



June 2021

Business Agent's Report

NALC

**J. Mark Sims** – Mark Sims, former Region 5 Administrative Assistant and Assistant to the President, recently announced his retirement from the NALC to NALC officers and staff. I wanted to share this news with all of you here who know and have worked with Mark.

*“There is a time when everyone begins, and a time when everyone leaves. Today I’m doing the latter. First, let me say thank you. It has been my privilege to work at the National Association of Letter Carriers and to serve its members these past years. It has been immensely rewarding, and I have had the opportunity to meet and become friends with so many people I would otherwise have never had the good fortune to meet.*

*To some of you this is “goodbye,” to others it is “until we meet again,” but to all I wish good health, sunny skies, happiness, and much Aloha. Keep up the fight. Sincerely and Fraternally, J Mark Sims”*

I’ve long been of the mindset that every one of us can be replaced...however, it will be a seriously difficult task to replace Mark. On behalf of all of the members of Region 5 I’d like to wish Mark a long, healthy and prosperous retirement...and Mark, I’ve still got your phone number so if we get in a bind, I’ll be calling.

**Mary DeCelle** – Many of you know and have spoken with the Region 5 Secretary/Office Manager, Mary DeCelle over the last few years. Mary is leaving us in June to return to her home state of Minnesota to be closer to family. Mary has been a valuable resource and friend and will be greatly missed. Thank you, Mary, for all you’ve done for us in the Region 5 office and for all you’ve done for the letter carriers in Region 5. Best wishes from all of us.

**Reorganization** – The USPS reorganization has certainly made things interesting. The new Districts within Region 5, rising from the ashes like a Phoenix...Okay, enough of that. Hawkeye, Central Plains, Mid America and Gateway have gone away. The new Districts are Kansas and Missouri with the district office in St. Louis, Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota with the district office in Sioux Falls. While most of Region 5 was previously under Western Area in Denver, the entire region is now under the Central Area in Chicago. Mark Talbot has been named as the District Manager for the Iowa, Nebraska & South Dakota district and Pam Dunaway has been named District Manager in the Kansas & Missouri district. HR and LR managers have yet to be named. One difficulty during this transition has been trying to figure out who reports to who in the Postal Service. The plants have their own reporting structure as do labor relations and human resources. It’s doubtful that we’ll know much more until the final VERA (Voluntary Early Retirement Authority) has concluded and possibly not until after the RIF (Reduction in Force) concludes.



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**Special Delivery Task Force** – Several sites around the country have been identified and Special Task Forces have been created to find the “root” causes for late and non-delivery of mail. St. Louis was identified as a site that has had some issues with getting mail delivered in a timely manner. The task force here in St. Louis will consist of representatives from each of the crafts and management. These members will identify issues and will dig into finding the root causes of the delays and non-deliveries. I’d like to thank Branch 343 Branch President John McLaughlin for his assistance and for Richard Thurman for volunteering to be the NALC representative on the task force. Richard has been doing all the “legwork” and making the calls to stations to make sure we have a complete picture of what is actually occurring...as opposed to what is being reported. This preliminary work will be invaluable when the task force begins identifying the issues and working on solutions. Having partaken in daily WebEx meetings on this subject, I can tell you that there are places around the country where service is a complete disaster.

**12 & 60 Violations** – Branch Presidents should continue to report 12/60 hour violations on a weekly basis. This information is forwarded to NALC headquarters where the parties are discussing on a regular basis.

**COVID 19** – Since I last reported, the Districts have been reorganized and reporting has changed. The total number of letter carriers who have tested positive or have been quarantined due to exposure is: Iowa, Nebraska & South Dakota = 325 – Kansas & Missouri = 532

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