

Together, we can do better



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This month's magazine is devoted to the Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF), NALC's political action committee (PAC). It is a chance for us to thank LCPF contributors while educating NALC members on the importance of the LCPF and how crucial it is to achieve victories in our legislative and political efforts for members.

If you are a current LCPF contributor, I sincerely thank you. I appreciate your commitment to securing letter carriers' jobs and retirements for years to come. Your contribution ensures that letter carriers' voices are heard on Capitol Hill and beyond.

We have had some recent legislative victories, most notably

the enactment of the Postal Service Reform Act in 2022. We have maintained our reputation as a respected voice among federal lawmakers. Yet, despite our successes and powerful influence on Capitol Hill, many of our members will likely be surprised to learn that 88 percent of NALC members do not contribute to LCPF.

In some unions, 12 percent of members participating in anything is positive. I know, and every letter carrier reading this knows, that in our union, this is not the case. We are a union with 94 percent voluntary membership, a higher percentage than any other union. That is just the start. For many years, NALC members have been the most engaged and active group of union members in this country.

Even at 12 percent participation in the LCPF, we are strong. We have a large PAC. Our LCPF, combined with our efforts in Washington, DC, and our equally important efforts by our members in every state, have allowed us to fight off repeated attacks and pass legislation to benefit our members. But in NALC, we don't settle for where we are, and we don't ever accept that we can't get better.

Having 88 percent of our members not participating in LCPF creates a gigantic opportunity for us as a union. We have much to protect and much to accomplish. Together, we have a significant chance to grow and achieve our goals. So, what are those goals?

All active letter carriers want long-term job security, a positive collective-bargaining environment, and good retirement benefits when our time comes. Retired letter carriers want their well-earned retirement benefits protected. The more

than 100,000 letter carriers who spent time as non-career employees want to be able to have their non-career time credited for retirement purposes. Our retirees who are negatively affected by the grossly unfair Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) want those provisions repealed so they get what they have worked for and earned. It takes legislation to make these goals a reality.

The easiest step any NALC member can take toward strengthening our capacity to achieve these goals is to participate in the LCPF by making a small biweekly or monthly contribution. A little bit from a lot of people to create strength reflects the spirit of solidarity that is a big piece of the foundation of organized labor in America and the NALC.

I know that 88 percent of NALC members have not made a conscious decision *not* to participate in LCPF and our legislative and political efforts. They haven't been asked. No one has given them the opportunity to participate.

If you currently do not participate in LCPF, you now have that opportunity. This magazine includes all of the information you need to join your brothers and sisters in standing together to grow our influence.

As letter carriers and federal employees, Congress initiates policies that affect our collective-bargaining rights, health care and retirement benefits, as well as the operations of the Postal Service. That's why the people elected to federal office matter and profoundly affect our jobs as letter carriers and our futures as retirees.

A strong LCPF allows us to work to elect pro-letter carrier candidates who will support the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82/S. 597), a bill that would repeal the WEP and the GPO. The same is true for the Federal Retirement Fairness Act (H.R. 5995), a bill that would allow federal employees, including letter carriers, to buy back their time served in non-career positions—such as a city carrier assistant, transitional employee or casual—making it creditable toward their service under the Federal Employees Retirement System. Increasing LCPF participation is key to making these goals a reality.

Together, we can grow our influence and capacity to win for letter carriers on Capitol Hill. By taking the simple step of making a small, recurring contribution to LCPF, we can rise together. When we look at virtually any point in our union's 135-year history, we see examples of the collective action and solidarity of NALC members growing together and achieving victories. 2024 is another opportunity for us to do just that by increasing participation in our PAC. Together, we can and will do it.