

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

VOLUME 60

May 2023

NUMBER 4

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By JANETTE DOLABSON

First, I would like to Congratulate our newly nominated officers by acclamation! I would also especially like to thank those folks who are transitioning out of their positions and thank them all for their hard work and dedication to the members of the Branch. Thanks also to those moving to new positions. It will be wonderful to have Calvin Brookins back as President of the Branch. We are all looking forward to working with him as he again leads our team.

Safety

We had a couple incidents in the Sherman Oaks Station. First, a vehicle break down at the gas station across from the Post Office. The Supervisor decided to save money and not call a tow truck and instead decided to have craft employees push the vehicle into traffic and back to the office. Unfortunately for him it was video taped and posted on Tik Tok. The video went viral. It was not great for the Postal Service but most of all it put our employees at risk. A lot of things could have gone seriously wrong doing something this dangerous. The issue has been addressed and management has agreed that a tow truck will be called when there is a vehicle break down.

Second, a carrier was approached on the street by a person who had a knife. The carrier called the office, but it was not investigated immediately, there was no bolo sent out to carriers to be aware of this person. The carrier should have called 911 first and filed a police report then called the office. The Supervisor should have immediately let all the carriers know to be aware of this person and immediately gone out to investigate. If you are ever approached or assaulted by anyone on the street. Get to safety and immediately call the police department and report it. Then call your station. Let your union know also so we can make sure the Postal Service follows protocol immediately.

Sick Calls

If you call in sick to your station and are told to get

documentation for three days or less and you are not on restricted sick leave, make sure you follow instructions, get a receipt for your co pay from the doctors office, make sure your doctors note has nature of your illness or injury, and print out your mileage to your doctors office. We need to file grievances on these. You should not be required to get a doctors note for three or less days. Unless management can prove that documentation is needed for the need of the service, we should be able to get your co pay paid and one way mileage paid. As for the need of the service, the office should be required to show that there were many routes down, carriers were going to have to be mandated off their assignments, there was no undertime and no auxiliary assistance available. That is pretty hard to prove when the volume this time of year is light, and they keep insisting carriers have undertime.
3996

When the mail volume is low your managers will tell you that you have undertime that day. You may or may not have undertime. Your supervisor isn't the one who decides what time your route will take that day. You do. My suggestion is that when your supervisor tells you that you have undertime you be honest and tell them whether you might or not. If he says you have an hour under today and you believe you will be 8 hours and he tells you he is going to give you a swing. Don't argue about it. Tell him you will call if you can't do the swing in undertime. If you find you can, then great. If you know you will not make it back with doing the swing without going into overtime, then call in when you should and inform them you will not make it back in 8 by carrying the swing. Let them know how much over you will be (approximately) and let them give you instructions. There should only be 1 of 3 instructions. 1. Go ahead and deliver the swing, 2. We will send someone out to take it and 3. Bring it back. There should be no instructions like "do the swing and your route in 8 hours". That is an improper instruction. I recommend you do all correspondences with your supervisor on your scanner. This way you can show what their response is. Don't assume if you get a verbal instruction that your supervisor will admit that they gave you that improper instruction. You will need to show

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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.

Uniform Allowance: Luckily, Blue is My Color

by
Lucy Jacobs

Uniforms weren't required when free city delivery was started in 1863. Five years later, Congress and the Postmaster General required carriers to pay for their own uniforms. Don't you think that it's unfair for an employee to have to spend their own money for work supplies? That was especially true back in the 1860s when carriers weren't paid as much as today. It took 86 years (circa 1964) for Congress to change who paid for the uniforms. The first allotment was a tiny \$100 for an entire year's worth of clothes. Today, that would get you a pair of shorts and a polo. It was supposed to cover enough clothes (head to toe) to wear full time 5 days a week in changing seasons. Thankfully, the amount of money has gone up in addition to the approved types of clothing. After almost 3 years, I finally feel like I have enough clothes to cover me all year through the heat and rain and the number of days I have to work consecutively.

It makes sense to have a uniform so carriers are recognized and not mistaken for burglars at night. In October of 2020, I was delivering political mail as a CCA before I had a uniform. It was after the time change so it was dark out and a customer was spooked because she thought I was a prowler! I'm glad she wasn't armed....Having a uniform would have solved that problem. Additionally, having a uniform is beneficial because we don't have to wear out our personal clothes on the clock. I have shorts where the leg stripe has worn off because the satchel rubs it and holes in my shorts from the keys stabbing the fabric. Some of the shirt jac pockets have ripped off getting caught on the cages used to sort parcels. I had a pen leak ink all over another shirt!

The uniforms could be more comfortable like workout clothes so they are breathable and moisture wicking. The newer "performance polos" have this feature but the shorts are still too hot in the summer. I would like to see more changes to fit the diversity of bodies that work for USPS. There are only a few licensed uniform vendors (there is a list available on the USPS website). It's too bad we can't buy clothes from anywhere, as I've seen some good post office themed clothing from Amazon or home made, but it is not approved. It would also be nice to have the uniform allowances issued promptly from management...

EDITORS NOTE:

The above article written by LUCY JACOBS, who along with several other Members, was given this assignment in conjunction with the Branch's first Shop Steward Training Academy. We will be featuring more of these in future issues of the MailCall.



ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
MAIN OFFICE	4	3		6							
ENCINO	3	4		3							
PANORAMA CITY	1	5		4							
SHERMAN OAKS	1	5		5							
SUN VALLEY	0	0		0							
TARZANA	0	0		0							
RETIREE'S	7	5		8							
TOTAL	16	22		26							

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY

MAY

2nd

2023

6:30 p.m.

BRANCH OFFICE

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

Apr 9, 2023

**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)**

"RETIREE CORNER"

ATTENTION: !!!!

Our next Breakfast Meeting will be held at Denny's Restaurant, (Corner of Sherman Way & DeCelis). It will begin at 09:00 AM. Date will be APRIL 22, 2023 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar....We hope to see you there. Thank You

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

they did. There should be no arguing on the workroom floor over 3996 or time needed for your route. Yes, they have the right to supervise you. You also have the right to estimate your time. They should either approve or disapprove. You should also be honest and professional in your estimation of time needed on your route. For example: You say you will be 8 hours that day. Your supervisor says you should have an hour and a half undertime based on your volume. He then tells you he will give you an hour and a half swing. You tell him I won't have undertime and I'm not taking the swing. The supervisor decides he is going to walk with you that day. He follows you on the street and you finish 2 hours early. Do you think they will now trust that you are properly estimating your route? No. Not only that, now you will probably have a fact finding about failure to follow their instructions and failure to discharge the duties of your position.

Food Drive

May 13th will be food drive Saturday. You should have your cards, flyers and thank you cards passed out to you. We might not have enough cards for every address. Please make sure you have cards for all your park and loop, hop out and mounted deliveries. Apartments, town homes and condos, you can post flyers or posters in those buildings if you don't have enough cards for all your buildings. We do not have bags this year so please make sure you do a great job with your cards. We will get a lot less food without bags, unfortunately, but it will be easier for you picking up food on the street. You can wear food drive t-shirts from past years the Monday-Saturday the week of the food drive. We did not order new ones this year. Thank you for all your hard work making this a successful food drive.

Vice President Report Jemmayen Macaraeg

The Short Form Closure: an open-and-shut case?

Letter carriers can and should take a lot of pride in their work. We have delivered mail through wars, pandemics and natural disasters. Our customers love us for delivering to their homes, offices and businesses six days a week, rain or shine. In 2020, one of our most challenging years, letter carriers delivered a record number of election ballots. We delivered democracy. Every now and then, a day on the route doesn't turn out the way we'd like. It could be a dog, a car or an icy step that suddenly turns a good day into a life-changing event—a traumatic injury. The disorienting shock of an injury is often compounded when the injury is reported and a claim is filed. While suffering a traumatic on-the-job injury can ruin your whole day, it should not ruin your whole life.

When a traumatic injury claim is filed with the Office of

Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP), many processes are set in motion.

First, there's the Postal Service. The minute a letter carrier reports an injury, supervisors have certain requirements under federal law and postal regulations. While the laws and regulations are straightforward, many supervisors are not well trained in what actions need to be taken. Aid is not swiftly given, important information is not provided, claims are delayed and injured workers suffer.

The most significant error occurs when the Postal Service fails to give the injured worker Form CA-16, which is a payment voucher used to cover the first 60 days of medical treatment. Without the CA-16, injured workers may end up getting billed by hospitals, emergency rooms or health clinics. That should never happen. OWCP claims examiners think the Postal Service routinely follows proper procedures and issues CA-16s in every case. Assuming the CA-16 was issued and seeing no evidence of a serious injury,

OWCP claims examiners may simultaneously open and close a claim when:

- the claim involves a traumatic injury,
- the claim was not controverted by the Postal Service,
- the claim was created within six months of the injury,
- the claim does not involve a fatality, and
- the claim does not involve a claim for wage-loss compensation.

OWCP refers to this as a Short Form Closure. OWCP designates a Short Form Closure claim as closed/all benefits paid. Claimants often are surprised when they find out that the claim they just filed has been administratively closed using the Short Form Closure. If your claim is converted to a Short Form Closure, your doctor may think that he or she cannot treat you because the claim has been closed. That would not be an issue if a CA-16 was issued. Short Form Closures will be reopened and adjudicated when one of the following occurs:

- The total amount of medical bills exceeds \$1,500.
- Form CA-7, Form CA-2a, or other indication of work stoppage beyond the COP period is received.
- The case is reopened based upon evidence received, such as a request for surgery or employer challenge.

"While suffering a traumatic on-the-job injury can ruin your whole day, it should not ruin your whole life." If your doctor tells you that he or she cannot treat you because your new claim has been closed, you need to take the following steps:

1. Call OWCP at 202-513-6860 and ask to speak with your claims examiner.
2. Explain that you continue to need medical treatment and ask that the claim be opened.
3. If you run into any resistance in getting the claim reopened, call your national business agent's office and ask for a referral to a regional workers' compensation assistant.

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"THE MAIL CALL"

BRANCH 2462, NALC

Francisco Valenzuela, Editor

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Van Nuys, CA 91406

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Branch Meeting Minutes April 4, 2023 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 6:58 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by HBR LARRY DOLABSON

MOMENT OF SILENCE--In Memory of ALL LETTER CARRIERS that have passed in 2023.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

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

ABSENT--DUENEZ

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAIL CALL

CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP--DESAUN GALL,JENNIFER RAMOS,DESMOND TEMMER, JOHN POWELL,ADAM GARCIA,JOSEPH PEREZ, BRANDON SORG,JESS RODRIGUEZ,NATT MARKTHONG,BRYAN CARCAMO,ALBERTO MORALES, ED BUTTS, ALEXIS CAMPOS,NORALVA MARTINEZ,RICARDO MACIAS JR,JUAN LOPEZ JR,SABRINA LAMOUR, AYESHA GREEN GUADALUPE JIMENEZ,MANJEET HAYRE, ROSALYNDA GOODLIFE-HALL, ,NATHAN GEORGE, BRANDON GARCIA, SHAUNICE BRANTLEY,SEAN BOTNICK,DAVID BERMUDEZ,BO BALLINGER, TOMMY AVETISYAN

BILLS READ--NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AUDIT & BUDGET--TRUSTEES No Report
SAFETY & HEALTH Accidents are down so far keep up the good work.

RETIREES Retiree's present tonight.

MDA FUND-- \$ 2434.00 in the fund

HBR--L. DOLABSON Should have reimbursement check soon. New co-pay for high option is \$ 25

MDA--MACARAEG Summer camp will be on June 28th at Lake Hughes Camp. Jamba Cards are still 4 sale

POLITICAL--BURTON HR-82, the Windfall Elimination Act, has upped its sponsorship to 210. we need 218 for passage but are working towards that goal.

EDITOR--VALENZUELA Thanks to JOHN BURTON & JEMMAYEN for helping last months MailCall.

FINANCE REPORT--MULLINAX CCA's got \$ 10/hr pay raise last pay period. Working on Retiree Luncheon in Oct.

TREASURERS REPORT--WILSON Financial Reports were read by the Treasurer.

MOTION TO ACCEPT REPORTS AS READ M/S/C

VICE-PRESIDENT MACARAEG LUCY JACOBS & ESMERALDA GUZMAN spoke for the VP, with their impressions and experiences at their first District Training.

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

OLD BUSINESS--NONE

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION--Branch pay \$ 1,377.81 for COP meeting

in Detroit. Amount is to cover over Budget amount M/S/C

MOTION--Branch pay State Farm Insurance

\$ 1102.00 for the Branch liability policy M/S/C

MOTION--Branch pay the LA County unsecured

property bill. Cost to the Branch \$ 181.23 M/S/C

MOTION--Branch donate \$ 400.00 to the MDA M/S/C

UNDERLINED INDICATES UNANIMOUS VOTE

NOMINATION FOR BRANCH OFFICERS OPENED

PRESIDENT	CALVIN BROOKINS	**
VICE PRESIDENT	JEMMAYEN MACAREAG	**
REC SECRETAR	STEVE SEYFRIED	**
TREASUERER	TIA WILSON	**
FINANCIAL SEC	TRACY MULLINAX	**
SGT-AT-ARMS	ROD GODDARD	**
TRUSTEES	FRANCISCO VALENZUELA	**
	LARRY DOLABSON	**
	BOB JOHNSON	**
	PAUL JEFFREY	W/D
	RAFAEL PEREZ	W/D
H. B. REP	JANETTE DOLABSON	**
M. B. REP	CARLOS VARGAS	**
EDITOR	JOHN BURTON	**
	GUILLERMO MARISCAL	W/D

** == ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION

MDA DRAWING

\$ 3 ART BOCEK--RETIREE--DONATED

\$ 3 RAFAEL PEREZ--PANORAMA CITY--DONATED

\$ 5 JOSE JIMENEZ--SHERMAN OAKS--DONATED

Meeting Adjourned 8:50 PM

Vice President Report

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OWCP continues to move away from handling paper forms and toward an electronic platform. Claims should be filed electronically via OWCP's ECOMP web portal. You can file a claim from your smartphone, tablet or computer; if you don't have a computer, the Postal Service is required to give you access to a postal computer to file a claim.

In a recent policy change, claims filed electronically via ECOMP will generate both emails and letters to the claimant. Letters requiring a response will appear on the claimant's ECOMP dashboard. Claimants should make it a habit to check their ECOMP dashboard daily so that OWCP letters can be responded to promptly.

The burden of proof in every OWCP claim has always been borne by the injured worker. OWCP's move to electronic communication will streamline the process of claim development if every injured worker actively monitors the status of his or her claim--same as it ever was.