

Democracy in action



Brian L. Renfroe

I am writing this month's article days before NALC is scheduled to convene our 74th Biennial National Convention in Los Angeles. For the third time in our union's history, delegates will gather in L.A. to conduct the important business of our union.

The delegates at our national convention are the union's supreme governing body. The resolutions debated and adopted by our delegates will chart our goals in collective bargaining, on Capitol Hill, and other areas of our union's work. With more than 5,000 delegates

from across the country coming together, our convention is the democratic process in action.

In addition to the business conducted, the convention is an excellent educational opportunity for delegates to take new information back to their branches. Dozens of workshops will be offered throughout the week. These workshops touch on nearly every aspect of the union's work. From the grievance procedure, the Health Benefit Plan, our role in legislation and politics, and information about branch finances and bylaws to the Emergency Response Team, community service efforts, and everything in between, delegates can learn how to enhance their branch operations and involvement at every level. I am excited about the workshops offered at this convention and am confident that our delegates will return home ready to educate their members.

If you haven't attended a national convention before, the energy throughout the week is hard to describe. While you certainly don't personally know everyone there, gathering with 5,000 other people who understand your day-to-day work, the daily struggles with management, and the goal of making our union stronger and better brings an excitement that is unbeatable. This year, for the first time ever, I'm pleased that every single letter carrier will be able to experience a piece of that.

This year's full convention business will be live-streamed. The livestream will be available on nalc.org and on NALC's YouTube channel. If you don't tune in live, the videos will remain available for all members to watch on their own time. Understanding our democratic process and how our union's business is conducted is important for every member, and I'm glad we're making it even more accessible this year.

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In the pages ahead, you'll find detailed descriptions of our union's work over the last two years. As I read through these pages, I am struck by everything our union has accomplished, fought for, and offered in service to our members. While there's always room for improvement and we strive every day to serve our members the best we can, I hope you come away with the same feeling. Our union is strong because our members are engaged, activated, and unified in our goal of continually improving the working lives and retirements of city letter carriers.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Brian L. Renfroe'.