



NALC REGION 5



August 2015

National Business Agent's Report

NALC Region 5

Safety – I'd like to commend the four district Safety Committee teams for their recent work. I've now attended three of the district meetings and also attended the recent Western Area Co-chair meeting in Minneapolis, MN. The three Co-Chairs present put on presentations concerning the activities each of their respective teams were working on. All are dedicated to making a letter carriers job safer. "To ensure that carriers return home each day the way they arrived at work." Gateway will have their Co-Chair meeting in September at the Great Lakes Area office and I look forward to their presentation.

Heat Exhaustion – In my June article I mentioned heat exhaustion. Please be safe. If you become ill, notify your supervisor and take whatever actions you need to take to protect your safety. If you are just returning to work after an extended absence, be especially careful. We just had another incident where a carrier became ill due to the heat and the postmaster thought he should get a job inside at Walmart. This is unacceptable and we are going to hold these managers accountable. They are the ones that should be looking for work at Walmart.

2016 Regional Rap Session – The Region 5 Rap Session will be held at the Sheraton Overland Park Hotel at the Convention Center, 6100 College Boulevard, Overland Park, KS on Saturday February 28, 2016 and Sunday March 1, 2016. Room information will be made available at a later date...Please don't call the hotel now.

Withholding – The postal service has recently cancelled all current withholdings within Region 5. This wasn't done because they care about our customers and slow delivery times. It was made at the urging of congress who were moving legislation forward to reset the current standards to those of a year ago. Many of you have spoken with your local representatives concerning this issue and it's because of that hard work that congress got involved and the USPS saw the handwriting on the wall.

The end of withholding should see numerous CCA's get converted to career positions in the very near future. Delay is not an option and this office will be monitoring and assisting as needed to ensure that their conversion happens as fast as possible.



NALC REGION 5



August 2015

National Business Agent's Report

NALC Region 5

Article 8 Test – The Article 8 Overtime Equitability test which has been ongoing for several years in the Central Plains District officially ended June 30, 2015. Those installations within Central Plains will revert to the contractual language as described in Article 8.5.C.2 when reviewing quarterly overtime equitability distribution among OTDL carriers.

OT Admin – The USPS has developed a new software tool for front line supervisors to use called OT Admin. This software, when used correctly should help in making quarterly OT equitable. When not properly used, it is as worthless as any other software program they have developed. The NALC has made no agreements concerning the OT Admin software. If there are equitability issues at the end of the quarter, file a grievance.

NLRB: USPS - Staples – The National Labor Relations Board has issued a complaint charging that the USPS illegally subcontracted out work to Staples and has ordered that the work be returned to the APWU. In 2013 the USPS began a pilot program which placed small post offices in over 80 Staples stores around the country. The APWU demanded that these offices be staffed by postal employees. The NALC has joined with our sister union in informational picketing, boycotting and their “Stop Staples” campaign. A hearing is scheduled before an NLRB Administrative Law Judge in August. Stay Tuned

Michael J. Birkett
National Business Agent
NALC Region 5 (St. Louis)