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

VOLUME 62 **APRIL 2025** **NUMBER 3**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By
JEMMAYEN MACARAEG

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members for sending John Burton (Political Liaison, Francisco Valenzuela (Trustee) and me to Washington D.C. to Lobby. We had the privilege to voice some of our issues as a Letter Carrier to some of the representatives.

We talked to Senior Policy Advisor, John Brodtke of Rep. Brad Sherman, Rep. Luz Maria Rivas, Rep. Juila Brownley, Rep, George Whitesides w/ Kellen Roy and Rep. Jimmy Gomez w/ Ethan Dodd.

There were 3 House Resolutions that we presented and asked for their support.

Federal Retirement Fairness Act (H.R. 1522)

This bipartisan Federal Retirement Fairness Act (H.R.1522) would provide greater retirement security for federal employees, including Postal Service employees, who begin their service in non-career positions.

Over 65 percent of current letter carriers began their USPS careers as casuals, transitional employees (TEs) or city carrier assistants (CCAs), all of which are non-career positions. More than 132,000 letter carriers who started in non-career positions, in most cases doing the exact same work as career employees, have time currently not credible towards their retirement. H.R. 1522 would allow these affected letter carriers the opportunity to purchase retirement credit for the time they spent in these non-career positions, providing greater retirement security.

Which would benefit more than 65 percent of current letter carriers by allowing them to make catch-up retirement contributions for time spent as non-career employees, making it credible service under FERS.

Protect Our Letter Carriers Act (H.R. 1065/ S. 463)

Between 2019 and 2023 (the most recent data available), the number of serious crimes against postal employees nearly doubled. In 2023, postal inspectors opened 1,367 cases, 542 assaults, 628 robberies, and 197 burglaries, against postal employees in almost 500 metropolitan areas. Over two-thirds of these attacks involve a firearm or other weapon. Tragically, five letter carriers have been murdered while dutifully doing their jobs since 2022.

This bipartisan bill has three measures to deter these crimes:

- $7 billion in funding (appropriated over five years) to replace and modernize postal infrastructure that criminals often seek out.

- Designation for an assistant district attorney in each judicial district to prioritize cases involving an assault against a letter carrier in a timely manner.

- Standardizing sentencing guidelines for those who are found guilty of committing these crimes. Which would modernize key infrastructure, deter these crimes through increased prosecution and sentencing guidelines, and keep letter carriers safe as they deliver essential mail and packages to every community in the country.

(Continued on Page 3)

IN MEMORIUM

JANETTE DOLABSON

Past President
Vice President
Health Benefits Representative
Shop Steward Tarzana Station
Branch & Region 1
Food Drive Coordinator

"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	5	6								
ENCINO	2	1	1								
PANORAMA CITY	4	4	6								
SHERMAN OAKS	8	5	7								
SUN VALLEY	0	0	0								
TARZANA	1	3	2								
RETIREE'S	8	4	7								
TOTAL	27	27	29								

NEXT MEETING
TUESDAY
APRIL
1st
"2025"
6:30 p.m.
BRANCH OFFICE

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

Apr 6 , 2025

WEB PAGE.... WWW.NALCBRANCH2462.ORG
BRANCH OFFICE.....818-786-8505
O P C PERSONNEL OFFICE.....818-374-5600
E-Mail.....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 26, 2025 (4th Saturday)** So, please mark your calendar.....We hope to see you there. Thank You

THOUGHTS
BY
CALVIN BROOKINS

On a sad note:

I write this with a heavy heart as our branch recently lost a loved one, a friend, and a very special person, Janette Dolabson. Janette served this branch in many positions, HBR, Vice President (while I was President) and she was President of the branch after I left to work as an RAA for the National Business Agent in Region 1. She also served as Region 1 Food Drive coordinator, while at the same time serving as our branch Food Drive coordinator.

I will miss her dearly as a friend, co-worker and most of all a loved one. When you needed someone to step up and serve in any area, she was always available and ready to serve and represent the membership. I knew I could always count on her to be there for me even through ups and downs.

We must remember it is okay to grieve, but we should also celebrate the life of Janette by remembering all the good things she did and all the fun she had in her life. We must remember that grieving is a process that we all will experience someday. It is not something that we will ever get over, but we learn how to process it as we go on with our lives.

Matthew 5:4 states: Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted.

God will give us the comfort we need and will help us to get through the grieving process.

Our deepest condolences are with Larry and his family. It is deeply sad that Janette is gone to heaven, but we celebrate that she is in heaven. May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your heart and your mind in Christ Jesus.

Jesus promises comfort to those who grieve.

Janette will be sorely missed.

President Emeritus:

At the branch membership meeting on January 7, 2025, the branch honored me with the title of President Emeritus of Branch 2462. I was president of this branch for 15 years.

It is an honor and a pleasure to be named as President Emeritus of the branch, I am truly humbled by this honor and recognition. I would like to thank our branch President Jemmayen Macaraeg and the Executive Board and the membership for passing a motion to give me such an honor.

I truly appreciate this and will cherish it forever.

President's Report

(Continued from Page 1)

Oppose postal privatization (H.Res. 70)

Which calls on Congress to ensure that the Postal Service remains an independent establishment and not subject to privatization. Privatizing the Postal Service would have far-reaching negative consequences nationwide, including:

- Jeopardizing the jobs of 640,000 postal employees, over 73,000 of whom are military veterans, and impacting the 7.9 million Americans in the mailing industry.
- Endangering the security of the nation's mail system, threatening the safe delivery of prescription drugs, money, and election mail.
- Slashing service quality and hiking prices beyond affordability.
- Potentially ceasing delivery for America's rural and low-income communities, negatively impacting nearly all 50 states in some form, but especially large, less-populous regions.

Every meeting we made sure that our message was delivered and received. It does not end there, all members can take action and have their voices heard by simply calling your representatives.

Meeting with Congressional Members & Staff

Before voicing our issues to the representatives, NALC held a Fight Like Hell rally on February 24, 2025. The purpose of the rally was to remind the White House that NALC and other Unions are united more than ever, and we will not let anyone attack the USPS.

Since the rumors spread that President Donald Trump will sign an Executive Order to fire the members of the Postal Service's governing board and place the agency under the control of the Commerce Department, NALC made sure that there is a "Day of action" in place.

On the Front lines Rallying for Letter Carrier Rights

On that note, I am inviting everyone (members, family, co-workers including USPS management) to join the "**FIGHT LIKE HELL"** rally on Sunday March 23, 2025, 10am at FEDERAL BUILDING – 300 N. Los Angeles st., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

Although, the Lobby trip was a success, but it was not complete, I was greatly in pain and heartbroken when I received the news that Vice President and Former President of our branch, Janette Dolabson had traveled to the GOD almighty. She was going to show me how to lobby and she was supposed to be my lobby buddy. Lobbying is one of her favorite things to do as a NALC activist. She was a great friend, a mentor, my union mom and one of the people that believed and saw potential in me to do the job that she had dedicated herself to for many years. I love you Janette and you will be missed greatly.

"The loss of a friend is like that of a limb; time may heal the anguish of the wound, but the loss cannot be repaired."

----Robert Southey

Social Security Fairness Act implementation update

On February 25, 2025, the Social Security Administration (SSA) announced that starting the week (Feb. 24, 2025), the agency is beginning to pay retroactive benefits and will increase monthly benefit payments to people who were affected by the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO).

Beneficiaries who are owed retroactive benefits will receive a one-time retroactive payment. This payment will date back to January 2024, the month when WEP and GPO no longer applied.

Social Security benefits are paid one month behind, so most affected beneficiaries will begin receiving their new monthly benefit amount in April 2025 (for their March 2025 benefit).

The agency has expedited payments through automation but cautioned that complex cases cannot be processed automatically and will require additional time.
Affected beneficiaries are urged to wait until April to inquire about the status of their retroactive payment since these payments will be processed incrementally throughout March

Got Injured? What you need to do
For Traumatic Injuries

- Stay calm. Look around, where are you located, what time is it?
- Notify your supervisor immediately.
- DO NOT DELAY! Register for an ECOMP account using the QR Code below.
- Write a statement of events that led up to your injury and what occurred immediately after. Be very detailed, where, when and how it happened. This is extremely important!
- Request a CA-16 (Authorization for Examination and/or treatment) and a CA-17 (Duty Status Report) from your supervisor.
- Go to the Home page of your ECOMP account, under "New Claim", follow the instructions to file a CA-1 Claim for Traumatic Injury.
- Request Continuation of Pay (COP). Note: COP is not payable if claim is filed 30 days from the date of injury.
- You have the right to choose your own doctor or use a postal contract facility. If management sends you to a contract doctor, they have the right to see you but not the right to treat you.
- Submit Duty Status Reports (CA-17's) or medical restrictions to management as soon as possible. (Do not give local management any other medical documents)
- Keep copies of all documents pertaining to your injury, once an OWCP Claim/File # is issued, save it in your contacts on your mobile device. Write your claim # on any/all documents.
- Contact your union steward or local union office if you need assistance.
- Supervisor and Employee Responsibilities regarding traumatic injuries can be found in U.S. Postal Handbooks EL-505 and ELM 540.
- **NEVER** refuse a work-related Job Offer. If you feel the job offer does not fall within your medical restrictions, accept the job offer and write "under protest". Have your doctor review the offer and submit a report to the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP).

Scan the QR Code for

Immediate ECOMP Registration

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS
U.S.A.

California National Lobby Trip

By

FRANCISCO VALENZUELA

Branch Trustee

On February 23-27, 2025, I went to Washington DC for my first lobby trip with Branch President Jemmayen Macaraeg and, the man with many hats, John Burton.

Let me tell you it was a roller coaster of a trip. From the start of the trip we heard rumors that President Trump was going to pass an executive order to privatize the post office and merge it with the Commerce Department. Then the following day there was talk about making changes in the Social Security office and also having the census merged with the post office.

What is going to happen next, who knows? But it was a good feeling having our union united in a common cause again for the benefit of Carriers all over the country. From going to the House and talking to the Representatives, to going to a rally held across the street from the National Union Hall in DC., and having our voices heard.

Public speaking has never been my strongest suit, but talking with the Senators and Representatives about our bills was not only a learning experience, but also to have an opportunity to see how the political process works in our country was surreal.

This election, more than anything, has shown me the importance of voting in every election. Even if it seems like nothing is happening, if you do not vote then your voice is not heard. Even if it seems like nothing is happening to you personally, voting is essential to having your voice heard.

This trip was also difficult in another way. We had a Branch Member that was unable to make the trip, our Vice President, and former Branch President Janette Dolabson. Through everything she was going through she always, till the end, was trying to come along on this trip till she knew she could not make it. But that show's just who she was, a FIGHTER!

My condolences to Larry and the Dolabson family.

I want to thank the members for allowing me the opportunity to represent the members in Washington DC.

Message to Janette

from

GUILLERMO MARISCAL

Shop Steward Sherman Oaks

In remembrance of Janette Dolabson.

I just want to say some things about Janette. She was a great leader for us as stewards, she was available when we had questions. She taught me how to be a better shop steward. She was a good person, and I will especially miss seeing her at our union Christmas parties. She was the light for the rest of us and I appreciated that. She was sweet to my family, and it was a pleasure to work with her.

May she Rest in Paradise.
You will be truly missed.

Message to Janette

from

ROD GODDARD

Shop Steward Sherman Oaks

Janette, the forever Mother of our branch. You have been a MAJOR influence on all of us. Thank You for seeing the potential in me when I would doubt myself. Your knowledge and wisdom will forever be instilled in all of us. Miss your hugs!

Janette

from

STEVE SEYFRIED

It is hard to convey the pain and sorrow that I feel in the loss of a true Unionist and great friend, Janette Dolabson. Her dedication to our Branch and the members, and the unselfish giving of her time and energy is a tribute to the person she was, and inspired us all to be. The countless hours of her time were spent defending, helping, and educating everyone she came into contact with. This only shows what a truly giving person she was. Our Branch owes a great debt to Janette, and we will be hard pressed to fill the many jobs which she handled with such grace and dignity.

It was in the late 80's when Janette approached, then President Askew, to voice concerns she had with what was going on at her Station in Tarzana. She was concerned that there was a lack of involvement and concern from the Branch. President Askew told her that if she was that concerned, she needed to "Step Up Buttercup". Well she certainly took that challenge to heart. She immediately ran for and won the position of Shop Steward. Through the coming years she only excelled at every position she was asked to take on. Health Benefit Representative, Vice President and finally President of our Branch 2462. During this time she also served as Coordinator of the Branch's Food Drive and as Region 1 Coordinator. Even after she stepped down from the President's position, she continued to serve again by becoming the HB Rep, and then when asked, accepted the appointment to the Vice Presidency.

She served our Branch right up until the end, even speaking and advising Officers and Stewards from her hospital bed.

Personally for me she was my "partner in crime". We traveled to so many events, rallies, training sessions, State and National Conventions and also to those famous (infamous) Delegate Dinner's. She was an absolutely wonderful and amazing person, and I am blessed and honored to have known her. She will always be an inspiration to me, on how to live your life to the fullest, and leave nothing on the table. I am comforted by the knowledge that she is now at peace, and can only hope to live up to her standards, so that I can one day join her in heaven.

God bless you Janette you will always be in my thoughts and prayers.

My condolences to Larry and Mikayla, may you remember the good and wonderful times you all had together.

THE MAIL CALL
BRANCH 2462,
NALC
6910 Hayvenhurst
104
Van Nuys, CA 91406

NONPROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
VAN NUYS, CA
PERMIT No. 314

Address Service
Requested

Branch Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2025
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 SECRETARY SEYFRIED at 7:00 p.m.
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SGT-AT-ARMS GODDARD
MOMENT OF SILENCE--In Memory of JANETTE DOLABSON past PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT and HBR for our Branch and JAMES HURST former PRESIDENT, BRANCH 2207, TORRANCE, CA
ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS
PRESENT--MACARAEG, SEYFRIED, MULLINAX, WILSON, GODDARD, VALENZUELA, JEFFREY, BURTON, MORALES, MARISCAL
ABSENT—L. DOLABSON
VACANT—VICE PRESIDENT
MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAIL
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
STEPHANIE SANDOVAL, JORGE SILVA
COMMUNICATIONS READ
BILLS READ--NONE
COMMITTEE REPORTS
AUDIT & BUDGET—TRUSTEES Dates for the next Audit will be forthcoming soon.
SAFTEY & HEALTH Joint meeting was held last week. Heat training video will be shown at all offices as soon as it arrives. 6 Carriers, outside of Van Nuys, have been terminated for selling their arrow keys. Earbud policy was cleared up and proper footwear was discussed. Working on lighting issue at Main Office.
RETIREES 7 Retiree's present tonight.
MDA FUND--GODDARD $ 1,711.00 in the fund
HBR—BURTON 104 Members have signed up for the Health Plan this past open season. Still seems to be a problem with the new membership cards. We have reached out to national and hope that they are here soon. You can access your new number on the HP website, if you need to see your doctor before you receive it.
MDA—BURTON Still have Jamba Juice cards available, and we are looking forward to having another Bowl-a-Thon, probably in April. Date will be posted at Stations
MBA—MORALES Spoke on the Retirement Plans currently available. Look for my article in April MailCall.
POLITICAL—BURTON Just back from meeting with Congressional members in D.C. Very productive trip and thanks to the Branch for sending us.
FINANCE REPORT—MULLINAX Congratulations to newest retiree DANNY HERRERA.
TREASURERS REPORT—WILSON Financial Reports were read.
Motion to accept Financial Reports as read M/S/C
FOOD DRIVE—BURTON The Food Drive will be held on Saturday, May 10th.
PRESIDENT MACARAEG We filed 277 grievances last year, which was down from previous year. This is good as it shows that progress is being made by both parties to stay within the confines of the Contract. There will be a rally held at the Federal building on Wilshire, March 23rd to protest the ongoing situation with the Trump administrations efforts to dismantle the USPS. Spoke on several items that will be addressed in next MailCall.

OLD BUSINESS

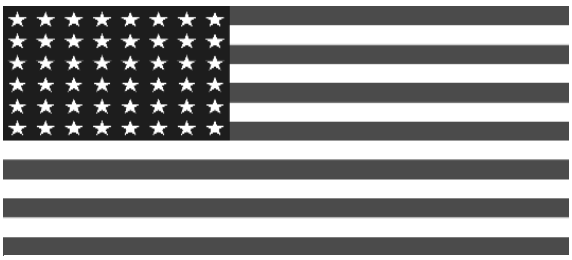
BYLAWS
The Bylaw change that was submitted in January was recommend for approval by the By-law committee.
MOTION—Accept the recommendation for approval M/S/C

NEW BUSINESS
MOTION—Move that the Branch purchase an Epson Workforce scanner. Cost not to exceed $ 400.00 M/S/C
MOTION—Move that the Branch send the President and Financial Sec. to the COP meeting in Pasadena, from April 7-8. Cost not to exceed $ 1,800.00. M/S/C
MOTION—Move that the Branch renew the Contingency Fund CD, at Chase Bank for 12 months at 3 percent. M/S/C
MOTION—Move that the Branch rent a van to be used for transportation to the "FIGHT LIKE HELL" rally on March 23, 2025. Cost not to exceed $ 400.00 M/S/C

UNDERLINED INDICATES UNANAMOUS VOTE

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION
CALVIN BROOKINS thanked the Branch for bestowing the title of PRESIDENT EMERITUS. He indicated what a great honor it was. STEVE SEYFRIED spoke on the loss of JANETTE DOLOBSON, and what a wonderful and dedicated person she was. She will truly be missed by all who knew her.

MDA DRAWING

$ 5.00 BRIAN REYES—MAIN OFFICE--DONATED
$ 5.00 PAUL JEFFREY—RETIRED/ENCINO—DONATED
$ 7.00 JOSE JIMENEZ--SHERMAN OAKS- DONATED

Meeting Adjourned 10:18 PM