



# REGION 5 NBA REPORT



June 2013

National Business Agent's Report

NALC Region 5

We are just finishing up the Spring Convention schedule for the Region. I want to congratulate Nebraska State President Kevin Hevelone on his re-election and to his Nebraska State Officers. In Kansas, congratulations go out to new President, Andy Tuttle and to his Kansas State Officers. I would be remiss if I did not thank outgoing Kansas State President Rod Holub for his many years of service. Rod has given numerous years to the Kansas State Association and to this office as the Regional Trainer. **We sincerely thank him for his services.** I would also like to congratulate Iowa State President Jim Beach and all the State Officers in Iowa who retained their office by acclamation.

I also want to thank the National Officers who gave the National Presentation. Ron Watson, Director of Retired Members, Nicole Rhine, Assistant Secretary Treasurer, Myra Warren, Director of the Mutual Benefits Association and Jane Broendel, Secretary Treasurer.

As you all know we are in the middle of intense efforts to organize our CCAs as they come on board, but we are also seeing a number of career employees coming from other crafts and we must organize those prospective members as well. At the Iowa Convention, National Secretary Treasurer Jane Broendel told us we should advise our organizers we need to know if a new member is transferring from another craft, and if so, do they want their dues to the "losing" craft (usually APWU) canceled? At the National level we are having issues with members paying double dues as Headquarters is not being notified. If a member wants their dues canceled to the other union, have the organizer write at the top of the blue copy only: transferring from (APWU, NRLCA, or NPMHU). The new 1187's have a place to circle, but if they are using older forms, it may not.

**Region 5 E-mail list.** If any member has questions, complaints or suggestions please contact this office. Please **do not** send inquiries to Gary Mills who is the Region 5 Webmaster. Gary has been receiving questions/concerns from the list. I have asked Gary not to answer any contractual questions or any questions concerning information that I send out. Gary is providing a incredibly useful tool for our use as the webmaster, but he is not housed in the Business Agent's office and should not be expected to answer for this office. Please contact us with any concerns; this office will respond. The use of this list is to get important information to our members very quickly, especially if action needs to be taken. Our office phone number is 314-872-0227.

I know we have a lot going on and it seems like we are being asked to do more and more all the time. Well, it's true! That said you need to be on the lookout for a couple more issues in your offices. It seems like Postal Managers just can't come up with enough "good ideas" these days. It also seems like every time they have another one of their "good ideas" it causes more trouble than it's worth. Well not to be outdone, we have an MPOO in Region 5 who is going off the reservation...again.

This MPOO is telling all the postmasters and supervisors to “encourage” carriers on park ‘n loop routes to carry more than three (3) bundles of mail. Notwithstanding there is an agreement at the Headquarters level which says such carriers will NOT BE REQUIRED to carry more than three bundles, this MPOO wants to “encourage” carriers to do just that! It wouldn’t be all that bad, after all it is only “encouragement”, right? Unfortunately, he follows up his remarks with language which says, “if they are reluctant...” that, brothers and sisters, borders on a threat to my ears. You only lose your rights when you give them up! Don’t give up your rights!

Curiously, this same MPOO is planning on trying a new “pilot program”—another “good idea”. He wants to solicit as much as 10% of residential and business customers in certain locales to convert from door to door delivery to Cluster Boxes. Let me be clear, customers can only have their mode of delivery changed if they voluntarily consent. What do you think would happen if 10% of a town or city agreed to change their mode of delivery? That’s right, we would lose routes and our customers wouldn’t receive the kind of quality service they receive now. When you hear about a customer receiving such a solicitation contact this office immediately! You might want to think about asking a retired member to write a letter to the editor announcing you don’t have to volunteer—it is the customer’s choice. This suggestion to use a retiree is because you need to be careful what you say “on the clock”.. Most importantly contact this office first.

The point is simple—Keep your eyes open and stay vigilant. If one MPOO is scheming its only a matter of time until this sort of cancer spreads to other areas of the Region. Don’t give up your rights and don’t let slick tongued managers take away your rights or the rights of our customers. Stay Calm and Keep Vigilant!

While the RAA’s and I were in attendance at the recently concluded Iowa State Convention, we had the honor and privilege of being present when the Iowa State Association inducted my close friend, Jane Broendel, National Secretary Treasurer into the Iowa State Hall of Fame. This honor was bestowed upon Jane for her years of work with the NALC at the local and national level. Jane is a member of Branch 506 Davenport, Iowa. Branch 506 President David Burke nominated Jane for this honor.

I do not usually run more than (1) page on my Articles but I will make an exception this time. I believe congratulations should be afforded those listed below for their accomplishments.

### **State Scholarship Winners for 2013**

#### **Iowa:**

Jordan Heyvaert, son of Dan Heyvaert, Branch 5026, Columbus Junction, Iowa.

#### **Nebraska:**

Kristen Hemmer, daughter of Raymond Hemmer, Branch 1020, Norfolk, Nebraska.

In **Kansas** the winner of the Holub Family Scholarship:

Lindsay Marie Smith. She is the daughter of Joyce Smith, Central Kansas Merged Branch 1122.

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**Region 5 OWCP Training;**

**June 25, 2013** Will be held in Kansas City, Missouri at the Branch 30 Union Hall, the exact time has not been determined but we will make that announcement via the Region 5 email list. This will be the only training this year for OWCP Representatives. Contact this office for additional information.

**Region 5 Rap Session;**

**March 1 & 2, 2014** We will be returning to the Westin Crown Center in Kansas City, Missouri. We will be changing the venue slightly and will be providing excellent training and any updates available from Washington, DC..

**In Memory:**

Condolences go out to the families of Bob Joe Hartley and Lawrence William Kempf of the Sedalia, Missouri Branch #139

Dan Pittman  
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