



NALC

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Bulletin

NALC presses for sensible pricing as PRC weighs rate changes

In December, the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) finished its review of the system used to set postage rates for letter mail and other “market dominant” products delivered by the Postal Service. It found that the system was not working as intended under the 2006 Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA).

“We’re pleased that the PRC came to this conclusion,” NALC President Fredric Rolando said, noting that the agency’s judgment agreed with that of NALC, the other postal unions and the Postal Service itself.

“But unfortunately, the replacement system that the PRC has proposed falls far short of what the Postal Service needs,” Rolando added.

As noted in the January *Postal Record* (available for review at nalc.org), the PRC’s report came at the end of its year-long review of the current rate-setting system, during which dozens of USPS stakeholders and customers—including NALC—submitted testimony for the agency’s consideration.

The PRC examined USPS’s financial situation and found that, while the agency had achieved short-term stability under the current rate-setting system—as evidenced by operating profits from FY2014 through FY2016—the system has failed to ensure medium- or long-term stability.

As President Rolando stated in his President’s Message in the January issue of *The Postal Record*, there were a number of flaws in the PRC’s approach to improving the current rate-setting system.

On the bright side, there still is time for the PRC to improve its proposal before it comes out with a final ruling. The PRC currently is sponsoring a 120-day comment period on its proposed rate-setting system. NALC will participate in this process and make our views known.

“Assuming we can get the basic rate structure right and make allowances for future congressional mandates, a more suitable price index, such as the CPI for Delivery Services, might be workable,” Rolando said. “A sensible rate-setting system is within our grasp—so long as the PRC takes advantage of its second chance to get things right.”

For more on the PRC’s decision and NALC’s analysis, see the February issue of *The Postal Record*.



“Stamp Out Hunger”® Food Drive Task No. 1: Register

Scores of NALC branches around the country are now registering for the 26th annual Letter Carriers’ “Stamp Out Hunger”® Food Drive.

The Food Drive—the country’s largest one-day food-collection event—takes place on the second Saturday of May. This year, that’s Saturday, May 12.

“Registering for the drive is easy,” NALC President Fredric Rolando said, “and it’s always a good idea to get that part out of the way quickly so you can focus more attention on recruiting volunteers and generating enthusiasm in your branch.”

Register via the NALC website’s “Members Only” portal. Find the link to the “Members Only” portal at nalc.org in the upper right-hand corner of the page. Once you’ve logged in, click on the “Stamp Out Hunger” icon to register. Branches also can use the portal to order promotional materials. If you are a newly elected president, make sure that your branch has notified Headquarters. Only branch presidents of record will have access to the food drive registration forms.

Remember, the deadline to register is March 1.

In February, Rolando will mail letters to branches that have not yet registered, encouraging them to get involved with this year’s drive. A registration form will be included with the letter, for the convenience of those who aren’t yet comfortable with signing up electronically.

Stay on top of the latest food drive news at nalc.org/food, and follow the Food Drive on Facebook at [facebook.com/StampOutHunger](https://www.facebook.com/StampOutHunger) and on Twitter at [@StampOutHunger](https://twitter.com/StampOutHunger).



USPS tops Gallup poll of favorite agencies

A December survey found that the U.S. Postal Service remains the most favorite federal agency with a 74 percent positive rating, besting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Secret Service, which came in second and third, respectively.

USPS’s ratings grew 2 percent from levels in 2014, the last time the survey was conducted.

Gallup found a 12-point difference in the favorable ratings of Republicans and Democrats on the Postal Service: 66 percent of Republicans hold a favorable image of the Postal Service compared with 78 percent of Democrats.

Ratings of Government Agencies			
	How would you rate the job being done by ... ?		
	Excellent/Good	Only fair	Poor
	%	%	%
The U.S. Postal Service	74	19	5
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or the CDC	66	21	6
The Secret Service	63	21	5
The Department of Homeland Security	59	26	10
The Federal Bureau of Investigation, or the FBI	58	22	15
The Central Intelligence Agency, or the CIA	57	25	9
NASA -- the U.S. space agency	56	22	5
The Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA	55	25	13
The Federal Reserve Board	49	28	8
The Food and Drug Administration, or FDA	46	32	18
The Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA	46	26	21
The Internal Revenue Service, or the IRS	45	32	19
The Veterans Administration, or VA	38	34	24

GALLUP, DEC. 18-19, 2017

OSHA:

USPS must post injury/illness summary beginning Feb. 1

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration reminds employers of their obligation to post a copy of OSHA’s Form 300A, which summarizes job-related injuries and illnesses logged during 2017. Each year, between Feb. 1 and April 30, the summary must be displayed in a common area where notices to employees are usually posted. Businesses with 10 or fewer employees and those in certain low-hazard industries are exempt from OSHA recordkeeping and posting requirements. Visit OSHA’s Recordkeeping Rule webpage (www.osha.gov/recordkeeping2014/records.html) for more information on recordkeeping requirements.

Safety activists should review the USPS posting to make sure that the local safety committee is provided with a copy of the corresponding Form 1769 to evaluate the cause of each injury and to assist with development of methods to prevent a similar injury. This is one of the responsibilities assigned to the local safety committee in accordance with the *Handbook EL-809*.



Lassan appointed as Region 8 national business agent

NALC President Fredric Rolando has appointed Steve Lassan as national business agent (NBA) for Region 8 (Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee). Lassan replaces retired Region 8 NBA Pete Moss, a member of Gulf Coast Merged Branch 1374, who had served as NBA since being elected to the position in 2010.



Pete Moss

“Our thanks go to Pete Moss for his many years of dedicated service to NALC members, and we wish him a happy retirement,” Rolando said.

Lassan, a member of Nashville Branch 4, joined the Postal Service as a city carrier in Nashville in 1985, and soon became a shop steward. He served as dispute resolution team (DRT) representative for the Tennessee District and then as an arbitration advocate for Region 8.

Branch 4 elected Lassan as branch secretary in 2004. That year, then-NALC President William H. Young appointed Lassan to serve as regional administrative assistant (RAA) for Region 8.



Steve Lassan

Mutual Benefit Association interest rates hold steady



The United States Letter Carriers Mutual Benefit Association (MBA) has announced that the interest rates paid on MBA policies will remain the same for 2018. The MBA is currently paying 3.25 percent interest on the Retirement Savings Plans (except for those policies which guarantee a higher minimum rate). Reminder: April 16, 2018, is the last day to make a contribution to a traditional IRA or Roth IRA for the 2017 tax year.



NALC

71ST BIENNIAL CONVENTION



2018 Detroit convention hotel information

NALC has made special arrangements with 18 hotels to accommodate letter carriers attending the 2018 convention in Detroit July 16-20. Information on these hotels in Detroit and Dearborn (13 miles away) is in the February issue of *The Postal Record* and online at nalc.org/convention. There you can find information about parking availability and prices, and amenities such as wi-fi and gyms, listed by the size of the NALC hotel room block. Additionally, a map shows the location of those hotels and illustrates their proximity to stations on the QLine, Detroit’s recently opened streetcar system. Please do not contact the hotels. All room reservations will be made through NALC’s official housing company.

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