



Appeals within the union, Part 1

Article 11 of the *NALC Constitution* mandates that the vice president, secretary-treasurer and chairperson of the Board of Trustees shall constitute the NALC Committee on Appeals.

Most commonly, the committee will meet to review appeals concerning the conduct of branch or state association elections, or branch decisions including charges against any member who shall violate the NALC Constitution or bylaws of the association or branch. This month's article will address the election appeal process.

At least 21 days before an election, the president (or other body as authorized by branch bylaws) should appoint a committee to conduct and supervise all aspects of the election. One member of the committee will serve as chairperson. The number of members on the election committee may be determined by the branch.

When appealing a local election, the appeal must be mailed to the chairperson of the branch election committee within five days following the date of the election. The appeal must be in writing and include all supporting evidence. The election committee must respond in writing within 30 days.

The aggrieved member may appeal the decision of the election committee to the branch executive board within five days of the committee's decision. Again, the appeal must be in writing. The branch executive board must respond in writing within 30 days.

The aggrieved member may appeal the decision of the branch executive board to the next scheduled meeting of the branch. Within five days after receiving the ruling of the branch executive board, the aggrieved member must notify the branch recording secretary of the intention to appeal to the branch. This notice must be in writing.

Members present at the next scheduled meeting of the branch must decide the merits of the appeal.

The aggrieved member may appeal to the NALC National Committee on Appeals*, in writing and filed

with the branch recording secretary within 20 days from the date of the branch decision. It must be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, and should include any arguments, briefs or other written testimony and evidence which the appellant chooses to submit.

At the regular meeting of the branch following receipt of the appeal, the recording secretary must present the appeal and all written materials to the members present at the meeting. The branch then has 20 days to prepare its written reply. A copy of the reply must be sent to the appellant.

The original appeal, all supporting material and the reply of the branch must be sent via certified mail to: Chairperson, Committee on Appeals, NALC, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001.

Any appellant dissatisfied with the decision of the Committee on Appeals may appeal to the National

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Convention, no later than 60 days prior to the convention, by filing with the Committee on Appeals by registered mail, together with a full written statement of reasons why the appeal should be granted. If the decision of the Committee on Appeals is not rendered until 65 days or less prior to the national convention, the notice of appeal and statement of reasons must be filed as soon after receipt of the decision as is reasonably possible. The National Convention shall be the supreme body to which final appeal shall be made. ☒

* Except for decisions concerning the election of delegates and alternate delegates to national and state conventions. Challenging the decision of the branch meeting concerning delegate to the state association convention may be appealed to the credentials committee of the state association. Additionally, an aggrieved member dissatisfied with the decision of the branch meeting with respect to the election of a delegate to the National Convention may appeal to the credentials committee of the convention before the opening of the convention.