

Important seasonal updates



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There will be a bi-weekly dues increase for 2018 due to the two wage increases and three COLAs achieved with the new national agreement. The dues change will take place in Pay Period 1 of 2018 (Dec. 23, 2017, to Jan. 5, 2018) and will be reflected beginning with the Jan. 12, 2018, paycheck. As a result, the dues increase will show in the branch dues deposits beginning Jan. 19, 2018.

The minimum dues structure set forth in Article 7, Section 2 (a) of the *NALC Constitution* is the equivalent of two hours' base pay for an NALC Grade 1, Step D letter carrier per month. Since dues are deducted *bi-weekly*, this amount

will be \$25.52 for 2018. National retains one-third of this amount, \$8.49, and remits the other two-thirds to the local branches (with some withheld for state associations and remitted by National Headquarters to the state associations monthly).

Some branches may have dues that are higher than the minimum dues structure. Also, branches may increase local dues during the year.

Open Season

Open Season for choosing a health benefit plan is Nov. 13 through Dec. 11, and I encourage all NALC members to consider enrolling in the NALC Health Benefit Plan—the NALC's own union-run health benefit plan. NALC health benefit representatives and branch officers are reminded that any USPS employee, regardless of bargaining or non-bargaining status, must be a full dues-paying member of the NALC when enrolled in the NALC Health Benefit Plan.

Under Article 22 of the *NALC Constitution*, a Health Benefit Plan membership (often referred to as an "Associate Membership") applies only to retirees who did not maintain their membership in the NALC upon retirement and to all non-postal federal employees. These enrollees of the NALC Health Benefit Plan pay yearly dues of \$36, which are billed in the early part of the year.

Branch mergers

Any branch proposing to merge should review Article 2, Section 3 of the *NALC Constitution*, which sets forth the requirements for affecting a merger of branches. Requests for mergers received at NALC Headquarters are often missing

two requirements from both branches wishing to merge: 1) a resolution, and 2) a statement of reason(s) for merging. To avoid having a request for a merger returned, please ensure that your branch includes all the necessary documentation. More information can be found on the Secretary-Treasurer's page at nalc.org. The Secretary-Treasurer's page is under the "Union Administration" tab.

Buy union

As a vice president of the Union Label and Service Trades Department, AFL-CIO, I would be remiss if I did not urge all NALC members to buy union this holiday season. For more information on how to buy union, check out unionlabel.org and labor411.org.

I also want to remind everyone to check the labels of Nabisco products before purchasing to find out where the product is being made. The AFL-CIO has endorsed the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union's boycott of Mexican-made Nabisco products as a result of the company's decision to move hundreds of Chicago jobs to a plant in Mexico.

There are two ways to tell if your Nabisco snacks are made in Mexico: 1) Check for the words "Made in Mexico," or 2) check the plant identification code. If the plant identification code (which follows the "best when purchased by" date) is MM or MS, it was *not* made in America.

Veterans Day

Although I am not a veteran, I am profoundly honored that so many of our members are and that I get the opportunity to represent our veterans as a national officer. Let's all be sure to thank the men and women who serve in our military for the sacrifices they and their families have made for this great country.