



President Joe Biden signs H.R. 3076, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2022, in the State Dining Room of the White House on April 6.

President Biden signs Postal Reform Act into law

On April 6, President Biden signed the Postal Service Reform Act of 2022 (H.R. 3076) into law. The president's signature follows the bill's passage with large bipartisan majorities in the House in February and in the Senate in March. Annette Taylor, an NALC member and retired letter carrier who delivered mail for 32 years after eight years in the Air Force, introduced President Biden at the signing ceremony. Taylor has served as the president, vice president and recording secretary of Annapolis, MD Branch 651. She is the current vice president of the Maryland/DC State Association of Letter Carriers.

"NALC is proud to have contributed to the efforts over the last 12 years that resulted in this bipartisan legislation that brings us together today," Taylor said. "This legislation will help position the USPS to provide the service that the American people deserve. Mr. President, the Postal Service is an essential facilitator of our democracy and our economy. We know there is more to do to secure its long-term viability, but today is a huge step forward. My union stands ready to assist you."

"With this bill," Biden said, "we're repealing the pre-funding mandate and setting the Postal Service on a more sustainable and stable financial footing. We're guaranteeing that the mail will continue to be delivered six days a week. And the bill increases transparency by requiring the Postal Service to develop an online public dashboard updated weekly with local and national service performance data. Today, we enshrine in law our recognition that the Postal Service is fundamental to our economy, to our democracy, to our health, and the very sense of who we are as a nation."

NALC President Fredric Rolando said, "After 12 years of fighting for meaningful postal reform, NALC is gratified to see President Biden sign this bill into law. I would like to thank every NALC member who helped us get here. Your solidarity and activism were instrumental in this bill's path to becoming law."

"I would also like to commend the bipartisan work on this bill that was led by Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Ranking Member James Comer (R-KY), Chairman Gary Peters (D-MI) and Ranking Member Rob Portman (R-OH). This legislation will put the Postal Service in a better position to grow and adapt to the evolving needs of America's households and businesses."

"Today, we celebrate this historic victory for letter carriers, the Postal Service and all Americans who depend on our universal service," President Rolando added. "We look forward to continuing working with members of Congress and the Biden administration on reforms that will further strengthen the Postal Service and improve the work and lives of our members."

Vice President Lew Drass to step down

NALC Vice President Lew Drass has announced that he will step down from the office of vice president effective April 30.

A member of Huntsville, AL Branch 462, Drass first came to NALC Headquarters in December 2010 to serve as director of city delivery. He has served as vice president since March 2014.

Drass has agreed to remain with NALC as a staff assistant for a few months to ensure a smooth transition. President Fredric Rolando will soon appoint a new vice president to finish the term.



PTF Step AA interpretive dispute settled

NALC and USPS have settled the interpretive dispute over the Postal Service's method of calculating overtime pay, Sunday premium pay, general wage increases and cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for part-time flexible (PTF) city letter carriers in Step AA. The settlement upholds NALC's position.

As a result of the Postal Service's incorrect calculation, PTFs currently at Step AA are being underpaid by \$1.21 for each overtime hour worked, \$1.61 for each penalty overtime hour and \$0.20 for each hour of Sunday Premium. The calculation has also currently resulted in a 9-cent deviation of the straight time rates between PTFs at Step AA and full-time regulars at Step A.

The dispute centered around the implementation of the new language contained in Article 9, Section 8 and Article 11, Section 7 of the 2019 National Agreement and how they interact with each other.

PTFs who were, or are currently, in Step AA will have their pay adjusted retroactively for all time spent in Step AA. No other employees were affected. The affected employees will be notified in writing that their pay will be adjusted consistent with this grievance resolution.

The settlement, M-01980 in NALC's Materials Reference System, can be read on nalc.org/mrs.

House committee holds hearing on electrifying the Postal Service vehicle fleet

On April 5, the House Committee on Oversight and Reform held a hearing on the benefits and challenges of electrifying the Postal Service vehicle fleet.

Last year, the Postal Service signed a 10-year contract to order up to 165,000 Next Generation Delivery Vehicles (NGDVs) from Wisconsin-based contractor Oshkosh Defense. The hearing followed the Postal Service's announcement that it had placed an order for 50,000 NGDVs. USPS originally announced that 10 percent of these vehicles would be electric. Following criticism from the Biden administration and some Democrats in Congress, on March 24 the Postal Service announced that it would increase the number of electric vehicles in that order to 20 percent.

The hearing featured five witnesses: Inspector General of USPS Tammy Whitcomb; Executive Director of the Next Generation Delivery Vehicle Program Victoria Stephen of USPS; Director for Policy at the Institute for Energy Research Kenny Stein; Acting Director of the Physical Infrastructure Team at the Government Accountability Office Jill Naamane; and Executive Director of the Zero Emission Transportation Association Joe Britton.

At the hearing, Democrats talked about combatting climate change, keeping up with private shippers and cost effectiveness as reasons to transition the Postal Service to electric vehicles. Republicans focused on the need to stabilize the Postal Service's finances before making this type of transition.

"Electric vehicles are the vehicles of the future. To continue purchasing gas-guzzling vehicles is not only bad for the environment—it's bad for the Postal Service, and bad for its customers," Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) said in her opening statement.

Ranking Member James Comer (R-KY) said, "While Republicans are not against the Postal Service acquiring electric vehicles, we are against mandates that ignore the business needs and the financial situation of the Postal Service. Republicans believe the Postal Service must be self-funded. This means the Postal Service should pay for its own capital needs—like purchasing new vehicles."

Stephen emphasized the need for new vehicles. "It is vital that we provide our carriers with appropriate vehicles to support this specific and robust delivery mission," she said. "The urgent need to replace our vehicles is not in dispute. Many of our 190,000 delivery vehicles are inefficient, and they lack basic safety features and ergonomic features, including air conditioning, airbags, [and] anti-lock brakes."

When Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD) asked Stephen if USPS preferred to completely electrify its fleet, she replied, "If the funding was made available to us, we would absolutely adjust our plans. Our plans today reflect what we can afford within our own resources."

While several witnesses cited the cost effectiveness of switching to electric vehicles, Stein called these claims "overly optimistic" and said that electric vehicles could "end up being a long-term financial drag on the Postal Service."

Funding to help electrify the Postal Service vehicle fleet was included in the Build Back Better Act, which passed in the House in November 2021 but was ultimately blocked in the Senate.

White House releases FY 2023 budget proposal

The Biden administration released its Fiscal Year 2023 (FY 2023) budget proposal on April 4. The \$5.8 trillion budget proposal calls for \$1.6 trillion in discretionary spending, a 9 percent increase from FY 2022. This includes \$813 billion in defense spending and \$769 billion in domestic spending. Overall, the proposal aims to reduce the national deficit by \$10 trillion over a 10-year period.

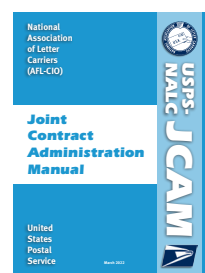
Related to the Postal Service, the budget proposal calls for \$5 billion to support vote-by-mail efforts while expanding the Postal Service's delivery capacity in underserved areas. This includes making ballots postage-free and reducing the cost of other election-related mail for jurisdictions and voters. Funding is also requested for charging infrastructure at post offices. Additionally, the budget calls for \$2.9 million for the Postal Service Office of Inspector General for ongoing operational expenses.

Also of note, the proposal requests \$119 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs, a 29 percent increase from FY 2022. This includes funding for veterans' homeless programs, caregivers and health care systems. The proposal calls for \$14.6 billion for the Department of Labor, about the same amount as proposed in FY 2022. For the first time since 2014, the president's budget proposal calls for increased funding of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), the independent agency of the federal government that enforces labor law in relation to collective bargaining and unfair labor practices. The proposal requests \$319 million for NLRB, a 16 percent increase from FY 2022.

The presidential budget proposal is released annually and reflects the priorities of the administration. Congress controls the budget and appropriations process, and presidential budget proposals often bear little resemblance to the budgets ultimately passed by lawmakers.

March 2022 JCAM is now available

The March 2022 JCAM is now available on nalc.org. All previous versions of the JCAM should be replaced with the March 2022 version. The JCAM is in the printing process. A copy will be sent to each office where city letter carriers are employed. Additional copies will be made available for purchase from the NALC Store after printing is complete.



Food drive is Saturday, May 14



Letter carriers are preparing for the big day the Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive is Saturday, May 14.

One in 8 Americans, including millions of children, senior citizens and veterans, are unsure where their next meal will come from. To fill that need, letter carriers collect food left out by postal patrons in the morning of the second Saturday of each May, a national event first held in 1993.

The timing is crucial: Food pantries can face shortages in spring and summer because holiday donations have been depleted. By summer, when most school meal programs are not available, the pressure on food banks grows even more.

The needs are particularly acute this year, because the same pandemic that led to the annual food drive's cancellation the past two years for safety reasons also sparked economic dislocation among tens of millions of Americans.

Over the years, active and retired letter carriers, with the help of thousands of volunteers along with NALC's national partners, have collected a total of 1.82 billion pounds of food. A feature of the food drive is that all the food collected is distributed locally to food banks and other entities that help feed people in the community.

"Letter carriers see the needs in their communities each day, and we respond each May by filling the shelves of local food pantries," NALC President Fredric Rolando said. "Letter carriers across the country will, on May 14, once again collect donated food that residents leave by their mailboxes, to help families put food on their tables."

Part of the success of our food drive is owed to our national partners: the U.S. Postal Service, the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, Vericast, United Way Worldwide, the AFL-CIO, Valpak, the Kellogg Co. and CVS Health. These partners help in many ways, including sponsoring the specially marked donation bags that letter carriers distribute to customers, gathering volunteers and getting out the message about the food drive.

NALC Headquarters, branch food drive coordinators and volunteers are using various means of communication to publicize the food drive right up to May 14.

The digital communications team at Headquarters is busy flooding social media with news and reminders. Check out the food drive's official social media accounts on Facebook at facebook.com/StampOutHunger and on Twitter at @StampOutHunger. Use #StampOutHunger to find or send messages about the food drive on either platform.

NALC continues to make use of newspapers, television and radio to get the word out to the public about the food drive, with distribution of news releases as well as individual outreach to media outlets. In addition, branch food drive coordinators are busy with local promotional efforts.

Please note that even though the 2022 Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive is just weeks away as this *Bulletin* goes to press, it is still subject to change or cancellation if necessary to protect the safety and health of those involved, in light of the pandemic. As we know, the physical food drive, which was not held in 2020 or 2021 for that reason, was replaced in those years by the ongoing virtual donor drive.

With or without the in-person food drive next month, the donor drive will continue virtually. Even if letter carriers pick up food donations door-to-door this year as planned, the online donor drive is a great way to supplement those food donations. For more information about the virtual drive and how to get involved, including tools that make it easy, go to nalc.org/community-service/food-drive/2022-donor-drive.

Letter carriers with questions about the food drive should contact their branch food coordinator. Food drive coordinators with questions may contact Christina Vela Davidson, assistant to the president for community services, at 202-662-2489 or at cdavidson@nalc.org.

Senate committee advances USPS BOG nominees

On April 6, the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs (HSGA) voted to advance the nominations of Dan Tangherlini and Derek Kan to serve on the Postal Service Board of Governors (BOG). In November 2021, President Biden nominated Tangherlini and Kan to replace BOG members John Barger and Ron Bloom.

Tangherlini, a Democratic nominee, currently serves as managing director of the Emerson Collective, a private philanthropic firm. Until 2017, he was president of SeamlessDocs Federal, a technology firm that focuses on simplifying government forms and data collection. His previous government roles include serving as the administrator of the General Services Administration under President Obama and as chief financial officer at the Department of Treasury from 2009 to 2013. From 2006 to 2009, he worked for the District of Columbia as city administrator and deputy mayor. He also served in the management of the Biden transition team with responsibility for the Postal Service's Agency Review Team.

Kan, a Republican nominee, is currently an executive with Deliverr, a California-based e-commerce fulfillment startup company. He previously served as deputy director of the Office of Management and Budget from July 2020 to December 2020. From 2017 to 2019, he served as the under secretary of transportation for policy. He also served as an Amtrak board member and as a general manager for Lyft. Prior to that, he served as an advisor for Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and as chief economist for the Senate Republican Policy Committee.

The HSGA vote comes after the committee held a hearing on March 31 to consider the nominees. In his opening statement at the hearing, Tangherlini focused on the importance of working with the BOG, USPS leaders and members of Congress to make the Postal Service financially stable while protecting and enhancing the universal service obligation that Americans rely on. Kan recognized the continued challenges that the Postal Service faces, and he referenced his experience in both the public and private sectors that he hoped to bring to the BOG.

"The United States Postal Service Board of Governors plays an essential role in the Postal Service's future," Chairman Peters said in his opening statement. "To be successful, the Board must have qualified leaders who can govern, conduct oversight of Postal Service management, and work with lawmakers to ensure our postal workforce has the right support to deliver for the American people each and every day."

Ranking Member Portman said, "If you are confirmed, you will have an important role to make sure the Postal Service is able to successfully implement these plans and transition to a financially sustainable future. There is no doubt that the road ahead is challenging. Nevertheless, I believe that by thoughtfully engaging on these issues and working with stakeholders, committed leaders at the Postal Service can address the challenges and ensure a brighter future for the Postal Service for years to come."

The nominees will be considered by the full Senate for a final vote.



Getting ready for national convention

Delegate eligibility lists for the convention have been mailed to all branches. The lists must be completed and returned to Secretary-Treasurer Nicole Rhine's office at NALC Headquarters no later than June 8 for branch representatives to be registered as delegates to the convention. The convention is set for Aug. 8-12.

All proposed amendments to the *NALC Constitution* to be submitted for consideration at the convention must be received by Rhine's office by June 8 as well. That date is 60 days in advance of the convention, as prescribed by the *NALC Constitution*. Proposed amendments will appear in July's *Postal Record* for the membership to review.

Resolutions to be considered by delegates also must be received by the June 8 deadline to be printed in the *Resolutions and Amendments* book provided to delegates. Resolutions received after June 8 still may be considered at the convention.

Branches wishing to sell items in the designated branch sales area during the convention must contact Rhine's office to secure guidelines and forms. The completed forms must be returned to Headquarters by June 8 as well.

Based on the information available at this time, all delegates and guests to the 72nd biennial national convention in Chicago this summer will be required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in order to attend any function at the convention. Currently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines a person as fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving all recommended doses in the primary series of their COVID-19 vaccination. (The primary series for Pfizer is two doses, three to eight weeks apart; the primary series for Moderna is two doses, four to eight weeks apart; the primary series for Johnson & Johnson is one dose). Delegates and guests should be prepared to show proof of vaccination before being allowed to register and enter the NALC convention space.

NALC will continue to monitor the pandemic and will implement any protocols it feels necessary to best protect delegates and guests, which may include a requirement to wear face coverings.

Travel discounts to Chicago

Delta Air Lines is offering special discounts for NALC 72nd Biennial Convention. Discounts vary, depending on the class of tickets. The link for the discount is available at nalc.org/convention

You may also call Delta Meeting Network® at 800-328-1111 Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. (Central Time) and refer to Meeting Event Code NVMV6. (Please note there is not a service fee for reservations booked and ticketed via this reservation number.)

United Airlines also is offering specials discounts. To make flight reservations online, go to united.com/en/us and enter code ZM2N917138. You may also call the United Meeting Reservation Desk at 800-426-1122 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. (ET) and Saturday and Sunday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Eastern Time).

Scooter and wheelchair rental

Scoutaround is the exclusive scooter rental service for the NALC 72nd Biennial Convention. For reservations or for more information, go to scoutaround.com/en/nalc-72nd-biennial-national-convention. They will be located at the Coat Check area in the McCormick Place West Building, nearest to Gate 44.

Go to nalc.org for more convention news.

Prepare for the summer heat

Letter carriers should first educate themselves on heat safety. One way to do this is to download and install the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)'s Heat Safety Tool Smartphone App. Once the app is installed, it can detect your location and provide you with the current temperature, humidity and heat index (combination of temperature and humidity). It also will provide the expected heat index for the balance of the workday.

For more information on heat-related safety, see the Contract Talk column in the May 2021 *Postal Record*, available on nalc.org.

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