



Region 5 NBA Report



November 2016

National Business Agent's Report

NALC Region 5

Vehicles – Everyone...take a deep breath. Those new Dodge 2500 Promasters are not the vehicles that the postal service is talking about to replace our current fleet of LLV's and FFV's. We continue to get calls/complaints about the Promasters. The Promasters are being used as a stop gap measure until a new fleet can be put into place. The Service has now awarded contracts for the "Next Generation Delivery Vehicle" (NGDV) to six suppliers. The suppliers have approximately one year to develop, produce and deliver their prototypes. While details are almost nonexistent, we do know that roughly half of the 50 prototypes are to feature hybrid, new technologies and alternative fuel capabilities. The prototypes will be in a variety of sizes, drive configurations, advanced powertrains and a range of hybrid technologies. Stay Tuned.

Seat Belt Safety – Let me start this issue off by urging every letter carrier to wear their seatbelt whenever their vehicle is moving. It's really in your best interest. You work to provide for yourself and your family and getting injured or killed at work is not in your best interest. The USPS Western Area Vice President has made the wearing of seat belts a primary safety issue to focus on. As a member of the Western Area Safety Committee, I've heard him speak on this issue and how difficult it is to tell the family of a letter carrier that their loved one won't be coming home from work...perhaps had they been wearing their seatbelt, the story may have been different. Having said that, the NALC believes that the way to the end goal of everyone wearing their seatbelts is through education. Unfortunately, some in management, like they do on so many other issues, believe that achieving their goals is only obtainable through threats, intimidation and the issuing of discipline. Blanket policies, threats of emergency placement, long term suspensions and even removals may get some to adhere to rules for the short term, they are not however the long term solution nor a way to motivate employees. As in most things postal, management chases numbers. You may be able to force people to do something, but if you educate, you can change behavior.

District Safety Team – Nationally, the NALC has partnered with the Postal Service Concerning Safety. We have National, Area and District Teams. The District Safety Teams are responsible for reaching out to the installations concerning safety issues and trying to ensure that carriers go home in the same condition that they arrived. Unfortunately, management over the past month has twice tried to make these joint teams be a conduit for issuing discipline to letter carriers. Immediately I notified management that the NALC would not be party to this policy and as I write this article, I've suspended participation in the offending District. I'm hopeful that management at the Area level will have a clearer vision of the process and be able to abate the policy...still waiting.

OSHA – OSHA recently fined the Service in Region 5 over \$68,000 for violations (repeat) in regards to Heat Illnesses. Here in Region 5, we have been working with OSHA, local branches and the Service to ensure that letter carriers are protected from the heat. For the most part, the Service has done a much better job in protecting letter carriers and getting help, water & medical attention as needed. Unfortunately, there are still a few morons in management that don't get it, whose concern is chasing numbers instead of protecting employees. We will continue to try to educate management next year as temperatures once again rise.

Happy Thanksgiving – On behalf of Field Secretary, Cheryl Stout; Regional Workers Compensation Specialist, Dave Teegarden; Regional Administrative Assistants, Charlie Sexton & Stephanie Stewart and myself, I'd like to wish each and every one of you a Happy Thanksgiving and wish you a great start to the Holiday Season.

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