

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By JANETTE DOLABSON

I would first like to extend our deepest condolences to Trustee John Burton on the loss of his Mother and Brother in law. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family!

Union Meeting

Beginning Tuesday at 6:30 PM April 5th, 2022, we will be returning to hold our branch meetings at the union Hall. Hopefully we will be able to continue to hold meetings, in person, from now on!

Food Drive

Our 30th Anniversary Food Drive is tentatively moving forward at the time of writing this article. It would be held on Saturday May 14th, 2022. Our branch is registered and ready to go. Our bags are still waiting to be delivered to our customers and our cards are ordered. We will keep you updated on all things Food Drive!! We haven't been able to hold an actual food drive since 2019. Our food banks and pantries have struggled so much the last couple years and it will be a very welcomed and needed food gathering for folks who need it.

Political News

March 03, 2022

Senate consideration of the Postal Service Reform Act

The Senate began consideration of the Postal Service Reform Act (H.R. 3076). On Monday, 74 senators voted to proceed and begin debate of the bipartisan bill, which passed in the House of Representatives on Feb. 8.

As the bill moves through the Senate consideration process, amendments are expected to be offered. NALC continues to support a clean passage of this bill in the Senate, which mirrors the legislation passed in the House last month.

H.R. 3076 is a bipartisan bill that will improve the financial stability of the Postal Service. It includes key provisions for letter carriers, including one that eliminates the mandate that requires the Postal Service to pre-fund its retiree

health care benefits decades in advance, and another that codifies six-day mail delivery in federal law. This will eliminate the need to renew the six-day requirement every year through the congressional appropriations process. The bill also maximizes the integration of future postal annuitants into Medicare.

"The Postal Service is one of our nation's oldest and most trusted institutions, it serves as a critical lifeline for millions of Americans, including seniors and veterans, and rural communities who expect the Postal Service to deliver vital mail, including supplies and medications," Chairman Gary Peters (D-MI) said. "However, for more than fifteen years, this public service and its dedicated workers, have been hindered by burdensome financial requirements. The need to quickly pass these balanced reforms, which are broadly supported by the American people, has become increasingly urgent."

"Everybody cares about the post office and wants to be sure it is working well and working efficiently. It is not a partisan issue; it is of importance to all Americans—young, old, urban, rural, everybody," Ranking Member Rob Portman (R-OH) said. "I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill. Let's put the post office in a position to succeed and provide those essential services that small businesses, veterans, and rural constituents rely on so much."

"This postal reform legislation has been over a decade in the making," Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) said. "These reforms will help to improve service for veterans, small businesses, rural communities, seniors, and millions of Americans who rely on the Postal Service for medicines, essential goods, voting, correspondence, and for their livelihoods."

"NALC was pleased that the Postal Service Reform Act passed in the House with strong bipartisan support," NALC President Fredric Rolando said. "But the job is not finished. We urge the Senate to pass H.R. 3076 as soon as possible and send it to President Biden's desk."

(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.

Retirement Fun Facts & Tips

By
Tia Wilson

FOR FERS EMPLOYEES

Age Reduction

If you completed at least 10 years, but less than 30 years of creditable service before you left Federal service, your annuity will be reduced if it begins before age 62. The only exception to this is if you had at least 20 years of service and your annuity begins when you reach age 60.

Your annuity will be reduced by 5/12 of 1 percent for each month (5 percent per year) by which your benefit commencing date precedes your 62nd birthday. However, you can postpone (defer) the commencing date of your annuity to reduce or eliminate this age reduction.

Deferred Retirement

You are eligible for a deferred annuity if you meet one of the following age and service requirements:

You have completed at least 5 years of creditable civilian service, then you are eligible for a deferred annuity beginning the first day of the month after you reach age 62.

You have completed at least 10 years of creditable service, including 5 years of civilian service, then you are eligible for a deferred annuity beginning the first day of the month after you reach the Minimum Retirement Age (MRA)

Please note:

If you take a deferred annuity you will not be eligible to continue any health benefits or life insurance coverage you had while employed and you will not receive the annuity supplement.

Early out

The early retirement benefit is available in certain involuntary separation cases and in cases of voluntary separations during a major reorganization or reduction in force. To be eligible, you must meet the following requirements: Age 50 = 20 years or Any Age = 25 years

For CSRS this option will reduce your benefit if you are under age 55.

For more information visit opm.gov



ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
MAIN OFFICE	3	4	7									
ENCINO	3	4	4									
PANORAMA CITY	4	4	4									
SHERMAN OAKS	2	4	3									
SUN VALLEY	0	0	0									
TARZANA	0	0	0									
RETIREE'S	9	7	7									
TOTAL	21	23	25									

NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY

APRIL

5th

2022

6:30 p.m.

It Will Be Held At the

UNION OFFICE

6910 Hayvenhurst Ave

#104

Between Van Owen & Sherman Way

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

April 10, 2022

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

COLA

Following the release of the December consumer price index (CPI), the fifth cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) under the 2019-2023 National Agreement is projected to be \$957 annually. This COLA is based on the change in the CPI from the base index month to January 2022, with the previous four COLAs subtracted. The 2023 projected COLAs for the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS), which are based on the CPI's increase between the third quarter of 2021 and third quarter of 2022, is 2.1 percent and will be finalized with the publication of the September 2022 CPI in October 2022. The 2022 COLA under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) is 7.8 percent based on the release of the December CPI. This COLA is based on the change in the CPI between December 2020 and December 2021.

Route Inspections

There is a pilot test being done called DSR. This pilot test uses electronic data to do 3999's and route adjustments using the MDD scanner. This data should be using only the actual time the regular carriers use on their routes. While this test is being done there should be no formal 6 day counts scheduled.

Safety and Health

There have been, again, carriers held up at gun point in our branch. Please, be always aware of your surroundings. If you encounter someone who demands your mail or personal belongings at gunpoint, let them take what they want. When they are gone, call the local police department first and report the robbery, then call your office.

Street observations: I have been informed that there have been several carriers in different offices that have been observed driving without seat belts, doors open, away from the vehicle leaving the engine running, etc. Safety is your responsibility. You have all had numerous stand ups reiterating the policy of the Postal Service regarding the rules and regulations relating to safety. You need to follow them. There is no reason to not follow these regulations. Saving time on the route is not worth the risk of hurting yourself or someone else, or both. It's also not worth losing your job.

I realize that you are often pushed to make unreasonable times and to hurry to get done. Its easier to deal with being over your estimated time than it is to deal with being unsafe. Time is an estimate. Safety is required.

Shop Stewards Needed

If you are interested in becoming a shop steward or an alternate shop steward, please call me at 661 373-2224. We need a few dedicated caring individuals willing to take the time, energy and learn the resources to become a union representative.

Vice President's Report

By

Jemmayen Macaraeg

Extra Pay Period & its effect on annual leave earning

Each year, the leave year begins with the first day of the first complete pay period in a calendar year and ends on the day before the first day of the first complete pay period in the following calendar year. For 2022, the leave year began Jan. 1, 2022 (Pay Period 02-22) and ends Jan. 13, 2023 (Pay Period 02-23) for a total of 27 pay periods.

Therefore, employees may earn one additional pay period's worth of annual leave during the 2022 leave year as compared to the typical 26 pay period leave year. For a full-time employee, the extra pay period amount will be 4, 6, or 8 hours, depending on the employee's leave earning category. Part-time letter carriers earn leave based on the number of work hours during the pay period up to the same amount of leave earned by full-time employees. CCAs are credited with one hour of annual leave for each twenty hours spent in a pay status during each biweekly pay period.

Although employees may earn one additional pay period's worth of annual leave during leave year 2022, the annual leave carryover maximums will not increase because of it.

Employees must use any annual leave in excess of the carryover limit that applies to them by the end of leave year 2022 (Jan. 13, 2023) or they will forfeit the hours of annual leave that are in excess of their carryover limit.

Any additional leave earned by CCAs will be paid out when they take their mandatory break in service between appointments.

COLA

The fifth regular cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for career letter carriers under the 2019-2023 National Agreement is \$1,331 annually following the release of the January Consumer Price Index. This increase will be added to every step in Table 1 and Step O in Table 2, and then applied proportionately to Steps A through N in Table 2. The increase will be effective on Feb. 26.

MDA

With our meetings starting again in person, we will again be having our MDA drawings. Plan on attending April's meeting and become more involved in our Branches activities. Be the YOU in UNION, you will not be disappointed.



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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"THE MAIL CALL"

BRANCH 2462, NALC

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

Address Service Requested

Branch Meeting Minutes March 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 6:37 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS POWERS

MOMENT OF SILENCE--All the Letter Carriers and MEMBERS who have passed over the past year. And to the people of Ukraine during their current struggle for Democracy.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

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

ABSENT--JOHNSON

JANUARY & FEBRUARY MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN THE MAILCALL

CORRESPONDENCE READ

BILLS READ---- MOTION TO PAY--NONE

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP--NIA COLEMAN, GUSTAVO SOLIS ROSAS III, JASON DUNMORE, KEVIN MERIDA, DARLING CLAROS, ALONA THOMAS, NGHIA NGUYEN, DIANA RUIZ, KENNY ORIHUELA, MARLINI LOPEZ, BRIAN LAWSON, RON MADRIL

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AUDIT & BUDGET--TRUSTEES Audit was held on February 3, 2022. All books were found to be in good order.

SAFETY & HEALTH--DUENEZ Continue to work in a safe manner. Be vigilant at all times when working. Safety blitz's are still an ongoing thing, so make sure you are using seat belts, closing doors and obeying all regulations. Never try to make up time by cutting safety rules.

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

MDA FUND--POWERS Currently \$1620.00 in fund

HBR--L. DOLABSON Still no information from National on membership count. Talked with them last week and they are still working short, hope to have current numbers by next meeting.

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 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 Looks like we are very close to passing the Postal Reform Act, it has to go back to the Senate, but we have bi-partisan support, so things look good. Should have more information by next meeting.

FINANCE REPORT--MULLINAX Please any Station that has not turned in their Holiday Party receipts please do so ASAP

TREASURERS REPORT--WILSON Read. Also Dues increase has gone into effect, in accordance with the new Contract.

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 have a traumatic injury. Also update on our latest COLA.

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

OLD BUSINESS--NONE

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION--Move that the Branch purchase Battery Backup Surge protection equipment (2) for the Computers, Printers, and components. Also includes Extended warrantee for both. Total cost to the Branch \$ 398.66 M/S/C

MOTION--Move that the Branch purchase 10 NALC Men's watches. Cost not to exceed \$ 900.00. M/S/C

MOTION--Move that the Branch have Shop Steward's that attend the virtual Route Inspection Training on Sunday March 6, 2022, from 9 - 2 pm
Total cost not to exceed \$ 1125.00. M/S/C

MOTION--Move that the Branch send up to 6 Shop Stewards to attend the virtual OWCP training on March 20, 2022 from 9 - 12 pm,
Cost not to exceed \$ 450.00 M/S/C

UNDERLINED INDICATES UNANIMOUS VOTE

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

We want to extend our Prayers and Deepest Condolences to JOHN BURTON, TRUSTEE, on the tragic loss of his Brother-in-Law and his Mother, over the last week. We all share in your loss John. These last 2 years have been a tremendous burden on us all, and we know that so many others have suffered also. So on behalf of the Branch, Peace and Reverberance to all Members who have endured losses. God Bless Everyone.

Meeting Adjourned 8:05 PM

