



# REGION 5 NBA REPORT



April 2011

National Business Agent's Report

NALC Region 5

I was extremely proud to open the 2011 Region 5 Rap Session by announcing that my name is Dan Pittman and I am YOUR National Business Agent. That was one of the proudest moments in my life and one that Sharon Pittman would have been very proud of as well. The Rap was very successful according to many in attendance. We asked for your support on numerous occasions and the members present did not let us down. Prior to the Rap this office received a message that our COLCPE numbers were slipping below the national average. With the help of Branch #5050 members Mark Godbee, Bill Hezel and the additional support of their Branch President Kevin Holmes, we were able to raise our participation to an all time high. Through our plea for help the boys from Ballwin, Missouri had 57 members increase or sign up for the first time. There were 34 new COLCPE contributors and 23 current contributors who increased their contribution amount. This will be an increase of \$434.50 per pay period and an overall increase of \$11,297.00 per year. When you ask your friends for help they will always step forward and the members at the Rap did just that. **PERSONALLY TO ALL WHO ATTENDED, (THANK YOU).**

I also asked our State Presidents, Kevin Boyer Missouri, Rod Holub Kansas, Jim Beach Iowa, and Kevin Hevelone—who was representing Nebraska—for an Action Plan on how to increase participation during this volatile time when Labor Unions are under attack. All of the above have promised to roll out the New Field Plan which will be detailed at your various State Conventions. Regional Field Coordinator Brandon Thompson was on hand at the Rap Session and spent a day at our office in St. Louis with the State Presidents. I mention the above because now more than ever the Labor Movement is being attacked on all sides. I know you are aware of the troubles and threats against public employee unions in Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio, Iowa, and possibly moving very quickly to Missouri. If the Labor Movement suffers a defeat in any of these states it could translate into another major attack on the Middle Class. If all we could bargain for is just our wages and not our benefits or working conditions, what insurmountable burden would this put on you and me? Many of us could not even afford the cost of Insurance or many of the other benefits our families depend upon. If this disease were allowed to go unchecked and spread, it could lead to the demise of Labor Unions as we know them and would deal a devastating blow to our members nationwide. Therefore when your State President asks for your help, please do not let Politics decide if there is a Labor Movement or not. Families nationwide depend upon us.

I would also like to offer a very special “thank you” to my friend and Director of City Delivery, Lew Drass who was assigned to represent President Rolando at the Rap Session. As many of you know, Lew was the NBA in Region 8—Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee—prior to being elected to his current National position. The membership attending the Rap, were treated to his down-home personality and focused approach to looking at the future of City Delivery. Lew spoke about the need to increase membership participation, current issues concerning City Delivery—Article 12, FSS, Withholding/Excessing, conversion of PTF's to mention a few—and addressed the task ahead with negotiations. Since we were able to keep on schedule Lew was able to take several questions on both days of the Rap and able to spend valuable time directly addressing questions from the letter carriers present. Lew's leadership at the National level was made clearly evident with his amazing depth of knowledge and confidence to plainly state when he didn't know the answer to a particular question. That said, Lew made a special effort to get the contact information of every person who asked a question he didn't know the answer to. Now, that is true leadership—the ability to tell the truth and follow-up. I was impressed and plan to follow his example.

I also want to thank all the Branches who sent in door prizes to help us support the Ravioli Toast. I want to thank the St. Louis Branch for allowing this office to utilize the talents of Mike David and Barry Linan for OWCP training and pulling out of mothballs, Art Buck for his assistance in the Retirement training. I would be remiss if I did not mention 4 very important helpers, RAA's Mark Sims, Mike Birkett, Regional Trainer Rod Holub and always Cheryl Stout. I could not operate this office without them. One person does not put on this size of an event, it takes the entire Region and this office thanks everyone.

Our sincere condolences go out to the family of active carrier Terri Yuille of Branch #195, St. Joseph, Missouri on her tragic and unexpected passing on 03-02-11 and to the family of Wichita, Kansas Branch 201 Director of Retirees, Jim Goetz. You will be missed.

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