



# REGION 5 NBA REPORT



December 2011	National Business Agent's Report	NALC
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In 1995 this office established the Charles J. Coyle Scholarship Award program in his memory. It was created because of his belief in education and helping letter carriers and their families. In the spring of 1996, the first scholarships were awarded to graduating high school seniors. Your Regional office will administrate this program in 2011 and then in 2012 will turn this responsibility over to the State Presidents in the respective State Associations. This change is taking place due to new regulations and rules governing your Regional office. During this transition I encourage all graduating seniors to apply for this very worthwhile program. Your State officers will be notifying you on how this transition will occur and what, if any, changes will happen.

The national petition drive to support and preserve six day delivery has come and gone. At the time of writing this article, I can already tell that this was a very successful event. We cannot depend upon the Postal Service to do the right thing to preserve what the American people want and deserve. The NALC is like a second family to most of us. We spend a lot of time protecting and providing for our immediate families. We must provide that type of protection for the NALC family and the USPS. We must educate the public and explain to them the need to continue six day delivery and what the ramifications could be if we lose it. We must be constantly aware of the political climate that surrounds us, which could ultimately decide our fate. We must be able to communicate to our members the devastating effects of what HR 2309 would do to us. We should be able to explain the positive aspects of HR 1351, HR1649, S1649, & S1688. Fact sheets can be found on the NALC Web Page or you can gather information on these through our e-activist network. Our e-activist numbers have been dropping as of late. To remain an e-activist you must re-sign up anytime you change your e-mail address. If you are not an e-activist, become one, if you are already receiving messages, be sure to share them with friends and family. We have to protect our family, our future depends upon it.

**The dates on our Regional Rap Session for 2012 are February 25 & 26. This will be an important and educational experience for all Region 05 members. Please note that this year it will be held at the Westin Crown Center in Kansas City, Missouri. To insure that enough rooms are available make sure your Branch does not wait until the last moment. Make your reservations now. The cut-off date for reservations is 1/05/12.**

**Mode of Delivery** We recently have become aware that several Postmasters in the Central Plains District have sent mailings to customers requesting that they move their mailboxes from their homes to the curb. This has occurred sporadically across Region 5 in the past; however, it seems that a few Postmasters, armed with

postcards from the district, are overstepping their authority. We believe these postcards are misleading to the public and a violation of the Post Office Operations Manual as well as being in direct conflict with Postal Service Policy. Should you become aware of any attempt to do massive changes in the mode of delivery in your office, no matter which District you are in, you should immediately contact this office for further instructions. Whether managers are working under good intentions or not, this is just another step in alienating our customers and is just another case of the shortsighted "fire sale" mentality that we are currently dealing with.

**Arbitration** is back up and running again. As many of you know, three of the four districts in Region 5 (Central Plains, Hawkeye and Mid-America) have been without an arbitration panel for several months. Typically, when each new National Agreement is ratified a panel of arbitrators is contracted to hear arbitration disputes for each district within a USPS Area at the agreement of both management and the union. In these three districts, a panel had been in place but one of the arbitrators asked to be relieved of duties due to personal reasons and the other was relieved from duty by mutual consent of both parties. This office, with the assistance of NALC Headquarters, came to agreement on the hiring of two new arbitrators to fill the panel. The review and contracting process took a bit longer than I would have preferred, but I am confident we now have two very capable arbitrators to hear cases in our Region. The new arbitrators are Brent Motchan and Harry McLean and both bring a wealth of experience to our arbitration panel. We have a full schedule of cases for November and December at this point and we are hopeful to have our back-log of appeals heard in short order. We are looking forward to our cadre of union advocates appearing before these two new arbitrators.

*A recent Senate Proposal, if enacted, could lead to; the end of the Federal Employee Health Benefit (FEHB) plan, would require Arbitrators to take into consideration the financial condition of the USPS; would prohibit the Postal Service from eliminating Saturday delivery UNTIL 2013; and would authorize the Postal Service to deliver to curbside, sidewalk, or centralized mailboxes rather than to door delivery points no later than 2015.*

*At the recent Fall Training in Iowa I was watching a video about what Unions can do. During the video a message came across the screen that was very dramatic and powerful and made me seriously consider our fate and our responsibilities.*

***The Message Stated: "AND THEN THEY CAME FOR THE UNIONS".***

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