



THE BRANCH 324 BUZZ

November 2020



COVID-19 UPDATES:

There is still a requirement through the Colorado/Wyoming District to wear a mask in a USPS facility. The Colorado Governor has extended this mandate and USPS CO/WY District Manager Jason McMahill has also given direction that wearing a mask isn't an option at work. If you can't wear some type of mask, you must wear a face shield. You are also required to wear the face covering when interacting with the public when you can't socially distance and when delivering to businesses. Let's work together safely so we can get past the virus.

What are you doing with coverages and EDDM pieces of mail?

Our customers respect their letter carriers and we are the most valued federal employee out there based on multiple polls conducted annually. We don't want to let our customers down and also the USPS. You have seen it on the news with carriers throwing mail away in dumpsters and on the side of the road. We don't want that in our branch or in our offices. Every piece of mail should be attempted to be delivered daily unless it is being processed due to a non-delivery reason (NSN, ANK, IA, Business Closed, etc.)

No one should be putting a full coverage in the UBBM. If you have an overabundance left over at the end of the day, notify your supervisor and document if necessary prior to placing the remainder in UBBM. Carriers have been fired for delay of mail and throwing mail away. We have had cases in our branch of carriers putting mail in UBBM that was deliverable. Don't be the one to get in trouble with this and do your job every day. "It takes what it takes". I'm not asking you to stretch your street time, but management can't give you a set time of delivery on the street with any program they have in their arsenal. Eight hours work for eight hours pay. Don't take short cuts. Take your breaks. Don't work through your lunch.

Lump Sum Terminal Leave Payment for 2021

On September 3, 2020 the NALC and the Postal Service agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding (M-01928 in the NALC Materials Reference System) which allows regular work force career employees to carry over 520 hours of accumulated annual leave from leave year 2020 to leave year 2021.

M-01928 states:

The parties agree that for leave year 2021, regular work force career employees covered by the USPS-NALC Agreement may carry over 520 hours of accumulated annual leave from leave year 2020 to leave year 2021.

Reminder on Annual Leave

Be sure to double check your annual leave balance and make sure you are not signed up for more than you have in your balance. It could cost you some LWOP time if you don't cancel. You are also required to take the amount of annual that you are signed up for on the calendar. In Greeley, our LMOU offers a fifteen minute variance. For example, if you are signed up for 2 hours of annual you must take at least 1.45 minutes. Our other associate offices don't have a variance. You should be taking the amount signed up for.

Thank you for working so hard!

We just finished with the election mail and thank you for all of your dedication and hard work. We were put under a spot light by many people and it didn't help having fellow employees from across the country placing us in that light. Take a deep breath and let's get ready for the increase of holiday packages.

Interest Arbitration Update:

Last week, NALC and USPS have continued with interest arbitration hearings each day to resolve the impasse over the 2019 collective bargaining agreement. The arbitration panel, chaired by neutral Arbitrator Dennis Nolan, heard testimony last week from NALC President Fred Rolando, Executive Vice President Brian Renfroe and two panels of letter carriers. One letter carrier panel testified about how the letter carrier job has changed and has become more demanding, difficult, and dangerous over the years. A second panel testified about their experiences as a city carrier assistant. Additionally, NALC attorneys have argued NALC's case with a series of presentations on testimony submitted by various professional expert witnesses. Hearings will resume the week of November 9.

2020 FEHB Open Season

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) officially announced the dates for the 2020 Federal Benefits Open Season which will run from **Monday, November 9 through Monday, December 14, 2020.**



All members that come to a union meeting get an additional 2021 color calendar at no cost.