

Important reminders



**Nicole
Rhine**

Open Season for choosing a health benefit plan is Nov. 14 to Dec. 12, and I encourage all NALC members to consider enrolling in the NALC Health Benefit Plan—the NALC’s own union-run health benefit plan. NALC health benefit representatives and branch officers are reminded that any USPS employee, regardless of bargaining or non-bargaining status, must be a full dues-paying member of the NALC when enrolled in the NALC Health Benefit Plan.

A common misunderstanding is that a postal employee must already be a member of NALC in order to choose the NALC Health Benefit Plan during Open Season, but

that is not the case. Any postal employee can select the NALC Health Benefit Plan during Open Season; however, the employee must join the NALC in order to maintain his or her insurance through the NALC Health Benefit Plan.

Under Article 22 of the *NALC Constitution*, a Health Benefit Plan membership (often referred to as an “Associate Membership”) applies only to retirees who did not maintain their membership in the NALC upon retirement and to all non-postal federal employees. These enrollees of the NALC Health Benefit Plan pay yearly dues of \$36, which are billed directly from Headquarters in the early part of the year.

Branch mergers

Any branch proposing to merge should review Article 2, Section 3 of the *NALC Constitution*, which sets forth the requirements for effecting a merger of branches. Requests for mergers received at NALC Headquarters are often missing two requirements from both branches wishing to merge: 1) a resolution and 2) a statement of reason(s) for merging. To avoid having a request for a merger returned, please ensure that your branch includes all the necessary documentation. More information can be found on the secretary-treasurer’s page on the NALC website at nalc.org. The secretary-treasurer’s page is under the Union Administration tab.

Buy union

As a vice president of the Union Label and Service Trades Department, AFL-CIO, I would be remiss if I did not urge all NALC members to buy union. For more information on how to buy union, check out unionlabel.org.

Dues rosters and retiree lists

Branch presidents, secretaries and treasurers as well as state presidents, secretaries and treasurers have their branch biweekly dues rosters, quarterly branch retiree dues rosters and monthly state dues rosters available to them through the Members Only portal. The rosters can be sorted, downloaded and saved and printed.

Branch secretaries are reminded to review the biweekly roster and ensure that all dues being deducted are correct. If a change needs to be made, please notify the Membership Department in writing. In addition, members called to active military duty may have their dues suspended upon written request by the branch secretary. When the member returns from active duty military, please notify the Membership Department so that dues deductions may be resumed.

Also available to branch presidents, secretaries and treasurers is a retired member listing for their branch. The list includes all current retired members of the branch and notes which of the retired members are gold card members. Any member showing on the list as “pending 1189” indicates that NALC Headquarters has not yet received a Form 1189 from the member.

Changes of officers

Branches and state associations are asked to please notify the Office of the Secretary-Treasurer in writing as soon as possible after a change of officers. This can be done via a letter or, for branches, by filling out a “Branch Information Record” card. New officers will not begin to receive their mail from Headquarters until NALC is notified of their names, titles and addresses. NALC’s membership database stores the names of branch and state presidents, and secretaries and treasurers, and the information in the database is used for mailings and for access to dues roster information on the Member’s Only portal as well as other membership-related programs.

National conventions

As a reminder, the 73rd biennial national convention is scheduled for Aug. 5-9, 2024, in Boston, and the 74th biennial national convention is scheduled for Aug. 3-7, 2026, in Los Angeles.

Veterans Day

Although I am not a veteran, I am profoundly honored that so many of our members are and that I get the opportunity to represent our veterans as a national officer. Let’s all be sure to thank the men and women who have served in our military for the sacrifices they and their families have made for this great country.