



May 2020

Business Agent's Report

NALC

COVID-19 – What a difference a month can make. Last month I reported on our recently completed Rap Session and several other issues, this month it's difficult to discuss anything else but the pandemic affecting letter carriers, the postal service, the nation and the entire world. Please keep all of those who have lost their lives, postal, non-postal, Americans and citizens of the world in your thoughts and prayers.

To say that the Service was ill prepared to combat this pandemic is an understatement. The unavailability of basic personal protective equipment was astonishing. No disinfectant wipes, hand sanitizer, mask or gloves in most offices across the Region and the country. However, every public agency and private corporation was in the same boat. The service was/is in competition for all PPE items and have reached outside the normal channels to find distillers, start-ups and having carriers and supervisors buy what they could find locally. The NALC and this office reached out to each branch in this Region to survey what items were on hand. I'd like to thank all of you that supplied us the information which we were able to feed to headquarters. Shortly after that initial survey, supplies began arriving and each delivery unit in the country must now daily input the amount of PPE they have on hand.

As I write this article shortly after Easter, most offices have what they need, but certainly not an abundance of items. If your office does not have any of the items mentioned, please let me know immediately and I will reach out to your district.

This Region has been lucky so far in the number (19) of postal employees who have tested positive. Of those, less than half have been letter carriers, and a number of those have already returned to work. One thing that we are seeing so far within the Region, is that in those offices where employees have tested positive, it has not spread within that office. However, letter carriers...in fact everyone still needs to stay vigilant on protecting themselves by washing our hands and making sure we maintain social distancing.

I'd guess that I've been on more telecons in the past month than in my entire life before this outbreak began. Information is fluid and changing by the moment. New Memorandums of Understanding, new daily standup talks, new laws and acts that affect letter carriers (FFCRA).

President Rolando has penned several letters and recorded several messages for members as has EVP Renfroe which you should read and listen to. I urge you to stay up to date on the latest news which can be found on the NALC website or through the NALC App.

I've asked our Legislative and Political Organizer, Brent Fjerestad to update us all on the latest financial and legislative issues:



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As you have seen or read, the COVID-19 crisis has made a drastic impact on the USPS, financially as well as the safety of Letter Carriers, and Postal Employees Nationwide. What we need to do is make sure Congress and the White House support the USPS, to ensure its viability. Unfortunately, the Coronavirus Aid Relief, which was signed into law on March 27th, 2020 did not offer the same kind of support for the Postal Service that it did for the Airlines, private cargo shippers, and other corporations. It did provide \$10 Billion in new debt authority, subject to control by the Treasury Department's Federal Finance Bank.

Now we are asking every Letter Carrier, their family members, and friends to contact their Senators and Member of Congress to support the next round of Legislation to Strengthen and preserve the USPS. On how to do that, you can go to NALC.org, go to the Action needed page (slide the right arrow to the 2nd page), You should be on a page that says "Support USPS in next emergency stimulus" page (scroll down and look to the right hand part of the page, enter your First Initial, Last name, and zip code, then select Go!, from there you should come to a page where you see a "Take Action" tab, along with your name and address to the right, select the "Take Action" tab. At that point you should have a page showing your Senators, and Rep showing up, with the Email circles highlighted to the right of each of their names. This option will send a form letter email to each Senator and Rep, all you need to do is select "Go!" at the bottom of the screen.

If you are in need of a form email for your family members to send out, or a script to make calls in to the local District office for the Senators and Rep, you can reach out to me at Fjerestad@nalc.org, or your State Presidents each have copies of these as well.

We as Letter Carriers can make a difference, but your Senators need to hear from you, it will make all the difference.

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