President Rolando is the leader of the NALC, and he represents the union in meetings on Capitol Hill. Behind him are the eight staff members in the Legislative and Political Affairs Department who work to form a bridge between letter carriers and their government.

Director of Legislative and Political Affairs Jennifer Warburton is the NALC’s chief staff lobbyist. She came from her native New York to Washington in 1998 to serve in the Clinton administration. She knows postal issues inside and out, having worked for the USPS government relations department before joining NALC in 2004.

Warburton’s twin challenges are to stop bad legislation that would hurt letter carrier interests from making it through Congress while encouraging good legislation to reform the Postal Service and protect our jobs (see Warburton’s article on page 20). She and her staff are in frequent contact with legislators in the House and Senate, but their role is only the tip of the iceberg.

“When we go over to see House and Senate members, they often mention what they’ve heard from back home, from letter carriers and postal patrons,” Warburton said. “They got a letter, or they talked to a letter carrier at a town hall meeting, or they saw the letter carrier T-shirts at a rally. It’s this kind of grassroots contact that makes an impact, and makes our job possible. The issues and players change every two years, but the need for letter carrier participation never does.”

Political Director Tucker McDonald administers COLCPE. McDonald hails...
from Texas, where he cut his teeth on gubernatorial and presidential campaigns before joining NALC, rising to his role as political director in 2005. His job involves interviewing congressional candidates, both incumbents and challengers, and assessing where they stand on the issues critical to letter carriers. He advises President Rolando on how best to allocate funds from COLCPE to various campaigns and other projects.

Five regional field coordinators (RFCs) coordinate grassroots activities across the country under the direction of National Field Director Meaghan Slater, herself a former RFC. Originally from the Boston area, Slater relies on her experience as a staff member in Congress and an AFL-CIO political organizer in New Jersey.

Among their many activities, RFCs train letter carrier grassroots leaders, distribute information about local rallies or campaign events and coordinate letter carrier participation in political campaigns. Slater and the RFCs rely on their extensive combined experience working on political campaigns for candidates or other labor groups. (For more on how letter carriers are engaging in the legislative process, see story, page 18.)

“Our legislative and political staff members are here to help letter carriers succeed in getting what they need from their government through the democratic process,” Rolando said. “If you need help, call them. If you want help writing a letter to your representative, or you want to give to COLCPE or to organize a COLCPE fundraising event, or you want to understand some legislation, or you just want to know how you can help, please get in touch with the staff.

“And I urge every single letter carrier, active or retired, to participate fully in our grassroots system. Support COLCPE, join Carrier Corps and sign up for the e-Activist Network—you have the power, and now is the time to use it.”

Leigh Ann Martin
Southern Region
Leigh Ann joined NALC in 2011. She learned field work as an organizer for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee in her home state of Alabama, where she supported the campaign of former Rep. Bobby Bright. She worked in Massachusetts to help elect Sen. Elizabeth Warren as part of the AFL-CIO’s Labor 2012 campaign. Leigh Ann has a degree in communication and information sciences from the University of Alabama.

Meredith Place
Central Region
Meredith has been with NALC since April 2012. She previously worked in the office of Rep. Dave Loebsack (D-IA). Meredith organized for various progressive groups, including the Iowa Democratic Party, Sierra Club and Iowa Public Interest Research Group. During the 2012 election, she worked in both Michigan and Wisconsin with carriers to elect President Obama and Sens. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Tammy Baldwin (D-WI). Meredith grew up in Durant, IA, and graduated from the University of Iowa in 2011 with degrees in political science and communication studies.

Jeremy Goldberg
Northeast Region
Since joining the NALC in 2009, Jeremy has worked on AFL-CIO labor campaigns in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. He has also worked at the Ohio statehouse, on the Obama campaign in 2008 and on the 2009 Presidential Inaugural Committee. Jeremy is originally from Pittsburgh and earned a degree in political science and Middle East studies from Ohio State University.