



# REGION 5 NBA REPORT



June 2012

National Business Agent's Report

NALC

Your Regional office just finished a whirl wind trip to Nebraska, Iowa, & Kansas State Conventions. As I prepare to leave for the Executive Council session at National Headquarters I have been reflecting on our accomplishments and what we need to work harder on. Our accomplishments from this trip could not have been a success without the dedication and hard work of the State Presidents and their officers. I want to sincerely thank Kevin Hevelone, Nebraska, Jim Beach, Iowa, and our Regional Trainer/State President, Rod Holub, Kansas. With their help this office put on a successful training program that included a new Stewards Basic Training and a mock Arbitration hearing. Manny Peralta and Lew Drass, our favorite Arbitrators, assisted in the training. The highlight of the day was the amazing theatrical performance from our Regional Field Coordinator, Meredith Place who volunteered to be a witness for the Arbitration. I would be remiss if I did not give thanks to RAA's Mark Sims and Mike Birkett for their never ending assistance. One person cannot accomplish what this office did in the last several weeks. It was a success but I worry if the training we do is enough and is it reaching those branches that do not attend the conventions? We must reach out and spread the information; we are all in this together.

Since we have transferred the annual Charles J. Coyle scholarship program to each respective State, this was our last year to award the scholarships. I am extremely happy to announce the 2012 scholarship award winners.

- Nicholas Morrison, Earlham, Iowa, son of Branch #352 member, Julie Morrison.
- Jesse Newcomb, Scammon, Kansas, son of Branch #695 member, Terry Newcomb.
- Allyson Johnson, Omaha, Nebraska, daughter of Branch 05 member, Andrea Malena.

## **Route Inspections /JARAP**

At the recent Kansas State Training, Director of City Delivery Lew Drass announced that there would be no JARAP agreement this spring. The Postal Service will adjust routes in the near future using the methods described in the M-39, traditional six-day route inspections.

As with most of their decisions lately, this one again lacks any type of forward thinking. A disturbing fact is that conducting route inspections according to the M-39 is expensive. Management has also shown that over the years, they are ill equipped at conducting inspections in accordance with their own handbooks and manuals. A pattern which we believe will continue.

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So, what will we do? First, Lew and the rest of the City Delivery staff are working feverously, putting together a manual for use by branch presidents and stewards to deal with route inspections. This manual will be broken down into sections; Before, During and After. Each section will consist of a table of contents which will quickly lead the reader to the appropriate page where they will find the specific section of the handbooks necessary to file necessary grievances. Also being developed are sample grievances and requests for information which should be a great asset to branches in their development of the case files for any grievances. As we all know, route inspections create a lot of paperwork and the NALC believes that with the tools just described, branches will be better off in prosecuting their grievances and carriers ultimately will be able to get fair adjustments. Plans are to mail each branch president a copy of these resources on CD in the near future.

### **Food Drive**

Congratulations to all the branches who participated in the recent "[NALC Stamp out Hunger](#)" food drive. A special thanks goes out to our State Coordinators; Larrissa Pardee, NE., Jeff Connell, MO., Joni Clark, IA., Cathy Lamb, KS.

**Food for thought: What would we do in today's environment if we did not have overtime or staffing grievances?** We would probably have time to enjoy our families and our friends, I miss that.

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