



MEMO To The Branch 2184 Leadership Council, May 10, 2022

Walt McGregory
Jackie McGregory
Darryl Clay
Mel MacDonald
Cathy Tondreau
Jim Powell
Phil Ashford
Tracy Mitchell
Gloria Warthen
Felicia Davis
Leonard Zawisa
Dave Reise
Joe Golonka
Erik Venzke
Kris Shaw
Mark Owen
Bryon Hendricks
Jillian Hudgins
Symone Coleman
Yvonne Jackson
Karl Tamburro
Shaun Fowlkes
Marwan Ghotemi
Chanel Harrison
Lillian Bogosian
Scherrie Lacey
Scherkeira Wells
Scott Watts
Valerie Watkins
Elizabeth Bays
Tamara Bosman
Kristie Nelson
Diego Forshaw
Otis Barney
Keith Benedict
William Douglas
Jeffrey Webb
Nakia Whitfield
Katrina Jones
Ananias Epps
Ramon Robinson
Tonya Rutledge
Paul Bordine
Mike Tredway
Danita Hill

This month's Leadership Council Memo will begin as always with an update on Branch 2184 administrative matters. Our Branch, our officers and stewards, and our membership will have a busy late spring, summer, and fall ahead. First up, of course, is the return of the NALC Food Drive this Saturday, May 14 following a two-year Covid-related pause. As in the past, all Branch 2184 stations will be participating in the nation's largest single day event of its kind.

As during recent months, our June meetings will be conducted via WebEx. These include our monthly membership meeting on Wednesday June 1 at 7:30 p.m., steward meetings on Tuesday June 7 and Monday June 13 at 7:00 p.m., and our executive board meeting Monday June 27 at 7:30 p.m. Per our Bylaws, there will be no monthly membership meetings in July and August. These will resume on Wednesday, September 7.

Next up on the Branch membership calendar is the return of our annual Branch picnic for members and their families, again following a two-year pause because of the Covid pandemic. As in the past, the picnic will take place on the grounds of the Branch 2184 property. It is scheduled this year on Sunday, June 26 from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. **Important: The success of our picnic each year is critically dependent on the work of our volunteers. It is expected that Branch leaders, including but not limited to our officers and stewards, will step up to assist for at least a few hours with picnic preparations and especially with the many planned picnic activities.**

The 72nd biennial NALC National Convention is scheduled for Monday, August 8 through Friday August 12 in Chicago, Illinois. Branch 2184 convention delegates attending the convention will soon receive a letter from Branch President Walt McGregory with information concerning convention details including travel, lodging, and delegate expectations. **If you are a delegate attending the convention, please read this letter carefully and contact the Branch if you have any questions or concerns.**

Next on the busy Branch calendar will be the annual NALC Region 6 (K.I.M. Region) training seminar, conducted by National Business Agent David Mudd's office. This year will be a resumption of an "in person" K.I.M seminar, which will be held at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center in Covington, Kentucky from Saturday through Monday, October 8 through 10. This is the Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day Holiday weekend. A variety of classes on a range of pertinent contract enforcement issues, OWCP, retirement, and other timely topics will be presented.

Instructors for the Seminar as chosen by NBA David Mudd will include our own Branch 2184 President Walt McGregory and our Branch CAU chairperson Joe Golonka. Those directly involved in day-to-day contract enforcement and representative matters as well as other specialized areas of letter carrier assistance will be invited to attend by Branch President McGregory. The Branch

will pay travel, lodging, and registration costs for our attendees.

Following a lengthy negotiating process, the NALC and USPS have reached agreement on a new and innovative route adjustment process. **All Branch 2184 stewards and other contract enforcers will be provided with extensive information and training about the new process as it is received by the Branch.**

Branch 2184 Injury Compensation Specialists Erik Venzke and Tracy Mitchell have been selected by the NALC National office to attend advanced OWCP training conducted by Kevin Card, our union's national assistant to the President for injury compensation and a recognized expert on OWCP-related matters. They will be attending this training from June 26 through 29 at the Maritime Conference Center in Maryland. Congratulations to Erik and to Tracy!

With the passage of overdue Postal reform legislation (HR 3076) that was recently signed into law by President Biden, the NALC's legislative efforts are far from over. There are numerous other NALC legislative priorities which still need to be addressed. Among these is HR 4268, the Federal Retirement Fairness Act. This legislation, if passed and signed into law, would allow federal and postal employees to "buy back" retirement credit for periods of non-career employment with the USPS or federal government agency. This is especially important for all of our present and past CCAs as well as former TEs (transitional employees), as it would allow them to retirement receive credit for non-career service by paying the employee portion of retirement deductions for these periods. Keep in mind that over half of the current USPS letter carrier workforce began their work for the Postal Service as CCAS or TEs.

As always, our future success with this and other legislative priorities hinges directly on having letter carrier and Postal Service-friendly supporters in the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate. That is where the Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF) comes in. A sad reality in the world of politics and legislation is that you have to pay to play. And the LCPF is by far our most valuable ticket.

As of Friday, May 6, all of the so-called "Covid Memos" (M-01910, M-01913, M-01915, and M-01965) that were initially negotiated the NALC and USPS during the early months of the pandemic and subsequently extended numerous times, have expired. If there is a subsequent resurgence of Covid or other pathogenic occurrence, the National parties will likely revisit them. On a related note, the NALC and USPS agreed (M-01981) that May 7, 2022 is day one for time limits for appeals to Step B and to arbitration, now that the normal Article 15 procedures are back in effect.

The forthcoming Memorial Day holiday on May 30 marks the end of the longest stretch of the postal calendar each year without a USPS holiday. Stewards and contract enforcers should be aware that beginning this year there is an additional holiday (Juneteenth). As a result, there will be rapid sequence of three postal holidays in just five weeks – Memorial Day on May 30, Juneteenth which is observed this year on June 20, and Independence Day on July 4. Please be sure to carefully monitor the timeliness and contractual accuracy of the holiday schedules that will be formulated for each of these dates.