



July 2021

Business Agent's Report

NALC

Attendance – Almost monthly we discuss the most pressing issues effecting branch officers and members here in Region 5. Based on our observations of the grievances that are filed and make their way to the Step B Teams, impasse, either settled at prearbitration meetings or at Arbitration, training sessions are created and taught (online during the pandemic). Attendance has been and continues to be a problem. This issue has been amplified by Covid 19 and related illnesses and childcare issues. Fortunately, Congress passed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (now expired), which has been followed by EFEL (Emergency Federal Employee Leave), established under the American Rescue Plan Act, and became effective March 11th. EFEL provides up to 600 hours to employees who are unable to work because of qualifying COVID-19 reasons. Many years ago, the FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act) became a law which protects employees from being disciplined for medical conditions which they have and for those of their immediate family members. Too often, letter carriers don't take advantage of these laws and complete the paperwork that would protect their jobs until it's too late.

Let me be blunt. Arbitrators across the nation, in private industry and within the postal service umbrella, continuously rule that "Employers have the right to expect that employees be regular in attendance."

Safety – While it may sound like a broken record, everyone needs to once again be reminded of Heat Related Illnesses. Within Region 5 we have already had a few instances where carriers have become ill and had to seek medical treatment. New carriers and carriers returning from extended absences are especially susceptible. Remember to stay hydrated, find shade where possible and if need be, find somewhere to cool off if you are overheated.

A recent Postal Service press release states that over 5800 carriers were bitten by dogs again last year (5803 in 2019). All dog bites are painful, many are disfiguring. Please don't put yourself at risk just in order to deliver someone's mail.

State Conventions – It looks like we are on schedule to have all of our State Conventions in person this fall. Of course, this is predicated upon the corona virus continuing to wane. I know that all of us in the Region 5 Office are looking forward to seeing everyone in person at these events. I urge everyone who will be attending to get vaccinated and follow any safety protocols which may be put in place by the hotels or State Associations.

Legislation – The Senate version of (H.R. 3076), a bipartisan bill that aims to provide financial and operational stability to the Postal Service, was introduced by the House Committee on Oversight and Reform Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) and Ranking Member James Comer (R-KY) on May 11, was dropped last month, as **S. 1720**. Again, please reach out to your Representative for support of HR 3076 and Senators to support S. 1720. Here are the steps to send them an email:



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(1.) Go to NALC.org on your computer. (2.) The third tab over is the Government Affairs Tab. Hover your cursor over it to access the drop-down menu. The 2nd tab down is the "Legislative Activities". Hover your cursor over that and scroll over to "Legislative Action Center". Click on the "Legislative Action Center". (3.) Once there, go to right hand side of the page at the bottom and Login in: Login Below with: First Name + Last Name + ZIP + Last 4 digits of SSN. (4.) Once you enter the above information, click on the "GO" button. (5.) The middle box in the screen will be the "Take Action" box. Click the "read more" button. (6.) You will then see a take action page that says "Pass the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021". Click the "take action" tab underneath it. (7.) A page with your representatives in the House and Senate will appear. There will also be a form letter with your name as a signature. (8.) Scroll down to the bottom and select a topic (if there is no postal topic, you can pick any other that you think is situated to you). You can enter your phone number, but it is optional. The click the "GO" tab once more. (9.) You will then be taken to a page that states your messages have been delivered to your representative's. After this, you can go to the right side of the page and log out. The whole process takes a couple minutes. (10.) This is similar to what we did with the take action network when we were trying to get stimulus funding for the post office. **Thank you for taking time to help us get this important postal reform passed!!**

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