



## Aaaaah

**I** heard that collective sigh of relief on Nov. 7—the 2012 election is finally over! It's been a long road, but the election insanity has finally stopped (for a little while, at least). No more attack ads on our televisions—bring on the holiday commercials.

Thousands of letter carriers all across the country volunteered their time over the past few months to help elect candidates who support letter carriers. This was in addition to the 165 letter carriers who were released full time to work in the field on behalf of the NALC.

To those of you who worked in the months or weeks or days leading up to the election, first let me say thank you for all your hard work in the field. There was no better investment in your future than the time that you gave.

In the final days leading up to the election, I traveled to Wisconsin to help with our election efforts and to get people out to vote.

On Saturday, Nov. 3, a small army of letter carriers from all across the state knocked on more than a thousand doors in Wisconsin Rapids—the site of the Wisconsin State Association's fall training seminar—and also made 70-plus phone calls.

Then on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, I worked alongside letter carrier releases, volunteer letter carriers and other activists in Green Bay as we knocked on doors and made phone calls to help get out the vote there.

I've got to believe that the biggest sigh of relief when the election was finally over had to have come from the state of Wisconsin. The citizens of Wisconsin had been in an election cycle for what must have seemed like an eternity, due to the recall efforts in the state earlier this year and then the general election last month. But despite the election fatigue I'm sure everyone in the state felt, I have to say that my experience over the five days I was in Wisconsin was amazing. "Wisconsin nice"—I am a believer!

I want to say a special thanks to the letter carriers in Wisconsin—an important battleground state in the 2012 election—for all your hard work on the election and for the hospitality you showed to me while I was there.

**But while we can all breathe easier now the election is over, our work is far from done. We must continue our fight to save America's Postal Service. We must remain vigilant. Our work has just begun.**

We must ensure that Congress focuses on repairing the damage caused by the 2006 mandate to pre-fund

future retiree health benefits—not on dismantling the Postal Service.

We must ensure that the public understands that it is Congress that has defaulted on its responsibilities by not addressing the mess it created.

We must convince members of Congress that if it removed the sense of panic concerning the financial status of the Postal Service, then we could move forward with growing the business and with needed structural changes.

We must remind our elected officials that the Postal Service doesn't use taxpayer money and is not only critical for small businesses, but is the cornerstone of a \$1.3 trillion national mailing industry that employs 7.5 million Americans.

Yes, brothers and sisters, we have work left to do. The election was just the first step. We must press onward. But you know and I know that when letter carriers set their minds to doing something, nothing can stop us.

**In closing, I want to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.**

I would also ask you to consider making a donation to the Postal Employees' Relief Fund (PERF). As you know, Hurricane Sandy caused major destruction throughout the Northeast. Numerous letter carriers are among those hardest hit by the storm.

PERF is not an emergency relief agency. Emergency relief typically comes from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Red Cross. PERF provides grants to postal employees to help in the long-term restoration of homes, property and vehicles damaged by natural disasters or home fires. More information on PERF and how you can donate is contained in this issue of *The Postal Record*. ☒

Merry Christmas!  
Happy Hanukkah!  
Happy New Year!

