

Some historical highlights of the NALC retiree connection



Ron Watson

One of the great strengths of the NALC flows from the continued activism of members who have retired from the Postal Service. That has been true from the earliest days of the NALC.

Retirees provide a conduit for the history and the traditions of both the letter carrier craft and the NALC to new generations of letter carriers. They provide a focus on the fight to obtain, preserve and improve retirement security. They play a prominent role in legislative battles, helping protect the benefits of working letter carriers as well as those of retirees.

In 1939, delegates to the national convention celebrating the NALC's 50th anniversary established the practice of presenting gold cards to carriers with 50 years of membership. Delegates to the 1956 national convention created a lower national dues structure for retirees. That

in the governance of the NALC, other than three constitutional exceptions: retired members do not vote in matters pertaining to ratification of a national agreement, to local memorandums of understanding or to work stoppages. They contribute to the strength of NALC today, just as they have done for more than a century.

Readers interested in learning more about the history of the NALC may obtain a copy of the NALC publication, *Carriers in a Common Cause*. Much of the information in this column is gleaned from that publication. It is available online at nalc.org, or for purchase from the NALC Supply Department.

Working letter carriers who are approaching retirement should be aware that in order to maintain membership in the NALC, they must complete and submit Form 1189, as required by Article 2, Section 1e of the *National Constitution*. Form 1189 is mailed by the NALC Membership Department to all members shortly after they retire. It is also available from local branch officers, from the regional NBA offices, or by contacting the Retirement Department. See an example of the form below.

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1956 action means that today, retirees pay just a small fraction of the dues of working carriers. Currently, national dues for retirees are \$7 annually. About half of the state organizations charge zero dues for retirees, and most of the other half charge minimal annual amounts. Many branches charge zero dues.

Forty years ago, following the Great Postal Strike of 1970 (and the resulting creation of the Postal Service), the NALC formalized the strong connection between working and retired letter carriers in a new way, by establishing the position of director of retired members. A constitutional amendment creating the new position was overwhelmingly approved at the 1976 Houston national convention. The *NALC Constitution* requires that the director of retired members be retired from the Postal Service.

In August of this year, at the 70th biennial national convention, the delegates overwhelmingly defeated a proposed constitutional amendment that would have restricted retired members from holding certain offices at the national level.

Retired members continue to hold offices at the branch, state and national levels. They continue to fully participate

Revised Form 1189 (Jul 05)

REQUEST AND AUTHORIZATION FOR VOLUNTARY ALLOTMENT FROM ANNUITY FOR PAYMENT OF ORGANIZATION DUES TO NALC

(Social Security Number) _____ (Civil Service Annuity Number) _____

_____-_____-_____- **C S A** _____

Name of Retired Employee _____

_____-_____-_____- Last First Middle Initial

Address _____

_____-_____-_____- Number and Street City State Zip Code

Home Phone Number _____ Branch No. _____

Area Code () _____

Date of Birth _____ Month-Day-Year Effective Date of Retirement _____

AUTHORIZATION

I authorize the United States Office of Personnel Management to make appropriate deductions from my annuity payments, not to exceed the amount certified by the National Association of Letter Carriers as the amount of dues for which I am obligated and to pay the deducted sum to the National Association of Letter Carriers. This authorization shall also apply to any and all dues changes certified by the National Association of Letter Carriers.

Notice: Contributions or gifts to the National Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO are not tax deductible as charitable contributions for Federal income tax purposes. However, they may be tax deductible under other provisions of the Internal Revenue Code.

I understand that this authorization shall be valid until NALC receives and processes my written notice of cancellation in accordance with its agreement with the Office of Personnel Management and that any disputes regarding this authorization shall be a matter between the NALC and myself. I hold the Office of Personnel Management harmless for any erroneous allotment deductions made pursuant to this authorization.

I also authorize the Office of Personnel Management to disclose any information necessary to execute this request.

(Signature of Annuitant) _____ (Date) _____

Over for ADDITIONAL INFORMATION _____

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY BRANCH OFFICER

I hereby certify that the dues of this organization for the above named member are currently established at \$ _____ per year.

SIGNATURE AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED UNION OFFICIAL _____ DATE _____

NALC HEADQUARTERS USE

Date Received at NALC _____ Date Submitted To OPM _____

Original Copy — NALC Headquarters
2nd Copy — Branch Copy
3rd Copy — Member's Copy

NALC HEADQUARTERS COPY