



REGION 5 NBA REPORT

David A. Teegarden



Contract Negotiations

Contract negotiations officially opened on February 22, 2023. NALC President Brian Renfroe spoke about our goals in collective bargaining in his opening address. His first priority was to address the staffing shortage by increasing wages. Recruitment and retention of letter carriers starts with a competitive wage but also by necessity includes shifting to an all career workforce as the CCA position no longer serves either party.

President Renfroe also demanded practical solutions for ending crime against letter carriers. He called upon the service to work with the NALC to ensure that letter carriers were safe from the moment they arrive at work until they leave work.

President Renfroe stated that letter carriers had been the backbone of America during the pandemic and that the NALC sought to improve the standard of living for the nation's letter carriers.

You can find President Renfroe's speech on video at nalc.org under the New & Information tab.

MDD Clock Rings

Recently the Postal Service has begun to require letter carriers to make clock ring moves and punch in and out by use of the MDD. It seems that there is a lot of confusion over how these rings are input through the MDD device. Many Installations have advised us that letter carriers received no training on how to make these rings on the scanner. There are other issues that are affected by use of the scanner to make clock rings such as a one click no-lunch ring (The scanner is in minutes), CCA's being sent to another facility or Installation to carry in the middle of the shift are being required to punch out on the scanner and then back in at the other station. These carriers should be on-the-clock and be provided a vehicle for travel unless they have signed a drive out agreement.

If local management has not trained the letter carriers on how to use the scanner to make clock rings, a grievance should be filed and the remedy requested should be that the training be given to all city carriers. If any city carriers have been given or threatened with discipline, please contact us at the NBA office.

Legislative

H.R. 82 would repeal the GPO and the WEP titles of the Social Security Act, which unfairly reduce or sometimes eliminate Social Security benefits for millions of federal workers, including letter carriers. As of 02/03/2023 there are 187 Co-sponsors for the Social Security Fairness Act (131 Democrats and 56 Republicans)

Labor Secretary

President Biden has nominated Julie Su to serve as the Secretary of the Department of Labor. Su has served as the deputy secretary since July of 2021. She is a Stanford University and Harvard Law School graduate and has focused her legal work on civil rights and workers rights. She is a strong supporter of

unions and a lifelong defender of worker's rights. If confirmed she would replace Marty Walsh who announced last month that he was stepping down as Secretary of Labor to take a position with the NHL Players Association.

Region 5 2023 Rap Session

By the time this goes to print our Region 5 Rap Session will be in the books. By the response we have gotten there appears to be a record turn out in the works. It is also very apparent that we will have a significant portion of the attendees who are new stewards or union activists. That is a great sign for things to come in our region. I wish all of you safe travels to and from the Rap Session and look forward to interacting with all of you.

David A. Teegarden
National Business Agent