

# You are the current resident



**Brian Renfro**

A typical officer's column in *The Postal Record* follows a format with an introduction, information on a topic and a conclusion that often includes recognition and thanks. This isn't necessarily by design. It is a widely-used structure for what we and others write in recurring publications. This month, I'm flipping the script to say the most important words I could say in the space I have here.

Every NALC member and postal employee is a hero. You are working on the front lines every day to deliver for the people in this country during a time when it is more needed than ever before. While we continue to face tremendous challenges dai-

ly, we should all be proud of the work we continue to do. Thank you all for your dedication and perseverance.

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As you've likely read in other parts of this magazine or online, our primary areas of focus right now are the health and safety of NALC members and the uncertain future of the Postal Service. A big part of any effort on either front is communication. I've written in the past about the importance of adapting and using multiple forms of communication to provide information to NALC members. The latest addition has been NALC's new podcast called “You Are the Current Resident.”

The podcast is something we worked on for quite a while. Podcasts have become a very popular form of information and entertainment, so it only made sense to develop an NALC podcast. I'm sure many NALC members, like me, are podcast listeners on a variety of topics.

We have settled on a light but informational talk show format. I serve as co-host with Assistant to the President for Contract Administration Mark Sims. Mark is witty, funny and energetic, among other qualities that make him a great choice. We initially recorded a few episodes in a free-flow-

ing format that included other resident officers as guests, followed by a segment where I would answer questions from NALC members. We planned to have more guests in the future and expand what we do on the podcast based on what you want to hear. The first episode in that format was released in late March. It is still our long-term plan to record weekly episodes, despite how COVID-19 changed the whole world.

Once this pandemic hit, I decided to use the podcast as an avenue to spread information on COVID-19 topics that were important to letter carriers. We've also included audio versions of statements from President Rolando in recent weeks. I try to give you information on important topics and answer questions that would be of interest or value to NALC members. While we still intend to record and release podcasts in the original format, I plan to continue recording them on COVID-19 with no real planned schedule other than getting information out to you when it is needed.

I appreciate those who have provided feedback and asked questions. Please continue to do so. It helps shape what we cover on each episode. I want to thank Roman Carlitti and Mearl Colaco from the NALC Communications Department for their work on the podcast. Roman and Mearl film, record, edit and distribute the podcast. Trust me, I'm not turning any knobs or pushing any buttons. They were instrumental in getting it up and running and allowing those of us on the podcast to just talk.

In addition to sending us feedback and questions by mail, you may also write to us at [social@nalc.org](mailto:social@nalc.org). If you wish to share feedback or submit a question for the podcast on social media, please use the hashtag #YATCRpod.

**We also have created audio versions of each month's *Postal Record*.** This includes recordings of featured stories and officers' columns. This appears on a separate feed from the “You Are the Current Resident Podcast.” We hope you find it useful.

Another resource we created several weeks ago to answer questions and receive information related to COVID-19 was the email address [COVID19@nalc.org](mailto:COVID19@nalc.org). The response has been great. We hope this has been a useful resource. I am thankful for the work of NALC Headquarters letter carrier staff members Chris Henwood, Doug Lape, and Michelle McQuality. They have responded to every message we have received and helped many of our members.

Thanks again to all our members for your courage, spirit and dedication to serving our customers. You are all heroes.