

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT By Calvin Brookins

### On the Political Side of Things

The House of Representatives has passed H.R. 22 by a vote of 388-32. The legislation will provide short term financial relief to the Postal Service by reducing the amount it must pay to pre-fund future retiree health benefits. The one year version of H.R. 22 approved by the House is a good first step toward devising a more sensible and affordable schedule for pre-funding our future retiree health benefits.

This past Wednesday night the Senate approved a continuing resolution that included the postal financial relief language from H.R. 22. With the passage, the Postal Service will be able to defer \$4 billion in payments to a fund for its future retirees' health benefits, this will give the Postal Service some flexibility for dealing with the current recession.

The ALF-CIO has unanimously passed our nationwide resolution opposing a Do Not Mail Registry at their National Convention in Pittsburgh. This is a crucial step in allowing us to present an all labor supported front when we need to lobby against these individual Do Not Mail proposals state by state.

### Retirement Counseling

The NALC and the Postal Service has resolved a national level dispute over management's responsibility to provide retirement counseling to letter carriers. NALC has protested the discontinuance of the practice of providing in-person counseling to letter carriers on postal premises. Instead, the USPS amended the ELM to permit that counseling to be conducted primarily by telephone with a retirement specialist at the Human Resources Shared Services Center (HRSSC).

The settlement provides that employees may request counseling on the clock, and that local management will arrange reasonably private space for this purpose. The employee's spouse and/or advisor may be with the employee during this process. In addition, employees who cannot begin or complete the process of obtaining counseling from HRSSC without assistance will be offered assistance by local management.

### Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA)

NALC branches from across the country presented pledges and donations totaling \$2.1 million to the 44th Annual Jerry Lewis MDA Labor Day Telethon this year and helping MDA achieve nearly \$60.5 million in donations.

Myself alone with Vice President Janette Dolabson and MDA coordinator Sandy Anger and her boyfriend George all went down to the studios and answered phone taking donations during the telethon on Labor Day. On behalf of the branch thank you Janette and Sandy for participating in the telethon.

As we continue to raise money for Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) we will be having a Bowl-a-thon sign-up sheets have already been posted in every office if you have not signed up please see your shop steward. If you do not wish to bowl please sponsor someone from your station by making a donation either by number of pins or a set amount. All information about the bowl-a-thon should be posted in your stations.

### Most Trusted Again

The U.S. Postal Service came in third place in the 2009 Most Trusted Companies for Privacy Award commissioned by the Ponemon Institute, an information security research company. eBay, Verizon and the Postal Service were 1, 2, and 3 in the survey, no other government agency was in the top 10.

### Ray Kreyer Award

There were nominations for the Ray Kreyer held at the recent Executive Board meeting; I will not announce the next recipient until we get to the Retiree Luncheon on October 18th.

### Requesting a Form 3996

It has recently come to my attention that some carriers are not being given a Form 3996 or they are not requesting a 3996, in some cases carrier are allowing management to tell them that they do not need additional time to complete the route they are assigned to as opposed to estimating their workload and given their estimate to their supervisor on a 3996. Handbook M-39, Section 122.33 states as follows;

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## 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	3	5	
ENCINO	4	5	3	7	6	4	4	5	5	4	
CIVIC CENTER	2	2	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	2	
PANORAMA CITY	4	4	4	3	2	3	3	3	4	1	
SHERMAN OAKS	4	4	6	6	4	5	8	7	7	10	
SUN VALLEY	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	3	3	1	
TARZANA	2	1	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	
RETIREE'S	4	4	5	4	4	4	3	5	5	5	
TOTAL	23	24	24	29	27	23	26	31	33	30	

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

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

NOVEMBER  
3rd  
"2009"

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

November 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 & DeCielis). It will begin at 09:00 AM. The next 2 dates will be October 24<sup>th</sup>, & November 28, 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)

### 122.33 Administration of City Delivery Service

The employee, upon request, will be provided a Form 3996, *Carrier -Auxiliary Control*, after the supervisor has been verbally informed as to the reason for the request. The employee shall not be denied the form and, upon request, a duplicate of the completed form will be provided the employee.

If on any given day you believe that you will be unable to complete your assignment within eight (8) hours, you should request and complete a Form 3996. If you truly believe that you cannot complete your assignment within eight (8) hours do not allow your supervisor to talk you into trying to do the route in eight hours. If your supervisor chooses to have you curtail/cut mail they should provide you a PS Form 1571 for you to identify the mail you are leaving behind. Please protect yourself and the route you are assigned to.

### No Accumulation Yet for Sixth COLA

There was no accumulation for the sixth cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) under the 2006-2011 National Agreement.

There also has not yet been any accumulation toward the 2010 retiree COLA for both CSRS and FERS retirees.

The projected accumulation toward the 2010 COLA for Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) participants, which is based on the increase in the CPI-W between December 2008 and December 2009 increased to 3.1 percent through August.

### Saxsenmeier Scholarship Program

The California State Association of Letter Carriers (CSALC) is now accepting applications for the 2010 Carl J. Saxsenmeier Scholarship Program. **All applications must be sent to the Scholarship Chair by January 8, 2010.** The Chair will send scholarship packets to all applicants by the end of January 2010. The scholarships are available to the dependent children or grandchildren of members of NALC Branches within the State of California who have not served in a supervisory capacity in the previous two (2) years from the date of 2010 award announcement. Applicant's parent / grandparent must be a member in good standing of the NALC for at least one year prior to applying. Applicant must be a high school senior when applying. Saxsenmeier Scholarship awards are issued in the year of graduation and are not renewable.

Applications have been mailed to all shop stewards and contain all information that is needed when applying.



### VETERAN'S DAY

Remember Those Who Have & Are Serving Our  
Country

## Vice President's Report

by  
Janette Dolabson

MIARAP has resumed and the Teams will be looking at your offices to see how you are doing. I can not tell you how important it is to you all to be vocal in your consultations. Please tell you local contact's what is wrong with your routes if there is a problem. We can not fix something if we are not aware it's a problem. If you have questions about your volumes or if there was an addition to your route that is not working, or your line of travel isn't right, you need to tell them. There has been a lot of complaining and finger pointing from some of you and we know that it has been very frustrating, however, when in the past have you ever had the chance to have an adjustment fixed in a revisit? The answer is never. This process affords us the opportunity to come back and check how you are doing on your route with the NALC there to make sure it's fair and done with integrity. If we can make something work we will. If it doesn't you should be told why. Not everyone will be happy with this process its impossible the make everyone happy. All we can do is the best we can. This branch will do the best it can in this process for you. We will need your help to be successful. If there is now comments or suggestions from you we will be flying blind when it comes to knowing what you might have an issue with on your route. I can't tell you how many times someone complained about their adjustment and when we went back and looked again at their comments or suggestions there weren't any. If you were a COR site you have a right to be skeptical. Your comments meant little, I admit, because that program does what it finds to be the most economical for the Postal Service. It does not care about routes or carriers because it's a program. But, like most programs if the data entered was correct the problems will be minimal. That wasn't the case in many of the COR sites it was used in but those issues are being addressed and the more the program is used the more we are able to get around the problems and fix them. Hopefully, the revisit will help alleviate some of the problems caused by this new and frustrating, often misunderstood program.

Sherman Oaks and Encino will not be on the first machine for FSS. That is good news. It buys you some time between disrupting route adjustments. It is coming sometime early next year for offices in our branch. We will be looking at close to 7 hour street times and 1 hour office times. It also means another round of pulling out routes in stations. This time it will be done without any NALC members on the team and all the FSS sites will be COR adjusted. I pray that the data input, by then, will be perfected and the technicians will be competent.

### THANK YOU, NALC

Written by JORDAN BALLA  
MDA POSTER CHILD

Mail Carriers Deliver the Letters No Matter the Weather  
Mail Carriers Are the Best and Nobody Does This Better  
They Wear Rain Boots and Slickers and Trudge Through Snow  
Just To Get That One Letter To Where It Has To Go  
From House To House They Travel With Barely a Pause  
And Again Today They Go Beyond the Call Bowling For the  
MDA CAUSE !

### Health Benefit Update

By  
Larry Dolabson

Open Season begins November 9<sup>th</sup> and ends December 14<sup>th</sup>.

JOIN THE NALC HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN NOW.

Do you need to lose weight? I know I do. The first step in managing your weight, according to the Mayo Clinic, is determining a healthy weight for your body type. A healthy weight means you have the right amount of body fat in relation to your overall body mass. Want to get a quick start on losing weight while you take the time to work out your full healthy weight plan? Eat more fruit each day instead of sweets, eat more vegetables each day and less meat, increase your level of physical activity on most days of the week. Walking is really the best and easiest way. Here are some tips for healthy eating. 1. Use smaller plates to make food seem like more. 2. Keep a bowl of fruit in a handy place for snacks. 3. Eat breakfast. 4. Replace calorie-laden beverages with water. 5. Keep measuring cups and spoons handy to measure out servings until you have learned to estimate them accurately. 6. Brush your teeth or chew gum after meals to discourage snacking. 7. Measure out servings instead of eating right out of bags or boxes. 8. Consider buying yourself a kitchen scale. 9. Keep a written record of what you eat. You would be surprised how much we eat unnecessarily.



## ATTENTION BOWLERS

SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 1, 2009

Branch 2462 is having a Bowl-a-Thon

To Fight Against

MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

THERE WILL BE SIGN UP SHEETS IN ALL  
OFFICES

PLAN ON BEING AT MATADOR BOWL

CORNER OF BALBOA & NORDOFF

NOON – 2 PM THERE WILL BE FREE FOOD

& A GREAT CHANCE TO RAISE SOME

MONEY FOR "JERRY'S KIDS"

# "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

October 6, 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 6:45 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, L. DOLABSON,

**ABSENT**—ENZ

**SPECIAL GUESTS** MDA Rep NORA GHARBIDAN along with JORDAN BALLA, MDA Poster Child and her Mother JULIE gave a brief update and thank you for our Branch's support of the Jerry Lewis Telethon and MDA

**MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAIL CALL**  
**CORRESPONDENCE READ**

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP—NONE**

**BILLS READ—NONE**

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**TRUSTEES** All is well  
**SAFETY & HEALTH** Be careful when driving, remember Safety is Everyone's Responsibility.  
**RETIREEES** 5 retiree's present tonight. Very good turnout for the Retiree Breakfast. Retiree Dinner will be held on October 18<sup>th</sup> at Encino Glen Restaurant. Cost will be \$ 5 per member or guest. All members and family invited.

**HBR—L. DOLABSON** Going to HBR Seminar next month. Watch for article in MailCall

**MDA** \$ 628 currently in fund. Donation of \$ 1000 was sent to the National NALC MDA fund.

**MBA—ENZ** No Report

#### FINANCIAL/TREASURERS REPORT—JOHNSON

**MOTION**—Accept Financial reports as read M/S/C  
**VICE-PRESIDENT J. DOLABSON** Picnic is ready to go hope that all will attend and enjoy. Also revisits to recent route adjustments will begin soon, make sure you get your input recorded during the consultations.

**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 donate \$ 100.00 to the LA County Fed Turkeys and Toys drive M/S/C

**MOTION**—Branch donate \$ 100.00 to the American Cancer Society M/S/C

#### NOMINATIONS FOR CONVENTION DELEGATES

CALVIN BROOKINS \*\*

STEVE SEYFRIED

TRACY MULLINAX

TIA WILSON

LARRY DOLABSON

FRANK BRASH

RAUL DOZAL

RAY MOLA

SANDY ANGER

JANET McKEIVER

KEVIN DONOHUE

RICHARD REIMER

RAFAEL PEREZ

JANETTE DOLABSON

BOB JOHNSON

JEFF JACKSON

ROGER ASKEW

BOB ENZ

JIM TUKESBREY

BETTY LOW

JOHN BURTON

JACK WINKEL

JOSE JIMENEZ

ART BOCEK

ANDY GOCHER

ANALIA GARCIA

\*\* = AUTOMATIC PAID DELEGATE

UNDERLINED=AUTOMATIC DELEGATE

#### OLD BUSINESS-NONE

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

#### MDA DRAWING

\$ 5 BETTY LOW—SHERMAN OAKS

\$ 5 ANDY GOCHER—CIVIC CENTER

\$ 12 STEVE SEYFRIED—SHERMAN OAKS

\$ 9 JANETTE DOLABSON--TARZANA--DONATED

Meeting Adjourned 8:12 PM

**CARRIERS FROM CIVIC CENTER STATION GATHER TO SAY  
GOOD BYE TO THEIR STATION**

**BEGINNING THE FIRST OF OCTOBER THEY WILL BE  
DELIVERING MAIL OUT OF THE MAIN OFFICE  
THE POSTAL SERVICE HAS DECIDED TO CLOSE THE CIVIC  
CENTER OFFICE TO SAVE MONEY. THIS WILL NOT  
HOWEVER CHANGE THE FINE SERVICE THESE  
DEDICATED CARRIERS ARE PROVIDING TO THEIR  
CUSTOMERS. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK !**