

# Legislative and political organizing update



**Brian  
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**I**n 2016 and 2017, NALC made a gradual, but significant, change to our legislative and political network. We began employing letter carriers full time as legislative and political organizers (LPOs) in the field.

LPOs were employed to assist state associations with their constitutional duty of guiding legislative activities in the state. They have helped develop and implement plans specifically designed for the challenges within each state. They have trained other letter carriers, officers and rank-and-file activists to help carry out the plans, recruited new activists and encouraged members to attend branch meetings, state association meetings and other

events to reach letter carriers directly.

This program and structure is still evolving and improving, but we are happy about the progress that has been made. I am appreciative of the state association and branch leaders who have worked cooperatively with their LPOs and provided excellent feedback that has guided us in continuing to improve the network.

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The cooperative work of Headquarters officers and staff, the LPOs and these state and branch leaders has produced results in a number of areas. Our ability to coordinate messaging to members of Congress at the local level has never been better, and it continues to grow.

Quickly achieving bipartisan majority support on our priority resolutions in the House early in this Congress is one example. Another is the rapidly growing number of bipartisan co-sponsors on H.R. 2382, the bill to repeal the Postal Service’s mandate to pre-fund health benefits. We now have a majority of the House co-sponsoring this bill. Our ultimate goal is 290 co-sponsors, so that the bill will get scheduled for a vote on the House floor rather than going through the committee with jurisdiction as it normally would. I have no doubt we will get there.

Another example is the growth in participation in NALC’s political action committee—the Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF). Members at all levels have done an excellent job educating our members on the risks we face and how important it is for our jobs to support and elect letter carrier friendly candidates to office. The LCPF is larger than it has ever been, giving us more influence in Washington, DC.

**We began with four LPOs in the field. Due to growing work, we recently expanded to five LPOs.** Below are the current LPOs and the territory they cover.

- **Marc Ashmon** from Branch 2876 in Linden, NJ, covers Regions 11, 12, 14 and 15.
- **John Beaumont** from Branch 214 in San Francisco, CA, covers Regions 1, 2 and the states of Arizona, Colorado and Wyoming from Region 4.
- **Brent Fjerestad** from Branch 491 in Sioux Falls, SD, covers Regions 5, 7 and 10.
- **Eileen Ford** from Branch 4862 in Roswell, GA, covers Regions 9 and 13.
- **Anna Mudd** from Branch 14 in Louisville, KY, covers Regions 3, 6, 8 and the states of Arkansas and Oklahoma from Region 4.

Each of these men and women has the skills and experience necessary to continue to build on what we’ve accomplished and to serve as a great resource to our state associations as we continue our work in the field.

A strong network takes all of us to succeed. We face challenges as we always have, they just differ over time. This month’s *Postal Record* includes information on several of the challenges we face and our solutions to those challenges. The NALC website, [nalc.org](http://nalc.org), and the NALC Member App are constantly updated with the latest information our members need so we can all do our part to be sure our voice is heard. One of the primary duties of the LPOs is to empower you, our members, with what you need to do your part, no matter how large or small that part may be.

In Washington, DC, I’m pleased to say that our union has a positive reputation on Capitol Hill, and we maintain strong relationships with members of Congress from both parties. We do a good job of making our voice heard in DC. It is just as important, and sometimes more important, that members of Congress hear from our members at home in their districts. During the recent August recess, our members did a great job contacting their representatives while they were at home.

We are excited to see our network continue to grow. Thanks to all of you, our members, we are in a stronger position every day to fight those who attack our job and standard of living, and continue our progress toward postal reform that makes our employer stronger.