

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Calvin Brookins

Contract Negotiations/Interest Arbitration update

As of December 24, 2012, the NALC and USPS were continuing to submit testimony and exhibits to the interest arbitration board that will set the terms of a new National Agreement between NALC and USPS.

In recent weeks, the NALC has submitted evidence and testimony from a variety of experts' witnesses, including a financial analysis of the Postal Service from the Lazard investment bank, a detailed presentation on health care costs and benefits from our consultants at Towers Watson and Lake Consulting, scholarly papers by academic witnesses to make the case for letter carriers on comparability and against the Postal Service on subcontracting.

President Fredric V. Rolando's concluding testimony to the three-member interest arbitration board that will set the terms of a new National Agreement between the NALC and the U.S. Postal Service. Rolando's testimony in particular discusses the unique contributions the NALC and its members make to the Postal Service. The presentation explains that NALC's proposals for the 2012 National Agreement are intended to reconcile the Postal Service's evident need to adapt to changing financial and business conditions and the union's goals to protect the job security of its members and maintain the wage and benefit standards it has achieved over four decades of collective bargaining.

Special emphasis is given NALC's determination to preserve the contractual ban on sub-contracting and our drive to create a career path for non-career, transitional employees. The union anticipates that arbitration board chairman Shyam Das will announce the board's binding award decision soon.

FYI

You might have seen or heard media reports about a Washington think-tank's proposal to study the effects of a possible privatization of parts of the U.S. Postal Service. While it's true that one of the proposal's authors, George Gould, was formerly the NALC's political director, it's important to note that Gould retired from that position in 2006. He no longer represents the NALC and his views expressed in that report are his own.

As members of Congress pledged to revive legislation to save the financially ailing [U.S. Postal Service](#), a Washington think tank announced it will conduct an independent study of how the quasi-government agency could cede much of its operation to private companies.

The review by the nonprofit [National Academy of Public Administration](#) will analyze the benefits of restoring the agency's financial health by using a "hybrid" model, which would farm out to the private sector postal operations other than the last delivery mile. A letter carrier would still drive or walk that last part, dropping letters and packages in mailboxes.

"Just as private companies innovate and share supply chains in high-tech, automobile, and other industries today, the market will drive efficiencies in the postal network," a group of privatization advocates wrote in a short paper previewing the deeper review.

The study is likely to bring more attention to a public-private model as a viable and controversial substitute for the Postal Service's existing structure, which relies on a unionized workforce of more than 650,000 employees to sort, package, transport and deliver the mail. With first-class mail volume plummeting as Americans conduct more business and communications through the Internet, the Postal Service lost \$16 billion in fiscal 2012.

The idea of taking postal operations private is popular in conservative circles but will be a non-starter in others. It is staunchly opposed by congressional Democrats and postal unions, which stand to lose tens of thousands of members. The Postal Service declined to comment on the study.

(Continued on Page 5)

IN MEMORY OF

CHARLES SHELDON

RETIREE BRANCH 2462

&

ELSIE WALLACE

"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

I would like to thank those who helped make our Christmas party such a great success. Steve, I can't imagine doing this without your help and support. Thanks to John Burton, Bob Enz and Larry Dolabson for coming early and helping us set up. Thank you to our serving volunteers, Paul Jeffries, Marta Mihich, Jeff Jackson, Bob Enz, John Burton, and anyone I might have missed, you all did a wonderful job. Thanks Calvin Brookins and Bob Johnson for dealing with the raffles and the tickets. Thanks, especially to Santa and Mrs. Claus for making an appearance and making all the kids so very happy.

As you know, route inspections are coming soon to some of our offices. Please remember that you need to be doing street functions on street time and office functions on office time. Don't handle coverage's on office time. Don't get your DPS on office time. Make sure you scan properly during the week of inspection. Scan leave for your route after you have loaded your truck and are ready to actually leave for your route. Write up your accountables on street time. If you have a business route and write them up in the office you need to make sure that you get the proper office credit for that time. Don't clock back into the office at the end of the day until you have taken care of your outgoing mail and put away your equipment.

We will be having route inspection classes. I highly suggest that you attend them.

ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

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

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

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

FEBRUARY
5th
"2013"

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

Feb 5, 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 & DeCielis). It will begin at 09:00 AM. The next 2 breakfasts will be on Jan 26th & Feb 23, 2013 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar....We hope to see you there.

Thank
You
Frank Brash



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 !**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

The House and Senate debated reforms over much of the last Congress, and a bill passed in the Senate in the spring. But lawmakers could not reach consensus on ending Saturday delivery and other service cuts, how much taxpayers should contribute to retirement benefits for postal employees and whether to tinker with their labor contracts, among other issues.

"Although the 112th Congress did not come to a consensus around a package of reforms that can update the Postal Service's network and business model to reflect the reality that it faces today, we remain committed to working with our colleagues in both the House and the Senate to reform [the agency] so it can survive and thrive in the 21st century," Sen. Thomas R. Carper (D-Del.) and Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.) said in a statement Thursday.

The lawmakers, respective chairmen of the Senate and House committees that oversee the agency, acknowledges that legislation in the Senate and House was far apart. But they described "significant progress in narrowing our differences in recent months."

But advocates of the hybrid model say Congress would only be propping up a failing system. While "the trusted letter carrier would remain the public face of the U.S. Postal Service," the advocates wrote in their call for the review, private companies "can fulfill others' tasks in the postal network and do so at a lower cost and with greater efficiency and innovation and without political and regulatory interference."

The study is being underwritten by Pitney Bowes, a Connecticut company that makes postage meters, shipping software and other equipment for business mailers.

The passing of an NALC Icon & the History of the Man

NALC President Emeritus Vincent R. Sombrotto, 1923-2013

Vincent R. Sombrotto, 89, a towering figure in the history of the National Association of Letter Carriers and one of the most significant U.S. labor leaders of recent decades, died Jan. 10.

As a rank-and-file letter carrier at Grand Central Station in New York City, Sombrotto assumed leadership of the pivotal 1970 wildcat postal strike that led directly to the creation of the modern United States Postal Service. The following year, he was elected president of NALC Branch 36 in New York City. Seven years later, he was elected as NALC's 16th national president, a position he would hold from 1978 to 2002.

His seven-term tenure atop the union was marked by extraordinary changes in the letter carrier craft and by remarkable progress for letter carriers. He also served as a vice president of the AFL-CIO. "Vince's long tenure and tireless work for this union, at both the local and national levels, has left a lasting, positive impact on all the men and women who have carried the mail since the Great Postal Strike, and on those who will do so in the decades yet to come," NALC President Fredric V. Rolando said.

"The deep sadness we all feel at his passing mixes with the fond and happy memories of him that those of us he touched will carry with us for the rest of our lives," Rolando said. Sombrotto was born in New York City on June 15, 1923. He joined what was then the Post Office Department in 1947 as a part-time letter carrier after serving with distinction in the U.S. Navy in World War II.

In 1970, New York City letter carriers walked off their federal job risking arrest in what was effectively a strike against the U.S. government to protest dismal working conditions and poverty-level wages that entitled some to federal assistance programs. Within hours, carriers and other postal employees in one city after another across the country joined the strike. President Richard Nixon called in the troops to deliver the mail, but they proved unable to carry out the task in an effective manner. The walkout eventually resulted in the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 with full collective-bargaining rights for all postal employees.

Though he held no union office at the time, Sombrotto's personal charisma, street smarts and military background led to his taking charge and to other carriers following his lead. His seven-term tenure atop the national union was marked by extraordinary changes in the letter carrier craft and by remarkable progress for letter carriers. As national president and chief contract negotiator, Sombrotto led the NALC in seven highly productive rounds of collective bargaining that provided basic wage increases in every contract, preserved uncapped cost-of-living adjustments and improved letter carrier working conditions. His efforts made the carrier's job a more rewarding and satisfying one, and they made the NALC a stronger, more united union, well-equipped to meet the challenges it faced.

Sombrotto's many achievements as NALC president included turning the union's political action fund, the Committee on Letter Carrier Political Education (COLCPE), into one of the largest and most effective political action committees in the labor movement while dramatically improving the union's political and legislative operations. Under his leadership in 1993, the NALC played a critical role in winning reform of the Hatch Act, breaking the political shackles that made letter carriers and other federal employees' second-class citizens for more than 50 years.

A firm believer in civic responsibility, Sombrotto tirelessly promoted the letter carrier tradition of assisting those in need. His active support of the Muscular Dystrophy Association helped raise tens of millions of dollars to fight the ravages of neuromuscular diseases. In 1992, he began the NALC Food Drive, which has developed into the country's largest one-day food drive. Held the second Saturday every May, it has to date provided more than 1.2 billion pounds of food for food banks in communities throughout the nation, with letter carriers collecting non-perishable food postal patrons leave near their mailboxes.

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"THE MAIL CALL"

BRANCH 2462, NALC

Steve Seyfried, Editor
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Van Nuys, CA 91406

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Branch Meeting Minutes January 8, 2013

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 6:42 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS ROGER ASKEW

MOMENT OF SILENCE—In Memory of Retirees

CHARLES SHELDON & Widow ELSIE WALLACE

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

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

ABSENT--JACKSON

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAIL CALL

CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP--NONE

BILLS READ--NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TRUSTEES Audit will be held on January 17th. It will begin at 6:30 at the Union office. Budget was done and will appear in Feb Mailcall.

SAFETY & HEALTH Meeting was held.

RETIREEES--BRASH 6 attending tonight.

Breakfasts will begin again, next one is Sat January 26, 2013

MBA--ENZ No Report

HBR--L. DOLABSON No Report

MDA \$ 1621 currently in the fund, including \$ 300.00 collected at Christmas party.

LEGISLATION REPORT--ASKEW Congressman Sherman was reelected in our district. Democrat's gained 14 seats in Congress.

MDA--ANGER Planning new events for the year, watch for updates.

FINANCIAL/TREASURERS REPORT READ by JOHNSON

MOTION--Accept report as read
 M/S/C

VICE PRESIDENT DOLABSON Christmas party was an huge success, with over 175 members and family attending. The food was excellent and we hope that all had fun.

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION--Branch renew the LA County Federation of Labor membership for 101 members

Cost to the Branch \$666.60
 M/S/C

MOTION--Branch renew the bulk mailing permit for

1 year. Cost to the Branch \$ 190.00
 M/S/C

OLD BUSINESS

The following items were acted upon by the Executive Board during the time since the last meeting.

1. Board renewed the Postal Record subscription for 1 year. Cost to the Branch \$ 20.00.
2. Board donated \$ 50.00 to the American Cancer Society.
3. Board donated \$ 50.00 to Mend for Christmas.
4. Board donated \$ 50.00 to the San Diego Humane Society, in the name of Don Seyfried.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

Branch presented KEVIN DONOHUE with a 25 year pin to mark his NALC membership.

MDA DRAWING

- \$ 4 CALVIN BROOKINS--MAIN OFFICE
- \$ 5 JOSE JIMENEZ--SHERMAN OAKS
- \$ 10 JOSE JIMENEZ--SHERMAN OAKS

MEETING ADJOURN 8:00 PM

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 5)

Knowing that carriers are both familiar with and dedicated to the communities they serve, Sombrotto and the NALC joined forces with the U.S. Postal Service, local United Ways and emergency services organizations to establish Carrier Alert, a nationwide program where carriers can watch over elderly or house bound postal customers. A great many of these letter carriers perform heroic and humanitarian deeds on their routes, saving lives, putting out fires, finding missing children and stopping crimes, something that Sombrotto and every NALC president since have recognized annually with the NALC Heroes of the Year Awards.

Sombrotto retired from national office in 2002. Since then, he had remained engaged in the service of his beloved union, taking part in many national conventions [as well as in a special video commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Great Postal Strike](#). His last appearance at a national NALC gathering was at the National Rap Session in Las Vegas in October of 2011.

Sombrotto, who passed away after a long illness, is survived by his wife Rae, by seven grown children and by numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In Unionism