

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

VOLUME 54

MARCH 2017

NUMBER 2

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By JANETTE DOLABSON

Postal Reform:

This week, NALC President Fredric Rolando testified before a hearing of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee on postal reform legislation. The committee's leaders have introduced two bills: H.R.756, the Postal Reform Act of 2017, and H.R.760, The Postal Service Financial Improvement Act of 2017. His testimony was used to provide suggested improvements to the bills, which may be marked up later this month. He also urged the committee to adopt the two bills because they contain all the essential elements to achieve two core goals for postal reform:

1. a workable resolution of the retiree health pre-funding burden, achieved by maximizing participation in the Medicare program and investing the Retiree Health Fund more sensibly; and
2. a partial restoration of the rate increase that expired last year, to provide USPS with the revenues needed to stabilize its finances as the Postal Regulatory Commission conducts its 10-year review of the rate-setting system for market-dominant products.

Assuming the bill is approved by the committee, it will be referred to the Congressional Budget Office for a review of its impact on the federal budget. The legislation will also be sent to the two House committees that share jurisdiction over the Medicare program: the Ways and Means Committee for the bill provisions involving Medicare Parts A and B, and the Energy and Commerce Committee for the Medicare prescription drug provisions. Once all the committees have had their say, the bill must go to the floor of the House for debate, amendments and a final vote. Meanwhile, this whole process will have to be repeated in the Senate. The NALC's ultimate objective is to achieve the two core goals described above while protecting our jobs, our rights, our networks (including door delivery, Saturday delivery, etc.) and the interests of all annuitants from any unreasonable hardships caused by the bill's Medicare provisions.

(Continued on Page 3)

NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS OF BRANCH OFFICERS

This is official notice to members of Branch 2462 that nominations for the following offices will be held at the regular branch meeting April 4, 2017 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 6, 2017. 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.

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 15, 2017. 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 56501 Sherman Oaks, California 91413 and must be received by 5:00 p.m. on May 31, 2017. The counting of the ballots will take place on Thursday, June 1, 2017 beginning at 4:00 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.

Vice President's Report

By
Tracy Mullinax

Discipline---Time Limits

When a letter carrier is called into the office for any reason, the first thing you ask is if this can lead to discipline? If no, then you listen and follow the instruction unless it is unsafe, immoral or illegal. If yes, then you answer no questions until you have a union steward present. During a fact-finding, you are asked a series of questions about an incident that recently took place and the union steward should have you answer them truthfully what you can remember of it. A fact-finding is an investigative interview that May or may not lead to discipline. If a carrier receives discipline based upon the fact-finding, you should sign for it because you are not signing off that you are guilty of the charges instead; you are only signing that you are receiving it, not that you are agreeing or disagreeing with it. Management, at that point, must give you a copy and you need to give it to your shop steward as soon as possible. The union has only 14 days to gather all the necessary information,, formulate arguments, put together the case and have to set up a meeting to meet on at the Informal 'A. All discipline starts out in your file for 2 years! It is up to your shop steward to negotiate the discipline down lower or have it thrown out if not warranted. The carrier has a responsibility to give that discipline to their union representative ASAP! Recently, we have had a number of grievances that have been filed late because carriers are not letting their stewards know about their discipline until after the 14 day period. Some as long as 5 weeks! Once we have been notified, we have 14 days to grieve it! If you have been sitting on it for weeks at a time, you have taken our ability to negotiate a Lower settlement and management can make the untimely argument we cannot win! Your discipline will now be in your file for 2 years, unless management decides to reduce it! Do not put the union in this uncomfortable position and have management dictate the terms of your settlement. Most every letter carrier has received some type of discipline during their postal career. All discipline is uncomfortable to receive, but imagine how uncomfortable your union rep is when you hand them the discipline after 14 days, tie your stewards hands and put them in the unenviable position of being at the mercy of management with the inability to negotiate.

In Unionism

ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH J F M A M J J A S O N

MAIN OFFICE	3	6
ENCINO	4	4
PANORAMA CITY	3	4
SHERMAN OAKS	3	5
SUN VALLEY	2	2
TARZANA	4	3
RETIREE'S	5	5
TOTAL	24	29

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

**NEXT MEETING
6:30 PM**

**MARCH
7th
"2017"**

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

Mar 9, 2017

**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 February 25th & March 25, 2017 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar.....We hope to see you there.

Thank You
Frank Brash

IN MEMORY OF

**TIM McLAUGHLIN
RETIRED MEMBER FROM
ENCINO/SHERMAN OAKS STATION**

**We were shocked to hear of the
passing of our Long Time Friend in
November of 2016. Tim donated much
of his time to the Branch and was
responsible for upgrading Branch files
to the digital age. Our utmost
condolences go out to his family**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

Letter Carrier Political Fund:

Why should you donate?

"Congress is the Postal Service's de facto board of directors—535 people who have enormous power over our jobs and our future," Rolando said. "Not only do they have near-total control over the Postal Service, they also legislate many of our benefits, including retirement and health care, and set the bounds of our collective-bargaining rights. We need to educate these 535 individuals and make them understand the value of the Postal Service and its letter carriers to all Americans." LCPF helps pro-letter carrier candidates in two important ways. The PAC donates directly to candidates' campaigns to help them cover the cost of campaign operations, which includes staff, offices, media, events and general operations. And while House districts are apportioned equally according to population, district sizes vary greatly. For Senate their geographical, campaigns must reach an entire state. In 2016, candidates in battleground Senate races spent an average of nearly \$20 million. In the House, some candidates spent nearly \$10 million. But money alone cannot win races, so LCPF also devotes resources that allow for the release of a number of letter carriers to work on select races to get out the vote for letter carrier-friendly candidates. Most of the released carriers contact voters through phone banks or by walking door to door."

Our allies in the House and Senate have helped us defeat more than a dozen attempts to end Saturday delivery and to deregulate mail delivery. They have helped us defeat bills aimed at ending door-to-door delivery. They helped us stop several federal budget measures that would have drastically cut our pension and health care benefits. Last November's election results have made it easier for bad ideas, and perhaps some far worse ones, to become law. So having people who speak for us on will be important in the coming years. We could face proposals to not only cut pay and benefits and reduce service, but they may also be going after our collective-bargaining rights or try to privatize the Postal Service. The Letter Carrier Political Fund is an important tool in making sure Congress understands our concerns, because it helps the union build relationships and open lines of communication with them.

Food Drive Update:

We met with KTLA on Feb. 9th in Los Angeles to discuss our event with them this year. The date for our annual morning news event for our 25th Anniversary Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive will be on Thursday May 11th, 2017. I want to invite anyone who wants to come out and be part of the broadcast to put in for it now. It will start at 6:00 AM and end around 9:00 AM. It will be held at MEND Food Bank 10641 San Fernando road, Pacoima Ca. I will remind you again in later articles. Our Kick off event at MEND will be on May 9th at 10:30 AM. This year we have Actress Jeri Ryan who has graciously agreed to be a spokesperson. We have asks in to Mayor Garcetti's office and waiting to hear back from them. We also will be inviting Edward James Olmos and Anthony Anderson, both of whom have participated in prior years. Ralphs' has again agreed to sponsor bags for Sierra Coastal

District. I do not know the amount of the donation yet but we are so grateful for their continued support of this great event.

Postal Facts from The Washington Examiner:

"Overall, the Postal Service delivers to 155 million residences and businesses six and increasingly seven days a week, providing them with the industrial world's most affordable delivery network. Consistently rated the public's most trusted federal agency, the USPS is particularly critical to small towns and rural areas as well as to small businesses. It is also the nation's largest civilian employer of military veterans. These are just some of the reasons why the Postal Service enjoys enthusiastic support from the public and from lawmakers across the political spectrum, including many conservatives and Republicans.

Regarding its finances, the Postal Service is operating in the black – despite what you may have heard. USPS revenue exceeded operating expenses by \$610 million in Fiscal Year 2016, bringing its total operating profit the past three years to \$3.2 billion. Bear in mind that this is earned revenue; by law USPS gets no tax dollars. It earns its money by selling stamps and other products and services

Two structural factors account for this impressive performance: As the economy gradually improves from the worst recession in 80 years, letter revenue is stabilizing. And as the Internet drives online shopping, package revenue is rising sharply (up 16 percent in 2016), auguring well for the future. Record worker productivity also contributes

Critics like to depict a harshly competitive delivery environment, but significant public-private cooperation actually exists. For example, UPS and FedEx bring an increasing portion of their parcels – millions a year – to the post office for "last-mile" delivery. The private carriers go to perhaps every 50th address while letter carriers go to every address anyway, so UPS and FedEx – and their customers – save money while USPS earns revenue. There is red ink but it stems not from the mail, but rather from congressional politics.

In 2006, a lame-duck Congress mandated that the Postal Service pre-fund future retiree health benefits. No other agency or company has to pre-fund these benefits even one year in advance; USPS must do so decades into the future. That \$5.8 billion annual charge not only accounts for the "red ink" — it disguises the actual profits postal operations have been generating for years. (It's important to note that the pre-funding charge goes on the books each year as a loss, whether or not USPS can afford to pay it.)

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"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 7, 2017

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 6:44 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by TRUSTEE JOHN BURTON

MOMENT OF SILENCE--In Memory TIM McLAUGHLIN

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

PRESENT--J. DOLABSON, MULLINAX, SEYFRIED, JOHNSON, WILSON, BURTON, JEFFREY, MACARAEG, L. DOLABSON

ABSENT--DOZEL, ENZ

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAIL CALL

CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

HECTOR JAUREGUI, JOSE TORRES, ALEX RODRIGUEZ,

GIANNA RAMOS, JASMIN ESTRADA

BILLS READ--NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Audit was held and the books

were found to be balanced and in order

HEALTH & SAFETY

Meeting this week

RETIREEES

5 retiree's present tonight.

MDA FUND--DOZAL

Currently \$2475.00 in fund

HBR--L. DOLABSON

Membership cards should be

out, Chiropractic services 24 per year, acupuncture now a \$20 copay & iron supplements no longer covered for kids. Remember scheduled hospital stays must be pre-certified.

FINANCIAL/TREASURERS REPORT--JOHNSON

Motion to accept report

M/S/C

VICE-PRESIDENT MULLINAX

New manager at Sherman

Oaks will be David Ochoa. Unsafe acts continue, follow rules.

PRESIDENT J. DOLABSON

Gave her report which will be

published in the MailCall

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION--Branch adopt the 2017 Budget as printed

In the February 2017 MailCall

M/S/C

MOTION--Branch purchase 5 sheets of souvenir

Stamp Out Hunger Family Circus stamps

Cost not to exceed \$ 100

M/S/C

MOTION--Branch purchase ¼ page ad in the

State Convention Booklet Cost \$ 150.00

M/S/C

MOTION--Branch renew the Bond for Line

Officers (\$3500) for one year. Cost \$ 215.00

M/S/C

MOTION--Branch purchase NALC Resource

Newsletter package from Bakersfield Branch

782. Cost not to exceed \$ 30.00

M/S/C

MOTION--Branch purchase 15 NALC watches

Cost not to exceed \$ 1275.00

M/S/C

MOTION--Branch deposit \$ 1200.00 in the

Mail permit account at the Post Office

M/S/C

UNDERLINED INDICATES UNANIMOUS VOTE

MDA DRAWING

\$ 4 JOHN BURTON--MAIN OFFICE--DONATED

\$ 5 CALVIN BROOKINS--MAIN OFFICE--DONATED

\$ 7 CALVIN BROOKINS--MAIN OFFICE

Meeting Adjourned 8:08 PM

LETTER CARRIER POLITICAL FUND

BY

JOHN BURTON

The Letter Carrier Political Fund is a non-partisan political action committee (PAC) established for electing qualified candidates who support letter carriers and who are committed to maintaining a strong and innovative U.S. Postal Service. Each year, NALC fights to fend off attacks in Congress that threaten letter carriers' collective-bargaining rights, retirement benefits and livelihood. We've been successful so far, and we want to continue helping to elect House and Senate candidates who will protect us, promote our issues and deliver our message to Washington. Since union dues can't be used to support candidates for political office, NALC relies 100 percent on member contributions to the LCPF, which in turn helps us support those on Capitol Hill who defend the issues that matter most to us.

There are several things that are about to come out of Washington. congress wants to create a national right to work law which doesn't mean you have a right to work. it means that any employee can be removed from their job for any reason. There is also the PAGE ACT (PROMOTE ACCOUNTABILITY AND GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY ACT) which if enacted This bill requires civil service employees to be hired on an at-will basis beginning one year after this bill's enactment. Such an employee may be removed or suspended from service by the agency head for good cause, bad cause, or no cause at all, without notice or right to appeal. This act alone would kill all government unions.

Other things coming include postal reform which would end door to door delivery first to businesses then residential and would also change retirement health benefits from FEHB as the primary insurance to Medicare as the primary insurance even for current retirees.

So, what can you do to make sure labor friendly candidates and fight off the attacks on us. Donate to the letter carrier political fund. it can be done thru payroll deduction we ask that you give \$ 5.00 per paycheck but give whatever you can. So please donate by calling the union hall and we will contact you to complete the sign-up process. It only takes a few minutes.