

Mr. William H. Young
President
National Association of Letter
Carriers, AFL-CIO
100 Indiana Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001-2144

NALC 8295
Re: Q01N-4Q-C 07278400
Class Action
Washington, DC 20260-4100

Dear Mr. Young:

Recently, our representatives met in prearbitration discussion of the above-referenced grievance.

The issue in this grievance concerns the Union's contention that the revised Handbook AS-353, *Guide to Privacy, the Freedom of Information Act, and Records Management, Section 4-6.5, How to Assess Fees* inappropriately changed the method of calculating computer search time so as to deprive the union of the first two hours of computer search time at no charge.

After reviewing this matter, we agree to resolve this grievance based on the following:

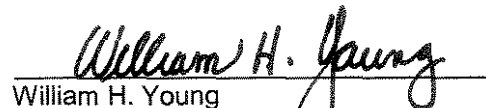
1. The provisions of the Handbook AS-353 at issue incorporate a pre-existing regulation set forth in 39 C.F.R., Section 265.9. No substantive revision or change of policy has occurred.
2. If computer search fees apply to information requests from the union pursuant to Handbook AS-353, Section 4-65; and the "Computer personnel" cost involves "Operator time" and the "Computer processing" is "PC usage", the Postal Service will not charge the union at higher "Computer personnel" or "Computer processing" rate only because the PC reads stored data from a mainframe computer. Pursuant to AS-353 Section 4-6.5, the first two hours and the first 100 pages are free.
3. Disputes over the validity of any charges for computer processing are suitable for resolution on a case-by-case basis.

Please sign and return the enclosed copy of this decision as acknowledgment of your agreement to resolve this grievance, removing it from the national arbitration listing.

Sincerely,



Alan S. Moore
Manager
Labor Relations Policy
and Programs



William H. Young
President
National Association of Letter
Carriers, AFL-CIO

Date: 12/5/2008