

New platforms to assist branches



Paul Barner

In the June 2021 edition of *The Postal Record*, I wrote about new and innovative platforms that NALC had developed, partly to address challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the writing of that article, NALC has created additional platforms to benefit the membership and assist branches and state associations. In this article, I plan to introduce you to some of these modernizations.

Throughout the year, branches and state associations routinely request membership rosters for one purpose or another. Many branches request membership rosters for election purposes that are modified by NALC to remove any member who

is classified in a permanent managerial position, thereby rendering them ineligible to nominate candidates or vote in an election. Customarily, branches and state associations have been required to submit a request signed by an officer of the branch or state association in order to receive membership rosters. Depending on the format being requested, a fee may also have been imposed.

While this method of requesting rosters is still available, NALC has automated the process to enable branches and state associations to access these rosters through the Members Only portal on the NALC website. Through the portal, branch and state association presidents and secretaries now have full access to view and download membership rosters, which will include the most up-to-date data NALC has in its membership database at the time. This access provides the capability for branches and state associations to select rosters of their entire membership and, for branches, the ability to select modified rosters for use to assist during the election process.

Another recent development involves the launching of a platform designed to automate the process used to submit proper notification to the national secretary-treasurer when members have reached one of the membership milestones identified in Article 2, Section 5 (a) of the *NALC Constitution* and are thereby entitled to recognition through the receipt of a lapel pin, lifetime membership gold card and lapel pin, or plaque. Article 2, Section 5 (a) of the *NALC Constitution* provides:

Sec. 5 (a). When receiving proper notification by the Branch Secretary that a member will complete twenty-five (25) years, or thirty (30) years, or thirty-five (35) years, or forty

(40) years, and forty-five (45) years of membership, the National Association of Letter Carriers shall provide a suitable lapel pin to such member. In the year when a member is to complete fifty (50) years membership in this Association, and by proper request having been directed by the Branch Secretary to the National Secretary-Treasurer, a member shall be given a Life Membership Card of gold which shall entitle him/her to all privileges of membership in the National Association of Letter Carriers without payment of dues, per capita tax, or special assessments from the date of issue of such Life Membership Card; provided, however, that a Life Member shall not be exempt from the requirements of premium payments to the Mutual Benefit Association or the Health Benefit Plan. Life Members shall also be issued a suitable lapel pin. The Life Membership Card and the lapel pin shall be issued by the National Association through the office of the National President.

(b). In the year when a member is to complete fifty-five (55) years, sixty (60) years and sixty-five (65) years and when receiving proper notification by the Branch Secretary, the National Association of Letter Carriers shall provide a suitable lapel pin to such member.

(c). In the year when a member is to complete seventy (70) and seventy-five (75) years and when receiving proper notification by the Branch Secretary, the National Association of Letter Carriers shall provide a suitable plaque for such member.

(d). For purposes of this Article 2, Section 5, membership in the National Alliance of Postal Employees prior to January 1, 1969 shall be treated as equivalent to membership in the National Association of Letter Carriers. Article 2, Section 5 shall also apply to any members who were denied NALC membership after January 1, 1969 and joined the National Alliance of Postal Employees.

Branch presidents and secretaries can access the platform through the Members Only portal on the NALC website. The platform was designed to identify members who, by NALC records, qualify for certain membership recognition. Branches should also consult their membership records, as those may provide additional information that is not available through the Headquarters membership database.

As an added feature, the platform not only identifies the current membership milestone recognition that a member is entitled to receive, but also any past recognitions that have not yet been awarded. This allows branches an easy way to get caught up on membership milestone recognitions, as addressed in Article 2, Section 5 (a) of the *NALC Constitution*.

NALC hopes that these new innovations assist in serving our members, and will continue to look for additional tools that will be helpful to that end.