

# The Postal Record scores at ILCA awards

**T**he monthly journal of the National Association of Letter Carriers, *The Postal Record*, collected five awards in the annual International Labor Communications Association competition, including three first-place honors, a third-place award and an honorable mention.

The awards were presented at the ILCA convention, held Nov. 14-15 in Silver Spring, MD. The ILCA Labor Media Awards contest recognizes excellence among member publications, websites, film, video and other media. It is the first and largest competition exclusively for labor journalists.

NALC's top honor, the Saul Miller Award given for Writing - Political Action, went to November 2018's "Message delivered: U.S. Mail is not for sale." The coverage of the "U.S. Mail is not for sale" rallies on Oct. 8, 2018, was written by Designer/Web Editor Mike Shea. The article went into the threats of postal privatization from the White House, the congressional resolutions opposing privatization, and extensive coverage of the letter carriers and other postal employees who took to the streets and sidewalks to voice their pride in the public postal service.

"A Century of Progress: Honoring the March Forward of Women Letter Carriers" received the first-place award for Writing - Best Labor History Story. The March 2018 cover story, written by Writer/Editor Rick Hodges, traced the advancement of women in the previously male-dominated craft of city letter carrier, as well as women taking on leadership roles within the union.

NALC's other first-place award went to the December 2018 cover package, "Delivering care beyond the last mile," in the category of Writing - Best Series. This series of seven feature articles



NALC's Postal Record staff display the awards received for the 2018 International Labor Communications Association's Labor Media Awards contest. Pictured (l to r) are Designer/Web Editor Mike Shea, Writer/Editor Jenessa Wagner, Writer/Editor Rick Hodges, Editorial Assistant Clare Foley and Director of Communications and Media Relations Phil Dine.

chronicling branch and individual service efforts in the community was written by Writer/Editor Jenessa Wagner, Hodges, Director of Communications and Media Relations Philip Dine and former Editorial Assistant Donna Peremes. The popular feel-good stories, an annual *Postal Record* feature, highlight the ways in which letter carriers care and contribute to the communities they live in and serve.

"Vet remembers filling in for '70 strikers" in the March 2018 issue garnered a third-place award for Best Labor History Story. Reported by Hodges, the feature looked at the pivotal Great Postal Strike of 1970 from the point of view of Army Specialist Tom Stokinger, who was among a unit of soldiers mobilized by President Richard Nixon to attempt to deliver the mail in New York City during the work stoppage.

Dine received the honorable mention award for Writing - Best Editorial or Column for his November 2018 column, "Force multiplier." Dine explained how the recipients' actions and the subsequent media coverage



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of the 2018 NALC Heroes of the Year awards reminded the public of the valor of letter carriers and the value of the USPS. That sentiment resonated, helping to power the public support for the "U.S. Mail is not for sale" rallies held 12 days after the Heroes event.

Of the dozens of unions that entered the ILCA contest—including some of the nation's largest, such as the Communications Workers of America (CWA), Teamsters, United Auto Workers (UAW)—only NALC and one other union received more than two first-place awards.

NALC resumed its membership in ILCA this year after more than a decade's absence.

"The 2019 winners represent the best work in labor communications and promote the highest standards of labor journalism," ILCA said in a statement announcing the awards. **PR**