

Stay engaged as members of Congress head home for August recess

Attacks on letter carriers, other federal workers, unions and the Postal Service have come from all angles this year. Whether from the White House dangling an executive order to restructure the Postal Service, Congress coming after our retirement benefits, private shippers' influence on the postmaster general selection, or other forces, serious threats have been a constant this year. Despite what may feel like infinite attacks, NALC members have repeatedly risen to the moment and united to fight like hell.

While many battles have been waged in Washington, DC, such as our recent fight in budget reconciliation (see page 4), this month the struggle heads home as members of Congress return to their states and districts during the August congressional recess. Many will hold town hall meetings or other events, or will be available to meet with constituents in person.

Now is the time for letter carriers to tell them, face to face, why they must support a strong, public Postal Service that protects letter carriers and all postal employees.

As our union continues confronting the challenges from a hostile administration, a Congress eagerly following its lead and a new postmaster general handpicked by postal competitors, it's never been more necessary for every carrier to be informed and involved.

"As members of Congress head home for recess this month, they need to hear from you," NALC President Brian L. Renfroe said. "Your job, retirement, benefits and union rights depend on it. Our union is no stranger to struggles, and we are undoubtedly facing some of the most significant ones in our history."



Photo by Cade Martin, Dawn Arlotta, USDCDP

Everything you need to get started is in NALC's Legislative Action Center at nalc.org/action. Use the "Legislator Look Up" tab to enter your ZIP Code and find your members of Congress. Once you have identified your lawmakers, call, email or write to their district office to schedule a meeting. Also, be on the lookout for local information to see if your members of Congress are hosting town halls or other public events in August.

Next, navigate to the "Home" tab on the website, where you can scroll to find NALC's fact sheets. There, you will find more information about all of NALC's priority bills and resolutions.

NALC's legislative agenda includes:

- **H.Res. 70/S.Res. 147**, a resolution in the House and Senate that calls for not privatizing USPS. While it doesn't have the force of law, gathering co-sponsors sends a strong message that privatization efforts would face vigorous opposition. Thanks to the efforts of letter carriers con-

Take advantage of town hall meetings or other events to interact with your members of Congress.

tacting their members, H.Res. 70 currently has 218 co-sponsors (a majority of House members), and S. Res. 147 has seven co-sponsors.

- **Protect Our Letter Carriers Act (H.R. 1065/S. 463)**, a bill that would take concrete steps to protect carriers from assaults and other crimes while on their routes. At press time, the House version had 133 co-sponsors; the Senate version had seven co-sponsors.
- **Federal Retirement Fairness Act (H.R. 1522)**, a bill that would give credit toward retirement benefits for the years a career carrier worked as a city carrier assistant (CCA), transitional employee (TE), casual or other non-career status. The bill had 102 co-sponsors at press time.

No one can explain the vital role of letter carriers better than NALC members. When meeting with members of Congress, make sure they know who we are. There is so much to highlight.

Remind them that almost a quarter of letter carriers are veterans. Explain that we do much more than deliver the mail. We serve as eyes and ears of American communities, keeping them safer and often being the first to step in and help when something is wrong. Mention that we are community leaders, leading the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, the largest one-day food drive in the country, for more than 30 years.

Regardless of whom you meet with and what state or district they represent, their constituents undoubtedly rely on the universal service letter carriers dutifully provide. Remind them that we are the ones who uphold this mission by getting the job done every day, whatever the challenges. Putting a face and personal con-

nection to the work and critical service letter carriers provide is invaluable.

When members of Congress hear directly from you about your work, who we are, what issues matter to letter carriers, and why a strong Postal Service is essential, our impact grows.

NALC's activism is important because we know that it works. Recent victories are evidence. Our collective action led to the historic enactment of the Postal Service Reform Act in 2022 and the Social Security Fairness Act earlier this year. Fending off numerous attacks in this year's reconciliation process would not have been possible without letter carriers coming together and contacting their lawmakers. And while we were successful this time, we know we will have to fight this battle again.

Congressional leaders have indicated that they plan to start the reconciliation process again this fall for the upcoming fiscal year. While we cannot predict what ideas will surface, threats to letter carriers in some form will almost certainly be proposed. While lawmakers are home this month, now is the time to remind them that spending cuts cannot be made at the expense of letter carriers' benefits, pay and rights.

That is why this August is one of the most important summer recesses in a generation.

"Ask your members of Congress to oppose proposals that harm letter carriers or the Postal Service," Renfroe said. "Ask them to support our agenda. And don't forget to thank the legislators who already support us.

"Whether it's attending a town hall, contacting your members of Congress about our priorities, or contributing to the Letter Carrier Political Fund, I urge every letter carrier to stand together and fight like hell!" **PR**

By making a contribution to the Letter Carrier Political Fund, you are doing so voluntarily with the understanding that your contribution is not a condition of membership in the National Association of Letter Carriers or of employment by the Postal Service, nor is it part of union dues. You have a right to refuse to contribute without any reprisal. Any guideline amounts are merely suggestions, and you may contribute more or less than the guidelines suggest and the union will not favor or disadvantage you by reason of the amount of your contribution or your decision not to contribute. The Letter Carrier Political Fund will use the money it receives to contribute to candidates for federal office and undertake other political spending as permitted by law. Your selection shall remain in full force and effect until canceled. Contributions to the Letter Carrier Political Fund are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. Federal law prohibits the Letter Carrier Political Fund from soliciting contributions from individuals who are not NALC members, executive and administrative staff or their families. Any contribution received from such an individual will be refunded to that contributor. Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, name of employer and occupation of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year.