



NALC

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Bulletin

NALC's priority resolutions introduced in the 116th Congress

NALC's four priority resolutions have been introduced in the House of Representatives. The resolutions call for protecting door delivery (H. Res. 23), opposing privatization of the Postal Service (H. Res. 33), protecting six-day delivery (H. Res. 54) and restoring service standards (H. Res. 60). NALC thanks the legislators from both parties who introduced these resolutions. All four of these measures, which reached a bipartisan majority of supporting co-sponsors in the previous Congress, are accepting co-sponsors.

These postal policy resolutions are important because they help shape the debate over postal reform. The Senate and the White House are less likely to pursue service cuts or privatization if the resolutions have solid support.

NALC encourages all letter carriers to contact their representatives about co-sponsoring these resolutions. For more information, please visit the NALC website at nalc.org or contact the NALC Department of Legislative and Political Affairs at 202-393-4695.

NALC lent support to workers during government shutdown

After 35 days, the partial government shutdown came to an end on Jan. 25. It was the longest shutdown in history. However, the risk of another looms.

NALC members stood in solidarity with the 800,000 federal workers. During the shutdown, these workers did not receive two paychecks, and some 450,000 workers were required to report to work anyway. The crisis took a toll on these workers and rippled through the economy.

NALC officers and staff participated in a major protest against the shutdown on Jan. 23 at the Hart Senate Office Building in Washington, DC (pictured below).

The agreement ending the shutdown did not resolve the dispute that caused it, and funding for the affected agencies was extended by only three weeks. It is unclear whether another shutdown could occur when the extension expires on Feb. 15. If another crisis emerges, NALC will continue to support our fellow federal employees and inform letter carriers how they can help.

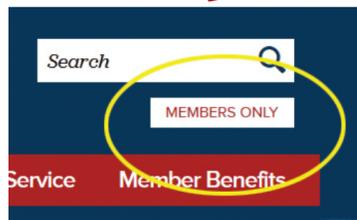


Active and former carriers sent survey

NALC is constantly working to improve the wages and working conditions for all letter carriers. As we prepare for the next round of contract negotiations, we are asking active and former NALC members (those who have left USPS in the past two years) to complete a survey regarding their experience working for USPS.

Active members may take it by clicking the survey button on the "Members Only" section of the NALC website. The link to the Members Only section can be found in the top right-hand corner of the NALC homepage just below the search bar. Once you are logged in, click on "Survey." If this is the first time you are logging into the Members Only section, you will have to create an account. If you are unable to log in, contact the NALC Membership Department at 202-393-4695.

Former members who were identified as leaving USPS in the past two years will receive a letter from NALC at their last known address. This letter contains the URL to take the survey, along with a username and password. The survey will be available until Feb. 28.



PRC gets fifth commissioner

In one of the final acts of the 115th Congress, the Senate confirmed Michael Kubayanda by voice vote on Jan. 2 to be a commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) for the remainder of a six-year term expiring Nov. 22, 2020.

Kubayanda currently is a board member and privacy officer for a digital health startup company. He previously served as director of government relations with the USPS Office of Inspector General (OIG). He also has served as counsel to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

The PRC is the independent agency that exercises regulatory oversight over the Postal Service. It is composed of five commissioners, each nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate. With the confirmation of Kubayanda, the PRC now has a full slate with five sitting commissioners.



Disaster Relief Foundation assisting letter carriers

A slew of natural disasters affected the nation last year, each one a reminder that disaster can strike at any time in any part of the country.

In January of 2018, heavy rain in fire-scarred areas caused mudslides in Montecito, CA, killing 21 people. In September, Hurricane Florence dumped 36 inches of rain on North Carolina; 43 people died in the affected area. The next month, Hurricane Michael—the strongest hurricane in history to make landfall on the Florida Panhandle—devastated Panama City, FL; 53 people lost their lives. In November, the deadliest wildfire ever to burn in California took 85 lives and destroyed nearly the entire city of Paradise.

And, as always, letter carriers from all across the country responded to help their fellow carriers affected by the disasters, providing cash donations, uniforms and other assistance.

The NALC Disaster Relief Foundation was created last year to make it easier for help to reach members in need. Many branches asked NALC to establish a mechanism for donations, supplies and other assistance so that members affected by disasters could receive help faster and more easily.

In response, NALC President Fredric Rolando announced the creation of the Foundation at the national convention in Detroit last July.

"The NALC Disaster Relief Foundation reflects the will of the members, who have asked for a way to help their fellow carriers quickly and efficiently," Rolando said. All donations from letter carriers, branches and state associations go directly to members who need assistance—no administrative costs are deducted.

Since then, the Foundation has built on its capacity to accept donations, provide assistance and recruit a volunteer network.

Donations from individual letter carriers and branches are steadily arriving. Donations are not yet tax deductible; the Foundation's application for tax-exempt status is pending. Donations may be sent to NALC Disaster Relief Foundation, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144.

Relief grants may be available, and an application is now available on the Foundation's website (nalc.org/ndrf) for use by affected members. Applications for relief grants will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

NALC is in the process of creating response teams throughout the country. Volunteers serving on the teams will receive disaster relief training from charitable organizations and government agencies, including the American Red Cross, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The volunteers will provide administrative assistance, offer emotional support if needed, and will bring basic supplies such as food and uniforms to disaster areas.

"The Disaster Relief Foundation is on track to fulfill the many requests by branches and individual carriers for a way that NALC members can help their sisters and brothers when disasters strike," Rolando said.



**NALC
Disaster
Relief
Foundation**

Make a donation by sending a check or money order to NALC Disaster Relief Foundation, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144.

Vote-by-mail advanced in House overhaul package

On the first day of the 116th Congress, House Democrats took the opportunity to outline their priorities by introducing H.R. 1, a legislative package that would reform voting rights, campaign finance and government ethics. Included are provisions that would create automatic voter registration and expand early and absentee voting as well as vote-by-mail.

While Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) already has stated that the legislation is "not going anywhere," House Democrats believe that public support for clean and fair elections will win the day.

Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD), who introduced the legislation, said it would "strengthen our democracy and return political power to the people by making it easier, not harder, to vote, ending the dominance of big money in our politics and ensuring that public officials actually serve the public."

'Stamp Out Hunger'® Food Drive Time to register

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 11.

"Registering for the drive promptly and completely is essential for such a large-scale operation as this," NALC President Fredric Rolando said. "Early registration helps us get a head start on the printing and distribution of postcards, and it allows us to more accurately calculate how many postcards each branch will need."

Registering is easy 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. Once registered, branches can use the portal to order promotional materials. Only branch presidents on record will have access to the food drive registration forms, so if you are a newly elected president, make sure that your branch has notified Headquarters.

The registration deadline to guarantee that your branch will receive the food drive reminder is March 8.

Later this month, 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.

Whether you decide to register electronically or by mail, remember that the deadline to register is March 8. Saturday, May 11, will be here before you know it.



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