



REGION 5 NBA REPORT



November 2013

National Business Agent's Report

NALC

By the time you are reading this the Federal Government's Shutdown may be all done and over with and that would be great, but this morning these were just some of the headlines I read:

NO END IN SIGHT--HOUSE LEADERS DIG IN... 'Extended Impasse'... 'Collapse Of Institutional Republican Power'... Lawmakers Clueless On Endgame... GOP Aide: We Might Lump In Debt Limit Hostage... Treasury Begins 'Final Extraordinary Measures'... POLL: Majority Dislikes GOP Debt Threats... Obama Forced To Shorten Asia Trip... Summons Congressional Leaders To White House...Federal Investigators Halt Probe Of Plane Crash... SCIENCE GRINDS TO A HALT... Kids With Cancer Blocked From Clinical Trials... Food Safety Inspections Suspended... Search For Missing Woman Put On Hold... NASA Grounded... National Parks Closed... Congress Still Getting Paid

Seriously? Are we so 'out to lunch' as a Nation we can't just take care of business? Fortunately, the mail always goes through and since we are "off-budget" we aren't affected by the lunatics running the asylum. The mail goes through and our customers are served—for us, that's what it's all about anyway. However, this budget episode points to the tremendous battle we will continue to face in getting Congress off their collective duffs to finally and correctly address the issues which threaten our existence. Congress alone created the financial mess the Postal Service is facing and Congress alone is the only ones who can fix it.

Quite possibly, since the Government Shutdown is bringing eyes on our broken political system, this might be the best opportunity we have had in a long time to get those who oppose fixing the Postal problem to switch positions. When, and eventually it will come to an end, the Shutdown mess is over and the political spotlight is focused on the "problem children", they may feel the pressure to actually do something constructive. I think we should be pounding on their doors to make sure they know that correctly fixing the Postal Service will go a long way toward their own rehabilitation. I know, some of our political enemies will never come around but there are probably just enough who don't want to get burned a second time who will jump at the chance and we need to be at their doorstep and ready to pounce.

Since the mail is still working it would be an excellent time to write a letter to your Congressperson to let them know you want them to support HR 630, 961 & 30 and tell them to move those bills to the full floor for a vote. Make sure you tell them clearly, this is the time to actually fix something after the recent Shutdown fiasco and do something which will truly help the American People. In my opinion, this is the time to act and act clearly and quickly. The House is where our problems lie with regards to fixing the Postal Service—the Senate, for now, is supportive of our cause. Let's all be ready to move quickly and decisively.

On to matters other than politics—which I am so tired of—Residual Vacancies. As most of you know we've been pressing you pretty hard to confirm or report back to us on vacant Residual Vacancies in your offices. We appreciate those who have responded and ask you to continue to update this office when any route becomes Residual. For those branches who have not responded...what are you waiting for? The recent memo on Residual Vacancies (M-01824) sets up the mechanism for us to fill every vacant route in our Region and the mechanism to convert our CCA's to Full-Time Career status. If we are going to support the Union then we need to support ALL our members and this is one significant way we can do this—fill the open routes and convert the CCA's. If you have a vacant route in your office, call us and let us know. This is very important!

We have just completed the Fall Training in both Iowa and Nebraska and I think both trainings went well and I want to take this time to thank Jim Beach (Iowa State President) and Kevin Hevelone (Nebraska State President) for setting up the training—along with the Executive Boards from each State who worked hard to put on this successful training.

With the present Dictatorship within the Mid-America District, I understand that we have problems that affect our members. Please be patient with this office and make sure that you force management to live up to their contractual obligations. We will work with them if and when they change their ways. If they do not then we will use every resource available and take the fight to them to protect our members, we are many and they are few.

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