

Inside Headquarters Small departments

From time to time, *The Postal Record* brings its readers stories about the NALC staff members who work for you, department by department. This month, instead of a single department, we focus on some of the staff members who work either in very small departments or directly for the NALC president.

NALC Chief of Staff Jim Sauber is President Fredric Rolando's right-hand man. Sauber, who has held this position since 2005, is responsible for coordinating the research, collective bargaining, public policy and legislative activities of the union at the direction of President Rolando and the NALC Executive Council. However, he often ends up handling all sorts of other odd jobs, frequently representing the union at the AFL-CIO, the Postal Service and other federal agencies. Sauber joined the staff of the NALC as an economist in 1985 and served as the union's research director for 16 years. He has participated in seven rounds of collective bargaining with the Postal Service.



Jim Sauber

Sauber also represents the NALC as an executive committee member of UNI Global Union (UNI), a Swiss-based global trade union federation comprising hundreds of affiliated postal unions representing 4 million postal workers around the world. He has served as chairman and currently serves as vice chairman of the Employee Thrift Advisory Council to the federal board that manages the Thrift Savings Plan.



Jim Holland

Sauber earned a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Michigan in 1982 and a master's degree from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore in 1992. He grew up near Detroit and is one of 14 children. His father was an autoworker and a member of the United Auto Workers (UAW) and his mother was a registered nurse. He lives in Silver Spring, MD,

with his wife and three daughters, ages 22, 20 and 17.

"NALC is a great place to work, but it represents so much more for me," Sauber said. "It's not just a job; it's a cause. Every day I get to fight for letter carriers and for the labor movement, and every day it's an honor."

Research Director Jim Holland works under Sauber's supervision. Holland joined the NALC staff last year after working for the UAW, where he worked as a research analyst. Before that, he worked for the United Steelworkers union.

Before his career advising labor unions, Holland worked in the investment banking division at Merrill Lynch. "I have an uncle who worked as a union organizer, and he inspired me to start a new career applying my financial background for the benefit of working people. I'm really glad to have the chance to stand up for letter carriers at NALC."

Holland has a B.A. in economics from Fairfield University in Fairfield, CT. His duties as research director includes analyzing USPS financial reports and proposed legislation, and working with NALC's outside financial advisers on postal reform issues.

Executive Offices Secretary Donna McIntyre, who came to work at Headquarters in May of 2013, relies on her background as a legal secretary to keep organized. Her duties include tracking presidential rulings and branch bylaw revisions. Following in her father's footsteps, McIntyre joined the Army Reserves and served from 1982 to 1988. She spent the next two decades working as a legal secretary for several firms specializing in patent law. She is working toward a bachelor's degree in psychology at the College of Southern Maryland in La Plata, MD. She is married with three children, 29, 23 and 22—one is in the Army, one in the Navy and one in college.

McIntyre loves the change from her law firm days. “Going from the legal field to a union job is different, in a good way,” she said. Her supervisors and fellow workers are more supportive, she said, and she has time to pursue her college degree. “Who could ask for anything better?”

Nahid Seperhi joined the NALC staff in December 2012. Seperhi handles human resources duties at Headquarters and assists the NALC assistant secretary-treasurer and the director of community services.

Seperhi was born in Iran and came to the United States with her family when she was 16. She earned a B.S. in biochemistry from Indiana University. Before coming to NALC, Seperhi was a teacher in Fairfax County, VA, public schools. She taught in a variety of settings—preschool, as an assistant for emotionally disabled students and high school chemistry. She then took a job with the NALC Health Plan in Ashburn, VA, which led her to her current job at Headquarters. She lives with her husband and two children, 19 and 16, in Alexandria, VA.

“NALC is a great place with very decent and friendly people,” Seperhi said. “I enjoy coming to work each day.”

Lynda Sist is human resources manager for Headquarters, the Health Benefit Plan and the Mutual Benefit Association. She grew up in Detroit and earned a degree in human resources from Ashworth College in Norcross, GA. Sist worked as an accountant and human resources professional before moving to the Washington, DC, area in 1995. Her previous employers include the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Sist started her job at the Health Benefit Plan in 2007; her job was then expanded to include Headquarters and MBA. She lives with her husband in Manassas, VA, and has three children and nine grandchildren.

“I love the work I do and I can’t see myself doing anything else,” she said.

Director of Community Services Pam Donato was president of Minneapolis Branch 9 when President Rolando asked her to work at Headquarters in 2011. Donato started her letter carrier career in 1986 shortly after leaving active service in the Army. She was elected president of Branch 9 in 2007. Donato’s duties include coordinating the annual Letter Carriers’ Food Drive, helping the Postal Employees’ Relief Fund (PERF) raise money and provide grants, managing the letter carrier heroes program, coordinating branch and national fundraising and volunteer efforts for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) and other community and membership outreach activities.

Director of Education Jamie Lumm arrived at Headquarters in 2009 following five years as Region 2 regional administrative assistant. Jamie is a member of Kent, WA Branch 2038. He carried his first satchel in 1978. Lumm handles education and training projects, including training for arbitration advocates, branch secretary-treasurers and OWCP representatives. He also is on the faculty of the Leadership Academy, which brings 30 carriers (two from each region) for intensive leadership training to three two-week sessions near Headquarters in Washington, DC. In between the sessions, students do independent projects with the help of letter carrier mentors back home.

See the story about letter carriers serving members at Headquarters in the June 2013 issue of *The Postal Record* for more information about Donato and Lumm. Under the direction of the president, NALC Headquarters also employs a meeting planner to handle arrangements for the national convention, rap sessions and other events, and a full-time lawyer from an outside law firm works at Headquarters providing legal counsel. **PR**



Donna McIntyre



Nahid Seperhi



Lynda Sist