

Medicare Part B Special Enrollment Period for 65 and older runs through September

The Special Enrollment Period (SEP) has arrived and runs through Sept. 30. The SEP is a result of the Postal Service Reform Act that created the Postal Service Health Benefits (PSHB) Program within the existing Federal Employees Health Benefits Program. A major component of the Postal Service Reform Act was the integration of Medicare with the PSHB.

Retirees aged 65 or older who have not yet enrolled in Medicare Part B have a chance to enroll without being subject to the late enrollment penalty during this special one-time-only period. If they enroll, the Postal Service will pay for the rest of their lives any annual penalties on the premium for not having enrolled during their initial enrollment period. For those who did not enroll in Medicare Part B when

they were first eligible, this is a chance to opt in at a time when they might need it more, without having had to pay the premiums earlier when they did not need it, or a penalty for opting in late.

Eligible retirees should have received notice and enrollment instructions from the Postal Service. To read more about the PSHB Program, see the January issue of *The Postal Record*. **PR**

Food Drive Day is Saturday, May 11

The nation's largest single-day food drive is almost here. The Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive is Saturday, May 11.

Letter carriers have teamed with postal employees and volunteers to collect a total of 1.9 billion pounds of food since the first national food drive in 1993. Donations are collected from postal patrons who leave a bag of non-perishable food next to their mailbox on the second Saturday in May.

One in 8 Americans, including millions of children, senior citizens and veterans, are unsure where their next meal will come from. The Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive helps to relieve shortages of food that food pantries experience in spring and summer, when holiday food donations are depleted and schools are closing for the summer.

"Letter carriers know the struggles that people in their communities face—they see it every day," NALC President Brian L. Renfroe said. "For more than three decades, we've helped to meet their needs each May, and it's time to pull off this annual miracle again."

The annual food drive wouldn't be possible without the support of our national partners: the U.S. Postal

Service, the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, Vericast, United Way Worldwide, the AFL-CIO, Valpak, Kellanova and CVS Health. These partners help by paying for the specially marked postcards, donating thousands of pounds of food and thousands of dollars to food pantries, donating bags that letter carriers distribute to customers, gathering volunteers, or getting out the message about the food drive.

NALC's social media team and Communications Department at Headquarters and our national partners will continue spreading the word and raising awareness for the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. Remember to follow the food drive's official social media accounts on Facebook at facebook.com/StampOutHunger and on X (formerly known as Twitter) at [@StampOutHunger](https://twitter.com/StampOutHunger) to stay up to date and learn more about NALC's national partners. To find or send messages about the food drive on either platform, use #StampOutHunger.

Food Drive Day doesn't end until we weigh the donations to measure our success. Branches need to report the



pounds of food they collected via their Members Only portal by June 7.

Letter carriers who have questions about the food drive should contact their local branch coordinator. Regional and state food drive coordinators are available to assist; a contact list can be found on the Food Drive Tool Kit page at nalc.org/food, under the heading "Important information for coordinators." More information about the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive can be found online at nalc.org/food. **PR**