

Safety and Service Committee update

In late 2013, NALC President Fredric Rolando approached postal management at USPS Headquarters with the idea of developing a joint program to identify and address factors that contribute to unsafe work environments for letter carriers, whether during daylight hours or after dark, and to address issues that affect service to customers, such as routine deliveries after traditional delivery hours.

A joint initiative, now known as Safety and Service Reviews, was created. Since then, the joint headquarters team has been busy trying to find ways to improve safety for carriers and service to our customers.

President Rolando appointed Director of City Delivery Brian Renfroe to head this effort for NALC. Renfroe and USPS Manager of Field Labor Relations Mike Mlakar jointly oversee this initiative. USPS districts to be reviewed are jointly selected at the national level based on the severity and scope of the issues. Thus far,

reviews have begun in the Chicago, Capital, Detroit, Northern New Jersey, Triboro, Long Island, Los Angeles and South Florida districts.

The headquarters representatives hold initial meetings with the national business agent and branch presidents in the district, as well as with USPS area and district management, to identify issues and explore potential solutions. After the meetings, the headquarters parties submit a joint report including recommendations to President Rolando and USPS Vice President for Labor Relations Doug Tulino.

Headquarters Contract Administrative Assistant Mark Sims, Region 7 RAA Troy Fredenburg and National Field Administrative Assistant Patty Joseph have been tasked with following up on the recommendations and the agreed-upon solutions. The national parties have reached agreements in various districts to increase staffing, improve safety equipment

and increase the public's awareness of letter carrier safety problems to engage communities in the effort.

The reviews in each district are ongoing. The parties continue to look into the root causes of safety and service problems and potential solutions, including mail processing and transportation schedules, staffing, route adjustments and structures where appropriate and improved safety equipment for use by letter carriers.

"The safety and service review committee is looking at many issues that affect both the safety of letter carriers and the service we provide to our customers," Rolando said. "While this joint effort has produced positive results in the districts where reviews have begun, NALC will continue our work on these safety and service issues as long as it takes to put letter carriers nationwide in the best position to work safely and provide the highest level of service to postal customers." **PR**

Nalcrest continues making improvements

Nalcrest is NALC's retirement community for letter carriers, but things never slow down there.

And thanks to the hiring of a property management company for the first time, things are running smoothly while rents remain reasonable.

"This brings a more professional approach to property management," Nalcrest Trustee President and former Region 9 National Business Agent Matty Rose said. Rose expects the change to allow Nalcrest to keep rent low on its 500 garden-style apartments set next to a lake midway between Tampa and Vero Beach. It also will help maintain Nalcrest's firm

financial footing for years to come.

The unique retirement community established for letter carrier retirees celebrated its 50th anniversary last year. Since it opened its doors in 1964, Nalcrest has grown to include a town center, a sports complex with swimming pool and hot tub, an auditorium and outdoor activities such as shuffleboard, horseshoes, basketball, bocce, miniature golf and tennis. The development is clustered around two peaceful lagoons connected to the lake, with 150 acres left in a natural state. The 750 or so residents have formed many clubs to pursue travel, hobbies and other interests.

Most residents rent apartments at

Nalcrest full-time, but the community also offers 15 apartments for short-term rentals from one day to six months in duration, Rose said. Those apartments come furnished, and renters have access to all the amenities year-round residents enjoy. The rent for the short-term apartments is set on a sliding scale—the longer the stay, the lower the cost per day.

To keep track of developments at Nalcrest, take a look at its new official Facebook page, "Nalcrest Foundation, Inc." (search for "Nalcrest" in Facebook for the page) and the unofficial page sponsored by residents, "Nalcrest Happenings" ([facebook.com/nalcresthappenings](https://www.facebook.com/nalcresthappenings)). **PR**