REGION 5 NBA REPORT

David A. Teegarden

Please reserve your rooms for the Region 5 Rap Session scheduled for February 27 through March 2, 2026. A Room Block at the Downtown KC Marriott has been set aside. If you are having trouble with the link below, please let me know and we will take care of it. Prices are the same as last year. To utilize hotel meeting space and get the room rate that our group does we contract a room block with the hotel for 200 rooms per night for Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. Once the room block is full, we are subject to hotel availability for a higher rate. This link will take you to the reservation que.
https://book.passkey.com/e/51145271

Region 5 Rap Session

**Reservations for hotel rooms can be made at this link now
https://book.passkey.com/e/51145271

The 2026 Rap Session will take place at the KC Downtown Marriott Friday, February 27 through Monday March 2. Friday February 27th a branch president meeting will take place from 5-7pm at the hotel. There will be an informal meet and greet in the bar/lounge area after the branch president meeting.

We will conduct training from 8am-12pm and 1-5pm Saturday and Sunday. A Rap Session with a National Officer will take place on Monday from 8am until about noon.

An NBA reception will be held at KCMO Branch 30 union hall located at 6320 Manchester Avenue KCMO 64132 from 6:30pm-10:00pm on Saturday February 28th.

For most participants lunch will begin at 11am and go until 1pm. Class schedules that run until noon will be about an hour and twenty minutes for their lunch on Saturday. On Sunday all participants will have 2 hours for lunch beginning at 11am. Classes will end a quarter till the hour to allow you 15 minutes to get to your next class.

Classes offered will be negotiating for the union steward/Formal A, The difference between JSOV and Dignity and Respect, JWIP an avenue into creating a better atmosphere on the workroom floor, Grievance preparation from Informal A through Arbitration-Follow a grievance as it winds its way through the Article 15 process and ends up at Arbitration, Branch Officer Training (Nicole Rhine Secretary Treasurer), Arbitration Advocate, 271G Route Inspections, Chapter 2 M-39 Route Adjustment Process Education, OWCP Basic and Advanced, What exactly is a Labor Management Meeting and how to use them effectively, Safety, Women's roundtable discussion, How to speak Union Effectively, Retirement, Community Services, EAP, Step B, Deems Desirable, Chat with Region 5 Office, Region 5 CAU-An in-depth look at the previous year's settlements and decisions, CCA-PTF Contract Updates, Writing for Stewards and Legislation.

The QR code on both pages will be the only way to sign up for the classes you are going to take. This allows us to ensure that the classroom will be able to hold the participants. Make your training selections early to ensure that the class doesn't fill up. The QR code will be active on Friday January 16th.

Please use this link to reserve your hotel rooms which is active now https://book.passkey.com/e/51145271

****RAP SESSION****

Retirement News

The NALC has received USPS Correspondence 5293 dated December 23, 2025. This correspondence is notification that effective January 1, 2026, the Postal Service will require all optional retirement applications to be submitted online through the ORA platform in accordance with OPM's mandate. The process will replace the paper-based application process for federal and USPS employee's optional retirement. This new system will be administered by the OPM and will allow applicants to complete retirement applications online, track the application status, and expedite processing time. Any applications for optional retirement submitted prior to January 1, 2026, will continue to be processed using the paper-based process and do not need to be resubmitted. To initiate the optional retirement application process, you can log into the eRetire app through LiteBlue at liteblue.usps.gov You may also contact the Human Resources Shared Service Center at 877-477-3273 and select option 5. For more information on the process, go to MyHR website and select "Planning for Retirement" from the "Retirement" drop-down menu.

Route Adjustments Spring 2026

The following is a list of RCI that we currently have been made aware of. This is of course subject to change.
Kansas-Missouri District-
KCMO-James Crews all zones, Hickman Mills, Independence Main, Raytown, Kansas City Main, South Troost, Parkway, North Kansas City, Westport, Longview, Waldo and Martin City

Iowa-Nebraska District-
Des Moines-Pleasant Hill, University Station.
Leavenworth
Ames
Waterloo and Waterloo Annex
Grand Island

We are also hearing that the service is trying to get branches to agree to "minor" route adjustments. It usually goes like this. We can take 10 routes out of the office if we come in and use COR but if you agree to give up 6 routes and just absorb it we can keep COR out of here. The truth is they can make COR take out however many routes they want if it is used improperly. These "minor" adjustments are not really minor adjustments that conform to the M-39 Section 141. They do not meet the criteria. Even more troubling, there is no review period for these bastardized adjustments as they are not contractually compliant adjustments. Your route too long after they adjust? Senior carrier's route got eliminated? Territory shift went to one of their favorite carriers? It cannot be grieved because it is not contractually compliant. Neither management nor the union have a right to make agreements that exceed or violate the National Agreement or Handbooks and Manuals.

Until next time stay safe,

David A. Teegarden
National Business Agent
NALC Region 5