force as well as on the Postal Service and its networks. Rolando said. “All Americans deserve the right, not simply to stand together and negotiate a fair return on our work, but to have that right protected and enforceable through the court of law. For too long, corporations and the wealthy few have been prioritized to the detriment of our nation’s labor force.”

**Potential nominee for USPS BOG**

On Jan. 6, the president nominated William Zollars of Kansas to be a member of the USPS BOG for the remainder of a seven-year term that expires on Dec. 8, 2022. Zollars previously was president and CEO of WPC Worldwide, Inc., a U.S. holding company of freight forwarding firms. Prior to that, he was president at several other international logistics and supply chain management companies. His name has been sent to the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee.

**Nolan selected as neutral arbitrator**

Arbitrator Dennis R. Nolan has accepted appointment as the neutral chair of the three-person arbitration panel that will be responsible for resolving the current bargaining impasse between NALC and the Postal Service. Under the law, both NALC and postal management are each required to name one arbitrator and select a third neutral arbitrator to serve as the chair of the interest arbitration board. NALC’s general counsel, Bruce Simon, will serve as NALC’s party arbitrator. Attorney O’Reilly will represent the Postal Service on the arbitration board. Nolan has previously served as a neutral arbitrator under the NALC/USPS National Agreement. Hearings in the interest arbitration are expected to begin in the spring.

**House votes to repeal pre-funding mandate**

On Feb. 5, the House passed the USPS Fairness Act (H.R. 2382). The bipartisan bill seeks to repeal the mandate that the Postal Service pre-fund retiree health care decades in advance. The vote was 309 to 106, with 222 Democrats and 87 Republicans voting to repeal the mandate and with 195 Republicans and Rep. Justin Amash (D-MI) opposed. Only 20 Democrats did not vote (13 of them were co-sponsors of the bill).

Passage of H.R. 2382 is a tremendous achievement for letter carriers and the broader postal community. This is the first major piece of legislation tackling postal issues that has passed the House since the 2006 passage of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006. The hard work of letter carriers across the country made passage possible. “Letter carriers should be proud of their hard work to educate members of Congress and gain their support on this very important issue,” NALC President Fredric Rolando said. “House passage is a major victory in the battle to address the pre-funding mandate, but our work is not done. We must now turn our attention to the Senate.”

If you have not yet done so, please consider reaching out to your member of Congress, if they voted for H.R. 2382, to thank them for their support. The more that letter carriers can emphasize how important this vote to repeal the pre-funding mandate was and how much we appreciate our allies in Congress, the better off we will be should future legislative fights arise down the road. In that regard, the name of your representative voted on this bill, you can check the NALC Legislative Action Center, accessible via nalc.org. It is now up to the Senate to take action on S. 2965, the bipartisan companion bill. Letter carriers should carry this momentum through the Senate and be ready to engage and educate their senators and house representatives to have another vote to repeal the pre-funding mandate. Fact sheets and talking points are available on the NALC Legislative Action Center.

**White House releases FY 2021 budget proposal**

The Trump Administration released its $4.8 trillion Fiscal Year 2021 budget proposal on Feb. 10. With regard to the U.S. Postal Service, as in previous budget requests the White House proposal includes... changes to how rates are set for products that are deemed outside the universal service obligation; changes to delivery processing, mode, and frequency; increased use of private sector partners; more closely aligning Postal Service services at retail locations. In addition to Governmentwide changes to health and pension programs that will reduce delivery processing, mode, and frequency; increased use of private sector partners; more closely aligning Postal Service

**NALC Disaster Relief Foundation Member’s Guide available**

The NALC Disaster Relief Foundation Member’s Guide is available to all NALC members. Get all the information on how to donate, how to apply for a relief grant, how to prepare for an emergency and dealing with the aftermath, and how to become a volunteer on a disaster relief team.

**NALC Health Benefit Plan**

Take advantage of Telehealth

New for the 2020 High Option Plan: receive high quality, affordable care for minor acute conditions wherever you are! A virtual visit with a physician or nurse practitioner for things such as sinus problems, allergies, abrasions and other minor conditions can save you time and money. Doctors can assess your condition, provide a treatment plan and send a prescription to the pharmacy of your choice. Keep in mind prescription availability is defined by pharmacy network. If necessary, the provider will send a referral to the app mailbox for your convenience. You’ll pay just a $10 copayment after insurance processing through the NALC Health Benefit Plan. To access this service, download the mobile app in the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store by searching for NALCHealth telehealth, visit www.nalchalthelpful.org or call 888-542-7900.

**Time to register for food drive**

The March 9 deadline for branches to register for the 29th annual Letter Carriers’ “Stamp Out Hunger” Food Drive is fast approaching. This year’s food drive is on Saturday, May 9, so time is running out to register and prepare.

Branch presidents can register quickly by using the “Member’s Only” portal at nalc.org. Once they’ve logged in to the portal, they can see the “Food Drive” button, select “Stamp Out Hunger Log,” create a positive association for both the sponsor and the Postal Service. For information on ordering bags, go to the online food drive toolkit at nalc.org/food.

The toolkit also contains contact information for regional and state food drive coordinators. If a food drive coordinator encounters problems working with local managers on food drive logistics, the branch president or the regional food drive coordinator can lend a hand.

For questions or more information, please contact NALC Assistant to the President for Community Services Christina Vital Davidson at 202-662-2489.

**Search for a new PMG continues**

Postmaster General Megan Brennan, who had announced her intent to retire effective Jan. 31, agreed to delay that retirement as the search for the USPS Board of Governors (BOG) for her successor continues. “We are grateful to the postmaster general for her continued commitment to the Postal Service, and share her confidence in the Postal Service’s strong leadership team members who will ensure that we can continue to deliver for the American people,” BOG Chairman Robert Duncan said.