

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

**VOLUME 58**

**DECEMBER 2021**

**NUMBER 12**

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**By JANETTE DOLABSON**

I want to say that our Union News Letter is designed to be our notice to our Membership on issues and information for our Members. Our intention is to inform you of what is going on in the branch, let you know information that may affect you and give you knowledge about your rights and how they are protected according to our National Agreement.

### **FMLA:**

"The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) guarantees eligible letter carriers up to 12 weeks of leave each postal leave year, for:

1. A new child in the family—by birth, by adoption or by placement in foster care;
2. Caring for a family member with a serious health condition;
3. The employee's own serious health condition that prevents him or her from performing the job, or
4. Qualifying exigencies arising out of the fact that employee's family member is on or has been notified of "covered active duty" in the Armed Forces.

The FMLA also guarantees eligible letter carriers up to 26 weeks of leave in a single 12-month period to care for a "covered servicemember" with a "serious injury or illness" if that service member is their spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin.

The FMLA guarantees time off, whether paid or unpaid. The type of leave taken depends on the reasons for the leave, an employee's earnings and the usual postal leave regulations. There are eligibility criteria, medical certification guidelines and other detailed rules governing letter carrier rights to FMLA leave." If you are using FMLA for yourself you may use sick leave for illness or annual leave depending on

what you request. For an immediate family member you would use Annual leave. However, you may also utilize our Dependent Care provision from MOU listed below.

### **M-01657:**

"The parties agree that, during the term of the 2006 National Agreement, sick leave may be used by an employee to give care or otherwise attend to a family member with an illness, injury or other condition which, if an employee had such condition, would justify the use of sick leave by that employee. Family members shall include son or daughter, parent, and spouse as defined in ELM Section 515.2. Up to 80 hours of sick leave may be used for dependent care in any leave year. Approval of sick leave for dependent care will be subject to normal procedures for leave approval."

### **USE of DOIS:**

#### **"Projections cannot determine letter carriers' workload:**

In 2007, NALC and USPS settled a national-level dispute over management's use of DOIS projections (M-01664) in determining a letter carrier's daily workload. In 2011, the parties further agreed that projections cannot determine a letter carrier's daily workload when they settled a national-level dispute that arose for the Greater Indiana District's use of an "office efficiency tool." This settlement (M-01769) is applicable to any other tool/system/program currently being used or developed in the future to project office and/or street time.

"Projections are not the sole determinant of a carrier's leaving or return time, or daily workload. The use of any management created system or tool that calculates a workload projection does not change the letter carrier's reporting requirements outlined in section 131.4 of Handbook M-41, the supervisor's scheduling responsibilities outlined in section 122 of Handbook M-39, or the letter carrier's and supervisor's responsibilities contained in Section 28 of Handbook M-41."

**(Continued on Page 3)**



"The MailCall" is published monthly by "Heart of the Valley Branch 2462, NALC, 6910 Hayvenhurst Ave., Suite 104, 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	D
MAIN OFFICE	C	6	6	6	4	3	6	6	3	3	2	
ENCINO	A	3	5	2	3	3	4	4	3	4	2	
PANORAMA CITY	N	5	6	6	4	4	4	3	3	5	4	
SHERMAN OAKS	C	1	2	2	2	2	3	6	2	2	2	
SUN VALLEY	E	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TARZANA	L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
RETIREE'S	E	11	9	9	7	5	8	9	11	10	9	
TOTAL	D	26	28	25	20	17	25	28	22	24	19	

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

**NEXT MEETING  
TUESDAY  
DECEMBER  
7th**

**It Will Be Held Online  
Using Zoom at 6:30 pm**

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

**Dec 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.

## BRANCH MEETING INFORMATION

Time: Dec 7, 2021 06:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87256873968?pwd=dm1ZTmRRa1Q1Y2Z3em1CSEdCRnRlRQT09>

**Meeting ID: 872 5687 3968  
Passcode: 014362**

One tap mobile  
+16699006833,,87256873968#,,,,  
\* 014362# US (San Jose)  
+12532158782,,87256873968#,,,,  
\*014362# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location  
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

**Meeting ID: 872 5687 3968  
Passcode: 014362**

Find your local number:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcSWvGxik6>

## Retirement Fun Facts & Tips

By

**Tia Wilson, Branch Treasurer**

What is CSRS? Civil Service Retirement System

What is FERS? Federal Employees Retirement System

What is the difference between the two systems?

CSRS is a one part system. Employees contribute a certain percentage of their pay. When they retire, they receive an annuity sufficient to maintain a standard of living similar to what they experienced during their working years. They do not receive Social Security benefits or matching contributions in the Thrift Savings Plan.

FERS is a three part system. A FERS employee has a smaller annuity, one not intended to fully fund their retirement on its own. They also get a thrift savings plan with up to 5% matching contributions and Social Security benefits.

Why are there two plans?

CSRS employees do not pay into Social Security. FERS was created in 1986 and became effective January 1, 1987 to help support the Social Security System by having all federal employees contribute to it. All new employees since then have been enrolled in FERS. Eventually CSRS will be phased out.



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

### 122.21 Establishing Leaving Schedule

The leaving time for the carrier is determined by the following:

- A. Workload. The normal workload for the route;
- B. Availability of Mail. The time all the mail for the same day's delivery is available;
- C. Necessary Office Time. Time required to case this mail, withdraw, tray or strap out mail, obtain parcels, and complete other required office duties; and
- D. Business Hours. Normal community business hours.

**131.41** It is your responsibility to verbally inform management when you are of the opinion that you will be unable to case all mail distributed to the route, perform other required duties, and leave on schedule or when you will be unable to complete delivery of all mail.

**131.42** Inform management of this well in advance of the scheduled leaving time and not later than immediately following the final receipt of mail. Management will instruct you what to do.

**131.43** Complete applicable items on PS Form 3996, Carrier-Auxiliary Control, if overtime or auxiliary assistance is authorized in the office or on the street.

**131.44** Report on PS Form 1571 all mail undelivered - including all mail distributed to the route but not cased and taken out for delivery. Estimate the number of pieces of mail.

**131.45** Do not curtail or eliminate any scheduled delivery or collection trip unless authorized by a manager, in which case you must record all facts on PS Form 1571. 131.46 Before you leave the office, enter on PS Form 1571 the mail curtailed; when you return, add any mail which was not delivered and which was returned to the office. Follow any special local procedures set up to identify errors and corrective actions for mail returned because it was out of sequence.

**131.47** Complete portions of the Edit Book, as required by management, or PS Form 1621, Delivery Management Report, according to instructions on reverse of form.

Hope you all have a Healthy and Happy Holiday Season!

# Merry Christmas!

## HBR Report

Larry Dolabson, HBR

Open Season Dates: Nov. 8-Dec. 13 2021

High Option

321 Self only \$98.28  
323 self plus 1 \$234.35  
322 self and family \$202.02

CDHP

324 self only \$54.64  
326 self plus 1 \$120.54  
325 Self and family \$128.18

Value

KMI self only \$44.84  
KM2 Self plus 1 \$98.92  
KMI3 self and family \$105.25

Annuitants

Self only \$212.94 per month  
Self plus 1 \$507.76 per month  
Self and family \$437.71 per month

The health plan now covers 25 acupuncture visits per year as well as the associated office visit for each treatment visit. The plan now covers the anesthesia related to vasectomies at 100% when provided by a PPO network provider. The plan now has HINGE Health coming in 2022: if you are in pain before or after a surgery, or to try to prevent a surgery, they will handle back, knee, ankle, neck or joint pain for patients over 18. The plan now has a member portal available 24/7 that contains your benefits, out of pocket amounts, deductibles, claims of history, explanation of benefits, lab test results, diagnosis's, medical family history, and you can enter any medications that you take and the amounts of dosages so you can access them easily when needed. You can download the APP from IOS or Google app stores or at the NALC website. [NALCHBPTELEHEALTH.org](http://NALCHBPTELEHEALTH.org) or call 888 541-7706. The co pay is \$10.00

In 2022 every health plan member will receive a new card. This card will contain new information, so when you receive it, please destroy old card because this one will be different from the old ones.

The Plan now offers Tele visits through their partnership with America Well. You can register before hand so you will be set up and ready to go. You can download the nalc tele APP.

Visit Live And Work Well 877 468-1016 . You can search popular tools for weight loss, quit smoking, mental health, substance abuse and search solutions for care givers.



**"THE MAIL CALL"**  
**BRANCH 2462, NALC**  
**Francisco Valenzuela, Editor**  
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**Van Nuys, CA 91406**

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**Address Service Requested**

**Branch Meeting Minutes**  
**November 2, 2021**

**By**  
**Steve Seyfried, Secretary**

The Meeting was held Virtually on Zoom due to a renewed outbreak of Covid Variant D in some of the Van Nuys offices. It was called to order by PRESIDENT J. DOLABSON at 6:45 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS POWERS  
**MOMENT OF SILENCE--In Memory of All the Letter Carriers and MEMBERS who have passed over the past year.**

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS**

**PRESENT**--J. DOLABSON, SEYFRIED, WILSON, MULLINAX, POWERS, JEFFREY, JOHNSON, DUENEZ, VALENZUELA

**ABSENT**--MACARAEG, BURTON, L DOLABSON

**MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAIL CALL**

**CORRESPONDENCE READ**

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

**JENNIFER PACHECO, JEANE JEN CHEM, ASIA BRISTER, BERNARDINA DE LA TORRE, JONATHAN TREJO, DAHLIA MOTA, PEDRO TADEO, SARAH CHAVEZ, CHARLES HAZEN III, EVANGELINA LEON, ANDREW MORENO, ROBERT RODRIGUEZ, ALDRINE ALEGRE, PEDRO OCHOA, RAUL MARINEZ JR., LUCY FILIPPONE, MORELLA ORTEGA, JOSHUA JAMES, NOLOUFAIR KHAFANZAD, LESTER CONCEPCION, CHRISTOPHER LEE, LUCERO LOPEZ, GABRIEL SEVILLA**

**BILLS READ----NONE**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

AUDIT & BUDGET--TRUSTEES No Report

SAFETY & HEALTH--DUENEZ Continue to work in a safe manner. Drive Safely, fasten Seat Belts, No Headphones, Doors Closed. Van Nuys accidents were down for the year. Keep Working for a Safer Year. Street observations continue throughout Van Nuys offices.

RETIREES 9 retiree's present tonight. Retiree Luncheon will be postponed until next March.

MDA FUND--POWERS Currently \$1620.00 in fund  
HBR--L. DOLABSON Watch for article in December MailCall where new prices will be shown. Remember NALC Health Plan has been specially designed for Letter Carriers and their family, so check it out during open season.

MDA--MACARAEG JAMBA JUICE CARDS were incredible success, 500 sold. We can get more if demand is still there. Let your Shop Steward know if you want to purchase more cards

MBA--DUENEZ Excellent article in the latest Postal Record on the many services offered under the Mutual Benefits program. Please take a few minutes to read,

you will be certain to find something that will benefit you and your family

EDITOR--VALENZUELA

All is Well

POLITICAL--BURTON

No Report

FINANCE REPORT--MULLINAX Christmas parties for offices has been cancelled due to on going concerns with COVID, so we will be waiting till the Post Office decides whether they will be allowed to send out funds. Calendars for all active members have been passed out in the offices. Waiting to receive updated seniority lists for stations and Van Nuys compliment figures so that we can get ready to setup the Annual Leave Boards for 2022.

TREASURERS REPORT--WILSON Still waiting for Tarzana and Main Office to turn in their Christmas receipts and/or return the checks that were issued and have not been used. The monies will be reissued when we are once again allowed to have gatherings.

Motion--Accept financial report as read

M/S/C

VICE-PRESIDENT MACARAEG

No Report

PRESIDENT J. DOLABSON  
be published in the MailCall.

Gave her report which will

**OLD BUSINESS--NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS**

MOTION--Move that the Branch donate \$ 50.00 to the American Cancer Society, in the name of ROGER ASKEW

M/S/C

MOTION-- Move that the Branch donate \$ 50.00 to the Toys-For-Tots Campaign

M/S/C

MOTION- Move that the Branch donate \$ 100.00 to the Wounded Warrior Project

M/S/C

MOTION- Move that the Branch donate \$ 100.00 to the Salvation Army for Thanksgiving

M/S/C

MOTION- Move that the Branch donate \$ 100.00 to the Salvation Army for Christmas

M/S/C

MOTION--Move that the Branch give \$ 100.00 to our MDA Branch Poster Child JESUS for his Birthday !!

M/S/C

**UNDERLINED INDICATES UNANIMOUS VOTE**

Meeting Adjourned 8:15 PM