

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By JANETTE DOLABSON

Support USPS in next emergency stimulus

As letter carriers on the front lines of serving 160 million Americans and businesses every day, you know that the Covid-19 pandemic is something we have never experienced before. While our letter carriers show their resilience, strength, and continued service to the public every day, the Postal Service looms closer to shuttering due to the staggering loss in mail volume and revenue during this crisis. It's a desperate situation that only Congress and the Administration can help solve.

We cannot allow the USPS to fail.

Unfortunately, instead of providing much needed immediate financial assistance urged by NALC and stakeholders the last stimulus gave the Postal Service a slap in the face by giving it access to a conditional line of credit. Those conditions aren't new to letter carriers - as they seek to destroy the network and attack letter carriers at the behest of private shippers. This is not a solution. It is a way to weaken the Postal Service by riddling it with more debt to the point where opponents of the constitutionally mandated service will destroy it.

While it's been 40 years since we have needed taxpayer funding, we need financial relief to continue to serve this country through this crisis - and we need it now. Thankfully, the American public is on our side. A recent bipartisan poll showed that 92 percent of voters support direct funding for the Postal Service in the next pandemic response bill.

Please take a minute to send a letter to your members of Congress by clicking the button on the NALC app or on NALC.org and tell them that we need: an immediate and significant injection of money – and

secure, regular appropriations for the Postal Service until this crisis is over.

NALC members can login on the NALC app using your username (First Initial + Last Name + Zip) to take action by calling and emailing your Member of Congress. After sending your message, your email record will be deleted. It is being used for the sole purpose of sending your message today.

If you have questions or need help logging in, contact Eddie Davidson at davidson@nalc.org or (202) 340-3602 and provide him with your full name + zip.

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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 July 7, 2020 at 6:30 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) Trustees, 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 July 9, 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.

"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	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 104
VAN NUYS, CALIFORNIA**

**NEXT MEETING
6:30 PM**

**JULY
7th
"2020"**

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

July 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: !!!!

All Breakfasts have been cancelled until further notice. To all our Retiree's and Regular Members we hope that you are staying safe in your homes during this crisis.

Bob Johnson

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT

By

John Burton

The current Covid-19 pandemic is ravaging our country and affecting millions of people and families. With the spread continuing, there are still things you can do to protect yourself, and those you love. CDC states the best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed, and to follow their recommendations to help prevent the spread of this deadly threat. 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.
- Follow CDC's recommendations and wear face masks to protect yourself from respiratory viruses, including the novel coronavirus.
- Follow CDC's recommendations and maintain a 6 foot Social Distance from each other to protect yourself from Covid-19.

These are everyday preventive measures that can help stop the spread of the Covid-19 virus. For current information and more details visit the CDC website, at www.cdc.gov



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

Today, North Star Opinion Research and Hart Research Associates, two leading Republican and Democratic public opinion firms, released the findings of a national poll regarding the importance of the continued operation and funding of the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) during this pandemic. Unsurprisingly, the results of the poll show overwhelming bipartisan support for USPS with 94 percent of all registered voters polled saying mail and package service is important during this time. In addition, 95 percent registered voters polled said official government recommendations, supplies, medications, and test kits related to COVID-19 are important to them.

While those results are no surprise given the Postal Service's popularity, when respondents were asked whether they would favor or oppose appropriating funds for the Postal Service to maintain operations through the coronavirus crisis in the next round of financial relief legislation, 92 percent of voters said they would favor this move. Only 30 percent of voters favored increasing the Postal Service's additional borrowing authority instead of direct funding, leading to increased debt for the agency and more problems for Congress to consider.

"As letter carriers know, the conversation about Postal Service finances is nothing new," said NALC President Fredric Rolando. "Unfortunately, this pandemic continues to cripple the economy resulting in sharp declines in revenue for the Postal Service, which is expected to run out of money in September if Congress and the White House fail to intervene. Thankfully, voters not only understand the peril, but also believe we must fund the agency. NALC stands ready to work with Congress and the White House to stabilize the agency in the next stimulus package so the Postal Service can continue to serve the needs of 160 million households every day."

TSP From Postal Record

"As part of the financial recovery package Congress passed and the president signed into law in March, the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) is expected to waive the 10 percent tax on early TSP withdrawals of up to \$100,000 for people affected by the coronavirus outbreak in some way, retroactive to Jan. 1, 2020. If the policy goes into effect, those who use this waiver will have three years to either pay the tax or reimburse their plans. TSP spokeswoman Kim Weaver explained that the category of "people who would be eligible [is] quite broad: if you've been diagnosed with COVID-19, if your spouse or dependent has been diagnosed, or if you've experienced adverse financial consequences like you've been laid off, unable to work due to child care, etc."

The COVID-19 pandemic is not the only hardship exception at the TSP. While existing rules already allow participants to withdraw money early for 1) negative cash flow, 2) medical expenses for the participant, spouse or dependents, 3) repairs or property replacement from a personal casualty loss, or 4) attorneys' fees or court costs for a participant's divorce or separation, they also grant special exceptions for natural disasters. Previously, the TSP relied on the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to issue guidance and make announcements authorizing participants to take hardship withdrawals for specific events, such as the California wildfires of 2017, but the IRS decided to stop issuing these announcements. Instead, it added lost expenses and income due to a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-declared natural disaster to the list of "safe harbor" expenses eligible for financial hardship.

By adding FEMA declared natural disasters to the list of eligible expenses for financial hardship, the TSP will eliminate a step or two, as it no longer would be required to inform participants when they are eligible for this reason. For those who don't know, the TSP works like a 401(k) in the private sector, allowing the employee to save with tax advantages and to benefit from employer contributions. TSP is an essential part of most carriers' retirement plans. Under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS), which covers most letter carriers, new career carriers are automatically enrolled in TSP and contributions are taken from their paychecks, unless they opt out. One more change is coming to the TSP, this one aimed at new participants. The Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board (FRTIB) will set automatic contribution rates at 5 percent for those participants, with the change going into effect on Oct. 1, the TSP announced in February. New career letter carriers will automatically begin contributing 5 percent—up from the current 3 percent—of their basic pay toward the TSP, maximizing the matching contributions from USPS.

This change won't affect existing TSP participants, and all participants can change their contribution rates at any time. The change is an effort by the TSP to help its participants save more and better prepare for retirement. According to the FRTIB, 26 percent of participants were contributing less than 5 percent of their pay at the end of 2018. "Increasing the rate to 5 percent not only increases the amount that a participant saves from his or her basic pay but also ensures that that participant receives the full amount of agency/service matching contributions he or she is entitled to, both of which allow the participant...to achieve significantly greater retirement savings," the FRTIB wrote in the proposed rule."

"THE MAIL CALL"
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Branch 2462 wants to thank all the Letter Carriers, Doctors, Nurses and All First Responders for their unwavering dedication to the American Public during this tragic and devastating time in all ours lives.

**SUPPORT THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AND
PARTICIPATE IN THE**

**NALC CALL TO ACTION SUPPORT THE USPS IN THE
NEXT EMERGENCY STIMULUS**

**THE NALC MAKES IT EASY FROM THE NALC APP -
GO TO NOTIFICATIONS - GO TO ACTION NEEDED -
TAP ON APRIL 15 NOTICE AFTER READING SCROLL TO THE BOTTOM
AND ENTER YOUR NAME AND ZIP CODE AS PROMPTED
YOU CHOOSE HOW TO SEND IT**

**YOU MAY ALSO GO TO NALC.ORG USE THE DROP-DOWN MENU AND
CHOOSE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS - ON THE RIGHT OF SCREEN TAP ON
LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES CLICK ON
LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER (BELOW) SCROLL DOWN
AND ENTER YOUR NAME AND ZIP CODE AS PROMPTED**

**(CELL PHONE SCREEN MAY LOOK DIFFERENT)
WE RECOMMEND EMAIL AND CALLING**

