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

VOLUME 49 JUNE 2012 NUMBER 5

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
By Calvin Brookins

The April 8 deadline for mediation has passed and negotiations for a new National Agreement between the NALC and the U.S. Postal Service have concluded. The process now moves to interest arbitration. Formal talks between the two parties began in August, three months before the Nov. 20, 2011, expiration date of the 2006-2011 contract. But following several extensions, the USPS announced on Jan. 20 that it was declining to further extend its collective-bargaining negotiations with the NALC.

About three weeks after the impasse was declared, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service Director George Cohen announced the appointment of a mediator, attorney Joshua Javits, to help NALC and USPS reach a new agreement. The two parties agreed on a mediation deadline of April 8. In mediation, the neutral mediator—in this case, Javits is called upon to assist the parties to jointly explore and attempt to settle their differences. Javits held a number of meetings with both sides, both jointly and separately, and attempted to focus on the parties' common interests. Unfortunately, an agreement could not be reached. The process now moves to interest arbitration.

In interest arbitration, each party selects an arbitration advocate to represent it on a three-person board, with the third person being an independent and neutral third party chosen by both parties to resolve the dispute. Much like a court case, each side presents evidence through witness testimony and documents, complete with opening and closing arguments, chances for cross-examination and rebuttal. After the arbitrator takes time to review the case, he or she announces a decision and explains how the arbitration decision was reached.

As with mediation, there are advantages and disadvantages to resorting to interest arbitration. That step in the contract negotiation process generally is perceived as fair and unbiased, resolving a dispute with a measure of finality. A disadvantage, though, is that there is no guarantee that both sides will come out winners in an arbitration decision. Of course, even after the arbitration gets started, the NALC and USPS could still choose to settle on an agreement on their own, sidestepping the binding arbitration process. The negotiating atmosphere is a lot tougher in 2012 than it was 13 years ago.

S. 1789

The passage of S 1789 was a set back we need to continue the fight on. Many Senators who support our issues regularly and supported keeping 6 day delivery and the rest of our NALC amendments, like Senator Boxer, told us they felt that the overall threat from the Postal Service to immediately close thousands of Post Offices and Mail Processing Centers across the nation weighed heavily in their decision to support the overall bill after the conclusion of the amendment process.

There is still action we need to take in order to fight to stop or modify this legislation so that is will take into account our delivery network as well as our injured employees. We have received a lot of inquires on the content of the other amendments that were voted on and rejected that would, if accepted, tear apart our union as well as the benefits and job protection our membership currently have. Below is a list of seven anti-union amendments that were voted on and rejected that could have been incorporated into the bill if the make-up of the senators were different than those who reside in the chamber today.

(Continued on Page 3)

IN MEMORY OF

AL DANKER

JAMES TUKESBREY

RETIREES BRANCH 2462

"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 deem s 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	2	3	2	3						
ENCINO	3	4	3	3	4						
CIVIC CENTER	3	2	3	3	2						
PANORAMA CITY	1	1	2	1	1						
SHERMAN OAKS	4	4	5	4	5						
SUN VALLEY	1	1	1	1	1						
TARZANA	2	2	2	2	2						
RETIREE'S	4	5	5	5	6						
TOTAL	21	21	24	21	24						

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

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

JUNE
5th
"2012"

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

June 5, 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 & DeCelis). It will begin at 09:00 AM. The next 2 breakfasts will be on May 26th and June 23, 2012 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar.....We hope to see you there.

Thank You

Frank Brach

Vice President's Report

By

Janette Dolabson

The food drive has come and gone by the time you receive this report. I won't have the totals in the Mail Call until the July report. I am confident we will have collected more food than we did last year. I would like to thank all of you for your hard work.

I know that it is difficult to take on more than your usual load and we do appreciate it. I would especially like to thank my food drive coordinators for doing another outstanding job again this year.

Thank you, Sandy Anger, Tracy Mullinax, Jeff Jackson, Tia Wilson, John Burton, Analia Garcia, and Andy Goacher. You are all the best! Steve Seyfried, thanks again for your assistance, you rule! Without your help it would be so much more difficult and a lot less fun. Thank you to the drivers who go around and pick up food in Encino, retirees Roger Askew and Bob Enz. Calvin Brookins, your help is as always invaluable. You, Roger, Bob and John Burton were all so very helpful dealing with the million bags we received. Your help getting them to all the various branches around the district and beyond was incredible.

I am sure I will be given more names of volunteers that helped this year and to you, I thank you in advance. I will get your names in next month's paper. I will also let you know how the media event went at MEND with the Mayor, Marriette Hartley and Bill Sanderson. Again, Thank you all.

In Memory of

JAMES R. "TUKES" TUKESBREY

On April 21, 2012 Branch 2462 lost an invaluable member of our Branch. Jim Tukesbrey served honorably in the U S Army Air Corps in WW II, flying missions in a B -17 over occupied France and Nazi Germany.

He was a Past President of our Branch 1967 -1969, Treasurer 1973 – 1975, Recording Secretary 1977 – 1981, Heath Benefits Representative 1985 – 2001. During his term as HBR he received a National Award for his work in the Health Plan. He served as a paid Delegate to 23 consecutive National & State Conventions 1968 – 2012. He also served on several occasions as a Trustee and was a committee member for Picnic, Budget and By-Laws just to name a few. In 2007 he was honored with a NALC Gold Card signifying 50 years of membership in the NALC.

He was a great friend to all who had the privilege of meeting him, and he will be greatly missed by the membership.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

Amendment 2039 (Senator Paul – Rep KY)
To prohibit employees of the United States Postal Service from engaging in collective bargaining.
23 For / 76 Against
Amendment Rejected
Senator Boxer – Against
Senator Feinstein – Against

Amendment 2028 (Senator Paul – Rep KY)
To establish a pilot program to test alternative methods for the delivery of postal services. (Contracting Out)
35 For / 64 Against
Amendment Rejected
Senator Boxer – Against
Senator Feinstein – Against

Amendment 2025 (Senator Paul – Rep KY)
To end the mailbox use monopoly.
35 For / 64 Against
Amendment Rejected
Senator Boxer – Against
Senator Feinstein - Against

Amendment 2083 (Senator Corker – Rep TN)
To improve the bill. (That was to be done though not prohibiting the Postal Service from taking any action necessary to provide a 5 day delivery schedule & by any collective-bargaining agreements ratified after passage of this legislation shall not contain a no lay-off clause).
29 For / 70 Against
Amendment Rejected
Senator Boxer – Against
Senator Feinstein – Against

Amendment 2061 (Senator Coburn – Rep OK)
To achieve long-term cost-savings by allowing the Postmaster General to reduce the postal workforce through mandatory retirements for eligible employees. (Without incentives)
33 For / 65 Against
Amendment Rejected
Senator Boxer – Against
Senator Feinstein – Against

Amendment 2046 (Senator DeMint – Rep SC)
Paycheck Deception
46 For / 53 Against
Amendment Rejected
Senator Boxer – Against
Senator Feinstein - Against

An encouraging word from President Rolando, NALC

NALC disappointed, but determined, as Senate passes S. 1789. "Keep your chin up; this fight is far from over," Rolando says. Amendment to save door-to-door passes. The United States Senate adopted a deeply flawed postal reform bill on Wednesday, voting for S. 1789, the 21st Century Postal Service Act, by a vote of 62 to 37. The legislation embraces a downsizing strategy and fails to fully lift the onerous burden to fund decades of future retiree health benefits decades in advance. If it were to become law, it would be almost impossible to save Saturday mail delivery for the American people and their businesses.

The bill gives the postmaster general the authority to propose a switch to five-day delivery in two years at a cost of 80,000 jobs if he believes such a change is necessary to preserve the "solvency" of the Postal Service, subject to review by the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) and the Government Accountability Office (GAO). Although the bill reduced the level of required pre-funding, the cost of the mandate is still too heavy to allow the USPS to regain a sound financial footing.

"We're disappointed, but we are determined to fight on," NALC President Fredric Rolando said after the vote. He reminded letter carriers that the legislative process is far from over. "It may take months to get a bill through the House of Representatives," he said, "but we will not rest in this struggle to defend a strong and viable Postal Service."

Despite the truly regressive nature of the House Republican bill, H.R. 2309, the NALC's top priorities preserving six-day delivery and fixing the pension and health care funding provisions of the law have a lot of bi-partisan support in the House. Indeed, a majority of representatives support both H. Res. 137 (regarding six-day service) and H.R. 1351 (regarding pension equity). President Rolando vowed a spirited campaign in the House. Once that body acts, the process will not be over. A conference committee would have to reconcile the competing bills, and President Obama would be able to weigh in on the legislation since a final bill that passed both houses would not become law unless he signed it.

"I want to thank the thousands of letter carriers who joined together to lobby the Senate this week," Rolando said. "We flooded the Senate this week with tens of thousands of calls and other contacts. We did not prevail in striking the five-day delivery provision or the regressively unfair FECA cuts in S. 1789, but we did protect tens of thousands of letter carrier jobs by winning the adoption of the door-to-door delivery amendment sponsored by Senator Chuck Schumer [D-NY]. We also removed an anti-FEHBP health care proposal thanks to an amendment from Senator Jay Rockefeller [D-WV].

"We thank both of those senators as well as Senators Udall of New Mexico and Akaka of Hawaii for leading the fight on all our amendments. Thanks also go to Senator Bernie Sanders [I-VT] for his months of relentless work to support the Postal Service and its workers. "Last, but not least, I want to thank the staff of our Legislative and Political Affairs Department who worked 'round the clock for the members. We are grateful for all their hard work." "Keep your chins up, brothers and sisters," Rolando concluded. "This fight to save America's Postal Service is far from over."

Dale Hart

For those of you who may have not heard our Former Director of City Delivery and NBA in Region 1 Dale Hart, fell and broke his neck last week. The fall caused him to be partially paralyzed, he had surgery a few days ago to help improve his condition and he has a long road to recovery. We have sent a card from the branch. Keep him in your thoughts and Prayers.

In Unionism

"THE MAIL CALL"
BRANCH 2462, NALC
Steve Seyfried, Editor
6910 Hayvenhurst Ave., # 101
Van Nuys, CA 91406

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Branch Meeting Minutes
May 1, 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 6:35 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS ROGER ASKEW

MOMENT OF SILENCE----------In Memory of AL DANKER RETIREE & JAMES TUKESBREY RETIREE

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

PRESENT--- BROOKINS, J. DOLABSON, SEYFRIED, JOHNSON, MULLINAX, JACKSON, WILSON, ASKEW, L. DOLABSON, ENZ .

ABSENT—NONE

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAIL CALL

CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP--NONE

BILLS READ--NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TRUSTEES Audit will be held on July 12th, because of the National Convention.

SAFETY & HEALTH Safety team blitz's are being conducted in Van Nuys stations. Make sure you continue to work & drive in a safe manner.

RETIREES 6 retiree's present tonight. We had 10 in attendance at the Saturday breakfast. Retiree Luncheon will be October 21st at Encino Glen at 1 PM. Watch for further updates.

MBA--ENZ I will be making video presentations at the next few meetings highlighting the many plans offered by MBA. Any Carrier with a problem or question regarding Insurance can contact Bob Enz.

HBR—L. DOLABSON 3200 new members signed up for the health plan nationwide this last open season. Our Region 1 led in the biggest increase in membership. Anyone having problems with the NALC health plan, contact Larry.

MDA—ASKEW $ 1922 currently in fund.

POLITICAL ACTION—ASKEW Postal reform bills 1789 was passed in the Senate and will now move to the House for consideration. We are disappointed in some of the language that was included, most harmful was the provision to allow the Postmaster General to proceed, if needed, with the elimination of 6 day delivery, and changes in OWCP. Do not be dishearten at this news as the bill will have many opportunities to be opposed as it moves through Congress and we will continue to attempt to have these items removed. Become an E-Activist and you can receive updates and breaking news Regarding the important legislation be considered in Washington, just ask you're Shop Steward and they will be glad to help you register.

MDA—ANGER Plan for a Bowl-a-thon in the near future has been put on hold for now, watch for further information updates. Thanks for all your support in the fight against Muscular Dystrophy. MDA summer camp visit day will be August 21st, Contact Sandy if you would like to attend and see where and how our donations are used to make these children happier and lead a more productive life.

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. T-shirts are in and will be passed out to the offices this week. Media event will be on Tuesday, May 8th at 10 am at the Mend facility in Pacoima. We are hoping for our biggest Food Drive ever to celebrate the 20th anniversary.

PRESIDENT BROOKIN Gave his report on latest important items which he will cover in his article in the MailCall.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

OLD BUSINESS--NONE

NEW BUSINESS

<u>UNDERLINED</u> = UNANOMOUS VOTE

MOTION—Branch send 2 people, chosen by the President, to attend the Sate Association Political Campaign School on June 22 – 24 in San Bernardino. Cost not to exceed $ 1850.00 <u>M/S/C</u>

MOTION—Branch donate $ 50.00 to the Memorial Mission Fund at Northminster Presbyterian church in the name of AL DANKER <u>M/S/C</u>

MOTION—Branch donate $ 100.00 to the Veterans Burial Squad in Sylmar in the name of JAMES TUKESBREY <u>M/S/C</u>

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

MDA DRAWING

$ 4	CHRISTINA MULLINAX--GUEST
$ 6	CALVIN BROOKINS—MAIN OFFICE
$ 9	DAN RATHBONE--RETIREE--DONATED

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:06 PM