

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By CALVIN D. BROOKINS

Members of Branch 2462, I want to thank you all for electing me and having the confidence in me to be your new President or shall I say President again. I am looking forward to representing each of you and dealing with the many issues that Letter Carriers face daily. I am currently getting around to doing station visits in each of the stations and I look forward to seeing you all.

High Heat

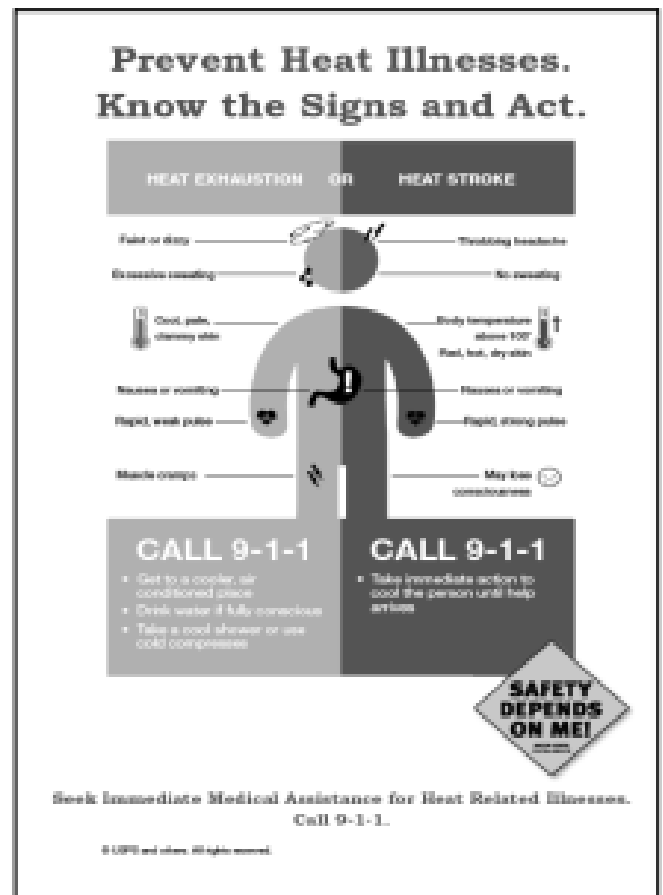
Summer is here and it is HOT out there. You should have already started to increase your daily water intake to avoid Heat Exhaustion and Heat Stroke. It is important to hydrate the night before your shift and take breaks in a shaded area to hydrate as much as possible during the workday.

Heat Exhaustion is the body's response to an excessive loss of water and salt, usually through excessive sweating. Heat Exhaustion is an underestimated injury within the Postal Service.

Heat Stroke is the most serious heat related illness. It occurs when the body can no longer control its temperature, the body's temperature rises rapidly, at the same time the sweating mechanism fails, and the body is unable to cool down. When heat stroke happens, the body temperature can rise to 105 degrees or higher within 10 to 15 minutes. Heat Exhaustion is preventable, but without prompt treatment, heat exhaustion can lead to heat stroke, which is a life-threatening condition.

When in doubt, do not hesitate to call 911. Employees and supervisors may use personal cell phones and other mobile electronic devices to communicate or to contact 911. As a reminder, for safety reasons, cell phones and other mobile electronic devices should never be used by an employee while driving or operating postal vehicles or equipment.

So be mindful of the heat and its effects on you. Please drink plenty of water, take your breaks, and get home to your family safely.



Heat Illness Prevention Program (HIPP)

The HIPP is triggered during the period of April 1 through October 31 and at any other time when weather reports issued by the National Weather Service (NWS)¹ for a particular work location indicate that the outdoor heat index temperatures are expected to exceed 80 degrees Fahrenheit during the course of a workday or work shift.

(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.

ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
MAIN OFFICE	4	3	4	6	0	4	6				
ENCINO	3	4	3	3	4	4	2				
PANORAMA CITY	1	5	4	4	3	6	8				
SHERMAN OAKS	1	5	5	5	5	8	5				
SUN VALLEY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
TARZANA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
RETIREE'S	7	5	7	8	6	10	5				
TOTAL	16	22	23	26	20	32	26				

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY AUGUST 1 st 2023

6:30 p.m.
BRANCH OFFICE

DEADLINE DATE FOR THE NEXT
ISSUE OF "THE MAIL CALL" IS
July 17, 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 SEPTEMBER 23, 2023 (4th Saturday) So, please mark your calendar.....We hope to see you there. Thank You

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

by
Jemmayen Macaraeg

HEAT GOT REAL!!!

First and foremost, our sympathy goes out to the family of Brother Eugene Gates. Unfortunately, we lost a NALC brother. He was a Letter Carrier in Texas that died while delivering mail during an extreme heat wave. He was a letter carrier for almost 40 years.

It is very devastating that someone must die before a tragedy this big becomes a top priority. Brother Gates' death now serves as the beacon for the rest of the letter carriers that work in extreme heat. How many more of our brothers and sisters must die or be seriously injured, before USPS takes this seriously.

Congress is now involved!!! Please read the letter (Pages 4 and 5) that several Congressional Members wrote to Postmaster General Louis De Joy addressing their concern that Letter Carrier's, working in extreme heat are in grave danger.

ON SALE NOW!

GREAT FOR HOT SUMMER DAYS !!!
CALL : (818)786-8505 OR (818) 205-6749
TO ORDER!!!



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THESE GOES TO

MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

DON'T BE LEFT OUT---GET YOURS TODAY

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

The Postal Service will require annual completion of a HERO training course on heat stress by all employees in every facility, regardless of exposure assessment findings. This course will discuss the effects of heat on the body, outline the risk factors for heat-related illness, and describe the associated treatments for each. This training will also explain several control measure techniques and safe work practices that can be used to prevent heat-related illness, as outlined in this document. It is the responsibility of each installation head to ensure that employees complete the above-referenced HERO course. Employees must complete this training prior to April 1 each year. Employees who are absent when the training is provided are required to be provided with the training prior to returning to street duties, during the period April 1 through October 31.

All employees are encouraged to take immediate action if they observe another employee exhibiting signs or symptoms of heat-related illness. Employees should err on the side of caution and immediately call 911 whenever an employee complains of or is observed exhibiting signs of heat-related illness and it is determined medical intervention may be necessary. Other emergency planning and response procedures will include, but are not limited to, the following actions:

Employees observed by management exhibiting signs or symptoms of a heat-related illness will be monitored and shall not be left alone or sent home without being provided with emergency medical service.

HIPP Training Records

We have been made aware of management falsifying HIPP training records in several areas. This is something that has been suspected for quite some time now. If you have not gone through this training, which takes about 20 minutes to complete, it is possible that your local management may have gone into HERO training system and you in as having completed that training.

Below is how each employee can determine if and who entered the possible false training information into their Liteblue Hero training. Please follow these steps specifically.

Go to Liteblue login
Hero Login
My Learning Tab
My Active Training
Filter by training status: Completed

Scroll to FY23 Heat Stress Recognition and Prevention (Or other training you are interested in seeing) After this the rest of the steps are the same no matter what training you are looking at.

Click the "View Completion" drop down arrow at far right.

Choose View Training Details

Scroll to the bottom of the page, click "Transcript History" drop down menu, this will show who entered the course completion information and the time and date of the action.

Please share that information with your Shop Steward or contact the Union office.

If you have not received your annual Heat Illness Prevention Program (HIPP) training by the time you read this article, you should immediately notify your Shop Steward or call the Union office.

In Unionism

Mutual Benefits Report

By
CARLOS VARGAS

Hello Everyone,

I would like to introduce myself as your new Mutual Benefits Association Representative. My name is Carlos Vargas, I am a CCA out of the Panorama City installation.

I am here to provide information on all MBA related topics, plans, programs, and benefits, as well as answer related questions.

For this particular topic, I would like to address an observation I noticed (and continue to notice), that CCAs are still not aware that there is retirement plan for them, the CCA RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN. This plan earns you more interest than most of your banks can give you. These are government and corporate securities in which you are investing.

It is a good way to start early; and then once you get converted, be able to Transfer the funds over, with no penalty or charge. You can contribute as low as fifteen dollars (\$15) and have options on frequency and plan type. This only benefits you, now and in the future. I encourage you to sign up.

You do not have to be a finance wizard to do this or understand this. It is simplified.

- Note: This plan is also the Annuity plan available to regular carriers (MBA Retirement Saving Plan). However, CCAs are not aware they too can participate.

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

Mr. Comer (202) 225-5874
Mr. Raskin (202) 225-9061
<https://oversight.house.gov>

July 7, 2023

The Honorable Louis DeJoy
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza S.W. Room 10300
Washington, D.C. 20260-1000

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy:

We write to express our deep concerns over the working conditions and labor policies of the U.S. Postal Service, specifically with respect to letter carriers. On Tuesday, June 20, 2023, Eugene Gates Jr., a letter carrier in Texas, died while delivering mail during an extreme heat wave. Mr. Gates had worked for the Postal Service for almost 40 years. His unnecessary and untimely death was likely preventable and a stark reminder of the costs of the global climate emergency and the effect of more frequent and damaging extreme weather events.

Unfortunately, this is not the first time such a tragic, yet preventable, death has occurred. For example, in 2012, John Watzlawick, a postal veteran of 28 years, died after delivering mail in a heat wave in Missouri. He was forced to continue working in excessive heat despite notifying management that he felt ill from the heat. The medical examiner confirmed that his death was due to heat related illness. In 2019, Peggy Frank, a mail carrier from California, was found dead "in her non-air-conditioned mail truck" at a time when temperatures reached 115 degrees. The Los Angeles County Coroner's office listed Ms. Frank's cause of death as being due to an abnormally high body temperature resulting from exposure to extreme heat. Following Ms. Frank's death, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) cited the Postal Service for failing to provide and maintain a work environment free from recognizable hazards, such as extreme heat, that are likely to cause death or serious harm.

According to a recent local news report, in one area of Central Texas, roughly 80 delivery fleet vehicles do not have working air conditioners. This is on top of recent reports that despite the Postal Service's investment of roughly \$9.6 billion in new fleet vehicles, deployment of the next generation delivery vehicles will only begin starting mid-2024. However, this is an issue that demands immediate attention. With the increase in extreme heat indexes across the country, we have serious concerns that the Postal Service's failure to invest in and fix existing vehicle air-conditioning units and failure to effectively implement policies to reduce employee exposure to extreme conditions place our letter carriers at risk, especially in the coming months.

We understand that employee unions attempted to mitigate the risks to letter carriers by requesting commonsense solutions. For instance, we understand that some local unions requested the opportunity to begin mail delivery earlier in the day to avoid being on their routes when temperatures hit their peak. A 2020 analysis of OSHA records showed that OSHA issued more than \$1.3 million in initial fines against the Postal Service for heat hazards in eight years. Despite these numerous and continued violations, it appears the Postal Service has yet to comprehensively address this issue and adopt nationwide work conditions policies that prevent these avoidable, tragic deaths.

For these reasons, we request that the Postal Service provide answers to the following questions by July 21, 2023

1. What measures does the Postal Service currently have in place to address heat related risks to mail carriers?
2. How does the Postal Service decide to adjust when letter carriers must begin their delivery route in light of risks, such as extreme heat?
3. How many requests were submitted in the past 12 months by letter carriers or employee unions to adjust delivery times to avoid high heat indexes or other extreme heat conditions?
 - a) To what routes did these requests pertain?
 - b) How did the Postal Service review and respond to these requests?
 - c) Has the Postal Service denied any such requests? If so, what reasons were provided?
4. What are the Postal Service's justifications for not allowing letter carriers to begin delivery times earlier in the day to avoid rising heat indexes or other extreme heat conditions?
5. Will the Postal Service prioritize vehicle repair and replacement in areas where dangerous and extreme weather conditions have the potential to affect letter carrier's safety?

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Democratic Committee staff at (202) 225-5051

Sincerely,


Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member


Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress


Gerald E. Connolly
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity,
Information Technology, and
Government Innovation


Kweisi Mfume
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government
Operations and the Federal
Workforce


Katie Porter
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Health Care and
Financial Services


Cori Bush
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Economic Growth,
Energy, and Regulatory Affairs


Robert Garcia
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security,
the Border, and Foreign Affairs


Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress


Stephen Lynch
Member of Congress


Ro Khanna
Member of Congress


Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress


Shontel Brown
Member of Congress


Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress


Greg Casar
Member of Congress

"THE MAIL CALL"

BRANCH 2462, NALC

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Van Nuys, CA 91406

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Branch Meeting Minutes July 11, 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 BROOKINS at 6:58 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by FRANCISCO VALENZUELA

MOMENT OF SILENCE--In Memory of TEXAS LETTER CARRIER EUGENE GATES & ALL LETTER CARRIERS that have passed in 2023.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

PRESENT--BROOKINS, MACARAEG, SEYFRIED, WILSON, MULLINAX, JOHNSON, VALENZUELA, VARGAS

ABSENT--GODDARD, L DOLABSON, J DOLABSON, BURTON

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 13th at the Union Office.

SAFETY & HEALTH Mgt safety committee is visiting every office. The joint Labor/Mgt safety meeting was held today. HEAT HEAT-HEAT, Ear buds may not be worn when you are moving.

RETIREES 5 Retiree's present tonight.

MDA FUND-- \$ 658.00 in the fund

HBR--J. DOLABSON No Report

MDA--MACARAEG We visited the MDA Summer camp June 28th at Lake Hughes Painted Turtle Camp and received a special guided tour of the facility and saw the kids enjoying themselves. Jamba Cards are still 4 sale.

POLITICAL--BURTON Misprint in last paper the CCA bill being considered would allow CCA's to buy back their time.

EDITOR--BURTON No Report.

FINANCE REPORT--MULLINAX 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 136 grievances have been filed so far this year. NGHIA NGUYEN, CHRISTOPHER ALVAREZ & ANDRES GARCIA were promoted to full time Letter Carrier status. Postmaster General has reaffirmed the Postal Services commitment to and full support of his Diversity & Inclusion statement, EEO Policy and the policy on Workplace Harassment and Violence statements made previously. Congress has also stepped in and requested information regarding the Postal Services handling of heat related deaths and injuries. Look for the full letter in the August MailCall. All Carriers are requested to check their pay stubs as there has been a rash of erroneous deductions appearing on some employees' pay checks in regard to the Flexible Spending Account.

PRESIDENT BROOKINS Reported on the recent Article 10 charges that have been brought against National President Renfro, also sent condolences to JOHN BEAUMONT FAMILY on the loss of their son, and requested that flowers be sent to funeral service. He also spoke on the Heat Illness Prevention Program (HIPP) training,

that all Carriers should have already received. We are currently auditing all of our stations for compliance as there have been several instances around the country of Mgt falsifying records to reflect that Carriers have had training when they have not. Spoke briefly on Postal Service email that was sent out welcoming Carriers to the PO, evidently they were also mistakenly sent to employees who were not new. The bidding procedures have been renewed effective May 21, 2023, and will continue until a new contract is negotiated, at which time they will be rolled in. The Postal Service continues to combine and create new Sorting & Delivery Centers (S&DC's), Rumor Control--Van Nuys Offices are not currently on the list to be combined, so for now you will be in your individual Stations. The Postal Pulse Survey for fiscal year 2023 that was previously sent out has been tossed due to errors in the handling of the surveys. A new survey has been created which has corrected the errors and will be soon be out again. U S Supreme Court has sent back to lower court for handling a case brought by an employee who claimed that working on Sunday violated his constitutional rights. We will have to see where this goes, but could have a major impact not only on the Postal Service but all business. We are working to schedule Labor Mgt meetings for Van Nuys and Sun Valley/Burbank offices.

OLD BUSINESS--NONE

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION--Branch send 2 members, to be chosen by the President, to the Officer Training classes in San Antonio, TX on September 17--22, 2023.

Cost not to exceed \$ 6700.00 M/S/C

MOTION--Branch pay JOHN WILSON \$ 140.00 for Website hosting and Domain name costs for 1 year.

M/S/C

MOTION--Branch send flowers to the funeral service of JOHN BEAUMONT's son. Cost to the Branch \$139.98

M/S/C

MOTION--Branch renew the \$ 80,00.00 security bond for Officers from July 1, 2023 to July 1, 2024.

Cost to the Branch \$ 392.00 M/S/C

UNDERLINED INDICATES UNANIMOUS VOTE

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

We were happy to welcome new members WALTER LIM & MANUEL OJEDA from Main Office to tonight's meeting for the first time. Vice President MACARAEG swore them in, and they were applauded for support of the NALC and Branch 2462. We also ask for your thoughts and prayers for Brother KEVIN DONOHUE and his family during this difficult time.

MDA DRAWING

\$ 2 BRIAN REYES--PANORAMA CITY--DONATED
\$ 3 ROBERT RODRIGUEZ--PANORAMA CITY--DONATED
\$ 5 JENNIFER PACHECO--PANORAMA CITY--DONATED

Meeting Adjourned 8:43 PM