

## The State of the Auxiliary

This is the eighth month of 2020, and so much has happened:

- Coronavirus pandemic
- Racial tension
- Protests
- The NALC and NALCA convention canceled
- The world shut down

It has been said that the Post Office as we know it will be no more if we do not get the funding that is needed to help it survive.

2020 is also a critical year for the Auxiliary. As you can see by the financial reports below, the Auxiliary will be without money at the end of the year. Each year, the number of members has dropped and there seems to be little or no interest in the Auxiliary from the younger letter carriers and their families. Most younger letter carriers and their families have never heard of the Auxiliary.

This is the history of the National Ladies Auxiliary to the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALCA):

The NALCA was organized on Sept. 5, 1905, in Portland, OR, with a charter membership of 72, representing 18 states.

The first national convention, held two years later in Canton, OH, indicated per the report of the secretary, 34 letter carriers auxiliaries had been organized with many more prospects.

During the early years of our organization, the growth of membership was slow; this was due, perhaps, to the fact that women were not an important factor in civic or political life during this period. However, following the enactment of the National Suffrage Act, our Auxiliary, following the trend of women's organizations, made marked increases in growth and membership throughout the country. We now have membership all over the United States and auxiliaries in 50 states.

The state auxiliary movement came into existence in 1921, and our records show at that time a total of 45 state auxiliaries functioning under charters granted by the National Auxiliary.

The National Auxiliary has rendered every possible assistance in helping to secure legislation of priceless benefits to the letter carriers, including salary increases, shorter Saturday workdays, retirement, Sunday closing laws, sick leave with pay, increased compensation for injuries received while on duty, the 40-hour workweek, substitute carriers' legislation, and annuities for widows and survivors.

We have also given our full support to the subsidiary organizations for the National Association of Letters Carriers, namely the Mutual Benefit Association, National Sick Benefit Association and the Health Benefit Plan, in which our membership should have vital and essential interest.

The National Ladies Auxiliary is the largest postal auxiliary in the world and worthy of every effort to maintain this standard and improve every possible opportunity to add to our membership.

The Auxiliary has changed over the years. We went from Ladies Auxiliary to Auxiliary because we have members who are men and we are now Families and Friends of Letters Carriers because we want to include all who are supporters of the letter carriers. The one thing that has remained the same is our commitment to our letter carriers and the causes that affect their/our lives. If things do not change, 2020 will become the beginning of the end of the Auxiliary.

Where do we go from here? What is the future of the Auxiliary? These are questions that have to be answered.

You may contact any member of the Auxiliary Board with your suggestions. We will discuss your thoughts as a board and get back to you ASAP.

Sept. 5, 2020, will mark 115 years of service to the letter carriers.

The future of the NALCA (Family and Friends of Letter Carriers) is in your hands!

In solidarity—

NALCA Board