

NALC wins 10 ILCA awards

The Communications and Media Relations Department of the National Association of Letter Carriers collected 10 awards in the annual Labor Media Awards contest of the International Labor Communications Association (ILCA), with nine of them for work published in the union's monthly journal, *The Postal Record*.

The 2022 awards were announced by ILCA on Feb. 13. Its contest recognized excellence among member publications, websites, film, video and electronic media during the year 2021.

"In this moment, the labor movement has seized the world's attention through inspiring organizing campaigns at Starbucks, Amazon, REI, Delta and more. The stories that labor journalists and unions are telling are key components of this newly revitalized movement, and the ILCA Labor Media Awards recognize the important work our members are doing," Chelsea Connor, president of ILCA and director of communications for the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, said.

In announcing its winners, ILCA wrote, "Annually, the organization hosts what is now the largest competition exclusively for labor journalists. Thousands of entries that tell the story of the global labor movement are judged by experts in the field across the industry."

"NALC is the union of city letter carriers and communicating is in our DNA," NALC President Brian L. Renfro said. "The work our digital and traditional Communications Department does is vital to all of our efforts, and we're proud that ILCA has recognized that again. Congratulations to the entire communications team."

NALC won three first-place awards. In the Best Editorial or Column category, Director of Communications and Media Relations Philip Dine's Letter from the Editor in the November 2021 magazine won first place for a column titled "Rich Trumka: Reflections." The column looked at the writer's interactions with Richard Trumka over the past three decades and what they said about him as a labor leader and a man. Dine also won second place in the same category for his July 2021 Letter from the Editor, "Communications Talent," which examined the creativity of letter carriers with short profiles of a calligrapher, a poet and an author.

Managing Editor Mike Shea swept the Best Labor History category. In first place was "The Six Triple Eight" from the November 2021 magazine, which chronicled the Black women who moved the mail during World War II. In second place was "Free city delivery" from the January 2021 issue, which looked at the first post office letter carrier and the system he helped create. In third place was "United States Postal Service turns 50" from the July 2021 magazine, which remembered Postal Service Day in 1971, when USPS officially launched.

Shea also received an honorable mention for Best News Story for the June 2021 article, "States seek to restrict or expand voting by mail."

Writer/Editor Jenessa Wagner took first place in the Best Profile category with her April 2021 article, "Music from the heart," which explored one letter carrier's guitar-playing hobby and how he and his daughter use their musical talents to help raise awareness for suicide prevention.

The entire staff of *The Postal Record*, including Writer/Editor Rick



Hodges and former Editorial Assistant Clare Foley, was awarded second and third place in the Best Series category. The coverage of the Heroes of the Year Award winners in the December 2021 magazine took second place, while a series on letter carriers' community service endeavors, titled "In our hands and hearts," published in the January 2021 issue, was awarded third.

Communications Specialist Madeline Alvis won third place in the Best Use of Social Media category for the campaign chronicling NALC's quest for meaningful postal reform.

Dozens of international unions and individual locals enter the ILCA contest annually, including some of the nation's largest unions. NALC rejoined ILCA four years ago and has won multiple awards each year since; the current contest produced the most wins so far. **PR**