

Lewis and Clark



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Following the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, President Thomas Jefferson commissioned members of the U.S. Army under the command of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to explore and map the new territory. The Lewis and Clark expedition originated in St. Louis on the Mississippi River and followed westward through the continental divide to the Pacific coast from 1804 to 1806—and traveled more than 4,100 miles in all.

NALC President Rolando has assigned resident officers to all corners of the country to deliver important updates to delegates, leaders and members. The message of “The

Future is Now” campaign outlined six topics:

- Going to war to save Saturday delivery
- USPS business report
- Legislative update
- 2013 reform strategy
- Das award: new contract
- Organizing the future: city carrier assistants (CCAs)

The Vermont and Nevada state conventions received the presentation prior to our successful Day of Action on March 24, and Rhode Island and South Carolina conventions followed.

Then, on April 10, the USPS Board of Governors announced what the NALC has said all along—that USPS must comply with the continuing resolution (CR) that mandates continuation of six-day delivery this year.

Officers attending conventions in South Dakota, Mississippi, Indiana, Nebraska, Idaho, Colorado, Oklahoma, Kansas, North Dakota and Arizona acknowledged that the CR was signed into law thanks in part to the effort of those who turned out on March 24, and emphasized that the CR protects only this fiscal year. At each convention, the resident officer in attendance specified to the delegates which local members of Congress and senators have or have not signed on to the legislation we seek to protect the USPS:

- **S. 316**—Sen. Bernie Sanders’ (I-VT) comprehensive postal reform bill, which, as of this writing, has 22 co-sponsors. This bill would repeal pre-funding, return to the USPS its massive pension surpluses, mandate six-day delivery and create a path to innovate and grow.
- **H. Res 30**—a non-binding resolution in support of

continued six-day delivery, which already has 180 co-sponsors from both parties.

- **H.R. 630**—introduced by Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR). It is the same bill as S. 316, and has 140 co-sponsors.
- **H.R. 961**—a bill from Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA) that would require the OPM to accurately calculate the postal pension surplus in FERS and return it to the USPS. It has 99 co-sponsors.

A review of the USPS first-quarter results for FY 2013 shows a 19 percent package revenue surge. Thanks to the 20,740 letter carriers who have submitted leads so far this year, there is an influx of \$168 million estimated annualized revenue generated. Imagine if the other 150,000 carriers submitted one lead this year.

The Jan. 10 Das award includes a memorandum of understanding calling for the creation of an arbitration task force. President Rolando has appointed Director of Safety and Health Manny Peralta, Region 9 National Business Agent Judy Willoughby, Assistant to the President Bill Bothwell and me as members. Issues to be discussed include:

- District and/or expedited arbitration panels
- Procedures used to hire, educate and compensate arbitrators
- Communications with arbitrators, including post-hearing briefs
- Ensuring that accepted dates are fully utilized
- Avoiding settlements/withdrawal less than five days before the scheduled hearing date
- Eliminating hearings for cases where there is no material issue in dispute
- Centralized arbitration scheduling

The organizing of CCAs has been very efficient throughout the union. As a resource to recruiting and educating our newest generation of letter carriers, NALC Headquarters has created a “swag bag” for each new member. Local recruitment officials should contact their national business agent for the materials.

Finally, among all the travels our resident officers have logged this year, I had the privilege of traveling to South Dakota and North Dakota—just like Lewis and Clark.

Earlier this year, Leadership Academy Classes 15, 14 and 13 were challenged with (1) getting/identifying two Customer Connect leads, (2) pulling Individual CC Reports and (3) pulling Station Reports. Here are the results:

Class	Leads	Individual Reports	Station Reports
13	4	1	1
14	16	9	1
15	52	17	14

Congratulations, Class 15.