



Bylaws submission



**Mack I.
Julion**

For those who have gone through the process of updating, amending or creating new bylaws for your branch or state association, I believe the easiest part is the actual submission of your proposals. At least it should be.

Aside from the option of mailing in your changes, you can also upload them via the portal on our website for the quickest possible turnaround for a response from the Committee of Laws. As the chair of the Committee, I can assure you that our goal is to get you the most accurate response or approval as soon as possible. For those who have used our portal before, you

know how simple it is to upload and follow the progress of your bylaws. For those who have not, you will find a new more detailed tutorial in the portal when you are ready to submit your proposed changes.

The first thing, of course, is that branches must follow the process as outlined in Article 15 of the *NALC Constitution*. This provides the requirement of the initial introduction of the proposed amendments at a branch meeting. Next there is the notification to the branch membership of a scheduled meeting for the vote on the proposals. The process then culminates with the vote of membership. If the changes are approved by the members, they must then be sent to our committee before they become effective, unless the changes are for the amount of branch fees or fines; membership dues; or the change of day and/or time of meeting. Those proposed changes become effective as determined by the vote of the members. Everything else becomes effective when approved by the Committee of Laws.

Now, as for the changes in the portal, the new tutorial focuses on inputting the proposed changes into articles and sections. That is the proper way to submit the changes, which allows us to quickly review your amendments and either approve or deny them. If you download the changes on the form that is provided on the assistant secretary-treasurer's page on the NALC website, and just input the article and section headers, it makes it a bit more cumbersome and time-consuming when we are going through your proposed changes.

Remember, the quicker we can get to them and go through them, the sooner you can get a response.

There are a few things that are noted at the beginning of the tutorial that applies to all bylaws submissions, whether done digitally or manually. The lack of this information can significantly slow down a response. They are as follows:

- First read date: The meeting when these changes were introduced to the members.
- Vote on date: The meeting when these changes were voted on by the members
- Copy of your current bylaws

If you follow the process with all the above information provided, you should have a response within 60 days or fewer. Usually fewer, but that depends on the extent of the changes and the schedule or travel of the committee members. Remember, if you need any assistance, I am always here to help.

'I am somebody'

When I heard those words growing up on Chicago's West Side, it was synonymous with the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson Sr. He was a close companion of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and a visible and active link to the Civil Rights Movement of the '60s. He was the head of Operation PUSH (People United for the Sake of Humanity), which met every Saturday morning on Chicago's South Side, where they would confront issues related to human rights, civil rights and labor rights. He later formed the "Rainbow Coalition" during his multiple runs for president in the '80s, which paved the way for the historic presidency of Barack Obama. Years later, he would open his Saturday platform and bully pulpit to the NALC to advocate on behalf of letter carriers and the Postal Service (as in the photo above). He marched and rallied side by side with us on several occasions when there were threats to the Postal Service. His daughter Santita would often remind me that her grandparents, both maternal and paternal, were postal workers. Thus, they were a part of our broader postal family, and we would always have a space to share our concerns on her radio show and podcast.

The labor community and postal workers were prominently seated in a section at his home-going celebration, which included a broad representation of a rainbow coalition of those affected by his life work—religious leaders, politicians, celebrities, sport figures, activists and, of course, the rest of us common folk, who he always reminded every Saturday morning that we are "somebody," too!