



REGION 5 NBA REPORT



May 2012

National Business Agent's Report

NALC

I know it's only a little over 6 months until the November elections but now is the time to consider your responsibilities. As an American you have the right to vote. For most of the world that is a privilege they can only dream of. When you have such a precious right you need to consider carefully the implications of your vote. As letter carriers and Postal Service employees we have never faced such a threat to our jobs or the viability of the Postal Service to continue to exist. This isn't empty rhetoric; we are at a real crossroad of our existence.

There are very clear lines drawn in Congress; those who would dismantle the Postal Service to let it to rot in the sun and those who are earnestly looking for long-term solutions to allow the Postal Service to transition to the 21st Century Postal Service the Nation deserves.

Let's just cut to the chase, I don't care if you vote for a Republican or a Democrat—I really don't! However, if you don't vote for those Congressional and Senatorial candidates who definitively support the Postal Service you are voting against your own job. Now, I know there are a number of our members who have strong convictions about social issues and that drives their vote—I understand that. I respect you for having strong convictions about gun rights or reproductive health/life issues, to mention a few. However, I would submit if you don't vote for your job you won't have the time or resources to pursue these important social issues. Why? Because if we are not able to stop those who would destroy the Postal Service you will probably lose your job and then you will be working two low wage jobs just to make ends meet, which was the reality of Letter Carriers prior to 1970.

This isn't a joke and this isn't an empty threat. Senate bill 1789 (S.1789), which is currently awaiting a vote, will set the stage for the elimination of Six-Day delivery, house delivery and does not address the huge burden of the Pre-Funding of Future Retirees Health Benefits at \$5.5 billion per year. This bill is bad for the Postal Service and bad for the Nation. House bill 2309 (HR.2309), the infamous Issa bill, will truly dismantle the Postal Service and drastically reduce our wages, our retirement and throw out our negotiated National Agreement. At present neither bill will likely become law, but that could change dramatically with the November elections. If you do not vote for our friends, then you are voting against your job, your wages, benefits and your families. You have the right to vote, you have the responsibility to vote intelligently, **I hope we have a future after November. It will be decided by those that care to vote.**

Inspections: Many of our branches are faced with full blown route counts and inspections this spring. This office has been notified about 30 facilities in Region 5 will have Inspections. How many of you have ever been through a route count and inspection? Not too many of you I would guess. So, what do you do, how do you do it, what goes on, how does it work? I don't have enough space to explain it in this short message but I do know where to direct you. The NALC website (<http://nalc.org/depart/citydel/pdf/RouteProtectProgChap1.pdf>)¹ will provide you with the best resource to answer all your questions. About 7 years ago NALC, under the direction of then Director of City Delivery Fred Rolando, developed this comprehensive training manual for helping carriers prepare and execute a successful route inspection. This manual is available on the website.

If we are able to negotiate a new JARAP process, these current inspections will likely be rolled into the new process. But until that happens don't go into the inspection process unprepared.

This office sends our thoughts, hopes and prayers to David Teegarden of Liberty, Missouri who presently suffers from Cancer. David is the past Branch President of Branch 1264 and a long time friend of this writer.

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

¹ Route Protection Program Chapters 1, 2 & 3:
<http://nalc.org/depart/citydel/pdf/RouteProtectProgChap1.pdf>
<http://nalc.org/depart/citydel/pdf/RouteProtectProgChap2.pdf>
<http://nalc.org/depart/citydel/pdf/RouteProtectProgChap3.pdf>

