

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

VOLUME 51

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NUMBER 2

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Calvin Brookins

Delivery Unit Optimization (DUO)

By the time you read this the movement of Sun Valley Post Office to Burbank will have taken effect on February 8, 2014. There was a stand up at Sun Valley with the MPOO the Union and others from Sierra Coastal District. This stand up was held to answer any questions and to let the carrier know that this move is definitely going to take place. That mean we could very well be losing valuable members of our branch to the Burbank branch, that decision has to come from National President Fred Rolando. Therefore, to all the members at Sun Valley Post Office this means that you may be represented by another NALC branch in the future.

I have been made aware by RAA Brian Voigt that everything will remain the same until our National President Fred Rolando makes the decision as to who will represent the letter carriers. What that means is for now you will still be represented by NALC Branch 2462. A complete package of information has been sent to President Rolando and the Director of City Delivery Lew Drass in regards to the DUO or move of the Sun Valley carriers. When our National President Fred Rolando makes that decision I will let everyone know what it is ASAP.

The other move of Reseda to Tarzana is currently on hold and according to the MPOO for that office it may not happen at all as he doesn't seem to think it will fit. However, the person in charge of finance for the District Ralph Tapia is still pushing for that move to take place. So we will see and I will keep you posted as I get more information.

New MOU on filling residual vacancies:

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Re: Residual Vacancies – City Letter Carrier Craft, M-01824, puts in place a procedure for filling residual vacancies that includes assignment of unassigned regulars, conversion to regular of part-time flexibles (PTFs), transfers, and city carrier assistant

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NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS OF BRANCH OFFICERS & SHOP STEWARDS

This is official notice to members of Branch 2462 that nominations for the following offices will be held at the regular branch meeting April 1, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Branch Union Hall 6910 Hayvenhurst Ave # 101, Van Nuys California. The Offices are President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary/Treasurer, Sgt-at-Arms, Three (3) Trustee's, Health Benefits Representative, and Mutual Benefits Representative. No one may be nominated for more than one (1) office. Candidates must accept nomination at the time made or, if absent, in writing to be received by the Branch Secretary no later than April 3, 2014. The terms of Office shall be for a three year period. Candidates elected shall be delegates to the National and State Conventions as stated in the Branch By-Laws.

Shop Steward nominations and election will be held at the individual Stations.

ELECTION

The election shall be conducted by secret mailed ballot. All ballots will be mailed First Class to the home addresses of eligible members no later than May 9, 2014. The Election shall be conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the Executive Board of Branch 2462, NALC, which shall not be in violation of the rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the Rules of the National Executive Council. Ballots must be mailed back to the Election Committee, P. O. Box 55481 Sherman Oaks, California 91413 and must be received by 5:00 p.m. on May 28, 2014. The counting of the ballots will take place on Thursday, May 29, 2014 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at 6910 Hayvenhurst Ave., # 101 Van Nuys, California. All candidates and members may observe the counting.

"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	4	4
ENCINO	2	3
PANORAMA CITY	2	1
SHERMAN OAKS	5	6
SUN VALLEY	2	4
TARZANA	3	2
RETIREE'S	4	5
TOTAL	22	25

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

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

MARCH
4th
"2014"

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

Mar 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 Feb 22nd, & March 22, 2014 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar....We hope to see you there.

Thank You
Frank Brash

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

(CCA) conversions to full-time regular career status. An updated list of vacancies available for transfer opportunities under M-01824 was posted in eReassign Feb. 1 and is available on the NALC website. Transfer requests from career employees will be accepted through eReassign following the procedure in the MOU.

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.

Customer and employee rights when USPS solicits customers to change to centralized delivery.

NALC has recently become aware of an effort by the Postal Service in different parts of the country to convince customers to agree to change their mode of delivery to cluster box or centralized delivery. The following information details the rights of both postal customers and letter carriers:

Customer Rights

Sections 631.6 and 631.7 of the Postal Operations Manual (POM) govern conversion of mode of mail delivery. A conversion is changing from one mode of delivery to another. The most common example of this occurs when USPS solicits customers to change from receiving mail at their door to a centralized location where a number of deliveries are made into a cluster box. In such cases the customers have to go to the cluster box to retrieve their mail.

As letter carriers know, these changes are often pushed without regard for the safety of the customers or the security of the mail. The relevant language from the POM is shown below followed by a brief explanation highlighting a few key points.

631.6 Conversion of Mode of Delivery

In this section, conversion refers to changing existing mail delivery to a more economical and efficient mode. The key to converting existing deliveries is identifying those deliveries that are most costly to the Postal Service. Delivery managers can go into any delivery territory where delivery has been established for over 1 year and solicit to convert the mode of delivery if it would be cost beneficial to the Postal Service.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 2)

Postmasters should not establish a mixed delivery area where the carrier must zigzag from the door to the curb when previously the carrier took obvious shortcuts to effect delivery. Postmasters must weigh the advantages and disadvantages of converting less than 100 percent of the deliveries.

Customer signatures must be obtained prior to any conversion. In single-family housing areas (including manufactured housing and mobile homes) where the residences and lots are owned, each owner must agree to the conversion in writing. Owners who do not agree must be allowed to retain their current mode of delivery.

When a residence is sold, the mode of delivery cannot be arbitrarily changed prior to the new resident moving in. The existing mode of delivery must be retained. If an owners' association represents the community, it can direct the mode of delivery for the community. In rental areas, such as apartment complexes and mobile home parks, the owner or manager can approve the conversion.

The language above makes clear that property owners must sign indicating their agreement with the conversion. If property owners do not sign, they retain their current mode of delivery. Owners' associations and managers in rental areas may also control the mode of delivery. The final paragraph states that the Postal Service may not arbitrarily change the mode of delivery when a residence is sold.

Employee Rights

Section 667.12 of the Employee and Labor Relations Manual (ELM) provides the following in regard to employees engaging in campaigns for or against changes in mail service:

667.12 Engaging in Campaigns for Changes in Mail Service

Employees in active status must not engage in campaigns for or against changes in mail service. This regulation must not be construed to infringe on the rights to participate in labor organizations.

Committee set to continue mark-up of S. 1486: The following is an update on S. 1486 as per the latest news from the NALC website. I am reprinting this in the MailCall because I think it is something that the membership should be aware of.

On Jan. 29, the Senate committee with Postal Service oversight, the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee, spent nearly three hours in a mark-up meeting to debate a handful of proposed amendments to S. 1486. "Unfortunately, none of the proposed amendments to S. 1486 will fix the fundamental flaws with the bill," NALC President Fredric Rolando said, "and at least one amendment on rate-

setting would make the bill worse." As written, S. 1486 would facilitate the end of door delivery and the elimination of Saturday delivery, therefore destroying tens of thousands of letter carrier jobs. It also would endanger all postal jobs by slowing service and driving business away from the Postal Service.

"I am disappointed that the committee will seek to advance this flawed legislation," Rolando said. "We will continue to fight for the kind of reform that will strengthen the Postal Service without slashing service or attacking hard-working postal employees."

Round 1

One of the first amendments considered after the first mark-up meeting came to order on Jan. 29, from Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), called for an immediate end to six-day delivery. It was easily defeated on a voice vote.

Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) proposed an amendment calling on the Postal Service to declare bankruptcy and reorganize. In the senator's vision of reorganization, collective-bargaining agreements between USPS and its employee unions would be renegotiated, while existing no-layoff protections and the ability to bargain over wages would be banned. The committee voted down the Paul amendment 11 to 4.

An amendment offered by Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT) called for the removal of the bill's unfair provisions regarding injured workers. As written, S. 1486 imposes cruel and discriminatory reforms to the Federal Employee Compensation Act (FECA) that would leave injured federal workers with the worst long-term injuries vulnerable to impoverishment when they reach Social Security retirement age. This FECA language was originally proposed by Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) under last Congress' postal bill, S. 1789. Collins no longer serves on the oversight committee, but the language was still carried over into S. 1486.

Tester's amendment failed, and the FECA reform language was retained. However, Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK), the committee's ranking member, admitted that the language was reflective of the last Congress' priorities, and he said that even if it made it into the final bill, he believed it would be removed during House-Senate conference committee negotiations. Tester disagreed, saying that he was hearing that the House would likely follow the Senate's lead on the matter and leave the language in the bill, untouched.

Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) raised some concerns over the new bill's call to transfer rate-setting authority from the Postal Regulatory Commission the Postal Board of Governors, effectively giving complete rate-setting ability to the Postal Service with greatly reduced oversight. She also raised concerns about a revised price index system.

Following a great deal of back-and-forth discussion on the matter, Baldwin's concerns were noted and her amendment was held over for future consideration.

"THE MAIL CALL"

BRANCH 2462, NALC

Steve Seyfried, Editor

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

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Branch Meeting Minutes

February 4, 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 6:36 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS ROGER ASKEW

MOMENT OF SILENCE—All Members who passed in 2013

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

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

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAIL CALL

CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

JUAN JUAREZ, RICHARD WILLGRUBS, HAKOP SHARNAZYAN, DENNIS LOPEZ, JOHN PORTILLO, MONETTE TAYLOR, JOVEL GONZALEZ, OSCAR LEMUS, LEONARD LOZANO, RODRIGO RAMIREZ, WILLIAM POWERS, DAVID HARDEN, AARON FERRELL, KEVIN RUGNETTA, LAURA CONTRERAS, KEVIN FLETCHER, YOSIRA MUNOZ

TRUSTEES Audit held on Jan 28th all books balanced and were found to be in good order.

SAFETY & HEALTH Be safe

RETIREEES—BRASH 5 attending tonight.

MBA--ENZ Mailing info to new CCA's

HBR—L. DOLABSON Still waiting for update on new members of the Health Plan. If you have not received your new Health Plan card contact Larry.

MDA FUND--ASKEW \$ 1880.00 in the fund.

LEGISLATION REPORT—ASKEW Senate bill 1486 was marked up in the senate this week, if passed it would eliminate 6 day delivery and mandate the Postal service to declare bankruptcy and reorganize and renegotiate our contract. Contact your Representatives and tell them to vote no.

FINANCIAL/TREASURERS REPORT READ by JOHNSON

MOTION—Accept report as read
M/S/C

VICE PRESIDENT DOLABSON Food drive planning has begun. Media day will be on May 6th, and the food drive on May 10th.

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 7 copies of Windows 7 for all the Branch computers. Cost to the
Branch is \$ 413.00
M/S/C

MOTION—Branch vote the Unit Rule at the State & National Conventions

M/S/C

MOTION—Branch accept the 2014 Budget as printed in the Mailcall, with the Contingency Fund for Regular members adjusted to \$ 17,160.00 M/S/C

MOTION—Branch renew the line Officers Bond.
Cost to the Branch \$ 210.00

M/S/C

MOTION—Branch pay any Delegate who attends the State Convention \$ 500.00 for all expenses. Hotel room will be taken out of the \$ 500.00 & placed on the Branch credit card. M/S/C

MOTION-- Branch pay any Delegate who attends the National Convention \$ 1800.00 for all expenses. Hotel room will be taken out of the \$ 1800.00 & placed on the Branch credit card. M/S/C

UNDERLINED= UNANIMOUS VOTE

MDA DRAWING

\$ 3 STEVE SEYFRIED—SHERMAN OAKS
\$ 4 JOHN BURTON—MAIN OFFICE
\$ 8 STEVE SEYFRIED—SHERMAN OAKS—DONATED
\$5

ADJOURNED 8:37 pm

Vice President's Report

By

Janette Dolabson

Hi all. I apologize for not getting this in the last Mail Call. I would like to thank those who helped with the Christmas Party. It was a great success and a lot of fun. Special thank you to my little elves, John Burton, Sandy Anger, Bob Enz, Larry Dolabson, Paul Jeffery, Marta Mihich, Calvin Brookins and especially my partner in crime, Steve Seyfried. You all worked so hard and made our event happen with your hard work and dedication and I truly do appreciate you.

We are starting to gear up for this years food drive that will take place on May 10th. The kick off will be Tues. May 6th at MEND. If you are off or would like to attend you can put in for it off. It is a lot of fun and only lasts a couple hours at most. It usually starts at 10 am. We have a couple leads on celebrities to host the event but have not inked them yet. If you know of a celebrity on your route or on a carriers route in your office that might be willing to host this event on camera May 6th, please give me a call and I can forward all the information on to them. 661 373-2224.

We do not have bags confirmed yet for the food drive. We are waiting on the grant from Ralph's before we can order them. We should know within the next couple weeks.