



THE BRANCH 324 BUZZ

February 2021



Ratification of Tentative Agreement:

You should have received your ballot in the mail to vote on the tentative agreement. If you hadn't received a ballot by January 25th, NALC sent out information to contact headquarters. If you didn't contact NALC headquarters by last month, it may be too late at this point. All ballots must be received by February 16th, 2021. If you haven't mailed in your ballot yet, get it in the mail.

COSALC State Training

The Colorado State Association of Letter Carriers held their annual training January 28th - 31st. The details from the training will be placed in the upcoming newsletter that will be sent to all of the members.

What does the future hold for the USPS?

With the new administration now in place, there are many changes taking effect almost on a daily basis. We are hoping that some of these changes will be in favor of the USPS and letter carriers across the country. Only time will tell. If you haven't downloaded the NALC app on your phone, now would be a good time.

COVID Leave for CCAs:

Many supervisors around the Colorado/Wyoming District are telling letter carriers that the COVID leave for letter carriers expired on December 31st, 2020. This is not true for all letter carriers. The NALC and USPS agreed to extend the MOUs that were previously used, M-01932. M-01911 clearly shows that CCAs still have up to 80 hours of COVID 19 emergency sick leave available to them. The new administration is working to renew the COVID leave for full-time regular letter carriers. More updates will be provided when they are available.

COVID vaccine:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and others are providing recommendations to federal, state and local governments about who should be vaccinated first. The collective recommendation is that Postal Service employees be considered during the Phase 1B rollout of COVID-19 vaccines in state and local jurisdictions.

While the Postal Service continues to strive toward a standardized priority opportunity for our employees who choose to get the vaccine, we urge you not to delay your own access to a COVID-19 vaccination.

States, and in many cases, local jurisdictions, have their own plans for deciding which groups of people will be vaccinated first. We strongly urge you to review the information on your state and/or local public health websites, sign up for alerts and schedule a COVID-19 vaccination at the first opportunity available to you.



Executive Order by President Biden on masks

Section 1. Policy. It is the policy of my Administration to halt the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) by relying on the best available data and science-based public health measures. Such measures include wearing masks when around others, physical distancing, and other related precautions recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Put simply, masks and other public health measures reduce the spread of the disease, particularly when communities make widespread use of such measures, and thus save lives.

Accordingly, to protect the Federal workforce and individuals interacting with the Federal workforce, and to ensure the continuity of Government services and activities, on-duty or on-site Federal employees, on-site Federal contractors, and other individuals in Federal buildings and on Federal lands should all wear masks, maintain physical distance, and adhere to other public health measures, as provided in CDC guidelines.

More information can be obtained at www.whitehouse.gov

Settlement Reached on Holiday Schedule Pecking Order Grievance:

A settlement has been reached between NALC and USPS regarding national-level grievance Q11N-4Q-14270600 concerning whether the holiday schedule pecking order is applicable to the assignment of personnel to complete parcel delivery on holidays in installations that have Sunday parcel delivery.

The parties agree that the Employer determines the number and categories of employees needed for holiday work. In instances where there are eight or more hours of work available, the normal holiday pecking order is used to schedule employees to work on a holiday.

In instances where the holiday pecking order applies and a parcel delivery hub and spoke model is utilized, employees of the installation where the carriers report and from where delivery originates on the holiday or designated holiday will be scheduled pursuant to the holiday pecking order, and existing local memorandum of understanding (LMOU) provisions regarding the holiday pecking order in that installation will apply. This does not preclude the scheduling of CCAs from other Post Offices consistent with existing contractual provisions.

The agreement, **M-01937** in NALC's Materials Reference System, does not alter existing local memorandum of understanding provisions regarding the holiday pecking order or holiday scheduling in any installation. Any grievance held pending the outcome of this national case will be processed with the understanding of the settlement in accordance with Article 15 of the National Agreement.