

**Representing the Stations of
Encino – Panorama City – Sherman Oaks – Sun Valley – Tarzana – Van Nuys Main Office**

VOLUME 50

OCTOBER 2013

NUMBER 9

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Calvin Brookins

Street Management

Handbook M-39, Management of Delivery Services is management's handbook. Section 134.11 of the M-39 Handbook states;

Street management is a natural extension of office management. All carriers are to be notified to expect daily supervision on the street just as they receive daily supervision in the office. For a delivery manager to fully understand and control the organization, the manager must be aware of any conditions that affect delivery anywhere within the service territory.

Section 134.12 also states;

Accompanying carriers on the street is considered an essential responsibility of management and one of the manager's most important duties. Managers should act promptly to correct improper conditions. A positive attitude must be maintained by the manager at all times.

Now that you know that management is suppose to be out there doing street management, every carrier needs to understand that management is watching you. At our last President meeting with the District Manager of Sierra Coastal District, he made us aware that all supervisors and other management personnel will be required to go out on the street and observe letter carriers. Basically those supervisors who have been sitting around the office supervising 4 or 5 clerks calling themselves a clerk supervisor will also have to go out on the street and perform street management.

Therefore, I will remind all of you that you need to do your job in a professional manner and follow all safety rules as well as other rules that have been put in place. The NALC has for years been telling carriers to do their jobs in accordance with postal rules and regulations. If you are doing the job the way it is suppose to be done, and does the same thing everyday it become consistent. If you are consistent, it will not matter how many times management observes you on the street.

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BRANCH 2462 RETIREE LUNCHEON

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

OCTOBER 6, 2013

**ENCINO GLEN
RESTAURANT**

16821 Burbank Blvd. Encino, California

Doors Open 1:00 PM

Price is \$ 5.00

**Retiree's and Active Carriers are Welcome
For Further Information Contact**

BOB JOHNSON (818) 786-8505

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.

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	6	
ENCINO	2	2	3	1	3	3	2	2	5	
CIVIC CENTER	3	1	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	
PANORAMA CITY	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	
SHERMAN OAKS	3	4	5	5	5	5	2	2	6	
SUN VALLEY	1	1	1	1	1	0	2	1	1	
TARZANA	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	3	
RETIREE'S	6	3	6	5	6	6	3	5	6	
TOTAL	20	18	24	19	27	22	16	17	29	

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

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

OCTOBER
1st
"2013"

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

Oct 1, 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 & DeCels). It will begin at 09:00 AM. The next breakfast will be on October 26, 2013 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar....We hope to see you there.

Thank
You
Frank Brash

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

Remember if management walks with you, this is your opportunity to show management that you are doing what you are suppose to be doing. Or if you ask for overtime and management does not think you need the overtime, what better way to for you to show them that you need the overtime that you had requested.

If you get observed or walked with just remember the last part of section 134.12 which states; A positive attitude must be maintained by the manager at all times.

Therefore, regardless of who comes out to observe you on the street they should always be respectful and professional and should always treat carriers with dignity and respect. If a supervisor or manager ever failed to treat you with dignity and respect you should immediately request to see your shop steward or call the union office. Just remember management has the right to do street management. Be safe and follow all rules and regulations.

NALC responds to PMG's workroom floor video (can be read at NALC.org)

Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe issued a video message on Aug. 14 that was played on the workroom floor. The video provided an assessment of developments in Washington on the legislative front and addressed the subject of a separate Postal Service health plan.

"In both cases, what the PMG did not say was more important than what he did say," NALC President Fredric Rolando said.

On postal legislation, Donahoe said in the video that he was encouraged by the introduction of S. 1486 by Sens. Tom Carper (D-DE) and Tom Coburn (R-OK), which followed the Oversight and Government Reform Committee's passage of Chairman Darrell Issa's (R-CA) postal bill in the House.

But what the PMG failed to note was that neither bill provides a real solution to the postal financial crisis. In fact, both bills would continue the mandate to massively pre-fund retiree health benefits (after a brief moratorium), and both would pay for that mandate by slashing service and jobs. Both bills also call for elimination of Saturday and door delivery, at the cost of nearly 100,000 postal jobs, and for slower mail service, which would drive even more business away and deepen the USPS' financial crisis.

"The PMG's comment that there are some positive aspects in both bills is bizarrely beside the point," Rolando remarked. "Sure, there are a number of individual provisions in the bills that are good in isolation—but both bills would hasten the destructive downsizing and service cuts we've faced for years, and both would attack the collective-bargaining rights of postal employees. Mr. Donahoe should be demanding much, much better from Congress," the president said.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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The postmaster general also talked about the issue of health benefits and his plan to create a separate Postal Service health plan, either inside or outside of the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program (FEHBP). He mentioned that he is working with the unions on this issue—but he failed to make clear that neither the NALC, nor the other postal unions, will support any plan that involves leaving FEHBP. And although Donahoe rightly focused on the importance of taking full advantage of Medicare benefits as a way to reduce the Postal Service's costs for retiree health benefits—indeed, it is crucial for reducing the crushing cost of pre-funding—he did not mention that fully integrating those benefits into Medicare can be easily achieved within FEHBP.

"NALC is committed to working with the Postal Service on reducing health care costs for both employees and the agency," Rolando said. "But we are insisting that any legislative changes in this area be proposed as part of a broader reform package to be offered as an alternative to the destructive bills now before the House and Senate."

Such a package, the president said, would reject service cuts and measures aimed at undermining the collective-bargaining rights and living standards of city carriers and other postal employees, and would focus instead on mutually acceptable reforms on health care, pension valuations, pre-funding, new products, pricing and governance provisions. Visit the Legislation and Politics section of the NALC website for fact sheets and talking points on the bills.

NALC shows its strength for MDA:

The NALC congratulates the Muscular Dystrophy Association, whose 48th annual "Show of Strength" telethon on Sunday raised \$59.6 million to fight back against muscle disease. The NALC embraced the MDA as our official charity in 1952, becoming the first official national sponsor of the group founded in 1950. In 2012, letter carriers helped raise more than \$1.4 million to support MDA. The NALC has put together the NALC Honor Roll for the 2012 MDA Campaign. (The Honor Roll list can be seen at NALC.org)

The following is an article that was written by California State Association of Letter Carrier President John Beaumont. It is information that all of our members should be aware of.

Senate introduces disastrous Postal Reform Bill forcing us to fight on two fronts!
By John Beaumont, President – California State Association of Letter Carriers

Just a couple of weeks after Congressman Issa pushed his Postal Reform bill, HR 2748, through the House of Representatives Senators Tom Carper and Tom Coburn followed suit by introducing their version of Postal Reform, S 1486, in the US Senate. This is the second try in as many years that Congress has tried to pass postal reform that would not only destroy our nation's largest delivery network it would also eliminate over 100,000 postal jobs.

In the last session of Congress the Senate was the first to introduce Postal Reform with S 1789. Within weeks of hearings and debate they went ahead and pushed this flawed legislation through committee and passed it on the Senate

floor. If it weren't for the 2012 General Election, S. 1789 would have been voted on by the House and possibly enacted into law.

While relieved that Postal Reform stalled at the end of the last Congressional Session, we soon learned that reprieve was short lived. Recently introduced S 1486 is by far more damaging to the American Public and the survival of the USPS than S 1789 ever was. S 1486, the so called Postal Reform Act of 2013, contains the following provisions which, if enacted without amendments, will gut the Postal Service and prepare it to be parceled off to private industry:

Eliminate Saturday mail delivery after just a one-year delay. Eliminate Saturday parcel delivery after two years. Give the Postmaster General authority to eliminate additional days of delivery going forward. Mandate elimination of door-to-door delivery of mail for all business and new households Phase-out most of the remaining of door to door delivery to millions of established addresses. Promote a two-tier workforce Assist the Postal Service's efforts to leave the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program (FEHBP)

While proposing the above legislation in their ill attempts to try to positively reform the Postal Service, Congress completely ignored the 600 pound gorilla in the room, our mandate to prefund our future retiree health benefits. Neither House nor Senate bills eliminate the prefunding requirement, even though we already have banked close to 50 billion dollars in this fund. That's correct 50 billion dollars! This amount is more than enough to completely cover the cost of future retiree health benefits for the next 50 plus years.

The USPS recent third quarter financial statements stated that, without the pre-funding payments, the USPS would have made a \$660 million profit. The Postal Service is now moving out of the recession and back on a path to rebuild itself as a service for our nation's consumers.

The only thing standing in the way of really saving the USPS is Congress itself, and while S 1486 has been introduced, there is still time to address all of the provisions contained in this bill as well as the issues it left out. The bill still needs to have hearings and then be marked up by the full committee prior to moving for a vote on the Senate floor. Unlike Issa's HR 2748 bill in the House, the Senate bill will have opposition from senators who agree with us that many of the provisions of this bill would do more harm than good for both the Postal Service and their constituents.

We must fight back to stop Congress and PMG Donahoe from advancing their plan to dismantle the Postal Service and eliminate our jobs. The battle is just beginning, there is still time to get our message out to the general public and community organizations, but it takes action. The best way for us to do this is being informed and getting active. Our NALC e-Activist program will help our members be able to do just that. National President Rolando will be using the network to keep all of us up to date on the current legislative proposals dealing with Postal Reform, and the best way we can take a stand to address them.

Please take just a moment and fill out the NALC e-Activist form so that you too can join with us in our ongoing fight to Save the Postal Service.

"THE MAIL CALL"

BRANCH 2462, NALC

Steve Seyfried, Editor

**6910 Hayvenhurst Ave., # 101
Van Nuys, CA 91406**

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Branch Meeting Minutes September 3, 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 7:17 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

VINCENT LAMARCHE, CESAR CORTEZ, STEVEN RIOS, CRYSTAL BROWN, TORTHILL ROBINSON

BILLS READ --NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TRUSTEES Audit was held and all books were found to be balanced and in good order.

SAFETY & HEALTH Always work in a safe and professional manner. Meeting will be held next month.

RETIREEES—BRASH 6 attending tonight. Breakfast is still a big hit, we had a good turnout at last months gathering. Annual Retiree Luncheon will be on October 6th. At Encino Glen Restaurant door open at 1 pm.

Motion—Suspend regular business to allow

Special guests to speak M/S/C

California State Assoc President JOHN BEAUMONT spoke and answered questions regarding the latest legislative issues facing the postal service.

Candidate MATT DABABNEH, who is running for Cal assembly seat in the 45th District spoke to the membership thanking us for our past support and urging everyone to get out and vote.

MOTION—Branch 2462 go on record as

Endorsing MATT DABABNEH for the 45th

Assembly district of California M/S/C

MBA—ENZ On line seminar will be held with MBA reps. A CD will be made and sent to members.

HBR—L. DOLABSON Heat has been a major problem for the last week. Watch for more info in my article.

MDA FUND—ASKEW \$ 1520.00 currently in the fund.

MDA—Anger Nov 3rd will be our next Bowl-a-thon at Matador Bowl. Bowling starts at 10 am. MDA camp was a big success and all had a great time.

FINANCIAL/TREASURERS REPORT READ by JOHNSON

MOTION—Accept report as read
M/S/C

VICE PRESIDENT DOLABSON Route inspections will begin on the 91423 side of Sherman Oaks on Sept 9th.

PRESIDENT BROOKINS 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 purchase 400 6 day calendars to be given to all members. Cost is \$ 1500.00

M/S/C

UNDERLINED= UNANOMOUS VOTE

OLD BUSINESS—NONE

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

Special recognition to TOM BECKWITH & FRANK BRASH, both GOLD CARD holders and attending tonight's meeting

MDA DRAWING

\$ 3 JEFF JACKSON—SHERMAN OAKS--DONATED

\$ 4 JEFF JACKSON—SHERMAN OAKS

\$ 7 LARRY DOLABSON—ENCINO—DONATED \$ 2.00

MEETING ADJOURNED 9:20 PM

HEALTH TIPS

Larry Dolabson, HBR

Heat exhaustion is a feeling of fatigue and illness, including dizziness and nausea, which occurs when the body loses too much salt and water as the result of heavy perspiration. Heat exhaustion is fairly common and can happen to people who exercise or work in hot conditions. While heat exhaustion is not particularly dangerous in itself, it is temporarily debilitating and can progress to potentially fatal heat stroke if not treated promptly. Here are a few steps to follow when you think you are suffering from heat exhaustion. Bring water bottles to keep you hydrated in the sun.

The **SECOND** you feel heat exhaustion or a sun stroke coming on, get out of the sun and lie down. If you have a hose available, cool yourself off with a light spray every 20 minutes. Sports drinks containing electrolytes can replenish the needed water and salts quickly. Always wear a hat when out in the sun, especially if you are susceptible to sun stroke.