VOLUME 55 OCTOBER 2018 NUMBER 9

Representing the Stations of

PRESIDENT'S REPORT By JANETTE DOLABSON

NALC hallots set to be mailed

The National Election Committee, appointed at the Detroit National Convention to conduct the election of national officers for NALC, met on Aug. 13 in Washington, DC, to set the rules and procedures for the contested national and regional elections, as laid out in the NALC Constitution. It also conducted a random drawing to determine the order of the names as they will appear on the ballot for each office. Candidates for 12 of the 15 national business agent (NBA) positions were unopposed and elected by consent at the Detroit convention. Two candidates were nominated from the floor for each of the following positions: president, executive vice president, vice president, secretary-treasurer, assistant secretary-treasurer, director of city delivery, director of safety and health, director of life insurance, director of health benefits, director of retired members, and NBAs for Regions 2, 4 and 9. Five candidates were nominated from the floor for three national trustee positions. The election will be conducted by mail ballot in accordance with the NALC Constitution. The Election Committee has retained the services of Hartsfield Resolution Group of St. Clair Shores, MI, to assist it in supervising the conduct of the election. The committee has also retained Mosaic, a print communications company located in Cheverly, MD, to prepare and mail the ballots.

The committee has reviewed and approved all nominating forms and will create the ballot for mailing. Official election instructions will be included with all ballots mailed to eligible NALC members. To be eligible to vote, a person must be a regular member of NALC and in good standing as of June 1, 2018. NBAs will be elected by the members in their respective regions. Beginning on Aug. 27 and continuing until completion, components of the election mailing will be printed. Starting on Sept. 4 and continuing through Sept. 14, ballots will be prepared, inserted and mailed. As noted on the NALC website, any active or retired member who does not receive a ballot by Friday, Sept. 21, is instructed that he or she must notify his or her branch officers. Those branches are instructed to immediately contact the NALC Membership Department to

request a duplicate, replacement ballot. The deadline for branch officers to contact the Membership Department is 4 p.m. Eastern Time on Monday, Sept. 24. Only a branch officer can request a duplicate ballot. Ballots must be received by 9 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 4, to be counted. The counting of ballots will begin that day.

(Continued on Page 2)

BRANCH 2462 RETIREE LUNCHEON

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

OCTOBER 28, 2018

MONTEREY AT ENCINO (FORMALLY ENCINO GLEN RESTAURANT)

16821 Burbank Blvd. Encino, California

Doors Open 1:00 PM LUNCH at 2:00 PM

Price is \$ 7.50

Retiree's and Active Carriers are Welcome

For Further Information Contact

BOB JOHNSON (818) 786-8505

IN MEMORY OF

LEON L'HEUREUX KENNY WHEELESS

> RETIREES BRANCH 2462

"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 deem s 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	6	4	6	5	6	5	5	5	
ENCINO	5	4	4	4	4	3	5	5	6	
PANORAMA CITY	2	3	3	4	2	3	3	3	3	
SHERMAN OAKS	1	4	2	4	5	3	4	7	4	
SUN VALLEY	1	1	0	11	1	1	1	1		
TARZANA	1	2	0	1	1	2	1	1	3	
RETIREE'S	4	4	5	5	4	3	4	2	3	
TOTAL	19 24	19	25	22 2	21 2	23 2	24 2	25		

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

NEXT MEETING***6:30 PM***

OCTOBER 2nd "2018"

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

Oct 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 & DeCelis). It will begin at 09:00 AM. The next date will be October 27th , 2018 (4th Saturday) This will be the last breakfast of the year so, please mark your calendar.....We hope to see you there. Thank You

Bob Johnson

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

Contract COLA update

The fifth regular cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for career letter carriers under the 2016-2019 National Agreement is \$645 annually following the release of the July 2018 Consumer Price Index (CPI). This increase will be added to every step in Table 1 and Step O in Table 2, and then applied proportionately to Steps A through N in Table 2 (see chart at bottom right). The increase will be effective Sept. 1, 2018, and reflected on paychecks Sept. 21. The sixth and seventh COLAs under the 2016-2019 National Agreement will be calculated following the release of the January 2019 and July 2019 CPI, respectively. City carrier assistants (CCAs) will receive an additional 1 percent wage increase in lieu of COLAs effective Nov. 24, 2018, when all letter carriers will be upgraded and receive an average increase of 2.1 percent. The total increase for all CCAs on Nov. 24 will be 3.1 percent.

Federal judge overturns Trump administration's anti-federal union orders

On Saturday, a federal judge invalidated key provisions in three executive orders the Trump administration issued in May, which had made it easier for agencies to fire federal workers and placed strict limits on union activities. (The orders did not apply to the Postal Service and its unions.) In her ruling, Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia said the executive orders were a clear violation of the 1978 Federal Service Labor-Management Relations Statute of 1978. Under that statute, Congress gave federal employees the right to unionize and negotiate job contracts as a matter "of public interest. "The Court has concluded that many of the challenged provisions of the Orders at issue here effectively reduce the scope of the right to bargain collectively as Congress has crafted it, or impair the ability of agency officials to bargain in good faith as Congress has directed, and therefore cannot be sustained "The district court's ruling on August 25 resolved four lawsuits filed against the Trump administration by several federal employee unions, led by the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE). The unions challenged the three orders Trump signed in May that rolled back labor protections for federal workers. One order made it easier to fire and discipline federal employees. Depending on the agency, firing an employee for poor performance could take six months to a year, not including the appeals process. This order gave employees only 30 days to improve their job performance, instead of the current limit of up to 120 days. It also instructed agencies to ignore contracts that prioritized seniority during layoffs.

Another executive order directed federal agencies to spend less time negotiating contracts with labor unions and set a goal of no more than six months to reach an agreement, after which the agencies would be free to unilaterally implement contracts containing their "last best offers." This would have destroyed the agencies' incentives to bargain in good faith.

A third order placed limits on how much time employees in union leadership roles can spend on union activities during work hours. This is known as "official time," and it can include helping other employees file grievances or resolve other workplace problems. The administration sought to limit official time to 25 percent of an employee's yearly work hours.

The administration said it has the legal authority to give such guidance to executive agencies that answer to the president. But the orders prompted immediate litigation from government unions.

The American Federation of Government Employees, which is the largest union involved in the lawsuits, said the efforts were a "direct assault on the legal rights and protections that Congress specifically guaranteed to the public sector employees across this country who keep our federal government running every single day."

Judge Jackson's ruling described the Trump administration's defense of the orders as an attempt to do "verbal jujitsu" with the law. She rejected the argument that the administration had the power to interfere with union negotiations that are protected under federal law.

"There is no rational explanation for Defendants' suggestion that Congress would have intended for the President to have the power to act in this fashion at all in regard to the matters that the FSLMRS specifically characterizes as negotiable. Quite frankly, it is hard to even imagine a rational statutory exception that is intentionally designed to swallow the rule," she wrote.

Jackson effectively revoked most of the measures in the executive orders, although federal unions may need to take further judicial action to reverse actions taken under the improper executive orders.

"This is a huge win for all federal employees, including postal employees whose rights could have been targeted next" NALC President Fred Rolando said. "We thank our brothers and sisters at AFGE – and the other federal unions – for defending our rights under the law."

USPS Board of Governors activity in Senate and White House

On August 28, 2018, the Senate confirmed the nominations of David Williams (D) and Robert Duncan (R) to serve as members of the U.S. Postal Service's Board of Governors, each for one term.

David C. Williams was confirmed to serve the remainder of a seven-year term that ends December 8, 2019. Williams has a long history of government service. He joined the Secret Service after a tour of military duty in Vietnam, and then served as part of the Department of Justice's Organized Crime Strike Force. Following his work on President Ronald Reagan's Commission on Organized Crime, he led the Office of Special Investigations at the General Accounting Office (since renamed the Government Accountability Office). He was then confirmed as the Inspector General (IG) for several agencies, including the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Social Security Administration, the Department of the Treasury, the Internal Revenue Service and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. His longest stint as an IG, at the Postal Service (from 2003 until his retirement in 2016), led to his nomination to the Board of Governors.

Robert M. (Mike) Duncan was confirmed to serve for the remainder of a seven-year term that ends December 8, 2025. He is a banker and currently the chairman and CEO of Inez Deposit Bank, as well as chairman of the President's Commission NALC will continue to work with the Senate and the administration to ensure that letter carriers' interests are represented on White House Fellows. Previously, Duncan

served on the board of the Tennessee Valley Authority and was chairman of the Republican National Committee from 2007 to 2009.

Additionally, the White House announced its intention to nominate two more individuals to the USPS Board of Governors, Ron Bloom (D) and Roman Martinez IV (R).

Ron Bloom, who will be nominated for the remainder of a seven-year term expiring December 8, 2020, began his career as an investment banker and union consultant before serving as the special assistant to the president of the United Steelworkers for many years. President Barack Obama appointed Bloom to serve as the Assistant to the President on Manufacturing Policy in 2009, when he helped rescue the auto industry during the Great Recession. In 2011, he returned to investment banking at Lazard Company, where he served as Vice Chairman, U.S. Investment Banking. During his time at Lazard, he advised the NALC on postal issues and appeared at both a national rap session and a national convention. Bloom is currently Managing Partner and Vice Chairman at Brookfield Asset Management, where he helps manage the firm's private equity investments.

Roman Martinez IV will be nominated for the remainder of a seven-year term expiring December 8, 2024. He began his career as an investment banker in 1971 at Kuhn Loeb & Company until it was acquired by the now-defunct global financial services firm, Lehman Brothers. Martinez worked there as the managing director of investment banking until his retirement in 2003. Since 2003, he has served on the board of directors for several different companies and has been involved in various Republican presidential and Senate campaigns.

To be confirmed, they will need to appear for confirmation hearings before the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs (HSGAC). If approved by the Committee, their appointments will be subject to a confirmation vote by the whole Senate.

The USPS Board of Governors consists of eleven members, nine governors and two ex officio members, the Postmaster General and the Deputy Postmaster General. While the Board functions similarly to a board of directors of a publicly held corporation, it has not been fully staffed since 2010 and lost its final appointed governor in December 2016, leaving all nine positions vacant. If Bloom and Martinez are confirmed, four of the nine seats on the Board would be filled, enough to achieve a quorum if the Postmaster General and Deputy Postmaster General are present.

"NALC is pleased to see action taken by the Senate to fill the first two vacancies," said NALC President Fredric Rolando. "We encourage the Senate to begin consideration of these additional nominations and we urge the administration to fill the remaining vacancies with qualified nominees."



"THE MAIL CALL" BRANCH 2462, NALC

Steve Seyfried, Editor

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Branch Meeting Minutes September 4, 2018

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 DOZAL

MOMENT OF SILENCE--In Memory of LEON L'HEUREUX & KENNY WHEELESS, RETIREES

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

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

ABSENT—NONE

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAIL CALL CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

MOISES LOPEZ JR, JUAN CORONA, NICHOLAS ALVAREZ, BRANDON ARIAS, RICO GUTIERREZ, DANIEL HIDALGO, DAVID LOPEZ, KARIM RAMINREZ, EVAN WILLIAMS

BILLS READ—NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HEALTH & SAFETY--DOZAL Actually had a safety meeting this month. Glad to report that accidents are down % 50 % this year compared to last. Well Done

RETIREES 3 retiree's present tonight.

MDA FUND--DOZAL Currently \$2304.07 in fund

HBR—L. DOLABSON High Option Plan

members should ask their Dr's to write long term prescriptions

for 90 days as this will save you money.

FINANCIAL SEC REPORT--MULLINAX TREASURERS REPORT—JOHNSON

Motion—Accept financial report as read VICE-PRESIDENT BURTON HR bill 993 is in the House. Contact your Congress member and urge their support to pass this bill to stop the privatization of P O.

PRESIDENT J. DOLABSON Gave her report which will be published in the MailCall

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION—Branch send 2 members, to be chosen by the President, to the Washington DC Lobby trip for 6 days. Date will be announced.

Cost not to exceed \$ 6000.00 M/S/C

MOTION—Branch purchase a new thermostat for the office. Cost not to exceed \$ 200.00 M/S/C

MOTION—Branch purchase 2 new file cabinets

Cost not to exceed \$ 350.00

M/S/C

UNDERLINED INDICATES UNANAMOUS VOTE

GOOD OF ASSOCIATION

MARK LESCH, District 7 Rep presented Saxenmeier Scholarships to ANDREW MARTINEZ & XUE FU Both children of Branch 2462 Members. Also current NALC Leadership Academy student JAMAYEN MACARAEG showed a video she made documenting the contributions and history of women in the Postal Service

MDA DRAWING

\$ 3 TIA WILSON—SUN VALLEY

\$ 5 FERMIN MARTINEZ—SHERMAN OAKS

\$ 10 RAFAEL PEREZ—PANORAMA CITY--DONATED

Meeting Adjourned 7:56 PM

Vice President's Report By John Burton

Sometimes letter carriers are a beacon of hope to people brought to their knees by a natural disaster, bringing vital supplies or documents—and a reminder that life will be normal again—to customers hit by a storm, flood or fire .But postal workers can also be victims .To look out for our postal family, the NALC supports the Postal Employees' Relief Fund (PERF).Since 1990, PERF has been there to help carriers, clerks and other active and retired postal workers rebuild after hurricanes, typhoons, earthquakes, floods, tornadoes and wildfires. Initially created to assist postal employees affected by Hurricane Hugo and the San Francisco Bay-area earthquake, the fund has gone on to provide thousands grants totaling millions of dollars since it began .PERF will continue to be there for postal workers with simple structure for determining eligibility and grant amounts.

In 2013, the PERF executive committee adopted this structure to speed and simplify the aid process and assure that every postal worker in need of PERF assistance would have access to its help as big disasters put increasing demands on its resources. Applicants do not need to wait until after they receive insurance settlements or other emergency relief to apply for help from PERF, though they still must provide documentation of the loss. The application must come to PERF no later than six month after the disaster, except under extenuating circumstance. To qualify for assistance, the applicant's home must have been destroyed or damaged to the point of being uninhabitable for a long period (an estimated 90 days or more). Non-career and retired employees in either situation are eligible for half these amounts. In addition to floods or storms, loss of a home in a fire is included, but only when caused by a natural disaster-for instance, a home lost to lightning or wildfire could qualify; a fire caused by an electrical short or stray cigarette would not .please consider giving to perf thru the cfc campaign this year through payroll deduction its fast easy and could help your fellow postal workers the code to give is CFC #10268