

MAIL CALL

Published by
ANTHONY TRIPOLINO BRANCH 2200, N.A.L.C.

SERVING
Altadena, Glendale, La Canada, Montrose, Pasadena
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JULY/AUGUST 2022

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

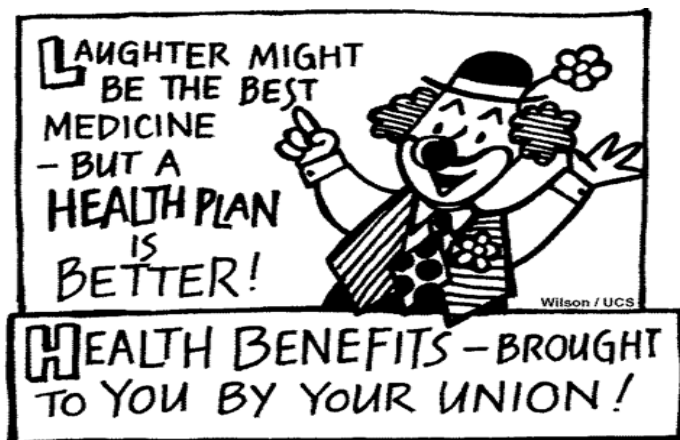
Fellow sisters and brothers:

COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) – For all of you that have been waiting, on August 10, 2022, the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced that the CPI (Consumer Price Index) for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W, 1967=100) stood at 870.432 in July, 125.056 points above the base level of 745.376 in July 2019. What does this mean? The 6th COLA stood at 72 cents per hour (or \$1,510 annually) for Step A to 118 cents per hour (or \$2,455 annually) for Step O city letter carriers. This amount is about a 3.44% pay increase for all city letter carriers from Step A through Step O based on the annual salary for each step. The 6th COLA was implemented on August 27, 2022, and will be reflected on your September 16, 2022 paycheck. We still have a General Wage Increase of 1.3% effective November 19, 2022, and a new Step P for carriers that have at least 12.4 years of service. Also, there is one more COLA scheduled in January of 2023, with the amount to be determined based on the release of the January 2023 Consumer Price Index.

Disciplinary Issues/Attendance – Management has been aggressively issuing discipline for attendance. I would like to remind all employees to avoid unscheduled absences whenever possible, so the issue does not lead to discipline. Attendance is the easiest way for Management to terminate employees. If the unscheduled absences are related to your own medical condition or a family member, the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) is available for employees to apply. To qualify for FMLA, an employee must have 12 months of service with the Postal Service (Career or non-Career) and must have worked 1250+ hours in the past year from the date of applying. Once the FMLA is approved, a carrier can use the FMLA case number associated with the unscheduled absence when they do have to call out sick. FMLA protects employees from being issued discipline, therefore, it is important for carriers to know their rights and protect themselves.

If you have a medical appointment or treatment scheduled ahead of time, you can request sick leave in advance on a PS Form 3971 for that appointment or treatment. Scheduling sick leave in advance is not considered an “Unscheduled Absence” and it won’t lead to discipline either. In addition, always keep copies of medical documentation even if you don’t think you need it. During a fact finding, management, at times, likes to ask about “unscheduled absences” going back a whole year. If you have the copy of the documentation, it is an easy reminder for what occurred on that date. Remember to keep good notes of your absences in order to keep yourself discipline free.

In solidarity – Serop Karchikyan



NOTE: FEHB OPEN SEASON 2023

It’s not too early to start thinking about your health insurance choices. The 2023 Federal Employees Health Benefit Open Season will run from Monday, November 14, 2022 through Monday, December 12, 2022. Premiums are expected to increase, with the actual percentages not yet released. But what is widely known is that the NALC Health Plan has some of the lowest premiums across the board, along with top notch support. If you aren’t currently a member, give it a good, hard look. Please take some time before Open Season to review yours and your family’s health needs so you can choose a health plan that will maximize your health plan dollars.

MY TAKE ON THE NALC CONVENTION 2022

The 2022 NALC National Convention was held in Chicago, Illinois, from Monday, August 7th through Friday, August 12th, 2022. It was reportedly attended by over 4000 delegates from every branch across the United States. Each of the days consisted of a general assembly of all delegates between the hours of 10:00 am and 3:00 pm, except Friday, where the session ran from 8:00 am until 12:00 pm. Training and workshop classes were held in two sessions each day. The morning session ran from 7:30 am to 9:00 am and the afternoon session took place at 3:15 pm until 4:45 pm. It was up to each delegate to decide which sessions one would attend each day. The workshops covered a variety of interesting topics which included TIAREAP (the new route adjustment process), contract administration, safety and health, retirement, Thrift Savings Plan, and improving the new employee experience, to name a few. The information that was presented in these workshops was informative and detailed. One couldn't walk out of any of them without learning something new.

However, it was the general session that was really inspiring. President Rolando kicked off each day with informative, often humorous, speeches. He would inform us of the great progress we have made and at the same time, remind us that our work and fight is never done. President Rolando introduced a collection of guest speakers, including the mayor of Chicago, Lori Lightfoot, Rep. Hakeem Jeffries-NY., Sen. Richard Durbin-ILL., Governor of Illinois JB Pritzker, along with several union leaders who brought the delegates to their feet with their powerful messages of unity and unionism. It was quite the show each day. Several contract proposals were introduced by the executive council. In turn, these were voted on by the general assembly. The approved proposals act as a template in the next contract negotiations.

This year's convention was my 1st as a delegate. I didn't know what to expect going in. But what I got coming out was an overall message of hope and unionism. I encourage all my union brothers and sisters to do whatever is necessary to become a delegate and attend a national convention. I will leave you with this thought: Every one of our members needs to be determined in protecting our negotiated rights, for if we stay strong, informed, and united, we cannot be defeated.

Strong Together,

Keith Lineman

Health Benefits Representative/ Area Shop Steward



Pictured (left to right) – Vinh Trieu – MBA Representative, Serop Karchikyan – Branch 2200 President, Carolyn Zorn – MDA Coordinator/Shop Steward in Convention City Chicago

NOTE: It's not too early to plan on attending the 2024 NALC National Convention. It is scheduled to take place in Boston, Massachusetts in August 2024. Actual date not yet announced.



Convention Floor – Chicago 2022 – 4000+ Delegates



Outgoing (Retiring) President Fredric Rolando



Front end view of NGDV prototype



Rear end view of NGDV prototype

Brothers and Sisters,

I was able to attend the NALC Biannual Convention this year and wanted to report on the updates that National gave the membership on the Next Generation Delivery Vehicles (NGDV). As of March 2022, USPS placed the first order of NGDV for 50,000 vehicles worth \$2.8 Billion.

Oshkosh began production of Technology Prove-out Vehicles (basically a prototype) to test out its capabilities and to iron out any final features and/or possible issues the NGDV might encounter in these tests. Additionally, USPS has stated that Driver Safety Instructor (DSI) training will begin June/July 2023 by Oshkosh in Norman, OK. The first NGDV is estimated to be delivered to USPS in October 2023 and the fleet could be up to 165,000 vehicles. Some of the features will be air conditioning, anti-lock brakes, 360-degree camera and active ventilation in the cargo area.

I am happy to see the progress the NALC and USPS have made in the task of obtaining new vehicles for letter carriers across the country. I know I preach to the choir when I say it is time to finally phase out the current LLV. Our carriers will benefit from the new fleet of vehicles from an added comfort level and a safety perspective. Please feel free to reach out to our Branch if you have any questions or concerns about the NGDV. **In Unionism,**

Calvin Rich, Vice-President



Postal " Mailster " – This is what the Post Office considered the NGDV of the 1950's.

Can you imagine having to deliver your route in the vehicle shown above? Well, that's exactly what letter carriers had to do in the 1950's and 1960's. The Westcoaster Mailster, as it was known, was a small three-wheeled vehicle used for mail delivery. It could haul 500 pounds of mail, including large parcels, as opposed to the foot carrier, who had a 35 pound limit. At one point, one-third of all delivery vehicles the Post Office used were Mailsters. The number of Mailsters in use peaked at 17,700 in 1966. Also referred to as mail scooters, Mailsters worked best on flat terrain and in warm climates. Mailsters safely got up to 35 miles per hour from a two cylinder engine. Unfortunately, only three inches of snow could render the vehicle useless. Also, rounding a corner too quickly would cause it to tip over. Prone to breakdowns, where have we seen that? Mailsters were eventually replaced with postal jeeps, which were considerably more reliable.

News

Customer investment

Carrier's conversation leads to \$20,000 shipping deal

Aug. 26 at 9:10 a.m.

A sales lead from a letter carrier in California has resulted in a local shipping deal worth more than \$20,000 for the Postal Service.

While delivering mail to a pharmacy on her route, Melanie Sheratte, who works at the Reseda Post Office, took an opportunity to talk with the owner about the Postal Service's new commercial package delivery program.

Called USPS Connect Local, which [began a national rollout in February](#), the program offers businesses affordable next-day delivery, as well as same-day delivery, Sunday delivery and pickup options in select locations.

After the owner expressed interest in learning more, Sheratte submitted a lead through Customer Connect, a joint USPS and National Association of Letter Carriers program that encourages participants to identify sales opportunities.

Margaret Reynolds, an inside sales representative, followed up with the customer and closed a Connect Local shipping deal worth \$20,540 in new estimated annualized revenue for the Postal Service.

Sales generated from Customer Connect leads are included in the USPS Every Lead Counts campaign to [raise revenue through sales leads](#) from employees.

"After learning about the new Connect Local program, Melanie knew it could help this customer and she began a conversation with him about it," said Dorothy Muir, small-business specialist at USPS headquarters in Washington, DC. "Letter carriers like Melanie get to know their customers and their needs — and want them to succeed."

The Postal Service is encouraging as many employees as possible to submit at least one lead through any of its six lead programs by Sept. 30.

The Small Business and Lead Generation Programs [Blue page](#) has more information about Customer Connect and the other employee lead programs: Business Connect, Clerks Care, Mail Handlers, Rural Reach and Submit a Lead.



Melanie Sheratte, a Reseda, CA, letter carrier, used the Customer Connect program to help generate new revenue for USPS.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING July 12, 2022

The meeting was called to order via Zoom and in-person at 7:00 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 eleven officers and stewards in good standing. The order of business was suspended to welcome and congratulate Mikita Scholarship winner, Janayah Wade.

Motion (Siechert/Trieu) passed to waive the reading of the minutes and accept as emailed and printed for members at the meeting. Motion (Rich/Aghakhanyan) passed to excuse Tina Giancanelli from the July meeting and Rob Burskey from the June and July membership meeting. Motion (Rich/Siechert) 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. Amended motion (Collier) regarding withholding payment of two bills until supporting documents was withdrawn as documents were provided. Motion (Siechert/Trieu) passed to waive the reading of the Treasurer's Report and accept as emailed and printed for members at the meeting and in the Mail Call. Motion (Temblador/Lee) passed to accept the applications for membership: C. Castillo, P. Damanacal, J. Lopez, B. Magsby, L. Miller, L. Patton, A. Ramirez, A. Suriano, C. Uriarte, P. Wallace. **Welcome!!**

Heath Benefits Keith Lineman discussed heat illness prevention. Audit committee reported that the Branch audit was completed on June 28th and report will be available next month. Motion (Collier/Zorn) that the Branch purchase T-shirts (3 per delegate) for the national convention. An amendment to the motion failed (Siechert/Norman) that t-shirts be purchased only for those who do not have them. Motion (Temblador/Zorn) calling for the question unanimously passed. Previous/original motion passed with vote of Yes: 13, No: 0. Motion (Trieu/Zorn) that the Branch purchase 10 seat covers for the national convention. Motion (Temblador/Trieu) calling for the question unanimously passed. Previous motion passed with vote of Yes: 6, No: 4.

Congratulations to South Pasadena newly retired Shop Steward Vinh Trieu! Baseball night (August 9th) announced for national convention delegates. Proof of vaccination will be required for those attending the national convention. Reminder that the August membership meeting will be August 2nd. Congratulations to the winners (uncle of Keith Lineman, A Aghakhanyan, C Zorn) of the MDA raffle and thank you to everyone who participated. We raised \$1000 for MDA! Motion (Lee/Siechert) passed to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. Submitted by,

Nancy Norman
Secretary-Treasurer

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING August 2, 2022

The meeting was called to order via Zoom and in-person at 7:00 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 and for Pasadena Councilman John Kennedy. The roll call was answered by eleven 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 with the following correction: Motion (Collier/Burskey) passed that the July minutes be corrected to indicate the amendment failed regarding delegate T-shirts. Thank you note from the family of Jackie White was read. Motion (Burskey/Trieu) passed to excuse Amy Lee and Calvin Rich from the August meeting and Jan Siechert from the September meeting. Motion (Siechert/Burskey) passed to waive the reading of the bills as spreadsheet was emailed and printed for members at the meeting and warrants be drawn and bills be paid.

Motion (Burskey/Siechert) passed to waive the reading of the Treasurer's Report and accept as emailed and printed for members at the meeting. Motion (Trieu/Lineman) passed to accept the applications for membership: D. Chavez, D. Fisher, D O'Sullivan, M. Perez, A. Torid. Danielle Fisher was in attendance and is a returning member.

All were welcomed!! Rob Burskey reported on the joint NALC-USPS Technology Integrated Alternate Route Evaluation and Adjustment Process (TIAREAP). More details to follow. Motion (Lineman/Siechert) passed to waive the reading, and accept, the Audit Report of 6-28-2022, as printed and emailed to members present.

Motion passed to accept the following Executive Board recommendations: #1 (Burskey/Siechert) For 2022 and 2023, raffle tickets be given to every in-person membership meeting attendee, with a drawing at June and December meetings for (4) \$50 gift cards or items of like value #2 (Siechert/Trieu) The winner must be present in person to win.

President Karchikyan announced upcoming NALC Region 1 retirement seminar for Branch members nearing retirement. Local area event will be in Ontario on Sunday, October 16, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Motion (Siechert/Burskey) passed to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Submitted by,

Nancy Norman
Secretary-Treasurer

TREASURER'S REPORT JULY-AUGUST 2022

INCOME	JULY	AUGUST				
NALC Active Rebate	24,109.05	35,820.00	JULY-AUGUST TRANSFERS			
NALC Retiree Rebate	0.00	0.00	FROM	TO	AMOUNT	
Direct Dues	62.02	372.12	Checking	Convention	4,794.33	
Interest-Dividend	132.30	132.33	Checking	Mikita	100.00	
Other Income	0.00	625.00	Checking	Building	3,827.46	
TOTAL INCOME	\$24,303.37	\$36,949.45	Convention	Checking	4,732.70	
			Mikita	Checking	1,500.00	
EXPENSES	JULY	AUGUST				
Building Maintenance	0.00	0.00				
Car Allowance	500.00	500.00				
COP Meeting	0.00	837.50	ACCOUNT BALANCES			
Election	0.00	0.00	6/30/2022			
Food Drive	50.00	0.00	General Checking	\$183,814.96		
Gardening	0.00	0.00	Mikita Scholarship	\$4,986.07		
Insurance	0.00	4,789.00	Building Fund	\$311,581.92		
Internet	90.80	93.80	Convention/Training	\$105,064.08		
Mail Call	96.36	0.00	MDA LIABILITY (-)	65.91		
Mileage/Parking	9.36	0.00	TOTAL ACCOUNTS	\$605,512.94		
Miscellaneous**	0.00	0.00				
Muscular Dystrophy Assn	65.91	0.00				
National Convention	2,704.45	7,898.20	ACCOUNT BALANCES			
Office Expenses	92.93	66.93	7/31/2022			
Office Supplies	115.01	0.00	General Checking	\$185,000.39		
Officer Benefits	1,732.27	1,688.74	Mikita Scholarship	\$3,536.23		
Officer/Steward Salary	16,598.91	15,439.69	Building Fund	\$313,620.16		
Payroll Taxes/Filing	1,379.92	1,254.79	Convention/Training	\$104,982.34		
Per Capita Tax	44.25	34.50	MDA LIABILITY (-)	-950.00		
Postage	151.99	103.99	TOTAL ACCOUNTS	\$606,189.12		
Professional Fees	0.00	3,825.00				
Retiree Bonus	0.00	250.00				
Seminars/Education	0.00	0.00	ACCOUNT BALANCES			
State Convention	0.00	0.00	8/31/2022			
Telephone	127.23	127.23	General Checking	\$183,593.74		
Utilities	231.44	0.00	Mikita Scholarship	\$3,586.38		
Website Fees	0.00	0.00	Building Fund	\$315,628.54		
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$23,990.83	\$36,909.37	Convention/Training	\$105,161.26		
			MDA LIABILITY (-)	0.00		
NET INCOME	\$312.54	\$40.08	TOTAL ACCOUNTS	\$607,969.92		

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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	Gonzales	Gary	Pasadena	6	R
					Ho	Raymond	Pasadena	7	R
Banh	Kelly	Glendale	121	R	Lam	Tung	Pasadena	8	R
Craig	Donnie	Glendale	0	CCA	Manju	Mohammed	Pasadena	6	R
Daghbashyan	Rafik	Glendale	161	R	Mejia	Gerald	Pasadena	5	R
Esguerra	Benito	Glendale	141	R	Moreno	Jose	Pasadena	4	R
Hovhannesian	Azad	Glendale	104	R	Phan	Johnny	Pasadena	5	R
Isajani	Derik	Glendale	161	R					
Khuu	David	Glendale	141	R	Truong	John	Pasadena	6	R
Kim	Ki Hoon	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	Frasca, Jr.	Carmine	Santa Clarita	320	R
					Lartigue	Kim	Santa Clarita	120	R
Ko	Miguel	La Canada	101	PTF	Lartigue	Peter	Santa Clarita	120	R
Luu	Hong	La Canada	101	R	Lucas	Craig	Santa Clarita	120	R
					Navarro	Junzky	Santa Clarita	120	R
Asuncion	Joel	Pasadena	6	R	Ybarra	Jose	Santa Clarita	120	R
Barsamian	Razmik	Pasadena	6	R					
Carrillo, Jr	Ismael	Pasadena	7	R	Helstrom	Paula	Sunland	320	R
Chau	Sy	Pasadena	3	R	Srirathu	Rawat	Sunland	320	R
Estrada	Angela	Pasadena	1	R					
Frigillana	Abraham	Pasadena	0	R	Sugiarto	Albertus	Tujunga	500	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
JULY/AUGUST 2022**

Officers:

President Serop Karchikyan – P/P
Vice President Calvin Rich – P/E
Secy-Treasurer Nancy Norman – P/P
Financial Secy Amy Lee – P/E
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 – E/P
Trustee Jan Siechert – P/P

Stewards:

Glendale Main Office: Calvin Rich – P/E
Glen La Crescenta: ArturAghakhanyan – P/P
La Canada/Montrose: Tina Giancanelli – E/P
Pasadena GMF 01: Kevin Nguyen – A/A
Pas Jackie Robinson 03/04: Carolyn Zorn – P/P
Santa Clarita Main Office: Scotty Reese – A/A
South Pasadena: Vinh Trieu – P/P
Tujunga: Rob Burskey – E/P

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

**Tuesday, Sept 13th
7:00 p.m.**

**Tuesday, October 11th
7:00 p.m.**

**In-Person/Zoom
1310 N Oxford Ave
in Pasadena
Zoom Check in @ 6:45 p.m.**

As long as the pandemic allows, we will be meeting in-person and via zoom (hybrid).

Masks may be required at in-person meetings if we are unable to maintain 6 ft distance guideline.

If you have any topics or information that you would like to see discussed in the meeting, please let us know via email: nalc2200@gmail.com or call the Branch office at 626-798-6122

SEE YOU ALL SOON!!!

RETIREMENT SEMINAR – OCTOBER 2022

Congratulations to those preparing for retirement in the next year or two. NALC Region 1 will be presenting a Retirement Seminar at the NBA Office in Ontario. **Sunday, October 16th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

Space is limited and **reservations are required**. If you wish to attend, please reserve your spot by sending your name/phone number and email address to: nnorman.nalc2200@gmail.com or call the Branch office at 626-798-6122.

RAFFLE – DECEMBER 2022

Every member in attendance “in person” at each membership meeting will be given a raffle ticket for a December drawing of (4) \$50 Gift Cards. The more you show up, the more chances to win! Winner must be present (yes in person!) to win.

IN-PERSON BRANCH MEETINGS

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 the Branch president and/or shop stewards and time to simply share company. Sometimes, there just isn’t time in our membership meetings to cover all of the issues that are going on in our stations or sometimes 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. So, any way possible, **please come to the union office on the 2nd Tuesday of every month!!**