



# REGION 5 NBA REPORT



May 2011

National Business Agent's Report

NALC Region 5

Along with the State Presidents I just returned from the State Chairs Conference in Washington, DC. I was extremely proud of your State Presidents, Kevin Boyer, Missouri, Jim Beach, Iowa, Rod Holub, Kansas and Kevin Hevelone, Nebraska who was standing in for Billy Ray Stevens. We received the current legislative updates and were briefed on the latest political strategy for letter carriers with Labor's Field-Plan. The whole Region 5 delegation put this information to work as we applied the training and participated in a National phone-bank to push legislators in our four states and made numerous office visits on Capitol Hill to meet and discuss letter carrier issues with Senators and Congressmen from our region.

One of the things we took away from our meetings is; one rigid Action plan cannot be universally applied in all situations and have any hope for success. The goal in every Congressional office was the same, but the roads which had to be traveled to reach that common goal required diverse approaches. I believe we have a better understanding that we simply cannot keep doing the same things over and over when it comes to increasing participation in COLCPE and e-activist either. We must do everything we can to explain to our members that what goes on in Washington affects our daily lives and workplace and how critical it is now, and in the future, to work together as a Union to protect what the NALC has strived so hard to achieve over the years.

On a completely different note, I'm sure most of you have seen the deluge of new Memorandums which have come from Headquarters recently. Since all of these memos will have a direct effect on our workplace it is a good idea to utilize some of this article to take a "drive by" look at what's new.

**M-01741** *USPS has eliminated the requirement for delivery employees to place their signature on PS Form 3849 to document delivery items, including Express Mail, where waiver of signature is requested. This stops the inappropriate practice of carriers placing their own signature on the 3849 when the signature is waived by the sender. Management and the sending customer assume responsibility for the security of the mail piece when properly scanned and delivered.*

**M-01742** *Memorandum agreed to by NALC President Fredric V. Rolando and U.S. Postal Service COO Megan J. Brennan, communicating Customer Connect program mandates. Of note, quarterly telecons are to be held, which will include station carrier coordinators.*

This is a big step forward to include the station carrier coordinators into the monthly telecon meeting. This puts Customer Connect right into the hands of the people doing the work to drive our sales—Letter Carriers!

**M-01743** *The NALC and the USPS have agreed to jointly test alternative City Letter Carrier route structures. Joint proposals will be developed at the local level by NALC and USPS representatives. The local parties will be asked to address 16 items in their joint proposals which will then be sent to Headquarters within 45 days. The joint proposals will then be jointly reviewed by the parties at the National Level. Participation in this joint test is strictly voluntary. Anyone interested in participating should contact your National Business Agent for further information.*

This joint Pilot Test is to determine if alternative casing and delivery methods could produce savings and reduce waiting time for letter carriers. This is a bold move to address the challenges to our future.

**M-01744** *Addresses resolving the differences where two or more Local Memorandums of Understanding (LMOU) are involved as well as what happens in the event USPS changes their mind somewhere down the road and decides to move the Letter Carriers back to the original Installation.*

**M-01745** *Addresses several issues involved when a Delivery Unit Optimization (DUO) occurs including who goes, notice period, seniority, hold down assignments, higher level assignments (Article 25), and previously approved annual leave. It must be noted that this and M-01744 do not apply in situations where there are already clear contractual provisions that govern the movement of Letter Carriers and consolidation of Post Offices.*

This refers to the Delivery Unit Optimization (DUO) process where carrier units are moved to other installations. This provides protection to the affected carriers regarding bid jobs, seniority and LMOU provisions.

**M-01746** *The 2011 JARAP Memorandum of Understanding itself.*

**M-01747** *The joint guidelines to the Joint Alternate Route Adjustment Process (JARAP) for 2011, including the MOU language itself. These guidelines must be read in conjunction with (M-01748) the USPS/NALC Joint Alternative Route Adjustment Process Training presentation for 2011 to fully understand changes to the JARAP process for 2011 and the National Parties' understanding of the key roles and responsibilities of both parties*

**M-01748** *An Adobe Acrobat PDF file of the USPS/NALC Joint Alternative Route Adjustment Process Training document for 2011 which must be read in conjunction with M-01746 and M-01747.*

These three documents are the JARAP 2011 process

**M-01749** *The 2011 MOU on Alternative Evaluation and Adjustment Processes.*

Preserves the right of local parties to develop evaluation and adjustment of routes.

We will be discussing these new Memorandum's at every one of our upcoming state conventions in much more detail. It is the goal of this office to keep every member informed and educated on the many changes to our workplace. We need to be adaptable to change and ready to fight to preserve what we have worked so hard to gain, whether at work or on the political battlefield. I would like to reiterate this offices commitment to you, the hard working letter carriers of Region 5. Stay tuned, stay sharp!

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