

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

VOLUME 49

JULY 2012

NUMBER 6

Planned Route inspections:

Management has notified the branch of its plans to do six day counts and route inspections in all of our offices in accordance with Section 211, of the M-39 Handbook.

<u>OFFICE INSPECTION</u>	<u>ZONE</u>	<u>WEEK OF</u>
Sherman Oaks	91403	Sept 15, 2012
Sherman Oaks	91423	Sept 22, 2012
Encino	91316	January 26, 2013
Encino	91436	February 2, 2013
Civic Center	91401	March 2, 2013
Main Office	91411	March 9, 2013
Main Office	91405	April 6, 2013
Main Office	91406	April 13, 2013
Sun Valley	91352	April 13, 2013
Tarzana	91456	April 20, 2013

We will plan classes at the Union Hall for members only of each respective station prior to the route count and inspection taking place in your station.

At the Committee of Presidents meeting in Chicago, President Rolando discussed eight (8) specific issues that the NALC has been dealing with at the same time.

Legislation. President Rolando stated that we must go to Congress and urge them to support legislation that would give back overpayments to our pension fund, and reduce or eliminate the mandated 5.5 billion dollar payment to pre-fund future retiree health benefits. The NALC is also trying to get other support in cost saving initiatives, such as revamped health benefits programs that could save billions of dollars a year.

Politics. President Rolando said that he hates the system that requires giving money to members of Congress before they will consider supporting favorable legislation. However, he said that we must have money to play the game, and that is why it is crucial that our members contribute to COLCPE. He also wants our members to become e-Activists so they can informed and be ready at a moments notice to contact their members of Congress to support our issues. He did state how frustrated he is with the current Congress and their inability to get anything on Postal Service related issues.

(Continued on Page 2)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Calvin Brookins

2012 NALC Guide to Route Inspections now available:

The 2012 NALC Guide to Route Inspections was created to assist shop stewards and branch officers in identifying contractual violations that take place during management's unilateral six-day route counts and inspections/adjustments, and with filing successful grievances on those violations. This guide is now available on the City Delivery page of the NALC website at nalc.org.

The sections in this guide take you through the inspection in chronological order and provide an easy reference to various provisions and related national settlements that govern route inspections.

There also is a section with detailed descriptions and advice on how to read the various forms, reports and screens used during the route count and inspection process. Once you learn how to read one of our examples, you will be able to understand every one of the same type of form, report or screen you will ever see.

The NALC Route Protection Pocket Handbook (Updated 2012)

This pocket-sized booklet was created to be used by letter carriers as a quick and convenient reference during the week of route count and inspection. This valuable resource was originally published several years ago. It has been updated for 2012 and is available to NALC members through each NBA office and through the NALC Supply Department. **The handbook is intended for members only and is not available online.**

The branch will order some of these pocket handbooks for all active letter carriers who are member of the branch.

"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	2	3	2	3	2					
ENCINO	3	4	3	3	4	3					
CIVIC CENTER	3	2	3	3	2	2					
PANORAMA CITY	1	1	2	1	1	1					
SHERMAN OAKS	4	4	5	4	5	5					
SUN VALLEY	1	1	1	1	1	1					
TARZANA	2	2	2	2	2	2					
RETIREE'S	4	5	5	5	6	4					
TOTAL	21	21	24	21	24	20					

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

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

JULY
3rd
"2012"

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

July 3, 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 & DeCielis). It will begin at 09:00 AM. The next 2 breakfasts will be on June 23rd & July 28, 2012 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar....We hope to see you there.

Thank
You

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

Media, President Rolando stated that it is very important that we get the correct message out to the public. We all know that customers love their letter carrier. They have consistently voted us the most trusted federal employees. We will be taking advantage of the favorable view through television, radio and newsprint. He further stated that this will allow us to quickly respond to any false reporting.

Interest Arbitration, President Rolando also stated that when our contract expired in November 20, 2011, the parties extended negotiations two months before proceeding to the mandated 60 day mediation. That process was completed without an agreement, and now a neutral arbitrator will be selected. He/she will eventually fashion a contract between the parties. A new contract is not expected before the national convention this summer.

NALC Proposals, President Rolando stated that they have discussed very specific proposals that the NALC will be bringing forward during the arbitration process.

1. We would agree to a lower entry level for new career employees, with the condition that they would eventually reach current benefit and wage levels.
2. There needs to be more protection for current Transitional Employees. They could become a different non career workforce, with an opportunity through attrition to become career and eventually reach current benefit and wage levels.
3. Promote all PTF's and create an all full-time career workforce.
4. Retirees would be an opportunity to re-employed for up to 1000 hours a year for no more than three years.
5. We would agree to new MOU's regarding workroom floor issues. He ended this subject by stating that we will continue to negotiate through-out the arbitration process.

The Union itself, President Rolando expressed that the NALC is prepared to adapt to any situation that comes our way. He said that we are very strong and financially sound. However, at the national convention, we will be discussing proposals to downsize if matters worsen. President Rolando finished up his remarks by saying that we have many battles ahead of us and must stop fighting amongst ourselves, because some of our members have just stopped attending branch meetings. The last comment he made was "I have an extremely low tolerance for infighting at branch meetings".

I hope this information helps each member to be informed.

In Unionism



Vice President's Report

By
Janette Dolabson

Well here are the final totals for this years food drive. Panorama City 3,124 pounds, Sun Valley 6,241, Encino 19,958, Van Nuys 32,192, Tarzana 9,042, Sherman Oaks 18,160 for a grand total of 88,717 pounds of food we collected for MEND food bank in Pacoima.

This food will get them through the Summer months when the need is at it's highest. The food bank received 127,000 pounds from donations this year from Letter Carriers up 27,000 pounds over last year.

Awesome job folks. You all should be proud of the hard work you do for this worthy cause. There are a few more people I want to mention that did not make the last months paper.

In Encino thanks to Larry Dolabson, Dennis Teubner, Paul Jeffrey, retirees Chester Pieloch and Ken Wheelless and Tracy Mullinax's daughter Meghan.

In Sherman Oaks thank you Steve Soto, Donna Villanueva and Jeff Jackson's daughter Meg.

In Sun Valley thank you Jesse Greenfield, Kathy Alvarado and Tia Wilson's husband John Wilson.

Finally in Tarzana thanks to Alex Garcia. You all have gone above and beyond what is expected and we are so grateful for you help.

MEDICARE PART B & NALC HEALTH PLAN

BY
MARILYN YUMAN
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/HBR BRANCH 1000

Months before you reach the age of 65, Medicare will contact you by mail to sign up for Medicare Part B. the choice to sign up for Medicare Part B is totally up to you and it is not mandatory that your sign on. However, if you choose to sign up you will pay the premium cost of the Medicare and the premium cost of the NALC Health Plan. If you choose not to sign up when you turn 65, and decide later the following year to sign up, you will pay a 10 % penalty on the amount offered at age 65.

Agreeing to sign onto Medicare Part B will give you double coverage with the NALC Health Benefit Plan. Medicare becomes your Primary Payor and NALC becomes the Secondary Payor. Medicare pays 80 % of the bill and NALC will pay the other 20 %. I get calls from the membership inquiring into whether they should drop their health plan at age 65 and sign onto Medicare. The choice is yours. Just remember, Medicare only pays 80 % of the medical bill, so you are responsible for the other 20 %. Also, if you choose not to sign up for Medicare Part B, and continue solely with the NALC plan, you are liable for the co-pays along with the yearly

deductibles and medical deductibles or the 15 % of your share of medical treatment.

DOUBLE COVERAGE/NALC & MEDICARE PART B

Double coverage exists when the patient is covered by NALC and by Medicare. As the secondary payor, NALC usually pays what is left after the primary plan pays, in this case Medicare, and up to our regular benefit for each claim. We will not pay more than our allowance.

MEDICARE AS THE PRIMARY PAYOR

When you have Medicare Part A as primary payor, NALC will waive: (1) the co-payment for a hospital admission, (2) the coinsurance for a hospital admission, and (3) the deductible for inpatient care in a treatment facility.

If you have Medicare Part B as primary payor, NALC will waive: (1) the PPO co-payments for office, allergy injections, or outpatient visits, (2) the coinsurance for services billed by physicians, other health care professionals, and facilities, and (3) all calendar year deductibles.

NOTE: NALC will not waive the co-payments for mail order drugs, or the coinsurance for retail prescription drugs.

MEDICARE AND THE NALC PLAN

The NALC Plan is the primary payor when you or your covered spouse is: (1) eligible for Medicare solely based on end stage renal disease and it is within the first 20 months of eligibility, (2) age 65, have Medicare and have FEHB coverage on your own as an active employee, re-employed annuitant, or through your spouse who is an active employee, or (3) eligible for Medicare solely due to disability and have FEHB coverage on you own as an active employee or through your spouse who is an active employee.

If you have questions concerning Medicare and the NALC Health Plan, please call the Branch or the NALC Health Plan.

Just a reminder: **Pre-Certification** is now a requirement for outpatient Radiology/Imaging services including CT/CAT-Computerized Axial tomography, MRI-Magnetic Resonance Imaging. MRA-Magnetic Resonance angiography, NC-Nuclear Cardiac Imaging Studies, and PET-Positron Emission Tomography. Make sure your provider or the facility calls 1-877-220-NALC(6252) before scheduling the procedure. You do not have to pre-certify these radiology procedures if you are admitted to a hospital, the procedure is done as an emergency, or if you have another health insurance that is the primary payor.

ALTERNATIVE TREATMENTS:

Acupuncture treatments are now limited to 15 acupuncture visits per person, per calendar year. You pay after calendar year deductible (PPO) 15 % of the Plan allowance and all charges after the 15 visit limit.

CHIROPRACTIC:

Coverage is limited to the initial set of spinal x-rays and 20 spinal manipulations per calendar year. You pay PPO 15 % of the Plan Allowance.

"THE MAIL CALL" BRANCH 2462, NALC

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Branch Meeting Minutes June 5, 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 6:405 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS ROGER ASKEW

MOMENT OF SILENCE—In Memory of all members who have passed and all Military personnel who have sacrificed their lives.

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, 6 pm.

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

RETIREEES 4 retiree's present tonight. We had 9 in attendance at the Saturday breakfast. Retiree Luncheon will be October 21st at Encino Glen at 1 PM. Watch for further updates.

MBA--ENZ Any Carrier with a problem or question regarding Insurance can contact Bob Enz.

HBR--L. DOLABSON Our Region 1 led in the biggest increase in membership. Anyone having problems with the NALC health plan, contact Larry.

MDA--ASKEW \$ 1993 currently in fund.

POLITICAL ACTION--ASKEW Postal reform bills 1789 was passed in the Senate and will now move to the House for consideration. Nothing new on this bill in the house yet, watch for updates on E-Activist. Become an E-Activist and you can receive updates and breaking news.

MDA--ANGER 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

Nationally was 70.5 Million pounds. I will have a full report in my article in the Mailcall.

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

UNDERLINED = UNANOMOUS VOTE

MOTION--Branch donate \$ 200.00 to the
Saxemeyer Scholarship fund.
M/S/C

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Branch gave Vice President Janette Dolabson a big round of applause for once again coordinating an incredibly successful NALC Food Drive. Good Job Janette !!!!!

MDA DRAWING

\$ 3 JOSE JIMENEZ--SHERMAN OAKS--DONATED
\$ 4 BETTY LOW--MAIN OFFICE--DONATED
\$ 5 JANET McKEIVER--SHERMAN OAKS

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:07 PM



Be Safe and Have a Happy 4th of July

VICE-PRESIDENT J. DOLABSON Food Drive was a major success this year. The Branch collected a total 88,717 pounds of food which was donated to MEND. The total food collected