



Thanks to those who represent us

The NALC has many members who work tirelessly and whose duties sometimes seem to go without notice or acknowledgment. Let's recognize all the Step B team members for what they do, because they have an extremely hard job to perform. Resolving disputes between the parties is a difficult task. Being able to sort through the issues between the parties can be contentious, to say the least. The next time you see your Step B representative, thank them for what they do.

The same holds true for the shop stewards in each work unit across the nation, as well as the officers of each branch and state association. Each of these members is dedicated to the membership they serve.

Then we have the members who participate in the joint route adjustment processes, such as JARAP and MIARAP. The carriers who adjust the routes also have an especially difficult job. This is at a time when volume is down and automation is being implemented. Making decisions considering adjusting or eliminating routes, and getting it right, is not an easy task, nor is it very popular.

Just imagine how things would really be if the people serving in all these jobs were not around.

The NALC and its members have a lot to be thankful for. The contract, the dispute resolution process and the many memoranda of understanding are specifically geared to protect our members from the problematic issues that arise in the workplace. Without dedicated members serving in these types of positions, our members would be affected in negative ways.

Each of these jobs requires patience, understanding and fortitude. So thank members for the jobs they do, as they do indeed deserve to be recognized.

In a recent *Postal Bulletin*, it was nice to read that the Postal Service recognizes that "our business is delivery." The article goes on to impress upon readers the fact that we deliver nearly 40 percent of the world's mail to 150 million residences, businesses and P.O. boxes, and we do so at a lower cost than any comparable postal service in the world.

I will add a piece that I feel should have been in the article: We do this six days a week. That is an extremely important feature to our branding. It is definitely something that should not be changed. The article, however, failed to recognize this fact. I can only wonder what the intent was in not pointing that out. It is a positive feature we have that our competitors lack. Many businesses are open on Saturday, and many customers are home and like to receive the things they have ordered then.

The article goes on to say that we need to satisfy our customers and that this starts with defining the core need of *our customers*. To please and satisfy our customers, this requires that we are there delivering the mail. We connect senders and receivers through the physical delivery of mail and packages. We cannot meet that commitment if we reduce delivery standards and services and eliminate a day of delivery.

By the way, the article also comments that "we are excellent at delivering." Yes, we are. We are professional letter carriers who care what happens to the Postal Service and how it affects the American public.

The House and Senate have nearly 20 different pieces of legislation on the Postal Service pending. We will have to keep a close eye on which bills come up on the floor for debates or votes. We hope that our leaders in the House and Senate remember these famous words from the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970:

The Postal Service shall have as its basic function the obligation to provide postal services to Bind the Nation together through the personal, educational, literary, and business correspondence of the people. It shall provide prompt, reliable, and efficient services to patrons in all areas and shall render postal services to all communities.

Remember to read your e-Activist messages from President Rolando and respond to his call to contact your members of the House and Senate as events take place. 