

PRESIDENT'S REPORT By Calvin Brookins

Retiree Luncheon and Installation

The Retiree Luncheon will be combined with the Installation of Officers and Stewards of the branch, it will take place on October 19, 2008, a letter will sent to all recent retirees inviting them to the Retiree Luncheon and Installation.

I sent a letter to National President Bill Young inviting him to attend the Retirement Luncheon and Installation, unfortunately, his schedule will not allow him to attend. Therefore, he has assigned Executive Vice President Fred Rolando to attend on his behalf.

National Reassessment Process (NRP)

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 and is permanent and stationary can do.

We were notifying that the Sierra Coastal District is now going to Phase 2, and had scheduled a meeting with all of the local union presidents for Tuesday August 19, 2008. I was unable to attend that meeting but I will be attending the make up meeting this Friday September 12, 2008. I will update all carriers that the NRP affect as soon as I receive more information. This meeting is to update all of us on the status of the National Reassessment Process.

Here is a brief overview of what I know about NRP at this point. The Sierra Coastal District has now entered into Phase 2 of the National Reassessment Process. During this Phase all employees working with limited duty restrictions and are permanent and stationary will go through the National Reassessment Process. During this part of the reassessment process a team of managers that have been put together at the district will determine whether or not they have work within the employee's restrictions. Management is referring to this work as "necessary work", if they have what they are calling necessary work within the employee's restrictions then that work will be offered.

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BRANCH 2462 RETIREE "NITE" & OFFICER/STEWARDS INSTALLATION

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

OCTOBER 19, 2008

ENCINO GLEN
RESTAURANT

16821 Burbank Blvd. Encino, California

Doors Open 1:00 PM

Price is \$ 5.00

Retiree's and Active Carriers are Welcome
For Further Information Contact the

FRANK BRASH (818) 785-7336
or
Union Office

2008 PICNIC EXTRAVAGANZA

SUNDAY, October 12th
SANTA ANITA RACE TRACK
DOOR PRIZES FOR UNION MEMBERS ONLY
MEMBER MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

"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

ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
MAIN OFFICE	3	0	1	2	1	3	5	7	3		
ENCINO	4	5	5	5	2	5	5	5	4		
CIVIC CENTER	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	0	1		
PANORAMA CITY	3	3	3	2	3	2	3	3	3		
SHERMAN OAKS	4	3	9	4	6	4	6	2	6		
SUN VALLEY	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	
TARZANA	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	2		
RETIREE'S	6	6	5	5	5	5	5	4	4		
TOTAL	23	20	26	23	21	23	29	26	24		

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

NEXT MEETING
6:30 PM

OCTOBER
7th
"2008"

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

Oct 7, 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 Sept 27th & October 25, 2008 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar.....We hope to see you there.

Thank
You

Frank D. D. L.

Union Brothers and Sisters, There is one of the most important elections coming up this November for letter carriers and their families. There are so many issues the letter carrier voters should be looking at when deciding who would be the right candidates deserving of their votes for office. Our union has endorsed candidate Barack Obama for President. It isn't any surprise that he is the right fit for working families at this time. I urge you all to cast your vote no matter who you personally endorse. It is a privilege to exercise this right. Here are some of the issues facing letter carriers right now in Congress. For more information go to the NALC web site at NALC.org. click on departments and then legislature.

In an E-Mail from NALC President gave us a good idea of who is clearly labors candidate: .."On Thursday night, in his acceptance speech at the GOP convention, Sen. McCain ignored the growing housing and credit crisis that is severely damaging the Postal Service and offered the same tired policies advanced by George W. Bush. He called or more corporate tax cuts and expanded free trade agreements and vowed to fight the so-called "union bosses." Those are the kind of policies that have caused pension and health care coverage to plummet and that have caused median family income to decline by more than \$2,000 annually since the year 2000. And while Gov. Sarah Palin introduced her husband in both of her prepared speeches this week as a proud member of the United Steelworkers union, she sarcastically disparaged Barack Obama's community organizing work to help laid-off members of the USW in the 1980s. Meanwhile, both McCain and Palin oppose the enactment of the Employee Free Choice Act. Nothing we do this year as a union will be more important than electing pro-labor candidates this fall. The future of America as a middle-class country with a strong and prosperous Postal Service depends on it.

Employee's Free Choice Act--This crucial legislation will protect workers' freedom to choose a union and bargain, without management intimidation. Allowing more workers to freely join unions and bargain with their employers will help rebuild the middle class by expanding health care, improving retirement security and raising the standard of living for America's working families."

FERS Sick Leave Reimbursement- Employees covered by the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) would receive credit for unused sick leave towards their retirement annuities under a bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives last night. Added as a provision of the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, HR 1108, the bill would treat unused sick leave similarly to that of employees covered by the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS). Introduced by Rep. James Moran, D-VA, long a champion of retirement fairness for FERS employees, the bill would provide credit towards retirement annuities for 75% of sick leave for those retiring within the first

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

If management determines that they do not have necessary work within the employee's restrictions the employee will be sent home and they can file for compensation via a Department of Labor Form CA-7. This is what limited duty employees who are permanent and stationary can expect in the near future. The NALC have some disputes with this process and a National level grievance has been filed.

Customer Connect

FYI - Customer Connect - Sierra Coastal District Customer Connect Lead Ranking Report as of September 5, 2008, moved up to # 22 in the nation at 964 leads YTD, plus 13 new leads for the week.

Customer Connect Revenue Ranking Report is at # 22 nationally, at \$5,183,666 in sales YTD, up by \$35,766 for the week.

Customer Connect Carrier Participation Ranking Report shows our district ranks 60 out of 80 with YTD carrier participation at 29.03% YTD.

I would also like to congratulate Letter Carrier Ray Mola from Encino on his recent customer connect sales of \$27,000 Priority Mail and \$2,838 Express Mail leads.

Cost Of Living Adjustment (COLA)

Thanks to our union contract city letter carriers received a cost-of-living adjustment equaling \$1,498.00 annually effective for the pay period beginning August 30, 2008, for pay date September 19, 2008.

The third regular cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) under the 2006-2011 National Agreement came in at \$1,498.00 annually based on the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for July released August 14.

The \$1,498.00 annually is equivalent to 72 cents per hour, or \$57.60 per pay period.

The accumulation towards the 2009 retiree COLA stands at 6.2 percent based on the July CPI-W.

The COLA for Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) beneficiaries in the year 2009, stands at 5.1 percent based on the July data. This is the largest COLA in dollars, for letter carriers in history.

FERS Sick Leave Credit bill (HR 5573)

Congressman Henry Waxman worked with Congressman James Moran of Virginia to incorporate HR 5573 (FERS Sick Leave Credit bill) into Waxman's Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act HR 1108. Waxman worked with Congress to revise the language in HR 5573 so that the new language would allow employees covered by the FERS system to receive credit for unused sick leave toward their retirement annuities similar to that of employees covered

by the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS). (Please read Vice President Dolabson article for more details).

Contact Information

Please make sure that the USPS have updated next of kin contact information, just in case something happens to you while at work your spouse or other family members can be notified immediately.

Early Out (Retirement)

The Postal Service has set the date of February 28, 2009, as the retirement date for city letter carriers offered a Voluntary Early Retirement. This early retirement has been approved by The Office of Personnel Management. The offer is now available on the USPS employee website, www.liteblue.usps.gov.

The offer will apply to letter carriers who are at least 50 years of age with at least 20 years of creditable service, or to those at any age with 25 years of service as of the voluntary early retirement date of February 28, 2009. There are no financial incentives or bonuses being offered to those who choose to take the early out. The NALC has not taken any position on whether letter carriers should take the early out.

Vice President's Report

(Continued from Page 2)

three years of enactment, and full credit for those retiring after three years. "Our current use-it-or-lose-it sick leave system for FERS employees hurts productivity and increases training costs," said Moran. As passed last night, the bill is more generous than Moran's previous proposal, HR 5573, which would have paid FERS employees a lump-sum upon retirement for unused sick leave up to \$10,000. NALC has worked closely with friends on Capitol Hill to make sure that hard-working letter carriers are rewarded for doing the right thing and coming to work as they near retirement," President Young said. "As the Senate starts considering the bill, I will call on letter carriers in every corner of the country to call and email their Senators to encourage them to support this provision." Also in the bill are provisions that would automatically enroll new Federal employees in the Thrift Savings Plan's G Fund and add a Roth 401(k) option for all Thrift Savings Plan Participants.

Contracting Out, Windfall Elimination Provision, Government Pension Offset, Universal Health Insurance, Employee Free Choice Act, The Postal Service and FERS Military Pension Costs, Vote by Mail, and Do Not Mail. All these issues effect Letter Carriers and their families. Know what is coming, be informed. Most Important VOTE, VOTE, VOTE.

Hope to see you all at the picnic at Santa Anita Race Track on Oct.12, 2008.

"THE MAIL CALL"

BRANCH 2462, NALC

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

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Branch Meeting Minutes September 9, 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 6:35 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS ROGER ASKEW

MOMENT OF SILENCE—In Memory of Retirees who have passed this year.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

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

ABSENT— ENZ

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAIL CALL

CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP—NONE

BILLS READ—NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TRUSTEES

All is well

SAFETY & HEALTH

Watched Seat Belt video

RETIREES

4 retiree's present tonight.

Please note that Retiree Breakfast is being held on the 4th Saturday each month at DENNY'S RESTAURANT, corner of Sherman Way and DeCels. Remember Retiree Luchon and Officer/Steward installation is Sunday, Oct. 19th, at 1 pm at Encino Glen Restaurant.

MBA--ENZ

No Report.

HBR--L. DOLABSON

Will be attending special HB seminar in Las Vegas. Watch for my article in the Mailcall.

MDA

\$ 223 currently in the fund

ELECTION COMMITTEE

Total cost of Branch election was \$ 2893.28. This was \$ 106.72 under budget.

MOTION TO ACCEPT FINAL REPORT
M/S/C

FINANCIAL/TREASURERS REPORT—JOHNSON

MOTION—Accept the Financial reports as read by Brother Johnson

M/S/C

VICE PRESIDENT DOLABSON Annual Picnic will be held at Santa Anita Race Track on October 12, 2008. Branch 4006, of Canoga Park will be joining us this year. Also will be going to Las Vegas to participate the the precinct walk, and will also be attending the HB seminar that same week.

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

OLD BUSINESS—NONE

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION—Branch purchase 450 Letter Carrier

Calendars. Cost to the Branch \$ 1575.00
M/S/C

MOTION—Branch order 7 Men's and 5 Woman's NALC watches. Cost not to exceed \$ 900.00

M/S/C

MOTION—Branch HBR & Vice President to the Health Benefits seminar in Las Vegas on Sept. 28-30.

Cost not to exceed \$ 2300.00

M/S/C

UNDERLINED = UNANOMOUS VOTE

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

MDA DRAWING

\$ 5 ELIA VIVEROS—SHERMAN OAKS--DONATED

\$ 5 BETTY LOW—SHERMAN OAKS--DONATED

\$ 7 BOB JOHNSON—MAIN OFFICE

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:02 PM

Health Benefit Update Larry Dolabson

HBR

September 28-30th there will be a Seminar in Las Vegas about the up coming health benefit plan open season. Normally there is a seminar only every other year but they have call for a special one this year because they are very excited about some of the changes being offered this year. Look into checking out the new plan this year. It will be the first step in implementing the 5 year plan to make the NALC Health Plan an all Letter Carrier health plan. I will be bring back lots of information and details. Thanks for your time.

