

Stronger together



Brian L. Renfroe

This month's issue of *The Postal Record* features a story on NALC's political action committee (PAC), the Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF), and lists the name of every NALC member who contributed to LCPF in 2022. If you are one of the nearly 30,000 members who contributed to LCPF, I would like to sincerely thank you for your participation.

Those who give to LCPF can probably recall exactly how and why they joined, and I would venture a guess that 95 percent of the time it began with a conversation with a fellow letter carrier. This has been

our way since the inception of our PAC. As I write this article, roughly 10 percent of active and retired letter carriers provide voluntary contributions to strengthen our presence on and off of Capitol Hill. And while we have done well for ourselves in making our voice the one that resonates, we are far from done.

When "Gimme 5" launched in 2010, our PAC catapulted into the largest postal PAC out there and one of the top PACs in our industry. Gimme 5 has come and gone, along with some major legislative battles that we have been able to win due in large part to our PAC's presence.

We won an important battle last year when, after 12 years of concentrated efforts, the Postal Service Reform Act was enacted. Undoubtedly, the passage of this law, which finally repealed the burdensome pre-funding mandate and codified six-day mail and package delivery, would not have happened without NALC's action—which in turn was made possible by LCPF. The enactment of the Postal Service Reform Act is proof that members' contributions to LCPF directly translate to our successes in Washington.

While many of the final decisions that affect our jobs and benefits take place in the halls of Congress, the conversations, activism and contributions that affect those outcomes take place across the country. We depend on participation in LCPF from every single branch, state and region to keep our PAC running, strong and successful.

Giving to LCPF is arguably the best investment an NALC member can make to protect his or her job. When you con-

tribute, you are investing in your job security, benefits and the future of all NALC members. By law, union dues cannot be used for our political efforts, so NALC relies on separate contributions to LCPF to keep us in the political fight.

What are we fighting for? We are fighting for the benefits of active and retired letter carriers alike in seeking passage of the Social Security Fairness Act, which would repeal the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision. These are two parts of Social Security law that unfairly reduce or sometimes eliminate Social Security benefits for millions of federal annuitants, including letter carriers.

We are fighting for the Federal Retirement Fairness Act, legislation that would allow certain federal and postal employees to make catch-up contributions for time spent as non-career employees, which are currently not creditable under the Federal Employees Retirement System.

We are fighting to gain support from current members of Congress on these and other issues that affect our jobs and families.

As with all aspects of our union, the strength of LCPF lies at the local level, and we need to prioritize strengthening our PAC from the ground up. I encourage NALC members to get to know their area's NALC legislative and political organizer (LPO), who can help you engage at the branch level. I challenge every branch to commit to prioritizing LCPF participation this year. Our LPOs are there as a resource for you, and they will be driving major PAC-building initiatives in the year ahead. These efforts will be focused on education of our members and making it easy to be a part of LCPF. We use these exact same techniques in another area that NALC does better than anyone else—organizing. I have no doubt we can replicate that success.

I urge you to make LCPF and the benefits of contributing to it a regular topic of conversation at your branch, state and regional meetings. The more we discuss and understand how LCPF fights for our jobs and benefits, the more brothers and sisters will join in the fight and sign up to contribute. It only takes a small contribution from a lot of NALC members to make a big difference.

We are stronger together, and it will take effort from all of us to continue achieving legislative and political victories that benefit all letter carriers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian L. Renfroe".