

Happy holidays



Timothy C. O'Malley

This year seems to have gone by very fast. We have many challenges still facing us, and I am sure there will be more in the future. It is evident that the NALC has prevailed for the past 126 years as a result of hard work, determination and will-power, which our membership has demonstrated time and time again.

Postal reform is still the key piece of legislation that needs to be passed in Congress. The 2006 pre-funding provision needs to be changed. Congress should reform this and provide for ways to maximize participation in Medicare Parts A and B and provide access to low-cost prescription drugs provided to private employers by Medicare Part D, which would reduce the unfunded liability by \$43 billion and reduce the annual expenses by

\$3.5 billion. Then OPM could safely invest the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund (PSRHB). Congress can also start mandating the use of postal-specific assumptions when measuring USPS retirement liabilities.

As a result of the financial crisis caused by the PSRHB, the Postal Service wound up cutting the service standards for processing and delivery of mail. It closed down many mail processing plants and changed delivery standards, which resulted in slowing mail processing and delayed delivery. The American people have been dramatically affected. This has led to many congressional leaders seeking to restore the service standards in place prior to July 2012.

Congress should direct the Postal Regulatory Commission to use its upcoming review to modify the cap on USPS' prices for market-dominant products (e.g., First Class Mail, Standard Mail, periodicals) to allow the agency to charge prices that more accurately reflect its actual costs while providing for predictability and holding the agency to a reasonable standard relative to private delivery services. USPS' prices for market-dominant products are currently capped at artificially low rates, tied to increases in the general Consumer Price Index (CPI), which neither reflects actual USPS costs nor pricing trends in the national delivery industry.

USPS must be allowed to develop new ways to serve the public and to offer new services. Congress should authorize USPS to investigate ways to serve unmet needs with its existing networks, subject to regulations

to prevent unfair competition. It should also increase participation in our democracy by promoting mail-in balloting at all levels of government and improve access to government services by encouraging partnerships between USPS and federal, state and local government agencies. Using USPS' infrastructure to deliver beer, wine and distilled spirits, in accordance with state laws, is one example of how USPS could continue to serve its customers and generate revenue.

If these items were incorporated into a piece of legislation, the Postal Service would be able to move forward for years to come. Stay tuned for a piece of legislation. We will need everyone to contact their congressional representatives.

Organizing increase for CCAs

The numbers continue to improve for organizing. CCAs are now 86.4 percent organized. Region 14 NBA John Casciano leads all the regions with 92.4 percent of CCAs organized. Congratulations to John and the entire region on their efforts. Second place is Region 11 NBA Dan Toth, whose regional number stands at 91 percent. In third place is Region 3 NBA Michael Caref with 90.6 percent. In fourth place is Region 15 NBA Larry Cirelli at 89.7 percent. In fifth place is Region 12 NBA William Lucini with 89 percent. In sixth place is Region 1 NBA Chris Jackson with 88.3 percent. Excellent job, everyone!

Our overall craft percentage is 91.9 percent.

Customer Connect brings in \$2 billion

The table below shows the offices that were recognized in November for their efforts in promoting the Customer Connect program over the last four years. A breakfast was held at each location. Congratulations to all the offices in the country participating in the program. It is truly a great achievement to reach the \$2 billion mark.

Holiday wishes

The holidays are here and our thoughts turn to this festive time of the year with our families and friends. I wish everyone a happy and blessed holiday. May there be joy, love, peace and understanding in your hearts this holiday season and throughout the coming year.

Stations recognized for Customer Connect achievement

Area	District	Station Name	Station Zip	Total Leads	Total Sales	Total Revenue	% Sold	Lead Ranking	Sales Ranking	Revenue Ranking	Total Ranking
Great Lakes	Detroit	Livonia	48150	3060	136	\$6,365,997	4.4%	1	1	4	6
Western	Mid-America	SPFD Griesemer Annex	65807	331	76	\$4,182,170	23.0%	20	12	10	42
Northeast	New York	FDR Station	10022	516	62	\$2,142,465	12.0%	7	20	47	74
Pacific Capital	Sacramento	Rancho Cordova	95670	204	96	\$1,691,771	47.1%	87	4	70	161
Metro	Greensboro	Hickory	28602	246	33	\$2,748,711	13.4%	51	102	28	181
Southern	Suncoast	Melbourne	32901	399	31	\$1,285,890	7.8%	12	122	121	255
Eastern	Phila. Metro	Langhorne	19047	205	37	\$1,357,429	18.0%	85	78	111	274