

Moving forward together



James D. Henry

Henry Ford said, “If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself.”

Over the past few months, I have been watching situations unfold in ways I could never have imagined. It has been uncomfortable and downright unsettling at times. However, I am hopeful that through all of the uncertainty, we will be able to move forward. As NALC representatives, activists and leaders, we often are tasked with performing our duties through challenging times. We must rise and meet the moment while supporting our members,

stewards and branch officers who are looking to us for guidance.

In times of uncertainty, the NALC leadership is tasked with digging deep within ourselves to find the strength and courage to overcome obstacles to help anchor those around us. Nonetheless, members are depending on us to deliver on our promises, primarily that the members of this great union are our chief concern, that we will act in their best interest and not our own, that we will strive to ensure that letter carriers earn a living wage, have premium benefits, and experience working conditions that promote a safe and long career. The aforementioned is made more difficult when we are in a crisis situation. Dissent, animosity and distrust should not be the new normal. Rather, we are expected to rally in support of one another and act together as one union, with one purpose and cause. Now, more than ever, is the time to both create a model of unity and renew our commitment to a higher calling.

None of us should be subjected to a purity test. However, life tests what we are made of during some of the most challenging times. The NALC has historically met and overcome any and all challenges faced. There is no reason to believe that the present moment will be any different. I’m aware that letter carriers are facing challenges from safety concerns, performance pressure by management and the immense desire for economic justice. I have faith that when we act in concert for the greater good, there is nothing we can’t achieve together, now and in the future. Moving forward, there

are multiple lessons we all could learn; one being to keep our eyes on the prize without losing heart.

Personally, understanding that life is always moving forward has been a helpful reminder, and it will never go backward. I also understand that to move forward, we must release the past and not repeat the same mistakes that were an impediment to success.

“Over the past few months, I have been watching situations unfold in ways I could never have imagined. It has been uncomfortable and downright unsettling at times. However, I am hopeful that through all of the uncertainty, we will be able to move forward.”

It’s important to:

- Know and act on what you believe in.
- Fight the good fight.
- Listen to one another.
- Be kind to yourself.
- Do something that brings you joy and creates a route forward.
- Create a routine to promote a healthy life/work balance.

If anyone can rise to the occasion and manage situations effectively, it is the NALC. We are in a phase where everyone is anxious for our desires to manifest themselves in the best possible outcome. These times have revealed just how connected we all are. I’m inspired by the enormous engagement by our members and the interest shown in moving forward together. My hope is that we all continue to recognize that we are in this together, and that everyone’s voice and participation is important and needed to achieve our goals. I am so grateful to be a part of this amazing union! What makes it amazing is the letter carriers I represent daily. Despite any differences that may exist or occur, if we keep moving forward together, we will achieve greatness!