

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Calvin Brookins

Well another year has come upon us, and I hope every member and their families had a good holiday season. As we get back into a normal routine of working the challenges seems to continue. This past year we dealt with several disciplinary and contractual grievances, while at the same time we watch mail volume decline, route inspections take place and management use some dumb system call (COR) to adjust routes. We also watched the NALC and the USPS at the national level reach an interim agreement on route evaluation and adjustment process. This is an indication that we may be getting closure to getting rid of that old antiquated process of adjusting routes which does not serve the carrier any purpose at all.

As we enter into the year of 2009, the challenges will continue and we must be prepared to adjust to changes. The biggest change this year could be the automation of the flat mail as management attempts to put our flats in delivery order, which may add to street time and may decrease office time at least this is what supposed to happen. This is where letter carriers will once again watch their job as we know it change in some cases drastically. I will advised all letter carriers not to panic, lets wait and see how placing flat mail in delivery order will actually effect our jobs, change is inevitable and more likely to take place than not.

We also enter this year with a new President of the United States as of January 20th. This is a historical issue in our great country and will signify just how far we have come and grown in the country. We will also see many changes in this area as well, and no doubt some of these changes will benefit the working men and women of our country. However, I would suggest that if you are a praying man or woman please pray for our new President and all of our leaders at the National and Local level of Government.

Which bring me to the topic on the efforts of our own NALC National President William H. Young. On Thursday, December 11, President Young met with Stephen Crawford, the lead Obama transition official responsible for the U.S. Postal Service. President Young and Crawford discussed a variety of issues important to letter carriers and exchanged views on the future of the USPS.

Among the topics raised was the need to reduce the burden on the Postal Service of pre-funding retiree health costs, in light of falling mail volume brought on by the financial crisis. Other matters discussed included the promise of vote by mail, the threat of do not mail registries, and the NALC's legislative priorities for active and retired letter carriers in the new Congress.

Nevada Turned Blue

During the months of September, October, and November hundreds of NALC members from 35 California branches traveled to northern and southern Nevada to knock on doors of brother and sister union members to help elect Barack Obama as the next President of the United States.

Because of the effort of everyone who volunteered the state of Nevada turned blue for the first time in eight years. On behalf of the CSALC, State President John Beaumont sends his sincere thanks to everyone who participated in Labor 2008 in the Nevada.

Solis Appointed

For those who have not heard a good friend of the NALC as well as the rest of labor, Los Angeles County Congresswoman Hilda Solis has been named as the next Secretary of Labor by President Elect Obama.

Food Drive 2009

The 17th NALC National Food Drive which has turned into the single largest drive of its kind in the world will take place on May 9, this year. I am asking every member of the branch to please participate in this year Food Drive. It is for a very good cause and the Food Bank at MEND is very low on food this year due to the tough economy we have had lately. Therefore, I am asking everyone to step up and help out some much needed people. Thank you in advance.

(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.

Vice President's Report

by
Janette Dolabson

I want to take a moment to thank a few people for their hard work helping put together our annual Christmas Party. It was such a great success this year and it could not have come off as well without these key people. First I want to express my gratitude to Steve Seyfried whom, frankly, without him it would not have gone off at all. Thanks so much for your time and expertise and especially for all the heavy lifting.

Thanks to Larry Dolabson, Bob Johnson and Calvin Brookins for doing a wonderful job with the raffles. I think all the kids, big and small, enjoyed the fun.

Thank you Jeff Jackson and Marta Mihich for helping us serve all the food. I don't think anyone went without eating as much as they wanted. Jim Reafleng, thank you for helping get the place set up even though you were tired from working all day it was much appreciated. We were short on help this year and I really am glad you came early and let me force you to volunteer.

I want to say a special thanks to Jeff Thomas for staying late and mopping the floors. It's a nasty job and I know if you hadn't volunteered to do it we would have been there a lot later. Roger Askew, thank you so much for helping bring over the supplies to the event even though you were not feeling well. All of you who pitched in and helped pick up trash and put things away thanks so much. If I have forgotten a name or two I apologize, just know you were really appreciated. Hopefully, next year we will get more people from stations other than Sherman Oaks who seemed to take nearly all the raffles because they had the biggest crowd. (Ha).

I wish all the best to my union brothers and sisters in this New Year. We are certain to face a few new challenges but I am confident that together we can take them on with strength solidarity.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

MDA (Muscular Dystrophy Association)

At the latest Executive Council meeting for our National Officer, President stated that he want MDA fund raising to be given high priority by every branch. Therefore, the CSALC and NBA Manny Peralta have scheduled an informal get together to discuss and share ideas on increasing the fund raising effort's through-out region 1 for MDA. That meeting has been set for January 30, 2009 at branch 24 in L.A. If anyone has any ideas on a fund raiser for MDA please contact Vice President Janette Dolabson or MDA Coordinator Sandy Anger at Tarzana Post Office. A golf event and a bowl-a-thon is current being planned, will get more information out to the stations as that materialize.

Let me end this article by wishing everyone a happy and prosperous new year on behalf of the Executive Board for Branch 2462.

ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
MAIN OFFICE	2										
ENCINO	4										
CIVIC CENTER	2										
PANORAMA CITY	4										
SHERMAN OAKS	4										
SUN VALLEY	1										
TARZANA	2										
RETIREE'S	4										
TOTAL	23										

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

NEXT MEETING
6:30 PM

FEBRUARY
3rd
"2009"

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

Feb 3, 2009

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 Jan 28th & February 28, 2009 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar.....We hope to see you there.

Thank
You

Frank Busch

Health Benefit Update

By
Larry Dolabson

It's a New Year and we have the new Health Benefits taking effect. Thanks, to all the new enrollees in the NALC Health Plan and welcome. Our National Officers were hoping to see at least 10,000 people signing up this season and I am happy to report that we have nearly 30,000 new enrollees in the Health Plan. With more members in the plan we will be able to provide better service and benefits at less cost to you in future years. So, thank you for your support of your Union Health Plan. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call me and ask. If I don't have the answer I will find out for you.

Here is my number 661 373-2223.

PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES

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

Proposed to amend Article XII, Section 7., which now reads:

Section 7. The salaries shall be as follows

President.....	\$350.00	per month
Vice President.....	150.00	per month
Secretary.....	150.00	per month
Financial Sec't/Treasurer.....	150.00	per month
Sgt-at-Arms.....	50.00	per month
Editor.....	55.00	per month
Health Benefit Rep.....	50.00	per month
Trustees (3) (each).....	50.00	per month
Shop Steward (each).....	75.00	per month

Proposed to amend to read:

Section 7. The salaries shall be as follows

President.....	\$ <u>500.00</u>	per month
Vice President.....	<u>200.00</u>	per month
Secretary.....	<u>200.00</u>	per month
Fin'l Sec't/Treasurer.....	<u>300.00</u>	per month

Sgt-at-Arms.....	50.00	per month
Editor.....	55.00	per month
Health Benefit Rep.....	50.00	per month
Trustees (3) (each).....	50.00	per month
Shop Steward (each).....	<u>100.00</u>	per month

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 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

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 4th 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 4th Saturday of Every Month
Where Denny's Restaurant,
(Corner of Sherman Way & DeCelis).
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 !

Legislative and Political Department
100 Indiana Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20001-2144

"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 January 6, 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 6:32 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS ROGER ASKEW

MOMENT OF SILENCE—In Memory of **ROBERT KURZHALS**, Retiree from Sherman Oaks Station

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

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

ABSENT—NONE

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAIL CALL

CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

SHARLENE GARCIA

BILLS READ—NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TRUSTEES Budget meeting was held January 5th., audit will be on January 22nd, both will be at the Union hall.

SAFETY & HEALTH No Report

RETIREES 4 retiree's present tonight.

Thank you to all who attended the Retiree Luncheon and Installation ceremony. We had 90 in attendance and it was a great success. Final cost of the entire day was \$ 2491.66, which brought us in at \$ 508.44 under budget.

MBA--ENZ Waiting for new information pamphlets to be sent, then they will be passed out to the stations.

HBR--L. DOLABSON Open season has been extended to January 31st. Over 30,000 new members have joined the NALC health plan. Anyone having problems with the NALC health plan, contact Larry.

COLCPE \$990.00 currently in fund.

FINANCIAL/TREASURERS REPORT—JOHNSON

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

VICE-PRESIDENT J. DOLABSON Thanks to all who attended the Open House, and special thanks to those who volunteered to help and make this one of our best party's ever. Watch for special activities for MDA. We will be having a Bowl-a-Thon and hopefully a golf tournament this year.

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

OLD BUSINESS

The following actions were taken by the Executive Board during the period from November 5, 2008 through January 6, 2009 as authorized by Branch.

Authorized a renewal of the Postal Record for the Office. Cost to the Branch \$ 20.00

Authorized a donation to Mend for the Christmas holiday season. Cost to the Branch \$ 300.00

Authorized the purchase of 15 copies of the new NALC Constitution. Cost to the Branch \$ 30.00

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

NEW BUSINESS

UNDERLINED = UNANOMOUS VOTE

BY-LAW PROPOSAL

One By-Law proposal was submitted, it will be published in the February Mailcall and voted on at the February 3rd regular meeting.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

MDA DRAWING

\$ 3 RICK REIMER—SHERMAN OAKS

\$ 3 FRANK BRASH—RETIREE

\$ 10 JEFF JACKSON—PANORAMA CITY

MEETING ADJOURNED 7:54 PM

IN MEMORY OF
ROBERT KURZHALS
RETIREE