



June 2020

Business Agent's Report

NALC

COVID 19 Update – I'm not sure where to begin. This issue has enveloped our lives both at work, socially and with our families. At work, we must maintain social distancing and make sure our work areas and hands are clean to ensure the health of fellow workers and our families. Social life has been put on hold, including most union meetings as we continue to put safety first. And, many have not seen or interacted in person with loved ones for fear of spreading the virus to them. So, what we are not seeing, because of your efforts, is spreading of the virus between employees. Very few craft employees (within Region 5) have tested positive because of interaction with another employee. However, you must stay vigilant as states and localities begin to open. Let me give you the current data for Region 5 by District: Gateway has had 34 positives with 11 being letter carriers; Hawkeye has had 25 positives with 6 being letter carriers; Mid America has had 6 positives with 1 being a letter carrier; and Central Plains has had 13 positives with 3 being letter carriers.

Postmaster General – On May 6th, the Board of Governors announced that Louis DeJoy has been appointed as the next Postmaster General. DeJoy will begin his duties on June 15th. "Postal workers are the heart and soul of this institution, and I will be honored to work alongside them and their unions," DeJoy stated. DeJoy is a top donor to President Trump and the Republican National Committee and is currently in charge of fundraising for the Republican National Convention in Charlotte, NC.

USPS Stimulus Package - I'd like to thank State Chairs Kevin Holmes (MO), Herb Copley (IA), Andy Tuttle (KS) and Jeremy Liebsack (NE), for their exceptional work on organizing and generating the response needed to contact the senators and congressional delegations within Region 5. If you have reached out and sent an email or letter to your representatives, thank you. If not, please do so immediately. The NALC is recommending that we each do this multiple times per week. The future of the postal service as we know it may well hang in the balance.

National Convention – It was unanimously decided on an Executive Council conference call to cancel the Convention. No one believed that we could gather 8,000 plus members in Hawaii, much less get them there safely. The NALC is looking at all other options for holding the convention but it is difficult based upon the current state of affairs. Further information can be found on the NALC website.

Consolidated Casing – The Arbitrator who heard the National case on Consolidated Casing has requested additional time, until May 29th, to issue his decision. Hopefully, by the time this article is printed in the numerous branch newsletters across the region, the decision will be rendered.



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Food Drive – It's my understanding that many food banks are still not accepting food donations at this time. Based upon that fact, and in discussion with our partners, the NALC had no recourse but to cancel the food drive. Details on when it will be rescheduled and what the food drive will look like are still being worked out. The NALC has reached out to food banks and is working with our partners to come up with a plan that will make the biggest impact and work for everyone involved.

Further – I need to thank Regional Administrative Assistants Dave Teegarden and Charlie Sexton, Regional Workers Compensation Assistant Larrissa Parde and our Office Manager Mary DeCelle for their efforts to ensure that carriers within the Region are still fully represented while working under less than ideal conditions. Lastly, thanks to all branch officers and stewards throughout Region 5 who continue to protect the rights and safety of letter carriers, and to each letter carrier who continues to prove that the postal service is in fact, essential.

Interest Arbitration – Interest Arbitration is now scheduled to begin in September for a new National Agreement. Earlier dates were cancelled because of COVID-19.

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