

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Calvin Brookins

Top House and Senate leaders are set to back the NALC on Contracting Out. NALC President Bill Young and union legislative leaders from all 50 states met with House and Senate representatives to bring them up to date on issues critical to letter carriers, especially the Postal Service's plans to outsource city letter carrier work through expanded use of Contract Delivery Services.

President Young stated that he received assurance from almost all of them that outsourcing was a deal that would not work and they would help us fight contracting out. In the meantime our union leadership at the National level will continue to prepare for Interest Arbitration to fight for a contract.

The 2007 COLA for Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) participants, based on the December report issued January 18 by the U.S. Bureau of Labor statistics will be 2.4 percent.

The 2007 FECA COLA reflects the increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) between December 2005 and December 2006. It is applicable only in cases where death or disability occurred more than one year prior to the adjustment's effective date, and is effective March 1st.

There is no accumulation yet toward the 2008 retiree COLA. The 2008 retiree COLA will be based on the increase in the average CPI-W between the third quarter of 2006 and the third quarter of 2007.

Van Nuys--Selected for Flats Sequencing System

The Van Nuys Post Office has been selected as one of the sites for the first phase of deployment of the Flats Sequencing System (FSS) next year. The FSS will allow the Postal Service to arrange flats, large mail pieces such as magazines, catalogs and large envelopes in sequence for carrier delivery using technology and processes similar to those used to automate letters.

The FSS equipment is designed to sequence flat mail at a rate of approximately 16,500 pieces per hour with two

passes. Each machine will be capable of sequencing 280,500 pieces per day to more than 125,000 delivery addresses. The Postal service has identified more than 30 sites which are scheduled to receive the first 100 FSS machines over a two year period beginning in the summer of 2008. The order of deployment during this first phase has not been finalized. FSS installed at the Van Nuys Post Office will process flats for select delivery units in the 910- to the 916 zip code ranges.

The Postal Service has also notified the union to advise us of their plan to withhold full-time carrier assignments in impacted offices and non impacted offices within 100 miles of the impacted sites. They have stated that this action is based on the deployment of FSS machine. The impacted installations in Van Nuys and Tarzana, I have not been notified whether Sun Valley will be impacted. Date of impact for Van Nuys five city offices are May 5, 2009 and Tarzana is August 22, 2009. Management has projected that 14 full-time employees will be impacted in Van Nuys and 4 full-time employees will be impacted in Tarzana.

I have also received my marching orders from our National Business Agent Manny Peralta as to what we should do in regards to filing a grievance. Our National President Bill Young has also initiated a National Level grievance in regards to this issue.

Safety

I want to remind everyone about the North Hollywood carrier who were hit while working from the back of the vehicle, with that in mind here is some safety advice for carriers who have to take mail from the back of their vehicle while parked on heavily traveled streets.

- *Park the vehicle where it is legal to park, out of traffic lanes.
- *Try to avoid parking close to a corner.
- *Park where there is good visibility so a vehicle approaching from behind can see you from a distance & you can see them.
- *While working from the back of the vehicle frequently look back for approaching traffic.

IN MEMORY OF

LEE FENSTERMACHER
GOLD CARD RETIREE
FORMER EDITOR 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.

by
Janette Dolabson, HBR

Hi, I just wanted to take a few minutes to let you know a few things you might not know. If you are planning on retiring soon I would just like to let you know that when you fill out your papers to retire and you want your family to continue being covered by your health plan, make sure you opt in to the survivor benefits. If you don't and you should die your family will lose your health plan benefits after 30 days. It's an awful feeling to have to tell a grieving family member that their spouse didn't opt in to the survivor benefits when they retired and now the health plan has been terminated. Most likely that member didn't know that the health benefits were tied in to the survivor benefits. Don't let this happen to your family.

Did you know that tea is one of the most healthful beverages? It's fat-free and calorie-free. Tea is rich in flavonoids and powerful antioxidants that help to prevent chronic diseases such as heart disease and cancer. Green and black teas have the most antioxidants.

Thanks for your time,

ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
MAIN OFFICE	1	1	1								
ENCINO	5	6	5								
CIVIC CENTER	0	1	1								
PANORAMA CITY	1	10	6								
SHERMAN OAKS	3	9	5								
SUN VALLEY	1	1	1								
TARZANA	1	2	3								
RETIREE'S	4	5	4								
TOTAL	16	35	26								

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

NEXT MEETING
6:30 PM

APRIL
3rd
"2007"

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

April 3, 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 April 28th and May 26, 2007 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar.....We hope to see you there.

Thank
You

HEALTH UPDATE

FOOD DRIVE INFO by

Janette Dolabson
Food Drive Coordinator

Well it's that time of year again. It's time to be thinking about the upcoming food drive in May. This year we have been challenged to collect at least 10% more food. We are in competition with the east coast. They have continually collected a lot more food than we have here on the west coast. We don't want this to happen again this year. One way we can achieve this is by giving our best effort and getting the word out to our customers that the food drive is coming. We will be sending out the t-shirt order forms early this year and hope that all of you will purchase one to help in this effort. We will be hanging banners in front of the Post Offices that week to remind people that's it coming. We would like all of you to be conscientious and take the cards out and deliver them as instructed to your patrons. They are first class mail and I would hate for anyone to be disciplined for bringing them back to the station undelivered. You don't have to pick up the food if you don't want to. All you have to do is let your coordinator know that the food on your route needs to be picked up. I can't imagine anyone who isn't willing to help out with this very important effort but there are some of you that don't want to. However, you have to deliver the cards. There is no opting out of that. Let us pull together and work as the well oiled machine that I know we can be and put forth the best effort we ever have this year. I really do appreciate all your support and hard work. Thanks.

DON'T LET TIME RUN OUT !!!
SEND A CHECK TO
COLCPE TODAY !!

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT

Art Bocek

Falsification of Records

As a letter carrier for the past 37 years, shop steward, and currently as your vice- president, not often (thank you very much) but once in a great while, charges against a letter carrier known as 'FASIFICATION' rears its ugly head. The charge of falsification can start as early in an employee's career with his or her employment application. Throughout a letter carrier's career, there are many forms need to be completed, clock rings swiped, not to mention scans of Certifies, DPS, Del Cons, Express's, Insures, and finally Registers. Letter carriers as well as all other employees (**including management**) have the duty and obligation to complete all forms and clock rings with honesty and integrity. The following rules and regulations listed below exist in the Employee and Labor Relations Manual (ELM) and under United States Code (USC) and the penalty for violating these regulations regarding falsification is removal from employment with the Postal Service and substantial monetary fines.

Section 665. 44, ELM states: Recording the time for another employee constitutes falsification of a report. Any employee knowingly involved in such a procedure is subject to removal or other discipline. Failure of a supervisor to report known late arrivals is regarded as condoning falsification.

USC Title 18 Sect.1030 (Fraud and related activity in connection with computers) states: "...access a computer...by means of such conduct furtheres the intended fraud...a fine for more than ten years or both..."

USC Title 18 Sect. 1712 (Falsification of postal returns to increase compensation) "Whoever being a Postal Service officer or employee, makes a false return, statement, or account to any officer of the United States, or makes a false entry in any book or account...for the purpose of fraudulently increasing his compensation or any employee in the post office...Shall be fined or imprisoned for not more than two years, or both..."

USC Title 18 Section 1001(Statement or entry generally) "Whoever, in any matter within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals, creates or cover-ups by any trick, scheme, or device a material fact , or makes false, fictitious or fraudulent statement or representations, or makes or uses any false writing or document knowing the same to contain any false, fictitious or fraudulent statement, or entry, shall be fined or imprisoned not more than five years or both.

Section 665.14, ELM states: "Allegations of violations of postal laws by postal employees, other than mail theft, must be reported to the Office of Inspector General" (OIG) **1-888-USPS-OIG (1888-877-7644)**

Hopefully, this article will explain to all of the letter carriers inquires as to why you were brought into the office and questioned by OIG and not by the Postal Inspection Service (PI). OIG was investigating in order to determine if any "falsifications" had occurred regarding the above cited regulations. When ever being interviewed, remember to always request a steward "**Weingarten Rights**" to be present prior to being interviewed, and most importantly, tell the truth. So let's all sit back and watch what happens with the investigations, it's like watching a Clint Eastwood movie,

"The Good, the Bad and the Ugly."

Medical Treatment-Form CA-16

If an employee requires medical treatment for the injury, the supervisor should complete the front of Form CA-16 within four hours of the request whenever possible. If the supervisor doubts whether the employee's condition is related to the employment, he or she should so indicate on the form. Where there is no time to complete a Form CA-16, the supervisor may authorize medical treatment by telephone and send the completed form to the medical facility within 48 hours. Retroactive issuance of Form CA-16 is usually not permitted under other circumstances.

(1) **Delayed Report of Injury.** If an employee reported an injury several days after the fact, or did not request medical treatment within 24 hours of the injury, the supervisor may still authorize medical care using Form CA-16. Agency personnel are encouraged to use discretion in issuing authorizations for medical care under such circumstances, but employees should not be penalized for short delays in reporting injuries. The supervisor may, however, refuse to issue a CA-16 if more than a week has passed since the injury on the basis that the need for immediate treatment would become apparent in that period of time. An employee may not use Form CA-16 to authorize his or her own treatment.

(2) **Choice of Physician.** The employee is entitled to select the physician who is to provide treatment. The provider must meet the definition of "physician" under the FECA and must not have been excluded from payment under the program (refer to Chapter 6 for guidance in authorizing providers). Physicians employed by or under contract to the agency may examine the employee at the agency's facility in accordance with OPM regulations. However, the employee's choice of physician must be honored, and treatment by the employee's physician must not be delayed for the purpose of obtaining an agency-directed medical examination.

(3) **Obtaining Treatment.** Along with Form CA-16, the supervisor should give the employee Form OWCP-1500, which is used for billing (this form is discussed in Chapter 6). The physician should complete the reverse of Form CA-16 and the OWCP-1500 and forward them to OWCP; the supervisor may ask the physician for a copy of the report as well. The employee may be furnished transportation and/or reimbursed for travel and incidental expenses. OWCP generally considers 25 miles from the agency or the employee's home a reasonable distance to travel for medical care unless appropriate care is not available within that radius.

(4) **Further Referral.** The original treating physician may wish to refer the employee for additional testing or specialized treatment. He or she may do so on the basis of the Form CA-16 already issued; it is not necessary to issue additional authorizations for treatment. Both the original physician and any physician to whom the employee is referred is guaranteed payment for 60 days from the date of issue of Form CA-16 unless OWCP terminates this authority at an earlier date. Treatment may continue at OWCP expense if the claim is approved.

Should the employee wish to change physicians after the initial choice, he or she must contact OWCP in writing for approval and include the reasons for requesting the change.

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

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U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
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Branch Meeting Minutes

March 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 6:32 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS ROGER ASKEW
MOMENT OF SILENCE—In Memory of LEE FENSTERMACHER, Retired Gold Card Member and former Editor of the MailCall

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

PRESENT— BROOKINS, BOCEK, SEYFRIED, JOHNSON, MULLINAX, JACKSON, L. DOLABSON, ASKEW, J. DOLABSON

ABSENT—ENZ

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAIL CALL

WITH CORRECTIONS— Sgt-At-Arms ROGER ASKEW was present at the February Meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP—JEANE CHEM, TODD LOHNAS, REYALDO MARDONES, JEMMAYEN MACARAEG. New member MACARAEG was present and was sworn in and presented with a Member Pin by Vice President BOCEK.

BILLS READ—MOTION TO PAY

M/S/C

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TRUSTEES Everything is 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.
RETIREEES 4 retiree's present tonight.
MBA--ENZ No Report
HBR--J DOLABSON Watch for article in April MailCall

COLCPE \$ 411 currently in the fund

GIMME 5--JACKSON Announced new incentive program to encourage members to sign up for COLCPE. Watch for further info at your stations.

EDITOR SEYFRIED No Report

FINANCIAL REPORTS---JOHNSON

VICE-PRESIDENT BOCEK Still looking at Picnic sites will be having another Picnic Meeting on April 10, 2007 at the Union Office at 6:30 pm.

MOTION—Table the Picnic discussion until the next Regular Meeting
M/S/C

PRESIDENT BROOKIN Gave report on latest info regarding contract and other important items which he will cover in his article in the MailCall.

OLD BUSINESS

MOTION—Branch accept the bylaw change for ART II, Sec 4 as published in the MailCall
M/S/C

MOTION—Branch accept the bylaw change for ART VII, Sec 1 as published in the MailCall
M/S/C

DIVISION CALLED---YES—22, NO—2 Chair upheld

MOTION—Branch accept the bylaw change for ART XII, Sec 3 as published in the MailCall
M/S/C

MOTION—Branch accept the bylaw change for ART X, Sec 4(A) as published in the MailCall
M/S/C

MOTION—Branch accept the bylaw change for ART XII, Sec 7 as published in the MailCall
M/S/C

MOTION—Branch accept the bylaw change for ART XII, Sec 4 as published in the MailCall
M/S/C

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION—Branch donate \$ 100.00 to the L A Community Services Easter Baskets for Homeless Children
M/S/C

MOTION---Branch donate \$ 50.00 to the Special Olympics of Southern California
M/S/C

MOTION—Branch donate \$ 45.00 to the Mend Raffle. If we win, we will raffle the trip at a Branch Meeting
M/S/C

MOTION—Branch donate \$ 200.00 to the Cure Autism Now Association
M/S/C

UNDERLINED DENOTES UNANIMOUS VOTE

COLCPE DRAWING

\$ 5 ED GARDNER--TARZANA
\$ 5 LARRY DOLABSON—ENCINO--DONATED
\$ 5 BETTY LOW—SHERMAN OAKS
\$ 11 JIM TUKESBREY—RETIREE--DONATED

MEETING ADJOURNED 9:06 PM

PICNIC ANNOUNCEMENT

There will be a Picnic Meeting in the Branch Office on April 10, 2007. AT 6:30 PM. All