



REGION 5 NBA REPORT

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National Business Agent's Report

NALC Region 5

Heat Safety

Summer is right around the corner, but we have already had days that surpass heat safety temperature and humidity that could affect letter carriers' health. Do not let any supervisor talk you into continuing your duties if you have symptoms of heat illness like dizziness, dehydration, cramping, nausea and not sweating. Hydrate, cool off and call medical personnel to get checked out if you are experiencing any of these symptoms. Way too often letter carriers decide to try and push through to the end of the route thinking they can get home and cool off. Heat illness can sneak up on you and if you cross that line that you can't see until it's too late. DO NOT become a statistic! Protect yourself and get medical assistance when needed.

Political News

A lot has happened in the last month. As I write this article there is news that the USPS Board of Governors has selected a new PMG. If the initial reports are correct the BOG has selected FedEx board member David Steiner, former CEO of Waste Management. The NALC has issued a statement concerning Steiner. "Steiner comes directly from service on FedEx's board of directors, presenting a clear conflict of interest. His selection isn't just a conflict of interest-its an aggressive step toward handing America's mail system over to corporate interests. During his tenure in Waste Management Inc's CEO, Steiner took a stand against unions. He built his brand on union-busting, slashing jobs and replacing workers with machines. He has publicly bragged about shrinking the union footprint. This news, coupled with the proposed budget cuts on the back of hard-working men and women in the Federal workforce.

Reconciliation efforts on the Federal Budget have now passed the committee and include, A raise to 4.4% for all federal employees contributing to FERS, change from high three to a high five calculation, stripping the Social Security supplement essentially requiring all Federal employees to work until they are at least 62 instead of their minimum retirement age and an at-will designation that will allow higher pay. If you don't accept the at-will designation they will increase your FERS required contributions by another 5% to 9.4%, all while giving you less in the end.

These are outright attacks on not only our collective bargaining rights but our promise of FERS retirement benefits. Keep informed, reach out to your Senators and Congress men and women and ask them to vote those provisions down in the reconciliation bill, and make our collective voices heard. These issues must be our first priority!

Region 5 LMOU Training

We just returned from Nebraska, Kansas and Iowa spring conventions. Congratulations to all the elected officers! Thanks for stepping up to the plate and helping your state associations. The one common theme seems to be that lots of younger or newer letter carriers are getting involved with the NALC and that is exactly what the union needs.

At each convention the NBA office was able to conduct training, and we managed to complete LMOU training in each state.

Currently my office is gearing up for LMOU's on two fronts, first we are doing a two-week blitz across Region 5 and offering LMOU training in multiple geographic locations and second, we are preparing to negotiate LMOU's for dozens of local branches that are non-functioning or do not have officers to negotiate with them. Beginning Monday May 12th, we will be on the road conducting LMOU training through May 25th. We are also developing a list of branches that do not have an LMOU or that receive a letter from the Postal Service and do not have officers to negotiate one.

If you want training and you haven't heard from us or you need assistance with negotiating an LMOU at the Postal Services insistence or the carriers desire to create or change the LMOU please reach out to us ASAP. This message has also been sent to all Branch Presidents.

Last, if you just want advice from us during the local negotiation period, please call us at the NBA office at 314-985-8040 and we will be more than happy to assist you to achieve the best possible outcome for your members LMOU.

Until next time stay safe out there,

David A. Teegarden
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NALC Region 5