

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

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By JANETTE DOLABSON

Joint Route Adjustment Process Agreement:

NALC and the Postal Service have agreed to several memorandums of understanding (MOUs) to establish an alternate route evaluation and adjustment process for the remainder of 2022 and all of 2023.

MOU Re: Technology Integrated Alternate Route Evaluation and Adjustment Process 2022 – 2023 (TIAREAP) establishes a process that utilizes information made available using Digital Street Review (DSR) technology as the primary means to evaluate and adjust city delivery routes. As in previous alternate route evaluation and adjustment processes, TIAREAP will involve multiple teams established throughout the country, comprised of one NALC representative and one USPS representative, who will jointly evaluate and adjust routes in select zones. Once the joint teams have been selected, training and zone selection will take place shortly afterward, with evaluations beginning in September. This MOU (M-01982) can be found in NALC's Materials Reference System.

A jointly developed supplemental document (M-01983) provides the mutual understanding of the national parties on issues related to the MOU Re: Technology Integrated Alternate Route Evaluation and Adjustment Process 2022-2023. It is intended for use by the parties at all levels in properly applying the terms of TIAREAP.

Also, as in the previous alternate route adjustment process, an MOU was agreed upon that allows local parties to jointly submit for consideration a locally developed alternate route evaluation and adjustment process to the NALC National President and the Postal Service Vice President, Labor Relations. This MOU, Re: Alternate Evaluation and Adjustment Processes (M-01984) requires a proposal for such alternate process to be submitted by the NALC Branch President and the Postal Service Installation Head and must provide a detailed explanation of the process. If the proposal is jointly agreed to by the national parties, the local parties will be notified regarding implementation.

The City Delivery and Workplace Improvement Task Force in the 2019-2023 National Agreement tasked the national parties with jointly exploring the use of technology, data, advanced analytics and machine learning to improve operations, route evaluation, adjustment and optimization. Agreement to implement the Technology Integrated Alternate Route Evaluation and Adjustment process comes after more than 14 months of joint exploration and testing of the utilization of DSR technology to evaluate and adjust routes. PR

Thrift Savings Plan Creates App & Mutual Fund Offerings:

Big changes are coming to how letter carriers interact with the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) online. Beginning in June, TSP will have a new interface to make transactions on letter carriers' mobile devices easier — including the introduction of a smartphone app — as well as new ways to invest.

The TSP Mobile App will allow letter carriers to monitor their TSP accounts and complete transactions from anywhere. Users can check their account balance, track fund performance, make transaction requests, submit documents, manage payment information, scan checks and more. There will also be an upgraded record-keeping system available from the TSP website. Letter carriers' account summaries will display their investments clearly, and the navigation menu will make it easy for them to find and use account management tools. It will have all the tools users are used to and several new ones.

In addition to investing in TSP funds, letter carriers who meet certain eligibility requirements will have the option to invest some of their TSP savings in a mutual fund window. The mutual fund window is designed for TSP participants who are interested in greater investment flexibility. However, there will be fees for these transactions.

Some TSP transactions will be temporarily suspended from May 16 until the first week of June to allow for the transition to the new tools. The TSP website and the TSP Thriftline will also be closed from May 27 to May 31 to complete the process. For more information, go to tsp.gov. PR

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"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	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
JULY
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**

July 10, 2022

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

Vice President's Report

By

Jemmayen Macaraeg

GETTING THE COP

(Continuation of Pay) you're entitled to!!!

OWCP defines a traumatic injury as "a condition of the body caused by a specific event or incident, or series of events or incidents, within a single workday or shift. Such condition must be caused by external force, including stress or strain, which is identifiable as to time and place of occurrence and member or function of the body affected."

On the employee portion of the CA-1, Claim for Traumatic Injury, workers must choose between continuation of pay (COP) and using sick or annual leave. To be eligible for COP, a worker must have a job-related traumatic injury, file a CA-1 within 30 days of the date of injury, and begin losing time from work due to the injury within 45 days. In most cases, selecting COP makes the most sense.

Most on-the-job injuries are resolved within a relatively short period of time. When amending the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) in 1974, Congress created COP to prevent employees' income loss while their claim was being adjudicated. COP acts as a financial bridge so injured workers can heal and get back to work with minimal complications, providing savings to both the workers and the Postal Service.

When postal managers improperly delay COP, they flout the law.

The Office of Workers' Compensation (OWCP) has the exclusive authority to determine questions of entitlement and all other issues relating to COP. It is important to note that while OWCP decisions cannot be grieved, Postal Service violations of contractual and regulatory obligations can and should be.

Postal managers have the responsibility to provide COP, and if they fail to do so when there is entitlement, they are in violation of ELM 543.41, Continuation of Regular Pay: For most employees who sustain a traumatic injury, FECA provides that the employer must continue the employee's regular pay during any periods of resulting disability up to a maximum of 45 calendar days.

Injured workers need to be mindful of their own responsibilities in the OWCP claims process. Injured workers should submit 3971 leave slips requesting COP for time loss due to their traumatic injury. Additionally, injury-related medical information supporting disability, including work limitations, must be submitted by the employee to the Postal Service within 10 days of the traumatic injury. Absent receipt of that medical information by the 10th day following the injury, the Postal Service can stop COP. However, where medical evidence is later provided, COP must be reinstated retroactive to the date it was stopped.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

Food Drive Update:

I would like to thank all of you for your hard work on this years Food Drive! I'd especially like to give a big thanks and appreciation to the food drive Coordinators in each station, John Burton, Tracy Mullinax, Guillermo Mariscal, Rod Goddard, Tia Wilson, Mayen Macaraeg, Francisco Valenzuela, and Sandy Anger. It's not easy coordinating all the moving parts involved in doing this job and your time and dedication are commendable.

Thanks also to those volunteers who came in and helped pick up food and sort food, both from each office retirees or clerks or those who took annual to do so. Big props to the MEND food bank and their staff and volunteers who picked up, sorted, and transported all the food.

Thank you to Calvin Brookins for driving around with me and helping pick up food on the street for the stations.

Thanks to the Postal Service for allowing us to hold the food drive and dealing with the time it takes to do so.

Here are our totals for this year:

Tarzana 4404 Lbs., Encino 9784 lbs., Main office 18029 lbs., Sherman Oaks 13302 lbs., Sun Valley 4177 lbs., Panorama City 2976 lbs., KTLA Event 847 . Grand total 53,519

JULY 4th



HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA !

Food Drive Sun Valley

by

Tia Wilson

I would like to thank all the carriers for their hard work getting the cards and bags delivered and then picking up the food. I know it gets difficult at times. I have a special thank you to retired carriers Jesse Greenfield, Leslie Cordaro and Willie Estrada for coming out to help that day and to active carrier Rick Garcia for helping out after he got off work. You all helped to make things go a lot smoother. This was not our best year ever but it was a very good count for our office.

Vice President's Report

(Continued from Page 2)

To remain eligible for COP, the injured worker must keep the Postal Service informed of his or her work restrictions. ELM 546.142 defines management's responsibility to provide limited duty to injured employees:

When an employee has partially overcome a compensable disability, the Postal Service must make every effort toward assigning the employee to limited duty consistent with the employee's medically defined work limitations... The Postal Service has the right to controvert or challenge a claim within clearly defined limits. However, the

Postal Service has a legal obligation to inform the injured worker of a decision to controvert COP and the basis for doing so. See 20 CFR 10.211(c). Postal regulations require that such notice be in writing. See EL 505, Section 8.15. Injured workers need to respond swiftly to any notice of controversion or challenge to prevent the delay of COP.

If management fails to properly enter COP and charges an injured worker's sick or annual leave, the injured worker can require management to change the leave to COP. To accomplish this, the injured worker must make a written request to the postmaster within one year of the date the leave was used or the date of the written approval of the claim by OWCP (if written approval is issued), whichever is later. See 20 CFR 10.206 and ELM 543.42(c).

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Branch Meeting Minutes
June 7, 2022

By
Steve Seyfried, Secretary

The Meeting was held at the Branch 2462 Union Hall 6910 Hayvenhurst Ave, #104 Van Nuys California. It was called to order by PRESIDENT J. DOLABSON at 7:03 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS POWERS

MOMENT OF SILENCE-In Memory of ALL LETTER CARRIERS that have passed in 2022.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

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

ABSENT--MULLINAX, JOHNSON, BURTON, DUENEZ

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAIL CALL

CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

JOSE PINEDA, STEPHANIE MONTES, TIFFANY RIFKIN, ANDRES ROZO GOMEZ, HUNTER HUDSON, FELIPE SOTO, EDMER MERANO, AUTURO JACINTO, JOSE CASTILLO, EMANUEL HERTA SERNA

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AUDIT & BUDGET--TRUSTEES Audit will be held sometime in July, exact date to be determined.

SAFETY & HEALTH Street observations continue to find Carriers with Open Doors--Illegal Parking Spots--Wearing Ear Buds and using Cell Phones while making deliveries. All of the above are not allowed by USPS.

RETIREEES 7 Retiree's present tonight. Retiree Luncheon has been scheduled for October 2022.

MDA FUND--POWERS Currently \$ 1696.00 in the fund

HBR--L. DOLABSON Just a reminder for those in Health Plan that if you need Lab work done be sure to go to either LAB CORP of QUEST to avoid any out-of-pocket charges. Also, if you are going to have any surgery, which involves hospitalization, you must PRE-CERTIFY with the Plan before having the surgery.

MDA--MACARAEG Due to scheduling problems our Branch "Poster Child" JESUS, will be unable to attend camp this year. We look forward to next year, at which time the Branch will again sponsor him to attend.

MBA--DUENEZ No Report

POLITICAL--BURTON No Report

EDITOR--VALENZUELA All is Good

FINANCE REPORT--MULLINAX No Report

TREASURERS REPORT--WILSON Full Financial Reports for both May and June were presented and read.

MOTION TO ACCEPT REPORTS AS READ M/S/C

VICE-PRESIDENT MACARAEG LUCY FILIPPONE, ALFREDO HERNANDEZ JR. and JOHN OCHOA have been promoted to Full Time Carrier positions. Congratulations !! Under new rules, if you contact COVID you have 21 days in which to file a CA-1 COVID CLAIM. If you do not file within this time Workman's Comp will DENY your claim.

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

OLD BUSINESS--NONE

NEW BUSINESS

There were no By-Law changes submitted for tonight's meeting. The next opportunity to submit a change will be in January 2023.

MOTION--Move that the Branch renew the \$ 10,000.00 CD, at the Postal Credit Union for 6 months at the current rate. M/S/C

UNDERLINED INDICATES UNANIMOUS VOTE

GOOD OF ASSOCIATION

We send our heartfelt condolences to EDDIE BERGARRA (Carrier Sherman Oaks Station) on the passing of his wife. Our deepest sympathy to you and the entire Family

MDA DRAWING

\$ 3 LUCY FILIPPONE--MAIN OFFICE

\$ 5 JUAN SANCHEZ--MAIN OFFICE

Meeting Adjourned 8:03 PM

HAVE A SAFE & ENJOYABLE HOLIDAY

