

Legislative and political organizing



**Brian
Renfroe**

On April 6, President Biden signed the Postal Service Reform Act of 2022, making it law. This piece of legislation accomplished a few of our long-held legislative goals related to the long-term sustainability of the Postal Service. This was the culmination of years of hard work by NALC members to elect representatives who supported the reforms in the bill, to educate those representatives and eventually to make passing this important legislation a reality.

Our work isn't done. We have more legislative goals that we will continue to pursue. I believe that it is important to look back at how

we achieved the passage of this legislation to educate ourselves on how we can continue to improve our legislative and political efforts. In doing so, I thought of the structure that was put in place five years ago—as well as the 2006 constitutional amendment—that shifted the focus of NALC state associations to legislation. Our legislative and political network was extremely important in making this legislation a reality, and it will be important for the future of letter carriers.

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In 2017, we created the position of legislative and political organizer (LPO) to assist state associations and branches. LPOs help develop and implement plans specifically designed for the challenges within each state. They provide training and information to NALC members, which helps advance our legislative and political agenda in each state.

The talented letter carriers who have served and currently serve as LPOs have been an important part of our legislative and political network. They have always been intended to serve as a resource for our state associations and branches. As always, our members have stepped up and used the LPOs to get

more activists involved in legislative and political issues than ever before.

Our current LPOs are as follows:

- **Marc Ashmon of Branch 2876, Linden, NJ**—Marc works with Regions 11, 12, 14 and 15.
- **John Beaumont of Branch 214, San Francisco, CA**—John works with Regions 1, 2 and 4 (Arizona and Colorado).
- **Brent Fjerestad of Branch 491, Sioux Falls, SD**—Brent works with Regions 5, 7 and 10.
- **Eileen Ford of Branch 4862, Roswell, GA**—Eileen works with Regions 9 and 13.
- **Anna Mudd of Branch 14, Louisville, KY**—Anna works with Regions 3, 4 (Arkansas and Oklahoma), 6 and 8.

These five letter carriers have a wealth of experience and knowledge of everything that our members need to be successful legislative and political activists. Like most NALC representatives, they make sacrifices and work long hours.

I have the pleasure of overseeing this group, but Executive Assistant to the President Eddie Davidson handles the day-to-day coordination and communication with the LPOs. Eddie served as an LPO before moving into his current role a few years ago. He does a fantastic job making sure our LPOs have everything they need to serve our members.

We are fortunate to have members capable of doing this work at a high level. We are equally as fortunate to have leadership in our state associations and branches, as well as rank-and-file members, who take legislation and politics seriously and go to great lengths to be as active as we can. Our elected representatives, as well as those who hope to get elected, take notice and they don't forget. I have no doubt that the strength of our network and the hard work of all NALC members will deliver more legislative wins for us in the future.

If you've attended a state convention or regional training, you've likely seen your LPO teaching classes and educating members about legislative issues and the importance of the Letter Carrier Political Fund. They also provide information that you can use in your branch or state to do the same. The LPOs are there for you. They can help with anything related to legislation and politics. I encourage you to reach out to them through your national business agent's office.