There will be a biweekly dues increase for the year 2019 due to the two 2018 cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) and the upcoming Nov. 24 upgrade/pay schedule consolidation. The dues change will take place in Pay Period 1 of 2019 (Dec. 22, 2018 to Jan. 4, 2019) and will be reflected beginning with the Jan. 11, 2019, paycheck. As a result, the dues increase will show in the branch dues deposits beginning on Jan. 18, 2019.

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 Step D letter carrier in the consolidated career City Carrier grade level (Table One) per month. Since dues are deducted biweekly, this amount will be $26.44 for 2019. National retains one-third of this amount, $8.80, 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. 12 to Dec. 10 and I encourage all members to consider enrolling in the NALC Health Benefit Plan (HBP), our own union-run plan. 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 NALC when enrolled in the NALC HBP.

Under Article 22 of the NALC Constitution, an HBP membership (often referred to as an “Associate Membership”) applies only to retirees who did not maintain their membership in NALC upon retirement and to all non-postal federal employees. These enrollees of the NALC HBP pay yearly dues of $36, which are billed directly from Headquarters 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 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 Secretary-Treasurer’s page on the NALC website, nalc.org. The Secretary-Treasurer’s page is under the “Union Administration” tab.