

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Calvin Brookins

### The passing of an Icon

Branch 2462 has lost one of its Icon's. On Tuesday January 23, 2007 former President Harry Brenneman passed away in Tucson, Arizona. Harry was President of Branch 2462 for 26 years. There is no one person other than Harry that poured more of his life into the branch for such a long time. Harry dedicated his life to Branch 2462, to the extent that he sacrificed precious time away from his family only to serve letter carriers as their representative. We all owe Harry his wife Dottie and his children a great deal of gratitude and a whole lot of thanks for everything that Harry did for this branch.

When I first became a shop steward at Civic Center station, Harry would always give me advice about always being timely with my grievances and always maintaining integrity. He would often remind me that integrity goes along way toward gaining respect from management as well as the membership. As a representative of a lot of people he would also remind me that everyone has rights but to always remember that one person rights ends where the next person rights begin. As he has said to me before do not let one person rights infringe upon the next person rights.

Harry was a true union warrior it is as if you were in battle and you had a fierce partner alone side of you ready and willing to fight until the battle was won. During Harry's term as President and as a letter carrier he watched a lot of changes over the years, and he was able to adapt as the changes happened. Harry watched many changes in the contract, rules and regulations over the years and I am proud to say that he taught me a lot about those rules and regulations and how to apply them.

Harry never stopped in his attempt to represent letter carriers, after his retirement he moved to Tucson Arizona where his dedication to letter carriers continued. He donated part of his retirement time to NALC branch 704 in Tucson where he helped out in any area he could. He spent 26 years representing letter carriers here in Van Nuys, Tarzana and Sun Valley that's over half my life time and anyone who spends that much time for this or any other local union will always have a very special spot in my heart.

We will miss Harry, this branch will grieve over his passing, but we will celebrate the great life of a man who were a pure union man and had nothing but love in his heart for letter carriers. Farewell to a little man with a big heart.

Last Sunday I and nine other executive board members and shop stewards attended a Rap Session re: our contract negotiations. President Bill Young went over the details of what we the (NALC) put on the table in an effort to come to an agreement on a new contract.

First of all the NALC rejected the Postal Service's proposal for 1% a year cut in the USPS contribution health benefits. This would have increased the carrier contribution in a family plan \$500.00 a year and \$325.00 a year in the self only plan.

The NALC did a study on the NALC-only plan, which would have saved the USPS \$475 million a year which is comparable to Blue Cross/Blue Shield benefit levels. Under this agreement there would have been a voluntary option for letter carriers to take the NALC plan and have the USPS pay 85% of the cost or take another health plan and have the USPS only pay 72% of the cost. Having letter carriers share in the savings which means increased pay;

The NALC also proposed a workforce structure by creating an all regular workforce by 2011. All carriers converted to Monday-Friday full time regulars, eliminate casuals, and keep City Carrier Grade 2 positions with new duties. Create a Saturday only bargaining unit workforce giving preference to retired carriers paid at step O rate and then new hires, probationary carriers paid at step A. The benefit to this is the USPS will have savings in leave and overtime. USPS will then go to OPM and request an early out for letter carriers. This will all have to come with an agreement on contracting out protection and a share in the savings which leads to increased pay.

(Continued on Page 2)

## IN MEMORY OF

FRANK HOZINSKY--RETIREE  
RALIEGH JOHNSTON--RETIREE  
DIANE PICARD-SHOCKLEY

HARRY BRENNEMAN  
FORMER PRESIDENT 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	1									
ENCINO	5	6									
CIVIC CENTER	0	1									
PANORAMA CITY	1	10									
SHERMAN OAKS	3	9									
SUN VALLEY	1	1									
TARZANA	1	2									
RETIREE'S	4	5									
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>35</b>									

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

**NEXT MEETING**  
**\*\*\*6:30 PM\*\*\***

**MARCH**  
**6th**  
**"2007"**

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

**March 6, 2007**

BRANCH OFFICE.....818-786-8505  
O P C PERSONNEL OFFICE....818-374-5600  
E-Mail.....NALCBRANCH2462@sbcglobal.net

### "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 March 24th & April 28, 2006 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar.....We hope to see you there.

Thank  
You

(Continued from Page 1)

### Summary: A Win-Win Contract

- Five-Year National Agreement
- Existing COLA clause (twice-a-year COLA's)
- General increases each year
- Higher general wage hikes for workforce proposal
- Look back wage increases, lump sums to share health savings
- Separate Monday-Friday/Saturday workforces covered by contract
- Early out, income for retirees
- Protection against outsourcing
- Continued efforts on route system, flats DPS

### The USPS Response

To this the USPS returned with an insulting 11th hour offer, which was a 3 year deal: first year lump sum, 1% in the next two years.

Reduce USPS contribution to health benefits from 85% average to 72% average a \$1,300 increase for a family plan.

Deduct 1% annually from carrier pay to pre-fund retiree health benefits-- this cost is already covered by postal reform.

Eliminate COLA's, Cuts in A/L, S/L, and night/Sunday premiums and eliminate no lay-off protection.

President Young stated that he thought he had an agreement with the Postmaster General, word has it he went and talked to the Board of Governors and all of a sudden there was no deal. Who is really in charge?

### Safety

Letter carriers face all types of safety hazards each day while out on their routes, here is some of the safety hazards letter carriers should look out for while delivering mail. Dogs, Portable basketball hoops, Low-hanging tree branches, Up-rooted sidewalks, and Potholes; if you notice any of these route hazards while delivering mail please see your NALC safety coordinator in your station or contact the union office.

## PICNIC ANNOUNCEMENT

There will be a Picnic Meeting in the Branch Office on February 27, 2007, AT 6:30 PM. All interested parties should plan on attending.

# A Tribute

How do you say farewell to a union member who has given sixty years of his life to help letter carriers? On Tuesday January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007 past President Harry Brenneman passed away in Tucson, Arizona.

Some of us are not lucky enough to live for sixty years much less provide leadership for so long. Harry Brenneman held the position of President at Branch 2462 in Van Nuys, California for twenty-six years. Prior to that he held numerous executive board positions within the branch.

After moving to Tucson, Arizona his dedication to letter carriers continued by his involvement in our union by donating some of his time and energy to local Branch 704.

Picture this: starting his postal career in 1945, making his career appointment under the old Civil Service guidelines in 1947 and carrying mail from 1947 until his retirement from the postal service in 1992. What was it like to work under the old political appointments of Postmasters by the President of the United States? What was it like to carry mail in the 1940's and 1950's? I will always remember sitting at the conference table and Harry reminding me that prior to union negotiated benefits, if you were a carrier, you sat in the swing room until the supervisor came and got you to punch on the clock because work was now available. You could sit there for hours!!! What was it like to have to beg your supervisor for annual leave to be with your family or a scheduled vacation? Spot leave was unheard of unless you were a favorite of management. What was it like to have a poor uniform allowance and terrible vehicles? What was it like to have poor equipment and out dated facilities? It was a privilege to sit at the same conference table and make decisions with him after the union decided to strike in 1970. To make decisions to protect the union assets from possible action by President Nixon. How many changes must he have seen in his lifetime? How many rules and regulations must he have learned over the years and shared with those he trained to follow him as leaders? How many members owe thanks to President Brenneman, a dedicated union officer for seeing to it that their rights were protected under each national agreement?

To his wife Dottie and their two children, Cindy and Kristen we can only say thanks for sharing him with us over the years. Our thoughts and prayers will be with you and we share in the mourning of a husband, father and a truly dedicated union officer. We will miss you Harry and may your spirit and soul rest in peace.

Roger Askew

## VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT

Art Bocek

### Facts of an Injury

Once the issues of "time" and "civil employee" have been shown to be accurate and true, it must be established whether the employee **in fact sustained an injury or disease**. There are two factors involved in this determination:

A. **Occurrence of Event.** Whether the employee

actually experienced the accident, event, or employment factor which is alleged to have occurred. This is resolved on the basis of factual evidence, including statements from the employee, the supervisor, and any witnesses. An injury need not be witnessed to be compensable. A supervisor who believes, however, that the employee's testimony is contrary to the facts should supply pertinent information to support this belief.

B. **Existence of Medical Condition.** Whether the accident or employment factor resulted in an injury or disease. This is determined on the basis of the attending physician's statement that a medical condition is present that could be related to the incident, though the medical report need not relate the condition to the incident. Simple exposure, for instance to a contagious condition or dusty environment, does not constitute an injury.

Address Waiver of Compensation Rights  
(20 CFR § 10.15)

Under 20 CFR § 10.15 regulations, **No** employer or other person may require an employee or other claimant to enter into any agreement, either before or after an injury or death, to waive his or her right to claim compensation under the FECA. **No** waiver of compensation rights shall be valid. 20 CFR § 10.16 address criminal penalties in connection with a claim under the FECA as follows:

(a) A number of statutory provisions make it a crime to file a false or fraudulent claim or statement with the government in connection with a claim under the FECA, or to wrongfully impede a FECA claim. Included among these provisions are sections 287, 1001, 1920, and 1922 of title 18, United States Code. Enforcement of these and other criminal provisions that may apply to claims under the FECA are within the jurisdiction of the Department of Justice.

(b) In addition, administrative proceedings may be initiated under the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986 (PFCRA), 31 U.S.C. 3801-12, to impose civil penalties and assessments against persons who make, submit, or present, or cause to be made, submitted or presented, false, fictitious or fraudulent claims or written statements to OWCP in connection with a claim under the FECA. The Department of Labor's regulations implementing the PFCRA are found at 29 CFR-Part-22.

The regulations at 20 CFR § 10.17 address the effects to a beneficiary who defrauds the government in connection with a claim for benefits. When a beneficiary either pleads guilty to or is found guilty on either Federal or state criminal charges of defrauding the Federal government in connection with a claim for benefits, the beneficiary's entitlement to any further compensation benefits will terminate effective the date either the guilty plea is accepted or a verdict of guilty is returned after trial, for any injury occurring on or before the date of such guilty plea or verdict. Termination of entitlement under this section is not affected by any subsequent change in or recurrence of the beneficiary's medical condition.

REMEMBER RIGHTS ARE LIKE MUSCLES,  
USE THEM OR LOSE THEM

# "THE MAIL CALL" BRANCH 2462, NALC

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

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
VAN NUYS, CA  
PERMIT No. 314

Address Service Requested

## Branch Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2007

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 BROOKINS at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS ROGER ASKEW  
**MOMENT OF SILENCE—IN MEMORY OF FRANK HOZINSKY, RALIEGH JOHNSTON, DIANE PICARD-SHOCKLEY AND FORMER BRANCH 2462 PRESIDENT HARRY BRENNEMAN**

**RETIREE JAMES TUKESBREY PLAYED TAPS IN MEMORY OF PAST PRESIDENT BRENNEMAN**  
**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS**

**PRESENT---** BROOKINS, BOCEK, SEYFRIED, JOHNSON, MULLINAX, JACKSON, L. DOLABSON, J. DOLABSON, ENZ  
**ABSENT—NONE**

**MOTION—**Branch suspend meeting to allow special guests to speak. M/S/C

**GUESTS—**PAULA MILLER from the Upton Branch spoke on the importance of participating in the annual FOOD DRIVE. She has been appointed as the NALC coordinator for the area. JOHN BEAUMONT, CSALC PRESIDENT, spoke on the importance of supporting COLCPE, and gave out special awards to those members who have already signed up for automatic payroll deductions.

### MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAIL CALL

**WITH CORRECTIONS—**February's Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sgt-At-Arms ROGER ASKEW and newly converted PTF PEREZ'S name is TIM not Dorothy. The editor apologizes for the error.

### CORRESPONDENCE READ

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP—**MEDIK BABAN

**BILLS READ—**MOTION TO PAY M/S/C

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**TRUSTEES** Budget committee met Thursday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 and a budget has been submitted for vote at tonight's meeting. Audit took place on January 25, 2007 and the books were found to be in order.

**SAFETY & HEALTH** Carriers will no longer be giving negative 4584's for not curbing your wheels on FLAT GROUND. You must have wheels curbed if on a hill or incline.

**RETIREES** 5 retiree's present tonight.

**MBA--ENZ** No Report

**HBR--J DOLABSON** No Report

**COLCPE** \$ 381 currently in the fund

**GIMME 5--JACKSON** No Report

**EDITOR SEYFRIED** No Report

### FINANCIAL REPORTS---JOHNSON

**VICE-PRESIDENT BOCEK** Gave brief explanation regarding a problem with lost Picnic check book. We will be doing a search and will close the account if it is not found.

**PRESIDENT BROOKINS—**Thanked all who had expressed sympathy over the loss of his mother, and also for the prayers and concerns over the recent illness of his wife. Gave report on last months rap session which he will cover in his article in the MailCall.

**OLD BUSINESS—**By-Laws that were published in the February MailCall will be voted on at the March Regular meeting.

### EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

#### NEW BUSINESS

**MOTION—**Branch donate \$ 500.00 to the Saxsenmeier Scholarship fund in the name of HARRY BRENNEMAN

M/S/C

**MOTION---**Branch pay the bond for the officers of the Branch. Cost for the year \$ 240.00

M/S/C

**MOTION—**Branch purchase 7 Food Drive banners, one for each station. Cost not to exceed \$ 400.00 M/S/C

**MOTION—**Accept the Budget as printed in the MailCall with the exception of Item # 29. M/S/C

**MOTION—**Reduce Item # 29 to zero dollars. M/S/F

**CALL FOR DIVISION-----FOR---7, AGAINST---19**  
**CHAIR IS UPHELD, MOTION FAILS TO PASS**

**MOTION TO RECONSIDER—**Motion to not accept the budget as printed in the MailCall due to changes made since printing. M/S/C

**MOTION—**Accept the budget as printed in the 2007 column, printed in the MailCall M/S/C

### UNDERLINED DENOTES UNANIMOUS VOTE

#### COLCPE DRAWING

\$ 5 ED GARDNER--TARZANA  
\$ 5 KEVIN DONOHUE--ENCINO  
\$ 5 JIM REAFLENG--SHERMAN OAKS--DONATED  
\$ 9 ED GARDNER--TARZANA

#### TESTIMONIAL

At this time the Branch held a short memorial service and testimonial to honor former President Harry Brenneman. Many members stood to share their fond remembrances of the many good times and fellowship they shared with him. We are lucky to have had the privilege of knowing and serving with him. Branch 2462 sends its heartfelt condolences to the Brenneman family during this time of mourning.

MEETING ADJOURNED 9:12 PM