

On September 1, we had our third in person Union meeting in 18 months! Actually, it was a hybrid meeting with more than twice as many participating via Zoom. All 15 of our Officers were elected by acclamation for another term. I want to thank Kristin Williams, Regional Workers' Compensation Assistant for regions 12 and 13, for conducting the Zoom part of our Union meeting. All said, the meeting went rather well. The Zoom participants could ask questions, make motions and speak for or against motions. We are getting back to normal one baby step at a time.

USPS Management has declared a "State of Emergency" in Maryland and DC. I thought governors declared State of Emergencies. Anyway, this is the terminology that management is using to declare an "emergency." Article 3F of our contract speaks of an emergency with the following language: This provision gives management the right to take whatever actions may be necessary to carry out its mission in emergency situations. An emergency is defined as an *unforeseen circumstance* or a combination of circumstances which calls for immediate action in a situation *which is not expected to be of a recurring nature*. The pandemic has been raging for the last 18 months. Therefore, the situation is recurring. Anyway, we are taking the position that management is violating the contract with this "emergency" declaration. In one of our cities, management sent all of our CCA's to Baltimore to case and carry mail on a Sunday, in the middle of our Labor Day holiday weekend! There are many violations here, including M-01915. We have won about \$5,000 for violations of M-01915. It looks like that total will be increased! Fred Rolando, Brian Renfroe and

Low Drass are addressing this “emergency” with L’Enfant Plaza. We hope this is resolved soon.

**IN THE STRUGGLE,
Kenneth Lerch
President NALC 3825**