

MICHIGAN LETTER CARRIER

Voice of the Michigan State Association of Letter Carriers

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

CARL E BLASSINGAME, JR.

As I sit in front of my laptop and wonder what to write, I ask myself what can I say about the situation in Washington that would be positive and encouraging to our members. It has become a challenge to get our members to understand that with the stroke of a pen, Congress can change our lives by changing our benefits. The role of the Michigan State Association of Letter Carriers (MISALC) since 2006 is to educate our membership about legislation that affects the Postal Service. It is my hope that by reaching out to every Michigan member with this newsletter, we will educate our Brothers and Sisters and express the importance of getting involved. Get involved, not only to save the Postal Service, but to protect our jobs and retirement!

There are politicians in Washington that are hell bent on making our way of life difficult anyway they can. It is our responsibility as union members to be aware of the changes that are taking place in Washington, changes that will affect the Postal Service and our benefits and wages. We cannot depend on our union leaders or the person next to us at work to stay informed and act when it is necessary. The stakes are too high and the end result could be devastating to our future and our way of life.

Our National President, Fred Rolando has made it easy for us to research the NALC's position on legislation that concerns our jobs by going to NALC.org. You may also download the NALC App to your phone or tablet. In this app, you are able to research your congressional representative in the House and Senate based on where you live. You are also able to find contract information that will help you on the workroom floor. Everything you need will be in the palm of your hand. How easy is that?!

Now lets talk about NALC legislation that you should be paying attention to:

House Resolutions

HR15 Calls on Congress and the Postal Service to take all steps to continue six-day delivery

HR31 Calls for the USPS to restore service standards to what they were before July 1, 2012

HR 28 Protecting the Door to Door Delivery for business and residential customers

HR 756 the Postal Reform Act of 2017

For more information on these House Resolutions go to NALC.org

I do understand that politics is not a topic that interests everyone but we must become involved so we can continue to enjoy the fruits of our labor and retire with a decent livable income. We are all working toward that “good retirement” one day. I’ll say it again, **we cannot sit back and allow Washington to strip away all we have worked for with the stroke of a pen.** Don’t wait until its too late, **start fighting for what is ours, NOW!** Get involved to keep your company, your benefits and your retirement. **Download the NALC app** now and become an informed member. **Become an e-activist on NALC.org** and have this important information sent directly to your email account. Go to your branch meetings and discuss this information with your union leaders. Discuss what it is we need to do to save our benefits! **Now is the time to put aside our political differences and focus on what we have in common, our job!**

We face an uphill battle with this current congress, who have made it clear that they have an anti-labor agenda. Here is a list of their anti-labor efforts.

1. **Shrinking the federal workforce:** Promises to immediately reduce the size of the federal workforce by implementing a hiring freeze. The House Oversight committee and Government Reform (OGR) Committee has indicated this a top priority in 2017. **This will impact middle class jobs and slow down government. This does not include the Postal Service.**
2. **Reducing pay:** The “Holman Rule” which allows amendments to appropriation bills that would eliminate federal agencies and cut salaries and even terminate particular federal employees and eliminate positions. The GOP’s fiscal year 2016 budget **proposed cutting civil servants pay by \$318 billion, despite the fact that \$182 billion in deficit reduction savings has already been made on the backs of federal employees**, thanks to past cuts made by Congress.
3. **Shifting benefit contributions to workers:** Tom Price (R-GA) prepared a 2016 budget that suggested **forcing federal employees to pay an additional 6 percent of their salaries toward their retirement benefits without increasing their pay or benefits.** Which means new employees would have to contribute between 3 and 4 percent more toward their health and retirement. **New employees already are paying more toward their retirement because of Congress.**
4. **Shutting down union business:** There are **eight bills from the 114th Congress attempting to strip union-represented federal employees of their right to union time.** Rep. Chaffetz, sent a letter to several federal agencies requesting the names, titles and salary grades of any employees who had used official time. **How would you like to have to go to the union hall, after work to file a grievance? Not very convenient!**
5. **Chipping away retirement security:** The Thrift Saving Plan (TSP) has often been proposed to serves as a kind of “piggy bank” for infrastructure and other types of spending. The GOP in their **2016 budget submitted a proposal to raid nearly \$32 billion from the TSP G fund** by reducing the rate of return on the fund’s investments. **This is your money!**

As you can see there is a lot going on in Washington that needs our attention. None of us can afford to sit on the sidelines and watch our way of life be taken away.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BRAD MCKENNA

If you research the history of the USPS, you will find throughout every era, there have been many struggles for postal employees. I don't see that changing anytime in the near future. We have numerous issues on the workroom floor as well as other topics of concern with postal management. We also have many matters being addressed in Congress that could greatly impact letter carriers and retirees. As I write this article, there are at least six bills in Congress that would have a big impact on most NALC members. There are also three House Resolutions that are of great importance (These legislative bills are addressed on the NALC website). As federal employees this will never change. It is part of the job, but we always need to be prepared to address these issues.

The labor movement in the United States grew out of a need to protect the rights and common interests of workers. That is the NALC's purpose as well. While we may not agree on everything, most of us would agree the NALC should be working to represent its membership on the workroom floor and also in the legislative arena. **While our political views will vary, we must address all issues that impact our membership. We must support candidates that support our cause regardless of party. These are our common interests.**

Those that served before us have given us much. While their issues may have been different, they risked everything to attain their goals and took care of the issues facing them. If they hadn't, where would any of us be today? This is our time and we have the obligation to protect what we have today and to fight for our future. It can't be ignored. It can't be done by just a few. It is up to everyone of us.

A major problem we have is many of our members believe paying dues is the only obligation they have. While I agree paying union dues is essential, it is not enough to be successful and to reach our common goals. **We need every member to be active and participate in his or her branch. We need every member to be an E-activist member, to donate to the Letter Carrier Political Fund, and we need every member to call or write your Congressman when needed.** Where would we be if every member just paid their dues and did nothing more? We would have few leaders, we would have less qualified representatives, we would have little to no voice in Washington and we would have Congress taking away our jobs. If you don't have a job, what will you do then? Don't wait until it's too late to get involved.

Many of our younger members were very interested when they were trying to get hired, when they transferred to the right station, made it through probation, or when they got converted to a career position. What happened after that? I know it was great getting converted, but don't take everything for granted now. Get involved and stay involved.

I know there are very active branches and branches that do a minimum. Help make your branch a great one. Improve your branches donations to MDA (In Michigan, 60 branches raised nothing in 2016), increase your NALC Food Drive totals, recruit more members to donate to the Letter Carrier Political Fund, train to be a branch steward or officer, help with a branch party, or become a branch scribe. Every single branch has a need for your talents. Do what you can today. Every little bit helps.

A majority of branches in Michigan have 10% or less of their members donating to the Letter Carrier Political Fund. This fund provides us the best resources to fight for good legislation and only one out of ten members is participating. It 's the best job insurance you can get for your money. We only ask you donate \$5 per pay period. Think of making that donation when you get your next raise. You will never miss it.

This is our union. This is not just the Branch Presidents union. It belongs to each and every member. An active branch will have better representation, more solidarity, and well-informed members. Like any good team, the union works best when we are all involved and working for a common cause.



JOIN THE MISALC AT MDA CAMP

Tuesday, June 20th in Augusta, MI

At Camp Sherman Lake

And

Sunday, June 25th in Lexington, MI

At Camp Cavell

Information will be mailed to

Your Branch

Or you may contact the

MISALC

SECRETARY'S REPORT

JANE GRANT

This article will serve as the official annual report of the Michigan State Association.

Based on the December 2016 information received from the National NALC Secretary-Treasurer Membership Department.

The MISALC had a total of 7,234 active members, 2,907 retired members and 711 retired life members, for a total of 10,852 members.

During 2016 Branch 672, Big Rapids merged with Branch 794, Cadillac.

President Blassingame listed a number of House Resolutions in his article that the NALC supports. We are still fighting to protect Door to Door Delivery, 6-Day Delivery, we are trying to restore service standard to what they were in 2012 and we are still fighting to end the Pre-Funding Mandate placed on the Postal Service by Congress in 2006. **We need you to join the fight!**

It is a privilege of my position in my branch to meet every new CCA. They are the future of the Postal Service and the NALC. They are also the most vulnerable carriers should the Postal Service go to 5-day delivery. CCAs should also be aware that they are paying more out of their paychecks toward their retirement than the senior carriers, because of Congress. **We need the newest Letter Carriers to join the fight!**

I encourage all NALC members to sign up as an E-Activists. There is not an easier way for members to stay current and informed on legislative issues that affect their job and benefits than being an E-Activist. All you need to do is **go to NALC.org and click on**

the E-Activist Network on the home page to enter your information.

Once a month you will receive a legislative update from our National. The best part is when we have legislative activity that must be acted on quickly, you will be notified in an email. You will not have to wait for a postal bulletin or a union meeting. **You will be an informed member who can take immediate action!**

While you are visiting NALC.org take a look around. Right from the home page you can change your address, look up your Senators and Congressional Representatives, research contractual issues, sign up for the Letter Carrier Political Fund and CCAs have their own special page!

Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF) A common theme you will find throughout this newsletter is that it is necessary for all NALC members to give to the Letter Carrier Political Fund. (formally called COLCPE) Union dues may not be used for political activities. As distasteful as it may be to some of us, we must have a Political Action Committee (PAC) to level the playing field against corporations and the wealthy. **Please sign up today on NALC.org or see your local union leadership for help.**

Branch Presidents and Secretaries: Be aware that once an **NALC member retires they will no longer be enrolled in LCPF.** When you send them their Form 1189 to sign up as a retired member you will want to reach out to them to enroll in the Letter Carrier Political Fund as a retired member.

I am looking forward to seeing the Delegates in May for the 94th Michigan State convention!

TREASURER'S REPORT

CATHY TONDREAU

There are quite a lot of things to do when you lose a loved one. While I don't think you are ever prepared for it, if you have your paperwork in order it will make it easier.

I would like to talk about the things you have to do when you lose a loved one who worked for the Postal Service.

Speaking from experience, I lost my father four years ago. He retired from the Postal Service in 1985. We knew he was receiving a retirement from OPM and that he had survivor's benefits. The thing we weren't sure of was whether he had life insurance and what amount he had.

Through my branch, I knew we had to call OPM to get the information as we were unable to find any of his paperwork because it had been so long ago.

Because my mother was still alive she authorized me to speak on her behalf. They would only give me the information that he did have insurance and that he had survivors benefits (which we already knew).

It took five weeks to get the paperwork so my mom had to go a month without a payment. However, once we sent everything back they did pay retroactively from my dad's death. That took another three weeks. The insurance money did come, but not for another four weeks.

Also, if the deceased is a veteran, you will need their DD2-14 paperwork in order to begin receiving those benefits. Luckily, my mom had my dad's discharge paperwork framed and his DD2-14 was in the frame behind his discharge papers.

We never know when someone is going to die, but now I know that you should make sure things are in place before the inevitable happens.

Be sure your family, your spouse or someone you trust, knows where these important documents can be found.

Additionally, you and your family may want to look into pre-planning for you and your spouse's funeral. The cost is great, especially when you are not expecting it.

Don't forget, if they are a member of the NALC, you should notify the union along with Social Security if they are receiving benefits.

It is hard to lose a loved one but to be somewhat prepared makes it a little easier so you are not making arrangements while you are in mourning. I hope this information will help some of you to be better prepared.

I very recently lost my daughter and the grieving process is hard. However, as life attempts to return you back to normal, the efforts you make in advance will serve you well during this most difficult time.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

JOHN SERWACH

Our next move

*Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.*

*Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.*

*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst
for righteousness,
for they will be filled.*

*Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.*

*Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.*

*Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.*

*Blessed are those who are persecuted
because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are you when people insult you,
persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil
against you because of me. Rejoice and be
glad, because great is your reward in heaven,
for in the same way they persecuted the
prophets who were before you.*

-The Beatitudes-(Matthew 5:3-12)

The word Beatitudes means “the blessings”. Jesus began the sermon on the mount with these. They were meant to comfort suffering believers and many of us and our brothers and sisters have known suffering and may well know more in the coming months may they now bring you comfort too.

Donald J. Trump shocked the world and probably most of us and continues to shock the system in many ways. He has proposed a budget that should be unsettling to all federal employees, calling for drastic cuts and wholesale elimination of federal agencies and along with them thousands of good, middle class jobs all while promising to make America “great again”. Our brothers and sisters in the labor movement will need our help and support now more than ever.

Meanwhile in Washington we await a contract and the parties continue to negotiate. There is movement though on Postal Reform legislation, H.R. 756 & H.R. 760 have both been introduced into the 115th Congress, designed to fix the health care prefunding issue and put the USPS back on stable ground. The prospects seem somewhat better for passage this year as the major stakeholders (Postal Unions, Management and the Mailing Industry) seem united in a desire to get this legislation through. Undoubtedly over the coming months we will all be called upon in one way or another to do our part to push forward this important legislation.

Over the last 25 years we have seen our country grow more deeply divided through partisanship. Those who were seen willing to cooperate or work with the “other side” have been looked upon as outcasts as both sides have dug in deeper and deeper.

The “conservative” southern Democrats are as much extinct as the northeastern “liberal” Republicans of years ago, mocked by many in their own party as so-called RINO’s or DINO’s (Republican/Democrat In Name Only) both political animals were either primaried out of existence by more extreme members of their own party or succumbed to the changing demographics of their districts.

So what is our next move? Fortunately our membership is more diverse than any other labor union in America. We are the only union that has members in almost every county in America, both in rural and urban areas. Our membership is made up of Democrats and Republicans. As a Branch of the Government fully established in the Constitution, run like a business yet providing a basic human service we are uniquely positioned to persuade Libertarians and Liberals alike. And approaching both sides in a bipartisan fashion must be our next move.

We must put an end to embracing one side over the other and deriding any candidate simply because they have a ‘D’ or an ‘R’ beside their name. We must speak with one voice to each elected official that regardless of politics our country needs a vibrant stable Postal Service. We must all come together regardless of our differences to preserve this institution as union brothers and sisters, as carriers in a common cause.

This approach does not mean that we should abandon our core values or our most deeply held beliefs. Rather we should stand firm, emboldened and embrace not reject the issues we hold dear. Just over 75 years ago prior to our entrance into World War II, while many embraced the idea of America first, FDR spoke of the four freedoms:

“...we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms.

The first is freedom of speech and expression -- everywhere in the world.

The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way -- everywhere in the world.

The third is freedom from want -- which, translated into world terms, means economic understandings which will secure to every nation a healthy peacetime life for its inhabitants -- everywhere in the world.

The fourth is freedom from fear ... anywhere in the world.

That is no vision of a distant millennium. It is a definite basis for a kind of world attainable in our own time and generation...

Since the beginning of our American history, we have been engaged in change -- in a perpetual peaceful revolution -- a revolution which goes on steadily, quietly adjusting itself to changing conditions -- without the concentration camp or the quick-lime in the ditch. The world order which we seek is the cooperation of free countries, working together in a friendly, civilized society.

This nation has placed its destiny in the hands and heads and hearts of its millions of free men and women; and its faith in freedom under the guidance of God. Freedom means the supremacy of human rights everywhere. Our support goes to those who struggle to gain those rights or keep them. Our strength is our unity of purpose.

To that high concept there can be no end save victory.”

I started this article with the beatitudes. Jesus goes on to tell us:

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

We must go forward now speaking truth to power, let all who come before us see our light and hear our message. Making America great again will never mean abandoning our faith or our beliefs or the ties that bind us as a nation.



In remembrance of Brother Stephen Burt,
forever in our hearts and thoughts.

Steve was a teacher, a mentor,
a union advocate and a dear friend to
many.

October 25, 1947—September 26, 2016

DIRECTOR OF RETIREE'S

MIKE SHERIDAN

This has been a busy retirement seminar season for me. We've done seminars in Saginaw, Royal Oak, North Oakland and Adrian. It seems like a lot of carriers are interested in getting out of the postal service and many eligible are jumping ship as soon as they can. I've noticed with quite a few FERS retirees, it is because they've built a huge nest egg in their TSP accounts? I cannot stress to the new carriers coming on board how critical it is to have a good balance in their TSP accounts going into retirement. It is always heartening to see someone in good health, in their fifties, ready to "escape" and having \$500,000 in Thrift Savings money. The TSP money is the gravy on top of your FERS annuity and your Social Security or Special Annuity Supplement until you get to age 62. If you would like a seminar for your branch contact our NBA Pat Carroll at 586-997-9917.

Always remember that the Special Annuity Supplement is paid out from the FERS (Federal Employees Retirement System) Fund and not from the Social Security Fund. Even though the amount is determined from your Social Security benefit at age 62 it does come from the FERS fund. Also, remember that if you wait until age 62 and you have at least 20 years of service that you will get an extra 10% on your pension. The supplement ends at age 62 and you must then make a personal decision about beginning Social Security or delaying it to build more on your monthly benefit. Remember that your benefit will increase about 8% for each year you delay the beginning of your Social Security benefit.

Postal Reform bills have come out of committee and it would do us all well to become E-Activists for the latest challenges to our future. H.R. 756 is the "Postal Reform Act of 2017" and H.R. 760 is the "Financial Improvement Act of 2017". Our nemesis Darryl Issa offered amendments seeking to force residential customers to centralized delivery and all, thankfully, failed to be included. These bills were voted out of committee on voice votes and H.R. 756 now heads to Ways and Means committee as well as Energy and Commerce because of Medicare language included in the bill.

The Social Security Fairness Act of 2017 (H.R. 1205) has been introduced by Reps Rodney Davis (R-IL) and Adan Schiff (D-CA). This bill would benefit CSRS retirees by eliminating the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). Similar bills have been introduced in almost all previous Congresses since being instituted in 1978 and 1983 respectively. They have failed to be voted out of committee and it is generally assumed it is because of the "cost" of this benefit to the federal budget. We urge all members to call their Congressperson and ask them to support passage of this bill.

As a representative to the Metro Detroit AFL-CIO I want to say it has been a learning experience to hear what has been going on in our state relating to labor. My branch hosted the March meeting of the Metro Detroit AFL-CIO and I know Royal Oak's Branch 3126 hosted the February meeting and their always awesome reps Jackie and John Dick bring a bright glow of activism to these events. in all aspects of the labor movement.

We urge all members to become more active in their Central Labor Councils and learn what is happening in all aspects of the labor movement.

It was my honor to attend the "Women's March" in Washington DC on January 21, 2017 and bond with 500,000 fellow activists. The crowd dwarfed the "tiny" inaugural crowd and we look forward to the March for Science taking place across the country on April 22nd in honor of Earth Day and countering the efforts of our current administration to dismantle the Environmental Protection Agency and deny Climate Change. Stand firm, stay committed, and remain active and involved, this is not a spectator sport.

REPORTS FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

TOM MINSHALL, CHAIRPERSON

Brothers and Sisters by the time this newsletter reaches you we should be on the downside of winter and eagerly waiting for spring. I hope everybody had a wonderful and safe holiday season. As I write this article we are about 15 days from having our new President sworn in, as you read it he will have been in office for a few months. Only time will tell how he performs, but as I write this I can tell you that he is backing off some of the promises he made during his campaign. Remember that wall that Mexico was going to pay for? Well the Republicans are now trying to introduce a bill that would basically make taxpayers pay for that wall and then he will "bill" Mexico.

How about the Affordable Care Act? (Obamacare) The Republicans are already trying to repeal that. But they haven't offered a viable alternative. This would leave several million people without insurance while they try to figure things out. I have heard and read news reports that Republican lawmakers are saying that the Democrats need to quit with the sour grapes and come to the table. Now let's see here...when the Affordable Care Act was passed the Republicans refused to get behind the bill and support it. Now that the Republicans are trying to repeal the act they are upset that the Democrats won't get behind their bill and support them? Makes me scratch my head.

I don't like politics and I never have. But I am wise enough to know that politicians will determine my future. If we don't have senators and congressmen/women on board with us the Postal Service and our jobs could very well go by the wayside. In the mid 1800's letter carriers depended on politicians for their jobs. If you campaigned you could be rewarded with a position in the Postal Service. They called it the spoils system. When the spoils system started to fail politicians washed their hands of letter carriers. It is one of the main reasons this great union was formed.

The point I'm trying to make is we must be involved! Our future is in our hands and we can't sit back idly and watch it go away. Support your National, State and Branch officers. Become an E-Activist. Contribute to the Letter Carriers Political Fund. If you get a tasking to contact your representatives about a bill that saves or improves letter carrier jobs, make that call! Get involved! Your livelihood depends on it.

CORNELL FEARS

Brothers and Sisters we have to go back to the future. We must reinvent ourselves. This is not your Grandfather's Post Office anymore. The union must stand strong, we must stick together, every member bleeds the same red blood. The Postal Service has implemented several new programs and they are monitoring the Letter Carriers every move, extending your route and increasing your workload. Please remain diligent, proactive and unified. We must communicate as leaders of our Branches. Everybody knows the old cliché, "Together we stand, divided we fall".

The City Carrier Assistants are the future of the National Association of Letter Carriers as well as the United States Postal Service. They are your next union stewards, Branch Officers and National Officers. They are your next supervisors, managers, postmasters and other management leaders. We must educate and train our CCA's and make them a part of our team. Reach out to the CCA's, mentor them, guide them and mold them into our next leaders. As union leaders let's lead by example, let's give 120% to our newest union brothers and sisters. We must also give a 120% to the Postal Service. Give the Postal Service eight hours of work for eight hours pay. We are professional Letter Carriers and professional union leaders.

ROBYN WILLIAMS

Serving on the Michigan State Association of Letter Carriers Executive Board has been both an eye-opening and fulfilling experience these last two years. I am also proud to serve as the Branch President for NALC Branch 320. Being a union activist is not what I saw myself growing up to be but it's something I wouldn't change for the world. To be able to educate, empower and assist our Brothers and Sisters is

something that I am very passionate about. I would be the first one to admit that I do not like politics. However, due to circumstances beyond my control it is something I have to face every single day as I proudly work for the US Postal Service.

While the election did not turn out the way many would have liked, we are forced to go on and continue our fight. The one thing that we all can agree on is that we need our jobs and to keep our incomes.

That being said, politics plays a crucial part in this process. We need to keep a competitive wage. We are being asked to do more than ever as Letter Carriers and need to be compensated for it. We need to keep our benefits, including our insurance and our retirement. These are the things that we need to fight for. And by fighting I mean electing politicians that are looking out for our interests.

I am not asking you to pick a side. I am asking that you stay on OUR side. The side of the Letter Carrier. This can and should be done on the local level. Know where your local politicians stand on the USPS, collective-bargaining and worker's rights. Be informed. Let your representatives know where you stand on Postal Service issues and what is important to you. It can be as little as reading their web page, making a phone call or talking to other informed citizens. The bottom line is to be an educated member.

We need to stay viable and seen. We need to know that we will be protected and our jobs will still be here in the future. We will be a force to acknowledge. There is nothing worse than people who have no idea what they are talking about telling lies and people believing them. Do not be a follower. Make your own informed decisions. Use your mind.

Hopefully we'll see you all in 2017 and I excited to see the Delegates at the State Convention!!

Walter McGregory

It's not enough for Letter Carriers to just pay your union dues anymore and then say, "I've done my part." Those times have come and gone. Everything about our jobs is now influenced by and sometimes even controlled by politics. You can try to stick your head in the sand and say that you don't want to deal with anything political, but that just won't work. You might also say to yourself, "what does the political arena have to do with me as a Letter Carrier?"

The simple answer is EVERYTHING! With the stroke of a pen, Congress has the ability to pass legislation to change our jobs. It has happened before and can easily happen again, and we very likely would not like the changes. The way that you can assist the NALC National Union in the protection of our jobs, pay, and benefits is to make sure you are contributing to the Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF).

The Letter Carrier Political Fund is a non-partisan political action committee (PAC) established for the purpose of electing qualified candidates that support letter carriers. These candidates are committed to maintaining a strong and innovative U.S. Postal Service. Each year the NALC fights to fend off attacks in Congress that threaten letter carriers' collective-bargaining rights, retirement benefits and even our very livelihood. We have generally been successful so far and we want to continue helping to elect candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate who will protect us, promote our issues and deliver our message to Washington.

Since union dues cannot be used to support candidates for partisan political office, the NALC relies one hundred percent on member contributions to the Letter Carrier Political Fund, which in turn helps us support those on Capitol

Hill who defend the issues that matter most to us. Our PAC brings together in Washington strong letter carrier advocates - from all political parties - who are dedicated to defending a strong USPS that provides universal, innovative and affordable service. LCPF doesn't care if you are a Republican, Democrat or an Independent. If someone is a Congressional representative or United States Senator and they support Letter Carrier issues, then they can receive and possibly already have received money from the LCPF.

The easiest way to contribute to LCPF is by signing up through automatic payroll deduction. Our NALC National President has asked us all to sign up for the "Gimme 5 program." To participate, active carriers can donate five dollars per pay period by using one of their three payroll allotments or by electronic funds transfer (EFT). Retirees can participate by contributing five dollars per month from their annuity payments or by EFT. If you would like to contribute more than five dollars, as many active and retired letter carriers do, that is also welcomed.

Contact your steward, local NALC branch, any MISALC officer or the NALC National Business Agent's office for assistance in signing up for the Letter Carrier Political Fund. LCPF contributions are not tax deductible; but they are a sound investment in your future.

Working together, we are stronger than you may think. If roughly a quarter million of our active Letter Carriers donated just five dollars per pay period, we could raise close to 32.5 million dollars in just one year! This would do a great deal to help save the Postal Service and its letter carriers from legislative attacks. Let's not leave it up to Postal Management to save our jobs. We as letter carriers have the tools to do the work ourselves! Donate to LCPF today because the job you save just might be your own.

GINGER GONZALES

Letter Carrier Political Fund

LCPF.....is NOT just another add-on to your union dues, it's the NALC's Political Action Committee; specifically: NALC's Committee on Letter Carrier Political Education. Among other political duties, they lobby congress on issues of concern to letter carriers. To date, **LCPF**'s lobbying expenditures have been a small fraction of the expenditures of UPS. Of course, UPS is a huge company who can donate money at a whim, where **LCPF** and the other postal lobbying groups have to rely on individual donations to fund their campaigns. UPS is lobbying heavily to weaken the Postal Service and to gain competitive ground it can gain against the USPS. **LCPF** is YOUR voice in Washington. **LCPF** is doing everything it can to protect YOUR job and all the benefits we have fought so hard for. **LCPF** needs these funds to maintain that fight and to fight against the special interest like UPS, who would like to see the Postal Service crumble at its feet. This is why each and every one of you need to contribute to **LCPF**! Not just for the political action alone, but to save your jobs within the USPS. If you don't fight to save your job who will?

We are stronger than you may think. If roughly a quarter-million active Letter Carriers donate just \$5 per pay period, we can raise over 12 million dollars in just one year. This would do a great deal to save the Postal Service and our jobs. Historically, retirees are the largest contributors to **LCPF**; they worked for a different Postal Service and know all too well the importance of having their voice heard. In 1970, before **LCPF**, a Letter Carrier earned about \$3.50 hourly. To put that in perspective a paycheck for 80 hours plus 30 hours overtime would net a Carrier about \$400. **LCPF** and the NALC have been good to Letter Carriers while asking little in return. Some of us have seen nothing but good times. Ask a Retired Letter Carrier who went on strike (to get you the job you enjoy today) if it was worth risking their job and their future by walking off the job to fight for their rights. We owe them all a great deal of respect. What MISALC is asking for pales in comparison.

The Michigan State Association of Letters Carriers is asking that you donate just **\$5 per pay period** to **LCPF**. This can be done through payroll deduction, just like the Combined Federal Campaign which we are all familiar with. Step by step instructions have been included which will help you to set up your deduction over the phone using Postal EASE. If you have any questions about this, I encourage you to call me at 517-281-9182 and talk to me about how you can help. It's time to start acting like a union and fight for your jobs at home, in the office & on Capitol Hill!!!! The time is now! **I contribute to LCPF, do YOU?**

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 Postal Service, nor is it part of union dues. You have a right to refuse to contribute without any reprisal. 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 and administrative staff or their families. Any contribution received from such an individual will be refunded to that contributor.



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

Payroll deduction: Contribute automatically, using PostalEASE (either online or by phone) to set up an allotment deduction from your USPS paycheck.

Direct bank withdrawal: You can authorize the fund to withdraw a monthly electronic contribution directly from your personal checking account.

Annuity deduction: Retired letter carriers can elect to give monthly via an automatic deduction from your monthly annuity.

NALC.org or see you local union leadership

MISALC ELECTED OFFIERS

President

Carl E. Blassingame, Jr

Branch 1

Detroit

P.O. Box 8718

Canton, MI 48187-5857

(734) 999-8080

E-Mail misalc15@gmail.com

Vice President

Brad L. Mc Kenna

Branch 74

Saginaw

Secretary

Jane Grant

Branch 434

Ann Arbor

Treasurer

Catherine J. Tondreau

Branch 2184

Western Wayne County

Director of Education

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Director of Retired Members

Michael F. Sheridan

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Utica

Executive Board

Thomas A. Minshall

Branch 246

Kalamazoo

Cornell Fears, Sr.

Branch 1

Detroit

Ginger M. Gonzales

Branch 2555

East Lansing

Walter Mc Gregory

Branch 2184

Western Wayne County

Robyn Williams

Branch 320

North Oakland County

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Of Letter Carriers, NALC
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Change of Address Notice (Officers and Steward only)

Send new address to:

MISALC

PO Box 871857

Canton, MI 48187-5857

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Branch Presidents and Secretaries:

Please send us notice of Officers and Stewards with address changes within your branches.