

IRS, Labor Department reporting and other important reminders



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All branches, whatever their income and whether or not they receive local dues, must file an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 990, 990-EZ or 990-N yearly. The appropriate form should be filed by the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of the branch's fiscal year. The branch officers are responsible for signing and ensuring that the form is filed.

Generally, the branch president or treasurer signs the form. However, branches that are eligible to file a 990-N need only have one officer file the report.

The income and assets of the branch determine which form should be filed:

- **Form 990**—Branches whose annual gross receipts are generally \$200,000 or more or whose total assets are \$500,000 or more at the end of the fiscal year.
- **Form 990-EZ (or 990 if the branch prefers)**—Branches whose annual gross receipts are generally less than \$200,000 and whose total assets are less than \$500,000 at the end of the fiscal year.
- **Form 990-N**—Also referred to as the e-Postcard, must be filed electronically. It involves only a few questions. Branches receiving \$50,000 or less in income per year, including branches with no income at all, must file a Form 990-N (easiest); however, a Form 990-EZ or Form 990 may be filed in lieu of a Form 990-N. You may access the filing site directly at irs.gov/990n.

Failure to comply may result in fines, penalties and interest. A branch that fails to file required returns for three consecutive years will automatically lose its tax-exempt status.

Note: Branch officers should be aware that, in addition to filing an appropriate 990, a branch still may be liable for tax on its unrelated business income if it received \$1,000 or more in such gross income. The branch then must complete a Form 990-T, Exempt Organization Business Income Tax Return and pay any tax due. This form has the same filing deadlines as the 990 forms. A branch subject to tax is also required to make quarterly estimated tax payments. Items usually considered to be unrelated business income and therefore reportable on the Form 990-T and taxable if the branch or state has income of \$1,000 or more from these sources include:

- The excess of advertising income from a branch or state publication over the cost of the publication

- Rental income from “debt-financed property,” such as a branch-owned building subject to a mortgage.
- Reimbursements for NALC Health Plan members (associate members).

More information on filing Forms 990, 990-EZ, 990-N, and 990-T is available on the IRS's website, irs.gov.

Officer Information List—Many branches installed officers in the past few months. If you have not already done so, please immediately update the Membership Department via letter or the “Branch Information Record” card that is included quarterly with the branch roster. Do not wait for another card if you do not have one; call Membership at 202-393-4695 to request one.

City carrier assistants (CCAs)—A CCA's break in service should not trigger a permanent cancellation of dues withholding. Per the agreement with USPS, a CCA's dues deductions are to restart automatically when he or she returns from a break in service. Branch secretaries should review the biweekly roster and notify the Membership Department if the dues withholding of a CCA returning from a break in service does not restart after one pay period and/or the CCA is noted as “CAN” (canceled). A CCA on a break in service should be noted on the roster as “SEP” (separated).

Reciprocal Agreement—Union representatives must notify the Membership Department if an incoming member wishes to cancel dues to the losing craft's union. This can be done by simply circling the appropriate union to cancel dues to on Form 1187 next to “Union Transfer.” Dues refunds for double-dues taken while a member belonged to NALC and another union are made only upon request and only for the time period between when NALC Headquarters was notified of the dual membership and when the dues to the other union were discontinued. For more information, consult the “Reciprocal Agreement” booklet which is available on the NALC website or from the Supply Department.

Reporting to the Department of Labor—Unless your branch has no annual income or financial activity, you must file with the Office of Labor-Management Standards (OLMS) one of three types of financial reports, depending on the total annual receipts of your branch. The Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act (LMRDA) requires that unions file the report within 90 days after the end of the branch's (or state association's) fiscal year. Most branches have fiscal years ending Dec. 31, so most should be filing by March 30.

Branch presidents and secretary-treasurers are responsible for ensuring that required reports are filed in a timely and accurate manner. The LMRDA does not provide for or permit an extension of time for filing for any reason. Please reference my January 2019 *Postal Record* article for more information on filing requirements for LM reports, including the requirement that all LM reports be filed electronically.