

Ho ho ho, happy planning!



**Myra
Warren**

As the end of the year approaches, many of us are busy with preparing for the holidays, shopping, cooking, and just spending time with family and friends. This is a good time to take stock of our finances and plan for the future.

Statistics show that most Americans don't have enough life insurance. Seventy percent of U.S. households with children under the age of 18 would have trouble meeting everyday living expenses within a few months if a primary wage-earner were to die. Many people have no life insurance at all.

There are several reasons why people have little or no life insurance. Some people believe life insurance is expensive and expect that the cost of life insurance is nearly three times the actual price of the insurance. Some people don't understand life insurance. They hear the terms "whole life" and "term life" and feel that insurance is too complicated and decide they don't want to deal with it. Some people feel uncomfortable talking about death and don't want to face the fact that it is inevitable.

Sound financial planning is a wise decision at any time. Many people only consider financial planning when certain major life events occur. These events include getting married, starting a family, buying a home, starting a business, retirement, and supporting children and/or parents. These are all good reasons to review a person's financial plans; however, in reality, planning for the future should begin when a person is young and just starting out on his/her own. Then, the plan should be reviewed every few years to make sure that the person is still on track to meet all of their financial needs.

The United States Letter Carriers Mutual Benefit Association (MBA) can assist letter carriers and their families in planning for the future. The MBA offers several plans to meet your financial goals. The plans are reasonably priced and pay attractive rates of dividends and interest to the members:

- **Life insurance products** include the MBA 10 Year Renewable and Convertible Term, MBA Life Pay Up in 20 Years Whole Life, MBA Life Paid Up at Age 65 Whole Life, MBA Life Paid Up at Age 90 Whole Life, and Independence (Single Premium) Whole Life. These life insurance plans can aid in providing financial support after an insured has died. The benefits can

be used to pay burial expenses, medical bills, day-to-day living expenses, higher education expenses, mortgage expenses, etc.

- **Retirement savings plan (RSP)** allows the NALC member and his/her spouse to put funds away for their retirement years. The plan may be taken out as a traditional individual retirement account (IRA), Roth IRA, or non-qualified deferred annuity policy. The RSP is an attractive vehicle for all letter carriers, especially the city carrier assistants (CCAs) who are not eligible to earn pension benefits under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) or to participate in the federal Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). The MBA is currently paying an Interest Rate of 3.75 percent on the RSP, but it guarantees that the rate will never go lower than 2 percent.
- **Hospital Plus** pays a daily benefit directly to the NALC member should a covered family member be confined to a hospital. The daily benefit chosen by the NALC member can be \$100, \$75, \$50 or \$30. One policy can cover the NALC member, spouse and all dependent children.

Information about all of the MBA plans can be found at nalc.org/MBA. Information about each plan is provided as well as the reasonable premium rates and applications. If you have any questions, please contact the MBA office at 202-638-4318, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Wishing you and yours a blessed holiday season and a prosperous new year!



United States Letter Carriers Mutual Benefit Association (MBA)

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