

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

### **By Calvin Brookins**

#### **Contract Negotiations/Interest Arbitration update:**

The interest arbitration board that will set the terms of a new National Agreement between NALC and USPS, chaired by Shyam Das, convened by telephone in executive session on Thursday. The session was held after hearings dates scheduled for Monday, Oct. 29, and Wednesday Oct. 31, had to be rescheduled due to the impact of Hurricane Sandy. A progress report on the proceeding will be forthcoming.

#### **Postal Employees' Relief Fund**

The Postal Employees' Relief Fund (PERF) is ready to help as many postal families as necessary who are victims of Hurricane Sandy's wrath. PERF is not an emergency relief agency such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Red Cross and Salvation Army, who are set up for immediate needs. Instead, PERF provides grants to help in the long-term restoration of homes, property and vehicles damaged by natural disasters or home fires. We need your help and ask you to join us in this mission. Please send a check or money order directly to: Postal Employees' Relief Fund P.O. Box 7630 Woodbridge VA 22195-7630. If you prefer to make a credit card contribution, go to [postalrelief.com](http://postalrelief.com) and click on "Donate to PERF." Or contribute to PERF through the upcoming **Combined Federal Campaign. Designate CFC#10268**. Any donation made to PERF, a non-profit 501-C (3) organization, is eligible for a charitable tax deduction.

#### **The NALC and USPS have entered into an MOU re: the hiring of Transitional Employees and Part-time Flexible Conversions.**

The agreement states the following:

The Postal Service will fill the approximately 1,265 residual vacant Carrier Technician (CC-02) positions provided such positions still exist and remain vacant. Positions will be filled through either a) assignment of unassigned full-time regular or full-time flexible city letter carriers in the installation pursuant to Article 41.1.A.7 of the National Agreement; or b) conversion and assignment of part-time flexible city letter carriers in the installation. In the event there is an insufficient number of unassigned regular, full-time flexible, or part-time

flexible city letter carriers to fill the positions, and there are no qualified transfer requests to the installation, transitional employees may be assigned to fill the positions until career employees become available.

The Postal Service agrees to fill 1,400 residual vacant full-time City Letter Carrier (CC-01) positions by conversion and assignment of part-time flexible city letter carriers within their installation.

These vacant CC-1 and CC-2 positions have to be positions that are not withheld for Article 12. The National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) agrees that the Postal Service may employ up to 3,400 transitional employees in addition to those authorized under Article 7.1 of the National Agreement and the Memorandum of Understanding, Re: *Transitional Employees (Flat Sequencing System)*. Management will determine when and where to employ these additional transitional employees and will share that information with NALC consistent with paragraph 6 below. Transitional employees hired under this Memorandum will be so designated by assignment of a unique occupational code. All transitional employee provisions will apply to transitional employees hired under this agreement, including the requirement that the Postal Service provide the NALC with a report every other pay period that indicates the number of transitional employees on the rolls.

For every transitional employee hired pursuant to paragraph 3 above, the Postal Service will convert a part-time flexible city letter carrier to full-time regular status within their installation. These conversions (a maximum of 3,400) are in addition to those required by paragraphs 1 and 2 above. While the Postal Service will determine where these additional conversions will be made, residual vacant full-time city letter carrier (CC-01) positions that remain after conversions pursuant to paragraph 2 above, will be filled as part of the conversions under this paragraph, provided there is a part-time flexible city carrier available in the installation. The Postal Service will share information regarding conversions with the NALC consistent with paragraph 6 below.

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**IN MEMORY OF  
DOROTHY KOHLER  
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.

## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By  
**JANETTE DOLABSON**

Well another election has come and gone. It seems we have dodge a bullet for now. Unfortunately we did not take back the majority in Congress so it will be difficult to get Legislation passed. We did, however, pick up a few seats in the Senate. It is also wonderful that Proposition 32 failed and unions will continue to be able to donate funds to political candidates through parole deductions. Thanks to all who voted, no matter which way you decided to go, it is important that you did.

Our annual Christmas Party will be December 14th, 2012 at the Knights of Columbus in Van Nuys. The doors will be open at 5:30 and we will eat around 6:30. The food will be catered by Stonefire Grill. It's a great time to get together and have a meal and fellowship together. This party is for you and your families, so don't hesitate to bring your kids because Mr. and Mrs. Claus will be making an appearance and they will be giving out some prizes to all the kids in attendance.

I would like to take a moment to thank the executive board for bestowing upon me the branch's Ray Kreyer award. It is a great honor and I do appreciate it. I could not do anything well without the help and support of the members on the board. So to all of you, Calvin, Steve, Bob J., Bob E, Larry, Tracy, Tia, Jeff and Roger I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

## 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	8	4	3	3
ENCINO	3	4	3	3	4	3	3	8	3	3	3
CIVIC CENTER	3	2	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	3
PANORAMA CITY	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
SHERMAN OAKS	4	4	5	4	5	5	5	9	5	5	6
SUN VALLEY	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
TARZANA	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	5	2	1	2
RETIREE'S	4	5	5	5	6	4	5	3	4	4	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>25</b>

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

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

**JANUARY  
8th  
"2013"**

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

**Jan 8, 2013**

**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). Will be cancelled for the months of November and December due to the holidays. Our next breakfast will be on Sat January 26, 2013

Thank  
You  
**Frank Brash**

## H B R REPORT

By  
**LARRY DOLABSON**

This years Open Season to sign up for the joining the NALC Health Benefit Plan will begin Nov. 12th and end Dec. 10th. This year the cost of the plan went down in cost. For self and family the cost is \$103.26 bi-weekly, for self only it is \$52.95 bi-weekly for active members. For annuitants the prices will be \$161.78 for self and \$327.60 for self and family. Our TE rates are as follows : self \$264.99, and self and family \$575.43.

This is your union health plan. It is a PPO plan not an HMO. It is the highest rated PPO offered by the Federal Government. There is 2 ways you can join the plan or change to the plan from an existing plan. First you can access your health benefit options on the USPS lite blue website at [www.liteblue.usps.gov](http://www.liteblue.usps.gov), or you can call Postal Ease at (877) 477-3273 and request option #1.



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

Reemploying a transitional employee after a break in service or hiring a transitional employee to replace a transitional employee does not require an additional conversion of a part-time flexible city letter carrier to full-time status.

Conversions to full-time regular and filling residual vacancies pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 2 above will be made as soon as practicable and will be completed within 90 days of this agreement. Conversions to full-time regular pursuant to paragraph 4 will be completed within two pay periods of the transitional employees hire date.

**A national level case on management reverting vacant full-time letter carrier assignments without current route inspection data has also been resolved.**

The NALC and the USPS have reached an agreement on an interpretive dispute regarding whether a vacant full-time letter carrier assignment may be reverted without current route inspection data. In the past, management would sometimes revert a route when it became vacant without current route inspection data.

The parties have agreed that the determination of whether an established route is full-time will be made using one of the following procedures.

A six day mail count and inspection in accordance with the provisions of Handbook M-39.

A route adjustment pursuant to Section 141 of Handbook M-39 (providing the data used is reasonably current and from the regular carrier assigned to the route). (The Minor Route Adjustment Process)

Evaluation through a national jointly agreed upon route evaluation process.

Evaluation through an authorized locally developed joint route evaluation process.

**National Business Agent, Chris Jackson and Regional Administrative Assistant, James Henry met with Pacific Area's Area Labor Relations Manager, Jay Roberts on November 02, 2012 concerning the conversion of PTF's and withheld assignments and have a consensus on the following:**

Any job that is posted for bid and there are no successful bidders and the vacancy becomes a residual vacancy the following will occur:

1. The Senior excessed employee from the unit will be placed in that residual vacancy in accordance with Article 12
2. The assignment will be filled with any unassigned regular in accordance with Article 41.1.A.6 (7)
3. The Senior PTF will be converted in accordance with EL 312 Section 722

The NBA's office will be following up with more details soon on this agreement.

Please note: The only assignments under the agreement between the Pacific Area and the NBA's office are any residual vacancies that occur AFTER November 2, 2012. Any vacancies that occurred prior to November 2, 2012 are not subject to this agreement.

## Hurricane Sandy and the Letter Carrier

News media coverage of Hurricane Sandy's assault on the East Coast often included a mention or two about who was still out doing their jobs despite the storm including, in many cases, letter carriers.

The following is a report from the U. S. News and World Report as reported on October 31, 2012.

With the rain pelting brutally and the winds bending the trees, I went downstairs to my building's lobby hours after Sandy had begun attacking Washington, D.C. And there was my U.S. Postal Service carrier, delivering my mail with his usual smile and courteous manner.

This was impressive, and a tribute to the neither-rain-nor-sleet motto the postal service seeks to uphold. But it's also a reminder of a bigger issue, one that has become an underlying theme in both the presidential and down-ticket elections, and that is the critical role of government in sustaining—even saving—our lives.

There are some things that only government can do, irrespective of the goodwill of private citizens or even the private sector.

Federal guidance, and federal workers, have been essential to managing this weather disaster as best as could be done. They should be thanked—not demonized as pawns of Big Government.

The federal government was shut down. Stock trading came to a halt. Most businesses up and down the East Coast were closed and people hunkered at home, hoping for the best, when lo and behold—the mail arrived.

Yes, even as Hurricane Sandy came crashing down on the Mid-Atlantic region, the U.S. Postal Service managed to deliver to some residents of Washington, Maryland, and Virginia. In an e-mail, USPS spokesman George Maffett says that letter carriers in a delivery area stretching from Atlanta to Baltimore hit all but 97,500 of the 7.7 million addresses they'd visit on a normal day. Only Ocean City, Md., whose residents were evacuated, didn't get mail. Service stopped in some parts of New York City, too.

Maffett explains that USPS opened emergency operations centers to watch the weather and direct postal workers as they were out making deliveries.

## In Unionism

# "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 November 6, 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 6:37 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS ROGER ASKEW

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**—In Memory of **DOROTHY KOHLER RETIREE, BRANCH 2462**

#### 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 Jan 17, 2013, Budget will be held on Jan 3, 2013, both will begin at 6:30 pm at the Union Office.

**SAFETY & HEALTH** No Report

**RETIREEES** 5 retiree's present tonight. Note that there will be no 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday Breakfast until Jan 26, 2013 due to the holidays.

**MBA--ENZ** We only endorse NALC run insurance plans through the MBA office.

**HBR--L. DOLABSON** Open Season for signing up for or changing health plans will be from November 12 – December 10, 2012. Watch for report in MailCall

**MDA--ASKEW** \$ 1298 currently in fund.

**LEGISLATION--ASKEW** Hope that all voted

**MDA** MDA Bowl-a-Thon at Matador Bowl was not as well attended this year, however we did raise \$570.00. Thanks to all who participated. We are planning another Bowl-a-thon for January 19<sup>th</sup>, watch for further info.

#### FINANCIAL/TREASURERS REPORT—JOHNSON

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

**VICE-PRESIDENT J. DOLABSON** Many thanks to the Branch for giving me the RAY KREYER AWARD.

**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 \$ 50.00 to the Labor Council's Turkeys & Toys campaign. M/S/C

**MOTION**—Branch donate \$ 50.00 to the

Salvation Army for Thanksgiving M/S/C

**MOTION**—Branch donate \$ 50.00 to the Salvation Army for Christmas M/S/C

**MOTION**—Branch cancel the December Regular Meeting M/S/C

**MOTION**—Branch change the January Regular Meeting to Tuesday, January 8, 2013 M/S/C

**MOTION**—Branch empower the Executive Board to conduct any and all business of the Branch from November 6, 2012 through January 8, 2013 M/S/C

#### GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

##### MDA DRAWING

\$ 3 RICHARD MORENO—SHERMAN OAKS--DONATED

\$ 7 JACK WINKLE—SHERMAN OAKS

\$ 8 BETTY LOW—MAIN OFFICE—DONATED \$ 5.00

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:08 PM

## --SPECIAL NOTICE-- NO BRANCH MEETING IN DECEMBER

**BRANCH 2462 HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE  
FRIDAY EVENING  
DECEMBER 14, 2012**

AT

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL  
(CORNER OF VALERIO & VAN NUYS)**

**DOORS OPEN 5:00 PM - DINNER 6:30 PM**

**ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILY  
ARE INVITED TO ATTEND**

**FREE FOOD - FREE DRINK - FREE FUN  
DOOR PRIZES FOR MEMBERS**

**FOOD WILL BE CATERED BY  
STONEFIRE GRILL**

**SANTA WILL BE THERE !!**