

## A renewed opportunity



**Brian  
Renfro**

**NALC has a proud tradition** and history of legislative and political activism to protect and advance the interests of our members. It is necessary for us to be strong participants in the legislative and election processes, due to the tremendous power our elected federal officials have over the Postal Service and our collective-bargaining rights.

NALC members in every state and territory have worked hard to be sure our voice is heard by our elected representatives. This, combined with our work on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, has allowed us to build bipartisan support for issues like postal reform,

and bipartisan defense against efforts to weaken the Postal Service through misguided ideas like service cuts and increasing subcontracting.

In Washington, there is a constant ebb and flow of control of the White House and both chambers of Congress. Our democracy often results in the transfer of control in the administration and in Congress from one political party to the other. Currently, we are fortunate to have a president and administration that share our vision of a robust Postal Service with quality middle-class letter carrier jobs. The leaders of both the House and Senate are not only supportive of letter carriers, but are champions for us.

Letter carrier-friendly leadership presents us with an opportunity for legislation that benefits us to see the light of day and gives us an opportunity to use our bipartisan support to potentially see such legislation enacted. That said, our activism has never been more important. Our representatives in Congress need to hear from us more than ever before about the importance of a strong Postal Service.

The NALC website and NALC mobile app for smartphones have all the latest information on legislation related to our jobs. If you download the app, you will have the ability to receive push notifications that will include legislative updates and will let you know when action is needed from your elected representative so you can contact them.

NALC employs five letter carriers full time to serve as a resource for every aspect of our legislative and political work across the country. These legislative and polit-

ical organizers (LPOs)—Marc Ashmon, John Beaumont, Brent Fjerestad, Eileen Ford and Anna Mudd—spend all of their time assisting state associations, branches and NALC members. They provide information, training, advice and just about anything else to help with our legislative and political work in the field. The presidents of each of our state associations stay consistently engaged with the LPOs. They are a resource to you. There has never been a better time to get involved. The political diversity of NALC’s members and bipartisan nature of our issues create opportunities for every member to get involved, regardless of one’s political views.

Our legislative and political network has grown and evolved over the years. Every change that has been made is intended to strengthen and provide resources for what we do in Washington, DC, and, just as importantly, what we do in the field. I’m very proud of the hard work and dedication of all of our members involved in this effort. Even during the pandemic, our members delivered results in the 2020 election cycle and remain a powerful voice with members in both houses of Congress.

This Congress began with the despicable Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol, and the weeks that followed involved a lot of focus on the repercussions of that attack. Despite this, our friends on Capitol Hill are working with us on our legislation. NALC members have gotten to work in the field building relationships with new members of Congress and rapidly increasing the number of co-sponsors on our resolutions related to service protections for our customers and the bipartisan USPS Fairness Act, which would repeal the mandate that the Postal Service pre-fund future retiree health benefits. I’m excited about what we can accomplish in the coming months, and I hope you are, too.

### Well-deserved recognition

In December, *The Hill* magazine published its annual list of top lobbyists. For the second consecutive year, NALC Director of Legislative and Political Affairs Kori Blalock Keller was recognized on the list as one of Washington, DC’s top lobbyists. The magazine introduced the list by stating: “The ranks of policy experts and influencers run deep in Washington, but these are the people who stand out for delivering results for their clients in the halls of Congress and in the administration.”

NALC is fortunate to have a talented, dedicated and respected professional representing the interests of letter carriers on Capitol Hill. Congratulations, Kori.