

Our PAC is our power



**Brian L.
Renfro**

We continue to celebrate the massive legislative victory of the Social Security Fairness Act being signed into law after a 40-year fight. In the coming months, implementation of this law will benefit our retired members in a significant way. I'm proud of our members' work that led to this victory.

This month's magazine is dedicated to the Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF), NALC's political action committee (PAC). Every year, the February *Postal Record* honors and thanks our members who are LCPF contributors. If you already

are a contributor, thank you for investing in protecting our jobs and retirements. If you haven't signed up yet, I hope this issue will be a helpful resource in understanding how critical a strong LCPF is for our wages and benefits through our right to collectively bargain, job stability and retirement security.

NALC represents our members in a variety of ways. We negotiate and enforce a collective-bargaining agreement, and we help them when they're injured on the job in receiving the benefits they are entitled to under the law. We also represent our members on Capitol Hill and in the White House.

In your day-to-day job (or as a retiree), the way Congress can affect our jobs, retirements and the entire Postal Service operations might not be top of mind. But we must remember just how important, and impactful, our federally elected officials can be. That's why we work to ensure that letter carriers have a voice in Washington.

The primary way we do that is through LCPF. Our PAC is our power on Capitol Hill. The more we can grow and strengthen LCPF, the more powerful we will be.

Even with only 12 percent participation in LCPF, we've recently achieved some major legislative successes. In addition to the Social Security Fairness Act, and after more than a decade of work, the Postal Service Reform Act was signed into law in 2022. These historic victories were hard-fought. LCPF played a crucial role in helping us get there.

In this Congress, we have legislative priorities. Soon, the Protect Our Letter Carriers Act will be reintroduced. This bill would improve safety and security for our members while delivering mail. It is a key piece of our fighting back against the violent crime that has victimized too many of our members in recent years.

The Federal Retirement Fairness Act will also be a priority for our union when it is reintroduced. This bill would allow former non-carrier employees to make deposit, or "buy back," their time as non-career employees and have it credited for retirement purposes. Around 65 percent of active NALC members have served as a casual, transitional employee or city carrier assistant. This proposal would give every one of them the opportunity to increase their time credited toward retirement. A stronger and larger LCPF translates directly to advancing these priorities. It is that simple.

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For the first time in several years, we also must focus on building our defenses. The makeup of Congress has changed. Leadership has shifted. Based on our past experiences, it is likely we will see proposals to increase retirement costs for letter carriers and attacks on our collective-bargaining rights. We already have heard talk of privatizing the Postal Service and contracting out our jobs. We have worked for years to build a strong bipartisan pro-letter carrier majority in Congress, and we will use that pro-letter carrier majority to fight vigorously against any attempt to harm our members or the service we provide. The LCPF is what will fuel these fights.

Our members standing together to grow our power is how we achieve results and fight those who attack us. If you don't contribute to LCPF yet, you can learn more about how to sign up on page 23. I hope you will join in the fight. Let's take on this challenge and work together to build a powerful LCPF in 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian L. Renfro".