

THE MAIL CALL



Published by
Branch 2462, NALC
Van Nuys, CA

VOLUME 43

JULY

2006

NUMBER

6

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Calvin Brookins

HRSSC

Another acronym; yes it is only this one stands for Human Resources Shared Services Center. HRSSC is the consolidating of USPS Human Resources (personnel) in one location. What this means is that the Postal Service is consolidating all personnel departments through out the country to one location in Greensboro, North Carolina. This went into effect for the Van Nuys District personnel on May 30, 2006, a letter should have been received by now by all employees within the Van Nuys District.

While I do not agree with this idea of closing down personnel, however it is not a decision that I get to make. This is a direction that the Postal Service is going, it basically comes down to reducing overhead which in terms eliminate jobs/positions. This could cause some problems for employees who need help with their own personnel issues.

The Van Nuys District has set up PostalPEOPLE Information Fairs or seminars to help make employees aware of how this new system will work. However, your attendance at these functions is voluntary and off the clock. (See posting in your station).

They have also sent out document packages that explains how this new system will work in regards to the Retirements/Separations Process, Benefits/Compensation Process, and the EAS Selection Process. If you want to talk to a live person At the HRSSC in North Carolina you can call 1-877-477-3273 and use option 5.

I will make sure those packages is at every office and that every active letter carrier receives one.

(Continued on Page 2)

2006 PICNIC EXTRAVAGANZA

SUNDAY, July 23rd

10:30 am - 4:30 PM

RANCHO SAN ANTONIO BOYS TOWN
21000 Plummer St. (West of Desoto)

DIRECTIONS: 118 FREEWAY - Take 118 Freeway to Desoto Exit. Go South 1.5 miles to Plummer St. Turn right.

101 FREEWAY - Take 101 Freeway to Desoto Exit. Go North to Plummer - Turn Left.

TICKETS

Member, spouse & children (living at home).....
Single members (1 guest in lieu of spouse).....
Guests: "Limited Supply"
Guest Children 7 to 17.....
Guest Children under 6

CARRIERS

Picnic sign-up sheets will be available at each carrier station. You **MUST** sign up to receive tickets. **Guests must be listed on sign-up sheet next to the member in order to receive tickets and be prepaid. Member must be in attendance in order for guest admission to picnic.**

Guest tickets are "First come - First served"
LAST DAY FOR SIGN UP IS 7-14-06

RETIREE'S

Contact Branch Office (818) 786-8505. Tickets can be picked up at the gate registration table the day of the picnic.

TICKETS "MUST BE" ORDERED BY 7-14-06

FOOD

All you can eat will be served from **12:00 PM - 2:00 PM**

Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Barbecue Chicken, Soft Tacos, Pasta Salad, Potato Salad, Barbecue Beans, Fresh Fruit, Corn on the Cob, Ice Cream, and much, much more.

DRINKS

Beer, Wine and Soft Drinks will be served

PICNIC GAMES

Family Lawn Games, Carnival Games, Moon Bounce, Bingo Co-ed Softball games starts at 9: 30
Indoor Heated Olympic Pool,
Face Painter, Rope Tug a War

"Early Bird Bingo"

Salsa Tasting Contest

1st Prize \$100.00, 2nd \$50.00, 3rd \$25.00

DOOR PRIZES FOR UNION MEMBERS ONLY
MEMBER MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

"Come and Enjoy the Day"

IN MEMORY OF

RAY VICK

Retiree--Annex III

GEORGE WOYTOVICH

Retiree--Encino

GOLD CARD MEMBER

"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	2	1	2	2	2						
ENCINO	6	5	5	5	2						
CIVIC CENTER	2	1	1	1	2						
PANORAMA CITY	1	4	3	3	0	3					
SHERMAN OAKS	2	3	5	5	6	3					
SUN VALLEY	0	1	1	1	2	1					
TARZANA	1	0	1	1	1	1					
RETIREE'S	5	6	4	6	3	4					
TOTAL	19	21	22	24	18	22					

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

**NEXT MEETING
6:30 PM**

**JULY
11th
"2006"**

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

July 11, 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 July 22nd and August 26, 2006 (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)

Food Drive

The 2006 NALC National Food Drive has come and gone, as a branch we collected 62,130 pounds of food. That was down from last year however MEND were very appreciative of the food we collected.

I would like to thank Janette for once again a job well done as she coordinated this whole effort for the branch. I would like to also thank all of the coordinators from each station and all other who helped out at the stations. Special thanks go out to the carriers of the branch for all of their hard work collecting the food for the food drive.

COLA

The projected accumulation for the eighth and final regular cost-of-living adjustment under the 2001-2006 National Agreement increased to \$499.00 following release May 17, of the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for April.

The eighth COLA will be based on inflation between January and July 2006 and will be payable in the second full pay period following release of the July, 2006 index. The \$499.00 annual accumulation equals 24 cents per hour or \$19.20 per pay period.

The projected accumulation toward the 2007 retiree COLA was 2.3 percent following the release of the April 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 2007 COLA for Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) participants, to be determined on the rise in the CPI-W from December 2005 to December 2006, stands at 2.4 percent based on the April data.

The announcement of the retirement of National Business Agent Dale Hart was confirmed at the State Convention. Dale will be retiring at the end of his term in December.

National President Bill Young has endorsed the candidacy of RAA Manny Peralta as National Business Agent for region # 1. Manny has served the union for many years and is one of the most gifted union officers within the NALC.

In Unionism

DON'T LET TIME RUN OUT !!!



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

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT

Art Bocek

Physician as defined under FECA

The term "physician" includes surgeons, podiatrists, dentists, clinical psychologists, optometrists, osteopathic practitioners, and chiropractors within the scope of their practice as defined by State law. The services of chiropractors may be reimbursed only for treatment consisting of manual manipulation of the spine to correct a subluxation as demonstrated by X-ray to exist, except that a chiropractor may also provide services in the nature of physical therapy under the direction of a physician. By regulation, the term "qualified physician" does not include those individuals whose licenses to practice medicine have been suspended or revoked by a state licensing or regulatory authority or who have been excluded from payment under the FECA.

A diagnosis of "spinal subluxation as demonstrated by x-ray to exist" must appear in the chiropractor's report. A chiropractor may interpret his or her x-rays to the same extent as any other physician. OWCP will not necessarily require submittal of the x-ray, or a report of the x-ray, but the report must be available for submittal on request. The costs of physical and related laboratory tests performed by or required by a chiropractor to diagnose a spinal subluxation are payable.

A clinical psychologist may serve as the sole treating physician in cases where the accepted condition is wholly emotional in nature, but may not serve as the sole treating physician in cases that include a physical component unless the applicable State law allows clinical psychologists to treat physical conditions. A clinical psychologist may also perform testing, evaluation and other services under the direction of a medical doctor.

OWCP uses a schedule of maximum allowable medical charges. This schedule applies to charges for medical services rendered on and after June 9, 1986, by physicians, surgeons, podiatrists, clinical psychologists, optometrists, chiropractors, osteopathic practitioners, physicians' assistants, and therapists. The fee schedule includes those services rendered in a hospital or nursing home setting, and to outpatient hospital services. It also applies to inpatient hospital services and pharmacy charges after January 4, 1999. However, nursing home charges are not subject to a fee schedule. The employee does not have to pay the difference between the maximum charge set by the schedule and the charge made by the provider.

Just a reminder that the Picnic will be on July 23rd. Picnic will start at 10:30 am through 4:00 pm. Food will be served from 1200 (noon) till 2:00 pm. Judging for the "Salsa Contest" will start at 11:15 am, 1st prize is \$ 100.00, 2nd prize is \$ 50.00, and 3rd prize is \$25.00. Adult guest tickets are \$ 20.00, children guest (7-17) tickets are \$10.00, guest children (6 and under) are Free. Baseball game(s) time and field assignments to be announced later.

Non Union Employees need not show. Member's tickets are not transferable to either guests or non members, but you still can join the union at the picnic and attend the picnic. Guest tickets are valid only when union member is present at the picnic.

FOOD DRIVE UPDATE

Janette Dolabson, Food Drive coordinator

Hello people, well the food drive is over for yet another year. I would love to tell you that it was more successful then past years but unfortunately it wasn't even close to our best. Our 7 offices collected a little over 61,000 pounds of food. Last year we collected over 72,000 pounds. I was truly disappointed in one office in particular and that is Main office in Van Nuys. Last year you collected around 400 tubs of food and this year only 236. It has come to my attention that quite a few carriers did not take the cards that they were supposed to deliver and that the cards did not go out until Thursday. I know that it is extra work but the benefits are so important not to mention the cards were first class mailings and the managers didn't make sure they went out as such. To you who decided that it was more important not to take the cards I hope you and the managers in your station understand that because of you it cost us 10,000 pounds of food that your office usually collects. Food that is desperately needed by struggling families and senior citizens trying to make ends meet on social security. That is the 10,000 pounds we were under from last year. To those of you in main office that busted your butts and did the right thing I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Your hard work is greatly appreciated. All the other offices did close to what they have in the past. Some offices collected less then before and some more. Encino, you did a stellar job collecting food and getting your customers motivated. I would like to thank some people that helped us get this food drive up and going and who helped on and above what was required of them.

First to my coordinators, thank you thank you thank you. It is a lot of work and I know that it gets more difficult every year to get people involved and to understand the need is so great. Tracy Mullinax in Encino, you just get better every year. You had some helpers that did a great job for you and I would like to mention a few, Retired carrier Roger Askew, carriers Larry Dolabson, Ray Mola, Peter Axt, Ann Scarborough, Bob Enz, Ignatius Santoro, and your hard working daughter Meghan, great job, all of you. In Main office, thanks to Velma MCClinton and Bob Johnson and your helpers, Ben Sankers, his wife Sylvia and kids Jonathon and George and their cousin John Envieh. Also appreciation to Hoan Simunovic, daughter Erica and carrier Jose Verdugo. In Sun Valley, Tia Wilson and her family Husband John and kids Michael and John. In Civic center, thanks John Burton, and your volunteers Steve Soto, Andrew Miller and Fernando Miranda. In Panorama city, good job, and thanks to Jeff Jackson and his daughter Meghan. Also, thanks to Jack Winkle's daughter Janna and boyfriend Brian Izabal, Sandra Velasco and son Michael along with Sam Garay-Lozano's daughter Georgiana and brother Jose. Sherman Oaks, thank you Sonia Ruiz and your kids, Michael and Anthony with the help of carrier Steve Seyfried. Tarzana, great appreciation goes to Alex Garcia, his son AJ and to Allyson Hirsh, daughter of carrier Nancy Hirsh and to my daughter Mikayla, thanks for all your help. Thank you, Calvin Brookins, for your help and for doing the stand-ups in the stations. You are always so supportive. If I have not mentioned someone who should have been mentioned I apologize. I hope next year we get more cooperation from the managers in main office and that our food bank MEND will be able to secure plastic bags for the customers to place the food into for us to pick up. We shall see, in the mean time, again to all of you, I really do appreciate what you do every year.

In unionism

"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 6, 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 6:36 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS ASKEW
 MOMENT OF SILENCE--In memory of RAY VICK, Retiree out of Annex III & GEORGE WOYTOVICH, Retiree out of Encino and GOLD CARD MEMBER

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 MEMBERSHI--MICHAEL SANDAN, JORA MORODIJASJHI, HUEY GUO

BILLS--NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TRUSTEES Audit will be held on Tuesday July 18th at 6:00 pm. at the Union Office

SAFETY & HEALTH Next meeting will be on June 22nd at 1:00 pm. 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 Information racks have arrived and are being placed in all Stations and the Union Office. They have all new and up todate date MBA materials and if you have any questions you may contact BOB ENZ at the Encino Station.

HBR--J DOLABSON No Report

FOOD DRIVE--J. DOLABSON Look for Article in July's Mailcall

COLCPE \$ 4 currently in the fund

DISTRICT--McCLINTON LA Federation of Labor has elected a new Secretary-Treasurer, she is MARIA DURAZO, wife of the former Secretary MIGEL CONTRERAS who passed away suddenly last year. We wish her much success in her new position.

GIMME 5--JACKSON Now in the process of contacting every member of the Branch in regards to COLCPE. Watch for an article in a upcoming Mailcall.

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.

Sign-up sheets will be posted at each Station by Shop Stewards starting at the end of June. Remember please only sign if you intend on attending. We had to pay over \$ 1200 last year for no-shows. Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

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

OLD BUSINESS--NONE

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION--Branch pay property tax bill. Cost to the Branch \$ 106.92

M/S/C

MOTION--Branch purchase 25 Convention shirts Cost not to exceed \$ 1500.00. Money to be taken from the Contingency Fund

M/S/C

MOTION--Branch move the July Regular Meeting to TUESDAY JULY, 11, 2006, due to the holiday

M/S/C

UNDERLINED DENOTES UNANIMOUS VOTE

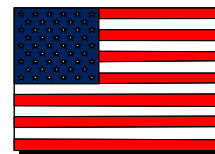
COLCPE DRAWING

\$ 5 CALVIN BROOKINS--CIVIC CENTER
 \$ 5 CALVIN BROOKINS--CIVIC CENTER
 \$ 10 JIM TUKESBREY--RETIREE--DONATED

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

MEETING P.M.

ADJOURNED 8:10



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