



# REGION 5 NBA REPORT

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March 2022

National Business Agent's Report

NALC Region 5

This last month has been busy for the Postal Service and the NALC legislatively. We are also busy here in the Region 5 office preparing for state conventions, virtual training and other endeavors that we will continue to roll out of the National Business Agent's office.

**Postal Reform-** Great news on Postal Reform Bill HR 3076!! Thanks to all of you that donated to the LCPF, made phone calls, sent letters and emails or personally visited your US Congressperson and US Senators we have finally pushed the bill across the finish line. The final vote in the Senate was 79-19 and had broad based bipartisan support. No matter where you stand politically this is a prime example of what union solidarity can do. Brother and sister letter carriers from across the country coming together for the greater good and achieving it is the true definition of unionism. This is the very reason this union was formed back in 1889, and has allowed us to have continued success with Congress. Now that the 2006 prefunding burden, 6-day delivery and medicare integration has been lifted off of our shoulders we can breathe a sigh of relief. The future looks a lot brighter today for the Postal Service than it has in the last 15 years and that is thanks to all of you!

**Staffing/12&60/Delayed Mail-** This issue is still the single biggest issue facing letter carriers on the workroom floor across Region 5. Since my last NBA report I have visited other branches and stations, most if not all, have staffing issues of one kind or another. At the Region 5 Rap Session I gave training that addressed this problem with a two-fold approach. First we need to keep filing grievances for the 12/60 and Article 8 issues and ask for the proper remedy in addition to the 50% increase. Second we need to address this issue head on with Article 14 safety grievance's citing the brief from the Iowa Labor Center. This report details the dangers and safety issues that workers have when they work long hours, is peer reviewed by medical doctors and clinical physicians and fits into Article 14 grievances. Any local filing these type of grievances should contact the NBA office for the correct remedy, (We have Region 5 citations) and the Labor Center Brief. It is important that we set a standard in terms of remedy so that we can achieve the necessary safeguards to prevent employees from working past contractual limitations.

**Covid-19-** The pandemic positive rate has been dropping precipitously in the last few weeks. Most local and state mask mandates have been lifted. The Postal Service currently is keeping their mask mandate in place if employees are unable to maintain social distancing in the office and on the street. It looks like like we just might be getting back to normal soon. It has been a long and frustrating two years and we all look forward to the pandemic ending soon. We will report changes to you as we receive them.

**Region 5 Rap Session-** Region 5 held our annual Rap Session virtually this year on February 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. NALC President Fred Rolando and/or Executive Vice-President Brian Renfroe gave a great update on everything going on with the NALC and were very well received by those in attendance. Past NBA Mike Birkett was also in attendance and thanked the members for their support and well wishes in his retirement. I would like to thank Regional Administrative Assistant's Charles Sexton, Larrissa Parde and RGA Margaret Parker for providing excellent training on medical requests, OWCP and for new stewards. I would also be remiss if I did not thank Kyle Turner, Mark Godbee, Katie Buettner for their help with technical assistance on the day of the Rap Session. We look forward to next years Rap Session in person rather than virtually and appreciate those of you that have reached out to give us feedback on this years event.

**Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive-** Registration for the NALC Food Drive to be held on May 14, 2022, is now open. Branch Presidents can register their respective branches in the “Members Only” portal on the NALC website. The NALC will continue to monitor the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, and if necessary, modify or cancel the 2022 food drive. As it stands it looks like we will be having our Food Drive as scheduled, which hasn’t been held in the last two years. Many of the new employees have not participated in this NALC event.

**Region 5 Upcoming Training-** As promised at the Rap Session we are starting to provide some of the training that I spoke about. We will conduct a virtual Retirement Seminar on March 20<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:30am. We will have our first Region 5 Branch President meeting on March 30<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm. Your branch President can register members for any of our virtual trainings by going through the “Members Only” portal at [nalc.org](http://nalc.org). Upcoming training will also be scheduled soon for new stewards, advocates and we are also developing a mentor program that we will explain on the Branch President meeting.