

PRESIDENT'S REPORT By Calvin Brookins

As some of you may know by now there was an unprecedented congressional hearing regarding an agreement negotiated by the Postal Service and the APWU. This shows just what the letter carriers and the rest of the postal workforce are up against with this current Congress. On April 5, 2011, the Republican-led House Oversight and Government Reform Committee held a hearing titled "Are Postal Workforce Costs Sustainable?" It was aimed at scrutinizing the recently agreed upon contract hammered out between the USPS and the APWU. There were several anti-labor committee members saying that it didn't go far enough in reducing postal service costs. Three of the witnesses called to testify were APWU President Cliff Guffey, Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe and Postal Board of Governors Chairman Louis Giuliano. They only had good things to say about the agreement between the APWU and the USPS.

However, there was a fourth witness, Board of Governors member James Miller, a Bush appointee he agreed that the tentative contract was the best possible agreement that could have been reached under current laws. Then his comments seem to turn south real fast only to agree with Committee Chairman Darrell Issa unfounded complaints about postal pay and benefits. Issa and Miller both want the same thing, to discredit the agreement and attempt to force the USPS into privatization. We should keep politics out of postal bargaining; by not having politics mixed up in bargaining has served the parties, the American people and the mailing public very well for 40 years. In case they haven't notice we have decent jobs, the mailers get high-quality service at very affordable rates and the taxpayers don't have to foot the bill. 'Unlike Wall Street'.

Every instance where Donahoe or Democrats made their case, anti-labor members of the committee just as often returned to criticism of the APWU-USPS agreement. Many appeared to favor ideas that tipped bargaining scales in the Service's favor and that would reduce workers' benefits and wages. Miller, appointed by George W. Bush and a former Board of Governors chairman, has made no secret of his interest in privatizing the Postal Service and nullifying its collective bargaining agreements with its craft unions.

President Rolando put the session in a broader context when he stated. "We letter carriers are fooling ourselves if we believe that we are going to get a pass from

these anti-labor forces that are unfairly targeting firefighters and police, nurses and teachers, and are doing so with little regard for the facts," he said.

"And in this atmosphere, it won't be impossible to get our legislative agenda passed, but it will be extremely difficult. It will take all of us standing together, and working with our allies on Capitol Hill and elsewhere."

Congress Back to Work:

While Congress was on its two-week spring break, letter carrier activists were busy visiting members in their home-district offices, pressing for support for H.R. 1351, the USPS Pension Obligation Recalculation and Restoration Act. Now's the time to make sure they're signed on as co-sponsors. So far, **35** House members are on the list.

On April 5, 2011, Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA) introduced H.R. 1351, the United States Postal Service's Pension Obligation Recalculation and Restoration Act of 2011.

Lynch, the ranking member of the House Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce, Postal Service, and the District of Columbia, was the first member of Congress to author legislation last Congress to address a decades-old accounting error that led the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to overcharge the Postal Service by billions of dollars for payments into the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS).

Lynch's bill once again takes a big step toward making sure the Postal Service is treated in a fair and equitable manner, allowing it to overcome the very difficult financial challenges it currently faces. In addition to addressing the CSRS overcharge, H.R. 1351 also deals with the more recent finding regarding another overcharge to the USPS related to the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). Even so, H.R. 1351 only addresses the CSRS and FERS overcharges and does not repeal the onerous, legally mandated, annual pre-funding payments into the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefit Fund (PSRHBFF).

It calls on the OPM to recalculate the USPS surplus in the Civil Service Retirement System within six months of enactment, using a methodology that fairly allocates the cost of pensions between the Post Office Department and the U.S. Postal Service as proposed by the Segal Report. Then, once

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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

JUNE
7th
"2011"

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

June 7, 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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

the accurate "postal surplus" is determined by the OPM, the agency would have 15 days to transfer the surplus to the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefit Fund (PSRHBF).

The bill would then direct the OPM to permit the USPS to use most of its \$6.9 billion surplus in the FERS system to satisfy two obligations in FY 2011: a \$5.5 billion payment due to the PSRHBF, and a \$1.2 billion estimated payment to the Department of Labor for Federal Employees Compensation Act (workers comp.) expenses. Any remaining funds would be used to reduce the Postal Service's accurate "postal surplus" is determined by the OPM, the agency would have 15 days to transfer the surplus to the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefit Fund (PSRHBF).

The bill would then direct the OPM to permit the USPS to use most of its \$6.9 billion surplus in the FERS system to satisfy two obligations in FY 2011: a \$5.5 billion payment due to the PSRHBF, and a \$1.2 billion estimated payment to the Department of Labor for Federal Employees Compensation Act (workers comp.) expenses. Any remaining funds would be used to reduce the Postal Service's normal cost-percentage for FERS in future years.

Additionally, the date of the transfer for the overcharge is less important than the acknowledgment by Congress and the OPM that the USPS has sufficient assets to cover all its retirement obligations for both pensions and health benefits. Since the PSRHBF already has more than \$42 billion in it, and since the surplus transfer from the CSRS pension fund would likely leave the PSRHBF fully funded, passage of H.R. 1351 makes an irrefutable case for the repeal of the pre-funding payments called for by current law.

The Lynch bill would transfer surplus CSRS and FERS assets paid for by ratepayer and employee contributions not taxpayer funds to the Postal Service's retirement health fund, and it would have absolutely no effect on any current or future federal retiree's annuity. The NALC supports swift passage of H.R. 1351.

Date changed! 'Fill the Satchel' is now Oct. 2

NALC President Fredric V. Rolando has announced that the date has changed for our newest fundraiser for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, our union's official charity. The first-ever national NALC "Fill the Satchel" campaign will now take place on Sunday, Oct. 2, not Aug. 14 as originally planned. The event will be similar to the International

Excessing

Excessing has moved ever closer to affecting some letter carriers from branch 2462. By the time the MailCall is published about 35 junior letter carriers from Van Nuys would have attended an informational meeting regarding excessing. Joel Smith Postmaster of Van Nuys invited the union to this meeting and we were able to help explain the process to the letter carriers that were present. While 35 letter carriers were at this meeting that does not mean that all 35 would be excessed, management still needs to determine the exact number that may have to be excessed. If you have any questions regarding excessing I would refer you to my article in the April 2011, MailCall. In that article I explained the process as per Article 12 of the National Agreement. You may also call the union office if you have questions.

JEFF JACKSON FOR TRUSTEE

30 Year Letter Carrier
30 Year NALC Member
Shop Steward 15 years Panorama City
Delegate to 8 National Conventions
Food Drive Coordinator for years at Panorama City
E. I. Team Member
2004 Ray Kreyer Award Winner
8 Years as an Executive Board Member (Trustee)
Attended all Union Meetings 2010-2011
Have attended many Union Training Sessions
Winner of the 1st Annual (2007)
HARRY BRENNEMAN AWARD
Given to the outstanding Shop Steward of Branch 2462
I am proud to serve the
Members of Branch 2462 and am asking for

YOUR VOTE

VOTE JEFF JACKSON FOR TRUSTEE!!

TIA WILSON FOR TRUSTEE

My name is Tia Wilson and I'm running for the office of trustee. I have been a letter carrier in Sun Valley for 26 years and a member of our branch for 24. I've been the food drive coordinator, in my office, for 17 years and the customer connect coordinator for 6 years. I attend the branch meetings on a regular basis and have been a delegate to the State and National conventions since 2000. I have been a Trustee for the past 3 years and look forward to serving another 3 year term. I hope I can count on your support.

Please vote for TIA WILSON

JOHN BURTON FOR TRUSTEE

My name is John Burton and I am running for trustee for branch 2462 . I have been a shop steward for the civic center and main offices for over seven years now and have learned a lot during those years . I am the local contact for the jrap adjustments for main office as well as a formal A grievance designee . I have also served on the sergeant of arms committee for our state convention held in April of this year . I am looking to move up in our union and that is why I am running for trustee . So I am asking for your support and to vote for me in this upcoming election.

In unionism Thank you

TRACY MULLINAX FOR TRUSTEE

26 Year Letter Carrier
26 Year NALC Member
Shop Steward 6 Years in Encino
Elected Delegate to last 8 National & State Conventions
Elected Trustee last 8 years, last 6 as Lead Trustee
Executive Board member last 8 years
Food Drive Coordinator last 18 years, last 16 in Encino
Appointed Member of the Union Local Negotiating Team
2006 Ray Kreyer Award Winner
Financial Planning Degree from UCLA
Regularly attended union meetings last 18 years
Part of Budget Committee and Audit team last 8 years
Union Representative at Labor-Management Meetings

--2009 Shop Steward of the Year—
--Leadership Conference Attendee 2009 & 2010—
--IARAP—MIARAP—JARAP—LOCAL OFFICE CONTACT--

I have been a heavy advocate for building the infrastructure of this branch and for allocating more dues money for education and training officers and the shop stewards of this branch. I will continue to monitor how money is allocated in the budget process and have a hand in how the branch is run.

A VOTE FOR ME IS A VOTE FOR HONESTY,
INTEGRITY, EXPERIENCE AND PRIDE. VOTE
TRACY MULLINAX FOR TRUSTEE!!!!!!!!!!

"THE MAIL CALL" BRANCH 2462, NALC

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Van Nuys, CA 91406

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Branch Meeting Minutes May 3, 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 6:41 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sgt-at-Arms ROGER ASKEW

MOMENT OF SILENCE—In Memory of the 13 members of Branch 2462 who have passed since the last State Convention

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

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 4 retiree's present tonight.

There will be no Breakfast in the May due to scheduling issues. The next Breakfast will be on JUNE 25th, so be sure to take note !!!!!

MDA FUND-ASKEW Currently \$1676.00 in fund
LEGISLATION UPDATE-ASKEW HR 1351 has been introduced in the house to address the over funding on the Post office retirement fund and to release that money back to the Post office. Contact your Representative and ask that they support this legislation.

HBR—L. DOLABSON HBR Seminar will be held October 16 -19th in Las Vegas this year. If you have any questions or need assistance contact me through the Branch Office.

MDA--ANGER . Fill the Satchel Day has been moved to October 2nd. We expect to raise a lot more money through this program this year. Watch for further fun events in the future.

MBA—ENZ MBA is paying out record high interest rates on policies.

FINANCIAL/TREASURERS REPORT—JOHNSON

MOTION—Accept Financial reports as read M/S/C
VICE-PRESIDENT J. DOLABSON Food Drive T-shirts are in and will be passed out by your Station Coordinators. Ralph's market will be providing plastic food bags for this years drive. Core route adjustment implementation has been indefinitely suspended due to ongoing problems in the system. Watch for

further updates. Picnic has been moved to Sunday, October 9, 2011. The dates have been a real challenge but we have received some upgrades on the food and games, so should be a great time.

PRESIDENT BROOKINS 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 send 2 children to the MDA Summer camp. ½ the funds to come from MDA Fund and the other half from the General Fund

M/S/C

UNDERLINED INDICATES UNANIMOUS VOTE

OLD BUSINESS—NONE

MDA DRAWING

\$ 4 RAFAEL PEREZ—PANORAMA CITY

\$ 4 SANDY ANGER—TARZANA--DONATED

\$ 6 BOB JOHNSON—MAIN OFFICE—1/2 DONATED

Meeting Adjourned 8:07 PM

Vice President's Report

By

Janette Dolabson

By the time you read this our 19th Annual Food Drive would have come and gone. I will not have the totals from each station until the July Mail Call newsletter since I will not have them before this goes to press for the June news letter. I know you all worked very hard to make this year's drive as successful as last years. Thanks for your efforts. COR = Carrier Optimum Routing- what can I say about this program? Well let me start by saying it isn't the program that is the problem. It's actually a decent mapping tool we can use to move territory from one area to another. The problem is poor data prep, bad 3999's and COR tech's who push the button to generate routes without entering the proper parameters such as, bag weight, speed limits and turn defaults etc. Worst of all, not taking into account local office knowledge when doing lines of travel, not making sure that the edit sheets are corrected and verified before sending the adjustment to AMS for implementation. Even if this is done, if the data prep and 3999's were inaccurate the adjustments will be less than stellar. Most COR tech's do many different scenarios to try to get the best outcome for the office. Key word, most. Many tech's will take seniority into account when doing adjustments. Key word, many. In the JARAP process, seniority has to be considered. In the FSS offices it is not. We were not part of the FSS adjustments (officially, some were able to help) but we will be part of the 60 day review to help realign routes to 8 hours if they are still out of adjustment. My guess is there will be quite a few.