

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT By Calvin Brookins

### COP

On March 27 and 28, 2011, I attended a Committee of President meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio. This meeting was very informative the first day we heard mostly from our National President Fred Rolando where he gave us a complete update on issues that the NALC is dealing with on a national basis. He noted that there has been a rift between some unions' public and private in recent times, but the issue in Wisconsin has brought unity especially between the AFL-CIO and the Win for Change organizations. President Rolando also stated that as in Wisconsin, New Hampshire, Indiana, Ohio, and Missouri all of those states political representatives are trying to gut collective bargaining. He further stated that a recall is now underway in Wisconsin and they are close to having enough votes. The AFL-CIO has created what is called a unity table; this is one way to unify all unions in the future as it was done in preparation for the day of action that took place on Monday April 4, 2011.

President Rolando also made us aware that he has spent a lot of time in various forums telling our story to Congress and the media alike. He has explained to both of those entities the true value of the Postal Service and how we have the only universal system in the world of communications, and how we deliver 40 percent of the world's mail. He also reiterated how the pre-funding mandate has hindered the Postal Service. He further explained how the USPS is the only company that has fully funded retiree health care under (CSRS) to a 50 to 75 billion dollar surplus. Also how the USPS is the only company that has fully funded retiree health care under (FERS) to a 7 to 8 billion dollar surplus. Basically the USPS has pre-funded retiree health care so far in advance that we now have retirement health benefits set up for people that has not yet been hired.

Yet management wants to sell off a day of delivery and we have some politicians out there who want to characterize the USPS as wanting a tax payer bail out. On the other hand the Postal Service is using the argument that labor is its biggest cost, 'well duh! We are a labor intensive company here. President Rolando made us aware that Representative Issa has scheduled a full committee hearing for April 5, 2011, to look at the APWU tentative agreement. Postmaster General is being called to that hearing to explain how this agreement benefits the USPS and he is doing this prior to the ratification.

by the membership. President Rolando also stated that he has told Postmaster General Donahoe that he has a total dysfunctional management system and all of their visions are short term. He is also trying to encourage the PMG not to buy into this thing that labor cost is his core problem. He further stated that he has to get the PMG off this 5 day issue.

Rolando did state that we will get started in August on contract negotiations. However, the NALC is ready right now but the USPS is not. In early March President Rolando told a congressional panel that. "The single most important thing this subcommittee should do to address the crisis facing the Postal Service is to permanently reform the pre-funding provisions of the law". He further stated; "In the absence of the pre-funding mandate, which no other agency or private company in America faces, the USPS would have recorded a net surplus of \$837 million over the past four years, despite the worst recession since the Great Depression of the 1930s and despite continued electronic competition.

### Safety & Health

In light of the recent rash of accident we have had, local management here in Van Nuys plans to bring back the old VIP program. So if you have had an accident within the past few years, be aware that there will be 4584 observation done on you weekly. Industrial accidents could also get you on the VIP list.

### COLA

Ninth contract COLA: \$187

The projected accumulation toward the ninth and final contract COLA under the 2006-2011 National Agreement stands at **\$187** following the March 17 release of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for February. This final COLA of the National Agreement will be based on the July 2011 CPI.

2012 Retiree COLA: 0.9%

The projected accumulation for the 2012 retiree COLA was **0.9 percent** following the release of the February CPI. Because there was no retiree COLA for 2010 or 2011, the 2012 retiree COLA will be determined by comparing the average CPI during the third quarter of 2011 and the average during the third quarter of 2008.

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"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.

## Vice President's Report

By

Janette Dolabson

It is looking more and more as if our next picnic will be pushed back to October again this year due to some scheduling conflicts with Vasa Park. I will update you as soon as possible with the details.

The food drive is May 14th. We will have bags again this year donated by Ralph's. Actor and musician Nick Cannon has recorded a public service announcement that is available on both YouTube and Facebook. Cannon, husband of singer Mariah Carey, also is highlighted on a PSA for magazines and on the food drive postcard alongside NALC Region 1 food drive coordinator Paula Miller. We are looking forward to making this food drive even more successful than last year. It will be difficult but with all of us pulling together we will do it. We have a media event planned for May 10th at 10:00 am but at this point we don't have a spokesperson lined up for it. We will let you know if we get the kick off up and running.

The National Association of Letter Carriers has entered into a new Joint Alternate Route Adjustment Process (JARAP) with the United States Postal Service for 2011. Key changes to the agreement include a new 3999 review process, selection of the 3999 that is closest to the selected street time, an expedited bidding process option for entire zones that are optimized under COR and NALC COR technicians to ensure COR is used fairly in future JARAP adjustments.

The National Association of Letter Carriers is gratified by the Postal Regulatory Commission's decision not to recommend a shift to five-day-a-week mail delivery. "I commend the commission for its thoughtful deliberations and urge lawmakers to look carefully at the findings," NALC President Fredric V. Rolando said. No one but the Postal Service is on board going to 5 days. Even our District manager said there is no movement by our politicians to go that way. So, as we have been saying over and over. We are not going to 5 day. Anyone can see it would be a disaster except those in charge of running the Postal Service. What does that tell you about their leadership?

## ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
MAIN OFFICE	2	2	5	3							
ENCINO	3	2	1	2							
CIVIC CENTER	2	2	2	2							
PANORAMA CITY	2	1	1	2							
SHERMAN OAKS	5	9	9	10							
SUN VALLEY	1	1	1	1							
TARZANA	2	2	3	2							
RETIREE'S	6	6	4	6							
TOTAL	23	25	26	28							

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

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

MAY  
3rd  
"2011"

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

May 3, 2011

BRANCH OFFICE.....818-786-8505  
O P C PERSONNEL OFFICE....818-374-5600  
[E-Mail.....NALCBRANCH2462@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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 breakfast will be on JUNE 25, 2011 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar.....We hope to see you there.

Thank  
You

Frank Busch

LOOKS LIKE OUR



HAS SAVED THE DAY  
AT LEAST FOR NOW

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

2012 FECA COLA: 1.1%

Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) COLAs are applicable only in cases where death or disability occurred more than one year prior to the adjustment's effective date. The projected accumulation for the 2012 COLA under FECA was **1.1 percent** following the release of the February CPI. The 2012 FECA COLA will be based on the increase in the CPI between December 2010 and December 2011. The 2011 FECA COLA was **1.7 percent**, based on the increase in the CPI between December 2009 and December 2010. It is effective March 1.

## 6-Day Delivery

The Postal Regulatory Commission issued an opinion on March 24 that was sharply critical of key aspects of the U.S. Postal Service's proposal to eliminate Saturday mail delivery service. And in a clear win for letter carriers, the Commission embraced many of the criticisms of the plan expressed by NALC in our year-long campaign to preserve six-day delivery for the American people as well as 25,000 city carrier jobs. Indeed, the three Republicans and two Democrats on the Commission found that the Postal Service's estimate of \$3.1 billion in savings was inflated by 45 percent, with the proper figure being closer to \$1.7 billion. Moreover, commissioners noted that the USPS would lose \$600 million in revenue in the first year, a figure that would grow over time.

The PRC also cited the potential for mail delays and for a substantial impact on rural customers. Federal law requires the Postal Service to ask for an advisory opinion from the Commission whenever it seeks to make a nationwide change in its operations. The PRC is an independent federal agency charged with overseeing USPS operations, and its opinion on USPS' five-day plan is purely advisory since only Congress has the authority to permit USPS to drop Saturday delivery. However, the PRC's findings carry weight with Congress.

On that same note H. RES. 137 was introduced to the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress on March 2, 2011. Representative Graves of Missouri submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

## RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of its 6-day mail delivery service.

## GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

On Monday April 4, 2011, the NALC joined its brother and sister unions throughout the entire labor movement for a national mobilization. The goal was? To raise Americans' awareness about the continuing threat against all workers' rights in both the public and private sectors to organize and bargain collectively for wages, benefits and working conditions.

Organizers of the "We Are One" mobilization chose April 4 as the focal point because of its symbolic importance to the labor movement. On that tragic day in 1968, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, where he had gone to stand with sanitation workers demanding the right to bargain collectively for a voice at work and a better life.

There is a video on the NALC website that honors this day April 4 and that historic day in Memphis in 1968.

# HEALTH BENEFIT'S Report

by

Larry Dolabson

According to the Mayo Clinic:

Certain dietary fatty acids and are major contributors to heart disease and diabetes, leading causes of illness and death in America. Yet consumption of these fatty acids and cholesterol has not changed much since 1990. The new guidelines reinforce the importance of cutting back on saturated fat and cholesterol, and recommend that Americans: Keep calories from saturated fatty acids to less than 10 percent of total calories by replacing them with monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fatty acids.

Lowering the percentage of calories from dietary saturated fatty acids to 7 percent can further reduce the risk of heart disease. Keep dietary cholesterol to less than 300 mg a day. Cutting back to less than 200 mg a day can benefit anyone at high risk of heart disease. Avoid trans fat as much as possible by limiting foods that contain synthetic sources of trans fats, such as partially hydrogenated oils, and by limiting other solid fats.

## ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS !!!!

What do all these members have in Common ???

KAREN AGUILAR

SANDY

ANGER

ROGER ASKEW

ARTHUR BOCEK

ELAINE BOYD

FRANK BRASH

CALVIN BROOKINS

DEBBIE BURRUEL

JOHN BURTON JR.

EDWARD CARLIN

JANETTE DOLABSON

LARRY DOLABSON

RAUL DOZAL

ROBERT ENZ

ANALIA GARCIA

JOHN GARY

GLENFORD HAYLOCK

JEFFERY JACKSON

JOSE JIMENEZ

ROBERT JOHNSON

JO LOBENBERG

BETTY LOW

GUILLERMO MARISCAL

VELMA McCLINTON

JANET McKEIVER

RAMON MOLA

TRACY MULLINAX

KHANH NGUYEN

SANDRA PADILLA-ARTERO

RAFAEL PEREZ

DANIEL RATHBONE

JULIUS RIBAS

IRWIN SCHNYDER

STEVE SEYFRIED

JAMES TUKESBREY

GREG WEEKS

TIA WILSON

JACK WINKEL

CRAIG WOOD

They all have taken the step to automatically donate to COLCPE with each Pay Check. It easy and you won't even miss the money, but it will go a long way to making sure that you continue to receive a paycheck. It only takes 3 minutes and we will help you. What are you waiting for ??? Isn't it worth a few minutes and a few dollars a month to help keep the Union strong and the Postal Service viable ??? Invest in your future

**SIGN UP FOR AUTOMATIC  
DEDUCTIONS TODAY**

# "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

April 5, 2011

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 6:37 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by MBA Representative BOB ENZ

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**—In Memory of all members of Branch 2462 who have passed.

#### 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

**BUDGET COMMITTEE**

No Report

**HEALTH & SAFETY**

Post office is rolling out the

VIP program once again in response to the high number of accidents that have already occurred this year.

**TRUSTEES**

No Report

**RETIREEES**

6 retiree's present tonight.

8 were present for the Saturday breakfast on Mar 26<sup>th</sup>. There will be no Breakfast in the months of April & May due to scheduling issues. The next Breakfast will be on JUNE 25<sup>th</sup>, so be sure to take note !!!!!

**MDA FUND-ASKEW**

Currently \$1676.00 in the fund.

**LEGISLATION UPDATE-ASKEW** DC lobby trip with VP DOLABSON was a success and we saw many Congressional Representatives and talked with them on the issues that affect Letter Carriers.

**HBR—L. DOLABSON**

If you are going to be having surgery or a hospital stay, make sure that all your paper work is filled out properly. If you have any questions or need assistance Contact me through the Branch Office.

**MDA--ANGER**

Saint Patty's day fund drive was a big success and we raised \$ 181.00. Watch for further fun events in the future.

**MBA--ENZ**

Contact Bob Enz for information or any questions.

**FINANCIAL/TREASURERS REPORT—JOHNSON**

**MOTION**—Accept Financial reports as read

M/S/C

**VICE-PRESIDENT J. DOLABSON** Food Drive T-shirts are being ordered, they will be RED this year. You should have already given your Shop Steward the money and they will be

in soon. Ralph's market will be providing plastic food bags for this years drive. FSS is at full speed ahead we will continue to monitor the implementation.

**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 \$ 40.00 to District 5 for State Convention

Ad

M/S/C

**MOTION**—Branch pay the unsecured property

Tax to the city of Los Angeles for the period of

July 1, 2001 thru June 30, 2012. Cost to

the Branch

\$

197.46

M/S/C

#### NOMINATIONS FOR BRANCH OFFICERS

##### PRESIDENT

CALVIN BROOKINGS--ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION

##### VICE PRESIDENT

JANETTE DOLABSON--ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION

##### RECORDING SECRETARY

STEVE SEYFRIED--ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION

##### FINANCIAL SECRETARY/TREASURER

BOB JOHNSON--ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION

##### TRUSTEES

JOHN BURTON---JEFF JACKSON

TIA WILSON---TRACY MULLINAX \*\*\*\*

##### SGT-AT-ARMS

ROGER ASKEW--ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION

##### HEALTH BENEFITS REPRESENTATIVE

LARRY DOLABSON--ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION

##### MUTUAL BENEFITS REPRESENTATIVE

BOB ENZ--ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION

\*\*\*\* **RUNOFF ELECTION WILL BE HELD**

#### OLD BUSINESS--NONE

##### MDA DRAWING

\$ 5 ANALIA GARCIA--MAIN OFFICE

\$ 5 TIA WILSON--SUN VALLEY

\$ 10 JIM TUKESBREY--RETIREE--DONATED

Meeting Adjourned 8:05 PM