

The Washington State

LETTER CARRIER



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Special Election Edition!

POLITICS AND THE POWER TO SAY NO

President Brian Wiggins

DESSERT WITH DENNY

10th District LCCL Carol Mesford

You may ask your friends and family what they think about where the country is going wrong and you will probably get a similar response. Like-minded people travel together. Whether you are of a specific political party or belief, you tend to walk the same path. We draw our conclusions from our daily life and interactions with the people around us.

Elections are confusing; the result of any election can be scary. There are people that believe labor unions are not relevant and the Postal Service is not necessary in this fast-paced digital age. They are the same people that have most of the economy in their bank accounts. They will do what they feel needs to be done under the guise of “providing for their families.” It can’t be wrong to think that what actions you take may affect others; we would like to provide for our families also. This type of person influences a political process with the wealth they have amassed. Cutting corners by not investing in their country, out sourcing materials and work at an extremely low, uncomfortable rate of pay for these services and goods. Because of this union members across our country are having trouble keeping pace with every day expenses. We are not are not six-figure earners for our families. Combined income yes, single provider no. Both adults in a home must work or the financial ends don’t meet. There is an opposing force to wealth, which is voting. Political



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That’s the name of the latest event my husband and I attended that was held for Congressman Denny Heck. Our host was the owner of Point Ruston in Tacoma, a unique and very high end development with condos, shops and a movie theatre. My husband and I have attended many such events in support of our congressman, who supports letter carriers. Dessert was followed by free popcorn and, best of all, a free viewing of *Deadpool 2* in the comfortable theatre. It’s important to develop a relationship with your congressman and his/her staff. I always talk with the staff, even if we just talk about life. I tell them I’m a letter carrier. I ask them if they have a mailbox at their home and if they get packages through the mail and... if you can watch *Deadpool 2* with your congressman and staff, you are in the zone.

It’s the congressman’s staff that will get the congressman down the hall to cosign our legislation. On Denny’s team, I keep connected with his Deputy District Director, Lauren Adler. I consider her a friend. She’s my “go to” person when I need help. When I heard that Erik Ashida, who handled postal issues in “the other Washington”, DC, was moving on, I contacted Lauren to find out who his replacement would be. She is Emily Kolano, who I quickly educated about letter carrier and postal issues through a series of emails. She seems warm, thoughtful and responsive and moved Denny to cosign H.Res 993 against privatization of USPS. Emily has invited me to keep in touch and, so far as I can tell from emails, is eons more accessible than Erik was. I hope to meet her soon at the next event for Congressman Heck. Denny has signed on to all our resolutions, so I will be voting for him in the upcoming election. The

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Next Letter Carrier Deadline:
November 15, 2018

WSALC INFORMATION 24/7
at your website: <wsalc.org>

SAMPLE NALC LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS

From nalc.org/government affairs

Six-day Delivery (H.Res. 15)

As it has for generations, the U.S. Postal Service provides affordable universal service as directed by the U.S. Constitution. In 1983, Congress first adopted an appropriations rider that required the Postal Service to deliver mail six days a week, a rider that has been included in every appropriations measure since. And for more than three decades, the Postal Service has been trying to find a way to eliminate that requirement.

NALC supports H.Res. 15, which calls on Congress and the Postal Service to take all appropriate steps to continue six-day mail delivery.

Door Delivery (H.Res. 28)

Six days a week, nearly 40 million residential and business customers throughout the country receive packages, letters, bills, medications, supplies and more through door delivery, where a letter carrier delivers the item straight to a customer's door. All of this is part of a unique universal delivery network that is attractive to businesses, evidenced by the fact that the Postal Service is actually operationally profitable.

NALC supports H.Res. 28, calling on Congress to take all appropriate measures to ensure continuation of door delivery for all business and residential customers.

USPS Service Standards (H.Res. 31)

Before July 1, 2012, the Postal Service's standard for First-Class Mail was overnight delivery in most metropolitan areas and rural communities. But since then, USPS has repeatedly degraded its service standards and embraced a doomed strategy of cutting its way to prosperity, which is why it is increasing the expected number of days it takes to deliver various types of mail.

H.Res 993 & S. Res 633 to ensure that USPS is not subject to privatization.

A bipartisan majority of the House of Representatives has cosponsored House Resolution 993, calling on Congress to take all appropriate measures to ensure that the Postal Service remain an independent agency of the federal government and not be subject to privatization.

Mesford from Page 1

most important issue to me is my wallet: paycheck, retirement, COLAs. I like living in my house in Spanaway with my husband and dog and will continue to fight legislation that would take my livelihood away.

Join the good fight. Get the NALC app, go to Gov't Affairs, type in your zip+4 code, find out who works for you in DC and, if you live in Denny Heck's district, please thank your congressman for supporting letter carriers and 6-day, door to door, universal mail delivery service. A short phone call, email or letter is all it takes.

Do it for your wallet!

ISSUE UPDATES

*5TH District LCCL Mike Poff and
WSLC Editor Brooks Bennett*

Three NALC top priority resolutions have reached majority support. H.Res 15, to keep 6-day delivery has 258 co-sponsors (185 Democrats-73 Republicans) including 7 from Washington State. H.Res 28, to maintain to-the-door delivery has 247 co-sponsors (186 Democrats-61 Republicans) also with 7 from hereabouts. H.Res 31, to preserve USPS service standards has 230 co-sponsors (179 Democrats-51 Republicans) but only 6 local folks. Is your elected in our corner? You might be surprised. It's really easy to find out at Congress.gov.

Two more-recent pro-postal Resolutions, one House and one Senate, also have a lot of co-sponsors. Both of these identical measures call on Congress to not privatize the Postal Service. H.Res 993 is endorsed by 231 members (180 Ds and 51 Rs) with 7 of ours. At press time, 43 Senators have signed on to S. Res 633 (38 Ds and 5 Rs) one of which is from Washington.

A bipartisan group of senators introduced a Senate Resolution (S. Res. 633) calling on Congress to take all appropriate measures to ensure that the Postal Service remain an independent agency of the federal government and not be subject to privatization. Both resolutions were introduced in response to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) government reorganization and restructure plan, which calls for privatizing the Postal Service and ahead of the Postal Task Force report, which is unlikely to be released to the public ahead of the midterm elections.

In the effort to reach a bipartisan majority in both chambers (51 in Senate, 218 in House), NALC encourages all letter carriers to contact their Senators to become cosponsors of S. Res 633.

So, beyond just voting, contributing money or asking our elected representatives to support carrier-friendly legislation, how do we help protect our jobs and our families' future?

We can help elect other friendly candidates to House or Senate seats by volunteering to work on campaigns. This might include making phone calls, knocking on doors, helping mail literature or in many other ways. It is virtually certain that there is such a race near you anywhere in Washington State, and that they will need help in the next few weeks.

This work is sometimes challenging but always rewarding. You might be amazed how welcome a dependable letter carrier type would be! Just be sure you are off-the-clock and out of uniform when doing partisan political volunteer work to comply with federal and postal regulations. There is specific advice about this topic on the NALC website under *Government Affairs/Letter Carriers and the Hatch Act* or you can contact the National Business Agent's office (see Page 2).



As a member of the NALC, there are several easy ways to give to the Letter Carrier Political Fund:

- 1. Payroll deduction:** Contribute automatically, using PostalEase (either online or by phone) to set up an allotment deduction from your USPS paycheck.
- 2. Direct bank withdrawal:** You can authorize the fund to withdraw a monthly electronic contribution directly from your personal checking account
- 3. Annuity deduction:** Retired letter carriers can elect to give monthly via an automatic deduction from your monthly annuity.

If you need any help getting signed up, please fill out the form on the website at *Government Affairs/Political/LCPF* (only need your name, email, phone and branch number) and NALC will contact you to assist you in signing up to contribute.

By making a contribution to the Letter Carrier Political Fund, you are doing so voluntarily with the understanding that your contribution is not a condition of membership in the National Association of Letter Carriers or of employment by the Postal Service, nor is it part of union dues. You have a right to refuse to contribute without any reprisal. The Letter Carrier Political Fund will use the money it receives to contribute to candidates for federal office and undertake other political spending as permitted by law. Your selection shall remain in full force and effect until cancelled. Contributions to the Letter Carrier Political Fund are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. Federal law prohibits the Letter Carrier Political Fund from soliciting contributions from individuals who are not NALC members, executive and administrative staff or their families. Any contribution received from such an individual will be refunded to that contributor. Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 per calendar year. Any guideline amount is merely a suggestion, and an individual is free to contribute more or less than the guideline suggests and the Union will not favor or disadvantage anyone by reason of the amount of their contribution or their decision not to contribute.

Wiggins from Page 1

attention can be acquired by voting. Using our right to participate in the election of our representatives is our greatest tool.

The power to say “No more “ is coming to your mailbox starting this month. We are fortunate to be a vote by mail state. Our opportunity to speak out comes thru our mail slot. Standing on the sideline watching our wages and benefits dwindle away and not say “No” because “politics is not your thing” is not the best course of action. Saying YES to the men and women who support our way of life is the right thing to do. By filling out and returning the ballot you receive as a registered voter in Washington State is one of the greatest things you can do. It says in a summarized message, Yes to what I want, and No to what hurts me. Focused and simple. And just like that, you are involved in politics.

Beginning with this edition of our newsletter we are trying something new at the suggestion of our editor. We have for you, a new approach at educating you about politics at your local level. In the following pages we have asked the letter carriers that visit your federal politicians’



WA 2nd District Representative Rick Larsen (*center*) met with LCCLs Rick Horner (*l*) and Kevin Ernest (*r*).

offices (your Letter Carrier Congressional Liaisons or LCCLs) to write a little something about our work over the last year. Find the message from your district in these pages; maybe learn a thing or two. Share with us about what you read. In the front fold of every Washington State Association newsletter listed with our state officers is a list of the LCCLs and their contact information. Make contact if you have a question or concern about our political agenda. ***Please take the time to read about what we are working to accomplish through our legislation, district by district.***

We could use a recruit or two to help our plan come together. If you are interested give us a call. We are looking to hear from you. Resolutions and bills drive how our company functions within the federal budget. We are controlled though changes in our working environment by the actions of the people we elect to REPRESENT us. If you are participating, I thank you. If you are not, now is the time to begin because times are changing.

Johnson from Back Page

DC and our politicians. Big money has more influence than our voices, was the central agreement. The question I posed to them was how do we change that? Was it to overturn Citizens United? Was it to have realistic campaign rules that restrict Super PACS? The answer was simple, yet they laughed at it.... more people need to vote!

The 2014 mid-term voter turnout was just under 37% nationwide. The question then becomes, why should our elected officials listen to us when only 1/3 of us care to voice our opinion. Let’s look at our state; we had over 41% of eligible voters vote. Why the increase in our state vs. others? Simple. We have a vote by mail system, no need to drive to a voting station. All you have to do is mark your ballot, put it in an envelope, put a stamp on it and mail it off. But wait, we made it even easier this year, now you don’t even need a stamp!

There is one simple way we can make our voices heard again and that is by voting. Let’s imagine that if the voter turnout was at 75-80%. All the money in the world wouldn’t get people elected, our elected officials would again respect us, and would have to respond to us, not their monied supporters. I listen to people and understand when they believe that their vote doesn’t matter because our elected officials listen to special interests’ groups over us. It’s kind of a double-edged sword; they won’t listen to us because we don’t speak.

Our country is divided; we speak without listening with each side getting angry with the other. It’s a cycle that seems to have no end. It’s okay to have a different opinion than I have, it’s okay for you to vote one way, and I vote the other. I do know this, if we all do what is our right, and vote, it does two things: 1) we take our country back, and 2) we support our own company. It’s a win - win.

Currently only Washington, Oregon, and Colorado have vote by mail. Think about if the whole country had a vote by mail system. It would be a domino effect of citizens taking back control of the government. I think its time for us to lead the way and show the rest of the country what WE mean by *citizens united*. Right now, the rest of the country is looking at us to determine if will work or not.

What to do? It’s simple! Look for your ballot coming to you in your MAILBOX, set it someplace easily seen. Take some time to learn about the candidates, and the measures, mark your ballot and drop it in the mail! Let’s take our country back, one mailed vote at a time!

Photo credits this issue: Rick Horner, Brian Wiggins

Baldwin from Back Page

attending. I congratulate him, and support him in his bid for President in the upcoming election. His overall message was to stay united, with each other, and other labor unions. To support and promote those running for political offices that support and protect the NALC and our rights set forth in our national agreement. He brought to light the threats that we are currently under by the current administration, and encouraged us to educate our members about the issues, and the tools we have to organize and mobilize to lobby congress, and the public for a strong stable Postal Service. He pointed to the NALC Member App as a first step to get carriers involved and interested in the issues that affect us all. They can receive push notification on upcoming votes on important postal matters, or check on member benefits, or get information on national settlements. We should also encourage our member to donate to the Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF), since by law; union dues cannot be used for politics.

The presence of our veterans was strong. Early in the week they gave out red t-shirts to all veterans. And on Tuesday President Rolando asked all military veterans to stand and be recognized. It was a sea of red! It was very impressive and we were all so proud to see how many have served this country, and continue to serve. They did so with great pride and military fashion when they gathered after secession, volunteering their time to pack 2,000 backpacks with care kits to be distributed to four veterans' homes in Detroit. It was a beautiful thing!

The guest speakers were amazing from Sara Nelson, President of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA who vowed that her union would stand in solidarity with us in our fight against privatization, and ended her speech with a rousing sing-along of "This Land is Our Land", to my favorite Ady Barkan. Ady has ALS and is fighting for progressive change in the health benefits. He was an activist before he was diagnosed, and continues the fight even though he is losing his ability to speak. If you have the chance to YouTube him, you should!

I was so proud of our very own Danielle Harada. She sold tickets and raffled off more of her beautiful art work to benefit MDA. I am so happy that I got to spend some time with her and her mom Linda. We had a great time on the dinner cruise, and at the baseball game. What a beautiful soul. I'm so happy Washington State Association made the move to send her; I think she really enjoyed it, and she represented us well.

Beyond all the inspiring stories and speakers there was business to attend to. On Wednesday President Rolando invited Retiring Director of Life Insurance Myra Warren to read the five resolutions approved by the convention delegates. These were, emergency suspensions being given priority consideration by the Dispute Resolutions teams,

GPS data not being used for discipline, adding dry-fit and UV-protected fabric as well as cold wear gear clothing to the uniform program, and providing that street communications between letter carriers and supervisors be conducted via the (MDD) scanner.

There were three general resolutions. The only one approved was the one that called for NALC members to participate in legislative and grassroots efforts with postal allies to oppose the Trump administration policies for the preservation of the union.

I attended three classes. I am the health benefits rep for my branch, so I went to the HB class and the Mutual Benefits class. I also attended the Me Too sexual harassment class. This class in particular was important and informative to me and I thought it gave some good tips on how to handle such complaints on the ground floor, as a steward. I think one thing that is so important is that we do not treat this issue as a joke, or something that is not taken seriously. In informal situations, if we as officers and stewards talk about it in a condescending way, why on earth would any new CCA, or regular for that matter, trust us enough to come to us with a concern or complaint? As with every abuse we need to listen and investigate it.

I'm sure I have missed a ton of good stuff, but I promised not to write a book. Thanks again for the opportunity to serve this great union.

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Auxiliary Minutes from Page 7

Sunday, June 3

The art auction on Saturday evening raised \$1763 for MDA.

The Auxiliary received \$190 from the Silent Auction and we raised \$1074 from our raffle.

The quilt was won by Bob James. Coby Jones won the trip.

WSALC AUXILIARY CONVENTION MINUTES

The Marcus Whitman Hotel, Walla Walla, WA; June 1 - 3, 2018

State Secretary Patricia Jones

Friday, June 1

Our meeting was called to order by President Rick Baird after confirmation that a quorum was in attendance. The Collect was repeated. We had two guests including National President Cynthesis Lang and National Assistant Secretary Linda Davis. They were both introduced. Roll call was answered by our State and National Officers.

Cynthesis encouraged us to keep up the good work and continue to build our Auxiliary. Linda said many people have asked her what the goal of the Auxiliary is and its purpose now. She asked us to come up with some answers to the question. Rick recommended we send one person from each Auxiliary to a Labor Council meeting to remind them that we exist. Committee assignments were given out and we adjourned for lunch.

We reconvened at 1345. Vicki Ruley from the Wall Walla Police Department spoke to us on personal safety and fraud prevention. She gave us many tips and had many examples of fraud to share with us. We really need to remember that if it is too good to be true it's a scam. If you have to send money to get money it is a scam. Several of us related our experiences with attempted fraud.

Rick reminded everyone about the Auxiliary breakfast on Saturday morning at 8 am.

A wine cooler bag with wine was presented to Cynthesis and Linda as well as to our State Officers. No gift baskets were given.

A card was sent around for Terry Norris.

We had correspondence from Jennifer Silvers and Brian Lindgren.

Cathy gave a report on the condition of our Auxiliary. We currently have

eight auxiliaries and one hopeful. They include Tacoma, Seattle, Everett, Yakima, Wenatchee, and Spokane (not active, the charter is being held). Bellingham is interested in starting up. Cathy also explained about our raffles this year, the trip and the quilt. We adjourned until Saturday morning.

Saturday, June 2

It was m/s to accept the minutes as printed in the state newspaper.

It was m/s to pay our bills.

Jennifer gave the Treasurer's report.

As of May 1, 2018 we had:

| | |
|----------|---------------|
| Checking | \$4284.54 |
| Savings | <u>109.47</u> |
| Total | \$4394.01 |

It was m/s to accept this report as printed.

A delegate asked Cynthesis what exactly are we getting for the \$20 per member we send to National? What exactly are they doing for us? Cynthesis responded that most of our dues go to the National Convention. The only fund raiser for National other than dues is the Country Store. She is trying to make changes to the Auxiliary website making it more interactive, as well as putting our by-laws online. She wants to work on conversations flowing down to the auxiliaries not just upward. She also wants a National Auxiliary newsletter to get information out.

Nominations were submitted for elections. We had two members running for Vice President and many people for Trustees. Ballots were provided in the convention books and were required to be returned to the Secretary by 130 pm. We played a game invented by Jennifer - "Fact or Crap." Everyone had fun.

Resolutions were presented for the Host Branch, State and National Officers. It was m/s to accept the report.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the National Officers and to the State Officers. Nominations from the floor were accepted and will continue to be accepted until we reconvene after lunch.

It was reported that the IRS information was submitted and accepted for 2018.

We adjourned until 1300.

Patti Jones and Cynthesis counted the ballots. The results were:

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| President | Cathy Dye |
| Vice President | Brianna Johnson |
| Secretary | Patti Jones |
| Treasurer | Jennifer Silvers |
| Organizer | Rick Baird |
| Trustees | Jack Hayes, Emily Treese, Chriss Daniels |
| Newsletter Editor | Chris Larsen |

Credentials report:

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| State Officers | 5 |
| National Officers | 2 |
| Delegates | 29 |
| Guest | 1 |
| Auxiliaries represented | 5 |

Mileage & per diem: It was recommended to pay 3 state officers per diem of \$20.00 per day (Rick is paid by his branch). It was also recommended to pay mileage to Cathy and Patti (everyone else is with a branch delegate who gets mileage).

Audit: The committee declared the books to be accurate and recommended we accept their report.

Jennifer spoke for a few minutes on legislation. The most important bills are printed in our convention books. During the meetings, we passed out door prizes to all delegates.

The meeting was adjourned until 2019 in Yakima.

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SOLIDARITY IN DETROIT

Delegate-At-Large Lori Baldwin

I would first and foremost wish to thank the Association for the opportunity to attend the National Convention as your delegate at large.

This was an incredible opportunity for me, and after attending, my biggest takeaway is that everyone that wishes to do so, and can, should. I was inspired, educated, and in awe of the collective spirit and solidarity that only a convention hall filled with over 5000 union members can create. My favorite part was the letter carrier cheer. Hip, Hip, Hooray!

I could write a book on everything that I would like to share, but I'll try to highlight the most relevant to all my fellow carriers.

I cannot think of a more appropriate city to have a Union convention then Detroit, giving its historic role in building the U.S. labor movement. I spent some of my downtime visiting and reading about its labor history. I went to the Ford Museum, and the Motown Museum. Every morning we were welcomed into the convention hall to Motown hits and video clips.

President Rolando took the stage and proceeded over the convention with humor, seriousness, and dignity to all

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WHAT TO DO, WHAT TO DO?

Vice-President Ray Johnson

I grew up in a very traditional family when it concerns rights and responsibilities. My father instilled in me what was expected of me when I grew up; once I was done with high school in his words I was to "join the military". He said this because he felt it was how you paid back the country we were so fortunate to live in. He also told me that once I turned 18, I was to register to vote, and to vote in every election. I can honestly say I have voted in most elections, not all, but most. Most of my family is staunchly conservative and I always leaned more towards the middle. This caused some great debates in my home, it was some of the best times I remember as a kid.

My sister currently lives about an hour north of Atlanta and we went to visit her last summer. Prior to us coming over there I was told that there was to be only one night of political discussion (my brother-in-law and his family are all Fox-following right wingers, and are very passionate). I agreed, and the one night we did have our political discussion it got very heated. We argued for hours and tried our best to convince the other why they were wrong; neither would succumb to the pressure of the other. The one thing we all agreed on was that big business owns Washington

Continued on Page 5

Important NALC Dates

Regional Assembly, Stevenson October 21-26, 2018
General Election, @ your mailbox November 6, 2018
NALC Food Drive, @ your post office May 11, 2019
WA State Convention, Yakima May 17-19, 2019

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