

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By JANETTE DOLABSON

I would like to start off congratulating our newly converted to regular carriers, Jesse Valles, Ronald Viray and Raul Moreno! Well deserved!

SAFETY

We have been informed that there has been an OSHA violation filed in Van Nuys Main office regarding the use of the wire cages by the letter carrier craft. This has been a concern of ours for a long time. We have filed grievances on this issue in the past. Although we did not initiate this OSHA complaint we are certainly interested in the outcome. These wire cages do not have brakes on them and are often over filled and very heavy to push or pull, especially in offices using ramps. They have already been responsible for a couple injuries yet they are still being used with managements blessing. We will keep you posted on the results.

We have had many carriers being observed with their seatbelts off while driving, doors open while driving through intersections or around corners, dismounting vehicles with the engine running. Management is, in most cases, issuing a removal for these safety infractions, regardless of whether a carrier has had any other safety infractions. This practice is contrary to the language of the contract, however, they can issue what they want to and we will have to grieve it. With that said, there is no reason at all that you should ever be driving without your seatbelts or driving through intersections with your doors open or dismounting your vehicles leaving the engine running. Please stop these practices at once. Don't take that chance that you will be injured or even killed, or risk hurting someone else. It is not worth the tiny amount of time you save by not doing these simple things. Do your jobs as if you are being watched all the time. Get in the habit of good driving practices. Our safety record in many of our offices is bad. Management is out there watching you daily. Don't give them any reason to discipline you. Be safe, not sorry!!

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Monday- President Rolando spoke for a couple hours. His mission for the week was to "organize, strategize, and mobilize our entire membership to build a better union." He went on to say that the Letter Carrier craft has grown for the first time in 1 years since the DAS award took effect in 2013.

We have converted over 38,000 TE's and CCA's since that time to career employees. He was hopeful that with the change in our new Postmaster General that we will be able to move forward in a more positive way saying that Postmaster Megan Brennan is "unlike her predecessor, she is not single mindedly zealous about slashing service." He said that we are able to deal with her in a professional manner.

Our contract expired on May 20, 2016. President Rolando gave us a general update in negotiations. He said that they had been good, but cautioned that he did not mane they had been easy. He stated that "we narrowed the topics to focus on issues of mutual interest. He further said that their goal was to be able to reach a contract that can be strongly ratified by our members. He is "hopeful but realistic" and if we needed to resort to interest arbitration then they certainly would.

Speakers the first day were LA Mayor Eric Garcetti, APWU president Mark Dimondstein and heard a rousing speech by UNI Global Union General Secretary Philip Jennings who said, "we fight everywhere, all the time, for you and the ideas you represent" and further stated "we need to make our mark in the e-commerce space we know how to do this..." "we are not dying, we are living, and we are going to grow this business."

Tuesday- We heard debate on some of the proposed resolutions. Mehrsa Baradaran, an associate professor at University of Georgia's Law school and author of How the Other Half banks, spoke to the delegation. Postal Banking is done in many other countries but not done here. Ms. Baradaran has studied the idea of allowing the Postal Service to offer banking services. She said that "If we return to a system of Postal banking we would eliminate banking deserts in this country, leaving no American unbanked."

Director of City Deliveries, Brian Renfroe, explained the capabilities of the new NALC APP for smartphones. It is pretty sweet! I really like that you can personalize it with your non-scheduled day calendar. You can keep updated on legislative and political action and you can receive push notifications for just those things you want to receive. You can download the app on iTunes and Google Play at no charge. Just type in NALC in the search bar and it should come up.

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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	5	4	4	3	3	3	3	6	3		
ENCINO	3	4	4	4	4	2	3	5	4		
PANORAMA CITY	4	6	4	4	3	1	2	5	4		
SHERMAN OAKS	3	3	3	4	3	3	4	12	3		
SUN VALLEY	2	3	2	2	3	1	2	1	2		
TARZANA	2	4	3	7	3	5	5	5	3		
RETIREE'S	4	7	6	7	7	6	6	6	5		
TOTAL	23	31	26	31	26	21	25	40	24		

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

NEXT MEETING
6:30 PM

OCTOBER
4th
"2016"

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

Oct 7, 2016

WEB PAGE.... WWW.NALCBRANCH2462.ORG
BRANCH OFFICE.....818-786-8505
O P C PERSONNEL OFFICE.....818-374-5600
E-Mail.....Branch2462nalc@gmail.com

"RETIREE CORNER" ATTENTION: !!!!

Our next 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 September 24th & October 22, 2016, (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar.....We hope to see you there. Thank You

Bob

Johnson

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT Tracy Mullinax

2016 NATIONAL CONVENTION TIDBITS

- 1) 38,425 TE's and CCA's have been converted nationally since 2013
- 2) NALC, our union, has been around for 127 years.
- 3) We have 291,000 members, which is 93.5% organized, the highest open shop union in the country.
- 4) There are 152,000,000 deliveries in the country and growing.
- 5) Sunday delivery has proven so popular with amazon that other companies are looking to use the USPS also on Sunday.
- 6) SPMS, or sampling requests we get on our route daily used to be done by Price, Waterhouse, Cooper audit firm. The USPS are now saving millions of dollars each year by doing our own auditing. These are not factored into our street time, so let management know the time used each day for them.
- 7) Promaster vehicles are being shipped out at 250 each week until last delivery in Nov. 2016.
- 8) The new vehicles have been pushed back until late 2019 but will have swamp cooler air to keep vehicles under 80 degrees in the summer rather than freon based air-conditioning.
- 9) 2,600 routes have been added back in nationally due to last CDRAPP.
- 10) If CCA's are converted in less than 1 year of service, they will have to undergo a new 90 day probationary period. If more than 1 year of service, they will not.
- 11) New test involves building codes popping up on your scanner before entering.
- 12) Parcel Post routes are being looked at with the next route adjustment process where 8 hour parcel routes would be designed and bid upon by carriers where seniority would prevail.
- 13) CCA's can put in for Annual Leave when converted not 90 days after being converted but the beginning of the pay-period after the 90th day.
- 14) CCA's, when converted are to do fingerprinting on the clock.
- 15) If you are going to retire, you have the right to do your retirement counseling with, a spouse if need be, on the clock.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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Representative Judy Chu spoke to the delegates. Chu, promised to continue her partnership with the NALC to pass legislation that would strengthen the Postal Service.

Japan's Post Group Union, Toshimichi Omata spoke about the challenges of his unions efforts to adapt to the partial privatization of his country's postal delivery, banking and insurance services.

Wednesday- AFL-CIO president Richard Trumka spoke. He said the letter carriers directly changed the national conversation about the USPS by our contact with our Representatives. He said, "Most of Americans know that the Postal Service is absolutely critical for America. Nobody's talking about cutting Saturday delivery any more. I love that they're talking about Sunday delivery now, because they know that they need you. You're there every time America calls. You always, always get the job done."

Unite Here's Vice President for civil rights and immigration, Maria Elena Durazo spoke. Unite Here represents over 270,000 workers in the US and Canada. She said that "Respect is more powerful than greed" and that there was no place for the private sector in the Postal Service.

Thursday- The highlight on this day for me was speaker Cecil Roberts, President of United Mine Workers of America. What a fantastic speaker he is. Wow! He told us that Letter Carriers provide a crucial service for his union's members. For instance, medicine to those who live in remote areas. Those who might not be able to get those medicines otherwise. He shouted, "We are fighting this fight together!" I urge you to leave this convention with this spirit moving forward! "You want higher wages, a pension, more time off, a safer workplace, health care for your family, to protect Social Security and Medicare, a voice at work, equal pay for women, to end discrimination, fair trade, national health care, and a fairer nation? The answer for each of these is the same: Join a Union!" Then added. "If you want to tell your boss to kiss your ass, join a union!"

Love him!...(I don't suggest you do that however. Lol)

They gave out Community Service awards on Thursday. Congratulations to Los Angeles Branch 24 for being #1 in their category for collecting the most food!! Awesome job LA!! And thank you to LA Branch 24 for hosting a wonderful, uplifting convention.

Those were just some highlights.

TRAINING

We will be holding a NEW Steward training soon and would like any of you folks out there who are interested in becoming active in your union, possibly as a shop steward to please give your shop steward your name or call the office at 818 786-8505 and let me know who you are and what office you work out of so we can get you the information for the training. CCA's are welcome to participate in the training. You are the future of this union. Get involved, learn your rights, become a shop steward. We want you and we need you!

The Pit Falls of Retirement under FERS

Don't let this happen to you

By

Tia Wilson, Trustee

Background

Minimum Retirement Age (MRA) – Unlike CSRS where the MRA is 55, Under FERS your MRA will be 55-57 based on when you were born. FERS employees that retire with unreduced benefits are also eligible to receive an annuity supplement until they are 62.

MRA +10 allows employees to retire at the MRA with only 10 years of service at a permanent reduced rate of 5% per year for every year under the age of 62. Because your benefit is reduced you will not qualify for the annuity supplement.

This by its self is not necessarily a bad thing. If you have reached your MRA with only 10 years of service you probably have another source of retirement income from a previous career. If not you may want to consider working the extra years until you are 62 to avoid the reduction.

The Problem

For those that have put in 30 years, and want to retire as soon as you are eligible, this can be a nightmare if your time of service is not calculated properly. Your sick leave is not counted towards your time of service to determine your retirement date. It is only counted to determine your annuity amount. If you have 29 years 11 months and 17 days of service you cannot add your sick leave to reach the required 30 years, although you can go out on sick leave to attain that additional time.

When looking at your annuity estimate generated by the USPS, under creditable service, it will show "Total Actual Service" and "Total Time". Total Actual service is the line you need to look at to determine retirement eligibility. Also, do not rely on this information alone. If the postal service is wrong, and you fall short of your 30 years, even if it is just 1 day, you will be permanently penalized by a reduction in your retirement annuity. (If an error occurs to a CSRS employee they can be brought back to finish out their time. FERS employees cannot.)

If you fall short of your 30 years you will fall under the category of MRA +10. This could cut your expected annuity in half. If you expect to get \$1000 monthly from your pension it would be reduced up to 35% or \$350. If you expect to get \$1000 monthly from Social Security at age 62 your supplement is about 75% of that amount or \$750. In this example you could lose up to \$1,100 per month.

Other Things to Consider

If you have used more than 6 months of LWOP during any year of service, the amount over 6 months will be deducted from your time of service. If you have military time that can be used towards your years of service make sure you have been properly credited for all of your eligible time.

"THE MAIL CALL" BRANCH 2462, NALC

Steve Seyfried, Editor
6910 Hayvenhurst Ave., # 101
Van Nuys, CA 91406

Address Service Requested

Branch Meeting Minutes

September 6, 2016

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 J. DOLABSON at 6:50 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sgt-at-Arms RAUL DOZAL

MOMENT OF SILENCE-----All Who have Passed
ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

PRESENT—J. DOLABSON, MULLINAX, SEYFRIED,
JOHNSON, WILSON, BURTON, DOZAL, ENZ, L
DOLABSON

ABSENT—JEFFREY

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAIL CALL

CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

ANDREW QUELADA, SANATH PETHTHANANDI, RUBEN
MACIAS, ROBERTO RAMIREZ, RUDY GONZALEZ,
NATHAN WADE, ESSIE PERRY, EDGAR GAMEZ, RACHEL
TORRES, RICHARD DUENEZ, NICHOLAS KELLEY, JAIME
PEDRAZA, RICARDO SALAS, ANGEL GONZALEZ.

BILLS READ—NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HEALTH & SAFETY OSHA investigation has
begun regarding the use of "wire cages" as loading devices.

RETIREEES 5 retiree's present tonight.

MDA FUND--DOZAL Currently \$1858.00 in fund

HBR—L. DOLABSON 24 hour Help line, Nurse
Line available.

MDA--ANGER Golf tourney at Branch
4006 on November 13th.

MBA—ENZ All members are covered
by \$ 5000 accidental Death Benefit.

FINANCIAL/TREASURERS REPORT—JOHNSON

MOTION—Accept Financial reports as read M/S/C

VICE-PRESIDENT MULLINAX Read my article in Mail call

PRESIDENT DOLABSON Report will be in Mail
Call

OLD BUSINESS—By-laws that were passed at August
meeting were approved by National,

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION—Motion Branch send 2 members, to
be chosen by the President, to the Region 1 Leadership
Conference and Precinct walk in Reno, Nev. To be
Held on Oct 14 – 16th. Cost not to exceed \$ 3500.00
M/S/C

MOTION—Branch order 2 copies of the NALC

Arbitration CD. Cost to the Branch \$ 20.00
M/S/C

UNDERLINED INDICATES UNANIMOUS VOTE

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

President Dolabson announced that she has appointed
ROBERT JOHNSON as Treasurer of Branch 2462, in
accordance with the Branch By-Laws

MDA DRAWING

\$ 3 GUILLERMO MARISCAL-SHERMAN OAKS-
DONATED

\$ 4 ROBERT JOHNSON--RETIREE

\$ 5 ROBERT JOHNSON—RETIREE—DONATED

Meeting Adjourned 7:57 PM

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 2)

16) USPS is scanning and delivering Amazon packages
at an amazing 99% clip, while UPS IS AT 92%, FED
EX at 88% and Amazon drivers themselves at a far
lesser percentage.

17) Amazon has dropped courier hours to 30 a week for
a number of reasons with the most important being a
class action lawsuit by their drivers to be classified as
employees and not as independent contractor's. The
company has most likely been advised to do this now
to avoid having to pay out more later. The benefit,
hopefully, will be a windfall of business and revenue
for us, since we are the most reliable. Are we ready
for all of these parcels heading into the USPS's
busiest time of year? Stay tuned!

Having been a delegate for the last 11 conventions, it
never ceases to amaze me how the problems we are having
here are only minor to what is going on in the rest of the
country. Nevertheless, problems are solved with union and
management working together and coming to a common
ground while setting egos aside and swallowing pride.

While, as of this writing, we still do not have a new
contract, our national leaders are determined to negotiate a
contract in the best interest of letter carriers while rewarding us
for our contributions to the service while looking out for the
long term viability of the company we are employed with. You
can follow latest updates at NALC.org.

SPECIAL NOTICE !!!!!

RETIREE LUNCHEON WILL BE HELD ON
SUNDAY OCTOBER 23, 2016, AT ENCINO
GLEN RESTAURANT. DOORS OPEN AT 1
PM. CONTACT BOB JOHNSON FOR
TICKETS AND INFORMATION. RETIRED
AND ACTIVE MEMBERS ARE INVITED.
COST IS \$ 7.50