

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Calvin Brookins

Contract Negotiation

The Postal Service has declined to extend contract talks with the NALC. That decision now brings about a 60 day mediation period, where the 2 parties will continue to talk. If no agreement is reached within the 60 day mediation period then it will go to interest arbitration. President Rolando expressed his disappointment in the Postal Service's decision. President Rolando also stated the following; "We had been making steady progress in negotiations, right up to the latest deadline". The NALC will continue to negotiate in good faith. You can follow all of the latest development of contract negotiation at NALC.org.

Beware of the Survey

There is a survey being sent to letter carriers in various districts. The NALC has been told by the Postal Service at the national level that the survey is a marketing tool of a group that is trying to sell financial investment services. The Postal Service has adamantly stated that this survey is not sanctioned by the USPS. The survey is address to the letter carrier at their carrier location/station with the pay location number listed on it. This survey does not say who it is from or who it is going back to. I would advise that you do not participate in this survey, simply because we do not know enough about it nor do we know what it will be used for.

Align Networks

The USPS has established a contractual relationship with Align Networks, a private business, to set up a program that provides physical therapy network services for employees with work related injuries and illnesses.

By now there should have been mandatory service talks on the workroom floor to pitch the program. The NALC is in the process of finding out more about the program and the USPS relationship with Align Networks. In the meantime, injured letter carriers and shop stewards should remember that the program is strictly voluntary.

Letter carriers are not required to go to any therapist in Align Networks. The injured letter carrier and their doctor should make the choice that best serves them in regards to physical therapy.

At the National Rap Session in Las Vegas last October, all members of the National Association of Letter Carriers were asked to collect signatures in support of protecting the future of the United States Postal Service. From active and retired letter carriers, all across the country more than 1 million signatures were collected, processed and sent to Congress in just 12 weeks. The dedication, determination and hard work of a lot of members from this branch helped to make it possible to reach this goal of 1 million signatures. The voices of Americans from every corner of this country have been heard because of the efforts of the brothers and sisters of the NALC. The message is clear: Americans support first-rate mail delivery service, six days a week, and they will do everything they can to protect it. By reaching this goal, it is our hope that it will help prevent the passage of two major bills designed to dismantle the Postal Service that are now pending before Congress—H.R. 2309 and S. 1789.

S. 1789

S. 1789, in its current form, is unacceptable to the NALC and to many stakeholders and customers throughout the country. The bill as reported out of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs fell short of achieving the many needed reforms to ensure a vibrant Postal Service for the future.

The legislation:

- Allows for five-day delivery in two years' time if the Postal Service is not turning a profit, but fails to give the Postal Service any flexibility to achieve that profit.
- Phases out door-to-door delivery in favor of curbside and centralized delivery.
- Fails to recoup the \$55 billion to \$75 billion in CSRS pension surplus funds.
- Does not go far enough in restructuring the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefit Fund.
- Includes an anti-labor provision that would direct arbitrators to take into special consideration the financial condition of the Postal Service before rendering a decision.

(Continued on Page 3)

"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.

ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
MAIN OFFICE	2										
ENCINO	3										
CIVIC CENTER	3										
PANORAMA CITY	1										
SHERMAN OAKS	4										
SUN VALLEY	1										
TARZANA	2										
RETIREE'S	4										
TOTAL	21										

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

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

MARCH
6th
"2012"

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

Mar 6, 2012

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"

Our Breakfast Meeting will be held at Denny's Restaurant, (Corner of Sherman Way & DeCels). It will begin at 09:00 AM. The next 2 breakfasts will be on Feb 25th & Mar 24, 2012 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar....We hope to see you there.

Thank
You

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT BY JEANETTE DOLABSON

Hi all, I would like to update you on the upcoming Food Drive. As of this writing we have not secured bags but it is looking good for getting them. Ralph's has expressed interest again this year, however our other sponsor KTLA has expressed concern about using plastic bags. We have suggested we get bio-degradable bags and they have agreed to look at pricing for those bags.

Our printer has agreed to print one million bio-degradable bags including freight charges and not charge tax, since it is for charity, for the \$30,000 grant that Ralph's usually donates for the food drive. We should know by Feb 15th when we all meet at KTLA to discuss this year's food drive. Also, the T-shirts this year will be orange and easy to see with our artwork on them. Please order as soon as the office gets the forms. We need to make this the best year ever collecting food and your contributions and hard work are so very important.

We will be having a media kick off on May 8th at MEND around 10:00 am. If you are off that day, please come and participate. We have celebrities and media from many TV stations and newspapers there to cover it and it would give you a wonderful opportunity to see where the food is donated to and how they distribute it. Thanks again for your continuing support for this great yearly event.

NALC 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. It 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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

- Unfairly attacks injured postal workers by removing them from the OWCP rolls and forcing them into retirement without implementing a formula that would
- make these people whole. The reduction in compensation would be severe.

Please call Sen. Dianne Feinstein at (202) 224-3841 and Sen. Barbara Boxer at (202) 224-3553 and ask them both to oppose S. 1789 in its current form. The legislation is deeply flawed and needs significant changes before the Senate should consider passage of this bill.

Changes to the bill should include provisions from S. 1853, The Postal Service Protection Act of 2011. This bill takes the necessary steps by addressing the issues laid out above to strengthen the Postal Service while maintaining the excellent level of service Americans have come to expect, preserving middle-class jobs and creating new opportunities for the Postal Service moving forward.

Here is the up to date status on S 1789:

Senator Boxer agrees with our arguments against reducing delivery to 5 day and the problems eliminating door to door delivery will cause but has not taken an official position yet on S 1789. Feinstein has not taken an official position either and has been hard to pin down; her staff has revealed that the Senator is aware that all of labor is opposed to the 5-day delivery. Our national lobbyist will be meeting with Senator Feinstein Thursday February 9, 2012 and our California State Association President John Beaumont will be talking with her Saturday February 11, 2012. Regardless of the outcome of either of these meetings we must keep the heat up on both Senators using every venue we have.

On the bill itself, the Senate just learned that the bill would cost an unexpected \$6 billion to implement the changes as it is currently drafted. This, as well as increased pressure from the public, has caused them to slow down their current fast tracking of the bill and now it appears it will come up at the earliest the end of this month or the first part of March.

Taking this new timetable into account please take the time to call both Senators ASAP. Also get your families, and friends to write and call both Senators as well. If you need a sample letter to use in writing the Senators please see your shop steward or call the union office. Please call both Senator Boxer and Senator Feinstein at the phone numbers listed above.

Point of Personal Privilege

As Letter Carriers and part of the middle class workforce in this country; we are under attack. In the NALC's attempt at the national level and local level to better educate and update the membership on important issues aimed at saving our jobs, I find it alarming the apathy and lack of participation among many of our union members. Just look and listen, in the newspapers, on the radio, on the television and on the internet, the Postal Service is a hot topic. Not only is the NALC trying to negotiate a new Collective Bargaining Agreement with

the Postal Service, there are several politicians trying to dismantle or take away the very fabric of our Union. Locally, we have asked and will continue to ask for you the member to get involved. We seem to have limited interest from a lot of our members and we need every member to get involved because it is all of our jobs that could be on the line here.

I want to thank those who have stepped up, we will continue to push forward and do what is necessary to protect our jobs and the jobs of all letter carriers. Sending a message and fighting for a cause; is always more effective in numbers. We do need some of the younger carriers and those carriers who are older, who have not gotten involved to help lead the crusade to make sure that there is a job for you to retire from. Get involved don't take this job for granted! There is no guarantee anymore that this is a career job as it was viewed in the past.

FYI

The U.S. Postal Service ended its fiscal year (October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011) with a net loss of \$5.1 billion. The year end loss would have been approximately \$10 billion had it not been for passage of legislation that postponed a congressional mandate payment of \$5.5 billion to pre-fund retiree health benefits. Total 2011 mail volume declined by 3 billion pieces, 1.7 percent, from 2010. The Postal Service's largest and most profitable product, First Class Mail, continued its year over year decline, from \$34.2 billion in 2010 to \$32.2 billion in 2011.

USPS shipping service revenue, which includes Priority mail and Express mail, increased \$530 million in 2011. The increase in shipping services revenue was driven by strong growth in Parcel Select and Parcel Return Service. Revenue from Standard mail increased by \$495 million, on a volume increase of 2 billion pieces. Other 2011 financial results include:

Operating revenue of \$65.7 billion compared to \$67.1 billion the year before.

Operating expenses of \$70.6 billion compared to \$75.4 in 2010. (Source Mail Pro).

Senior Carrier Retires

Recently I had the privilege of wishing Irwin Schnyder a happy and well deserved retirement as he retired from the Postal Service as a Letter Carrier after 49 plus years. The letter carriers at Sherman Oaks station recognized Irwin's contribution and over half of his life that he gave to the Postal Service. What I was most disappointed in was local management and even district management lack of preparedness an involvement in this retirement ceremony. Not only was the Postmaster not present at the station that morning, but local management did not even have a service award for Irwin Schnyder a 49 year plus employee. So, the station manager could only apologize for not having something to present to this long term employee of 49 years, such as a letter from the District Manager thanking him for his years of service or at the very least a 'kiss my foot' and 'good-bye' letter! However, there was nothing from management at all. Irwin, again on behalf of Branch 2462 and the NALC we do wish you a happy and long retirement enjoy!

In Unionism:

Ray Muse

Gentleman Letter Carrier

By Theodore Dent

Welcome again to 2012, and it is another year when all carriers can consider themselves brothers and sisters. However, this may be the time to consider how we arrived at this juncture because it seems important for us to understand the past so that we will know how to proceed.

In 1947, sixteen teams played major league baseball: 399 white players, plus Jackie Robinson. Jackie had broken the “color barrier” by debuting with the Brooklyn Dodgers and ended sixty-seven years of segregation. Van Nuys Post Office has a somewhat similar history.

About 1949, a World War II veteran named Ray Muse transferred from Los Angeles Post Office to Van Nuys to break the color barrier here. At that time, post offices could only hire prospective employees from within their own postal area, legislation that kept areas like Van Nuys Post Office, like Van Nuys itself, segregated. (How Ray Muse was allowed to transfer is a story whose details are known only to the dearly departed and those with whom we are not in contact.) Roger Askew says we can call him “a pioneer”.

What we do know about Ray Muse is legendary to those fortunate enough to carry with him. Maybe growing up during the Depression and a segregated society forced him to confront life at a deeper level than others. Maybe surviving WWII made him more appreciative, more neighborly, and more focused on people. Frank Brash says that we know that Ray was a good carrier – “He was conscientious, and the patrons thought a lot of him.” So much so that when the Sylmar Earthquake severely damaged his home in 1971 that his patrons in the Oxnard Street/Ranchito Avenue area route he was carrying donated the equivalent of several months pay to help him recover.

However, beyond being a good carrier, Frank Brash says that “Ray was a good person, he was always willing to help out, checked for people's welfare, and was always easy going.” Terry Beauvais stated that the one thing she remembered most strongly was “how wonderful his relations with his customers were”; it was as if they thought he “walked on water”. To put it bluntly, “he was just so “much more than most of us” in customer service because customer service was paramount. The Sixties were a time when the fabric of society tore, but for Ray Muse, it was a time to embrace his patrons and for them to embrace him. He displayed his humanity by “remembering every kid's name”. “He cared, took the

time that most of feel that we don't have, to talk to his customers, chat to them.”

Frank Brash related another side to Ray Muse. When Frank's wife needed blood donations, Ray Muse was the first to sign up to donate, and he was the first to donate.

At that time, Van Nuys carriers were a close group, and as far as we know, Ray Muse experienced no racial animosity from his carrier brothers and sisters, but if he had, he kept it to himself. It was almost as if he was reflecting the idea of Yoko Ono, “There is no time for negative thoughts.”

About 1976, Ray Muse retired, but not before almost all of the people on his route gave him a huge block party. In the late 1970s, Ray Muse served as a Trustee for Branch 2462. Even after being unable to drive in the 1990s, Ray attended “Retirement Nite” festivities at Encino Glen Restaurant, thanks to Dan Rathbone's “taxi service”. In July 2002, Frank Brash visited Ray Muse at the convalescent hospital. I believe he appreciated that time to reflect on the many-shared memories. The next day, Ray Muse died, and the Branch lost its “Pioneer”.

Finally, to define Ray Muse, Terry Beauvais said that the one word we could use to define him was the word, “gentleman”. A gentleman in many ways: polite, classy, mellow, good manners, always appropriate for the time and place, never dehumanizing others, in control of his emotions on the job, never bringing his personal grief and problems to make others' lives worse, and most importantly, giving everyone fond memories. He apparently never publicly reflected on his unique talents or his lasting contributions that have left such a great mark on Van Nuys Post Office and the entire community, but we will not forget his service to all of us.

Who integrated the rest of the San Fernando Valley post offices? I hope that someone can write about that for the next Mail Call.



A WORD OF THANKS

By

RAY MOLA

I would like to thank the members of Branch 2462 for allowing me to serve as Shop Steward in Encino.

Thank you for your support in the last election in voting me Shop Steward. I am sorry to say due to my poor health condition I will not be able to continue to serve you. I thank you for your vote of confidence in me and know that I did my best to serve all of you during my time as Shop Steward. I have great respect for President Brookins and I learned very much from him. He is a man of honor and commitment.

I would like to thank Tracy Mullinax for all his help and friendship. I appreciate the generosity of my Brother's and Sister's who offered me Annual leave (Henry, Ruby, Bonnie and Notz). But, as I told them, I would not feel right because after being a Shop Steward and from personal experience, I know how important it is to have Annual leave and Sick leave.

From the bottom of my heart thank you all for your calls and prayers in some of my darkest of moments. It has been an honor serving my Brothers and Sisters in Encino. If you ever need anything, you all have my cell phone number. I am sorry that my health prevents me from my elected duties, but know I did the best I could to serve you while I was able to do so.

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 !**



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

Branch 2462 Senior Active Letter Carrier IRWIN SCHNYDER makes his last Clock Ring at the Sherman Oaks Station. Brother SCHNYDER leaves with over 49 Years of Service in the Post Office. Congratulations to IRWIN we wish him much happiness.



"THE MAIL CALL"

BRANCH 2462, NALC

Steve Seyfried, Editor

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

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Branch Meeting Minutes February 7, 2012

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 6:32 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS ROGER ASKEW

MOMENT OF SILENCE—In Memory of TROY YOUNG, MANUEL VENEGAS & JERRY RANDALL

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

PRESENT— BROOKINS, J. DOLABSON, SEYFRIED, JOHNSON, MULLINAX, ASKEW, L. DOLABSON, ENZ .

ABSENT—JACKSON

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAIL CALL

CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP—NONE

BILLS READ

MOTION TO PAY M/S/C

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TRUSTEES Audit has been rescheduled to February 16th & will be at the Union hall at 6 pm
SAFETY & HEALTH Main Office Station Mgr attempted to carry a route, however after 8 plus hours on the street they had to send a PTF out to help him finish the assignment. Hopefully no disciplinary action will have to be issued to impress upon this individual the importance of staying productive.

RETIREEES 5 retiree's present tonight. We had 12 in attendance at the Saturday breakfast.

MBA--ENZ Materials are still coming in but I have most of the information. Currently helping a Carrier with a problem

HBR—L. DOLABSON Branch added 2 new members to the Health Plan this last open season. Should have full enrollment info soon. Anyone having problems with the NALC health plan, contact Larry.

MDA—ASKEW \$ 1679 currently in fund.

POLITICAL ACTION—ASKEW HR 2309 (ISSA BILL) still hanging around looking for support, but with only 2 cosponsors seems to be on back burner. HR 1351, the bill we want, is still being stonewalled by the Republican Speaker, despite having more cosponsors than the number need to pass the bill. Senate 1789 is on hold but may come up for a vote later in Feb or early March. This bill is not a good one for us since it would eliminate 6 day delivery and do away with door to door delivery of mail. Write your representatives !!!!!!!

FINANCIAL/TREASURERS REPORT—JOHNSON

MOTION—Accept Financial reports as read M/S/C

VICE-PRESIDENT J. DOLABSON Food Drive preparations are proceeding, We will have bags again this year provided by Ralph's market.

PRESIDENT BROOKIN Gave his report on latest important items which he will cover in his article in the MailCall.
SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER NATIONAL BUSINESS AGENT CHRIS JACKSON SPOKE ON CURRENT ITEMS OF INTEREST.
EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ
OLD BUSINESS—NONE
NEW BUSINESS

UNDERLINED = UNANOMOUS VOTE

MOTION—Branch accept the 2012 Budget as Printed in the MailCall with the exception of Items 29, 14, 24, 30, 49, 51, 52, 56 M/S/C

MOTION—Branch reduce the amount budgeted in Item 29 to zero dollars for the 2012 year M/S/F

MOTION—Branch accept Item 29 as printed In the February MailCall M/S/C

MOTION—Branch accept items 14, 24, 30, 49, 51, 52, 56 as printed in the February MailCall M/S/C

MOTION—Branch renew the Officers bond for \$ 35,000.00 each at a cost of \$ 210.00 M/S/C

MOTION—Branch renew the USPS mailing Permit for the MailCall for one year. Cost \$ 190.00 M/S/C

MOTION—Branch renew the LA Federation of Labor membership for 101 members Cost \$ 666.66 M/S/C

MOTION—Branch update the Quicken financial Program for the Branch books 2006 to 2012. Cost not to exceed \$ 100.00 M/S/C

MOTION—Branch update the QuickBooks Premier from 2009 to 2012. Cost \$ 325.00 M/S/C

MOTON—Branch adopt Bylaw change # 1 as published in the February MailCall M/S/C

MOTION—Branch adopt Bylaw change # 2 As published in the February MailCall M/S/C

MOTION—Branch adopt Bylaw change # 3 as published in the February MailCall M/S/C

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

MDA DRAWING

\$ 3 PAUL JEFFRIES—ENCINO—DONATED
\$ 3 PAUL JEFFRIES—ENCINO—DONATED
\$ 5 TIA WILSON—SUN VALLEY

MEETING ADJOURNED 9:15 PM