

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Calvin Brookins

H.R. 3801—YET ANOTHER ATTACK ON USPS:

Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA), chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee of the House of Representatives (HOGF), has introduced new legislation to eliminate Saturday letter mail delivery right away and Saturday package delivery within five years. The new bill, H.R. 3801, offers these cuts as a means to pay for the repeal of a small reduction in military pension cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) that was included in the Ryan-Murray budget deal enacted in December.

H.R. 3801 would require even greater delivery service cuts than does H.R. 2748, the disastrous postal bill passed by the HOGF committee last year. The new bill would target the Postal Service's booming package delivery business as well as letter mail delivery. Two national publications aptly summed up the situation, with *The Nation* calling Issa's bill "cynical" and the more conservative *Bloomberg Business Week* referring to it as "mischievous." Issa's bill would immediately end Saturday letter mail delivery to the nation's 151 million addresses, including businesses and residents. It would also phase out Saturday package delivery in a very strange way: Any new delivery points added to the Postal Service's network since Sept. 30, 2012, would lose package delivery immediately. That means well over a million households and businesses would lose a service they now receive. And all new delivery points, which typically rise by nearly a million per year in the United States, would be denied Saturday package delivery as well. Then, in 2019, all U.S. homes and businesses would lose Saturday package delivery.

Bizarrely, at a time when the Postal Service has successfully expanded package delivery on Sundays for Amazon.com and when the booming 24/7 world of Internet shopping is fueling a Postal Service recovery, H.R. 3801 would undermine the Postal Service's fastest growing line of business. "This is a non-starter in terms of both merit and political support," National Association of Letter Carriers President Fredric Rolando said. "It would hurt the Postal Service, businesses and the public, and it has virtually no support in Congress."

"The USPS is making a comeback as the economy gradually improves, with a return to operational profitability in 2013 (\$600 million in the black) and a strong 2013 holiday mailing and shipping season," Rolando said. "By degrading

the Postal Service's last-mile delivery network and slowing mail service, Issa's bill would stop that comeback in its tracks.

The bill also would be costly to millions of small businesses that are open weekends and need to send and receive checks, while inconveniencing people throughout the country," the president said. "And it would damage the \$1.3 trillion national mailing industry that employs 7.5 million private-sector workers."

"We agree that the budget shouldn't be balanced on the back of military veterans," Rolando said. "But Issa's bill is not the right way to remedy that. One-quarter of all letter carriers are veterans, as are one-third of those hired over the past year. Eliminating 80,000 good jobs that offer opportunities for veterans is a poor choice for offsetting a budgetary hit on military pensions."

"Congress should reject this transparent attempt to use public support for veterans to shrink and degrade the U.S. Postal Service, an institution that is based in the Constitution and that provides Americans with the world's most affordable delivery service," the president said.

"Rather than stop the Postal Service's comeback by reducing service, lawmakers should revisit their mandate that USPS, alone among all public or private entities in the country, pre-fund future retiree health benefits," Rolando said. "This unfair mandate accounted for 100 percent of USPS red ink in 2013."

Please watch your e-Activist for an update on this issue or for any action that we as letter carriers may need to take.

NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION

If you received notice, on or after March 28, 2008, or if this is your first notice, that you may have been entitled to a life insurance benefit under the United States Postal Service Annuity Protection Plan, a class action lawsuit may affect your rights. A class action in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia seeks payment of life insurance benefits and interest to beneficiaries of Postal Service employees who were covered by the Annuity Protection Plan set forth in the joint Collective Bargaining Agreements of the American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO, and the National Association of

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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
ENCINO
PANORAMA CITY
SHERMAN OAKS
SUN VALLEY
TARZANA
RETIREE'S
TOTAL

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

NEXT MEETING
6:30 PM

FEBRUARY
4th
"2014"

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

Feb 4, 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: !!!!

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 dates will be Jan 25th & February 22, 2014 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar.....We hope to see you there.

Thank You
Frank Brash

The following By-law changes were submitted at the January Regular Branch meeting. It will be voted on at the Regular Branch meeting on March 4, 2014.

1. Proposed to change Article III, Section 1, which reads

Section 1. The Regular Meeting of Branch 2462 shall be held on the First Tuesday of each month, at 6:30 PM at 6910 Hayvenhurst Ave, Van Nuys, California, or at such date, place and time as the Executive Board or the Branch may designate.

Proposed to change to:

Section 1. The Regular Meeting of Branch 2462 shall be held on the First Tuesday of each month, at 7:00 PM at 6910 Hayvenhurst Ave, Van Nuys, California, or at such date, place and time as the Executive Board or the Branch may designate.

Signed by members in good standing: Roger Askew, Janette Dolabson, Larry Dolabson, Tia Wilson, Bob Enz & John Burton

2. Proposed to change Article VI, Section 1, which reads

Section 1. Shop Stewards shall be elected by the membership of their respective stations and elections shall take place at the stations by the members, at a time and place to be determined by the Election Committee.

Proposed to change to:

Section 1. Shop Stewards shall be appointed by the President

Signed by members in good standing: Roger Askew, Larry Dolabson, Bob Enz & Bob Johnson

3. Proposed to change Article IV, Section 12, which reads

Section 12. (A.) If an elective officer, or representative of the Branch is absent three (3) Meetings without having been excused by the Branch, or if a person resigns his office, his office shall then be declared vacated in accordance with Article X of the National Constitution, Government of Subordinate and Federal Branches. Any branch officer who is assigned or appointed to any Branch, State or National assignment shall be considered excused for that meeting & considered present for attendance purposes.

Proposed to change to:

Section 12. (A.) If an elective officer, or Shop Steward of the Branch is absent four (4) Meetings without having been excused by the Branch, or if a person resigns his office, his office shall then be declared vacated in accordance with Article X of the National Constitution, Government of Subordinate and Federal Branches. Any branch officer who is assigned or appointed to any Branch, State or National assignment shall be considered excused for that meeting & considered present for attendance purposes.

Signed by members in good standing: Roger Askew, Janette Dolabson, Larry Dolabson, Tia Wilson, Bob Enz & Tracy Mullinax

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IN MEMORY OF
WARREN FAULKNER
RETIREE BRANCH 2462

2014 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR BRANCH 2462

ESTIMATED INCOME:

Regular Members	330 at \$ 670.28	(\$ 25.78 - ppp)	\$ 221,192.40
Retiree's	110 at \$ 36.00 (per year)		\$ 3,960.00
NALC Health Benefit Reimbursement			\$ 130.00
Interest			\$ 50.00
Other Income			\$ 350.00
TOTAL INCOME			\$ 225,682.40

JANUARY 2014 THRU DECEMBER 2014

ESTIMATE EXPENDITURES	BUDGET 2013	SPENT 2013	BUDGET 2014
NALC Per Capita Tax:			
Regular Members 330 at \$ 203.06	\$66,409.20	\$71,826.40	\$67,009.80
Retiree's 110 at \$ 7.00	\$770.00	\$802.43	\$770.00
State Per capita Tax:			
Regular Members 330 at \$ 10.40	\$3,650.40	\$3,723.20	\$3,432.00
Retiree's 110 at \$.50	\$55.00	\$67.35	\$55.00
1 Contingency Fund (regular members) (330 @ 2.00 x 26 pay periods)	\$17,160.00	\$18,328.00	\$1,760.00
2 Contingency Fund (retired members) (110 @ .50 x 26 pay periods)	\$1,430.00	\$1,485.00	\$1,430.00
3 Branch Officers Salary	\$30,600.00	\$30,600.00	\$32,100.00
4 The Mail-Call	\$6,000.00	\$5,445.76	\$6,000.00
5 Mail-Permit (includes postage)	\$1,300.00	\$1,290.00	\$1,300.00
6 Postage Expense	\$600.00	\$668.27	\$700.00
9 Harry Brenneman Award	\$250.00	\$227.20	\$250.00
10 Office Expense	\$2,500.00	\$4,879.23	\$5,000.00
12 Retiree's Dinner	\$2,000.00	\$2,469.43	\$2,500.00
13 Installation of Officers	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
14 Branch Telephones	\$2,900.00	\$2,112.49	\$2,500.00
15 Bond for Officer's	\$300.00	\$210.00	\$300.00
16 Office Supplies	\$800.00	\$1,548.35	\$1,500.00
17 Labor-Management Meetings	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
18 Refreshments	\$750.00	\$747.44	\$750.00
19 Donations	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00
20 Equipment Repairs	\$900.00	\$922.36	\$900.00
21 Equipment Purchase	\$2,000.00	\$231.61	\$2,000.00

ESTIMATE EXPENDITURES	BUDGET 2013	SPENT 2013	BUDGET 2014
22 Election Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
23 Miscellaneous Expense	\$150.00	\$325.00	\$150.00
24 Public Relations	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
25 Station Expense	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00
26 Educational & Training	\$15,000.00	\$19,203.65	\$18,500.00
27 Publications	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00
28 Local Negotiations	\$3,000.00	\$4,315.75	\$0.00
29 Branch Picnic	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
30 Lost Time Account	\$15,000.00	\$14,650.00	\$15,000.00
31 Insurance cost	\$1,100.00	\$768.00	\$900.00
32 Office Rental	\$23,000.00	\$22,800.00	\$23,000.00
33 Gas Utility	\$300.00	\$302.20	\$300.00
34 Food Drive	\$1,500.00	\$2,582.13	\$2,500.00
35 Ray Kreyer Award	\$600.00	\$535.37	\$600.00
36 C.O.A. Mail Call	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
38 Mileage (.56 per mile)	\$1,700.00	\$1,590.05	\$1,700.00
39 Route Inspetion Expense		\$8,450.00	\$8,500.00
40 Electric Utility	\$1,500.00	\$1,705.87	\$1,800.00
41 Dues & Membership Expense	\$750.00	\$666.60	\$700.00
42 Janitorial Expense	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$900.00
43 MDA Expense		\$400.00	\$800.00
44 Membership Drawing	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
45 Bass Calendars	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
46 Christmas Open House	\$6,000.00	\$5,450.59	\$6,000.00
47 Independent Medical Exam	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
48 Organizing Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
49 Cellular Phone	\$1,400.00	\$1,287.55	\$1,400.00
50 Greeting Cards	\$15.00	\$0.00	\$15.00
51 On-Line Service	\$700.00	\$799.88	\$850.00
53 NALC Store Expense	\$1,000.00	\$700.00	\$700.00
54 Deaf/Inter-Sign Language	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
55 General Taxes	\$450.00	\$321.79	\$400.00
56 Cable Expense	\$1,000.00	\$977.08	\$1,000.00
57 Retiree Breakfast Expense	\$1,200.00	\$1,546.24	\$1,500.00
99 Non-Numbered Items	\$0.00		\$0.00
TOTALS	\$221,109.60		\$225,341.80

**JANUARY 2014 THRU DECEMBER 2014
BALANCE SHEET**

INCOME	\$225,682.40
EXPENDITURES	\$225,341.80
BALANCE	\$340.60

The above report will be submitted to, and voted on by the general membership of Branch 2462 at the regular meeting to be held in the month of February 2014.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO and in effect during the periods July 21, 1981 to July 20, 1984; July 21, 1984 to July 20, 1987; July 21, 1987 to November 20, 1990; and November 21, 1990 to November 20, 1994.

In 1981, the Postal Service and the American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO, and the National Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO entered into a collective bargaining agreement in which the parties agreed that the cost of living adjustment (COLA) that had accumulated in the previous three years would not be counted in basic salary during the term of the agreement, but rather would be deferred until the next collective bargaining agreement. They also agreed that certain benefits would not be diminished by this deferral and that no one would be hurt by it.

A dispute arose over the meaning of the agreement. Arbitration between the Postal Service and unions led to an award in 1986 that life insurance benefits had to be paid as though the COLA had been included in basic salary from 1981.

Following the arbitration, some life insurance beneficiaries were not paid the additional death benefits immediately. Some were paid many years later, and some have not been paid yet.

The same COLA deferral in the 1981 collective bargaining agreement was included in collective bargaining agreements in 1984, 1987 and 1990. Some life insurance beneficiaries covered by these collective bargaining agreements also have been paid years later or have not been paid yet.

In the lawsuit, Plaintiffs say that the Postal Service should have paid interest on life insurance benefits it paid after the arbitration. Plaintiffs are also seeking payment of benefits and interest to those beneficiaries who may be entitled to benefits but have not been paid them in full.

The Class is defined as:

All beneficiaries of deceased United States Postal Service employees (or, if deceased, the beneficiaries' estates or other legal representatives), who first received notice on or after March 28, 2008, that they may be entitled to an additional death benefit payment under provisions of the U.S. Postal Service Annuity Protection Program.

You can obtain additional details by emailing Class Counsel at classaction@steinmitchell.com.

• NOTE: All inquiries regarding this matter should be referred to Class Counsel, not NALC.

Route Inspections:

Route inspections are coming next spring for Van Nuys main office 91405 scheduled for March 1, 2014, 91406 scheduled for March 22, 2014, and Tarzana scheduled for April 12, 2014. We will plan route inspection classes for these offices. If you work in one of these offices and are interested in having a route inspection class please let your shop steward know so they can start to gage about how many want to actually have a class.

Organized

Our Branch is 97.5% organized when you look at Full-time and Part Time Flexibles. However, we are only 72.1% organized when it comes to CCA's. If there are CCA's in your office that have past their 90/120 days please talk to them about joining the Union because they now have full access to the grievance procedure. At some point they will need to Union someday and remember we are all in this together. So ask your fellow CCA if they are a member of the Union, we are looking out for their right as well.

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.

I hope everyone enjoyed themselves over the holidays and I hope that you all will have a prosperous and safe year in 2014.

In Unionism

"THE MAIL CALL" BRANCH 2462, NALC

Steve Seyfried, Editor

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

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Branch Meeting Minutes

January 7, 2014

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 6:57 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS ROGER ASKEW

MOMENT OF SILENCE—Warren Faulkner, Retiree

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

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

ABSENT--MULLINAX, ENZ

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAIL CALL

CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

ELIZABETH BELLEVOU, MARIA GUZMAN, LUIS GARCIA, BIPANJEET SINGH, MATHEW PHARES, NERIZA LAKANDULA, JOSEPH SANCHEZ JR. BRIAN SIERRA

BILLS READ --NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TRUSTEES Budget meeting will be Wed, Jan 8th, & audit will be Jan 23rd at 6:30pm.

SAFETY & HEALTH Be safe
RETIREEES--BRASH 4 attending tonight.

MBA--ENZ No Report

HBR--L. DOLABSON Waiting for update on new members of the Health Plan

MDA FUND--ASKEW \$ 1842.00 in the fund.

LEGISLATION REPORT--ASKEW Nothing new since Congress has been on recess for the holidays

MDA--ANGER No Report

FINANCIAL/TREASURERS REPORT READ by JOHNSON

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

VICE PRESIDENT DOLABSON Christmas party was a great success, thanks especially to Bob Enz, John Burton, Tia & John Wilson, Sandy Anger, Paul Jefferies, Calvin Brookins, Larry Dolabson, Roger Askew & Steve Seyfried. Roger and I will be speaking at the Santa Clarita City Council meeting Jan 14th in support of Postal Service issues.

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

BY-LAWS Four By-law changes were submitted tonight, they will be published in the Mailcall and voted on at the Regular March Meeting

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

OLD BUSINESS

The following actions were taken by the Executive Board since the last meeting.

1. Board voted to get estimates for cleaning the carpet in the Union office and then get it cleaned.
2. Board voted to donate \$ 100.00 to MEND
3. Board voted to purchase a ¼ page advertisement in the State Convention Booklet. Cost to the Branch \$ 100.00
4. Board voted to donate \$ 100.00 to the All Veterans Burial squad in the name of James Tukesbrey.
5. Board voted to renew the anti-virus program for all Branch computers for 2 years. Cost \$ 389.90
6. Board voted to purchase a new computer for the Office. Cost not to exceed \$ 1000.00.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION--Branch renew the membership in the LA County Fed for 101 members. Cost to the Branch

\$666.60

M/S/C

MOTION--Branch renew the bulk mailing permit Cost to the Branch

\$200.00

M/S/C

MOTION--Branch sent the President to the COP Meeting in San Diego, March 16-17. Cost not to Exceed \$

1100.00

M/S/C

UNDERLINED= UNANOMOUS VOTE

MDA DRAWING

\$ 3 ROGER ASKEW--RETIREE--DONATED

\$ 4 JANETTE DOLABSON--TARZANA--DONATED

\$ 7 ROGER ASKEW--RETRIEE--DONATED

ADJOURNED 8:27 pm

PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGE

(Continued from Page 2)

4. Proposed to change Article III, Section 1, which reads

Section 7. The salaries shall be as follows

President \$350 p/month Shop Steward (each)..75.00 p/Month
Vice President 150.00 p/month Sgt-at-Arms. 50.00 p/month
Recording Sec 150.00 p/month HB Rep 50.00 p/month
Fin'l Sec't/Treasurer 150.00 p/month Editor..55.00 p/month
Trustees (3) (each)..... 50.00 per month MBA \$35.00 p/month

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President \$350 p/month Shop Steward(each)..100.00 p/Month

Vice President 150.00 p/month Sgt-at-Arms. 50.00 p/month
Recording Sec 150.00 p/month HB Rep 50.00 p/month
Fin'l Sec't/Treasurer 150.00 p/month Editor..55.00 p/month
Trustees (3) (each) 50.00 per month MBA \$35.00 p/month

Signed by members in good standing: Roger Askew, Tracy Mullinax, Sandy Anger, Tia Wilson, Bob Enz & John Burton