

The Letter Carrier Political Fund— ensuring your future



**Paul
Barner**

A political action committee (PAC) is an organization that raises money to assist favored candidates in elections and influence legislation, particularly at the national level. Many organizations and corporations establish PACs to further their agendas. And the NALC is no different.

NALC's PAC was created in 1975—then known as the Committee on Letter Carrier Political Education (COLCPE). The PAC grew quickly and proved to be a crucial component in NALC's defense of benefits for active and retired letter carriers. NALC's ability to affect legislation proved instrumental,

as exemplified by the passage of Hatch Act reform. Prior to the reform, active letter carriers were prohibited from participating in nearly all aspects of politics. This reform in 1993 opened the door for our members to become engaged in the political process. Since then, our members have repeatedly proven that no union is more active and engaged in that process than NALC.

There is no question about the positive impacts that grassroots efforts, hard work and activism of NALC officers, staff and our members have had on Capitol Hill in stabilizing the Postal Service and gaining well-deserved benefits for letter carriers. One example can be found in the passage of the Family Medical Leave Act, which affords protections in the event of absences from work related to qualifying conditions.

“Contributions made to the LCPF are used to support candidates—Republicans, Democrats and independents—who support letter carrier initiatives.”

In 2015, COLCPE was changed to the Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF) to better reflect its purpose and mission. Contributions made to the LCPF are used to support candidates—Republicans, Democrats and independents—who support letter carrier initiatives. This is because almost all issues that affect letter carriers are non-partisan in nature.

Beginning in the mid- to late 2000s, attacks on the Postal Service and our jobs were fueled by three factors that drastically affected the Postal Service's financial stability—the economic recession, the decrease in first-class mail volume and the mandate to pre-fund future retiree health benefits. The LCPF was a crucial resource in our success in ensuring the financial stability of the Postal Service through postal reform, including a rollback of the pre-funding mandate—another pure example of our dollars at work.

While 90 percent of all letter carriers voluntarily join NALC, only 12 percent of our members contribute to LCPF. NALC members have a long tradition of refusing to stand on the sidelines, but rather take the fight to demand what is rightfully yours—the stronger the PAC, the stronger the influence.

NALC has been instrumental in advancing and securing legislation for letter carriers, but we must not rest on our laurels. We must reinforce our commitment to strengthening our PAC to maintain a strong force as we continue to advance the benefits of letter carriers.

The louder our voice on Capitol Hill, the more we can get done to benefit letter carriers. So please, make your voice heard by contributing to the Letter Carrier Political Fund. For more information, go to nalc.org/pac or contact the Department of Legislative and Political Affairs at 202-662-2833.

Note: 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. Any guideline amounts are merely suggestions, and you may contribute more or less than the guidelines suggest and the union will not favor or disadvantage you by reason of the amount of your contribution or your decision not to contribute. 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 canceled. 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. Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, name of employer and occupation of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year.