

PRESIDENT'S REPORT By Calvin Brookins

Food Drive

Our 19th annual food drive took place on May 14th. On behalf of the branch membership and the Executive Board, I would like to thank and acknowledge our branch food drive coordinator Janette Dolabson for another job well done. I would also like to thank all of the letter carriers who went out and delivered the cards and bags and then picked up the food that Saturday. Without the hard work of the letter carriers who actually go out and do the work this would not have been possible, so thank you very much for an amazing and successful food drive. Our branch collected over 80,000 pounds of food this year, and nationally there were over 70 million pounds of food collected. Again congratulation and thank you for another great food drive day.

Contract Negotiations

Our national leaders have indicated that given the current economic and political climate these contract negotiations will be the most difficult in the history of the NALC. Contract negotiations will begin in August of 2011. We will keep you all informed of that progress.

Latest News-Sen. Carper introduces postal reform bill

In conjunction with a Senate subcommittee hearing held Wednesday on the financial condition of the U.S. Postal Service, Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE) introduced a new version of the Postal Operations Sustainment and Transformation Act. The POST Act (introduced as Senate bill S. 1010) would fairly resolve the pension and retiree health pre-funding burdens that have damaged the Postal Service's finances in recent years. It would require the Office of Personnel Management to accurately calculate the postal surpluses in the CSRS and FERS pension plans and allow the USPS to use the recovered funds to pay the heavy cost of pre-funding future retiree health. The bill also would provide greater freedom to use the USPS's networks to offer new products and services to generate new revenue, including the delivery of beer and wine and the provision of services for state and local governments.

NALC strongly supports the POST Act's retirement cost provisions and the new commercial freedoms it offers. These provisions would restore the long-term viability of the Postal Service. Unfortunately, the bill is marred by two provisions that we cannot support – the elimination of six-day delivery and the addition of pro-management changes to the law governing collective bargaining disputes. The bill would allow the USPS to unilaterally cut the number of delivery days from six to five – or even to four or three days – without Congressional authorization. And it would permanently mandate the consideration of three pro-management instructions to interest arbitrators (with no balancing worker considerations) before issuing a decision to resolve contract impasses in the future. We believe that the delivery-frequency provision is unwise and that the arbitration changes are both unfair and unnecessary.

The Carper bill's introduction follows the introduction of a similar bill by Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) earlier this year. Called The Postal Service Improvement Act of 2011 or S. 353, it includes the core retirement cost reforms in the Carper bill -- along with other provisions we can't support. NALC believes a narrow finance bill that enjoys the broad support of the postal industry and wide bipartisan backing in the Congress has the best chance of enactment. We look forward to working with Sens. Carper and Collins in the Senate and with a growing bipartisan group in the House that has endorsed the Lynch bill to ensure the continued provision of universal postal services.

COLA

Ninth contract COLA: \$832

2012 Retiree COLA: 2.9%

2012 FECA COLA: 3%

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

On May 13, 2011, NALC President Rolando honored President Emeritus Rademacher's 70 years of NALC membership. Rademacher was president of the NALC from 1968 to 1977, a period that included the Great Postal Strike of 1970 and negotiations of the union's first collective bargaining agreements with the Postal Service.

"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

This years food drive totals are in. As predicted they were lower this year than last but still way over what we used to get without bags. Sun Valley's total was 5,981, Tarzana 5,660, Panorama City 5,140, Sherman Oaks 15,920, Encino 17,590, and Main Office, 26,361 With the added residual total of 6,000 lbs this brings our grand total this year to 82,052 pounds of food. We were about 20,000 pounds less than last year but still that is a lot of food collected and it filled up the MEND food banks warehouse. Thanks to all of your hard work. As usual you letter carriers kick butt. I can not tell you how much your dedication and determination makes a difference in undertaking this event every year. Thanks, especially to the station coordinators who always step up and put forth extra effort. Tia Wilson, Andy Goacher, Sandy Anger, Jeff Jackson, Steve Soto, John Burton, Bob Johnson, and Tracy Mullinax. John Burton thank you for helping break out over 650,000 food drive bags for our branch and for many other branches. Your help was greatly appreciated.

Thank you Steve Seyfried for shuttling me around all day too offices and helping pick up food and sort food in different offices all day long. Thank you retirees Roger Askew, Bob Enz, and carrier Dennis Teubner for driving around Encino to pick up food off the routes. Thank you Calvin Brookins for your help and support throughout this whole process before, during and after the food drive. We had some challenges this year especially not getting the support from the manager side that we needed to make this a smooth year. No matter what, we get it done with or without much dedication from the manager side. The one person who we can always count on is Richard Maher who is the PR guy for the Postal Service that helps put this together for advertising and our media event. He rules!. The National total this year was 70.2 million pounds. Last year it was 77.1 million pounds. So you can see on the national level that the totals were less. Over the 19 years the NALC has been doing this food drive we have collected 100, 030, 000,000 pounds of food. That's right one billion 30 million pounds of food. Nice.

JARAP 2011 is underway. We will be including the FSS zones in the process to help fix the issues we have in those offices. Please let us know what you need fixed when we come in to help. If it makes sense we will make it so. Communication and cooperation are key in making this work. We all have a vested interest in the future of our jobs and the future of the Postal Service. COR is here to stay so we might as well embrace it and do the best we can to make it work for us. We need you to help do that. As I have said many times before, change is not something we like but it is inevitable. It is how we deal with it that makes it work or not. We will survive. We always do.



ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
MAIN OFFICE	2	2	5	3		1					
ENCINO	3	2	1	2		2					
CIVIC CENTER	2	2	2	2		2					
PANORAMA CITY	2	1	1	2		2					
SHERMAN OAKS	5	9	9	10		6					
SUN VALLEY	1	1	1	1		1					
TARZANA	2	2	3	2		1					
RETIREE'S	6	6	4	6		6					
TOTAL	23	25	26	28		21					

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

NEXT MEETING
6:30 PM

JULY
5th
"2011"

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

July 5, 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 2 breakfasts will be on JUNE 25th & July 23, 2011 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar....We hope to see you there.

Thank
You

Frank Busch

HEALTH BENEFIT'S Report

by
Larry Dolabson

There will be some changes to the health plan coming in July. NALC Health Benefit Plan will be switching over to be CIGNA. It will still be a PPO but with this change the Plan will be able to save a lot of money and keep the costs down. I will be attending a Seminar in October with all the new changes but before that happens the Plan will be sending out letters and new cards. Those cards are NOT going into effect until July so do not use them until the date you are given in the letter sent to you. Until that time you still use the old cards. You will need to check with your Doctors and make sure that they are still in Network with the change of plan. Most will still be covered but there might be some that fall out.

FINAL REPORT & RESULTS OF BRANCH 2462 OFFICER ELECTIONS

The following is a complete accounting of the 2011 Branch 2462 Officer elections.

Active Members Ballots sent	367		
Retired Members Ballots sent	120		
Total Ballots sent	487		
Active member ballots returned	137	37%	28% of
Total			
Retired member ballots returned	57	48%	12% of
Total			
Total ballots returned	194	40%	
Ballots not opened (No name or return address)	29	6%	
Ballots opened Not counted (Spoiled or defaced)	1		

RESULTS

TRACY MULLINAX	***	.....	143	74%
TIA WILSON	***	.....	137	71%
JEFF JACKSON	***	.....	123	64%
JOHN BURTON		.....	100	52%

*** WINNERS

Respectfully submitted by:

Steve Seyfried Election Chairman
Janette Dolabson
Larry Dolabson
Roger Askew
Robert Enz

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 & 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 !!



Safe and Have a Happy 4th of July

THANK YOU FROM MEND

Dear Letter Carriers of the Van Nuys Post Office,

We at MEND (Meeting Each Need with Dignity), speaking not only for the Food bank at MEND but for so many other organizations that benefit from the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, would like to thank the National Association of Letter Carriers for this incredible event.

Stamp Out Hunger not only supports food banks and pantries around the country directly with donations of much needed food when so many cupboards are bare, but also brings awareness to the issue of hunger on a national level at a time of great need.

This event also brings together volunteers from all walks of life for a common mission all across the country, creating a great sense of community for all involved from beginning to end toward supporting a great cause.

As you well know, MEND (Meet Each Need with Dignity) is a non-profit volunteer driven organization that provides a variety of services to low-income families living in the San Fernando Valley. We offer not only our Emergency Food Program but we also offer clothing, educational, vocational, medical and dental services to nearly 30,000 people monthly....and we couldn't possibly do what we do without your help.

Again, we thank you so much for allowing us to again be a part of this amazing event for the 19th year in a row.

We look forward to the 20th anniversary next year being the biggest and best ever !

If you should ever have any questions or if there is any way that MEND can be of service to the NALC, please call me.

Sincerely,

RICHARD WEINROTH
Emergency Food bank Director
www.MENDPoverty.org



Want to keep up on what's going on ? Become an NALC E-ACTIVIST. 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 !

Proposed Change to By-Law # 1

Proposed to amend Article VI, Section 1, which now reads:

Section 1. Shop Stewards shall be elected by the membership of their respective stations and elections shall take place at the stations by the members, at a time and place to be determined by the Election Committee.

PROPOSED TO READ:

Section 1. Shop Stewards shall be appointed by the President of the Branch for each station. The President, by virtue of the elected office shall be the Chief Steward. There shall be representation in accordance with the National Agreement.

If proposed By-Law change is adopted and approved by the National Committee of Laws the change will become effective on July 1, 2014.

Submitted by members in good standing:

JOHN BURTON
JANETTE DOLABSON
CALVIN BROOKINS
ROBERT F. JOHNSON
LARRY DOLABSON

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**