

MICHIGAN LETTER CARRIER

Voice of the Michigan State Association of Letter Carriers

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

CARL E BLASSINGAME, JR.

There are only two issues that the NALC is focused on at this time. The **SAFETY of our MEMBERS** and the need to get the **USPS into the next STIMULUS PACKAGE!** The members of this union must lead the fight to get this message out to our representatives! If the USPS does not get money from the next stimulus package, the USPS will be financially crippled by the end of September and will probably not be able to recover. Every other corporation in the United States is receiving government funding to survive this pandemic and the USPS must be supported too!

This is not a partisan political issue, **this is an American issue!** The United States Postal Service is a national treasure that does so much more than just deliver the mail! There are over 600,000 USPS employees that are in jeopardy of losing their middle class wages and benefits. This isn't hype to scare you, it is fact and we need you to act.

There is nothing more important today than the health of you and your family and sending an email or calling your representatives about saving your employer, the United States Postal Service!

The NALC has made this simple on the **NALC APP** and **NALC.ORG**. On your cellphone just go to the notifications in your app and click on Action Needed, at the bottom of the page enter your name and zip code as prompted. On NALC.org just click the Action Needed box at the top of the page and it will prompt you to enter your name and zip code. You can then send an email, call, or print letters to your representatives. **Do it daily we must flood them with the message that they must save the United States Postal Service!**

Your family cannot use the NALC app but they can make the phone calls and let their representatives know they want the USPS in the next stimulus package.

As **NALC members we know we have power in numbers.** We have saved our company in the past and we can do it now! **So don't wait, do it right now! It only takes a few minutes. We need EVERY MEMBER INVOLVED.**

At the end of this newsletter I have included communications from our **National President, Fred Rolando.** Please take the time to read this important information.

Carl continued on page 2.....

Coronavirus

Are we at our new normal? Is social distancing the way of life in the future? Is this what our grand-kids and their kids face growing up? Covering their face and hands, standing six feet from each other? Not being able to play with family and friends at a playground or parks? Having to be home schooled to avoid having contact with other kids or teachers to avoid getting the virus? Wiping down everything we bring home from the store or work? Taking off our clothes at the door before entering our home? Having to take a shower before we can be around our kids at home to ensure they are safe from whatever we may have brought home?

What about going to the grocery store where we must follow the arrows for the one way aisles or standing six feet from the person in front of you in line? Not being allowed to place your items on the counter until after the person in front of you has finished? So many questions about our new way of life.

As of May 3, 2020, the number of Covid-19 cases is 1,122,486 and deaths 65,735, these numbers continue to climb. Is there an end to this pandemic? How many more lives will be lost to this virus? How long will the essential employees have to work every day not knowing if they have contracted the virus and may be taking it home to their families and loved ones?

What about those who have lost their jobs because of this pandemic, the uncertainty not knowing when or if they can go back to work? The uncertainty on how to put food on the table, pay their bills, mortgage and rent. As some begin to suffer with anxiety and depression with the stay home, stay healthy, stay safe order that has been placed on this country and the State of Michigan. We all must follow what the medical experts are saying and what the Governor has asked us to do during this pandemic to save lives, including our own.

If you or anyone in your home is having problems coping during this pandemic please call EAP-4-YOU.

This is a benefit set up for you by your employer, so take advantage of it. You are not alone, help is only a phone call away.

 800-327-4968 800-EAP-4YOU	EAP4YOU.COM PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO VISIT THE WEBSITE THEY HAVE SO MUCH TO OFFER VETERAN BENEFITS SUICIDE PREVENTION SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MUCH MORE IF YOU NEED TO TALK THEY ARE THERE TO LISTEN
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VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

WALTER MCGREGORY

COVID-19 AND BEING A LETTER CARRIER

Every day brothers and sisters we hear of more and more confirmed cases and in some instances deaths from this pandemic.

As an active carrier going to work every day to service my customers, I too am scared when I leave my home each day to go to the Postal Service.

I take some comfort in knowing that I can pull out my smart phone to see what the NALC's position is on how to deal with this virus. I have the NALC App on my phone and when I tap the NALC icon, it takes me to the NALC home page, and I type in COVID-19 in the search bar. I then have the option to visit the Director of Safety and Health, Manuel L. Peralta's page which has a ton of information for Letter Carriers to utilize daily dealing with this Covid-19 virus.

There is also a link to the CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) website with guidelines that we all should be following.

NALC is with you while you are out on your routes representing the USPS on the front lines as an essential worker.

The NALC App is available for use 24 hours a day seven days a week. It has all of the latest information regarding your job and your safety. If you need information about the latest leave that may be available to you as a government worker, you can find it on this app. Just type in the search bar any word or phrase for a particular topic and you will be taken directly to what you are looking for. This app is very user friendly.

MDA CANCELLATION(S)

I have been notified by the MDA officials in the state of Michigan that the annual Camp Sherman and Camp Cavell events have been canceled for everyone's safety due to Covid-19. Camp Sherman was scheduled for June 13, 2020 thru June 18, 2020 and Camp Cavell was scheduled for June 27, 2020 thru July 2, 2020.

I want to thank all that participated in raising money for MDA in 2019. There is a 2019 MDA Honor Roll in the April 2020 Postal Record that shows what each branch raised for MDA. In 2019, the state of Michigan had a great year! We raised a grand total of \$114,826.33 combined for the state of Michigan for MDA! You all are winners for your participation in helping to raise money so that we can one day "Deliver the Cure" for this disease.

Continued on page 4

ELECTIONS HAVE CONSEQUENCES

Right now, brothers and sisters, **our employer is in a fight for survival**. There is no easy way to say it, **we cannot continue as a company without assistance from the government** during this Covid-19 pandemic. **Pay close attention to who has the USPS's best interest at heart.**

There are some that want to see us privatized! Take the time and do the research. A good place to start is this month's **Postal Record (April 2020) on pages 7 thru 17**. One major candidate failed to respond to the request to present his Postal Platform (position as it relates to the Postal Service).

I urge you to vote for "BLUE", that is Postal Blue. **Vote for the candidate that is in support of a future for the USPS.** We all have our hot button issues, however, we as Letter Carriers need to support our employer. Don't let a hot button issue put you in the unemployment line.

Our choice is simple, one candidate supports the Postal Service and our positions. The other candidate couldn't even respond to the survey to give his position on the Postal Service and has in the past supported privatizing the USPS.

As a Letter Carrier, the choice is simple for me, I am voting for the candidate that supports the Postal Service and our positions. That candidate is JOE BIDEN.

We will get through these tough times together brothers and sisters; but we must do our part. Keep safe and keep in touch, use your NALC App for the latest news.

Congratulations to the branches in Michigan that made the 2019 MDA Honor Roll in their branches' category size. This information is in the April 2020 Postal Record

Category 3 (1000-1499members) 2nd Place **Western Wayne Co., MI Br. 2184** \$15,711.77

Category 4 (700-999members) 3rd Place **Royal Oak, MI Br. 3126** \$13,547.00

Category 5 (500-699members) 1st Place **Grand Rapids, MI Br. 56** \$13,580.00

Category 6 (350-499members) 1st Place **Mid-Michigan Br. 256** \$16,776.29

Category 7 (200-349members) 3rd Place **Mount Clemens Br. 654** \$9,779.00

Again, thanks to all of you and your members for your participation and dedication to raising money for a cure for MDA. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at (313) 999 8888.

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**

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT

JANE GRANT

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

Based on December 2019 information received from the National NALC Secretary-Treasurer Membership Department.

The MISALC had a total of 7,145 Active members, 3,036 Retired members and 772 Retired Life-time members, for a total of 10,953 Members. There were no branch mergers in 2019.

Safety

As I write this article, I am grieving the loss of one of my co-workers to Covid-19. This man started as a CCA and moved into a supervisory position. He was one of the good guys and will be missed in our office.

I urge all of you to **wear your masks and abide by the 6' distancing rule**. This insidious virus is a real danger that we must take seriously, while not becoming paranoid.

I encourage all members to **check the NALC.org website daily** for new information on Covid-19. Our **Director of Safety and Health, Manuel Peralta** has all of the Covid-19 safety talks listed by date on his page. **Hold your management accountable for giving these talks in your office in a timely manner.**

Please remember all the **other safety rules still apply** while we are distracted with this virus. We still **wear our seatbelts, shut our doors, turn off our vehicles if we are not seated at the wheel and of course we must not let our vehicles run away!**

Politics

Once again we are in a fight to save our company! I know it is easy to say "Oh I've heard this before" but believe me it is **Dedicated NALC Members that lead these fights every time** and that is why we still have our jobs and benefits!

Every NALC member must join this fight and contact your representatives today, every day! ***The USPS MUST be part of the next STIMULUS PACKAGE to survive this pandemic!*** Our company should be given the same help from our government as every other corporation in the United States. I will give you the tools below and you can step up to save over 600,000 middle class Postal Service Jobs!

From your NALC APP go to your NOTIFICATIONS, tap on ACTION NEEDED, scroll to the bottom and ENTER YOUR NAME AND ZIP CODE as prompted, scroll down to TAKE ACTION and choose whether you will send an email, make a phone call or send a letter. Your Representatives may ask for more information but nothing too personal.

From the **NALC.org website** click on the TAKE ACTION button at the top of the page and the process is the same as above.

Your family members cannot use the App but they certainly can make the telephone calls! Get everyone involved in saving the USPS Today!

TREASURER'S REPORT

CATHY TONDREAU

BEWARE OF SCAMS

With all the news out there about COVID-19 we must remember there are still other hazards in the world and we need to be careful not to get fooled by the scammers that are out there trying to take our hard-earned money.

While we must be safe while delivering the mail, we must also guard ourselves at home from people calling and pretending to be with the Social Security Administration or the IRS. A common ploy they use is telling you they need personal information from you so they can make sure your check from the government gets to you. The Social Security office will not call you, the IRS will not call you either. They both will contact you by mail for any information they may need.

In most cases, if your IRS refund is direct deposited any other money from the government will be put directly into your account too.

I hope you all stay safe and healthy during these trying times. We will get through this together and we will be better and stronger as a result of this.

Treasurer Talk

On another note, your LM reports should have already been filed by March 30th and your 990 reports are due May 15th. Don't forget to make sure your reports are done by this time.

Stay Safe
Cathy



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

As I write this article we are in the midst of a global pandemic, I hope all of you are doing your best to stay safe during these difficult times and the even more difficult times that are no doubt to follow. I find myself reminded of a similar time almost 20 years ago when the United States was under attack from both outside as well as within during the Fall of 2001.

Just weeks after the attacks of 9/11 the Postal Service was forced to deal with the challenges of the Anthrax virus. As always Michigan's Letter Carriers were up to meeting the challenge. Sadly, Postal Management's response this time around has been wanting. Twenty years ago the Service immediately acquired large stores of gloves, masks and other personal protective equipment. Reports from the field this time around seem to indicate a lack of a cohesive response and a near collapse of the processing system in metro Detroit. Issues from Covid-19 at the Pontiac Metroplex have reduced the inbound and outbound flow of mail to near nothing. Personally, I mailed 100 packages in late March and most did not leave metro Detroit for ten days meanwhile the Postal Service's "service alert" website showed no problems and local management initially told the Free Press there were no issues. After a week they began trucking parcels to Grand Rapids and Pittsburgh to be processed (clearly evident on the parcels I was tracking). A note to USPS Management going forward, Letter Carriers, like all Americans will deal with the issues, the delay and the dangers, but you **HAVE TO BE HONEST** with us. Sending CCA's to help at an office and not telling them until they arrive that people tested positive there for this virus is wrong. So many things have been wrong. Stop. Postal Management in this State is blessed with the best work force in the entire country, treat them with dignity and respect. They've earned it.

Going Forward

As the nation takes extreme measures to try to stop this pandemic, at the national level the Postal Service is on the verge of financial collapse. The entire economy is quite frankly on the verge of collapse. Wall Street which for years has told all of us we should have a 6-12 month emergency fund obviously feels this rule does not apply to themselves. Airlines, Small Business, Large Businesses, the Oil Industry, the Hotel and Restaurant industry have all run to the Government asking or demanding a tax payer funded bailout after only two weeks. Where is their emergency fund? They squandered it on stock buybacks, private jets and other excesses and now expect us to foot the bill for their problems. But the Postal Service? Go pound sand. Are you paying attention yet? You will get \$1200. They will get Trillions.

For years Republicans have tried to cut unemployment (which they only extended on OUR backs by cutting our pensions ten years ago), Social Security, Medicare, Health insurance, any program that might benefit you. They said "we can't afford it". Reparations—sorry too expensive, National Health insurance – too much money, Social Security? The system is bankrupt, cut it. The Postal Service? Cut wages, it's too expensive. These are all luxury items the country cannot afford. But business has to shut down? After two weeks they managed to find over TEN TRILLION dollars between the Federal Reserve and the Federal Government – and it's not a loan – it's a grant.

Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) has proposed legislation for hazardous duty pay for people such as Letter Carriers and medical personnel forced to work on the front lines during this pandemic. Watch this bill closely and see if it goes through or who tries to block it. Follow the money brothers and sisters and you'll see who is looking out for your best interests in Washington. Get mad and this November, get even and vote for the guy or gal who's looking out for you. Stay Safe.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF RETIREES

MIKE SHERIDAN

As I write this article, we are amid an unprecedented pandemic not seen since the Spanish Flu of 1918. We are now at 65,735 dead in the US including, as of May 3, 4,049 deaths in Michigan and total Michigan cases of 43,754. The nationwide death toll includes Letter Carriers and other postal employees who struggle daily to do our essential work. We will get past this time and the devastation it has wreaked on our economy. It is a shame that this pandemic was not treated as one from the very beginning. How many lives could have been saved? How much could the economic impact have been lessened? History will dissect this time and it will not be pleasant for this administration I'm sure of that. A special shout out to all our active carriers who've bravely come to work to deliver the nation's mail. I remember the encouraging looks and response we got from the public as they saw us delivering on September 11, 2001. Through it all (rain, sleet, snow, and gloom of night, and pandemics) we keep the nation connected.

No one office holder has shown more tenacity than our own Governor Whitmer who shut down the schools early followed by the Stay Home Stay Safe executive order all while pleading for more federal help. She has kept us informed, failed to take on the nastiness of a vindictive President, and sought to provide meals for schoolchildren suffering without their school lunch programs. She achieves high marks in my book.

Presidential Candidates Set

Joe Biden will be taking on Donald Trump on November 3rd in our presidential election. We will seek to inform you of the differences in these two candidates and their positions on postal issues. The April 2020 issue of the Postal record has Biden's responses to our candidate surveys on postal issues. Donald Trump did not respond to the survey and has repeatedly dismissed questions regarding federal help for our institution. We will continue to keep you updated on the candidates positions on **OUR issues** and would hope that you would **base your vote on the future of our jobs**. Get better educated and make the right choice.
Everyone in Michigan CAN Vote by Mail

Thanks to the measure called Voting Policies in State Constitution Initiative passed in the November 2018 election we can **ALL vote absentee now!** We can vote straight-ticket, **we have automatic voter registration** (whenever you interact with state agencies i.e. driver's license) and **SAME-DAY voter registration** as well. For those working long hours and late hours this is the perfect reason to vote absentee. It will also allow you to take your time looking over the ballot and study the proposals as well as down ballot candidates (judges and commissioners). All you need to do is go to **michigan.gov** and **"download an absent voter application"** and **send that request to your local city or township clerk or call your clerk directly for an application**. You can also **request that you want ALL future elections to be absentee** and it will set up this process for all elections. This could be a win-win not only for the USPS but also for all Letter Carriers trying to get to the polls on election day. It also combats those elected officials attempting to suppress the vote by closing precinct locations, reduce the number of voting booths at each location and repress our voting rights as citizens. Michigan now joins 28 other states and the District of Columbia that currently have "no excuse" absentee voting. It is YOUR right and we should all exercise it for an easier voting process

REPORTS FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE BOARD

MATT TANNER
CHAIRPERSON

Hello sister and brother Michiganders.

Hopefully by the time you're reading this we are able to get back to some sort of a normal life. First, I would like to shake...nope maybe elbow...nope give you all an air hug from 6ft away. I hope you and your families are all safe.

They say we all learn from our toughest times. Some of the things I have learned is that most people still care for one another. When faced with some pretty tough issues, most answer the call to help one another (well unless it involved toilet paper). I am pretty impressed at how Letter Carriers stepped up and help continue doing what we do. Yes, on a daily basis, different problems came up and for the most part we got it done. THANK YOU!

At the time I am writing this Bernie has officially removed himself from the Presidential election. So as we turn our focus to November our options are becoming more clear. Either continue with someone that is trying to eliminate our jobs or vote for a change. We must all make it a priority to get out and vote and remind our family and friends.

Also, as a reminder, remember **Michigan is now a no excuse absentee voting state**. Meaning you don't need a reason to have your ballot mailed to your house. Not having to worry about getting to the polls on November 3rd and providing more business at the PO. Now with all this Covid stuff, there is a serious talk going around about making it a law to vote by mail. This would be a huge win for us at the Postal Service. So PLEASE if you haven't yet **Google search "vote by mail Michigan"**. **Print out the application** and mail it to your local clerks office. The process is so simple. Once you fill out the app, there is an option to have all future ballots mailed to you. Doing this from home allows you to sit in the comfort of your house and research as you're voting. Then you are making a 100% informed decision. And did I say this gives us more business?

Again, I just want to thank everyone for stepping up. Hopefully, this will help us in our contract negotiations and even help us in Washington DC. Maybe now they will finally realize how important we are. Looks like our worlds will possibly change, at least in the short term. But like I said, I have personally seen that no matter the challenge....We will deliver!!

PS: great time to sign up for LCPF!! Call anytime, will help you get signed up! 810-444-5286. Elections will be here before you know it. This money is used to protect our jobs.

DON KARL

The political season is upon us and we are all bombarded by ads, donation requests, and political “advice”. Legislative “experts” are coming out of the woodwork. Add COVID-19 into the mix and it gets really interesting. I hear people speak as if they’re experts telling me who to vote for, speaking as if they’re medical doctors telling me how COVID-19 should be handled, and legal experts telling me what the government can legally do. The truth is these people are usually spreading misinformation that does far more damage than good. I suspect many of us fall into a trap of embracing these so-called experts when their views support our vision of things. Let us be honest with ourselves about what we really know. If we are going to find common ground it is through facts and genuine dialogue. That means we must embrace all facts, even the inconvenient ones. That is where we will find common ground.

I would encourage you go to www.NALC.org under government affairs tab regularly. It provides reliable information that directly affects your job. Currently they have information on the USPS need for a stimulus package. They also discuss attempts to deal with the prefunding fiasco. Please use this information and contact your senators and congressional representatives. Your voice matters.

Jason Dekker, Letter Carrier Congressional Liaison, District 2 and I met with Congressman Amash’s Chief of Staff to discuss our issues. I expected resistance because the Congressman has not been a big supporter. We quickly discovered the chief of staff had two uncles who work for the Postal Service and he was very knowledgeable and understanding about our issues. After a good talk we now have a rapport with each other. I do not expect it will result in any major support from Congressman Amash’s office, but this is where it begins. One conversation at a time. In the end that is what it comes down to. We must use our voices to push our issues. The Postal Service is in real financial danger. Our jobs are not as secure as they once were. It is time we fight to fix the prefunding. It is time we fight to get the aid that is necessary during the Covid-19 epidemic while we are on the front lines delivering to our customers.

Knowledge of these issues empowers us, voicing that knowledge is how we use that power. Let’s give to the Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF) and contact our representatives. I promise you our competitors are voicing their interests.



**NALC
Disaster
Relief
Foundation**



www.nalc.org

202-423-2443

DisasterReliefFoundation@nalc.org

TOM MINSHALL

Greetings Brothers and Sisters. As I write this spring is upon us which is normally a refreshing time for Letter Carriers. The sun shines, the bird chirps and we whistle a merry tune.

Spring is very different for us this year. With the outbreak of the Coronavirus we are living in scary times. We have many Brothers and Sisters who have tested positive for this virus or are self-quarantined because they are suffering symptoms. Yet we have stepped up and shown we are still strong and united and dedicated to serving our customers. We are essential. We must be brave and courageous and continue to perform. Our customers depend on us. We deliver medicines and supplies to hundreds of thousands of people who can't get out right now. We watch out for the people and neighborhoods on our routes. And no surprise we have been doing this for 245 years. We aren't doing anything new.

Through many wars we continue to deliver mail providing a crucial connection between families and their loved ones on the front lines. When hurricanes destroy entire cities Letter Carriers are some of the first to report to work to show our customers a sense of normalcy. Letter Carriers have continued to deliver mail in communities where wildfires have left their homes in ashes.

When the city of San Francisco was destroyed by an earthquake in 1906, Letter Carrier and former NALC President Frank Smith fought through the rubble to get to work along with fellow Carriers to re-establish delivery.

The picture below is of a Letter Carrier delivering mail during the influenza epidemic of 1918. Does that mask look familiar? I'm not saying we should take this situation lightly. It is very serious. We must take all precautions to protect ourselves. It's okay to be concerned. But continue to be strong. Being a union means we are a family. Together we are strong.

Please keep the families, friends and coworkers of our fallen brothers and sisters in your thoughts and prayers and keep fighting the fight!



3 Ways to give to the LCPF

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

- 1) Payroll deduction: Contribute automatically, using PostalEASE (either online or by phone) to set up an allotment deduction from your USPS paycheck.
- 2) Direct bank withdrawal: You can authorize the funds to withdraw a monthly electronic contribution directly from your personal checking account.
- 3) Annuity deduction: Retired Letter Carriers can elect to give monthly via an automatic deduction from your monthly annuity.

NALC.org or see you local union Leadership!



Department of Legislative and Political Affairs — National Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO
100 Indiana Ave. NW — Washington, DC 20001-2144 — 202-393-4695 — www.nalc.org © NALC

The Postal Service and the COVID-19 Crisis

April 8, 2020

At the height of the 2008-2009 recession, more than 800,000 Americans per month lost their jobs. In recent weeks, millions of workers per week are filing for unemployment insurance. The COVID-19 crisis is both a public health crisis and an economic crisis. The U.S. Postal Service is a vitally important tool for battling these twin calamities. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Postal Service's financial situation will pose grave danger to its ability to provide crucial service to our country if decisive action isn't taken by Congress and the Administration.

Value of the Postal Service in Normal Times

In ordinary times, the Postal Service, which has fully funded itself through the sale of postage since the early 1980s, plays a vitally important role in our economy, our society and our health care system.

- It is the nation's only truly universal delivery and communications network, connecting 160 million homes and businesses in every corner of the country. It's the hub of a huge mailing industry - comprised of the paper, printing, marketing, publishing and e-commerce and shipping sectors of the economy - that together generate \$1.6 trillion in sales and employ nearly 7.0 million private sector workers. The USPS, with 640,000 employees, is among the largest employers in all 50 states - and the single largest civilian employer of veterans.
- The Postal Service provides American citizens, residents and businesses with the industrial world's most affordable and efficient delivery services. Postal services and post offices are particularly critical to rural areas, small towns, the elderly, military veterans, and most American companies, which are typically small or medium-sized enterprises and include millions of home-based businesses. Households and business depend on the reliable receipt of checks and payments to keep functioning - indeed, hundreds of billions of payments still go through the mails each year.
- The Postal Service is also essential to the political and cultural life of America, delivering hundreds of millions of magazines and weekly newspapers each year, not to mention billions of birthday cards, wedding invitations and other personal communications. It routinely handles tens of millions of ballots delivered to voters who request absentee ballots or who live in states that conduct elections by mail - for elections at every level, from school boards to city councils and state legislature to federal elections. The USPS is also a trusted presence in neighborhoods across the country, especially for the elderly and the disabled who value a daily visit and assistance when needed. Nearly everywhere local post offices serve as community hubs and letter carriers perform acts of everyday heroism when house fires, car accidents or crimes befall ordinary citizens.
- The USPS also plays an important role in the U.S. health care system by handling 1.2 billion prescription drug shipments a year - that's nearly 4 million every day, six days a week. It also delivers hundreds of millions of lab tests and medical supply shipments - from blood testing strips and insulin needles to contact lenses. The Postal Service is and has been a partner with law enforcement and government agencies that deal with natural disasters and other emergencies.

Importance of the Postal Service During this Crisis

In a major public health crisis like the one we face today; the Postal Service is more important than ever. In late March, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention sent a mailing to every American household to give our

Continued on next page

citizens the information they need to protect themselves and their loved ones from the COVID-19 virus. The FDA is currently working on a self-testing nasal swab that must, once available, be efficiently delivered to 135 million households across America. As a matter of public health, there is no substitute for the Postal Service's universal delivery network, especially now with medical needs rising exponentially. A collapse of the Postal Service at this crucial moment or a severe disruption in service would undermine our fight to defeat the COVID-19 virus.

The Postal Service is also crucial for fighting the pandemic-induced recession. With foot traffic plummeting, small businesses increasingly depend on package deliveries to continue generating revenue and employing workers. Without postal deliveries of orders and checks, many will collapse. Similarly, the USPS is stepping up for large enterprises facing disrupted supply chains, empty stores due to quarantines and self-isolating consumers. It offers reliable end-to-end services to these firms while also providing "last-mile" delivery for tens of millions of packages for FedEx, UPS and Amazon. The universal reach of the postal network is invaluable to all Americans, but especially to those in rural, inner city and exurban areas that would not be served if not for the Postal Service.

And the Postal Service is vital to the functioning of the national government during this crisis, offering an affordable universal means to distribute paperwork for vitally needed Small Business Administration loans, household stimulus checks, tax returns and decennial Census mailings – all of which must go forward despite the crisis.

There is simply no substitute for the U.S. Postal Service as we battle both the pandemic and the deep recession it has caused.

What We Need Now

The Postal Service has experienced financial problems for several years now, for reasons unrelated to the coronavirus, and lawmakers have been considering postal reform measures for more than a decade. But the pandemic has created a separate and immediate threat to America's postal network. Now is not the time to debate longer-term reforms; now is the time for urgent and bold action to save the agency from the potentially devastating impact the COVID-19 impact will likely have on its ability to operate and serve the American people.

Indeed, in recent weeks, mail volume has plunged by the largest percentage since the Great Recession of 2008-2010 and is likely to drop by more than it did during the Great Depression of the 1930s. Postal management believes that volume and revenue may drop by 50% or more over the next year. The pandemic-induced loss of revenue facing the Postal Service is no less dramatic than that facing the airline and hotel industries. The Postal Service, and the segment of the private economy it supports, needs the same level of assistance provided those industries.

Unfortunately, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act, P.L. 116-137) signed into law on March 27, 2020 did not offer the same kind of support for the Postal Service that it did for airlines (\$61 billion), private cargo shippers (\$17 billion) and other corporations (\$425 billion). It provided \$10 billion in new debt authority, subject to control by the Treasury Department's Federal Finance Bank (FFB). That is woefully inadequate for two reasons:

First, it fell far short of the stimulus legislation introduced in the House of Representatives on March 23, 2020. That bill would have provided the Postal Service substantial relief, including an emergency appropriation of \$25 billion. Second, by making the coronavirus credit line subject to the control of the Treasury Department, there is no guarantee that the Postal Service will receive access to this credit. In any case, adding to the Postal Service's existing debt is not a real solution.

Indeed, the Federal Finance Bank has restricted access to the Postal Service's remaining \$4 billion in borrowing authority since September 2018, demanding ideological and operational changes supported by special interest groups before extending further loans to the Postal Service. Media reports imply that the Treasury is using the credit line as leverage to force massive price increases on competitive products (which will be especially damaging to small businesses and Americans in rural areas) and to interfere with postal collective bargaining matters. To its credit, the USPS Board of Governors has rejected these unacceptable pressure tactics.

Given this record, the CARES Act offers virtually no relief to the Postal Service - more debt with unacceptable

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strings attached. Congress can and must do better in the next round of legislation to strengthen and preserve the Postal Service.

Therefore, to both protect public health and to stabilize our economy, we call on Congress to enact provisions in the next stimulus bill that would:

1. Make a direct “public service” appropriation of at least \$25 billion to the Postal Service to help it weather the pandemic and the deep recession it is causing. Although the Postal Service has not received taxpayer appropriations (other than for military/overseas voting and free mail for the blind) since the early 1980s, the present crisis warrants such appropriations now.
2. Authorize an emergency “public service” appropriation for the duration of the crisis, distributed quarterly, starting in Fiscal Year 2021 (which begins in just six months) to cover the difference between postage revenues and total USPS expenses. This would signal to the American people and the business community that the Postal Service will be there to: battle the pandemic (with the delivery of tests and public health information, etc.); deliver online purchases and prescription drugs; support the economic recovery; and facilitate absentee voting as well as other vital civic functions.
3. Provide a mechanism to reimburse the Postal Service for the cost of the COVID-19-related leave (both sick leave and family medical leave) provided by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).
4. Ensure equal treatment for postal employees in any legislation that authorizes, and funds hazard pay for other front-line workers exposed to health risks related to the COVID-19 virus. Such legislation should cover postal workers, who face heightened exposure risks to the virus on a daily basis.
5. Remove the Federal Finance Bank’s discretion to impose operational changes and policy conditions on any of the Postal Service’s existing borrowing authorities – changes and policies that should properly be set by the Postal Service Board of Governors and the Congress, not the Treasury Department – and eliminate any annual limit on these authorities. (These authorities are provided by Section 2005 of Title 39 and Section 6001 of the CARES Act of 2020.)

Conclusion

The postal unions will work with the Congress, stakeholders in the mailing industry and the general public to advance a significant relief package and other measures to preserve the Postal Service, a vital part of our national economic infrastructure.

The USPS is a source of comfort and a welcome sign of normalcy to the American people. That has been true during recoveries from hurricanes, tornadoes, floods and other disasters in the past, and it should be now as we grapple with the current national crisis.

All American leaders, Democrats and Republicans alike, should work together to ensure that this pandemic does not destroy the U.S. Postal Service, a true national treasure and a vital part of America’s response and eventual recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic



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Union Network International

April 3, 2020

Statement from President Fredric V. Rolando

Re: COVID-19 Virus Crisis

Much has changed in the past week since I last provided an update. Since then, it saddens me to report that two city letter carriers have passed away in New York due to complications from the coronavirus. In total, the Postal Service has lost eight employees to this virus. We send our deepest sympathies and heartfelt prayers to all their families, loved ones, friends and co-workers.

As of this evening, 294 postal employees have been confirmed with the virus, and a total of 4,420 are under quarantine. Of the 4,420 employees under quarantine, 1,275 are under self-quarantine.

The safety and health of letter carriers, and their families, remains of the utmost importance to NALC. We continue to have constant communication with the Postmaster General and other management officials regarding the Postal Service's overall efforts related to the outbreak and specific issues related to letter carriers. Most recently, NALC and the Postal Service agreed upon two more memorandums of understanding (MOUs) regarding COVID-19.

NALC and the Postal Service agreed to implement temporary workplace changes to promote social distancing amongst city letter carriers (M-01915). The agreement commits the parties to limiting individuals to working only in their employing facilities to the extent possible. The MOU also directs the local parties to immediately discuss potential scheduling and office setup changes such as staggered start times, scheduling letter carriers to begin tours in groups of 10 or less, the manner in which stand-up talks are given, as well as break locations and times, and other initiatives to maximize social distancing. Things that we took for granted in the past suddenly require adaptation. With all the closings of businesses, many carriers may have to return to the office just to use the bathroom. The agreement expires on May 27, 2020, however the parties will revisit this issue immediately prior to that date to determine if an extension is appropriate.

Also on March 30, 2020, NALC and the Postal Service agreed to an MOU (M-01916) which allows the Postal Service to employ Temporary Carrier Assistants (TCA's) during the period between March 30, 2020, and May 27, 2020, as operationally necessary for the sole purpose of replacing city letter carriers absent due to COVID-19. Recently the Postal Service sent a letter (M-01914) to its managers and supervisors advising them to allow liberal changes of schedule and approval of leave in recognition of the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is inevitable and understandable that letter carriers will need to use leave to care for themselves and their families. Obviously, disruptions in mail service may result. Such service disruptions are necessary not only to protect letter carriers and their families, but to protect the overall general public as well. The ability for the Postal Service to employ TCAs should help minimize these service disruptions. The parties will also revisit this issue immediately prior to the MOU's May 27, 2020, expiration date to determine if an extension is appropriate.

Effective April 1, 2020, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) provides employees with two additional types of leave. First, employees with a qualifying circumstance as defined by the ACT will be eligible for up to 80 hours of paid Emergency Sick Leave, in addition to their sick leave balances. Second, employees who have a minor child whose school or place of care is closed will be eligible for leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), the majority of which is additional paid leave. These provisions will apply from April 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020, and are in addition to any personal annual and/or sick leave balances that you have.

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An employee is entitled to use the additional 80 hours of paid Emergency Sick Leave for absences related to COVID-19 if the employee is unable to work, including unable to telework, because the employee:

1. Is subject to a Federal, State, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19
2. Has been advised to self-quarantine by a health care provider
3. Is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and is seeking a medical diagnosis
4. Is caring for an individual subject to a Federal, State, or local quarantine or self-quarantine
5. Is caring for his or her child whose school or place of care is closed or the childcare provider is unavailable due to COVID-19 related reasons
6. Is experiencing any other substantially similar conditions specified by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

In regard to qualifying reason 1, in many cities and states, government authorities have issued a quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19. Some local and state governments have also identified groups of people that should self-quarantine, such as individuals over a certain age. While the Postal Service is considered mission critical and not subject to state and local directives, employees that choose to self-quarantine in these circumstances may use up to 80 hours of Emergency Sick Leave to cover their absence.

All career and non-career employees, regardless of tenure, are immediately eligible for up to two weeks of fully or partially paid Emergency Sick Leave. Full-time career employees can receive up to 80 hours of paid Emergency Sick Leave. Part-time career employees can receive Emergency Sick Leave up to the number of hours equal to their average work hours during a 2-week period or the hours they would have worked. Non-career employees can receive Emergency Sick Leave for up to 80 hours based on their average work hours during a 2-week period or the hours they would have worked.

For qualifying reasons 1, 2, and 3, the Emergency Sick Leave is 100% of the letter carrier's pay, but capped at \$511 per day and \$5,110 total. For qualifying reasons 4, 5, and 6 the Emergency Sick Leave will be no less than 2/3 of the letter carrier's pay, but capped at \$200 per day and \$2,000 total.

With regard to the other type of additional leave, the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion, an employee is entitled to take leave related to COVID-19 if the employee is unable to work, including telework, because the employee is caring for his or her child whose school or place of care is closed or the childcare provider is unavailable due to COVID-19 related reasons. This qualifying reason is the same as qualifying reason number 5 for Emergency Sick Leave.

All employees that have been employed for 30 days or longer are eligible for this benefit if they meet the qualifying reason. This new qualifying reason does not add to the 12 weeks of FMLA already provided for in the law. When using this new qualifying reason, the first 10 days of the 12-week FMLA coverage will be unpaid. To receive pay for the first 10 days, an employee can choose to use their own earned leave or may use the 80 hours Emergency Sick Leave explained above. The remaining 10 weeks of FMLA leave for this qualifying reason will be paid leave. This leave is required to be paid out at no less than 2/3 of the letter carriers pay, but capped at \$200 per day and \$10,000 total.

The Postal Service states it is working on implementing these new leave requirements and will be disseminating additional corporate wide communications in the coming days, including how this leave is to be managed and tracked within the Time and Attendance Collection System (TACS).

Again, the two new types of leave identified above are in addition to the contractual benefits to which USPS employees are otherwise entitled. I previously reported on some recent MOUs in my March 18, 2020, statement found on the COVID-19 page on the NALC website, in which NALC and the Postal Service agreed to address obvious concerns such as childcare needs caused by the large number of schools and daycares that have closed, and the need for city carrier assistants to have additional paid leave to use during this unprecedented crisis. M-01910 allows career letter carriers to use sick leave for dependent care to care for a child as the result of a closed daycare, school or the unavailability of the child's primary caregiver. M-01911 gives city carrier assistants an additional 80 hours of paid leave to use for specific reasons in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic, since CCAs do not earn sick leave. Both of these MOUs expire on May 27, 2020, however the national parties will revisit these issues immediately prior to that date to determine if an extension is appropriate.

Recently the Postal Service released a revised document directing its supervisors and managers how to make decisions regarding steps to take and what type of leave should be afforded to employees who have had certain forms of exposure (or potential exposure) to COVID-19 or who have travelled to certain countries or by way of a cruise ship. The guidance is offered for employees who fall into one of the following six categories:

1. An employee who tests positive for COVID-19
2. An employee who develops a fever and symptoms such as a cough or difficulty breathing
3. An employee who has visited certain countries or travelled on a cruise ship in the past 14 days

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4. An employee who shares a household with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19
5. An employee who has been exposed, outside of work, to an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19
6. An employee who has been exposed to an individual who was exposed to an individual who tested positive for COVID-19

When an employee tests positive for COVID-19, they should be placed on the Emergency Sick Leave provided by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). Again this leave is above and beyond the leave letter carriers normally earn, and it is afforded to all employees, whether career or non-career, and without regard to length of employment. When an employee develops a fever and symptoms such as a cough or difficulty breathing, they should also be sent home and placed on the Emergency Sick Leave provided by the FFCRA. After an employee returns from travel on a cruise ship or from a level 3 country, they should stay home for 14 days and be also paid Emergency Sick Leave as provided by the Act. If that employee later shows symptoms of COVID-19, and has exhausted the Emergency Sick Leave, they must remain at home on normal sick leave or annual leave until they are cleared to return to work.

If an employee shares a household with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19, they should stay home and be afforded Emergency Sick Leave as provided by the Act. Employees in this situation should stay at home until the household member has had no fever for at least 72 hours (at least 3 full days of no fever w/o the use of any fever-reducing medications) AND other symptoms have improved (for example, when cough or shortness of breath has improved) AND at least 7 days have passed since COVID-19 symptoms first appeared.

If an employee has been exposed, outside of work, to an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19, then the District or Area Occupational Health Nurse Administrator (OHNA) should contact the Local Health Department for advice. If the Local Health Department reviews the circumstances and orders the employee to quarantine, then he or she should be afforded up to 80 hours of Emergency Sick Leave in accordance with the Act. If the Local Health Department reviews the circumstances and does not order the employee to quarantine, then he or she can return to work. If the Local Health Department does not perform the review as requested, then the OHNA will make the determination whether to quarantine the employee or not.

If an employee has been exposed to an individual who was exposed to an individual who tested positive for COVID-19, then he or she will be cleared to work. USPS states that according to CDC guidelines, people in this situation are not considered exposed.

The guidelines issued by the Postal Service have been given to supervisors and managers so they know what to do in those certain situations. If you believe you may have been exposed to COVID-19, and such exposure does not necessarily "fit" into one of the above categories to be quarantined, you may self-quarantine. Or if you are concerned that you may be exposed to someone at work who you think should be quarantined, you may self-quarantine. If you call and share your concerns with your doctor, and your doctor advises you to self-quarantine, you can use the 80 hours Emergency Sick Leave provided by the Act. Or, if there is a state or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19 in effect where you live, you may also use the 80 hours Emergency Sick Leave to self-quarantine. And in any case, you can always use your own leave to self-quarantine. In the event you are contacted by a local public health official and identified as someone who may have had contact with an individual who has tested positive for coronavirus, please immediately inform your supervisor and local NALC branch officer as a means to protect your coworkers and community.

I am continuing to ask that letter carriers communicate with their NALC branch officers or national business agent if they see problems in their office with lack of cleaning, shortage of sanitizing supplies, standup talks not being conducted, social distancing not being practiced, quarantine protocols not being followed, or any instruction that conflicts with the guidance being provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). We have been successful getting many of these issues resolved, but we need to know where the problems are so we can get them fixed. We communicate daily with USPS officials regarding these issues, and we are committed to doing our part to correct each issue as it arises.

USPS has committed to provide daily supplies necessary for postal employees to clean frequently touched items in the office as well as provide necessary supplies for letter carriers to use to clean steering wheels and other frequently touched surfaces in postal vehicles. They have also committed to provide supplies for use while on the street, such as hand sanitizer, as well as cleaning supplies to maintain cleanliness on surfaces in the vehicle and on other surfaces we encounter on the street. You should have sufficient hand sanitizer to keep your hands clean all day as you touch the many surfaces on your route. They have also committed to provide masks and nitrile gloves for any employee that requests them. It is my understanding that the large shipments of supplies USPS received on March 23rd and March 25th at its central distribution warehouse in Topeka, KS are now being received in delivery units throughout the country. If your manager or supervisor tells you that supplies are backordered, please ask them if they ordered directly from the USPS facility in Topeka. USPS has informed us that they now have a significant amount of supplies on hand at this facility and are distributing them. If orders are placed through vendors rather than directly from Topeka, they will likely be backordered.

In my March 25, 2020, statement found on the COVID-19 page on the NALC website, I discussed what letter carriers should do locally regarding such unsafe conditions. Please refer to that statement for an in depth explanation of how to report such conditions, as well as management's responsibility to correct them. If you are told by your supervisor to work in an unsafe environment, either in the office, in the vehicle, or on the street, please inform your local union representative, branch president, or NBA immediately.

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USPS headquarters continues to distribute mandatory stand-up talks related to COVID-19 which should be given in every post office across the nation. These standup talks are posted on the safety and health and COVID-19 pages of NALC's website. If you see standup talks which have not been given, please tell a union representative about this as well.

I want to remind everyone again that NALC worked with USPS to establish alternate delivery instructions to eliminate customer contact for mail that requires customer signatures. As a result, USPS temporarily modified customer signature capture procedures for the Mobile Delivery Device (MDD) sign-on-glass feature, PS Form 3811 (Domestic Return Receipt), PS Form 3849 (We ReDeliver for You), and any hard-copy receipt items usually signed by customers. The new process is outlined in my March 25, 2020, statement as well on the NALC website on the COVID-19 page.

NALC has always been committed to providing the necessary resources for our members and union representatives. To provide letter carriers with as much information as possible related to the pandemic, NALC created and keeps updated a "COVID-19" page under "News & Research" on the NALC website. Here you will find:

- My weekly statements
- Links to the podcasts in which Executive Vice President Renfroe delivers regular updates on COVID-19
- New memorandums of understanding in effect during the pandemic
- All the mandatory standup talks which should have been given in your office
- Information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Information from USPS
- Recently created COVID19@nalc.org resource

In addition to contacting your shop steward, branch officer or NBA, NALC has a new resource for members to ask any questions about the COVID-19 pandemic: COVID19@nalc.org. Many NALC members have used this new resource.

Again, if you do not have the supplies you need to keep yourself safe, please contact a branch officer or your NBA to let them know, but you can also use this new email address to voice your concerns. In addition to using this new resource to ask questions, please use it to report COVID-19 related issues in your facility when you do not have immediate access to a steward or branch officer, and you are unable to contact your NBA office. Please be sure to include your name and NALC branch number in your email. Having this information upfront allows NALC headquarters to quickly connect members with the information they need.

We recently announced the postponement of the 28th annual Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive, scheduled for May 9, 2020. The annual success of the food drive is largely due to the efforts of letter carriers, other postal employees, postal customers, community volunteers and many more. Their safety is of paramount importance. Much of the United States is currently under shelter in place or similar advisories due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and public health authorities such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have issued guidelines that include social distancing. While it is unknown how long these guidelines will remain in place, it is highly unlikely that those involved in the food drive will be able to safely participate just six weeks from now. NALC, as well as our national partners, are fully committed to rescheduling the food drive later in 2020. Although a new date has not yet been scheduled, we look forward to once again holding the largest one-day food drive in America when it is safe to do so.

As you probably know, on Sept. 20, 2019, negotiations for a new collective-bargaining agreement between NALC and USPS came to an impasse. At that point the parties entered a mandatory 60-day mediation period as required by statute. The parties also used the mediation period to continue negotiations while simultaneously attempting to agree on a neutral arbitrator in the event the parties remained at impasse after the 60-day period.

In early February, after unsuccessfully coming to terms on a new contract, Arbitrator Dennis R. Nolan was selected as the neutral chair of a three-person arbitration board to be responsible for resolving the bargaining impasse between NALC and the Postal Service. Afterwards, several dates were agreed upon for both sides to present their positions before the arbitration panel which will ultimately render a final and binding decision on the contents of a new national agreement.

Major issues are at stake, and we still have many unresolved differences regarding both economic, operational and workplace provisions. Considering the current disruptions from the COVID-19 pandemic, NALC is exploring the idea of an extension to our current contract and/or postponing the scheduled interest arbitration. Any decision to postpone our interest arbitration or extend the current contract will not be made in haste. Our collective bargaining goals have not changed, and ultimately, we will do what gives us the best opportunity to accomplish those goals for letter carriers. In the meantime, our current collective-bargaining agreement remains in force pending final resolution of the parties' dispute.

Additionally, NALC's National Convention is scheduled to be held August 17-21, 2020. We have received many questions regarding its status. As the country watches event after event either being postponed or cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there is no guarantee that our convention will take place as scheduled. While the NALC Executive Council is currently not postponing or cancelling our

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national convention, we are doing our due diligence and communicating with the convention center and convention hotels to explore our options in the event such a decision must be made. The national convention includes complicated logistics for both headquarters and branches. If we reach the point where it is obvious holding the convention safely is not possible, that information will be immediately communicated to the branches.

We continue to remain very involved with our congressional representative with regard to proposed provisions for stimulus packages related to the COVID-19 virus. As plans for the next stimulus package are being developed, we are again pursuing appropriations to keep the Postal Service healthy through the crisis. Additionally, we want to be sure that we are included in any hazard pay provisions for front line workers.

On another stimulus note, The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) signed into law on March 27, 2020, provides for "economic impact payments" to virtually all Americans, including active and retired letter carriers. These payments -- \$1,200 for individuals and \$2,400 for married couples plus \$500 for dependent children under age 18 -- are often called stimulus checks because they are part of a \$2.2 trillion package of measures to stimulate the economy and extend unemployment insurance benefits. The package was enacted in response to the sharp downturn in the economy caused by Covid-19 pandemic.

The payments will be distributed by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in about three weeks, though the IRS may need several months to distribute all the payments.

The IRS intends to distribute most of the payments through electronic fund transfers directly to taxpayers' bank accounts, using the bank account information provided on households' 2018 or 2019 tax returns. For those, who filed paper returns or for whom the IRS does not have bank account information, payments will be sent by mail. However, the IRS announced that it is setting up a website where individuals can provide bank account information to get the payments transferred electronically.

There are two important details that might be relevant in some instances.

First, the payments will be reduced for households with higher incomes -- for individuals with adjusted gross incomes of more than \$75,000 in the 2018 or 2019 tax years -- or \$150,000 in the case of married couples. The payments will be reduced by \$5 for every \$100 of income over the thresholds.

Second, Americans who did not file a tax return in 2018 or 2019 will have to file a special form to qualify for the economic impact payments, but not if they receive Social Security benefits -- the IRS will get their bank information or address from the Social Security Administration.

Like I said at the beginning of this statement, much has changed and the changes continue to come quickly -- daily, if not hourly. NALC strives to provide letter carriers with the most current information possible, and we will continue to do so as we navigate working through this pandemic together. Please continue following the CDC's recommendations, and please do everything you can to protect yourself, your family, your coworkers, and your customers.

The Postal Service is part of the critical infrastructure of this nation. We provide an essential public service of the federal government for the American people, and during this crisis, that service becomes even more important. We are the only universal delivery and communications network servicing every home and business every day, and our customers will need us now more than ever to deliver prescriptions, additional on-line purchases, test kits, coronavirus updates, the list goes on, and likely for this year's elections. Letter Carriers in every neighborhood are a source of comfort, and a welcome sign of normalcy to the American people. That has been true during recoveries from hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, wildfires, and other disasters in the past, and is now true as we all cope with the current national crisis.

Once again, if you have any questions or issues to report, please contact a branch officer or your national business agent, or use the COVID19@nalc.org email address.

In closing, thank you for your dedicated service to your customers and each other. You are all heroes, and I and all the NALC employees are proud to work for you.

Please be safe, and goodnight.

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