



Help us help you

I want to begin by thanking everyone who attended the City Delivery and Article 12 workshops at the convention. We appreciate your participation in our classes.

Special thanks go out to those of you who participated in the exercise during the City Delivery workshop and at the regional events I have attended since the convention. I can report that I have read each and every opinion. I think that many of the details provided will prove to be useful as we move forward with bargaining.

For some time now, we've been asking everyone to send "no bid" job postings for residual vacancies to your national business agent's office. Each national business agent (NBA) sent at least one letter to the branch presidents in his or her region requesting copies of these residual vacancies. I've written about this twice.

"Anytime a letter carrier job is posted for bid and no one bids on it, please send a copy of the posting to your NBA's office."

Unfortunately, most regions have received very little response from the branches. The average response is around 10 to 20 percent of branches participating in our effort to create an accurate list of the jobs being withheld.

Thanks to those of you who are already sending in your "no bid" job postings. If you're not already helping, please start. As a reminder, part of the Article 12 workshop was devoted to this subject and trying to illustrate why it's so important to get an accurate list of "no bid" jobs. Remember Carla and Forrest?

I asked everyone in both classes to commit to helping us with this task. Everyone in attendance agreed to help, so if you haven't already done so, please follow up and take care of this.

If you were not in the Article 12 workshop, let me take this opportunity to ask you again. Will you please help us develop an accurate list of "no bid" jobs? What we're asking is really pretty simple: Anytime a letter carrier job is posted for bid and no one bids on it, please send a copy of the posting to your NBA's office.

Why is this important? We simply cannot depend on the Postal Service to tell us where each and every job is located. The only way we're going to get an accurate list of jobs is to put it together ourselves.

Who should be concerned about this? The answer is everyone. We need to get our PTFs converted where appropriate. We need to know where jobs are so we can put this withholding/excessing/PTF conversion puzzle together. This also relates to the problem of understaffed offices. There is another reason as well—our transitional employees (TEs).

President Rolando has made no secret of the fact that throughout negotiations for our next national agreement, we have pursued the idea of creating a way to build a bridge for TEs to be hired as career letter carriers.

I've heard many TEs over the years ask, "Why should I join the union?" or "What has the union done for me?" If you're a TE, you have as big a stake in our combined efforts as anyone. The fact is that the NALC is fighting for you to become a career employee. The NALC is also the best hope you

have in this fight. Get involved and do what you can to help! You can start by talking to other TEs who aren't members about joining the NALC.

You can help with our legislative efforts, too. Election Day is less than a month from now. There are NALC members released all over the country working on campaigns. You can contribute \$5 per pay period to COLCPE and help pay their salaries. Why should you do that? Because they're working on getting the politicians elected who will give us the best chance of getting a good bill passed to fix the financial crisis Congress created for the Postal Service. You can also volunteer some time to work on a campaign.

This month's Contract Talk on the next page is dedicated to explaining the process for TEs to take the Postal Service entrance exam. The method for taking the test has changed, but one thing hasn't: No TE will be hired as a career letter carrier until such time as the Postal Service begins to hire career city letter carriers.

One more thing: Please don't forget to vote!

