



REGION 5 NBA REPORT



October 2014

National Business Agent's Report

NALC Region 5

This will be one of the last articles that I write as your National Business Agent. NBA elect Mike Birkett will need all the support that you can give him for the next four years. Between our Representatives in Congress, the USPS, our dwindling membership numbers and yes sometimes our own members, the future will be challenging. The NALC will continue the fight, and I believe we will win more than we lose and in the end, the job of the Letter Carrier will continue. Our jobs will change due to the increase in parcel business but I believe that the USPS will be around for many years to come in some shape or fashion.

In my career I have faced many challenges and have held many positions for the NALC. I applaud those who are Branch Presidents, DRT Representatives, Stewards and Activists. If it were not for these people, what do you think management would do to the letter carrier in his/her office? Most of the above have routes to carry plus the added burden of their NALC position and this can be a daunting task wearing multiple hats. The NALC asks a lot of these representatives but in the end it pays off threefold by securing our future, protecting our members and at the same time forcing management to abide by the National Agreement. All of us owe a debt of gratitude to the above mentioned leaders for stepping up and doing a job that pays little and demands a great deal of personal time. I for one will always be indebted to those who have taken up the gauntlet and ran with it. RAA's Mike Birkett and Mark Sims have demanded a lot from the members in our Region and they always came through for the Letter Carriers and the NALC.

By the time you read this we will likely have a new Alternative Route Adjustment Process—think MIRAP, JARAP etc. However, regardless of whether we do or do not we all need to be thinking about protecting our routes. NO, I'm not talking about "slowing down"! NO, I'm not talking about playing games! What I'm talking about is making sure you do everything you are supposed to do when you carry your route. Evaluating your honest performance will happen if it's a traditional Route Inspection or a RAP. The honest part of that equation is up to you—we will deal with any dis-honesty on management's part.

When you are making delivery, make sure you scan EVERYTHING you are supposed to scan. Make sure you pick up EVERYTHING you have to pick up. Make sure you are complying with EVERY safety rule and regulation. Take your breaks, take your lunch. Follow the Rules the Postal Service has established. If you don't, then it will reflect in your time. If you do, it will reflect in your time. You cannot be disciplined for following the rules—you know, you might incur discipline if you DON'T.

For those of you, and you know who you are, who think you can do what you want out there and it will all be good because you and the boss are tight? Think again! Every clock ring establishes a fact, every scan establishes a fact, street observations establishes a fact. Your supervisor “buddy” doesn’t have enough juice to protect you when Delivery Operations starts looking at “facts”. Protect yourself, protect your route, and protect the job.

I want to thank all those who applied for the 2015 Leadership Academy. This year we had (10) members submit their application and President Rolando will have a good group of Activist to choose from in our Region.

Our Region sends out condolences to Region 7 NBA Chris Wittenburg on the passing of his father.

We also send out condolences to the family of Julia Dohrer on her tragic passing. Julia was a longtime steward and officer for Branch #373, in Iowa City, Ia.

Danny R. Pittman
National Business Agent
[NALC Region 5](#) (St. Louis)