



REGION 5 NBA REPORT



January 2012	National Business Agent's Report	NALC
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From all of us in the Regional Office, Happy New Year and we hope that you and your families enjoyed the holidays. All of us are hoping that 2012 will be a better year and hopeful that we were successful in negotiating a new National Agreement. *WE HAVE EARNED IT.*

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Jim McNeil on their recent loss of Carol McNeil, wife and mother. Those of us who knew Jim and Carol know that this will be an extreme loss for family and friends. Jim was an RAA for Region 05 and Carol was past Auxiliary State President for Missouri. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Jim and family.

I was privileged to have recently spent nine days in Washington, DC as part of the Executive Council preparing for and participating in National Negotiations. The Executive Council consists of twenty eight members. Fifteen Business Agents, Ten Resident Officers, and Three Trustees. I was fortunate enough to work beside these NALC men and women who worked extremely long hours with the hope of negotiating a new National Agreement. As of this writing, the NALC continues to negotiate within the agreed upon extension period and is committed to negotiating an agreement that will benefit/safeguard our members while at the same time protects the institution that our members and the public depend upon, the USPS. Please keep abreast of all the changes that are occurring on a daily basis through the NALC website and your e-activist updates. What happens in Washington in negotiations and the political front needs to be monitored constantly, please do your part and keep up with the many daily changes that will be happening. We are in for a bumpy ride and one that will depend upon whether we stick together as a Union.

As many of you know, the processing of Family and Medical Leave (FMLA) is no longer handled at the District level. In a "cost-cutting" move the Postal Service has consolidated all FMLA functions to the Human Resources Shared Services Center (HRSSC), which includes submission of relevant forms and medical information. Initially, this may seem like a pain but it may turn out to be beneficial in the long run since some of the foolishness we see in our District offices may be bypassed—time will tell. When you need to submit paperwork for FMLA related absences to substantiate your qualifying conditions, here are the addresses—note they are specific to the Area you work in:

Western: *HRSSC-FMLA-Western
PO Box 970910
Greensboro NC 27497-0910

Fax: 651.456.6071*

Great Lakes: *HRSSC-FMLA-Great Lakes
PO Box 970908
Greensboro NC 27497-0908

Fax: 651.456.6055*

If you need to call for related information concerning FMLA you should call the Shared Services number at **877.477.3273**. You will need to have your Employee Identification Number (EIN) and Personal Identification Number (PIN) ready when you make this call. If you need additional FMLA information you should check out the NALC website for more information-- <http://nalc.org/depart/cau/fmla.html> —or call my office.

Note: OWCP has implemented new procedures on October 01st, 2011 for Postal Service employees to follow concerning submission of certain OWCP forms to OWCP. Please see the attached guidelines for local branches regarding how to monitor Postal Service compliance with the new procedures and respond to anticipated problems. These guidelines are posted on the [NALC Compensation Department webpage](#).

In 2012 there will be a National Convention and numerous training seminars. It is imperative with all the changes that will be taking place that your Branch participates in as many as possible and take this valuable information back to your members: that is where our strength is. The Regional Rap Session will be February 24th – 26th, and as usual we will have all the latest information available. With the change in location it is imperative that you make your reservations as soon as possible to make sure that your Branch has accommodations. Please note the attached information regarding the hotel/date/ and contact information.

Dan Pittman
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