



# Region 5 NBA Report



June 2016

National Business Agent's Report

NALC Region 5

**Region 5 Rap Session** (2017 & 2018) – Immediately after leaving our most recent Rap Session in Overland Park, we discovered that the hotel had given away any possible weekend that would work for us in 2017. Apparently they no longer were interested in having us at their establishment. Since the Branch Presidents preferred that the Rap Session be kept in the Kansas City metro area, we began a search. I'm happy to announce that after a lot of negotiations, we will be holding the 2017 and 2018 Region 5 Rap Sessions at the DoubleTree by Hilton at 10100 College Boulevard in Overland Park, KS. Registration will begin on Friday, February 24, 2017 with training on Saturday & Sunday, February 25-26, 2017. Room rate will be \$114.00. The 2018 dates are February 23-25, 2018 and the room rates will be \$117. More information will follow this fall.

**Park Points** – Another tragedy recently occurred where a letter carrier was struck while working out of the back of their vehicle. While the most recent carrier struck will survive, they likely will be crippled for life. Over the past several years this type of accident seems to be on the rise. Whether it is dangerous park points or inattentive drivers, too many letter carriers have been severely injured or killed. I urge you to review the park points on your routes. If they are unsafe, go to your supervisor. If your supervisor doesn't care, go to your steward. If you don't have a steward, call this office. While CDRAAP did have an obligation to look at park points, many installations were not included in the process and where CDRAAP was involved, they didn't restructure every route nor did they know the routes as well as you.

**OIG Reports** – Recently there were a couple of interesting OIG Reports concerning the Postal Service. First is Report #HR-AR-16-002 which addresses district offices management of the Injury Compensation program. Specifically, what the OIG found was that the service did not appropriately handle claim forms to ensure accurate and timely submission to the DOL. Hawkeye district here in Region 5 was one of the districts that was singled out. One of the findings was particularly troubling; "Specifically, in 77 of 102 case files, personnel in the Arizona, Capital, Suncoast, and Hawkeye districts improperly revised dates on forms..." Troubling to say the least is that these changes give the appearance that claim forms were completed and submitted in timely fashion. The full report can be found at: <https://www.uspsoidg.gov/sites/default/files/document-library-files/2016/HR-AR-16-002.pdf>

The second OIG Report of interest is RARC-WP-16-009 concerning the “Real Cost of Mail”. This report discusses the 10 billion saved in labor costs over the past nine years as well as the reduction in full time employees but also criticizes the service for reduced service quality and capital expenditures that will be harmful in the long run. The NALC has long spoken out about the harmful effects of plant closings on service quality...it’s refreshing that the OIG has finally gotten onboard. The full report and its finding can be found at: <https://www.uspsoig.gov/sites/default/files/document-library-files/2016/RARC-WP-16-009.pdf>

**CCA’s** – I was recently contacted by an employee in Western Area concerning the high turnover rate of CCA’s. They advised that they were conducting a survey of CCA’s with questions about their job and position. I suggested that they contact CCA’s who have been terminated/released or who resigned if they were truly interested in finding the truth. We continue to hear stories of mistreatment of CCA’s. This cannot be allowed. Grievances need to be filed where possible, OSHA needs to be contacted in certain circumstances and this office should be kept abreast of any mistreatment of CCA’s.

**National Negotiations** – As I write this article I’m preparing to head to Washington D.C., for the final week of negotiations prior to our contract expiring. I’m hopeful that we will be able to find common ground with the Postal Service on not only the monetary issues but on the myriad of contractual issues that are being discussed. As we’ve already had a full week of “lock-down” meetings, I can tell you that the entire Executive Council of the NALC has gone into these negotiations fully prepared to argue on your behalf. Our committees met with the service with fully developed ideas and contractual language and were able to present and articulate our proposals to management. Special shout outs to our National Resident Officers for taking the lead positions and being so well prepared. I have to tell you, I’m quite proud to be a small part of the team.

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