

Inside Headquarters NALC's Finance Department



If you don't notice the NALC's Finance Department, that's a sign that it's doing a good job, and that things are running smoothly.

To run a large union like the NALC, someone needs to keep track of every dollar that comes in or goes out and to assure that bills are paid, employees get their paychecks and reports are compiled on time. Dedication and attention to detail are integral components of the job and of a successful department.

The Finance Department works under the direction of NALC Secretary-Treasurer Jane Broedel. "The Finance Department staff members work quietly behind the scenes, performing tasks that are critical to the operation of the union," Broedel said. "This is the best Finance Department I've had in place since I became secretary-treasurer in February 2002. Not only do they do a professional job, they all work well together."

NALC Finance Department Director Debra Price took the helm of the department in March of 2012 after 18 months as the accounting manager for NALC. Price has been a certified public accountant (CPA) since 1998. She worked for nearly two decades with local corporations and several not-for-profit organizations in the Washington, DC, area, most recently with the National Children's Center, before joining the NALC staff. Price's duties include monitoring cash flow; preparing and compiling financial reports; assisting with preparation of federally mandated labor-management (LM) reports and assisting branches and state associations with financial, LM and tax-related matters.

Price hails from a blue-collar family in Reidsville, NC, where her mother was a unit secretary and her father was a tobacco factory worker and a member of the Tobacco Workers International Union Local 192. "When I was a very young girl, I remember my father working and picketing for the TWIU," she said. (TWIU later merged with other unions to form the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers' International Union.)

Price earned a bachelor of science in business administration and marketing from North Carolina A&T State University in 1979. She is a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the nation's first Greek-lettered African-American sorority. She has a grown son and three grandchildren.

The Finance Department staff records the funds that the union receives and disburses and assists branches and state associations with LM reports and tax returns. "The general rule is that the Finance Department handles accounting for NALC and assists branch and state associations with filing and reporting requirements," Price said. "The Membership Department is the place for individual members to call when they have questions about things like dues." (See the story about the NALC Membership Department in the October 2013 issue of *The Postal Record*.)

Price gets the job done with the help of a team of experienced accounting professionals who work hard, sometimes under tight deadlines.

Accounting Manager Julian Gamez works closely with the director on preparing financial reports and other general accounting tasks as neces-

sary. Gamez also assists Price with the year-end audit, and works closely with the auditors to ensure that the audit is handled as efficiently as possible. He oversees the accounting functions related to NALC's investments, performs monthly account analysis and reconciliations, reviews all of NALC's weekly payrolls and assists with oversight of all daily accounting procedures. In addition, Gamez provides support to NALC branches and associations with questions related to LM reporting, IRS filings and other general questions.

The oldest of 10 children, Gamez grew up in the farming community of Immokalee, FL, and worked his way through Florida State University to earn a bachelor of science in accounting in 1993. He most recently worked as an auditor for Bethesda, MD, accounting firm Bond Beebe before joining NALC in June 2012. He previously worked as an auditor for firms in Arlington, VA, and Naples, FL, for about 10 years.

Senior Accountant Charles Dennis joined the staff in 2011. He prepares bank reconciliations, monitors fixed-asset activity, and assists with contracts and insurance. Dennis was born and

raised in Philadelphia, where his father was a letter carrier and mail processing supervisor at the old 30th Street Station for more than 35 years. His mother was a public elementary school teacher and union member, so Charles grew up in a union household. After his mother's union experience and his father's experience as a letter carrier and NALC member, he said, "It's interesting to see NALC from the inside."

Dennis earned a B.S. degree in accounting at Penn State University in 1999 and completed his master's degree in strategic management and accounting from University of Maryland University College in May 2013. Dennis has 14 years of general accounting experience, having worked in the real estate, telecom and health care industries prior to joining NALC. He is married and resides in Bowie, MD, with his wife, Sade.

Senior Accountant Shannon Ward was born in Washington, DC. Ward earned her B.S. degree in business management and accounting from Southeastern University. She has more than 20 years of general accounting experience, having worked with several corporations and accounting firms

Pictured (from l) are John Miller, Linda Stewart, Shannon Ward, Seetha Subramanian, Julian Gamez, Jermaine Foreman, Charles Dennis, Yvonne Womble, Debra Price and Steve Barone.



Inside Headquarters

NALC's Finance Department

in the DC area. Ward came to work at NALC as a contract accountant in 2011 and was hired as an NALC employee in March 2013.

Ward handles COLCPE donations, receipts from the NALC store, and the payroll and payroll tax withholding reconciliations for the NALC payroll. She has a son and a daughter, both in their early 20s, and one grandchild.

Seetha Subramanian is NALC's payroll manager, a job she has held since 2007 after joining the accounting department in 2005. Subramanian manages the NALC weekly payroll and the input of salary and benefit information into the payroll system and keeps abreast of payroll-related updates from the IRS and other federal agencies. Subramanian grew up in Chennai, India, and earned a degree in accounting from the University of Maryland in 2009. Before coming to NALC, she worked at Weatherford Oil and Gas in Texas. She lives with her husband, Subbu, in Germantown, MD, and they have two sons, 7 and 17 months.

Subramanian does her job with the assistance of Payroll Accountant Steve Barone. Barone joined NALC in August 2013, replacing Joseph Barbour, who recently was promoted to director of membership. Barone moved to the DC metro area from Florida in 2005 after 20 years of working in payroll at AT&T, where he was a member of the Communications Workers of America (CWA). Barone holds a B.S. degree in business administration and marketing. He recently earned an associate's degree in accounting at Montgomery College in Maryland and is working on becoming a CPA. Barone loves to travel; he has

been to all 50 states and to 32 countries on five continents.

Linda Stewart is NALC's accounts payable supervisor. She ensures that the union's bills are paid in a timely fashion. Stewart has worked for NALC since 2001, coming to the Finance Department after one year of accounting work for the Mutual Benefit Association. Stewart supervises the coding and payment of operating, travel and other expense reimbursements for NALC and the union's political action fund, the Committee on Letter Carrier Political Action (COLCPE). Stewart was born in Washington, DC, and has one son. Stewart's educational experience includes several accounting courses at the Washington School for Secretaries and on-the-job training. She last worked for an insurance broker before joining the MBA.

John Miller, accounts payable clerk, has worked in Finance since 2009 and also joined NALC after first working for the MBA. He assists Stewart with the timely payment of NALC and COLCPE bills. Miller attended the University of Washington in Seattle, where he studied political science. His accounting experience has been through on-the-job training. Miller was born in Washington, DC, but spent most of his childhood in several Asian countries, because his father worked for the Foreign Service.

Jermaine Foreman, accounts payable clerk, is the most recent staff member to join the NALC accounts payable team. He assists with the timely payment of NALC and COLCPE bills and with payroll when needed. Foreman joined NALC as a temporary

project accountant in August 2012 and became a full-time NALC employee in March. He earned a B.S. degree in business administration and marketing in May 2005 and an MBA degree from Trinity Washington University in Washington, DC, in May 2012. He is already active in his own union, serving as shop steward at NALC for the Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU) Local 1, which represents about half of NALC's professional staff members.

Foreman has found accounting for NALC to be a great fit. "I love numbers; I love math," he said. "My co-workers are great and awesome—they make the day go by faster."

Yvonne Womble, accounts receivable clerk, is responsible for the timely recording of funds received by NALC. She is instrumental in handling the associate member dues receipts. Womble also serves as purchasing clerk for NALC. She was born in Grenada and moved to the United States in 1989. Womble lived and worked in California for two decades, raising her son and daughter, who are now in their 20s, before joining the Headquarters staff in 2006. Womble has firsthand experience with the Postal Service—she once worked as a mail sorter in a post office in San Diego. Womble's educational experience includes several accounting courses and on-the-job training.

"The people in the Finance Department keep things running day by day, and they do a great job of it," NALC President Fredric Rolando said. "We are grateful for their efforts." **PR**