

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

VOLUME 59

MARCH 2022

NUMBER 3

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By JANETTE DOLABSON

COVID

I would like to reiterate to our active members that the Postal Policy in our offices is YOU MUST wear a mask whenever you are inside the building and outside when you cannot safely distance yourself from others while you are working. We have had many positive cases of COVID in all our offices over the last few months. It does not matter if you are vaccinated and have had your booster for the virus, you all must always wear masks over your mouth AND nose while in the office. I have noticed and addressed the fact that in many of the office's carriers are not wearing their masks. When asked to put them over their mouths and noses they will until I walk away and then pull them off as soon as they think I am out of sight. With the increase in cases in the offices, there is no reason for anyone to not adhere to the rules regarding wearing face masks. If you are tired of working long hours and your days off because of being short- staffed in your stations because of positive COVID cases, help reduce the risk by wearing your masks.

You also can order Free COVID home tests from www.USPS.gov one per household. Thank you!

FOOD DRIVE

We have registered the Branch for the Food Drive. Right now, the Food Drive is tentatively moving forward. It is not certain it will be held this May yet or not but National wants Branches to Register in case it does.

Grievance Update

The year ending 2021 the Branch filed 527 grievances. One pending arbitration and a handful yet to be met on at the Formal A level. The rest have been settled. Most of our grievances are Article 8 violations, followed by discipline then contractual issues.

NEED FOR SHOP STEWARDS

We need of a few Carriers who are willing to step up and learn how to be a shop Steward. We have a few offices that need new Stewards. Main office, Tarzana, Sun Valley and alternates in Sherman Oaks and Encino. Here are a few of the qualifications we would love for you to think about.

1. Are you soft enough to sympathize with the workers, yet strong enough to insist on justice?
2. Do you believe employees and managers both have an obligation to each other under the contract?
3. Do you believe that opposing sides should both be heard to arrive at a solution?
4. When you investigate possible violation, can you suspend judgement, consider the evidence objectively and understand the difference between proven facts and strong convictions?
5. Can you present a case as a spokesperson for someone else and not yourself?
6. Do you believe a worker is entitled to any service from the union when they are upset even if there is no violation of any contract or written rule is involved?
7. Are you sensitive enough to recognize and deal with racism and sexism?
8. Are you equally willing to represent a non-union member for the sake of contractual or other union principles involved?
9. Willing to attend all meetings, including, but not limited to, Branch Meeting, Shop Steward meeting, and all Training Sessions.

(Continued on Page 3)

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ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
MAIN OFFICE	3	4										
ENCINO	3	4										
PANORAMA CITY	4	4										
SHERMAN OAKS	2	4										
SUN VALLEY	0	0										
TARZANA	0	0										
RETIREE'S	9	7										
TOTAL	21	23										

**NEXT MEETING
TUESDAY
MARCH**

1st

2022

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

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

March 6, 2022

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.

March Regular Branch Meeting

MARCH 1, 2022

6:30 PM PST

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86379301183?pwd=SUJoZWNNYmo2QUhpZGxhM1doTXVTQT09>

Meeting ID: 863 7930 1183

Passcode: 171134

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DC)

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number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86379301183?pwd=SUJoZWNNYmo2QUhpZGxhM1doTXVTQT09>



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

10. Ask Questions it is a Learning Process.
11. Have a thick skin ! People will say things you will not like a lot of the time.
12. Learn the Contract and other manuals is a key to success. Local and National.
13. You need to learn how to look things up. Ask how . Go onto NALC.org to find resources. Check with the Branch Office to see what they have. Make sure you have a copy of your Local and National Contracts.
14. Learn how to prepare a grievance file.
15. Willing to fill out a W-4 and I-9 if you are appointed to be a Steward for pay. Alternates are not paid Stewards but in line to be one if the appointed Steward resigns or is decertified.

If you feel you have these qualifications and would like to give this a try, we would love to mentor you and teach you the skills to be a shop steward. Call me at the branch office 818 786-8505. Cell 661 373-2224 or let your shop steward in your office you would like to be a shop steward. We will schedule you to the beginning steward training class. Thank you for considering this job. It is the most important position in the Branch!

Health Benefit Updates

By

Larry Dolabson, HBR

Effective January 15th, 2022, the NALC Health Benefits Plan will have Coverage for over the counter at home COVID-19 Diagnostic tests. For tests purchased on and after January 15th the Plan will cover these tests without any cost-sharing requirements, prior authorization, or other medical management requirements, regardless of whether ordered by a health care provider. Reimbursement will only be provided for tests purchased from a pharmacy or a retailer and is limited to 8 tests per covered person per 30-day period, unless prescribed by a health care provider.

Coverage will be limited as permitted by law, and restrictions will be explained in upcoming notices. The Plan is working on the final implementation of this new benefit, and will provide additional information regarding how to take advantage of this benefit soon. If you have purchased a COVID-19 at home test, on or after January 15, and are seeking reimbursement, please print a CVS Caremark RX Claim Form

<https://nalchbp.org/high-option-plan/memberresources/forms/body/RXClaimForm.pdf>

and submit a copy of the completed form and your receipt to this address: NALC Prescription Drug Program PO Box 52192 Phoenix, AZ. 85072-2192.

Retirement Fun Facts & Tips

By

Tia Wilson

Interim Pay

Initially you will receive interim pay, which is a reduced amount of your expected annuity, until your annuity is fully calculated. Once this is done you will receive back pay for any month(s) that you received the reduced interim pay. Please note during the interim period you will not receive any portion of the FERS supplement. You will get back pay for this too once your annuity is fully calculated.

Calculating Your Annuity

There is a tool on the LiteBlue website, under eRetirement, that will estimate this for you. You will have a few options of preselected time frames that will give you an immediate estimate or you can select your own time frame and the report will be ready the next day. Keep in mind, the estimate will be based on your current earnings and sick leave balance. It will not take into consideration any wage or leave balance changes over the period of time you select. The report will also calculate your FERS supplement, if you are entitled to it, and how a survivor benefit will affect your annuity.

USPS Reform Legislation & Retirement

By

Paul Jeffrey, Political Liaison

There is a provision in the current Postal Service Reform Act of 2022 (HR3076/S1720) that will affect all employees who plan on retiring after January of 2025. The provision is designed to maximize participation in Medicare for anyone who is enrolled in the Federal Employee Health Benefit Plan (FEHBP). Currently enrollment in Medicare is optional for retirees in the FEHBP, although about 80 percent are already enrolled. This change is designed to cut costs to the FEHBP, keeping it more in line with private sector plans, but it is important that everyone understands how this can affect them. A few key points:

- Beginning in calendar year 2025, all employees age 64 or younger, enrolled in FEHBP, will be required to enroll in Medicare when they retire and reach age 65 (or when they retire after age 65).

- Postal FEHBP participants who are active and 64 or over, or who are already retired by January 1, 2025, will not be required to enroll in Medicare, but will be allowed to enroll when they become eligible.

- Non-Postal FEHBP annuitants will not currently be subject to these Medicare requirements, and there are also exceptions for Postal retirees who are also covered by the Veterans Administration or the Indian Health Service.

This is part of legislation that is currently scheduled for voting in the House of Representatives. We will provide further updates as the legislation moves forward.

Got Injured? What you need to do For Traumatic Injuries

- Stay calm. Look around, where are you located, what time is it?
- Notify your supervisor immediately.
- DO NOT DELAY! Register for an ECOMP account using the QR Code below.
- Write a statement of events that led up to your injury and what occurred immediately after. Be very detailed, where, when and how it happened. This is extremely important!
- Request a CA-16 (Authorization for Examination and/or treatment) and a CA-17 (Duty Status Report) from your supervisor.
- Go to the Home page of your ECOMP account, under “New Claim”, follow the instructions to file a CA-1 Claim for Traumatic Injury.
- Request Continuation of Pay (COP). Note: COP is not payable if claim is filed 30 days from the date of injury.
- You have the right to choose your own doctor or use a postal contract facility. If management sends you to a contract doctor, they have the right to see you but not the right to treat you.
- Submit Duty Status Reports (CA-17's) or medical restrictions to management as soon as possible. (Do not give local management any other medical documents)
- Keep copies of all documents pertaining to your injury, once an OWCP Claim/File # is issued, save it in your contacts on your mobile device. Write your claim # on any/all documents.
- Contact your union steward or local union office if you need assistance.
- Supervisor and Employee Responsibilities regarding traumatic injuries can be found in U.S. Postal Handbooks EL-505 and ELM 540.
- **NEVER** refuse a work-related Job Offer. If you feel the job offer does not fall within your medical restrictions, accept the job offer and write “under protest”. Have your doctor review the offer and submit a report to the Office of Workers’ Compensation Programs (OWCP).



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Branch Meeting Minutes February 1, 2022

By
Steve Seyfried, Secretary

The Meeting was held Virtually on Zoom due to continued Covid Variant O. It was called to order by PRESIDENT J. DOLABSON at 6:38 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS POWERS

MOMENT OF SILENCE--In Memory of JIM McCAULEY former Carrier from ENCINO. All the Letter Carriers and MEMBERS who have passed over the past year

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

PRESENT--J. DOLABSON, MACARAEG, SEYFRIED, WILSON, MULLINAX, POWERS, JEFFREY, BURTON, L. DONABSON, DUENEZ, VALENZUELA

ABSENT--JOHNSON

MINUTES HELD OVER UNTIL REVIEW POSSIBLE DUE TO DELAY IN DELIVERY OF THE MAILCALL

CORRESPONDENCE READ

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

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP--NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AUDIT & BUDGET--TRUSTEES Audit will be on February 3, 2022. It will be at 6:30 pm at the Union Office.

SAFETY & HEALTH--DUENEZ Continue to work in a safe manner. Be vigilant at all times when working. Remember that CURRENT POSTAL REGULATIONS REQUIRE THAT A MASK COVERING YOUR NOSE AND MOUTH, MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES WHEN INSIDE ANY POSTAL FACILITY.

THIS IS NOT AN OPTION, THE LIFE YOU SAVE MAYBE YOUR OWN OR THAT OF THE CARRIER WORKING NEXT TO YOU. YOU CAN BE DISCIPLINED FOR FAILING TO FOLLOW THIS MANDATE.

RETIREEES 7 retiree's present tonight. Retiree Luncheon will be postponed until next October.

MDA FUND--POWERS Currently \$1620.00 in fund
HBR--L. DOLABSON Watch for my article in the March MailCall, particularly important and informative.

MDA--MACARAEG Offer on Jamba Juice cards is still available, check it out on Page 5 of this month's MailCall. Contact your Shop Steward or the Union Office to purchase. ALL MONEY RAISED GOES TO MDA !!!

MBA--DUENEZ Short Term Disability Plan is now being offered, however, we still have not received any printed information on it. You are able to go to

www.nalc.org/member-benefits/mutual-benefit-association Where you will be able to view and read about all the plans that are offered through the Mutual Benefits Program.

EDITOR--VALENZUELA All is Well

POLITICAL--BURTON We will be attending the Congressional Lobby Trip to Washington, DC, where we will be speaking with members of both houses of Congress regarding Letter Carrier Issues. We hope to be able to watch as the House is scheduled to vote on the Postal Reform Bill when we are there. Watch for our reports in the April issue of the MailCall.

FINANCE REPORT--MULLINAX Read
TREASURERS REPORT--WILSON Read

Motion--Accept Financial Report's as read M/S/C
VICE-PRESIDENT MACARAEG Watch for my report in the next issue of the MailCall regarding what to do if you are injured.

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

OLD BUSINESS

2022 Branch Budget was submitted and discussed by the membership.

MOTION--Accept the 2022 Budget as printed in the February MailCall M/S/C

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION--Move that the branch pay any active Shop Steward or Executive board member \$ 356.78 for the State Training Session on April 28, 2022, in San Diego, California. Plus \$ 1,020.40 to be paid by the Branch for hotel rooms.

Total cost to branch for active members attending training classes \$ 4,231.42 M/S/C

MOTION--Move that the Branch pay any Retired Shop Steward or Executive board member \$ 287.50 for the State Training Session on April 28, 2022, in San Diego, California. Plus \$ 408.16 to be paid by the Branch for hotel rooms.

Total cost to branch for Retired members attending training classes \$ 1,270.66. M/S/C

MOTION--Move that the Branch pay any Delegate attending the California State Convention in San Diego, California \$ 100.00. Plus \$ 2857.12 to be paid by the Branch for hotel rooms.

Total cost to the branch for all Delegates attending the California State Convention \$ 4,057.12 M/S/C

UNDERLINED INDICATES UNANIMOUS VOTE

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

We want to extend our best Prayers and best wishes to BOB JOHNSON, TRUSTEE, and wish him a full and speedy recovery from his recent surgery. Please get well soon Bob, we hope to see you at the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned 8:24 PM