



May 2021

Business Agent's Report

NALC

Training and Seminar – Thanks to all that attended the remote training sessions we have conducted over the past two months and the recent retirement seminar. Hopefully, we have been able to help new stewards and experienced stewards and local officers prepare for local negotiations and hope OWCP representatives gained some additional information. The retirement seminar had over 170 members sign in as well as a number of members who participated from branch halls. While I believe in person training is better, we were able to reach many members from smaller offices that normally do not attend state trainings and functions.

Joint Task Force – The Service has announced that it will be joining the NALC and the other postal unions in a Joint Task Force to investigate and address deplorable service, mail delays and non-delivery of routes and mail in certain locations around the country. President Rolando has prioritized this joint effort to make changes necessary to restore service to the American people in these areas. Within Region 5, St. Louis has been identified and we have already begun to identify issues that need to be addressed.

NALC Veterans Group – Many members who are eligible, have yet to join the NALC Veterans group. If you are a veteran and wish to join, you can do so by sending an email to: veteransgroup@nalc.org Include in the email your name, address, branch number, military branch and any affiliated veteran's groups.

12/60 Violations – Branch Presidents are reminded that we are still tracking 12/60 violations. Please notify this office of any carriers in your installations where carriers are working over 12 hours in a day or over 60 hours in a week. We are still also requesting branches to notify us of mail being delayed and routes not being delivered.

MOU's Extended – Several Covid-19 Memorandums of Understanding have been extended through June 4, 2021. They are:

- Temporary expanded sick leave for dependent care (M-0910).
- Temporary use of the 7:01 rule (M-0913).
- Temporary workplace changes to promote social distancing (M-1915).
- Temporary use of Temporary Carrier Assistants (M-1916).
- Instructions to managers and supervisors to allow liberal changes of schedule for employees dealing with childcare issues (M-1914).

American Rescue Plan Act – The act, passed by Congress, grants up to 600 hours of Emergency Federal Employee leave and is (as I write this article in mid-April) still being reviewed by the OPM and the service is awaiting their ruling.



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Postal Trivia – I recently came across some interesting/useless facts concerning the Postal Service and thought I might as well share them with you, if for no other reason to clog up your brain:

- The Postal Service purchased 703,000 tires in 2020. *They needed more!!!*
- There are 140,875 blue collection boxes in use. They used to be green, then red, then white, then green again, and in 1955 – red, white and blue.
- The Postal Service replaced 24,681 American flags and 18,217 POW/MIA flags in 2020.
- The Postal Service moves mail by planes, hovercraft, trains, trucks, cars, boats, ferries, helicopters, subways, bicycles, mules and by foot.
- The Postal Service ordered 550,000 wiper blades in 2020. *Unfortunately, too many never touch the windshield!*
- The Postal Service has been issued over 400 patents, has 475 domestic and 966 foreign trademarks. It also owns 1,884 internet domains.
- The Postal Service added an average of 4,800 addresses to its delivery network every day in 2020.
- On average, the Postal Service processes and delivers 173.1 million pieces of First-Class Mail each day, 17.7 million mail pieces per hour, 295,000 each minute and 5,000 each second.
- The newest Post Office is in Power, MT and was built in 2019 using shipping containers.
- The Postal Service ordered more than 717 million rubber bands in 2020, about 39,304 miles. *Enough to keep any high school boy at war with his friends for years.*

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