

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

VOLUME 60

OCTOBER 2023

NUMBER 9

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**By
CALVIN D. BROOKINS**

Update to Article 10 Charges:

This is an update to the July 14 notification of charges received by the NALC Executive Council proffered against President Brian L. Renfroe by another member of the Council. On Aug. 29, the NALC Executive Council received the report of the member appointed to investigate the charges in accordance with Article 10 of the *NALC Constitution*. Per Article 10, the NALC Executive Council was required to determine "whether a substantial charge is presented by the report." Of the original eight charges, two were withdrawn by the charging party. Of the remaining six charges, four were determined by the Executive Council to be substantial. The four charges determined to be substantial are:

- "Abandoned Position and Dereliction/Neglect of duty."
- "Neglect of Duty."
- "Conduct. Impaired driving after hours in a NALC owned vehicle."
- "Circulating False or Misleading Statements about a NALC Officer: Brian Renfroe shared and referenced confidential information about an employee matter."

Note: a finding that a charge is substantial is not a determination of guilt, but rather triggers an evidentiary hearing in accordance with Article 10.

In accordance with Article 10, the Executive Council will appoint a panel of three disinterested members, excluding the investigator, to conduct a hearing regarding the four charges. The panel shall make a report with recommendations to the Executive Council, which shall be served on the accused officer and charging member, who may, within 15 days, file with the Executive Council objections or comments thereon.

We will keep you all updated as this saga continues.

NALC Disaster Relief Foundation:

With all the natural disasters that have taken place over the last few years, (Hurricanes, Tornadoes, Earthquakes, Wildfires, etc.) we are reminded that our brothers and sisters' Letter Carriers will need a helping hand from time to time. As members of the NALC, we have a Foundation that is designed to help our members when disaster strikes.

The recent wildfire in Hawaii is a reminder that we need to remind our members of the need for the NALC Disaster Relief Foundation and how we can help support this Foundation and our brothers and sisters Letter Carriers in their time of need.

At the 2018, NALC Convention in Detroit, our Union established the NALC Disaster Relief Foundation to help alleviate some of the suffering of our members affected by natural disasters.

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SPECIAL NOTICE

In accordance with Article V of the NALC Constitution and Article V of the By-Laws of Branch 2462, NALC, notice is hereby given for the Nomination and Election of Delegates to the State and National Convention, Nominations will be held at the October Meeting on October 3, 2023. Election, if needed, will be held in November 2023, and will be conducted by mail, as provided in Article IV of the By-Laws of Branch 2462 NALC. All members, in good standing, are eligible to be nominated. Any member, not in good standing or who has not attended at least eighteen (18) regular meetings during the twenty-four (24) months prior to their nomination as a Delegate shall not receive any expenses from *the Branch*. Any member who has less than one (1) year membership in this Branch who shall have attended at least three fourths (3/4) of those regular meetings, from his/her acceptance into membership, prior to their nomination as a Delegate or Alternate may receive expenses. All members of the Executive Board, by virtue of their office, shall be Delegates to all National and State Conventions. This Branch shall elect a Full Delegation to all National and State Conventions.

"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	3	2		
ENCINO	3	4	3	3	4	4	2	4	4		
PANORAMA CITY	1	5	4	4	3	6	8	10	6		
SHERMAN OAKS	1	5	5	5	5	8	5	5	6		
SUN VALLEY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
TARZANA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
RETIREE'S	7	5	7	8	6	10	5	7	5		
TOTAL	16	22	23	26	20	32	26	29	23		

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY OCTOBER 3rd 2023 6:30 p.m. BRANCH OFFICE

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

Oct 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 & DeCielis). 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

SAFETY DEPENDS ON YOU!

Protecting yourself during an active shooter situation USPS and the Postal Inspection Service are continuing Project Safe Delivery, a national initiative to protect employees and the security of mail and packages. Today, we will talk about active shooter situations. We have all heard stories about active shooters in the workplace or other public arenas. An active shooter is defined as an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area, typically with firearms. An active shooter can be anyone: a customer, a stranger or a current or former employee. Research shows that in most school shootings, the suspect told one person — sometimes two or more — about the attack beforehand. That means you could be the key to preventing an active shooter incident. If a co-worker, friend, child, family member, customer — anyone — speaks of committing harm to others or themselves, do not ignore it. Do not assume someone else will report it or that the person is incapable of such violence. Report your concerns to law enforcement. If the person is a co-worker, call the Postal Inspection Service 24/7 at 877-876-2455. If you ever find yourself in an active shooter situation, follow these guidelines:

CALL OUT!

- Communicate the threat to everyone using all possible means — shouting, phoning, texting, etc.
- Use simple, repetitive language: "Shooter in the building, escape now!" or "Active shooter, run!"
- Call 911 when it is safe to do so.

GET OUT!

- Have an escape route and plan and ensure it includes people with disabilities.
- Leave your belongings behind.
- Keep your hands visible — do not distract law enforcement.
- Move quickly — do not wait for approval to act.

HIDE OUT!

- If you cannot escape, hide in an area out of the shooter's sight.
- Block entry to your hiding place — lock doors and deny the shooter access.
- Keep quiet — silence your cellphone and all electronics.
- When it is safe to do so, GET OUT! As a last resort, and only when you have no other options: try to incapacitate or overpower the shooter by whatever means necessary, Act with physical aggression.

Call the Postal Inspection Service 24/7 at 877-876-2455 to report suspicious activity and with any questions related to the above guidelines. An active shooter situation is a traumatic event. The Employee Assistance Program, also known as EAP, is available to help anyone affected by violence. EAP provides confidential, voluntary counseling and access to resources that can aid in recovery. Call EAP toll-free at 800-327-4968 (800-EAP-4-YOU), or TTY at 877-492-7341 for confidential assistance 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Remember: You are our most important delivery!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

The NALC Disaster Relief Foundation was created to fill a need that many branches and their members faced when these disasters happen. Such as, the wildfires that burned areas in northern and southern California, and now Hawaii, as well as hurricanes that went through south Texas, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and parts of Florida.

The Foundation helps branches to know where they can send desperately needed supplies and money to a central location. This Foundation makes it easier for us to help other members of our Union that are in need quickly and efficiently. The Foundation has been set up to function in two ways by providing hands-on relief and by receiving donations to offer financial grants.

NALC has created response teams throughout the country. Those folks on the teams receive disaster relief training from charitable organizations and government agencies, including the American Red Cross, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

The NALC Disaster Relief Foundation also provides financial support through grants. Any NALC member who has faced hardship because of a natural disaster will be able to apply for assistance. The foundation's board of directors will consider the hardship applications and will issue grants on an objective basis to eligible individuals as funds are available. Job performance or history of donations to the foundation will not be considered as part of the selection process.

The NALC Disaster Relief Foundation is a 501(c)(3), therefore your contribution to the NALC Disaster Relief Foundation may be eligible for a tax deduction. It is strongly recommended you seek further advice from your tax advisor regarding that type of tax deduction.

Anyone who would like to donate may send a check or money order to the address below.

**NALC Disaster Relief Foundation
100 Indiana Ave. NW
Washington, DC. 20001-2144**

You can also make donations through credit cards and electronic funds transfer (EFT) online. More information on getting assistance or making donations is available on the NALC website, under the Community Service tab.

I am encouraging all members to consider donating to the NALC Disaster Relief Foundation. This foundation belongs to the members, and we need to help to make sure it is there for any of our members who may need it in the future. The next disaster could directly affect you.

In Unionism, Stay Safe!

Health Benefits Report

By

JANETTE DOLABSON, HBR

Suicide Awareness and Prevention:

Something to look out for when concerned that a person may be suicidal is a change in behavior or the presence of entirely new behaviors. This concern is the sharpest if the new or changed behavior is related to a painful event, loss, or change. Most people who take their lives exhibit one or more warning signs, either through what they say or what they do. Some of these are:

Talking, discussing, fixating on death. Giving away valuable or meaningful possessions. Having reckless and dangerous behavior. Increasing the use of alcohol and/or drugs. Sleep issues, too much or too little. Not taking basic care of self. Having a history of suicide attempts. Putting personal business in order. Neglecting doctor's orders. Increased anger and intensified mood swings. Withdrawing, isolating, and disconnecting from others.

Know what to do:

1. Offer hope. Reassure the person that help and resources are available. Let the person know that their life is important to you and there is light at the end of the tunnel.
2. Take action. Talk about steps you can take together to keep it a secret.
3. Get help. There are services designed to assist you with preventing suicide. Get immediate care for someone with suicidal thoughts or feelings.

Ensure the appropriate people are aware of the situation. Never try to take on the situation alone.

Seek additional support from trusted family, friends, neighbors, a coach, or religious leader. You can also reach out to the EAP (Employee Assistance Program) at 1 (800) 327-4968, 1 (877) 492-7341 or EAP4YOU.com.

Donations are Appreciated!

**Aloha USPS family, our Brothers and Sisters on the Island of Maui need our help.
If you have gently used Clerk/Carrier uniforms/shoes that you can donate, please give them to your Manager/Postmaster**

Managers/Postmasters

You can send uniforms directly to:

Wailuku Post Office

Attn: Marlene Nagata

250 Imi Kala Street

Wailuku, HI 96793-9998

Or

Hawaii District Office

Attn: Gaye Miwa

3600 Aolele Street, #211

Honolulu, HI 96820

Thank you for your continued support!

"THE MAIL CALL" BRANCH 2462, NALC

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Branch Meeting Minutes **September 5, 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 7:24 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS GODDARD

MOMENT OF SILENCE--In Memory of JAMES SHERFEY, retired RAA from Region 13 and all LETTER CARRIERS & RETIREES that have passed in 2023.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

PRESENT--BROOKINS, MACARAEG, SEYFRIED, WILSON, MULLINAX, GODDARD, L. DOLABSON, VALENZUELA, J. DOLABSON

ABSENT--JOHNSON, BURTON

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAIL CALL

CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

ERIC NAVA, JORGE SANCHEZ, MOIN IJAZ, CROMWELL ARAULA, ARMANI JOHNSON, NICHOLAS ARREOLA, CARLOS PELLOT, RAUL LEON, PETROS CHAIMICHYAN

BILLS READ--NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AUDIT & BUDGET--TRUSTEES The Budget meeting will be held sometime during the first 2 weeks of 2023, exact date to be determined.

SAFETY & HEALTH--MACARAEG Stand up should have been given in all stations the first of August, regarding Active Shooting safety procedures. This evidently has not occurred, and we will be contacting the Postmaster to find out why.

RETIREES 6 Retiree's present tonight. Retiree luncheon will be on October 29th and Breakfast on September 23rd.

MDA FUND--\$ 709.00 in the fund
HBR--J. DOLABSON Spoke on Suicide Prevention and will be printed in Oct MailCall. Make sure you read it as it will contain useful information affecting all Carriers.

MDA--MACARAEG We have run out of Jamba Cards, and I am in the process of getting some more for sale. Plans for a Bowl-a-Thon have been put off till the first of 2024, watch for further information.

POLITICAL--BURTON Congress returns nest week from summer recess. We hope to have information on the bills affecting Letter Carriers.

EDITOR--BURTON Postage account has been funded and we should be good on funds for several months.

FINANCE REPORT--MULLINAX Happy to report that recent Retiree RICHARD TRACY has maintained his membership in the NALC. Congratulations to our newest Retiree ALDABELLA SIMMONS from Sun Valley.

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

MOTION TO ACCEPT REPORTS AS READ M/S/C
VICE-PRESIDENT MACARAEG Issues on Lite-Blue have prevented access to Health Benefit Plan. You should contact your Supervisor if you need the forms to sign up. Pre-career employees are now eligible to apply for Vision and Dental Insurance. Happy to report

that RENE HERNANDEZ and CARLOS VARGAS have been promoted to Full Time Status. We have filed Grievances regarding the falsification of HIPP Training. We will be meeting at Formal A next week to move forward on the issues. We will be holding our 3rd Training class next week.

PRESIDENT BROOKINS We were successful in joining COSTCO and they issued 2 cards to the President and VP for the cost of 1. National Executive Counsel has received the initial report regarding the misconduct charges filed against National President RENFROE. The next step will be the selection of a 3-person panel to determine the validity of the charges and recommend what actions should be taken. These recommendations will then be voted on by the Executive Counsel. Over 10 Branch Presidents from Region 1, have formed a group and written to the NBA and Executive Counsel, urging them to do the right thing regarding these charges, and to hold all votes openly so that the membership can see what is going on. NALC has a foundation to aid Members and their families in the event of national emergencies. You can donate by going to the NALC Web Site under Community Services. Maui NALC Branches have sent out a request for Letter Carrier Uniforms. If you have anything that you wish to donate bring it in to work and give it to your Shop Steward. They and management will see that it is sent to the proper place. Stewards should be monitoring Letter Carrier starting times in their offices. There have been incidents recently of improper changing of schedules without proper compensation. A National Rap Session has been called for November 17 - 19 in New Orleans, LA.

OLD BUSINESS--NONE

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION--Move that the Branch purchase a new Public Address system. Cost not to exceed \$ 1,600.00 M/S/C

MOTION--Move that the branch donate \$ 200.00 to the NALC DISASTER RELIEF FOUNDATION for the aid of the Lahaina Letter Carriers M/S/C

MOTION--Move that the Branch send 2 members, to be chosen by the President, to the NALC Rap Session from November 17-19, 2023, in New Orleans LA. Cost not to exceed \$ 4,350.00 M/S/C

UNDERLINED INDICATES UNANAMOUS VOTE

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

A New Letter Carrier Resource Guide is now available for all Active Carriers. Sign into the NALC Website Carrier section to make your request.

MDA DRAWING

\$ 3 ROBERT RODRIGUEZ--PANORAMA CITY--DONATED
\$ 3 BRIAN REYES--PANORAMA CITY--DONATED
\$ 3 JASON COLELLO--RETIRED (ENCINO)--DONATED \$ 1.00

Meeting Adjourned 8:50 PM