



October 2018

Business Agent's Report

NALC Region 5

**Postal Service "NOT FOR SALE"** – On October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018, all four Postal Unions will be holding rallies in each Congressional district throughout the country, to say NO to privatizing the United States Postal Service. The U.S. "NOT FOR SALE" Mail, is on flyers that can be viewed at: [nalc.org/usmailnotforsale](http://nalc.org/usmailnotforsale) website. These rallies on Columbus Day, are not political events in any way, and therefore, they should ensure the locals do not invite challengers or candidates for office to the rallies. The rallies are about our issue - **privatization**. H. Res. 993 is a voice of the House, which Congress should take all appropriate measures to ensure that the United States Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the Federal Government and is not subject to privatization. This House Resolution was originally cosponsored by 5 Democrats and 5 Republicans and has bipartisan support. We currently have 178 cosponsors, 4 out of Region 5: Iowa: Rep. Loebsack (Original cosponsor- D-IA-2); Rep. Young (R-IA-3); Missouri: Rep. Clay (D-MO-1); Rep. Cleaver (D-MO-5). If your representative is not listed, we need you to continue to call their offices and ask them to co-sponsor this bipartisan House Resolution. Contact this office for locations of the rally nearest to you...hope to see you there.

**OSHA Whistleblower** – Having an accident in and of itself is not cause for discipline. Reporting an injury is a protected activity under OSHA laws and a core employee right. Unfortunately, the Service in many areas of this Region have decided that they are above the law. Some managers have decided that the easiest way to reduce accidents in their offices is to use the threat of discipline. They don't actually reduce the number of accidents, only the number of accidents reported. Letter Carriers who report an accident are being disciplined and some put off the clock on emergency placement. This cannot and will not be tolerated. Besides filing grievances, carriers (or stewards/branch officers) should also file an OSHA Whistleblower complaint. Complaints must be filed within 30 days of the retaliation. Ensuring that letter carriers can report injuries without fear of retaliation is crucial to protecting worker safety and health. You can find more information and file a complaint online at: [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov) then click on the link for "Get whistleblower information."



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**Delivery News** – **FedEx** just announced that they will be expanding their ground operations to six days per week year-round in response to growing demand and volume. The shipper also plans to hire an additional 55,000 temporary employees to help meet expected record-breaking Christmas volume. **UPS** is investing seven billion dollars this year to upgrade its delivery network due to the rise in online shopping. The money will be spent on modernizing and building new facilities, updating technology and replacing aging planes and trucks. Additional spending over the next few years is projected to be up to twenty-one billion dollars. **Amazon** continues with their plans to build their own delivery service with the purchase of 20,000 delivery vans from Mercedes-Benz. They will lease these vehicles to “third-party partners” who will operate them for the last mile delivery. This purchase is consistent with other past actions including: earlier purchase of 5,000 delivery vehicles; development of drone technology; use of UBER drivers; and Amazon employees who will deliver parcels on their way home.

**2019 Region 5 Rap Session** – The annual Region 5 NALC Regional Rap Session will be held Saturday & Sunday, February 23 – 24, 2019. The Double Tree by Hilton in Overland Park, KS will again be the location and Shawnee Mission Branch 5521 will again host. We have reserved 160 rooms each night so make sure you make your reservations early. Rooms will be \$119.00 per night plus tax for a single/double. Reservations can be made by calling 913.453.6100 under the NALC Carriers Region 5 Conference and using the 3-digit code “N29”. Cut-off date is January 23, 2018. Reservations can be made online at: <http://group.doubletree.com/Natl-Assoc-of-Letter-Carriers>

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