

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By JANETTE DOLABSON

Our Branch has made the decision to not hold our annual Retiree Luncheon this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. We have not made a decision yet about our Christmas Party but it is not looking good. Most likely we will not be having it this year. With that said we will plan something next year for all office to be able to safely participate in. We will let you know.

Payroll tax

The Postal Service has notified NALC that it will not implement the temporary employee payroll tax deferral established by a recent Presidential Executive Order. If implemented, the order would defer payroll taxes through December 31. The taxes would be owed at that time barring any further action. The Internal Revenue Service issued guidance (Notice 1010-65) making clear that employers are not required to implement the deferral. As a result, letter carriers will see no change in payroll taxes as a result of the executive order.

COVID-19 Related MOUs Extended Until End of Year:

By joint agreement ([M-01929](#)), several COVID related memorandums of understanding have been further extended through December 31, 2020. These memoranda include: temporary expanded sick leave for dependent care ([M-01910](#)); temporary additional paid leave for CCAs ([M-01911](#)); temporary use of the 7:01 rule ([M-01913](#)); temporary workplace changes to promote social distancing ([M-01915](#)); and temporary use of TCAs ([M-01916](#)).

NALC and the Postal Service also agreed to another temporary time limit extension on Step B and arbitration appeals ([M-01930](#)), and an agreement giving local parties the ability to develop a sign-up process for full-time employees who previously did not, or could not, place their names on either the overtime desired list or

work assignment list ([M-01931](#)). Both of these agreements will expire on December 31st as well.

Also extended through December 31st is a USPS memorandum ([M-01914](#)) which instructs managers and supervisors to allow liberal changes of schedule to accommodate employees who are dealing with childcare issues related to the pandemic. The memorandum also provides for liberal sick leave usage for employees who are sick and liberal annual and leave without pay (LWOP) to the extent operationally feasible, treats COVID-19 related leave as scheduled (as opposed to unscheduled) leave, and directs that leave taken for COVID-19 related reasons during this time not be cited in discipline for failing to maintain an assigned schedule.

FFCRA

On April 1, 2020, the US Department of Labor (DOL) issued the implementing regulations pertaining to the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). The FFCRA created two new types of paid leave, Emergency Paid Sick Leave (EPSL) and Expanded Family and Medical Leave (EFMLA). Both categories of leave allow an employee to be absent from work in order to care for a child whose school or place of childcare is either closed or unavailable due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The FFCRA grants employees up to 80 hours of EPSL and up to 12 workweeks of EFMLA for this reason. Under the EFMLA rules, the first two weeks of leave are unpaid; however, the employee may use either their own paid leave or EPSL to receive pay. The remaining ten of weeks are paid at no less than two-thirds of the employee's regular hourly rate of pay, but capped at \$200.00 per day and \$10,000.00 total. EPSL used during the first two weeks of the absence is payable at no less than two-thirds of the employee's regular hourly rate of pay, also capped at \$200.00 per day and \$2,000.00 total.

(Continued on Page 3)

"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.

MDA NEWS

By
JAMAYEN MACARAEG
MDA BRANCH COORDINATOR

There will be a MDA Telethon on October 24, 2020. It will be hosted by Kevin Hart and will feature many celebrities. Some that will be featured are D H Khaled, Bryan Cranston, Aloe Blacc, Daniel Lev Leslie Mann, Robin Thicke, Gabrielle Union Wade, and many more. You can get further information at:

<https://MDA.donordrive.com/event/telethon>.

If you wish to donate please use my venmo link below, that way we will get credit for your donation for the Branch,

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 4 2
ENCINO	4 8 5 A A A A 4 4
PANORAMA CITY	3 4 3 N N N N 3 4
SHERMAN OAKS	4 3 3 C C C C C 3 2
SUN VALLEY	1 0 0 E E E E 0 0
TARZANA	1 1 0 L L L L 2 1
RETIREE'S	4 5 5 E E E E 3 3
TOTAL	18 27 23 D D D D 19 16

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

**NEXT MEETING
6:30 PM**

**NOVEMBER
3rd
"2020"**

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

Nov 3, 2020

**WEB PAGE.... WWW.NALCBRANCH2462.ORG
BRANCH OFFICE.....818-786-8505
O P C PERSONNEL OFFICE.....818-374-5600
E-Mail.....Branch2462nalc@gmail.com**



You can also donate on the web site for the Telethon. Lets make this event really end the year with a bang. Please donate what you can to this wonderful organization and also support Branch 2462 in our fund raising operations.



**"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)

According to the regulations issued on April 1st, employees were only allowed to take the EFMLA leave intermittently upon the approval of the employer. On September 16, 2020, the DOL issued revised rules, clarifying the definition of intermittent leave. Under this revision, employer approval of intermittent leave is not required when an employee needs to take leave due to their child's school operating on alternate days of in-person and distance learning. In these cases, each day the school is closed constitutes a new reason for the leave and the reason would cease once the school reopens.

For example, if the school is open for in-person learning on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, the employee would be allowed to take leave on Tuesday and Thursday, when the child is not allowed to be present in the school. The same rule applies in circumstances where the school is open for a portion of the day. The reason for the leave would begin at the time the child was not allowed to attend class in the school and end upon their return to the building. For more information regarding leave under the FFCRA, please see President Rolando's statement dated April 3, 2020, on the COVID-19 page on the NALC website.

For Leave Year 2021, Maximum Annual Leave Carryover Amount Increased from 440 Hours to 520 Hours:

NALC and the Postal Service have agreed to a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that increases the maximum allowable annual leave carryover amounts outlined in the Employee and Labor Relations Manual (ELM). For leave year 2021, regular work force career employees covered by the USPS-NALC National Agreement may carry over 520 hours of accumulated annual leave from leave year 2020 to leave year 2021. Normally, as defined in ELM 512.321(a.), bargaining unit employees have a maximum leave carryover of 440 hours.



HEALTH BENEFITS REPORT

BY

LARRY DOLABSON, HBR

OPEN SEASON ANNOUNCEMENT 2020

Open season to elect health benefits begins November 9th, 2020 and ends December 14th, 2020

Diagnostic testing for COVID-19 will now cover physician ordered diagnostic testing at 100% for patients that meet the CDC guidelines for COVID-19. We will also cover the associated office visit at 100%. (if tested on that day)

High option members: If you use a PPO provider, your office visit co-payment will be waived. If you use a non -PPO provider, we will pay 100% of the plan's allowance for the office visit.

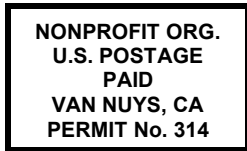
I urge you consider enrolling into the NALC Health Plan this open season. We should be getting the cost for Active and Retired Members very soon. For further information you may contact me through the Union Office, your Shop Steward or at the Encino Station.

Remember that this plan is run by and specifically structured for Letter Carriers and their families. We have plans for every situation, please check out our great benefits and services.



Pictured above: Branch President Janette Dolabson punching out for the last time at Tarzana Station. Best of Luck Janette as you enter a new phase of life as a Retired Letter Carrier !!!!

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



Address Service Requested

Branch Meeting Minutes
October 6, 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 PRESIDENT J. DOLABSON at 7:48 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by WILLIAM POWERS

MOMENT OF SILENCE-----In Memory All members of the NALC and U S Military who passed this year. Thank you all for your Service. Also to all people who have passed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

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

ABSENT—JOHNSON

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAIL CALL

CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP--NONE

BILLS READ—Motion to Pay the Bills **M/S/C**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AUDIT COMMITTEE There has not been an Audit due to Covid-19 pandemic. We will be trying to schedule one as soon as we are able to all get together. The date and time will be announced.

HEALTH & SAFETY When driving a FFV the rear cargo door must be open. This is to allow the driver to have a better view of the blind spot of the left side, especially when pulling away from curbs or making a turn onto another street. We have had several Carriers receive discipline for not following this safety rule. It is a must, no reason for not complying will be accepted. Be sure to stay hydrated at all times and immediately report any heat related sickness to your supervisor and Shop Steward.

TRUSTEES No Report

RETIREES 3 retiree's present tonight. All breakfasts have been cancelled until further notice.

MDA FUND No Report

HBR—L. DOLABSON The open season for this year will be from November 9th till December 14th. There will be no extension due to the pandemic, so if you need to change your Health Plan do it within the time limits. Watch for my reports in the MailCall

MDA--MACARAEG We are once again selling JUMBA JUICE CARDS. These turn out to be a 50% discount for the authorized time. See you Shop Stewards to purchase the cards or contact me at the Panorama City Station.

MBA—ENZ Have ordered new forms for the upcoming year. National office of MBA is now open only on Tuesdays and Thursdays due to Covid-19. I want to thank the membership for their support over the last 25 years that I have served on the Executive Board. William Powers will be the MBA Rep. Please extend to him the same support you have given me.

EDITOR—VALENZUELA No Report

ELECTION COMM—SEYFRIED No election needed.

EAP—DANIELS Free and Confidential. Still open.

FINANCIAL SEC—MULLINAX Updating Non-Member list do to delays in receiving applications. We have had 8 new Retirees since pay period 13 and expect several more before the end of the year.

TREASURERS REPORT—JOHNSON **READ**

MOTION—Accept the Financial Reports as read **M/S/C**

VICE-PRESIDENT BURTON Make sure to vote on or before November 3rd. We always say this but believe me this year's election is extremely important for Letter Carriers. Branch recommends that you Vote for CHRISTY SMITH, ADAM SHIFF and BRAD SHERMAN for Congress. Also recommend YES on PROP 15, and NO on PROP 22

PRESIDENT J. DOLABSON Report in the MailCall

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

OLD BUSINESS--NONE

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION—Branch renew the Quick Book Desk Payroll program for 1 year. Cost to the Branch not to exceed \$ 750.00 **M/S/C**

MOTION—Branch purchase a prepaid cell phone for use in members OWCP cases. Cost not to exceed \$ 100.00 **M/S/C**

MOTION—Branch pay all those who attended the Shop Steward Training Class on Sunday Sept 27 From 1:30 to 5:30 \$ 150 each for all expenses Total cost to the Branch \$ 750.00 **M/S/F**

CALL FOR DIVISION—YES-4, NO-9 **MOTION FAILS**

MOTION—Branch pay all those who attended the Shop Steward Training Class on Sunday Sept 27 From 1:30 to 5:30 \$ 150.00 each for all expenses, and 1 other Member \$ 150.00 for opening the office. Cost to the Branch \$ 600.00 **M/S/C**

UNDERLINED INDICATES UNANIMOUS VOTE

**NEWLY ELECTED BRANCH OFFICERS **
RAA CALVIN BROOKINS presided over the installation of the newly elected Branch Officers who were in attendance at the meeting TRUSTEE JOHNSON will be sworn in at a future meeting.

Meeting Adjourned 9:16 pm