



# REGION 5 NBA REPORT



June 2014

National Business Agent's Report

NALC

**Filling Residual Vacancies** – With each passing pay-period we are seeing the ranks of full-time career letter carriers increase in our Region. It's no secret we've been dying on the vine for lack of hiring over the last six years and finally we are seeing relief. Make no mistake; the opportunity to have our full-time positions filled by career letter carriers was not a high-minded gift from L'Enfant Plaza. We were only able to see our residual positions filled, PTF's and CCA's converted to full-time status by hard negotiations at the Headquarters level. The Memoranda for filling Residual Vacancies (M-01824 and M-01834) have provided the blueprint but we need to continue our vigilance. Some in Management still seem to think they can "hide" vacant positions and your continued reporting of vacancies sheds a bright light on facts. Please continue to report new residual vacancies to this office—eight-digit job ID, date of vacancy, route number and finance number. Together we can get more of our PTF's and CCA's converted and that only means strength for our Union.

**Safety and Service Task Force** – While it isn't a huge problem in our Region, and, even then, primarily in our larger installations we are learning about some problems related to Safety and Service. By this I mean we are having carriers delivering well beyond "traditional" delivery times. These instances can potentially create problems related to safety—carriers out delivering in areas which are problematic under the best of circumstances and then delivering to those places at 7 or 8 o'clock at night. Mind you darkness isn't, in and of itself, dangerous but darkness can pose some safety problems—it would be individually fact based. Nationally, there have been assaults and robberies of letter carriers delivering in these areas at these non-traditional delivery times and we must work to put an end to this new phenomenon.

Delivering mail at those hours also create real problems of service for our customers. To that end, NALC is working to address these concerns jointly with the Postal Service at the Headquarters level and with some degree of success. This new Safety/Service task force is taking a very hands-on approach to making sure letter carriers are not put in harm's way and our customers are receiving their mail at a time they rightfully should expect. If there are carriers regularly working well past "traditional" mail delivery times or in neighborhoods which have demonstrated a propensity for threats to the well being of letter carriers let this office

know. I'm not promising you a Safety/Service task force will come into your installation to fix a problem but I will promise you they won't if they don't know about your problems.

We recently returned from the State Association Trainings in Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa and would like to thank those branch officers in attendance for their hospitality and friendship. As always, NALC Vice President Lew Drass in Iowa and NALC Director of City Deliver Brian Renfroe in Kansas were able to talk about issues that affect letter carriers daily. Regional Field Coordinator Meredith Place also put on a presentation in Kansas and updated the attendees on our legislative issues. Hopefully all present were able to take the volume of information presented back to their membership.

Scholarship winners were drawn in each of the states. Congratulations go out to: Benjamin Patton, son of Rodney Patton, from Branch 5521, Shawnee Mission, Kansas; Courtney Green, daughter of Myril Green, from Branch 5, Omaha, Nebraska; and Jace Brandhorst son of Gerald Brandhorst, from Branch 719, Cedar Falls, Iowa.

By the time you read this the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Letter Carriers Food Drive will be over. Hopefully we will have another record year within this region and across the country. Special thanks goes out to all of the branch food drive coordinators, state coordinators Larrissa Parde , NE, Jeff Connell, MO, Cathy Lamb, KS and Traci Van Hyning, IA. Of course the food drive couldn't occur without the volunteers, the sponsors, fellow postal employees and of course the thousands of letter carriers who pick up and haul the donated food items for their local communities. Thank you goes out to all involved.

Congratulations goes out to our Hero of the Month, **Kriatrina Martinez of North Platte, NE** on helping the local police apprehend a suspect that local police had been searching for. She spotted him hiding under a vehicle and notified the police, who arrested the suspect. You go girl.

**Our thoughts and prayers go out to Chuck Walls of Omaha, NE on the recent passing of his Mother. Chuck is the President of the Omaha, Nebraska Branch.**

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