

# Food Drive preparations underway

**M**illions of Americans live from one day to the next, uncertain where their next meal will come from. Many turn to local food pantries to help. But that can be problematic in late spring, when holiday donations have largely been depleted and school meal programs typically are not available.

That's why pantries—and the hungry—look to letter carriers to deliver.

The annual letter carrier food drive, held the second Saturday in May, helps refurbish community pantries, shelters and churches nationwide from late spring on.

“Letter carriers know the great need in communities throughout the country,” NALC President Fredric Rolando said. “Our food drive can make the difference between someone going hungry and someone being nourished.”

Last year, active and retired letter carriers, with help from thousands of volunteers as well as NALC's national partners, collected 75 million pounds of food, bringing our 25-year grand total to almost 1.6 billion pounds.

As this issue of *The Postal Record* was going to press, the deadline was nearing for branches to register for this year's annual Letter Carriers' “Stamp

Out Hunger” Food Drive, which will be held on Saturday, May 12. With the 2018 drive only about two months away, time is rapidly running out.

Branch presidents can register quickly and efficiently by using the “Members Only” portal at [nalc.org](http://nalc.org). Once they've logged into the portal, they can simply select the “Food Drive” button. Enter information into all of the fields, then select “Complete registration.” A notification will be provided to confirm registration.

Branch registration locks in a branch's order for food drive reminder postcards, so it's important for branches to register as soon as possible to ensure proper allocation of postcards.

Partnering with NALC on this year's Food Drive are the U.S. Postal Service, the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW), the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association), Valpak, the AFL-CIO, United Way Worldwide and the direct-mail marketing company Valassis.

Thanks to NALC's partnerships with UFCW and with Valpak—the direct-marketing company behind those familiar coupon-stuffed blue envelopes—every postal customer will receive a reminder postcard in the mail a few days before May 12.

Branches also should be searching for local sponsors of specially branded food drive bags. Such bags are a win-win, helping to significantly drive up totals of food collected and putting the sponsor's name right next to the familiar and trusted Stamp Out Hunger logo. The positive associations will have an effect in the local community.

Information about ordering bags can be found on the online food drive tool kit at [nalc.org/food](http://nalc.org/food). Additionally, contact information for regional and state

food drive coordinators is posted on the tool kit. If a food drive coordinator encounters any problems working with local managers on food drive logistics, the branch president or the regional food drive coordinator can lend a hand.

## Food Drive art unveiled

Thanks to a close relationship between cartoonist Bil Keane and his letter carrier, Keane's popular “Family Circus” comic strip had been associated with local letter carrier food drives even before the Stamp Out Hunger drive went national in 1992.

Following Bil's death in 2011, his son Jeff has followed in his father's footsteps, creating and donating special artwork to help spread the word about the annual event. This year's drawing (below left) will no doubt find its way onto any number of promotional items such as posters, T-shirts and yard signs, not to mention paper and plastic Food Drive bags.

The cartoon and more promotional artwork also are available on the food drive tool kit.

## Merchandise available

New to the food drive last year was a one-stop online shop for ordering wearable and promotional food drive-related items: [stampouthungerstore.com](http://stampouthungerstore.com). Branches or individuals can easily order T-shirts, hats, yard signs, buttons and more to help promote the drive.

The store is run by longtime NALC merchandising partner K&R Branding Solutions, a unionized firm in Chantilly, VA, just outside Washington, DC. This online store also carries memorabilia from the 25th anniversary food drive.

You can like and share the latest news and updates about the food drive on Facebook at [facebook.com/StampOutHunger](http://facebook.com/StampOutHunger) and on Twitter at [@StampOutHunger](https://twitter.com/StampOutHunger). **PR**



# Deadlines set for national convention

**D**elegate eligibility lists for the 71st biennial national convention in Detroit have been mailed to all branches. The lists must be completed and returned to Secretary-Treasurer Nicole Rhine's office at NALC Headquarters no later than May 17 in order for branch representatives

to be registered as delegates to the convention. The convention is set for July 16-20.

All proposed amendments to the *NALC Constitution* to be submitted for consideration at the convention must be received by Rhine's office by May 17. That date is 60 days in advance of the convention, as prescribed by the *Constitution*. Proposed amendments will appear in this June's *Postal Record* for the membership to review.

Resolutions to be considered by delegates also must be received by the May 17 deadline in order to be printed in the *Resolutions and Amendments* book provided to delegates. Resolutions received after May 17 still may be considered at the convention.

Branches wishing to sell items in

the designated branch sales area during the convention must contact Rhine's office to secure guidelines and forms. The completed forms must be returned to Headquarters by April 2.

Go to [nalc.org](http://nalc.org) for more convention news. **PR**



## Fourth COLA set at \$520

The fourth contract COLA was finalized on Feb. 14 at \$520 annually with the release of the January 2018 CPI-W. The fifth COLA will be finalized with the release of the July 2018 CPI-W in August 2018. For more on the COLA, see the pay chart on page 63.

# RAA, community service appointments

**P**resident Rolando has appointed **Chris Strickland** as regional administrative assistant (RAA) for Region 8 (Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee). Strickland filled the vacancy created by the appointment of Steve Lassan as Region 8 national business agent.

A member of Tuscaloosa, AL Branch 1096, Strickland began his postal career as a letter carrier in Tuscaloosa in 2001. He became a steward in 2005, branch vice president in 2006 and branch president in 2007, a position he held until his appointment as RAA. Strickland



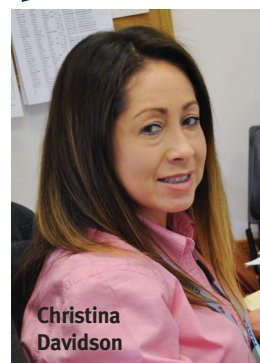
Chris Strickland

also served as a member of the dispute resolution team, an arbitration advocate, an executive delegate-at-large for the Alabama State Association and his branch's MDA coordinator. For the last three years, Strickland worked as an instructor for Region 8, teaching topics including Article 8, technology, grievance procedure, discipline and LMOU negotiations.

Strickland graduated from Leadership Academy Class 20 in 2015. Prior to joining USPS, he served in the Alabama Army National Guard for six years.

President Rolando also appointed **Christina Davidson** as assistant to the president for community services.

Davidson, a member of Durham, NC Branch 382, began carrying mail in 1999 as a casual, becoming a full-time carrier in 2001. She was elected secretary of her branch in 2003 and branch vice president in 2006. She has also served as a Step B representative and dispute



Christina Davidson

resolution team facilitator. For the last 10 years, Davidson worked as MDA coordinator for Branch 382 and as a volunteer for her branch's food drive efforts.

Before joining the Postal Service, Davidson was a paratrooper in the Army and Army reserves from 1996 to 2006. She graduated from Leadership Academy Class 10 in 2010.

Davidson filled a vacancy left by Pam Donato's departure.

"Pam set a high bar guiding the union's national community outreach," Rolando said. "We thank her for her service and wish her all the best." **PR**