

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### By Calvin Brookins

The burning question has been are we going to 5 day delivery and will we have Saturday's off? This is all because of the Postmaster General's testimony to the US Senate. Basically PMG Potter has only requested that Congress remove the annual appropriation bill rider that was first adopted in 1983, that requires the Postal Service to deliver mail six days a week.

PMG Potter also stated that, if the change happens, that does not necessarily mean an end to Saturday delivery, there is a possibility of skipping some other day when mail flow is light, such as Tuesday. The Post Office was \$2.8 billion in the red last fiscal year, if current trends continue the Post Office could experience a net loss of \$6 billion this fiscal year.

PMG Potter also asked that Congress ease the requirement that it make advance payments into a fund to cover future health benefits for retirees. Last year the post office was required to put \$5.6 billion into the fund. He proposed easing the retirement pre-funding for eight years, while promising that the agency will cover the premiums for retirement health insurance. At the same hearing the GAO suggested easing the pre-funding requirement for only two years, with Congress to determine the need for more relief later.

The following is a complete response from NALC President William H. Young to the Postmaster General's Testimony to the U.S. Senate on the Financial Crisis. As it was printed on the NALC Website; I hope his response answers all questions in this matter.

On January 29, 2009, NALC President William H. Young urged letter carriers across the country to remain steadfast in the face of media speculation that the U.S. Postal Service plans to eliminate one day of delivery service. He issued the following statement:

There are no plans to eliminate six-day delivery. NALC is working with the Postal Service and other postal organizations on a common-sense approach to overcoming the economic crisis. Neither the American public, nor the postal industry, nor the key leaders of Congress, nor the NALC support any reduction in service.

Making the reduction of days of delivery *THE* answer is a red herring that the media has misleadingly laid at the doorstep of Jack Potter, the postmaster general. While Potter asked Congress for the flexibility to temporarily and selectively reduce the frequency of delivery if conditions worsen dramatically, he made it absolutely clear that eliminating a day of delivery was the last thing he wants to do. As NALC has done, Potter called on Congress to enact sensible financial reforms to correct the schedule for pre-funding retiree health benefits. That would protect retiree benefits while freeing up current funds to help the Postal Service overcome the devastating effects the financial meltdown has had on the U.S. economy.

The United States Postal Service is a critical part of the country's financial infrastructure. In a time of national financial crisis – with tens of millions of citizens under distress, millions of jobs are disappearing, millions of homes being foreclosed, retail enterprises shutting their doors, factories closing – the very last thing this nation needs is to fracture the service that binds the nation together. The continued appearance of letter carriers delivering the mail to the doorstep of every home and business and bank and credit card company six days a week is absolutely essential to economic recovery.

Existing law requires USPS to do something no other agency of the federal government, no state or municipal government, and no private company in the Fortune 500 (or as far as we know, anywhere) is required to do: to pre-fund its retiree health obligations. Not only that, it requires that it pre-fund 80 percent of these costs over the next eight years – even though the very few companies that voluntarily pre-fund these benefits amortize them over 30, 40 or 50 years. While it certainly makes sense to gradually pre-fund such long-term obligations, it makes no sense to maintain such an onerous schedule.

In 2006, Congress mandated pre-funding to the tune of \$5.5 billion to \$5.7 billion per year over the next 10 years. It has already paid \$32.6 billion into a special fund for this purpose. On top of this, USPS pays about \$2 billion per year for its share of current retiree health premiums. To avoid

(Continued on Page 2)

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## ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
MAIN OFFICE	2	3									
ENCINO	4	5									
CIVIC CENTER	2	2									
PANORAMA CITY	4	4									
SHERMAN OAKS	4	4									
SUN VALLEY	1	1									
TARZANA	2	1									
RETIREE'S	4	4									
TOTAL	23	24									

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

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

MARCH  
3rd  
"2009"

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

Mar 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 Feb 28<sup>th</sup> & March 28, 2009 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar....We hope to see you there.

Thank  
You

Frank Brash

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

unnecessary service cuts, Congress should enact H.R. 22, a bipartisan bill that will allow USPS to pay for its current retirees' health premiums out of the existing retiree health fund. Such a change would save USPS \$2 billion a year while it continues to build up its retiree health fund for the future. Indeed, if H.R. 22 were enacted, USPS would still be pre-funding its future retiree health obligations at a greater rate than any company in America.

NALC will vigorously resist any legislative attempt to slash the number of days of delivery. NALC members should consult upcoming *Bulletins* and future issues of *The Postal Record* for the latest information on this important issue.

### Contract COLA

There was no projected accumulation toward the fourth regular cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for letter carriers under the 2006-2011 National Agreement following the release of the December Consumer Price Index (CPI).

There are eight COLA's included in the 2006-2011 contract.

### 2010 Retiree COLA

There was no projected accumulation toward the 2010 retiree COLA in January following the release of the December 2008 CPI.

### 2009 FECA COLA

There will be no 2009 COLA for those covered under the Federal Employee Compensation Act (FECA).

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 !

## Vice President's Report

By  
**Janette Dolabson**

Roger Askew and I will be heading to Washington D.C. on March 8<sup>th</sup> to lobby our Congressmen and Senators on some of the legislation that face us can effect us as union members and Postal employees.

The single most important legislation that may be facing us is the Do Not Mail Registry. This is obviously a bad idea for the NALC and the Postal Service.

1. "Do Not Mail" registry would threaten our jobs.
2. A Do Not Mail Registry could threaten the Postal Service.
3. "Do Not Mail" registry prevents mailers from promoting their businesses. A "Do Not Mail" registry is rife with serious risks without providing much in the way of benefits. These initiatives could have a devastating impact on the NALC

FERS Sick Leave Reimbursement Moves Forward

1. 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 . 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).

JOIN the NALC e-Activist Network and become a legislative activist.

All you need is: a computer (one or more) a telephone line for each computer; a live Internet connection for each computer; and the special NALC Sign Up Kiosk World Wide Web location (url) which is

<http://www.unionvoice.org/nalc/home.html>

NALC Opposes Outsourcing of Delivery Jobs  
Outsourcing delivery is contrary to the broad public interests.

Outsourcing delivery threatens the sanctity and security of the mails.

Outsourcing delivery is a foolish business strategy

Outsourcing delivery is a foolish business strategy

NALC is committed to working with both the U.S. Postal Service and the Congress to find an acceptable solution to dealing with CDS.

The Postal Service is one of the most trusted government agencies in the country.

By tampering with the delivery of mail, the trust Americans have come to expect is at risk. For this reason, opposing CDS will remain a number one priority for NALC.

## 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.

### N A L C 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



# "THE MAIL CALL"

## BRANCH 2462, NALC

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

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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VAN NUYS, CA  
PERMIT No. 314

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### Branch Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2009

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 6:40 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS ROGER ASKEW

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**—In Memory of all Service members who have sacrificed their lives.

#### ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

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

**ABSENT**—NONE

**MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAIL CALL WITH CORRECTION—TRUSTEE WILSON WAS PRESENT AT JANUARY, 2009 MEETING**

#### CORRESPONDENCE READ

#### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

ERNESTO PADILLA

#### BILLS READ—MOTION TO PAY

M/S/C

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**TRUSTEES** Audit held books in order  
**SAFETY & HEALTH** No Report  
**RETIREEES** 4 retiree's present tonight.  
**MBA--ENZ** Plan made a profit, our Branch received \$ 323.14 rebate.  
**HBR—L. DOLABSON** 25,000 new members have joined the plan. Member cards are being processed and will be out soon. Any questions contact Larry.

**MDA** \$1005 currently in fund.

#### FINANCIAL/TREASURERS REPORT—JOHNSON

**MOTION**—Accept Financial reports as read M/S/C  
**VICE-PRESIDENT J. DOLABSON** Went to MDA meeting at Branch 24. We will be having a Bowl-a-thon in June. Watch for further info. Food Drive prep is beginning. Most coordinators are in place and we are looking forward to a successful Drive again this year.

**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 send the President and up to 3 other Members, to be chosen by the President, to the National Rap Session & Training classes in Las Vegas.

Cost not to exceed \$ 5500.00  
M/S/C

**MOTION**—Branch send all Executive Board members and Shop Stewards to the Southern California training classes, at LAX Sheraton. Members who attend the classes on May 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> will be paid \$ 225.00 per day for all expenses  
M/S/C

**MOTION**—Branch pay any Executive Board member or Shop Steward who attends both Friday & Sat training sessions at LAX Sheraton be provided lodging, if requested (double occupancy). Request for room must be made by the March Meeting.

Cost of the rooms \$ 70.00 (est) M/S/C

**MOTION**—Branch purchase any members ticket who attends the Congressional Breakfast at the LAX Sheraton on Sun, May 17<sup>th</sup>.  
M/S/C

**MOTION**—Branch renew the organizational bond for Branch Officers for \$ 35,000.00. Cost to the Branch \$ 240.00  
M/S/C

**MOTION**—Branch pay registration fee for dues to the Los Angeles Federation of Labor. Cost to the Branch \$ 606.00  
M/S/C

**MOTION**—Branch update the Branch financial Software (Quicken). Cost to the Branch \$ 85.00  
M/S/C

**MOTION**—Accept the 2009 Budget as printed in The MailCall with the following exceptions. Hold out items # 20 & 21 M/S/C

**MOTION**—Accept items # 20 & 21 as printed in the MailCall  
M/S/C

UNDERLINED = UNANOMOUS VOTE

#### BY-LAW PROPOSAL

Bylaw committee recommended that proposed changes to Article XII. Section 7 that were published in the MailCall be Disapproved

**MOTION**—Accept the recommendation of the Bylaw Committee, which is one of Disapproval  
M/S/F

**DIVISION CALLED**-----YES 14, NO---9

**CHAIR DECISION OVERTURNED** MOTION PASSES

#### OLD BUSINESS

#### GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

#### MDA DRAWING

\$ 5 STEVE SEYFRIED—SHERMAN OAKS  
\$ 5 JOSE JIMENEZ—SHERMAN OAKS  
\$ 7 JOHNBURTON—CIVIC CENTER

Meeting Adjourned 8:36 PM