

# Delivering for the community, delivering for letter carriers



**Brian L.  
Renfroe**

**T**he cover story of this magazine highlights our union's decades-long partnership with the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). As MDA's first national sponsor, our branches nationwide have helped raise funds to support medical research on dozens of neuromuscular diseases for more than 70 years.

Every year, I'm inspired by our branches' dedication and creativity when fundraising for our official charity. These fundraisers not only bring money that supports medications and treatments for neuromuscular diseases, but they are also community events where

branch members come together. It showcases what NALC does best—uniting to support one another.

Our union's involvement with MDA is only one of the countless ways our members give back to their communities. As I write this, the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive is just a few weeks away. On May 9, letter carriers across the country will pick up tens of thousands of pounds of donated food to help restock America's food banks.

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As our members are busy being stewards to their communities, NALC remains focused on collective bargaining. While we continue regular meetings and discussions with our USPS counterparts, our bargaining team is also busy preparing for a weeklong round-the-clock negotiations with the Postal Service scheduled for the third week in May at a hotel in Washington, DC. Member feedback from an all-member survey, our first ever Rank-and-File Bargaining Committees, and branch and state leaders at last year's national rap session continue to guide our goals and strategy in every bargaining meeting and especially in our lead-up to the week of all-day negotiations later this month.

As we work toward better pay at the bargaining table, we cannot lose sight of what is happening around us. The truth is that things outside of bargaining, and outside the Postal Service itself, affect our job security and retirement. What lawmakers on Capitol Hill or the administration do—or don't do—can have major impacts on our future.

Unlike thousands of other federal employees, we are fortunate that our collective-bargaining rights are still in place. While our members' activism has helped keep detrimental actions from happening, there are still a few things that we need Congress and the administration to do.

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By adopting a new investment strategy for USPS retiree health and pension funds, a fair recalculation of the agency's Civil Service Retirement System pension obligations, and an increase in the agency's borrowing authority, Congress and the administration can help the agency on the path to financial solvency. This is important for every NALC member, since a fight to improve the Postal Service's finances is a fight for our job and retirement security.

As collective bargaining continues, I am looking forward to welcoming branch and state presidents to Washington, DC, at the beginning of next month for a Collective-Bargaining Conference. Where we are in the collective-bargaining process at that time will dictate much of conference schedule. If we have reached or are close to a tentative agreement, leaders will be briefed on the terms. If it is evident that a deal is not in reach, we will discuss our interest arbitration case in depth. Regardless, it will be an important few days for branch and state leaders to gather information, gain insight into the process, and share it with their members as we work toward achieving the best possible outcome for letter carriers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian L. Renfroe', written in a cursive style.