

MICHIGAN LETTER CARRIER

Voice of the Michigan State Association of Letter Carriers

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT CARL E BLASSINGAME, JR.

At the 95th Michigan State Convention at Great Wolf Lodge the Michigan delegation chose the team they wanted to represent you in the State Association for the next two years. I would like to thank the delegation for their support. Let me take this time to congratulate Brad McKenna on his retirement and thank him for his service as the Vice President of the MISALC and former trustee. His hard work and commitment to the State and membership was second to none. He will surely be missed.

I would also like to welcome our new member who will be serving on the Executive Board, Don Karl from Branch 56, Grand Rapids. A young man who has fresh ideals that can help the State Association to move in the right direction. Welcome aboard Don.

At the State Convention Brent Fjerestad, NALC Legislative and Political Organizer stated the following: In the 116th congress we have 235 Democrats, 197 Republicans and 3 vacancies. This is viewed as a win for Letter Carriers and their political issues. Brent further stated that while it seems as if we won in the last election, there were some losses. Concerning the support of the 6 Day Delivery we lost 19 Democrats and 24 Republicans, and for the Door to Door Delivery we lost 20 Democrats and 21 Republicans. So, **our fight has not ended it has only begun. We must now educate these newly elected representatives and encourage them to support postal legislation.** It's not enough that we write letters to our Representatives. We must call or visit their local offices and demand their support of these bills and the community for which they serve.

There is a lot at risk and you, as Letter Carriers cannot sit back and do nothing when it comes to the future of the Postal Service, our jobs and retirement. As our National, along with the State Association, provide information on the current bills that concerns us, the **local Branches MUST do their part in educating their membership at Branch meetings or at any gatherings they have.** It's also important that the branch officers continue getting their **membership to contribute to LCPF and explain why it is important to be a part of making a change for our future.** There should never be a time that we pass up an opportunity to talk with our members about what's happening in Washington concerning our jobs and benefits.

Finally, Brent Fjerestad, will no longer be our Legislative and Political Organizer (LPO). **Anna Mudd** from Kentucky will step in as our LPO. Anna Mudd is very dedicated and focused on doing whatever it takes to get the job done. She has committed to assist any Branch in accomplishing their goals in ensuring their membership is educated on the issues. I am confident that whatever goals you set to educate your membership on our issues she will be there to help.

The proposed White House budget

What's at stake for you?

- 1) Raises federal employees' pension contributions between 6 and 7.25% of pay over the next six years, costing active carriers up to \$3,600-4,350 per year.

That's Your Money!

- 2) Eliminating cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for current and future retirees under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS).

The average FERS annuitant would lose:

\$23,430 over 10 years

\$99,471 over 20 years

\$246,185 over 30 years

That's Your Money!

- 3) Reducing COLAs for the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) annuitants by one-half of 1 percent (that is, 0.5 percent) each year.

The average CSRS annuitant would lose:

· \$12,598 over 10 years

· \$60,576 over 20 years

· \$169,874 over 30 years

That's Your Money!

- 4) Eliminates Social Security supplement for FERS employees who retire before 62. If the supplement is eliminated through Legislation, here is what you would lose if you retired at age 57 with 30 years of career federal/postal service:

· From age 57 — 62 (5 years) you will lose \$1,100 a month.

· \$1,100 X 12 months = \$13,200 a year.

· \$13,200 X 5 years = \$66,000 of retirement.

That's Your Money!

- 5) Slashing the rate of interest paid on assets invested in the Thrift Savings Plan Government Securities Fund (G Fund), costing active and retired letter carriers alike \$32 billion over 10 years.

That's Your Retirement!

- 6) \$46 billion in vaguely defined cuts and revenue changes to the Postal Service, most likely through reducing the frequency of delivery (eliminating Saturday delivery) and scaling back door delivery.

That's Your Route and Your Job!

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

WALTER MCGREGORY

I would like to congratulate all the newly elected state officers and thank the delegates for electing me as your new Vice President of the MI State Association. I will continue to work hard with the other officers of your State Association to help educate the Letter Carriers of Michigan about the important legislative issues that will affect our jobs and benefits.

On a more personal note, special thanks to outgoing Vice President, Brad McKenna for all of his years of hard work on behalf of the MISALC.

With the 2020 general election right around the corner, it is time to bring up voter registration. Are you registered to vote? If not, then you won't have a voice in selecting our next President of the United States of America, or elected representatives.

Here are a few pointers and important dates to keep in mind:

The general election takes place Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

To register to vote in Michigan, you must be all of the following:

- A U.S. citizen
- At least 18 years old by Election Day
- A resident of Michigan
- A resident of the city or township where you are applying to register to vote.

The good news is, it is now even easier to vote thanks to recently passed legislation. **Anyone can cast a vote using an Absentee Ballot.** Absentee voting is now available for every registered voter in Michigan, which means you really don't have an excuse for not voting. **Letter carriers working on election day can vote from home by simply filling out an absentee ballot.**

Eligible citizens may become registered to vote in a variety of ways, at any time through Election Day. Individuals who register to vote within the 14-day period immediately preceding an election must appear in person at their city or township clerk's office and provide proof of residency.

Individuals using any other method must register to vote at least 15 days before Election Day and are not required to provide proof of residency. Other methods of registration include an application obtained at one of the following locations:

- Your local Secretary of State branch office
- Your local county, city, or township clerk's office
- Offices of several state agencies, like the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Community Health, and the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
- Military recruitment centers

Walter McGregory continued on page 4...

- Voter registration drives
- Online at Michigan.gov/sos

There is too much at stake to just sit by and count on someone else to “take care of it”.

If you have never voted in the past for whatever reason or reasons, that’s okay, **you should register to vote immediately. The stakes are too high and important to just sit on the sideline.**

You have heard it said before, **elections are important and they have consequences.** With the **current Administration working to privatize our employer, the vote you cast could be crucial for the survival of the U.S. Postal Service as we know it.**

Of more importance, **your vote could determine the future of your job and your family’s livelihood.** As we have said many times before, **vote like your job depends on it, because it does!** Have a safe summer.

DOES YOUR CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVE SUPPORT NALC LEGISLATION??
Look Below—An “X” in the box indicates that your representative supports NALC legislation
IF YOUR REPRESENTATIVE DOES NOT SUPPORT NALC LEGISLATION CALL THEM

Last Name	First Name	St/District	Party	H. Res. 23 (Door to Door)	H. Res. 33 (Privatization)	H. Res 54 (Six Day)	H. Res. 60 (Delivery Standards)
Bergman	Jack	MI01	R				
Huizenga	Bill	MI02	R				
Amash	Justin	MI03	R				
Moolenaar	John	MI04	R				
Kildee	Daniel	MI05	D	X	X	X	X
Upton	Fred	MI06	R				
Walberg	Tim	MI07	R				
Slotkin	Elissa	MI08	D		X		
Levin	Andy	MI09	D	X	X	X	X
Mitchell	Paul	MI10	R				
Stevens	Haley	MI11	D				
Dingell	Debbie	MI12	D	X	X	X	X
Tlaib	Rashida	MI13	D		X		
Lawrence	Brenda	MI14	D		X	X	

SECRETARY'S REPORT

JANE GRANT

THIS ARTICLE WILL SERVE AS THE OFFICIAL ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MICHIGAN STATE ASSOCIATION.

Based on the December 2018 information received from the National NALC Membership Department.

The MISALC had a total of 7,311 active members, 3,050 retired members and 653 retired life members, 2 military members for a total of 11,016 members.

2018 Branch mergers:

Branch 5591, Richmond merged with Branch, 654 Mount Clemens

Branch 4366, Ithaca merged with Branch 122, Lansing

Branch 4227, Milford merged with Branch 320, North Oakland County

Branch 5270, Hudsonville merged with Branch 56, Grand Rapids

The 95th Michigan State Convention was held in April of 2019. The Michigan State Association of Letter Carrier welcomed 248 delegates and guests to Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City. It was a pleasure to have our National Officer, Chris Jackson, Director of City Delivery join us.

Congratulations to the 2019 Fred Herman Steward of the Year Award recipient Phil Ashford Jr., Branch 2184, Western Wayne County. Congratulations to the following members who were also nominated for the Fred Herman Award and receive Honorable Mentions, Tomiko Deleon, Branch 74, Saginaw and Shelia Greear-Jones, Branch 1, Detroit.

Congratulations to the winner of the Daniel L. Florkowski Activist of the Year Award, Elaine Jones, Branch 1, Detroit. Congratulations to Brad McKenna, Branch 74; Saginaw for being nominated for this award and receiving an Honorable Mention.

The MISALC said goodbye to our Vice President, Brad McKenna, Branch 74, Saginaw at the State Convention. Enjoy your retirement Brad!

Congratulations to our new Vice President, Walter McGregory, Branch 2184, Western Wayne County. We also welcome a new Executive Board member Don Karl, Branch 56, Grand Rapids.

Elections Matter: You are going to hear it over and over again. Washington is talking about taking our benefits away, again. **The 2020 election matters and you need to be involved. I've heard members say "they have been talking about taking away our benefits for 20 years, it will never happen". Well there is a good reason that it has not happened, yet. NALC MEMBERS WHO ARE TUNED IN AND ACTIVELY FIGHTING FOR OUR FUTURE!**

Whether we like it or not there are two things that matter in Washington, MONEY and VOTES. **Give to the LCPF to support our jobs and call your representatives they need to know what their constituents expect of them. The larger the number of letter carriers, families, friends and the public that make those calls on behalf of the USPS the better the outcome for us as employees and retirees!** Download the NALC APP and get update right on your phone.

Safety: It takes no time to put on a seatbelt and there is **NO EXCUSE for those of you buckling the seatbelts and sitting on them. The life you save WILL BE YOUR OWN. WEAR YOUR SEATBELTS!**

TREASURER'S REPORT

CATHY TONDREAU

I would like to thank all the delegates that were at the 2019 state convention at Great Wolf Lodge for their support in re-electing me to another term as your treasurer of the State Association.

Speaking of voting, while I know the presidential election isn't until next year, campaigning has already started on both sides. We know we want to elect letter carrier friendly candidates, but we also need to thoroughly research these candidates to make sure they will vote for other issues that are also important to us, women rights, education, environmental issues, health care, etc.

While everyone has their own view on a women's right to choose, think if they take this away what else can they take away? The right to vote, the right to bear arms? Make sure your candidate is well informed and they are not someone who has been in office for several terms, being a career politician, out of touch with what real life is like for their constituents. They have their retirement plan and health care coverage in place, but do they really care about yours?

Let's do what is right for this country and vote in someone who will look out for the American public and not their own self interests. We have many to choose from. Again, as it gets closer to election day make sure you check out the candidate's website to see their views on the issues that are important to you, as a parent, a sibling, a letter carrier or simply a concerned citizen.

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.



**JOIN THE MISALC FOR
THE LABOR DAY PARADE
SEPTEMBER 2 IN DETROIT 7am
Parking is at the corner of
Church St. and 10th St.
DETROIT**

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

JOHN SERWACH

Are You Ready for 2020?

It was good seeing everyone at our State Convention this past April. I would be remiss if I did not thank everyone for their support of our slate of officers and for electing me to another term as your Director of Education.

On the legislative front, we have a new bill (HR 2382) that was introduced into Congress on April 29th, 2019 that, if passed, will finally eliminate the pre-funding burden. The bill has so far attracted bi-partisan support and will remove the unfair financial burden that has been responsible for most of the Postal Services red ink the last ten years.

As you are out and about in your community over the summer if you encounter your elected officials at barbecues, parades and other events take a minute to say hello and talk to them about the Postal Service. Ask them to get on board and become a co-sponsor of HR 2382 or our other bills, H Res 33 and its Senate companion S. Res 99 (Oppose Postal Privatization), H Res 23 (maintains door to door delivery), H Res 60 (Maintains service standards) and H Res 54 (Preserve six day delivery). If your Congress person is doing a town hall in your community, stop in and make your voice heard. Only Rep. Debbie Dingell is currently signed on to all of NALC's bills as a co-sponsor (thanks Debbie!!) At the State convention your delegates sent out over 100 letters to your congressional representatives asking them to support our bills, sit down and write one yourself or fire off an email, or make a phone call and make your voice heard and defend your rights and benefits. A successful Postal Service will help make for a successful contract. What's good for the Postal Service is good for you and your neighbors. Take a minute out this week and tell your member of Congress what's on your mind! Your state officers and Congressional liaisons can't do it without you.

Election 2020 is about to get under way are you ready for change? I hope so, because the current occupant of the White House has been working to take away your rights, cut your wage, reduce your retirement and make you work a few extra years before you get that retirement. And he'd like to take away your union too! Maybe it's time we roll up our sleeves and retire him! You can make a difference, make sure you, your friends and your family are registered to vote and understand the risks. Don't be afraid to knock on a few doors and if that's not your thing, let your neighbors and friends know what they want to do up there. You deserve that check you bring home, are you going to let them take it away from you? Are you donating to LCPF? If not, now's the time. Let's drain this swamp (for real) and put a government back in office that will put working people first.

Next year we will also be holding elections for a US Senator from Michigan, Gary Peters will be running again, in 2008 NALC put over 200 letter carriers out door knocking to get him elected for his first time in Congress when he defeated a long term incumbent in Oakland County. Gary didn't forget us, in fact now that he's in the Senate he introduced S. Res 99, the Senate bill that opposes Postal Privatization. We were there at the beginning lets help him get across the line again next year.

It's sure to be another long, hot summer, stay safe out there Brothers and Sisters and look out for each other that's what being union is all about.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF RETIREES

MIKE SHERIDAN

I would like to start off by thanking all our members for electing me to another term as your Director of Retirees. Without opposition I'm never sure if I'm doing such a great job or nobody wants the position. It has been a pleasure to meet letter carriers around the state as we put on retirement seminars through the NBA office of Troy Clark. We recently completed seminars in Midland (May 19th) and Muskegon on May 21st with a decent turnout at both events. We will be setting up a seminar for Branch 256 (Mid-Michigan) in September. If your branch needs to learn the ins and outs of retirement, I can put on a seminar anywhere and just about anytime that is convenient for your membership. Branches should take advantage of this important information as your members are often overwhelmed by the entire process. Our NBA office can be reached at 586-997-9917 from 9-5 Monday through Friday.

Legislatively we must urge our representatives to rid the USPS of the burden of retiree health care prefunding. Tell them to support **HR 2382 the "USPS Fairness Act" would eliminate the burden which has caused 92% of our losses over the last 12 years and 100% of the losses over the past six years.** The prefunding mandate was part of the PAEA the so named Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006. No other federal agency is saddled with this burden and the USPS should not be either.

I should pass along information regarding retiree participation in the Letter Carriers Political Fund (LCPF). **If you were automatically contributing to LCPF through payroll deductions that ends when you retire. You must sign up for LCPF again in retirement. Your two options for automatic monthly contributions are either through OPM coming out of your annuity or electronic funds transfer from your checking account.** If you were contributing, then please sign up again in retirement. If you are signing up for the first time it is a necessary, function of our political system to fight for issues that affect all of us. **You are not "safe" just because you're retired. We have seen the attempts to remove ALL COLAs from FERS retirees and half of COLAs from CSRS retirees. Don't give up the fight because you're retired. Join the fight for all our collective futures.**

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 Blassingame at 734-999-8080 or MISALC.org **See you soon!**

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 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.

NALC.org or see your local union

REPORTS FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE BOARD

MATT TANNER
CHAIRPERSON

Voting in Michigan....just got easier!

Greeting's my fellow sister and brother letter carriers. Hopefully, by the time this is printed and mailed, we are starting to enjoy another beautiful Michigan Summer. Please stay hydrated out there and find some shade if need be.

As letter carriers, we often have problems getting out of work and being able to exercise our right to vote. Sometimes, worse yet, we get out and have to stand in long lines. **Being parents, or having other commitments, we are faced with decisions of possibly not even voting. As letter carriers, that decision really could have severe consequences.** I know every election we hear "this is the most important one yet". Honestly, I believe we will always be able to say that from here on out. We are in a unique situation where our jobs/rights can be greatly affected based on the outcome of that said election. With our country so divided the saying "every vote counts" can not be more true.

Michigan recently became a no excuse absentee vote state. Meaning, all you have to do is simply apply for your absentee ballot and one will be mailed to you. Go figure, you can vote in the comfort of your home and generate business for the Postal Service.

All you need to do is visit Michigan.gov. On that website click on Michigan Absent Voter Application. Print out the application, fill it out and then return the completed application to your city/township clerks office. You can mail it or drop off in person.

If you don't know where your clerks office is located, simply visit mi.gov/vote and after entering info the location of your clerks office will be provided.

So please join me and register for your absentee ballot. Spread the word to your family and friends. Maybe someday Michigan will become a vote by mail state, one can only hope!

I would like to thank everyone for again supporting me as an Executive Board Member. I am honored to serve. **Remember the state board works for you. If your branch would like to do a Letter Carrier Political Fund drive PLEASE call Carl and set it up. Put us to work!** Signing up a sister or brother in ANY branch helps all of us. Obviously, we are all proud of what ever branch number we are (go 122) but collectively we have set a goal and remember a high tide floats ALL boats. Together, I truly believe, there is nothing us letter carriers can't accomplish when we work together.

Please plan on attending the parade on Labor Day. Bring your family and enjoy some good old-fashioned fellowship as we march together and promote a strong labor movement here in the great state of Michigan. I hope to see all of you there.

In closing, congrats to all my fellow re-elected state officers, and welcome Donny! I look forward to helping make a difference. Brad McKenna, thank you for your mentorship and guidance. As I start to become one of the older faces in the room, I look back at the people that have served before me and you truly have set an example of what a great leader does. I can only hope that when I hang em up, I have made even half of the difference you have. Enjoy every single day brother!

TOM MINSHALL

Greetings Brothers and Sisters. Hopefully as you read this spring is in full swing and summer is on the way. I just returned a few days ago from our State Convention in Traverse City. It was a great venue and we received some valuable information from our Director of City Delivery, Chris Jackson and our National Business Agent, Troy Clark. On Tuesday while we were receiving this info Postmaster General Brennan along with President Rolando and the leaders of the other postal unions were testifying before congress. She called congress to task for not doing something about the prefunding mandate we've worked to change for years. Good for her. But then she went on further to say she believed we needed to eliminate 6-day delivery. Boo, hiss! This idea and eliminating door to door delivery continue to raise their ugly heads every few months. But there is hope! I read with great interest that the general consensus in congress is doing away with a day of delivery is not something many of them will get behind. Other good news is that a partisan group of representatives have introduced a bill that would eliminate the prefunding mandate. Which brings me to the subject of my article...the Letter Carriers Political Fund (LCPF).

Now more than ever we need to have friends in Washington D.C. It doesn't matter what party they belong to if they are supporting us and our jobs. If we want to keep our jobs, we need to support those who support us. The only way to do this is to get behind candidates who are sympathetic to our cause. You can do this by signing up to contribute to the letter Carriers Political Fund. You can do a onetime contribution or you can have your contribution come out by payroll deduction. You choose how much you want to contribute. **Think of it as job insurance. Isn't 5 or 10 dollars a payday worth it to keep your job? Sign up now!**

I want to thank the delegates at the State convention for giving me the opportunity to continue to serve on your executive board. Along with my fellow board members I will strive to do my best to further the cause of Michigan letter carriers for the next two years. Until next time.

CORNELL FEARS

We had a very good State Convention earlier this year in Traverse City. It was well attended and educational. We came together as a group and the Letter Carriers of this great State of Michigan will stand - united as one voice to save the Postal Service. We have a unique team. The Officers of the Michigan State Association of Letter Carriers are a rainbow coalition. Every member of our team came from various backgrounds and union leadership positions. We all have our own opinions, our own leadership abilities and our own methods of educating our Brothers and Sisters of our union.

The bottom line at the end of day - the officers of the State Association of Letter Carriers are all one team with one dream. We all have the betterment of our members' interest first. We - as a team - will strive to inform and educate our members on any and all legislation that helps to improve and save the United States Postal Service and the National Association of Letter Carriers. We all are also committed to improve the percentage of our member to donate to the Letter Carriers Political Fund. This fund is very critical to support politicians that are pro-union.

We all must come together as one. Together we stand, divided we fall. Let's not fight over small issues that keep us separate. Let's look at the big picture - the jobs we save might be our own. "The secret of success in life is for a man or woman to be ready for his or her opportunity when it comes."

ROBYN WILLIAMS

READ ME!!

Thank you for taking the time to read this article. I am President of Branch 320 proudly representing North Oakland County and I also work for the State Board as a Trustee. I am proud to represent the Union, National Association of Letter Carriers. Although most of the people receiving this newsletter may not read it, which is a shame because the Michigan State Association puts a lot of thought, effort and money into it. In fact, the Union is something taken for granted until it is needed. Well your Union needs you!

Even though it would be easy to let us do everything for you, we simply can not do that! I am not a fan of politics as most people can attest to, but being a part of the USPS, I must be aware. And I am aware that there are people that have been put in office who are trying to take things away from us. Our money, our future, and our jobs!! While you may feel strongly about some other issues, this issue is one that should be on the forefront because this is our livelihood.

I have had the blessing of working for the USPS for almost 21 years and you know what? I made it! There were times I didn't think I would, and I was darn sure there were a lot of people who thought I wouldn't. But here I am! Knowledge was my power and I soaked up all that I could every chance I got. I am not saying it is for everyone, but I felt the need to equal the playing field so to speak. I did not like the way I was being treated, harassed and given misinformation so I found out for myself.

One thing that I discovered is that we work for the Federal Government. **The Federal Government is controlled by people in Congress and essentially those people are working for us because we elected them.** So right now, **we are basically putting some people in office who want to take away everything that we and this Union, has worked so hard for. We must start by putting Letter Carrier friendly people in positions of power.**

To do this we need to **show our support through our Political Action Campaign (PAC).** The NALC's **PAC is the Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF).** When we donate to candidates that are in touch with our concerns, we prosper. We need more support in Congress. I am asking you to donate \$5 per pay or whatever you can to support our PAC. Our PAC needs more contributors and especially if you have any idea of what is going on around you, you will see why.

I will continue to work to help the people of the NALC to be educated about what's going on and help those who I can. But I need you! **It doesn't matter if they are Republican, Democrat or an Independent, if they have our backs, we need to have theirs in order to get elected or reelected.** I don't think the Union asks you for much, but they always have your back. **Please consider contributing to the Letter Carrier Political Fund to protect your job, your retirement and your future!**

Contact any of the Michigan State Association officers and we will be more than happy to help you do it! This is the time! Be the difference in YOUR career!

DON KARL

Hello brothers and sisters,

As the newest member of your state executive board I would like to thank you for this opportunity. It really is an honor. As a state board our primary goal is politics and legislation. This is an unenviable task in the best of circumstances. Brothers and sisters, we are not in the best of circumstances.

For our current CCA's and former CCA brother and sisters....

We want you to get all the benefits and opportunities the regular carriers have. To benefit from a long and healthy career. Fair and reasonable health benefits, pay, and retirement. The NALC has been and will continue to battle predatory legislation that seeks to take away the pay and benefits that you and the people before you work so hard for. Simply put, there are people in the Congress, Senate, and the White House who want to take away our hard-earned benefits.

I urge you to research the issues and educate yourselves. Learn about prefunding, door to door delivery, and 5-day delivery. **I understand many of you may love the idea of have having every Saturday off. Consider this, there are estimates that the Post Office could lay off 50,000 plus carriers if we go to 5-day delivery. Are you in the bottom 50,000? If so, you could be out of a job.**

Legislation has been proposed to repeal the prefunding bill from 2006. If this is repealed the post office will be standing on strong ground and your future will be dramatically more secure. Unions are based on strength in numbers, the strength of our numbers can make a difference in getting pro-postal legislation passed.

If you, as the next generation of leaders do not take over the reins and bring your intellect and energy to these battles, then our adversaries will be free to pillage our 244-year-old company. How do you do this? Contact your representatives, become politically active, talk to friends and family. Fight for your future. Get to know your congressman and senators. If they are of a different political party then you, find some common ground and build on it.

Ultimately it is up to you, the postal service has the ability to be around for a very long time, even in the age of technology. Be leaders, and fight for your future.

For our retired brothers and sisters....

Many of you are of the strike generation or worked with those brave souls. You know what brought us to this age of good pay and benefits. **It is with much frustration to say that politicians are actively trying to take away some of your retirement benefits. They want to eliminate all cost of living raises for FERS retirees and reduce the CSRS COLA by .5% a year until it's at zero.**

You have put in your time and earned your retirement. Unfortunately, the powers that be are attempting to limit the unions ability to fight back. They are battling in court to prevent working carriers from being released to represent letter carriers in the legislative and political process. While active letter carriers battle to keep our voice, we may need yours to fill in the gap. Many retirees have worked with the NALC to work on political issues. Please don't hesitate to step up and be part of the solution.

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For our regular letter carrier brothers and sisters.....

Regardless if you are a political oriented person or not, it would be disingenuous to not acknowledge that as regulars we benefit greatly from the sacrifices of the carriers before us. The NALC has been battling since 1889. As frustrating as management can be, as difficult as the job can be, make no mistake we have come a long way and if we want to keep gaining ground, we need to keep working the political and contractual fight. Ever hear these phrases...?

Both parties are the same....”

“It doesn’t matter what we do...”

“They’re all corrupt anyways.”

“The internet has made the post office a dying industry anyways.”

And maybe worst of all.....”I’ll get my retirement, that’s all that matters.”

We have all had these feelings. To be honest, they are often rationalization to avoid entering an ugly and divisive political world that takes time and energy. One that can divide friends and family. My advice to you is stay away from all that. Defend your family by defending your job. If you are passionate about other political issues, that’s great.... Separate them and support them however you choose.

When you support your job, you support your family. When you protect your pay and benefits you protect your family. When you protect your pay and benefits you protect your ability to fight for your other beliefs. How will you promote your beliefs about guns, religion, wealth inequality, etc if you do not know how you’re going to pay your mortgage or put food on the table?

As letter carriers we have a pretty good life. Not an easy life but it’s a good life. The people before us fought for what we have today. How about we fight to keep it and pass it on to the next generation.



If you have questions about having a MDA Fundraiser or would like to list your event on the MISALC website contact the MISALC at MISALC15@gmail.com

Check out MDA Camp pictured on our website MISALC.ORG

Visit the Michigan State Association of Letter Carriers at our website

MISALC.org

Write A Letter To Save Your Job?

At the 2019 State Convention we mailed out over 150 letters from the delegates in attendance asking their Congressman or woman to stand with NALC and all American's by sponsoring our bills in Congress. It was a lot of work to type up personalized letters from most of our delegates but it's paying off as we are getting more co-sponsors everyday. Now we need your help to keep the campaign going. Can you take 5 minutes to send a letter?

To make it easier we've listed the names and addresses of every member of Michigan's Congressional delegation and we've also included a sample letter on the next page. Branch Officers and Stewards please feel free to ask members at your next meeting to write a letter too. Thanks for all your support, together let's get every member of Congress to stand with us by sponsoring our legislation.

District 1

Jack Bergman (R)
414 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

District 2

Bill Huizenga (R)
1217 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

District 3

Justin Amash (R)
114 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

District 4

John Moolenaar (R)
117 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

District 5

Daniel Kildee (D)
227 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

District 6

Fred Upton (R)
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

District 7

Tim Walberg (R)
2436 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

District 8

Elissa Slotkin (D)
1531 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

District 9

Andy Levin (D)
228 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

District 10

Paul Mitchell (R)
211 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

District 11

Haley Stevens (D)
227 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

District 12

Debbie Dingel (D)
116 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

District 13

Rashida Tlaib (D)
1628 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

District 14

Brenda Lawrence (D)
1213 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

August 1, 2019

The Honorable XXXX XXXXXX
United States House of Representatives
XXXX XXXXXX
Washington, DC 20515

SAMPLE LETTER – See Page 14 for your Congressman’s info!!

Dear Representative XXXXXXX:

Several House Resolutions addressing the US Postal Service are of the utmost interest to me because I am a City Letter Carrier living in your District. These issues directly impact my neighbors, and our community. The Resolutions I am concerned about are:

H. Res 23 – This bill expresses a “sense of the house” that USPS should maintain door to door delivery for all business and residential customers. Door delivery should be expanded, not restricted or eliminated. Cutting it would undermine the Postal Service’s ‘last mile’ advantage, and likely reduce revenues by more than any cost savings.

H. Res 60 -- Expresses the sense of the House that USPS should take all appropriate measures to restore service standards in effect as of July 1, 2012. In our area everyone is dependent on USPS in some form or another. Seniors, Veterans and families alike depend on USPS to deliver urgent medical supplies and important correspondence. This is truly a non-partisan issue

H. Res 54 – Expresses the sense of the House that USPS should continue delivering 6 days a week, urban and rural communities depends on USPS to be there in a timely fashion.

H.Res 33 - Expresses the sense of the House that Congress should take all appropriate measures to ensure that the USPS remains an independent establishment of the Federal Government and is not subject to privatization.

Although I have seen reports of your position on the internet, I realize this may not fully represent your viewpoint. Therefore, I will look forward to your reply expressing your opinions, and your current stance on the issue.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an urgent issue, and would like to see you support these issues to ensure our area continues to receive the best services the US Postal Service can deliver.

Sincerely,

My Name

Address

City, State and Zip

The Michigan Letter Carrier
Michigan State Association
Of Letter Carriers, NALC
PO Box 871857
48187-5857



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Any MISALC member may submit material for possible inclusion in this newsletter.

Submitted materials may be edited for space or suitability.

The opinions expressed by the contributors are not necessarily those of the Michigan State Association of Letter Carriers.

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