



# THE BRANCH 324 BUZZ



February 2019

## **When can management mandate me on my own route?**

Article 8 of the National Agreement is very clear. During most of the year, *not including the 4 week exclusionary period in December*, management can mandate “on assignment” to avoid paying penalty overtime. This means that if ODL carriers and CCAs are going to be working into penalty overtime, eight hour carriers can be mandated on their own assignment for that day. There is additional language in Article 8 pertaining to mandating and it is always good for carriers to keep themselves educated on their contractual rights.

## **Can I opt a T6 string?**

There has been some confusion around this scenario over several years and still continues across the country. When carriers “opt” or put in a “hold down”, it essentially means the same thing. Under Article 25 of the National Agreement, T6 (Carrier Technician) positions can’t be opted. It is a higher level assignment and no one can put in an “opt” or “hold down” on a T6 assignment. That being said, a carrier may request to be detailed or assigned to the position for the duration of the open vacancy. This must be done in writing just like opting, but is considered a different category by itself. We currently have a carrier at the Greeley Downtown Station that has been detailed to a temporarily vacant T6 assignment by requesting the detail from management and then being assigned to fill the temporary vacancy. This is not an opt. Carriers can request to be detailed to a higher level assignment. Carrier Technicians can’t request to temporarily work another T6 string because it would be a lateral assignment and not a higher level assignment. Hopefully, we’ve cleared up this question.

## **CCAs: When I get converted, does my uniform allotment date change?**

Your uniform allotment date will never change. The original date assigned to you as a CCA will carryover when you make career. Once converted, you will receive a credit card for your uniform purchases instead of a voucher. The credit card won’t be issued immediately. It should be sent to you within 60 days of your next uniform anniversary date so you can purchase any uniforms needed.

## **What do I do if I need an FMLA packet?**

If you are calling in sick and it qualifies for FMLA, you can request an FMLA packet at the time of the call in. Human Resources will then send the packet to your address on file. You will need to take that packet to your physician within the required time limits and have it faxed or mail into Human Resources to submit it for approval. The form that is usually used is a WH-380, FMLA packet. You can also use the NALC FMLA forms located at [www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org) on the ‘workplace resources’ tab. These NALC forms have been approved by the Department of Labor and are accepted by Human Resources. Don’t let anyone tell you otherwise. There is also no requirement that you must use the FMLA packet sent from USPS Human Resources. If you have additional questions about FMLA, please contact your steward.

**Branch Meeting  
February 7th, 2019 6:30pm**

**Hope to see you there!**