

# Advancing our legislative and political agenda



**Brian  
Renfro**

**O**ver the last year or so, you've likely read in *The Postal Record* or heard elsewhere about the recently restructured NALC Department of Legislative and Political Affairs. Since 2006, one of the objectives of our state associations has been to focus on legislation. The *NALC Constitution for the Government of State Associations* states the following in Article 1:

Effective September 1, 2006, State Associations financial resources previously expended on seminars and training shall be expended in pursuance of and consistent with the object stated above: 'to guide and direct all activities relating to legislation within the state.'

The focus of this restructure was to use the skills of experienced letter carriers as a resource to our state associations to be sure each state has what is needed to be successful. President Rolando has appointed four legislative and political organizers (LPOs) to serve as that resource. The LPOs and the geographic areas each cover:

- **John Beaumont**—Western states
- **Eddie Davidson**—Southeastern states
- **Brent Fjerested**—Midwestern states
- **Tony Perconte**—Northeastern States

---

**“While there is a lot of work to be done, I’m excited about the direction we are moving.”**

---

Mobilization Director Ed Morgan coordinates their efforts in the field from Headquarters. These five activists have worked tirelessly in the field this past year attending regional trainings, state conventions, branch meetings and other functions to help educate members on our legislative issues and the importance of the Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF). They also have spent a significant amount of time communicating with and working with the presidents of the state associations within their geographic areas to develop and implement plans that work best for each state. NALC is fortunate to have members who are not only capable of doing this work, but who have the dedication to be successful.

**Late in 2017, we held a series of four meetings at NALC Headquarters with the state presidents from each LPO’s geographic regions. The purpose of the meetings was to**

thoroughly discuss the structure we now have in place and to make plans to move forward to advance a legislative and political agenda that is best for letter carriers and our jobs.

Each meeting featured the state presidents, the LPO, and either the national business agents or regional administrative assistants from the appropriate region. I conducted the meetings with Mobilization Director Ed Morgan.

Each started with a discussion on the current structure of our legislative and political network. We discussed past structures, the reason for the change and what we see going forward. The meetings included discussion on our entire structure and the roles each individual has, from me as the officer overseeing the department, to the headquarters staff, to the LPOs, to the state associations and branches and the letter carrier congressional liaisons (LCCLs). I appreciate the substantive feedback we received on our network during each of these meetings.

President Rolando addressed the attendees at each meeting, explaining NALC’s legislative issues and the need for us to strengthen our legislative and political network going forward. Director of Legislative and Political Affairs Kori Blalock Keller updated each group on the status of current legislation and what we expect in the future. She and Legislative and Political Assistant Corey Miller gave an early outlook on political races in the 2018 midterm elections.

We spent a significant amount of time in each meeting discussing LCPF and how to educate our members on its importance so they can be a part of it.

**After the all-day meetings, we held a series of highly productive meetings with each state president to discuss issues specific to each state and make plans moving forward. As a result of these discussions, we now have plans to provide training to almost all 435 LCCLs by the end of spring or early summer this year.**

These 435 LCCLs are tasked with developing or maintaining a relationship with their members of Congress at home in their districts. We work with members of Congress in Washington, DC, daily. But it is just as important, and sometimes more important, that they hear from our members in their districts because our members also are constituents. It our responsibility to be sure the members that have stepped up to serve as LCCLs are given the training and knowledge needed to be successful. The LPOs and state associations will conduct these trainings at various locations over the next few months.

**I am thankful to each of our state associations and branches for their engagement in our legislative and political network. While there is a lot of work to be done, I’m excited about the direction we are moving. Our network will only get stronger in helping us achieve the best possible results for letter carriers.**