

Imagine



**Judy
Willoughby**

Credit and thanks for the following song go to John Lennon:

*Imagine a different Postal Service
It's easy if we all bail
No door-to-door delivery
Only five days of mail
Imagine all the changes*

*Imagine there's no full-time
It isn't hard to do
If we allow Congress to kill it
No benefits too
Imagine all the changes*

*You may say I'm a dreamer,
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And our message will be as one*

*Imagine no more contract
I wonder if you can
No need for any grievances
And workers' rights are banned
Imagine all the changes*

*You may say I'm a dreamer,
But I'm not the only one
I hope now you'll join us
And stand together as one*

My apologies to John Lennon. I offer this silly rewrite of his great song for a very serious reason. *I need your attention.* If we allow Congress to implement the budget resolutions the House and Senate recently passed, this song won't seem so silly—our pay, our benefits and our jobs are threatened by these resolutions. Politics is not everyone's cup of tea; however, we have no choice but to get active.

We need everyone in the NALC engaged and educated on the issues that affect us. It is extremely important, and this is the time for all of us to be involved. There is no room for partisan arguments; we need both sides of the aisle to understand they cannot tear down America's Postal Service by allowing it to be degraded. *We need to stand together as one.* Whether you are active or retired, it doesn't matter.

The forces against us in this war are real, and we need our ammunition—COLCPE (Committee on Letter Carrier Political Education) and the e-Activist Network—more than ever. So, you might say, why does the NALC continually ask its members to contribute to COLCPE and become e-Activists?

COLCPE is the union's political education PAC. Dues from our members cannot be used for political action. This is

why we have been promoting COLCPE and asking members to contribute automatically through payroll deductions or bank draft, or through your annuity check from OPM if you are retired. Money talks in politics, and although we cannot compete with corporate America, we can contribute to those who support our issues.

Our e-Activist Network is our means of communication that is quick and can reach our members in seconds. Messages are sent out to update and educate our members on current issues facing us. It is also a way to connect and share on the social media networks.

The NALC has been promoting both of these initiatives for years, so if you are on board, thank you, and if not, why not? *Imagine* how strong we could be if *all* our members participated. It is now time to set aside any personal feelings; our jobs depend on us *being as one.*

If you think of past issues that were passed in Congress and became law, you can see how tough it is to overturn a law already passed. For years, the NALC has wanted legislation to appeal the Windfall Elimination Act that affects many of our members, mostly retirees under the Civil Service Retirement System. These retirees lose a portion of their Social Security if they qualify for it, because the law passed reduces a portion of their Social Security entitlement.

"Imagine how strong we could be if all our members participated."

Once we lose something, it becomes a monster to try to gain it back. Congress already has attacked newly hired employees by increasing the percentage they must pay toward retirement. Our CCA members will be affected by the law previously passed when making career. The new resolutions recently passed ask all federal employees, including postal employees, to give more. We cannot stand idle and let them do this; we must act when called upon and educate our families, friends, civic organizations and small businesses. This is a reason to give to COLCPE—so we will have some ammunition against the forces opposing us.

The good news is, the Postal Service is making money operationally. We need to make certain America knows this by responding to news media articles and by attending town halls. I want to thank President Rolando, who is leading us by example. He has been on the radio and on talk shows, and he has written articles and responded to other articles on a frequent basis. Also, thanks to the many other members who have stepped up to the plate to do the same.

I urge all members to become educated on the issues we face, sign up for COLCPE, become e-Activists and stand together as *one!*