

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Calvin Brookins

Postal employees recovering from Midwest storms:

First of all let me say that my prayers go out to the folks in Oklahoma especially the letter carriers and other postal workers who found themselves the victims of several deadly tornados in the recent weeks.

It's always a tragedy when storms like these hit and we should always be prepared to help in any way we can. We passed a motion at the last branch meeting to donate \$300.00 to help our fellow union brothers and sisters in Oklahoma. You can also make your own personal donation as well by sending it to the following address.

Oklahoma City Branch 458 has created a relief fund for the immediate help of NALC members affected by the Moore tornado. You can send donations to: **Branch 458 Relief Fund, Branch 458, 221 S. Eagle Lane, Oklahoma City, OK 73128.** *Contributions or gifts to the Branch 458 Relief Fund are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.*

On May 29, 2013, the NALC resolves four more national disputes

The first case involved hiring transitional employees (TEs) for a period less than 360 days. The parties agreed that the TE classification was phased out on April 10, 2013, for a new employee classification, City Carrier Assistants (CCAs). In accordance with Article 7.1.C.3 of the 2011-2016 National Agreement, CCAs are hired for terms of 360 calendar days. (Please see M-01813)

The next dispute concerned the suspension of posting and bidding during data migration from the Complement Management System to the Human Capital Enterprise System. The parties agreed that the subject suspension of bidding did not modify or alter the posting and bidding provisions of Article 41.1 of the National Agreement. The parties further agreed that any case held pending resolution of this national case shall be processed pursuant to the provisions of the National Agreement. (Please see M-01815)

The third issue dealt with the electronic PS Form 1769/301. The postal service created an electronic form that combined information from the PS Form 1769 and OSHA Form 301. The electronic form required supervisors to obtain information shielded by the Privacy Act. The postal service agreed to modify the system through a Service Change Request; which no longer solicits information the union believed violated the Privacy Act. (Please see M-01816)

The last case involved changes to questions used in the automated Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system. The NALC had issues that when an employee called the Employee Service Line to request unscheduled leave, the IVR system required limited responses (yes or no) that an employee could not always answer. The parties agreed to resolve the issue, when an employee calls the IVR system for unscheduled leave and is unable to successfully negotiate the prompts, the IVR system will direct the employee to contact his or her supervisor. (Please see M-01818)

On May 24, 2013, Two national-level disputes involving FMLA settled

The NALC and the USPS have agreed on two national-level settlements regarding FMLA and the use of NALC FMLA forms. The Postal Service proposed changes to the Employee and Labor Relations Manual which required employees to use Department of Labor forms to certify FMLA protection. The NALC took the position that there was no requirement under the FMLA to use Department of Labor forms and initiated two disputes. The first dispute was over the proposed ELM changes and the second was the over the Postal Service's refusal to allow employees to use NALC FMLA forms.

In our first dispute over the proposed changes of the ELM, the Postal Service agreed to change the language in section 515 of the ELM ([M-01812](#)) to allow employees to use another format other than Department of Labor forms to certify FMLA protection. The change in section 515 of the ELM resolves the NALC's second issue and employees may now use the NALC FMLA forms for FMLA protection. ([M-01817](#))

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"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	3	3	2	8	5					
ENCINO	2	2	3	1	3	3					
CIVIC CENTER	3	1	3	2	--	--					
PANORAMA CITY	1	2	1	2	2	1					
SHERMAN OAKS	3	4	5	5	5	5					
SUN VALLEY	1	1	1	1	1	0					
TARZANA	2	2	2	1	2	2					
RETIREE'S	6	3	6	5	6	6					
TOTAL	20	18	24	19	27	22					

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

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

JULY
2nd
"2013"

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

July 2, 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 July 27th & August 24, 2013 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar.....We hope to see you there.

Thank You
Frank Brash

Vice Presidents Report

Janette Dolabson

Happy Summer!

As the weather gets hot, so does our stress and tempers. Keep things cool out there. Be safe, stay hydrated. Heat exhaustion is caused by hot and humid weather, excessive perspiration and dehydration, among other causes. Heat stroke is a real and deadly condition that is common during the summer months, particularly when people are engaged in outdoor activities. As letter carriers you are required to work and be active outside when most sane people are keeping cool inside. Dehydration is due to inadequate fluid intake to compensate for heat loss in the body, including sweating. The body struggles when there is humidity, but by the time a person feels thirsty, they are already dehydrated. Therefore it is important to frequently drink water on warm days and drink more if there is exercise involved. 2-4 cups of water per hour is a good aim.

Caffeine in coffee and other beverages, and alcohol increases the rate at which water is lost from the body, and should be avoided. Midday, when heat is at its peak should be avoided, particularly when participating in sport, and sports drinks assist the body with retaining electrolytes.

Heat stroke begins with muscle cramping and weakness, followed by heat exhaustion which usually start with a slight fever and confusion, nausea and anxiety. The final stage of heat stroke involves a high temperature, sweating stops, delirium and coma can pursue. I know the is a health issue but this time of year it is important to remember to remain cool.

National Food Drive results are not in yet at the time this is going to print. I will let you know those next month. There has been some grumbling from some folks about how we award the offices that collect the most food. So next year we will be starting a different contest that will have each office competing against themselves and not other offices. Hopefully, that will make everyone happy.

Thanks again for all you have done over the last 21 years we have been doing the food drive. We cannot do it without the hard work and dedication of all you wonderful letter carriers.

Love you people!



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

JUST SAY NO

NALC President Fredric Rolando responded to Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe's April 16 request to reopen the 2011-2016 contract that was issued by the Das arbitration panel earlier this year. And he just said NO.

In a letter dated May 8, President Fred Rolando rejected the postmaster general's request, calling it a political stunt, and President Rolando urged the Postal Service to engage with NALC by using the many tools to reduce costs provided by the new contract.

President Roland stated, "While we see no purpose in reopening a contract that already provides multiple channels for future cost savings, we believe that a comprehensive restructuring of the Postal Service is necessary and that we should work together to agree on a common legislative agenda to achieve it".

Such a restructuring would allow the USPS to fully utilize its networks and pursue every opportunity to achieve long-term viability. Rather than pushing Congress to approve his plan to dismantle our last-mile delivery network, Donahoe should work with us to reform all aspects of the Postal Service, including its management, corporate governance, and [its] legal and regulatory environment, and to address the key issues of pricing and products as well the financing of pensions and retiree health benefits.

The letter concluded: "It's time to get to work with the tools provided by the Das Award. At the same time, we can and should work with Congress and other stakeholders to create a new business model for the Postal Service that will help us thrive in the 21st century."

See you at the next union meeting on Tuesday July 2, 2013 @ 6:30 pm.

PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGE

The following By-law was submitted at the June Regular Branch meeting. It will be voted on at the Regular Branch meeting on August 6, 2013.

Proposed to Amend Article IX, Section 2. which now reads:

Section 2. The dues for members, who have retired from active service, shall be One dollar and Fifty cents (\$1.50) per member, per month.

Proposed to Read:

Section 2. The dues for members, who have retired from active service, shall be Three dollars (\$3.00) per member, per month.

Submitted by members in good standing:

ROGER ASKEW
ROBERT ENZ
KEVIN DONOHUE

ROBERT JOHNSON
FRANK BRASH
ART BOCEK

To: All Members of Branch 2462

At the June branch meeting a proposed amendment to the By-Laws was read that would increase the dues for all of our retired members. Please keep in mind this proposed increase would not affect the active members of our branch but only our retired members. At the present time the retired members pay \$1.50 per month for their dues. The total yearly amount is \$18.00 per year. To the best of my knowledge the retired members have not had a dues increase in twenty plus years. There are approximately 110 retired members in our branch that pay \$18.00 per year. The total amount received from the retirees is \$1980.00 per year. At the present time the branch is spending approximately \$3000.00 per year on our retirees. The annual retiree dinner is budgeted for \$1800.00. The branch also pays for the monthly breakfast for our retired members. The cost for this breakfast is in the neighborhood of \$120.00 per month. The breakfast occurs 11 months of the year for an approximate amount of \$ 1320.00. The retirees are taking \$ 3000.00 out of the branch treasury and only putting in \$1980.00. This is not fair.

As a retiree I believe we have done our share over the years but the present structure needs to be adjusted. I have been retired for over 10 years and have received yearly cost of living adjustments on my Civil Service Pension. There was a three year period that I received no cost of living adjustments but the other seven years I have received one. I believe this is a small adjustment to the dues structure for retirees and this should be passed.

Our branch dues structure works this way. Our active members' dues increase as they receive either a contractual pay increase or receive a cost of living adjustment. The retiree's dues structure is a flat amount and the time is right for this small minor adjustment to be made. If passed the retirees will be placing approximately \$4000.00 into the treasury of the branch. This will allow the branch to continue with the annual retirees' dinner and the monthly breakfast without being a burden on the active members. I would hope you would support this change as I will be doing. As I write this I have been retired for over 10 years. Life is wonderful and I hope you all reach this stage of your life and can enjoy the fruits of your labors. Be safe.

Roger Askew

ATTENTION RETIREE'S !!!

You may be familiar with the saying "There is no such thing as a Free Lunch" While this may be true, it does not pertain to Breakfast. The Branch holds a Retiree Breakfast meeting every 4th Saturday of the Month. No Voting, just a friendly get together to talk and eat. The best thing is

When 4th Saturday of Every Month
Where Denny's Restaurant,
(Corner of Sherman Way & DeCelis).
Time 9:00 AM

Active Members are invited to attend also if it is your Day Off !!

"THE MAIL CALL"

BRANCH 2462, NALC

Steve Seyfried, Editor

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Van Nuys, CA 91406**

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Branch Meeting Minutes

June 4, 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 6:45 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS ROGER ASKEW

MOMENT OF SILENCE—In Memory of all members of the Armed Forces who have given the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

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

ABSENT—JACKSON, WILSON

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAIL CALL

With CORRECTION LS County should have been LA

CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

MANUEL LOPEZ JEROUDO JACOBO RYAN SOTO

BILLS READ—NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TRUSTEES Audit will be on July 17th at the Union office at 6:30 pm.

SAFETY & HEALTH Meeting coming up at the end of June. Work in a safe manner.

RETIREES—BRASH 6 attending tonight. Breakfast is still a big hit each month. Thanks to the Branch officers for all the hard work they do for us all.

MBA--ENZ No Report

HBR—L. DOLABSON Health Benefits Seminar will be in Orlando Fla. in October.

MDA FUND--ASKEW \$ 1819.00 currently in the fund.

EDITOR SEYFRIED No Report

LEGISLATION REPORT—ASKEW SB 316, HR 30 & HR 630 & HR961 are still sitting in Congress waiting for action. Contact your Representative and ask that they support these bills.

MDA—ANGER MDA Summer Camp will be held on Wednesday, July 17th. If you would like to volunteer to help, contact the Union Office.

FINANCIAL/TREASURERS REPORT READ by JOHNSON

MOTION—Accept report as read
M/S/C

VICE PRESIDENT DOLABSON Food Drive was big success thanks to all the hard work of the Branch and Letter Carriers from all our stations. Main Office and Sun Valley won the awards this year for the stations that collected the most

food, but we want to also say what a great job, Tarzana, Encino & Sherman Oaks did also. This Food Drive brings us lots of good feelings and the thanks of all those who are in need of help everyday of the year. Congratulations on a job well done.

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

BY-LAWS A By-law amendment was submitted at tonight's meeting. It will be published in the July Mailcall and will be voted on at the Regular Branch Meeting on August 6th.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION—Branch send the President, Vice President and all Shop Stewards to the State Training Classes in Sacramento, on June 21-22nd. Cost not to exceed \$ 9000.00 M/S/C

MOTION—Branch pay the USPS for cost of printing Documentation for the Sherman Oaks, Zone 91423, Inspection grievance. Cost to the Branch \$ 94.24 M/S/C

MOTION—Branch donate \$ 300.00 to Branch 458 Relief Fund in Oklahoma City, OK for Tornado Disaster Relief. M/S/C

MOTION—Branch repair both copy machines Cost not to exceed \$ 1200.00 M/S/C

MOTION—Branch send the HB Representative to the Health Benefits seminar in Orlando, FL. on October 20 - 23rd. Cost not to exceed \$ 2000.00 M/S/C

UNDERLINED= UNANIMOUS VOTE

OLD BUSINESS—NONE

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

Special Thanks to JANETTE DOLABSON for another successful NALC Food Drive. Without her hard work and dedication we would not have such a great event.

MDA DRAWING

\$ 3 STEVE SEYFRIED—SHERMAN OAKS
\$ 5 KEVIN DONOHUE—RETIREE--DONATED
\$ 7 FRANK BRASH—RETIREE

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:15 PM