

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

VOLUME 54

DECEMBER 2017

NUMBER 10

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By JANETTE DOLABSON

Christmas Party

Will be held at the Masonic Lodge on Sherman Way on Saturday Dec. 16th, 2017. Doors open at 6:00 PM and dinner will be served at 7:00. Kids are always welcome. We will have a visit from Santa and Mrs. Clause and lots of raffles.

Retiree Luncheon

Thank you to Bob Johnson for a job well done on this year's retiree luncheon. Thanks also to Steve Seyfried for your help coordinating for Roger.

We had 3 gold cards this year and one of them was present to receive his gold card and that was Ed Carlin retired out of Sherman Oaks office. Congratulations to Ed. Ed was always involved in branch functions and served as a delegate to conventions. The other two members who are receiving gold cards are Glenn Delino and Mike McKernan. Gold cards are awarded to letter carriers who have been NALC members for 50 years.

Thanks to NALC Director of Health Benefits Brian Helman for coming here from National to present the gold card to Ed and participating in our retiree luncheon. We were also blessed to have several other honored guests. CSALC President Harold Kelso, who spoke to our retirees, members and families about the political climate and issues that directly affect them and their families. Also on hand were Jackie White, Director of Education for the CSALC and Mike Poblano, District 5 Officer for the CSALC, Jill Lemons, President of NALC Branch 4006 Canoga Park, and Debbie Kelly, President of NALC Branch 2086 Burbank.

At the luncheon we handed out two other prestigious branch awards. The Brenneman award and the Ray Kreyer award. The Brenneman award went to alternate shop steward Francisco Valenzuela out of the Panorama City office. Francisco stepped up and took over steward duties while Mayen was working for the NBA's office on a project. He did an outstanding job and went on and above his duties. Congratulations Francisco. Job well done.

The Ray Kreyer was voted on by the executive board. There were 5 nominees. The winner is Jemmayen Macaraeg out of Panorama City office. She is a Shop Steward, Custodian, she scans all our files into the system and is a

Trustee for the Branch. She is formal A trained and a new Formal A designee for the branch. She has worked as an LBA for the National Business Agents office and has excelled in every task she has been given. We are very proud of her and she deserves the honor of winning this award. Congratulations Mayen!

(Continued on Page 3)

--SPECIAL-- NOTICE NO BRANCH MEETING IN DECEMBER

**BRANCH 2462 HOLIDAY OPEN
HOUSE
SATURDAY EVENING
DECEMBER 16, 2017
AT
MASONIC LODGE
14750 Sherman Way, Van Nuys, CA**

**DOORS OPEN 6:00 PM-DINNER 7:00 PM
ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILY
ARE INVITED TO ATTEND
FREE FOOD - FREE DRINK - FREE FUN**

**DOOR PRIZES FOR MEMBERS
FOOD WILL BE CATERED BY
STONEFIRE GRILL
SANTA WILL BE THERE !!**

"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

John Burton

The NALC has negotiated a new National Agreement that will help keep us unified and equal. We pay our union dues to ensure that we can be as well prepared as possible to attain a fair deal for letter carriers. We've always been successful. This also goes for our fight with Congress. The contract oversees every day operations, but Congress has the ultimate say over the longevity of the USPS. NALC has been successful in our fight for:

A strong middle-class job, Leave (annual and sick), Overtime, Affordable healthcare, TSP (thrift savings plan), Workers compensation, Dependent care, and collective bargaining to name a few. We have done this through our union's PAC, Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF). But the fight is not over. While the USPS negotiates the contract, Congress has the right to take collective bargaining away with ONE vote.

Are you willing to sit back, and hope that Congress does the right thing, or are you willing to stand up and fight for your future? If you are ready to fight, there are some things that you may not be aware of. For example: how do we finance our struggle? Not with dues money, but with LCPF contributions. Not one single dollar from dues goes into Political Activity. I hope you will find all the information you need to convince you of the importance of becoming a LCPF contributor. The \$5 per pay period is your willingness to help continue to fight to keep the benefits that our brothers and sisters who came before us fought so hard to earn

LCPF is here in order to:

- o Allow NALC to support political leaders and groups in both parties who defend Letter Carrier benefits and protect Letter Carrier jobs.
 - o Give NALC the opportunity to show our friends in Congress who have supported us in the past that we appreciate the work they have done and encourage their continued support.
 - o Provide NALC the opportunity to support policies that are favorable to all working people – defending social security, improving health care benefits, and strengthening collective bargaining rights.
- LCPF is a Non-Partisan PAC
- o That contributes to candidates that are friendly to Letter Carriers regardless of their party.
 - o LCPF contributions have gone to a diverse group of elected officials from Minnesota Democrat Senator Al Franken to South Dakota Republican Representative Kristi Noem.
- The interests LCPF protects are:
- o A strong USPS.
 - o Job security for Letter Carriers.
 - o Affordable health care benefits.
 - o Fair and livable wages.
 - o Safe and secure pensions

LCPF Disclaimer

By making a contribution to the Letter Carrier Political Fund, you are doing so voluntarily with the understanding that your contribution is not a condition of membership in the National Association of Letter Carriers or of employment by the Postal Service, nor is it part of union dues. You have a right to refuse to contribute without any reprisal. The Letter Carrier Political Fund will use the money it receives to contribute to candidates for federal office and undertake other political spending as permitted by law. Your selection shall remain in full force and effect until cancelled. Contributions to the Letter Carrier Political Fund are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. Federal law prohibits the Letter Carrier Political Fund from soliciting contributions from individuals who are not NALC members, executive and administrative staff or their families. Any contribution received from such an individual will be refunded to that contributor. Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 per calendar year. Any guideline amount is merely a suggestion, and an individual is free to contribute than the guideline suggests, and the Union will not favor or disadvantage anyone by reason of the amount of their contribution or their decision not to contribute.

ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
MAIN OFFICE	3	6	5	3	6	6	X	5	6	5	4
ENCINO	4	4	3	4	3	4	X	4	6	4	4
PANORAMA CITY	3	4	3	3	7	3	X	3	1	3	2
SHERMAN OAKS	3	5	4	4	4	4	X	5	2	5	6
SUN VALLEY	2	2	3	3	2	1	X	1	1	0	1
TARZANA	4	3	1	3	5	3	X	4	2	2	2
RETIREE'S	5	5	7	8	6	6	X	6	6	6	5
TOTAL	24	29	26	28	33	27	X	28	24	25	24

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

**NEXT MEETING
6:30 PM**

**JANUARY
2nd
"2018"**

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

Jan 5, 2018

**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 & DeCels). It will begin at 09:00 AM. on Jan 27, 2018 (4th Saturday) Remember there is no Breakfast in December. So, please mark your calendar.....

We hope to see you there.
Thank

You

Bob Johnson

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

Fire Relief Fund

With the devastating fires in Santa Rosa area NALC Branch 183 has set up a Fire Relief fund. Many of the letter carriers and their families were directly impacted by this horribly destructive fire. This fund was set up for uniform and monetary donations to aid in helping these letter carriers and their families. They have received plenty of uniform donations but are still accepting and in need of monetary donations. Here is the address you may send a check to:

Branch 183 Fire Relief Fund
888 3rd Street
Santa Rosa, Ca. 95404

Legislative update

On Oct. 26th the House of Representatives voted to adopt a budget resolution (H. Con. Res. 71) to set funding levels for the government for Fiscal Year 2018 as well as budget targets for Fiscal Years 2019 through 2027. The plan allows for major tax cuts and calls for massive reductions in Medicare and Medicaid spending.

H. Con. Res. 71, initially passed by the House on Oct. 5, invoked a process called "budget reconciliation," a tool that allows for Senate passage with only 50 votes, rather than the 60 votes needed to prevent or overcome a filibuster. Budget reconciliation is a potentially dangerous tool that could lead to major policy changes. In this case, its primary intended purpose was to overhaul the nation's tax code and to reduce mandatory spending levels on entitlement programs such as Medicare.

To accomplish the spending reductions, the House resolution called for 11 House committees to cut a total of \$203 billion in mandatory spending programs over 10 years. The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform would have needed to find \$32 billion in cuts, placing federal employee health and retirement benefits in jeopardy. Luckily, the Senate developed its own version of a budget resolution (S. Con. Res. 25) that did not call for using reconciliation to reduce mandatory spending. Instead, it focused almost entirely on tax-related reconciliation instructions to pave the way for tax reform. The Senate passed its version and sent it back to the House in the form of H. Con. Res. 71. Today, the House passed the Senate's version of H. Con. Res. 71 without amendment.

For NALC members, this is a significant victory in protecting active and retired letter carriers against the numerous proposals we have been hearing about in House and White House budget proposals. "Without reconciliation, major cuts to federal employee benefits will be much harder to enact—a major victory for all federal employees," NALC President Fredric Rolando said. "But we are not entirely in the clear. The attack on Medicare will not spare retired letter carriers, and tax cuts that explode the deficit will expose our benefits to future cuts."

Safety Ambassador Program

The Postal Service has proposed a national guideline for the existing Safety Captain Program and rebrand it as Safety Ambassador Program. The purpose of the new Safety Ambassador Program is to design a standardized safety program based on the existing and locally developed Safety Captain Program. The new program will focus on employee engagement, training, communication, hazard identification/abatement and accident reduction.

Safety Captains will be renamed Safety Ambassadors and will partner with the Facility Safety Coordinator and/or the installation head using existing programs to promote a culture that encourages employee participation to improve the safety climate in the workplace.

Creating an Engaging Workplace (CEW)

The Postal Service has put together a pilot test training called Creating an Engaging Workplace (CEW). Participants will consist of volunteer bargaining unit employees and will provide input on the training. The pilot test was held in October in San Francisco and the feedback will be evaluated before the program will be rolled out Nationally. DOIS Update:

The Postal Service is updating the Delivery Operation System (DOIS) to enhance its functionality. This will include Automated download of piece counts for packages and small parcels and rolls (SPRs) from arrival at unit, elimination of the option to print PS form 3971, and conversion of several forms from Adobe form fill to Live Cycle.

H.B.R NEWS

BY

LARRY DOLABSON

I would like to thank the Branch for sending me to the Health Benefit Plan Seminar. It was very informative. Here is some information you need for the upcoming open season. Please consider enrolling in the NALC Health Benefit Plan. It is the best Plan offered and the rates are better than most all PPO plans available.

This year Open Season is from Nov. 13, 2017- Dec. 11, 2017. Here are the new bi weekly rates:

High Option Self only \$72.42, HO Self Plus one \$173.42, HO Self and Family \$157.36.

The enrollment code for HO Self only is code 321, HO Self+1 is code 323, and HO Self and Family code is 322.

Retirees rates: Self \$170.71, Self Plus one \$405.30, Self and Family \$374.68. Retiree rates are per month.

The NALC HBP is now the third largest Plan in the FEHB. To join the Plan, you can go to Postal Ease or call (877) 477-3273 and enter option 1. If you have any questions about the plan you can call (888) 636-6252.

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

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Branch Meeting Minutes

November 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 6:43 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sgt-at-Arms RAUL DOZAL

MOMENT OF SILENCE-----In Memory of All Carriers who have passed over the last year.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

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

ABSENT---SEYFRIED

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAIL CALL
CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

GUADALUPE CONTRERAS, EDMOND DANIAN, DEBBIE ESPINOZA, JONATHAN LEON, YASIR MIRAJ, EVERARDO ROMAN

BILLS READ---NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AUDIT COMMITTEE Budget meeting is scheduled for January 4, 2018 and the Audit has been scheduled for January 30, 2018. Both at the Union office.

HEALTH & SAFETY Next meeting is set for November 17, 2017.

TRUSTEES

No Report

RETIREEES

5 retiree's present tonight.

Last Saturday breakfast of the year had 12 in attendance. Retiree Luncheon was a real success with 56 in attendance. We presented ED CARLIN with his 50-year GOLD CARD.

MDA FUND--DOZAL Currently \$2783.00 in fund

HBR--L. DOLABSON Larry was presented with an award certificate for attending the HBR seminar in Florida. Announced that there were rate changes and would address all new info in his next article in the December MailCall

MDA--ANGER

No Report

MBA--ENZ

New Plans and information

pamphlets have been distributed to all the offices. Any questions please contact me through the Office.

FINANCIAL SEC--MULLINAX Spoke on his recent training received in San Diego. National now wants Branches to use the term "Assignment Time" rather than the term Lost Time.

TREASURER--JOHNSON

Read Financial

Report

MOTION TO ACCEPT FINANCIAL REPORT AS READ
M/S/C

VICE-PRESIDENT BURTON Serious accident yesterday, luckily Carrier was wearing seat belt and injuries were minimal. Carriers are reminded that they are required to have seatbelts buckled anytime they are in the vehicle. Possible safety hazard with Carriers wearing satchels while in the vehicle, could cause seat belt problems and impair their ability to escape the vehicle in case of accident.

PRESIDENT J. DOLABSON Glad to report that all local LMOU's have been completed. We will be distributing Locals to all members as soon as they are available. Branch has been notified that we are entitled to 26 Delegates to the upcoming 2018 National Convention in Detroit, MI. Branch needs to send all MDA collection totals directly to National so that a better total can be maintained.

OLD BUSINESS---NONE

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION---Branch donate \$ 100.00 to the Branch 183,
Fire Relief Fund
M/S/C

MOTION---Branch donate \$ 125.00 to the North Valley Caring SVC, nonprofit, for a one-day truck rental **M/S/C**

MOTION---Branch empower the Executive Board to conduct any and all business of the Branch from November 8, 2017 through January 8, 2018 **M/S/C**

UNDERLINED INDICATES UNANIMOUS VOTE

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE OFFICIAL BRANCH 2462 DELEGATES TO STATE AND NATIONAL CONVENTION 2018 - 2020

JANETTE DOLABSON

STEVE SEYFRIED

ROBERT JOHNSON

PAUL JEFFREY

JEMMAYEN MACARAEG

BOB ENZ

CALVIN BROOKINS

FRANCISCO VALENZUELA

JANET McKEIVER

GUILLERMO MARISCAL

RAFAEL PEREZ

SANDY ANGER-BARRETT

ELIA VIVEROS

JOHN BURTON

TRACY MULLINAX

RAUL DOZAL

TIA WILSON

LARRY DOLABSON

DAN RATHBONE

ROGER ASKEW

WILL POWERS

RON GODDARD

JEFF JACKSON

ART BOCEK

JOSE JIMENEZ

GOOD OF ASSOCIATION

New member TROY JOINER was sworn in by Vice President JOHN BURTON and received his NALC Membership Pin. We invite all new and old members to attend the Branch meetings and participate.

MDA DRAWING

\$ 2 RON GODDARD--SHERMAN OAKS--DONATED

\$ 4 RON GODDARD—SHERMAN OAKS--DONATED
\$ 6 BOB JOHNSON—RETIREE--DONATED

Meeting Adjourned 7:53 pm