VOLUME 47 JULY 2010 NUMBER 6

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT By Calvin Brookins

#### **OIG and Medical Records**

A while back a lawsuit was filed against the Postal Service and the OIG to stop the OIG from coercing physicians into turning over confidential medical information.

The NALC has entered into a settlement agreement with the Postal Service and the OIG that imposes significant new restrictions on OIG agents and Postal Inspectors when they seek confidential medical information about employees from the employees' doctors or other health care providers.

This agreement should prevent OIG agents from intimidating and coercing doctors and other providers who would otherwise choose to keep that confidentiality of sensitive information.

This agreement would also ensure that union advocates can prevent the USPS from using improperly obtained information as evidence against employees in arbitration cases.

#### The Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) hearings

The Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) recently held a series of hearings on reviewing the Postal Service's 5 day delivery plan. The second of these hearings was held in Sacramento, during the hearing our California State Association of Letter Carriers President John Beaumont were given the opportunity to provide testimony on why this proposal would be disastrous to the economy, the work force, and the interests of USPS customers. John stated that their testimony as discussed among other things were how the Postal Service is essential to all Californians, six day delivery and collection service is especially important to our senior citizens, small and home based businesses and rural communities that rely on the Postal Service as a crucial public service. John further stated that by the end of the hearing only the Postal Service and their lawyers and just one person in the audience, actually supported reducing delivery to five days.

There is currently a House Resolution bill called H-Res 173. It is a bi-partisan bill that was introduced by Republican Sam Graves of Missouri. That bill states as follows;

Representatives that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of its six-day mail delivery service".

A vital step in the process of eliminating PMG Potter's actions toward five-day delivery is to get co-sponsors for this bill H-Res 173. All letter carriers need to write a letter to their Congressional Representative encouraging them to be a cosponsor on H-Res 173. There is current over 30 co-sponsors for H-Res 173, please write to your Congressional Representative to encourage them to co-sponsor this Resolution your job could depend on it, if the Postal Service is allowed to go to 5 day delivery what would be next 4 day delivery, believe me letter carrier jobs would be lost if that were to happen and it could be yours or one of your co-workers. Don't ignore it do it today.

#### **GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION**

On behalf of the branch I want to offer congratulation to Linda Markley letter carrier from Encino, who daughter Alexandra Moat will be awarded a Saxsenmeier Scholarship later this summer.

On another note the branch received a plaque at the recent training held in Pasadena for being 96% organized. If you are aware of one of your co-workers who is not a member of the union ask them if they would consider joining us as members of the NALC and help us fight to save their jobs as well as.

In Unionism



"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 deem s 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  | Μ    | Α  | Μ  | J | J | Α | S | 0 | Ν |
|---------------------|----|----|----|------|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|                     |    |    |    |      |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| MAIN OFFICE         |    | 1  | 1  | 2    | 2  | 1  | 1 |   |   |   |   |   |
| ENCINO              |    | 5  | 3  | 4    | 5  | 5  | 3 |   |   |   |   |   |
| CIVIC CENTER        |    | 1  | 1  | 2    | 1  | 1  | 2 |   |   |   |   |   |
| PANORAMA CIT        | Y  | 3  | 3  | 2    | 2  | 0  | 1 |   |   |   |   |   |
| <b>SHERMAN OAKS</b> |    | 4  | 5  | 7    | 6  | 4  | 7 |   |   |   |   |   |
| SUN VALLEY          |    | 2  | 1  | 3    | 3  | 3  | 1 |   |   |   |   |   |
| TARZANA             |    | 2  | 2  | 2    | 2  | 2  | 2 |   |   |   |   |   |
| RETIREE'S           |    | 5  | 5  | 3    | 4  | 6  | 6 |   |   |   |   |   |
| TOTAL               | 23 | 21 | 25 | 25 2 | 22 | 26 |   |   |   |   |   |   |

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

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

JULY 6th "2010"

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

July 6, 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 & DeCelis). It will begin at 09:00 AM. The next 2 dates will be July 24<sup>th</sup> & Aug 28, 2010 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar.....We hope to see you there.

Thank You

Fuant Duark

Pictured above is President CALVIN BROOKINS (L) & Newly Retired Encino Letter Carrier GENE TUTTLE. Gene is holding a NALC Watch that was presented to him at the Station. We wish Gene a long and Happy Retirement. (Photo courtesy of Jason Colello)

Pictured below Senior Carriers IRWIN SCHNYDER (L) & RICHARD REIMER (R) give SONIA RUIZ a hug as she celebrates her last day at the Sherman Oaks Station. Sonia has received a transfer to Utah where she will continue to carry Mail. We wish Sonia all the best in her new home and will miss her great smile.

(Picture courtesy of Steve Soto)



## **Vice President's Report**

# Janette Dolabson

#### FOOD DRIVE HITS HOME RUN!

Well, my friends, here is the break down for our Branch offices for the food drive. I am going to list it verses last year so you can see how much each station increased their donations.

| Office                     | last year | this year | increase |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Panorama City              | 2,112     | 7,508     | +5,396   |
| Main Office & Civic Center | 13,531    | 32,293    | +18,762  |
| Encino                     | 10,099    | 16,939    | +6,840   |
| Tarzana                    | 4,873     | 10,485    | +5,612   |
| Sun Valley                 | 3,394     | 9,131     | +5,737   |
| Sherman Oaks               | 11,897    | 19,189    | +7,292   |
| Preliminary Total          | 42,512    | 95,545    |          |
| Residual                   | 3,394     | 8,000     |          |
| Grand Total                | 45,906    | 103,545   | +57,639  |

As you can see the food drive bags made a huge difference. I want to thank you all so much for the extra effort and hard work you all put in this year to help make this such a success. These donations will help feed thousands of hungry people through out the Summer months. You should all be very proud of your part in the enormous effort. Thanks to Ralph's Market for donating 750,000 bags.

I want to especially thank a few people for going on and above this year to help make this one of the best years ever. First, my office coordinators, Analia Garcia, John Burton, Ray Mola, Tracy Mullinax, Sonia Ruiz, Adrianna Gonzales, Sandy Anger, Tia Wilson and Andy Goacher. You were outstanding. Special thanks to manager Phil Fudally who was a huge help getting the meetings together and separating all the cards for Van Nuys. I could not have even come close to coordinating all that went on this year without these few men, Calvin Brookins, Steve Seyfried, and John Burton. Your help was greatly appreciated and I thank you so much.

All the volunteers from MEND were terrific as always. They had to deal with a lot more food this year then in the past and they really stepped up and did a wonderful job. If I have left anyone out please forgive me. I really do appreciate all of you who played a role in this year food drive. Love to you all.

Nationally the NALC collected 77,132,180 pounds of food going well over the 1 billion pound goal set nationally. What a feat. Letter carriers have collected 1,059,800,000 pounds of food over the 18 years we have done this one day food drive.

#### 5 DAY IS THE WRONG WAY

Now I am going to tell you why going to 5 day delivery is bad for the Postal Service, bad for our customers and bad for you. If the USPS gets Congress to eliminate the obligation of the Postal Service to deliver mail 6 days a week there will be nothing to prohibit them from going from 5 days to 4 days. Potter has already said they would look at going to 4 day. You know what 4 day means to you? You would be part time. No benefits. Can you afford that? I can't. We go 5 day our mailers will go elsewhere for delivery. Netflix, mail order prescription drug companies, live animals, payroll companies, advertisers, they are all looking at alternative delivery services outside of the Postal Service.

Don't let your managers kid you. the Postal Service would lose way more money then they would save if they went 5 days. The fact is, if the Postal Service's losses were mostly due to being forced to pre-pay their future retiree health benefits at a rate higher then any company in the country pays. In fact they are pre funding 41%. No other federal agency pre-funds their health benefits. So the guestion must be asked, why is the Postal Service jumping at going to 5 days delivery instead of going for eliminating this obligation to prefund? Why would they choose to make the biggest mistake a company can make by cutting services and pushing away business customers into the waiting arms of others? Is it tunnel vision? Short term band aid fix? Or is it long term union busting, benefit stealing, work force reducing strategy? They may not seem too smart sometimes but don't underestimate their deception.

Funny thing is, with less company, there is also less of them. Oh, yeah, they didn't think of that. duh!

DON'T SIT ON YOUR BEHINDS. WRITE YOUR CONGRESSMEN AND YOUR SENATORS.

Do something. No excuses.

5 day is the wrong way!!!



Have a Safe and Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July

# "THE MAIL CALL" **BRANCH 2462, NALC**

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

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## **Branch Meeting Minutes** June 1, 2010

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 6:34.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sgt-at-Arms ASKEW

MOMENT OF SILENCE-----In Memory of All our Passed **Retired Members and our Troops** 

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS** 

PRESENT--- BROOKINS, J. DOLABSON, SEYFRIED. JOHNSON, MULLINAX, JACKSON, WILSON, ASKEW, L. DOI ABSON

**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** 

**HEALTH & SAFETY** No meeting this month

**TRUSTEES** No Report

6 retiree's present tonight. **RETIREES** Remember all retirees are invited to Breakfast every 4<sup>th</sup> Sat.

Details are posted in the Mailcall.

HBR—L. DOLABSON Sheet available on new programs being offered. They are posted in all Stations and

can be made available if you contact Larry

MDA--ANGER \$ 2363 currently in fund.

MBA-ENZ No Report FINANCIAL/TREASURERS REPORT—JOHNSON

MOTION—Accept Financial reports as read VICE-PRESIDENT J. DOLABSON Food Drive was amazing success. Branch collected over 103,000 lbs of food. National Total was over 77 million lbs. Watch for more details in my article in MailCall

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 purchase 6 new file cabinets for

Shop Stewards. Cost not to exceed \$ 900.00 M/S/C

MOTION—Branch purchase 2 tickets to the HBR Seminar Breakfast, to be held at the National

Convention in Anaheim. Cost to the Branch \$ 56.00 M/S/C

**UNDERLINED INDICATES UNANAMOUS VOTE OLD BUSINESS-NONE** 

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

RAY MOLA--ENCINO--DONATED 10 RICHARD REIMER—SHERMAN OAKS

Meeting Adjourned 7:35 PM

### 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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!

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



Want to keep up on what's going on? Become an NALC E-It is simple go to the NALC website at http://nalc.org/ and Click on the Logo you see above on the page. Fill out the easy form and you will get updates on a regular basis and then you won't be left in the dark when new information comes in. DON'T WAIT-DO IT TODAY