



# THE Mail Bag NEWS

★ SOLIDARITY  
★ EDUCATION  
★ ORGANIZATION



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF TRI-VALLEY BRANCH 2902  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS AFL-CIO

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## Fight Like Hell!!

By James C. Perryman Jr., President

**M**ost of us already know that the Postal Service is under attack by the current White House administration. The same sweeping senseless and tasteless action being applied against our union brothers and sisters nationwide in the federal workforce, is also trying to infiltrate its ugly way into the Postal Service and remove *our* jobs as well.

It still blows my mind that some Postal employees who voted for this president claim that they didn't see this coming. How so? Trump has repeatedly issued negative assaults against the Postal Service since his first term in office while asserting his will in another attempt to privatize the Postal Service.

Our branch received shortnotice from the MBA's office, via headquarters regarding thenationwide "Fight Like Hell" rally scheduled for March 23, 2025 in downtown Los Angeles. And even though I didn't receive

sufficient time to prepare as a local host, we were able to join Branch 24 for this important event. Unfortunately, our t-shirts were delivered just a few days before the rally and we didn't receive our protest signs from NALC headquarters until the day *after* the event.

Overall the turnout was less than expected, but in my opinion it was still productive. Members of the NALC showed



*Pictured above are the some of the very bold activist (many from Branch 2902) who came out for the "Fight Like Hell" rally that took place in downtown Los Angeles in March.*

up and shouted out. The rally was lead by NALC President, Brain Renfro. We also had participation and support from the LA County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, political figures such as the honorable U.S. Representative Maxine Waters (Auntie Maxine), and other federal labor unions.

I want to thank Branch 24 President Larry Brown for allowing our branch to participate with his Branch and also to those of you that were

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## Fight Like Hell

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able to attend in sending a strong message to the White House: **"Hands off the Postal Service."**

What does light do? It eliminates darkness. As union activists, we carry the light, and that light will help eliminate darkness from the working lives of many Letter Carriers. When we are in solidarity, we cannot be stopped. The light cannot be put out. Therefore, if you are an NALC union activist in any capacity, shine your light. The membership of our great union needs it now more than ever. As letter carriers we are always in the public eye and hopefully they will be watching us as we stand together to fight for what belongs to the American people, **The United States Postal Service**. Thank you, brothers and sisters for participating in unionism, while standing together in solidarity to be that shining light.

### What Would a Privatized Post Office Look Like?

Privatization could take on many different forms. They could try to privatize certain aspects of Postal operations such as plant operations and/or logistics. They could also go after our collective bargaining rights. The 1970 Postal Reorganization Act mandates how the current USPS functions and gives us full collective bargaining rights. If that goes away it means no more union contracts and the end to the rights that Letter Carriers have under our National Agreement. That includes no more Article 8 work rules. No more Article 16 protections against disciplinary action. And no more Article 19 which covers every handbook and manual in the Postal Service. If these provisions were to go away, almost every aspect of a Letter Carrier's job could change for the worse or even be eliminated.

Our collective bargaining agreement is what makes the Letter Carrier job what it is today. The right to bid and/or hold down assignments. The right to case mail. The right to load mail into the vehicles. The right to deliver mail. And the right to collect mail. The list goes on and on. And, if you think things are bad right now, imagine how it would be without any bargaining rights. It may surely take us back to a time where we had to collectively beg for our rights.

If anyone disagrees and wants to argue that the union has not done anything, they should realize that every right that letter carriers have in the workplace has been fought for by the NALC. We don't work for a benevolent organization that's willing to just give us what we want. Nor do I think that there are any other organizations that will. No union is perfect.

However if you think that you will have the same job and have the same benefits and the same rights without the NALC, in a privatized Postal Service, you are sadly mistaken.

Don't think that just because Trump says that we will still have the Postal Service after his proposed changes, that it will be the same kind of service that we have today. Nor the same kind of job that we have today. The United States Postal Service without unionized employees and without universal service is NOT the same USPS with the same mission. It would be an organization that has been dismantled and pieced out into non existence. We have already seen this White House Administration slash other federal agencies and fire employees that serve the American people. Surely the same will happen to the Postal Service. Therefore, the answer to the above-mentioned questioned is: **ALL BAD!!**

### Out in the Field

We must continue to "Fight Like Hell" in more ways than one. We recently fought like hell over the 2023-2026 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) and participated in rallies to save the PO from privatization. However, there's a new



*Pictured above is Tri-Valley President James Perryman and Congresswoman Maxine Waters as they show up and shout out "Fight Like Hell" to let the current administration know that the Postal Service is not for sale*



fight that our branch has encountered which involves management's attempt to remove routes throughout the district. During a recent district president's meeting we were informed that mail volume is down in some offices. Management's objective is to conduct route inspections in the alleged selected lower mail volume installations. They state that the efficiency of the Postal Service is being questioned under the current White House Administration and the current mail volumes in some of the installations are not justifying the total hours being used to deliver mail. Our branch has received reports that carrier's' rights were violated during these inspections. Example: Carriers were not allowed to take comfort stops, denied wash-up time, and denied a full 30-minute lunch break. It's also reported that management's actions to remove as many as 11 routes after inspecting one zone at the Woodland Hills installation appears to have been premeditated.

Therefore, we will give management the proverbial middle finger while fighting like hell to ensure that Letter Carrier rights are not violated. Letter Carriers are entitled to receive fair route inspections based on employee's individual performance and the appropriate data, not predetermined objectives by management to remove routes to appease the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). Management's inappropriate tactics to steal and cheat Letter Carrier's out of time to justify their unreasonable actions are unacceptable. Now, some offices *may* have declining mail volume which may justify the need to be inspected. However, management is contractually obligated to adjust routes to as close to 8 hours as possible. Our branch will continue to fight like hell against any of management's illegal transgressions. As always, if you feel your rights are being violated in your office, contact your Shop Steward or the branch to file a grievance if necessary.

**Thoughts on the Contract via  
Arbitrator Nolan's Decision**

Negotiations with the USPS are challenging and I would think that any contract negotiation with the service is difficult. Whether the contract is settled through negotiation or through interest arbitration, it is never going to provide you with exactly what you want, regardless of what you may read or hear on social media.

This is the process that we have regarding our contract negotiations and while it may not be perfect, it has served us well (overall) since 1971. We have made some gains in every single contract whether through work rules or wages. Sometimes approved by ratification vote, sometimes, as is the case with the most recent resolution, through an arbitrator's decision. Sometimes we have taken steps backwards,

mainly through the creation of the non-career workforce. In my opinion, there is nothing historic about this arbitration decision, nor are the pay increases significant. And, I'm not sure if the expedited hearing process resulted in a positive or negative benefit to the membership, the jury is still out on this issue. However, some of the rule provisions and memo changes provided for in this decision are exceptionable. A few examples are that some new Article 8 provisions allow carriers to sign-up to work (8 hours) overtime on non-scheduled days only. PTFs and CCAs get a non-scheduled day during the work week. And Full-Time Carriers can end tour after reaching the 12/60 worked hours limits without being disciplined and receive *two and one-half times* pay for all hours worked beyond the limits without having to file a grievance for such pay.

This is not the best contract nor is it a crappy contract. It's very much in line with past negotiated wage increases. I understand that there is risk that a compromise may be seen as a defeat. However, when there is a lack of participation from the estimated 205,000 active members of our union, It's alarming that only 89,984 active City Letter Carriers participated in the ratification vote. This means that over half of the eligible members did *not* vote. This sends the wrong message by giving the perception that half of the active members of the NALC didn't give a crap about our wages, benefits, and working conditions. While this may not be indicative of the concerns of some of our local branch members, I still believe that most NALC members care and only want what Letter Carriers truly deserve in a Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA), which is **fair compensation for the hard work and great service that City Letter Carriers provide to the American public.**

Hopefully, membership ratification participation will improve when this current contract expires in May 2026. In the meantime, here are the votes by Branch 2902 and by Region 1 for the 2023-2026 National Agreement as follows:

Branch 2902:	<b>Total Ballots Mailed - 1,168</b> <b>Accepted - 120</b> <b>Rejected - 413</b> <b>Total Ballots Participation - 533</b>
Region 1:	<b>Total Ballots Mailed - 28,092</b> <b>Accepted - 2,323</b> <b>Rejected - 10,426</b> <b>Total Ballots Participation - 12,749</b>

Notice that less than half of the membership by both branch and region participated in the vote for the 2023-2026 Tentative Agreement. Stay tuned and stay informed when we

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# Worth The Fight

By Albert Reyes, Executive Vice President

The United States Postal Service (USPS) will celebrate its 250th anniversary in 2025, coinciding with the 250th anniversaries of the Continental Congress and the Declaration of Independence. Various organizations are expected to commemorate this historic occasion.

The Constitution formally enshrined a national Postal Service in Article I, Section 8, Clause 7, granting Congress the power “to establish Post Offices and Post roads.” The framers recognized the importance of a centralized mail system in fostering unity among the new states. In 1792, a pivotal change occurred with the enactment of the Postal Service Act, the first significant Postal legislation. This law established a formal national Postal system and introduced a standardized postage rate. Before the Civil War, mail was primarily sent to Post Office boxes to save money. In 1863, the Post Office Department began offering free home delivery in select cities, which proved remarkably successful and streamlined the delivery process.

For numerous years, home delivery was mostly accessible to city residents. The Postal Service primarily served urban locations from the beginning. Nonetheless, by 1890, 65% of Americans resided in rural areas and desperately required better Postal services.

The United States Post Office is significant because of its rich history. It has distributed pro-independence pamphlets and delivered wartime newspaper updates, highlighting the crucial role of communication and interconnectivity in our diverse democracy.

The Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 established the Postal Service as an independent agency within the executive branch. The USPS is overseen by a Board of Governors appointed by the president and confirmed by Congress.

Can a United States president privatize the Postal Service? This would require congressional approval. The current president intends for it to become profitable and has suggested merging it with the Commerce Department. This merger would eliminate USPS’s independent status and place it under the administration’s control.

**The Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 states the following:**

To improve and modernize the Postal Service, to reorganize the Post Office Department, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled that this Act may be cited as the “Postal Reorganization Act”.

§101. Postal policy (a) The United States Postal Service shall be operated as a basic and fundamental service provided to the people by the Government of the United States, authorized by the Constitution, created by Act of Congress, and supported by the people. The Postal Service shall have as its basic function the obligation to provide Postal services to bind the nation together through the personal, educational, literary, and business correspondence of the people. It shall provide prompt, reliable, and efficient services to patrons in all areas and shall render Postal services to all communities. The costs of establishing and maintaining the Postal Service shall not be apportioned to impair the overall value of such service to the people.

Many carriers firmly oppose dividing the current rank and file within the NALC and its leadership, but where do these carriers stand on the privatization of the USPS? Within our union, small independent groups advocate for the right to strike. Branch 2902 firmly opposes seeking the right to strike. Showing up at the “Fight Like Hell” rally to push that agenda is contradictory to the reason for the rally in the first place. Do these groups not understand that Congress possesses the authority to ensure that the Postal Service fulfills its fundamental duty to deliver mail and provide services that connect the nation through the personal, educational, literary, and business correspondence of its citizens?

Do they not understand that Congress possesses the authority to ensure that the Postal Service fulfills its fundamental duty to provide prompt, reliable, and efficient services to patrons in all areas and render Postal services to all communities?

Is this worth the fight? My attempts to unite every carrier so we have a voice for the next contract and national election are not easy. Bringing everyone together is worth the fight! So why do we struggle to move forward? Some carriers threaten to leave the union because the new contract does not include a starting wage of \$30 an hour.

We need to move forward. The Postal Service has done so. USPS announced refining its services, and some

changes began in April. Several of those changes are likely to affect mail delivery. These changes aim to enhance efficiency and reduce costs, although some individuals may experience slower delivery of certain mail.

Some aspects of the plan have started, with an official launch expected soon. The second phase will begin later this year. USPS projects shifts will save \$36 billion over a decade. According to Pew Research Center, the USPS is the second-most popular federal agency, with 72% of Americans having a favorable opinion.

According to USPS, the organization relies on selling stamps, postage, and its products and services to fund operations. It typically does not receive tax dollars for operating expenses. It is independent and designed to be self-financing. This current president is critical of the service, which delivers to 163 million addresses nationwide and employs 530,000 workers.

USPS has experienced a significant decline in first-class mail since electronic communication became more prevalent. According to Reuters, it has decreased by 80% since 1997, with volumes reaching their lowest level since 1968. It recorded a loss of \$9.5 billion in 2024. According to the USPS executive summary, Fiscal Year 2025 Integrated Financial Plan, the USPS is projected to lose another \$6.9 billion in 2025.

The Postmaster General struck a deal with DOGE, resulting in the planned reduction of 10,000 jobs. Although the department had previously been exempt from DOGE cuts, DeJoy reportedly informed Congress in a letter that USPS would decrease its workforce by 10,000 jobs over the next month through a voluntary early retirement program (VERA).

The reduction plan was announced in January and differs from the federal employee buyout offer for most civilian federal employees. According to a news release from the American Postal Workers Union, workers who choose to retire early can receive a one-time \$15,000 incentive paid in two parts. During my station visits, letter carriers voiced concerns about whether this would apply to our craft.

I have not read or heard of any early retirement or buyout for letter carriers. Will this current presidential administration merge the USPS? What if they do? DOGE, a nongovernment agency, has stated it wants to see it privatized. And who sent DOGE? I previously asked if the right to strike is worth it.

*Newsweek* reported that if the merger goes through, it could lead to office closures, slower delivery times, increased costs, and layoffs. It may also impact rural areas the most. Under the new approach, while most mail will maintain the same service standard, some mail will have a quicker standard, and some will have a slightly slower standard.

The current service standard for First-Class Mail remains unchanged at one to five days, while the day ranges for end-to-end Marketing Mail, Periodicals, and Package Services are being shortened. "All mail will benefit from more reliable service," a USPS news release reads.

The two to five-day range for USPS Ground Advantage will remain unchanged. However, some shipping products will experience a slower delivery range moving forward. Five-digit zip code add-ons are designed to enhance sorting and delivery compared to the current three-digit pairs.

USPS will now provide an online map that allows customers to view the estimated delivery time for mail between zip codes. Customers can also check service standards at [usps.com](https://usps.com). Service standards will be "refined" for:

- First-Class Mail
- Periodicals
- Marketing Mail
- Package Services (Bound Printed Matter, Media Mail, and Library Mail)
- USPS Ground Advantage
- Priority Mail
- Priority Mail Express

When will the following Postal Service changes take effect? The changes will take effect on July 1. More information will be released as the date approaches. The topic of potential strikes is not popular. Can we end it and move forward with saving the Postal Service? Focusing on combating this current administration is worthwhile.

Many Letter Carriers who voted for an individual threatening to take their jobs away in the United States

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*Pictured above is Sean Sotelo out of the East Ventura Station (EVS) as he shows off his 30-year union membership pin. Thanks Sean for all your years of union membership.*





# In Memory of Brother Jon Gaunce

By Chris Alessi, MBA/NSBA Representative

**A**t the February 2010 Executive Board Meeting, I made a recommendation that we name the branch union hall after our late, great President and founder of Tri-Valley Branch 2902, the Jon D. Gaunce Union Hall. The vote was unanimous among the officers in attendance. At the regular membership meeting in February 2010 it was voted on and passed unanimously also.

We made preparations to have Brother Jon's name painted on the wall above his hand painted picture on the 25th anniversary of our branch. This could not have been more fitting for a great union leader the caliber of which Jon was to his fellow Carriers. Jon has been passed away 29 years as of the date I am writing this (April 10, 2025).

Jon was a giant in the arena of fighting for the rights and working conditions of Letter Carriers on the work room floor and out on the routes. As the Chief Shop Steward in Simi Valley main office I can remember that our office was under attack daily by the militant supervision style of management. The harassment was so bad that Carriers were going out on stress almost weekly.

Brother Jon stepped up to the plate and formed an informational picket with Carriers and their families out in front of the Main Post Office for a week or so and this was enough to call attention not only to the public but to upper management as well. It got so bad that it was enough for the Government Accounting Office (GAO) to do an investigation with Postal management and the city Carriers in Simi Valley.

Jon was a great warrior for justice whenever there was a fight to be fought. Brother Jon was always on the front lines whether it was for our Letter Carriers, farm workers or hotel workers, he educated us on important issues that could harm the working man. Then we would rally the troops in support of them because Jon always trained us that an "injury to one is an injury to all."

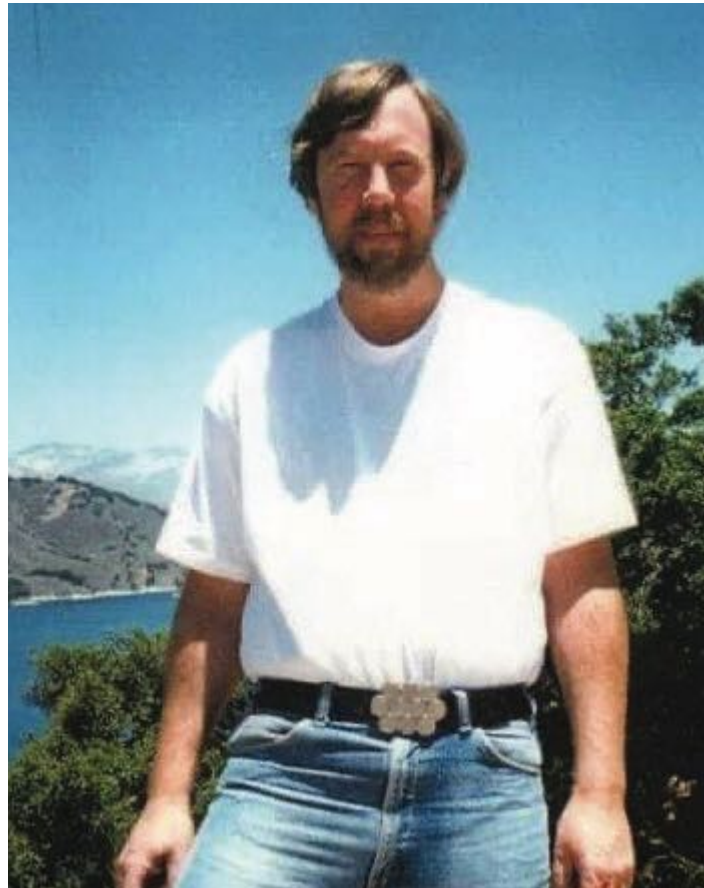
Jon was a great teacher too. He always kept us informed of the latest bills in Congress and step four arbitration decisions made by top management and union leaders. The 14-point plan and the T-6 agreement were very helpful. Jon, myself and other Shop Stewards at that time formed these local agreements that were made to create peace and harmony among the Carriers, Stewards, and Management. For many years these plans helped a lot and kept the grievance numbers down and a lot less stress in our local Post Offices, and grievances were finally getting settled at the lower levels. Brother Jon was a big blessing to so many workers and an inspiration for justice. I still thank him every day.

On May 23rd, brother Jon would have been 70 years old and I know he would be very proud of all the hard work and

*great leadership* in our branch.

We will always be grateful for you my brother, especially me, because of your great effort and determination I was able to have a successful, rewarding career and retirement. With all my love always, until we meet again Brother Jon.

In solidarity always, God Bless you.



*Jon Gaunce*



# For the Good Life

By Beverly Sucich, Director of Retirees

**G**reetings to all. I know it has been some time since I have submitted an article for the *Mail Bag News*. I hope everyone has been well.

Unfortunately, budgetary constraints require us to make some challenging changes to our retiree luncheon schedule. Rather than hosting a lunch every month, we will be getting together once *every other* month, starting May 20, 2025. Below is the new schedule. The dates will also be posted in the calendar of events in the *Mail Bag News*.

June 17, 2025 – **NO** LUNCH  
 July 15, 2025 – LUNCH  
 August 19, 2025 – **NO** LUNCH  
 September 16, 2025 – LUNCH

October 21, 2025 – **NO** LUNCH  
 November 18, 2025 – LUNCH  
 December 16, 2025 – **NO** LUNCH

Maybe with our revised luncheon schedule we can save some money for future use. I hope this works for everyone. It was the best solution given our budget challenges.

Just a quick update: nobody received any pins at the March luncheon.

Please try, if possible, to donate to LCPF for the future of the Postal Service.

I want to thank Larry and Paul for taking pictures for the year 2024 and part of 2025.

I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at our lunches.

## Treasurer's Report

3/1/2025 - 3/31/2025

### General Account (New)

Previous Balance	\$39,359.73
Receipts	<u>\$45,760.29</u>
Sub-Total	\$85,120.02
Disbursements	<u>\$19,444.27</u>
Total-on-Hand	<u><b>\$65,675.75</b></u>

### Payroll Account (New)

Previous Balance	\$48,351.88
Receipts	<u>\$0.00</u>
Sub-Total	\$48,351.88
Disbursements	<u>\$24,413.38</u>
Total-on-Hand	<u><b>\$23,938.50</b></u>

### General Account (Old)

Previous Balance	\$725.94
Receipts	<u>\$0.00</u>
Sub-Total	\$725.94
Disbursements	<u>\$725.94</u>
Total-on-Hand	<u><b>\$0.00</b></u>

### Payroll Account (Old)

Previous Balance	\$16,723.20
Receipts	<u>\$725.94</u>
Sub-Total	\$17,449.14
Disbursements	<u>\$8,088.40</u>
Total-on-Hand	<u><b>\$9,360.74</b></u>

### Convention Fund

Previous Balance	\$24,977.50
MM Checking #7 0.15% APY earned-USPS CU Dividend/Int.	\$2.71
(Active & Retirees 1,635 x \$2 per By-Laws)	\$3,270.00
Sub-Total of #7 Convention Fund	<u><b>\$28,250.21</b></u>
MM Cert #19 4.60% APY earned USPS CU	\$244,790.91
Dividend/Int.	<u>\$206.95</u>
Sub-Total of #19 Convention Fund Investment	<u><b>\$244,997.97</b></u>
<b>Total of #7 + #19 Convention Fund</b>	<u><b>\$273,248.08</b></u>

### Contingency Fund

C.D. (6 mos) 3.250% APY earned Premier CU #1	\$95,968.02
C.D. (6 mos) 4.000 % APY earned Premier CU #2	\$13,063.38
C.D. (1 yr) 4.250% APY earned Premier CU #3	\$123,385.91
MM Cert #21 5.01% APY earned USPS CU	\$28,010.44
MM Cert #22 4.32% APY earned USPS CU	\$5,000.58
MM Cert #18 4.50% APY earned USPS CU	\$26,104.73
MM Cert #19 4.60% APY earned USPS CU	\$109,836.39
MM Ckg Svgs #8 1.25% APY earned USPS CU	\$10,044.40
C.D. (6 mos) .380% rate Priority One CU	\$34,317.52
Shares acct USPS CU	<u>\$7.11</u>
<b>Total of Contingency Fund</b>	<u><b>\$445,738.48</b></u>

### Retiree Fund

Retiree Luncheon	<u><b>\$2,539.31</b></u>
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Mary Stanley  
 Financial Secretary-Treasurer



# Keeping an EYE on DC

By David Hyman, Branch 2902 Trustee & Political Liaison

**G**reetings Sisters and Brothers. The passage of the Windfall Elimination bill in January and signed by President Biden hit home for

me and many other CSRS branch members. The pittance I had been receiving from Social Security more than doubled so I now have enough to cover the Medicare premium and add a few dollars to my wallet to support the LCPF or MDA.

The NALC is following seven bills so far. The "Protect Our Letter Carriers Act" Bill, HR 1065, by Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Greg Landsman (D-OH) now has 100 co-sponsors including three of our service area representatives, Brownley, Sherman and Whitesides. The Senate version, S.463, by Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Josh Hawley (R-MO) has three co-sponsors. Both bills will increase penalties and assign more prosecutors to protect Letter Carriers.

The anti-privatization resolution, H-Res 70 by Stephen Lynch (D-MA) and Nick Lalota (R-NY) has 191 co-sponsors, 27 less than a majority in the House. The Senate version, S.147 has 7 co-sponsors and was introduced by Gary Peters (D-MI), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Susan Collins (R-ME), Thom Tillis (R-NC), and Maggie Hassan (D-NH).

The Federal Retirement Fairness Act, HR 1522 by Representatives Gerry Connolly (D-VA), Nikki Budzinski (D-IL), David Valadao (R-CA) and Don Bacon (R-NE) has 75 co-sponsors, including Brownley and Whitesides. This bill will allow FERS employees that had temporary government positions with no retirement benefits the option to get credit for this temporary time towards their retirement.

The PRO Act, HR 20, was re-introduced by Bobby Scott (D-VA) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA). This bill protects the right to organize a union and strengthens unions by allowing for collective bargaining under the National Labor Relations Act. The Senate version, S.852 was introduced by Bernie Sanders. HR 20 has seven co-sponsors and S.852 has 45 co-sponsors. Both our Senators are on S.852. Lori Chavez-Dermer was approved as Secretary of Labor.

The federal government is funded until September 30, 2025. The Congress will have to extend the funding of the federal government later this summer.

Be well and enjoy the good start the Dodgers are off to. This year Labor Night at Dodgers Stadium is Saturday, August 30th against the Arizona Diamondbacks at 6:10 pm. Hope to get another group night for us then.

## By the Numbers Membership 2025

By Diane Dozal, Branch 2902 Recording Secretary

Active 1,165  
Retired 535 (including 111 Gold Card members)  
Total members 1,700

During the last year:

\*Separated 118  
Retired 41  
Deaths 4  
Transfers out 27  
Cancel 16  
\*New Members 155  
Transfers In 18

**Branch 2902 is 96.7% Organized!!!**

## Worth the Fight

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Presidential election no longer speak to me or have gone into hiding. Those who have realized their actions now express remorse and have inquired about what the union is doing to fight for their jobs.

This fight is real, and I cannot stress enough the importance of contacting your members of Congress. To communicate with your members of Congress through NALC (National Association of Letter Carriers), you can use the NALC Legislative Action Center.

This tool, accessible through the NALC Member App or on [nalc.org](http://nalc.org), allows you to find your representatives, check their co-sponsorship status on relevant legislation, and obtain their contact information. You can then reach out to them via email, phone, or in-person meetings to advocate for NALC's legislative priorities.

Conduct your research and ask questions. As always, enjoy your time with friends and loved ones. Keep looking out for one another. If you still need to, download the NALC app. This fight is worth it! Stay safe out there!



# Hey, Branch 2902 Members. It's Union Night at Dodger Stadium



## Tickets on Sale Now Los Angeles Dodgers vs Arizona Diamondbacks

Join us for a fun and exciting time at the ballgame.



**Date:** Saturday, August 30, 2025  
**Time:** 6:10 pm  
**Cost:** \$53.00 per person  
**Seating:** Upper reserve section 17



**Let's own Labor Day weekend!**  
Pricing includes union night t-shirt.

Check or cash to David Hyman at (747) 236-8831 (cell) or [davidahyman@aol.com](mailto:davidahyman@aol.com)

**Hurry, tickets are limited, first come basis.**





# 2025: The Repercussion of Division

By Sam Sabedra, Sylmar Shop Steward

It was a bright cold day in March and the clocks were striking eight. Letter Carriers and union members alike woke up on the 23rd to go to downtown Los Angeles to take part in a rally. To protest and bring attention to those unaware of the significance of USPS role in the country itself. And to bring attention to the public of the underlying agenda of the current administration which is to turn the Postal Service from a service provided to the American public into a for-profit company that only serve the wealthy will benefit from.

We gathered together in front of the federal building and the street was completely closed off. The atmosphere

was electric and growing as more people showed up and different branches were passing out large signs of “Hell No to Privatization” and “Fight Like Hell.” Among the speakers and guests were four U.S. Congressmembers representing California, Judy Chu, Jimmy Gomez, Maxine Waters, and Sydney Kamlager-Dove, along with National Vice President of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), Kendrick Roberson. The National Writers union (NWU), Teamsters Local Union 630, and Service Employees International Local (SEIU) 722 were also in the crowd in support.

The speeches reinforced and were adamant that union workers are the backbone of the American economy and rely on the Postal Service. They were very outspoken against the current government’s administration and the actions they have taken so far and the statements in support of how they want to change the government itself whether legally or not. There was a positive and reassuring wave of encouragement from the crowd. As time went on and I was able to meet more brothers and sisters from other branches the feeling was they were all there for a greater purpose of solidarity against those who wish their livelihoods torn apart.

We were at the rally not to fight for fair pay or against management but to make our voices heard by anyone that will listen that if the Postal Service is dismantled it will lead to not only irreparable damage to the economy but the jobs of over 500,000 USPS employees who need to all work together to keep this United States Postal Service working for the benefit of not only our own

careers but everyone who is affected by its reach. To provide a service to every person who resides in this great country.



*Pictured above is National President Brian Renfro (top middle with sun glasses) and several Tri-Valley Branch 2902 members (including the author of this article, bottom left) who participated in the “Fight Like Hell” Rally in downtown Los Angeles.*

## Show Compassion & Get Educated

All stories have a beginning, a middle, and an end. Each union member plays a part of an ongoing chapter that connects us all. We are a part of the NALC history that started over 100 years ago and the United States Postal Service that was established before the United States Constitution itself. The Postal Service has not been profitable since 2007 and every new government administration comes with new policies and ideas of how to make the Postal Service more efficient. And yet, according to the NALC Activist publications from March of 2007 and spring of 2025, the number of Supervisors per Carrier has increased from 1 Supervisor for every 17 Carriers to 1 Supervisor for every 7 Carriers. How efficient is that? The integration of new technology does help the Postal Service to become more efficient also but at what cost? This new technology can also be abused to attempt harm to carriers by spying on them by using the GPS in the scanners against us. Management has even come out with a standup memo stating the GPS data is not 100% accurate, yet it is this very data that is often used to discipline carriers.

Section 134 of the M-39, management's handbook, clearly states how street management must be conducted on the street and not in an office miles away from the route. We should expect to be observed at any moment on the street per city Letter Carrier Manual M-41. When we are it can be an opportunity to prove how hard we work and that each day is different and all we can do is our best.

We should strive to be professional and not succumb to anger or frustration even though we are questioned daily about our work ethics and the estimates that we provide. We should treat others how we want to be treated. This means remaining professional at all times. By not lowering ourselves to the level of those who woke up expecting a workforce to run like a piece of machinery on a daily basis.

We are also held to a higher standard to be absolutely accurate and accountable for our work despite all the daily errors before the mail even gets to us. We all know there are mistakes made by both machines (misrouted DPS/flats) and packages miss-sorted to our routes by people. Our job is and always will be essential. Proven through pandemic to provide stability to the American economy and society, reaching every community in the country.

Our job requirements although listed online are mostly physical, but what is not listed is the mental fortitude we need to build to last long enough to reach the ultimate goal of retirement. This career is a marathon, not a sprint. Some of us come from an ethic that hard work and going above

and beyond should be rewarded. However as any seasoned Carrier will tell you, most often it is not recognized, and is rarely remembered. This is not to say we should be lazy or slow but instead our focus should aim to give excellent service patron as if our job depended on it. Every USPS employee's goal from the most menial job to the highest title of Postmaster General should be the continued success and preservation of the Postal Service. To allow us all to enjoy the benefit of eventual retirement, so even if you can't find common ground with other crafts just know we at least have that in common.

The future will always be uncertain, but if we remain vigilant in our work ethic and our mental fortitude, knowing the history behind our great union and the rights we continue to benefit from, we can come to work with our heads held high. Union members hold the ultimate power in how it is shaped and whether its member's goals are realized.

If you are reading this, you are more than likely active or intrigued and educating yourself in the rights you have. So I ask for the sake of yourself and your union brothers and sisters that every once in a while you make an effort to introduce yourself to someone you do not know. Invite them to a branch meeting or steer them to a handbook or manual that can potentially spark an interest in the union. Introduce yourself and let them know we are in this together. From the CCA, to table 1 and 2 for regular carriers, we should all still unite under the fact we are all foremost NALC.

If your fellow member is tired or injured, we will carry them forward through kindness, education, and acknowledgment. We all have the same goal despite experience. You never know if that person will one day have your back as. The NALC will never go quietly into the night as long as there remains one of us to carry the torch of justice and a willingness to fight for the rights and benefits of those we stand next to. Just as generations before us have done time and time again.

*“Who controls the past controls the future.  
Who controls the present controls the past.”*

That is a quote from George Orwell's novel, *1984*, which pictures a dystopian future that is meant to warn us of the dangers of being passive in letting those elected leaders follow through with their wishes to control the people they were intended to protect by using their grasp at total power and authority. Through that experience of another world it can show us that we still have the ability to change our own future before it is too late.



do it again in 2026.

## Branch News

It's been very a long time coming, but I'm happy to announce that the branch investment funds were moved to higher interest bearing accounts. For many years the branch received very little in return from our investment account funds, but the branch still remained in good standing due in part to the demonstrated fiduciary responsible of the branch's past Executive Board. By moving our investment funds into accounts that provide a much higher return puts us in much better standing, which provides continuous stability and greater financial success for the future for our branch.

I thank the membership for its patience and I thank the Executive Board for participating to help reach this important milestone. Please review the updated Treasurer's report provided in this issue of the *MBN*.

## Change in Branch Officers

Walter Williams has resigned as the Branch Vice-President to allow the next generation of officers the opportunity to advance. Therefore, as prescribed by the branch by-laws,

which afford me the authority as branch President to appoint officers to vacant positions, I have appointed new officers to the vacant branch positions as follows. Rochelle Harvey, Shop Steward out of Thousand Oaks has accepted the position of Vice-President and has resigned her position as branch Trustee. Javier Torres, Shop Steward out of San Fernando (MCA) has accepted the appointment of Branch Trustee vacated by Rochelle Harvey. Congratulations and thank you Rochelle and Javier for your service to the branch. Just a reminder that Walter Williams will continue as the branch assistant coordinator for the Stamp-Out Hunger food drive, and Shop Steward for the Thousand Oaks Installation, which is appreciated.

Finally, I'm pleased to announce that Senior Vice President Alex Lopez has accepted an appointment as the Co-Administrator of the branch's social media and web accounts to assist our branch webmaster Larry Orcutt for further enhancement of our platforms. Thank you both for your outstanding work.

That's all for now, I'll be back with more. God bless you all.

## 25-Year Membership Pins

The following members are invited to the next General Meeting or the next Retiree's Luncheon (if you are a retiree) to be presented with their membership pins. Please call the Union Hall at (818) 700-9615 and let us know if you will be present to accept yours.



Ayrik Abulyan	Manuel DeLaPaz	Pedro Ignacio	Joey Nguyen	Robert Schroeder
Agustin Acosta	Hagop Derboghossian	Armando Jimenez	Jesus Orozco	Alexander Sermenov
Lamont Adams	Ariel Ellivera	Kenneth Jones	Rosendo Ortiz Jr	Raul Serrano
Fernando Aguilar	Oscar Escamilla	William Koehler	Suzanne Oulman	Gerardo Serratos
Evangeline Agustin	Ulysses Escartin	Lance Koeritz	Arthur Padilla	Nares Singhasri
George Almendinger	Wilfredo Escobar	Tuong Lai	Ki Paik	Edgar Smith
Fredy Alviar	Alma Esparza	Chi Law	Francisco Perez	Jose Marie Soriano
Dora Apodaca	Felix Esparza	Derek Lee	John Pinard	Antonio Sotelo
Ricardo Ayala	Fidel Esqueda Jr	Gilbert Leon	Gagik Pogolian	Kritsana Sridaoduan
Miguel Bonilla	Felipe Estrada	Jose Lerma	Ernesto Ponce	Jae Sung
Jose Bravo	Priscilla Falcon	Kevin Lien	Daniel Power	Gustavo Talavera
Thomas Brennan	Juvelo Farin	Lisje Limpo	Sanoa Prayongyaem	Hong Te
Cynthia Broadus	Jayson Ferrer	Raymond Liu	Benjamin Pulido	Kevin Tieu
Elmer Buenaventura	Manuel Fonseca	Alex Lopez	Hilario Ramirez Jr	Randy Tran
Robert Caldera	Juan Franco	Cynthia Lopez	Diogenes Ramos Jr	Keith Trego
Amado Caliboso	David Garcia	Eric V. Lopez	Albert Reyes	Kim Turner
Constantin Caranica	Joe Garingan	Jose Lopez	Jessica Richards	Godofredo Ulit
Corinna Cardenas	Anna Gath	Rosie Lopez	James Robertson	Francisco Uribe
Everardo Cardenas	Manuel Gonzalez Jr	Salvador Lopez	Freddy Rodriguez	Arturo Valdez
Donald Carpenter	William Guillen	Edward Lopez Jr	Kimberly Rodriguez	Marina Varela
Dawn Casper	Beatriz Guizar	Johnny Luu	Ronald Ronaldi	Reynaldo Vea
John Casso	Rick Gurule	Jamie Madrano	Mamerto Roque	Carlos Verdejo
Celestino Cease	Pedro Gutierrez	David Mai	Jonathan Rude	David Wiebers
David Chavez	Ronald Harrison	Henry Medina	Abel Salazar	Roger Yang
Patrick Chavez II	Leonard Hernandez	Pamela Miller	Gil San Diego	Martha Zubiarte
Carlos Cortez	Nicasio Hernandez	Timothy Moriarty	Mayela Sanchez	
Matt De Haro	Ubaldo Ibarra	Glenn Morikawa	Filiberto Santoyo	



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- Probate is **VERY** expensive and the fees are set by statute. Example, an estate of \$500,000 (FMV Home \$490,000 and \$10,000 in bank accounts) has **statutory fees of \$26,000**. This can be avoided with proper planning including a Trust.
- If you don't have a legal plan, everything **does not** automatically go to your spouse or kids. It passes via intestate law which may not be what you would want.
- If you don't have a legal plan and you can't make decisions for yourself, a judge will decide who gets to make decisions for you and it is expensive to go through.

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**BRANCH #2902 OFFICERS****PRESIDENT**

- James Perryman

**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**

- Albert Reyes

**SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT**

- Alex Lopez

**VICE PRESIDENT**

- Rochelle Harvey

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY/TREASURER**

- Mary Stanley

**RECORDING SECRETARY**

- Diane Dozal

**DIRECTOR OF RETIREES**

- Bev Sucich

**MBA/NSBA REPRESENTATIVE**

- Chris Alessi

**HEALTH BENEFIT OFFICER**

- Joe Gutierrez

**SGT.-AT-ARMS**

- Bob Golden

**TRUSTEES:**

- Marcos Aldrete
- Javier Torres
- Dan Gorman
- David Hyman
- Louie Rodriguez

**WEBMASTER**

- Larry Orcutt

**SHOP STEWARD LIST**

Agoura Hills Chief S.S.	Louie Rodriguez
Chatsworth Chief S.S.	Alejandro Medina
Fillmore Chief S.S.	Kathi Albritten
Moorpark Chief S.S.	Kathi Albritten
No. Hollywood Chief S.S.	Louie Rodriguez
Chandler	Louie Rodriguez
Laurel Canyon	Louie Rodriguez
Studio City	Louie Rodriguez
Valley Village	Louie Rodriguez
Northridge Chief S.S.	Robert Tracey
Porter Ranch	Robert Tracey
Ojai Chief S.S.	Call Union Hall
Oxnard Chief S.S.	Johnny Boyd
Pacoima Chief S.S.	Steve Dickerson
Reseda Chief S.S.	Robert Tracey
San Fernando Chief S.S.	Martin Diaz
M.C.A. S.S.	Javier Torres
M.C.A. Alternate S.S.	Diane Dozal
North Hills S.S.	Fernando Aguilar
North Hills Alternate S.S.	Diane Dozal
Sylmar / Main Office	Martin Diaz
Sylmar S.S.	Samuel Sabedra
Sylmar Alternate S.S.	Abel Vazquez
Santa Paula Chief S.S.	Marcos Aldrete
Simi Valley Chief S.S.	Sal Lopez
Simi Valley S.S.	Durim Kamberi
Mt. McCoy Station S.S.	Sal Lopez
Thousand Oaks Chief S.S.	Alex Lopez
	Walter Williams
	Rochelle Harvey
Alternate S.S.	Mary Stanley
Newbury Park S.S.	Alex Lopez
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East Ventura S.S.	Kathi Albritten
Woodland Hills Chief S.S.	Call Union Hall

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## RETIREEES LUNCH

### RAFFLE AT 12:30

#### MAY



**Where:** Golden Panda  
1825 Madera Rd.  
Simi Valley  
**When:** Tuesday, May 20, 2025  
**Time:** 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

#### JUNE

**Where:** Golden Panda  
1825 Madera Rd.  
Simi Valley  
**When:** Tuesday, June 17, 2025  
**Time:** 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

**CANCELLED**

## Calendar of Events

- |               |  |   |
|---------------|--|---|
| <b>MAY 11</b> | Mothers Day  |   |
| <b>MAY 20</b> | Retiree Luncheon 11:00 am<br>Golden Panda-Simi Valley  |  |
| <b>MAY 26</b> | Memorial Day - Holiday   |   |
| <b>JUN 5</b>  | Executive Board Meeting 6:00 pm<br>Executive Council Meeting 7:00 pm   |   |
| <b>JUN 15</b> | Father's Day   |   |
| <b>JUN 17</b> | Retiree Luncheon 11:00 am<br>Golden Panda-Simi Valley<br><b>CANCELLED</b>  |   |
| <b>JUN 18</b> | Regular Branch Meeting 7:00 pm<br>Union Hall-Chatsworth<br><i>The original date of meeting<br/>changed due to Juneteenth holiday</i> |  |
| <b>JUN 19</b> | Juneteenth (Freedom Day) - Holiday   |   |
| <b>JUL 5</b>  | Executive Board Meeting 6:00 pm<br>Executive Council Meeting 7:00 pm   |   |
| <b>JUL 15</b> | Retiree Luncheon 11:00 am<br>Golden Panda-Simi Valley  |   |
| <b>JUL 18</b> | Regular Branch Meeting 7:00 pm<br>Union Hall-Chatsworth  |   |

**\*Subject to Covid-19 restrictions**