



November 2019

Business Agent's Report

NALC

**Successful Bidders** – This is to provide some clarification on how bids are counted toward the maximum number allowed while we are at impasse. As we did in 2016, successful bids beginning this past Saturday will count toward the maximum number allowable under the 2019 Collective Bargaining Agreement. The number of maximum bids will be dependent on the length of the CBA, which is unknown at this point.

**Consolidated Casing** – It's started here in Region 5. Burlington, IA., Waldo Station in Kansas City, MO., and Jennings Station in St. Louis went online September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Chisholm Station in Wichita began October 7<sup>th</sup>. RAA's Sexton and Teegarden and I were each at one of the sites to observe management's implementation. From what we observed, with enough clerks, CCA's & managers doing carrier work add 100's of grievances and anything has a chance to work. A big thank-you to Blake Rockers, Meaghan Lakey, Vic McCuen, Trey Jensen, Brian Grunwaldt, Dustin Saville, Robert Goss, Amanda Beckley, Pat Hill, Frank Crandell, Traci VanHying, Terry Long, and others yet to be named, for their work as observers and assisting branches with grievances during the onset of the Consolidated Casing fiasco. I'm always amazed at the effort letter carriers make to provide service to their customers, despite management's actions, or in this case, a "test". The Postal Service has announced that they will not expand the test until after the upcoming holidays. Arguments were heard on September 25<sup>th</sup> in U.S. District Court in the NALC's lawsuit against the Postal Service over the Consolidated Casing initiative. The NALC argued that many carriers are now suffering and will suffer irreparable harm unless the program is halted by the court. The parties were asked by the judge to submit additional arguments in briefs. While the briefs have been submitted, no decision has been rendered as of the writing of this article.

**Negotiations at Impasse** – Negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement between the NALC and the USPS have come to an impasse. While the current agreement will remain in effect, the parties are mandated to enter into a sixty-day period of mediation. While still attempting to negotiate, the parties will seek to find a neutral arbitrator in case there is no agreement at the end of mediation. Some of the unresolved issues are: compensation, safety, subcontracting, no-layoff provisions, route evaluations, workplace intervention, non-career workforce and wage theft.



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**2020 Region 5 Rap Session** – The Region 5 Rap Session will be held on Saturday & Sunday, February 22 – 23, 2020. The Double Tree by Hilton in Overland Park, KS, will once again be the location and Shawnee Mission Branch 5521 will again act as host. Rooms will be \$122.00 per night plus tax for a single (King) and \$126.00 for double (Queen). Reservations can be made by calling 913.451.6100. Reservations can also be made online at:

<http://group.doubletree.com/NatlAssocLetterCarriers>

We have reserved 160 rooms each night for attendees. The cut-off date for reservations is January 24, 2020, and reservations made after that date will only be available on a space and rate basis. Branches should make their reservations early. We are planning an aggressive schedule with breakouts and are hopeful that President Rolando will once again be able to attend.

**Veterans Day** – I'd like to wish my fellow veterans a Happy Veterans Day and thank each of you for your service. If you are a veteran and have not yet joined the NALC Veteran's Group, you can do so at the following website: <https://www.nalc.org/member-benefits/military-veterans>

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