

MICHIGAN LETTER CARRIER

Voice of the Michigan State Association of Letter Carriers

Volume 32

Issue 1

May 2024



THIS SPELLS
HELP FOR LOTS OF
FAMILIES THIS
YEAR!



LETTER CARRIERS' FOOD DRIVE

PUT YOUR NON-PERISHABLE DONATION IN A BAG BY YOUR MAILBOX.
WE'LL DELIVER IT TO A LOCAL FOOD BANK.

National Partners





The Michigan State Association of Letter Carriers and Your branch are holding a day at the Ballpark to support MDA!

Come join us on Sunday, June 30th for an afternoon ball game. The Lansing Lugnuts will take on the West Michigan Whitecaps (Grand Rapids). Tickets include ALL you can eat menu and a box seat in the Lugnuts Tailgate Terrace. Food service begins an hour before game time and continues until one hour after game time.

A portion of each ticket will support MDA and be credited to your branch. So, come out and see old friends and your union brothers and sisters from around the state!

2024 MENU

Hot

- Grilled Hamburgers
- Chicken
- Grilled Hot Dogs
- Mac & Cheese
- Grilled Bratwurst

Cold

- Potato Salad
- Fresh Fruit
- Ice Cream Sandwich

Special Request

- Veggie Burger
 - GF Buns
-

Tickets are \$40 each and includes 2 hours of all you can eat food (12-2p), a box seat in the Tailgate Terrace and a donation to MDA. The game starts at 1:05pm, stadium opens at noon. Open to all, bring your friends and family. See your Steward or call the branch office to get yours today!

505 E MICHIGAN AVE | LANSING, MI 48912
517.485.4500 | LANSINGLUGNUTS.COM



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

CARL E BLASSINGAME, JR.

As we watch local and national news there is no doubt that Washington is dysfunctional and it isn't clear what direction they will lead the country. With the current House and Senate looking at ways to take away the benefits and the future of the working class, including government workers, which means "US" the letter carriers, we can no longer sit on the sidelines and expect someone else to do the work for us. As Branch Officers we must begin to educate our members on what is at stake if we allow the wrong people to get into office.

A famous person once said; *"Labor is prior to, and independent of, capital. Capital is only the fruit of labor, and could never have existed if labor had not first existed. Labor is the superior of capital, and deserves much the higher consideration."* - **Abraham Lincoln's First Annual Message to Congress, December 3, 1861**

Unions have fought for the rights of workers for centuries to ensure they have a decent living wage and benefits for themselves and their families. Our members have to understand that the Postal Service did not choose to give you the wages and benefits you enjoy today. It was the NALC that fought to protect your rights. Fought for decent wages and benefits to support your family. If it was up to the Postal Service your pay would be less for the work you do and you most likely would not have any pension or health insurance.

Unions are only as strong as the members that support them. This union is "YOUR" union. The union that "WE" sometimes take for granted even though your leaders will continue to fight for your rights even if we refuse to fight for ourselves. It will take all of us, collectively, to fight for our jobs and benefits and ensure that our Congressional leaders understand they work for us. As our work force begins to look younger, we have to educate our newest members so they understand not only how a union functions but how Congress continues to find ways to attack what our union leaders continue to fight for in this new contract.

Unions play a crucial role in safeguarding our rights and the well-being of all workers. Here are some reasons why unions are important.

Collective Bargaining: When workers form a union, they negotiate a Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with the Employer. This agreement covers pay, benefits, and other employment terms. It ensures transparency, equity, and fairness in compensation for workers. This also includes a Grievance and Arbitration process.

Higher Wages: Unionized workers earn **86%** more than non-union workers. Union's Advocate for better pay and benefits, contributing to improved financial stability for workers.

Voice on Workplace issues: Workers desire a say in the workplace. Unions provide a platform for employees to voice concerns about safety, health, and other workplace issues.

Enforcing the Contract: Unions assist in enforcing workers' rights on the workroom floor. They empower employees to address workplace safety violations, wage theft, and other violations that occur by management.

(Continued on Page 5 See PRESIDENT)



For over 150 years Baseball has been our nation's National Pastime and since the MISALC organized an afternoon out at the ballpark to support MDA (See

inside front cover) we thought it fitting to display a bit of Postal art honoring the sport.

For many Americans, it isn't truly summer until they hear the first crack of the bat and cheer on their favorite big league or neighborhood team from the bleachers. To young fans, an endless supply of hot dogs and peanuts or singing "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" during the seventh inning stretch might be more memorable than whatever is happening on the field. Baseball is home to the smells, tastes, and sounds of summer.

The United States Postal Service first featured baseball on a US stamp in 1939 (reproduction shown above) The Centennial of Baseball stamp started a rich history of baseball stamps issued that have since featured famous baseball players, historic ballparks, iconic moments in baseball history, and even Bugs Bunny!

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ERIK VENZKE

As many of you may already have heard or seen on social media the 2024 election cycle has begun and is ramping up quickly. We as letter carriers know all too well what comes with the political season, the inevitable bombardment of daily political mailings. For some carriers the overtime the mailings bring will be welcomed, for others it will be nightmare. In the political ads we will hear about either how wonderful or terrible of a person every candidate is, but out of all these mailings they most likely will be absent some very important information of the changes made in how we in Michigan can vote in 2024. Such as in 2022 Michigan voters passed Proposal 2 that made significant changes in how Michigan voters can get access to the ballot with the following:

Early Voting: A new requirement of at least nine consecutive days for early voting in the two weeks before Election Day in all statewide and federal elections. During this early voting, the early voting sites will be open for at least eight hours a day.

Permanent Mail Voter List and Absentee Voting Improvements: Allows all voters to sign up to become a permanent absentee ("mail-in") voter. It also requires the state to:

- Provide prepaid postage for all absentee ballots and ballot applications.

- Improve ballot tracking systems to allow voters to track and receive improved updates about their absentee ballot and ballot application.

- Inform voters of any issues with their absentee ballot via the new tracking system. Voters will get a chance to correct any signature-related issues with their ballot, which will make sure everyone's voice is heard.

- Expand access to secure ballot drop-boxes by funding at least one drop-box in every community and one drop-box for every 15,000 registered voters in larger communities. Secure drop-boxes will be available 24/7 for 40 days before Election Day.

Military and Overseas Ballots: Absentee ballots of military and overseas voters must be counted if they are postmarked by Election Day and received by their clerk's office within six days of Election Day. Previously, those ballots were only counted if they were received by the time polls close on Election Day.

Fundamental Right to Vote: Protects Michigan voters fundamental right to vote by prohibiting any law, rule or regulation that would threaten our right to vote.

Voter Identification: Protects Michigan's Voter ID law by enshrining it into the state Constitution. All Michigan voters can cast their ballot by presenting an approved photo ID (like a driver's license, passport, or other government-issued ID) or sign an affidavit confirming their identity. Additionally, it expanded the options for approved photo IDs – allowing the use of photo IDs from educational institutions and local governments.

Election Integrity: The results of an election shall be determined solely by the ballots cast and certified by the Board of Canvassers. Neither the Board of Canvassers nor the legislature can override the will of the voters. Election audits must be securely conducted under the Secretary of State's supervision by individuals not affiliated with a political party. Audits must be conducted publicly, and funding must be disclosed.

Charitable Contributions: Local governments may continue to accept publicly disclosed charitable contributions for the administration of elections.

Another change in Michigan elections of note is that with the passage of legislation the Michigan presidential primary was moved up from March 12th to February 27th for 2024. Michigan Republicans had opposed this legislation due to Republican National Committee rules. So, with the passage of the legislation Michigan Republicans adopted a hybrid primary plan which will only guarantee the winner of the Michigan Primary for president 16 of the 55 delegates to the Republican National election. Most of the Michigan GOP delegates (39 of them) will be awarded based on the outcome of a separate caucus meeting in each of the 13 Michigan Congressional Districts on March 2nd.

The rest of the primaries for the US House of Representatives and Senate along with the Michigan House of Representatives primaries will be held on August 6th. After August 6th we will have a clear view of the candidates to assess their views on the policies that are important to us as letter carriers and determine whom the NALC preferred candidates will be.

Erik Venzke,

Vice President

TREASURER'S REPORT

CATHERINE TONDREAU

Attention Treasurers and Members!

Important Reminders from the Treasurer:

LM Reports and 990 Forms:

- A friendly reminder that most LM reports should be completed by now. For those who haven't submitted them yet, the deadline is **March 30, 2024**.
- Don't forget, your 990 forms are due later this year on **May 15, 2024**.

Bonding Requirements:

The Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act (LMRDA) requires unions with property and annual receipts exceeding \$5,000 to secure a bond for at least 10% of their handled assets. This applies to all officers and employees as well. If you need assistance with acquiring bonds, please reach out to the national headquarters.

Resources for Treasurers:

- New treasurers are encouraged to get the NALC Branch Officers Guide to Finance and Administration. Attending a New Branch Officers training session is also highly beneficial.

- Remember, the funds you handle belong to the members, and all expenses must be approved by them.

Get Out and Vote in November!

With the Michigan Senate election approaching in November, exercising your right to vote is crucial. Let's elect a candidate who supports letter carriers!

Michigan offers both early voting and absentee voting options for your convenience. The most important message: **Get out and vote!**

Catherine Tondreau,

Treasurer

President *(Continued from Page 3)*

As a union we must ensure our members have a safe and violent-free work environment, The USPS is required by the National Agreement, its handbooks and manuals, and the law to provide this.

The Joint Statement on Violence and Behavior in the Workplace states: the USPS is committed to dignity, respect and fairness for all postal employees as a fundamental human right. They also promised to rid the Postal Service of the harassing, intimidating and abusive behavior that can lead to workplace violence. It further states, "Making the numbers" is not an excuse for the abuse of anyone.

Management's own handbook, the M-39 section 115.4 Maintain Mutual Respect Atmosphere: states; The National Agreement sets out the basic rules and rights governing management and employees in their dealings with each other, but it is the front-line manager who controls management's attempt to maintain an atmosphere between employer and employee which assures mutual respect for each other's rights and responsibilities.

Too many times we allow management to continue with their disrespect of our fellow members on the workroom floor without saying a word until it happens to us. Our contract is a strong Contract that protects each and every one of us when we address management and their wrong doings.

We should never give management the power to disrespect and abuse any of our members and all we do is turn our backs and walk away. I'm writing about this because I get too many calls concerning management's total disrespect of our members and it seems as if nothing is being done to stop this from us, the members. **"WE"** have the power to make a difference in the workplace, it's time that we step up, stand together and demand the respect we deserve.

Carl Blassingame,

President

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

JOHN SERWACH

The next election is six month away and your Michigan State Association has been hard at work planning events, strategy, trainings and a whole lot more.

As you read this Summer will be upon us and we will be finishing up this year's NALC Food Drive and preparing for office Prime Time vacations. Please remember to stay hydrated and keep cool out there in the heat.

So what have we been planning? First off we wanted to keep our members engaged and remember that unions are not just organizations that file grievances or engage in political activity – we provide community service. Whether it be the Annual Food Drive or raising money for MDA when people are in need NALC members are there.

Handling a fund raiser for MDA is never an easy task and so we as a State organization wanted to do something to make it a little easier for our members and our branches to achieve their goals. At our March meeting we agreed to sponsor a baseball outing as an MDA Fundraiser (see page two of this newsletter for more details). The state is coordinating the event and I think it will be a lot of fun. A portion of each ticket sold by any branch will be donated to MDA under their total. On June 30th myself and State Vice President Erik Venzke will be holding a training in Lansing for our LCPF coordinators and LCCL's (Congressional Liaisons) in the morning but in the afternoon the state will be sponsoring a baseball outing where the Lansing Lugnuts will take on the West Michigan Whitecaps of Grand Rapids in an afternoon game. Tickets are \$40 and include a box seat and two hours of all you can eat stadium food! The stadium opens at noon and the food service of the all you can eat portion is noon to two. Both teams are MLB affiliates from the Midwestern league. I've never attended a minor league game but our Brothers and Sisters in Lansing tell me it's a lot of fun. In addition, a portion of each ticket purchased will be donated to support MDA and be credited to your branch's total. As of this writing I'm told we've sold close to 100 tickets so come out and join us. Lansing is centrally located to most of our members and hotel's are reasonable if you want to make a weekend of it and take in the State Capitol. Bring the whole family!

In addition to our MDA Fundraiser we have also planned a series of "newer" member meetings. We're going to start in the Southeastern corner of the state and see how it goes. If you're someone who's been a Letter Carrier for a few years and have questions about all of the things the union can and does do for you come out and get some answers. While any member is welcome to attend we're really hop-

ing to reach our younger members who have questions or want to be more involved. See page 7 for more details about the two meetings we have planned. No need to attend both just pick the one that's most convenient for you.

Lastly, being the Political arm of the NALC we wanted to do something to get our members more active and involved with our Political Education fund LCPF. For the last 6 years I've been kicking around the idea of a challenge coin and we finally voted to make it a reality. Those should be in by the end of May, any new signups to the Letter Carrier Political Fund will receive one, current contributors come and see us or talk to your coordinator and raise your contribution by just one dollar a pay period and commit to doing it for a year and we will make sure you receive a coin.

The MISALC challenge coin is a two inch, color, die struck coin and can be viewed on page 15 (the inside back cover) of this issue of our paper. The logo we had created for the front side of the coin features a traditional NALC design that states our Michigan State Association name and incorporates both a map of Michigan and the word "Tuebor". The word "Tuebor" is from the Great Seal of the State of Michigan and is Latin meaning "I will defend". "Tuebor" was included on the original Seal to represent Michigan's "Frontier" position and while this is no longer "Frontier country" it's hard to think of a more fitting Latin term for a union. As management is well aware, this union **defends** its members.

LCPF is our way of supporting the candidates who support us. If you're someone who has non-career time and you want legislation passed to add that time to your retirement, if you're concerned about the every day threats so many of our members face from crime every day on the street and think we need tougher laws that will ensure crimes against letter carriers are prosecuted or if you're a retiree who wants to see the WEP repealed you should be giving to LCPF. All of these objectives currently have legislation introduced and we need a letter carrier friendly Congress to do it. The Federal Employee Fairness Act, the Protect Our Letter Carriers Act and the Social Security Fairness Act are all in Congress right now and all we need is a worker friendly Congress to get them passed. The union can't do it without you. If you haven't signed up yet, make this the year you take the plunge, I'll make sure you get one of our really cool challenge coins too!

John Serwach,

Director of Education



You're Invited!

The Michigan State Association of Letter Carriers together with area branches, and the office of the NALC National Business Agent are inviting you to a special meeting to learn a little bit more about how your union can help you!

Food and beverages will be served and you will find out about the many benefits of being a union letter carrier including, health care benefits, retirement planning, uniform allowance, mileage and loaning, opting, OWCP resources if you're ever hurt on the job, Veterans benefits, EAP, and much, much, more. Officers and stewards will be on hand to answer questions as will NALC OWCP experts and Health Benefit Representatives. Someone will be on hand to help with any question you may have on how your union can help you. Questions about grievances and your rights under the National Agreement will also be answered.

We are holding these meetings in two locations so you can pick one that's most convenient. Additional meetings in other regions of the state are being discussed for the future.

Space is limited so please let your steward know or notify your branch office if you plan on attending one of the meetings. There will be food, beverages and door prizes and we need a head count. Hope to see you there!!

Macomb County

June 11, 2024 -7:00pm

NALC Branch 4374

8124 E. Ten Mile Rd.

Centerline, MI 48015

Wayne County

June 12, 2024 -7:00pm

NALC Branch 2184

6969 Monroe Blvd.

Taylor, MI 48180

SECRETARY'S REPORT

JAYME ROMINE

A raffle is a game of chance where raffle tickets are sold, a winner(s) is determined by randomly drawing a ticket stub from a container, and a prize is sold. Raffle prizes can be cash, merchandise, or services. Prizes can be purchased by the organization or donated. In-house raffles are frequently 50/50's, where 50 percent of sales are awarded to the drawn winner and the organization retains 50 percent, unless otherwise indicated in house rules. Another popular form of an in-house raffle is sometimes called a gift basket raffle where: Prizes in the form of merchandise or services are displayed at the event with a description and a container next to each prize. Roll-type tickets are sold at the event and purchasers place their stub(s) in the container that corresponds with the prize(s) they hope to win. Once ticket sales have closed, a stub is drawn from each container, determining the winner of the corresponding prize.

Does your branch host raffles, 50-50 drawings, or a drawing for a door prize to fundraise or promote involvement? If so, a raffle license may be necessary.

Exempt raffles (raffles that do not require a raffle license) are lawful raffles that are conducted at a scheduled assembly or meeting with a specific beginning and ending time that is conducted or sponsored by the qualified organization if all of the following are true:

- i. The organization is currently qualified by the Charitable Gaming Division.
- ii. The raffle will be held at a single gathering of the organization (where the primary purpose is for something other than the raffle).
- iii. All tickets will be sold, the drawing will be held, and all prizes will be awarded at the single gathering. (There will be no pre-sale of tickets.)
- iv. Total value of all prizes awarded for the entire day **will not exceed \$100.**

Silent auctions also do not require a raffle license because they are not games of chance.

OTHERWISE Raffles may only be held by a non-profit or-

ganization that has been previously qualified by the Charitable Gaming Division and whose Raffle License Application has been approved.

Even if the prizes are donated, your branch would still need a license.

Qualification documents can be submitted with the raffle application. Licenses cannot be issued until all qualification requirements have been fulfilled.

Your branch would need a license for every raffle; however one license may be issued for multiple drawing dates at the same location.

There are different types of licenses. Under a small raffle license, the total value of all prizes may not exceed \$500. A small license is \$5.00 per drawing with a \$15.00 minimum fee. Where the total value of prizes exceeds \$500, a large raffle license is required. A large license is \$50.00 per drawing date. The raffle license fee is calculated based on the number of large and small raffle drawing dates.

Confused yet? Don't fret. There is an incredible resource available online.

A union is considered a local civic organization. You can find the local civic organization qualification requirements at www.michigan.gov/cg/raffles. There you can find the license application, application status, the most frequently asked questions and a raffle guide. The raffle guide helps the organization in applying for a raffle license, preparing for the event, and what to do after the event has happened. Fundraising, raffles, and lotteries are all forms of gambling, and you must follow the rules for the type of lottery you plan to run, otherwise you may be breaking the law.

Regardless of which type you choose, holding a raffle is a great way to increase meeting attendance, and promote community service for organizations such as MDA, the NALC Food Drive or the NALC Disaster Relief Fund.

Jayme Romine,

Secretary

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF RETIREES

MIKE SHERIDAN

By the time you receive this newsletter we will be within the SEP (Special Enrollment Period) for Medicare B. If you did not sign up for Medicare B at age 65 (or later if you were still working and had employer provided healthcare or spousal provided healthcare) and now want to enroll **WITHOUT** penalty here is your chance and your only chance to avoid the penalty. The USPS will pay your penalty (how generous) and you will only pay the premium of \$174.70 per month (although it may be higher depending on your income level). The below items are copied directly from the Social Security website and do talk about coordination between USPS and OPM to determine who should be notified.

- Certain annuitants and family members who are, as of January 1, 2024, entitled to premium-free Part A but not enrolled in Part B would be given the opportunity to enroll in Part B via a Special Enrollment Period (SEP). This one-time SEP would run from April 2024 through September 2024. People who enroll via this SEP could be subject to Part B late enrollment premium penalties (also called “premium surcharges”); however, those penalties would be paid by the USPS directly to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.
- SSA is required to share Medicare enrollment information to: help the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and USPS identify the annuitants and family members who may be eligible for the new, one-time SEP; and on an ongoing basis, help OPM ensure that the annuitants and family members who are required to be enrolled in Part B (in order to participate in the new USPS health benefits program) are enrolled in Part B;
- SSA is required to assist the USPS in developing a process for handling Medicare inquiries and in creating an outreach/education program that provides information on Medicare to USPS employees and annuitants; help the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and USPS identify the annuitants and family members who may be eligible for the new, one-time SEP; and on an ongoing basis, help OPM ensure that the annuitants and family members who are required to be enrolled in Part B (in order to participate in the new USPS health benefits program) are enrolled in Part B;
- SSA is required to assist the USPS in developing a process for handling Medicare inquiries and in creating an outreach/education program that provides information on Medicare to USPS employees and annuitants; The NALC at the national level has stated that they will also

be informing eligible members about this SEP and many branches will also be sending out notices to make sure and inform anyone who may qualify for this SEP. Do not delay your sign up since this special offer will not be repeated and expires on September 30th.

Retirement Seminars

If any branch wants to host a retirement seminar you only must contact our Business Agent David Mudd (586-997-9917) and ask him to contact me for a seminar date. Seminars typically last two hours and can help you answer any questions you may have about retirement. I have done recent seminars in Grand Rapids and Lansing and look forward to informing our membership of your options as you approach retirement.

Mike Sheridan.

Director of Retirees



100th Anniversary of Baseball 1969

First Professional Baseball Team Cincinnati Red Stockings

Americans began playing baseball in the early 1800s, as informal teams using local rules. By the mid 1800s, the sport was considered America's "national pastime." In 1869 the Cincinnati Red Stockings became the first salaried team, making them baseball's first professional baseball team. The highest salary was \$1,400 for the season, which is equivalent to \$145,000 in modern wages. They finished their first year with 65 wins and 0 losses, generating a profit of \$1.39.

In 1870 the team moved to Boston, where they became the Boston Red Sox. It wasn't long before Cincinnati had a new baseball team, the Cincinnati Reds.

REPORTS FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE BOARD

JOHN DICK

March 7, 1932. The height of the Great Depression. Unemployment in most parts of Detroit was 70 percent. The autoworkers at the Ford Rouge Plant, as well as all other car factories in the area, had laid off most of their workers. Laid off with no unemployment benefits to live on. If you were lucky, your family could apply for welfare, and hopefully get 15 cents per person a day to live on. Social Security did not exist. Suicides in Detroit increased from 113 in 1927 to 568 in 1931. Working folks were getting evicted by the thousands, and many were literally starving to death. More than one suicide was caused by starvation. Better to hang from a rope than die from hunger.

In desperation, the Unemployed Councils began springing up around the neighborhoods of Detroit. Led by area Communists and Socialists of the time, their mission was to unite the black and white workers of Detroit and make them realize they had a common cause. As workers, they had to create their own plan of action and highlight the plight of the hard trodden masses. It was time for action.

First, they created Eviction Defense teams. When folks were being evicted from their homes and belongings and furniture was being put to the curb, the teams would wait for the movers to leave. The men and women of the Eviction Defense teams would spring into action and move all the belongings back into the home. This back and forth would at least slow down the eviction rate, and sometimes even wear out the evictors.

A large event was finally settled on by the Unemployed Councils of Detroit. It was decided that a demonstration would take place on March 7th, 1932, in the form of a march to the gates of the Ford Rouge Plant. Dubbed the Ford Hunger March, thousands of unemployed workers and their families would tread from the various gathering points in the city to Henry Ford's imposing industrial megaplex. It was a cold March winter day, and these brave souls carried signs proclaiming, *"We want bread not crumbs"* and *"Tax*

the rich and feed the poor." Frank Murphy, the Mayor of Detroit, waved at the crowd as they walked down Woodward and even gave them a Detroit Police escort. But the border of Dearborn was on Miller Rd. just short of the goal.

There, the Detroit Police had no more authority. The marchers were ordered to cease and desist by 50 of Dearborn's finest and Ford's private security force. The marchers did not obey. Firehoses from Dearborn's Fire Department sprayed the marchers and tear gas was fired by the police. Billy clubs came crashing down on heads and bones. One officer fired a gun at the crowd. The unarmed desperately responded by throwing rocks and clumps of frigid ground. Then more shots were fired as the masses scrambled for survival. In the end, four marchers lay dead and 60 were wounded. A fifth died five months later from his sustained injuries. A peaceful action turned into a bloody massacre and not one Dearborn policeman or Ford security goon was ever charged.

A monument finally stands at the site of this infamous, gut-wrenching day of worker's history. It is called the Fort Street Bridge Park and is located along the banks of the Rouge River. I go there and most times cry. The arc of history bends towards justice, and nine years later the Ford Rouge Plant was finally organized by the UAW. Joe York, Kalman Leny, Joe DeBlasio, Curtis Williams, and 16-year-old Joe Bussell, may you Rest in Peace. I know that when a car drives down Miller Road, it is riding in your martyred blood. I pray that one day, your story will be taught to our children in school.

John Dick,

Trustee

TONYA CASEY

As a member of the NALC, there are several easy ways to give to the Letter Carrier Political Fund:

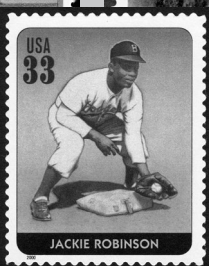
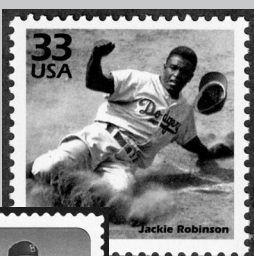
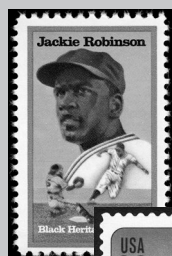
1. Payroll deduction: Contribute automatically, using PostalEase (either online or by phone) to set up an allotment deduction from your USPS paycheck.
2. Direct bank withdrawal: You can authorize the fund to withdraw a monthly electronic contribution directly from your personal checking account
3. Annuity deduction: Retired letter carriers can elect to give monthly via an automatic deduction from your monthly annuity.
4. Family Member Contribution: How immediate family members of NALC members contribute to the Letter Carrier Political Fund using Electronic Fund Transfer or by making a One-Time contribution
5. One-Time Letter Carrier Political Fund Contributions: This form should be used to identify names and members making one-time contributions. If you need help getting signed up, please contact NALC Headquarters at 202-662-2833 for assistance.

You probably seen this picture somewhere before and thought to yourself, why would I want to do that? Or, I need all of my money, let someone else do that! And, that is precisely my point! We need all our money, not just today but when we retire. We need to know that we are safe when we go out to deliver our routes. And, if anyone does threaten us, they will be held accountable for it to the full-

est extent of the law. We also need to have the reassurance that our retirement will be there when we decide to put down our satchels. If you want these things, then you need to reconsider the earlier statement and think of contributing to the Letter Carrier Political Fund. This fund helps us to lobby in the House of Representatives as well as the Senate, on the issues that affect us most. Currently we are looking to pass many bills including the following: H.R. 5995 The Federal Retirement Fairness Act: Postal workers have the option to buy-back their time as a seasonal or temporary employee, for retirement purposes. This legislation will help over 64 percent of our active member nationwide. H.R. 82 Social Security Fairness Act: This bill helps Civil Service Employees/ Retirees with some of the Social Security issues they now face. H.R. 618 Improving Access to Workers Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act: Postal workers will be allowed to receive medical services from a physician assistant and nurse practitioners under this act, which currently only a physician (MD or DO) is allowed to render treatment. H.R. 7629 Protect Our Letter Carriers Act: This bill addresses the rise of violent crime committed against letter carriers as they carry out their duties. There are many bills that the NALC is trying to get passed and this can only happen if we work together. You can elect any amount to contribute, no amount is too small every dollar helps. As always stay informed and stay safe.

Tonya Casey,

Trustee



Jackie Robinson

Jackie Robinson broke the Major League Baseball color barrier in 1947, had a 10-year all-star career, became the first African-American inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, and had his number 42 retired by Major League Baseball in 1997. More important than his accomplishments in baseball are his contributions to racial equality in the United States, of which his many baseball "firsts" are just one part. After his retirement from baseball in 1956, he became very active in the civil rights movement, working with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and on several political campaigns to help break barriers for all people, not just athletes.

Robinson would be honored on stamps three times, first in 1982 as part of the black heritage series, again in 1999 as part of the 1940's Celebrate the Century series and in 2000 as part of the Legends of Baseball series.

ELAINE JONES

Hi, there are millions of homes that are food insecure daily. In those homes are children and older adults that are not able to provide the necessary food needed to sustain their well-being. The cause of the hardship could have come from a number of reason (job loss, homeless, bills, etc.). I'd like to paint you a picture. It's not a picture for enjoyment, but one to make us more aware, and sensitive to others.

I had a job, my employer decided it was economical that he should make some cuts. Well, I became one of those cuts. Now I have a family that I'm the main source of income. The family depends on me for all their daily needs. I've searched for work, no success. Times are hard, food prices have gone up tremendously. I searched and searched for work. I haven't been successful in finding work. It started out that I missed meals in order for family to have something to eat, as time goes on things get rougher, funds have run out. Now my family is not able to have food that is sufficient for the body's daily nutrients.

I have school age children. I'm not able to feed them before school. My children's grades beginning to decline. Fortunately for us their school has a food program free for all children. My worries were less for nine months, then came

summertime. My children are home all day. I'm still unemployed. Food is not my top priority because my spouse is sickly and need medication to survive. Now I must decide which will I choose to provide.

I hope you can clearly visualize this picture with me. This is not my story even though I used me to paint you the picture, but this is the picture for several people. Millions of people in fact.

This scenario is not the only reason for food insecurity for millions of people, but I used it to nudge your emotions. Emotions causes us to react. That's exactly what I'm hoping for. The reaction I'm hoping for is, what can I do to help? Thanks for asking. This is the time of the year we all can collect nonperishable food on the second Saturday in May every year.

NALC Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. Yeah!!!!!! All letter carriers have a great opportunity to help people that have less than us.

Elaine Jones.

Trustee



LETTER CARRIERS' FOOD DRIVE

PUT YOUR NON-PERISHABLE DONATION IN A BAG BY YOUR MAILBOX.
WE'LL DELIVER IT TO A LOCAL FOOD BANK.

National Partners



DARRYL CLAY

Greetings all. There is no better time than NOW to make sure you are registered to VOTE. As we approach yet another contentious election cycle, be prepared to cast a vote for your candidate.

Your vote actually counts.

Here is how the Electoral College works.

When voters cast their ballot for President of the United States, they aren't necessarily voting for that person directly. Instead, they are casting a vote for presidential electors, collectively known as the Electoral College. The elector then votes for the same candidate on their behalf.

In some states, members of the electoral college hold the responsibility of voting in the same way that the majority of their state voted.

This is a confusing element of our voting system, but it has allowed for centuries of successful elections.

The members of the Electoral College are elected by political parties and other groups in each state, typically at a party convention or by the party state committee. In most states, they are elected to cast a vote for the Presidential candidate that the majority of constituents in their state have voted for.

To ensure the views of all individuals of a specific state are represented, the Constitution assigns each state with a number of electors that are equal to the total number of members in the Senate and House of Representatives.

For example, Michigan has 2 Senators and 13 House members, which totals 15 electoral votes. Because the number of House of Representatives varies in each state, the number of electoral votes for that state also changes.

In total, there are 538 electoral votes. In order to be elected President, the candidate must receive 270 of the electoral votes (or a majority).

There was a reason the Founding Fathers created the Electoral College. While it might seem unnecessary or complicated, it ensures that every state has a meaningful voice in the electoral process.

So be ready to cast your vote this November 5, 2024 or consider using an Absentee Ballot. If you do, you can request a ballot up to 75 days before the election by submitting a completed absentee ballot application to your local city clerk. The absentee ballots are available and distributed beginning 40 days before the election.

Another option is early voting. Any registered voter in Michigan has the right to vote early in person at early voting sites for statewide and federal elections. The early voting period takes place for a minimum of 9 consecutive days, ending on the Sunday before an election.

There are plenty of ways to vote. Its so easy and it means so much. Lets get out there and push the Electors to vote for our Candidate.

In solidarity

DARRYL CLAY

Trustee

Source: informationstation.org

Legendary Playing Fields

The Postal Service even let the Stadiums in on the act in 2001 issuing vintage postcards of ten famous baseball fields are displayed on the Baseball's Legendary Playing Fields se-tenant. Descriptive text appears on the back of each stamp.

Detroit's own Tiger Stadium was one of the ten. Featured stadiums include: Ebbets Field (Brooklyn), Tiger Stadium (Detroit), Crosley Field (Cincinnati), Yankee Stadium (New York City), Polo Grounds (New York City), Forbes Field (Pittsburgh), Fenway Park (Boston), Comiskey Park (Chicago), Shibe Park (Philadelphia), and Wrigley Field (Chicago).



RON ZALEWSKI

“All politics is local.” – Tip O’Neill*, former Speaker of the House. We’ve all heard the quip attributed to Speaker O’Neill. It’s true. Politics at its root is about how your government affects your life and home.

Your State Association focuses on the federal portion of politics. It wasn’t always that way – I was present at the national convention that gave the legislative role to State Associations. It makes sense, considering that we all work for the Federal government, that our union would focus on Federal matters. An example would be that the NALC championed the Postal Reform Act, a federal law which likely saved the Postal Service. You won’t find much from the union on state or local issues though, as they really don’t affect our jobs.

Thinking that state and local issues aren’t important to you is a mistake. Although the scope of your union’s involvement in legislation doesn’t include going beyond Federal issues, those issues may have a greater impact on your day-to-day quality of life than Federal issues. Whether or not you can park on your street overnight, which city park will be renovated first, or whether that new business will be permitted to open on the corner are all issues that will impact on you daily and are decided by your elected city council.

One way to inform yourself on the topics important to your municipality is to look up your city on social media. Most every town has a Facebook page. Check on what seems to be important to your neighbors. Read the discussion, decide if that’s a topic that is important to you, and which side you think is reasonable. Right now in my city, the police towing contract has popped up again as a hot button issue. The players’ names are in the posts. Searching the page for those names will give you a fairly comprehensive view of their stance on the issue.

A revealing source of information is the campaign finance page at the Michigan Secretary of State. Taking the players’ names you found searching social media and plugging them into the donation database search will show if someone is spreading their money around and who is taking it. In my case, the owner of the current towing company (and his

family) has an extensive campaign donation history, and his loudest elected advocates seem to have a long record of receiving those contributions. The state election page can be found at michigan.gov/sos/elections and then click from there to get the info you desire.

One last resource I want to mention is the AFL-CIO. The state AFL-CIO creates a list of labor endorsed candidates for statewide office. Your local Central Leadership Council will have a similar list for local and county offices. As a member of the executive board of the Metro-Detroit AFL-CIO, I have participated in the endorsement process for candidates in Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties for several election cycles. Our COPE committee presents recommendations to the board and then after a sometimes spirited debate the board will vote on whether to accept or reject the COPE committee’s recommendation. The process starts in May before the election and when the recommendations are done, miaflcio.vote lists all of the endorsements. You can put your address in the page and get a customized list containing only races in which you vote.

On a final, unrelated note. For years my March article in our branch’s newsletter contained a reminder about motorcycle safety. As a motorcyclist, this is a topic near and dear to me. With the change of weather you’ll find enthusiasts out riding. After a long layoff for winter, drivers aren’t accustomed to looking for motorcycles and riders are out using skills that they haven’t needed for months. The combination unfortunately results in injury and death every year. If you are a driver, look twice and save a life. If you’re a rider, ride sober and use all the gear all the time. Ride safe!

(* Tip O’Neill often used the phrase “All politics is local” but its first use in US politics is believed to be in 1932 when the future Speaker of the US House was 19 and five years before he was first elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives.)

Ron Zalewski,

Trustee



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Introducing The MISALC Challenge Coin

Your MISALC Executive Board has authorized the creation of an **MISALC Challenge Coin** to support the Letter Carrier Political Fund.

What is it?

Challenge coins have a long history and its origins are uncertain, but traditionally it has been used as a symbol that the holder of such a coin is the member of an organization and in some cases may have performed a certain task in order to earn it.

The tradition of a challenge is the most common way to ensure that members are carrying their unit's coin. The rules of a challenge are not always formalized for a unit, and may vary between organizations. The challenge only applies to those members that have been given a coin formally by their unit. The tradition of the coin challenge is meant to be a source of morale and forcing the challenge can cause a reverse effect. The act of challenging is called a "Coin Check" and is usually loudly announced. —The challenge, which can be made at any time, begins with the challenger drawing his/her coin, and slapping or placing the coin on the table or bar. In noisy environments, continuously rapping the challenge coin on a surface may initiate the challenge. (Accidentally dropping a challenge coin is considered to be a deliberate challenge to all present.) Everyone being challenged must immediately produce the coin for their organization and anyone failing to do so must buy a round of drinks for the challenger and everyone else who has their challenge coin. However, should everyone challenged be able to produce their coin, the challenger must buy a round of drinks for the group.

So how do you get one? Pretty simple—talk to your Branch LCPF coordinator, President or any State Association officer and sign up LCPF as a new contributor or if already an existing contributor increase your contribution for at least one year and we will get you your challenge coin! The MISALC Challenge Coin is a two inch, die struck coin, front and reverse images are shown below.

Sign Up For LCPF With Your Branch Today!



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