



REGION 5 NBA REPORT

David A. Teegarden



As I write this month's NBA report we are preparing to hit the road to Kansas City for Arbitration Advocate/DRP and OWCP training. We look forward to lively training sessions for both courses later this week, as well as seeing our letter carrier family in upcoming training in Missouri, Iowa, and Nebraska.

National Rap Session-

The NALC 2023 National Rap Session will be held in New Orleans Nov.17-19 at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside. Registration will begin on Friday afternoon Nov. 17 with workshops held on Saturday Nov. 18, concluding with a Rap Session on Sunday Nov. 19. For reservations go to <https://book.passkey.com/e/50547129> or call 1-800-445-8667. After this date reservations will be accepted based upon availability. Room rates are \$249.00 single/double.

Region 5 TIAREAP Training-

Region 5 completed our first TIAREAP training by DLT Blake Rockers, REAT's Jeff Rainey, Michelle Jellison and COR Tech Amanda Beckley. This training is much like the training Region 5 did when regular route count and inspections were done except the focus is on consultations and the Live Week. The training was conducted virtually for the carriers in Springfield, MO and gave letter carriers an understanding of, not only the TIAREAP Process, but their role in that process as well as a discussion of the LOC's role in the process and how that relates to the carriers in the office and to the REAT. I want to thank those that made my idea a reality in getting this training created and off the ground in an attempt to assist letter carriers in region 5. My sincerest thanks go out to Jason Sand, Blake Rockers, Jeff Rainey and all the input our REATs and COR Techs have given us. All carriers will have the opportunity to take this valuable training before the Live Week in TIAREAP. Please take advantage of it.

Region 5 Rap Session 2024-

The Region 5 Rap session will be held February 2-4 in Kansas City MO. The hotel is located in the heart of the Power and Light District in KCMO. Room rates will be the prevailing government rate which currently stands at about \$125.00 a night. The Power and Light District has shopping, restaurants, bars, music venues and so much more. We also plan to bring back the NBA dinner on Saturday night. In the near future we will send out a link to secure rooms at our special rate. The NALC has committed to 180 rooms each night so please make your reservations with our NALC block when we pass on the information to the branches. We will have separate meetings with Step B team members and branch presidents to discuss current issues affecting letter carriers in Region 5. You can also expect an even bigger selection of training courses on Saturday and a Rap Session on Sunday.

Penalty Exclusion Period-

The penalty exclusion period for calendar year 2023 as referenced in Article 8, Sections 4 and 5 will begin Pay Period 26-2023 Week 1 (December 2, 2023) and end Pay Period 01-2024 Week 2 (December 29, 2023).

Stationary Events-

The hot topic of the day in the IA-NE-SD District seems to be stationary events. While the service may have the right to inquire about a stationary event with carriers it cannot be the sole basis for discipline. Letter carriers who are asked about stationary events should ask if they need a steward before answering the questions posed to them by local management. Please speak to your shop steward, local branch officer or call the NBA office. If I were answering that question, it would be pretty simple, I was working. Short, simple and to the point. No elaboration needed.

Roll-Away Run-Away Accidents/Safety-

The Kansas-Missouri District hot button issue is safety, specifically roll-away run-away accidents or what management refers to as the Fatal Five. I recently instructed our NALC Joint Safety Task Force members to discontinue doing joint street and office safety observations after it was put out that the teams would be required to place employees in violation of the Fatal Five on Art. 16.7 EP. The NALC in Region 5 has always been concerned about letter carrier safety, but I cannot and will not let letter carriers participate in a program designed to put employees off the clock on EP. That is not what the safety teams were designed to do. The observation is supposed to be anonymous, and the employee is given a chance to correct the unsafe act without fear of discipline. Based upon our last talk with the District Manager the understanding and direction is that the team observations will be anonymous, not lead to discipline or result in EP, and employees will be given a chance to correct safety related issues. If this does not happen, I will not hesitate to pull our NALC people off those observations permanently and I need to know about it immediately. If this happens you must call us at the NBA office immediately.

If the service really wants to drive down accidents perhaps the safety teams should be inquiring as to when the HIPP training was conducted and verifying that it actually took place, advising carriers to take as many comfort stops as necessary in order to abate the effects of the heat and making sure that local management knows what their role in heat safety is.

Upon second thought I'd like to amend my answer to stationary events, I was working safely. Until next time take care of yourselves and if there is anything my office can do for you, please reach out.

David A. Teegarden
National Business Agent