



REGION 5 NBA REPORT



November 2012	National Business Agent's Report	NALC
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As I write this in October I worry about whom the next President will be and what the makeup of our Congress will be. The Congress and President we have elected will ultimately end up making a decision on what will happen to our jobs and the Postal Service as we know it. I hope everyone exercised their right to vote and voted for the candidate that supported the working families. Too many times we get caught up in whether I am voting for a Democrat or Republican versus looking at the voting record of the candidates who are running for office. Those candidates who have now been elected will be making the ultimate decision on the future of the United States Postal Service which will affect our jobs, families and our lifestyle. We cannot sit idle and depend upon others to get involved and protect what we have, now is the time for you to understand and participate in COLCPE and E-Activist. Your future depends upon it.

President Rolando has tasked the NBA's with contacting Branches in our Regions with 50 or less members to see if they are getting adequate representation. We are asking these Branches if they have a Steward, do they have monthly or regular meetings and if they have residual or withheld routes? With our membership decreasing we must make sure that all Branches are fairly and dutifully represented. What we are finding out is a majority of these offices do not have regular meetings or in some instances do not even have a Steward. As a Union we are obligated to represent all Letter Carriers regardless of the size of the office. We are only as strong as our membership. If you do not have Union Representation in your office check and see if there are any larger offices that are nearby that you can join. There is power and unity in numbers.

I want to congratulate the Iowa City, Iowa Branch #483 for merging with the Cedar Rapids, Iowa Branch #373. This is a relatively large merger that will provide more than adequate representation for these Branches. Now the Cedar Rapids Branch will be able to add a Steward to supplement the Stewards they presently have. Congratulations to Barb Sisley of Iowa City and Brian Rubner of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

The job of a Dispute Resolution team member is a thankless job with little or no recognition. I want to thank Dennis Wisnewski of the Gateway District here in St. Louis, Missouri on his recent retirement. Dennis has been in that position since 2001 when the Dispute Resolution Process began. We wish Dennis congratulations on his retirement.

At a recent Branch #343, St. Louis, Missouri MDA golf tournament we had a first. RAA Mark Sims hit a Hole in One. Yes, it was witnessed and yes, he made one hell of a shot. A par (3) with an amazing distance of 234 yards, yes you heard it right, 234 monstrous yards. Call it luck or whatever, but it was a once in a lifetime shot and Hole in One. Congratulations Mark.

FACT CHECK: In 1959 the tax on anyone making over \$400,000 was 91%. It has steadily decreased to today's rate of 35% on earned income over \$388,000. Is there class warfare in this country? You bet, and you are losing. In 1959 those making millions would reinvest in their companies, start new businesses or give wage increases to their employee's. Added to today's diabolical tax structure is that most wealthy American's pay a lower tax rate (15%) as their income is from investments of over one year. Please look it up yourself.

Housekeeping: If you have yet to return the Branch Information Request we recently sent out, please do so immediately. If your branch has elections this fall and there is a change in leadership, make sure you contact our Region 5 Secretary, Cheryl Stout, (314-872-0227) with the names of the new officers as well as all relevant contact information, including e-mail addresses.

Letter Carriers have had a tumultuous year. Unappreciated by a management team with their blinders on and focused solely on chasing arbitrary numbers which in many instances have nothing to do with the bottom line. While the year started with the end to a mild winter, the summer brought an incredible heat wave where one of our own passed, once again, with too many managers focused on their "DOIS" numbers. We're near the end of a brutal, partisan election cycle and in the middle of Interest Arbitration. Almost every installation is understaffed with carriers working daily overtime and six days a week. With all of this going on, this is also the time of the year to give thanks. Thankful for a job that pays well, in a time of declining middle class wages; Thankful for our friends who care; Thankful for our families that love us. Most of all, I hope you can be thankful for elastic waistbands after Thanksgiving dinner. Happy Thanksgiving!

This office sends out condolences to Rovon Heller on the recent passing of his wife. Rovon is a Letter Carrier and steward out of Iowa City, Iowa. Our condolences go out to the Heller family.

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