



November 2018

Business Agent's Report

NALC Region 5

**NALC Election News** – I'd like to congratulate the recent winners of the NALC election. I know each and every one of them personally and know that they will continue the fine work they've already done representing letter carriers. On a personal note, I couldn't be more thrilled that Stephanie Stewart was elected as the Director of the Health Benefit Plan and Nicole Rhine was re-elected as Secretary-Treasurer of the NALC. Region 5 should be very proud to have two of our own elected as Resident National Officers. I've had the privilege to work with both of them over the years and count them as dear friends. The membership could not do any better.

**US Mail, Not For Sale** – On October 8th, letter carriers took to the streets to rally against privatization of the postal service. I'd personally like to thank state presidents Andy Tuttle, Kevin Holmes, Jeremy Liebsack and Herb Copley for coordinating the rallies in their respective states. Leading the rallies at their respective locations were Bill Lister, Anthony Mitchell, Gary Franklin, Kevin Beck, Matt Pobst, Kevin Weeks, Trey Jensen, Stacey Finnigan, Chris Gerken, Ken Nickerson, Michelle Kool, Michelle Jellison, Danny Pittman, Vic McCuen, and Tom Kinn. Last but not least, the thousands of carriers who took time out of their holiday to rally here in Region 5.

**You're on Candid Camera** – We've recently had to defend letter carriers caught on video tossing packages, signing for packages without customer authorization, whose vehicles have rolled away and even one who threw mail away. I've written about this before, but apparently need to remind everyone. **You are being watched.** The Postal Service knows your every move by virtue of your scanner and customers have their cameras watching the entire neighborhood. Be professional and be safe, carry your route like you're being inspected. BTW – if you intentionally throw mail away or steal from the mail...you're going to be fired and possibly prosecuted.

**USPS Vehicle Prototypes** – If you haven't seen any pictures or heard anything about the new prototypes the Postal Service is testing, there is a website where you can not only get a look at the vehicles, review a basic description of them, but you also get to vote for which one you like. While I doubt your vote matters to the service, perhaps you'll be lucky enough to have picked the winner. Go to:

<https://www.trucks.com/2018/03/09/usps-mail-truck-prototypes-vote/>

**Drone News** – Most of you know by now that I follow any news about "Drones" as I see them as a direct threat to jobs, our safety and to our privacy. The recent FAA bill which passed and has become law, allows authorities and Homeland Security to shoot down drones if it "is identified as high-risk and a potential target for unlawful unmanned aircraft activity." Let's hope they turn that responsibility over to letter carriers ☺



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**2019 Region 5 Rap Session** – Sorry for the repeat on this item, however we've guaranteed 150 rooms at the hotel... 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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