

**Representing the Stations of  
Civic Center – Encino – Panorama City – Sherman Oaks – Sun Valley – Tarzana – Van Nuys Main**

**VOLUME 48**

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## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**By Calvin Brookin**

### **Contract Negotiations**

On August 18, 2011, the NALC and the USPS opened negotiations on a new collective bargaining agreement. Contract negotiations is ongoing, we got a reserved or close to the vest update at the Rap Session. In regards to collective bargaining President Rolando stated that the NALC introduced some basic concepts but has no interest in reducing the values of letter carriers who job is now harder and longer on the street. President Rolando further stated that T.E's must have avenues to become career employees and they are willing to discuss a cheaper Saturday delivery but he did not go into details about the cheaper Saturday delivery. He went on to state that he has no intentions to discuss route alternatives until higher level management call off the dogs and get supervisors off letter carriers backs.

President Rolando has set up several committees such as an Overtime Committee, Contract Delivery Service Committee, FSS Committee and a Route Adjustment Committee. President Rolando stated that they will proceed to negotiate a contract that recognizes the contributions of letter carriers. And they are willing to enter into Interest Arbitration to do so if they have to. We entered into negotiations making the Postal Service aware that the NALC recognizes that the USPS faces a crisis. But reiterated that letter carriers are not the crisis. We have to save the Postal Service from itself and that is up to us; President Rolando said.

With our current contract expiring at midnight on November 20, 2011, President Rolando gave further updates toward a new collective bargaining agreement that included bringing in new game changing players. President Rolando announced to the attendees at the Rap Session that they had taken dramatic steps to move forward, bringing in experts in restructuring to review, examine and pursue alternative business strategies. He announced that the NALC has retained the services of restructuring expert Ron Bloom and the financial advisory firm Lazard to help the NALC guide the Postal Service away from strategies designed to dismantle itself. Ron Bloom recently worked in the Obama administration as a special assistant on manufacturing policy, and helped save the U.S. auto industry. He also has experience working for United Steelworkers and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and played a major role

in the restructuring of the steel and airline industries. Lazard is a New York based firm with a long history of working with large, unionized companies. The combination of Bloom and Lazard gives the union instant credibility in our good faith effort to engage the USPS and to develop winning strategies to grow the business and increase revenue.

The value of the Postal Service; it is a 65 billion dollar company, second largest employer in the country, has the largest fleet of vehicles and is the most trusted by the public of any other agency out there. Our network binds together this country and we are a fixture in every community in this country. There is no other comparable network anywhere in this great nation of ours. Therefore, slashing services and inconveniencing customers will only drive more businesses away. By radically downsizing the Postal Service will do nothing but destroy 200,000 jobs and threaten the centerpiece of a \$1.3 trillion mailing industry that employs 7.5 million private sector workers. We have the best network system in the country, but we have to use to our advantage to preserve the Postal Service instead of dismantling it.

**(Continued on Page 2)**

### **SPECIAL NOTICE**

In accordance with Article V of the NALC Constitution and Article V of the By-Laws of Branch 2462, NALC, notice is hereby given for the Nomination and Election of Delegates to the State and National Convention, Nominations will be held at the December Meeting on December 6, 2011. Election if needed, will be held in January 2012 and will be conducted by mail, as provided in Article IV of the By-Laws of Branch 2462 NALC. All members, in good standing, are eligible to be nominated. Any member, not in good standing or who has not attended at least eighteen (18) regular meetings during the twenty-four (24) months prior to their nomination as a Delegate shall not receive any expenses from *the Branch*. Any member who has less than one (1) year membership in this Branch who shall have attended at least three fourths (3/4) of those regular meetings, from his/her acceptance into membership, prior to their nomination as a Delegate or Alternate may receive expenses. All members of the Executive Board, by virtue of their office, shall be Delegates to all National and State Conventions. This Branch shall elect a Full Delegation to all National and State Conventions.

"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.

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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	2	1	2	2		6
ENCINO	3	2	1	2	2	2	3	3	3	
CIVIC CENTER	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1		2
PANORAMA CITY	2	1	1	2	2	2	1	1		4
SHERMAN OAKS	5	9	9	10	7	6	4	4		7
SUN VALLEY	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	
TARZANA	2	2	3	2	2	1	2	2		2
RETIREE'S	6	6	4	6	4	6	6	5		6
TOTAL	23	25	26	28	22	21	21	20	31	

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

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

**DECEMBER  
6th  
"2011"**

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

**Dec 6, 2011**

**WEB PAGE.... WWW.NALCBRANCH2462.ORG  
BRANCH OFFICE.....818-786-8505  
O P C PERSONNEL OFFICE.....818-374-5600  
E-Mail.....NALCBRANCH2462@sbcglobal.net**

### "RETIREE CORNER"

**THERE WILL BE NO RETIREE BREAKFASTS  
FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR, SINCE THEY  
FALL ON HOLIDAY WEEKENDS. HOPE TO SEE  
EVERYONE ON THE 4<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY ON JANUARY 28.  
2012**

Thank  
You  
**Frank Brash**

President Rolando recognizes that we have some of the worse working conditions on the workroom floor right now. But guess what these issues are the least of our problems. While we at the local level will continue to combat and deal with the issues on the workroom floor, we have to keep in mind that the Postal Service has no cash, but even worse they got no vision. Their way out of this crisis is to dismantle the Postal Service through several avenues. We have an anti-labor boss, we have a Bush left over Congress and we also have the media exploitation of sound bytes. Such as the Postal Service is broke, the Postal Service is out-dated and the Postal Service problem is labor.

We realize there is a lot going on out there, but we must work together harder than ever to protect what we have and what has been fought hard for over the last 200 years. Now I am asking every member of this branch to get involved and help save possibly your job and/or the job of your co-worker. You can start by keeping yourself informed and educated by signing up for e-Activist.

You can do this by going to the NALC website at NALC.org. You can also call the union office and get advice on how to join e-Activist. Then immediately start giving to COLCPE this is our very own union fund made up of voluntary contributions from members of the NALC. Please call the union office I will be more than happy to help you sign up.

So get involved don't wait for 5-day delivery, possible lay-off or your benefits to be reduced before you get involved. It will be too late then.



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 !**

## Vice President's Report

By  
**Janette Dolabson**

In a letter sent from CSALC President John Beaumont : HR 2309 is "A proposal in Congress that would end door-to-door mail box delivery service for 90 percent of American households and businesses that now receive it. H.R. 2309, a bill that is headed for a vote in the full House of Representatives, calls for the dismantling of the U.S. Postal Service, one of America's oldest and most beloved institutions that has served the nation for more than 235 years as provided by the U.S. Constitution. If enacted, H.R. 2309 would: End Saturday mail delivery service, hurting small businesses, rural customers, the elderly and those who rely on the mail for medicine delivery. Radically downsize the USPS, destroying 200,000 jobs and threatening the centerpiece of a \$1.3 trillion mailing industry that employs 7.5 million private-sector workers. Force the closure of thousands of post offices, eliminating the heart of many American communities and slowing mail service. Fail to address the true cause of the Postal Service's financial woes—the 2006 Congressional mandate to pre-fund future retiree health benefits, a burden faced by no other agency or firm.

Tell Congress not to destroy the USPS. Contact your representative either at the local office or in Washington, DC, at 202-224-3121—and ask him or her to vote against H.R. 2309 Please call NOW to save America's Postal Service" There has also been a bill in the Senate introduced by Joe Lieberman, ID-Conn, Ranking Member Susan Collins, R-Maine, Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management Chairman Tom Carper, D-Del, and Senator Scott Brown, R-Mass., called the 21st Century Postal Service Act. This Bill isn't much better than the Issa Bill but its on the fast track to being marked up.

We are in troubled times my friends. I hope that you are all e-activists and receiving these updates and actually reading them. This is not something that you can just sit by and let other people take care of for you. This is your job and your families livelihood on the line. If you just sit back and do nothing then you can take some of the blame if things go south. Do your part. Call your representatives. Participate in political events. Campaign for worker friendly candidates. Sign up for automatic COLCPE donations NOW if you haven't already. We are getting hit on all sides. Stand up and be heard. We won't go down without a fight. Get off your butts and get involved. Its shameful that we have nearly 500 members in our branch and about 25 that bother to show up at the meetings to hear what is going on. We all have families we all have obligations. Going to branch meetings, getting involved is a choice, a commitment to your future, your families future.

## HEALTH BENETITS REPORT

By  
**Larry Dolabson, HBR**

Thanks for sending me to the HBR Seminar in Las Vegas. Here are some of the things you should know about the NALC Health Benefit Plan. First- Open Season this year is Nov. 14th- Dec. 12th. The new prices are as follows- Active Carriers bi-weekly self only \$54.04, Family \$105.16, and annuitants self only @161.68, and family \$327.60. As you can see the prices have stayed low.

Compare them to the other plans at the OPM web site [www.OPM.gov](http://www.OPM.gov). The co-pay is still \$20.00 for a PPO provider. The plan now pays for 20 Chiropractic spinal manipulations per calendar year. You pay nothing for delivery of a newborn in an out patient PPO facility except your co pay.

To find out if your Doctor is in the plan you can call the provider locator line at 877 220-6252. To sign up call 888 636- 6252. The NALC HBP is the only union Health Plan offered and it is the only one not in it for profit. Its the best plan by far and you should be in it. It is operated by elected union officers, not outside service companies. It's tailored to letter carriers and our special needs and health issues. NALC HBP is a PPO health plan. You can pick where you go. You don't need referrals to see a specialist.

**Join now, you will be glad you did.**

**N A L C Can Count On Me !**

Please fill out this form to be included in the NALC's Activist Database

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Congressional District \_\_\_\_\_ Branch \_\_\_\_\_

This form builds the Legislative and Political Department's activist database. Is is not used for any other purpose. The database is comprised of letter carriers the NALC can count on to take action on legislative and political alerts. communication is often via email. Regular mail is used when it is necessary to send pertinent materials and phone calls are made when time is of the essence. Therefore, all information is necessary to lay the foundation for a strong grassroots operation.

**Please Mail to:**

National Association of Letter Carriers  
Legislative and Political Department  
100 Indiana Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20001-2144

# "THE MAIL CALL" BRANCH 2462, NALC

**Steve Seyfried, Editor**

**6910 Hayvenhurst Ave., # 101  
Van Nuys, CA 91406**

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## Address Service Requested

### Branch Meeting Minutes

**November 1, 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 6:40 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sgt-at-Arms ROGER ASKEW

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**—In Memory of all Military & those who lost their lives this year

#### 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 WITH CORRECTIONS**—Date of the minutes should have read OCTOBER 4, 2011, and Motion # 5 should have read Accept the recommendation of the By-law committee on By-law # 5 (not 1).

#### CORRESPONDENCE READ

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**—NONE

**BILLS READ**—NONE

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**RETIREES** There are 6 retirees present at tonight's meeting. Retiree Luncheon was a success and all who attended had a great time. Thanks to all who attended. BOB JOHNSON will be coordinating the Retiree luncheon as FRANK BRASH has stepped down after 50 years of doing a great job.

**MDA FUND-ASKEW** Currently \$1420.00 in fund  
**LEGISLATION UPDATE-ASKEW** HR 1351, which we are in support of, is currently stalled in the House. This is because the Republican leadership will not allow it to come to the floor for a vote in spite of having more co-sponsors than is needed to pass the legislation. HR 2309, which we opposed, is going to a vote in committee even though it only has 2 co-sponsors. The reason ??? Republican leader Issa is the committee chair and one of the co-sponsors. This is how the politicians play the game. Now more than ever you need to be contacting your representative and getting signatures to tell the leadership to save the postal system and fix the mess they got us into.

**HBR—L. DOLABSON** HBR Seminar in Las Vegas was very informative and there are some changes for next year. I will be writing an extensive article in the MailCall to explain what is new for next years health plan. Open season for active members is November 14-December 12<sup>th</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup> – December 8<sup>th</sup> for retirees.

**MDA--ANGER** Bowl-a-thon will be November 6<sup>th</sup> at Matador Bowl starts at 10:30 am. We raised over \$ 700.00 for MDA at the picnic last month, great job and thanks to all who gave.

**MBA—ENZ** Waiting for National to send info that was given out at the recent seminar in Las Vegas. Still helping members with paper work. Contact me if you need any help.

#### FINANCIAL/TREASURERS REPORT-JOHNSON

**MOTION**—Accept the reports of the Financial Sec/ Treasurer as read at tonight's meeting  
**M/S/C**

**VICE-PRESIDENT J. DOLABSON** Picnic cost was \$ 15312.35. We had 60 members in attendance and 230 people total. Do to lack of interest we are considering canceling next years picnic. Current bills in Congress are proposing to eliminate 6 day delivery, reduce delivery days to 5 or 4 days per week, eliminate collective bargaining, reduce Retiree pensions, increase employee health payments, not refund over payments made into the pension funds, and not allow union representation work on the clock.

**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 accept and endorse the Resolutions from the CSALC on the proposed 2 amendments to the Constitution of the Government of State Associations, Article 6-Officers & Article 3-Meetings  
**M/S/C**

**MOTION**—Branch purchase a new copier with scanning abilities. Cost not to exceed \$ 2500.00  
**M/S/C**

**MOTION**—Branch hold a Christmas Open House in December at a place & date to be announced  
**M/S/C**

**MOTION**—Branch donate \$ 50.00 to the North Valley Caring Services for Thanksgiving  
**M/S/C**

**OLD BUSINESS**—NONE

#### Underlined denotes unanimous vote

Congratulations to SANDY ANGER on winning the RAY KREYER AWARD and congratulations to RAUL DOZEL on winning the HARRY BRENNEMAN AWARD. Membership pins were given to JASON COLELLO (25 years) and JEFF JACKSON (30 years). Special Guest tonight was MEL ANGER (Sandy's father) from Branch 41, Brooklyn, NY

#### MDA DRAWING

\$ 5 JEFF JACKSON—SHERMAN OAKS  
\$ 5 JOSE JIMENEZ—SHERMAN OAKS  
\$ 10 KAREN AGUILAR—RETIREE--DONATED

Meeting Adjourned 8:42PM