Celebrate!
Postal Heritage Day is July 26

The 2016 NALC Convention in Philadelphia approved a resolution to observe July 26 as “Postal Heritage Day.”

In Los Angeles, Aug. 15-19
Convention news and updates

NALC’s 79th biennial convention will be held at the Los Angeles Convention Center from Monday, Aug. 15, through Friday, Aug. 19. The convention will feature a series of informative and interactive sessions designed to inform and engage members.

Deadline approaching for FEGLI open season

In September, career letter carriers will have a rare chance to increase their federal group life insurance, without undergoing a major life event, through an open season that will continue for four weeks. Careful carriers can increase or cancel their FEGLI coverage at any time without waiting for an open season.

MDA news

*Muscle Walk* with President Rolando in Texas

To help recognize and support NALC’s fundraising efforts for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA)’s 2016 Muscle Walk, EOs and Postmasters are encouraged to take part in a Muscle Walk in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. The Muscle Walk will be held on Saturday, Sept. 17.

House leaders introduce, mark up bipartisan postal bills

On July 12, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform ( Oversight) advanced two postal reform measures: the Postal Service Reform Act of 2016 (H.R. 5742) and the Postal Service Financial Improvement Act (H.R. 5707).

The introductions followed a couple of weeks of consultations with stakeholders, groups—including NALC—that produce considerable comments on a variety of the bills. No amendments (either offered or adopted), both received committee approval by unanimous voice votes.

House Oversight Committee Chairman Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.), a primary sponsor, and Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe (R), another primary sponsor, both testified in favor of the legislation.

In the Senate, 2016 would be considered “a make or break year for the House of Representatives.”

State of the Union

Postal Service Reform Act of 2016 (H.R. 5742)

H.R. 5742 is a comprehensive postal reform bill that includes many of the conservative proposals backed by the NALC, the Postal Service and a business coalition representing a cross-section of the mailing industry. It also employs a number of NALC’s suggested changes to the discussion draft released in June.

The committee-passed measure contains several key provisions, including:

- Medicare integration: Seeks to reduce the unfunded liability for future retiree health benefits (under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, or FEHBP) by increasing participation in Medicare. The bill would create a separate risk pool for postal employees and postal annuitants within FEHBP and within their current plans.
- The bill provides low-cost prescription drug savings authorized by the Medicare Part D to FEHBP plans covering postal annuitants enrolled in Medicare, while providing savings to Medicare Part B for postal annuitants. Eligible annuitants (65 or older) who have not enrolled in Medicare Part B, the bill waives the late enrollment penalty. Together, this integration with Parts B and D of Medicare will significantly reduce the cost of FEHBP health insurance premiums paid by all active and retired letter carriers.
- Federal health benefits funding reform: Reduces pre-funding costs by amortizing the Postal Service’s unfunded retiree health benefits liability over 40 years (instead of 15 years), as will be required under current law.
- Premium funding reform: Directs the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to use postal-specific demographic and economic assumptions in its valuations of the Postal Service’s Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) pension accounts. Currently, OPM uses federal government-wide assumptions that artificially and inaccurately inflate USPS liabilities (liabilities).
- Converting door delivery to curb-line or centralized delivery. The bill requires the Postal Service, within one year of enactment, to identify a delivery area for door delivery to curb-line or centralized delivery.
- The bill would increase the amount of premiums paid by the local, regional and national levels due to the 79th biennial NALC Convention. Under the NALC Constitution, an alternate before a designated area is registered as a representative of a local body, a written statement must be submitted to the National Convention and the alternate chosen to attend the convention at the registration area at the national convention.
- Government mandates: NALC and the U.S. Postal Service have agreed to a 35-day moratorium on time limits for the processing of all requests in the local, regional and national levels due to the 79th biennial NALC Convention. Under Moratorium 55-09 (available for review under the Materials Reference System at nalc.org), the moratorium starts on Aug. 1, runs through Sept. 30.
- Information on trust will be available for delegates and their families during the convention was published in the June issue of The Postal Record and is available on the convention page of nalc.org.
- A blood drive will take place on Thursday, Aug. 18, 11am to 2pm, at the convention center. Sign up at redcross.org using sponsor code NALC. On-site appointments will be based on space availability.

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*Donate to our Muscle Walk and you’ll help support NALC’s dual goals,* Rolando said: “to raise awareness of Muscular Dystrophy, and to raise funds for our NALC, our only official charity.”

Visit nalc.md.org to learn more.

You would like to become part of the team with President Rolando in September, call Geneva Rialto at NALC Headquarters in Washington, DC, at 202-295-2165, or send an e-mail to mdamail.org.