



## COLCPE: Just another team sport?

**T**he recent activities by the NALC related to our efforts to help support the USPS in dealings with Congress and the payment of “future retiree” health benefits show the tremendous need for our Legislative Department. Our efforts cannot be overlooked during the introduction and passage of what we supported as House Resolution 22. With the actions of our e-Activists and the contributions of our COLCPE donors, we helped our employer, which also will help fund our jobs. Those who contribute to our political goals with their voice through the e-Activist Network and with their wallet through COLCPE know the importance of being involved.

COLCPE. Think of it like sports. While I enjoy almost all sports, I am at that age where individual sports are almost all that is left. Since my talents would do little to aid any team, I find myself competing mostly as an individual. But one thing I have observed from many years in sports is that, in either team or individual sports, each participant has a goal in common with others. That goal is almost always to be victorious. While it is easy to understand the team concept for sports like baseball, football and basketball, a close look will show that “individual participant” sports like tennis, golf and bowling do, in fact, still use the team approach.

With team sports, it is easy to see that they require each participant to make a contribution of some sort toward the victory by all. No matter how good one or more players on a team are, the winner of any game is usually the result of the best combined efforts of the team. While individual effort on a team might have some limited success, it is never permanent, since the other teams learn how to avoid that individual’s effort. Individual sports also require more than just the participants’ efforts to be successful.

While it might appear that Tiger Woods wins golf tournaments by himself, he is really just the front person for a team effort. His coach, his caddy and his equipment supplier are all essential to his success. While they may not be participants during the actual golf tournament, they give him the tools necessary to be successful. Think of COLCPE as a tool necessary for you to be successful or

victorious in your career as a letter carrier. Even we, as retirees, need the support of the NALC legislative front to keep our retirement and subsequent benefits safe.

While COLCPE—the Committee on Letter Carrier Political Education—is certainly not a new kid on the block, since it has been around since 1975, it is still in its growing infancy. We have, in reality, just begun to crawl with our legislative potential. We can only start to walk, and maybe even run, when each member realizes that we are not individuals in the matter of our employment. We need to all contribute our energies and invest a small portion of our resources toward the common goals of the NALC. Those goals include a vibrant USPS that continues to provide a livable wage with decent benefits to its workforce.

Whether you consider your job an individual effort or team effort, remember: Those who currently contribute can only be so effective against our legislative adversaries. Consider the contributions to COLCPE necessary to provide the coaching, training and equipment necessary for us to be successful in our upcoming contests. To the 6-plus percent of our members who contribute automatically to COLCPE, I say thanks for getting it. To the other 93-plus percent, I say: Is your job not important enough to join the COLCPE team?

**Office communications**—While we respond to all communications to our office, it is sometimes necessary to contact the respondent to ascertain exactly what the issues are. When writing to the NALC Retirement Department, please provide a daytime phone number where we can reach you. If you are not available during the daytime, an e-mail address will work. Often, the absence of a contact number will sometimes result in any information that we provide arriving later than necessary. ☒

**NALC Retirement Department**  
**Toll-free number: 800-424-5186**  
 Available Monday, Wednesday and Thursday only  
 from 10 a.m. to noon and from 2 to 4 p.m. (Eastern time)  
*This toll-free number is answered ONLY during these hours  
 on the days indicated.*