

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By JANETTE DOLABSON

USPS Delivery Initiative

On July 16, 2020, USPS notified NALC of the ESAS test that was scheduled to begin on July 25 in approximately 400 test sites. On July 28, USPS provided us with revised guidelines for the test. The ESAS initiative substantially alters delivery practices and procedures outlined in the Handbooks M-39 and M-41. These changes directly impact terms and conditions of employment of city letter carriers in violation of Article 19 of the National Agreement.

The ESAS test imposes restrictions on letter carriers' morning casing duties which conflict with M-39 Section 121.211. Similarly, the ESAS test prevents carriers from withdrawing mail in violation of M-41 Section 223.11. Additionally, letter carriers do not obtain accountable items until after they have pulled the mail from the case in violation of M-41 Section 262.1.

The ESAS test raises the same fundamental interpretive issue that NALC has raised in previous national level disputes: whether the Postal Service may suspend compliance with the National Agreement or applicable regulations under the guise of conducting a "test." It remains our position that management may not unilaterally implement tests which are inconsistent with regulations outlined in handbooks and manuals without first reaching an agreement with the Union.

NALC has requested a meeting with the Postal Service to discuss this interpretive dispute. PR

COVID-19 and the USPS Stimulus Relief

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 are not 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 has 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 logging into www.nalc.org and go to home page and click on Action needed and follow links.

Political

The Letter Carrier Political Fund is a non-partisan political action committee (PAC) established for the purpose of electing qualified candidates who support letter carriers and who are committed to maintaining a strong and innovative U.S. Postal Service.

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"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' REPORT

By
JOHN BURTON

Once again the "Dog Days of Summer" have descended on Southern California, and while we have all suffered through this many times, it does not hurt to be reminded again of the dangers of heat exposure.

Working outside, and in vehicles, in the heat can pose many threats. A parked vehicle sitting in the sun with an outside temperature of 85 degrees, will rise to an internal temperature of 114 degrees in 20 minutes, and 124 degrees in 60 minutes. At 95, not uncommon in our area, those temps rise to 126 in 20 minutes and 138 in 60 minutes.

Effects of heat related illnesses can begin to present when the body temperature rises above 102 degrees. This does not take long when working in the above described conditions.

Protecting Workers from Heat Stress Heat Illness

Exposure to heat can cause illness and death. The most serious heat illness is heat stroke. Other heat illnesses, such as heat exhaustion, heat cramps and heat rash, should also be avoided.

There are precautions your employer should take any time temperatures are high and the job involves physical work. Risk Factors for Heat Illness • High temperature and humidity, direct sun exposure, no breeze or wind • Low liquid intake • Heavy physical labor • Waterproof clothing • No recent exposure to hot workplaces Symptoms of Heat Exhaustion • Headache, dizziness, or fainting • Weakness and wet skin • Irritability or confusion • Thirst, nausea, or vomiting

Symptoms of Heat Stroke • May be confused, unable to think clearly, pass out, collapse, or have seizures (fits) • May stop sweating.

To Prevent Heat Illness, your Employer Should • Establish a complete heat illness prevention program. • Provide training about the hazards leading to heat stress and how to prevent them. • Provide a lot of cool water to workers close to the work area. At least one pint of water per hour is needed.

Remember in end it is your responsibility to watch out and be aware of what is going on in your body. Do not wait until you are experiencing the above symptoms. The best preventative is hydration, WATER. Just that plain and simple, drink water before, during and after exposure to outside temperatures. Do not wait until you are thirsty, by then it is probably too late. Be safe and aware, your life could depend on it.

ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

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

**MEETING PLACE OF BRANCH 2462, NALC
6910 HAYVENHURST AVE., SUITE 104
VAN NUYS, CALIFORNIA**

**NEXT MEETING
6:30 PM**

**SEPTEMBER
1st
"2020"**

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

Sept 5, 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

President's Report

(Continued from Page 1)

Each year, NALC fights to fend off attacks in Congress that threaten letter carriers' collective-bargaining rights, retirement benefits and livelihood. We have been successful so far, and we want to continue helping to elect House and Senate candidates who will protect us, promote our issue's, and deliver our message to Washington.

Since **union dues cannot be used to support candidates for political office**, NALC relies 100 percent on member contributions to the LCPF, which in turn helps us support those on Capitol Hill who defend the issues that matter most to us. Our PAC brings together in Washington strong letter carrier advocates—from all political parties—who are dedicated to helping to defend a strong USPS that provides universal, innovative, and affordable service.



HAPPY LABOR DAY

Take a moment to reflect on the sacrifices that were made in the past to provide us with good paying jobs, with benefits, so that we can enjoy "The Fruits of our Labor's"

LABOR BUILT AMERICA, LET'S KEEP IT STRONG

POST OFFICE FACES MAJOR ASSAULT STEVE SEYFRIED

Well it didn't take very long for the true purpose of our new Postmaster General to raise its ugly head. We all feared what the elimination of Overtime, Cut back in Service and all the other "cost saving measures" that he has recently implemented would do. With these actions and the emanations coming from the White House, it is now quite apparent that the true purpose of all of this is to cripple the USPS, at a time when the people of our country need it the most. Covid-19 is ravaging the country, except evidently not in the White House or the U.S. Senate. People are afraid, as they should be. Cases have topped 5 million in the US, the highest in the world. Our number of deaths is over

160,000 in 6 months, and we are instructed to wear masks and stay at home to protect ourselves and others. And yet, what is our government doing to the one organization that binds the entire country together? It hamstring the USPS and puts all Americans at risk. Vote by mail, has been around since the CIVIL WAR (1860-65). Union soldiers voted by mail from battlegrounds all over the United States, and when Abraham Lincoln was re-elected, no one accused the election of being rigged or corrupted.

We all know that the USPS financial problems began in 2006, when G.W. Bush enacted the Prefunding Act which required the USPS to prefund Retiree Health Benefits 50 years into the future, a requirement that Bloomberg News reported "is a requirement that no other entity, private or public, has to make". Over the next 10 years the USPS reported a loss of 62.4 billion dollars, of which \$54.8 billion was in prefunding costs. So had the USPS been allowed to operate like any other company in the WORLD, losses would have been significantly less at \$760 million per year. Still a sizable amount, but realistic when you realize what is required of the USPS, which is DELIVERY TO EVERY HOUSEHOLD IN THE UNITED STATES and its TERRITORIES. No other company in the country does that, and the USPS does it 6 days a week. Mr. Entrepreneur, you try that, and remember, you cannot change or make a decision regarding your business, without going through a 6-month process to get permission. It is no wonder that Amazon and UPS use the UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE to handle a sizeable amount of their deliveries.

Lastly I want to ask a question. We hear that we are working on, and hopefully will soon have a vaccine for Covid-19. When it does come, 331 million people in the United States are going to need to receive it. How? Order it on Amazon Prime ? go down to CVS ? I can only imagine what those lines would look like. Or just maybe we could find an organization that could DELIVER THOSE DOSES TO EVERY HOUSEHOLD IN AMERICA. Hopefully that organization will still be open and running. Because the USPS can do the job better than anyone, because we are already doing it !

Now more than ever, Congress needs to hear from the American people how important the USPS is to every citizen, and to the freedom of information that it provides. I urge everyone to not only write to your own Representative, but open letters to the Speaker of the House, the Senate Majority Leader, the White House, your local newspaper op-ed pages. Now more than ever we need to make our voices heard and our wishes known, by WRITING and VOTING.

IF YOU DON'T DO IT, WHO WILL ?

"THE MAIL CALL"
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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 September 1, 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) 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 September 3, 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.



We regret that we have been unable to hold Regular Branch Meetings over the past several months. Covid-19 continues to ravage our country, and our state. As appears above we are hoping to be able to meet on September 1, 2020, to hold our meeting and nominate members to fill the positions on the Executive Board. Please be aware, however, that these plans may have to be changed. Active members will be notified of any changes by the Shop Stewards at their respective stations. Retiree's are asked to contact the Union Office at Askew Hall, by phone. The number is (818) 786-8505. If you get the answering service, please leave your name and number and someone will contact you with the information. These are tough times for everyone, and especially for Letter Carriers, who are out in the midst of the pandemic serving the American public 6 Days a week. Letter Carriers accept this challenge, as they always have, with dedication, pride, and professionalism. We have faced many difficulties in the past, and now look the current ones directly in the face. We will survive these challenges as we have before because we are Stronger Together, than we are Alone. If we Stand together and Help each other we will, as we always have, Survive.