Virtual conference for deaf and hard-of-hearing members to be held

NALC Director of Safety and Health Manuel L. Peralta Jr. and Director of Retired Members Dan Toth have announced a virtual conference for deaf and hard-of-hearing members to be held Sunday, Aug. 8, at 2 p.m. Eastern time.

This conference will consist of a training on Management Instruction EL-670-2021-x, Providing Communication Accommodations to Employees and Applicants Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, as well as a brief overview of other relevant contractual provisions regarding deaf and hard-of-hearing accommodations.

Accommodations

The conference will use certified American Sign Language interpreters as well as closed captioning. The conference will run approximately two hours.

Branch officers and shop stewards

In addition to any deaf or hard-of-hearing members who wish to attend, branch officers and shop stewards who represent deaf or hard-of-hearing members are encouraged to join. To register, follow the instructions below.

Registration

Registration will open to members on July 12 and will close the day of the conference, Aug. 8. To register, go to nalc.org and click on the Members Only portal button in the upper right-hand corner. Once logged on to the Members Only portal, click the “Meetings Registration” button, which will display a list of upcoming meetings. From there, presidents can register members by entering their last names in the “Search” box and selecting the correct members from the drop-down list. A member also can be removed from the “Registry” list by checking the box under the delete column next to the corresponding member.

Training materials

Training materials and other pertinent information will be supplied in the form of PDFs. Access to these documents is available during the registration process. These PDFs also will be available to registrants on their Members Only page. The documents can be printed, copied or saved.

Accessing meeting information and joining the meeting

When a registered member wants to access training materials or join the conference, he or she can go to nalc.org and log on to the Members Only portal. Once logged in, the member will press the “Deaf and Hard of Hearing Conference” button. For each meeting, there will be three buttons: The “Documents” button, which will give the member access to the training materials; the “Topics” button, which will give the member access to a list of topics (if any); and the “Join” button. The “Join” button will appear 30 minutes prior to the start time on the day of the meeting.

If you log on to the Members Only portal more than 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting, you will need to exit to the home page and re-enter to access the “Join” button.

Once you select the “Join” button, you will be taken to a Webex portal titled “Starting your meeting...” Scroll down to select “Join from your browser.” When joining, the member will be prompted to enter his or her name and email address to attend the meeting. Proceed by selecting the “Next” button followed by the “Join Meeting” button.

Self-identification

Those who identify as deaf or hard of hearing can self-identify by going to the NALC website at nalc.org, clicking on the Members Only portal in the upper right-hand corner, and logging in. From there, you can simply check the appropriate box if you would like to be identified as deaf or hard of hearing. Doing so will let NALC know who you are and which branch you belong to, for the purpose of providing services and help when needed.

Rolando appoints RWCA

NALC President Fredric Rolando has appointed Royal Oak, MI Branch 3126 member Misty Wenger as a regional workers’ compensation assistant (RWCA). Misty has been assisting retiring RWCA Joanne Wright with OWCP cases in Region 9 (Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina) for the past 16 months, and will be working out of the Region 9 office in Marietta, GA.

RWCA’s help members who suffer on-the-job injuries with Office of Workers’ Compensation Programs (OWCP) claims.

After working as a postal clerk, Wenger joined the letter carrier craft in 2011 in Lansing, MI, and joined Lansing Branch 122. She served as a steward, secretary, CCA Academy instructor and union orientation coordinator for the branch.

Wenger moved to Royal Oak in 2019 and joined Branch 3126. She served her new branch as a steward and OWCP representative. She also assisted the Region 6 (Kentucky, Indiana and Michigan) national business agent’s office on multiple assignments.

Wenger graduated from the NALC Leadership Academy in 2018.