



August 2020

Business Agent's Report

NALC

Covid-19 – As I write this article on July 10th, the current pandemic seems to be getting worse rather than better. I was hoping that we would get a respite during the summer months with fewer people testing positive and the spread of this virus declining. Well, that hope has been dashed! We are currently seeing a spike in postal employees testing positive which began as states relaxed their restrictions and people let their guard down. Now is not the time to relax. Letter Carriers need to stay vigilant, wear your mask, and use your PPE to protect yourself, which will protect your fellow employees and families.

As a reminder, if your office is short of any supplies, please call the office immediately.

NALC Food Drive - As you should be aware by now, the annual NALC Food Drive for 2020 has been postponed until such time as the donations can be collected safely for all those involved. What you might not know is that donating to the food pantries that process the millions of pounds of food collected each year couldn't be easier. Go to nalc.org/food and scroll to the bottom of that page; select the state from a drop-down menu then select the food pantry you wish to donate to from the state list. Follow the link and make your donation! It's that simple but needed now more than ever to help Stamp Out Hunger.

OWCP - The NALC has been assisting letter carriers, who have determined that the exposure came from the workplace, in filing OWCP claims. It is important if you feel the exposure came from work, for example from another employee who tested positive, that a claim be filed. The claims so far have been under development and are being processed from OWCP HQ. We have no idea what the future health ramifications are from contracting Covid-19, so we should protect ourselves. Please contact our office for referral to RWCA for assisting in filing the claim.

Heat Safety – It's HOT! I want to thank all of you who have kept us informed of heat incidents/illnesses within the Region and all of you stewards, safety teams and branch officers who really have changed the culture. Not that many years ago, all management cared about was the numbers. The majority of the reports I'm seeing show that management is doing what they should have been doing all along, putting carrier safety first. Now, for those of you grinding your teeth as you read the sentence above, there are still some idiots in management that don't get it. They certainly don't put safety first across the board, but when it comes to heat incidents, they're doing much better and frankly, that is because of you. Please make sure you grab that newer employee on the next hot day and make sure they have enough water and they understand that time isn't everything, life is.



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Retirements – On a recent x-board telecom we learned that retirements are up by about 1,700 this year over last...Covid? Along the same note, if you are planning on retiring in the near future, be aware that HRSSC is taking longer to process, and even to answer their phones. I would assume the same to be true for OMB.

Parcels – It's my understanding that the service in parts of the county is turning away business because they have no room to intake and store the parcels. What a sad state of affairs. Perhaps the new PMG who is alleged to be an expert in logistics can fix that issue first. Meanwhile in Region 5, I'm still hearing that parcel volume is up on average by eighty to ninety percent.

Tidbits – Did you know that the NALC insurance pays for 100 percent of Covid testing? The "temperature" testing of employees using the overhead scanner was a failure, while the handheld scanner worked. Look for one coming to your station soon. Route Inspections should be coming this fall. We are in the process of putting together a virtual training for all those who will be inspected...same for Retirement Seminars.

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