

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

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10

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By JANETTE DOLABSON

Contract Negotiations are still underway. We do know that they are still in negotiations and that progress has been made. He told us that the NALC will not compromise strategy.

Some of the things that must be addressed in negotiations are Subcontracting, COLA increases, wages for non career and career employees and the culture on the workroom floor. As long as these doors are still open the negotiations will continue. Once the USPS closes the door on any of these issues the negotiations will end and we will head to interest arbitration.

We have a 54% turn over rate on CCA's nationally. This problem needs to be addressed. The USPS must take some of the responsibility because of the last agreement and the need to take measures to fix some of what the DOS award did in the last arbitrated contract.

The USPS has sent the NALC a proposal that will address some of the problems we are having across the country regarding CCA uniform allowance vouchers. They are looking at it now to see if it will help solve these problems. Since the last contract there have been way over 40,000 CCA's converted to career employees.

Even though we are still in negotiations, Fred said that they could go into early next year before we know if we are going to have to go to interest arbitration.

The Postal Service has awarded 6 contracts for vehicles. it will be at least 18 months before we see any of these. We do know that they will not have air conditioning but might have a cooling system that will keep the vehicle from heating beyond 80 degrees. Hopefully that will happen.

Moving forward into the future to make the Postal Service stronger and our jobs more secure, Fred said that there were a number of things that needed to be done beyond the no 5 day service and the door to door issues through legislation, the Pre-Funding of future Retiree Health Benefits must be eliminated. We are not paying it so it must go away. We are already more than 50 billion dollars funded. The NALC has drafted a plan that would cut the liability in half but fully integrating the Medicare system. Over 85% of those retired do this today. The new plan would automatically enroll everyone at 65 into this medicare plan when eligible. Now they don't have to access to Medicare discount drugs This plan would get them that discount and would not take you out of FEHP. All

employees and retiree rates would go down 20%. To be exempt from this plan you would have to be able to opt out due to hardship, no medicare doctors in your area or live out of the country.

Fred also said that we should be able to invest that 50 billion dollars sitting in the prefunded account. Right now it is earning nothing. He said we should write a Bill that would allow the Postal Service to ship wine, beer and other federally restricted goods that other delivery services are allowed to deliver.

Legislative- Door to Door Delivery HR 28. This week this House Resolution Bill supporting the preservation of door delivery service, reached a milestone: a bipartisan majority in the house have added their names as a co-sponsor of this legislation. A large reason for that was carriers calling their Congressperson and asking them to support this important resolution. It now has a majority signed on to it and it will make it much harder for Congress to take up postal reform legislation in the lame-duck that includes language threatening to cut door delivery for nearly 5.5 million businesses. Even Congressman Steve Knight in District 25 signed on to this legislation as a co-sponsor after over 2 years of us asking him and him promising to look into it. Speaking of Congressman Steve Knight the NALC has released John Burton to work on the campaign of Bryan Cafario who is running against Congressman Knight who, although we are thrilled he is a co-sponsor for HR-28, he is far from a friend of labor. We will be campaigning for Bryan who supports our issues and will be a friend of ours in Congress, should he win. Congratulations to John for his appointment to this important election!.

NALC Launches a new APP for smartphones. If you have an iPhone or an Android you can download the NALC APP on your smart phone. Go into your APP store and type NALC and the APP should come up. It is very cool and easy to use. Once you download it, it will ask you your zip code and populate your correct legislative district and information. Then you sign up for notifications that you may be interested in. On the home screen you will see the latest news and social media posts from Facebook and Twitter. It makes it easy to access workplace resources, by clicking the tab. You can open the National Agreement, JCAM, the MRS, M-39,M-41, the ELM and the CCA resource Guide. Click on the menu in the right left top corner and then arrow down to the calendar and plug in your rotating day off that week and it will populate your schedule for many years in the future. I love that feature and use it often.

"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.

## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT Tracy Mullinax

### ITEM "J"

## 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	4	
ENCINO	3	4	4	4	4	2	3	5	4	4	
PANORAMA CITY	4	6	4	4	3	1	2	5	4	4	
SHERMAN OAKS	3	3	3	4	3	3	4	12	3	4	
SUN VALLEY	2	3	2	2	3	1	2	1	2	0	
TARZANA	2	4	3	7	3	5	5	5	3	5	
RETIREE'S	4	7	6	7	7	6	6	6	5	8	
TOTAL	23	31	26	31	26	21	25	40	24	29	

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

NEXT MEETING  
\*\*\* 7:00 PM \*\*\*

**NOVEMBER**  
**1st**  
**"2016"**

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

**Nov 4, 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 & DeCelis). It will begin at 09:00 AM. The next date will be October 22, 2016, (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar....We hope to see you there.

Thank You  
**Bob Johnson**

Item "J" will be in effect starting Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup> and finishing on Friday December 30<sup>th</sup> 2016. Item "J" was instituted to assist letter carrier's when filling out their 3996 requesting overtime. During the holiday season, there is a large increase in parcels, accountables, signature confirmations, catalogs and coverages. These are the types of mail we receive throughout the year but on a much larger scale this time of year. When filling out your 3996 during this four week period, all you are required to write down is see item "j" which on the reverse side says omit during Christmas period. You are not required to put anything more down in requesting overtime nor are you required to say anymore. However, you are still required to give your best estimate as to how much time you think you need for that day and must call in by your designated time if you feel you underestimated. Failure to do so can lead to unauthorized overtime which can then lead to discipline. Each letter carrier has the right to request a 3996 during this period when they deem overtime to be needed and write, See Item "J" only for this four week period. After December 30<sup>th</sup>, one will have to request a 3996 and write down each reason separately.

Realistically, I would like to see us be able to use Item "J" from Labor Day thru New Years Day as that seems to be our heaviest mail period throughout the year. That is because with the sizable increase in coverages and parcels, estimating our 3996 has become a more difficult thing each day and causes much friction between supervisors and carriers across the workroom floors in America.

When negotiations are open, as they now are, everything in our labor contract is on the table for negotiating. Since management has RMS and DMS and MSP's and nobody knows their routes better than the letter carriers who do them every day; Why do we not have innovative thinkers who say that we ask for this amount of time and if need more time call in without arguing each day with our supervisors for it.

Ask yourself this! While we are the most trustworthy government employees in America, why is it that supervisors cannot trust us that we know are routes better than they do and ask for the appropriate amount of overtime without getting into confrontations on the workroom floor each day? Makes you wonder huh?

In Unionism

# NALC HEALTH PLAN INFORMATION

By

Larry Dolabson, HB Representative

If you have the NALC Health Benefit Plan high option there are a few programs you might be interested in participating in. Here are a few you might not be aware of. Special Features- 24- hour help line for mental health and substance abuse. 1 877-468-1016. This line is available 24 hours 7 days a week, to access in-person support for a wide range of concerns, including depression, eating disorders, coping with grief and loss, alcohol or drug dependencies, physical abuse and managing stress.

Also available is a 24 hour nurse line at 1 877-220-6252. This nurse line seeks to influence consumer behavior by providing tools, educate, counseling and support to help members make decisions with respect to their health and use of healthcare services.

These are available to members:

Services called HRA- Health Risk Assessment, ( Where you can sign up for a discount Cigna Dental plan). A discount service called Healthy Rewards Program, ( here you can get discounts for weight management and nutrition services).

Personal Health Record, (allows members to keep a comprehensive and confidential medical record containing information on allergies, immunization, medical providers, medications and more).

Solutions for Caregivers, (for spouses caring for elderly relatives or disabled dependent).

Tobacco cessation program, (member will find support needed and help to quit tobacco and cost is free once enrolled, 1 866- 784-8454), and a Weight Management Program (1 855-948-8255).

The New NALC Health Benefit Plan pricing for 2017 are in and here they are. For Active Letter Carriers the High Option plan for self is \$68.17 per pay period, up \$7 from last year. For Self +1 it is \$156.36 per pay period, up \$20.00 from last year. Self and family is \$146.06 per pay period, up \$14.00 from last year. I suggest that you opt for the self and family over self + 1 since it is less money.

For Retirees the rates are as follows: Self \$167.70  
and family \$363.76 per month.

## 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

TIRED OF NOT KNOWING WHAT'S GOING ON ??? SICK OF LISTENING TO YOUR CASE NEIGHBOR GOSSIP ABOUT THE POSTAL SERVICE !!!!!



Join E-ACTIVIST. It is simple go to the NALC website at <http://nalc.org/> and Click on the Logo you see above on the page. Fill out the easy form and you will get updates on a regular basis and then you won't be left in the dark when new information comes in. Don't want to go on line ?? Just contact your Shop Steward at your station or call the Union office leave your number and we will call you and walk you through the process. It only takes a couple of minutes and then you will be able to stay up to date on what is happening in Washington and how it effects your job and your paycheck. DON'T WAIT—DO IT TODAY !



THANK YOU TO ALL THE VETERAN'S WHO HAVE PROUDLY SERVED TO DEFEND OUR COUNTRY, OUR FREEDOM AND OUR WAY OF LIFE.

WE SALUTE YOU !!

## SPECIAL NOTICE

If you are interested in becoming a Shop Steward or want to learn more about what it takes to be one, then plan on attending the Introductory Shop Steward class to be held at the Union office at 7 pm on Friday October 28, 2016. No strings attached, just come in and learn the in's and out's of being a Steward. Food and beverages will be served, and one way or another you will go away with a better understanding of how our Branch works, and the opportunities available to serve.

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# "THE MAIL CALL" BRANCH 2462, NALC

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

Address Service Requested

## Branch Meeting Minutes

October 4, 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, BURTON, DOZAL, ENZ, L DOLABSON

ABSENT—WILSON, JEFFREY (On NALC Assignment)

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAIL CALL

CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

HUMBERTO LOPEZ JR., MICHAEL SO, LAURA AVALOS, CHARLIE FLORES, AUGUSTIN ARIAS, CESAR PINEDA, TANYA CRUZ

BILLS READ—NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HEALTH & SAFTETY Health and Safety Meeting was held. Accidents were up this last fiscal year, so expect management to be out in force to issue discipline where ever they find you doing something wrong. Especially the non-use of seat belts and being outside your vehicle with the engine running. Carriers are being removed, illegally but it takes time for the grievance to be processed, and in the mean time you are out of a pay check. Take the time to be safe and obey the safety regulations, they will save your life, and reward you monetarily.

RETIREES 8 retiree's present tonight.

The Retiree Luncheon will be on Sunday, October 23, 2016 at Encino Glen Restaurant, at the Encino Golf Course (Burbank & Balboa). Doors open at 1 pm and Food will be served at 2 pm. Cost is \$ 7.50, we will be honoring 16 Carriers who have retired this year, plus we will be presenting the RAY KREYER and HARRY BRENNEMAN AWARDS to 2 Branch members who have given outstanding service to Branch 2462. All Members, Active and Retired and family are invited to attend. Contact BOB JOHNSON at the Union office, to let him know how many and what meal you want, Chicken, Salmon or Tri-Tip. You may pick up your tickets at the door

MDA FUND--DOZAL Currently \$1878.00 in fund

HBR—L. DOLABSON Open Season for health plan will be from November 14<sup>th</sup> through December 12<sup>th</sup> this year. NALC High option costs are: Active Carrier, Self-only \$68.17 p/pp, up \$7, Self Plus one \$ 136. p/pp and Self-Family \$ 146 p/pp, up \$8. Retirees Self \$167.70, up \$5, and Self-

Family \$ 363.76, up \$ 10. These are preliminary costs, you will receive a full explanation and price list from the Health Benefit Plan.

MDA--ANGER

No Report

MBA—ENZ

No Report

FINANCIAL/TREASURERS REPORT—Read by BOB JOHNSON

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

VICE-PRESIDENT MULLINAX Congratulations to IGNATIAS SANTORO who retired after 31 years, from the Encino PO last week. Good Luck and Enjoy your well-deserved retirement, which was negotiated and provided by your loyal Union membership. Heavy mail and election materials are causing the usual problems. Make sure you fill out your 3996's and call in by 3 pm, if you are going to go over your approved overtime. New fiscal year has begun for the Postal System. Life insurance open season has ended. CCA's who are converted have 60 days, after conversion, to enroll in the FEIGLI plan. You can still always lower your life insurance, or cancel it at any time. Remember to Vote in the upcoming Presidential and Congressional Elections.

PRESIDENT DOLABSON Report will be in Mail Call

OLD BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION—Branch Meeting on Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>

Begin at 7 pm

M/S/C

MOTION—Branch cancel the December Meeting and a Christmas party be held in its place. Date, Time and Place to be announced at a later date

M/S/C

MOTION—Branch donate \$ 100.00 to the Labor Community Services TURKEYS & TOY's program

M/S/C

MOTION—Branch renew the Quicken Payroll Update Program. Cost to the Branch \$ 625.00

M/S/C

MOTION—Branch renew the Workman's Comp Insurance, through Farmer's. Cost \$ 702.00

M/S/C

UNDERLINED INDICATES UNANAMOUS VOTE

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

New Member RICHARD DUENEZ, was sworn in as a new member of Branch 2462, NALC. Congratulations.

Branch Christmas party will be held on Saturday, December 17, 2016 at Knights of Columbus Hall in Van Nuys. Watch for further Information.

There will be a Shop Steward Introduction Class on October 28, 2016, for any member who might be interested in becoming a Shop Steward or would like to learn what being a

Shop Steward entails. Class begins at 7 pm, please call office or let you Shop Steward know that you are coming.

MDA DRAWING

\$ 4 FRANCISCO VALENZUELA—PC—DONATED \$2

\$ 8 KAREN AGUILAR—RETIREE--DONATED

\$ 10 KAREN AGUILAR—RETIREE—DONATED

Meeting Adjourned 7:57 PM