



# REGION 5 NBA REPORT



|             |                                  |      |
|-------------|----------------------------------|------|
| August 2011 | National Business Agent's Report | NALC |
|-------------|----------------------------------|------|

Within our Union family it is extremely easy to be an active Union member. To protect our jobs and work toward having a Postal Service in the future all of us must be a dedicated Union activist. Our members expect us to protect their way of life and provide security for their families now and in the future. We can no longer sit idle and expect the leadership of the NALC to do all the work, or expect the leadership of the USPS to do the right thing. We must share the responsibility of protecting the membership which is supreme.

As activists we must be aware of and make the membership knowledgeable about why the Postal Service suspended its payments to FERS to preserve its cash reserves. Instead of putting a band aid on this issue an activist should educate our members on H.R. 1351, which is a bill introduced by Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA) which would allow the USPS to use its surplus pension funds. We can also show the flipside of this by the Postal reform bill that was introduced by Rep Darrel Issa (CA) and Dennis Ross (FL), H.R. 2309. The Issa-Ross bill would attack our benefits and our collective bargaining rights. An activist would know that this could spell disaster for our membership since this is a contract year and for the first time in our history our National Agreement is being discussed in the halls of Congress. Union activists should ask themselves, could all this posturing lead to (5) day delivery? Personally, I always said that this would not happen because it would take an act of Congress. Guess where our future is being discussed right now?

We all should become more involved, become active Union activists. As your National Business Agent I am asking/begging you to become involved, participate in (COLCPE), eActivist, Carrier Corps, Customer Connect. Our survival depends upon you; we cannot do this by ourselves. The leaders of the NALC have always provided us with good contract/benefits. Some of us always presumed that the NALC would be successful in negotiating a decent wage and benefit package through negotiations. We enter into these negotiations cautiously. During this time it is crucial that we get your help and for you to become an activist vs. member!

I'm sure many of you have heard of DUO; no, not the dynamic-duo type but Delivery Unit Optimization (DUO). This is when a delivery unit in one installation is transferred to another installation. For example, the carriers in Buggtussel are transferred to Swampbush; the office in Buggtussel still exists and the Postmaster remains but the carriers now delivery out of Swampbush. DUO is not a consolidation, as addressed in Article 12.

In theory DUO is supposed to save the Postal Service money by reducing clerk craft hours and downgrading the Postmaster's level, reducing building utilities and so forth and maybe it will—time will tell. There are a lot of questions about how this will all play out. There are two National memorandums (M-01744 and M-01745) which cover the nuts and bolts of a DUO. Leave it to say if you are involved in a DUO; everyone keeps their seniority when the offices are combined, all approved leave will be honored, opting hold-downs will continue, after the DUO you can bid to any vacant route in either town and if you're in the losing office you will likely get some additional travel time. If you are in the gaining office your branch will have 30 days from the notification to look at both LMOU's and see if there are any conflicts which must be addressed or elevated to this office if you can't come to agreement.

On another note, Customer Connect really needs our attention. I know many of you have submitted Lead Cards about potential new business, but we need to step up our efforts. Customer Connect is a joint effort between the Postal Service and NALC and, as you know, we need the business. Not to mention, as we get ready to enter negotiations for our new contract, Customer Connect is a powerful bargaining chip at the negotiation table. When we sit down we present the special value carriers bring to the business which should be compensated; Dispute Resolution, JARAP, Reliability and Visibility and we bring business in the front door through Customer Connect. It's easy; you take a Lead Card to a prospective business, ask them if they would be interested in saving some money, ask if they would like to talk to someone about it, who should be contacted and their contact information. That's it and you are guaranteed time to submit 2 Lead Cards per month. It doesn't take much time, you get paid to do it and it pays dividends. Think about it.

I want to congratulate all new retirees, especially Dave Hicks from Branch #486, Salina, Kansas, and Danny Schroeder from Branch #30, Kansas City, Missouri. Congratulations and Happy Retirement.

Dan Pittman  
National Business Agent  
[NALC Region 5](#) (St. Louis)