

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**By Calvin Brookins**

### **New MOU on filling residual vacancies:**

NALC and the Postal Service have entered into the Memorandum of Understanding Re: Residual Vacancies - City Letter Carrier Craft (M-01824), which establishes a process for filling residual vacancies. Anyone who wants to consider transferring to another area can view the residual vacancies on the NALC website at NALC.org. The new vacancy list has been posted on the NALC Website as of November 1, 2013.

### **Route Inspections**

Route inspections are coming next spring but only for Van Nuys main office 91405 and 91406 zones. However, that could change, if there is a change prior to next spring we will let everyone know. We will also schedule a route inspection class for all zones that are scheduled for six (6) day count and route inspections.

### **2014 Saxsenmeier Scholarship Program**

Applications are now available for those who have high school seniors this year. Applications are available for children or grandchildren of members. Anyone interested in an application can get one from their shop steward or call the branch office.

### **ERS Retirement unused sick leave**

As you may know, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2009 changed the way Unused Sick Leave is credited under the Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS).

Since we are approaching the cutoff for the FERS Unused Leave credit change, it is important to remind you of the change. FERS employees who retire on or before December 31, 2013, will receive 50% credit for their Unused Sick Leave. Employees who retire on January 1, 2014 will receive 100% credit for the FERS Unused Sick Leave and their annuities will commence February 1, 2014.

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

**BRANCH 2462 HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE  
FRIDAY EVENING  
DECEMBER 13, 2013**

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

**DOORS OPEN 5:00 PM - DINNER 7:00 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 !!**

## **IN MEMORY OF JOE FARINA**

**RETIREE BRANCH 2462**

**JO RIMKUS  
PAST AUXILIARY OFFICER**

"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	3	5
ENCINO	2	2	3	1	3	3	2	2	5	3	3
CIVIC CENTER	3	1	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PANORAMA CITY	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	3	2
SHERMAN OAKS	3	4	5	5	5	5	2	2	6	6	4
SUN VALLEY	1	1	1	1	1	0	2	1	1	2	2
TARZANA	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	3	3	3
RETIREE'S	6	3	6	5	6	6	3	5	6	7	4
TOTAL	20	18	24	19	27	22	16	17	29	27	25

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

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

**JANUARY**  
**7th**  
**"2014"**

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

**Jan 7, 2014**

**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"

**ATTENTION: !!!!**

**There will be no Saturday Breakfast meetings in the months of November or December, due to holiday schedules. We look forward to seeing everyone back in January 2014.**

Thank  
You  
**Frank Brash**

## LATEST HEALTH PLAN UPDATE LARRY DOLABSON, HBR

I would like to thank you for sending me to the recent Health Benefit Seminar for the NALC Health Plan.

There are 3 plans being offered this year by the NALC. Here are the rates.

The first plan is the High Option Plan and by far the best plan. The 2014 rates are as follows: self will be \$58.02 per pay period and \$114.59 for family per pay period. with this plan you would pay only around \$200.00 out of pocket requiring Hospitalization with a \$40,000 price. If you go to an in network doctor this plan will pay 85% and non network doctors it will pay 70% of your rates after deductible. You will have a \$20.00 co pay for doctors office appointments. Under this plan if you have lab work done at a Quest lab you would pay nothing for the lab service.

The next plan is called CDHP. It will cost you \$36.19 per pay period and \$78.58 for family per pay period. This plan you would be paying 20% in network and 90% out of network. Your lab costs would be 20% -50% of their rates. you would also pay about \$12,000 a \$40,000 hospital stay. Then there is the value plan. This will cost for self \$31.16 and \$67.66 per pay period. Under this plan you would pay 20-50 % of lab work and \$12,000 again for a \$40,000 Hospitalization. Retiree's rate are \$161.22 for self and \$327.27 for family per month.

CCA's may join this plans during open season but must pay full rates without the Postal Services matching but the required \$125.00 towards your premiums. If you have questions call me, Larry at 661 373-2223. you can also find more information at [www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org) and click on departments then Health Benefit plan. You can also type in <http://www.nalc.org/depart/hbp/index.html> if you want direct link to that page.

## VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT JANETTE DOLABSON

I recently attended the Conference of President's meeting in Orlando, filling in for Calvin. Here are a few of the issues that were discussed.

Our recent contract established a few task forces. One of them is a joint route inspection task force. Right now there is no plans to have one until the Postal Service agrees to be part of one.

The city delivery task force has been looking at different ways of managing routes. One of them is self-managed routes. This would have a group of routes being managed by the carriers on them with a lead carrier in charge of deciding what routes need help and how the routes will receive aux. assistance or be working overtime. The lead carrier position will rotate around so all carriers will be tasked with assigning assistance to routes. The carriers under self managed system will decide their own work methods. They will decide how they will handle third and forth bundles in a manner that they feel is most efficient for their route. This kind of route management will eliminate the need for a Supervisor.

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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

The information about FERS Unused Sick Leave credit can be found in several locations. One is the sick leave fact sheet and the other is the National Defense Authorization Act Retirement Changes Benefits Administration Letter 10-101.

For employees covered by the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS), credit toward the annuity computation (**but not annuity eligibility**) will be based upon a percentage of the sick leave balance at retirement or death, depending on the date the entitlement to the annuity began-

50 percent in the case of an annuity entitlement based on a separation from service from October 28, 2009, through December 31, 2013; and

100 percent in the case of an annuity entitlement based on a separation from service occurring on or after January 1, 2014.

Below is an excerpt from these documents and links to both..

<http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/leave-administration/fact-sheets/sick-leave-general-information/>  
<http://www.opm.gov/retirement-services/publications-forms/benefits-administration-letters/2010/10-101.pdf>

## 2014 retiree COLAs—1.5% for FERS & CSRS:

The cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for both Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) benefits will be 1.5 percent in 2014, based on the Oct. 30 release of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for September. Although the release of the September CPI was delayed by the 16-day federal government shut-down, the COLA will take effect on time and will be included in January 2014 annuity payments. The 2014 COLA is based on the increase in the average CPI between the 3rd quarter of 2012 and the 3rd quarter of 2013. Since the CPI did not increase by more than 2 percent, COLAs for both CSRS and FERS benefits will be the same in 2014.

## Cost-of-living adjustments

**THIRD CONTRACT COLA:** The projected accumulation toward the third cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for letter carriers under the 2011-2016 National Agreement is **\$83 annually**, based on the Oct. 30 release of the Sept. Consumer Price Index (CPI). This COLA will be based on the increase in the CPI between July 2013 and January 2014 and will take effect in the second full pay period after the release of the January 2014 CPI.

**SECOND CONTRACT COLA:** Following the Aug. 15 release of the July 2013 Consumer Price Index, the second cost-of-living adjustment for letter carriers under the 2011-2016 National Agreement was **\$541 annually**. This second cost-of-living adjustment was based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index between January 2013 and July 2013. It amounts to 26 cents per hour, the equivalent of \$20.80 per pay period or \$541 annually. Note that under the terms of the 2011-2016 agreement, payment of this second cost-of-living adjustment will be deferred for one year and will take effect in the second full pay period after the release of the July 2014 Consumer Price Index.

**FIRST CONTRACT COLA:** Following the Feb. 21 release of the January 2013 Consumer Price Index, the first cost-of-living adjustment for letter carriers under the 2011-2016 National Agreement was **\$146 annually**. This first cost-of-living adjustment was based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index between July 2012 and January 2013. It amounts to 7 cents per hour, the equivalent of \$5.60 per pay period or \$146 annually. Note that under the terms of the 2011-2016 agreement, payment of this cost-of-living adjustment will be deferred for one year and will take effect in the second full pay period after the release of the January 2014 Consumer Price Index.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** In 2014, both of the deferred 2013 COLAs, \$146 annually and \$541 annually, will be added to the Step O pay rates in Table 2 of the Pay Schedule, which applies to City Carriers hired in career positions on or after January 13, 2013. The pay rates of Steps A through N of Table 2 will be increased proportionally, as provided by the contract. For example, Step A is set at 61.5% of Step O, so the COLA for Grade 1, Step A is \$333 annually.

In closing this article I want to wish all of the members and their families of Branch 2462 a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I pray that this holiday season be a safe one for all of you and the New Year be a prosperous year for all of us.

**In Unionism.**

# VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT

(Continued from Page 2)

The article 8 task force is looking at ways to reduce the number of article 8 grievances. They are close to an agreement. This agreement will decide who is entitled to what overtime on a given day and it will set new rules to follow regarding overtime, such as, allowing all carriers to work up to 10 hours before mandating comes into play.

On the legislative side, President Fred Rolando said that any legislation that does not address the pre-funding mandate is a direct attack on letter carriers. All government agencies pay premiums as they become due. The Postal Service is required to pre pay this up front to the sum of 1 billion dollars. He further stated that the USPS made money this year to the amount of nearly 600 million dollars. The defaults on the Postal Services pre funding mandate shows us at a loss because they did not pay the Pre funding mandate. This can all be fixed in a number of ways. First the pre funding can be eliminated and considered fully funded with the over 50 billion dollars already in that fund. Next, the USPS could find another way to pay for it by figuring a way to fix the way we are paid and pay us back the amount we have over paid for our future retirement benefits. We need to have fix health care plans that require employees to participate that would be less money for the Postal Service. If an employee chose not to have that plan they would be paying much more for the other plan. The Postal Service needs to look into other Services to provide to our customers, such as, fishing licenses, notary services, banking services, etc. The Postal Service wants to cut Saturday service. If they do that then later down the line they want to eliminate Tuesday service as well. That would make us part time employees. Don't let this happen. Write your Congressman or woman. I will write more next month.

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

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**Branch Meeting Minutes**  
**November 5, 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 7:02 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS ROGER ASKEW

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**—JOE FARINA, Retiree from Annex III & JO RIMKUS, Past Auxiliary Officer

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS**

**PRESENT**—BROOKINS, J. DOLABSON, SEYFRIED, JOHNSON, JACKSON, MULLINAX, WILSON, ASKEW, L. DOLABSON

**ABSENT**—ENZ

**MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAIL CALL**

**CORRESPONDENCE READ**

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**—NONE

**BILLS READ**—NONE

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**TRUSTEES** Budget meeting will be held on January 8<sup>th</sup>, Audit will be held at a date to be announced.

**SAFETY & HEALTH** Mgt is tracking Carriers on the street using GPS in the new phones. They are also making daily street observations so be sure to work in a safe and proper manner at all times. Stand ups should have been given in all offices regarding the dangers of working out of the back of your vehicle. If you did not receive this stand up contact the union office.

**RETIREEES**—BRASH 4 attending tonight. 12 attended breakfast. Please note that October will be the last month of Saturday Breakfasts until the new year. See you in January.

**MBA**—ENZ None

**HBR**—L. DOLABSON Attended the HBR seminar in Florida, received a lot of information which I will cover in an article in the December Mailcall. Open Season will be from November 11<sup>th</sup> through December 9<sup>th</sup>.

**MDA FUND**—ASKEW \$ 1563.00 currently in the fund.

**EDITOR SEYFRIED** No Report

**LEGISLATION REPORT**—ASKEW Senate is reported to be ready to look into S1486, this bill is not one of the bills we are supporting, and has several bad things in it that are not in our favor. Bills S 316, HR 630 & HR 691 are the bills we want to support. Contact your Congressional representative and urge them to vote no on S1486 and to support these other bills.

**MDA**—ANGER Bowl-a-thon was a big success and everyone had a great time. We raised \$ 1372.00 total, this will be reduced by expenses incurred, we will have a final total of contribution by next meeting.

**FINANCIAL/TREASURERS REPORT READ** by JOHNSON

**MOTION**—Accept report as read  
M/S/C

**VICE PRESIDENT DOLABSON** Attended the COP meeting in Florida and gave a detailed report on items covered. Watch for article in Mailcall for more information.

**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 cancel the December regular Meeting and have a Branch Holiday Open House. Date will be December 13<sup>th</sup>, (Friday) at Knights of Columbus Hall in Van Nuys  
M/S/C

**MOTION**—Branch empower the Executive Board To conduct any and all business of the branch from November 6, 2013 through January 7, 2014  
M/S/C

**MOTION**—Branch send 2 members, to be chosen by the President, to the Labor Center Trade Tech College 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet.  
Cost to the Branch \$ 200.00  
M/S/C

**MOTION**—Branch donate \$ 50.00 to the North Valley Caring Services annual Thanksgiving dinner  
M/S/C

**MOTION**—Branch donate \$ 50.00 to the Van Nuys Salvation Army for Thanksgiving.  
M/S/C

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

**UNDERLINED= UNANOMOUS VOTE**

**OLD BUSINESS**—NONE

**GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION**

**MDA DRAWING**

\$ 3 RICHARD MORENO—SHERMAN OAKS  
\$ 4 TIA WILSON—SUN VALLEY  
\$ 6 RAFAEL PEREZ—PANORAMA CITY

**MEETING ADJOURNED 8:52 PM**