



REGION 5 NBA REPORT



November 2014

National Business Agent's Report

NALC Region 5

As we enter into a new era within Region 5 I find myself reflecting upon the past quite often and visualizing what our future may bring. Many years ago, then President Sombrotto told me that one day letter carriers could be delivering groceries in communities. I could not fully comprehend that statement, but after just returning from an Executive Council session I can understand the wisdom of Vince. As a pilot program on the West Coast we are now in selected communities delivering groceries and bottled water. We now have City Carrier Assistants coming to work at 2:00 a.m. and picking up groceries for a defined section of the city. We are also working on an agreement so that our members can deliver bottles of water. Honestly, we will always deliver letters and flats but those who don't see how our jobs are radically changing...wake up and smell the coffee—we will probably be delivering that as well.

I also want to thank the branches for your hard work at setting a very high standard for other Regions to shoot for. We have very few cases pending arbitration in Region 5, not because we don't file grievances, we do. The reason our pending case load is so small, relative to the other Regions, is because we take the time to do our homework, prove the facts with supporting evidence and cut to the heart of the dispute. Even when we appeal cases forward to arbitration we have incredible success in resolving the disputes before they ever get to hearing—which will cost us about \$3,500 each. I get asked all the time how my office does it, fact is...we don't, you do. You do and I want to take this time to say thank you. Is there room for improvement? Sure, there always is, but I just want you to know the facts.

CDRAAP – City Delivery Route Alternative Adjustment Process

The long anticipated new route adjustment agreement was just recently signed by the NALC & Postal Service. It will virtually be the only process for route adjustments through 2015.

Every branch officer should become familiar with the Step 4 agreements [M-1845](#) & [M-1846](#) (available at the [NALC website](#)). While the process will be very similar to prior JARAPs, the past route adjustment agreement, there are some significant changes. Office evaluations will be selected from the lesser of the regular carrier's actual average total office time (including auxiliary assistance) during the review period or the estimated standard for the route during the review period. Street evaluations will consider the regular carrier's actual average total street time (including auxiliary assistance) during the seven week analysis period or from the jointly selected eighth week. During that one week period, management may inspect a route no more than three days. The Route Evaluation and Adjustment Team will consider feedback from the carrier during initial consultation regarding street time and data.

The Postal Service or the NALC may select zones for adjustment between November 3rd and November 14th, 2014. Thereafter, zones may only be selected by mutual agreement. All routes in a selected zone will be evaluated. Branch presidents should contact this office immediately if you believe your installation, station or zone should be selected or if you are aware of data integrity issues.

2015 REGION 5 RAP SESSION - I'm pleased to announce that the Regional Rap Session is expected to be held Saturday February 28th thru Sunday March 1st, 2015 in Overland Park, KS. More information will be forthcoming as the final contract with the hotel is signed.

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