### OPM proposes retirement cuts

On May 4, Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Director Jeff Pon sent a letter to Speaker of the House Paul Ryan urging Republican leadership to implement “common sense reforms” and reduce costs by “acting now to adjust retirement benefits.” These reforms would include:

- **Increasing FERS federal employee pension contributions to 7.25 percent.** Currently, the first 5.6 percent is paid by the federal government, while the remaining 1.6 percent is paid by the employees. Under this proposal, employees would contribute all 7.25 percent of their salary.

- **Marking the end of across-the-board COLAs for federal and postal workers.** This means that federal and postal workers would no longer receive automatic Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Instead, only those retirees who began their federal service before 1980 would continue to receive COLAs.

- **Eliminating the final-pay provision for pension calculation for federal and postal workers.** This would mean that pension calculations would be based only on the highest average salary over a shorter period of time, rather than the highest 3 years.

### Contract implementation update

The final potential wage increases under the MOU for the 2016 National Agreement will be in the form of COLAs in November.

- **In November, all letter carriers will be upgraded pursuant to the MOU Re: Pay Schedule Consolidation. Effective Nov. 24, 2016, career and CCAs career current-paid at Grade 6 will be enrolled to the equivalent step in the Grade Scale. The average pay increase will be about 2 percent.**

### Accommodations for disabled attendees

- **Convention attendees who may require assistance due to a disability can self-initiate the following accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):**
  - Oxygen
  - Wheelchair and scooter rental

### Veterans group project to assist local veterans

- **According to the Center for American Progress, veterans are disproportionately homeless in relation to other groups:**
  - Nearly 9 in 10 homeless veterans are male.
  - Nearly 6 in 10 homeless veterans are African American.
  - More than 4 in 10 homeless veterans are older than 55.
  - More than 4 in 10 homeless veterans are veterans of multiple wars.
  - More than 4 in 10 homeless veterans have a service-connected disability.

### Wheelchair lift vehicles

NALC is providing the first wheelchair lift service vehicle for the Center for Creative Gifts. The vehicle will be equipped with a wheelchair lift that will be made available during all convention events on an as needed basis. Requests for this service are to be made at the accessible accommodation desk in the convention center. The number of requests will be limited to two per event and will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.