



# NALC REGION 5



July 2015

National Business Agent's Report

NALC Region 5

**Negotiations** – As I write this article, the APWU and the NRLCA have extended contract negotiations with the USPS past the expiration of their current contract. Mediation is the next step in the process and if they cannot reach agreement through that process, they will head to interest arbitration. The main sticking points are over wages and benefits. According to the APWU, the USPS demands include: eliminating current cost-of-living adjustments, increasing employees' contributions to health-care coverage, instituting lower pay for future career employees who would also get reduced retirement benefits, increasing the percentage of non-career employees and weakening protections against layoffs. NALC members should watch these negotiations closely as we are within a year of the expiration of our own contract and will surely see the same USPS tactics when we enter contract talks. Let's be perfectly clear, the NALC will not concede to any give backs and will fight for our members, current and future, career and non-career. Stay tuned.

**Service Standards** – The Service has placed a hold on phase 2 of their planned plant closings as Congress has become more vocal concerning possible legislation and its frustration over slowing delivery and performance issues. Last fall a GAO report stated that the USPS had generally increased delivery time for some First Class and Periodicals from 1 day to 2 days. Earlier this year the postal service once again cut the service standards in an effort to save money and slash its way out of red ink. Early data shows that again we are seeing increased delivery time. Meanwhile, the change in standards has allowed the Service to brag about their continued success at achieving their EXFC scores. Congratulations USPS, soon you will have the standards low enough you won't be able to fail. Of course, it may take weeks for a letter to get across town. Thumbs down.

**CDRAAP Review** – Just over half of the zones selected to be included in the CDRAAP agreement for the region have been analyzed and adjusted. A joint process is a far better way than having management unilaterally adjust routes, but nothing will be perfect. I just want to remind everyone the MOU does have a route adjustment review process if you have routes in your office that are not 8 hours after the adjustment. It is the local office contacts responsibility to request a review. Days 30-75 following the adjustments will be used as the review period and you only have 90 days to complete and submit the review request form M-01851. There are also options in the MOU for local contacts who can agree to make simple territorial changes which are necessary to correct obvious errors or who agree to change the adjustment sequencing. Everyone needs to ensure their routes are set up efficiently and safely. This includes, park points, relays and line of travel.



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**Food Drive** – Final numbers are still coming into the Region 5 office, however it looks like this year's totals will end up just short of last year's total. Once again, this was a great effort on everyone's part after losing the national sponsor at the last minute. Special shout out to Omaha, Branch 5 who collected 150,000 pounds more than last year.

**Operating Profits** – On May 8<sup>th</sup>, the Postal Service reported a \$313 million operating profit over a 3 month period ending March 31<sup>st</sup>. For a six month period ending March 31<sup>st</sup>, they reported a \$1.437 billion dollar profit. The operating profits exclude the draconian and congressionally mandated retiree health benefits pre-funding charge and the non-cash accounting adjustments to workers' compensation. It is any wonder that many businesses and certain lawmakers want to privatize the USPS. It's called greed.

**Organizing** – 93.7 percent of career letter carriers within Region 5 are NALC members compared to 93.1 percent of letter carriers nationwide. 84 % of CCA's within Region 5 are NALC members compared to 85 percent nationwide. Total membership = 91.8 percent within the Region and 91.5 percent nationwide. Region 5 has 12,970 letter carriers. We can do better.

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