



## Bledsoe, Wittenburg step up as new NBAs Young also names Tillman and Karnopp to RAA slots

**T**wo regional administrative assistants have been appointed to the position of National Business Agent by President William H. Young, succeeding retiring NBAs Wesley Davis in Region 4 (Denver) and Ned Furr in Region 7 (Minneapolis).

Roger W. Bledsoe, 48, a member of Branch 458 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, was named to succeed Davis, who retired after more than six years as NBA for Region 4, which covers Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming. The change was effective May 11.

Christopher E. Wittenburg, 48, a member of Branch 28 in St. Paul, Minnesota, was named to succeed Furr, who is retiring after four years as NBA for Region 7, representing letter carriers in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. The shift will be effective July 6.

"All members of this union are indebted to Brothers Davis and Furr for their dedication and determination in representing the interests of letter carriers for many years throughout much of the heartland of America," Young said.

"While their experience and leadership will be missed, I am confident that we have two excellent individuals to continue their work," he added.

Young also appointed Ray M. Tillman, 54, of Branch 642 in Boulder, Colorado, to replace Bledsoe as Region 4 RAA, and Jason A. Karnopp, 33, of Branch 9 Minneapolis, Minnesota, to replace Wittenburg as Region 4 RAA.

Under the *NALC Constitution*, the union president has the power to fill vacancies in the ranks of the NBAs until the next regular election, which will come after the July 2010 national convention. Business agents are elected by members in their regions; all RAAs are appointed.

Wittenburg was a member of the first class of the NALC Leadership Academy. Before being appointed an RAA by President Young in December 2006, he was vice president of St. Paul Branch 28. He trained as an NALC arbitration advocate and also served as a shop steward, branch assistant secretary-treasurer and head of several branch committees.

Bledsoe was named an RAA for Region 4 by President Vincent R. Sombrotto in September 1998. Prior to that he served on the Dispute Resolution Team (DRT) for the Oklahoma District and was branch secretary of the Oklahoma City branch. Bledsoe also served as a branch trustee, shop steward and arbitration advocate. ✉



When Wes Davis (l) retired, Roger Bledsoe became Region 4 NBA.



President Young named Christopher Wittenburg (top) to succeed Region 7 National Business Agent Ned Furr (above).