



Region 5 NBA Report



March 2016

National Business Agent's Report

NALC Region 5

Common Sense – Within minutes of coming to work this morning I received a call from a distraught letter carrier who was put off the clock under Article 16.7 - Emergency Placement in an off duty, non-pay status. This carrier, in order to save a few seconds, exited his vehicle and left it running while delivering to a business. He saved a few seconds and has cost himself thousands of dollars and possibly his career. Don't put yourself in that situation...use some common sense. Follow the safety rules even if it takes longer.

Pending Legislation – Everyone needs to stay alert this year to their eActivist messages. Senator Tom Carper has introduced "[iPost](#)" (Improving Postal Operations Service and Transparency Act of 2015). This bill would; Create a Postal Service Health Benefits Program within the FEHBP (All employees would be enrolled in parts A, B and D of Medicare); Eliminate the requirement to prefund retirement benefits and cancel outstanding payments; Require the Postal Service to fund only 80 percent of expected retirement costs and allow it to amortize those payments over 40 years; Make permanent the exigent rate increase; Freeze rates until 2018; Stop the closing of mail processing plants for two years and post offices for five. Letter Carriers need to be aware that bills can be amended and the end result could look nothing like what was introduced. If you get an eActivist message, be ready to email, call or write your representative. If you're not an eActivist – [sign up!](#)

Rap Session – President Rolando came into the Region and addressed the hundreds of NALC Branch leaders in attendance at this year's Rap Session. Immediately after opening negotiations with the postal service, his presence was especially appreciated. As I've stated before, we, the NALC, have been blessed with great leaders over our history, but President Rolando is the right man at the right time for the challenges we currently face. I also want to thank all the volunteers who make the Rap Session possible and a success.

OSHA – President Rolando is requesting that local officers ensure that OSHA form 300A, "Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses," for calendar year 2015 is posted in a conspicuous place at every office where employees work or report to work. The form should be posted from February 1 through April 30 this year.

Food Drive – The “[Stamp Out Hunger](#)” food drive this year will be on **Saturday, May 14, 2016**. If your branch has not yet registered, please do so. Postcards will be made available to branches this year at no cost, as long as they registered by March 1, 2016. Registration forms have been mailed to each branch president. Getting an early and accurate count of the postcards needed will eliminate the last minute scrambling that we have had to overcome the past few years. The United Food and Commercial Workers International Union has signed on as a national partner for this year’s food drive. Make sure you reach out to our brothers and sisters for help and to thank them for their participation.

UBER Unrest – Recently UBER drivers staged a protest as the transportation upstart slashed their rates by .40 cents per mile. UBER said in a press release that the lower fares would increase workload for the drivers. Isn’t it amazing? These drivers were supposed to be our neighbors, students and housewives who just happened to be going our way...according to UBER. As it turns out, they’re workers, just like us, attempting to get by and now being told that if they work for less, they will make more...sound familiar?

NALC Veterans Group – Last month I urged veterans to join the new NALC Veterans Group. This month, I’m proud to announce that over 7,000 NALC members have joined the group. The group is designed to provide NALC members who are veterans’ information specific to veterans’ rights and benefits within the Postal Service. Please join us at “www.nalc.org/veterans”

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