

PRESIDENT'S REPORT By Calvin Brookins

On the Political Side of Things

On October 9, 2009, the House of Representatives passed HR 2647 (The 2010 Defense Department Authorization Measure) by a vote of 281 - 146, the measure then moved on to the Senate, where on October 25, 2009, the United States Senate passed the bill by a vote of 68 - 29. On Wednesday October 28, 2009, in a White House ceremony President Obama signed the bill into law as the 2010 National Defense Authorization Act. This Law will provide a new benefit which gives Letter Carriers and other federal employees who retire under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) credit for unused sick leave when they retire. Under the new law, FERS employees get half credit for unused sick leave through 2013; full credit takes effect in 2014. Employees covered under CSRS already receive credit for sick leave when they retire.

Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA)

NALC branches from across the country turned out for the inaugural national bowl-a-thon for MDA, held this past weekend of November 1, 2009. We had great turn out for our branch; we raised over \$2300.00 for MDA. On behalf of MDA and the branch I want to thank everyone so much for your support, whether you actually bowled or sponsored someone with a donation who actually bowled. This could not have been done without all of the letter carrier who chose to get involved either by bowling or by sponsoring someone.

The NALC will award a laptop computer loaded with NALC's software to the top bowl-a-thon fundraising branch in each of the 10 size categories. Also, the highest handicapped scorer and the highest actual scorer in each branch size category will receive a new bowling ball and shoes. Last but not least, I want to thank Sandy Anger our MDA coordinator for coordinating this event and a job well done.

I am please to announce that Branch 2462 has adopted Jordan Balla as the branch's MDA poster child. Jordan is 12 years of age and lives in Sunland, to my knowledge Jordan was the very first MDA poster child to come to our branch and speak to and thank the membership for all that they do for MDA. The branch also passed a motion to pay for and sponsor Jordan to the MDA camp for MDA kids next summer. The NALC has been the official fundraiser for MDA

since the 1950's and I am hopeful that our branch will continue to do its part for years to come.

Retiree Luncheon

We had our annual retiree luncheon on October 18, 2009, we had another great turn-out and we were blessed with the presence of our National Business Agent Manny Peralta. I want to thank everyone again for coming out and supporting this event and I especially want to thank retiree Frank Brash for his continual coordination of the retiree luncheon. National Business Agent Manny Peralta presented a Gold Card to 50 year NALC member Jose Reyna, he has been a member of the NALC since August of 1959.

Ray Kreyer Award

There were nominations for the Ray Kreyer held at the last Executive Board meeting, I announced the recipient of that award at the Retiree Luncheon on October 18th. For those of you who were not present at the retiree luncheon the recipient of this year's award was well deserved, and it went to Steve Seyfried.

(Continued on Page 2)

--SPECIAL NOTICE-- NO BRANCH MEETING IN DECEMBER

**BRANCH 2462 HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
FRIDAY EVENING
DECEMBER 11, 2009**

AT

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL
(CORNER OF VALERIO & VAN NUYS)
DOORS OPEN 5:30 PM - DINNER 6:30 PM
ALL MEMBERS AND FAMILY
ARE INVITED TO ATTEND
FREE FOOD - FREE DRINK - FREE FUN
DOOR PRIZES FOR MEMBERS**

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

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

NEXT MEETING
6:30 PM

JANUARY
5th
"2010"

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

December 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 date will be November 28, 2009 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar.....We hope to see you there.

Thank
You

Frank Busch

Harry Brenneman Award

At the luncheon, I also presented this years Harry Brenneman award to a very deserving shop steward. While the choice this year was a hard one to make, the Brenneman award this year went to Tracy Mullinax shop steward from Encino.

No Accumulation for Sixth COLA

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

There also will not be 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 3.2 this will be effective on March 1, 2010.

BRANCH "ADOPTS" MDA POSTER CHILD

On a recommendation of the Executive Board, members of Branch 2462 unanimously voted to make JORDAN BALLA (Pictured below with President Brookins at our Branch Bowl-a-thon) the official MDA Poster Child for Branch 2462. Jordan lives in Sunland and is 12 years old. We welcome Jordan as an "honorary member of the Branch". The Branch has gone on record to sponsor Jordan to MDA summer camp next year and pledges to do all in our power to help in the battle against Muscular Dystrophy and the other related neuromuscular diseases.

Vice President's Report

by
Janette Dolabson

Well, the picnic was a huge success this year. We had 410 people out at Santa Anita on Oct. 11th. The weather was perfect. The food and fun was even better. Thank you all for coming out and making it a great day. We raised a lot of money for MDA in 50/50 drawing raffles. Thank you to all of you who helped work the events there and sell tickets and check people in. Calvin Brookins, Steve Seyfried, Bob Johnson, Larry Dolabson, Tracy Mullinax, Sandy Anger, Judy Winkle, Jeff Jackson and Tia Wilson, thanks for your support and help.

I want to touch a bit on MIARAP. Please do yourself a huge favor and keep track of your mail volumes. We need to know if there is a problem with your totals. If a manager is curtailing or delaying mail and it is not documented, we need to know. If someone is casing on your route and it is not documented we need to know. Are your labels correct? Are all sequence issues resolved? Are you casing your DPS mail or coverage's? Are you waiting for mail? Are you doing street functions on office time? Is auxiliary assistance being recorded properly? Are you scanning parcels on office time and not getting time credited? Are you Collating mail and getting proper time? If the route has a router/handoff is it getting it every day and is it counted properly and time giving correctly? On the day you had your 3999 done was the mail volume light? Was there a coverage? Was mail curtailed that day? Did you take a break? Did you ask for an unedited copy of the 3999 and was it signed? We need to know all this information so please don't go into a consultation with no comments. You need to tell us this information to make a proper and fair adjustment of your route. Help us help you.

TRACY MULLINAX WINS 2009 HARRY BRENNEMAN AWARD

Encino Shop Steward TRACY MULLINAX (pictured below with his family) was awarded the 2009 Harry Brenneman award as the outstanding Shop Steward for Branch 2462. Upon receiving his award Tracy thanked his fellow Shop Stewards for helping him achieve this award.

Health Benefit Update

By
Larry Dolabson

Open Season is here. From Nov.9th the -Dec.14th you can sign up for the NALC Health Plan. It is the best plan offered by the Postal Service as far as PPO Services and carrier specifically geared benefits. This open season the rates are \$44.57 for self and \$86.11 biweekly for active letter carrier families. This is an increase in rates, however all plans offered to city letter carriers went up. There are many reasons why health benefit plan costs have increased such as 1. The cost of care has increased by 90% since 2000, 2. The Postal Service spent more than 5.4 billion dollars since 2008 for their share of Health costs, 3. Most private company's increased their employee's contribution into their health care to 28% but the Postal Service kept it to 20%, 4. We have an aging workforce which means higher costs, people are living longer, and 5. Health care reform 40,000 people die each year due to no health care. If you want to compare plans online go to this web-site www.opm.gov/insure. Click on the "Compare Health Plans" link on the right hand side under "quick links". You can find plans by location (zip code), plan name or plan code. Or go to <http://opm.gov/insure/health/search/plansearch.aspx>. To find a hospital rating go to www.leapfroggroup.org. This year the plan added over 9,000 Doctors to the plan making it over 1,200,000 Doctors in network. The NALC Health Plan as added LABCORP to the laboratories that will cover lab costs 100%. The other lab is Quest Diagnostics. CVS drug bought out Long Drugs and are no accepting the drug program at all Long's Drug Stores as well as CVS. No Drug purchases this year goes to your deductibles. Your co-pay now will be only \$15.00 instead of \$20.00. Call 1 877 477-3273 to enroll today.

STEVE SEYFRIED RECEIVES 2009 RAY KREYER AWARD

Branch Recording Secretary STEVE SEYFRIED (pictured below with National Business Agent Manny Peralta (L) and President Calvin Brookins (R) was presented, at the Retiree Luncheon, with the Ray Kreyer award. The award is the Branch's highest honor, and is presented each year to a member who has shown "Outstanding Service & Dedication to Branch 2462". This was Steve's 2nd Kreyer Award having been honored in 1992, making him only the fourth member to have received the award twice.

"THE MAIL CALL"

BRANCH 2462, NALC

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

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Branch Meeting Minutes November 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 6:35 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by HBR ENZ

MOMENT OF SILENCE—In Memory of All past members who have passed this year, and in remembrance of the sacrifices made by our Veteran's.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

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

ABSENT—ASKEW

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAIL CALL
CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP—NONE

BILLS READ—NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AUDIT Audit and Budget will be in January at a time and date to be announced

TRUSTEES All is well

SAFETY & HEALTH Be careful when driving, remember Safety is Everyone's Responsibility.

RETIREEES--BRASH 3 retiree's present tonight. Retiree Dinner was a great success, thanks to all who attended and for those who did not attend you missed a great meal and a fun time. Glad to report that the dinner came in \$100.00 under budget.

HBR--L. DOLABSON Open Season for signing up for new health plan is from Nov. 9th through Dec 14th. Went to HBR Seminar next month. Watch for article in MailCall

MDA--ANGER \$ 1401 currently in fund.

Bowl-a-thon was a complete success, with over 50 bowlers who collected a total of over \$ 2300.00 for MDA. Due to the success, and positive feedback we will be planning another Bowl-a-thon after the first of the year. Watch for further information.

MBA--ENZ No Report

FINANCIAL/TREASURERS REPORT--JOHNSON

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

VICE-PRESIDENT J. DOLABSON Picnic was a huge success this year, with more people than ever. Total cost to the Branch after all bills were paid and ticket receipts accounted for was \$ 8395.00. I will have an article in the Mail Call with more details. 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 cancel the December meeting And hold a holiday party at Knights of Columbus M/S/C

MOTION—Branch send 3 members to the NRP & M-546 training class on November 13th. Members to be chosen by the Branch President. Cost to the Branch, lost time and mileage M/S/C

MOTION—Branch empower the Executive Board to conduct any and all business of the Branch from November 3, 2009 through January 5, 2010. M/S/C

MOTION—Branch donate \$ 50.00 to the Van Nuys Salvation Army for Thanksgiving M/S/C

MOTION—Branch donate \$ 50.00 to the Van Nuys Salvation Army for Christmas M/S/C

MOTION—Branch make JORDAN BALLA the Official MDA Poster Child for Branch 2462 M/S/C

MOTION—Branch sponsor and pay for MDA Summer Camp for Branch 2462 Poster Child Jordan Balla. Cost not to exceed \$ 1000.00 M/S/C

UNDERLINED INDICATES UNANIMOUS VOTE

OLD BUSINESS--NONE

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

MDA DRAWING

\$ 5 ANALEA GARCIA—MAIN OFFICE
\$ 5 ELIA VIVEROS—SHERMAN OAKS
\$ 5 JOHN GARY—SUN VALLEY--DONATED
\$ 8 JOHN GARY—SUN VALLEY--DONATED

Meeting Adjourned 8:18 PM

