

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### By Calvin Brookins

#### Delay in Return to Duty/Denied Light Duty Work

At some point in your career, you may experience an on the job injury or an off the job injury that may keep you off work for awhile or cause you to have medical restrictions that reduces the amount of work you can perform. We have had several carriers that have experienced this over the last nine months and those carriers were either not allowed to perform available light duty work or was improperly delayed in their return to duty. If you experience this be prepared for possible delays in returning to duty.

Although there are provisions in our Collective Bargaining Agreement and Handbooks and Manuals that allows carriers to return to duty upon release by their physicians with or without restrictions. Management is constantly violating these provisions by either having carriers get clearance from the postal medical unit, which is often not necessary or in Van Nuys case having someone sitting up at the Sherman Way building making a decision as to whether or not an employee should or should not be given light duty work or allowed to return to duty even though she is not qualified to do so.

These decisions that were made in the Van Nuys cases all resulted in the union filing grievances behalf of those carriers. Over the last nine months we have had seven carriers affected by the decision that was made to not allow those individuals to return to duty or not be allowed to perform available light duty work. These seven carriers worked within two of the Van Nuys carrier stations, the grievances that were filed on their behalf were all resolved in their favor. **Which caused postal management in Van Nuys city to pay out well over \$37,000.00 in grievance settlements.** All because someone made a wrong decision to either not allow these carriers to return to duty and/or not allow these carriers to perform available light duty work.

The next time a management employee make a comment in regards to the postal service losing money ask them to look at themselves and the decisions that they make that ultimately cost the USPS unnecessary thousands of dollars in grievance settlements.

## NOTICE OF ELECTION

OF

## BRANCH OFFICERS

The election shall be conducted by secret mailed ballot. All ballots will be mailed First Class to the home addresses of eligible members no later than May 5, 2008. The Election shall be conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the Executive Board of Branch 2462, NALC, which shall not be in violation of the rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the Rules of the National Executive Council. Ballots must be mailed back to the Election Committee, P. O. Box 55481 Sherman Oaks, California 91413 and must be received by 5:00 p.m. on May 29, 2008. The counting of the ballots will take place on Thursday, May 29, 2008 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at 6910 Hayvenhurst Ave., # 101 Van Nuys, California. All candidates and members may observe the counting.

In the cases described above all of those carriers did everything that they were supposed to do, which helped the union in there investigation and the successful filing of the grievances on their behalf. If you experience a situation that may keep you out of work for awhile or require you to request light duty work under Article 13 of the National Agreement, keep a detailed chronological order of what you are told by management and what you tell them. You will also need to keep a record of who you talked to with dates and times that you talked to them. Keep a copy of all documents you receive from your doctor and management, and a copy of all documents that you submit to management. Once you receive clearance from your doctor get it to management as soon as possible. Make sure you read and understand clearly what your medical restrictions are prior to leaving your doctor's office. Help us help you protect your rights in this area.

(Continued on Page 3)

"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**  
**Food Drive Coordinator**

Well it's that time of year again. It's time to be thinking about the upcoming food drive on May 10th. 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 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.

## ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
MAIN OFFICE	3	0	1	2							
ENCINO	4	5	5	5							
CIVIC CENTER	1	1	1	2							
PANORAMA CITY	3	3	3	2							
SHERMAN OAKS	4	3	9	4							
SUN VALLEY	1	1	1	1							
TARZANA	1	1	1	2							
RETIREE'S	6	6	5	5							
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>23</b>							

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

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

**MAY**  
**6th**  
**"2008"**

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

**May 6, 2008**

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 Denny's Restaurant, (Corner of Sherman Way & DeCielis). It will begin at 09:00 AM. The next 2 dates will be May 24<sup>th</sup> and June 28, 2008 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar.....We hope to see you there.

Thank  
 You

Frank Brash

### ATTENTION RETIREE'S !!!

You may be familiar with the saying "There is no such thing as a Free Lunch" While this may be true, it does not pertain to Breakfast. The Branch holds a Retiree Breakfast meeting every 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the Month. No Voting, just a friendly get together to talk and eat. The best thing is

**IT IS FREE !!!**

That's right, if you are a retired member in good standing of Branch 2462 your Breakfast is provided at no charge, that's right **FREE !!!!**

So what are you waiting for, meet with us this month.

When Saturday, May 24th  
 Where Denny's Restaurant,  
 (Corner of Sherman Way & DeCielis).  
 Time 9:00 AM

If you have trouble with transportation contact **FRANK BRASH** and we will try and arrange for a ride. Come on out, you will have a great time, and the price is right !

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

## Customer Connect

FYI - Customer Connect - Sierra Coastal District Customer Connect Lead Ranking Report as of March 21, 2008, shows our district ranks 29th out of 80 with 280 leads submitted year to date.

Customer Connect Revenue Ranking Report shows our district ranks 43rd out of 80 with \$1,308,178 year to date revenue.

Customer Connect Carrier Participation Ranking Report shows our district ranks 56th out of 80 with YTD carrier participation at 10.33% the YTD target is 34.36%.

I would also like to congratulate Letter Carrier Richard Denton from Van Nuys Main Office on his recent customer connect sales of \$5,111.00.

## Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA)

Muscular Dystrophy Association – Year to Date, we have collected \$880.00 and submitted that to the MDA office. Sandy Anger our MDA coordinator is looking into other events, such as a bowl-a-thon possibly sometime in October or November of this year. Sandy will provide us with more information in regards to other possible events.

## COLA

The third regular cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) under the 2006-2011 National Agreement stands at \$99.00 annually based on the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for February.

The \$99.00 annually is equivalent to 4.755 cents per hour, or about \$3.00 per pay period.

The accumulation towards the 2009 retiree COLA stands at 1.8 percent based on the February CPI-W.

The COLA for Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) beneficiaries in the year 2009, stands at 0.7 percent based on the February data.



MEMORIAL DAY 2008  
Remember Those Who Gave the Greatest Sacrifice  
of All

## 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. It 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

## MDA EVENT !!!

WINE AND FOOD LOVERS PREPARE !!

"The Art of Wine"

Sunday, May 18, 2008  
1 – 4 PM

Maxwell House in Pasadena, California

Sponsorship Packages and Tickets are now  
available

Contact Sandy Anger at the Tarzana Post  
Office for more info.

# TRACY MULLINAX FOR TRUSTEE

23 Year Letter Carrier  
23 Year NALC Member  
Shop Steward 3 Years in Encino  
Elected Delegate to last 7 National and State Conventions  
Elected Trustee last 5 years, last 3 as Lead Trustee  
Executive Board member last 5 years  
Food Drive Coordinator last 15 years, last 13 in Encino  
Appointed Member of the Union Local Negotiating Team  
2006 Ray Kreyer Award Winner  
Financial Planning Degree from UCLA  
Regularly attended union meetings last 15 years  
Part of Budget Committee and Audit team last 5 years  
Union Representative at Labor-Management Meetings

I have been a heavy advocate for building the infrastructure of this branch and for allocating more dues money for education and training officers and the shop stewards of this branch. I will continue to monitor how money is allocated in the budget process and have a hand in how the branch is run. We have a strong, hardworking, dedicated and unionized Executive Board and would like to maintain it through my involvement as well.

A VOTE FOR ME IS A VOTE FOR HONESTY,  
INTEGRITY, EXPERIENCE AND PRIDE. VOTE  
TRACY MULLINAX FOR TRUSTEE!!!!!!!!!!

# JEFF JACKSON FOR TRUSTEE

27 Year Letter Carrier  
27 Year NALC Member  
Shop Steward 15 years Panorama City  
Delegate to 6 National Conventions  
Food Drive Coordinator for years at Panorama City  
E. I. Team Member  
2004 Ray Kreyer Award Winner  
5 Years as an Executive Board Member (Trustee)  
Regular at Union Meetings  
Have attended many Union Training Sessions  
Winner of the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual (2007)  
HARRY BRENNEMAN AWARD  
Given to the outstanding Shop Steward of Branch 2462  
I would be proud to serve the  
Members of Branch 2462

Please Vote !!!!

TIA WILSON

# FOR TRUSTEE

My name is TIA WILSON and I am running for office of TRUSTEE.

I have been a Letter Carrier for 23 years  
Member of Branch 2462 for 21 years  
I have been Food Drive Coordinator at  
Sun Valley for 14 years.  
Customer Connect Coordinator for 3 years.  
I attend the Branch meetings on a regular basis  
I have been a Delegate to the  
State and National Conventions from 2000 – 2008  
I was appointed to the TRUSTEE position in  
March of 2008 to fill the recently vacated position.

I am asking for your support and Vote, so that I may serve a new full term of office.

PLEASE VOTE FOR

TIA WILSON

# RAMON MOLA FOR TRUSTEE

I would like to thank Tracy Mullinax for nominating me for the position of Trustee. He had approached me in the past to find out if I would be interesting in stepping up in my duties and to accept a new challenge. This reason I ran for Shop Steward in Encino about 3 years ago was because I felt compelled to help others that needed help. I started attending the monthly meetings and I was selected as an alternate Steward. President Brookins appointed me a Shop Steward about a year and a half ago in Encino. I feel I've done a very good job of representing the carriers of Encino.

Whether if be in participating in management/labor meetings, local contract negotiations, or as a Shop Steward. I feel that I do make a difference. That's why I got involved in this endeavor. I know I have much to learn and appreciate all the classes and conferences which I am allowed participate in. My promise to you is that I will continue to learn all that I can, represent you the best that I can and never bring dishonor to the trust you have bestowed upon me. Without the Union, we would be lost. Without us, the Union would be lost. We are all the Union. I have stepped up to make a difference; I ask the same of you. Get involved and please Vote. Whether it be for me or the candidate of your choice, go Vote and make a difference.

# ELIA VIVEROS FOR TRUSTEE

Hello my name is Elia Viveros and I am running for the position of a Trustee. I began working for the Post Office as a PTF at the Main Office, but after becoming a regular I was moved to Encino. Now I am a T-6 at Sherman Oaks.

Throughout the years I believe that I have gained some experience that helps make me both eligible and capable of fulfilling the duties of a Trustee. For example, before I started working at the Post Office, I worked at an office in which I had to input data after revising the documents that were given to me. Besides doing data entry, I gained some knowledge about accounting and bookkeeping.

As a candidate, I know that I am expected to dedicate time, effort and energy in order to fulfill my duties. And if you elect me I promise you that I will do my very best to fulfill my duties as a Trustee and make the three incoming years a wonderful experience not only for me but for all of us.

So please vote for Elia Viveros for Trustee

## ART BOCEK

### Occupational Disease or Illness Form CA-2

An occupational disease is defined as a condition produced in the work environment over a period longer than one workday or shift. It may result from systemic infection, repeated stress or strain, exposure to toxins, poisons, or fumes, or other continuing conditions of the work environment.

#### *A. Notice of Occupational Disease--Form CA-2.*

The injured employee, or someone acting on his or her behalf, should give notice of occupational disease on Form CA-2. (Such notice may be provided by the supervisor as well.) The supervisor should issue to the employee two copies of the appropriate checklist, Form CA-35a-h, for the disease claimed. The supervisor should also explain the need for detailed information to the employee and advise him or her to furnish supporting medical and factual information requested on the checklist. If possible, this information should be submitted with the form. Upon receiving Form CA-2, the supervisor should:

(1) Review the front of the form for completeness and accuracy, and help the employee to correct any errors or omissions;

(2) Complete and sign the reverse of Form CA-2, and include a telephone number in case OWCP staff have questions about the claim. Also, show the codes for occupation, type and source of injury, agency identification, and location of duty station by zip code.

(3) Sign and return to the employee the receipt attached to Form CA-2 and give a copy of the entire form to the employee;

(4) Review the employee's portion of the form and provide comments on the employee's statement;

(5) Prepare a supporting statement to include exposure data, test results, copies of reports of previous medical examinations, and/or witness statements, depending on the nature of the case. The checklist may be used to coordinate compilation of material by agency personnel, including compensation specialists and safety and health officers;

(6) Advise the employee of the right to elect sick or annual leave or leave without pay, pending adjudication of the claim. The supervisor should submit completed Form CA-2 to the district office within 10 working days of receipt from the employee. It should not be held for receipt of supporting documentation.

#### *B. Medical Treatment--Form CA-16*

Only rarely may employers authorize medical care in occupational disease claims. The supervisor must contact OWCP before issuing a Form CA-16.

#### *C. Wage Loss/Permanent Impairment--Form CA-7*

Form CA-7 is used to file a claim for compensation because of pay loss. The claim should be filed within 10 days after pay stops or when the employee returns to work, whichever occurs first.

#### *(1) Leave Repurchase*

The employee may use sick or annual leave pending adjudication of the claim. If this is done, the employee may initiate repurchase of this leave, subject to agency concurrence, using Form CA-7 (along with Forms CA-7a and CA-7b). The supervisor should certify the amount and kind of leave used for each day claimed, and the employee should arrange to submit medical evidence supporting the period of repurchase requested.

#### *(2) Lost Wages for Medical Treatment*

An employee who has returned to work but still needs medical treatment during work hours may claim compensation for lost wages while undergoing or traveling to and from the treatment. For a routine medical appointment, a maximum of four hours of compensation is usually allowed. Such a claim may be made on Form CA-7, and it should be accompanied by a statement from the supervisor showing the exact period of time and the total amount of wages lost due to the treatment, as well as the rate of pay. Form CA-7 is also used to claim continuing compensation and to initiate a claim for schedule award for permanent impairment resulting from occupational disease.

# "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 April 1, 2008

By  
Steve Seyfried, Secretary

Preceding the meeting a 15 minute DVD was shown regarding the May 10<sup>th</sup> NALC ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE.

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 6:45 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS ROGER ASKEW

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**—In Memory of All who have passed.

### ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

**PRESENT**— BROOKINS, J. DOLABSON, SEYFRIED, JOHNSON, MULLINAX, JACKSON, WILSON, ASKEW, L. DOLABSON, ENZ

**ABSENT**—NONE

**MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAIL CALL**

**CORRESPONDENCE READ**

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

**DANIEL VARGAS**

**BILLS READ**—NONE

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**TRUSTEES**

All is well

**SAFETY & HEALTH**

No Report

**RETIREEES**

5 retiree's present tonight.

Please note that Retiree Breakfast is being held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday each month at DENNY'S RESTAURANT, corner of Sherman Way and DeCelis.

**MBA**—ENZ

No new plans at this time, still updating system, but everything is available.

**HBR**—L. DOLABSON

Anyone having problems with the NALC health plan, especially getting membership cards, contact Larry.

**MDA**

\$ 0 currently in the fund

\$ 880.00 was turned over to the MDA and will be credited to our Branch for the year 2007.

**FINANCIAL/TREASURERS REPORT**—JOHNSON

**MOTION**—Accept the Financial reports as read by

Brother Johnson

M/S/C

**MDA**—ANGER

Working on setting up various activities. Next event will be a wine tasting. Look for into on this in the MailCall. Also working on a Bowl-a-thon and MDA casual shirt day. If you have any suggestions regarding fund raising activities contact Sandy at Tarzana Office.

**VICE PRESIDENT DOLABSON** Currently working with Santa Anita Racetrack on possibly holding our annual picnic there once again. We are waiting to hear from them on whether they will be having the carnival again this year. We

should have more information at next months meeting. Food Drive T-shirts are being ordered and we will let you know when they come in.

**PRESIDENT BROOKIN** Gave his report on latest important items which he will cover in his article in the MailCall.

**OLD BUSINESS**—Nominations for Branch Officer election will be held at the April regular meeting.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**MOTION**—Branch pay L A County Federation of Labor dues. Cost \$ 606.00 for 101 members, for 1 year M/S/C

**MOTION**—Branch pay \$ 1484.00 for Food Drive T-Shirts. Note that collections from offices for shirts will offset some of this expenditure.

M/S/C

UNDERLINED = UNANOMOUS VOTE

NOMINATIONS FOR BRANCH OFFICERS—2008

PRESIDENT

CALVIN BROOKINS—ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION

VICE PRESIDENT

JANETTE DOLABSON—ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION

RECORDING SECRETARY

STEVE SEYFRIED—ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION

FINANCIAL SECRETARY/TREASURER

ROBERT JOHNSON—ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION

TRUSTEE

TRACY MULLINAX—JEFF JACKSON—TIA WILSON

JOHN BURTON—RAMON MOLA—ELIA VIVEROS

SGT-AT-ARMS

ROGER ASKEW—ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION

HEALTH BENEFITS REPRESENTATIVE

LARRY DOLABSON—ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION

MUTUAL BENEFITS REPRESENTATIVE

ROBERT ENZ—ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

A short pictorial presentation on Earth Day 2008

Made by Secretary Seyfried was shown.

**MDA DRAWING**

\$ 4 BOB JOHNSON—MAIN OFFICE—DONATED \$ 1

\$ 4 CALVIN BROOKINS—CIVIC CENTER—DONATED \$ 2

\$ 5 RICHARD REIMER—SHERMAN OAKS

\$ 10 STEVE SEYFRIED—SHERMAN OAKS—DONATED \$ 5

MEETING ADJOURNED 7:48 PM