

Celebrating NALC's LCPF leaders



Fredric V. Rolando

It has been our tradition since 2005 to celebrate members of NALC who contribute to the Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF, previously known as COLCPE) by listing their names and contributions in the February *Postal Record*. This is a modest but important way to recognize and celebrate an everyday act of leadership and solidarity that thousands of members have demonstrated over the past year. Thanks to the LCPF leaders listed in this issue, NALC has the resources to support federal political candidates in both parties who demonstrate support for issues affecting active and retired letter carriers.

If you don't believe that those resources are important, read my last two President's Messages. In

December I wrote about the huge success we had in November in electing pro-letter carrier members of Congress in the 2018 midterm elections. Replacing the hostile leadership of the House of Representatives with pro-NALC candidates—who will now lead our oversight committee as well as other committees (Rules, Ways and Means, Budget and Appropriations)—was a huge step forward. These committees will set postal policy and determine how federal pensions and health insurance programs will be treated in the federal budget.

How big a step forward became clear with what I wrote about in the January issue of the magazine—the publication of the report on the White House Task Force on the Postal Service. It is no exaggeration to say that the report unleashed an all-out attack on letter carriers, postal employees and the continued provision of affordable universal postal services in the United States. Consider the lowlights:

- It advocates empowering postal management and our regulators at the Postal Regulatory Commission to end Saturday delivery and to phase out door-delivery service, changes that would endanger tens of thousands of letter carrier jobs and slash the quality of postal services for tens of millions of American businesses and citizens.
- It calls for stripping postal employees of our hard-earned right to collective bargaining with the Postal Service—a right to negotiate our wages, terms and conditions that has secured our place in the middle class.
- It calls for allowing the Postal Service to outsource our jobs to low-wage, part-time and non-union contractors and to franchise thousands of local post offices at the expense of

quality service and the economic security of the Postal Service's career employees.

- It promotes the replacement of the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS), which provides us retirement security, with an inferior 401(k)-style defined contribution plan.
- And it calls for bifurcating the regulation of “essential” and “competitive” services in a way that would raise parcel delivery rates and drive us out of the booming e-commerce market, damaging tens of millions of our customers and threatening our jobs.

Now imagine how dangerous this report would be if we had not helped pro-letter carrier members of Congress win their elections in November 2018. Although we will certainly have to fight off these proposals in the Senate, the political change we helped engineer in the House of Representatives will strengthen our resistance to these terrible ideas.

With our longtime ally Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD) as chairman of the House Oversight and Reform Committee (formerly the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee), we can fight for the public good and defend our interests in the legislative process. And by helping to re-elect great Republican friends like Reps. Rodney Davis (IL) and Peter King (NY), we can help counter the White House proposals on delivery cuts and privatization through House resolutions on those issues.

Our political success in November was made possible by the Letter Carrier Political Fund and the members who contribute what they can each pay period or each month. The funds contributed to LCPF allow us to support the campaigns of pro-letter carrier candidates to federal office. They also give us the resources to release hundreds of NALC activists to work on get-out-the-vote efforts—all in support of the candidates from both parties who have demonstrated their support for a strong, affordable and universal Postal Service and for the collective-bargaining rights of workers like us.

I thank each and every member who is honored in this issue of the magazine. Their leadership and solidarity in support of their fellow letter carriers is very much appreciated. If you haven't contributed to LCPF, take a moment to offer a thank-you to those in your branch who have—their names are listed in the pages that follow. Better yet, consider giving a little bit each pay period to LCPF to advance our bipartisan legislative and political program—or find other ways to contribute to our efforts by engaging your elected representatives on our issues, by educating your friends and neighbors about the Postal Service, or by contacting your local media outlets about postal concerns.

The bottom line is this: We have 285,000 members and there are many ways to help—so we don't need a lot from any one member, just a little from a lot of us.

Thanks again to all the NALC members who contribute to the Letter Carrier Political Fund.