



From l: Bryant Almario, Michelle McQuality, Brent Fjerestad, James Frankford and Joel Malkush

Renfroe makes HQ, regional appointments

NALC President Brian L. Renfroe has made a series of appointments. **Bryant J. Almario** has been appointed as assistant to the president for grievance-arbitration. Almario, a member of Santa Clara, CA Branch 1427, became a letter carrier in 1987 and joined NALC as a member of Salinas, CA Branch 1046. (Branch 1046 merged with Santa Cruz Branch 269 in the early 1990s; that branch later merged with Branch 1427.)

Almario served his branch as a steward, vice president and president. He also has served as a joint route inspection process co-leader for the San Jose District, and he was a member of the Bay Valley District's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) advisory committee.

In 2004, NALC President William Young appointed Almario to be a regional administrative assistant (RAA) for Region 1. Almario was appointed national business agent for Region 1 in 2017 by NALC President Fredric Rolando to fill a vacancy. He ran uncontested in 2018 and was elected by acclamation at the NALC Biennial Convention in Detroit.

The president appointed **Doug Lape** of Cincinnati, OH Branch 43 as special assistant to the president. Lape, a Marine Corps veteran, has served Branch 43 as a shop steward, Formal A representative and vice president. He became an assistant to the president for city delivery in 2017.

Lape graduated from the NALC Leadership Academy in 2014.

Michelle McQuality was named special assistant to the president. A member of Dayton, OH Branch 182 since 2007, McQuality has served her branch as a trustee, steward, Formal A representative and route adjustment

team member. On the regional level, McQuality has had roles as an arbitration advocate, Step B representative, local business agent and chairperson of the EAP district advisory committee, and also as state food drive coordinator. She has served as assistant to the president for city delivery since 2019. McQuality graduated from the NALC Leadership Academy in 2011.

Renfroe appointed **Brent Fjerestad** of Sioux Falls, SD Branch 491 as special assistant to the president for legislative and political organizing.

Fjerestad began his letter carrier career in 1999. He has served his branch as steward, trustee and vice president. He was a trustee for the South Dakota State Association before serving as president from 2009 to 2017. He also has served as a Carrier Academy instructor, organizer for Region 7, regional food drive coordinator and district safety lead.

From 2017 until his appointment as special assistant, Fjerestad worked as a legislative and political organizer (LPO) for Regions 3, 5, 6, 7, 10 and 11.

Fjerestad served in the South Dakota Air National Guard. He graduated from the NALC Leadership Academy in 2010.

The president appointed **Tamara Twinn** of Albuquerque, NM Branch 504 as assistant to the president for administrative affairs. Twinn began carrying mail in Albuquerque in 2006. She served as steward, Formal A representative, legislative coordinator and Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF) coordinator for her branch. She also was vice president of the New Mexico State Association.

Twinn transferred to Englewood, CO, in 2020 and joined Centennial Branch 5996, where she served as recording secretary, shop steward, Formal A representative and LCPF coordinator.

She was a member of the Colorado State Association executive board and a letter carrier congressional liaison. She also served on the executive board for the Colorado AFL-CIO. She was an arbitration advocate and was named Activist of the Year at the Region 10 Spring Training School in 2020. Twinn became an assistant to the president in October 2021. She transferred back to New Mexico in 2022 and rejoined Branch 504.

Twinn graduated from the NALC Leadership Academy in 2017.

James Frankford was appointed an RAA for Region 2 (Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah and Washington). A member of Vancouver, WA Branch 1104, Frankford began his letter carrier career in Anchorage, AK, in 1997, joining Anchorage Branch 4319. He served as a steward and Formal A representative for his branch, and was elected branch vice president in 2016, a position he held until transferring to Branch 1104 in 2020.

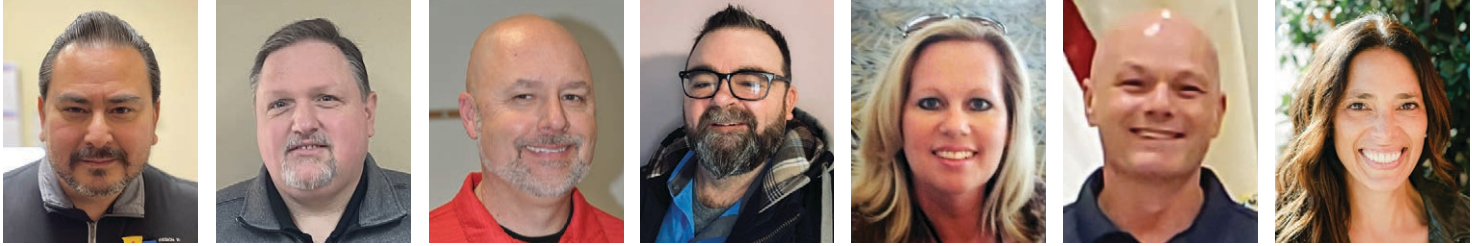
Frankford also served as a national assigned assistant and full-time advocate for Region 2. He served in the Marine Corps before joining the Postal Service.

Frankford graduated from the NALC Leadership Academy in 2020.

The president appointed **Joel Malkush** of St. Paul, MN Branch 28 as an RAA for Region 7 (Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin).

Malkush began as a casual carrier in 1992 in St. Paul and joined Branch 28. He became a career carrier in Minneapolis in 1995 and transferred to Minneapolis Branch 9. After transferring to South St. Paul Branch 1532, Malkush was elected vice president and president of that branch. When Branch 1532 merged with Branch 28, Malkush was elected executive vice president and then president.

Malkush also has served as dis-



From l: Arturo “A.G” Ramirez, Mike Brim, Anthony Mitchell, Matt Tanner, Anna Mudd, Richard Gould and Kori Blalock Keller

pute resolution team (DRT) full-time backup, arbitration advocate, regional steward training facilitator and Formal A representative.

He graduated from the NALC Leadership Academy in 2009.

President Renfroe appointed **Arturo “A.G” Ramirez** of Houston, TX Branch 283 as an RAA for Region 10 (New Mexico and Texas). Ramirez began carrying mail in Houston in 1998. His various activities on behalf of NALC include serving as a Step B representative, local business agent and regional grievance assistant (RGA) for Region 10. Ramirez has also served the union as an organizer, route inspection team leader, food drive coordinator, steward trainer and member of the Texas State Association executive board. He graduated from the NALC Leadership Academy in 2013.

The president appointed **Mike Brim** as an RAA for Region 11 (Upstate New York and Ohio). Brim, a member of Columbus, OH Branch 78, began carrying the mail in Columbus in 2006. He served as a branch trustee from 2013 to 2015, when he became health benefits and mutual benefits representative through 2018. Brim also has served on the Step B team and as an arbitration advocate. He was named an RGA in 2019.

Brim graduated from the NALC Leadership Academy in 2015.

Renfroe named **Anthony Mitchell** of Kansas City, MO Branch 30 as an LPO for Regions 5 (Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas), 7 (Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin) and 10 (New Mexico and Texas). Mitchell began carrying the mail in 1998, joining Independence, MO Branch 827. He served that branch as a steward, e-Activist coordinator, sergeant-at-arms and president before transferring to Branch 30 in 2012,

where he became a steward and AFL-CIO delegate.

Mitchell has held several positions with the Missouri State Association, including district representative, treasurer, vice president, director of education and congressional district liaison. He also has served as a route adjustment team member, district safety committee member, LPO assistant and community services assistant at NALC Headquarters.

Mitchell graduated from the NALC Leadership Academy in 2010.

President Renfroe appointed **Matt Tanner** of Lansing, MI Branch 122 as an LPO for Regions 3 (Illinois), 6 (Kentucky, Indiana and Michigan) and 8 (Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee), and for Oklahoma and Arkansas. Tanner started his postal career in 1996 as a rural carrier, becoming a city carrier part-time flexible (PTF) in 1998. He served his branch as an alternate steward, steward, food drive coordinator, secretary and vice president. He was elected branch president in 2014.

Tanner also served on the Michigan State Association board and as DRT team lead.

He graduated from the NALC Leadership Academy in 2014.

The president appointed **Anna Mudd** of Louisville, KY Branch 14 as a regional grievance assistant for Regions 6 (Kentucky, Indiana and Michigan) and 11 (upstate New York and Ohio).

Mudd began working as a letter carrier in Louisville as a PTF in 1996. She served her branch as a steward and scribe before her election as assistant secretary in 2013 and secretary in 2015. The next year, she ascended to branch vice president. She was appointed an LPO in 2019.

Mudd was elected Kentucky State Association vice president in 2017.

She also has served the union as an arbitration advocate, DRT member and city carrier assistant (CCA) orientation organizer. Mudd graduated from the NALC Leadership Academy in 2017.

President Renfroe named **Richard Gould** of San Antonio, TX Branch 421 as an RGA for Region 10 (New Mexico and Texas).

Gould began his career as a PTF in Fort Stockton, TX, in 1991 and transferred to San Antonio in 2002. He served his branch as a trustee and vice president, and then was elected branch president in 2020.

Gould also served as a Step B team backup and arbitration advocate—he was named Advocate of the Year for Region 10 in 2018.

He graduated from the NALC Leadership Academy in 2013.

Headquarters staff appointments

President Renfroe also made several staff appointments at NALC Headquarters.

Kori Blalock Keller, former director of legislative and political affairs, was named chief of staff, replacing James Sauber, who retired (for more on Sauber’s retirement, see page 46). She will continue to lead NALC’s efforts with the White House and Capitol Hill.

Holly Feldman-Wiencek, formerly an assistant to the president, was named research director effective Jan. 16, filling a vacancy.

Madeline Alvis, former digital communications specialist, was named to the new position of communications specialist.

Mike Shea, former designer/web editor, was named managing editor of *The Postal Record*, overseeing daily operations. Phil Dine remains editor-in-chief of the magazine. **PR**