



July 2020

Business Agent's Report

NALC

**COVID 19 Update** – I feel like I could just copy and paste last month's update into this space. Letter Carrier testing positive is still low compared to other parts of the nation and to other crafts within this region. Please continue to wash your hands, social distance at work, and at home. I urge all of you to read, or listen, to President Rolando's updates which can be found at the NALC website. He is sharing a cornucopia of information on numerous topics, each relevant to current events and letter carriers' lives. Further, besides contacting your branch officers and the Region 5 staff, rank and file members may reach out by email to "COVID19@nalc.org" if you have any questions concerning the ongoing pandemic (include your name and branch number).

**Consolidated Casing Agreement** – An agreement has been reached that finally will put an end to the service's deranged view of what routes will look like in the future. Thirty one of the sixty-two current sites will be out of the test and placed back to the structure they were before the test began. The other thirty-one sites will continue to collect data until January 22, 2021 at the latest, at which point they will be returned to their original configurations. The most important part of the agreement was the service agreeing not to expand to the rest of the other nine sites within Region 5 or the one hundred seventy-eight sites nationwide. The results of this test were disastrous at best to both letter carrier performance, emotional stress, and physical wellbeing. Now, let's await the next stupid idea...

On another note, I'd like to thank the carriers in Burlington, Iowa, Waldo Station in Kansas City, Missouri, Jennings Station in St. Louis, Missouri, Chisholm Station, Wichita, Kansas, branch stewards and officers, and the numerous observers who painstakingly endured, observed and reported information back to this office and to NALC Headquarters...Job well done.

**Branch Meetings & Conventions & Training** – With the current guidance concerning social distancing, branches have had to cancel meetings over the past several months. With no end in sight, branches, as well as state associations are looking outside the box to find ways to keep members informed, conduct branch business, and hold elections. Many branches have begun holding meetings by telecom or WebEx. If your branch has not held a meeting since the onset of social distancing, you may want to check out the July issue of the Postal Record. A number of branch presidents will be interviewed and discuss what has been working for them and their branches.

**New MDD's** – The USPS has contracted with a third party to replace and install new MDD's in all offices with 16 or more routes. The new MDD's (Zebra TC-77) are alleged to have state of the art technology which will preserve real-time delivery scanning while maintaining all of the functionality of existing MDD devices. The Zebra TC-77 incorporates 4G technology. Replacement and Installation in offices with 15 or fewer routes will be performed in house.



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**Food Drive** – The NALC 28<sup>th</sup> annual Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, which had been scheduled for May 9, 2020, has been relaunched as a virtual food drive. Food Drive coordinators, branch officers and members should review the latest information posted on the NALC website. The new novel approach will allow Americans across the country, access a website, choose their preferred food bank, and make a donation directly to the food bank. Every dollar donated will go directly towards purchasing food for the hungry. Unique to this drive, many of our partners and local businesses have agreed to match dollar for dollar donations made by their employees.

**Veterans** – To my fellow veterans who have not yet joined the NALC Veterans Group, you can easily join our group by going to: [www.nalc.org/member-benefits/body/veterans-group-postcard.pdf](http://www.nalc.org/member-benefits/body/veterans-group-postcard.pdf) Complete the form and mail it to: NALC Veterans Group, c/o NALC, 100 Indiana Ave., N.W. Washington, DC 20001-2144.

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