



# REGION 5 NBA REPORT

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**HEAT INJURY AND ILLNESS** is on the rise across the country and in Region 5. Please do not let management intimidate you into doing more than you are physically capable of in this heat. If you read my July NBA Report, you know just how quickly things can take a turn for the worse. I want that to be the last example of someone who was affected by the heat. Know your body, know your capacity and know your rights! Please seek shade, air conditioning and water at the first sign of heat distress and do not be talked into continuing when you exhibit heat illness symptoms.

The month of August began right where July left off with the Region 5 office doing station visits and branch training. If we haven't visited your station yet but you and your fellow carriers would like us to please reach out to us at the Region 5 office. We love meeting, talking and answering questions with letter carriers where things happen, on the workroom floor! The fall of 2023 is going to be very busy for the Region 5 office as far as training is concerned. Let's see what we have got on tap for this fall...

## Upcoming Region 5 Training and News

The Region 5 office is in the process of developing training geared at Informal Step A stewards and Formal Step A representatives. These will be conducted as separate classes with the Informal first and the Formal done after. Each class will consist of 2-3 days of hands on training with the regional staff and outside instructors assisting with teaching these classes. Training classes will be held at multiple branches across the region to allow everyone the opportunity to attend. Classes will be limited to no more than 30 participants and the cost of the training will be the responsibility of the individual or the branch sending the participant(s). One of my goals on becoming NBA was to increase knowledge at the branch, state and regional levels through aggressive training. These classes will allow us to create an army of union activists, stewards, Formal Step A, and arbitration advocates that will dramatically increase our ability to protect our members and enforce the National Agreement. We hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity and join us in this endeavor. Dates and locations are currently being discussed but we intend to have our first class before the end of the year in St. Louis, MO. Many more dates and locations will be made available as soon as we can confirm them.

Going forward TIAREAP training will be conducted by either the DLT or the REAT or both immediately prior to a stations Live Week. This training will be much like the training Region 5 did when regular route count and inspections were done. These trainings will be virtual and will assist letter carriers in understanding not only the TIAREAP Process but their role in that process as well as a discussion of the LOC's role in the process how that relates to the carriers in the office and to the REAT.

I am also in the process of updating some grievance starters that we use on a regular basis in the region and they will be discussed at fall training events and branch president meetings.

## State Conventions and Fall Trainings

First up is the Missouri State Convention held at Osage Beach, MO September 22-24. This is a business year, but the Region 5 office will still be conducting training at this year's event. Next on the agenda is the Iowa Fall Training which will be held in Altoona, Iowa October 15-17. We anticipate a day and a half of training on various topics of interest to the participants. Last, we will end up the fall tour in Kearney, NE October 28-29.

## **Branch Training**

We recently finished conducting branch training for stewards and members in Columbus, NE and Davenport, Iowa. The training included Informal A training, Formal A training, TIAREAP, Article 8 and combating staffing shortages through the grievance procedure. As always if your branch is in need of training please have the branch president reach out to the NBA office and we will be glad to tailor make a training session to fit your branches needs.

## **Advanced OWCP Training**

Region 5 will once again conduct advanced OWCP training at the Kansas City Missouri Branch 30 union hall located at 6320 Manchester Ave Suite 41A Kansas City, MO 64133. Hotels can be reserved anywhere near Raytown or Lee's Summit, MO. The closest hotel to the union hall is the Holiday Inn Express located at 8551 E Blue Parkway Dr, Kansas City, MO 64133. The Marriott downtown Kansas City which is the hotel we are attempting to book for the RAP Session in 2024 is located about 15-20 minutes from the hall so you are welcome to check out that hotel as well. September 17-19, 2023. There will be an ice breaker the evening of the 17<sup>th</sup> and training will begin the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup> and conclude at noon on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The advanced training will be limited to 30 participants, paid for by the branch or member. We still have several openings for this class, but they are going fast. If you want to attend please reach out ASAP.

## **Arbitration Advocate and DRT Training**

At the same time and location, we are conducting OWCP training we will also have continuing education for our Arbitration Advocates and Step B team members in Kansas City, MO. The goal is ongoing education directed towards better strategy prior to and during arbitration hearings resulting in an increased win percentage, stopping continued violations across the region, and better contractual enforcement for letter carriers in Region 5.

## **Virtual Branch President Meetings**

We continue to have branch president meetings monthly or more as needed to ensure that we are getting out information of value and an open line of communication with the branches across the region.

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