



THE BRANCH 324 BUZZ



November 2021

Are you prepared?

Are you ready for the weather?

All of us need to get ready for the weather will change and the cold will come. First, find your cold weather gear and wash it. If you can't find it, be ready to go buy what you know works in the cold to keep you warm. Help educate the new carriers in your offices so they are prepared.

Check with your supervisors and make sure they have ordered the usual supplies your offices gets this time of year.

Have you checked your windshield wipers on your LLV? How are the tires on your LLV? Do all of the vehicles have chains or auto socks?

Let's all work together to get the necessary supplies we need to get through this time of year. Some offices even buy small snow shovels to put in the vehicles. Maybe your office will order them. All you can do is ask.

Uniforms

We have been advised the USPS and NALC have agreed to some new uniform changes after the first of the year. In April 2022, breathable "Nike type" uniform shirts will be released. In July 2022, cargo type uniform shorts and pants will be available. If you have your allotment and it won't expire by then, you might want to wait to purchase some of these items. **ALWAYS** be sure to use your whole allotment when your purchase uniforms. We've always known that any amount of uniform funds are not rolled over into the next year. We've been recently told in the contract with the USPS, any funds not used annually by USPS employees aren't refunded back to USPS. These unused funds are kept by Citibank. Be sure to use all of your funds annually.



Staffing

As many of you are aware, the USPS is having major hiring issues across the U.S. While we are excited to see many of the offices our branch represents well staffed, there are other offices that have only a few or no CCAs. All of our offices have been there before but it will be more difficult going into peak season.

The NALC has been trying to work with the USPS for the past several months on signing additional MOUs to improve the conditions in the field. The light bulb just came on for the USPS in the past month and only one MOU (M-01968) has been signed allowing full-time regular carriers to be temporary detailed to other locations.

There are other MOUs still on the desks of USPS officials that will help with the hiring process but all of the details still aren't known and the MOUs aren't signed as of yet. When the details become available, we will get them out to the offices.

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) officially announced the dates for the 2021 Federal Benefits Open Season which will run from:

**Monday, November 8 through
Monday, December 13, 2021**

The screenshot shows the BENEFEDS website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for 'About', 'Contact', and 'Log In'. Below the navigation is a menu with 'Programs', 'Education and Support', and 'Tools'. A search bar is visible. The main banner features a photograph of a smiling man and a young child. The text on the banner reads: 'Enroll Today! Open season ends December 13, 2021.' There is an 'Enroll Now' button.