

MICHIGAN LETTER CARRIER

Voice of the Michigan State Association of Letter Carriers

Volume 35

Issue 1

April 2026



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

RON ZALEWSKI

Not quite a year ago we moved toward a more active State Association. It was a new path for all of us on the board - Director of Retired Members Mike Sheridan was the only person that continued in their previous position with the board, and more than half of us were serving for the first time. Less than half of our Congressional Districts had a Letter Carrier Congressional Liaison. We made no impact on the 2024 elections. It was time for a change.

We now have a LCCL in each of our 13 Congressional Districts, some with two. Thanks to each of you who stepped up for that task. Working on legislative issues can seem daunting. Many of our union colleagues don't want to take on this task. Each of you plays a vital role in furthering our agenda and we can't succeed without support in Congress. Our successes are tough to measure - but the easiest metrics to use are lobbying meetings accomplished and cosponsorships on our legislative issues. We have either had, or have scheduled to happen, lobbying meetings in 11 of Michigan's thirteen districts and we're working on the last holdouts. As a result of those meetings we have 7 Michigan cosponsors on House Resolution 70, 7 cosponsors on HR 1065, 2 on HR 1165, 3 on HR 3170, 2 on HR 3011, and 3 on HR 491. We also had the first Representative in the country to sign on to every one of our legislative priorities - Rep Shri Thanedar in CD-13.

In a legislative arena that wasn't on our agenda a year ago, we have a bill in Lansing to add letter carriers to the list of community servants who are protected by enhanced penalties when victims of crime while on the job. HR 5483 amends MCL 750.81d. Rep Joey Andrews (38th district, St Joseph) introduced the bill at our request and there are 20 additional cosponsors in the Michigan House. This is a developing issue - you can look to social media for updates.

BREAKING NEWS! STOP THE PRESSES! I actually had to have the Editor change the paper, which was already in galleys, to add this. I spoke with State Senator Mallory McMorrow (D-Huntington Woods) on March 9th. The two of us had a 45 minute talk. We discussed her plans in the upcoming election, our legislative priorities at the national level, and Michigan House Bill 5483. I asked her to introduce a companion bill to HB 5483 in the Senate, expecting a month or two process to get there. Nope! 9 days later, on March 18th, Senator McMorrow introduced SB 844, which mirrors HB 5483. Thanks to State Senator Mallory McMorrow and her staff for such a quick turn-around on this important letter carrier issue! (BTW - our Editor, Executive Board member Jennifer Rake, does a great job and she doesn't even fuss at me when I do things like this that make her job more difficult.)

...Continued on page 2

This brings me to the new territory we will all have to explore together. As HB 5483 and SB 844 move through Lansing, we will need to contact our state legislators to influence them. This process mirrors how we work in Washington, but the infrastructure that we have at NALC.org doesn't exist for state level matters. Fortunately, our state legislature does have an easy way to determine who our legislators are and to contact them.

First, go to legislature.mi.gov. On the right side of the main page you'll find clickable links for "Find your Senator" and "Find your Representative." You'll be able to enter your address at each link to find your senator and congressperson. When the legislator comes up there will be a link to their email address and phone number. You can write to them at Sen/Rep NAME, Post Office Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909. Look for sample letters in the Michigan NALC Facebook page.

This year, in addition to staying on top of our legislative agenda, we will be looking to help branches with their LCPF numbers. Over the next several months, we will be contacting Branch Presidents with a request for them to appoint LCPF representatives for their branches and forward those names to the State. We will then, in conjunction with the NBA's office, provide training opportunities for those LCPF representatives who need it. Dates, times, and funding models are to be determined, so no details yet - your branch president will know as soon as we do.

2026 is an election year. We will be involved in the election process. I already have been active through my seat on the Michigan AFL-CIO General Board. By the time you read this, I will have had personal meetings with three of the four viable candidates to replace Senator Peters. We've also had meetings with some of the candidates in Congressional District 10, which is an open seat. Through the AFL-CIO we have also met with candidates for Michigan Secretary of State, Attorney General, and a number of Michigan legislature candidates. Our next newsletter will be devoted to the issues surrounding the 2026 general election. Look for that to arrive in your mailbox around the same time that absentee ballots for the general election hit.

For those who haven't heard yet, we have a new, trial position. Our by-laws have a position for Upper Peninsula Representative which has unfortunately been unfilled for some time. After talking with branch presidents in the northern Lower Peninsula, I found that many of the issues that caused the UP Rep to be added to our bylaws also exist in the northern Lower Peninsula. I decided that we should try having a Northern Lower Peninsula Representative. I appointed Barry Wiley, a retiree from Petoskey Branch 523, to fill that ad-hoc position. We will evaluate the program for another year or so and decide whether or not to continue it. Thanks to Barry for agreeing to help us evaluate the program.

Thanks to everyone who came out to support the rallies on February 22nd. The weather wasn't the best but we still turned out a great group of people. I don't think that Feb 22 was a one-and-done event - I expect to see more demonstrations in the future.

It's never too early to plan for upcoming events. Michigan Senate District 35 special election is May 5rd. Michigan 1's food drive kickoff is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 7. The Food Drive is Saturday, May 9. Look for guest columnist Jim Hunter's article discussing the food drive elsewhere in this issue. Michigan's State-wide primary is August 4. Be sure to vote absentee if you're a NALC national convention delegate - the convention is August 3-7. We will also be marching on Labor Day in Detroit again this year. Labor Day is September 7. We had a great time last year!

Another item that I've had to ask the Editor to wedge in after the galley's were done: earlier this month Treasurer Peter Palmer informed me that he was going to resign from his position on the state board. I'm sorry to see Pete go. He was an invaluable asset to the State Association and was elected by acclamation just last year. Pete's resignation will become effective March 31st.

...Continued on page 3

Based on the authority given me by the Constitution for the Government of State Associations and the Bylaws of the MISALC, I have appointed Nicole Wheatley of South Macomb Branch 4374 to fill the remainder of the Treasurer's term. Sister Wheatley's appointment will become effective when Brother Palmer leaves office and Nicole will be formally installed at our board meeting on April 1st. Thanks to Brother Peter Palmer for his service to the State Association and welcome to Sister Nicole Wheatley.

In closing, I'd like to remind everyone of our media outreach channels. Obviously, twice a year we publish this newsletter. It's our best way to get information to every member of the State Association but the lead time required to assemble, edit, publish, and mail the newsletter makes it impossible for us to share time-critical information here. I write a State article which gets sent to branch presidents and newsletter editors on the 1st of each month. How your branch uses that article is up to them - not every branch has a newsletter and for some branches the timing of the article doesn't work out. We make sure that we have an article for the State Association page in the Postal Record each month as well. The best way to get timely information from the Association is by joining our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/NALC.Michigan. I also have a segment on the Colorado State Association of Letter Carriers webcast which is on Thursdays at 9AM Eastern. I generally speak between 9:45 and 10:00. My friend and colleague COSALC President Richard Byrne is the show host and you can get the weekly link at www.coffeewithlettercarriers.org.

Ron Zalewski,

President

Sponsor Day at Camp Cavell

Wednesday June 24th from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

Arrival time 2:15 PM to 2:30 PM

Join us for fun and games to support kids living with muscular dystrophy

Camp Cavell
3335 Lakeshore Road
Lexington MI 48450
campcavell.org



Deliver
the Cure
with **MDA**

Our Regional LPO

Matt Tanner, Legislative and Political Organizer, Regions 3, 4 (AR & OK), 6 & 8

Tanner, a member of Lansing, MI Branch 122, has served his branch as an alternate steward, steward, food drive coordinator, secretary, vice president and president. He graduated from the Leadership Academy in 2014

Region 6 (Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan)
43456 Mound Road, Suite 501
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
586-997-9917
tanner@nalc.org

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ELAINE JONES

As spring arrives, our State Association is moving forward with energy and purpose. Two key initiatives I'm spearheading this season are: completing our yard sign campaign and preparing to support young people at MDA Summer Camp in June. Both efforts reflect our commitment to visibility and service in the community.

Yard Sign Campaign: Spring Completion Goal

Our yard sign project has been a steady success, thanks to the dedication of our members. The signs cost ten dollars. Five of those dollars will go to MDA in your branch name to receive credit. These signs help raise awareness and strengthen our presence in neighborhoods. They help start conversations about future events we will need in endeavors to make the public aware of the support needed by letter carriers. Placing a sign in your yard allows neighbors to ask questions about the post office, and gives us an opportunity to educate the public about the post office.

We still have signs available, and spring is the ideal time to finish distributing and selling the remaining inventory. With more people outdoors, visibility is at its highest. Every sign placed helps us reach new supporters and reinforces the mission we stand behind.

If you haven't yet picked up a sign—or if you know someone who would proudly display one, now is the perfect time to get involved. If you need signs you can contact me at Branch 1. Your participation helps us close out this campaign strong and ensures we make the most of the momentum we've built so far.

Looking ahead, we are also preparing for one of the most meaningful events of the year: MDA Summer Camp. This camp provides an unforgettable week for children and teens living with neuromuscular diseases. It's a place where they can build friendships, try new activities, and enjoy a sense of independence in a supportive environment.

To make this experience possible, the camp relies on dedicated volunteers. Our Association is working to increase participation this year, and we are encouraging more members to step forward. Whether you've volunteered before or are considering it for the first time, your involvement can make a life-changing difference for a young person. I will get out information to the branches as soon as I get updated information from MDA.

Volunteers often describe the week as one of the most rewarding experiences they've ever had. The joy, resilience, and spirit of the campers leave a lasting impact on everyone involved, and many return year after year because of the meaningful connections they form.

Both the yard sign initiative and the MDA camp volunteer effort highlight the heart of our Association: service, visibility, and public connection. By completing our sign campaign this spring and stepping up to support MDA campers in June, we continue to strengthen our mission and expand our reach.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far. Together, we're building momentum for a meaningful and successful season. I look forward to working with each and every one of you.

Elaine Jones,

Vice-President

SECRETARY'S REPORT

MORGAN HARRINGTON

Hello Michiganders!

As your MISALC Secretary, I have been thoroughly enjoying the process of organizing paperwork over the past couple of months. Due to the nature of passing documents from one person to another, our paperwork had become quite disorganized. I have dedicated a significant amount of time to organizing the financial documents, meeting minutes, and correspondence from previous years. This effort aims to streamline our operations and make the transition smoother for my eventual successor—though that day is not today! Anyone who knows me, knows my love of paperwork and organization, so this truly has been a fun task for me.

Additionally, I have compiled all the information regarding our Letter Carrier Congressional Liaisons (LCCLs) into one easily accessible sheet. When this new board convened, there was no record of who the LCCLs were, their contact information, or who had received training. I have rectified this situation. I have also prepared a comprehensive list of all members of Congress from Michigan, along with their districts and contact information, so that all of our LCCLs can access it with just a simple request to myself, the Director of Education John Dick or President Zalewski.

Beyond my regular clerical duties, I have been working with State President Zalewski and the Michigan AFL-CIO to receive media training. This training has equipped me to speak to news outlets about our mission, and I was able to put this training into practice at the rally in Kalamazoo on February 22. I have been actively spreading the word about any “call to action” from the NALC through emails, texts, and social media posts. I anticipate that there will be many such calls in the coming years.

Recently, President Zalewski collaborated with a local Michigan House Representative to introduce a bill aimed at protecting Letter Carriers while they are on duty. We will be closely monitoring its progress through local legislation. I have already provided all of our LCCLs with information about their local districts in Michigan and how to find contact information so we can ensure co-sponsorship when this bill comes up for a vote. Working with state legislators is a new territory for us, but I am committed to providing everyone with the information they need to make this endeavor successful.

In the coming year, I hope to work closely with the branches and continue to advance our legislative and political agenda for the betterment of our membership. Although I am unsure how this will unfold in my role as secretary, I am ready and willing to assist the membership and the board in any way necessary—whether that means providing information, spreading the word about calls to action, or speaking to branches. I am here to support our Michigan Members in any way they need.

Below is my Annual Report of Membership for MISALC for 2025

Based on the December 2025 information received from the National Secretary Treasurer- membership department, MISALC has:

7,410 Active Members; 4,241 Retired Members; 988 of those Retirees are Life members, for a total of 11,551 members. Michigan currently has 45 Branches and there were no recorded mergers for 2025.

Morgan Harrington,

Secretary

Michigan State Association of Letter Carriers

Profit & Loss

January through December 2025

Accrual Basis

Jan - Dec 25

ORDINARY INCOME/EXPENSE

Income

150 · NALC Dues	101,525.87
400 · State Convention	
410 · StateConvGolf	1,505.08
400 · State Convention - Other	<u>27,430.00</u>
Total 400 · State Convention	28,935.08
800 · Refunds	396.87
900 · State Board Meetings	
820 · Board member reimbursement	<u>374.14</u>
Total 900 · State Board Meetings	<u>374.14</u>

TOTAL INCOME 131,231.96

EXPENSE

3000 · Michigan State Convention	
3100 · SC Golf Outing	1,173.14
3300 · MISALC Committee	2,100.00
3000 · Michigan State Convention - Other	<u>44,253.72</u>
Total 3000 · Michigan State Convention	47,526.86
6140 · Contributions	500.00
6160 · Dues and Subscriptions	3,332.80
6180 · Insurance	326.00
6240 · Miscellaneous	2,728.85
6250 · Postage and Delivery	510.94
6260 · Printing and Reproduction	32,842.71
6340 · Telephone	456.37
6350 · Meals and Entertainment	1,773.02
6380 · Travel	
6381 · Mileage	1,609.23
6382 · Hotel	682.64
6380 · Travel - Other	<u>658.99</u>
Total 6380 · Travel	2,950.86
6560 · Payroll Expenses	72,685.99
6770 · Supplies	
6771 · storage unit	600.00
6790 · Office	2,363.30
6770 · Supplies - Other	<u>1,810.26</u>
Total 6770 · Supplies	4,773.56
7110 · MDA camp	
MDA	1,625.00
MDA SUPPLIES	<u>1,261.40</u>
Total 7110 · MDA camp	<u>2,886.40</u>
Total Expense	<u>173,294.36</u>

NET ORDINARY INCOME -42,062.40

Other Income/Expense

Other Expense

8010 · Other Expenses	
8011 · Unknown at time of entry	3,909.27
8010 · Other Expenses - Other	<u>1,001.42</u>
Total 8010 · Other Expenses	<u>4,910.69</u>

Total Other Expense 4,910.69

Net Other Income -4,910.69

NET INCOME -46,973.09

Publisher's Note: Because of the biennial schedule of the MISALC convention, the State Association generally shows a negative cashflow in odd years and a positive cashflow in even years.

Michigan State Association of Letter Carriers
Balance Sheet
 As of December 31, 2025

Dec 31, 25

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Comerica Checking Account	142,671.89
Total Checking/Savings	142,671.89
Total Current Assets	142,671.89
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>142,671.89</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
1100 - Payroll Liabilities	288.60
Total Other Current Liabilities	288.60
Total Current Liabilities	288.60
Total Liabilities	288.60
Equity	
1200 - Opening Bal Equity	35,297.20
1300 - Retained Earnings	154,059.18
Net Income	-46,973.09
Total Equity	<u>142,383.29</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>142,671.89</u>

Solidarity in the Streets!


Friday, May 1, 2026

Location: Roosevelt Park

2231 Michigan Ave, Detroit, MI 48216

Rally Begins: 4:00 PM

Program & Speakers: 4:30 PM





Michigan Labor History Society

Eugene V. Debs Memorial Kazoo Night

Comerica Park at 6:40 PM

Get tickets at:

<https://www.gofevo.com/event/Michiganlabor76>




REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF RETIREES

MIKE SHERIDAN

I have been busy the last few weeks working for Headquarters retirement department handling hundreds of calls about their 1099R's and their NAA (Notice of Annuity Adjustment). OPM is attempting to send out these notifications by email only and yet no one has agreed to this.

When I accessed my online account, I discovered that the default setting was to get these by email. I had to make a change to receive the 1099R by US Mail. Anyone trying to reach OPM at 888-767-6738 at any hour of the day has been unable to get through.

I am encouraging everyone who calls in to call your congressional representative and tell them you never agreed to receive these forms by email and that when you try to call "our" federal agency (OPM) the Office of Personnel Management no one can get through to them. This is the second complaint for our elected officials and maybe if they get enough phone calls, we can initiate some action.

The message to send is completed by sending an email to retire@opm.gov and you will need to include your CSA (Civil Service Annuity) number as well as your name, address, and phone number and the explanation that you do not have email access, have never created a "Login.gov" account and would like to receive ALL future 1099R's and NAAs via US Mail. Let's restore these notifications where they belong with our US Postal Service!

Our annual COLA for this year amounted to 2.8% for CSRS and 2.0% for FERS retirees. We must urge Congress to pass the Equal Cola Act (HR 491 and S624) so that our FERS retirees will make the same cola as their CSRS brothers and sisters. We are equally affected by the same inflation and should be compensated the same for said inflation. Make the call and visit the NALC Legislative Action Center to easily notify your representatives by phone, by email, or by phone call.

Mike Sheridan

Director of Retirees

PROTECT OUR LETTER CARRIERS ACT (H.R.1065/S.463)

To deter crimes and assaults against letter carriers by securing keys and collection boxes, directing U.S. attorney offices to prioritize cases involving assaults against letter carriers, and strengthening sentencing guidelines for those found guilty of these crimes.

**Introduced by Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Greg Landsman (D-OH) and
Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Josh Hawley (R-MO)**

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

JOHN DICK

PLAN THE WORK AND WORK THE PLAN

A wise man many years ago taught me that saying. He was a very successful executive at one of the Big Three auto companies. I have carried those words with me as I stumble through my union career as a NALC member and officer. Six simple words. I have found them to be the key to any project that I have worked on.

The MISALC had a plan and it seems to be coming to fruition. I was tasked with reviving the LCCL (Letter Carrier Congressional Liaison) program in the state of Michigan. With the help and guidance of MISALC President Zalewski, I am proud to make two announcements regarding this program. First, we have developed a unique one on one training for all of our LCCLs. I was never satisfied with the traditional PowerPoint presentation that is typical with most trainings. Each Michigan Congressional district has its own particular characteristics, and each representative has their own personality. This hands-on approach in our new two-to-three-hour training addresses those issues.

Secondly, I am extremely proud to make this announcement: The MISALC now has a trained LCCL in all thirteen Michigan Congressional districts. The expansive Michigan 1 has two, one for the Upper Peninsula and one for the northern Lower Peninsula. We also hope to be adding some additional back-up LCCLs in some of our districts. If you are interested in becoming a trained LCCL, let President Zalewski or myself know.

We now have six NALC priority pieces of legislation with the new addition of HR 491 (The Equal Cola Act.) Shri Thanedar, MI 13th District rep, has co-sponsored all six! Thank you to 13th District LCCL, President Zalewski, for making that happen. We have seven other Michigan Congressional House reps that have co-sponsored from one to three of the NALC's six legislative priorities. We have five reps that have not even signed onto one. We have a lot of work to do in 2026. Plan the work and work the plan. That is what the MISALC will continue to do as we make our way to the 2026 mid-term elections. Peace and Solidarity to all.

John Dick

Director of Education

FEDERAL RETIREMENT FAIRNESS ACT (H.R. 1522)

Would allow certain federal employees to make catch-up retirement contributions for time spent as non-career employees after Dec. 31, 1988, making such time creditable service under the Federal Employees Retirement System. This includes letter carriers who served as casuals, transitional employees and city carrier assistants.

Introduced by Reps. Gerry Connolly (D-VA), Nikki Budzinski (D-IL),
David Valadao (R-CA), and Don Bacon (R-NE)

2026 MISALC LETTER CARRIER CONGRESSIONAL LIASIONS

DISTRICT 1 (JACK BERGMAN)- Leah Parrott, Escanaba BR. 438

Barry Wiley Petoskey BR. 523

DISTRICT 2 (JOHN MOOLENAAR)- Careese O'Hearon, Muskegon BR. 13

DISTRICT 3 (HILLARY SCHOLTEN)- Olivia Hines, Muskegon BR. 13

DISTRICT 4 (BILL HUIZENGA)- Shane Gritzmaker, SW Michigan BR. 246

DISTRICT 5 (TIM WALBERG)- Josh Davis, Jackson BR. 232

DISTRICT 6 (DEBBIE DINGELL)- Jerry Cerpa, SE Michigan BR. 2184

DISTRICT 7 (TOM BARRETT)- Angel Garcia, Lansing BR. 122

DISTRICT 8 (KRISTEN MCDONALD RIVET)- Andy Taylor, Saginaw BR. 74

DISTRICT 9 (LISA MCCLAIN)- Mike Sheridan, South Macomb BR. 4374

DISTRICT 10 (JOHN JAMES)- Mike Neveau, South Macomb BR. 4374

DISTRICT 11 (HALEY STEVENS)- John Dick, Royal Oak Merged BR. 3126

DISTRICT 12 (RASHIDA TLAIB)- Patricia Linna, SE Michigan BR. 2184

DISTRICT 13 (SHRI THANEDAR)- Ron Zalewski, South Macomb BR. 4374

NALC Fact
Sheets
National Association of Letter Carriers



nalc.org



Special shout out and a big Thank You to all these folks and the other members who have offered assistance in the formation of the 2026 MISALC LCCL program: **Liz Bowman**- Bay City BR. 187, **Doug Peters**- Lansing BR. 122, **Ashley Seper**- SE Michigan BR. 2184, and **Paul Roznoski**- Royal Oak Merged BR. 3126.

3 Ways to give to the LCPF

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 funds 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.

NALC.org or see your local union Leadership!

USPS SHIPPING EQUITY ACT (H.R.3011)

To amend Title 18, United States Code, and Title 39, United States Code, to provide the United States Postal Service the authority to mail alcoholic beverages, and for other purposes.

Introduced by Reps. Dan Newhouse (R-WA) and Suhas Subramanyam (D-VA)

REPORTS FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE BOARD

**TONYA CASEY
CHAIRPERSON**

One could expect there to be a natural transition period needed while the MISALC Board is coming together as a new mix of people. I want to ensure you, that it has taken us no time to see what our focus is... and that's you. WE all want to do our part in maintaining our union: educating where we can and working to build a political and legislative support system for our letter carriers.

At our first Board Meeting, we conducted it in two parts. The first part, the Board of Trustees and the Treasurer met and conducted the audit verifying that: state funds were properly managed, documented and used solely for the members benefits. Checking financial records, including bank statements, receipts, and expenditures. Making sure that all funds and assets were used legitimately.

While reviewing these documents the trustees decided that there was a need to improve the policies, on what should qualify as proper documentation for financial transactions such as: Lost Time, Mileage, and Voucher Approval. We discussed what should be classified as Per Diem vs Actual Expenses, and what type of policies we would like to see enacted, to protect against financial mismanagement.

During our audit we found no misuse of state funds; but wanted to see more supporting documentation.

The second part of the Board Meeting, took place the next day where we discussed our findings with the entire Executive Board and presented our recommendations of updating these policies. Which was accepted and agreed upon; because systems need updating with solutions not excuses.

The State board exist to build positive relationships among carriers as well as our political leaders. These relationships are accomplished though Letter Carrier Congressional Liaison (LCCLs). These are union members appointed by the state association, who maintain direct, ongoing relationships with a specific member of the U.S. House or Senate and their staff, within that carriers home district. Representing and advocating for legislation that impacts the Postal Service. If this is something you may be interested in doing, please reach out and let us know.

Until next time stay safe and informed,

Tonya Casey



ELIZABETH BAYS

Happy 2026! I hope this publication finds everyone well. There are a couple of things I would like to address: safety and the Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF). Both of these issues are extremely important for different reasons.

Safety is first and foremost for all letter carriers. Management preaches that safety is paramount, yet many carriers feel this is just lip service. Management gives service talks, sends RIMS messages, and displays posters throughout the buildings regarding safety, but too often that's where it ends. There are agreed-upon contract provisions regarding safety in the National Agreement (Article 14), the ELM (Chapter 8), handbooks EL-801, EL-802, and EL-809.

Here in the Michigan-1 district, there are a few issues demonstrating why carriers don't believe the Postal Service's Guiding Principle 'Employees are our most valued resource. Our employees must be provided a safe and healthful workplace.' (ELM 811.23.a)

- Snow removal for postal parking lots - Every single parking lot I have seen has been deplorable. The contractors make one pass, leaving excess snow, ice, and slush behind for carriers to traverse.
- Vehicles - No heat, exhaust leaks, inoperative lighting (brake, hazard, turn signal, and reverse lights), inoperative windshield wipers, and inadequate tire tread. When these vehicles are written up, they are often given to another employee. The exhaust leaks reported, carriers are told to drive with the windows down (despite the temperature being below freezing). Management is encouraging carriers to continue driving vehicles with reported issues because no replacements are available. Carriers are being told VMF is no longer allowed to order parts.
- Comfort stops to warm up - Management allegedly is not allowed to schedule NS Day ODL carriers in many offices because the district feels they can cover open assignments through pivoting. Carriers are stressed over meeting their reporting expectations and skipping breaks and comfort stops.
- Accidents - Carriers are given pivots despite driving/walking conditions and weather conditions.

At the end of the day, carriers are responsible for their own safety. I encourage anyone who feels there is a hazard/safety concern to complete PS Form 1767 (Report of Hazard, Unsafe Condition or Practice) and submit it to their immediate supervisor. PS Form 1767 is used to report hazards/unsafe conditions not only at the post office but also on routes. Management must respond to a properly submitted PS Form 1767 and provide a copy to the employee detailing the steps being taken to abate the hazard/unsafe condition. The instructions are clearly defined on the back of the PS Form 1767.

We all know we are to work diligently, but we are also required to work safely. Inform management by completing PS Form 3996 if you are of the opinion that you will need additional time to complete your assignment, or send a message on your scanner to inform management and have management advise you on what they want you to do. If you need to take comfort stops, then take them, but don't abuse them. Take it slow in ice and snow; don't rush while driving or walking. If you need additional time because of driving or walking conditions, inform management and have them advise you on how to proceed.

You are the Postal Service's most valuable resource! Please report hazards and unsafe conditions, not just for your own safety but for your coworkers as well. The Postal Service repeatedly expresses its concern for our safety. Let's start holding them to it! There isn't a single delivery that is worth jeopardizing your safety. Talk to your steward or a branch officer if you are experiencing workplace safety issues.

...continued on page 13

Lastly, the Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF). For those of you who don't know, the Postal Service, as a government agency, is very political. The only thing our collective bargaining agreement covers is our wages, hours, and working conditions. Everything else is controlled through acts of Congress. Simple changes, such as allowing the Postal Service to deliver tobacco and alcohol, require an act of Congress. Changing a law that was created due to the prohibition of moving these items across state lines. These laws haven't been enforced in decades, however until Congress addresses this, the Postal Service is prohibited from offering these services

Changes in our federal benefits are controlled by acts of Congress. On any given day, you can hear or read about new legislation being proposed that would affect federal employees. Letter carriers are Federal employees. We have to be more vigilant and proactive in protecting our benefits. We can do that by taking action, contacting our Representatives, and contributing to the LCPF. The Letter Carrier Political Fund identifies and contributes to candidates who support issues important to letter carriers, and provides letter carriers with the opportunity to build electoral and legislative power required to ensure decisions that impact our lives are made with our best interests in mind, such as the Federal Retirement Fairness Act (H.R. 1522). This legislation would allow letter carriers to purchase retirement credit for time spent in non-career positions, providing greater retirement security. Union dues are not used, and cannot be used, for political contributions that would generate revenue for these products.

The February 2026 Postal Record includes a list of all LCPF contributions detailed by state and branch. If you haven't done so, take a look at pages 56-59. Michigan letter carrier participation is at 10.58%. Approximately 10 of every 100 city carriers here in Michigan contribute to LCPF.

In Unionism,

Elizabeth Bays



Need assistance signing up branch members for the Letter Carrier Political Fund?

Let us help!

MISALC Officer's are eagerly awaiting an invitation to your General Membership Meeting to help.

Contact President Zalewski at 734-999-8080 or MISALC.org

IMPROVING ACCESS TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION FOR INJURED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ACT (H.R.3170)

Would expand the role of nurse practitioners and physician assistants to allow them to treat injured federal workers under the federal workers' compensation program.

Introduced by Reps. Tim Walberg (R-MI) and Joe Courtney (D-CT)

JENNIFER RAKE

Happy New Year to my fellow union brothers and sisters, I hope this year is off to a happy and healthy start for everyone. As we move closer to another political voting season I would like to impress upon the importance of the Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF) and our job security as letter Carriers. Contributions to LCPF are crucial in getting our message to Congress on bills we would like to see established into Legislation.

Many are unaware of the impact legislation can have over the USPS in general and it is one of the responsibilities of the State Association to make sure our members are made aware and kept informed of the legislative issues we are fighting for.

We are working on getting more House co-sponsors to be able to advance several bills to a vote on the house floor. Included in this newsletter are the talking points of those bills and a QR code you can scan on your phone to get the fact sheets on each of the bills we are trying to get movement on. Please take a moment to read over them, as each of them impacts all of us as Letter Carriers in some capacity.

Job security and safety are huge hurdles we are all striving to solve and LCPF is a major factor in getting to those goals. LCPF is bipartisan; regardless of political affiliation LCPF is used for anyone who supports our Letter Carriers and the vital legislation we need to prosper.

Contributions are easy to set up, either via an allotment or checking account and it doesn't have to break the bank. Contact your local Branch and they can also help you set up your contribution. Working together and getting legislation passed is how we will remain a viable company in the future.

In solidarity,

Jennifer Rake

ANTI-PRIVATIZATION RESOLUTION (H.RES. 70/S.RES 147)

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should take all appropriate measures to ensure that the United States Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the federal government and is not subject to privatization.

Introduced by Reps. Stephen Lynch (D-MA) and Nick LaLota (R-NY), and Sens. Gary Peters (D-MI), Dan Sullivan (R-AK), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Susan Collins (R-ME), Thom Tillis (R-NC) and Maggie Hassan (D-NH)

By making a contribution to the Letter Carrier Political Fund, you are doing so voluntarily with the understanding that your contribution is not a condition of membership in the National Association of Letter Carriers or of employment by the United States Postal Service, nor is it part of union dues. You have a right to refuse to contribute without any reprisal. Any guideline amounts are merely suggestions, and you may contribute more or less than the guidelines suggest and the union will not favor or disadvantage you by reason of the amount of your contribution or your decision not to contribute. The Letter Carrier Political Fund will use the money it receives to contribute to candidates for federal office and undertake other political spending as permitted by law. Your selection shall remain in full force and effect until cancelled. Contributions to the Letter Carrier Political Fund are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. Federal law prohibits the Letter Carrier Political Fund from soliciting contributions from individuals who are not NALC members, executive administration staff or their families. Any contribution received from such an individual will be refunded to that contributor. Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, name of employer and occupation of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year.

BENJAMIN DIXON

Advocating for a Strong Postal Future

Hello fellow union members. As proud member of the Michigan State Association of Letter Carriers, I am actively working to secure national-level support for legislation that protects and strengthens the United States Postal Service. The Postal Service is more than a delivery network—it is a vital public institution that connects communities, supports commerce, and ensures universal service to every address in America.

In today's evolving economic and legislative environment, it is critical that policymakers understand both the operational realities and the long-term needs of the Postal Service. To that end, we all have to be directly in contact with members of the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives to advocate for bipartisan support of bills designed to secure the Postal Service's financial stability and operational future.

My outreach efforts focus on getting up and speaking at each and every meeting reminding our members of pending legislation and joining our political action fund.

The future of the Postal Service depends on informed leadership and sustained advocacy. I remain dedicated to engaging national policymakers, advancing responsible legislation, and championing a strong, resilient Postal Service for the American public.

Benjamin Dixon

OHIO WALKER

What is an HBR?

Article 4 of the NALC National Constitution requires all subordinate branches to have an elective office of Health Benefits Representative.

Article 6 section 8 goes on to describe the duties of an HBR as:

Health Benefits Representative Sec. 8. The Health Benefits Representative shall perform such duties as the Constitution and Laws of the National Association of Letter Carriers Health Benefit Plan require. They shall, whenever requested by the President, and at the end of their term, make a report showing their receipts, disbursements and amount of money on hand; deliver their books, papers and money to their successor in office, when installed; and to insure the faithful performance of their duties, they shall be required to furnish a bond in such sum as the Branch may direct.

Still not very illuminating, I find the instillation speech gets a little closer, if a little grandiose:

Your duties are of such a nature as to almost appear to be a connecting link between life and death, to keep a record of the insured member from birth, and an accurate account with them and the Director of Life Insurance and the Director of Health Insurance, so that should any of them be summoned hence, or be disabled while you hold your office, those left dependent upon them will have no cause to complain.

...continued on page 16

The Health Plan keeps as a guiding principles in Section 1 and 2:

To unite all letter carriers who are members in good standing in the National Association of Letter Carriers and to establish Health Benefit Funds from which pay contributing members holding Health Benefit Certificates who become lawfully entitled thereto, certain benefits as indemnity against loss resulting from the expense of hospital, surgical and other medical expense due to bodily injuries or sickness of the member and enrolled dependent members of their family, and from which to defray the necessary running expenses of the Plan.

What does the HBR do for your branch?

If you ask the Health Plan, it is to promote the NALC Health Plan (and only ours).

This can be done through several ways:

- Actively talking to letter carriers
- Faithfully attending branch meetings and giving a report about the Plan
- Writing articles in branch and/or state newsletters
- Utilizing the contractual right to discuss the Plan under Article 17.6
- Having a booth at local health fairs or branch events

Perhaps, because of my start as steward in my office, I see the HBR role expanded from merely promotion. It is one that requires an HBR to act as a bridge to the Plan and an advocate on behalf of the member, by helping to them navigate a complicated system to achieve the best outcomes possible. It requires being able to break down legalese that is not often intuitive. HBRs will often crunch the numbers with a member or decode an Explanation of Benefits.

How can MISALC be of service to an HBR?

Being an HBR can often feel a little like you are on an island. I feel I have gotten my head around a new change when I can break it down to a member in plain language. I have had the extreme advantage and privilege of being able to work with and rely on my mentor in the HBR role, John Dick.

Recently, John and I have been stumped on how to best communicate to our members a new change in the prescription drug coverage. We were both impressed by the breakdown of the change coming from Saginaw's HBR and agreed to start pushing it out as is (I will be liberally stealing it for my next branch newsletter).

The bylaws of MISALC do not currently provide for an office of HBR statewide. However, I have no problem putting carts before horses if a need might be there. I am proposing on an ad-hoc basis to developing a network of Michigan's HBRs that can collaborate, share strategies & successes.

I would like to be able as a group of seasoned veteran HBRs grow to support branches that have need. For example, some branches not been able to send their HBR to the Plan's seminar and may not be as plugged in to the wild ride it has been for HBR the last few years, or have recently elected a new HBR that needs guidance on how to prepare and get through their first open season.

Kevin "Ohio" Walker

STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE

MAY 9, 2026

The largest single-day food drive in the country, is quickly approaching. Food banks and pantries across Michigan count on letter carriers to help replenish the shelves. With just a few weeks to go, there are some important deadlines. It is important for branches to register. Registration requires only a few minutes. Branch presidents or a branch president designated food drive coordinator can register the branch. Simply log into the Members Only portal on nalc.org, select the "Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive" icon, enter the requested information listed under each tab, and click "Complete Registration."

The registration deadline to receive postcards is March 20. Branches that register after the deadline will not be guaranteed to receive postcards. Branch registration will remain open without the postcard guarantee until April 17. If a branch has any questions, my contact information is at "nalc.org/toolkit," scroll to, "Important information for coordinators," list of regional and state coordinators.

Once the branch is registered, the food drive coordinator should visit nalc.org/toolkit to review the Coordinator's Manual and order merchandise. Wearing food drive T-shirts; putting out lawn signs; hanging posters and flyers inside banks, apartment complexes, places of worship or grocery stores; working with apartment complexes and HOAs to send out community emails and/or posting reminders; and sharing information on social media will help gain community support and improve results.

Letter carriers, postal customers and volunteers can order merchandise from the Stamp Out Hunger Store online (order deadline April 3) Frank Doolittle Company (order deadline April 26) by visiting nalc.org/toolkit.

Food drive posters can be ordered by branch presidents or coordinators via the food drive database located on the Members Only portal. All poster orders with payment must be received at NALC Headquarters by April 17. Orders received after the deadline will not be guaranteed delivery prior to the food drive.

More information about the Stamp Out Hunger food drive can be found online at nalc.org/food.

"Thank you for continuing the fight to Stamp Out Hunger."

James Hunter

Region 6 Food Drive Coordinator Assistant

Did you know?

The NALC's "Stamp Out Hunger" Food Drive is the largest one-day food collection effort in the U.S.

The Food Drive has been held annually on the second Saturday in May since 1993.

Initiated to restock food banks during summer, it has collected over 1.94 billion pounds of food to date.



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





NALC PRIORITY LEGISLATION

ANTI-PRIVATIZATION RESOLUTION (H.RES. 70/S.RES 147)

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should take all appropriate measures to ensure that the United States Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the federal government and is not subject to privatization.

Introduced by Reps. Stephen Lynch (D-MA) and Nick LaLota (R-NY), and Sens. Gary Peters (D-MI), Dan Sullivan (R-AK), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Susan Collins (R-ME), Thom Tillis (R-NC) and Maggie Hassan (D-NH)

PROTECT OUR LETTER CARRIERS ACT (H.R.1065/S.463)

To deter crimes and assaults against letter carriers by securing keys and collection boxes, directing U.S. attorney offices to prioritize cases involving assaults against letter carriers, and strengthening sentencing guidelines for those found guilty of these crimes.

Introduced by Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Greg Landsman (D-OH) and Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Josh Hawley (R-MO)

FEDERAL RETIREMENT FAIRNESS ACT (H.R.1522)

Would allow certain federal employees to make catch-up retirement contributions for time spent as non-career employees after Dec. 31, 1988, making such time creditable service under the Federal Employees Retirement System. This includes letter carriers who served as casuals, transitional employees and city carrier assistants.

Introduced by Reps. Gerry Connolly (D-VA), Nikki Budzinski (D-IL), David Valadao (R-CA), and Don Bacon (R-NE)

IMPROVING ACCESS TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION FOR INJURED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ACT (H.R.3170)

Would expand the role of nurse practitioners and physician assistants to allow them to treat injured federal workers under the federal workers' compensation program.

Introduced by Reps. Tim Walberg (R-MI) and Joe Courtney (D-CT)

USPS SHIPPING EQUITY ACT (H.R.3011)

To amend Title 18, United States Code, and Title 39, United States Code, to provide the United States Postal Service the authority to mail alcoholic beverages, and for other purposes.

Introduced by Reps. Dan Newhouse (R-WA) and Suhas Subramanyam (D-VA)



Michigan State Association of Letter Carriers
Affiliated With
The American Federation of Labor - Congress of Industrial Organizations

MICHIGAN HOUSE BILL 5483 of 2026
MICHIGAN SENATE BILL 844 of 2026

Michigan HB 5483 / SB 844 will add subsection 11 to MCL 750.81d:

“(xi) A letter carrier employed by or under contract with the United States Postal Service.”

HB 5483 / SB 844 will also clean up some pronoun issues in MCL 750.81d and corrects grammar/spelling/capitalization to modern standards.

MCL 750.81d provides enhances penalties for assaulting, battering, resisting, or obstructing certain public servants while in the performance of their duties.

HB 5483 was introduced by Representative Joey Andrews (D–St Joseph) joined by:

Noah Arbit (D–West Bloomfield)	Donavan McKinney (D–Detroit)
Julie Brixie (D–Okemos)	Denise Mentzer (D–Mt Clemens)
Brenda Carter (D–Pontiac)	Reggie Miller (D–Van Buren Twp)
Jennifer Conlin (D–Ann Arbor)	Tonya Myers–Phillips (D–Detroit)
Kimberly Edwards (D–Eastpointe)	Phil Skaggs (D–East Grand Rapids)
Alabas Farhat (D–Dearborn)	Penelope Tsernoglou (D–St Johns)
John Fitzgerald (D–Wyoming)	Regina Weiss (D–Oak Park)
Kara Hope (D–Delhi Twp)	Jimmy Wilson (D–Ypsilanti)
Matt Koleszar (D–Plymouth)	Angela Witwer (D–Delta Twp)
Sharon MacDonell (D–Royal Oak)	Steven Wooden (D–Grand Rapids)
Jasper Martus (D–Flushing)	

SB 844 was introduced by Senator Mallory McMorrow (D–Huntington Woods) and as of yet is without cosponsors.

The text of Michigan House Bill 5483 can be found at:
<https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Bills/Bill?ObjectName=2026-HB-5483>

The text of Michigan Senate Bill 844 can be found at:
<https://legislature.mi.gov/Bills/Bill?ObjectName=2026-SB-0844>

The current text of MCL 750.81d can be found at:
<https://www.michiganlegalcenter.com/mcl-%C2%A7-750-81d-assaulting-battering-resisting-obstructing-opposing-person-performing-duty-felony/>

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