



January 2020

Business Agent's Report

NALC

**Consolidated Casing, Continued** – The saga continues with the Service's "Test" on their attempt to ruin the service as we know it. Customers are upset at the late delivery of their mail, the service's inability and lack of planning to communicate hold mail and change of address orders is certainly diminishing service. The contract is being violated daily with many local management teams ordered not to cooperate and management's Step B representatives ordered to declare grievances as "Interpretive" and to send to National Headquarters. Meanwhile, the NALC continues to have observers at each site monitoring the circus and reporting back to headquarters. The first day of hearings have been held in Washington, DC. The NALC filed a national level grievance shortly after the service began the test and on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, the arbitration commenced. A second day of hearing is scheduled for later this month (December).

**HATCH ACT** – Please remember that as a federal employee your political activities are governed by the Hatch Act. That includes social media. The United States Office of Special Counsel is currently prosecuting several active letter carriers for Hatch Act violations. DO NOT...I REPEAT...DO NOT, post on social media while at work or in uniform, your endorsements, rants, or your manifesto's on your political beliefs or whom you support. More information can be found at the NALC website and at: <https://osc.gov/Pages/Hatch-Act-Social-Media-and-Email-Guidance.aspx>.

**A Look Back** – It's amazing that the year 2020 is upon us. It seems like yesterday we entered the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Just a few years ago in 2018, I pondered in this forum a few questions. We were awaiting the new vehicles...and still are. We didn't know if parcels would increase...they have. We were told mail volume would drop off a precipice...down the slope, but not off a cliff. We observed management worshipping their unholy God DOIS...they haven't stopped. We believed the Service would join the NALC in implementing the newly agreed to Joint Workplace Improvement Process...we were wrong. I've spoken to Area and District management about different sites and they just didn't care (it's about the numbers).

**You're Being Recorded** – With the onset of doorbells recording everything, including their neighbor's homes across the street, every letter carrier should assume they are being recorded while delivering. While I've seen too many carriers tossing parcels (I've seen more of our competitors), I recently observed a supervisor screaming at a carrier who was about to deliver a parcel to a home which had the video doorbell. That manager, according to the District Manager,



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is being investigated for their behavior and a grievance filed concerning safety and workplace violence/code of conduct.

**Last Reminder on the 2020 Region 5 Rap Session** – We still have rooms available with the cut-off date quickly approaching. 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 a 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.

**Happy New Year** – All of us here at the Region 5 office wish you a Happy New Year.

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