

National Business Agent's Report
Danny Pittman
January 2011

Since this is my first article as your National Business Agent, I would like to begin by thanking my family for the tremendous sacrifices they've endured while allowing me the privilege of working for this great Union for more than 30 years. Without their unlimited support I would not have traveled this far in my Union career.

I also want to thank those that have served in this position before me. NBA's Charlie Coyle, Joe Miller, Art Buck, and Mike Weir have all taught me the skills that I will need to represent the membership in Region 05.

I also want to thank my closest friends who have helped me through good times and bad times and have always been beside me regardless of the challenges we faced. You all know who you are and I cannot say Thank You enough.

With the staffing shortage currently being experienced by O.P.M., our new and soon to be retirees are under a major financial strain. Currently 38,000 Federal Employees are awaiting their well deserved retirement. We are asking our retirees to apply (4) months before retirement. We believe until this is cleared up the individual retiring should have (5) months cash reserve. At the February Rap Session we will have a retirement training seminar.

My philosophy is very straight forward. I intend to utilize the talents that are available within our membership to improve the representation region-wide. With that philosophy in mind, this Region will focus more than ever on providing more comprehensive training due to the ever changing economy, politics and our workroom floor environment.

I have just returned from my first Executive Council meeting. I congratulate President Rolando on his masterful approach at running those meetings and our Union. I learned a lot about the workings of our Executive Council and the task that they face and I am proud to be a member.

After returning from the Executive Council meetings, I will begin meeting with all the District Managers in Region 05 (Mid-America, Hawkeye, Central Plains, and Gateway). We will be attempting to bring these individuals out of the comfort of their office and into the field where we have some abusive and manipulative managers. I will use the energy you provide and power you have entrusted me with to force management to abide by the contract and bring to light those managers who repeatedly violate not only our rights, but our dignity as well. In addition, I will be insisting that they hold their own managers accountable in situations that have become abusive.

In order to do all this, my office must have the support of the entire membership. One person cannot change the entire world overnight so I am asking the membership to work with me in a spirit of cooperation and teamwork. In that spirit, I will also be asking for your help in increasing our participation in Customer Connect, COLCPE, MDA and other events important to the NALC.

The U in Union stands for US. The Business Agent and staff work for the membership and, simply put, that is our agenda for the next four years. Let's get started.

Yours in Unionism

NBA Dan Pittman