

PRESIDENT'S REPORT By Calvin Brookins

The following report is solely based on a study recently released by the Office of Inspector General (OIG), and is FYI only.

New OIG Study Estimates USPS Has Been Overcharged for the CSRS Pension Fund by \$75 Billion

A study just released by the U.S. Postal Service's Office of Inspector General (OIG) shows that the current system of funding the Postal Service's Civil Service Retirement System pension responsibility is inequitable and has resulted in the Postal Service overpaying \$75 billion to the pension fund. The OIG estimates that if the overcharge was used to prepay the Postal Service's health benefits fund, it would fully meet all of the Postal Service's accrued retiree health care liabilities and eliminate the need for the required annual payments of more than \$5 billion. Also, the health benefits fund could immediately start meeting its intended purpose of paying the annual payment for current retirees, which was \$2 billion in 2009.

This marks the third time the Postal Service has been overcharged. In 2002 it was determined the Postal Service would over fund CSRS by \$78 billion. Legislation in 2003 corrected this over funding. Then it was determined the Postal Service was overcharged \$27 billion for CSRS military service credits. In 2006 these funds were returned to the Postal Service by Congress, and the surplus was used to fund retiree health care liabilities. (Of course this bolsters assertions already made by the NALC).

This study, The Postal Service's Share of CSRS Pension Responsibility, undertaken in conjunction with the Hay Group, is the third paper sponsored by the OIG that delves into the financial entanglements between the Postal Service and the federal government generally at the expense of the Postal Service. The latest study describes the inequitable allocation of CSRS costs between the federal government and the Postal Service. The other two reports focus on the Postal Service's congressionally-mandated retiree health care prefunding payments (Estimates of Postal Service Liability for

Retiree Health Care Benefits), and the Postal Service's interaction with the federal budget (Federal Budget Treatment of the Postal Service).

In this newly released paper, the OIG and Hay Group's analysis demonstrates that the method used to determine how CSRS pension costs for postal employees with service before 1971 are split between the Postal Service and the federal government is inequitable. As a result, the Postal Service was overcharged by \$75 billion for payments to CSRS retirees from 1972 to 2009. The OIG suggests that this amount be returned to the Postal Service's CSRS pension fund. Any excess above what is needed to fund CSRS liabilities could then be transferred to the Postal Service's retiree health care fund, which would fully fund its health care liability and eliminate the need for further congressionally-required payments to the fund. All of the Postal Service's current pension and health care obligations to its employees would then be fully funded.

Something an employee should not do

When a Part-Time Flexible (PTF) Carrier in Pennsylvania kept calling his office on his day off to determine if four Express Mail packages had arrived from Arizona, the manager became suspicious. Aware that such packages had been part of marijuana trafficking networks from Arizona, the manager notified the Office of Inspector General (OIG). After identifying the packages as containing marijuana, 57 pounds of it, OIG Special Agents tailed the PTF Carrier as he picked up the parcels and delivered them to a third party.

The PTF and his associate were arrested. End of story, right? Not so fast. In a separate incident, an OIG investigative analyst reviewing Voyager fuel credit card transactions identified suspicious charges at several gas stations involving two cards assigned to the same Post Office as the PTF Carrier. The vehicle used in this suspicious activity was identified through a review of the gas stations' video surveillance tapes. OIG Agents staked-out the station and when the vehicle showed up, they asked the vehicle operator who provided him with Voyager cards and PINs to use the cards. The source was the same PTF Carrier. The vehicle operator admitted he used the cards to buy gas for himself

(Continued on Page 3)

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ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
MAIN OFFICE	1	1									
ENCINO	5	3									
CIVIC CENTER	1	1									
PANORAMA CITY	3	3									
SHERMAN OAKS	4	5									
SUN VALLEY	2	1									
TARZANA	2	2									
RETIREE'S	5	5									
TOTAL	23	21									

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

NEXT MEETING (Continued on Page 2)
6:30 PM

MARCH
2nd
"2010"

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

March 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 & DeCielis). It will begin at 09:00 AM. The next 2 dates will be March 27th and April 24, 2010 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar....We hope to see you there.

Thank
You

Frank Brash

Vice President's Report

by

Janette Dolabson

I know it may sound early but these things have to be planned long in advance. Our picnic site has been decided. We will be returning to Santa Anita Race Track again this year. It has been a good fit for us the last few years and most everyone has had a great time there. We will attempt to correct some of the issues we had last year to make this on the best one yet. The picnic will again be held the Sunday before Columbus Day. This year it will be on October 10th. We will be giving you all the information as the date gets closer.

The food drive is right around the corner and I will be focusing on that. We will be getting much more media coverage and air time this year. CBS/KCAL news stations have graciously committed to donating air time the whole week of the food drive leading up to the day of the event. Thanks to our Food Bank, MEND who were instrumental in helping pull this together and use their contacts to get this hugely needed media coverage. All 5 major counties food banks and pantries will reap the benefits of this. We will also be holding a media kick of event at MEND on May 5th at their facility in Pacoima.

Anyone who wants to participate is welcome. If there is anyone on your routes who you know has benefited from receiving food from our Letter Carrier Food Drive and would like to be filmed for an on camera testimony for Public Service Spots that week please, contact me at 661 373 2224.

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 !!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

and to sell to others at a cash discount, sharing the cash with the PTF carrier. They charged about \$21,000 worth of gas on the cards.

A federal grand jury indicted the PTF Carrier for Possession with the Intent to Distribute Marijuana and Conspiracy; a superseding indictment charged the PTF Carrier with Theft of Government Property and also charged the associate as a co-conspirator in the case. The PTF Carrier lost his job, was found guilty and was sentenced to 46 months in prison, followed by three years of probation. His associate received a six-month sentence, three years' probation and both were ordered to jointly make restitution to the Postal Service of \$17,061.

No Accumulation for Sixth COLA

There was no accumulation for the sixth cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) under the 2006-2011 National Agreement. And there 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 2010 COLA for Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) participants will be 3.3 percent based December Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W).

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 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 used to properly adjust your route. You at that point have successfully taken time away time from your route that cannot be accounted for.

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.

2010 Census Mail Updates

With the start of a new decade it is time to count the nation's population again, and the U.S. government is relying on the Postal Service to help make it happen. The USPS has a critically important role in the success of the 2010 census. The Postal Service will process and deliver census forms and other mail pieces to every household in the nation. Through mid-April, the Census Bureau will send out six separate mailings a total of 447 million pieces. For the Postal Service this means \$200 million in revenue as well as an opportunity to provide a valuable community service. This could very well be the single largest mailing ever in U.S. history.

What does this mean for Letter Carriers?

Ensure correct handling.

Do Not mark through or obliterate Intelligent Mail Barcode.

Do Not affix any labels over Intelligent Mail Barcode.

Use only clear space on front of envelope to mark up First Class mail.

Undeliverable as Addressed mail pieces must be endorsed with correct reason for return.

Carriers and delivery office staff must ensure all undeliverable Intelligent Mail bar-coded First Class Mail is sent to PARS (letters) or CFS (flats). Census mail can be commingled with other undeliverable as addressed mail.

2010 Census Mailings

Limited advance letter – In home delivery dates: February 17-19, approximately 12 million pieces. Advance letter – In home delivery dates: March 8-10, approximately 123 million pieces.

Survey questionnaire – In home dates: March 15-17, approximately 123 million pieces. (13 million flats, 110 million letter-size with inserted BRM envelopes). Reminder Postcard – In home dates: March 22-24, approximately 135 million pieces.

Mail-out/mail-back blanket survey questionnaire – In home dates: April 1-3 approximately 32 million pieces. Mail-out/mail-back target survey questionnaire – In home dates: April 6-13 approximately 15 million pieces.

"THE MAIL CALL"

BRANCH 2462, NALC

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

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Branch Meeting Minutes

February 2, 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 all members who have passed within the last year and all of our Service men and women who have given their lives in the defense of our country

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

PRESENT— BROOKINS, J. DOLABSON, SEYFRIED, JOHNSON, MULLINAX, JACKSON, WILSON, ASKEW, L. DOLABSON,

ABSENT—ENZ

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAIL CALL
CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP—NONE

BILLS READ

MOTION TO PAY M/S/C

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TRUSTEES Audit was held Jan 21st at 6:30 in the Union Office. All books were found to be in good order and balanced. Thanks to BOB JOHNSON for having everything well organized and available to the Trustee's

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 Looks like the final total of new members signed up over open season for the health plan is 6431

MDA—ANGER \$ 1694 currently in fund. Working on possibly having another Bowl-a-thon, since everyone enjoyed the last one so much. Looking at sometime in June, watch the MailCall for further information. Next month, MARCH we will be selling Shamrocks for Dystrophy to raise money, be sure that you are not left out, buy one !!!! They will be on sale at the individual Stations so be ready.

MBA—ENZ No Report

FINANCIAL/TREASURERS REPORT—JOHNSON

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

VICE-PRESIDENT J. DOLABSON MIRAP continues, all routes are supposed to be completed by Feb 28th, we shall see. Food Drive planning is continuing, we will be having TV Ads on CBS and KCAL for the week leading up to the Food Drive. Remember that this year's drive will be on Sat May 9th. Flat sorting machines continue to be assembled in Van Nuys,

however, so far no exact dates have been set for implementation. First testing of machine # 1 proved to be anything but a success, as the machine shredded most of the mail placed into it. Watch for more information. Picnic planning is proceeding I will be presenting several options at tonight's meeting for consideration.

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—With the following corrections, Regular Members income is \$ 249,951.00, and total 2010 Expenditures \$ 252,460.40, the Budget be accepted as printed in the MailCall
M/S/C

MOTION—Branch renew the Officers bond. Cost to the Branch \$ 240.00

M/S/C

MOTION—Branch hold the 2010 annual Picnic at Santa Anita Racetrack. Date to be negotiated by the Vice President/Picnic Chairman
M/S/C

M/S/C

MOTION—Branch donate \$ 100 to the Special Olympics of Southern California

M/S/C

UNDERLINED INDICATES UNANAMOUS VOTE

OLD BUSINESS—NONE

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

MDA DRAWING

\$ 4 FRANK BRASH--RETIREE
\$ 5 CALVIN BROOKINS--CIVIC CENTER
\$ 8 JOSE JIMENEZ--SHERMAN OAKS

Meeting Adjourned 7:44 PM

