



# REGION 5 NBA REPORT

David A. Teegarden



May 2022

National Business Agent's Report

NALC Region 5

**Legislation- H.R. 82 Social Security Fairness Act** (Windfall Elimination Provision) and GPO (Government Pension Offset) which repeals provisions that reduce Social Security benefits for individuals who receive other benefits. The bill currently has 269 co-sponsors and has bi-partisan support. This bill would eliminate the government pension offset which reduces Social Security Survivors benefits for spouse, widows and widowers who receive government pensions of their own. The bill would also eliminate the windfall elimination provision which reduces Social Security benefits for individuals who also receive a pension from an employer that did not withhold Social Security taxes.

**H.R. 4268 Federal Retirement Fairness Act-** This Bill currently has 41 co-sponsors and bi-partisan support. The bill would provide certain federal employees the opportunity to make catch-up retirement contributions for time spent as temporary employees after December 31, 1989, making that time creditable service under the FERS. This bill would cover postal employees who worked as casuals, TE's or CCA's after that date.

**Staffing/12&60/Delayed Mail-** This issue continues to be a major source of grievances across Region 5. On June 15<sup>th</sup> my office will hold a virtual Article 8 conference in conjunction with the Branch President's meeting. Normally the President's meeting is restricted to 2 people from each branch. For this meeting I will increase that to 5 per branch to allow for stewards who regularly process Article 8 grievances to attend. Please be prepared to discuss remedies your branch is currently getting. As I have stated numerous times this violation is egregious and unacceptable. It has been going on for far too long and we all need to enforce our contractual rights.

**Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive-** The Food Drive will happen as scheduled on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022. We have had reports of some branches having difficulty with getting the Food Drive cards or not getting enough of them. We have addressed all those that have contacted us and we believe these issues are taken care of. This year will be especially difficult given the uncertainty of what would happen with the pandemic but the need for food is greater now than it ever has been. This once a year event is a time for letter carriers to give back to the communities that they serve by collecting food that helps those in need. The NALC at the National level is still matching monetary contributions by local branches. If your branch is interested they can vote to expend branch funds and send that amount by branch check to headquarters or send the meeting minutes indicating the branch motion was seconded and carried.

**Region 5 Training-** Since I was appointed as Business Agent in January of this year my staff and I have conducted, the Region 5 Rap Session, Advanced OWCP training, New Steward training, Retirement training, Presidents meetings, Arbitration Advocate meeting, training at three State Conventions (State Training) and a local branch training on Il's. We have also visited stations in St. Louis, Kansas City, Omaha, Des Moines, Wichita, Cedar Rapids, Waterloo and Garden City to talk to letter carriers on the workroom floor as well as visited three City Carrier Academies. I intended on continuing to visit letter carriers across the region on the workroom floor. This could not have been accomplished without the hard work of RAA's Charles Sexton and Larrissa Parde, RGA Margaret Parker and LPO Brent Fjerestad, Kyle Turner, Acting Region 5 Field Secretary and several other branch presidents and members.

Beginning on May 19<sup>th</sup> we will conduct new steward training virtually for four consecutive Thursdays. This training is geared toward the new steward who has little to no experience in handling grievances and will cover the basics of investigating, filing and appealing a grievance to Formal A. This training will build on itself over the course of the four week program. Branch presidents will be able to register interested stewards or those who are thinking about becoming a steward on the "Members Only" portal of the NALC website now. This is a great opportunity for branches of all sizes to get their members trained. I have also created a mentorship program to assist branches in developing future leaders at the branch, state and regional levels. Initially six applicants will be selected to participate in this new program from across the region, with at least one from each of the four states in Region 5. Applications have been sent out to Branch Presidents and the program will begin in early to mid June.

As stated above we will combine the June Presidents meeting with training on 12/60-Article 8 issues and will expand the invitation to allow for Formal Step A and stewards to attend who regularly file these type of grievances. Shortly we

will begin to take training on the road to local branches that do not otherwise have the means to travel and attend training.

All virtual training will continue to use the “members Only” portal and Branch Presidents will be able to sign themselves and/or their members up and initially our focus will be on overtime and discipline.

**Postal Service Initiatives-** The possibility of a joint route adjustment looks like it is getting closer to being a reality but there is nothing in writing as of now. The process would utilize information gathered from the MDD to adjust routes. Test sites utilized the MDD process to adjust routes and both sides agreed those adjustments were very accurate. Using this process does away with the need to conduct 3999's. As soon as we have a signed agreement I will pass it along.