

**Representing the Stations of
Civic Center – Encino – Panorama City – Sherman Oaks – Sun Valley – Tarzana – Van Nuys Main**

VOLUME 47

FEBRUARY 2010

NUMBER 1

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Calvin Brookins

NRP Grievances

During our last leadership conference this past August the National Business Agent office announced that they were attempting to settle all NRP cases that were pending at their level. Those efforts continued for awhile, but recently those efforts reached an Impasse and all NRP grievances are to be processed through the grievance/arbitration procedure at this time. We currently have several NRP and NRP pilot grievances pending arbitration some have actually been scheduled for arbitration and others are waiting. The carriers involved in those that has been scheduled for arbitration have been contacted by this office if I have not talked to you I will be contacting you soon.

Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA)

The final results from the bowl-a-thon held in November has been published in the January 2010 Postal Record. The top fund-raisers according to branch size were also printed in the Postal Record. According to the report the first National Bowl-a thon put on by the NALC raised \$300,000.00 for Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA).

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 2011 retiree COLA for both CSRS and FERS retirees. Retirees will not receive a cost-of-living adjustment in 2010 because of declining prices.

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 stands at 3.5 percent this will be effective on March 1, 2010.

Food Drive

Registration for the 2010 NALC Food Drive has begun; the NALC Food Drive is on verge of reaching a mile stone by breaking through the one billion pound level in total donations collected since the Food Drive began in 1993.

President Rolando is urging all branches to increase their efforts, we are attempting to do that by getting more media support through MEND and KCBS and KCAL television networks. We will know more of how that is going after our next meeting with them on Wednesday January 13, 2010.

FSS Impact

Our National Business Agent Manny Peralta has been notified as to how many routes and/or full time carriers will be impacted by the implementation of the FSS machines. In a letter dated December 14, 2009, the Postal Service notified our National Business Agent of their intent here in the Sierra Coastal District to utilize the provisions of Article 12, Section 5.C.5 of the National Agreement to involuntarily reassign up to 201 full-time carriers and part-time flexible carriers at 18 separate post offices from the craft and/or installation based on the deployment of the FSS. Here in Van Nuys management has projected that there will be 33 full-time carriers impacted by the implementation of FSS. That basically means that we could have up to 33 letter carriers excessed from Van Nuys five city offices.

The impact list that I received did not include Sun Valley and Tarzana in regards to carriers being excessed. However, management in this district does intend to withhold up to 120 full-time residual assignments in the carrier, clerk, mail handler and custodial crafts in offices and plants within a 200 mile radius for placement of the impacted carriers in the 18 separate post offices that was listed. This is an important message to all letter carriers, when an assignment is posted for bid and you are an unassigned regular you should make sure that you bid on any and all assignments that are posted for bid. If those assignments are posted and no one bid on them, then management will withhold those assignments for the purposes of excessing employees. As I get more information on this issue I will place it in the MailCall.

WORKING OFF THE CLOCK

As I go from station to station I continue to find carriers working off the clock, either prior to begin tour in the morning or after ending tour in the afternoon. It is alarmingly shocking to me as to why anyone would work off the clock, basically working for free. For all of you who are working off the clock let me remind you of something. The way that your route is being adjusted these days is all based on the mail volume you get and the time you use performing your letter carrier duties. When ever you decide to show up at work 30

(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	1										
ENCINO	5										
CIVIC CENTER	1										
PANORAMA CITY	3										
SHERMAN OAKS	4										
SUN VALLEY	2										
TARZANA	2										
RETIREE'S	5										
TOTAL	23										

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

**NEXT MEETING
6:30 PM**

**FEBRUARY
2nd
"2010"**

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

February 2, 2010

**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 & DeCels). It will begin at 09:00 AM. The next 2 dates will be February 27, & March 27, 2010 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar.....We hope to see you there.

Thank
You

Frank Dugan

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

minutes early and case mail, pull redis, sort your parcels and load your coverage's in your vehicle and then walk over to the time clock and clock in you have just reduced the time that could have been you to properly adjust your route. You at that point have successfully taken time away time from your route that cannot be accounted for.

The Collective Bargaining Agreement has language in it that states management should not allow employees to work off the clock; this includes allowing employees to work through their 10 minute breaks. The National Agreement states in relevant part;

Article 41.3.K. Supervisors shall not require, nor permit, employees to work off the clock.

Rest Breaks. National Arbitrator Britton ruled that the Postal Service must ensure that all employees stop working during an office break. Contractual breaks must be observed and cannot be waived by employees.
(H4N-3D-C 9419, December 22, 1988, C-08555)

This language is not negotiable on a day to day basis, and your supervisor should not look the other way when you are working off the clock, believe me they see you while you are working off the clock but guess what that help them accomplish what they need to with using less time for it.

So please stop working off the clock because you are placing me and the shop stewards in a position as to where we will have to force your supervisors to follow the National Agreement by filing grievances for them to stop carrier from working off the clock. Then if you do not stop working off the clock after your supervisor has instructed you to, then they will attempt to issue discipline. Please do not force us to go that far with this. When you work off the clock you are basically working for free. Why work for free when you can work and get paid for it.

Santa Anita Club House Passes

Santa Anita Race Track has provided Branch 2462 with 2 Club House Passes for the 2009-2010 racing season to the San Gabriel Country Club. They are available for the whole racing season, these passes will get you into the Turf Club. If you are a racing fan and you would like to use these passes please contact HBR Larry Dolabson at the Encino station (818) 343-5508. When you use these passes you must return them to Larry so they will be available for other members of the branch to use during the 2009-2010 racing season.

In closing I hope everyone had a very good Christmas and New Year holiday and remember look forward not backwards a new year is upon us.

BUDGET ESTIMATE
JANUARY 2010 THRU DECEMBER 2010

ESTIMATED INCOME:

Regular Members	390 at \$ 640.90	(\$ 24.65 - ppp)	\$255,141.90
Retiree's	110 at \$ 18.00	(per year)	\$1,980.00
NALC Health Benefit Reimbursement			\$200.00
Interest			\$400.00
Other Income			<u>\$400.00</u>
		TOTAL INCOME	\$252,931.00

JANUARY 2010 THRU DECEMBER 2010

ESTIMATE EXPENDITURES	BUDGET 2009	SPENT 2009	BUDGET 2010
NALC Per Capita Tax:			
Regular Members			
390 at \$ 194.22	\$77,290.20	\$75,822.12	\$75,745.80
Retiree's			
110 at \$ 7.00	\$770.00	\$833.38	\$770.00
State Per capita Tax:			
Regular Members			
390 at \$ 10.14	\$4,001.40	\$3,941.12	\$3,954.60
Retiree's			
110 at \$.50	\$55.00	\$69.60	\$55.00
1 Contingency Fund (regular members)			
(390 @ 2.00 x 26 pay periods)	\$21,060.00	\$20,194.00	\$20,280.00
2 Contingency Fund (retired members)			
(110 @ .50 x 26 pay periods)	\$1,430.00	\$1,456.00	\$1,430.00
3 Branch Officers Salary	\$36,525.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
4 The Mail-Call	\$4,200.00	\$4,685.40	\$4,600.00
5 Mail-Permit (includes postage)	\$1,800.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,600.00
6 Postage Expense	\$500.00	\$382.02	\$500.00
9 Harry Brenneman Award	\$250.00	\$227.38	\$250.00
10 Office Expense	\$600.00	\$1,135.91	\$1,100.00
12 Retiree's Dinner	\$2,000.00	\$1,909.40	\$2,000.00
13 Installation of Officers	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
14 Branch Telephones	\$1,700.00	\$1,797.38	\$2,000.00
15 Bond for Officer's	\$300.00	\$240.00	\$300.00
16 Office Supplies	\$1,200.00	\$1,117.97	\$1,200.00
17 Labor-Management Meetings	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
18 Refreshments	\$1,000.00	\$645.48	\$800.00
19 Donations	\$1,200.00	\$650.00	\$1,000.00
20 Equipment Repairs	\$800.00	\$1,776.69	\$1,500.00
21 Equipment Purchase	\$1,500.00	\$298.52	\$3,000.00
22 Election Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
23 Miscellaneous Expense	\$350.00	\$180.00	\$300.00

	3		
ESTIMATE EXPENDITURES	BUDGET 2009	SPENT 2009	BUDGET 2010
24 Public Relations	\$500.00	\$90.00	\$500.00
25 Station Expense	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00
26 Educational & Training	\$13,000.00	\$22,103.56	\$19,500.00
27 Publications	\$50.00	\$20.00	\$50.00
28 Local Negotiations	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
29 Branch Picnic	\$12,000.00	\$8,858.62	\$10,000.00
30 Lost Time Account	\$25,000.00	\$23,850.00	\$19,500.00
31 Insurance cost	\$1,200.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,100.00
32 Office Rental	\$26,000.00	\$24,900.00	\$25,000.00
33 Gas Utility	\$300.00	\$212.27	\$300.00
34 Food Drive	\$1,200.00	\$1,022.18	\$1,300.00
35 Ray Kreyer Award	\$550.00	\$582.16	\$600.00
36 C.O.A. Mail Call	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
37 Death Benefit	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
38 Mileage (.58 per mile)	\$2,000.00	\$3,357.60	\$4,000.00
39 MBA Dues Reimbursement	\$700.00	\$630.00	\$650.00
40 Electric Utility	\$1,100.00	\$1,343.48	\$1,500.00
41 Dues & Membership Expense	\$850.00	\$606.00	\$850.00
42 Janitorial Expense	\$900.00	\$525.00	\$900.00
43 Photo's & Xeroxing	\$50.00	\$35.69	\$50.00
44 Membership Drawing	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
45 Bass Calendars	\$1,600.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,450.00
46 Christmas Open House	\$3,000.00	\$4,141.20	\$4,000.00
47 Independent Medical Exam	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
48 Organizing Expense	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
49 Cellular Phone	\$1,500.00	\$1,018.27	\$1,200.00
50 Greeting Cards	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00
51 On-Line Service	\$600.00	\$599.88	\$600.00
52 Time Reimbursement	\$1,500.00	\$1,220.00	\$1,500.00
53 NALC Store Expense	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
54 Deaf/Inter-Sign Language	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
55 General Taxes	\$200.00	\$185.00	\$500.00
56 Cable Expense	\$850.00	\$817.70	\$850.00
57 Retiree Breakfast Expense	\$900.00	\$1,235.74	\$1,200.00
99 Non-Numbered Items	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTALS	\$258,356.60		\$252,960.40

JANUARY 2010 THRU DECEMBER 2010
BALANCE SHEET

INCOME	\$252,931.00
EXPENDITURES	\$252,460.40
BALANCE	\$470.60

Vice President's Report

by

Janette Dolabson

Another year gone and here we are still hanging in there. Happy New Year to all my union brothers and sisters. I hope this one will bring you health, happiness and prosperity.

Thanks for all of those people who helped us with the Christmas party. It was a great success and a lot of fun and your help was greatly appreciated. Steve Seyfried, you are the best. Thanks, Larry Dolabson, Bob and Barbara Johnson, Marta Mihich, Judi Winkle Sandy Anger and certainly Calvin Brookins. There were those who helped clean things up afterward that I did not get a chance to see from the kitchen but I know you were there and thanks so much.

I am looking into booking the picnic for this year. Santa Anita has been such a great place for us to have our picnic but if any of you have suggestions of a place you want me to look into let me know. I have already contacted a few places but they are out of our price range. In this time of financial insecurity and with my budget being reduced or this year our options are limited. I am not looking into going back to Rancho San Antonio at this time either. I have reserved a date at Santa Anita in case that is where we go again this year, so far that is looking to be our best option. Oct. 10th is the date reserved. The next day is a Holiday so letter carriers will be off.

MIARAP - We should have all the offices revisited and adjusted by the end of Feb. Most of the offices are only needing small tweaks here and there but some zones require many more changes. We are doing our best to make things work. It isn't perfect but if there is something that doesn't work out we have been informed there will be a new agreement to continue the process thru 2010 so we will be able to come back again and try to fix anything else. FSS sites will be adjusted in COR and they will not be part of the MIARAP process - bummer. 2010 will certainly bring many more challenges but we will survive as we always do.

Health Benefit Update

By

Larry Dolabson

Another Open Season for Health Plan enrollment has ended. Welcome all of you who have joined the NALC Health Plan. There were 6,181 new enrollees nationally this year. Here are some numbers for you members that you might find helpful. Recorded Benefit Information, Fraud Hot Line, Health Benefit Plan can all be reached at 1 888-636-NALC, Caremark SPS 1-800-237-2767, PPO Locator Service and Precertification 1 877-220-NALC, Prescription Drug Program 1 800-933-NALC and Mental Health /Substance Abuse 1 877-468-1016.

For a limited time CVS Pharmacies will be giving free H1N1 influenza shots at some of their stores. Call your nearest one and find out if it is one of them and go get one soon.

Branch 2462 PRESIDENT CALVIN BROOKINS (L) presents KAHN NGUYEN with an NALC watch to celebrate his Retirement from Van Nuys Main Office. Congratulations to KAHN we wish him much happiness.

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 & 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 !

Active Members are invited to attend also if it is your Day Off !!

"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

January 5, 2010

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 6:42 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sgt-at-Arms ASKEW

MOMENT OF SILENCE—In Memory of **ROBERT WAFLER** Retiree Branch 2462, **GEORGE DAVIS** former NALC National Director of Safety & Health, **JIMMY KELLY JR** former State Officer and member Branch 1100 and **DON CHILD** Brookfield Uniform sales and NALC member.

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—NONE

BILLS READ—NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TRUSTEES Budget meeting held on Jan 4th. Budget will be published & discussed and voted on at the Feb Regular meeting. Audit will be held Jan 21st at 6:30 in the Union Office

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

RETIREES 5 retiree's present tonight. Remember all retirees are invited to Breakfast every 4th Sat. Details are posted in the Mailcall.

HBR—L. DOLABSON 6000 new members signed up over open season for the health plan. CVS is offering free flu shots to NALC health plan member, contact your local CVS to make sure they are participating. Watch for article in MailCall

MDA \$ 1669 currently in fund. Donation of \$ 1275 was sent to the National NALC MDA fund for the Bowl-a-thon.

MBA—ENZ Any questions contact Bob

FINANCIAL/TREASURERS REPORT—JOHNSON

MOTION—Accept Financial reports as read M/S/C
VICE-PRESIDENT J. DOLABSON Santa Anita Free Turf Club passes (2) are available to members. Contact Larry Dolabson (Encino Station) or call Union office if you want to use these. Christmas party was a great success, thanks to all who attended and helped with the festivities. MIRAP continues, all routes are supposed to be completed by Feb 28th, we shall see. Food Drive planning has begun, this years will be on Sat May 9th. Watch for more information.

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 the mailing permit for the Mailcall. Cost not to exceed \$ 185.00 M/S/C

MOTION—Branch renew the membership in the LA County Federation of Labor. Cost to the Branch \$ 671.65 for the entire year. M/S/C

OLD BUSINESS

The following actions were taken by the Executive Board since the November 3, 2009 Regular meeting.

1. Renewed the subscription to the Postal Record. Cost to the Branch \$ 20.00
2. Purchased the ESET anti virus & anti spam program for the 10 union computers for a 2 year period. Cost to the Branch \$ 489.90.
3. Donated \$ 50.00 to the North Valley Caring Services program.
4. Purchased 1 Lexmark Laser printer & 1 toner cartridge (to replace the old HP Laser which broke). Cost to the Branch \$ 797.31

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

MDA DRAWING

- \$ 5 RICHARD REIMER—SHERMAN OAKS
\$ 5 JOHN GARY—SUN VALLEY
\$ 10 RICHARD REIMER—SHERMAN OAKS

Meeting Adjourned 8:00 PM

IN MEMORY OF

ROBERT WAFLER

RETIREE

BRANCH 2462