



REGION 5 NBA REPORT



January 2013

National Business Agent's Report

NALC

I want to wish all members and your families a Happy New Year. As we enter a new year we should all reflect upon the past year which was filled with numerous challenges and disappointments. The NALC was not successful in reaching a negotiated National Agreement. The NALC used all resources available to show the USPS why it was to everyone's advantage for both sides to reach a settlement which would protect the USPS and its employees now and in the future. I believe that the Postal Service was and continues to expect Congress to allow them to; STOP six-day delivery, negate Labor agreements, create a new Health Benefits Program and allow them to reduce the workforce drastically. Now the NALC finds itself in the unenviable position of protecting the Postal Service—since it refuses to. One can see that our future looks very bleak in the eyes of the Postmaster General. Our future is on the table in this lame duck session of Congress. While we struggle with helping the Postal Service, Congress is waiting for the Postal Service to fix itself or cease to exist; we cannot wait on either of them to decide our future.

Now is the time, as Union Representatives, to ask ourselves, are we getting this critical message across to our members? In 2012, we had numerous members' state; "go ahead and do away with Saturday delivery, I could use the day off". These same members refused to sign a petition attempting to save Saturday delivery. We must do everything in our power to step up to the plate and inform our members of the critical situation that the Postal Service and Congress have put us in. We can no longer sit idle and expect that everything will be alright and very little will change. This kind of thinking will lead us down the path the PMG is presently headed. This year we must use the combined strength of all our Union members to guide the Postal Service and Congress down the right path, it might be our last chance to do the right thing.

We need your help—the never ending story, right? We are still trying to gather information about PTF's, Residual Vacancies and Conversions. As most of you are aware, we were able to sign a Memorandum of Understanding at the Headquarters level concerning the conversion of PTFs and hiring of Transitional employees (M-01797). This new Memo has been responsible for the

conversion of a number of PTFs to Full-Time status. However, we aren't done yet. The NALC in Washington it still trying to get more PTFs converted and we need to know where vacancies might be. If you have had a retirement recently and the subsequent bidding process leaves a residual vacancy we need to know about it. We need to be able to provide Headquarters with the most up-to-date information possible. This is most easily done by sending us the *Human Capital Enterprise System Detail/Route Award Notice* which shows the Job ID, Route number and facility as well as the *Posting Comment: No Successful Bidder*. Every time we receive this information we are able to funnel it to the NALC in Washington. Also, if your office hires a new TE and doesn't convert a PTF within the installation we need to know about that as well. According to the Memo, when a TE is hired under this memo a PTF should be converted in kind. Thanks for always being so willing to pitch in and help us out.

In 2012 we found out the true power of Mother Nature. Our condolences go out to all those affected by Hurricane Sandy and her power.

Most of you have read about and seen the devastation that Hurricane Sandy recently caused on the East Coast. Our condolences go out to all those affected by Hurricane Sandy and her power. In the very recent past our Region has also seen the affects of severe storms and flooding and postal employees from across the country reached out to help. The NALC is especially requesting that letter carriers contribute to the Postal Employees Relief Fund, (PERF). As President Rolando stated, "For more than 20 years, PERF has been NALC's means to provide financial support directly to letter carriers in need. We need to make sure that harm to those hit by Hurricane Sandy is met by the strength and solidarity of all the NALC." I'm urging you to reach out and help out your fellow brothers and sisters. You can find out more about PERF at the NALC website, www.nalc.org and even make a \$10 donation from your cell phone by texting PERF to 50555.

Condolences go out to the families of L.J. "Bud" Stone of Sedalia, Missouri, Branch139, and Jack Turner of Lawrence, Kansas Branch #104. Both of these brothers have held numerous Union positions.

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