



Leaders: Prepare for the future

Our leaders try to shape our futures while planning ahead. NALC leaders at the office, branch, regional and national level now shoulder the enormous responsibility to simultaneously act on letter carriers' current concerns one moment and work toward a long-term fix the next.

While branches plan for this new year, a blunt reality must be accepted: Our ranks are rapidly declining. During Pay Period 10 last year, 187,453 career city letter carriers were on the rolls. As of Pay Period 24, there were 182,215. That averages to a decrease of 655 carriers every 28 days.

And while the NALC's obvious concern about the survival of the Postal Service and thus, letter carrier jobs, receives our justified attention—letter carriers on the workroom floor live in the here and now. Our work floors are now populated by harassing managers, elongated routes, pending grievances and excessive overtime. The union has the responsibility to respond as effectively and efficiently as possible and with fewer resources than in the past.

For our organization to succeed, we must continue to organize. More than 92 percent of working letter carriers voluntarily belong to the union. That adds up to more than 12,000 freeloaders reaping the benefits of what NALC has accomplished, while avoiding the responsibility of participating in union activi-

ties, avoiding the responsibility of fighting to save America's Postal Service, and avoiding the responsibility of protecting their own jobs. Even while surrounded by anti-government, anti-benefit and anti-worker fervor, these non-members fail to make a difference.

Too many of the non-members blame some perceived injustice earlier in their career as justification for not belonging to their union. Others blame a personal gripe they had with a local representative. Meanwhile, their job security and benefits are thanks to the collective actions of many, not the failings of a few.

It's not too late for them to join and make a significant contribution toward protecting their job security and benefits. It's the right thing to do, and it's the smart thing to do.

NALC Customer Connect station coordinators: Quarterly Customer Connect district teleconference schedules are now posted on the NALC website: nalc.org/depart/cau/custconn/index.html. Examples of what you will find on the website can be found below. ☒

District teleconference schedules

- [Region 1](#)
- [Region 2](#)
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Customer Connect - District Teleconferences - Region 8

District	2011-Apr, May, Jun	2011-Jul, Aug, Sep	2011-Oct, Nov, Dec	2012-Jan, Feb, Mar	2012-Apr, May, Jun	2012-Jul, Aug, Sep	2012-Oct, Nov, Dec
Alabama			11/03/11 7:30AM	02/7/12 7:30AM	05/8/12 7:30AM	08/14/12 7:30am	11/20/12 7:30am
Louisiana			10/26/11 8:00am	02/09/12 7:45AM	05/10/12 7:45AM	08/16/12 7:45am	11/15/12 7:45am
Mississippi			11/17/11 7:45am	02/21/12 7:45AM	05/22/12 7:45am	08/28/12 7:45am	11/27/12 7:45am
Tennessee (w/9)			10/27/11 7:30AM	02/23/12 7:30AM	05/24/12 7:30am	08/30/12 7:30am	11/29/12 7:30am

District	2013-Jan, Feb, Mar	2013-Apr, May, Jun	2013-Jul, Aug, Sep	2013-Oct, Nov, Dec	2014-Jan, Feb, Mar	2014-Apr, May, Jun	2014-Jul, Aug, Sep
Alabama	2/12/2013 7:30am	05/14/13 7:30am	08/13/13 7:30am	11/12/13 7:30am			
Louisiana	2/14/2013 7:45am	05/16/13 7:45am	08/15/13 7:45am	11/14/13 7:45am			
Mississippi	02/26/2013 7:45am	05/28/13 7:45am	08/27/13 7:45am	11/26/13 7:30am			
Tennessee (w/9)	02/28/2013 7:30am	05/30/13 7:30am	08/29/13 7:30am	11/28/13 7:30am			

Please enter the date and the time for each quarterly teleconference. (Example: 9/22 9:30 AM MT)