



# REGION 5 NBA REPORT



September 2011

National Business Agent's Report

NALC

All of us send out get well wishes to Tandy Ashburn, President of North Platte, Nebraska. Recently while delivering mail on her route she was viciously attacked by an American bulldog. She will be off for an extended time but Tandy has already made it known she will return and represent the carriers in North Platte. Our thoughts and prayers are with Tandy and her family. Also, our condolences go to Dave Stewart and family, Joplin, Missouri on the passing of David's father.

**MDA:** A couple of big events are on the horizon for MDA, the first ever [Fill the Satchel](#) and the [MDA Bowl-a-Thon](#). Region 5 is excited to participate in the first ever *Fill the Satchel* event to support MDA. The event is scheduled for Sunday, October 2, 2011. The Postmaster General has agreed to allow letter carriers to collect MDA donations in uniform with satchels for this event. Please see your Branch Presidents for a list of guidelines for this important event. The *Bowl-a-Thon*, which has been a resounding success in the past, is scheduled for Sunday November 6<sup>th</sup>. I am asking all members of the Auxiliary be contacted to assist in the upcoming quarterly MDA events. This office will be sending each Auxiliary President within this Region a copy of this article. Please reach out to your auxiliaries and ask for their commitment and help.

**Activist Alert:** I want to thank the NALC State Presidents within our Region; Kevin Boyer, Missouri, Kevin Hevelone, Nebraska, Rod Holub, Kansas, and Jim Beach of Iowa. This office has tasked these activists with increasing our participation in COLCPE and E-activist within their states. All have submitted an Action Plan with their individual goals and I feel confident that they will meet their individual and state goals. On Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011, National negotiations will begin as our current Contract draws to an end. It is more important now than ever to get involved and stay in touch with our local and national leaders. In the August issue of the *Postal Record* there is a tear-out postcard to sign up to be an e-activist. I'm urging those of you who have yet to sign up to tear out the postcard, fill it out, return it to the NALC and join the tens of thousands of letter carriers across this country who care not only about the NALC but who are committed to saving the Postal Service.

**JARAP:** As you read this article, the Spring Phase of the 2011 JARAP process is coming to an end. I need to remind each and every one of you who worked in the JARAP process of the review period. Thirty days after the adjustments are implemented; the local parties are to review the adjustments and may jointly agree to make necessary changes (park points, travel, etc). The local parties may also jointly request approval from the District Lead Team (DLT) to make simple territorial changes as necessary to correct any obvious errors with the initial adjustments. **The Local Office Contacts may also request an adjustment review in a zone within 120 days of implementing the adjustments.** This review must be requested by the Local Office Contact (Management or

Union), in writing, with the reason the review is necessary. This review will be submitted to the DLT who will decide if a District Evaluation and Adjustment Team (DEAT) will be assigned to conduct a review or not. This office will send out a letter in the near future, along with a review request form, to each branch that has been involved in this year's process.

The JARAP process has been difficult this year compared to years past as management entered this process with higher expectations of savings than what the data ultimately supported. While it's been difficult, can you imagine unilateral adjustments based on imaginary expectations? While you may not appreciate the changes made to your routes and offices, the NALC *DEAT* members, as well as your NALC *DLT*, were in the trenches, every day, fighting for what is right for not only you, but for the Postal Service. Kudo's!

**Article 12:** As you are well aware every part of our Region has been under one or, more likely, multiple withholding events. Some of these events were to accommodate the fall-out from FSS, some were because of other events in the Clerk Craft which would impact Letter Carriers. Regardless of the reason for the withholding it has created a lot of headaches for our membership. We have PTFs who should have been made regular and positions left vacant because these withholding notices—it's been a real frustration! To that end, this office met with representatives from USPS Headquarters and Area offices and NALC Director of City Delivery Lew Drass in an attempt to make sense of all these various withholding notices, which in some cases are more than 2 years old. We now have a commitment for updated withholding notices which should free up many of our withheld positions and allow many of our PTFs to be converted to Full-Time status. We are in regular contact with USPS District/Area representatives to process all of our outstanding grievances concerning the conversion of PTFs. That said we do need your help in this process. If a bid job goes un-bid in your office, in other words a residual vacancy, we need to know about it. Make a copy of the *Award Notice* which shows the job went un-bid and send it to this office. We hope to make a big-time dent in our grievance load and get as many PTFs converted as quickly as possible with this additional new information. Thanks up front for your help!

**National Rap Session:** Don't forget to make your branch arrangements for the October 15-16 Rap Session in Las Vegas! Details are available on the [NALC website](#). This will be a very important National meeting as we enter into contract negotiations. See you. There!

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