



REGION 5 NBA REPORT



February 2014

National Business Agent's Report

NALC

Do you know how close we came to having our future gutted recently? Do you? This past year the Congress spent its final working days negotiating and passing a budget deal—the first budget by a divided Congress since 1986. While an imperfect budget it is somewhat encouraging they came to any agreement at all but that isn't the whole story. Senator Patty Murray and Representative Paul Ryan were tapped by their respective bodies to come together and craft a budget. Honestly, expectations were small and with everything else—the Devil is in the details.

What you did. At the beginning of December we learned Paul Ryan (R-WI) wanted to include eliminating Saturday delivery as a measure in the budget deal because it would save \$20B over 10 years—a number NALC and a wide range of economists strongly contest as not being remotely accurate. In addition, some members of Congress were proposing balancing the books on the backs of federal and postal workers increasing their pension contributions.

Here's the good part; for all of you who question of wisdom and effectiveness of our eActivist Network and COLCPE, NALC drove an all-out push to save Saturday deliver for the American people and worked to prevent a massive 5.5% pay cut for letter carriers. You led a coalition to inform Congress and sent thousands of messages to senators and representatives and it paid off! We worked with our allies, organized by *Delivering for America* and the *Federal-Postal Coalition of Unions* to head off the devastating proposals which would have gutted the recovering postal economy and severely handicapped our future. Our allies—Thousands of small business owners, APWU, Veterans, Rural Residents, Mailhandlers, NRLCA and Senior Citizens—showed what planning and mobilization can accomplish and were successful in putting peripheral issues aside and focusing on our shared vision of a profitable and viable Postal Service. Well Done!

However, the threats are still very real and we CANNOT let our guard down. The quest for passing a true Postal Reform continues. The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs postponed another markup of S.1486 in December—although it never reached the committee—which is still essential for our future success. Unfortunately, some of the members of this all important committee are not yet convinced to fully support

continuation of Six-Day delivery and that must be changed and they will start their work again this year. NALC, along with our allies and postal stakeholders, are continuing to dialogue with the committee members to educate them about the long term damage a short sighted bill would cause that includes elimination of Six-Day delivery. With a budget passed, this committee will likely be moving quickly to put a bill forward and we must be sure ANY bill dealing with postal reform protects our interests—which is a strong and viable Postal Service. We will need to be ready to act quickly if called upon just like we did with the recently passed Budget bill. Stay Tuned!!!

M-01824—Filling Residual Vacancies We have asked NALC Branches across the region to notify this office of all residual vacancies as soon as possible. As a result we have been diligently tracking those residual vacancies and confirming PTF's and CCA's are converted to full-time regular status when appropriate and in accordance with this memo. For the most part the Postal Service is abiding by the Memorandum of Understanding and converting the PTF's and CCA's in a timely manner. In the few cases where they are not we have been talking to management at the District level first and then the Area level if we cannot reach a resolve with the District. We need the Branches to continue grieving any violations of this memo and attempting to resolve those grievances in accordance with the memorandum at the lowest level. At the time I am writing this article we have been successful in getting 375 CCA's and 16 PTF's converted to full-time status across the region. This is due in no small part to your efforts. Please continue your diligence in reporting the residual vacancies as they become vacant and we will continue applying the necessary pressure so we can make sure the USPS remains in compliance with M-01824.

Rap Session As you know, the Rap Session will be held in just a few days. We are planning a comprehensive training schedule so be prepared to dig in—we have a lot on the agenda. If you have not booked your rooms there may not be space available at the special NALC Rate so check into it immediately. There will be an Appreciation Reception on Saturday evening from 8-10 and we look forward to seeing you there. This is your Regional Rap Session so please plan on being in attendance.

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