

Important reminders



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Open Season for choosing a health benefit plan is Nov. 8 through Dec. 13, and I encourage all NALC members to consider enrolling in the NALC Health Benefits Plan—the NALC’s own union-run health benefit plan. NALC health benefit representatives and branch officers are reminded that any USPS employee, regardless of bargaining or non-bargaining status, must be a full dues-paying member of the NALC when enrolled in the NALC Health Benefit Plan.

Under Article 22 of the *NALC Constitution*, a Health Benefit Plan membership (often referred to as an “Associate Membership”) applies only to retirees who did not maintain their membership in the NALC upon retire-

ment and to all non-postal federal employees. These enrollees of the NALC Health Benefit Plan pay yearly dues of \$36, which are billed directly from Headquarters in the early part of the year.

Branch mergers

Any branch proposing to merge should review Article 2, Section 3 of the *NALC Constitution*, which sets forth the requirements for a merger of branches. Requests for mergers received at NALC Headquarters are often missing two requirements from both branches wishing to merge: 1) a resolution and 2) a statement of reason(s) for merging. To avoid having a request for a merger returned, please ensure that your branch includes all of the necessary documentation. More information can be found on the Secretary-Treasurer’s page on the NALC website at nalc.org. The Secretary-Treasurer’s page is under the “Union Administration” tab.

Buy union

As a vice president of the Union Label and Service Trades Department, AFL-CIO, I would be remiss if I did not urge all NALC members to buy union. For more information on how to buy union, check out unionlabel.org.

Dues rosters and retiree lists

Branch and state presidents, secretaries and treasurers have their branch biweekly dues rosters, quarterly branch retiree dues rosters and monthly state dues rosters available to them through the Members Only portal. The rosters can be sorted, downloaded, saved and printed.

Branch secretaries are reminded to review the biweekly

roster and ensure that all dues being deducted are correct. If a change needs to be made, please notify the Membership Department in writing. In addition, members called to active military duty may have their dues suspended upon written request by the branch secretary. When the member returns from active duty military, please notify the Membership Department so that dues deductions may be resumed.

Also now available to branch presidents, secretaries and treasurers is a retired-member listing for their branch. The list includes all current retired members of the branch and notes which of the retired members are gold card members. Any member showing on the list as “Pending 1189” notes that NALC Headquarters has not yet received a Form 1189 from the member.

Note for city carrier assistants (CCAs): A CCA’s break in service should not trigger a permanent cancellation of dues withholding. Per the agreement with the USPS, a CCA’s dues deductions are to automatically restart when the CCA returns from a break in service. Branch secretaries should review the biweekly roster and notify the Membership Department if the dues withholding of a CCA returning from a break in service does not restart after one pay period and/or the CCA is noted as “CAN” (canceled). A CCA on a break in service should be noted on the roster as “SEP” (separated).

Officer information

Branches and state associations are reminded to provide the NALC Membership Department with any changes to officers that occur. If you have not already done so, please immediately update the Membership Department via letter or a “Branch Information Record” card that is mailed out with the six-month per capita tax call.

National conventions

As a reminder, the 72nd biennial national convention is scheduled for Aug. 8-12, 2022, in Chicago. Last month, the convention call was mailed to all branch secretaries and state secretaries. The convention call included allowable delegate count information for each branch, per the *NALC Constitution*, as well as other pertinent information concerning the convention.

As previously announced, the 73rd biennial national convention is scheduled for Aug. 5-9, 2024, in Boston, and the 74th biennial national convention is scheduled for Aug. 3-7, 2026, in Los Angeles.

Veterans Day

Although I am not a veteran, I am honored that so many of our members are and that I get to represent them as a national officer. Let’s be sure to thank the men and women who serve for the sacrifices they have made for this great country.