



NALC REGION 5



May 2015

National Business Agent's Report

NALC Region 5

OWCP – President Rolando recently announced that David Teegarden has been appointed as our Regional Workers' Compensation Specialist. Dave has served the membership in Kansas City, MO in various positions over the years and most recently served as branch president. He has also served as a national arbitration advocate dealing with the National Reassessment Program and in interest arbitration. I'm excited that the NALC is committing resources to assist members in what at times can be a very difficult process. As always, if you are having difficulties with an OWCP issue, first contact your local compensation representative or your local president. If your branch does not have OWCP expertise, contact this office.

Dodge Ram Vans – The postal service recently acquired several thousand Dodge Ram Vans as a short term Band-Aid until replacement of aging vehicle fleet can begin. Letter Carriers who have been assigned these vehicles need to be vigilant in protecting their own safety. Review your park points; make sure that you are not exiting this vehicle, or any other vehicle, into heavy traffic. Do not back unnecessarily; while this vehicle is equipped with a camera for backing, it has shown that it is ineffective in sunlight, rain and frost like conditions. Blind spots; Carriers need to be aware that a blind spot exists when changing lanes or turning into traffic at certain angles. If you have park points or dismounts that have become unsafe because of this vehicle, complete form 1767 (Report of Hazard, Unsafe Condition or Practice) and submit it to your immediate supervisor. If action is not taken, contact your steward, branch president or this office.

Meanwhile – The service has reached out to the NALC for input into the design and functionality of the next generation delivery vehicle. It seldom happens, but the service should be applauded for realizing that if they want to avoid the mistakes they've made in the past (LLV's – Assorted Vans – FFV's) they need input from letter carriers who actually use the vehicles. Congratulation to Derrick Williams from Region 5 and branch 343 in St. Louis for his selection to the team.

LLV Fires – Be aware that we are seeing an increasing number of LLV fires. Please contact this office if you have any incidents.



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Step 4 Agreements – Three new Memorandum of Understanding have been signed which will affect letter carriers. **M-1856** is an extension of previous agreements (M-1824 & M-34) which will continue the process of permanently filling residual vacancies and full time regular

opportunities by assignment of unassigned regulars, conversion of PTF's, acceptance of transfer requests and conversion of CCA's to career status. Recall just a few years ago when the service had no interest in converting CCA's and we were well on our way to another national level arbitration. **M-1857**, pursuant to M-1856 above, calls for weekly monitoring by district of CCA caps while recognizing that additional CCA's may be needed to perform Sunday parcel delivery. It also states:

“City carrier assistants converted to full-time career status during the term of this agreement will not serve a probationary period when hired for a career appointment provided the employee successfully served a cumulative 360 days as a city carrier assistant directly before conversion to full-time status.”

This language protects many of our newly converted members from having to run the “gauntlet” of probation, with too many supervisors willing to let them go on the slightest excuse. **M-1858** allows installation heads and branch presidents to mutually develop a process for employees who transfer from another installation or are converted to full-time following the signup period to place their names on either the overtime desired list or work assignment list.

Board of Governors – Well...James Miller is back. The former OMB director under President Reagan has once again returned to the BOG. It's just amazing that this guy, who has long called for the privatization of the postal service, has returned to help lead this company. Thumbs down!

Michael J. Birkett
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