



# NALC REGION 5



November 2015

National Business Agent's Report

NALC Region 5

**Amazon/Uber** and others have now entered into a race to the bottom. Uber is a company that is trying to replace taxi cabs and their drivers with “freelance” drivers. No license, no local fees, no taxes. Now Amazon is looking to have “on demand” deliverers. Under this new service, called Amazon Flex, people can sign up through a smartphone app that prompts them to stop at a local warehouse, fetch a package and take them to customers’ homes in as little as an hour. Got a spare hour or driving across town? How about stopping by our local warehouse and grabbing a couple of items and delivering them on the way? Profiteering at the cost of jobs! No employees, no benefits, no overhead, just profits. A transaction made by smartphone. Remember, this is the company that wants to use drones to deliver their merchandise. Perhaps a group of us could free up an hour or so this week and fill in for CEO Bezos and Amazon can save some real money. Oh...sorry about sending the serial killer to your door with the toaster you ordered, we had no idea. ☹

**Geo-Delivery** – The Postal Service is testing a new program (Geo-Delivery) which uses pivot plan information from DOIS to make auxiliary street assignments and determines the location the gaining carrier will leave his or her scheduled assignment to begin carrying the additional territory. Gateway district here in Region 5 has numerous sites. I hope it takes into account the fraudulent data that some managers are putting into DOIS?

**Heat Illness/Injury Report** – This office has recently become aware of dozens of letter carriers who had heat related illnesses this past summer. If you or someone you know became ill due to the heat, please contact your branch president/steward or this office to make sure a Heat Illness/Injury Report is completed and sent to this office. We are very interested in addressing this issue with the Postal Service.

**eReassign** – Recently there was discussion concerning the length of time an [eReassign](#) request stays active. An eReassign request remains active for one year after it is submitted. However, an employee may extend a request for another year. There is no limit on how many times a request may be extended. If you submit a request on eReassign and wish to keep it active, you should check the status regularly and extend the request prior to the expiration.



# NALC REGION 5



November 2015

National Business Agent's Report

NALC Region 5

**Privatization** – The calls continue to ring out for privatization of the Postal Service from those who still believe in trickledown economics. I recently heard an analogy that involved feeding a cow and the trickle down is what came out the other end. These calls for privatization were around over 30 years ago when I began my letter carrier career and will continue into the foreseeable future. Unfortunately, these privatization advocates are using the Services manufactured deficit as the foundation of their cries of wolf. If you see these claims in your local newspapers or hear them on your local news channels...respond. Write that letter, make that call. Kudo's to Herb Copely, Rod Holub and Ken Nickerson on their recent articles in response to negative articles on the Service.

**General Wage Increase** – On November 14, 2015 career letter carriers will receive a 1 % wage increase. CCA's will receive a 1.5 % wage increase. The last scheduled COLA of our current contract is scheduled for January of 2016. A complete history of [wage increases and COLA's](#) during this contract can be found at the NALC website. "[www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org)"

**Happy Thanksgiving** – As Thanksgiving approaches and the start of the Holiday Season looms closer, let me wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving. I hope each and every one of you has the opportunity to spend the day with your loved ones. ☺

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