

PRESIDENT'S REPORT By Calvin Brookins

House committee passes Issa bill:

On July 24, 2013, The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee passed Chairman Darrell Issa's (R-CA) Postal Reform Act of 2013 bill H.R. 2748. Obviously the NALC opposes this bill and is asking committee members and the rest of the House of Representatives to vote NO on this bill.

The reason the NALC is asking the committee members and the rest of the House of Representatives to vote NO on this bill is being reprinted in this issue of the MailCall.

The reason it is being reprinted in the MailCall is because I want every member of this branch to clearly understand why it is utterly important that you contact your Congressman or Congresswoman to encourage them to vote NO on H.R. 2748.

Vote NO on H.R. 2748: The Postal Reform Act of 2013

Title I of H.R. 2748 slashes services to Americans and eliminates at least 100,000 good jobs:

- Elimination of Saturday mail delivery would sacrifice the Postal Service's biggest advantage over its competitors.

- The forced removal of 30 million household & business mail boxes would impose an unfair and deeply unpopular burden on customers with door deliveries while conversion costs add an additional \$1 billion in debt (see Sec.504).

Title II of H.R. 2748 creates a costly new level of bureaucracy at the Postal Service:

- Rather than skimming the fat off the top, this bill cuts services and blue-collar jobs in favor of creating a \$10 million a year Governance Authority.

- Congress should improve the existing USPS Board of Governors by requiring well-qualified business leaders focused on long-term growth and innovation.

- Instead of fixing what is really broken, H.R. 2748 creates a new body that will be tasked with cutting costs by abrogating collective-bargaining agreements and dismantling the Postal Service's networks.

Title III of H.R. 2748 is a direct attack by Congress on collective bargaining:

- This section would unfairly codify into law the views of postal management.

- This kind of one-sided interference by Congress is totally unjustifiable and is an attack on postal employees.

- Mandating the terms of future collective-bargaining agreements would completely undermine a process that has worked extremely well for over 40 years – keeping postage rates low and eliminating all taxpayer subsidies.

- This section also mandates new "official time" reporting procedures that will increase costs and bureaucracy for the Postal Service to fix something that is not broken.

(Continued on Page 3)

SPECIAL NOTICE

In accordance with Article V of the NALC Constitution and Article V of the By-Laws of Branch 2462, NALC, notice is hereby given for the Nomination and Election of Delegates to the State and National Convention, Nominations will be held at the October Meeting on October 1, 2013. Election, if needed, will be held in November 2013 and will be conducted by mail, as provided in Article IV of the By-Laws of Branch 2462 NALC. All members, in good standing, are eligible to be nominated. Any member, not in good standing or who has not attended at least eighteen (18) regular meetings during the twenty-four (24) months prior to their nomination as a Delegate shall not receive any expenses from *the Branch*. Any member who has less than one (1) year membership in this Branch who shall have attended at least three fourths (3/4) of those regular meetings, from his/her acceptance into membership, prior to their nomination as a Delegate or Alternate may receive expenses. All members of the Executive Board, by virtue of their office, shall be Delegates to all National and State Conventions. This Branch shall elect a Full Delegation to all National and State Conventions.

"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 Presidents Report Janette Dolabson

This month there is a very important insert in our MailCall news letter. I urge you to read it. I am giving up space here for my article because I want you to read it. Became E-activists and get all the latest news on the future of your jobs. Come to the branch meeting next month even if it is the day after the Holiday. We will have 2 guest speakers and you need to hear what they have to say. We will also be serving food and dessert so you will not be hungry.

ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH J F M A M J J A S O N

MAIN OFFICE	2	3	3	2	8	5	4	5		
ENCINO	2	2	3	1	3	3	2	2		
CIVIC CENTER	3	1	3	2	-	-	-	-		
PANORAMA CITY	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	1		
SHERMAN OAKS	3	4	5	5	5	5	2	2		
SUN VALLEY	1	1	1	1	1	0	2	1		
TARZANA	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	1		
RETIREE'S	6	3	6	5	6	6	3	5		
TOTAL	20	18	24	19	27	22	16	17		

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

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

SEPTEMBER
3rd
"2013"

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

Sept 3, 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). It will begin at 09:00 AM. The next 2 breakfasts will be on September 28th & October 26, 2013 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar.....We hope to see you there.

Thank
You
Frank Brash



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

IT IS FREE !!!

That's right, if you are a retired member in good standing of Branch 2462 your Breakfast is provided at no charge
You Heard Right !

FREE !!!!

So what are you waiting for, meet with us this month.

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

If you have trouble with transportation contact FRANK BRASH and we will try and arrange for a ride. Come on out, you will have a great time, and the price is right !

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

Title IV of H.R. 2748 fails to recognize the Postal Service's flawed rate-setting model:

- H.R. 2748 does not give the Postal Service the flexibility it needs to adjust rates to ensure that products cover their costs. Instead, the bill forces the Postal Service to cut services and eliminate jobs unnecessarily.

- H.R. 2748 does not free the Postal Service to meet the evolving needs of the American economy by allowing it to expand into new lines of business that would leverage its first- and last-mile networks.

- H.R. 2748 eliminates the small appropriation that the USPS receives annually to provide free service to the blind and to combat serviceman who wish to vote by mail in American elections – shifting costs to business mailers.

Title V of H.R. 2748 fails to provide a long-term solution to the disastrous and unfair pre-funding burden:

- The Committee is being asked to vote on a bill without cost estimates of the new pre-funding schedule.

- While the bill provides earlier access the Postal Service's own money in the Retirement Health Benefit Fund (PSRHBF) and *appears* to defer pre-funding payments for two years, the remaining 40-plus years of scheduled payments will remain unaffordable, surpassing the \$5.6 billion annual payments mandated by current law.

Title VI of H.R. 2748 jeopardizes the Postal Service's most important asset: Its brand for trusted universal service:

- The USPS has delivered reliable service to both urban and rural communities across American for centuries.

- Veteran's preference and solid union contracts have created America's most trusted workforce.

- The Committee should reject the destructive increase in sub-contracting that H.R. 2748 mandates.

Postal unions write joint letter to Reid against Carper-Coburn postal bill: S.1486

On August 5, 2013, the presidents of the four postal employee unions the National Association of Letter Carriers, the American Postal Workers Union, the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association and the National Postal Mail Handlers Union sent a letter to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV).

This letter was sent to express their dismay with the introduction of S. 1486 on August 1, 2013, a postal bill introduced by Senators Tom Carper (D-DE) and Tom Coburn (R-OK) that renews a commitment to the disastrous Bush administration policy to mandate massive pre-funding of future retiree health benefits and provides for major downsizing measures to pay for it. [To see letter go to NALC.org and click on link to read letter.](#)

Postal Service overtime costs top \$3.5 billion

The following was recently reported in the Federal Times – FYI

Even as total work hours are falling, overtime at the U.S. Postal Service continues climbing. Overtime costs last year hit \$3.5 billion, up almost 7 percent from 2011, according to a new audit by the agency's inspector general. At one Des Moines, Iowa distribution center, overtime pay for seven mail handlers ranged from \$65,000 to \$76,000 each, more than double their respective salaries, according to the audit.

Although overtime hours are not supposed to account for more than 5 percent of total work hours under USPS management target, they added up to 7.8 percent last year. After falling sharply in 2009, the proportion of overtime hours has risen every year since.

Auditors attributed the increase in part to the continued downsizing of the Postal Service's workforce. But at some mail processing plants, they found that staffing failed to match the workload. Between 2009 and 2012, total work hours worked at the U.S. Postal Service fell 11 percent, while overtime hours worked increased 30 percent.

Retirement Seminar

There will be a retirement class/seminar offered here at the union office for all letter carriers who are close to or considering retirement. The class will given by Yoggi Riley a member of APWU as well as a member of our own branch. The class will take place on Sunday September 15, 2013, from 11:00 am to 3:30 pm. We will get flyer out to all stations early month next

Cost-of-living adjustments

The projected accumulation toward the next cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for letter carriers under the 2011-2016 National Agreement is **\$541**, based on the July 16 release of the June Consumer Price Index (CPI).

This COLA will be based on the increase in the CPI between January 2013 and July 2013.

NOTE: Under the terms of the 2011-2016 agreement, payment of this COLA will be deferred for one year and will take effect in the second full pay period after the release of the July 2014 CPI.

SPECIAL NOTE: Following the Feb. 21 release of the January 2013 CPI, the first COLA for letter carriers under the 2011-2016 National Agreement was **\$145.60** annually. This first COLA was based on the increase in the CPI between July 2012 and January 2013. It amounts to 7 cents per hour, the equivalent of \$5.60 per pay period or \$145.60 annually. *Note that under the terms of the 2011-2016 agreement, payment of this COLA will be deferred for one year and will take effect in the second full pay period after the release of the January 2014 CPI.*

Please enjoy your upcoming Labor Day Holiday, be safe.

In Unionism

Will you join the fight to Save 6 Day Delivery and prevent the PMG and Congress from Dismantling the Postal Service?

By

**John Beaumont
President – California
State Association of Letter Carriers**

Today, by a strictly partisan 22 to 17 vote, Congressman Issa rammed through the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform his Postal Reform bill, HR 2748. While not one Democratic Representative supported his legislation, Chairman Issa and the Republican Majority members on the committee decided that the best way to reform the Postal Service would be to dismantle it.

How bad could this bill be?

Well imagine a bill that would eliminate more than 100,000 postal jobs, end Saturday mail delivery, discontinue door to door service to nearly 40 million American households adding an additional \$1 billion in debt to the USPS in conversion costs, abolish our no lay-off clause provisions in our contract, and mandate the terms of our future collective bargaining agreements. Well Issa's Postal Reform bill, HR 2748, contains all of these provisions and more. And if that wasn't enough this bill does not even address the largest fiscal issue facing the Postal Service by failing to provide any long-term solution to the disastrous and unfair pre-funding burden.

Prior to the hearing our members launched a barrage of calls to our other two committee members from California, Congresswoman Jackie Speier and Congressman Tony Cardenas encouraging them to support our NALC supported amendments and not support the final vote for HR 2748. Both representatives listened to your concerns and voted to protect our interests throughout the day. Unfortunately the numbers were stacked against us even before the hearing started and as the day went on vote after vote went against our interests and the interests of the American public including the final passage of the bill out of committee.

The CSALC wishes to thank all our members who took the time to call these representatives the day of the hearing in our effort to solicit their help on the bill.

The following five amendments were presented by members of the committee who believe in responsibly reforming the Post Office for both the patrons and the employees. The NALC also backs these amendments:

1. Cummings Amendment –

The Ranking Minority Member's amendment would strike H.R. 2748 entirely and thus prohibiting the move to a 5-day delivery schedule and expediting the closure and consolidation process of postal facilities. The Ranking Member's bill would also include his language from the Innovate to Deliver Act of 2013; H.R. 961, the United States Postal Service Stabilization Act; H.R. 1431, the Postal Employee Appeal Rights Amendments Act of 2013. The

inclusion of these bills would permit the Postal Service to offer non-postal products and services, recalculate the FERS surplus using Postal-specific assumptions and return any surplus.

Vote (22 Against to 17 For –Amendment fails)

2. Tierney Amendment striking section 306 –

This would eliminate the Chairman's provision to remove Postal employees from the Federal workers' compensation program into a Postal-specific program.

Vote (22 Against to 17 For – Amendment fails)

3. Lynch Amendment #1

Striking section 102 – this amendment would eliminate the Chairman's provision requiring the Postal Service to convert existing addresses from door delivery to a curbside or centralized delivery point. The Chairman's bill would require the Postal Service to convert 30 million addresses by 2022.

Vote (22 Against to 17 For – Amendment fails)

4. Lynch Amendment #2 striking section 301 –

This amendment would strike the Chairman's provision to prospectively prohibit the use of anti-Reduction-in-Force language in collective bargaining agreements.

Vote (22 Against to 17 For – Amendment fails)

5. Lynch Amendment #3

Striking sections 501 & 505 and replacing the sections with H.R. 961

Vote (22 Against to 17 For – Amendment fails)

Even with this setback, the bill still must be scheduled by the Speaker for an overall vote by all the members of the House of Representatives, including votes on even more amendments to try to correct many of the onerous provisions Issa has written into the bill. Then if it is passed by the House it must be taken up by the Senate, who at this time is working on their Postal Reform legislation.

Taking this into account, we must prepare our membership for the next move. National President Rolando, and our DC Legislative staff, will be working with us on what will be needed to lobby our congressional representatives and our patrons so we can stop Issa and Postmaster General (PMG) Donahoe in their ill-advised plan to dismantle the United States Postal Service.

Now is the time for all of us to join the fight to Save 6 – Day Delivery and prevent the PMG and Congress from Dismantling the Postal Service. Everyone's livelihoods are at stake. Can we count on your help?

**TIRED OF NOT
KNOWING WHAT'S GOING ON ???
SICK OF LISTENING TO YOUR
CASE NEIGHBOR GOSSIP ABOUT
THE POSTAL SERVICE !!!!!**



Then what are you waiting 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 !

**What's The Best Way To
Protect Your Job**



**For as Little as \$ 5 Per Pay Period You Can
Help Support Our Legislative Efforts To Save
The Postal Service From Disaster and
Extinction. Do Your Part. A Little Now Can
Make A Big Difference Later.
Don't Wait Till It Is Too Late.
SIGN UP NOW AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

**WILL THERE BE A
POSTAL SERVICE IN
BUSINESS NEXT YEAR ??**

DON'T THINK THAT IT CANNOT HAPPEN
MAKE SURE THAT YOU ATTEND THE SPECIAL MEETING
ON TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 3RD AT THE UNION HALL
AT 6:30 PM

WE WILL HAVE 2 SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS
MATT DABABNEH—CANDIDATE FOR THE CALIFORNIA
STATE ASSEMBLY WILL ADDRESS THE MEMBERSHIP
JOHN BEAUMONT—PRESIDENT of the CALIFORNIA
STATE

ASSOCIATION of LETTER CARRIERS WILL SPEAK
AND WILL ANSWER QUESTIONS REGARDING THE
PROBLEMS FACING THE UNION AND UNION MEMBERS
BOTH HERE AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

THERE WILL BE FOOD AND DRINKS PROVIDED FREE
FOR

ALL IN ATTENDANCE.

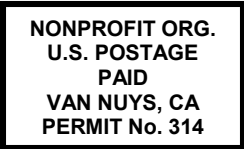
DON'T BE WALKING AROUND ON
WEDNESDAY MORNING WONDERING WHAT
HAPPENED.

TAKE THE TIME AND ATTEND THIS IMPORTANT
MEETING
AND LEARN WHAT YOU FACE AND WHAT YOU CAN DO

ABOUT IT !!!



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



Address Service Requested

Branch Meeting Minutes
August 7, 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 7:018 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS ROGER ASKEW

MOMENT OF SILENCE—All members who have passed away this year.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

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

ABSENT—MULLINAX

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAIL CALL

CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

FRANCISCO VALENZUELA, YWETT HOLLAND, TARON DOVLATYAN

BILLS READ --NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TRUSTEES Audit will be on August 14th, at 6:30 at the Union Hall

SAFETY & HEALTH Always work in a safe and professional manner.

RETIREEES—JOHNSON 5 attending tonight. Breakfast is still a big hit, we had a good turnout at last months gathering. President Brookins attended and gave the retirees an update on the newest pending legislation affecting the Postal Service.

MBA--ENZ No Report

HBR—L. DOLABSON Recent information from Health Plan regarding Biometric screenings was incorrect. There may be a charge associated with these tests, contact the Health Plan to find out whether you will have a payment or not.

MDA FUND--ASKEW \$ 1470.00 currently in the fund.

EDITOR SEYFRIED No Report

LEGISLATION REPORT—ASKEW HR 2758 passed out of committee this week and may now proceed to the full house. This bill is a postal service killer. If passed the service would disappear as we know it. Contact your Congressional representative and urge them to vote no on this bill. Plan on attending next month's meeting, we will have special guests to speak on these matters and answer questions.

MDA—ANGER First Sunday in November will be our annual Bowl-a-Thon at Matador Bowl. Watch for further info on time and details.

FINANCIAL/TREASURERS REPORT READ by JOHNSON
MOTION—Accept report as read
 M/S/C

VICE PRESIDENT DOLABSON No other time in history has the postal service faced such an assault from Congress as we are now facing. Get involved if you don't want to see your job and retirement go down the drain. We are having a special guest speaker at the next meeting. You need to attend this meeting on September 3rd/

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 which was submitted at June meeting was reviewed by the By-Law committee. The recommendation of the By-Law committee is one of approval.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION—Branch renew the office liability Insurance policy for one year.
 Cost to the branch \$ 768.00 M/S/C

MOTION—Recommendation of the By-Law Committee regarding submitted and published By-Law be accepted and the By-law be passed M/S/C

UNDERLINED= UNANOMOUS VOTE

OLD BUSINESS--NONE

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

Congratulations to Brother LOUIS ORTEGA of Panorama City Station, who was Honored by the Postal Service and the NALC for his heroic effort, which saved the life of an elderly woman on his route. Way to Go LOUIS !!!!!

MDA DRAWING

\$ 3 STEVE SEYFRIED—SHERMAN OAKS
 \$ 4 STEVE SEYFRIED—SHERMAN OAKS--DONATED
 \$ 6 LIZ BOCANEGRA—MAIN OFFICE—DONATED \$ 2.00

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:53 PM