

MICHIGAN LETTER CARRIER

Voice of the Michigan State Association of Letter Carriers

Volume 30

Issue 2

October 2022



The Michigan State convention will be held at Motor City Casino, Detroit, MI on Monday, May 1 and Tuesday, May 2, 2023. The Convention Call will be mailed out in January.

The MISALC monthly webinar will now be held on the second Tuesday each month at 7pm to 8pm.

All Michigan NALC members are welcome. Send your request to President Blassingame at misalc15@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

CARL E BLASSINGAME, JR.



The midterm elections are November 8th and we have seen with the passing of the Postal Service Reform Act (H.R. 3076 and S.1720) that who we elect to Congress, the Senate and the White House effects our job.

Letter carrier activists fought for over 12 years to end the unfair burden placed on the United States Postal Service of having to fund future retiree healthcare. We finally accomplished that when President Biden signed the Postal Service Reform Act into law on April 6, 2022.

Now that this bill has passed, 6 day delivery is now law and will not have to be voted on yearly at the whims of self-serving politicians.

Postal employees have seen up close that who we elect to office has an impact on the future of our employer and our livelihood.

Now we look at two more important 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

With over 50% of our carriers starting their careers as former TEs, CCAs or currently working as CCAs, **passing the Retirement Fairness Act will be a huge benefit for their future.**

Carl continued on page 2...

OUR DEMOCRACY IN DANGER

As we draw closer to the November 8th midterm elections one must ask... How important is this election compared to other elections and should I take the time to vote? The answer to those questions is yes. Even though the United States remains a free country with a strong rule of law, our Democracy hangs in the balance. Legislative partisanship, gerrymandering, special interests' groups, racial discrimination, and the spread of disinformation has resulted in hate, violence, and division in this country. The lies about the 2020 election being unfair resulted in an attack on the Capitol on January 6, 2021, all because of a loss. The transfer of power is one of our hallmark traditions that defines us as a Democratic country. Instead, people attacked the Capitol, assaulted Capitol Police, and desecrated the halls of Congress and yet some call them patriots. Have we lowered our standards in this country? Respect and honor of this great country is in question!

Sadly there are citizens that are interested in participating in the political arena because they want to make a positive difference, only to have been impeded by an uprising of threats towards them and their families. Poll workers and their families have been attacked only because they want to do their civic duty and be part of a democratic process.

Reproductive rights that women have had almost 50 years are now it is being taken away. Now women are not allowed to make decision concerning their own bodies and health. Regardless of your position about abortion no one should have the authority to control one's ability to make decisions about their health or any decision they make in their personal life.

The right to vote without fear that your vote will be taken away, all because a particular party didn't like the outcome of the election. Should they take away your vote and your right to choose the candidate of your choice? I can go on and on but let me say this. **WE all have a right to our opinion and the right on how we live our lives as WE so choose. Our faith, who we love and our lifestyle is ours as an individual living in a FREE Country and NO one has the right to take that away from us.** No one has the right to force their lifestyle or their beliefs on another because they don't like how that person lives. In this country you have the right to live and love who you choose and you should be able to do that without being singled out, outcast or treated as less than a human being.

Finally, I want to share an experience I had as an Election Inspector during the August primary. One of our poll workers felt the 2020 election was rigged so she wanted to work on the election to see for herself. As the day went on this poll worker stated that all the news she had been watching and the information she was getting from others was wrong and that there was no way the past election was rigged. **The poll worker stated that being there working and seeing the process restored her confidence in knowing the election of 2020 was fair.** I encourage anyone who feels like this poll worker to volunteer and see for yourself. In fact she was going back to explain to her family and friends what she experienced and to reassure everyone the election process was fair.

Democracy is truly in the balance, our rights, how we live and who we love are on the ballot.

Carl continued....

In Michigan there are three proposals that we all should pay attention to.

On the ballot Michigan, Proposal 1, Legislative Term Limits and Financial Disclosures Amendment (2022)

A “yes” vote supports this Amendment would mean.

1. Change the term limits for state legislators from three 2-year terms (6 years) in the state House and (4) years terms (8 years) in the state senate to 12 combined years in the Legislature, and
2. Provide that elected state legislative and state executive officials must file annual financial disclosure reports on their income, assets, liabilities, gifts from lobbyists, positions held in certain organizations, and agreements on future employment.

A “no” vote opposes this constitutional amendment, thus continuing the term limits we have now.

Michigan Proposal 2, Right to Voting Policies Amendment (2022)

A “yes” vote supports amending the Michigan Constitution to change voting policies in the state, including,

1. providing voters with the right to vote without harassment, interference, or intimidation
2. guaranteeing that military and overseas ballots postmarked by election day are counted
3. requiring a photo ID or a signed affidavit to vote
4. authorizing voters to drop off absentee ballots at drop boxes
5. allowing for nine days of early voting
6. requiring public disclosure of donations from private entities that were used to pay for elections or audit.

A “no” vote opposes amending the Michigan Constitution to change voting policies in the state.

Michigan Proposal 3, Right to Reproductive Freedom Initiative (2022)

A “yes” vote would support a state constitutional right to reproductive freedom, which is defined as “the right to make effectuate decision about all matters relating to pregnancy, including but not limited to prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, contraception, sterilization, abortion care, miscarriage management, and infertility care.”

A “no” vote would oppose providing a state constitutional right to reproductive freedom, which is defined as “the right to make effectuate decision about all matters relating to pregnancy, including but not limited to prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, contraception, sterilization, abortion, care, miscarriage management, and infertility care.

Brothers and Sisters, it’s essential that we value democracy, and demand our elected officials, who have sworn an oath to uphold the constitution, to work together and address the polarization, skepticism, and distrust that’s fueling this country decline. We must ensure that our democratic system functions for the benefit of all in this country. Democracy maybe resilient, but it is never static or unchallenged, we all must make a sustained effort to band together to fight against antidemocratic assaults and the erosion of the people’s trust.

Brothers and Sisters, the MISALC has hit a milestone, Jayme Romine from Branch #246, is the first former CCA that is serving on the State Board; a new generation. Jayme began her career in 2020 as a Letter Carrier. Thank you, Jayme, for excepting the Executive Board position, you have already shown to be a major player to the State Association.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

WALTER MCGREGORY



Still More Work to Do!

We did it! Postal reform has passed. Back on April 6, 2022, President Biden signed the Postal Service Reform Act of 2022 (H.R. 3076) into law. Six-day delivery is now law. The pre-funding mandate that has saddled our employer since 2006 is forever gone because of teamwork by each of you! Twelve years of lobbying, phone banking and marches have paid off.

There is still more work to do! H.R.4268, would allow former CCAs, current CCAs, and former Transitional Employees (T.E.'s) to make catch-up retirement contributions for time spent as non-career employees after Dec. 31, 1988, to have time creditable service under FERS. This bill was sponsored by Reps. Derek Kilmer (D-WA) and Tom Cole (R-OK). With more than fifty percent of our current workforce being former CCAs, current CCAs and former T.E.s, most of you have a stake in this bill passing.

You may ask, "how and what do I need to do to get involved?" First, **make sure that you are registered to vote November the 8th, 2022, in the mid-terms.** Take the time to **research the candidates and see if they support H.R. 4268 and other bills that are pro-USPS.** You can always ask a branch officer to assist you or call MISALC President Carl Blasingame for assistance in finding out all of your legislative needs and he will be happy to assist you. 734-999-8080

Vote absentee. You don't have to wait until election day to vote. Do the research on the candidates now and make sure you and your household (everyone 18 years old and older) vote absentee. Call your loved ones and tell them about voting absentee. I have nieces and nephews myself that have turned 18yrs old since the 2020 elections. Uncle Walt will be making sure they are registered to vote and voting.

Next, make sure you as a leader are **signed up for LCPF (Letter Carrier Political Fund).** Career carriers just received a COLA of \$2455 as of August 27, 2022. That is a 3.8% pay increase for each step in the career pay chart. This makes since the start of this 2019-2023 contract, for letter carriers at least, a 10 percent increase in pay. CCAs will benefit once making career as their pay will reflect the COLA increases. So, we all can afford to contribute to LCPF.

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 Blasingame at 734-999-8080, and he will assist you or assign a state officer to assist you with signing up.

Please check out our **State of Michigan Facebook 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, so you must request to become apart of it. Once you have been verified as a member within the state of Michigan with your branch number, you will be allowed in.

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 Blasingame and he will assist you.

Lastly, I want to congratulate brother David Mudd, NBA, on his win as he was nominated at the National Convention in Chicago on August 10, 2022, as our Region 6, KIM (Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan) National Business Agent for the next four years. Brother Mudd won by consent (acclamation) as no one ran against him. The MISALC looks forward to working with brother Mudd over the next four years. It was good to see the Michigan delegates at the Chicago convention.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

JANE GRANT



I hope you are **registered to vote in the November 8th midterm election, if not you can register several different ways.** The easiest is online, if you have a Michigan driver's license or state ID. Go to Michigan.gov/voterregistration or Michigan.gov/vote

You may also register or update your address at a Secretary of State office, at your city or township clerk's office or county clerk, at any state agency that provides public assistance or services to people with disabilities, through a voter registration drive or **mailing a voters registration application, postmarked at least 15 days before the**

election.

Within 14 days of the election you must register at your local city or township clerk's office in person, up to 8pm on election day.

Acceptable documents for voter with 14 days of the election: Driver's license, state ID, government, college, or university document, utility bill with your current address. If you don't have photo ID you can still register but you will be required to sign an affidavit at your city/county/township clerk's office.

Voting Requirements: You must be a resident of Michigan, in your city or township 30 days before the election day, a United State citizen, not currently serving a sentence in jail or prison, and at least 18 years old by election day (you may register at 17 ½ years old but must be 18 years old on election day)

On Michigan.gov/vote or Michigan.gov/voterregistration you may also check to see if you are registered to vote, see a sample ballot, download application forms, find out where you vote and answers to all of your voting questions. (source mivc.sos.state.mi.us)

Now that you are registered to vote, make sure you have checked out President Blassingame's article to educate yourself on the three Michigan ballot proposals. I know I am glad I had this article for a resource.

The Hatch Act

You can get all the information about the Hatch Act on NALC.org/governmentAffairs scroll down to Political and click on Letter Carriers and the Hatch Act.

Let's look at the outline of the Hatch Act to keep us, as government employee's out of trouble.

Active letter carriers may not--while on the clock, at the workplace, in a postal uniform or in a postal vehicle.

- Send or forward a partisan political e-mail.
- Wear or display any political or campaign material, even as a computer screen-saver or desktop wallpaper.
- Circulate partisan political materials to co-workers.
- Sign up electronically to contribute to the Letter Carrier Political Fund or solicit other letter carriers to contribute.

Continued on page 6...

Letter Carriers can Never...

Active letter carriers may not—even on their own time, away from work, out of uniform and without using a postal vehicle:

- Use their official titles or positions when engaging in otherwise permissible activities.
- Raise money for partisan political groups or campaigns (except for the Letter Carrier Political Fund), including phone-banking, letter-writing, selling tickets, hosting a fundraiser, inviting people to attend a fundraiser, or allowing your name to be used in a fundraising appeal.
- Otherwise solicit, receive or handle contributions for a partisan political group or campaign.
- Run for elective office in partisan (party-label) elections (even if you report “No Party Affiliation”).
- Raise money for the Letter Carrier Political Fund from non-NALC members (except from their immediate family members in the same household)

Social Media

In general, all federal employees may use social media and email and comply with the Hatch Act if they remember the following guidelines:

1. Do not engage in political activity while on duty or in the workplace. (Federal employees are “on duty” when they are in a pay status, other than paid leave, or are representing the government in an official capacity.)
2. Do not engage in political activity in an official capacity at any time.
3. Do not solicit or receive political contributions at any time. (**This does NOT include contributions to the Letter Carrier Political Fund solicited from fellow NALC members while off the clock.**)

“Political activity” refers to any activity directed at the success or failure of a political party or partisan political group (collectively referred to as “partisan groups”), or candidate in a partisan race.

Source NALC.org

Absentee Ballots

All registered voters in Michigan have the right to vote by mail. It's a safe way to vote and protect your health, and the process is secure and accurate. Due to the passage of the statewide ballot proposal 18-3, all eligible and registered voters in Michigan may now request an absent voter ballot without providing a reason.

Voters may request an absent voter ballot or accessible voter ballot in a variety of ways. Voters can complete an online application at Michigan.gov/Vote or submit an application. Requests for absent voter ballots may be returned by hand, via postal mail, fax or email, as long as a signature is visible.

Requests to have an absent voter ballot mailed to you must be received by your clerk no later than 5 p.m. the Friday before the election. If you're already registered at your current address, you can request an absent voter ballot in person at your clerk's office anytime up to 4 p.m. on the day prior to the election, this ballot must be completed at the clerk's office. If you're registering to vote or updating your address by appearing at your clerk's office on Election Day, you can request an absent voter ballot at the same time you register. If you request your AV ballot the day before the election or on Election Day, you must vote the ballot in the clerk's office.

After receiving your absent voter ballot, you have until 8 p.m. on Election Day to complete the ballot and return it to the clerk's office. **Your ballot will not be counted unless your signature is on the return envelope and matches your signature on file. If you received assistance voting the ballot, then the signature of the person who helped you must also be on the return envelope.** Only you, a family member or person residing in your household, a mail carrier, or election official is authorized to deliver your signed absent voter ballot to your clerk's office.

Jane continued on page 12

TREASURER'S REPORT

CATHY TONDREAU



Welcome to September...

First, let's hope everyone is registered to vote. If not, **you have until Oct 24th to register to vote. October 25 through November 8, 2022 you will still be able to register in person at your local clerk with proof of residency.** Let's also remember to **get out and vote - either in person or by mail.**

As you think about casting your vote, please consider what is good for the people of Michigan and the letter carriers. Naturally, we want candidates that are **LETTER CARRIER FRIENDLY**, but we also want elected officials who are going to fight for us as Michiganders. This includes women's healthcare and reproductive rights. We want to support officials who are forward thinking, looking toward the future, not going back in time restricting access, privacy and choice.

Consider electing officials who support positive healthcare outcomes, who are against re-districting to hold on to power, promote keeping us, our children and families safe in schools, places of worship and even at our local grocery stores. Thoroughly research your candidate options to make sure they have **YOUR** best interests in mind when they represent you at the state and federal level!

Finally, **make sure you are getting your paperwork prepared for the year-end as the reports are due in March and May**, if your **fiscal year ends in December**, which is swiftly approaching. For additional information, you can always go to the **NALC website and reach out to Nicole Rhine** to ensure you have all the information you need for your year-end reports.



NALC Auxiliary

The basic goal is promoting the interests of letter carriers and their families.

Who is eligible for NALCA membership?

Active and retired members of NALC and their spouses, family members, significant others and friends over the age of 16 are eligible for NALCA membership. The NALCA membership fee is \$20 per year. You can get the sign up form at [NALC.org](https://www.nalc.org)

- We contact legislators to get their support of letter carriers' issues.
- We help letter carriers' causes by representing them in community events, activities and charities.
- We unite NALC members, their families, friends and auxiliary members and encourage support for one another.

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.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

JOHN SERWACH



Are you tired of winning yet? I know, it sounds crazy doesn't it but who would've believed how much President Biden could accomplish with the slimmest possible majorities in Congress and yet he's gotten the job done. He's done more for union households and more importantly Letter Carrier families than any other President in my lifetime and probably in the history of our country.

Let's recap his time in office so far-

He's brought the pandemic under control. Every household in America had the opportunity to get free testing supplies, delivered by YOU and he took vaccination rates from 1% to over 75% and made sure vaccines were available to everyone who wanted one.

He passed the American Rescue Plan that put money in American's pockets and helped get American's back to work.

He passed historic bipartisan infrastructure legislation in 2021 that will rebuild America's crumbling infrastructure investing in roads, bridges, high speed internet for rural areas, rebuilding America's Ports, Airports and railroads and it will put our union brothers and sisters to work making a fair wage for a fair days work while benefiting all Americans not just the wealthiest. This year alone repairs have begun on 65,000 miles of highways and 1500 bridges.

He strengthened the Affordable Care Act allowing more Americans than ever before to have health care and at lower cost.

Since taking office the American economy has added over 9 million jobs the most of any President ever, and as of this writing more Americans are employed than at any time during the prior administration and unemployment is at a record low of 3.6%.

He reauthorized and strengthened the Violence Against Women Act.

He ended America's longest war in Afghanistan and provided our friends in Ukraine the ability to defend themselves against a brutal dictator and a Russia that had been resurgent under the prior administration - strengthening America abroad and reclaiming our place as the leader of the free world.

At home he took on the gun lobby and got the first significant gun violence reduction legislation to pass in 30 years. Enhancing background checks, closing loopholes and finally reining in "ghost guns".

He passed the CHIPS and Science Act, which will reduce the cost of goods, strengthen American manufacturing, bring good, high tech jobs home and allowing Americans to compete with China. This year alone 800,000 jobs have come back to America from Asia and Mexico and new factories for high tech jobs are being built in our country, not Asia.

He signed the PACT Act and other legislation to improve the benefits for Veterans who served our country.

He provided Student Loan relief, not for the wealthiest Americans but for middle class families like ours, so that our kids have a better shot at the American dream to do at least a little better than their parents did.

Continued on page 9...

And last, but not least to all of us, he passed the Postal Reform Act of 2022. And when he signed that Bill it was a union City Letter Carrier who introduced him. The Postal Reform Act has finally lifted the onerous prefunding requirements that date back to 2006, unshackling us from that unfair financial disadvantage and allowing USPS to modernize and purchase new vehicles and equipment. Equally important, it will free up the funds for a new and fair contract next year to recognize the unique and vital role that Letter Carriers play in the financial success of the USPS and to the American economy at large.

And he managed to accomplish all this (and more) with the slimmest possible majority in Congress.

What's the other party spent their time doing? From what I've seen they've spent the last two years whining and crying fraud about an election they lost fair and square. They claim their top guy got cheated (but oddly, they're not complaining about any of the other results) but they don't have any evidence just crazy theories and made up stories. They've obstructed and filibustered as much as they could. They've openly admitted they want to pry into your personal life and your privacy, make health decisions for you and your family. Force children in the case of rape and incest even, to follow through with a pregnancy. To tell people who they should or shouldn't love, who they can and cannot marry as if that should be any business of theirs. Republican used to talk about "personal freedom", but nowadays it seems like all they want to do is take away our rights. They're even talking about doing away with Social Security again and raising taxes, but only on the poor. What more can I say? Is that the America you want to live in? The choice couldn't be more clear.

Around the time you receive this newsletter Absentee Ballots should be going out across the State of Michigan. If you've registered to vote absentee you should be receiving your ballot, if you haven't applied to vote by mail you still have time but don't wait too long. Sure, you can stand in line on election day or you can cast your ballot by MAIL from the comfort of your own home.

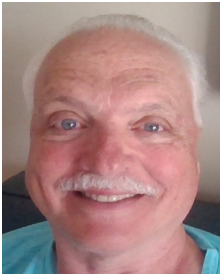
Your vote is a personal choice. But if like me, you think the country is finally on the right track, and you believe in the things I've talked about above then this is your time to voice your opinion.

Joe Biden has delivered for us. This November it's our turn to help him, help us. President Biden needs a Congress that will work with him and work for us, not for the rich and the special interests, but for everyday American's like you and me. Your vote is a personal choice, but I'm asking you to vote and bring a friend or a family member to do the same and to vote for candidates who put America's working families first. I hope this November I can count on you to stand with me and together let's keep our country moving forward.



REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF RETIREES

MIKE SHERIDAN



Latest COLA Update

After the release of the July Consumer Price Index (CPI) we are currently looking at an 8.9% increase (for retirees) with August and September CPI's yet to be released. The final tally is expected to be revealed around October 13th and we will keep you updated. Inflation has eased a bit, but it is still a burden to those on a fixed income. Thankfully we have our COLAs to keep up with some inflation. FERS retirees begin receiving COLA upon reaching age 62 but can have it reduced up to 1% while CSRS retirees get the full amount of the COLA. There have been attempts to reduce our

COLA even further if not eliminate it altogether. Stay vigilant and vote as if your retirement depended on it.

HR 82 and S 1302

This is the Social Security Fairness Act and as of this writing (Sept 4th) has 296 cosponsors in the House including 207 Democrats and 88 Republicans. This bill would eliminate the WEP (Windfall Elimination Provision) and GPO (Government Pension Offset) for retirees under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS). Normally when over half the House cosponsors a bill it is brought out of committee and scheduled for an up or down vote and sent on to the Senate. We have six cosponsors from Michigan, and all are Democrats missing only Dan Kildee from the Michigan 5th District. My own 10th District Lisa McClain is batting 100% negative since she has yet to cosponsor one of our bills. I am extremely happy she will no longer be representing the 10th District and my deepest apologies to those of you in the new 9th District where she will be your representative. Good luck trying get her to sponsor ANY of our postal issues.

The NEW Michigan 10th District

The 10th Michigan District was dramatically altered after the 2000 census and redistricting by the Republican legislature. The southern base of the district was moved to the 12th District (then moved again to the 9th District) and moved far north into the thumb area which is heavily Republican. It has not had a Democratic representative since David Bonior retired and ran for Governor in 2002. Thanks to our new bipartisan redistricting commission the southern base of the 10th District has been restored. The 10th now begins, once again, at 8 Mile Rd and extends north to M-59 and includes Shelby Township, part of Macomb Township, Rochester and Rochester Hills. We have a strong chance of regaining this district as a Democratic District. It will be Carl Marlinga against John James. James has failed twice against Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters in Senate races in 2018 and 2020. He is now making his bid to be a US representative but has vowed to not even move within the district unless he wins the race!!! Do we want a representative who doesn't even commit to live amongst the people he wants to represent??? James has a ton of money and will mount a campaign that will dwarf his Democratic opponent in dollar terms, but we will have the grassroots campaign to make sure he is a three-time loser in Michigan!!! The party in power typically loses seats in the midterm election but Democrats are gaining momentum after the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade and Republican attempts to restrict voting access as well as refusing to accept the results of our last FREE and FAIR election and the lingering effects of the last administration rearing its ugly head once again. Voter turnout may be the key to our success. If we lose control of either the Senate or the House, you can kiss our postal and social security reform bills goodbye. All our legislative gains have been made with Democratic control of both Houses. Republican control means we lose all progress made on our agenda. Think about that when you vote.

REPORTS FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE BOARD

ANNETTE KULEK
CHAIRPERSON



Dear Brothers and Sisters of MISALC, I hope this letter finds you and yours well.

We are in strange and uncertain times. We have never been more divided as a nation. The uncivilized behavior toward each other is becoming the norm. The big lie IS still being perpetuated today with 35% of all Americans believing it is true along with 65 % of all republicans. It's more than a shame and a scam to lie about free and fair elections, to incite violence, insurrection, intimidate poll workers, election officials, demonize the government, immigrants, free press, take away woman's rights, gay rights, book banning, it's fascism!

Definition of fascism according to Webster: 1. a political philosophy, movement, or regime that exalts nation and often race above the individual and that stands for centralized autocratic government headed by a dictatorial leader, severe economic and social regimentation, and forcible suppression of opposition.

Unfortunately, the Republicans seem to be walking headfirst in this direction. Out of 541 total Republicans running for office 199 fully denied the legitimacy of the 2020 election. Unfortunately, the GOP candidates running for Governor, Attorney General, and Secretary of State here in Michigan fall into the category of election deniers and conspiracies theorists. I can add Congresswoman Lisa Mc Cain in my district 10 to this group as well.

According to the NYT Tudor Dixon Republican nominee for Governor has at times falsely argued that Mr. Trump won Michigan in 2020 (he lost by more than 150,000 votes). Kristina Karamo, candidate for Secretary of State, has called the 2020 election fixed and baselessly claimed that Dominion voting machine software flipped votes to Biden.

The Detroit News investigative reporting lays out the role Republican Attorney General candidate Matt DePerno played in an illegal scheme to tamper with voting machines, including DePerno's own comments about his involvement in the conspiracy.

"If any one of these election deniers wins office, that's a five-alarm fire for our elections, said Joanna Lydgzte, the chief executive of States United Action, a bipartisan legal and democracy watchdog organization. "It could throw our elections into chaos. It could put our democracy at risk" referring to the Republican candidates for Secretary of State in Nevada, Arizona along with GOP nominee for Governor Kari Lake, Pennsylvania, and our great state of Michigan. I am certain history will not reflect kindly on the ones who choose to lie and deceive the citizens of the United States of America.

Definition democracy: a : government by the people for the people especially the rule of majority's: a government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation usually involving periodically held free elections .

I beseech you Brothers and Sisters to choose democracy. Vote a Democratic ticket this November 8th. Get out the vote (GOTV) talk to friends and family make sure they get to polls, democracy is at stake. Thank you for your service.

CORNELL FEARS



This past August we had a dynamic 72nd Biennial National Convention in the great city of Chicago! If you haven't attended a National Convention, please do so in the future. What a sight to see such a large group of letter carriers! A large gathering of union brothers and sisters from across this great nation we call America. The United States of America is not perfect, but it is still the greatest country in the world.

Unfortunately our democracy is under attack and could be slowly evaporating away. We have a group of leaders and a group of people that follow them that are hell bent on making this a priority. You, me, WE can make a tremendous difference by **casting our vote. Our union supports pro-democracy, pro-union, and pro-middle class policies and the politicians that support these policies.**

We are not telling you how to vote, but we are pleading that you do vote. Voting is a constitutional right, so please exercise that right. **We - as a union - can make a difference at the polls. Voting is crucial NOW.** Please get out to vote or use absentee voting.

Jane continued...

Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF) It's JOB INSURANCE! SIGN UP TODAY!

The Letter Carrier Political Fund is a non-partisan political action committee (PAC) established for the purpose of electing qualified candidates who support letter carriers and who are committed to maintaining a strong and innovative U.S. Postal Service.

Each year, NALC fights to fend off attacks in Congress that threaten letter carriers' collective-bargaining rights, retirement benefits and livelihood. We've been successful so far, and we want to continue helping to elect House and Senate candidates who will protect us, promote our issues and deliver our message to Washington.

Since union dues can't be used to support candidates for political office, NALC relies 100 percent on member contributions to the LCPF, 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 helping to defend a strong USPS that provides universal, innovative and affordable service.

How do you sign up of the LCPF?

1. Payroll deduction using PostalEase online or by phone. Set up an allotment deduction.
2. Direct bank withdrawal. You can authorize the funds to be withdrawn out of your bank account.
3. Annuity deduction Retired letter carriers can have a automatic deduction from their annuity.

Do you need assistance? Contact your local branch, MISALC President Blassingame at MISALC15@gmail.com or 734-999-8080, or the NALC National at 202-662-2833

RETIRED NALC MEMBERS, YOU MUST SIGN UP FOR THE LCPF AGAIN ONCE YOU RETIRE.

SIGNING UP FOR THE LETTER CARRIER POLICAL FUND MAY BE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR FUTURE TODAY!

PAUL ROZNOWSKI



NALC ballots to be printed, mailed!

The National Election Committee, appointed at the Chicago National Convention to conduct the election of national officers for NALC, met on Aug. 17 to set the rules and procedures for the contested national and regional elections, as laid out in the NALC Constitution. It also was in Washington, DC on August 29 to hold the random drawing to determine the order of the names as they will appear on the ballot for each office.

Candidates for vice president, assistant secretary-treasurer, director of city delivery, director of safety and health, and 13 of the 15 national business agent (NBA) positions were unopposed and elected by consent at the Chicago convention. Two candidates were nominated from the floor for each of the following positions: president, secretary-treasurer, director of life insurance, director of health benefits, director of retired members, and NBAs for Regions 1 and 9. Three candidates were nominated from the floor for the position of executive vice president. Six candidates were nominated from the floor for three national trustee positions.

The election will be conducted by mail ballot in accordance with the NALC Constitution. The Election Committee has retained the services of Survey and Ballot Systems of Eden Prairie, MN, to tabulate the ballots. The committee has also retained Mosaic, a print communications company located in Cheverly, MD, to prepare and mail the ballots. The committee will create the ballot for mailing. Official election instructions will be included with all ballots mailed to eligible NALC members.

To be eligible to vote, a person must be a regular member of NALC and in good standing as of June 1, 2022. NBAs will be elected by the members in their respective regions.

Beginning on Sept. 19 and continuing until completion, components of the election mailing will be printed. Starting on Sept. 26 and continuing through Sept. 30, ballots will be prepared, inserted into envelopes and mailed.

Any active or retired member who does not receive a ballot by Oct. 7 is instructed that they must notify their branch officers. Those branches are instructed to immediately contact the NALC Membership Department to request a duplicate, replacement ballot.

The deadline for branch officers to contact the Membership Department is 4 p.m. Eastern time on Oct. 11. Only a branch officer can request a duplicate ballot.

Ballots must be received by 5 p.m. Eastern time on Friday, Oct. 21, to be counted. The counting of ballots will begin the following day. The results of the lottery selection determined how the nominees will appear on the ballot in the following order:

President

- Brian L. Renfroe, Hattiesburg, MS Br. 938
- David Noble, Washington, DC Br. 142

Executive Vice President

- Maureen Valadie, Central Florida Br. 1091
- Kenneth R. Gibbs Jr., South Florida Br. 1071
- Paul Barner, Roswell, GA Br. 4862

Paul continued on page 14...

Paul continued...

The National candidates continued

Secretary-Treasurer

- Cie Sharp, Long Island Mgd., NY Br. 6000
- Nicole Rhine, Lincoln, NE Br. 8

Director of Retired Members

- Linda Kellam Mann, Minneapolis, MN Br. 9
- Daniel Toth, Lorain, OH Br. 583

Director of Life Insurance

- William E. Boone, Greater East Bay, CA Br. 1111
- James W. Yates, Long Island Mgd., NY Br. 6000

Director, Health Benefit Plan

- Matthew Webster, Cleveland, OH Br. 40
- Stephanie Stewart, Central Iowa Mgd. Br. 352

National Trustees (three positions)

- Charles P. Heege, New York, NY Br. 36
- Lawrence D. Brown Jr., Los Angeles, CA Br. 24
- Dorothy Kay Hall, Wenatchee, WA Br. 1350
- Sandra D. Laemmel, Detroit, MI Br. 1
- Rolando Rodriguez, Indianapolis, IN Br. 39
- Francisco Jose Cabrera, Greater East Bay, CA Br. 1111

Region 1 NBA

- Markeisha Lewis, Garden Grove, CA Br. 1100
- Calvin Brookins, Van Nuys, CA Br. 2462

Region 9 NBA

- Eddie Davidson, Durham, NC Br. 382
- Don Lyerly, West Coast Florida Br. 1477

The Election Committee, as appointed by President Fredric Rolando, is made up of Paul Roznowski, Royal Oak, MI Br. 3126 (chairman); Christa Abraham, Minneapolis, MN Br. 9; Eric Lomax, Jamaica, NY Br. 562; Rod Holub, Manhattan, KS Br. 1018; Delano Wilson, Silver Spring, MD Br. 2611; Antonia Shields, Birmingham, AL Br. 530; Ethel Ford, Houston, TX Br. 283; Tom Dlugolenski, Syracuse, NY Br. 134; Jeannette Triana, South Florida Br. 1071; Brian Wiggins, Seattle, WA Br. 79; and Andy Weiner, Jamaica, NY Br. 562.

DEBORAH MARRIOTT

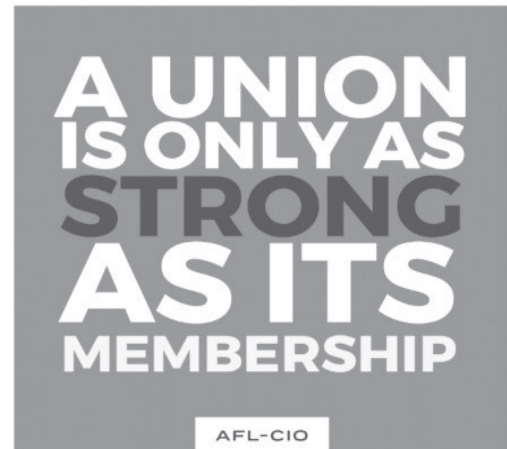
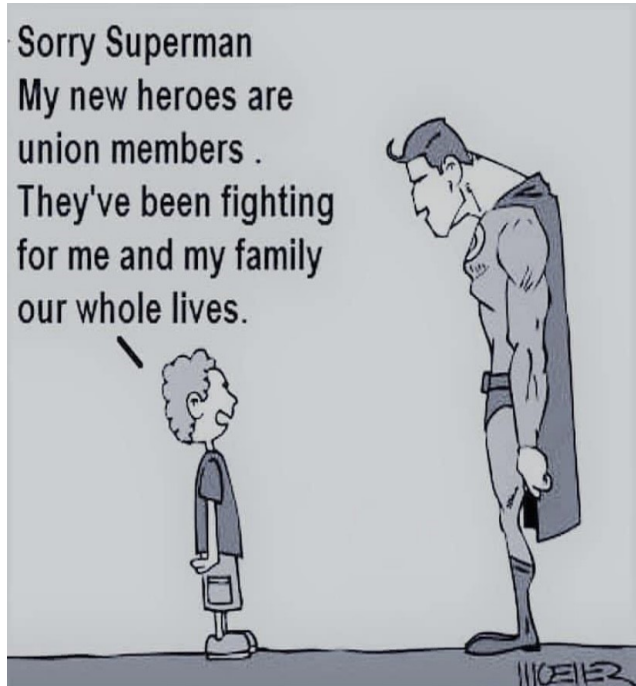


Safety captains are vital to the carrier craft, they make sure we get safety talks that management tend to forget about and they keep safety at the forefront of the employee's daily routine.

How do you become a safety captain? You must be a union member and will be appointed by your local union president. As a safety captain you are a role model so you must focus more on your work habits. **Safety captains must demonstrate a daily routine of promoting safety.**

Can someone who had an accident be a safety captain? SURE, they can, accidents can happen to anyone. They've been there so they know what the carriers are going through in all types of weather and delivery conditions.

The safety captains in our office are awesome! They have brought excitement about safety and a whole new energy. They have pulled our office together. Our District Manager LOVES them and has made the hour and half drive to see their safety presentations. Getting safety through to coworkers is a difficult and trying task (there's always the few) but it is so important and rewarding! Want to enjoy retirement? - **Be Safe!!**



JAYME ROMAIN



Greetings Brothers and Sisters! 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 Letter Carrier in Sturgis, MI since February 2020 and serve as a Union Steward and Trustee for my branch, Branch 246. In addition to this, I am the union representative for the Route Evaluation and Adjustment Team (REAT) for the Technology Integrated Alternate Route Evaluation and Adjustment Process (TIAREAP) in the Michigan 2 District.

TIAREAP route adjustments are being implemented nation-wide. I encourage my fellow Brothers and Sisters to always wear their scanners and keep your Edit Books up to date. This ensures the most accurate data when TIAREAP comes to your office to conduct route adjustments using data collected by the scanners. Our new scanners record data every second and when kept with us during each task, each second can be accounted for and attributed to the delivery of the route. Even our stationary time. If the scanner is left behind, it records us not delivering the mail, therefor making it hard to distribute the time. Leaving stationary time at risk also affecting the integrity of the data and how it reflects the carrier. Keeping the Edit Book up to date helps the scanner recognize the boundaries within the route and credit the carrier for all the tasks preformed within their assignment. If you need help with editing your Edit Book, reach out to your branch for guidance. If you have questions about TIAREAP, a lot of great information can be found in M-01982 TIAREAP 2022-23, M-01983 TIAREAP Guidelines, and M-01984 Alternative Evaluation and Adjustment Processes.

In my few years as a Letter Carrier, I have had ample opportunity to gain knowledge from our union through numerous trainings by getting involved. By attending meetings, mostly virtual. By using my voice, with intent. I am grateful for these opportunities because I feel it has added to my job satisfaction. I urge my fellow Brothers and Sisters to get involved, use their voice, and attend a meeting. Of all the benefits that come with the honor of being an USPS Letter Carrier, I have found being an active member of our union, the greatest honor of all.

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.

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

Invite us to your branch meeting. See you soon!

Where Do They Stand On The Issues?

How you vote is a personal choice. We're going to highlight the two most competitive districts and where the candidates stand on some of the issues-

Michigan's 3rd Congressional District- Grand Rapids Area

Hillary Scholten (D)- Scholten is an Attorney who previously worked with the Department of Justice and lives in the Grand Rapids area. Scholten is pro-choice, opposes Republican plans to raise the current retirement age and wants to strengthen Social Security. Scholten wants to improve manufacturing in the USA and rebuild our infrastructure. She is the daughter of a union member and a former union steward herself.

John Gibbs (R)- Gibbs is a Lansing native who previously worked in the Trump Administration in the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development. Gibbs opposes abortion in all cases, including rape, incest and if the life of the mother is at stake. Gibbs has stated that he believes ANTIFA infiltrated the groups protesting on January 6th and are behind the attacks on our Capitol. As a student at Stanford University in the early 2000s, Gibbs founded the Society for the Critique of Feminism that argued women did not "possess (sic) the characteristics necessary to govern," and said men were smarter than women because they are more likely to "think logically about broad and abstract ideas in order to deduce a suitable conclusion, without relying upon emotional reasoning." Gibbs argued for a patriarchal society run by men, calling it "the best model for the continued success of a society."

Michigan 10th Congressional District- Macomb County Centered

Carl Marlinga (D)- Marlinga is a former Prosecutor for Macomb County and later served as a Judge of the Probate Court, he is a lifelong resident of Macomb County. Marlinga is pro-labor, supports a woman's right to choose and wants to "reindustrialize the United States" and bring back good paying, union manufacturing jobs. Marlinga supports Ukraine in their war with Russia.

John James (R)- James is a two-time candidate for Senate in Michigan. James currently lives in Farmington Michigan but has said that if he wins the election, he will buy a house in the 10th District and move there. James campaign website lists no positions that he has taken on any issues, only a page to sell merchandise and family pictures. In 2020 James initially refused to concede the race, claiming fraud (James was defeated by about 92,000 votes by Gary Peters). James raised \$2 Million dollars to challenge the election results however on November 24th he abruptly conceded and congratulated Peters. In prior elections James refused to take a stand on several issues however, he had declared that he was pro-life and wanted to cut payroll taxes that go towards social security tho he refused to explain how the funding would be replaced.

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>

NEW CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS





2022 REPRESENTITIVES AND DISTRICTS

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/>

Would you like to keep up with Postal Legislation?

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>

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 13
Ph: 202-225-5802
Fax: 202-226-2356
<https://lawrence.house.gov/>

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



The Michigan Letter Carrier is published by the Michigan State Association of Letter Carriers. This paper is designed and published by the officers of the MISALC. 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.

**MISALC ELECTED
OFFICERS**

President

Carl E. Blassingame, Jr

Branch 1

Detroit

P.O. Box 871857

Canton, MI 48187-5857

(734) 999-8080

E-Mail misalc15@gmail.com

Vice President

Walter Mc Gregory

Branch 2184

Western Wayne County

Secretary

Jane Grant

Branch 434

Ann Arbor

Treasurer

Catherine J. Tondreau

Branch 2184

Western Wayne County

Director of Education

John Serwach

Branch 3126

Royal Oak

**Director of Retired
Members**

Michael F. Sheridan

Branch 4374

Utica

Executive Board

Chairperson

Annette Kulek

Branch 654

Mount Clemens

Cornell Fears, Sr.

Branch 1

Detroit

Paul Roznowski

Branch 3126

Royal Oak

Deborah Marriot

Branch 232

Jackson

Jayne Romine

Branch 246

Kalamazoo

Visit the Michigan State Association of Letter Carriers at our website

MISALC.org