'U.S. Mail: Not for Sale' rallies planned across country for Oct. 8

On Columbus Day (Monday, Oct. 8), NALC, the American Postal Workers Union (APWU), the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association (NRLCA) and the National Postal Mail Handlers Union (NPMHU) are collectively planning to hold rallies in each congressional district to demonstrate against any effort to privatize the U.S. Postal Service. The "U.S. Mail: Not for Sale" rallies result from increased grassroots interest from communities around the country that oppose privatizing the Postal Service.

This past spring, the White House announced the formation of a postal task force to make recommendations for potential legislative and administrative actions by Aug. 10. While the report had not been released at the time this article was written, the administration tipped its hand with actions taken by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

In June, OMB released a government-wide reorganiza-

tion plan that called for major changes at federal agencies. Most notably, the plan called for restructuring the Postal Service before eventual privatization. This move prompted Congress to act, with the introduction of H. Res. 993, a bipartisan sense of the House of Representatives resolution that calls for the Postal Service not to be privatized.

With that resolution climbing toward the goal of 218 co-sponsors—a majority of the House—our focus has shifted to states where privatization of the Postal Service is highly unpopular. In response, NALC is working with the other postal unions, members of Congress and community allies to rally in every congressional district to highlight not only opposition to postal privatization, but to support lawmakers who stand for a public Postal Service.

"NALC is proud to join our brothers and sisters from APWU, NPMHU and NRLCA in a show of solidarity on Oct. 8 against this administration's efforts to privatize the Postal Service," NALC President Fredric Rolando said. "These rallies, to be held at congressional district offices in all 50 states, will be opportunities for us to thank our members of Congress who have signed onto House Resolution 993 already, to encourage members who have not yet signed on to do so ahead of the midterm elections, and to show the country that letter carriers and other postal employees will not tolerate the gutting of our nation's most treasured government institution."

NALC encourages letter carriers and their friends and families to participate in these rallies. For more information or to find an event near you, visit nalc.org.



The ballots for the election of national officers for NALC have been mailed.

The National Election Committee, appointed at the Detroit National Convention to conduct the election, reviewed and approved all nominating forms and created the ballot for mailing. Official election instructions are included with all ballots mailed to eligible NALC members.

To be eligible to vote, a person must be a regular member of NALC and in good standing as of June 1, 2018. National business agents (NBAs) will be elected by the members in their respective regions.

If you are eligible to vote and do not receive a ballot by Friday, Sept. 21, or if you have spoiled your ballot or need another ballot for any reason, you must notify a branch officer to request a duplicate ballot. When making this request, you should provide the branch officer with your name and current mailing address. Branch officers are instructed to immediately contact NALC at 202-393-4695 to request a duplicate, replacement ballot. If you cast your original ballot and a duplicate ballot, only the duplicate ballot will be counted.

The deadline for branch officers to contact NALC is 4 p.m. Eastern Time on Monday, Sept. 24. Ballots must be received by 9 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 4, to be counted. The counting of ballots will begin that day.

Two confirmed for Board of Governors, two more nominated

On Aug. 28, the Senate confirmed the nominations of David Williams (D) and Robert Duncan (R) to serve as members of the U.S. Postal Service's Board of Governors, each for one term.

David C. Williams was confirmed to serve the remainder of a seven-year term that ends Dec. 8, 2019. Williams has a long history of government service. He joined the Secret Service after a tour of military duty in Vietnam, and then served as part of the Department of Justice's Organized Crime Strike Force. Following his work on President Ronald Reagan's Commission on Organized Crime, he led the Office of Special Investigations at the General Accounting Office (since renamed the Government Accountability Office). He was then confirmed as the inspector general (IG) for several federal agencies, including the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Social Security Administration, Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service and Department of Housing and Urban Development. His longest stint as an IG, at the Postal Service (from 2003 until his retirement in 2016), led to his nomination to the Board of Governors.

Robert M. "Mike" Duncan was confirmed to serve for the remainder of a seven-year term that ends in Dec. 8, 2018. He is a banker and currently serves as chairman and CEO of Inez Deposit Bank, as well as chairman of the President's Commission on White House Fellows. Previously, Duncan served on the board of the Tennessee Valley Authority and was chairman of the Republican National Committee from 2007 to 2009.

Duncan was later elected chairman of the Board of Governors during an open meeting of the Temporary Emergency Committee (TEC) of the Board, with Williams elected vice chairman. Additionally, Williams was elected chairman of the TEC, with Duncan serving as vice chairman.

On Sept. 6, the White House formally sent the nominations of Ron Bloom (D) and Roman Martinez IV (R) to the Senate for consideration.

Bloom, who will be nominated for the remainder of a seven-year term expiring Dec. 8, 2020, began his career as an investment banker and union consultant before serving as the special assistant to the president of the United Steelworkers for many years. President Barack Obama appointed Bloom to serve as the assistant to the president on manufacturing policy in 2009, when he helped rescue the auto industry during the Great Recession. In 2011, he returned to investment banking at Lazard, where he served as vice chairman, U.S. investment banking. During his time at Lazard, he advised NALC on postal issues and appeared at both a national rap session and a national convention. Bloom is currently managing partner and vice chairman at Brookfield Asset Management, where he helps manage the firm's private equity investments.

Martinez will be nominated for the remainder of a seven-year term expiring Dec. 8, 2024. He began his career as an investment banker in 1971 at Kuhn Loeb & Co., until it was acquired by the now-defunct global financial services firm Lehman Brothers. Martinez worked there as managing director of investment banking until his retirement in 2003. Since 2003, he has served on the board of directors for several different companies and has been involved in various Republican presidential and Senate campaigns.

To be confirmed, nominees must appear for confirmation hearings before the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs (HSGAC). If they are approved by the committee, their appointments will be subject to a confirmation vote by the entire Senate.

The USPS Board of Governors consists of 11 members: nine governors and two ex officio members (the postmaster general and the deputy postmaster general). While the board functions similarly to a board of directors of a publicly held corporation, it has not been fully staffed since 2010 and lost its final appointed governor in December 2016, leaving all nine positions vacant. If Bloom and Martinez are confirmed, four of the nine seats on the Board would be filled, enough to achieve a quorum if the postmaster general and deputy postmaster general are present.

"NALC is pleased to see action taken by the Senate to fill the first two vacancies," NALC President Fredric Rolando said. "We encourage the Senate to begin consideration of these additional nominations, and we urge the administration to fill the remaining vacancies with qualified nominees."

NALC will continue to work with the Senate and the administration to ensure that letter carriers' interests are represented.

National Association of Letter Carriers

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