

House majority rejects postal privatization

In April, House Resolution 33 reached bipartisan majority support in the House of Representatives. The resolution calls on Congress to take “all appropriate measures to ensure that the United States Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the Federal Government and is not subject to privatization.”

As of press time, H. Res. 33 had 221 co-sponsors. Obtaining at least 218 co-sponsors in the chamber for a resolution means majority support, because the House has 435 members.

NALC activists can take pride in the victory, even as they continue the work of helping to educate Congress on the importance of the U.S. Postal Service. As letter carriers know, 155 million businesses and households receive mail six, if not seven, days a week. Receiving packages, letters, bills and medications at one’s door is a service that is highly valued by the public and that is vital to the economic success of the country’s small businesses. It also is vital to the Postal Service, which is the centerpiece of the \$1.4 trillion national mailing

industry, which employs 7.5 million Americans.

In the House of Representatives, NALC has three other priority resolutions. Here’s a look at where they stand:

- H. Res. 23 calls on the House to take “all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of door delivery for all business and residential customers.” At press time, this resolution had 152 co-sponsors.
- H. Res. 54 calls on the House to take “all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of its 6-day mail delivery service.” At press time, this resolution had 212 co-sponsors.
- H. Res. 60 calls on the House to “take all appropriate measures to restore service standards in effect as of July 1, 2012.” At press time, this resolution had 137 co-sponsors.

In the Senate, S. Res. 99 calls on the Senate to “take all appropriate measures to ensure that the United States Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the Federal Government and is not subject to privatiza-

tion.” As this issue was going to press in April, this resolution had 37 co-sponsors. Resolutions in the Senate require 51 co-sponsors to have a majority, given that there are 100 senators in all.

These postal policy resolutions are important because they help shape the debate over postal reform. The Senate and the White House are less likely to pursue service cuts or privatization if resolutions opposing such actions have solid support. Bipartisan majorities will be necessary to help them demonstrate that support.

“I encourage all letter carriers to contact their members of Congress to educate them on the importance of co-sponsoring these resolutions,” NALC President Fredric Rolando said.

In the media

Executive Vice President Brian Renfroe was quoted in an April 13 *Columbus Dispatch* story on USPS’s annual dog-attack report, noting that such incidents remain a significant hazard for letter carriers.

Idaho State Association President John Paige had letters in five Idaho newspapers from April 11-16. **PR**

‘Hold in place’ carriers receiving step increases

In July 2018, NALC and USPS agreed upon a settlement (M-01893) to a national-level grievance which lifted a so-called “hold in place” rule instituted by USPS the previous year for certain carrier technician letter carriers. These individuals were converted to career status as Grade 1 letter carriers after Jan. 10, 2013, then bid to a Grade 2 job and subsequently advanced two steps in the pay scale in proper accordance with *Employee and Labor Relations Manual* provisions.

The unilateral “hold in place” rule resulted in USPS cutting a PS Form 50 for 8,970 carrier technician letter carriers

who received the two-step promotional pay increase, effectively freezing each of them at their then current step for an additional 92 weeks. After NALC filed the national-level grievance on this action, and after much discussion with the Postal Service, it was agreed in M-01893 that the carriers affected by the hold in place would receive their step increases as scheduled prior to being held, and these carriers would receive any retroactive pay owed back to the time they should have received their step increases.

Implementation of this settlement was a complicated recalculation of pay and reconstruction of Form 50s from the

past, but USPS has notified NALC that all corrections have been completed.

Each letter carrier who was affected by the “hold in place” rule should have already received notification of their Form 50s being changed to reflect proper step increases. By now, most of these letter carriers should also have received back pay for the hours they worked during the time they were improperly held at a lower step.

Any affected letter carriers who have not yet been made whole should immediately inform their local NALC branch representatives for further investigation. **PR**