

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

VOLUME 54

JUNE 2017

NUMBER 5

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By JANETTE DOLABSON

Food Drive:

By the time you get this our 25th Anniversary Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive will be in the books. I should have the totals next month. Thank you all for your hard work and **dedication. We have the best carriers!**

CCA's :

We will be having a CCA class at the union office at 6910 Hayvenhurst #101 in Van Nuys on June 15th. The first class will be held from 11:00 am -1:00 pm for the Amazon Fresh CCA's. The second one will be from 6:30-8:30 pm for the rest of the CCA's. Food will be provided at both meetings. We will be discussing your rights and answering questions. Hopefully we will have a new contract to go over. Wouldn't that be nice?

Retirement Seminar:

On Sunday June 4th from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm we will host a retirement seminar at the union hall. Food will be provided. The class will be taught by Yogi Reilly who is an expert in this subject and she will be able to answer your questions and concerns and go over what all your options are. Food will also be provided. I know many of you have already signed up for the class. I am looking forward to seeing you there.

FMLA Information:

Some people have been asking questions about FLMA covered illnesses and how it works for family members, what leave they can take and for how long. As a union member you can go on the NALC website and get a lot of information on many topics and issues, including FMLA. There are also other places you can look for information. Here are some of them :

- [FMLA at U.S. Department of Labor](#) - The Department of Labor's FMLA website has a wealth of useful information and links to advice, forms, the latest regulations and more.

- [ELM Section 515](#) - Section 515 of the USPS Employee and Labor Relations Manual contains the USPS

regulations covering FMLA rights (ELM Chapter 510). The ELM can be found [here](#).

- [FMLA Regulations](#) - Current FMLA Regulations from the Federal Register (Vol. 78, No. 25, 8834 et seq., February 6, 2013); also published as 29 Code of Federal Regulations Part 825.

- Cautionary Note on FMLA Regulations: Please note that laws and regulations *change*. For the latest information about FMLA and changes to the FMLA regulations, see the U.S. Department of Labor's [FMLA website](#).

Discipline:

Management has been on a terror lately issuing discipline for everything they can. They are violating the contract right and left. The contract is not just for us to follow. It's also for them. They don't seem to think they have to be progressive in discipline for regular carriers. They go straight to suspensions and Removals before seeking lesser action for first infractions. They are not being corrective but punitive. Management issues discipline for dog bites that are clearly not the carriers fault. If you don't hear or see a dog and it comes from behind you and bites you, how is that your fault? It simply is not. I understand that we have had a rash of dog incidents lately. But dealing with being bitten by a dog is traumatic enough but then you have to deal with a bunch of insensitive managers that don't care at all about you. They only care about having an accident on their record and now they will have to answer to it. So because of that, you will get disciplined for something you had no control over. I hear managers wonder why their employees are so angry and unhappy. Really? I don't wonder why. I know why.

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SPECIAL NOTICE

**THERE WILL BE NO REGULAR
BRANCH MEETING IN JULY
DUE TO THE HOLIDAY**

"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	3	6	5	3	6					
ENCINO	4	4	3	4	3					
PANORAMA CITY	3	4	3	3	7					
SHERMAN OAKS	3	5	4	4	4					
SUN VALLEY	2	2	3	3	2					
TARZANA	4	3	1	3	5					
RETIREE'S	5	5	7	8	6					
TOTAL	24	29	26	28	33					

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

**NEXT MEETING
6:30 PM**

**JUNE
6th
"2017"**

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

June 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 June 24th & July 22, 2017 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar....We hope to see you there. Thank You

Frank Brash

Vice President's Report

**By
Tracy Mullinax**

FERS-----Special Retirement Supplement

FERS employees are covered by a three part retirement system--- an Annuity (a Pension), Social Security and the Thrift Savings Plan (a 401k plan). Because Social Security benefits are not payable before age 62, the law provides for a bridge payment for FERS employees who retire before that age. It's called the Special Retirement Supplement and it is not available to CSRS covered employees, FERS covered disability retirees or those FERS employees who retire under the MRA plus 10 provision.

The SRS approximates the Social Security Benefit you earned while a FERS employee. Since the money comes out of the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund to which you and your employer made contributions, the SRS computation excludes any other Social Security covered employment including service you've made a deposit To get a rough estimate of what your SRS would be, use the following formula: Take your social security benefit estimate, available from the Social Security Administration, at age 62, divide that number by 40 and multiply that number by your total years of actual FERS service rounded to the nearest whole number.

The amount of your SRS is set on the day you retire. It is not increased by cost of living adjustments regardless of how long you receive it. You will continue to receive the SRS until age 62 unless you have earnings from wages or self-employment that exceed the Social Security earnings limit. In 2017, it is \$15,720. If you do, your SRS will be reduced by one dollar for every two dollars you earn above that limit. At age 62, your supplement would stop and you would have to decide to take social security at 70 per-cent of full retirement age or delay it until full retirement age! The difference between taking social security at age 62 or full retirement age would be about a 30 per-cent reduction and it would take until approximately age 79 to break even! Something to consider.

The following formula is for hypothetical reasons and is only intended as a guide! Check with Human Resources for accuracy.. In a nutshell, a FERS employee would get 75 per-cent of what they would receive from Social Security at age 62 if they retire between ages 56 and 62 with no COLA's and could be reduced if one works and earns more than \$15,720 in a given year.

E.G 1). \$12,000yr x 30 years service divided by 40 = \$9,000yr or \$750 per month
2). \$18,000yr x 30 years service divided by 40 = \$13,500yr or \$1,125 per month
3) \$12,000yr x 40 years service divided by 40 = \$12,000yr or \$1,000 per month
4). \$18,000yr x 40 years service divided by 40 = \$18,000yr or \$1,500 per month

As you can see, your supplement has two changing variables and one fixed one. How much you will ultimately receive depends on your years of service and how much your estimate is calculated at age 62! Once you plug in those two variables, your calculation will be easy to figure. Remember, this is only one-third of your total retirement package under FERS and is exactly that! A Supplement until age 62 only.

In Unionism

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

In one of our offices they issued a carrier discipline for not having a dog warning card in the case when there had never been an incident, ever, from that dog. Why would there be a warning card in the case? How many dog warning cards would be cased every day in your office if we had to put one in for every customer who had a dog? We would have so many cards in the case no one would pay any attention to the dog warning cards that actually had an aggressive dog at that address. This is the ridiculous mind set we are getting out there in the stations. Who are these geniuses that make these rules? We have managers giving instructions to carriers to park in red zones when there is no other parking. Then safety comes out and tells them not to. Then the managers instruct the carriers to go ahead and to park there anyway. Who is right? Who are we to listen to? Why is no one on the same page? But you know if something happened who they would find fault with? The carrier. It always rolls down to the carrier. Rant over. :)

*Summer is near. It is going to get warmer and warmer over the next few months. Stay Hydrated. Your life may depend on it.

RULES GOVERNING THE UPCOMING

BRANCH 2462 ELECTION

As a candidate, you are allowed to post signage inside each Post Office, but only on the Union Bulletin Board. No other literature is allowed to be posted, left, or distributed inside the Post Office Building under any circumstances. Post Office Managers will be receiving notification that if they find any such items inside the Post Office, other than the Union Bulletin Board, they are to remove it immediately.

Campaigning or contact with members or any employee, regarding your campaign within the Post Office Building is prohibited. Also, you should notify any persons that are associated with your campaign, or supporting you that they should refrain from engaging any employee in any discussions regarding the election, while inside any Post Office Building. This would include, but not be limited to, who they would vote for, why they support a candidate, or why they would not vote for another candidate. Candidates and their supporters are prohibited from doing any action that might be considered advertising or soliciting support for their campaign such as, but not limited to, providing food, drink, support buttons or any other items that would encourage or promote the nominee inside the Post Office Building.

You may not campaign or speak to any employee regarding the election anywhere, such as their route, or when they are "On the Clock". Candidates may approach or speak with employees before they begin work or after they are off the clock, only in the Parking Lot, or away from Postal property.

THE ELECTION COMMITTEE



**Have a Safe Memorial Day Holiday
Let's Remember All Our Fallen Hero's
And The Sacrifice's They Have Made
To Keep Us Free**



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 !

ATTENTION RETIREE'S !!!

You may be familiar with the saying "There is no such thing as a Free Lunch" While this may be true, it does not pertain to Breakfast. The Branch holds a Retiree Breakfast meeting every 4th Saturday of the Month. No Voting, just a friendly get together to talk and eat. The best thing is

IT IS FREE !!!

That's right, if you are a retired member in good standing of Branch 2462 your Breakfast is provided at no charge
You Heard Right !

FREE !!!!

So what are you waiting for, meet with us this month.

When 4th Saturday of Every Month
Where Denny's Restaurant,
(Corner of Sherman Way & DeCielis).
Time 9:00 AM

If you have trouble with transportation contact BOB JOHNSON and we will try and arrange for a ride. Come on out, you will have a great time, and the price is right !

Active Members are invited to attend also if it is your Day Off !!

"THE MAIL CALL"
BRANCH 2462, NALC
Steve Seyfried, Editor
6910 Hayvenhurst Ave., # 101
Van Nuys, CA 91406

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Branch Meeting Minutes

May 2, 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 DOLABSON at 6:47 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS DOZAL

MOMENT OF SILENCE-- ALL WHO HAVE PASSED THIS YEAR.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

PRESENT—J DOLABSON, SEYFRIED, JOHNSON, WILSON, DOZAL, BURTON, JEFFREY, MACARAEG, L DOLABSON, ENZ

ABSENT—MULLINAX

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAIL CALL

CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
CANDACE SPENCER

BILLS READ—NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AUDIT COMMITTEE Audit will be held either July 25 or 26th.

HEALTH & SAFETY Meeting next week. Mgt still catching Carriers driving with their doors open. Do not do this as it will lead to disciplinary action.

RETIREES 6 retiree's present tonight. Another great turn out for the breakfast last month. Hoping that Retiree TED DENT is feeling better soon, we are thinking of you TED.

MDA FUND--DOZAL Currently \$2579.00 in fund
HBR—L DOLABSON Health plan is conducting a survey of members, to gather information on how to make the plan better. Sign onto HBR website and take the survey.

MBA—ENZ Still waiting for brochures from National. Contact Bob to discuss the many plans available.

FINANCIAL SEC—WILSON No Report
TREASURERS REP—JOHNSON Read

Motion to accept report as read

M/S/C

ELECTION COMM—SEYFRIED Election Committee has completed the preparation of ballots, and they will be mailed to the membership on May 15, 2017, as previously announced. Please read the information sheet that comes with your ballot, as this contains voting information. If you have any questions contact the Union Office.

VICE-PRESIDENT MULLINAX No Report

PRESIDENT J. DOLABSON Report will appear in the Mailcall

OLD BUSINESS NONE

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION—Branch send one member, to be selected by the President, to the September Advanced Formal A Training classes in Washington, D.C. Cost not to exceed \$ 3500.00 M/S/C

MOTION—Branch donate \$ 200.00 to the Saxsenmeir Scholarship Fund. Check to be presented at the State Convention M/S/C

MOTION—Branch Meeting in July 2017 be cancelled. Any Member who attends either the June or August meeting will qualify for 2 meetings toward Delegate funds qualification. M/S/C

MOTION—Branch sponsor a Golf Hole for the State Convention Golf Tourney. Cost to the Branch \$ 100.00 M/S/C

UNDERLINED INDICATES UNANAMOUS VOTE

GOOD OF ASSOCIATION

New member DIEGO SANCHEZ attended his first Branch Meeting. He was sworn in and presented with an NALC Members Pin by former President and current RA CALVIN BROOKINS.

MDA DRAWING

\$ 4 RAPHAEL PEREZ—PANORAMA CITY--DONATED
\$ 6 GUIERRMO MARISCAL—SHER OAKS—DONATE \$ 3
\$ 9 ROGER ASKEW—RETIREE--DONATED

Meeting Adjourned 7:41 PM