



A different Post Office

The year 2010 will bring a different Postal Service from what we have seen in the past. By understanding that and being ready to deal with the tough issues, the NALC will lead the Postal Service kicking and screaming out of the red ink and into the black. It's not going to happen overnight. Heck, it may take two to three years, depending on what Congress does. Now, more than ever, we all have to do our part.

If you want to stay employed with the USPS, start attending your local branch meetings and reading every article in *The Postal Record*. Why, you ask? To protect your job and benefits, that's why! The success of the NALC is not just the work of our union officers—it's the membership that has made this union great. The NALC

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is going to have deal with more route adjustments, automation and computer software in 2010. To the USPS, we say, Bring it on—everything is negotiable!

At the end of the day, we want a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. With all the tracking software the Postal Service is trying, it should be able to get rid of all the local managers. Heck, they could just watch us from the USPS headquarters level and shut down the district and area levels, too. I never liked someone hanging over my shoulder, but when faced with either having a supervisor follow me all day or carrying a GPS system, I trust the GPS more than some of the postal managers I've met.

Better yet, we might think about trading in our supervisors and postmasters for a bright shiny new GPS system, and \$5 more an hour. What do you think? Anyway, the bottom line here is simple: Get involved and stay active in your local union. This year, our members will make the difference. See you at the next branch meeting.

The USPS in 2010 will continue to look for ways to cut work hours, and my guess is the jobs inside the Postal Service will drop another 30,000 to 35,000, at least. The only bright side is that most of the cuts will not be in the letter carrier craft. Automation, such as the flat sorters, will still cut into our office time and management will keep trying to reduce street time, but it's mail volume we need to get back if we are to grow the business. We must find ways to improve volume both in the mail and the parcel business. It's a lot harder to do away with jobs when the work is there.

There are a few big items on the horizon this year that will affect us as letter carriers. Both the APWU and the NRLCA start contract talks with the Postal Service this year, and that should give you something to think about. Our contract runs to November 2011 and right now, that might be a blessing. Only time will tell.

Trying to get a contract in 2010 with the Postal Service is not going to be easy. As always, the NALC will help its sister unions where it can and you can bet the Postal

Service understands that whatever it does in 2010 sets the floor from where we build our contract. If it were not for the labor unions in the USPS, it would be up for sale right now. The USPS Board of Governors would do well to keep that in mind.

I end with congratulations to the new branch leadership all across our great country. The daily battles your branch officers face are only going to get bigger in 2010. They depend on you and our union solidarity every day. We must all do our part by attending branch meetings, standing union strong on the workroom floor, and giving to COLCPE.

The next issue of *The Postal Record* will list all of our members who give a little back to protect our jobs and retirement from the Postal Service. Are you signed up to give to COLCPE? Be a leader in 2010 by signing up today. The job you save may be your own! ☒