

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Calvin Brookins

Withheld Positions

The NALC is in the process of getting all withheld positions that has been withheld for a year or more released. Once that happen the Union will be asking that the senior PTF be converted to full-time and assigned that position. At this time we only have one withheld T-6 position in Tarzana. There are several T-6 positions that have been withheld through out the country and the NALC is in the process of getting those positions released and attempting to get the appropriate senior PTF converted to full time and placed into those vacant positions. I will update you at a later time on that progress.

Contract Negotiations

We have now moved closer 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. We now know who that neutral third arbitrator is. His name is Shyam Das. Arbitrator Shyam Das will chair the three person arbitration board that will set the terms of the Collective Bargainin Agreement.

Arbitrator Shyam Das is a member of the American Arbitration Association's labor panel and has been a full-time labor arbitrator since 1977. He has served on national arbitration panels involving postal workers since 1996 and has chaired arbitration proceedings involving United Steelworkers and Major League Baseball Players Association. The arbitration board is now working on a schedule for hearing. Once arbitration is underway, those hearings could last for several months.

Safety

It is important that all letter carriers take this advice seriously, whatever you do not ever get out of your postal vehicle and leave the engine running. Remember if that vehicle starts to move without you in it you have no control over it at t hat point. Again if you get out of your vehicle for any reason you should turn off the engine, even if you are just

doing a vehicle check in the parking lot. You do not want to be that person that causes power rollaway that could injure you or someone else. Please be safe while performing your postal duties.

An appropriations battle on six-day delivery service

By the time you receive this copy of the MailCall, the fight to save Saturday delivery will have taken center stage in the House of Representatives. The House is expected to take up H.R. 6020, the annual Financial Services and General Government appropriation bill. Although the bill does not appropriate any taxpayer money for the Postal Service, its passage is important to the future viability of the USPS since it includes a provision (policy rider) mandating the continuation of six-day delivery service just as it has every year since 1984. NALC has learned that House Government Reform Committee Chairman Darell Issa (R-CA) may seek to strip the provision from the bill next week when the House begins debate on the legislation by raising a parliamentary *point of order* arguing that the six-day mandate violates House rules that bars Congress from legislating on an appropriations bill. Issa sent a letter to the Rules Committee Chairman David Drier in June requesting an "open rule" for the debate on H.R. 6020 so that he can raise the point of order, which Drier granted.

(Continued on Page 2)

IN MEMORY OF

WALTER KOWALICK

RETIREE 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 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.

(Continued from Page 1)

ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
MAIN OFFICE	2	2	3	2	3	2	3				
ENCINO	3	4	3	3	4	3	3				
CIVIC CENTER	3	2	3	3	2	2	3				
PANORAMA CITY	1	1	2	1	1	1	1				
SHERMAN OAKS	4	4	5	4	5	5	5				
SUN VALLEY	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				
TARZANA	2	2	2	2	2	2	2				
RETIREE'S	4	5	5	5	6	4	5				
TOTAL	21	21	24	21	24	20	23				

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

**NEXT MEETING
6:30 PM**

**AUGUST
7th
"2012"**

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

Aug 7, 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 July 28th & August 25, 2012 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar.....We hope to see you there.

Thank
You

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Six-day delivery service has broad bipartisan support in the House, as demonstrated by the 222 co-sponsors of H. Res 137, who call for six-day delivery service to be preserved. Nevertheless, Issa is using the financial crisis caused by the 2006 mandate to pre-fund future retiree health benefits as an excuse to massively downsize the Postal Service. If he is successful in stripping the six-day delivery service provision from H.R. 6020, some 25,000 city letter carrier jobs and 80,000 USPS jobs could be threatened. Such a service cut would do more harm than good as more mailers would abandon the USPS as the value of mail declined.

NALC is mobilizing its grassroots network of legislative activists to resist the Issa attack on six-day delivery service. We will target our efforts to build a solid majority of Congress to support continued six-day delivery service.

A Senate appropriations bill, which serves as a counterpart to H.R. 6020, contains the six-day provision and has been passed by the Senate Appropriations Committee. A vote of the full Senate on this measure is still pending. Once both houses of Congress have acted, a conference committee would need to reconcile differences between the bills. NALC will fight to preserve six-day delivery service in the House and in any future conference committee.

In Unionism



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

We have become aware that the new OIC of Van Nuys has decided that it would be a good idea to set up a rating system for letter carriers based on managements perceived opinion of the carriers performance. The carriers are rated D-1 through D-4 with D-4 being the best and D-1 the worst. The "best" carriers will be left alone and not be questioned on their 3996 requests, while the "worst" performing carriers will be questioned and scrutinized daily.

This is clearly a violation of the contract. I am sure Mr. Martino is aware that you cannot discipline carriers about their performance unless they can identify what the carrier is doing that is a time wasting practice or what deficiencies the carrier has. This is obviously an attempt at intimidating carriers in to working faster or skipping breaks and lunches so they don't get in trouble when they find themselves being over the time management has told them they should need rather than what they actually need based on all data that managers don't take into consideration.

If you find yourself being rated and called into the office and asked why you have not performed properly, you need to ask for a steward because it has just become a fact finding. If the manager states that these questions will not lead to discipline you should still ask for a steward. If you are refused one, file a grievance.

Health care update from NALC web site

"Last week, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected efforts to invalidate President Obama's historic health care law that will extend health insurance coverage to nearly 30 million Americans between now and 2014. Right-wing opponents of the legislation asked the Court to throw out the law enacted in 2010 as an unconstitutional use of power by the national government. By a 5-4 vote, the Court upheld the legislation, preserving reforms that are already benefiting NALC members, including a provision that allows children to stay on their parents' health plan until the age of 26 and a provision that eliminates the so-called 'donut hole' in the Medicare Part D program that saves seniors thousands of dollars on prescription drug costs."

Campaign School

John Burton & Raul Dozal

Stop the Special Exemptions Act

A proposition that will be on this November's ballot would eliminate our union's ability to fight for job, good wages, workplace safety and retirement security. It claims to be about "reform", but it really prohibits union members from having a voice in politics while creating special exemptions that give even MORE power to corporate special interests and CEO's.

Its real agenda is to weaken unions. The anti-union millionaires behind this measure want to pass it now so they have an easier time cutting our jobs, wages and retirement to boost their own profits in the future. This measure is bad for our families, communities and the state's middle class. Vote NO this November.

This measure is the first of a "one-two" punch. The anti-union backers are trying to fool voters into passing this measure now so they can come back with measures later that strip away our priorities like safe working conditions, overtime pay, prevailing wage, pensions and even the right to have a union at all. We can't fight for middle class jobs if we don't have a choice.

MUTUAL BENEFITS UPDATE

By
Bob Enz

Here are some of the latest policies that are being offered by the NALC through the Mutual Benefits Department.

TERM LIFE

10,25,50,100 K amounts

A 10 YEAR RENEWABLE POLICY WHICH CAN BE CONVERTED TO A WHOLE LIFE POLICY OR RENEWED FOR ANOTHER 10 YEARS AT THE AGE RATE IN THEV INFORMATION PAMPHLET.

HOSPITAL PLUS

ADULT PER DAY \$ 30,50, 75,100
WHILE IN THE HOSPITAL
CHILD PER DAY \$18,30,45,60
WHILE IN THE HOSPITAL

THIS POLICY INCLUDES PREGNACY IF IN EFFECT BEFORE THE START OF PREGNACY. MAMOGRAPHY IS ALSO INCLUDED.

\$100 BASELINE	35—39	YEARS OF AGE
MAMMOGRAM	40—49	EVERY 2 YEARS
	50+	ONCE A YEAR

DISABILITY

\$1000 OR \$1500
("NOT OFFERED" but you may already have one in place)

2 WEEK WATING PERIOD BEFORE FILING A CLAIM.
MAKE SURE DATE DISABILITY STARTED IS THE SAME IN ALL THREE SECTIONS. PART A YOURS, PART B DOCTORS , PART C EMPLOYER.
WHILE ON DISABILITY PREMIUMS ARE WAIVER.

If you have any further questions, or need assistance with your current plan, please contact me through the Union office or your Shop Steward

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

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
VAN NUYS, CA
PERMIT No. 314

Address Service Requested

Branch Meeting Minutes
July 3, 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 6:40 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS ROGER ASKEW
MOMENT OF SILENCE—In Memory of WALTER KOWALICK RETIRED MEMBER of our Branch, 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

MOTION TO PAY M/S/C

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TRUSTEES

Audit will be held on July 12th, 6 pm.

SAFETY & HEALTH

Safety team's are checking for locked Vehicles in the Post Office parking lots. Management has begun new program of putting Carrier's out without pay for powered roll-a-ways. This could also be applied to anyone found not seated in their vehicle when the engine is running, for any reason. Remember you are not in the driver's seat, your vehicle is **NOT TO BE RUNNING**. Make sure you continue to always work & drive in a safe manner.

RETIREEES

5 retiree's present tonight. We had a good group in attendance at the Saturday breakfast. Retiree Luncheon will be October 28th (Note the new date) 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. Watch for my articles in the MailCall

HBR--L. DOLABSON

Discussed the recent Medi-Care article in the MailCall by Branch 1100. Anyone having problems with the NALC health plan, contact Larry.

MDA--ASKEW

\$ 2026 currently in fund.

POLITICAL ACTION--ASKEW

HR 2309 (Issa Bill) will be coming forward for consideration in the next 2 or 3 weeks. It is of utmost importance that you contact your Representative and ask them to Vote **NO** on this bill. If passed it would end the Postal Service as we know it and would eliminate over 100,000 jobs, including all T-6 positions, since it would

mandate that service be cut to 5 Days a week. Become an E-Activist and you can receive updates and breaking news.

MDA--ANGER

MDA summer camp visit day will be August 22nd, 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.

SPECIAL REPORT--BURTON & DOZAL Both members discussed and shared experiences from the latest Political Campaign school they attended. Full report will be in August MailCall.

FINANCIAL/TREASURERS REPORT--JOHNSON

MOTION--Accept Financial reports as read M/S/C
VICE-PRESIDENT J. DOLABSON HR 6020 will be considered soon at which time there will be a concerted effort to eliminate the 6 day delivery provision, which is included in this bill. Call your Representative and tell them to vote no on this bill. New performance program being rolled out by Van Nuys Management. Don't be fooled, it has nothing to do with performance and everything to do with discipline. If you are taken off the floor and asked any questions regarding the work times you are using, **IMMEDIATELY ASK FOR A SHOP STEWARD.**

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

**MOTION--Branch sponsor 2 children to the MDA Summer Camp. Cost \$ 1600.00, \$800.00 to come from the MDA Fund and \$800.00 from the **

General

Fund

M/S/C

UNDERLINED = UNANOMOUS VOTE

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

THE BRANCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM SUNDAY JULY 22ND THROUGH SUNDAY JULY 29TH DUE TO THE NALC NATIONAL CONVENTION IN MINNEAPOLIS, MN. IF YOU NEED HELP CONTACT YOUR SHOP STEWARD OR YOU MAY STILL CALL THE UNION OFFICE AND LEAVE A MESSAGE AND YOUR CALL WILL BE RETURNED PROMPTLY

MDA DRAWING

\$ 3 BETTY LOW--MAIN OFFICE--DONATED
\$ 4 CALVIN BROOKINS--MAIN OFFICE
\$ 7 JOHN BURTON--MAIN OFFICE

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:02 PM