

## An injury to one is an injury to all



**“A**n injury to one is an injury to all” may be the most famous slogan in the history of the labor movement. It is commonly attributed to the western miners who created the Industrial Workers of the World. But it has been used by unions and democracy movements all over the world, from the anti-apartheid activists of South Africa to the We Are Wisconsin coalition that resisted the attack on worker rights earlier this year. It captures the spirit of solidarity and our conviction that “we are all in this together.”

**Keep a variation of this union slogan in mind** as you think about the news in December—a harm to one is a harm to all. That’s the theme of our fundraising drive for postal employees in Connecticut, New York and New Jersey who are suffering right now from the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy.

Thanks to the work of thousands of first responders and emergency management professionals from the federal government and 10 states, the loss of life was kept to a minimum and millions of people have been assisted by governments at all levels. I am especially proud of letter carriers who have stepped up to keep the mail moving in the affected states. Delivering mail in buildings without light and power and making the effort to check in on the elderly and disabled, letter carriers are earning praise from the public and the media for getting medicine and Social Security checks delivered to the elderly and for helping facilitate the relief effort.

While FEMA and state and local governments did a fantastic job of coordinating the evacuation from the East Coast and pre-positioning personnel and massive amounts of relief materials to help with the aftermath, the needs of those affected by the storm remain enormous. That’s why I am asking you to give to the Postal Employees’ Relief Fund by using the envelope inserted in this magazine to make a contribution.

PERF can help postal employees and their families recover from the super storm when local charities, private insurance and FEMA are not enough. Please give what you can to help our brothers and sisters in the Northeast—through the mail, text message, online or through the Combined Federal Campaign.

**Of course, social solidarity also played a big part** in the recent national election. NALC applauds the re-election of President Barack Obama and so many strong supporters of the Postal Service and workers’ rights, from Sens. Sherrod Bown (D-OH) and Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) on the left to Reps. Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO) and Jon Runyan (R-NJ) on the right. Most Americans agreed with the president—we are all in this together. But no matter whom you voted for, we have to come together to find solutions the way President Obama and Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey did after the storm.

In fact, our political and legislative work as a union has only intensified after the election. As the president and the Congress debate ways to avoid going over the “fiscal cliff” on Jan. 1, we must fight to produce a balanced budget plan that does not unfairly target the Postal Service or federal employees or undermine the social contract for working people created by Social Security and similar programs. If the politicians in Washington—who created this artificial crisis during last year’s fight over the nation’s debt ceiling—fail to act, huge tax increases and budget cuts will go into effect in 2013. That would disrupt the fragile recovery and send us back into recession—and would devastate the Postal Service and put our jobs at risk. So there is no time for NALC activists to rest.

At the same time, we must stop any effort during the lame-duck session of Congress to enact the deeply flawed postal reform bills that moved through Congress this year (H.R. 2309 or S. 1789). NALC is calling on Congress and the president to go back to the drawing board in the new year to enact legislation that will strengthen the Postal Service, not dismantle it.

I am calling on all letter carriers to communicate with their senators and House members during the Thanksgiving recess to emphasize these demands. Look for e-Activist messages and information on [nalc.org](http://nalc.org) for more details.

**This holiday season, let us honor the spirit of the labor movement by helping the victims of Hurricane Sandy even as we work together to protect each other through the political process in Washington.**

An injury to one really is an injury to all. ☒