

Taking our fight nationwide



NALC President Brian L. Renfro leads a "Fight Like Hell" rally.

On Sunday, March 23, letter carriers and others rallied across the country to fight like hell to preserve the future of the United States Postal Service as a self-sufficient public agency. The day of action came in response to reports of the White House and others in the administration looking to eliminate the Postal Service's governance and regulatory models, likely aimed at privatizing the agency.

"We are here this morning in Los Angeles, and in hundreds of other locations around the country, to send one strong message: Hell no!" NALC President Brian L. Renfro told a crowd of hundreds rallying in L.A.

"Make no mistake, this is an attack on us," Renfro said. "There are 640,000 people that work at the United States Postal Service. Our brothers and sisters from our sister unions, the management associations—we're all on the same side on this one, brothers and sisters."

But the potential ramifications extend well beyond postal employees, Renfro said. "There are nearly 8 million jobs in this country tied to the United States Postal Service," he said.

"This is an attack on our economy," Renfro added, noting that USPS is the center of the \$1.9 trillion mailing industry.

He explained that one of the key constituencies at risk is rural America, "because a privatized Postal Service—they deliver where it is profitable. But they wouldn't deliver where it's not profitable. And we deliver every day, no matter where someone is, for the same price."

NALC's president made clear that this is not a partisan issue: "Some people voted for President Trump. Some people voted for Vice President Harris. Some people voted for other candidates. But you know what none of them voted for? To dismantle the Postal Service."

The Constitution grants only Congress the power to make such changes, and customers—not taxpayers—fund the Postal Service. "So," Renfro asked, "what do we say to attacks on the 300 million-plus people that rely on the Postal Service every single day?"

"Hell no!" the crowd shouted.

The same shouts rang out across the country as more than 200 NALC branches and state associations held rallies in nearly every state, amplifying the message that Americans do not want to see USPS dismantled.

"We oppose privatization and any efforts to sell off any parts of the Postal Service that will drive up costs and reduce service to the American people," Wheeling, WV Branch 66 President **Chuck Pasquino** said, as reported by *The Intelligencer*. "This is America's Post Office—it's enshrined in the U.S. Constitution. We need to keep America's Post Office for America's people."

"The Post Office makes plenty of money in cities like Sioux Falls, but we lose money in rural communities," Sioux Falls, SD Branch 491 member **Justin Claussen** said, as reported by the local ABC TV affiliate. "Part of the mission of the Post Office is to provide service for the same price, no matter where you live. Whether you're in New York City, or you're in Nome, AK."

"It's not a partisan issue. It's not about politics. It's about servicing the American people and making sure that we give the service that they deserve,"



Rochester, NY Branch 210



Andy Gaytan, executive vice president of Central California Coast Branch 52, said, as the local NBC TV affiliate reported.

“We’re looking for the support of the community that we service every day, regardless of weather,” Spacecoast Florida Branch 2689 Vice President **Scott Stanley** said, as reported by FloridaToday.com. “We’ve been out in hurricanes delivering mail. We’ve had people out, right after the wildfires in L.A., delivering mail, even though there’s no houses ... we don’t pick and choose who we go to. We go to every address every day.

“Now we’re asking the local public to pick up the phone and call that elected official, the one you voted for, and say, ‘Hey, we need the Postal Service. Leave it alone. We voted for you. We need them.’ ”

Fighting on other fronts

Two days later, on March 25, NALC President Renfro, American Postal Workers Union President Mark Diamondstein and National Rural Letter Carriers’ Association President Don Maston participated in a National Press Club Headliners event in Washington, DC, to discuss the threats facing USPS and the future of the agency.

National Press Club President Mike Balsamo moderated the panel discussion.

The union presidents discussed the severe impacts privatization would have on all Americans, recent actions the unions have taken to bring awareness to this issue, the need to protect universal service, ways in which Congress and the executive branch can help the Postal Service, the targeting by criminals of letter carriers, the resignation that very day of Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, and more.

When asked about DeJoy’s exit, Renfro emphasized that the next postmaster general must continue building infrastructure and maintaining universal service while valuing USPS employees. “The service is provided 100 percent by the employees and our unions,” he said.

Threats of privatization were a recurring topic at the press club event, and

Top l: Long Island Merged Branch 6000 and Jamaica, NY Branch 562

Above: San Antonio, TX Branch 421

Ponce Branch 826 and San Juan Branch 869 in Puerto Rico



Phoenix, AZ Branch 576; Arizona Merged Branch 1902 and Sun City Branch 6156



Spacecoast Florida Branch 2689

‘Fight Like Hell’ (continued)



President Renfro answers one of the moderator’s questions during the event at the National Press Club.

Renfro reiterated NALC’s steadfast opposition, warning of the negative impact it would have on 300-plus million Americans, especially the 51 million who live in rural areas. “We serve everyone, everywhere, for the same price every day,” he said.

The Postal Service’s financial situation also was discussed. Renfro started by underscoring that USPS operates as a public service funded by earned revenue, not by taxpayer dollars. He then identified two potential solutions for financial relief: adopting private-sector accounting practices for retirement funds and passing legislation to allow investments in higher-yield assets. These changes, long advocated by NALC, would help boost the Postal Service’s financial situation, assuring long-term stability.

The moderator asked about the increased targeting of letter carriers by criminals, and Renfro explained the details of the Protect Our Letter Carriers Act, currently in Congress.

“For the longest time, we were viewed among most people as, ‘These are federal employees—don’t mess with them. If you mess with them, you’re going to jail.’ We need to make that a reality again.”

The value and possible-use cases of the Postal Service’s network also were highlighted. “Any attack, partial privatization, any reduction in the service we provide, ultimately results in destroying that network and eliminating—probably for good—our ability to do things like [helping conduct] the census, like [delivering] COVID tests, or any other things that we might want to do to serve the people of this country,” Renfro said.

In his closing remarks, Renfro said that “the Postal Service is as relevant today as ever” and that “we intend to continue to fight any threats.”

What else we’re fighting for

The White House’s potential plans to restructure USPS are not the only thing NALC was prepared to fight like hell against. President Renfro has outlined the ongoing major battles NALC is waging:

- For even greater use of the unparalleled postal network in the interest of the public
- In defense of the retirement and health care benefits that letter carriers have earned
- For enhanced safety and protection on the job, including an end to the assaults and robberies targeting letter carriers on their routes, and establishing national standards related to heat and other forms of extreme weather
- For fair retirement for all letter carriers, including those who spent time in a non-career position, by



Ann Arbor, MI Branch 434 and Southeast MI Branch 2184
Warwick-West Warwick, RI Branch 3166





Houston, TX Branch 283

passing the Federal Retirement Fairness Act

“There are a lot of people trying to knock us down,” Renfro said. “Whether it’s Postal Service management, ill-intentioned lawmakers on Capitol Hill, criminals targeting us on the streets or at our stations, or anyone else who tries to attack us and what we’ve earned, we are ready to fight!”

“Everyone who is against us doesn’t know who they’re dealing with, but they’re about to find out. Because one thing is clear—we’re fighting like hell!”

NALC state delegations have continued their regularly scheduled lobbying trips to Washington, DC. While NALC leaders in the nation’s capital do a great deal of important work on Capitol Hill every single day, nothing compares to a member of Congress putting a face to the letter carriers who perform daily a critical service in their home district or state.

In these meetings, NALC members from a variety of states have focused on increasing co-sponsors for our priority legislation. While many members of Congress want to get involved in the fight for the Postal Service, at this time

the most helpful action they can take is co-sponsoring our anti-privatization resolution (H.Res. 70). Increasing co-sponsors for this, as well as for the Protect Our Letter Carriers Act (H.R. 1065/S. 463) and the Federal Retirement Fairness Act (H.R. 1522), has been the goal of these meetings.

Regardless of the threats coming our way, letter carriers cannot forget about these fights or lose sight of how Congress can most help, which is to pass our priority legislation.

Looking forward

Whether we’re saying “fight like hell” or “hell no,” one thing is clear: NALC members are fired up and not backing down. Our union is strong because our members are strong. Now is the time to tap into that strength and put everything we have into the fights ahead. More is certain to come, and we need every NALC member’s help in every fight.

Check nalc.org and future issues of *The Postal Record* for more information on how to get involved. **PR**



Greeley, CO Branch 324



Silver Spring, MD Branch 2611