

New route-inspection books and more training opportunities



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The 2018 NALC *Guide to Route Inspections*, an update of the 2012 guide, has been printed and a copy sent to each branch. Additional copies are available through your national business agent's office. It should assist shop stewards and branch officers in identifying contractual violations that take place during management's unilateral six-day route count and inspection/adjustment process.

The guide will take you through the inspection process in chronological order and provide an easy reference to provisions and national settlements that govern the traditional route count and inspection process from start to finish.

The guide also contains detailed descriptions of the forms used, as well as reports generated by the Carrier Optimal Routing (COR) program, often used when territorial adjustments are made.

We also produced *The 2018 NALC Route Inspection Pocket Handbook*, an update on the 2012 pocket handbook. The pocket handbook was created to be used by letter carriers as a quick and convenient reference. It explains the route inspection/adjustment process and offers information and guidance for filling out PS Form 1838-C during the week of inspection as well as during the consultation phase that occurs after the inspection. There also is space for you to take notes on the day of inspection and during your consultations.

This little book is a great resource that fits in your pocket and should be provided to letter carriers whenever they go through a route inspection. We had enough copies printed to meet this end. It is now up to each local branch to request and distribute them when route inspections take place in your area. Please be sure to take advantage of this opportunity.

Additional copies are available through your national business agent's office or the NALC Supply Department.

Arbitration-advocate training

We conducted another arbitration-advocate training session March 17-24. This was Class 7 and all 16 participants graduated on March 24. Congratulations to each of you. I want to take this opportunity to thank Shawn Boyd, Greg Dixon, James Henry and Mark Sims for serving as facilitators and Ron Brown, Gene Goodwin, Bill Lister, Jamie Lumm, Charlie Miller and Tom Young for serving as arbitra-

tors during these training sessions over the past year. I really appreciate all of you.

We have decided to offer another arbitration-advocate training class this year. It will be held Nov. 4-10. One of the requirements is to have some experience serving as a technical assistant (TA) in at least a few arbitration hearings. If you are interested in becoming an arbitration advocate, you need to apply through your national business agent's office. Recommendations for participants will be submitted to me by the NBAs for consideration.

Advanced Formal A and Beyond training program

As previously reported, the two scheduled Advanced Formal A and Beyond training sessions will be held Sept. 16-21 and Oct. 21-26 of this year at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum Heights, MD, five minutes from Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall (BWI) airport.

The total cost of food and lodging to attend the training is \$1,165.25 (single occupancy) or \$1,742.90 (double occupancy). This is for five nights at \$233.05 (single occupancy) or \$348.58 (double occupancy) per day. The rate includes room and tax for five nights, all meals and refreshments during breaks each day. We will supply all the materials you will need.

Space is still available in each class. Applications are available on the NALC website with just a few clicks. Simply go to nalc.org and click the tab "Workplace Issues;" from there, a drop-down menu will allow you to select "Contract Administration Unit." From there, click the tab "Advanced Formal A and Beyond training program." You will see the application.

If you already have filled out an application, you should have received a letter from me notifying you that you have been accepted and letting you know that it is time to send in your money. Please try to take care of that by the end of May, if at all possible. If you have not received an acceptance letter from me, there is something wrong. Contact my office so that we can get you into one of the classes before they fill up. We look forward to seeing those of you who will be attending.

In closing, I want to thank everyone for your efforts during the Food Drive, and most importantly, I want to wish all of the mothers out there a Happy Mother's Day. Thanks, Mom; I love you!