

Membership lists and milestones



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I wish everyone a healthy, happy and prosperous new year! As the new year begins, many branches will be installing new officers as a result of fall elections, retirements or other reasons. This is a great opportunity to make sure each branch updates its records, notifies the Office of the Secretary-Treasurer of any change of officers, etc. It is also a time you can create a member list that can be used to maintain records for many uses, especially for communication and for recognition to a member for their years of membership in the NALC. My May 2016 article included the milestones of membership and how a branch can request years-of-service lapel pins and plaques (70 and 75 years) to present to members.

I am inserting that particular section again for reference:

Article 2, Section 5 (a): When receiving proper notification by the Branch Secretary that a member will complete twenty-five (25) years, or thirty (30) years, or thirty-five (35) years, or forty (40) years, and forty-five (45) years of membership, the National Association of Letter Carriers shall provide a suitable lapel pin to such member. In the year when a member is to complete fifty (50) years membership in this Association, and by proper request having been directed by the Branch Secretary to the National Secretary-Treasurer, a member shall be given a Life Membership Card of gold which shall entitle him/her to all privileges of membership in the National Association of Letter Carriers without payment of dues, per capita tax, or special assessments from the date of issue of such Life Membership Card; provided, however, that a Life Member shall not be exempt from the requirements of premium payments to the Mutual Benefit Association or the Health Benefit Plan. Life Members shall also be issued a suitable lapel pin. The Life Membership Card and the lapel pin shall be issued by the National Association through the office of the National President.

(b). In the year when a member is to complete fifty-five (55) years, sixty (60) years and sixty-five (65) years and when receiving proper notification by the Branch Secretary, the National Association of Letter Carriers shall provide a suitable lapel pin to such member.

(c). In the year when a member is to complete seventy (70) and seventy-five (75) years and when receiving proper notification by the Branch Secretary, the National Association of Letter Carriers shall provide a suitable plaque for such member.

(d). For purposes of this Article 2, Section 5, membership in the National Alliance of Postal Employees prior to January 1, 1969 shall be treated as equivalent to membership in the National Association of Letter Carriers. Article 2, Section 5 shall also apply to any members who were denied NALC membership after January 1, 1969 and joined the National Alliance of Postal Employees.

Maintaining an accurate list is a great asset to the branch. (Computers and spreadsheets make them quite easy to maintain.) Many branches celebrate and honor active and retired members by presenting them with the applicable lapel pin representing years of NALC membership. The most significant (although they *all* are significant) is the 50-year lifetime membership pin, gold card and personal letter from our NALC national president. With this accomplishment comes the privilege of no longer having to pay dues. So branches should try to make an effort to recognize those members who reach this milestone in the year they reach 50 years of membership. As the *NALC Constitution* requires, the branch secretary must make a proper request to the national secretary-treasurer for members reaching each milestone, not the member.

Our membership records date back to Jan. 1, 1969. This may present a small problem for the branch when determining how many years a member has if they joined the union prior to 1969. Luckily, many branches have records dating before 1969 and are able to request the pins. For those branches that don't have such records, you can reach out to those pre-1969 members and ask them for the date they joined the union. One thing is certain: We should not ignore any of our members, especially those who have been loyal to the NALC for so many years.

One way a member can check the date they joined the NALC is by going to our website at nalc.org and click on the "Members Only" section. (You will find the link to the Members Only portal under the "search" section at the top right-hand corner of the home page.) Once you click on the link, a login page will appear. If you are new to this section, click "create account." Then proceed by entering the requested information. I suggest that you write down your password and secure it. (I learned this from experience.) If Jan. 1, 1969, is listed as the date you joined the NALC and you actually joined prior to that date, you should contact your branch officers. (Do *not* contact the NALC Membership Department, since it is unable to change this date without the local branch secretary sending a letter to NALC Headquarters.) Contacting your branch officers will enable the branch to have a good record of your years of membership so, as you approach a milestone, the branch secretary will be able to properly request the applicable lapel pin in accordance with the *NALC Constitution*.

However, if any other information listed is incorrect, like your address, you may call 202-393-4695 and ask for the Membership Department, or you can go to nalc.org and click on "Update your address" (this link is on the right-hand side on the middle of the page). Please allow some time for updated information to appear.

In summary: Members should *not* call Headquarters about the lapel pins; you should contact your branch.