

# Time to register for the 2020 food drive

**I**f your branch hasn't done so already, it's time to register for the 28th annual Letter Carriers' "Stamp Out Hunger"® Food Drive.

The food drive—the country's largest one-day food-collection event—takes place on the second Saturday each May. This year, that's Saturday, May 9.

"Registering for the drive promptly and completely is essential for such a large-scale operation as this," NALC President Fredric Rolando said. "Early registration helps us get a head start on the printing and distribution of postcards, and it allows us to more accurately calculate how many postcards each branch will need."

Registering is easy via the NALC website's "Members Only" portal. Find the link to the Members Only portal at [nalc.org](http://nalc.org) in the upper right-hand corner of the page. Once

you've logged in, click on the "Stamp Out Hunger" icon to register. Once registered, branches can use the portal to order promotional materials. Only branch presidents on record will have access to the food drive registration forms, so if you are a newly elected president, make sure that your branch has notified NALC Headquarters.

The registration deadline to guarantee that your branch will receive the food drive reminder is March 9.

Later this month, Rolando will mail letters to branches that have not

yet registered, encouraging them to get involved with this year's drive. A registration form will be included with the letter, for the convenience of those who aren't comfortable signing up electronically.

Whether you decide to register electronically or by mail, remember that the deadline to register is March 9. Saturday, May 9, will be here before you know it.

## Helping hands

NALC is proud to welcome back last year's partners for the 2020 drive: the U.S. Postal Service, the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW), the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, the AFL-CIO, United Way Worldwide, the Kellogg Co., CVS Health and the direct-mail marketing companies Valpak and Valassis.

Last year, active and retired letter carriers, helped by thousands of co-workers, other union brothers and sisters, family members, friends and additional volunteers, collected and distributed 75.7 million pounds of food to pantries, shelters and churches in their communities, bringing the grand total since the food drive began in 1992 to more than 1.75 billion pounds.

## Have a local sponsor?

Branches are encouraged to find local sponsors to produce bags that can be distributed to residents so they have a convenient way to place their food donations next to their mailboxes. Historically, distributing specially marked food drive bags has translated into dramatic increases in food donations, so branches shouldn't wait until the last minute to place a bag order. That's all the more so because bag production doesn't start until the orders and payments start rolling in.

In many locales, businesses such as



grocery stores, car dealerships and banks can benefit from the naturally positive exposure that comes from association with the food drive. As a result, many such businesses are more than willing to contribute money toward the cost of bag production. (For companies that manufacture bags, see the box at right.)

Stay on top of the latest food drive news at [nalc.org/food](http://nalc.org/food), and follow the food drive on Facebook at [facebook.com/StampOutHunger](http://facebook.com/StampOutHunger) and on Twitter at @StampOutHunger.

If your branch has any questions, please call NALC's Community Services at 202-662-2489 or send an email to [fooddrivesocial@nalc.org](mailto:fooddrivesocial@nalc.org). **PR**

## Bag manufacturers contact information

**International Paper-Kraft Paper Bags**  
Minimum Order 54,000 (.10 cents per bag)  
Payments need to be made with an NALC Check  
(Call for details)  
[katie@auroraplasticbags.com](mailto:katie@auroraplasticbags.com)  
7401 Carmel Executive Park, Suite 115  
Charlotte, NC 28226  
Contact: Caty McCoy  
[Caty.McCoy@ipaper.com](mailto:Caty.McCoy@ipaper.com)  
Ph: 704-451-5658

**Aurora Plastics (plastic)**  
Minimum Order 10,000 (.03 cents)  
Contact: Katie Davis  
PO Box 4021  
Everett, WA 98204  
[www.auroraplasticbags.com](http://www.auroraplasticbags.com)  
Ph: 425-330-0227

**Ross & Wallace Paper Products, Inc.**  
Minimum Order 48,000 (.067 cents)  
Contact: Jennifer Pellichino  
204 Old Covington Hwy.  
Hammond LA 70403  
[Jennifer@rossandwallace.com](mailto:Jennifer@rossandwallace.com)  
<https://www.rossandwallace.com/>  
Ph: 985-345-1321  
Fax: 985-345-1370

**All Union Promos**  
Paper: Minimum Order 10,000 (.129 cents)  
Plastic: Minimum Order 10,000 (.03 cents)  
Contact: Mark James  
8 The Green  
Dover, DE 19901  
[mjames@allunionpromos.com](mailto:mjames@allunionpromos.com)  
Ph: 716-777-3642  
Fax: 844-891-8687

## Playing post office in an internet world

**T**here's no denying that today's children are drawn to phones and tablets. According to a survey by education group Common Sense Media, a child age eight or younger spends an average of two hours and 18 minutes in front of a glowing screen every day. Many learn to send messages on a phone or computer before they learn how to write on paper or send a letter.

Screens are now part of growing up, but exposure to mail can help young children develop literacy and could lead them to embrace the mail's role in communication later in life.

Interacting with the mail can have a positive effect on young children. It can help them with reading and writing skills and improve their sense

of cooperation with others. When kids play the game "post office" by writing, sorting and sending pretend letters and packages, they are using what educators call "dramatic play" to understand how communication works in a tangible way. It helps children understand the many uses for literacy beyond books. Some children also experience this tangible communication by writing a letter to Santa Claus or their grandparents, or by greeting their letter carrier at the door.

These early experiences seem to last into adulthood, even for children growing up in the Internet age. USPS research has shown that the Millennial generation appreciates and enjoys receiving mail even more than do older



Henry Corley explains how letter carriers case the mail to an elementary class.

# Playing post office in an internet world (continued)

generations (see the October 2018 *Postal Record* for more information).

## A look into the postal window

Writing and receiving letters, playing post office and seeing letter carriers at the front porch aren't the only way children experience the mail for the first time. Some schoolchildren get a peek inside the world of the mail with the help of letter carriers.

When a local class of pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students in Kansas City, MO, asked post office supervisors to send postal employees to explain to the students how the mail works, managers turned to veteran Kansas City Branch 30 letter carriers **Sue Findley-Rinehart** and **Sheri Greathouse**, who began carrying mail in 1986 and 1989, respectively. The duo visited a classroom at Northland Christian School to tell the curious youngsters, who were learning how to write and mail letters, what happens to their mail after they put in a mailbox.

"They had all written letters to their

parents, and we mailed them all," Findley-Rinehart said. "They were excited."

The carriers kept the presentation simple. "We told them how we pick up their mail," Findley-Rinehart said, "and [that] it goes through a processing center. We told them it was a big house where they sort the mail, and then the mail comes to a different carrier the next day and they deliver the mail."

The children enjoyed participating in the process by writing and mailing their own letters, though kids of that age have their own priorities: "They all wanted to feel the [postal] patches on our coats."

When students from the Will Rogers Preschool in Tulsa, OK, wanted to see up close how the mail works, letter carrier **Henry Corley** gave them a tour of his station. Supervisors chose him because of his outgoing personality. "They wanted somebody who can make it interesting and fun at the same time," he said.

A member of Tulsa Branch 1358, Corley started carrying the mail in 2008 after serving in the Army in Afghanistan and Iraq (he now is a reservist). On the day of the tour, Corley showed the kids every step of the delivery process.

"Kids are great because at that age, they say whatever's on their mind," Corley said. "They asked a lot of questions. Where does the mail go? How long does it take to get somewhere? Why do I wear gloves?"

Seeing how the mail is handled, cased and readied for delivery was one thing for the students, but the best part came last: "They were so excited about the postal truck," he said.

Corley relied on his experience of having a mother who taught school. "I'm a people person. I try my best to make everybody comfortable," Corley said. "That's why I love being on the street and delivering mail." **PR**



Sue Findley-Rinehart and Sheri Greathouse explain to the students what happens after they put their letters in a mailbox.

## COLA: Cost-of-living adjustment

- ▶ Following the release of the July consumer price index (CPI), the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) under the 2016-2019 National Agreement is **\$624 annually**. This COLA is based on the change in the CPI from the base index month to July 2019, with the previous six COLAs subtracted.
- ▶ The 2020 COLA under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) is **2.3 percent** following the release of the December CPI. This COLA is based

on the change in the CPI between December 2018 and December 2019.

- ▶ The 2021 projected COLAs for the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS), which are based on the CPI's increase between the third quarter of 2019 and third quarter of 2020, is **0.1 percent** and will be finalized with the publication of the September 2020 CPI in October 2020. Visit [nalc.org](http://nalc.org) for the latest updates.