A guide for election season

Elections are fast approaching, and everyone should be thinking about more than one election this fall. Separately from the U.S. presidential and congressional elections, many local branches will be conducting elections to select individuals who will represent the membership. Every member should consider who would be the best person for each office to handle all situations.

A couple of things come to mind when thinking about the upcoming U.S. presidential and congressional races. No matter your choice, the NALC supports those candidates who support our issues. We don’t look at wedge issues when making a decision to support a candidate. I, myself, when voting, look at who will better secure the Postal Service into the future, support collective bargaining and working men’s and women’s issues when making my decision. All these things ultimately may affect our members’ jobs and families’ livelihood. My advice to every member: Research the candidates and vote!

On the local front, many branches will be conducting branch elections this fall. When conducting elections, equal treatment is a must. The rules regarding elections are set by your branch bylaws, the NALC Constitution and a federal law known as the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act (LMRDA). Otherwise, any and all privileges extended to one candidate by the branch must be extended to all candidates. (Please refer to Section 9 in the NALC Regulations Governing Branch Election Procedures.)

Election officers and state delegates is very important. Title IV of the LMRDA states that all local union officers must be elected. According to the NALC Constitution, local branch officers consist of president, vice president, recording secretary, financial secretary, treasurer, sergeant-at-arms, health benefits representative and a board of trustees (three or five members). Branches do have the option, however, of providing in their bylaws for the consolidation or addition of officers of the branch.

The above guide can be downloaded from the NALC website at nalc.org. Go to “Union Administration,” click on the “Secretary-Treasurer” page and select “Election Information.”

Labor Day—Labor Day is a day when we honor the American labor movement for its contributions from workers who have strengthened our country. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday, reflected on all the great achievements, and had some time for rest and relaxation.

Convention—The 70th Biennial Convention was a great success and once again gave me my dose of unionism. It was great to see my sisters and brothers both there for the first time and those who have attended in the past. Thanks to all our veteran members and those whose family members have served. I want to thank Branch 24 for the fantastic job in hosting the convention. You were all truly first class!