

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Calvin Brookins

To Outlaw "Contracting Out"

On May 23, 2007, Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) introduced in the U.S. Senate legislation to protect city and rural letter carriers from having their work contracted out by the USPS to private contractors and individual.

S. 1457 is titled the "Mail Delivery Protection Act of 2007". This bill is designed to keep the postal service from entering into any contract with any motor carrier or other person for the delivery of mail on any route with 1 or more families per mile.

This bill will stop the Postal Service's attempt to privatize mail delivery. There were several Senators joining Harkin as co-sponsors of this bill they are: Max Baucus (D-MT), Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), Robert Casey (D-PA), John Kerry (D-MA), Jon Tester (D-MT), Byron Dorgan (D-ND), Patrick Leahy (D-VT), and Patty Murray (D-WA).

Dog Bites

On May 21, 2007, Representative Thaddeus G. McCotter (R-MI) sponsored House Resolution 419 that calls on communities to take steps to protect letter carriers and other citizens against dog bites.

This resolution is designed to raise awareness among Americans. More than 3000 letter carriers were victims of dog bites last year. This resolution would also have Congress recognize National Dog Bite Prevention Week of May 20 – 26.

This has been an ongoing problem for letter Carriers and the Postal Service for a long time. Everyday letter carriers have to be on their guard against unexpected dog attacks. Hopefully this bill will encourage local government and homeowners to ensure that their dogs are restrained and that it is safe for letter carriers to deliver the mail. With that said, I am asking all members of this branch to be vigilant and very careful when it comes to dogs in the area that you are delivering mail. Summer time is here and with that dog attacks can increase.

Retiree COLA Reaches 1.5 Percent

The 2008 COLA for retirees stood at 1.5 percent following the release by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics May 15 of the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for April.

The COLA will be paid in 2008 based on the increase between the third quarter of 2006 and the third quarter of 2007.

For Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) participants, their 2008 FECA COLA stands at 2.5 percent based on the latest figures.

PS Form 1510

As of June 1, 2007, PS Form 1510, Mail Loss/Rifling Report will be obsolete and discontinued. All Post Offices have been advised to destroy all forms currently in stock. They are also advising customers who wish to report suspected mail theft or rifling must contact the Postal Inspection Service.

Therefore, I am advising all carriers to make sure that they properly deliver parcels and you might not want to leave them on porches without having something in writing from the customer to protect yourself.

Food Drive

The NALC collected 70.7 million pounds of food nation-wide, this branch collected 95,864 pounds of food. There are a lot of people who have played a major role in our food drive for a lot of years. First I want to thank all of the letter carriers within Branch 2462 who went out and picked up food on Food Drive Saturday, as I stated in the stand-ups at each station we cannot in no way achieve the success that we have had with the food drive without the hard work of each and every letter carrier. On behalf of the branch leadership, our National Business Agent Manny Peralta and our National President Bill Young I want to thank every letter carrier for the effort and sacrifice that they have given in this years food drive.

"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.

Art Bocek

Regulations Enforced by the EEOC

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) enforces all of the above laws. EEOC also provides oversight and coordination of all federal equal employment opportunity regulations, practices, and policies.

Under "Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964," regulations clearly prohibit the employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. The "Equal Pay Act of 1963" (EPA), protects both men and women who perform substantially equal work in the same establishment from sex-based wage discrimination. The "American Disabilities Act (ADA), which protects individuals prohibits employment discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities in the private sector. Under the "Rehabilitation Act" discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities who work in the federal government is also clearly prohibited. The "Civil Rights Act of 1991," which among other things, provides for "monetary damages" in cases of intentional employment discrimination.

Other federal laws, not enforced by EEOC, also prohibit discrimination and reprisal against federal employees and applicants. The Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 (CSRA) contains a number of prohibitions, known as prohibited personnel practices which are designed to promote overall fairness in federal personnel actions (5 U.S.C. 2302). The CSRA prohibits any employee who has authority to take certain personnel actions from discriminating for or against employees or applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age or disability. It also provides that certain personnel actions can not be based on attributes or conduct that do not adversely affect employee performance, such as marital status and political affiliation. The Office of Personnel management (OPM) has interpreted the prohibition of discrimination based on conduct to include discrimination based on sexual orientation. The CSRA also prohibits reprisal against federal employees or applicants for whistle-blowing, or for exercising an appeal, complaint, or grievance right. The CSRA is enforced by both the Office of Special Counsel (OSC) and the Merits Systems Protection Board (MSPB).

ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
MAIN OFFICE	1	1	1	1	1						
ENCINO	5	6	5	5	5						
CIVIC CENTER	0	1	1	1	1						
PANORAMA CITY	1	10	6	3	10						
SHERMAN OAKS	3	9	5	3	6						
SUN VALLEY	1	1	1	1	1						
TARZANA	1	2	3	2	2						
RETIREE'S	4	5	4	4	2						
TOTAL	16	35	26	20	28						

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

NEXT MEETING

6:00 PM

JULY

3rd

"2007"

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

July 3, 2007

BRANCH OFFICE.....818-786-8505
O P C PERSONNEL OFFICE....818-374-5600
[E-Mail.....NALCBRANCH2462@sbcglobal.net](mailto:NALCBRANCH2462@sbcglobal.net)

"RETIREE CORNER"

Our Free Breakfast Meeting will be held at Zig's Restaurant , (6821 White Oak Ave Corner of White Oak and Van Owen). It will begin at 09:00 AM. The next 2 dates will be July 28, 2007 and August 25th (4th Saturday) We hope to see you there.

Thank
You

Frank Brach

Pictured above are (L to R) Sgt-at-Arms Roger Askew, Congressman Howard Berman, CSA President John Beaumont and HBR Janette Dolabson at the recent Congressional Lobbying trip in Washington, D.C.

PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES

These changes will be voted on at the August Regular Meeting
(UNDERLINED DENOTES CHANGES MADE)

#1 Proposed to amend Article VII, Section 1, which now reads,

Section 1. The elective officers of this Branch shall be a President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, MBA Representative, Health Benefit Representative and a Board of Trustees composing of three (3) members.

Proposed to amend to read:

Section 1. The elective officers of this Branch shall be a President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary/Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, MBA Representative, Health Benefit Representative and a Board of Trustees composing of three (3) members.

Signed by— Janette Dolabson, Steve Seyfried, Bob Enz, Larry Dolabson, Jim Tukesbrey, Roger Askew

#2 Proposed to amend Article XII, Section 3, which now reads,

Section 3. No money shall be paid out by the Treasurer except on a warrant ordered by the Branch and signed by the President and the Recording Secretary, except as provided in Section 6 of Article XII.

Proposed to amend to read:

Section 3. No money shall be paid out by the Financial Secretary/Treasurer except on a warrant ordered by the Branch and signed by the President and the Recording Secretary, except as provided in Section 6 of Article XII.

Signed by— Janette Dolabson, Steve Seyfried, Bob Enz, Larry Dolabson, Jim Tukesbrey, Roger Askew

#3 Proposed to amend Article XII, Section 4, which now reads,

Section 4. The following money's shall be paid out by the Treasurer immediately on receipt on a warrant ordered and signed by the President and the Recording Secretary.

Proposed to amend to read:

Section 4. The following money's shall be paid out by the Financial Secretary/Treasurer immediately on receipt on a warrant ordered and signed by the President and the Recording Secretary.

Signed by— Janette Dolabson, Steve Seyfried, Bob Enz, Larry Dolabson, Jim Tukesbrey, Roger Askew.

#4 Proposed to amend Article XII, Section 7, which now reads,

Section 7. The salaries shall be as follows

President.....	\$350.00	per month
Shop Steward (each)	75.00	per month
Vice President	150.00	per month
Sgt-at-Arms	50.00	per month
Recording Secretary	150.00	per month
Health Benefit Rep	50.00	per month
Financial Secretary	150.00	per month
Editor	55.00	per month
Treasurer	150.00	per month
Trustees (3) (each).....	50.00	per month

Proposed to amend to read:

Section 7. The salaries shall be as follows

<u>President.....</u>	<u>\$350.00</u>	<u>per month</u>
<u>Shop Steward (each)</u>	<u>75.00</u>	<u>per month</u>
<u>Vice President..</u>	<u>150.00</u>	<u>per month</u>
<u>Sgt-at-Arms..</u>	<u>50.00</u>	<u>per month</u>
<u>Recording Secretary</u>	<u>150.00</u>	<u>per month</u>
<u>Health Benefit Rep</u>	<u>50.00</u>	<u>per month</u>
<u>Financial Secretary/Treasurer....</u>	<u>150.00</u>	<u>per month</u>
<u>Editor..</u>	<u>55.00</u>	<u>per month</u>
<u>Trustees (3) (each).....</u>	<u>50.00</u>	<u>per month</u>

Signed by— Janette Dolabson, Steve Seyfried, Bob Enz, Larry Dolabson, Jim Tukesbrey, Roger Askew

#5 Proposed to amend Article X, Section 4(A), which now reads,

Section 4. (A) A committee to be known as the Budget Committee, and comprised of the Financial Secretary/Treasurer, and three (3) Trustees, shall allot the financial obligations for each calendar year. They shall make a report to be published in the February issue of The Mail Call and acted on at the February Meeting of all obligations for the current calendar year. The fixed expenses shall include:

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fixed expenses shall include:

Signed by— Janette Dolabson, Steve Seyfried, BobENZ,
Larry Dolabson, Jim Tukesbrey, Roger
AskeW

FOOD DRIVE UPDATE

by

Janette Dolabson

HBR/ Food Drive Coordinator Branch 2462.

I am happy to write this article this year. Last year was disappointing because we only collected around 61,000 pounds of food. This year we really pushed everyone to step up and give your best effort. We challenged you to do at least 10% more than last year. We asked you to bring in food yourselves to donate. We asked for volunteers to go out and circulate flyers. With all that we asked, we did way more than the 10% we were hoping for. This year we collected 95,864 pounds of food. That's a huge increase and largely due to all your hard work and the efforts of the coordinators and yes, I have to say, the managers. Without your cooperation working together to get this task done we would not have seen this come to fruition.

I want to start my thanks with Sherman Oaks. They have a coordinator over in that station named Sonia Ruiz. She is absolutely motivated and goes way beyond what's asked of her and because of that dedication her station took the top honors in food collected this year. Sherman Oaks brought in 421 tubs of food. That translates roughly to about 25,000 pounds with the residual food picked up, just from that station. Thank you Sonia, you are an inspiration and a great example of what can be done when we are motivated to do it. Thank you also to Barbara Smith, wife of Carrier Keith Smith, and 5 year old Vanessa Zena who donated their Saturday to help us. Extra special thanks go to Milena Zena and Steve Seyfried for coming in on their day off to work the entire day.

Next I would like to give honorable mention to Encino Station who again did a fantastic job. Thanks to Tracy Mullinax for the great job you did coordinating your office. Thank you also goes out to Tracy's daughter Meghan and to Larry Dolabson, Bob Enz, Roger Askew, Ray Mola, Ignatius Santoro, Art Bocek, and Gene Tuttle for your help.

Thanks to Bob Johnson and Elaine Boyd for co-coordinating Main office this year. Your office did much better this year than last, by about 100 tubs. It does make a big difference when you have the cooperation from your managers. I'd like to thank Vivian and Edwin Matute, Jonathan and George Sankar and Girls Scout troop 1157 for helping out in this office. Main office gets top prize in the food brought in by carriers to the station. Even though you won this contest this year because Encino and Sherman Oaks didn't separate and count the food brought in from the carriers so we couldn't get a separate count, you did a great job donating food.

Top honors for collecting food in the smaller offices goes to Civic Center. They collected over 220 tubs of food this year. They also had the highest total in the food donations by the carriers. Thank you John Burton for an exceptional job, as usual. And thank you to the carriers in Civic Center for your hard work and donations, it made a big difference.

I want to thank the carriers in Tarzana for bringing in 12 tubs of food from their own homes. We collected 178 tubs of food in Tarzana this year, a lot better than last year when we collected around 100 tubs. Thanks to Alex Garcia who always is such a great help to me in my station. We had 3 volunteers from MEND not show up to sort the food so if it weren't for Alex, Nancy Hirsch and her daughter Allyson, her sister Heather Brand and her daughter Abby, my daughter Mikayla and my Postmaster Louis Hernandez and his sons we would

have been in trouble trying to get the food sorted and counted in time for the deadline.

Jeff Jackson, you did a wonderful job in Panorama City this year. You always do, but this year your office collected a lot more than you did last year and your carriers brought in a lot of food of their own to help bring those totals up. Thank you all very much especially Mayen Macaraegs' sister Joyce and her crew and to Karen Aguilar. I want to give a shout out to the Postmaster in your office, Phil Fudally, who did a stellar job coordinating the 7 offices this year for the Postal Service. What a relief it was to have support from him during this challenge. He really did a great job and I appreciate all his help.

Last, but not least, I want to thank all the carriers and managers in Sun Valley for the great job you all did this year. Your office has been hit with so much in a short time and I know that help was really hard to come by in your station.. You were severely short handed on food drive day and your coordinator had to carrier mail. Thank you Tia Wilson for getting the job started and Renee Arambula for picking up the rest, even if it was after you carried a route that day. I want to say thanks to your supervisor Bobby Niitsuma, who basically had to do the coordinating of the food drive, and to Postmistress Shawn White who came in on her day off to take care of the office so Bobby could run the food drive. Thank you Calvin Brookins, who went over to Sun Valley and made sure everything, was running smoothly and to clerk Pat Jacobs for passing out flyers. In spite of all the special challenges you had this year you did much better in food collection than last year, and I thank you all so much.

Of course, we couldn't do this as smoothly if we didn't have the volunteers from MEND and the coordination of the volunteers and trucks from Gina Mirabella. Thank you to all of you. If I missed anyone I apologize. Sometimes the coordinators don't get everyone's names to me who have helped with their offices in time but I am sure they really appreciate your help and dedication as do I. Thanks to all of you for your hard work. Next year let's break 100,000 pounds.

In Unionism

