



Update your Route Inspection Kit CD

I would like to begin by thanking the delegates to the national convention in Las Vegas for their overwhelming support of the new political field plan for state associations, which is an important part of our vision for the future of the NALC. I would also like to personally thank the delegates, and all NALC members, for your vote of confidence by electing me to be your next Executive Vice President. I look forward to working together with the newly elected officers to face the many challenges that lie ahead.

As indicated in my last *Postal Record* article, we distributed copies of the newly developed NALC Route Inspection Kit CD to all the delegates at the National Convention. We were also able to conduct a brief demonstration of the program during the two CAU/City Delivery workshops. We are now in the process of sending the Route Inspection Kit CD to every branch in the country, along with a copy of the new 2006 Contract CD, and hard copies of the corrected pages that were added to the online chapters of the Route Protection Program in May 2006.

“Once you have installed the CD, visit the City Delivery website and download the latest version so that you will have all the current features.”

As discussed in the workshops at the convention, we continue to make improvements to the Route Inspection Kit. Many of the suggestions that prompted the enhancements have come from letter carriers around the country who have tested the program. Several changes have been made since the CD was produced for the convention. Therefore, once you have installed the CD on your computer, you should immediately visit the City Delivery website at www.nalc.org and download the latest version so that your CD will have all the current features. As you regularly visit the website, you should check for future updates, which are quickly and easily downloaded once you have the initial CD installed.

If you have any problems or questions regarding the Route Inspection Kit CD, please contact your National

Business Agent, or one of their Regional Administrative Assistants. Additionally, please send me any suggestions you may have for improving the program.

The Postal Service recently requested our assistance with informing letter carriers about scanning International Mail Parcels. In 1999, the Universal Postal Union (UPU) enacted requirements for all postal administrations to capture delivery scans for all international parcels. In 2004, the UPU established financial penalties for missing scan data, effective January 1, 2006. The Postal Service then assumed liability for the loss, damage or rifling of all parcel items sent to the United States from a foreign destination. When delivered or attempted, all international parcels require scanning if a barcode is affixed, or absent a barcode, manual entry of the information. Apparently, their reports indicate a scan rate of under 50 percent, compared with a domestic scan rate of over 97 percent. The Postal Service has indicated that they face a significant financial risk if the scan rates do not improve.

Their representatives made it clear that the various designations on international parcels are difficult to identify, and that they will not be using disciplinary tactics to address the issue. Rather, they have developed a field information kit which includes

a briefing article on the scanning process/label designations/multiple barcodes/scanner malfunction/unavailability, sample labels, frequently asked questions and service talks. I'm confident that letter carriers can once again contribute to the success of the Postal Service by improving the international parcel scan rates. However, supervisors must do their part by taking the time to distribute and explain the field information in detail, and then provide letter carriers with the necessary time to identify the parcels and process the required information in the scanners.

We have opened negotiations with the Postal Service toward a new National Agreement. President Young made it clear during his opening remarks that letter carriers expect to be rewarded for their contributions to the success of the Postal Service. ☒