

NALC's PAC now known as 'Letter Carrier Political Fund'



The name change comes as a result of an effort that began at the NALC convention in 2014, where hundreds of letter carriers submitted proposed new names for the former Committee on Letter Carrier Political Education (COLCPE). Ultimately, the Letter Carrier Political Fund, a name submitted by Levittown, PA Branch 4973 member Lee Sciarra was selected.

During last month's rap session in Houston, NALC President Fredric Rolando announced the completion of efforts to overhaul, simplify and rebrand the union's political action committee (PAC), formerly known as the Committee on Letter Carrier Political education (COLCPE).

The PAC's new name—the Letter Carrier Political Fund—is the result of discussions that began at our 2014 national convention in Philadelphia.

"Members of Congress have vast power and influence when it comes to issues of importance to letter carriers," Rolando said. "And one of the best ways for us to promote the good and combat the bad in Washington, DC, is to get behind the right candidates.

This means letter carriers need to continue building the union's political influence, he said, and the rebranding of NALC's PAC was seen as an essential component of that effort—another way to help amplify the collective voice of active and retired letter carriers so NALC can continue to deliver the union's message to Washington.

"Just as a shop steward guides letter carriers on the workroom floor," Rolando said, "our rebranded PAC will help letter carriers navigate the political process as we work to get elected candidates who not only understand and value letter carriers, but who also will advocate for us in Congress."

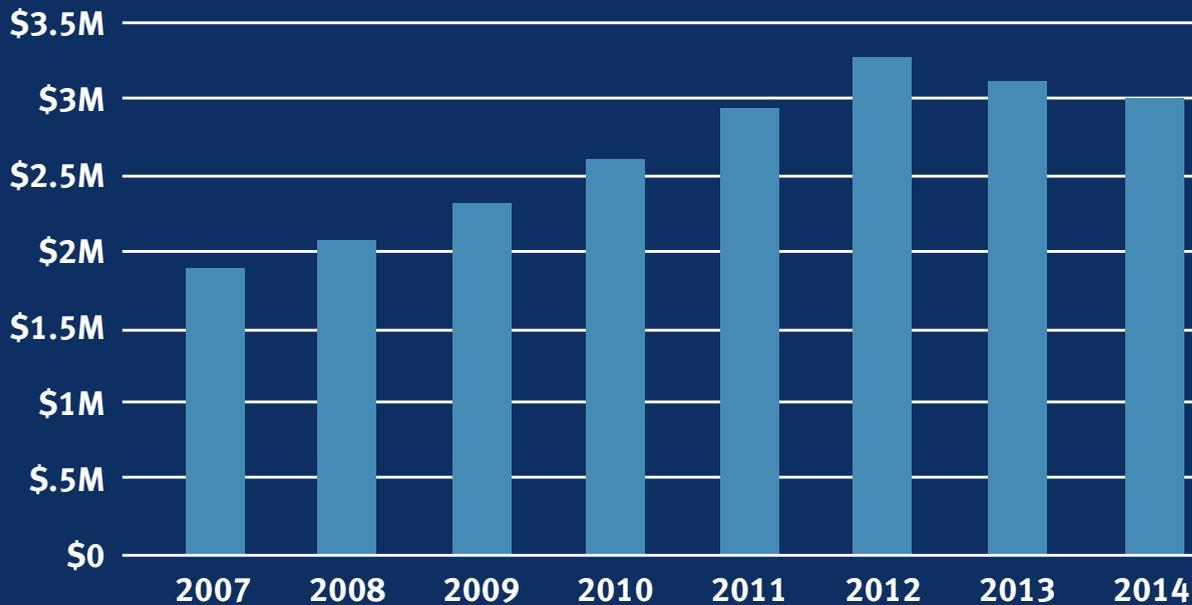
Our revitalized Letter Carrier Political Fund will help NALC better educate, engage and mobilize letter carriers about candidates for political office, he said.

"But not only that," Rolando said. "When we head to the polls to vote, the Political Fund also will help letter carriers have a better understanding about each candidate's positions on our issues."

About 10 percent of NALC members—active and retired—actively contribute to the Political Fund. Participation in the fund has grown over the years, with a noticeable rise in contributions beginning in 2007—the first full year following the launch of the successful "Gimme 5 for COLCPE" campaign (see chart on following page).

"Making this name change now will help us create some energy around the Political Fund," Rolando said. "This new and simpler name should go a long way toward boosting members' awareness of it and its benefits."

PAC contributions 2007-2014



Getting involved

There are many ways to be a part of the NALC's network of legislative and political activists, but becoming a member of the Letter Carrier Political Fund is probably one of the simplest—and, in some ways, the most rewarding.

"The Political Fund provides an opportunity for all of our members to build the electoral and legislative power we need," Rolando said, "to ensure that the decisions made on Capitol Hill will reflect our best interests.

"Letter carriers who decide to join the Letter Carrier Political Fund are the ones who truly understand that their small investment can go a long way toward protecting their pay, benefits and working conditions," he said. "The message we deliver to Capitol Hill, as one, demonstrates and defines our collective power."

Meanwhile, the NALC's Government Affairs department is working on a number of initiatives designed to increase letter carrier involvement on the legislative and political fronts.

"There are no greater activists, messengers, mobilizers and team players than letter carriers," said Kori Blalock

Keller, NALC's director of Government Affairs. "But we know that there are many letter carriers who aren't sure how to get involved.

"Whether it's engaging locally with your members of Congress or with community allies, energizing other letter carriers to get involved, or simply giving to the Letter Carrier Political Fund, we need you," she said.

This rebranding of the Political Fund, however, is only the beginning, she said. "NALC also is looking to grow its base of activists, and a simpler name for our PAC—combined with increased educational outreach efforts—are good first steps toward increasing activists' participation so our union can raise its voice on Capitol Hill even louder than before."

To that end, in the coming weeks and months, the Government Affairs department will be engaging with letter carriers across the country so they will gain an understanding about why it's important to become a PAC member.

"Moving forward together, we will make sure letter carriers' interests, issues and values remain a priority in Washington, DC," she said. **PR**

By making a contribution to the National Association of Letter Carrier's Political Fund, you are doing so voluntarily with the understanding that your contribution is not a condition of membership in the National Association of Letter Carriers or of employment by the Postal Service, nor is it part of union dues. You may refuse to contribute without any reprisal. The Letter Carrier Political Fund will use the money it receives to contribute to candidates for federal office and undertake other political spending as permitted by law. Your selection shall remain in full force and effect until cancelled. Contributions to the Letter Carrier Political Fund are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. Federal law prohibits the Letter Carrier Political Fund from soliciting contributions from individuals who are not NALC members, executive and administrative staff or their families. Any contribution received from such an individual will be refunded to that contributor.