

Thank you, members, for the opportunity to serve



**Paul
Barner**

This being my first article as your newly elected assistant secretary-treasurer, I would like to take the occasion to introduce myself as well as outline a few of the duties that have been assigned to me. On a personal note, I would like to thank the membership for their support. I am truly humbled and honored to have the opportunity to represent the members of NALC in this position for the next four years.

I also want to congratulate all those who have been either elected or re-elected at branch, state, regional and national levels, for it is in NALC's legacy of democracy and transparency that our real strength lies. Together, we will continue the

great work already begun in promoting the advancement of rights, benefits and working conditions of all letter carriers.

My background

The first uniform I wore in the service of our country was not that of a letter carrier but of a soldier. After being discharged from the Army, I attended college at night and earned a bachelor's degree in business administration.

My postal career began in Roswell, GA, in 1987, where I am currently a member of Branch 4862. I began NALC activism in the branch with my election to the position of steward. Over the years, I held multiple other positions within the branch, culminating with my election to the position of treasurer in 2006. I also served as an officer on the executive board of the Georgia State Association of Letter Carriers. I was a local business agent and became an arbitration advocate in 2003. I served as a primary member of the Atlanta Dispute Resolution Team until 2012, when President Fredric Rolando appointed me to the position of regional administrative assistant (RAA) for Region 9. In 2015, President Rolando appointed me as special executive assistant to the president working at NALC Headquarters in Washington, DC, a position I held until my election as assistant secretary-treasurer.

'Knowledge is power'

The adage that "knowledge is power" may be old but is as relevant today as ever. Education and training are vital in maintaining an informed member base and worthy activists for our union. I graduated from the NALC Leadership Academy in 2007 and realize the importance of the academy and the contributions of other training initiatives to the overall success of NALC.

The duties of assistant secretary-treasurer

The role of assistant secretary-treasurer is multifaceted. Working under the direct supervision of the NALC president, NALC's assistant secretary-treasurer serves as the secretary of the Executive Council when it is in session and serves as the secretary-treasurer in the absence of the secretary-treasurer, in addition to performing other duties as assigned by the president. A few of the assistant secretary-treasurer's responsibilities include:

- serving as the chairman of the Committee of Laws,
- serving as the officer in charge of the Headquarters building,
- serving as the officer in charge of the NALC Human Resources Department,
- serving as a member of the fiscal committee, and
- serving as the officer in charge of approving and tracking all authorized wage reports.

We must always remain mindful of those external forces that play a significant role in our future and the effect their decisions have on letter carriers as well as all working families. With the midterm elections this past November came a shift in the political landscape in Congress. I would implore all members to remain engaged and active in the legislative debate as NALC navigates through upcoming legislative agendas that could affect all of our lives.

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Congratulations, retirees

I offer my congratulations to all those who have retired. I look forward to serving the members and NALC as assistant secretary-treasurer and wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.