

**Representing the Stations of  
Encino – Panorama City – Sherman Oaks – Sun Valley – Tarzana – Van Nuys Main**

**VOLUME 58**

**SEPTEMBER 2021**

**NUMBER 9**

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**By JANETTE DOLABSON**

### **Office Overtime**

I am writing this message to address the mandating of overtime in the offices, especially in Van Nuys Stations. It is concerning to me that carriers seem to want to blame the union because they are being mandated to work overtime when they are not on the max list. Max list carriers are complaining that they want to work the overtime. The reason non list carriers are working mandated overtime is not at the fault of the union. It's because the Postal Service is sorely understaffed. When there are not enough people to cover routes or give auxiliary assistance folks will be mandated to work overtime. As long as management follows the tenants of Article 8 of the National Agreement, they can mandate non list carriers to carry overtime.

Max list carriers are not entitled to overtime that will exceed 60 hours in a work week or 12 hours in a day. CCA carriers must work 10 hours in a day or up to 11.50 hours in a day when non list carriers are mandated to work overtime. Until the Postal Service hires more employees the mandating will continue. I have been assured that that process is in place. There are a lot of folks being hired and in training now. This process takes time. With the short staff and the continuing pandemic, its rough!.

Also, let me make it clear- The union will uphold the contract the best we can. Sometimes, that will not make everyone happy. There will be no deals allowed with management to circumvent the contract by a Steward because they don't want to work overtime, if I have any say in it and trust me, I do. Can we work together to try and help limit the continued mandating? Of course. We have done that. Staffing will get better. The pandemic will at some point be over. Offices will eventually get back to normal if there is ever really 'a normal'. You are tired, it's a lot of hard work that never ends. That's the job we all have or have had.

The Postal Service can hire and hire and hire but unless we have a system in place to keep these new employees working it doesn't do any good. New CCA's must

have every opportunity to be successful in their job. Both management and union should help keep them working. If they need help, help them. What are they struggling with? Can they be retrained rather than letting them go, or worse, force them to resign? I think so. Does management do that? Some do some don't. Offices that are successful in keeping CCA's are better at finding out what they need to help them. Just a bit of kindness and consideration or perhaps a positive word now and then would be helpful. As seasoned carriers, how have you helped keep these CCA's working? If you leave them a swing, is it for the correct time that the swing should take them? Or is it more than even you would take if you delivered it? If a CCA makes a mistake, do you let them know so they can correct it next time? Little things go a long way in helping new carriers feel valued. We all can work on doing that. This job is not for everyone, but a lot of CCA's that have left the service could have been great employee's if they had been given every chance to. These CCA's are the future of the Postal Service. They are future PTF's, Regular carriers, Supervisors, Managers and more. Without them, what is the future of the Postal Service?

**(Continued on Page 2)**

### **SPECIAL NOTICE**

In accordance with Article V of the NALC Constitution and Article V of the By-Laws of Branch 2462, NALC, notice is hereby given for the Nomination and Election of Delegates to the State and National Convention, Nominations will be held at the October Meeting on October 5, 2021. Election, if needed, will be held in November 2021, and will be conducted by mail, as provided in Article IV of the By-Laws of Branch 2462 NALC. All members, in good standing, are eligible to be nominated. Any member, not in good standing or who has not attended at least eighteen (13) regular meetings during the twenty-four (24) months prior to their nomination as a Delegate shall not receive any expenses from *the Branch*. Any member who has less than one (1) year membership in this Branch who shall have attended at least three fourths (3/4) of those regular meetings, from his/her acceptance into membership, prior to their nomination as a Delegate or Alternate may receive expenses. All members of the Executive Board, by virtue of their office, shall be Delegates to all National and State Conventions. This Branch shall elect a Full Delegation to all National and

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## ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
MAIN OFFICE	C	6	6	6	4	3	6	6				
ENCINO	A	3	5	2	3	3	4	4				
PANORAMA CITY	N	5	6	6	4	4	4	3				
SHERMAN OAKS	C	1	2	2	2	2	3	6				
SUN VALLEY	E	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
TARZANA	L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
RETIREE'S	E	11	9	9	7	5	8	9				
TOTAL	D	26	28	25	20	17	25	28				

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

**NEXT MEETING  
TUESDAY  
SEPTEMBER  
7th**

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

**Sept 12, 2021**

**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)

### COVID-19 Update:

By joint agreement (M-01958), several COVID related memorandums of understanding have been further extended through September 30, 2021. These memoranda include: temporary expanded sick leave for dependent care (M-01910); temporary use of the 7:01 rule (M-01913); temporary workplace changes to promote social distancing (M-01915); temporary use of TCAs (M-01916); and the suspension of MOU Re: Temporary Additional Paid Leave for CCAs (M-01941).

The NALC and the Postal Service also agreed to another temporary time limit extension on Step B and arbitration appeals (M-01960), 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-01959). Both of these agreements will expire on September 30, 2021, as well.

Also extended through September 30, 2021, 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.

As Schools are beginning to start a new year and day cares are opening up, there are still possible closings of some schools and Day Care facilities due to the ongoing covid variant. If you need to use EFEL leave for childcare, make sure you fill out the proper forms and that you are the primary care giver for the child or children because of the closing of these facilities. Management will check. Count on it. If your spouse is also a Postal Worker, you both can't take the leave at the same time. It's happened and they will check. This leave is there if its needed. Don't abuse it. It isn't worth losing your job if you do.

(Continued on Page 3)



## Did you hear it's Easier to File a FECA Claim for COVID-19 now?

BY

**JEMMAYEN MACARAEG  
OWCP REPRESENTATIVE**

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 that President Biden signed on March 11, 2021, makes it **much easier** for federal workers diagnosed with COVID-19 to establish coverage under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act. To establish a COVID-19 claim, you simply need to establish that you are a "*covered employee*," meaning that:

1. **You were diagnosed with COVID-19.** Specifically, you were diagnosed with COVID-19 while employed in the Federal service at any time during the period of January 27, 2020, to January 27, 2023; and,
2. **Your duties include *any risk* of exposure.** Specifically, within 21 days of your diagnosis of COVID-19, you carried out duties that—
  - a. Required contact with patients, members of the public, or co-workers; or
  - b. Included a risk of exposure to the novel coronavirus.

### **What Does the Change in the Law Mean ? What to Do: Why File Now? What if I Think I Am OK?**

1. **You are only required to establish that your duties included a risk of exposure to COVID-19.** You do not have to prove you were engaged in high-risk employment; that you were actually exposed to the virus; or that you were exposed to someone who had the virus while performing your duties.
2. **If you establish that you are a "covered employee," any diagnosed COVID-19 will be deemed to have been proximately caused by your Federal employment.** You no longer have to establish a causal link between your employment and your COVID-19 diagnosis.

You can quickly and easily file a **CA-1** Claim for COVID-19 through the Employees' Compensation Operations and Management Portal (ECOMP). You can access ECOMP at [ecomp.dol.gov](https://ecomp.dol.gov). If you have never used ECOMP, you can [view this instructional video](#) to learn how to register for an ECOMP account, [and this video](#) to learn how to file a COVID-19 claim. If you don't have access to a computer, contact your supervisor.

If you were previously diagnosed with COVID-19 or even if you believe you just have a mild case of COVID-19, you should consider filing a COVID-19 FECA claim **now** even if you have fully recovered and/or had an asymptomatic infection.

\* In the event you develop a consequential injury, impairment or illness later because of your COVID-19 diagnosis, timely filing your claim **now** will facilitate the processing of any future claim for any such consequential condition or impairment.

- If you wait until you experience a consequential injury or illness to file your COVID-19 claim, your claim may be subject to time limitation and you will must establish **b** the initial COVID-19 claim and the consequential condition claim before benefits can begin.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT** (Continued from Page 2)

### **Retirement:**

#### **First,**

I want to Congratulate our very own RAA Calvin Brookins for his retirement from the Postal Service! He will continue working for the National Business Agents Office but will no longer be an Active Letter Carrier. We love Calvin and wish him a very happy, healthy retirement. (when he actually fully retires. Lol)

Calvin has been a long-time friend of mine and many others of this branch. Not only has he been a friend he has been my teacher, mentor, and ally. I would not be in this position without his guidance and patience. Calvin is truly the kindest most considerate person I have had the pleasure of working for and with. He has served this Branch and its members well and now serves all members in this Region 1 as an RAA for the NBA office. Whatever the future holds for you, we will have your back and our support.

#### **Second,**

Our Retirement Luncheon will be postponed until March next year due to the lingering pandemic and its variant. It would not be appropriate to hold an indoor Luncheon with us older folks. We are looking forward to honoring all our retirees in March.

## **TAKE PRIDE**

## **YOUR UNION IS WORKING FOR YOU**

## **EVERYDAY !!**

# "THE MAIL CALL"

## BRANCH 2462, NALC

**Francisco Valenzuela, Editor**  
**6910 Hayvenhurst Ave., # 104**  
**Van Nuys, CA 91406**

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## Branch Meeting Minutes August 3, 2021

**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 6:58 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS POWERS

**MOMENT OF SILENCE--In Memory of All the Letter Carriers who have passed.**

### ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

**PRESENT**--J. DOLABSON, MACARAEG, SEYFRIED, WILSON, MULLINAX, POWERS, BURTON, L. DOLABSON, VALENZUELA

**ABSENT**--JEFFREY, JOHNSON, DUENEZ

### MOTION TO SUSPEND BUSINESS M/S/C

Meeting was suspended to Honor former Branch President and current RAA CALVIN BROOKINS on the occasion of his retirement from the USPS. PRESIDENT DOLABSON, SEC SEYFRIED and former Vice President BOCEK took the opportunity to share reminders of the good times shared during Calvin's tenure as Branch President. Food and refreshments were served. We wish CALVIN and his lovely wife LINDA, Retired Branch Member also, a long and healthy Retirement. CONGRATS !!! CALVIN you certainly deserve it.

### MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAIL CALL

### CORRESPONDENCE READ

### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

**GABRIELLA PARKER**

### BILLS READ---MOTION TO PAY M/S/C

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**AUDIT & BUDGET**--TRUSTEES The audit was on July 20, 2021, at the Union Hall at 6:30 pm. All books and accounts were found to be in good order.

**SAFETY & HEALTH**--DUENEZ No Report  
**RETIRES** 9 retiree's present tonight.

Retiree Luncheon will be postponed until next March. We will be notifying the membership as to exact date and place.

**MDA FUND**--POWERS Currently \$1120.00 in fund  
**HBR**--L. DOLABSON Health Benefits Seminar will be held virtually this year. I should have specifics soon and will make a full report after the seminar. Open Season information material will soon be available.

**MDA**--MACARAEG JAMBA JUICE CARDS are still on sale. Don't miss out on this great deal. Check with your Shop Steward for more information or to purchase the cards. These are amazing savings for you, and remember ALL PROCEEDS GO TO MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY KIDS. Buy yours NOW !!!!!. Bowling and Garage Sale is still on hold due to the Covid variant.

**MBA**--DUENEZ No Report

**EDITOR**--VALENZUELA All is Well  
**POLITICAL**--BURTON Postal Reform Bills are now moving through both the House (HR3076) and the Senate (S1720). These bills would guarantee 6-day Delivery and REPEAL the Postal Prefunding. Write to your representatives and urge them to support these important Letter Carrier Bills.

**FINANCE REPORT**--MULLINAX Next COLA currently is at over \$ 1700, which would be the biggest ever received.

**TREASURERS REPORT**--WILSON All Christmas receipts or monies must be turned in before next Branch Meeting.

**Motion**--Accept financial report as read M/S/C

**VICE-PRESIDENT MACARAEG** Refer any injured Carriers to me, or Shop Stewards immediately. I will be handling Article 8 grievances in Main Office until further notice.

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

### OLD BUSINESS--NONE

### NEW BUSINESS

**MOTION**--Branch order 16 J-Cams @ \$ 25 each from NALC Branch 828. Total cost to the Branch \$ 552.90 M/S/C

**MOTION**--Branch order 350 Bass Carrier Calendars @ \$4 each. Total cost to Branch \$ 1400.00 M/S/C

**MOTION**--Branch pay the National & State Per Capita Tax. Total cost to the Branch \$ 18.75 M/S/C

**MOTION**--Branch pay the Workers Compensation Insurance for term of Aug 28, 2021-Aug 28, 2022 Total cost to the Branch \$ 1570.00. M/S/C

**MOTION**--Branch pay all Members who attend the State Training Session on Thurs. Nov 18, 2021, the following amounts. Active Carriers will receive \$ 399.16, Retired Carriers \$ 340.56. This will be for all expenses. Total cost to the Branch \$ 4954.68 M/S/C

**MOTION**--Branch pay all Delegates attending the State Convention in San Diego on Fri-Sat Nov 19-20 2021, a total of \$ 281.13 for all expenses. Total cost to the Branch \$ 3654.69 M/S/C

### UNDERLINED INDICATES UNANIMOUS VOTE

### GOOD OF ASSOCIATION

CCA OSCAR JUAREZ from Main Office was honored for attending his first Branch Meeting. He was sworn in by VP MACARAEG and received his NALC Membership Pin from PRESIDENT DOLABSON.

### MDA DRAWING

\$ 4 ART BOCEK--RETIREE  
 \$ 6 JEMMAYEN MACARAEG--PAN CITY--DONATED  
 \$ 8 TOM WINN--RETIREE--DONATED

Meeting Adjourned 9:03 PM