

Constitutional change regarding retiree membership and other reminders



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At the 2024 national convention held in Boston in August, the delegates in attendance voted to approve a proposed change to Article 2 of the NALC Constitution, which contains the provisions concerning membership in the NALC.

The change that was adopted by the delegates was to Article 2, Section 3 (e), which addresses retiree membership in the NALC. This section of the *Constitution* will now read:

(e). a Form 1189 (Dues Check-Off Provision) must be signed by all retiring members within the NALC who wish to retain their membership in said organization. An annuitant that was

a member in good standing at the time of retirement may also sign this Form and have their membership reinstated.

This change adopted by the delegates now allows a member who failed to fill out a Form 1189, Request and Authorization for Voluntary Allotment from Annuity for Payment of Organization Dues to NALC at the time of retirement, and subsequently whose membership was canceled for failure to timely complete an 1189, the opportunity to have their membership reinstated by completing a Form 1189.

Prior to this change, there were no provisions in the *NALC Constitution* that allowed a member who had retired and who did not complete the 1189 at the time of retirement the ability to complete an 1189 once their membership was canceled for failing to join the NALC as a retiree.

As a reminder, in order to be eligible to become a retired member of the NALC, you must first be an active member of the NALC at the time of retirement.

Former active members who did not retain membership in the NALC as a retired member are now able to complete an 1189 if they desire to be reinstated. Please note that payment of retiree dues back to their retirement date will be collected from the member's annuity at the time of reinstatement upon completion of Form 1189.

The constitutional change will not alter the process in place at NALC concerning new retired members. Letters and 1189s will still be mailed out to members from NALC Headquarters upon their retirement, including letters with a deadline for returning the completed

form. If the form is not received from the retired carrier, their membership will be canceled, per the *Constitution*. Again, the change will now allow a member who has been canceled for failure to complete the 1189 at retirement the ability to be reinstated.

Changing bank accounts—On occasion my office receives calls from branches or state associations that are changing bank accounts, asking what information is needed at Headquarters to change the account that dues are direct deposited into. If a branch or state association is planning to change banks, an officer should contact the Membership Department for an Electronic Deposit Change Form. The form must be completed and signed by the president and the secretary-treasurer and returned to Headquarters along with a voided check from the new account. We recommend that the old bank account remain open until a dues deposit is verified as having been made into the new account.

Membership pins—Article 2, Section 5 of the *NALC Constitution* contains information on membership pins available to NALC members. Per the *Constitution*, the branch secretary must notify the Office of the Secretary-Treasurer that a member will complete the necessary years of membership, and the pin will be sent to the branch to present to the member.

The notification can be made in two ways—either in writing to the Office of the Secretary-Treasurer or by the branch secretary through the Members Only portal. The pin request program on the Members Only portal sends the branch's request directly to Headquarters electronically.

Membership pins are provided to branches at no charge beginning at 25 years and for each five-year increment thereafter. Membership pins for Years 5, 10, 15 and 20 are available for purchase by branches from the NALC Store.

NALC members who have completed 50 years of membership are awarded a life membership gold card that entitles them to all privileges of membership in the NALC without payment of dues. Again, all requests for gold cards must be made by the branch, per the *Constitution*.

Please be aware that gold cards are a special order and must be engraved by an outside union vendor—so branches should allow four to six weeks for delivery.

Branches should also be aware that special recognition is given to members who reach 70 years of membership and at each five-year increment thereafter with a suitable plaque.