

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By JANETTE DOLABSON

“White House releases FY 2021 budget proposal

The Trump Administration released its \$4.8 trillion Fiscal Year 2021 budget proposal on Feb. 10. With regards to the U.S. Postal Service, as in previous budget requests the White House proposal includes:

Changes to how rates are set for products that are deemed outside the universal service obligation; changes to delivery processing, mode, and frequency; increased use of private sector partners; more closely aligning Postal Service employee wages with those of other Federal employees; licensing access to the mailbox; and providing additional Government services at retail locations. In addition to Government-wide changes to health and pension programs that will reduce Agency operating costs, the Budget also proposes to re-amortize the payments to the Retiree Health Benefits Fund, including those payments missed in previous years, based on the Postal employee population at or near the retirement age.

Major provisions affecting NALC members in the White House budget request are similar to past years. They are outlined below.

Postal Service and Postal Workers Impact

Reform the Postal Service

The budget asks for more than \$90 billion in cuts to USPS operations and workforce compensation over 10 years. Changes are based on the recommendations of the White House Postal Task Force, which include: cuts to postal employee pay; eliminating the USPS mailbox monopoly; opening the private sector up to mail sorting; and implementing a new rate-setting system, which would allow for increased rates on packages and services deemed “non-essential.”

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 7, 2020 at 8:00 p.m. at the Branch Union Hall 6910 Hayvenhurst Ave # 104, Van Nuys California. The Offices are President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Sgt-at-Arms, Three (3) Trustee's, Editor, 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 10, 2020. 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 11, 2020. 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, 6910 Hayvenhurst Ave # 104, Van Nuys, California 91406 and must be received by 5:00 p.m. on May 22, 2020. The counting of the ballots will take place on Thursday, May 28, 2020 beginning at 5:00 p.m. at 6910 Hayvenhurst Ave., # 104 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 VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT

By
John Burton

It's currently flu and respiratory disease season and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends getting a flu vaccine, taking everyday preventive actions to help stop the spread of germs, and taking flu antivirals if prescribed. While the immediate risk of the new coronavirus to the American public is believed by CDC to be low at this time, everyone can help respond in a healthy manner. CDC states the best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed, and to follow recommendations to help prevent the spread of any respiratory viruses, including the following tips.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick. • Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60-percent alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- If you're well, follow CDC's recommendations and don't wear face masks to protect yourself from respiratory viruses, including the novel coronavirus.

These are everyday preventive measures that can help stop the spread of several viruses. In addition, CDC states there is likely very low risk that the virus can be spread from products or packaging shipped from China, because of poor survivability of coronaviruses on surfaces. According to CDC, coronaviruses are generally thought to be spread most often by respiratory droplets. Also, according to CDC, there currently is no evidence to support transmission of the new coronavirus associated with imported goods; and there have not been any reported cases of the virus in the United States associated with imported goods. For current information and more details visit the CDC website, at www.cdc.gov



Protect Your Future Sign Up To Contribute Today. Just Ask Your Shop Steward. No Union Dues Are Used For This Fund Only Your Donations Make It Work

ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
MAIN OFFICE	1	6	7								
ENCINO	4	8	5								
PANORAMA CITY	3	4	3								
SHERMAN OAKS	4	3	3								
SUN VALLEY	1	0	0								
TARZANA	1	1	0								
RETIREE'S	4	5	5								
TOTAL	18 27 23										

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

**NEXT MEETING
6:30 PM**

**APRIL
7th
"2020"**

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

Apr 10, 2020

**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 March 28, 2020 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar.....We hope to see you there. Thank You

Bob Johnson

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

USPS Privatization not included. In his FY20 request, the president included a proposal by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) that called for reforming and restructuring the federal government, including privatizing the Postal Service. Privatization of the Postal Service has not been included in this year's request.

Federal Employees Retirement & Health Benefits

Pay increase lags behind inflation. While the administration's prior two budgets called for a federal workforce pay freeze, this budget proposes a 1 percent across-the-board pay increase for federal employees, while recommending a 3 percent increase for military personnel. Inflation rates in the United States have risen from 2.1 percent in the president's first year in office to 2.3 percent for 2019. Legislation introduced in the 116th Congress by House and Senate Democrats called for a FY21 pay raise of 3.5 percent. Increase FERS contributions. For active federal and postal employees covered by the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS), the budget calls for gradually equalizing employee and agency payroll contributions for pension benefits. This would raise the pension contributions of letter carriers by 1 percent of pay a year for up to six years, resulting in a take-home pay cut of up to \$3,700 annually after six years for active letter carriers. The exact impact would depend on when FERS employees were hired.

High-5 average

The proposal calls for reducing Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and FERS pension benefits for new retirees by basing annuities on workers' highest average yearly salary over five years (high-5) instead of over the highest three years (high-3).

Eliminate annuity supplement

It also would eliminate the annuity supplement that covers the gap for employees who retire under FERS before they qualify for Social Security benefits at age 62.

Slash COLAs

For all retirees, the administration's budget calls for eliminating or reducing cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs). For current and future annuitants under FERS (which covers any employee hired after 1984), the budget would eliminate basic annuity COLAs entirely. For those under CSRS, COLAs would be reduced by 0.5 percent each year. These changes would devastate the finances of retirees who rely on annual COLAs to keep up with the cost of living.

Reduce the TSP's G Fund interest rate

This proposal includes a change to the government bond fund ("G" fund), the largest and most popular investment vehicle available in the Thrift Savings Plan. Millions of active and retired G Fund investors would receive a reduced rate of return. The new rate would be tied to the interest rate on 90-day Treasury bills instead of an average of medium- and long-term Treasury bond rates. This proposal would take \$10.5 billion in retirement investments from federal employees, retirees, active military personnel and veterans over the next 10 years.

Higher premiums for workers

For both active and retired federal employees, the budget proposes modifying the federal government's contribution to the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) so that federal employees pay more into the program. Although details for how the new calculations are not specified, previous proposals called on federal employees to pay an additional 7 percent, cutting significantly into their monthly take-home pay. A 7-percentage point cost shift (similar to what was proposed last year) for a \$20,000-per-year family health plan would raise retiree contributions by about \$1,400 annually. FEHBP contribution levels for active letter carriers are set by the terms of the collective-bargaining agreement with USPS. While the proposed budget wouldn't immediately affect these contribution percentages for active letter carriers, it likely would have an effect on future negotiations on this issue.

Department of Labor

Budget cut. Much like the White House's proposals for FY20 and FY19, the Department of Labor would see a \$1.3 billion, or 11 percent, budget cut in 2021, through the elimination of programs deemed "duplicative, unnecessary, unproven, or ineffective.

Training cuts

The budget once again slashes funding for training workers who lose their jobs as a result of lay-offs or natural disasters. Other job training funds for Native Americans and seasonal migrant workers would be completely defunded. Union monitoring. One of the few increases in the DOL budget would go to the office that monitors union activities. The DOL's Office of Labor-Management Standards would get a 16 percent boost, to \$50 million next year. The budget states that it would "support more audits and investigations to uncover flawed officer elections, fraud, and embezzlement.

It is important for letter carriers to urge their representatives in Washington to reject attacks on the federal workforce as well as on the Postal Service and its networks. NALC will continue to update letter carriers on the process, as additional budget details are released and as the House and Senate begin their budget considerations.

"THE MAIL CALL"
BRANCH 2462, NALC
Francisco Valenzuela, Editor
6910 Hayvenhurst Ave., # 104
Van Nuys, CA 91406

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Branch Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2020

By

Steve Seyfried, Secretary

The Meeting was held at ASKEW HALL 6910 Hayvenhurst Ave 104, Van Nuys California. It was called to order by VICE PRESIDENT JOHN BURTON at 6:49 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sgt-at-Arms RAUL DOZAL

MOMENT OF SILENCE-----JOSE MACARANAS, RETIRED CARRIER OUT OF SHERMAN OAKS

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

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

ABSENT---J DOLABSON

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAIL CALL

CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP--NONE

BILLS READ---NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AUDIT COMMITTEE--TRUSTEES Audit was completed and all books were examined and found to be in good order.

HEALTH & SAFETY Meeting was held at M.O. Same subjects as always. Accidents approaching last years level, recent spot checks found Carriers not wearing seat belts, curbing wheels and double parking. All these are not allowed.

TRUSTEES No Report

RETIREES 5 retiree's present tonight.

Saturday breakfast. will be on Saturday, March 28th.

MDA FUND--DOZAL Currently \$1341.00 in fund

HBR---L. DOLABSON Some of the new changes for the health plan include Tele-visits with Physicians, coverage for eating disorders, and they are no longer covering Vitamin B supplements for those over 65. Any question you can contact me through the Union office or check out the Health Plan website at <https://www.nalchbp.org>.

MDA--MACARAEG We will be helping out with the Fire Fighters "Fill the Boot" campaign starting on April 23rd. The L A County MDA is combining the Southern California Muscle Walk into one big event this year on October 24, 2020. Watch for further information and plan on attending. Bowl-a-Thon plans are being worked out, hopefully we will be having another soon.

MBA---ENZ Waiting on forms and new information.

FINANCIAL SECT REPORT---MULLINAX Membership has been steadily dropping over the past few months due to CCA's either quitting or being terminated. Hopefully some day the

Postal Service will start treating its employees with the curtesy and respect they deserve for all the long hours they put in.

TREASURERS REPORT---JOHNSON READ
MOTION---Accept the Financial Reports as read
M/S/C

VICE-PRESIDENT BURTON HR 2382, prefunding revocation bill, has passed the House, with over whelming bipartisan support. It will now move to the Senate. Went with **PAUL JEFFREY** to **CONGRESSMAN BRAD SHERMAN** fund raiser. We talked for several minutes to convey the concerns and issues important to Letter Carriers. The Congressman was very supportive. He also indicated that he was aiding 25th Congressional Candidate Kristy Smith with a donation. Thanks to **JAYMAYEN MACARAEG** for all the help in the office, she has been investigating and documenting Clock ring forgeries in various offices in the Van Nuys offices.

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

OLD BUSINESS

The two By-Law changes that were published in February MailCall were voted on at tonight's meeting and both passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION---Branch purchase a security system for the Branch office. Cost not to exceed \$ 200.00 M/S/C

UNDERLINED INDICATES UNANIMOUS VOTE

MDA DRAWING

- \$ 3 RAPHAEL PEREZ---PANORAMA CITY--DONATED
- \$ 4 STEVE SEYFRIED---RETIREE--DONATED
- \$ 8 TIA WILSON--RETIREE

Meeting Adjourned 8:23 pm



IN MEMORY OF

JOSE MACARANAS
RETIREE---SHERMAN OAKS