



REGION 5 NBA REPORT



September 2012

National Business Agent's Report

NALC

The 68th Biennial Convention of the NALC has just concluded in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I am extremely proud of the over 300 members of our Region who attended this historic event. Our delegates discussed/debated numerous topics and resolutions. They watched our National President do a masterful job of keeping the convention with over 6000 delegates on track, while listening to numerous speeches from foreign and national dignitaries. On Friday these delegates traveled back to their respective branches with a wealth of knowledge and future ideas from the general session while having attended numerous workshops. It was not a vacation, it was an educational experience and one in which they learned what we are facing in reality.

I want to thank and recognize all those who worked on the various convention committees.

Charlie Sexton, Br 343, Jim Beach, 644, Kevin Boyer, 763, Jeff Rainey, 30, Rod Holub, 1018, Chuck Walls, 5, Jacob Wilkins, 5, Larissa Parde, 8, Stephanie Stewart 352, and congratulations goes out to Georgeanna Myers who was elected to National Assistant Secretary of the Auxiliary. Mrs. Myers is the current local and State President of the Auxiliary for Missouri.

Last fall NALC hired a consultant, Ron Bloom and the Lazard Group, to assess the finances, management structure and potential areas of growth of the Postal Service in order to propose solutions to the Postal Crisis. At the National Convention we received a rather sobering report from Mr. Bloom, an investment banker who most recently worked as the "Car Czar", directing the restructuring of the domestic Auto Industry for the Obama Administration. Before that he worked on the revitalization of the US Steel industry which is now turning a profit for the first time in years. While Bloom's address was sobering it did lay out a clear vision on how the Postal Service can emerge from the present financial crisis. Bloom pointed out three specific avenues which MUST be accomplished in order for us to survive; learn to exploit and expand our natural strength—the last mile delivery, change the Management structure of the Postal Service to focus on growing the business and lastly, educate and influence Congress to fix the overarching financial burden of the Postal Service—the onerous Pre-funding requirement. Bloom said the current direction and leadership of the PMG to cut and shrink the business is a failed and doomed policy which will only hasten the demise of the Postal Service and in turn our future.

I've been going to National Conventions for over 25 years and this was the first time I can truly say, "You could hear a pin drop." As soon as it is available we will be taking a copy of Mr. Blooms address on video to every Regional/State Convention and Training so everyone can hear this important report.

Hopefully, by the time you read this article, we will have been successful in stopping H.R. 2309 from passing in the House of Representatives. If so, it will only be because of the thousands of letter carriers who first listened to President Rolando's tele-townhall call on Sunday evening, July 9th, and then let their representative know they were against the legislation. H.R. 2309 would; eliminated 90 percent of door-to-door and business delivery; end Saturday delivery; close thousands of offices and plants; destroy USPS standards; and done nothing to address the pre-funding mandate which has caused the financial problems. Make no mistake; H.R. 2309 would end the postal service as we all know it. Unfortunately, we need to stay vigilant as those who wish to disband and privatize the postal service will not stop. Join the E-Activist network.

National Convention Awards: Food Drive - Congratulations to Branch 5050, Ballwin, Mo., and Branch 127, Jefferson City, Mo., for their recognition and awards presented at the National Convention. Ballwin increased their collection an additional 82,000 pounds this year and received their award for most improved branch. Jefferson City received their award for most innovative branch for their work with a local grocery store, converting cash contributions made at the store into food. Publications – Congratulations also go out to Branch 343, St. Louis., Mo., and the staff of "The Mound City Carrier." Branch 343 was a winner amongst large branches and state associations for "General Excellence" in the 2012 Publications category.

On a very somber note I must inform the membership that we recently lost one of our members while in the line of duty. While we were at the National Convention we were told of this tragedy and one that has not fully been explained as of this article. Letter Carrier John Watzlawick a 28 year veteran of the Postal Service passed away while delivery mail on his route. John was a member of the Independence, Missouri Branch 0827. The temperature was 107° on the day that this tragedy occurred. There are different stories in regards to the events surrounding this incident. We are awaiting the autopsy and OSHA reports along with the internal investigation from the USPS. This was a tragedy that affected all of us and this office will get to the bottom of what were the events that led up to this. In the meantime our heartfelt condolences and prayers go out to Kay Watzlawick and family. In the days ahead all of us should protect ourselves during these very trying times.

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