



Region 5 NBA Report



January 2015

National Business Agent's Report

NALC Region 5

Let me begin this article by hoping all NALC members and their families had a wonderful and joyous Holiday Season.

As I write my first article as the new NBA for Region 5, I'd be remiss if I didn't thank my local branch, state association and the leaders and letter carriers of Region 5 for their support, friendship and love over my postal and NALC career. To NBA's Joe Miller, Art Buck, Mike Weir, Danny Pittman and the late Charlie Coyle, for all you've shown me over the years and for your tireless efforts on behalf of letter carriers and working people. You are truly great and committed trade unionists in the finest sense of the words. Lastly, I need to thank my wife and children for being understanding and allowing me to miss the games, events and private time to fulfill my passion for representing letter carriers.

Organizing – President Rolando has asked that we increase our efforts on organizing City Carrier Assistants as well as touching base with our career non-members. Our overall percentage of members in Region 5 fluctuates between 90 – 91% and leaves us at 9th place out of the 15 Regions. Our CCA percentage of members is about 80 % consistently and also leaves us at 9th place. I believe we can and must do better. CCA's are the future of the NALC and the postal service. Having 20 % of our future not be members is a recipe for disaster. Every letter carrier knows that dividing us is the quickest way to break us.

Increasing our membership cannot be left on the backs of branch presidents alone. Can you imagine a postal service with no union contract? To go back to collective begging. Can you imagine not having just cause in our agreement, where management could issue discipline at will? Did you make your DOIS numbers today...tomorrow...every single day? Each and every one of us needs to step up. Talk to these new carriers, give them a history lesson. Let them know that there was a time when full time carriers either worked two jobs or collected food stamps. The postal service gave us nothing. Everything we have and new employees have was either fought for through negotiations or won at Interest Arbitration...by the NALC.

Occasionally we receive phone calls at this office from members wanting to get out of the union "because the union doesn't do anything for me." Last Sunday, while working in the office, I received a call from one of those members. I found it ironic that he made the statement 1 day after he received a cost of living adjustment. Please let your members know that their COLA's and raises are solely because the NALC has fought for them. Is taking benefits without paying for them a form of welfare?

CDRAAP – By now you’ve read and understand the step 4 agreements concerning the new route adjustment process. If not, your branch probably was not selected for inclusion in the process. If you don’t know if your zone was selected, please contact your branch president or this office.

Safety – As we enter these cold winter months I’d like to remind everyone to work safely. Saving a minute here or a minute there is not worth hurting yourself. Please be aware of signs of frostbite.

Rap Session – The 2015 NALC Region 5 Rap Session will be held at the Sheraton in Overland Park, KS from February 28 - March 1, 2015. There are only 175 rooms being held at the NALC rate so I urge you to make your reservations as soon as possible.

Tidbits: The tax rate in 1959 on those who made over \$400,000 per year was 91%. The CEO ratio to worker pay in 1965 was 20 to 1. In 2013 it was 295.9 to 1.
<http://www.epi.org/publication/ceo-pay-continues-to-rise/>

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