



REGION 5 NBA REPORT



July 2012

National Business Agent's Report

NALC Region 5

The NALC will be launching a field campaign to STOP HR 2309. We are trying to persuade key members of the US House of Representatives their constituents value a strong USPS that will continue to offer high levels of service long into the future, especially door-to-door and 6-day delivery. The goal is to influence targeted members of Congress NOT to take action on HR 2309 because of the negative affects it would have on the USPS, our customers and the economy.

We need all of our members to join together to fight against the divisive partisan politics that is going on in Washington. To reach everyone, your Regional office is sending out Organizing Reports to help our local branch officers sign up non-members. We are at a crucial point in our history and the NALC will step forward and leads the way. Even with our best efforts we lost the battle with S. 1789; we must educate and mobilize our members and redouble our efforts—we cannot and will not lose another.

Our members must realize that the Labor Movement is under attack from all sides. Organized labor suffered a substantial blow with Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker's victory on June 5th in the recall election. Bills have already been introduced in several states—many in and around Region 5—which will affect your pay and benefits if passed. This fight is for our survival and has just begun. **WE HAVE TO BE READY; IT WILL COME TO YOU.**

Congratulations go out to Branch #343, St. Louis, Missouri member Keith Ray on his recent heroic deed. An autistic boy had gone missing and with the help of Mr. Ray the boy was found hiding in a chapel and the youngster was returned unharmed to his family. Mr. Ray was honored in Washington, D.C. on May 23, 2012 at the National Missing Children's day ceremony.

Food Drive - The [2012 NALC "Stamp Out Hunger" Food Drive](#), was officially a great success. Once again, letter carriers across the country and this region stepped up to the plate and contributed their time and efforts. As I write this article, with preliminary numbers just in, over 70.5 million pounds of food was collected nationwide. In Region 5, with all branches reporting, you collected 2,938,330 lbs, almost 110,000 lbs. more than last year. Congratulations to you all and special thanks to the branch coordinators.

Grievance handling is still a problem in the region. We are getting better but we are still not putting tight, well developed and well documented grievance files forward. This spring every state convention had extensive steward training on how to properly develop disputes. If you need any of the materials from those trainings let us know. I know there are a lot of things which can distract us—not the least of which are the long hours many of us are putting in at work—but if we are to be successful at forcing management to abide by our National Agreement we must stop them cold in their tracks. If they won't do it through reason and by what's right, then we will stop them at the grievance table—but a grievance is only as good as you make it. We must do better!

Congratulations go out to Joshua Blechle, son of Dale Blechle the Missouri winner of the Charles J. Coyle scholarship award for 2012. Director of City Delivery, Lew Drass helped this office with the drawing at the recently completed Missouri State Convention. Since the respective states will be taking over the handling of the scholarships we were glad to hear that Missouri will keep the scholarship in Charlie's name. I want to thank Lew for the training he put on and apologize for almost drowning him in the Lake of the Ozarks. Additionally, it was a pleasure to have Regional Field Coordinator Meredith Place come from Washington to do the training in the Legislative arena. Along with her insight and knowledge she also showed us her acting abilities.

All of us make sacrifices but I must recognize two individuals who went beyond the call of duty. Since we raised over \$4,200.00 for MDA, Missouri State President Kevin Boyer, shaved off his beard which he has had since 1990 and Dave Stewart, our good friend from Joplin, Missouri agreed to shave his head. Neither were a pretty site, but the thought and reason behind it made our delegates very proud of both these members. Pictures will follow.

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