

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT By Calvin Brookins

### Second Early Out

The Postal service has informed the NALC that letter carriers will be included in the new Voluntary Early Retirement offer now being planned at USPS headquarters. Details on the new program including the timing for VER applications and the deadline for action have not yet been set. This early out may have the same terms as the program offered in 2008. Last years terms listed as follows;

Carriers who were at least 50 years old and had at least 20 years of service, and carriers of any age with at least 25 years of service, were eligible to take the early retirement. All of those carriers were sent an annuity estimate letter which showed their accrued annuities would be reduced to reflect a longer period of retirement. Shortly after that a formal letter was sent offering a chance to apply for early retirement with all of the details on how to proceed. The program from 2008 offered no financial incentives to take the early out and there may not be any incentives with the new program. Details of the new Voluntary Early Retirement will be shared once they become available.

### NALC / APWU win a key ruling in OIG case

NALC and APWU had an important preliminary victory in their law suit against the postal service and the Office of Inspector General (OIG). In a ruling on March 3rd U.S. District Court Judge Denny Chin denied a motion by the defendants (USPS & OIG) to dismiss the case. The lawsuit which had been held in abeyance pending a decision on this motion will now proceed forward for consideration on the merits. This ruling will allow the case to be heard on it's merit and show once and for all just how out of control the Office of Inspector General is, and allow the evidence to show just how they are violating our members' privacy rights.

The NALC and APWU filed their joint lawsuit against the Postal Service and the Office of Inspector General on January 17, 2008, in the Federal District Court in New York City, in an attempt to stop OIG agents from obtaining confidential medical information about employees without their knowledge or consent. The issue of the OIG's unlawful practices came to light in September of 2007, when the NALC obtained a copy of a standard form letter used by OIG agents

when demanding that physicians and other health care providers disclose sensitive health information.

This information is used to guide the OIG's in their investigations of alleged employee misconduct. The letter advises the physician not to inform the patient or the affected employee of this disclosure. The lawsuit states that this practice violates federal statutes and regulations, as well as the U.S. Constitution. The lawsuit asks for an injunction requiring the Postal Service and the Office of Inspector General to cease and desist. You will be informed as we receive more information.

### National Reassessment Process, Pilot program

Recently the USPS announced to the NALC that it was going to conduct a pilot test concerning National Reassessment Program (NRP) Phase 2 modified assignments. The announcement goes on to state that "...The primary purpose of the pilot is to test application of established processes used for rehabilitation employees in NRP Phase 2 in making modified assignments for employees with temporary medical restrictions (Limited Duty). Assignment made or modified during this pilot test will be consistent with current relevant regulations..."

The pilot test is being conducted in the Los Angeles, Sierra Coastal and Santa Ana districts and was identified to be a test of approximately 30 days. Well looking at this so call test on the surface it is apparent that management is not consistent with all of the current relevant regulations as they have stated that they would be. The union is currently preparing to file all necessary grievances in regards to management latest actions.

I know that there are some very upset carriers out there, but I ask that you remain calm and be patient and I know that is easier said than done but please try your best. I believe management basically treated all those that they walked off the workroom floor in a very bad and nasty manner, these carriers only down fall is that they was injured in the performance of their duties for which the postal service hired them for. This is the thanks that the USPS is giving them for their sacrifice to this organization; they were all treated as if they were criminal or had violated some hideous rule or regulation. Basically they were walked off the workroom floor as if they were being placed out of work under Article 16, Section 7 in an emergency suspension type situation. As if to say thank you very much for getting hurt on the job now get out.

(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.

## ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

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

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

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

MAY  
5th  
"2009"

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

May 5, 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 & DeCielis). It will begin at 09:00 AM. The next 2 dates will be April 25<sup>th</sup> & May 23, 2009 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar....We hope to see you there.

Thank  
You

Frank Busch

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

This is no way at all for employees who has done nothing wrong to be treated, not only are they injured employees but management took the extra step to humiliate them and strip away their dignity. What management does not seem to understand is the chilling affect this could have on employees who may get hurt in the future, those employees will be reluctant to report their injuries and try to work through it and therefore, cause even more damage to their injured body parts that could be irreparable. Or on the other hand may be management is counting on that chilling affect, in hopes of cutting down on their cost of dealing with injured employees. In other words what ever it takes.

I don't know if this decision was made at the headquarters, area or district level of the postal service, but it does not seem as if they thought about the long term affect this could have not only on the employees but also on the USPS itself. They obviously did not take in to consideration on how disruptive this would be to those who they walked off the workroom floor or those who work hours were drastically reduced. Stay tune letter carriers I am sure there will be something else that we would have to react to down the road. Again the union will file all **necessary** grievances in regards to this matter, just as management is claiming that they have no **necessary** work for letter carriers.

### Fifth Contract COLA

There was no projected accumulation toward the fifth regular cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for letter carriers under the 2006-2011 National Agreement in February following the release of the March CPI.

### 2010 Retiree COLA

There was no projected accumulation toward the 2010 retiree COLA in February following the release of the January 2009 BLS CPI.

### 2010 FECA COLA

Following the release of the January 2009 CPI, the projected accumulation toward the 2010 Federal Employee Compensation Act (FECA) COLA is 0.4 percent.

### Customer Connect

Congratulations to Kevin Godin from Encino station for his recent customer connect sale of \$8,000.00

Congratulations to Vilma Flores from Van Nuys Main Office for her recent customer connect sale of \$2,364.00

Congratulations to Gerry Apusen from Sun Valley for his recent customer connect sale of \$10,000.00

Congratulations to Dan Tran from Tarzana for his recent customer connect sale of \$6,500.00

## Vice President's Report

by  
Janette Dolabson

Food Drive Update: May 9th is food drive day. I hope you ordered your t-shirts this year. You can wear them beginning the Saturday before the food drive. We are having a media event at MEND Food Bank in Pacoima on May 8th from 5:00 am to 12:00 pm. I need letter carriers there in uniform to appear on camera during the Fox News programs that run all morning. If you are off that day and would like to participate please come down. MEND is the food bank we donate all our food to. They are located at 13460 Van Nuys Blvd. We will have refreshments. Campbell Soups will have a display set up there and hopefully we will have Congressman Sherman or Berman there to issue a Proclamation naming May 9th as this years National Food Drive Day.

We really need to get the word out that food donations are at the greatest need right now and its easy to donate because we will pick it up right at our customers homes. Last year our branch collected over 91,000 pounds of food. Let's beat that this year. All you carriers out there bring in a bag of food yourself and help bolster your office's collection numbers and remember the heavier the food the better for your office. Our office competition is on again this year. Main office you will have to get in the groove if you want to beat out Sherman Oaks or our last year Champion Encino. Tarzana and Sun Valley have our work cut out for us too if we want to take on Civic Center for the small office competition.

The Lobby trip in Washington went well. Roger and I saw 5 members of Congress. Capps, Schiff, Berman, Sherman and Mckee. All but Mckee have signed on to HR 22. We are still working on Congressman Mckee. We went to a Lobby training class the first day then lobbied 3 days and went to a Congressional breakfast on our last day of Lobbying. We are going to have an uphill battle on the Employee Free Choice Act.

I hope all of you are e-activists and are keeping up on these issues they are important. If you are not an e-activist let me know and I will tell you how to do it. Now is not the time to sit back and let someone else speak for you. Get involved your jobs may depend on it.



MEMORIAL DAY 2009  
Remember Those Who Gave the Greatest Sacrifice  
of All

## Health Benefit Update

By  
Larry Dolabson

I am happy to report we have 26,000 new health plan members nationally. You all should have received your new cards. If you have not then call the plan and tell them so they can send the new one, that's right there should only be one card this year, not two. The two card thing was a bit confusing so now all the information is on one card and you will only have to have that one card for all your medical needs.

Beware of pulmonary embolism danger: From the deep veins of the legs and pelvis it's a straight shot to the heart, and only short distance farther to the lungs. If a fragment or more commonly, several fragments of a deep vein thrombosis break loose, they can be carried to the lungs, blocking blood flow. This is called a pulmonary embolism, and it can be fatal.

Signs and symptoms of pulmonary embolism vary. Sometimes, no symptoms are evident. However, seek emergency medical care if you experience: Unexplained shortness of breath, sharp chest pains when you inhale or cough, feeling light headed or dizzy or even fainting, or coughing up blood.

### 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 & 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 !

# "THE MAIL CALL"

## BRANCH 2462, NALC

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

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U.S. POSTAGE  
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### Branch Meeting Minutes April 7, 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 JOHN HAYNES retiree out of Civic Center & FRANK WETCHKA friend of our Branch from NALC Branch 2293 in Beverly Hills.

#### 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**  
**CORRESPONDENCE READ**

#### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

FRANCISCO GARCIA

#### BILLS READ—NONE

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

AUDIT	No Report
TRUSTEES	All is well
SAFETY & HEALTH	Area is sending out teams to watch Carriers on the street, so make sure you are working in a safe manner and following the safety rules.

EDITOR	No Report
RETIREEES	4 retiree's present tonight.

Very good turnout for the Retiree Breakfast. Thanks to the Branch for providing this great forum and food. Active members who have the day off are welcome also. The Breakfast is held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month.

HBR—L. DOLABSON 26,000 new members have joined the plan this year. 1004 signed up from our region. Watch for article in MailCall. Any questions contact Larry.

MDA \$1620 currently in fund. Bowl-a-thon is being planned for late June. We sold MDA Shamrocks in stations for St Patty's Day, it was a resounding success. Thanks to all who took the time to buy one !

#### FINANCIAL/TREASURERS REPORT—JOHNSON

MOTION—Accept Financial reports as read M/S/C  
VICE-PRESIDENT J. DOLABSON Food Drive planning is proceeding at full speed. We are having a media day on May 8<sup>th</sup>. and hope to get our message out over both radio and TV.

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

#### GUESTS

We were honored to have JACKIE WHITE & MATT KOZLO from Branch 24. They gave a short presentation on the fight for the Employee Free Choice Act which is working its way through Congress. Members attending the meeting took time to write to Senator Diane Feinstein, who has not come out in support of the bill. We were also happy to welcome DARAL COLE-VALENTE from Branch 2086 in Burbank. DARAL introduced ERICA PACHENCO from the LA Sparks basketball team. Burbank has invited us to participate with them in a MDA Fund raiser in June. Watch for more information on this event in the future.

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

#### NEW BUSINESS

MOTION—Branch pay any Alternate Shop Steward, who attends the State Association training class at LAX in May, \$ 225 per day for all expenses  
M/S/C

MOTION—Any Alternate Shop Steward who attends both Friday & Saturday training classes be provided lodging if requested

M/S/C

#### UNDERLINED INDICATES UNANOMOUS VOTE

#### OLD BUSINESS

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

#### MDA DRAWING

\$ 5	ANDY GOACHER—PANORAMA CITY
\$ 5	BETTY LOW—SHERMAN OAKS
\$ 5	BOB ENZ—ENCINO
\$ 14	RAY MOLA—ENCINO

Meeting Adjourned 8:48 PM

## IN MEMORY OF

JOHN HAYNES  
RETIREE

FRANK WETCHKA  
BEVERLY HILLS BRANCH 2293

T-shirts have been ordered and they should be in soon. Standups will be given in all stations.