Union proud and labor friendly



Paul Barner

ince its peak in the 1950s, the U.S. labor movement has experienced a decline in its ranks, with attacks on working families becoming far too common. This decline has contributed to the ongoing erosion of the middle class in our country. Many in corporate America have become shortsighted, ignoring the socioeconomic impact of working people on the country.

For its part, NALC doesn't just talk the talk when it comes to respecting workers' rights and recognizing the importance of the labor movement as a whole. NALC as an organization employs numerous people who help carry out

the day-to-day functions so that our union can effectively represent our members. Many of these employees are themselves represented by unions. In fact, employees who work in the various departments at NALC Headquarters (Vincent R. Sombrotto Building), United States Letter Carriers Mutual Benefit Association (MBA) and NALC Health Benefit Plan (HBP) are represented by five separate unions.

As part of his duties as executive vice president, Brian Renfroe oversees contract negotiations on behalf of NALC with the unions to establish fair collective-bargaining agreements. The unions representing employees at NALC are as follows:

- Office of Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU), Local 2 represents Headquarters bargaining-unit employees in the Accounting, Membership, Communications, Information Technologies and Mailroom/Supply departments, as well as all craft employees who work throughout MBA and NALC HBP. In addition, the secretaries throughout NALC Headquarters who are in the bargaining unit are represented by OPEIU, Local 2.
- Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Local 32BJ represents two employees in the positions of guard or driver. These employees are stationed at the guard station in the first floor lobby of the Sombrotto
- International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE),

Local 99-99A represents two building engineers. These employees maintain the daily operations of NALC Headquarters and HBP buildings.

- International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT). Local 890 represents painters and drywall finishers. NALC employs a painter/drywall finisher who helps maintain the condition of the Sombrotto Building.
- United Brotherhood Carpenters and loiners of America (UBC)-Northeast Regional Council of Car-

At NALC Headquarters, members of five unions work inside the Vincent R. Sombrotto Building.

penters (NRCC) represents carpenters. NALC employs carpenters on an as-needed basis who help maintain the condition of the Sombrotto Building.

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NALC takes every opportunity to reward companies and employers who share our values of a strong union workforce. From printing companies to travel agents, NALC actively seeks out vendors that employ union workers. When it becomes necessary to hire contractors to perform work at NALC buildings, NALC searches for employers who understand the concept of skill, craftsmanship and professionalism that comes with hiring union workers.

Every member of NALC can be proud that our union doesn't just talk the labor movement talk. NALC doesn't stop at representing letter carriers, but rather remains constantly mindful of the importance of workers' rights and a unified workforce. The very survival of the middle class depends on it.