

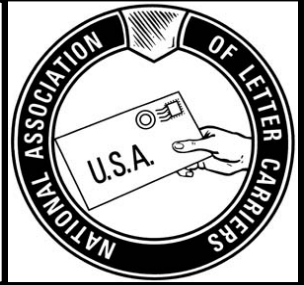
MICHIGAN LETTER CARRIER

Voice of the Michigan State Association of Letter Carriers

Volume 30

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April 2022



PRESIDENT'S REPORT CARL E BLASSINGAME, JR.



Brothers and Sisters, YOU DID IT!!! Thank you for all your hard work and dedication making calls to your Representatives, asking for their support of H.R. 3076. Because you stayed the course and never wavered, **the House passed H.R. 3076 with a vote of 342-92. Great Job! It didn't stop there, with Senator Gary Peters (D-MI) leading the way in the Senate, it was truly a bipartisan vote passing H.R. 3076 with a 79-19 victory for Letter Carriers and the Postal Service.** This was 15 years in the making and because of your hard work the pre-funding has ended. Thank You. But we must not forget that **Senator Gary Peters (D-MI) along with Rob Portman (R-OH) led the way once again making this a true bipartisan effort. We all must take the time to call Senator Peters, and thank him for his support in ending the pre-funding.**

Now to the next challenge that is facing us. The mid-term election is just around the corner and because of the **redistricting in Michigan** we have a few hurdles in front of us because of the realignment that was done to the Districts. Here are the new districts as they stand now.

The new MI-1: Michigan's old first district has been represented by U.S. Rep. Jack Bergman (R) who was elected in 2016. After recent redistricting, parts of Wexford County and all of Missaukee, Roscommon, Ogemaw, Iosco and Arenac counties will be added, while half of Mason County and all of Manistee County will be removed. The district is, and is likely to remain, a Republican stronghold. Bergman has not announced a candidacy, but is expected to run in the new MI-1. No other Republican candidates have declared. Democrat Bob Lorinser, a doctor and former State department official from Marquette, is running.

The new MI-2: The updated MI-2 will gain Ionia County and include communities such as Ludington, Big Rapids and Mount Pleasant, staying solidly Republican. The old MI-2 has been represented by U.S. Rep. Bill Huizenga (R) after his election in 2010. Huizenga will now be running in the MI-4. U.S. Rep. John Moolenaar (R) has represented the MI-4, and will now be running in the new MI-2. Another Republican, Tom Norton, is also running. Norton previously ran in 2020 in Michigan's third district.

The new MI-3: Michigan's new third district will stretch west to include Muskegon, Grand Haven, Grand River and lakeshore communities. The addition of Muskegon, in particular, could help Democrats swing this district for the first time in 45 years. U.S. Rep. Peter Meijer currently represents the MI-3 after his election in 2020. A few other Republicans have also decided to run, including John Gibbs, Audra Johnson and attorney Gabriella Manolache. Democrat Hillary Scholten, who lost to Meijer in 2020, also declared her candidacy.

The new MI-4: U.S. Rep. Bill Huizenga (R), who currently represents the MI-2, will be running in Michigan's updated fourth district, which will now reach from St. Joseph Township to Port Sheldon Township. U.S. Rep. Fred Upton (R), who currently serves St. Joseph in the 6th district, and has since 1993, may run here, though he has not yet declared. State Rep. Steve Carra (R) is also running. The district will likely stay Republican-controlled, but with a slimmer margin.

The new MI-5: Changes in Michigan's fifth district include removing Eaton County, parts of Washtenaw County and Flint, while adding some southwestern communities. Republicans will likely have a much stronger hold here in the coming elections, though no one has yet declared candidacy.

Carl continued....

The new MI-6: will become an Ann Arbor-centered district, grouped with communities in western Wayne County like Novi, Northville and Plymouth. Dearborn and Ann Arbor were previously located in the same district, a significant change with the new maps. U.S. Rep. Debbie Dingell (D) will run in the new MI-6. Dingell previously represented both Ann Arbor and Dearborn in the old MI-12. The current Michigan sixth district is held by U.S. Rep. Fred Upton (R), who has yet to announce reelection plans.

The new MI-7: Michigan's seventh district will be changing to create a Lansing centered district, removing parts of Eaton and Washtenaw counties and adding other southwestern communities. The district has been represented by U.S. Rep. Tim Walberg (R) for over a decade. Walberg announced in November he would be seeking reelection in the same district before the new maps were released, though after redistricting he will reside in the MI-5. U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D) and state Sen. Tom Barrett (R) have both declared candidacy here, with Republicans being slightly favored under the new maps.

The new MI-8: Republican's strength in Michigan's eighth district will likely fade under the new maps, after the MI-8 becomes a Flint-centered district. The area is currently held by U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin, who won in a close 2018 race; she is now running in the MI-7. U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee's (D) home was part of MI-5, and is now in MI-8. That's where he'll run to represent this year. Former Trump administration official Paul Junge (R) previously ran and lost to Slotkin in 2020 and will be running again.

The new MI-9: A district previously held by Democrats, specifically U.S. Rep. Andy Levin (D), the MI-9 will shift to house most of "Michigan's Thumb" and combine portions of northern Oakland and Macomb counties. Republicans will likely do well here. U.S. Rep. Lisa McClain (R) announced candidacy here after previously representing the old MI-10. Levin will run in the new MI-11.

The new MI-10: No incumbent has declared candidacy for the new MI-10, which will include parts of Macomb and Oakland counties and group communities that were previously split among districts. John James (R) previously ran and lost in two statewide elections, but has declared his candidacy here. Another Republican, attorney Eric Esshaki, initially planned to run but has since dropped out of the race. Esshaki previously lost to U.S. Rep. Haley Stevens. On the Democratic side, Warren city council member Angela Rogensues and attorney and activist Huwaida Arraf are both running. The district is expected to be lean Republican, though less so than has before recent redistricting.

The new MI-11: This district will switch to favor Democrats, after previously having a slight Republican advantage. U.S. Rep. Haley Stevens (D) currently represents the district and is running for reelection. Because parts of the old MI-9 are being added, such as southeast Oakland county and communities near Pontiac, U.S. Rep. Andy Levin (D), who represents the MI-9, is also running here. Two Republicans, Matthew DenOtter and Samukh Kallur, have declared they are running, as well.

The new MI-12: In what will be one of the safest Democratic districts, parts of Detroit are combined with neighboring communities like Dearborn to form Michigan's new twelfth district. U.S. Rep. Debbie Dingell (D) currently represents Dearborn in the MI-12, but will be moving to the Ann Arbor-centered district to run in the new MI-6. U.S. Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D) is now running here, after being elected to serve the old MI-13 in 2018.

The new MI-13: Including most of downtown Detroit and Midtown, while also extending to Downriver and Grosse Pointe, the new MI-13 seat is open. U.S. Rep. Brenda Lawrence (D) is currently the incumbent for the MI-14, but has announced she will not seek office here in 2022. Among Democrats, state Sen. Adam Hollier, former state Rep. Sherry Gay-Dagnogo and state Rep. Shri Thanedar have announced. Copied from Michigan Radio.

What happened to the old MI-14? After the 2020 census, Michigan lost a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives based on having a lower proportion of the U.S. population than in 2010. Now, the state is only divided into 13 districts.

I hope this information gives you some understanding about the New Districts; more will follow as we get closer to the mid-term election.

Carl continued....

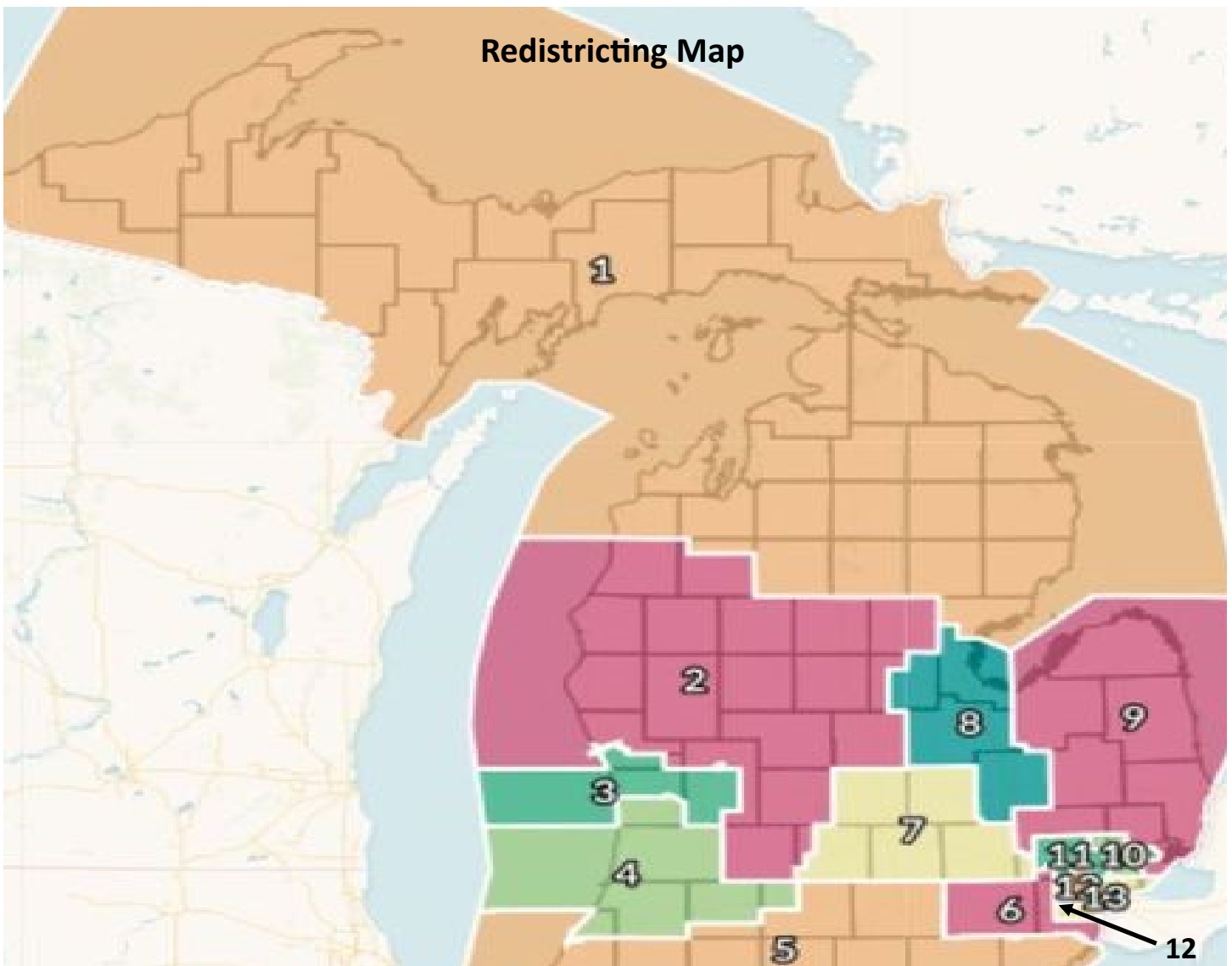
I would like to take this time to congratulate David Mudd who was appointed as our new NBA, keep up the good work. Also, congratulations go out to Ronnie Roush from Indiana who was appointed as our new RAA for the KIM region.

As some of you may know, Robyn Williams from Branch 320 stepped down from the MISALC executive board which left an opening on the state board. I have appointed Deborah Marriott as trustee. Deb is President of Branch 232 Jackson, MI. Thank you Deb for accepting this appointment.

We are also saying goodbye to Tom Minshall who has resigned from the executive board. Tom is a true union Brother and good friend; he will be missed. I have appointed Jayme Romine from Branch 246, Kalamazoo as trustee. Jayme thank you for accepting this appointment.

Finally, Brothers & Sisters, **join us on the 4th Thursday of each month from 7:00pm to 8:00pm**, as we restart our **State Webinar** where we will share information concerning legislative issues that affects Letter Carriers, **all members are welcome. Just send me your name and email address to be placed on our webinar list.**

Carl Blassingame misalc15@gmail.com



VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

WALTER MCGREGORY



Happy New Year to all!

With the New Year, we have upcoming mid-term elections. Are you registered to vote? Here are some important dates to remember to be prepared to exercise your right to vote for letter carrier friendly candidates.

- ◆ Tuesday August 2, 2022, is the Primary Election and Tuesday November 8, 2022 is the General Election.

Here are registration deadlines:

- ◆ July 18, 2022 is the last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the local clerk for the August primary.
- ◆ July 19 through August 2, 2022, until 8pm, in-person registration with a local clerk and proof of residency.
- ◆ October 24, 2022 is the last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the local clerk for the November general election.
- ◆ October 25 through November 8, 2022, until 8pm, in-person registration with a local clerk and proof of residency.

If you need assistance to register to vote and don't have access to a computer, see your local branch president or contact MISALC President Carl Blassingame at 734-999-8080, and he will assist you or assign a state officer to assist you with signing up.

Please check out our **Facebook State of Michigan** page where you will find up to date information including political, contractual and other information coming straight from NALC headquarters. Once you are on Facebook, go to the search button and type in **Michigan State Association of Letter Carriers**, this is a private group for Michigan Letter Carriers, and so you must request to become a part of it. Once you have been verified as a member within the state of Michigan with your branch number, you will be allowed in.

The pandemic has stopped us from doing some in person events for MDA over the last couple of years, but **NALC is still raising money for MDA year-round**. Some branches are raising record amounts of money for MDA. From golf outings, to MDA office raffles, the pandemic can't stop and won't stop NALC from raising funds for MDA!

Locally raised funds must be turned over to your local MDA office or mailed to the National MDA office in Chicago. **Deliver or mail your donation as close as possible to the date the funds were raised and include a completed NALC/MDA Allocation form along with your check or money order.**

Please mail the NBA's office or NALC Headquarters a copy of any receipts or checks along with a copy of the NALC/MDA Allocation so that your branch can be properly recognized. NALC/MDA Allocation must be turned in the same calendar year of the event (no later than December 28th) in order to qualify for the NALC Honor Roll for that year.

Locally raised funds must be turned over to the National MDA office in Chicago.

Muscular Dystrophy Association Inc.
Attn: NALC
PO Box 7410354
Chicago, IL 60674-0354

Walter continued...

Are you signed up for the Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF)? If not, why not? It goes towards our “job security”. The MISALC officers have been working closely with Region 6 Legislative and Political Organizer, Anna Mudd and National Business Agent, David Mudd in getting letter carriers in the state of Michigan signed up for LCPF.

Every branch leader should be signed up by now for LCPF and if you are not, start out by signing up for what you can afford. If it is only \$1.00 a pay period, that is a start. You can call sister Anna Mudd directly at 270-317-2960, and she can get you signed up. You can also call MISALC President Carl Blessingame at 734-999-8080, he can also help you signed up for LCPF.

If you as a Branch President would like for one of the State Officers to speak at your virtual branch meeting about LCPF or want some LCPF training, contact President Carl Blessingame and he will assist you.

As of February 26, 2022, career letter carriers received a COLA in the amount of \$1331.00 or 0.64 cents an hour for a top rate step O letter carrier. Once CCAs make career, they benefit from the COLAs at whatever the career wage is at the time of the conversion.

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

Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive May 14



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.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

JANE GRANT



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

Based on December 2021 information received from the National NALC Secretary-Treasurer Membership Department.

The MISALC had a total of 7,348 Active members 3,074 Retired members and 891 Retired Life-time members, for a total of 11,313 Members.

Michigan had no branch mergers in 2021.

The Michigan State Convention is scheduled at Motor City Casino and Hotel on Monday, May 2 and Tuesday May 3, 2023.

Politics

H.R. 3076, the Postal Reform bill has passed the House and the Senate! Letter Carrier Activist can rejoice after fighting for this important legislation for over a decade to save the USPS and our jobs. Now this bill heads for President Biden's desk to be signed.

So what is next for the NALC political agenda?

First we have the midterm elections on November 8, 2022. Our victory with the Postal Reform bill shows how important it is for you to get registered to vote and exercise your right to cast your vote. (See Vice President McGregory's article for the registration and election schedule)

It is important to become educated about the candidates so you are an informed voter. It is important to know which candidates support the Postal Service to protect our livelihood. You will want to know what the voting history of each candidate in regard to the Postal Service and labor issues in general.

NALC members enjoy a great lifestyle provided by our negotiated contract. Our wages, benefits and the protection that our union provides makes the USPS a great place to work. But remember with the stroke of a pen the wrong politicians can take it all away from us. Vote for your job. Vote for your future.

There are two bills on the NALC agenda, first the **Social Security Fairness Act**. This legislation focuses on two provisions adopted by Congress, in 1977 the **Government Pension Offset (GPO)**, which lowers the Social Security benefits for CSRS spousal and survivor benefits. The second provision is the 1982 **Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP)** which reduces the Social Security benefits of retired public employees (federal, state and local) who also worked in Social Security-covered private sector employment—if they receive a government annuity for their non-Social Security-covered government employment. This provision hits CSRS retirees directly (but not FERS retirees).

The second issue is the **Retirement Fairness Act**. This bill would cover postal employees, such as Letter Carriers who spent time as casuals, TEs, and CCAs, offering them the option of buying into their retirement for the time they worked in these positions. For more information search NALC.org/politics

Safety

The USPS removed the mandatory face mask policy on March 29th. While it is nice to have a break while the case load is low, this does not indicate that the pandemic is over. Be aware that Omicron BA.2 is moving across the U.S. and make informed choices for your family.

The NALC has dedicated a page to Covid-19 for our members. NALC.org/Covid

Another good source of information about Covid-19 is the World Health Organization website [who.int](https://www.who.int)

TREASURER'S REPORT

CATHY TONDREAU



At the start of 2022, I decided to review some of the information provided at some of the training sessions I have attended in year's past that I thought would be helpful to start the year off right. There were a few things that I thought I would share that I think will be helpful for both officers and members of each branch to remember, especially those new in an officer role.

David Dorsey, CPA, gave a class on conducting audits in small unions. He provided a guide for trustees on how to deal with the Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act (LMRDA) of 1959. The LMRDA requires that all unions with property and annual reports greater than \$5,000 secure a bond for at least 10% of the receipts and assets handled. Officers and employees should also be bonded. The LMRDA also requires unions to submit an annual financial report (LM report) within 90 days after the end of their fiscal year, for most of us that would be March 31st.

David also gave some tips on what red flags to look for when conducting your audit, including:

- apparent extravagance
- absent local officials
- membership complaints
- phone calls not returned
- vacations not taken
- one-person office
- delinquent LM and 990 reports
- change in lifestyles
- changes in personal health or habits
- abusive credit card usage
- unusual cash usage
- disorganized office

Just to name a few.

Another topic David spoke on was Internal Financial Controls. Union officials must ensure the unions funds and other assets are used solely for the benefit of the union and its members. Some effective controls can be established even in one-person operations. One example is requiring two signatures on all checks; establishing a separation between functions and responsibilities. In order to prevent and deter the misuse or embezzlements of union funds he suggests making regular deposits, getting prior authorization, avoiding signature stamps, requiring the financial officers give a report on the branch's finances at each membership meeting and encouraging trustee or audit committee members to conduct periodic audits.

I hope each branch has a copy of the NALC Branch Officer's Guide to Finance and Administration. It really comes in handy for numerous things. As an officer of your branch, I would recommend you sign up to attend the Officers Training offered by NALC. It has been quite educational for me.

Also don't forget the 990 reports are due for most of us on May 15th.

Stay Safe
Cathy

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

JOHN SERWACH



After many years of trying we finally passed Postal Reform in both the House and the Senate and President Biden is expected to sign it into law in the very near future. While there was not any one thing in this legislation that will immediately affect the lives of our members, the legislation protects six day delivery and long term will put the Postal Service on a stronger financial footing which will only serve to enhance our position during contract negotiations next year. In the Senate the legislation was pushed through in large part by Michigan's Gary Peters who is also the Chairman of the committee overseeing the Postal Service, please give him your thanks.

Meanwhile in Michigan we have redrawn the Congressional as well as the Legislative (State House and Senate) maps. After the 2020 census Michigan lost one of its Congressional seats due to re-apportionment, Nationally, there are still a few states that have not finalized their maps. Once they are all completed there will be about 65-70 truly competitive seats with the remaining leaning strongly Democratic or Republican.

While we don't have zip code information for each district yet we do have a breakdown by county (although some counties are split amongst multiple districts)

MI- 1: The Upper Peninsula and northern Lower Michigan

Counties: Gogebic, Ontonagon, Houghton, Keweenaw, Iron, Baraga, Dickinson, Marquette, Menominee, Delta, Alger, Schoolcraft, Luce, Mackinac, Chippewa, Emmet, Cheboygan, Presque Isle, Charlevoix, Leelanau, Antrim, Otsego, Montmorency, Alpena, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Crawford, Oscoda, Alcona, a small piece of northern Wexford, Missaukee, Roscommon, Ogemaw, Iosco and Arenac.

MI- 2: Western, central Michigan

Counties: Manistee, most of Wexford, Mason, Lake, Osceola, Clare, Gladwin, Oceana, Newaygo, Mecosta, Isabella, a small piece of western Midland (County), most of Muskegon (County), the north and east parts of Kent, Montcalm, Gratiot, Ionia, Barry and the northwest corner of Eaton.

MI- 3: Grand Rapids area

Counties: Most of Kent, a small piece of southern Muskegon (County) and the northern half of Ottawa.

MI- 4: Southwest Michigan

Counties: The southern half of Ottawa, Allegan, Van Buren, most of Kalamazoo (County), the northwest corner of Calhoun and a small part of northern Berrien.

MI- 5: Southern Michigan

Counties: Monroe, Lenawee, Hillsdale, Jackson, Branch, St. Joseph, a small piece of southern Kalamazoo (County), Cass and southern Berrien.

MI- 6: Ann Arbor area

Counties: Washtenaw, the city of Milan (from Monroe County) and the southern and western parts of Wayne.

MI- 7: Lansing area

Counties: Most of Eaton, Ingham, Livingston, Clinton, Shiawassee, a sliver of southwest Genesee and the southwest corner of Oakland.

MI- 8: Flint, Saginaw, Bay City, Midland area

Counties: Most of Genesee, Saginaw, Bay and most of Midland.

MI- 9: The Thumb

Counties: Tuscola, Huron, Sanilac, Lapeer, St. Clair, northern Oakland and northern Macomb.

Counties: Southern Macomb and a small piece of eastern Oakland in the Rochester Hills area.

John continued...

MI- 10: Macomb area

Counties: Southern Macomb and a small piece of eastern Oakland in the Rochester Hills area.

MI- 11: Oakland County area

Counties: About half of Oakland.

MI- 12: Western Wayne County area

Counties: Part of northern Wayne in the Livonia area and a sliver of southern Oakland in the Southfield area.

MI- 13: Detroit area

Counties: Central and northeastern parts of Wayne, Detroit, the Grosse Pointes and Downriver.

Confused? The bottom line is overall the changes were minor all things considered and they do result in more competitive districts. 2022 is certain to be a challenging election cycle for labor friendly candidates. Districts 3, 7 and 8 are considered "competitive".

Please take the time now to check your registration and confirm which new district you are in and make plans to vote either in person or by absentee ballot (mail) this fall.

THREE WAYS TO KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE MISALC

- You can reach our website at WWW.MISALC.org
- Our Facebook page at NALC Michigan
- Sign up for the monthly legislative newsletter at <http://www.getrevue.com/profile/MISALC>



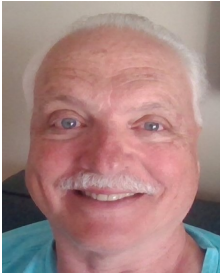
800-327-4968

800-EAP-4YOU



REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF RETIREES

MIKE SHERIDAN



HR 3076 Passes

The House of Representatives overwhelmingly (78.8% YES) passed the Postal Reform Act of 2022 and sent it to the US Senate for a vote. In Michigan we can thank eleven of our fourteen representatives for voting in the affirmative. Unfortunately, we had three voting against this important legislation. The three who should receive a call protesting their vote were Bill Huizenga (2nd District 202.225.4401 Washington DC, 616.570.0917 Michigan), John Moolenaar (4th District 202.225.3561 Washington DC 989.631.6271 Michigan), and my representative Lisa McClain (10th District 202.225.2106 Washington DC 586.697.9300 Michigan). More than three out of four representatives voted in favor of the important bill, and we should thank them all for their support. Our national officers believed we had enough Senate votes for passage with much support from Gary Peters and send it on to the White House for the President's signature. This bill will eliminate the onerous pre-funding of retiree health care and maintain six-day delivery as well as Medicare coordination for all postal retirees. The bill passed overwhelmingly in the Senate as well (79-19) and now heads to the President for a signature. We have worked over a decade to pass postal reform and our collective work has come to fruition.

The earnings limit for 2022 has risen to \$19,560 for Social Security and your FERS supplement. Any earnings above that limit will trigger penalties. For every two dollars over that limit, you will pay a one dollar penalty in the following year from your FERS supplement. This income limit rises each year and I will keep you updated accordingly.

With the release of the February CPI (Consumer Price Index) retirees have accumulated a projected 3.9% toward the 2023 cost of living increase. This reflects the total increase from October 2021 thru February 2022. The total increase will not be finalized until mid-October with the release of the September 2022 CPI. Yearly totals are computed based on CPI from October thru September.

Health Care in Retirement

Planning on retiring in the next couple of years? Get an annuity estimate by calling 877.477.3273 then option 5 for Human Resources then Option 2 for retirement. You can project up to five years in the future and see what your potential retirement benefit will be. I ask that you pay close attention to your health benefit costs in retirement. We have an HMO in southeast Michigan that is approaching \$1000 a month for a family premium in retirement!!! NALC Health benefit cost is only \$437.71 for a family in retirement. The HMO I cited can cost up to half of your pension so be aware and switch to the best health plan in the business, the NALC Health Benefit Plan.

Your health insurance automatically follows you into retirement (if you had 5 years continuous coverage prior to retirement) with no actions needed on your part. Retirement is NOT a life qualifying event allowing a healthcare change outside of open season. You will have an open season every year for making changes to your health coverage (always the second Monday in November to the second Monday in December). Retirees have an Open Season Express number at 800-332-9798 and you will need your Civil Service Annuity number. NALC codes are 321 single and 322 Family for the best coverage in the business. You can signup for vision and dental ANY year during open season without the five-year requirement for health coverage.

With the passage of HR 3076 ALL retirees from 2025 forward will be required to join Medicare A & B. There will be a special signup period in 2024 for those retirees that did not elect Medicare B at age 65 where they will be allowed to signup without the 10% per year penalty for those who delayed that signup. Your federal health plan is your "Medigap" policy so never give up your federal health plan. Medicare A covers 80% of hospital charges and Medicare B covers 80% of all other services and copays. You can "suspend" (NOT CANCEL) your federal health plan if you will be covered under Tricare for Life (veterans), or you join a Medicare Advantage plan commonly referred to as Medicare C.

REPORTS FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE BOARD

ANNETTE KULEK CHAIRPERSON



Dear Brothers and Sisters of MISALC, Good News! **In a decade-long effort The Postal Reform Act of 2022 has passed the House and Senate!** The bill passed in the House of Representatives 342-92. Democrats 222 yea 0 nay. Republicans 120 yea 92 nay. Three Michigan Representatives voted nay; Huizenga (R- District 2); McClain (R-District 10) and Moolenaar (R-District 4). **Please contact these Representatives if you live in these districts and ask them why they voted against The United States Postal Service, its employees and an essential service for their constituents.**

In the Senate the bill passed with historic support, 79-19. The MISALC gives a huge Thank You to our own Senator Peters the Chairman of Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee along with Ranking Member Rob Portman (R-OH) who sponsored this legislation. We would also like to thank **Michigan Senator, Stabenow and all Congressional Representatives who voted in favor of the USPS and Letter Carriers.** The bill goes to President Biden's desk where it will be signed into law. Please accept my deepest gratitude to all Letter Carriers who worked over ten years to get this vital legislation completed.

Midterm elections are right around the corner. The Primary is August 2nd and the General election is November 8, 2022. Voters can register to vote by mail at county, city or township clerk office's or by visiting any Secretary of State branch office. Same-day registration is available. Kindly make sure you are ready to vote.

As of March 2022, 53 members of Congress (6 members of the U.S. Senate and 47 members of the U.S. House) have announced they will not seek reelection. Of those, 6 senators and 31 representatives have announced their retirement. Many of these politicians are longtime friends of Letter Carriers.

We need to make our voices heard to these newly elected politicians by contributing to The Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF) through Postal ease. Five dollars a pay period isn't too much to ask to protect our future. A grateful and hardy thank you to all of you who are donors to the LCPF. We need everyone to stay informed and volunteer, if possible, for the midterm election.

Thank you for your diligence service to the American people. Godspeed.
In Solidarity and peace, Annette

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

Let us help

MISALC Officers are eagerly awaiting an invitation to your General Membership meeting.

Contact President Blessingame at 734-999-8080 Or MISALC15@gmail.com

See you soon!

CORNELL FEARS



“Together we stand divided we fall”, that used to be our battle cry. “All men are created equal,” is that true or not? The year is 2022 not 1922, last time I checked. A solid, working middle class, that used to mean something, not now. In this great United States of America everything boils down to, Republican or Democrat, Black or White and Rich or Poor. Pick your poison.

The Democratic process is slowing and fading. The Pied Piper is leading America down the forbidden road. If we look in the mirror and see that men or women know that everything could begin to change. Unions are being attacked, working brothers and sisters must work together. For things to change, we have to change, for things to get better, we have to get better.

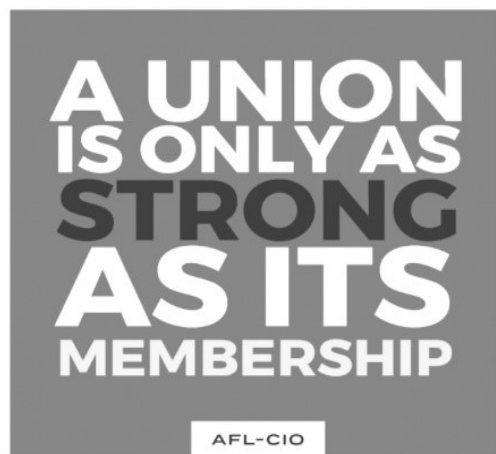
Brothers and sisters there are several good things that are starting to happen for the National Association of Letter Carriers as well as the United States Postal Service. The best thing is that the House of Representatives and the Senate passed (H.R.3076) The Postal Service Reform Act of 2022. Now President Biden will sign it into law.

Several of our Covid memos have been extended until April 8, 2022. Keep this in mind “People seldom improve when they have no other model, but themselves to copy after”. Oliver Goldsmith



Branch leadership please remember to send your updated election results to the MISALC. Include the contact information for your President and Secretary to:

MISALC
PO Box 871857
Canton, MI 48187-5857



PAUL ROZNOWSKI



Wounded Warrior Leave

Eligibility can be verified on the employee's PS Form 50 which is found in their e-OPF. In box #11 on their PS Form 50 it should indicate – "6-10pt-Comp over 30%". If box #11 does not denote "6-10pt-Comp over 30%", the employee will need to submit the necessary documentation to certify they meet the 30% eligibility. In the NALC letter dated November 2016 it states – employees who have not yet submitted the necessary paperwork must provide documentation from the Dept. of Veterans Affairs certifying that they have a qualifying service-connected disability. Specifically, a copy of DD 214, for each period of service, along with rating letter from the VA. Address:

HR Shared Service Center
Via mail: Attention RTR
HR Shared Service Center
PO Box 970100
Greensboro, NC 27497-0100
Fax: 651-994-3521

Requests for Wounded Warriors Leave Foreseeable Leave

All employees requesting Wounded Warriors Leave must do the following: a. Submit their request on PS Form 3971, Request for or Notification of Absence, in advance to the appropriate supervisor; and b. Designate the reason for the absence as "other" and write "Wounded Warriors Leave" in the space provided.

Unforeseeable Leave

The Postal Service makes an exception to the advance approval requirement for unexpected treatment that qualifies for Wounded Warriors Leave.

When the need to use Wounded Warriors Leave is not foreseeable, the employee must notify the appropriate supervisor of the following items:

- a. The employee's treatment.
- b. The expected duration of the absence; and
- c. The applicability of Wounded Warriors Leave, as soon as possible. Alternatively, the employee may use the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system to record his or her absences. If the employee does not submit PS Form 3971 before the absence, the supervisor must provide it to the employee upon his or her return to duty.

Approval or Disapproval The supervisor is responsible for approving or disapproving requests for Wounded Warriors Leave by signing PS Form 3971 and returning a copy to the employee. If a supervisor does not approve a request for leave as submitted, the supervisor must check the Disapproved block on PS Form 3971 and give the reason(s) for the disapproval in writing in the space provided. When a request is disapproved, the supervisor may also grant an alternate type of leave, if any, and give with the reason for the disapproval. Supervisors must also note Absences Without Leave (AWOL) determinations the same as disapproved leave.

Verification

To verify that Wounded Warriors Leave requested by an employee is appropriately used for the treatment of a service-connected disability, the requesting employee must submit to the supervisor a copy of PS Form 5980, Treatment Verification for Wounded Warriors Leave, certified by a health care provider that the employee used the leave to receive treatment for a covered disability (Management Instruction EL-51 0-2016-8 5 M-01881). The employee must provide the verification no later than 15 calendar days after the employee returns to work.

DEBORAH MARRIOTT



I would like to thank President Blassingame for the appointment to the MISALC Executive Board. I am looking forward to serving the members of Michigan.

I have been a union official since 1997. I've held the position of Local Safety Representative, Steward, Vice President, President from 1999 - 2006 and again from 2021 - present. I am also the backup Voma of our office, I am an OJI in our office, and also a proud member of the Joint District Safety Committee since it was implemented in Detroit. Jackson Br 232 also oversees Hillsdale, Albion, Homer, Jonesville and Tecumseh Post Offices, we represent the 492 zip codes.

Keep your eye on the prize.

What is that? Retiring with a healthy body, mind, and soul.

Being a carrier takes a toll on all three and to have to carry mail for 30 years seems never ending. Have you ever noticed that when you're having a good day it seems to fly by, however when you're having a bad day it seems to take forever?

Laughter is some of the best medicine (and it's free) for the body, mind, and soul. Share some bad dad jokes or knock-knock jokes with a co-worker; what better way to start the day then with a chuckle.

We spend more time with our co-workers then we do with our families so why not make the best of it. Our office has started a biweekly "Saturday Soul Train Stroll" for those four minutes the craft employees come together, the music lifting us up and we have lots of laughs. Everyone's day will start on an up note. The more good days you have the faster your retirement day seems to arrive.

What is the Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act?

Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act of 2015 (**Sec. 2**) Entitles any federal employee who is a veteran with a service-connected disability rated at 30% or more, during the 12-month period beginning on the first day of employment, to up to 104 hours of leave, without loss or reduction in pay, for purposes of undergoing medical treatment for such disability for which sick leave could regularly be used.

See Paul Roznowski's article for more information on page 13



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THREE WAYS TO KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE MISALC

- You can reach our website at WWW.MISALC.org
- Our Facebook page at NALC Michigan
- Sign up for the monthly legislative newsletter at <http://www.getrevue.co/profile/MISALC>

Michigan U.S. Senators

Senator Gary Peters
Ph: 202-224-6221
Fax: 202-224-1388
<https://www.peters.senate.gov/>

Senator Debbie Stabenow
Ph: 202-224-4822
Fax: 202-228-0325
<http://www.stabenow.senate.gov/>

Michigan U.S. Representatives

Congressman Jack Bergman - District 1
Ph: 202-225-4735
Fax: 202-225-4734
<https://bergman.house.gov/>

Congressman Bill Huizenga - District 2
Ph: 202-225-4401
Fax: 202-226-0779
<http://huizenga.house.gov/>

Congressman Peter Meijer - District 3
Ph: 202-225-3831
Fax: 202-225-5144
<http://meijer.house.gov>

Congressman John Moolenaar - District 4
Ph: 202-225-3561
Fax: 202-225-9679
<https://moolenaar.house.gov/>

Congressman Daniel Kildee - District 5
Ph: 202-225-3561
Fax: 202-225-3611
<https://dankildee.house.gov/>

Congressman Fred Upton - District 6
Ph: 202-225-3761
Fax: 202-225-4986
www.upton.house.gov/

Congressman Tim Walberg - District 7
Ph: 202-225-6276
Fax: 202-225-6281
<http://walberg.house.gov/>

Congresswoman Elissa Slotkin- District 8
Ph: 202-225-4872
Fax: 202-225-5820
<https://slotkin.house.gov/>

Congressman Andy Levin - District 9
Ph: 202-225-4961
Fax: 202-226-1033
www.andylevin.house.gov

Congresswoman Lisa McClain - District 10
Ph: 202-225-2106
Fax: 202-226-1169
<https://mcclain.house.gov/>

Congresswoman Haley Stevens- District 11
Ph: 202-225-8171
<https://trott.house.gov/>

Congresswoman Debbie Dingell - District 12
Ph: 202-225-4071
Fax: 202-226-0371
<https://debbiedingell.house.gov/>

Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence - District 14
Ph: 202-225-5802
Fax: 202-226-2356
<https://lawrence.house.gov/>

The Michigan Letter Carrier
Michigan State Association
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