



March 2019

Business Agent's Report

NALC

Tests, Tests and more Tests – Ever wonder how the Service comes up with some of their hair-brained ideas? So do I. However, I know that they test them. At least monthly and often weekly, the service decides that somewhere in the country, these “ideas” are going to be tested. Carriers as always, shoulder the burden, but as always, do their best to service their customers. Below are the tests we have been notified about in the last month or so. Don't forget, if you've got a crazy idea...don't tell a manager, they'll probably test it!

- USPS plans to test “slide and glide” shelving in ten ProMaster vehicles in Annandale, Virginia Post Office. Five vehicles will be equipped with manual pull shelves and the other five vehicles will test motorized shelves. ***NALC has safety concerns and will do on site visits.***
- USPS intends to collect data in order to develop a study (including testing parameters) related to determining the impact of consolidated casing assignments on city delivery routes. Initial data collection will be on a nationwide basis and will be used to identify test sites. ***This brain fart is to identify assignments that can be done at one case, with 1 carrier starting an hour or so earlier than the other, using the same casing equipment.***
- USPS intends to test the use of trailers to stage or collect packages in the Los Angeles District. Four trailer concepts: Drop and Pick, Park and Pick, Parcel Hub, and Relay. ***The NALC has requested additional information on this concept and potential impact on letter carrier duties.***
- USPS testing smart sensor and camera technology in ProMaster, Flex Fuel, and LLVs. Test expanded to incorporate cameras and GPS devices to detect and report road conditions. ***We'll soon work for the DOT!***

Robots and the Last Mile – Amazon will use robots to deliver packages in the suburbs north of Seattle, its latest experiment to automate the last-mile of delivery that's a labor-intensive and costly component of buying products online. The e-commerce giant on Wednesday announced a trial of “Amazon Scout,” autonomous delivery devices the size of a cooler that roll along sidewalks at a walking pace. It will use six robots, which are designed to navigate around obstacles such as people and pets, to deliver packages in Snohomish County. The robots will be used to make deliveries Monday through Friday during daylight hours. – Bloomberg News.



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Amazon is building a transport and logistics network to keep up with rocketing demand while maintaining its service commitments. It currently moves about 10 percent of its shipments in-house. About 62 percent are handled by the U.S. Postal Service, 21 percent by **UPS Inc.**, about 7 percent by **FedEx Corporation**, according to Ship Matrix, a consultancy.

We continually see news articles where companies are testing new methods to do a letter carriers job. Drones, rolling boxes, free-lance drivers.... All of these are attempts to bring down the cost of delivery. All of these are an attack on your wages. Letter Carriers and the NALC must stay vigilant in defending our jobs.

Mail Box Protection – In 1934, during the Great Depression, Congress enacted a law prohibiting anyone from putting their hands in mailboxes — except for the Postal Service and the customer to whom it was delivering the mail. The law — aimed at clamping down on people skimping on postage — has been in effect ever since. The scope of the mailbox monopoly has been tested from time to time. The Supreme Court even heard a 1981 case about it and upheld its constitutionality.

Under its universal service obligation, the Postal Service serves more than 157 million addresses throughout the U.S. Unlike other carriers, USPS delivers everywhere — like Anaktuvuk Pass in the farthest reaches of northern Alaska or by mule to the bottom of the Grand Canyon. Regardless of profitability. Does anyone believe private industry will do that!

The NALC Health Benefit Plan – Congratulations to the 206 Region 5 members who recently enrolled in the NALC Health Benefit Plan. Currently 33.42 percent of the carriers, active and retired have NALC insurance. Don't forget, it's your plan!

Contract – Negotiations between the United States Postal Service and the National Association of Letter Carriers are currently scheduled to begin in June.

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