and all calls to the district office will remain toll calls.

The Interactive Voice Response is a completely automated system that provides case-specific information about established claims. It is intended for use mainly by in-

jured employees and medical providers. The information available includes case status, compensation payments, reimbursement of medical treatment and travel expenses, payment of medical bills and authorization of medical treatment such as physical therapy and diagnostic testing. The Central Interactive Voice Response system is available to all callers across the country. The telephone number is 1-866-OWCP-IVR. For the time being, callers may continue to call the district office IVR numbers if they wish to do so, but those are not toll-free calls.

Remember, "Rights Are Like Muscles, Use Them Or Lose Them."

This is your Vice President, I welcome your comments.

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

MAKE THE CALL!

N A L C 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**

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

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 VAN NUYS, CA
 PERMIT No. 314

Address Service Requested

Branch Meeting Minutes
 March 7, 2006
 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 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by MBA Representative ENZ
 MOMENT OF SILENCE--in Memory of Tisa Askew's father Joe and all the men and women who have given their lives in the service of their country.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

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

ABSENT--ASKEW

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAILCALL

CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP--NONE

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TRUSTEES All is well

SAFETY & HEALTH Workers Memorial Day will be held on April 28, 2006. Always work in a safe and professional manner.

RETIREES 4 present tonight. Date has been established for this years Retiree Luncheon. It will be held on October 29, 2006 at Encino Glen. Watch for more info.

MBA--ENZ Ordering racks to be placed on all stations and Union office. This will allow MBA materials to be displayed and available to all members.

HBR--J DOLABSON New health cards have been mailed out to all members. If you have not received your card contact the Union Office and I will check on it for you.

FOOD DRIVE--J. DOLABSON Saturday May 13th will be the date for this years food drive. Watch for further information.

COLCPE \$ 649 currently in the fund
 EDITOR SEYFRIED The photo of TIA WILSON

in the March Mailcall was incorrectly attributed to Roger Askew. In fact the photo was taken by Tia's husband.

DISTRICT--McCLINTON LA FED Secretary

LUDLOW has been indicted for campaign irregularities.

TREASURER McCLINTON Gave a brief report on the Secretary-Treasurer's class she took in Baltimore, MD. Our books and financial records are in very good shape and our Branch should be proud of the way we handle the reporting of our financial dealings. This is not the case in many branch's around the country. Thanked the branch for sending her and it was a very interesting and worthwhile class.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT---JOHNSON

TREASURERS REPORT--McCLINTON

VICE-PRESIDENT BOCEK Picnic will be held on July 23, 2006 at Rancho San Antonio Boys Town in Chatsworth. Watch for further information in upcoming articles in the Mailcall

PRESIDENT BROOKIN's Gave brief report on several items that will be addressed in his article in the April Mailcall.

OLD BUSINESS--NONE

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION--Branch place a 1/4 page advertisement in the California State Convention booklet.

Cost	to	the	Branch	\$	100.00
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M/S/C

MOTION--Branch send CALVIN BROOKINS, VELMA McCLINTON, BOB JOHNSON, JEFF JACKSON & ROGER ASKEW to the State Legislative class in April at Branch 24. Cost

not	to	exceed	\$	500.00
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M/S/C

MOTION--Branch donate \$ 200.00 to Prom

Dreams	2006.
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M/S/C

MOTION--Branch purchase 2 Desktop computers and 2 Laptop computers from Dell. Total cost

not	to	exceed	\$	4200.00
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M/S/C

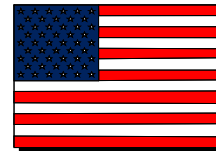
UNDERLINED DENOTES UNANIMOUS VOTE

COLCPE DRAWING

- \$ 5 FRANK BRASH--RETIREE
- \$ 5 RICHARD MORENO--SHERMAN OAKS
- \$ 6 CALVIN BROOKINS--CIVIC CENTER

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

MEETING
 P.M.



ADJOURNED 8:22

**REMEMBER OUR TROOPS, THEY
 FIGHT OVERSEAS SO THAT YOU
 AND YOUR FAMILIES MAY LIVE
 IN PEACE HERE AT HOME**