

# MAIL CALL

Published by

**ANTHONY TRIPOLINO BRANCH 2200, N.A.L.C.**

**SERVING**

**Altadena, Glendale, La Canada, Montrose, Pasadena  
Santa Clarita, South Pasadena, Sunland and Tujunga**

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## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Fellow Sisters and Brothers: **On FSS** – As I’m sure most of you have heard, Management is going to discontinue the Flat Sequencing System (FSS) within the next few months in Post Offices around our local area. The Union has not been officially notified from the Postal Service but there has been much talk among Management about this matter. I’ve spoken with several Postmasters and Managers, and they have all stated that FSS will be discontinued by the summertime, at the latest. The Post Offices within our Branch receive FSS from the Van Nuys Post Office and Management plans to discontinue this in several phases. From what Management has stated, the phases will be implemented as early as April through July of 2023. They plan to phase out starting from the farthest Post Offices they serve from the Van Nuys Post Office and working their way closer until complete. As the flat mail volume has declined over the years, the FSS has not been cost effective for Management to continue operating. The Postal Service has been taking drastic measures to eliminate unnecessary cost and increase revenue. They released a statement for the 10-year Delivering for America (DFA) which states: ***Our Delivering for America (DFA) plan was published on March 23, 2021, to transform the United States Postal Service from an organization in financial and operational crisis to one that is self-sustaining and high performing. In the year since, the Postal Service has aggressively advanced core DFA strategies and initiatives. While much work remains to be done in order to address the Postal Service’s financial and operational performance, the 10-year DFA transformation plan has already demonstrated that the path forward is achievable and that the organization can be financially self-sustaining, high performing, and provide excellent service to the nation. This report describes progress toward goals of the plan and reviews activities undertaken to date.***

There has also been talk amongst Management that once the FSS machines are discontinued and disassembled,

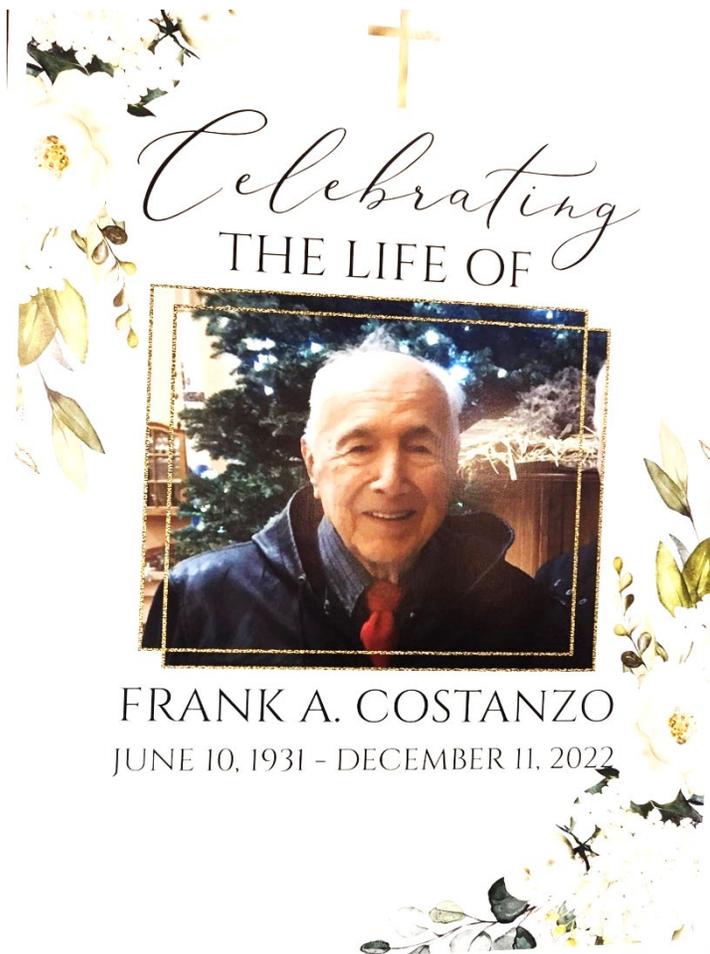
other Installations and/or post offices within the Van Nuys Installation might be moved into the Van Nuys Post Office in place of the FSS machines. This is also a part of the DFA as the Postal Service is attempting to minimize cost for paying multiple contract drivers to move the mail to multiple post offices rather than combining multiple post offices under one roof. Once the Union is officially notified by Management for discontinuing FSS, with the phases and dates, an updated article will be provided in the Mail Call.

**Discipline/Attendance** – On another note, Discipline for Unsatisfactory Attendance has been the flavor of the month for Management. We have had many carriers issued discipline due to unscheduled sick calls over the past month. Management is taking firm action by issuing discipline to address the problem of unscheduled sick calls. The biggest issue Management has with the unscheduled absences is the excess use of overtime and overtime grievances. Carriers might not realize this, but if a carrier calls out sick, Management usually must split that carrier’s route. In most cases, Management violates the overtime provisions to do so and/or work carriers in excess of their daily and weekly work hours to get the mail delivered. Either of these situations leads to grievances as a result of the sick call. Monetary grievance settlements are also being closely monitored by upper-level management in order to minimize financial costs for the Postal Service. Carriers should avoid unscheduled absences as much as possible as attendance related issues are the simplest way for a carrier to lose their job from the Postal Service. Unscheduled sick calls also put a burden on your fellow co-workers to work longer hours than preferred. Furthermore, as carriers fall under the Federal Employee guidelines, it is ideal for a carrier to have a healthy sick leave balance as we are not covered under state disability for long term medically related absences. In such cases, carriers have to use their own sick leave, annual leave or leave without pay during a long-term absence.

**Continued – Page Two – Desk of President**

While on the topic of attendance, Branch 2200 will be providing a meal to members who “attend” (in person!) the General Membership Meeting (Second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM) from March 2023 through October 2023 at the Union Office. All members are welcome and encouraged to come to the union hall any time after 6:00 p.m., grab a meal and socialize/gripe with other members, shop stewards and officers of the Branch that will also be present. Hope to see you then!

Be safe. In Unionism,  
Serop Karchikyan



FRANK A. COSTANZO  
JUNE 10, 1931 - DECEMBER 11, 2022

**A Final Farewell – Brother Costanzo**

Former Financial Secretary, *Frank Costanzo*

This photo was taken from his service.

Members of Branch 2200 in attendance:

Claude Heavens, Mike Herrington, Serop Karchikyan,  
Gene Mock, Nancy Norman, Larrie Rhodes,  
Sheila Shanahan, Jan Siechert, and Vinh Trieu

**He will always be remembered.**

On 01/29/2023, I had the opportunity to attend an Office of Workers Compensation Programs training taught by Regional Workers Compensation Assistants Tami Seastrand and Kathy Akana from Region 1 of the NALC. This was a three-day training that consisted of basic and advanced OWCP training which relates to the issue of when a letter carrier gets injured on the job due to either traumatic injury or an occupational disease. Overall, I am confident to report that I came back with far more knowledge than I had before. There were many takeaways and plenty of information to pass on to my fellow letter carriers. I will try and keep it as simple as possible in this article in hopes that it will help an injured employee be able to maneuver the unknown at the onset of an on-the-job-injury.

If you are injured on the job, one of the first things you should do is contact your supervisor and request medical treatment should you need it. Under FECA, you have many rights when you become injured on the job:

- YOU HAVE THE RIGHT to file a claim for workers compensation without fear of retaliation under the Whistleblower’s Protection Act and enforced by the Department of Labor.
- YOU HAVE THE RIGHT to select your own Doctor and can refuse treatment by the assigned Postal Doctor (contracted doctors by USPS are not for the best interest of your health).
- YOU HAVE THE RIGHT to elect Continuation of Pay (COP) paid leave while disabled due to your on-the-job-injury (you can select COP for up to 45 calendar days when you file your claim on ECOMP.DOL.GOV & on a PS 3971).
- YOU HAVE THE RIGHT to return to work with medical restrictions and if USPS has available modified work within those restrictions.
- YOU HAVE THE RIGHT to have all your medical bills, treatments, medicine and paid travel to medical appointments related to your injury paid under FECA.
- YOU HAVE THE RIGHT to obtain a CA-16, Authorization for Examination and/or Treatment (within the first 7 days from the date of your injury) from your supervisor.

**ONLY THE CA-17, DUTY STATUS REPORT**, should be given to your supervisor. All other forms should be uploaded directly to your claim on ECOMP.DOL.GOV. I also advise you to contact your shop steward or the Branch in the event that you do become injured to ensure that your claim is approved with little to no delays. Finally, I’d like to thank Greater East Bay Branch 1111 for hosting us and treating us well while we were in Richmond, California for the OWCP training.

A quote for this topic: **Write injuries in dust, benefits in marble. – Benjamin Franklin**

**By Calvin Rich**

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING – January 10, 2023**

The meeting was called to order via Zoom and in-person at 7:01 p.m. by President Serop Karchikyan. The pledge of allegiance was led by Sergeant-at-Arms Ric Roldan and there was a moment of silence for departed brothers and sisters since the last meeting. The roll call was answered by twelve officers and stewards in good standing. Motion (Siechert/Trieu) passed to waive the reading of the minutes and accept as emailed and printed for members at the meeting. Former Financial Secretary, Frank Costanzo's memorial service will be held on January 26<sup>th</sup> in Mission Hills. Motion (Siechert/Rich) passed to waive the reading of the bills as emailed and printed for members at the meeting and warrants be drawn and bills be paid. Motion (Lee/Rich) passed to waive the reading of the Treasurer's Report and accept as printed and emailed to members at the meeting. Motion (Siechert/Lee) passed to accept the following applications for membership: H. Gabrielyan, R. German, P. Mandolese, A. Munguia, T. Onishi, J. Quintero, E. Sanchez, S. Works. **Welcome!** Leroy Collier updated on legislative issues. HBP Rep, Keith Lineman, reported on wellness incentive and the TACS program. Motion (Burskey/Lee) passed to accept the audit report, as read. Next audit scheduled for February 7<sup>th</sup>. Carolyn Zorn announced upcoming yard sales for MDA. Please bring all clean and working donations to the Branch.

Motion (Rich/Burskey) passed that the Branch send the President and Vice-President to 3-day OWCP training in Richmond CA at the end of January with the Branch paying for travel, lodging, per diem, mileage and up to 16 hrs LWOP for Calvin Rich. Motion passed to accept the following Executive Board recommendations: #1 (Rich/Siechert) That the Branch send up to 10 members, selected by the president, to the Region 1 training in San Diego in March. Branch to pay for lost time or non-scheduled pay, lodging, per diem, train travel and/or mileage to/from train stations. #2 (Siechert/Rich) That the Branch allow up to \$75 per meal for membership meetings from March to October. #3 (Lineman/Lee) That the Branch authorize up to \$1500 for purchase of a new laptop/a monitor and docking station.

President Karchikyan addressed questions regarding OTDL workload distribution and station issues. He also spoke about the fraud linked to LiteBlue and Google. For in-person attendance at each meeting, members will receive a raffle ticket to win a \$50 Gift Card (4 gift cards) at the June meeting. Motion (Lee/Siechert) passed to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Submitted by,

Nancy Norman  
Secretary-Treasurer

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING – February 14, 2023**

The meeting was called to order via Zoom and in-person at 7:01 p.m. by President Serop Karchikyan. The pledge of allegiance was led by Sergeant-at-Arms Ric Roldan and there was a moment of silence for departed brothers and sisters since the last meeting. The roll call was answered by twelve officers and stewards in good standing. Eugene Mock, retired carrier from Santa Clarita, was introduced and welcomed to the meeting. Motion (Rich/Roldan) passed to waive the reading of the minutes and accept as emailed and printed for members at the meeting. Letter from National was read regarding the dispensation to continue Zoom meetings thru June 2023. Motion (Siechert/Trieu) passed to waive the reading of the bills as emailed and printed for members at the meeting and warrants be drawn and bills be paid. Motion (Rich/Lee) passed to waive the reading of the Treasurer's Report and accept as printed and emailed to members at the meeting. Motion (Siechert/Lee) passed to accept the following applications for membership: F. Arrieta, C. Ascencio, M. Ayala, C. Campos, J. Campos, S. Caniglia, D. Chang, J. Chavez, A. Daniels, B. Diaz, K. Feliciano, E. Flores, F. Gallardo Jr, R. Gomes, P. Gomez, S. Gonzalez, F. Gutierrez, J. Harrison, N. Hernandez, A. Hernandez, L. Hernandez Orteg, G. Jimenez, G. Keshishian, J. Kim, C. Koehler, D. Lopez Jr, S. Martinez, C. McClellan, J. Molina Jr, A. Montepeque, N. Morales, G. Muj, M. Rebold, C. Rodriguez, R. Safarian, M. Sanders, A. Shahbazian, J. Silva, M. Valdez, S. Wheelock, G. Zhang, X. Zhang. **Welcome to all!!**

MDA Rep, Carolyn Zorn, announced another MDA yard sale for next month; location and date TBA. HBP Representative Lineman reported an increase to premiums and several benefits to Telehealth including free visits for Women's Health. Food Drive Coordinator Rob Burskey announced the Food Drive will be May 13<sup>th</sup>. Leroy Collier updated on completion of the Branch audit on February 7<sup>th</sup> and report is pending. Motion (Rich/Siechert) passed to accept the Executive Board recommendation that the Branch raise the Food Drive reimbursement amount per zip code from \$50 to \$60 to coordinators for refreshments.

President Karchikyan shared about discontinuation of FSS and the movement of "super hubs" by combining offices together. He also expressed the importance of attendance and safety and updated on clocking in via scanners. Also, a reminder of meals before the membership meetings from March through October. Motion (Lee/Siechert) passed to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Submitted by,

Nancy Norman  
Secretary-Treasurer

# TREASURER'S REPORT JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2023

INCOME	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	JANUARY-FEBRUARY TRANSFERS			
NALC Active Rebate	36,697.89	26,098.23	FROM	TO		AMOUNT
NALC Retiree Rebate	0.00	0.00	Checking	Convention		5,023.69
Direct Dues	159.11	297.16	Checking	Mikita		100.00
Interest-Dividend	283.76	363.54	Checking	Building		3,980.85
Other Income	50.00	0.00	Convention	Checking		2,432.34
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$37,190.76</b>	<b>\$26,758.93</b>				
EXPENSES	JANUARY	FEBRUARY				
Building Maintenance	345.00	0.00				
Car Allowance	500.00	500.00				
COP Meeting	0.00	0.00	<b>ACCOUNT BALANCES</b>			
Election	0.00	0.00	<b>12/31/2022</b>			
Food Drive	0.00	0.00	General Checking			<b>\$171,006.53</b>
Gardening	0.00	0.00	Mikita Scholarship			<b>\$3,787.00</b>
Insurance/Workers Comp	0.00	84.00	Building Fund			<b>\$324,976.16</b>
Internet	93.80	93.80	Convention/Training			<b>\$101,848.93</b>
Mail Call	0.00	0.00				
Meeting Meal/Raffle	0.00	0.00	<b>TOTAL ACCOUNTS</b>			<b>\$601,618.62</b>
Mileage	0.00	114.42				
Miscellaneous**	131.38	40.00				
National Convention	0.00	0.00	<b>ACCOUNT BALANCES</b>			
Office Expenses	371.24	339.23	<b>1/31/2023</b>			
Office Supplies	307.55	136.86	General Checking			<b>\$173,164.44</b>
Officer Benefits	2,038.45	1,781.44	Mikita Scholarship			<b>\$3,837.16</b>
Officer/Steward Salary	16,608.89	16,861.94	Building Fund			<b>\$327,160.66</b>
Payroll Taxes/Filing	1,698.57	1,447.46	Convention/Training			<b>\$104,802.30</b>
Per Capita Tax	41.75	38.00				
Postage	127.99	79.99	<b>TOTAL ACCOUNTS</b>			<b>\$608,964.56</b>
Professional Fees	0.00	0.00				
Retiree Bonus	0.00	200.00				
Seminars/Education	1,956.34	12.95	<b>ACCOUNT BALANCES</b>			
Tax - Property	0.00	0.00	<b>2/28/2023</b>			
Telephone	129.28	129.28	General Checking			<b>\$172,931.70</b>
Utilities	295.26	120.18	Mikita Scholarship			<b>\$3,887.31</b>
Website Fees	152.93	0.00	Building Fund			<b>\$329,562.45</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$24,798.43</b>	<b>\$21,979.55</b>	Convention/Training			<b>\$104,473.65</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$12,392.33</b>	<b>\$4,779.38</b>	<b>TOTAL ACCOUNTS</b>			<b>\$610,855.11</b>

\*\*Constanzo Memorial/Letter Carrier Gratuity

## NON-MEMBER ROSTER - BRANCH 2200

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	POST OFFICE	PL	REG/CCA	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	POST OFFICE	PL	REG/CCA
Gonzalez	Heather	Altadena	10	R	Ho	Raymond	Pasadena	7	R
					Lam	Tung	Pasadena	8	R
Banh	Kelly	Glendale	121	R	Ma	Terry	Pasadena	0	CCA
Daghbashyan	Rafik	Glendale	161	R	Manju	Mohammed	Pasadena	6	R
Esguerra	Benito	Glendale	141	R	Mejia	Gerald	Pasadena	5	R
Hovhannesian	Azad	Glendale	104	R	Moreno	Jose	Pasadena	4	R
Isajani	Derik	Glendale	161	R	Phan	Johnny	Pasadena	5	R
Kim	Ki Hoon	Glendale	0	CCA	Truong	John	Pasadena	6	R
Lopez	Abraham	Glendale	0	CCA	Victorio	Rodel	Pasadena	5	R
Mazariegos	Thelma	Glendale	162	R	Wang	David	Pasadena	1	R
Phung	Phan	Glendale	161	R					
Rivera	Juan	Glendale	111	R	Becerra	Richard	Santa Clarita	121	CCA
Rodriguez	Linda	Glendale	161	R	Chavez	Anthony	Santa Clarita	620	R
Soldatenko	George	Glendale	104	R	David	Noel	Santa Clarita	620	R
Suh	Uk Sun	Glendale	141	R	Davinroy	Andrew	Santa Clarita	320	R
Wen	Raymond	Glendale	104	R	Lartigue	Peter	Santa Clarita	120	R
					Navarro	Junzky	Santa Clarita	120	R
Luu	Hong	La Canada	101	R	Ybarra	Jose	Santa Clarita	120	R
Asuncion	Joel	Pasadena	6	R					
Barsamian	Razmik	Pasadena	6	R	Helstrom	Paula	Sunland	320	R
Carrillo, Jr	Ismael	Pasadena	7	R	Srirathu	Rawat	Sunland	320	R
Chau	Sy	Pasadena	3	R					
Estrada	Angela	Pasadena	1	R	Mousesian	Vahik	Tujunga	500	R
Frigillana	Abraham	Pasadena	0	R	Sugiarto	Albertus	Tujunga	500	R
Gonzales	Gary	Pasadena	6	R					

**Branch 2200 will pay \$100 to the first member (President not eligible)**  
**to sign up a non-member in a pay status on this list, with a completed, signed Form 1187.**  
**Payment processed upon completion of probation and first successful deduction.**  
**See your shop steward for forms or contact the Branch office at 626-798-6122.**  
**Our goal is 100% Membership!!**

**Meeting Attendance  
January/February 2023**

**Officers:**

President Serop Karchikyan – P/P  
Vice President Calvin Rich – P/P  
Secy-Treasurer Nancy Norman – P/P  
Financial Secy Amy Lee – P/P  
Sergeant at Arms Ric Roldan – P/P  
Health Benefits Rep Keith Lineman – P/P  
MBA Representative Vinh Trieu – P/P  
Trustee Leroy Collier – P/P  
Trustee Rob Burskey – P/P  
Trustee Jan Siechert – P/P

**Stewards:**

Glendale Main Office: Calvin Rich – P/P  
Glen La Crescenta: Artur Aghakhanyan – A/A  
La Canada/Montrose: Tina Giancanelli – P/P  
Pasadena GMF 01: Kevin Nguyen – A/A  
Pas Jackie Robinson 03/04: Carolyn Zorn – P/P  
Tujunga: Rob Burskey – P/P

**MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

Tuesday, March 14th  
7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 11th  
7:00 p.m.

In-Person/Zoom  
1310 N Oxford Ave  
in Pasadena

Zoom Check in @ 6:45 p.m.

**MEETING MEAL STARTING AT 6:00 P.M.!!!**

**IN-PERSON BRANCH MEETINGS – MEALS ARE BACK!!**

They may be hard to come by, but a few good things came out of the Pandemic of 2020. One has been the ability to “Zoom” a meeting rather than actually be there in person. For sure, Zoom is easy and pretty convenient when one is far from home or unable to physically get to a meeting. However, all of the “stuff” that used to be done before and after meetings has been lost. This includes one on one time with a steward and/or the Branch president or to simply share company. Sometimes, there just isn’t time in our membership meeting to cover all of the issues that are going on in our stations. Or an issue is personal and sharing it with a group of 20 doesn’t seem altogether enticing. For these reasons, we are making an effort to encourage all of our officers/shop stewards/members to come to meetings in person. Like the good old days. If you’re hungry and tired, we’ll get you some food and a place to relax. And....each month, every time a Branch member attends in-person, they will receive a raffle ticket. A drawing will be held at the June 2023 general meeting, where (4) \$50.00 gift cards will be awarded. So, any way possible, **please come to the union office on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month!!**

**GOT KIDS??**

Branch 2200 is planning a summer event  
and we want to include all of the  
little ones

This means we are looking for members that  
might enjoy helping to plan the event,  
run games at the event, help decide on food  
for the event, etc. etc. etc.

Someone from our office might be calling so  
if you have some good ideas, please share!  
Volunteer so you can get to know carriers  
and Branch members from other cities.  
Please call the Branch office at 626-798-6122

