

RURAL BIDDING;

In an effort to improve, standardize and automate the bidding process for regular rural routes and part-time flexible positions, the NRLCA and the USPS entered in to an MOU that brought about the computerized bidding process we currently use. The process began in 2006 and has been in use ever since. No longer do we have to bid on a route manually and wait to see what routes other routes become available; everything is done at once. **No longer can we reject a route we successfully bid upon; 'we bid it, we bought it'.**

>Unfortunately this has allowed for too many misunderstandings and mistakes that have cost carriers a route they wanted.

The process to standardize allows the vacant route as well as every residual vacancy that occurs during the posting to be filled at the same time; so long as everyone wishing to bid does so correctly.

When a route goes up for bid, every route in the office is eligible for election in the bidding process whether the regular assigned to the route plans to bid to another route or not. **That does not mean the route will automatically be awarded to someone else;** the regular carrier assigned to it must be the successful bidder on another assignment for that to occur. If it does become open for bid during the posting process due to the regular carrier assigned opting to bid to another route, it allows for the next senior carrier to be selected for that route, and so on down the line.

This is why it is very important for Regular carriers who are interested in changing assignment to bid on only the routes that they are interested in. **If you bid on a route you are not interested in and are the successful bidder, you cannot refuse the assignment, and if you do not bid on a route you are interested in, you will not get that route.**

The senior PTF will automatically convert to regular on the residual vacancy; but if there are multiple vacancies being offered at the same time and the PTF has a preference for a particular route, then they should be sure to bid on all routes by order of preference.

Leave replacement carriers, RCAs, substitutes, if interested in converting to regular when a route goes up for bid, you **must** elect all routes during the bidding process; choosing by preference if there are multiple vacancies. All the routes in the office are listed next to check boxes on the screen in the computerized process. If there are 10 routes in your office, there will be 10 routes listed with 10 check boxes. To bid on a route, you check the box. If you do not check a box and that route is the residual from the posting, you will not convert to regular. A more junior leave replacement carrier might, or if not, the posting will go district wide.

The only time anyone can make changes to your bids is between the dates of the posting; once the posting closes, all bids submitted are locked in.

DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE 9TH OR 10TH DAY!
THERE ARE NO "DO-OVERS"!

If you have any questions, please contact your assigned steward.