



August 2021

Business Agent's Report

NALC

NALC Disaster Relief Foundation – Watching the news over the past few weeks it reminded me that the NALC had established the Disaster Relief Foundation at the 2018 Convention in Detroit. The foundation was created to assist members who were affected by natural disasters. The foundation has been set up to assist in two ways; by providing hands-on relief and by receiving donations as a means to offer financial grants. Unfortunately too many of our members have been affected and several members here in Region 5 have needed and received assistance. Members should review the information at www.nalc.org if interested in becoming a potential DRF volunteer or making a donation to the foundation. Members guide and Grant form can also be accessed at the site. Branches should also consider fundraising events for the foundation. The foundation is a 501(c)(3) and your contributions may be eligible for a tax deduction. Checks can be made out to the NALC Disaster Relief Foundation, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144.

NALC Veterans Group – NALC Headquarters recently notified this office that there are approximately 950 members here in Region 5 that have not yet joined the NALC Veterans Group. Veterans can sign up by filling out the card at www.nalc.org/veterans. As a fellow veteran, I urge all eligible members to join and take advantage of the information and tools specific to veterans rights and benefits within the Postal Service. You may also access the NALC Veterans Guide at www.nalc.org/community-service/nalc-veterans as well as further information concerning the Group. The guide contains various topics such as the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), Wounded Warriors Leave (WWL), the Veterans' Preference Act of 1944, retirement credit, and also discusses several National Agreement and Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) that are specific to military veterans.

OPM Verification – The Postal Service issued a mandatory stand up talk concerning the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) requirement that federal agencies verify eligible family members who are enrolled in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHB). The stand up talk is available at www.nalc.org/news. Only employees with self plus one and self and family enrollments need to verify and update eligible family members. Those members will need to complete and return PostalEASE FEHB Worksheet (USPS-24).

Membership Recognition – Branch Secretaries can request lapel pins for their long-standing members. These lapel pins are available at no charge for members with 25 years of service and up. Branches can also request longevity awards for members with 50, 70 and 75 years of service. 50 year members will receive a gold card and lapel pin, 70 and 75 year members receive plaques. These awards are available by contacting the National Secretary-Treasurers office. Branches can also order special lapel pins



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that honor past officers within their branches; “Past President,” “Past Secretary” and “Past Officer.” State Associations may also order pins for “Past Presidents.” These are available at www.nalcstore.org The same site can be used for members wishing to purchase NALC Apparel, Jewelry and Accessories. The NALC Store now accepts credit cards.

COVID 19 – As I write this article in mid-July, the Delta Variant is reeking havoc across the country and Region 5. I urge all members to stay vigilant in protecting yourself. Apparently the newest Variant is 3 to 4 times more easily spread than others and is especially hitting hardest those that are not vaccinated. According to news reports, 99 % of those hospitalized and dying have not been vaccinated. If you have not been vaccinated, please make an appointment and do so. Protect yourself, your family and those that you work with.

COVID 19 – As I previously reported, the Districts have been reorganized and reporting has changed. The total number of letter carriers who have tested positive or have been quarantined due to exposure is: Iowa, Nebraska & South Dakota = 342 – Kansas & Missouri = 573

USPS – Since many of you will read this article prior to July 25, 2021...USPS has just advised us that HRSSC will have a short HCES outage that will have the potential to impact job bidding in the early morning hours of Sunday, July 25th.

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