

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Calvin Brookins

In my article last month I wrote about Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) introduction in legislation, S. 1457 "Mail Delivery Protection Act of 2007". As I wrote last month this bill is designed to keep the Postal Service from entering into a contract with any motor carrier or other person for the delivery of mail on any route with one or more families per mile. Basically if this bill passes it will keep the Postal Service from contracting out letter carrier work.

Well as I write this Article this month it has come to my attention that the Postmaster General John E. Potter has now written a letter to Senator Thomas R. Carper opposing Senate bill S. 1457. He states that "this bill would override current collective bargaining agreements..." He also stated that "if enacted, with an exception of a very limited use, no new contracts for mail delivery could be initiated."

You know as well as I know that no letter of this type can be written without a response from our National President Bill Young. President Bill Young and the Rural carriers President Donnie Pitts both responded to the letter that Postmaster General John Potter wrote to the Senate. In President Young's response he stated; "Contrary to the assertions made by Mr. Potter in his June 13 letter, the bill would not override our collection bargaining agreements and would not interfere with the existing collective bargaining process." "Rather, the legislation restores the status quo that existed before the Postal Service decided to begin outsourcing urban and suburban mail delivery with the recent creation of Contract Delivery Service."

I am not going to restate or reprint these two letters in its entirety, however, if you would like to read the letters from both the Postmaster General and President Young you can find them on the NALC Website (nalc.org) under a paragraph heading of (Carriers' leaders debunk PMG:) Once you get to the paragraph click on the phrase "PMG letter to Congress" to review the Postmaster General letter and click on the phrase "NALC & NRLCA letter in response" to review President Young's letter. I will also send copies of these two letters to all shop stewards to be placed in the break room.

Safety Re: Dog Bites

Preventing dog bites is important to the safety and health of every letter carrier, every day. As soon you get out on the street, you are immediately exposed to potential harm from dangerous animals. Remember, in many instances,

carriers are badly wounded despite pet owners' insistence that their dog would never bite anyone.

The Humane Society of the United States reports that small children, the elderly, and USPS Letter Carriers — in that order — are the most frequent victims of dog bites. In fact, recent statistics show the annual number of dog attacks exceeds the reported instances of measles, whooping cough, and mumps combined. Dog Bite victims account for up to five percent of emergency room visits.

Medical expenses, workers' compensation, legal costs, delivery curtailment, carrier replacement, and other costs associated with dog bite accidents are estimated to exceed \$25 million annually for the Postal Service. The cost in employee pain and suffering cannot be measured.

How to Avoid Being Bitten, Basic rules to follow

Observe the area. Take a quick glance at all the places a dog may be, under parked cars, under hedges, on the porch, etc.

Size up the situation. Determine if the dog is asleep, barking, growling, nonchalant, large small, etc.

Avoid signs of fear. A dog is more apt to bite you if it knows you are afraid.

Don't startle a dog. If it is asleep, make some kind of non-startling noise, such as soft whistling. Do this before you are close to it, while you still have time and space for an out.

Never assume a dog won't bite. You may encounter a certain dog for days or weeks without incident, and then one day, it might decide to bite you.

Keep your eyes on the dog. A dog is more apt to bite you when you aren't looking. Always be alert for a sneak dog attack. If a dog comes toward you turn your face and if you have a satchel hold it in front of you and back away slowly. Never turn and run. If a dog attacks you, use the repellent to protect yourself.

(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.

ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
MAIN OFFICE	1	1	1	1	1	0	1				
ENCINO	5	6	5	5	5	6	4				
CIVIC CENTER	0	1	1	1	1	1	1				
PANORAMA CITY	1	10	6	3	10	3	3				
SHERMAN OAKS	3	9	5	3	6	4	5				
SUN VALLEY	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				
TARZANA	1	2	3	2	2	2	1				
RETIREE'S	4	5	4	4	2	5	7				
TOTAL	16	35	26	20	28	22	23				

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

NEXT MEETING
6:30 PM

AUGUST
7th
"2007"

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

August 7, 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 Denny's Restaurant, Corner of De Celis and Sherman Way. It will begin at 09:00 AM. The next 2 dates will be August 25, 2007 and Sept 22nd (4th Saturday) We hope to see you there.

Thank
You
Frank Brach

Calvin Brookins

(Continued from Page 1)

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.

I want to specifically thank Janette Dolabson from Tarzana the branch Food Drive Coordinator, for the many years that she has coordinated the food drive for our branch. She continues to do a great job and her service to this branch shall not go un-noticed, without her persistence and expertise I do not believe we would be as successful as we have been. So when you see Janette please be sure to thank her for a job well done.

We're here to help

Who are we?

We are the Union, the shop stewards.

How can we help?

We can mediate your work problems.

Why come to work feeling that you are going to have a confrontation with your supervisor. Use the grievance/arbitration system, the tool that each of us has to put us on equal footing with management. First, and most important, do not argue or get upset with your supervisor. Your health is more valuable. If you feel that you have a problem, write down:

- With Whom
- Where and when did this happen
- What occurred
- Any witnesses
- Request in writing to see your shop steward

Remember! United we stand, Divided we fall!

PICNIC ANNOUNCEMENT

THERE WILL BE DISCUSSION AND A DECISION
MADE AT THE AUGUST MEETING REGARDING
THE 2007 PICNIC
THOSE INTERESTED SHOULD ATTEND

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT

Art Bocek

1000 Trails Picnic Announcement

Well, by now you probably have already heard this year's picnic at "1000 Trails" has been canceled. The reason for this decision by the owners of the properties made the decision to no longer host picnics at 1000 Trails but to develop the land for additional modular homes. Currently, other options for this year's picnic are being explored and considered and no new picnic facility has been chosen. As soon as a new picnic facility can be determined and arraigned, an announcement will be made to all branch members.

Contract Mediation Hearings

Just a little reminder, both Bloch and the two other panel members have set four weeks for testimony: Sept. 10-14, Sept. 24-28, Oct. 29-Nov. 2, and Nov. 5-9. "Given this schedule, it is anticipated that a decision on the contract will be rendered in mid-November."

FMLA

The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, guarantees each letter carrier up to 12 weeks of leave each postal leave year, for the following:

1. A new child in the family—by birth, by adoption or by placement in foster care;
2. Caring for a family member with a serious health condition;
3. The employee's own serious health condition that prevents him or her from performing the job.

The FMLA guarantees time off, whether paid or unpaid. The type of leave taken depends on the reasons for the leave, an employee's earnings and the usual postal leave regulations. There are eligibility criteria, medical certification guidelines and other detailed rules governing letter carrier rights to FMLA leave so, if you have any questions whether or not your situation "qualifies" under FMLA, see your steward for answers to your questions.

Employee Assistance Program

The Employee Assistance Program is governed by Article 35 of the National Agreement. EAP is jointly administered by NALC, other postal unions and the employer. The program provides confidential education, referral and counseling to help employees through personal challenges of all types. This includes alcoholism and drug abuse programs. Any postal employee seeking EAP services may either contact their local union officers for information, check on the bulletin board for either a phone number or web site.

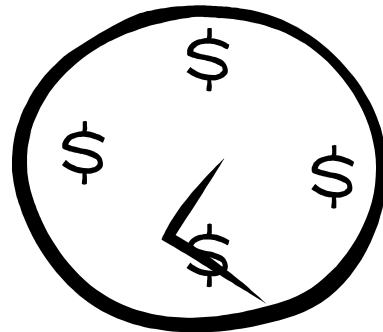
by
HBR Janette Dolabson

Hi Plan members. I just want to take a couple moments to update you on one of the new things happening in the health plan you might not be aware of.

In March CVS Corporation and Caremark Rx officially merged. The new name is CVS/Caremark Corporation. This merger unifies the nation's largest pharmacy chain with the leading pharmaceutical services company. Their plans are to combine the pharmacy benefit management, specialty pharmacy and health management businesses of Caremark and CVS PharmaCare to create the new Caremark Pharmacy Services Group. It will provide greater access to the broadest range of pharmacy benefit management mail service pharmacy benefit management and analytic services into one.

Right now this merger doesn't change anything for our Plan members. Your current identification card is still valid. Caremark will continue to manage our prescription plan for the NALC Health Benefit Plan and there will be no changes to our benefits. You will still have access to the network of participation pharmacies. With this merger there's not yet any new options or services offered but with this merger there will be some that will certainly be explored, so I will keep you updated when and if any new services are offered.

Thanks for your time.



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

HEALTH BENEFIT NEWS !

"THE MAIL CALL"

BRANCH 2462, NALC

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

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Branch Meeting Minutes

July 3, 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 6:05 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS ROGER ASKEW
MOMENT OF SILENCE—In Memory of Beverly Mattis, Past President of NALC Branch 2902.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

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

ABSENT---ENZ

LEAVE OF ABSENCE---BOCEK

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAIL CALL

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP---NONE

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TRUSTEES Audit will be on July 17th, at 6:00 pm at the Union Office.

SAFETY & HEALTH Summer is here and with it comes children playing outside and more dogs running around. We lead the nation in the number of dog bites received. Lets be extra careful while out on the street.

RETIREEES 7 retiree's present tonight. Date annual Retiree Luncheon will be on October 21, 2007. It will be held at Encino Glen Restaurant. No host bar at 1:00 pm followed by lunch at 2 pm. Cost to attend will again be \$ 5.00. Contact Frank Brash for tickets and further info.

MBA---ENZ No Report
FOOD DRIVE---J DOLABSON No Report
HBR---J DOLABSON Article will appear in MailCall

COLCPE \$ 526 currently in the fund

GIMME 5---JACKSON No Report
EDITOR SEYFRIED No Report

FINANCIAL REPORT---JOHNSON

TREASURERS REPORT---JOHNSON

MOTION---Accept Financial reports as read M/S/C

VICE-PRESIDENT BOCEK No Report

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

OLD BUSINESS

BY-LAWS There were 5 By-law changes presented. They were published in the July MailCall and will be voted on at the August Regular Meeting.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION---Branch purchase 4 Dell Laptop Computers for Shop Stewards and Officers.

Cost not to exceed \$ 5500.00. Funds to be taken from the Contingency Fund

M/S/C

MOTION---Branch install cable TV into the Branch

office

M/S/C

MOTION---Reconsider the purchase of TV & DVD player made at the May Regular meeting

M/S/C

MOTION---Branch spend an additional \$ 1500.00

For a TV for the Branch

office

M/S/C

Call for Division---YES---10, NO---6

MOTION

PASSES

UNDERLINED DENOTES UNANIMOUS VOTE

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

COLCPE DRAWING

\$ 5 ROBERT JOHNSON---MAIN OFFICE

\$ 5 TIA WILSON---SUN VALLEY

\$ 7 RAY MOLA---ENCINO--DONATED

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:32 PM

NALC 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. Is 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