

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT By Calvin Brookins

### Convention

Well another convention has come and gone and at this convention we were treated to history when Senator Hilary Clinton addressed our very own convention in person. Not very many unions can get Senator Clinton to come and speak at their conventions in person, and that is all because of the working relationship our national President William H. Young has with the Senator.

While Senator Hilary Clinton was at our convention the delegates at the convention passed a motion to make the Senator an honorary member of the NALC and a delegate to this convention. The first thing Senator Clinton did were to make a motion that the NALC support Barack Obama as the Democratic Presidential nominee. That motion passed unanimously by the delegates on the convention floor. Therefore, the NALC has officially endorsed Barack Obama and is now throwing all of their efforts behind him in order to get him elected, as this is the will of the delegates as per the motion passed at the convention. You can read more about Senator Clinton visit to the convention in the Convention Chronicles that were sent back and posted at all stations.

On Wednesday during the week of the convention the day started with sad overtones, as news spread through out the convention hall of the death of Santa Clara Branch 1427 President Jim Stankovich. Jim was a friend to our branch and has helped our branch in the past regarding OWCP issues, he also played a major role in the development of our own past Vice President Art Bocek in the area of OWCP. Jim will be missed by us all and our prayers go out to his branch and their membership.

### Retiree Luncheon

As we already know the Retiree Luncheon will take place on October 19, 2008, we will ask Bob Johnson to send a letter to all recent retirees inviting them to the retiree luncheon. At this time I would like to personally invite all retirees who retired within the last two years to attend the retiree's luncheon on October 19, 2008. This year we will be having the

installation of the newly elected union officers and shop stewards during the retiree luncheon. All active letter carriers are invited to join us at this event the cost is only \$5.00 and your meal will be included. You can contact the union office for tickets.

### (NRP) National Reassessment Process

National Reassessment Process is a process that management uses to determine how much work if any a letter carrier who has been injured on the job can do. We received a letter this week notifying us that the Sierra Costal District is now going to phase 2, and have scheduled a meeting with all of the local union presidents for Tuesday August 19, 2008. I will update the shop stewards and the affected carriers after I attend that meeting.

### President Emeritus Sombrotto Honored

NALC Headquarters was officially named the Vincent R. Sombrotto building during the convention and a bronze bust of Sombrotto was unveiled and will sit in the building at 100 Indiana Ave NW on a pedestal next to Hutching Hall. You can also read more about this in the convention chronicles that were sent back and posted at all of the stations.

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## SPECIAL NOTICE !!!

THE SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING HAS  
BEEN MOVED TO  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup> AT 6:30 PM  
THIS IS DUE TO THE LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

"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

**Picnic update:**

We will be having the picnic at Santa Anita Race Track again this year. We had a wonderful time there last year and everyone wanted to go back. The kids will have their own area right behind us where they will have jumpers, slides and games only for people there attending picnics. It will be on October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008, a perfect day for us to go since we are all off the next day due to the Columbus Day Holiday. I will be sending out the sign up sheets soon to all the Stations with the menu and pricing for tickets. Members will again be paying the 10 dollars for signing up and it will be reimbursed the day of the picnic. This is really to insure that those who sign up show up. The price of the tickets will include your parking, admission, and program, along with the cost of the food and beverages.

**Convention update:**

I want to take a moment to say thanks to the membership for sending a delegation to the convention in Boston. We had a really great group of hard working diligent union representatives who took full advantage of the experience and the training. I am sure that all of us learned something valuable and were able to come back with the knowledge and understanding of the importance of having a strong active union. It was obvious that at this time it is more important than ever to step up and take your place being active in the leadership of your branch and your union. I urge everyone not to sit back and let others speak for you. It was wonderful to see that even the executive counsel's recommendations were overturned by the voice of the delegation at times during the voting on resolutions. President Young was right when he said that we need to rebuild the middle class through political action. He pointed out that our nation faces "dire economic straits-exacerbated by decades of attacks on workers' rights and the labor movement...." We need to stop the Postal Service from expanding their plan to contract out delivery services. We need to stand up and tell them no, as a union officer, as a congressional district liaison, as a shop steward as a member of a union, at any place you are at within this family of brother and sisterhood. We should all be working for a common goal, to survive as a union and as a letter carrier, with a living wage and benefits that we deserve and expect from our employer. It is your union who negotiates our contracts. The Postal Service doesn't want you to earn wage increases, to keep your COLA built into your pay, to pay part of your health benefits or to let you deliver mail to new developments. I am tired of hearing non union members complain that the union does nothing for them. Shame on you. If it weren't for your union where would you be? I know where you wouldn't be, making a fair wage, with benefits and one of the finest contracts any union has been able to negotiate on your behalf in the last 8 years. If you are not happy with the representation you have in your station, stop complaining and take action. Join the union, run for shop steward, get the training and take an active role in your union. I promise, you will be glad you did.

**Have a Safe and Happy Labor Day**

## ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
MAIN OFFICE	3	0	1	2	1						7
ENCINO	4	5	5	5	2						5
CIVIC CENTER	1	1	1	2	2						0
PANORAMA CITY	3	3	3	2	3						3
SHERMAN OAKS	4	3	9	4	6						2
SUN VALLEY	1	1	1	1	1						3
TARZANA	1	1	1	2	1						2
RETIREE'S	6	6	5	5	5						4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>21</b>						<b>26</b>

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

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

# SEPTEMBER 9TH "2008"

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

## Sept 9, 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 & DeCelis). It will begin at 09:00 AM. The next 2 dates will be Aug 23rd, & September 27, 2008 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar....We hope to see you there.

Thank  
You

Janette Dolabson

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

## Customer Connect

Sierra Coastal District Customer Connect Lead Ranking Report as of July 14, 2008, moved up to # 24 in the nation at 747 leads YTD.

Customer Connect Revenue Ranking Report is at # 28 nationally, at \$3,201,508 in sales YTD

Customer Connect Carrier Participation Ranking Report shows our district ranks 56 out of 80 with YTD carrier participation at 22.27% YTD.

I would also like to congratulate Letter Carrier Janette Dolabson from Tarzana on her recent customer connect sales of \$3,359.20.

I would also like to congratulate Letter Carrier Mario Pena from VNMO on his recent customer connect sales of \$7,410.00.

I would also like to congratulate Letter Carrier Kevin Godin from Encino on his recent customer connect sales of \$43,000.00.

I would also like to congratulate Letter Tad Andrews from Panorama City Station on his past customer connect sales of \$19,604.00.

As you can see letter carriers within our branch and throughout the country is doing their part in creating revenue for the postal service through customer connect, as you can see letter carriers are representing the NALC well in this area.

## COLA

The third regular cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) under the 2006-2011 National Agreement stands at \$1,330.00 annually based on the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for June.

The \$1,330.00 annually is equivalent to 64 cents per hour, or \$51.17 per pay period.

The accumulation towards the 2009 retiree COLA stands at 5.7 percent based on the June CPI-W.

The COLA for Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) beneficiaries in the year 2009, stands at 4.6 percent based on the June data.

This will be the largest Cost of Living Adjustment in the history of all of our negotiated contracts, and it is all because of this great union of ours who negotiated this for letter carriers.

# Larry Dolabson, HBR

First I would like to thank the membership for sending me to the National Convention. I learned a lot and would like to share a few of those things with you.

By the next contract negotiations National President Young will be seeking to have an all letter carrier Health Plan. What the means is, the only Health Plan that the Postal Service will offer to letter carriers at the current percentage will be the NALC Health Benefit Plan. Any other plan offered will be at a substantially higher out of pocket cost to the enrollee. For instance, the NALC plan might be paid 75-80% by the Postal Service while others only 30% or less. I urge you to look at the NALC Health Benefit Plan this Open Season and seriously think about switching over. It's an excellent plan and one I am confident will meet your needs.

For those of you already in the plan, next year they will issue only one card instead of 2. That will certainly simplify things for us.

For those of you who want to quit smoking, there is offered a Free Quit Smoking Program. If you are interested call 1 877 784-8797.

The Health Plan is looking into negotiating possible insurance care for TE's in the future who they won't have to pay for the entire cost of having the insurance plan. That would be something really needed for the TE carriers.

## TIA WILSON, TRUSTEE

I attended several workshops during the convention week. One of them was for Trustee training which will be very helpful in my newly elected position. Thank you to all who voted for me. Another class was about Customer Connect, which I would like to share with you.

In the past mail volume has increased every year but, as technology progresses and the economy declines, mail volume has decreased each year since 2001. first class mail has dropped from 103 billion pieces in 2000 to 90 billion in 2008, even though the number of deliveries has increased.

We can help replace the lost revenue from declining first class mail with priority & express mail which is more profitable. One flat rate priority package can replace 11 ½ pieces of first class letters, and one Express package can replace almost 40 first class letters.

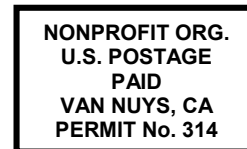
Watching your customers' mail, for bills from our competitor's, is a good way to identify potential leads for customer connect. Try to obtain a business card; it can help to get the correct info and spelling of names. If you are uncomfortable talking with your customers, let your coordinator's know of possible leads and they can try to send someone else out to get that lead.

Customer connect helps ALL postal employees. It gives us job security. Remember, slow and steady; only 2 per month, so the sales team are not overwhelmed. I encourage EVERY Letter Carrier to submit at least one lead.

## Health Benefit Update

# "THE MAIL CALL" BRANCH 2462, NALC

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



Address Service Requested

## Branch Meeting Minutes

July 1, 2008

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

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**—In Memory of Retirees

### ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

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

**MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAIL CALL**

**CORRESPONDENCE READ**

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

**JOSE ALVARADO**—Sworn in by VP J. DOLABSON

**BILLS READ**—NONE

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**TRUSTEES** No Report  
**SAFETY & HEALTH** Stations not letting NALC representatives attend, this will be addressed.

**RETIREES**—BRASH 5 attending tonight. Had 11 at breakfast. Retiree luncheon will be on October 19, 2008 at Encino Glen. Hours will be 1 pm – 4:30pm Cost is \$ 5.00

**MBA**--ENZ 2 new plans are available

**HBR**—L. DOLABSON Watch for Mailcall article

**MDA** \$ 103 currently in the fund

**FINANCIAL/TREASURERS REPORT**—No Report

**ELECTION COMMITTEE** Report read

Motion to accept report and results M/S/C  
**VICE PRESIDENT DOLABSON** Annual Picnic will be at Santa Anita Racetrack on Oct 12, 2008. Watch for further Info

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

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**MOTION**—Branch convention delegates be instructed to support & vote for a Barak Obama endorsement, should one cone to the floor.

M/S/C

**DIVISION CALLED** YES—10, NO—14 Motion

Fails

**GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION**

### MDA DRAWING

\$ 5 JIM TUKESBREY—RETIREE--DONATED

\$ 5 BETTY LOW—SHERMAN OAKS--DONATED

\$ 5 ELAINE BOYD—MAIN OFFICE

\$ 10 CALVIN BROOKINS—CIVIC CENTER—DONATED \$

5

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:39 PM

## Branch Meeting Minutes

August 5, 2008

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 VICE PRESIDENT DOLABSON at 6:36 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS ROGER ASKEW

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**—In Memory of Retirees

### ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

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

**ABSENT**—BROOKINS

**CORRESPONDENCE READ**

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**—NONE

**BILLS READ**—NONE

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**TRUSTEES** Audit was done, all is well

**SAFETY & HEALTH** No Report

**RETIREES**—BRASH 4 attending tonight

**MBA**--ENZ 2 new plans are available

**HBR**—L. DOLABSON Watch for Mailcall article

**MDA** \$ 193 currently in the fund

**FINANCIAL/TREASURERS REPORT**—JOHNSON

**MOTION**—Accept Report as given

M/S/C

**ELECTION COMMITTEE** Report read

Motion to accept report and results M/S/C

**VICE PRESIDENT DOLABSON** Annual Picnic will be at Santa Anita Racetrack on Oct 12, 2008. Watch for further Info

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**MOTION**—Branch send President, Vice President and

one other member to the NBA region 1 Leadership Conf.

Oct 25-26<sup>th</sup>. Cost not to exceed \$ 2500.00

M/S/C

**MOTION**—Branch regular meeting in September

Be postponed until Tuesday, September 9, 2008 M/S/C

**UNDERLINED = UNANOMOUS**

**OLD BUSINESS**--NONE

**GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION**—Convention Delegates

related their experiences at the National convention

### MDA DRAWING

\$ 5 JEFF JACKSON—PANORAMA CITY--DONATED

\$ 5 KEVIN DONOHUE--ENCINO--DONATED

\$ 5 SANDRA GALEANA—MAIN OFFICE

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:17 PM