

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

**VOLUME 60**

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**NUMBER 5**

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**By JANETTE DOLABSON**

### **Goodbye.. sort of:**

As I write my final Report as the President of NALC Branch 2462 I find myself reflecting on the journey I've had over the past 35 years. All the fond memories of those people I've met along the way from past to present. It really is the people who made the work worthwhile, the friendships and the "family" some have become to me. I could write pages of stories and memories, but I won't bore you with all those.

I started working for the USPS in 1988. Over the years I became involved in the NALC. I worked first as a shop steward then continued into Health Benefits Representative, Branch Food Drive Coordinator, Congressional District Liaison, Vice President, Joint Route Inspection team member and Team Leader, Region 1 Food Drive Coordinator, President and self-imposed Branch Event Planner. None of this would have become possible without the people who taught me, mentored me and supported me.

Former Branch President, Roger Askew once told me, when I was complaining about things going on in my station, "if you don't like it, do something about it. Buck up Buttercup and be a shop Steward." That is how It began.

In my early years it was Roger, Manny Peralta and Joan Hurst who taught me and pushed me. They were great teachers to me in very different ways.

There have been so many, it is mind blowing to think of all those who have helped me over this long path. Calvin Brookins most of all. There simply is no one better to teach you and learn from. We are all so blessed to have him back here to help move the Branch forward into the next chapter.

There are so many people from the past to mention here but I want to say thank you to those who have been by my side here the past 8 years. You are my Branch Family. We may at times be dysfunctional, as all families are, but I love you and appreciate you so much!

Larry Dolabson, Steve Seyfried, John Burton, Tracy Mullinax, Tia Wilson, Mayen Macaraeg, Paul Jeffrey, Francisco Valenzuela, Bob Johnson, Will Powers, Sandy Anger, Guillermo Mariscal, Rod Goddard, Miguel Maldonado, Rafael Perez, Bob Enz, Raul Dozal and Jason Colello. You are special to me and thank you for your support and friendship.

I am coming full circle in my work for the Branch on the executive board as I continue to serve the Branch as Health Benefits Representative, Shop Steward and Formal A Designee as incoming President Brookins sees fit to assign me. I love being part of our Team.

**I'll see you all around!! XXOO**

## **BRANCH 2462 INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**

### **JUNE REGULAR MEETING**

**we will be installing our newly  
elected Officers. There will be  
Food and Refreshments served  
after the ceremony.**

**Don't be left out,  
come and enjoy the  
festivities and become more  
involved in YOUR UNION**

**Tuesday June 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.**

**See you there !!**

"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
MAIN OFFICE	4	3		6	0						
ENCINO	3	4		3	4						
PANORAMA CITY	1	5		4	3						
SHERMAN OAKS	1	5		5	5						
SUN VALLEY	0	0		0	0						
TARZANA	0	0		0	0						
RETIREE'S	7	5		8	6						
TOTAL	16	22		26	20						

**NEXT MEETING  
TUESDAY  
JUNE  
6th  
2023  
6:30 p.m.  
BRANCH OFFICE**

**DEADLINE DATE FOR THE NEXT  
ISSUE OF "THE MAIL CALL" IS  
June 11, 2023**

**WEB PAGE.... [WWW.NALCBRANCH2462.ORG](http://WWW.NALCBRANCH2462.ORG)  
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[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 & DeCelsis). It will begin at 09:00 AM. Date will be JULY 22, 2023 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar....We hope to see you there. Thank You

## April is the Cruellest Month

by

**Edwin Borjas**

This was a turning point in the history of letter carriers and the NALC. The reason is that President Truman had appointed Jesse Donaldson as Postmaster general in 1947. People thought since Jesse Donaldson carried mail that he would be all for the postal office but turns out he had done a lot to hurt the postal service. He was trying to save the post office money and by doing so he cut and changed the nature of the workday. This includes reducing lunch breaks to 30 minutes and also changing the workday to a one-day delivery. This caused carriers to remain on the street from the time they left the office until the end of the workday. These changes caused the carriers to take lunch breaks on the street curbs, and finding restrooms became a problem as well. This was a significant event because routes became longer, heavier workloads and deteriorating working conditions were affecting the health and morale of its members. Disability rates, deaths, and early retirement had increased markedly.

## VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

by

**Jemmayen Macaraeg**

### Carriers and the 8-Hour Day

#### Article 8 Section 1. Work Week

The work week for full-time regulars shall be forty (40) hours per week, eight (8) hours per day within ten (10) consecutive hours, provided, however, that in all offices with more than 100 full-time employees in the bargaining units the normal work week for full-time regular employees will be forty hours per week, eight hours per day within nine (9) consecutive hours.

Shorter work weeks will, however, exist as needed for part-time regulars.

The article stated above from the JCAM (*Joint Contract Administration Manual*) means that if you are a full-time regular, you are guaranteed **40 hours per week** and **8 hours per day**, simple as that. If you finish your assignment in less than 8 hours you have the choice to use your leave and if you choose to use LWOP (*Leave Without Pay*), keep in mind that if you used 80 hours of LWOP you will lose 8 hours of annual and 4 hours of sick leave as per the language. We advise you to refrain from using LWOP unless it's an emergency. Especially when it's 50 clicks or less, do not waste your LWOP and lose your paid leave. Just simply remind management you are guaranteed 8 hours and they must find you work whether that's emptying the trash can or mopping the floor. Again, management will try to solicit for you to use your annual leave, sick leave, or LWOP, but it's your choice, not management choice.

**(Continued on Page 3)**

# Vice President Report

(Continued from Page 2)

## Employee and Labor Relations Manual 512.311

.....  
e. *Nonpay Status.* Leave credit for periods in which an employee is in a nonpay status is reduced during the leave year as follows:

(1) When an employee's absence in a nonpay status totals the equivalent of 1 pay period of regular service during the leave year (10 days or 80 hours), credit for leave is reduced by the amount of leave earned by the employee in a pay period.

**Notes:** (a) For rural carriers who are required to work 6 days a week, the equivalent of 1 pay period is 12 days or 96 hours.

(b) For J route carriers, the equivalent of 1 pay period is 11 days or 88 hours.

(2) When an employee has one or more periods of LWOP during the leave year, all hours in a nonpay status (during periods in which the employee earned annual leave) are totaled to reduce leave credits.

## 8-hour day movement

The struggle for an eight-hour day is a landmark in letter carrier history. It was also an intense nationwide movement, one involving an enormous number of workers in addition to letter carriers.

The movement began soon after the Civil War. The nation was industrializing, the economy was expanding and labor was beginning to realize its potential strength. The Depression of 1873-79 interrupted the campaign, but by the early 1880s, the movement for an eight-hour day began to revive. Letter carriers' involvement began as early as 1868 when Congress passed an eight-hour law for federal "laborers, workmen and mechanics." The Post Office Department, arguing that its employees did not fit the description, refused to comply. Frustrated in their attempts to force the Department to reverse itself, angry letter carriers in a number of large cities—New York, Chicago, Omaha, Buffalo, Brooklyn—turned for help in the 1880s to the Noble Order of the Knights of Labor, the leading labor organization of the time. Letter carriers formed local Knights of Labor assemblies and many became leaders within the organization.

By the mid-1880s, the Knights were at the peak of their power. By 1886, more than 700,000 workers had joined this newly militant organization. The entire nation was up in

arms over the eight-hour day. Workers were striking and protesting. Employers were fighting back with a vengeance, intent upon smashing both the Knights and the movement.

Like private employers, postal management also vigorously opposed the movement. And when an eight-hour bill for letter carriers, drafted by the Knights of Labor, was introduced in Congress in 1886, the Department harassed any and all active supporters. Some carriers who led the campaign were fired for minor infractions of work rules. Others were either transferred to less desirable routes, assigned routes far from their homes, given extra duties or ordered to take vacations with no advance warning. In New York City, 150 letter carriers were suspended when the postmaster discovered they were members of the Knights. They were later reinstated, but only after the national office of the Knights of Labor interceded on their behalf.

Confronted with the aggressive opposition of the business community, the movement for an eight-hour day lost steam and finally dissipated. However, amidst the ruins of this major defeat for labor, one group of workers—the nation's letter carriers—used the influence of their local associations to achieve success. With the help of their congressional champion, "Sunset" Cox, supported by the lobbying of local letter carrier associations, particularly those in New York and Philadelphia, Congress overrode the Department's strong opposition and passed the Knights' eight-hour bill for carriers in 1888. This victory was jubilantly celebrated on July 4 of that year by a massive parade of letter carriers from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, DC through the streets of New York City.

For letter carriers, who at that time were working at least 10 to 12 hours a day, seven days a week, the enactment of the eight-hour bill was an impressive and long overdue victory. But perhaps more important than the passage of the law were the forces released by the intense ferment of the eight-hour day movement itself. Now letter carriers began to see themselves—and each other—differently. "Eight hours of work per day" was the issue around which many letter carriers organized themselves into a body of workers—workers fighting for a common goal. Letter carriers were now ready to organize a union.

(Resources used: JCAM, ELM & Carriers in a Common Cause)



# "THE MAIL CALL"

## BRANCH 2462, NALC

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**6910 Hayvenhurst Ave., # 104**  
**Van Nuys, CA 91406**

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### Address Service Requested

#### Branch Meeting Minutes May 2, 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 6:53 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by ROD GODDARD

#### **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

**ABSENT**--DUENEZ, VALENZUELA

#### **MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAIL CALL**

#### **CORRESPONDENCE READ**

#### **APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP--NONE**

**BILLS READ**--MOTION TO PAY

M/S/C

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**AUDIT & BUDGET**--TRUSTEES

The next audit is scheduled for Thursday July 13<sup>th</sup> at the Union Office.

**SAFETY & HEALTH**

Same problems with some Carriers not following rules regarding Seat belts, doors open, use of phones and ear devices while driving. Also remember that you must follow the rules even when you are in the Post Office parking lot. Many are being observed driving through parking lot with no seat belts, etc. Remember you are responsible for obeying the rules at all times when operating your vehicle or delivering the mail. Don't bring unnecessary disciplinary action on yourself, work in a safe and responsible manner at all times.

**RETIREES**

6 Retiree's present tonight. We held our first Breakfast since the pandemic, and it was a major success. Over 25 attended and we had a great time catching up. The next one will be on Saturday July 22<sup>nd</sup>. We are still meeting at Denny's on Sherman Way and they are now providing us with a separate room, so we are not crammed into the regular restaurant area. All Retiree's and Active Carriers (On your Day Off) are invited to come and enjoy. We are currently looking into planning a Bus Trip to one of the Casino's in the near future so if you think you would like to participate call the Union Office and leave your name.

**MDA FUND**--POWERS

\$ 590.00 in the fund

**HBR**--L. DOLABSON

New co-pay for high option is \$ 25. If you go to a HMO it will be higher. Also you are eligible for a free physical on a yearly basis.

**MDA**--MACARAEG

We sent \$ 3,234 that was raised so far to National. Thanks to all who support MDA throughout the year. Summer camp will be on June 28<sup>th</sup> at Lake Hughes Camp. Jamba Cards are still 4 sale.

**POLITICAL**--BURTON

HR-82, the Windfall Elimination Act, has upped its sponsorship to 250, 218 was needed for passage in the House, so we hope to see some movement soon. The Senate version is still 8 votes short of what is needed to pass. Glad to say that both California Senators are on board. No word on the CCA backpay plan and they are working on a new bill that would provide 12 weeks of paid leave. Not sure exactly what is happening with this we will have to wait for more clarification as it is new.

**EDITOR**--VALENZUELA

Thanks to JANETTE DOLABSON, STEVE SEYFRIED, TIA WILSON, & JOHN BURTON for helping with this months MailCall during my sickness.

**FINANCE REPORT**--MULLINAX

Happy to report that recent retirees WILLIAM QUINTON & MARCO PARNELLS have continued their membership in the NALC as retired members. Retiree Luncheon will be held at the Monterey Restaurant at the Balboa Golf complex on Sunday October 29, 2023. We will be giving 5 Retiree's their GOLD CARDS this year signifying 50 years of NALC membership. Membership pins will be coming to the Stations shortly for those who qualify for one.

**TREASURERS REPORT**--WILSON

Financial Reports were read by the Treasurer.

**MOTION TO ACCEPT REPORTS AS READ**

M/S/C

**VICE-PRESIDENT** MACARAEG

90 grievances have been filed so far this year. ALEX VASQUEZ & LEWIS ZUNICA were promoted to full time Letter Carrier status. Do not make any "Deals" with management regarding not taking a lunch and then working through your breaks. There are specific rules regarding a "no Lunch", if you have any questions speak with your Shop Steward. Never sign anything given to you by management until you have read the entire thing in FULL. Don't assume that what they are giving you is what they say it is, again if in doubt about it ask your Shop Steward.

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

#### **OLD BUSINESS--NONE**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**MOTION**--Branch send the Health Benefits Rep to the Health Benefits Seminar in Las Vegas from October 15 - 18, 2023. Cost not to exceed \$ 2200.00

M/S/C

#### **UNDERLINED INDICATES UNANIMOUS VOTE**

#### **GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION**

**The Branch would like to extend our deepest appreciation to PAUL JEFFREY & WILL POWERS for their service, as TRUSTEE & SGT-AT-ARMS respectively. Also a thank you to LARRY DOLABSON who has served as HBR for the proceeding term and will now step up to a Trustee position. Certainly last but not least our sincere Love and Appreciation to JANETTE DOLABSON, who has wonderfully served as the PRESIDENT of Branch 2462 for the last 8 years. Luckily for us she will now take over the position of HBR for the new term, which will allow us to continue to enjoy her company and experience on the Executive Board. The sacrifices and time these, and all the Officers of this Branch put in, are greatly appreciated, and have contributed to the incredible success we have enjoyed as Members of this Branch.**

#### **MDA DRAWING**

\$ 6 STEVE SEYFRIED--RETIREE--DONATED

\$ 6 JOHNSON--RETRIEE--DONATED

**Meeting Adjourned 8:24 PM**