

Moving forward



**Timothy C.
O'Malley**

With the arbitration award behind us, we can now move forward to address the many issues in front of us. First and foremost is to protect six-day delivery. To lose our advantage of delivery would be foolish, to say the least.

The Postal Service should be increasing services to include package delivery on Sunday and to provide services in the evening. This way, we can dominate the marketplace and satisfy both the mailers and our customers. The Postal Service's position is a backward approach that would erode services further and cause our competitors to be more appealing to mailers

and customers. Congress should clearly see that our plan is better for the American public, mailers and our members. It also will stimulate jobs. Yes, I said *jobs*.

“We have the best delivery network in the world, and we need to capitalize on what we do best, which is delivery.”

Write to your congressional leaders to ask them to support S. 316 and H.R. 630, which provide for a postal modernization measure that preserves Saturday mail delivery. Also, ask them to support H.Res. 30, which expresses the sense that the USPS should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of six-day delivery. Rep. Stephen Lynch recently introduced bill H.R. 961, which would require the Office of Personnel Management to recalculate the Postal Service's pension liabilities to the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) using postal-specific salary and demographic assumptions.

The Postal Service, as you know, has over-funded the amounts needed to cover both the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and FERS by some \$50 billion to \$75 billion. If the Postal Service were refunded this amount, the financial crisis for the Postal Service would be over. Congress should approve both the refund and the calculation method immediately.

Recently, the Postal Service Board of Governors told the postmaster general to delay implementation of five-day delivery until Congress gives authority. Although we

are pleased that the Board stopped the implementation, we will have to be ever vigilant in watching what bills or amendments could be introduced. We must preserve six-day mail delivery.

We have the best delivery network in the world, and we need to capitalize on what we do best, which is delivery. If we give the business mailers and the American public six-day delivery and package delivery on Sunday, we can achieve our goals and be successful.

I only wish that Congress would take the time to review the Postal Reorganization Act of 1971. Representatives would quickly see that all the improvements in service that were implemented with their approval have now been changed. The Postal Service has eliminated services and continues to reduce services across the country. It's time for Congress to end this. Millions of dollars have been wasted on the postal campaign of destruction. From the PMG scaring the mailers away from the Postal Service to ads, articles, websites, etc., USPS leaders have lost focus on why the institution exists.

The Postal Reorganization Act of 1971 states: “The Postal Service shall have as its basic function the obligation to provide Postal Services to bind the Nation together through the Personal, Educational, Literary and Business Correspondence of the People.”

Keeping the Postal Service viable into the future is what's needed. We need a change in the structure of the governing body to make the right changes to preserve the Postal Service for years to come.

City carrier assistants

As we speak, the Postal Service is in the midst of hiring new non-career city carrier assistants (CCAs). Some 32,000 CCAs will be coming into the letter carrier craft. This is the biggest influx of new employees in the workforce in recent years. The transitional employee (TE) position officially ended last month.

We welcome all the CCAs to the Postal Service, and we look forward to their joining the NALC. The new CCA position includes a career path in which they will have the opportunity to become full-time career letter carriers. This will entitle them to the wages and other benefits provided to full-time employees in the future. Please welcome them to the craft and assist them with guidance and mentoring. They will play an important role in our future.