

PRESIDENT'S REPORT By Calvin Brookins

Labor/Management Meeting

We recently had a Labor/Management meeting for the Van Nuys offices, and the meeting started with a preview of the Flat Sorting System (FSS). They are supposed to start building the machines sometimes in August; it appears that Sherman Oaks and Encino will be the first two stations to go on the FSS machines. When they first start up there will be what they call a burn-in time, which will last seven (7) to ten (10) days. Then there will be an acceptance period which will last about two (2) weeks, this is where the postal service will decide if the machines are functioning properly and then they will take over control of the machines from the company that was contracted to build them.

Your flats will come out to the station to you on racks that they refer to as "casters". There will also be a manifest/placard on the casters to indicate which casters the trays are located on for each route. The address label on each flat piece should be located on the top half of the mail piece, either across the top or along the side but it must be placed on the top half of the mail piece by the mailers or it will not be accepted. Basically Sherman Oaks and Encino may be on FSS flats by the end of the year.

During the Labor/Management meeting we were also made aware that Civic Center is moving to the Main office barn, this is because postal management in this district just became aware that they were spending upwards of \$400,000 dollars a year to lease the building that they are currently in. What I do not understand is how can management in this district spend that much money per year and not be aware of it, and who has been making this payment without being aware of what they are paying. You would think someone would be in hot water for not properly doing their job in the area of finances. I have yet to hear anything about that and they probably would not share that with the likes of me anyway. But you would think that someone would have at least looked at that lease before now, and engaged in dialog with GSA to attempt to get that price reduced, but who am I to give advice.

I also had some carriers at Sherman Oaks request that I bring up the fact that the supplies at Sherman Oaks are being delivered by Fed-Ex. Go figure! Management only

reason was that the supplies are ordered through a company that gives the USPS a good deal and they only ship through Fed-Ex. What I am having a hard time understanding is, we have managers standing up on the workroom floor and telling how bad things are and the Postal Service is in financial trouble and mail volume is low and we are going to five day delivery, yet they allow someone to deliver supplies to one of their carrier stations through another company when they are in the deliver business and could be using those types of deliveries to generate revenue for the Postal Service. Maybe this is a company that postal management could actually approach themselves as a Customer Connect lead. Just a thought!

Poison Pill

The bill titled "The Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Funding Reform Act of 2009 (S. 1507)", would restructure the USPS obligation to pay retiree healthcare benefits, and would generate savings of billions of dollars over the next several years. The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is expected to take up this bill at its next business session. S. 1507, as it has been currently introduced would reduce postal contributions to the Retiree Trust Fund for a five year period by:

\$2.4 billion in FY 2009;
\$2.5 billion in FY 2010;
\$1 billion in FY 2011;
\$300 million FY 2012;
And \$100 million in FY 2013;

However, the bill, which was supported by the NALC in its original form, had several negative amendments offered to it. Thanks to our e-activist in several states across the country, we were able to defeat 7 of the 11 amendments, including one that would have required a move to 5 day delivery and the elimination of more than 20,000 city carrier jobs.

Unfortunately, one of the four amendments approved was an anti-labor provision that is considered a "poison pill". This amendment would instruct arbitration panels to consider the financial condition of the Postal Service in making any decision.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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This amendment is not necessary since arbitration boards already take postal finances into account. What is worse, by not listing other factors that should be considered by boards, the new language has the effect of giving short term financial conditions preeminence over other relevant factors.

The NALC cannot support "S. 1507" with the arbitration amendment, this bill would definitely interfere with Collective Bargaining and tip the scale in favor of management in the next round of bargaining. The NALC will lobby to eliminate the amendment from the final bill.

If you are a member of the e-activist network please stand by and be ready to respond to the request of our National President Fred Rolando to contact your Congressional and Senate representatives to urge them on how you would like for them to vote on this bill.

If you are not part of the e-activist network please sign up today by going to nalc.org or fill out the form inside the latest MailCall and mail it to the address listed at the bottom of the form.

ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
MAIN OFFICE	2	3	1	4	4	2	3	4			
ENCINO	4	5	3	7	6	4	4	5			
CIVIC CENTER	2	2	1	1	3	1	1	2			
PANORAMA CITY	4	4	4	3	2	3	3	3			
SHERMAN OAKS	4	4	6	6	4	5	8	7			
SUN VALLEY	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	3			
TARZANA	2	1	2	2	2	2	3	2			
RETIREE'S	4	4	5	4	4	4	3	5			
TOTAL	23	24	24	29	27	23	26	31			

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

NEXT MEETING
6:30 PM

SEPTEMBER
1st
"2009"

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

September 1, 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 August 22nd & September 26, 2009 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar.....We hope to see you there.

Thank
You

Frank Busch

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.

2010 Retiree COLA

There was no projected accumulation yet toward the 2010 retiree COLA following the release of the June 2009 CPI.

2010 FECA COLA

Following the release of the April 2009 CPI, the projected accumulation toward the 2010 Federal Employee Compensation Act (FECA) COLA rose to 3.0 percent.

Customer Connect

Congratulations to Jason Colello from Encino station for his recent customer connect sale of \$1,248.00

Congratulations to Ray Mola from Encino station for his recent customer connect sales of \$16,952.00 and \$6,240.00

Congratulations to Robert Bennett from Sun Valley station for his recent customer connect sale of \$70,000.00

Congratulations to Jorge Gonzalez from Sun Valley station for his recent customer connect sale of \$39,300.00

Congratulations to George Santos from Sherman Oaks station for his recent customer connect sale of \$8,112.00

Congratulations to George Esparza from Van Nuys Main Office for his recent customer connect sale of \$12,649.00

Vice President's Report

by
Janette Dolabson

NALC President Fred Rolando said in a letter to us that the "Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee marked up S. 1507, a bill that would provide short-term financial relief to the Postal Service by restructuring the congressionally-mandated payments into the Retiree Health Benefits Fund for future retirees. The bill, which was supported by the NALC in its original form, had several amendments offered to it. Thanks to our e-Activists in several states across the country, we were able to defeat 7 of the 11 amendments, including one that would have required a move to 5-day delivery and the elimination of more than 20,000 city carrier jobs. Unfortunately, one of the four amendments approved was an anti-labor provision that we consider a 'poison pill.' The amendment would instruct arbitration panels to "consider the financial condition of the Postal Service in making any decision."

The amendment is not necessary since arbitration boards already take postal finances into account. Worse, by not listing other factors that should be considered by boards, the new language has the effect of giving short-term financial conditions preeminence over other relevant factors. We cannot support S. 1507 with the arbitration amendment. It is very disappointing that Committee members would interfere with postal collective bargaining and seek to put a thumb on the scale in favor of postal management in the next round of bargaining. We will lobby to eliminate the amendment from the final bill and we're committed to resisting its inclusion in any legislation that emerges from Congress."

The picnic is moving right along. It will be held October 11th, 2009 at the Santa Anita Racetrack. Sign-up sheets should be in your station. If you have not gone to one of these picnics at the Racetrack you are missing out. It is a lot of fun and tons of things for kids and adults to do. It's all you can eat buffet and soda and water. There will be ice cream and raffles. We are off the next day because it's a Holiday. Come out with us and have some fun. We have earned it this year with all the changes and turmoil. It will nice to have some food and relax and play the ponies. We have our own covered area and our kids will have their area of slides and games and prizes only for the picnic area kids. We are also going to make it more affordable this year to help give our over burdened members a break. Just come, I am sure you will be glad you did.

Health Benefit Update

By
Larry Dolabson

This year's Open Season for joining Health Plans will Nov. 9th- 17th. It is usually extended into December. I urge you to take a good look at the NALC Health Plan and join this year. It is the best PPO plan offered. It might even be the only Letter Carrier Health Plan offered in our next contract that the Postal Service will pay the same percentage they pay now for all the health plans. That means you may be paying a larger percentage of your health benefits if you are in plans that are not the NALC Health Plan. I know that it is something that has been an agenda item that the NALC is trying to negotiate to

help save money for the Postal Service and save health benefits for its members.

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 !

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. It 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

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"THE MAIL CALL" BRANCH 2462, NALC

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

Address Service Requested

Branch Meeting Minutes August 4, 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 ASKEW
MOMENT OF SILENCE—In Memory of All past members who have passed this year.

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 CORRECTIONS—MINUTES WERE FROM JULY MEETING NOT MAY, & RAY MOLA DONATED HIS MDA WINNINGS
CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP—KRISTIAN APETA

Krisian was present at the meeting and was sworn in by Vice President Dolabson.

BILLS READ—NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AUDIT The audit was held on Tuesday, July 21st at 6 pm at the Union office. All books were found to be in good order and up to date.

TRUSTEES All is well

SAFETY & HEALTH Next meeting is next month. We had a accident in Van Nuys, a 204 B struck a parked car while making deliveries. Be careful when driving, remember Safety is Everyone's Responsibility.

RETIREEES 5 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 4th Saturday of each month. Retiree Dinner will be held on October 18th at Encino Glen Resturant. Cost will be \$ 5 per member or guest.

HBR—L. DOLABSON Checked out dental program we received and would recommend holding off to see what the NALC plan offers in November. Open Season will be from November 9th thru December 14th this year.

MDA \$ 708 currently in fund. Donation of \$ 1000 was sent to the National NALC MDA fund. Working on a donation plan to run in conjunction with our annual picnic in October. Anyone interested in being on TV by helping with the Labor Day Telethon contact the office.

MBA—ENZ Checking to see whether carriers who have been taken from work under the NRP Pilot program can file for disability payments.

FINANCIAL/TREASURERS REPORT—JOHNSON

MOTION—Accept Financial reports as read M/S/C
VICE-PRESIDENT J. DOLABSON We will be having our annual Picnic on October 11, 2009 at the Santa Anita Race track. MIARAP is being implemented and will probably be one of the biggest headaches ever, especially if COR is being used. There are going to be many changes and we will all have to work at making things transition as smoothly as we can.

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 renew office property and General liability insurance policy. Cost to the Branch will be \$ 1000.00

M/S/C

UNDERLINED INDICATES UNANOMOUS VOTE

OLD BUSINESS-NONE

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

MDA DRAWING

\$ 5 SANDY ANGER—TARZANA—DONATED \$ 3
\$ 5 STEVE SEYFRIED—SHERMAN OAKS
\$ 9 JANETTE DOLABSON--TARZANA--DONATED

A short video presentation showing the new Flats Sorting Machines in actions was presented.

Meeting Adjourned 8:22 PM

