

Inside Headquarters NALC's Supply Department



The staff members of NALC's Supply Department (from l): Jerry Daniels, Janice Caine and James Tilghman.

Shelf upon shelf of forms, supplies, clothes and merchandise, three friendly people to ship it, and the means to send it anywhere—the NALC Supply Department has it all.

If you wear a membership pin, or NALC T-shirt, or hat, or have filled out an NALC form or watched a DVD on the history of the 1970 Great Postal Strike, chances are it found its way to you courtesy of the Supply Department's three employees—Janice Caine, Jerry Daniels or James Tilghman—who work in the first-floor office in NALC's Headquarters building in Washington, DC.

Caine, the department's supervisor, has 32 years at Headquarters under her belt, having started at NALC in the cafeteria in 1981. She transferred to the Supply Department about a decade later and then moved to the supervisor position

when the previous supervisor retired. Caine has seen a great increase in the merchandise letter carriers can order to display their union pride.

"Our department has grown a great deal," she said. "We have more items available than we have ever had before."

Letter carriers can buy T-shirts, sweat-shirts, jackets, hats, watches, bags, rings, patches and more to proclaim that they are NALC members or to give as gifts. Branches often order such items to recognize exceptional members for their volunteer service to the union.

It's a good way for letter carriers to show off their union or to send a message to the public about the importance of the Postal Service without spending much money.

"We try to keep the items at an affordable price," Caine said. Standard shipping is included in the price.

When enough carriers request new items, the department works with suppliers to provide them. The latest request being worked on is for a hooded sweat-shirt that may be available for purchase soon. The department also sells merchandise at every biennial NALC convention, including items branded for that convention, which are then offered for sale from Headquarters if any remain in stock.

In addition, the Supply Department provides Headquarters, regional and state NALC offices, and branches with

many of the essential office items they need, such as forms, steward cards and retiree pins. The department also handles some printing and copying duties.

Caine, Daniels and Tilghman have the equipment to ship everything from Headquarters. They also handle many of the mailing jobs from other departments.

Before coming to NALC, Tilghman worked in several jobs in the Washington, DC, area, but he has spent a happy 10 years at NALC. "I like working here," he said. "I like my boss."

Tilghman enjoys getting to know the staff in Headquarters and letter carriers at branches and NALC offices all over the country as part of his job. Carriers on their first visit to Headquarters often hear his familiar voice and are happy to finally match his face to it, he said, and he enjoys the same experience. Though he doesn't look old enough to be a grandfather, Tilghman loves to spend time after work with his 2-year-old granddaughter, Aubrey, whom he calls "Breezy."

Like Caine, Daniels started in the NALC cafeteria before working in the Supply Department. He came to NALC in 1993 and also worked as a building guard before moving to the Supply Department 15 years ago. Daniels and Tilghman are both members of the Office and Professional Employees International Union.

Daniels enjoys working with carriers and learning about their lives and jobs.

"You might take letter carriers for granted when you see them on the street working," he said. "When you learn more, you find out there's a lot more to what they do than just throwing mail around."

"Janice, Jerry and James are a little like letter carriers," said NALC President Fredric Rolando. "They do their jobs efficiently and with smiles on their faces, but the rest of us don't often stop to think about how important their work is to keeping things running smoothly. Next time you talk to the people in the Supply Department, don't forget to thank them for a job well done."

For a catalogue of merchandise available for sale, go to the Supply Department's page on the NALC website at nalc.org/nalc/store. **PR**

Available for order

Beyond forms, T-shirts and years-of-service pins, the items available to branches or individual letter carriers from the Supply Department might surprise you. They include:

- A pin recognizing a former branch officer - \$10
- Medallion pocket watch - \$85
- Years of membership pins in five-year increments, from five to 70 - \$5
- NALC logo apron - \$10
- Window decal - 25¢ or 25 for \$5
- Award plaque - \$45
- NALC USB thumb/flash drive - \$10



- NALC logo podium seal - \$85
- Gold or silver earrings - \$15



- "Awesome Activity Book," a mail-themed book for children - 50¢
- NALC T-shirt in children's sizes - \$8

- Bumper sticker - 50¢ or 25 for \$10
- Car magnet - \$3
- Car license plate frame - \$2



- *The Joint Contract Administration Manual (JCAM)* - \$15
- NALC's official history book, *Carriers in a Common Cause* - \$5

You can see more items on the inside front cover of this magazine. Prices are subject to change. To view and order items, visit the Supply Department's website, nalc.org/nalc/store. You can download, print and fill out an order form to mail with a check or money order as payment. To order by phone, call 202-393-4695. Credit card orders are accepted by phone; there is a \$10 minimum for credit card orders.