



# REGION 5 NBA REPORT



July 2014

National Business Agent's Report

NALC Region 5

Providing Representation: All fifteen National Business Agents have been tasked with providing this crucial union element throughout our respective regions. President Rolando has given us very strong directions to reach out and make sure all members are represented regardless of Branch size. This office receives numerous calls each day from Branches that have no stewards or officers. I get frustrated when I hear that a member has been put on emergency suspension or even removal and they do not know what to do. RAA Birkett and Sims are kept busy with these types of scenarios on a daily basis.

As we travel throughout the region we talk to members who have been denied representation as well as those offices that have little or no participation from the members or representation. The common response is we could join a closer branch but we do not want to lose our identity and our dues would increase. What good is our identity if we cannot represent our members when they are being harmed? I do not want to argue or downplay my position but like I have always said, "the membership is supreme". We need to represent all the membership, not just in the larger offices. This will create debate but we must protect the membership in all offices. Unionism is unique and we need to protect it.

As many of you have heard, there seems to be a new game in town when it comes to modes of delivery. We have had several reports of Management contacting our customers and asking them to convert their delivery to a different mode e.g. house to curbside or business door delivery to cluster boxes. Just to be sure, when they do this it may or may not be a contractual violation which can be grieved. When you get wind of your local office making a move toward converting the mode of delivery I urge you to contact the NBA office for specific guidance to combat it if we can. The violation will NOT be for the customer—we have no jurisdiction to enforce that—but we can possibly grieve the loss of work for letter carriers. Unfortunately, this game seems to have some significant support in Congress.

Congress, or more specifically our enemies in Congress, has proposed legislation which would mandate the conversion of many types of delivery to Cluster Boxes. This is all proposed to "save" the Service from bleeding money. What they don't address however, is the root cause of the money problems we have—Congress! Just within the last few days Majority Whip Eric Cantor (R.VA) has introduced a measure in the Transportation bill which would eliminate a day of service and allow for the change of delivery mode--Really, a Transportation Bill? Look, I don't care if you are a Republican, Democrat, Socialist or Fascist but I do care if we allow the Nation to be raped of its valued Postal Service in order to further the partisan junk going on in Washington. The Post Office is often a convenient whipping-boy for our enemies in Congress

who would love nothing more than to see this great institution go under so it can be in the hands of the “private sector”. Can you imagine what a Post Office in the hands of the Koch Brothers would look like?

You may hate legislation. Frankly, I would rather take a beating than to always have to deal with all this legislative stuff. However, as much as I dislike dealing with it, it is part of protecting my job. Are you protecting yours? Are you? Do you know just how destructive the “anti” Postal legislation is? You better start looking before there isn’t anything to look at anymore. Think about it!

Congratulations go out to our Hero of the Month. Darren Mack of Branch 343, St. Louis, Missouri who rescued an elderly lady who had fallen into a ravine while going to the curb to get her mail. She had been laying there for 21 hours.

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