



Where we are at this point

By the time you read this article, the national elections will likely be over. The American people will have decided who will be the president of the United States and Senate and congressional races also will be decided. What happens in the election is critical to our future.

Keep in mind that the legislative branch of our government can determine changes to our retirement, health benefits and life insurance. In addition, a change to the USPS itself could be made through a postal reform bill. The contract is only one part of what actually governs us, the other being the legislative branches of the government. This is why we stress the importance of participation in the e-Activist Network, COLCPE and the Carrier Corps.

The NALC total membership size is 267,697. There are currently 44,514 e-Activists, which is 16.63 percent of our members; we have 24,659 automatic contributors to COLCPE, which is 9.21 percent of our membership; and we have 9,329 members who are part of the Carrier Corps, which is 3.48 percent of our membership. I would like to see all of the numbers increase, as we have many important issues before us. My view is that we should have 100 percent of our membership participating.

Being an e-Activist doesn't cost members anything. As long as you have an e-mail address, you can receive information from President Rolando on the important issues that could affect you. COLCPE is your donation to strengthen our efforts legislatively. The Carrier Corps requires you to donate your time to assist in actually making phone calls or doing door-to-door walks. We need your help! Please consider signing up for each of these. You can contact your shop steward or the officers of your local branch.

All members can best stay in touch with what is happening by checking with your branch, state association and

NALC Headquarters through our website, *The Postal Record*, robocalls, tele-town hall discussions, text messaging and other media. These are the ways to learn what is happening as we move forward. Each member is like a link in a chain: We need to pass on what we know to our friends, neighbors and families concerning anything that may be proposed legislatively.

Recently, we saw Congress approve the extension of six-day delivery. This is good news for letter carriers, as that measure retains the mandate for USPS to provide six-day mail delivery service. But this victory is far from complete, as the bill will expire on March 31, 2013—and we will have to fight once again to preserve our jobs and the quality of the service we provide to the American public. It is pivotal that everyone understand the legislative process and how quickly something could be done that may in fact harm us. Together, we can work to preserve the United States Postal Service for years to come.

As a reminder to everyone, the Combined Federal Campaign is presently taking pledges for 2013. Please consider making a pledge to the Postal Employees' Relief Fund; the CFC number is 10268. Also, consider making a pledge to the Muscular Dystrophy Association, CFC number 10561.

As I close out my article for this month, remember that it is Open Season for health benefits. Please take the time to check out the NALC Health Benefit Plan! President Rolando, Trustees Larry Brown, Randy Keller and Mike Gill, and Director of the Health Plan Brian Hellman have worked tirelessly to keep the Plan's premiums low and to increase benefits. Without a doubt, it is truly one of the best plans. Whether you are an active or retired letter carrier, the NALC Health Benefit Plan has you and your family covered. The Open Season period is from Nov. 12 to Dec. 10. Join today!

Have a great Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. ☒