



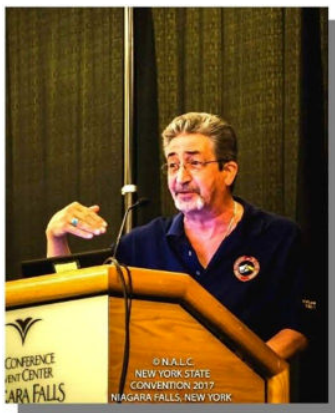
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION
OF LETTER CARRIERS—N.A.L.C.

REPRESENTING LETTER CARRIERS IN NEW YORK STATE
AND PUERTO RICO

SPRING2026

GEORGE T. MANGOLD, PRESIDENT

GM-61



George Mangold

Our recent DC Lobbying event was a great success... the "Meet & Greet" at Hamilton's produced 3 Reps. Garbarino, NY 2, Gillen, NY 4, and Goldman NY10, who all pledged their solid support, and the event was totally enjoyed by all in attendance.... Morning Legislative Briefing, chaired by Director of Legislation and Political Affairs

Paul Swartz, Assistant to the President on Legislation and Political Affairs John Beaumont, our NALC lobbyists Jose Ceballos and Frank McCarthy, was informative and timely. HR1065 now has 20 of 26 NY cosponsors. Will try to push for remaining Reps to get to the 218 threshold for a discharge petition. Still need Velazquez, Clarke, Jeffries, Nadler, Ocasio-Cortez, and Stefanik. Great news from our Capitol meeting with both Senators. Senator Gillibrand will author our companion Senate Bill for the Federal Retirement Fair-

ness Act, and cosponsors all of our other Senate Bills (besides authoring S. 463, the Protect Our Letter Carriers Act). Leader Schumer is all-in on all of our Bills. Both Senators have been advised of OPM's decision to not physically mail out retiree's 1099 this year, and how it's caused extreme problems for those retirees that don't have internet access, or are not technically capable, plus the impossible task of trying to get through to OPM's phone lines. Senator Gillibrand has sent a letter to OPM, asking for the physical mailing, and Leader Schumer's office has yet to respond. Rap Session with President Renfroe was on spot as contract negotiations have begun, and other issues affecting USPS and it's future were brought to light. Continued decline in mail and package volumes signals a monumental problem that must somehow be managed. New PMG Steiner has his work cut out for him!

DATES TO REMEMBER..

8/3-7 2026
NALC 74TH CONVENTION LOS ANGELES CA

9/12-14 2027
NYSALC 67TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION LONG ISLAND HILTON \$179 S/D

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
NYSALC Executive Board	2
NBA Region 15 Bruce Didriksen	3-4
NBA Region 11 Mark Camilli	5-6
Vice-President Kenneth Montgomery	7-8
Director of Retirees John Walsh	9
Director of legislation William Cook	10-11
Legislative Organizing Jim Langlois	12-13

ate Bill for the Federal Retirement Fair-



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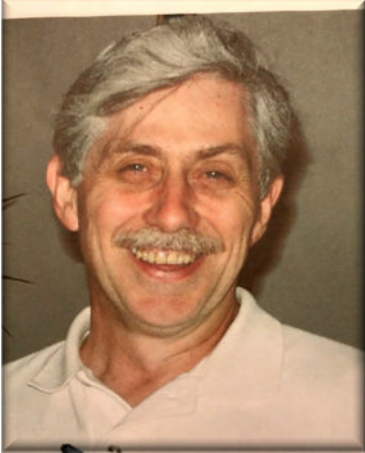
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New York State Board of Officers being sworn in at the recent NY State Convention in Syracuse, NY



**Bruce Didriksen
National Business Agent
Region 15**

Hardly a day goes by anymore that the United States Postal Service and its performance aren't the subjects of scrutiny in the press or in social media. In the short time since the last edition of this publication, there have been two substantial snowfalls that impacted mail delivery. While disruption of services in the immediate aftermath of a storm is not an unusual occurrence, in 2026 the consequences in far too many locations dragged on for days, and in some cases, for weeks.

Without any real justification, sections of Carrier routes, or entire routes, went undelivered. In many instances, Carriers were told to be off of the street without incurring any overtime and to only deliver parcels when necessary to accomplish this goal. While "employee safety" was frequently cited as the reason for this phenomenon, there was every indication that the snowstorms were seized upon as a reason to cut work hours for purely statistical reasons.

On the heels of these shortcomings came March 27, 2026, report of the Postal Regulatory Commission's review of the Postal Service 2025 annual report on performance by the USPS in a variety of goals that were projected at the beginning of the year. The PRC found that the majority of the goals set for 2025 had not been met, and in far too many instances had lagged behind previous years' performances. Despite the Postal Service's relaxation of service standards not that long ago, on-time delivery numbers are headed in the wrong direction.

Then, just a few days later came a Presidential Executive Order designed to undermine the credibility of mail ballots. It mandated each state to assemble a listing of eligible voters 60 days in advance of Election Day. The USPS would henceforth be responsible for withholding delivery of any ballots addressed to postal patrons whose names do not appear on these eligibility lists. Enforcement of the Executive Order would take the oversight of elections away from the states and put it in the hands of the federal government's Administrative Branch. A multitude of lawsuits followed, mostly initiated by State governments, so it is unclear at this time whether or not the Executive Order will be enacted prior to the midterm elections, or not. It is also unclear what the ramifications would be if the USPS delivered a mail ballot to someone whose name did not appear on the eligibility lists, or how a citizen who moves inside of the 60 day deadline for establishing eligibility lists would re-establish his/her right to vote.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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The bottom line here is that there are a multitude of challenges to the USPS in general, and to the Letter Carrier craft in particular, that can potentially impact job and retirement security. If there was ever a time for NALC members to become activists in the Union and the legislative process in this country, this would certainly be that time.



On March 25, 2026, I had the honor of attending the NALC's annual Heroes Awards Luncheon in Washington, D.C., because a Letter Carrier from Region 15, Christopher Perez from Yorktown Heights, New York, Post Office (Westchester Merged Branch 693) was the recipient of the National Hero of the Year award. Brother Perez was recognized for alerting the residents of a senior citizen complex of a fire that was rapidly spreading, and for saving a disabled inhabitant from a second story apartment where he was trapped from escaping because the fire was engulfing the front exit. The rescue was made possible by Brother Perez positioning his LLV under the apartment balcony, jumping over the deck railing and coaxing the man to climb down onto the roof of the vehicle. Through Christopher Perez's bravery quick thinking, the man survived what would have been certain death, as the building was destroyed by the fire. The telling of the details of this event, as well as those of the eight other Letter Carriers who were honored at that day, provided dramatic examples of how America's Letter Carriers are valuable members of the communities that they serve, and that any attempt to curtail or terminate the USPS' universal service mandate would leave a void in both postal services and public safety.



**Mark Camilli
National Business
Agent
Region 11**

**Region 11 NBA Mark Camilli
Spring 2026**

NALC Heroes and New York State Association of Letter Carriers activists make their presence known at the Nation’s Capital! It is with great pride and admiration that I take this opportunity to highlight two very inspiring traditions within our union, the NALC Heroes of the Year Awards, and NYSALC’s annual Washington, D.C. lobbying trip.

Each year, the Heroes of the Year Awards recognize letter carriers who go far beyond the call of duty, demonstrating courage, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to the communities we serve. These individuals remind us that our role extends well beyond delivering the mail—we are often the eyes and ears of the neighborhoods we serve, and sometimes, the first line of help in moments of crisis. This year’s honorees once again exemplify the very best of our profession. From alerting families to house fires, to identifying medical emergencies and taking lifesaving action, to assisting in protecting entire neighborhoods through vigilance and quick thinking, these carriers acted without hesitation. Their actions were not driven by recognition, but by instinct, training, and a deep sense of duty. Their stories reinforce something we already know, heroism is not about recognition, it is about responsibility. It is about being present, aware, and willing to step in when it matters most. Every carrier has the potential to make that kind of difference while delivering to our communities six and sometimes seven days a week. I would like to recognize and congratulate the following Region 11 heroes – Sydney Billingsley “Central Region Hero” Branch 182, Dayton, OH; Theodore May “The Vigilant Award” and Alexander Skomra “Honorable Act” both of Branch 3, Buffalo, NY. I highly encourage you to read the April 2026 “Postal Record” to learn more about all the 2026 NALC Heroes.

At the same time, while we celebrated these extraordinary acts, we must also recognize the critical work being done on Capitol Hill to support and protect letter carriers nationwide. Recently, members of the New York State Association of Letter Carriers traveled to Washington, D.C. to advocate on behalf of all of us. Their lobbying efforts focused on protecting six-day mail delivery, strengthening postal infrastructure and the USPS itself, and ensuring the safety and well-being of letter carriers on the job.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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REGION 11 MARK CAMILLI


These face-to-face meetings with lawmakers are essential. They put real stories and real experiences in front of decision-makers—stories like those of our Heroes of the Year. When legislators hear how letter carriers save lives, support vulnerable customers, and strengthen communities, it reinforces the importance of a strong and well-supported Postal Service!

Advocacy and action go hand in hand. The same commitment to service that drives a carrier to act in an emergency is what drives our members to speak up in the halls of Congress. Whether it's on the workroom floor or in Washington, D.C., NALC members continue to lead with purpose and pride. As your National Business Agent, I am incredibly proud of both our award recipients and those who stepped up to represent us on Capitol Hill. These efforts—both in our communities and in our nation's capital—ensure that the voice of the letter carrier is heard loud and clear. I encourage every member to stay engaged. Pay attention to the issues that affect our work, support our legislative efforts, and continue to look out for the communities we serve. Whether through heroic action on your route or advocacy for our profession, each of you plays a vital role in the strength of this union.

To this year's Heroes of the Year, congratulations and thank you. To those who represented us in Washington, thank you for your leadership and dedication. Together, we continue to uphold the very best traditions of the NALC.



 **THEODORE MAY**
THE VIGILANT AWARD
BUFFALO-WESTERN NEW YORK BRANCH 3

 **ALEXANDER SKOMRA**
HONORABLE ACT
BUFFALO-WESTERN NEW YORK BRANCH 3



**VICE-PRESIDENT
KENNY MONTGOMERY**

Are you a CSRS retiree? Are you married? Were you married for at least 10 years and have been divorced for 2 years or are a widow or widower? You might have money owed to you by Social Security

I recently had the opportunity to work for the retirement department at NALC headquarters in Washington D.C and spoke to many retirees from around the country. What I found very troubling was how many of them were CSRS (started prior to 1983) and they were not collecting Social Security due to being CSRS retirees. In my discussions most were not aware they were eligible for spousal benefits. They explained they did not work any other job besides their Postal job that they began prior to 1983 so they never paid into Social Security and they had no idea they were able to collect up to half of their spouse’s social security without it affecting their spouse’s payment.

With the passage of the Social Security Fairness act you might very well be eligible for spousal or your own benefits. Understanding Social Security spousal benefits can make a meaningful difference in retirement, especially for married couples or those who were previously married. These benefits are designed to provide financial support to spouses who may have lower lifetime earnings or who spent years out of the workforce caring for family or working a job not covered by Social Security like Letter Carrier hired before 1983.

A Social Security spousal benefit allows a husband or wife to receive up to 50% of their spouse’s full retirement benefit. This is based on the spouse’s record, not your own work history. To qualify, the social security eligible spouse must have already filed for Social Security retirement benefits, and the CSRS spouse must be at least 62 years old. However, claiming before full retirement age results in a reduced monthly payment.

Full retirement age (FRA) varies depending on the year you were born, but for many current retirees it falls between ages 66 and 67. If a CSRS spouse waits until full retirement age to claim spousal benefits, they can receive the full 50% amount. Claiming early can reduce that percentage significantly—sometimes to around 32–35% of the Social Security eligible spouse’s benefit.

It can also benefit you if you earned your own Social Security at another job and your spousal benefit is higher than your own payment. One important point is that individuals are automatically evaluated for both their own retirement benefit and the spousal benefit when they apply. Social Security pays whichever amount is higher, does not allow you to collect both in full. For example, if your own benefit is \$900 per month and your spousal benefit would be \$1,200, you would receive the higher amount, not both combined. However, to get the higher amount you must apply for the spousal benefit and allow Social Security to determine which is higher.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

**VICE-PRESIDENT
KENNY MONTGOMERY**

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Spousal benefits are also available to divorced individuals under certain conditions. If a marriage lasted at least 10 years and the individual is currently unmarried, they may be eligible to claim benefits based on their ex-spouse's record. Notably, the ex-spouse does not need to have already claimed benefits, if they are eligible and the divorce has been final for at least two years.

Survivor benefits are another related aspect worth understanding. When one spouse passes away, the surviving spouse may be eligible to receive up to 100% of the deceased spouse's benefit, depending on age and other factors. This can provide a critical financial safety net during a difficult time.

Timing plays a crucial role in maximizing Social Security benefits. While spousal benefits do not increase if delayed beyond full retirement age (unlike personal retirement benefits), the social security eligible spouse's decision to delay can increase the overall household benefit, especially for the surviving spouse later on.

Spousal benefits can provide thousands of dollars in additional annual income, helping couples maintain financial stability throughout retirement. To apply for spousal benefits or ask about your situation contact Social Security at 800-772-1213.

As always, it's wise to review your specific situation and I am always available should you want to discuss your situation. Please call me at 585-721-7397 if you wish to discuss your situation; it costs you nothing to ask and could result in thousands more a year in your pocket.



DIRECTOR OF RETIREES
JOHN P. WALSH

We are just back from our Legislative trip to Washington D.C. Jay Jackson and I were the ones sent by our Branch to communicate our messages to our Congressmen and Senators. We in our area of the State have been lucky for many years because we have Paul Tonko and prior to him, Mike McNulty was our representative.

The NALC Business Agent, Bill Cooke, was responsible for our Union to be the first to endorse Paul when he decided to run for the office. Both of these congressmen have always supported our issues. I consider Mike a long-time friend and still see him at different functions. Paul seems to be following Mike's footsteps. I saw Paul at Albany's Saint Patrick's Day Mass and their parade a couple weeks ago. We met him last week in his office. He has agreed to look at our bills that he is not on already signed on and contact us if he has any questions. Each time we visit him in Washington, he brings our whole group (Albany and Schenectady branch members) into his office, sometimes there are up to 15 people. In addition, Jay and some members from Branch 358 were able to meet with an aide to Josh Riley and felt that it was a good meeting with them.

We also met with both Senators. This year we were not able to meet them at the same time in the same room as last year. I believe everyone from New York State Letter Carriers Executive board was present for both Senator Meetings. Again, we have a great relationship with both Senators. I found this year that Senator Gillibrand seemed very receptive to our requests. We also need to remember that she not only supports(S.463) but was the one to introduced it and with Republican Josh Hawley, making it a Bipartisan bill. That bill is the "Protect our Letter Carriers Act".

It just so happens to be all of our meetings this year were with Democrats. It should be noted we as the NALC do not support a party, rather we support those who support our issues.

I remember meeting with Republican Congressman Jerry Solomon, who was originally a 15% voter for our issues. As time went on and we became friends, he retired with an increase voting percentage to 80% on Postal Issues. This is just one of the reasons I think the face-to-face meetings go a long way with politicians.

Happy Spring

Director of Retired Members
John P. Walsh



Annual NYS Lobbying Trip - Washington, D.C.

Pictured L-R Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, NYSALC President George Mangold



Annual NYS Lobbying Trip - Washington, D.C.

Pictured L-R Senator Chuck Schumer, NYSALC President George Mangold

Below you can find links to fact sheets on NALC's issues and legislation. Each of these will provide you with the necessary background information to educate your lawmakers on our priorities.

- [About us: NALC and our members](#)
- [Protect Our Letter Carriers Act \(H.R. 1065/S. 463\)](#)
- [Oppose postal privatization \(H.Res. 70/S. Res. 147\)](#)
- [Federal Retirement Fairness Act \(H.R. 1522\)](#)
- [Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act \(H.R. 3170\)](#)
- [Equal COLA Act \(H.R. 491/S.624\)](#)
- [USPS Shipping Equity Act \(H.R. 3011\)](#)
- [Shareable QR code](#)
- [Priority legislation flyer](#)

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Director of Legislation, William B. Cook

Our Legislative Fight Unfolds Before Us In 2026

Our retirees are enjoying the benefit receiving their full CSRS annuity after a 40+ year fight to get back what the Congress and the President took away from them. Now our fight is to pass legislation that would provide our FERS annuitants fairness in their retirement benefits by allowing FERS employees to contribute into their FERS retirement account monies for the years that they worked as non-career employees AND provide the same COLA that CSRS annuitants receive. We are just beginning this fight for fairness. This fight is for all of us. Think about this; if the government continues to get away with stripping some of our members of their benefits, you can bet your bottom dollar they will come after the rest of us. Just look at what the current debate is in Congress with the conservatives looking to strip more money out of health care to pay for the Iran war. If they can, they will come after all of us. So let's fight together to raise the benefits that the FERS carriers deserve!

Federal Retirement Fairness Act: H.R.1522/No Senate Bill Currently

There are 128 co-sponsors, so we have a ways to go with this bill. In NYS all of our members of the House of Representatives have signed on as co-sponsors as of 4/1/26, except for the following: Velazquez, Jeffries, Nadler, Espaillat, Ocasio-Cortez, Torres, Latimer, and Stefanik.

Senator Gillibrand has committed to sponsor this bill. We are currently working with her office to get this moving forward. Senator Schumer will support this bill when it is written.

Equal COLA Act: H.R.491/S.624

As of 4/1/26 there are only 74 co-sponsors with only 6 NYS co-sponsors; they are Ocasio-Cortez, Goldman, Lawler, Suozzi, Tonko and Kennedy. We have work to do here with our NYS delegation.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Director of Legislation, William B. Cook

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Both Senators Schumer and Gillibrand support the Senate bill.

Update on H.R.1065 – Protect Our Letter Carriers Act of 2025; This bill now has 189 co-sponsors as of 4/1/26. That is an increase of about 30 co-sponsors since December. The bill needs 218 co-sponsors. We know who in NYS has not signed on to co-sponsor this bill. We must get to 218 to force a discharge petition. Please put a full court press on to get your members to sign up. Our members’ health, safety and lives are on the line. There are 20 NYS members who have signed on.

The members who have not co-sponsored this bill are;

CD7 -Velazquez, CD8 – Jeffries (as minority leader he does not co-sponsor bills as a general rule), CD9- Clarke, CD12 – Nadler, CD14 – Ocasio-Cortez, and CD21 – Stefanik. Please get to these members and put on a full court press to get them to sign on to this bill.

The New York State Association of Letter Carriers were in Washington, DC March 25-27 working on our members of the House of Representatives. We know that our friends who have supported us in the past will do so again, but their staff need to be reminded of our priority bills and to get the members to sign on as co-sponsors.





Jim Langlois
Asst to the President for
Legislative & Political Organizing



Letter Carriers and the Hatch Act

NALC encourages all members to be engaged in a wide range of political activities to advance the letter carrier agenda. But...it is crucial to remember that all active letter carriers, career and non-career alike, are federal employees, and your political activities are governed by the Hatch Act—including online activities that involve social media.

Do's (while off the clock, out of uniform) Active letter carriers may—on their own time, away from work, out of uniform and without using a postal vehicle:

- Be candidates for public office in non-partisan elections (that is, elections in which none of the candidates represent a political party)
- Register and vote.
- Sign and circulate candidate nominating petitions and ballot initiative positions.
- Assist in voter-registration drives.
- Speak and write publicly and otherwise express opinions about candidates, ballot measures and issues.
- Attend political rallies, meetings and other events.
- Attend fundraisers and contribute money to political organizations and campaigns.
- Volunteer for political campaigns and encourage others to volunteer.
- Participate in phone-banking and precinct-walking for candidates and ballot measures.
- Display bumper stickers, lawn signs and other campaign paraphernalia.
- Raise money for the Letter Carrier Political Fund from other NALC members. (Note: Letter carriers while detailed to 204b or other higher-level assignments should not solicit contributions to the Letter Carrier Political Fund from postal employees who may be viewed as their subordinates.)
- Volunteer, run for and hold an office in a local or state political party or club.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Jim Langlois
Asst to the President for
Legislative & Political Organizing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Don'ts (while on the clock, at the workplace, in uniform or in a postal vehicle)

Active letter carriers may not—while on the clock, at the workplace, in a postal uniform or in a postal vehicle—engage in any of the otherwise permissible political activities listed in the “Do’s” above. For example, while on the clock, at the workplace, in a postal uniform, or in a postal vehicle, you may not:

- Send or forward a partisan political e-mail.
- Wear or display any political or campaign material, even as a computer screensaver or desktop wallpaper.
- Circulate partisan political materials to co-workers.
- Sign up electronically to contribute to the Letter Carrier Political Fund or solicit other letter carriers to contribute.
- Do not "like," "share," or post partisan content while on the clock—even on your own device.

Don'ts (ever)

Active letter carriers may not—even on their own time, away from work, out of uniform and without using a postal vehicle:

- Use their official titles or positions when engaging in otherwise permissible activities.
- Raise money for partisan political groups or campaigns (except for the Letter Carrier Political Fund), including phone-banking, letter-writing, selling tickets, hosting a fundraiser, inviting people to attend a fundraiser, or allowing your name to be used in a fundraising appeal.
- Otherwise solicit, receive or handle contributions for a partisan political group or campaign.
- Run for elective office in partisan (party-label) elections (even if you report “No Party Affiliation”) Raise money for the Letter Carrier Political Fund from non-NALC members (except from their immediate family members in the same household).

It was great connecting with so many of you at the recent **Region 11 and Region 15 Rap Sessions**. As your Legislative and Political Organizer (LPO), I am here to assist Branch and State leaders in signing up members to the LCPF. If any member reading this wishes to join the growing list of LCPF contributors, feel free to contact me directly, by calling, **202-227-9535**. As always, I am available to attend Branch, State or Regional events or meetings, big or small.

In Unionism,
Jim Langlois