

Hitting the ground running



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As NALC moves forward into a new era, the future for the city letter carrier craft certainly looks bright and filled with optimism. There is much work to be done and, most certainly, challenges to face. Unarguably, there are and will continue to be issues that must be addressed to improve the working lives of our members, but as our history has shown, with solidarity, no task is insurmountable.

We should all pause for a moment, though, however briefly, to reflect on past accomplishments and draw strength from recent triumphs, knowing full well that this year will bring new challenges. I'll

touch on some of them in this article, such as collective bargaining, organizing and labor relations.

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On the legislative front, achieving much-needed reform to the Postal Service with the signing into law of the Postal Service Reform Act of 2022, after more than a decade of effort, marked a significant milestone for NALC and will surely have a significant positive impact on the Postal Service for years to come. Despite this major victory, the work never stops as the issues are ever evolving. NALC members must remain vigilant and engaged legislatively in the ongoing effort to keep Congress informed on issues that affect the city letter carrier craft, the Postal Service and working families in general. We must remain mindful that as one door closes, others open. The work of the union, much like that of city letter carriers, is never done.

The 2019 NALC-USPS National Agreement, which covered a 44-month term beginning Sept. 20, 2019, is set to expire on May 20. NALC and the Postal Service officially opened negotiations on Feb. 22 to begin the task of ne-

gotiating a new agreement. However, well before negotiations officially opened, NALC began preparations for the collective-bargaining process. NALC will continue in its long tradition of working toward negotiating an agreement that fairly rewards city letter carriers for the work they perform, in the communities they serve, day in and day out, on behalf of the American people.

NALC is unique in many respects within the labor movement. One example of this is that many unions, unlike NALC, do not retain members once they retire from the craft. Another example is that NALC represents a single group of employees—the city letter carrier craft—with only one employer—the Postal Service.

This uniquely positions NALC in its organizing efforts, which is evident by the remarkably high percentage of postal employees in the city letter carrier craft who voluntarily commit to membership in NALC. The adage of strength in numbers is not lost on NALC. One need look no further than the Great Postal Strike of 1970 to find the purest of examples.

NALC has a robust organizing campaign, much of which was gained through the collective-bargaining process. Every member should work to build upon our house of solidarity and unionism by encouraging those in our ranks to join NALC.

Recently, many postal employees, including some in the city letter carrier craft, fell victim to fraud through their Postalease accounts resulting from a web scam. NALC has remained in constant communication with the Postal Service about the situation, receiving investigatory updates on the extent of the scam and the intentions of the Postal Service. NALC also has provided a grievance starter resource to the field to assist in addressing any losses sustained by employees in the city letter carrier craft. In response to the scam, the Postal Service implemented multifactor authentication to LiteBlue, adding an additional layer of security to the login process. NALC will continue to monitor this ever-evolving situation and provide relevant updates to the members.

As always, NALC encourages the membership to remain engaged. NALC provides several methods by which information can be accessed. Members can find updates and information through *The Postal Record* (also in audio format), *NALC Bulletins*, the NALC website at nalc.org, and the NALC Member App, to name a few. No matter what method you use to get your information, the most important part is that you stay connected.