These whole-life insurance plans don't take a lifetime to pay off

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Everyone knows the benefits of a whole life insurance policy. This coverage lasts the lifetime of the insured individual. The premiums never increase. The policy builds a cash value that the policy owner may borrow against in times of financial need.

However, many people do not like the idea of paying premiums on a life insurance policy for their entire lifetime. Letter carriers asked that the United States Letter Carriers Mutual Benefit Association (MBA) offer a whole-life insurance policy with a limited premium payment period. In response to this request, MBA offers two policies: Paid Up in 20 Years MBA Whole Life Insurance and Paid Up at Age 65 MBA Whole Life Insurance.

Both plans are available to NALC members and their spouses, children, stepchildren, grandchildren, step-grandchildren, great-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren, as well as members' parents. MBA will insure any one life up to the coverage amount of $100,000. The difference between the plans is the age at which the policies may be issued: for a Paid Up in 20 Years policy it is age 0-80; for Paid Up at Age 65, age 0 to 55.

The best part about these plans is that the premiums remain the same for the premium payment period. At the plans' designated time, the policy is paid in full. Paid Up in 20 Years becomes paid up 20 years after the issue date of the policy. Paid Up at Age 65 becomes paid up on the policy anniversary date after the insured turns age 65. At that time, no further premiums are ever due on the policies. The coverage remains in force for the insured's entire lifetime.

Premiums on either plan may be paid to the MBA through biweekly payroll deduction or directly to the MBA office on an annual or monthly basis.

Both plans are "participating plans of insurance." This means that the policy owner will share in any divisible surplus of the MBA. The divisible surplus is called a dividend on the policy and is credited to the policy on each anniversary date. Policy owners have options on how they may receive the dividends: cash dividends (receiving a check each year on the policy anniversary date); dividends on deposit (dividends remain with the MBA and earn interest); and Life Paid-Up additions (divi-

dends are used to purchase additional life insurance for the insured). Each year, policy owners who opt for the latter two options are provided with a statement indicating the dividends on deposit or the Paid-Up Additional Life Insurance amount.

These whole-life plans provide policy owners with benefits that may not be available with other life insurance products. For example, if a policy owner is unable to continue to pay the required premiums prior to the policy becoming fully paid, options are available to avoid losing coverage, including automatic premium loans or the non-forfeiture options of extended term insurance or reduced paid-up insurance.

> **"MBA offers two whole-life insurance policies with limited payment periods: The Paid Up in 20 Years and the Paid Up at Age 65 plans."**

For additional information about the Paid Up in 20 Years and Paid Up at Age 65 policies, or any MBA policy offerings, visit the website at nalc.org/mba. Once on the site, tab down to "MBA Brochures, Applications and Forms," which allows you to see all of the plans and rates offered by the MBA. Click on the brochure to view the plans.

After reviewing all the benefits, you may wish to apply for a limited premium whole-life insurance policy. To do so, back tab and scroll down to "Applications for U.S. Letter Carriers Mutual Benefit Association Policies" and then click either on the specific state in which you reside or on the "All Other States" tab. From there, click on "Life Insurance" to pull up the specific application. Complete and sign the application and send it, along with the one-time premium payment, to the MBA office.

You also may call the MBA office Monday to Friday at 202-638-4318 from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Eastern time and Tuesday and Thursday at 800-424-5184 at those same times.