

A day in the life



George C. Mignosi

Not that long ago, while casing 15 routes in the Canarsie section of Brooklyn, I wondered what it would be like to be a national union officer.

Well, here's a typical day:

8:03 a.m.: Log onto computer—Sixty-three unopened e-mail messages, the majority of which are related to Customer Connect. One interesting correspondence concerns notice of a successful \$177,000 sale from Lemongrass.com, in Colorado. Another lists participation success in Hopewell, NJ Branch 5571. Several e-mails are related to the Contract Administration Unit (CAU); the remainder are related to arbitration billing or arbitration task force issues.

arbitration task force issues.

9 a.m.: Attend weekly CAU meeting—Participants include Executive Vice President Tim O'Malley, Director of City Delivery Lew Drass and Director of Safety and Health Manuel Peralta. The issues reviewed are a series of settlement offers concerning open national disputes:

- Hiring TEs for a period of less than 360 days
- Management unilateral suspension of bidding and posting (multiple scenarios)
- Privacy issues associated with PS Form 1769/301
- DOL FMLA forms and NALC FMLA forms
- Pay anomaly issues

Among the other issues reviewed are the creation of a new Shop Stewards Guide, updating the Joint Contract Administration Manual (JCAM), CCA issues and Article 12 tracking.

11 a.m.: Teleconference with USPS Headquarters—This meeting concerns preparation of an agenda of the next monthly national Customer Connect teleconference. Each month, the NALC's 15 national business agents, along with USPS sales and marketing representatives, participate in a teleconference to provide oversight to the process. On this occasion, the parties have created a joint PowerPoint presentation that will be used to emphasize the protocols for district and station practices. Additionally, NALC recently has completed an update of the station coordinator list, and also has created recognition awards for NBAs to distribute.

1:30 p.m.: Attend Fiscal Committee meeting—Secretary-Treasurer Jane Broendel, Director of Life Insurance Myra

Warren and I comprise this day's fiscal committee. Other officers who are scheduled for fiscal committee duties are Tim O'Malley, Nicole Rhine, Manny Peralta and Ron Watson. On this date, the committee reviews dozens of itemized bills from vendors, landlords and utilities, as well as from NBAs, regional administrative assistants (RAAs) and local business agents (LBAs) who incurred expenses while on official assignment.

3:30 p.m.: Contact travel agency, local branches/state associations concerning upcoming assignments.

4 p.m.: Resident officer meeting—President Rolando calls a regularly scheduled meeting where all the resident officers report on their recent assignments, as well as progress on the various projects at Headquarters. Today, President Rolando provides a detailed report of his recent travels, which include attending a congressional hearing, meeting with the Office of the Inspector General, participating on a PostalVision 2020 panel as well as attending various state conventions.

My report references attending a retiree banquet in Elyria, OH; a "USA for 6 Day" event in New York City; a retiree dinner in Shreveport, LA; a food drive in Phoenix; a retiree luncheon in Minneapolis; state conventions in South Dakota, Vermont and North Dakota; and a retiree dinner in Atlanta.

Usually I also report on the arbitration task force, Leadership Academy, NALC Auxiliary recruitment and organizing stats.

7:15 p.m.: Begin writing article for 2014 Leadership Academy—The application period for the 2014 Leadership Academy is now open to all members. Applications must be received by Aug. 31, 2013.

All previous applications have been moved to inactive status. Those who wish to be considered for one of the 2014 Leadership Academy spots must reapply by completing a new application form.

Branch presidents or other branch officers often are good choices for mentors, as they have opportunities to work closely with the student and can provide the help needed with the outside learning projects. Leadership Academy graduates from previous classes are another good source.

The leadership Academy application is available for download from the NALC home page at nalc.org/nalc/members/leadership.html.