



NALC REGION 5



October 2015

National Business Agent's Report

NALC Region 5

Safety – The rims are falling off of vehicles! Letter Carriers have recently had several vehicle accidents where the rims of their LLV's literally broke off. These rusted rims, partly still attached by the lug nuts, were rusted through. Tomorrow morning, when you do your daily vehicle inspection, make sure you check your tires and rims thoroughly.

Region 5 Rap Session – The 2016 Region 5 Rap Session will be held at the Sheraton Overland Park Hotel in Overland Park, Kansas on February 27 - 28, 2016. Rooms have been blocked for the evenings of February 26 – 27 at \$114.00 plus tax. Reservations can be made by calling 1.866.837.4214 or online at: www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/2016NALCRegion5RapSession.

NALC Websites – A growing number of local branches and state associations are joining social media and the internet. Whether to pass along information to NALC members, or allow members to share their lives with their co-workers, please be aware of what you say. Threats and attempts to intimidate either fellow employees or supervisors can and have been used against letter carriers in disciplinary proceedings. On another note, if your branch has a website or facebook page, let us know. The NALC's website is a cornucopia of information and news and can be accessed at: www.nalc.org

Service Standards – After “relaxing” standards, the number of letters arriving late has risen by almost 50 percent since the beginning of the year. The OIG has now issued a recommendation that all further plant closures be put on hold until service stabilizes. Overnight mail is almost non-existent. Two day mail has gone to three. Mail is considered on time when it takes four to five days to arrive instead of three. Yet the USPS has struggled to meet even these lower standards. Plants closed, shifts changed, workers reassigned. This is the legacy left by former PMG Donahoe. PMG Brennan has placed further scheduled plant closings on hold. Let's hope that PMG Brennan has the foresight to realize the error of his policies, reverse the slash and burn mentality and give our customers the service they deserve.



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For the Improvement of the Service – Every local union meeting ends with an agenda item called “For the Improvement of the Service.” It’s seriously time that the postal service does a self-appraisal, for the improvement of the service. Specifically, have they made the right choices when it comes to the supervisors and managers currently running this organization? There are a lot of good supervisors and managers in the service, although many of them have their hands tied or are trying to hide until they are eligible to retire. Unfortunately, there are way too many who have no business being in any type of leadership position. Part of the problem is that no one in upper management wants to admit that a mistake was made when some of these people were promoted. Somehow, getting accepted into a management position became a lifelong guarantee. Union officers are elected and replaced when they don’t represent the membership. Letter carriers are disciplined when they mess up. Supervisors are patted on the back as long as they say yes, no matter what their actions. It’s time some of these characters return to the craft from which they came.

Schedule Awards – Compensation for permanent impairment. Defined as a permanent disability involving the loss, or loss of use, of a member or function of the body, the employee is entitled to basic compensation for the disability. The service has hired thousands of new letter carriers over the past few years and many are unaware of their rights to compensation for their injuries including their right to a scheduled award. To qualify: Have an accepted OWCP claim; Reach maximum medical improvement; Suffer permanent impairment to a scheduled body part or function; Acquire and submit the necessary impairment rating and CA-7; Claim the schedule award. If you have any questions...call.

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