



October 2019

Business Agent's Report

NALC

Consolidated Casing Update – Unfortunately, this may be a continuing topic of discussion in the foreseeable future. As I write this, management is set to implement this “test” on September 23rd at several sites here in Region 5. Carriers at Jennings Station, St. Louis; Waldo Station, Kansas City; and Burlington, Iowa. The Service, disregarding the National Agreement, is continuing implementation of this misguided attempt to save space and time. As noted last month, the NALC has filed a national level grievance which has been scheduled to be heard in December. The NALC has also filed a lawsuit in federal court requesting an injunction stopping the Service from continuing their plan until the aforementioned grievance is resolved. Meanwhile, the NALC plans to have an observer at each site when the test begins.

UPS To Hire 100,000 For Holiday Season – Trying to make the jobs look attractive, UPS has announced they plan to hire 100,000 temporary workers for the upcoming Holiday Season. They tout flexible shifts at thousands of locations and tuition reimbursement available at many locations. How many do you think the Postal Service will hire?

Route Inspections – At this time, the service is scouring the countryside trying to find any minute they can to reduce workhours, which of course includes full blown route inspections. This office has been preemptive in making sure that each office scheduled for inspection has or will receive route inspection training. If your office is notified that it will be inspected, please notify your local branch president who can set up the training.

NALC Health Benefit Plan – OPM has announced that the dates for the 2019 Federal Benefits Open Season will run from Monday, November 11 through Monday, December 9, 2019. In 1950, the NALC started its own health benefit plan. The Plan's mission is to provide our members accessibility to quality medical care while maintaining a comprehensive benefit package. The NALC Plan is Union Owned, Union Operated and a Not-for-Profit Plan.

Current Active Letter Carriers have 4 ways to enroll in the NALC Health Benefit Plan:

- Use your home computer, tablet or smart phone. Go to <https://liteblue.usps.gov>. Make sure you have your 8-digit employee ID number (It's printed on your earnings statement just above the words employee ID.) and your USPS PIN number (it's the same one you use to access PostalEASE).
- The Blue Page (Intranet) at work.
- Employee Self-Service Kiosks located at some USPS facilities.
- PostalEASE by telephone - call 877-4PS-EASE (877-477-3273) and enter Option 1.
- Further information including 2019 rates can be found at: www.nalchp.org/



October 2019

Business Agent's Report

NALC

Be Careful out there – This past month we have had three active duty carriers pass while in the performance of their duties. In Connecticut, a carrier (Daniel Nacin) was killed when his vehicle was struck by a man who was being pursued by the police. A carrier (Mary Granados) from Texas was shot and killed by a deranged gunman who hijacked her vehicle. Lastly, one of our own here in Region 5, Dwayne Kriegel, who died on his route from anaphylactic shock after being stung by wasps. Please, please be careful. Life is short. Take your time, drink your water, take your breaks, fasten your seatbelt, shut your door and pay attention to your surroundings.

More Facts – The USPS adds 4,071 addresses to our network every day; processes and delivers 187.8 million pieces of first class mail daily, 20.2 million pieces each hour, 336,649 each minute, 5,611 each second; processes 121,452 address changes daily; issues 276,125 money orders daily and 83.4 million during 2018; 7,000 letter carriers deliver mail entirely by foot while 75,000 drive to their routes where they deliver by foot; spends 165.6 million on salaries per day; uses zero tax dollars.

Michael J. Birkett
National Business Agent
[NALC Region 5](#) (St. Louis)