



It makes me wonder

The NALC is fighting for the financial well-being of all its members, the ability of blue-collar workers in this country to earn a decent living with decent benefits, the viability of the Postal Service, the successful negotiation of fair wages and benefits for letter carriers, and the chance for all workers to have access to an America of opportunity. Easy to understand, not as easy to get, but how many are in the fight?

How many are cool as long as they have a piece of the pie, but won't put out the extra effort to keep it because they think it will always be there? Great when they have it, but it's somebody else's fault if they lose it.

Is it right that the top 1 percent of the wealthy in this country controls more than 50 percent of the wealth? That leaves a lesser amount for those in the bottom 99 percent, and it wasn't that way until recently.

Understand that when we negotiate a collective bargaining agreement, we fight against a comparability premise that compares us to men and women outside the Postal Service who have seen their wages lowered and their defined benefits slashed.

Understand that the ability to raise wages and benefits of men and women outside the Postal Service rests in them having a free choice to belong to a union. Understand how their getting that choice positively affects letter carriers and their families.

Understand that the NALC was great when we were unified within, but we are no longer on an island, and we need others outside the Postal Service to get a fair piece of the pie and that they can only do it if they have a union.

Do we understand that everyone has different aptitudes and weaknesses and that being able to do something better than someone else doesn't make one better?

Is it hard to see that, unless there's a billion dollars in your mattress, you don't stand a chance against corporations or politicians with million-dollar political funds, if they're not on your side?

Is it tough to understand how the way to make a difference for all working people is for them to all come together and fight the honest fight together? Is it difficult to see that, if we don't, we're just pounding sand?

Why do some people believe that losing their job, experiencing the financial collapse of their family, or the foreclosure on their home is a product of divine intervention, and not something that they can do anything about?

Why do people buy into multibillion-dollar talking heads, anti-union propaganda, the assassination of any idea that would unite working people? Remember the axiom, "money talks and b***t walks"?**

In the age of the Internet, when investigative reporting isn't there, do people check out what they're fed in the media to see if it is true or not?

Do people buy into the sell job of self-proclaimed "experts" they like when they're entertained by their delivery and charisma, but pass off the reversal of those "expert" positions as not important?

Think about it. Consider the importance of the Employee Free Choice Act, the right of non-union workers to choose to belong to a union so they can appreciate the benefits of decent wages and benefits, and what that does for us.

Think about the concept of COLCPE, the political action fund of the NALC, promoting legislative opportunities for the betterment of letter carriers, and promoting the sustainability of the Postal Service and its service to the American public.

Consider where your best interests lie. Is it with the enjoyment of the BS artists on the TV or radio? Is eating up your favorite popular talking head's latest diatribe without attempting to discover the truth OK? Or is conducting a real assessment on what you need to do to protect your own family's interests more important?

Why don't more of us automatically give to COLCPE? Why aren't more of us politically active? Why aren't more of us more savvy regarding the forces that push us to do something versus those who preach to us to do nothing?

This union is in a momentous fight on different fronts. The NALC maintains its strength because members understand. Ask the right questions. Get the right answers. Make a decision. Get in the fight. There is no choice. Understand the issues, support EFCA, give to COLCPE. The alternative is to give up. ☒