



REGION 5 NBA REPORT



October 2012

National Business Agent's Report

NALC

They say that losing a loved one is devastating; to lose a child is beyond apprehension. Region 5 sends out our deepest sympathy and prayers to the family of Kent Septeowski on the tragic and painful loss of his son, Michael Septeowski. Kent is the Branch President of Florissant, Missouri. We are all grieving with the parents, Kent and Linda.

I do not normally discuss individual offices in my monthly report but due to extreme conditions that exist at the Harry S. Truman station in Independence, Missouri, I will go outside my own rules. Due to the untimely and tragic passing of John Watzlawick which was ruled heat related, this office and the USPS did an interview process with all the carriers who were available to talk to us. To say that I was appalled and dismayed is putting it mildly. In my 36 year career I have not heard of such blatant disregard for our Contractual rights and the amount of harassment, belittling, and intimidation that these carriers were forced to work under by the current management staff at this office. I have been in contact with the Western Area, District Office and our Headquarters in Washington. I will not rest until there is a major change in management at this office and I will pursue those who allowed this type of climate to exist. Statements like if you do not like it here I will give you an application to McDonalds, and I am the Dictator in this office, will no longer be acceptable under any condition. We have already lost one carrier, we will NOT lose another. To put out Mandatory Stand-up talks about ways to "Beat the Heat", after you have a death of a Letter Carrier is pathetic and shows the lack of compassion that we receive from management.

As you know, we are being attacked on every side; the economy drives mail volume and volume is down, the pre-funding obligation is driving us to bankruptcy, L'Enfant Plaza has no vision to grow our business out of our economic troubles and legislators seem to have it

out for us. My intent is NOT to be partisan but let me point out a specific “plank” the Republican Party just adopted in their “platform”—what they are planning to achieve.

The dire financial circumstances of the Postal Service require dramatic restructuring. In a world of rapidly advancing telecommunications, mail delivery from the era of the Pony Express cannot long survive. We call on Congress to restructure the Service to ensure the continuance of its essential function of delivering mail while preparing for the downsizing made inevitable by the advance of internet communications. In light of the Postal Service’s seriously underfunded pension system, Congress should explore a greater role for private enterprise in appropriate aspects of the mail processing system.

Let me point out the facts. The *dire financial circumstances* were created by Congress, not the internet. The *Postal Service pension system* is NOT underfunded and, in fact, the pre-funding is for Future Retiree’s Health Benefits and it is pre-funded by over \$45 Billion. And finally, a *greater role for private enterprise* means privatizing your job and throwing you to the wolves. You can vote for whomever you wish, but if you vote for those who do not support you or the Postal Service you are cutting your own throat and jeopardizing your family’s future. The choice IS yours.

MDA I’d like to thank those branches that recently participated in the “Fill the Satchel” MDA event, and all those branches that host/participate in numerous other MDA events. I want to especially thank Des Moines, Iowa Branch 352 (\$1,071.00 – Fill the Satchel) and Waterloo Iowa, Branch 512 (\$13,620.00 – Golf tournament) for their efforts and success.

Our continued thoughts and prayers go out to David Teegarden, Liberty, Missouri Branch 1264 and his continued battle with Cancer. As of this article Hospice has been called in for David.

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