



REGION 5 NBA REPORT



January 2014

National Business Agent's Report

NALC

It is now 2014 and let me take this opportunity to wish each and every member and branch a very Happy New Year and I hope it will be a new year of success and prosperity for us and the Nation. Do you realize everyone who is reading this article—with the possible exception of your kids—was born in the last Century? Amazing!

2013 brought us a lot; a new National Agreement, CCAs with a pathway to career employment, long overdue filling of vacant routes, and the opportunity to see our share of the market place grow which is vital to our business success. Of course, 2013 also provided incredible gridlock and inaction by our lawmakers in Congress to honestly address the real causes for the Red Ink which is the albatross around the Postal Service's neck. It also brought on a lot of new and continuing challenges which we must all strive to meet head-on and successfully accomplish. I won't belabor the issue of Legislation in this article but, leave it to say we must be prepared to fight for our lives legislatively this next year. While I'm not going to focus on it today, be prepared to hear a lot about it in the months ahead. We aren't back to collective begging for working conditions and wages but we may be close in terms of securing our future—a healthy Postal Service.

Rap Session Right off the top I need to remind every branch to act quickly to insure you have a room(s) for the 2014 *Rap Session*—March 1 & 2. It will once again be at the Westin Hotel in downtown Kansas City and the rate is \$107/night which includes parking. However, we have been forced to reduce the total number of rooms in our block by about 25 which mean if you want to be assured of a room at the guaranteed rate you must make your reservation by the **cutoff date which is January 28th**. After that rooms will be based on “space available” basis. So, word to the wise; do not delay your planning. Additionally, make sure you provide your respective Installation Head with a list of attendees well in advance of the Rap Session. We always have branches who call this office at the last minute because they are having difficulty getting everyone off work and want our assistance. We are glad to help but it makes it very hard for us to persuade the Postal Service when the branch didn't provide notice until shortly before the date—help us all out and make your notifications ASAP. The Westin Hotel phone number is: **816.841.1000**

This year, in addition to the in-depth training we normally provide, we will be presenting a training segment focused on FERS Retirement. It was 1984 when new Post Office employees were hired under FERS instead of Civil Service. That's right; it was 30 years ago this year. So, since we are looking at the majority of our members are now covered under FERS, and some completing 30 years of service, it is time to make this presentation.

Residual Vacancies With the memo on filling Residual Vacancies (M-01824) being in full swing we need to be vigilant to make sure we are capturing every single opportunity to fill a vacancy and help our CCA members to convert to Full-Time Career Status. So far we have seen over 500 CCA's convert to Career Status in our Region but we are not done yet. We need to know about EVERY route that becomes vacant and goes "No Bid". Charlie Sexton (Br 343) has been detailed into this office to facilitate enforcement of this memo and to make sure every Residual Vacancy is filled and every CCA who is eligible to convert is made Career. NALC Headquarters is spending considerable resources to put a Full-Time point person in every Regional office for just this purpose but Charlie cannot do this in a vacuum. We MUST have your full participation by providing this office with the information. Charlie and the rest of the office will assist you if conversions do not take place—if that means helping you to file a good grievance to force management, so be it. M-1824 will expire at the end of March unless it is extended and we have no assurance it will be. We must work together to make sure every possible CCA is converted and NALC has demonstrated that commitment by providing the extra resources to achieve this goal. With that, I'll see you next time.

Our condolences go out to the family of Stephen Schwent, Branch 343, St. Louis, Missouri on his passing and to the family of Charles Eldredge from Branch 485, Hutchinson, Ks.

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