

# Changes in the Community Services Department



Assistant to the President for Community Services  
Christina Vela Davidson

I am Christina Vela Davidson from Branch 382 in Durham, NC. I have been with NALC for almost 18 years and have assisted the union at the local levels with several community services projects and branch obligations. As the new assistant to the president for community service, I thank President Rolando for trusting me and appointing me to be part of the NALC Community Services Department. I am here at Headquarters to give my services to President Rolando and the NALC.

There is no question that the most important ingredient for a successful NALC Food Drive over the past 25 years has been the hard work, devotion and unmatched spirit of volunteerism from city letter carriers, retirees, family members and communities. And even though Food Drive Day is one of the hardest days of the year for a letter carrier, it is also the most rewarding one.

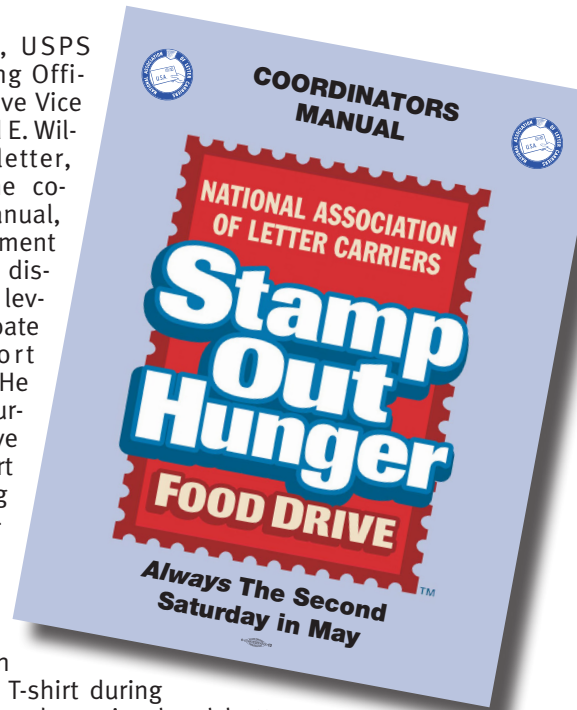
But the food drive would not be standing in 2018 without the equally essential support of the NALC national partnerships and volunteers involved in the drive in thousands of cities and towns across the country. Joining NALC this year as national food drive partners are the U.S. Postal Service, the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, United Way Worldwide, AFL-CIO, Valpak and Valassis.

**Local branches across the nation are finalizing their plans for the 2018 Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive on Saturday, May 12.** I want to remind branches that partnerships with local grocery stores, food banks or other businesses are a crucial part of the food drive's success.

More than 1,000 branches have registered for the drive—a sign that letter carriers are continuing their commitment to help those in need. Our success will be important this year for millions of American families that are struggling to survive and that rely on outside food banks/pantries to meet their basic, everyday food and nutritional needs. The more bags that are secured, the more food we will collect, and families struggling will be able to have another meal.

As these plans go into effect, the coordinator also must have a larger group of volunteers to create a great team to be successful. They also must remind their management counterparts that the Postal Service is on board and has issued a 2018 Postal Service Action Plan with instructions from Headquarters. Postmaster General Megan J. Brennan stated in her letter to President Rolando that “the Postal Service is proud to support the NALC 2018 Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive.”

Separately, USPS Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President David E. Williams sent a letter, included in the coordinator's manual, urging management at the regional, district and local levels to participate in and support the food drive. He states: “I encourage you to give your full support by approving any appropriate local promotions (such as carriers replacing uniform shirts with the Food Drive T-shirt during the campaign, and wearing lapel buttons promoting the food drive) and assisting with the distribution of special bags as a customer convenience to collect food donations.” Copies of the letters from Brennan and Williams, as well as leaders of other food drive partners, are in the coordinator's manual in special Priority Mail packets being mailed to all branch food drive coordinators. These letters and more resources for branches and food drive coordinators are available on our website by going to [nalc.org/food](http://nalc.org/food).



**“On May 12, let’s pull up our pants, strap up our boots and work together to collect food to help stop hunger in America.”**

**Last year’s collection exceeded 75 million pounds of food.** Branches are clearing all the logistics and delivering reminder postcards and bags. On May 12, let’s pull up our pants, strap up our boots and work together to collect food to help stop hunger in America.