

# Taking a look at the *NALC Constitution*, Part 5



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**I**n the past several months, we have explored language found in the *NALC Constitution*. This month I'd like to cover a few areas found in the *Constitution for the Government of State Associations (CGSA)*.

Let's look at Article 6—Officers. Article 6, Section 1 lists the required elected offices for the state associations. They are: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, director of education and executive board of five or more; provided, however, that any state association may combine the offices of secretary and treasurer, in which case the duties of the secretary-treasurer shall be as outlined in Sections 3 and 4 of Article 8. Additionally, the association may provide in its bylaws to combine the office of

director of education with any other elective office. The association may provide for additional elected offices in its bylaws.

The *CGSA* has another section that requires an elected office. It is found in Article 8, Section 8(a), which states: "State Association of Letter Carriers shall establish by election a retired member as Director of Retirees to represent retired members in good standing of the State Association." This section, at times, is forgotten, so I thought it might be a good subject to remind each state association of the required elected offices.

Duties of the state officers are found in Article 8 of the *CGSA*. Article 8, Section 7 lists the duties of the director of education: "The Director of Education shall have authority, under the supervision and direction of the National Business Agent, to arrange for seminars and training schools on State, District and Branch levels." Based on this language, each state association's director of education should contact the national business agent when planning any state, district and/or branch training. (Branches can conduct their own training without contacting the national business agent.)

All state officers must be elected at the state convention at least every three years. Article 6, Section 2 provides the association if in its bylaws, for the election of executive board members by district, with each district electing its own executive board member. Absent language in the association bylaws, the executive board members must be elected by the entire delegation.

Another problem area regarding elections for state associations is found in Article 6, Section 3:

This Association shall also elect at a regular Convention, two Delegates-at-Large and two alternate Delegates-at-Large,

to the National Convention whose term of office shall be one, two, or three years as the Association shall determine; provided, however, that any State Association may provide that, by virtue of their office, the President and Vice President in office at the time of the National Convention shall be the Delegates-at-Large or alternate Delegates-at-Large, to the National Convention.

Absent bylaw language, the association should elect two delegates-at-large and two alternate delegates-at-large. If the language contained in the state association's bylaws provides for the president and vice president to be delegates-at-large, the association should still elect two alternate delegates-at-large.

Hopefully the above will assist state associations when electing officers.

## Veterans Day

**On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918**, an armistice between Germany and the Allied nations came into effect recognizing the end of World War I. In 1919, Armistice Day was established as a holiday by President Woodrow Wilson. In May of 1938, a congressional act made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday. However, in 1945, Raymond Weeks from Birmingham, AL, a World War II veteran, had an idea to expand Armistice Day to include all veterans. A bill was introduced in Congress to do that and was signed into law on May 26, 1954, by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, thus making Armistice Day a commemoration for all veterans. Congress later amended the law in the same year (June 1, 1954), replacing "Armistice" with "Veterans" and this is why it is known as Veterans Day today—a holiday most of us receive.

Last month, I had the opportunity to attend a ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. It was a proud moment in NALC history when four NALC heroes representing the men and woman of the NALC laid a special wreath in front of the tomb. They were joined by the other heroes being recognized by the NALC, resident officers and many other brothers and sisters. It was such an honor to be there. For myself as a veteran, it will be a moment in my life that I will never want to forget.

I thank all of the men and women who are serving and have served in the United States military or have had family members serve. Some have made the ultimate sacrifice. Also, congratulations to all the heroes recognized in Washington in October and to the many others across the country who have been recognized throughout the years. Your service continues, and your dedication is priceless.

Happy Veterans Day and Happy Thanksgiving to all my brothers, sisters, family and friends!