



## Happy new year!

**A**s this is my first article as executive vice president, I want to thank the membership for placing its trust and faith in me and for allowing me to serve you. It is truly an honor and privilege to continue serving our members. I want to thank the membership for your loyal support over the years, knowing that without it, my job would be much more difficult. I have been very fortunate to have held so many positions in the NALC over the years, and I truly look forward to serving in this capacity.

I wish all of our former national officers who have chosen to retire a very long and healthy retirement, and I thank them for all of their efforts on our behalf. I would also like to welcome the newly elected officers to the Executive Council and I look forward to working with them.

**The new year will bring many new challenges for our union.** With the results of the midterm elections, there will be changes in both the House and Senate. We will need everyone to be focused on building long-term relationships with those newly elected officials, as it is critical to protect our jobs with the USPS. H.R. 5746, which is the USPS CSRS Obligation Modification Act, is extremely important to us.

This piece of legislation calls on OPM to recalculate the USPS surplus in the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS), using a methodology that fairly allocates the cost of pensions between the Post Office Department and the U.S. Postal Service as proposed by the Segal report. Once the “postal surplus” is determined by OPM, the agency would have 90 days to write regulations that include directions for how and when the surplus will be transferred to the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund (PSRHBF).

The passage of this bill will be pivotal to the survival of the USPS. Please take the time to write to your congressional leaders to ask them to support this important bill.

**This takes us to another important topic, “save Saturday delivery” or “six-day delivery.”** We consider this crucial for the Postal Service’s long-term survival. Without it, the

USPS will be less competitive and mail volume will continue to erode. Many people depend on Saturday delivery—from seniors who may be looking for their prescriptions to businesses that may be shipping their products or receiving invoices from potential customers. If we were to stop Saturday delivery, our competitors would immediately look for ways to capture that portion of our business.

What the USPS should be doing is working to improve the core business by building on our six-day delivery system. Eliminating a delivery day should never be considered as a solution. Fixing the \$75 billion pension overpayment and using that money to pre-fund retiree health benefits would make the USPS profitable. The USPS budget can be stabilized without damaging our services.

**The importance of being an e-Activist and being a COLCPE contributor is more important than ever.** As an e-Activist, you can join with tens of thousands of other letter carriers to make your voice heard! NALC will send you e-mail alerts when it’s time to act on issues affecting active and retired letter carriers and the future of the Postal Service.

What is COLCPE? The Committee on Letter Carrier Political Education, created in 1975, is the non-partisan fund used to develop educational programs for letter carriers about critical political topics and to support candidates for federal office. It is our life-line to protect the USPS, our retirement program, life insurance and health benefits. It is essential to *all* our futures, whether you are an active member or retired member. Everyone needs to contribute to protect our interest.

Active members can use PostalEase online. Retired members can join by sending a letter to: U.S. Office of Personnel Management, Retirement Operations Center, P.O. Box 45, Boyers, PA 16017. Be sure to include your CSA number, the amount you want to contribute monthly and the organization name: National Association of Letter Carriers—COLCPE. Protecting our benefits is important—please consider making a payroll or annuity contribution.

**In closing, I would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy new year.** ☒