



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

SUMMER2026

GEORGE T. MANGOLD, PRESIDENT

GM-61



George Mangold

Hot town, Summer in the City.....Glad to see the 100 degree days are gone for now. The downstate defeat of 2 of our Dem friends, retirements, and additional new Dem candidates means there will be work to be done to establish a working relationship with the newcomers if they are elected.

I am currently awaiting the NYS AFL-CIO recommendations and will send out the NALC questionnaires (that National requires before they will disburse LCPF contributions) to our LCCLs to give to the appropriate campaigns to get the ball rolling. Claire Valdez in CD 7, Brad Lander in CD 10, Micah Lasher in CD 12, Darializa Avila Chevalier in CD 13, Cait Conley in CD 17, and Blake Gendebien in CD 21 will be the Dem candidates. NYS AFL-CIO has yet to endorse in these races, but CDs 17 and 21 will be in play, as Representative

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Lawler (R-17) is an AFL target, and 21 is open following Stefanik's decision to leave. This opens up possible flips, but we will need thorough support of the Independent Voters in those areas.

Also, need to shore up recent flips Suozzi CD 3, Gillen CD 4, Riley CD 19, and Mannion CD 22. Recent action from NALC Legislative Dept. with Director Paul Swartz and Special Assistants John Beaumont and Brent Fjerestad, is refreshing and hopefully a sign of better communication and involvement with the local (State) level regarding LCPF disbursements.

Kudos to NALC for the rollout of the NALC University online. Fantastic application to educate our members and future labor novices in their own time frame. No need for travel. Learn in your own home at your own pace. Great innovation and tool for the future.

No date for our annual DC Lobbying event as yet, as the Hyatt has changed their contract clauses to eliminate exchange dates if Congress is not in session.

So.... We wait till the House calendar is released .

DATES TO REMEMBER....

2027 DC LOBBYING TRIP

.....TBD

9/12-14 2027

NYSALC 67TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION
HILTON/ LONG ISLAND HUNTINGTON
\$179 S/D



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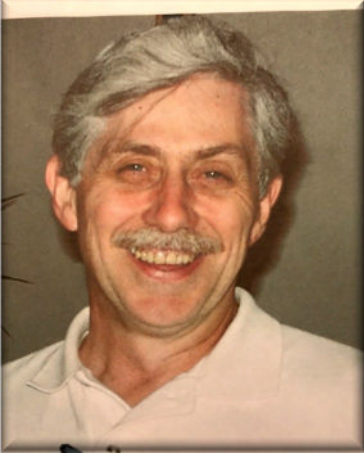
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New York State Board of Officers being sworn in at the recent NY State Convention in Syracuse, NY



Bruce Didriksen
National Business Agent
Region 15

The 2026 National Convention has concluded and the details of the balloting procedures for this year's NALC elections have been announced. For me, the Convention was my 22nd, dating back to the 1980 Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, and was memorable for a number of reasons, not the least of which was my decision not to seek re-election as Region 15 National Business Agent. I do not recall any previous Conventions that devoted as much time to amendments and resolutions as this one did, which can be seen as a positive or a negative course of events, depending on your point of view. I think that future Conventions may have to find a way to streamline the process by eliminating some proposals that are essentially the same as other proposals, with only marginally different wording.

There have been dramatic changes over the years to how America's Letter Carriers deliver the mail, and also to how the NALC has revised how the organization functions. Many of today's Letter Carriers are not aware that national officers were once elected at the National Convention and there was no such thing as individual balloting by mail. I can remember back to the days when delegates to the National Convention would contact small branches that were unable to attend and request, they assign their proxy votes to them.

My first NALC Branch had only one vote, but we would get half a dozen requests from other delegates to be assigned as the proxy for that single vote. It was not unusual for a single Convention delegate to be voting on behalf of multiple branches that were not at the Convention. The "one man: one vote" movement finally resulted in a change to the NALC Constitution that ushered in the current practice of permitting each individual member the opportunity to cast his or her own ballot. Another change that closely followed the method of voting was the change from two-year terms for national officer to four-year terms. One of the unfortunate realities of these changes are that a sizable percentage of the NALC membership does not exercise its right to vote. This may reflect the fact that these members are not familiar with the candidates or what they stand for, or how their vision of the future compares with their opposition.

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Regardless of where individual members stand in their belief of what the Union is, or should be, in terms of the pursuit and defense of members' rights, the one principle that should be shared is encouragement in the exercise of voting rights.

This is the same principle that all postal employees should also be practicing when dealing with the relationship between our collective welfare as federal employees and our right to select the members of the House of Representatives, Senators and President of the United States. In the 2026 mid-term elections, all 435 members of the House and approximately one-third of the United States Senate will be chosen. It is not an exaggeration to say that who wins these elections will play a major role in whether the United States Postal Service will survive as an institution.

The message that all of us have to convey to the membership is that there are two elections this fall, not one that demands their attention. Who is elected to run this great Union, and who will determine the legislative direction of our nation, are not unrelated to one another. Both elections will have an impact on the future of America's Letter Carriers and must be taken seriously. There is no excuse for any of our members to abdicate their voting rights in either forum.

As I write this article, there is every indication that the collective bargaining agreement that will ultimately govern the labor-management relationship for the next several years will be reached after the mid-term Congressional elections have been completed. If the nation elects a Congress that is dedicated to dismantling the USPS, then the success or failure of contract negotiations may be adversely impacted, or, if those politicians devoted to elimination of the Postal Service is successful; they may be irrelevant. That is one eventuality that we must collectively ensure never happens.





**Mark Camilli
National Business
Agent
Region 11**

**Region 11 NBA Mark Camilli
Summer 2026**

Brothers and Sisters,

The 74th Biennial Convention of the National Association of Letter Carriers, held August 3–7 in Los Angeles, once again demonstrated the strength, determination and solidarity of our union. It was an honor to join delegates from Region 11 and across the country as we conducted the important business of representing America’s city letter carriers.

Our national convention is where the democratic voice of the membership comes together. Delegates debated resolutions, considered proposed amendments to the NALC Constitution, attended educational workshops and helped establish the union’s direction for the years ahead. The discussions were sometimes spirited, but they reflected the passion our members have for their union and their commitment to improving the lives of letter carriers.

Numerous workshops were offered to the delegates to strengthen their knowledge in areas such as contract administration, grievance handling, workplace safety, legislative advocacy, retirement, workers’ compensation and branch leadership. Unfortunately, many of the workshops were canceled due to the significant number of resolutions and amendments brought forward in our general/executive session meetings. Fortunately, the workshop presentations are available in the “Members Only” portal at NALC.org.

The convention also reinforced the challenges before us. Letter carriers continue to demand fair wages, safe working conditions, reasonable workloads, dignity in the workplace and a secure retirement. We must remain united against efforts to privatize the Postal Service, weaken our collective-bargaining rights or reduce the benefits our members have earned. Protecting letter carriers from robberies, assaults, extreme heat and other workplace hazards also remains a top priority.

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REGION 11 MARK CAMILLI

One of the convention's most meaningful reminders was that our strength does not come from any one officer or representative. It comes from an informed, involved and united membership. Every steward who files a grievance, every member who attends a branch meeting and every letter carrier who responds to a legislative call to action contributes to our collective strength.

I want to thank all Region 11 delegates for the time, preparation and personal sacrifice required to represent their branches in Los Angeles. Your professionalism and participation reflected well on our region. I encourage you to share what you learned with members at branch meetings, steward trainings and local events. The true value of a convention is measured by how effectively we bring its lessons back to our workplace.

As I am completing my second term as National Business Agent, I remain committed to providing our branches and representatives with the training, information and support necessary to enforce our contract. We will continue developing our stewards, strengthening Formal Step A representation, preparing strong arbitration cases and holding management accountable whenever the rights of letter carriers are violated.

The convention has concluded, but our work continues. Let us carry its energy forward and remain focused on what unites us: protecting our members, strengthening our union and securing a better future for every letter carrier.

In solidarity,

Mark Camilli

National Business Agent, Region 11



**VICE-PRESIDENT
KENNY MONTGOMERY**

A sweeping regulatory overhaul proposed by the United States Postal Service (USPS) is threatening to transform mail-in voting while placing an unprecedented logistical and psychological burden on the workforce. Following a Presidential executive order aimed at altering election administration, Postmaster General David Steiner confirmed a controversial directive that would fundamentally alter the agency's historic role as a neutral mail delivery system.

Under the newly drafted guidelines, the USPS intends to stop delivering mail-in and absentee ballots in states that decline to hand over sensitive, localized voter manifests to the federal government. To enforce this, the proposal outlines a plan to launch a centralized Federal Ballot Mail Portal. Postal workers would then be required to cross-reference and verify incoming mail ballots against these government-controlled lists before allowing them to proceed through the mail stream. If a state refuses to submit its database, or if an individual's ballot envelope does not flawlessly align with the federal manifest, the Postal Service will retain the authority to reject its acceptance or halt delivery entirely.

While the administration defends the measure as a step toward election integrity, postal employees and their unions have vehemently denounced the changes. Postal employees warn that the proposed mandates have severe negative effects on our daily operations and occupational wellbeing.

The primary grievance voiced by the employees, centers on the fundamental distortion of their job descriptions. Jonathan Smith, president of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU), pushed back against the policy, stating clearly the responsibility of postal employees is to safely "move mail from one destination to the next," not to "verify voter eligibility". By transforming a nonpartisan distribution workforce into an election-policing agency, the rule forces letter carriers and clerks to shoulder intense regulatory scrutiny.

Furthermore, the policy exacerbates an already strained working environment. Local post offices are already contending with widespread staff reductions, facility closures, and broader fears regarding agency privatization. Adding the duty of individual ballot verification on a compressed timeline introduces chaotic processing bottlenecks. Postal workers will face heightened legal liabilities, severe workplace confusion, and overwhelming pressure to avoid administrative errors that could inadvertently disenfranchise voters. The NALC formalized its opposition by noting that the rule creates unnecessary burdens for employees while exceeding the agency's legal authority.

Though the changes have drawn intense public criticism and faced immediate roadblocks from federal judges who ruled the restrictions violate existing legal settlements, the ongoing administrative push continues to cast a long shadow over the mailroom floor. For the employees who form the backbone of American infrastructure, the proposals represent a stressful pivot away from a 250-year tradition of neutral public mail delivery by trusted postal employees.

**DIRECTOR OF RETIREES
JOHN P. WALSH**

As of January 1, 2026, all applications for retirement must be completed online. Online Retirement Application (ORA) has replaced the paper applications many of us had used when we retired. The Postal Service says the new procedure is secure and that the future retiree can track the application status and expect this procedure to expedite processing time.

You will have to go to [http:// LiteBlue.usps.gov](http://LiteBlue.usps.gov) to sign in or you can call shared services at 877-477-3273 and select option 5. Once you are retirement eligible, you will receive a confirmation email from Shared Services. About three days later you will receive an email from (OPM) Office of Personnel Management. This will only happen if you have an email address on file. Those that do not have an email address can use one of the free email services Gmail (Google) or Yahoo, which are popular options.

In addition, you must establish a login.gov account, using the same email account. To sign up, visit login.gov. The login.gov account you create will be used for other web portals such as OPM's Service Online, Social Security and Thrift Savings Plan. If you don't have a smartphone or a computer, you may have to go to the library or use a friend's computer.

Once signed in, sign up for Retirement Counseling via eRetire. This is a great tool to guide you through the process. Additionally, check with your Branch or your Business Agent's office to see if they are conducting a retirement seminar in the near future.

In some cases, members have gone through their financial accountant to help them with their retirement decision. A financial accountant will charge you a fee. I am not recommending this option, I am only telling you what is available. I wish you good luck with your decision and look forward to seeing you in our group of retired members.

On another note, I recently heard that the Speaker of the House, Mike Johnson, stated that he has plans for Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security that he will produce in 2027. In my opinion, this is a warning. This administration has not been good for veterans or retirees and have cut many services for both. So, buckle up, stay ready, and remain vigilant for whatever may be coming our way.

John P. Walsh
Director of Retired Members

NY State Association of Letter Carriers

In Memoriam

RIP Frank Gallo

We mourn the passing of **Frank Gallo**, past **NYSALC President** and **Branch 294 President**.

Thank you for your years of service and dedication to the NALC and its members. Your contributions and leadership will not be forgotten.

Rest in peace, Frank.



74th Biennial 2026 Los Angeles Convention

Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY), minority leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, escorted into the convention hall by letter carriers from New York.

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Director of Legislation, William B. Cook

Remaining Focused

On Friday, August 21, 2026, the United States Postal Service issued its Trump mandated absentee/vote by mail rule. This link takes you to the executive order; <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2026/03/ensuring-citizenship-verification-and-integrity-in-federal-elections/> .

The executive order is currently being challenged in court. In the 95-page rule, the Service provides information concerning all the steps taken by the Service to comply with the executive order. On the surface the ruling can lead one to believe that the agency to a non-biased, objective approach when considering the issue of implementing the changes to the Service's obligation to process all mail in ballots. We all know that the rule is not a non-partisan rule meant to protect the rights of the citizens to vote, so it does not come as a surprise that after all the pages of word salad, the Service and its lawyers with all their constitutional law legal advice has ruled that the Service has the right to insert itself into the right of each state to govern the elections in each of the 50 states, a right that is a constitutional right reserved to the states.

So, let's be clear. The rule is not about the states using postal approved bar codes on the outside of the envelopes when mailing out and receiving ballots; that has been a long-standing practice of the Postal Service. What is happening under the guise of standardized bar codes, is the Postal Service will now be a repository of all American citizens who are registered to vote. In order to comply with Trump's executive order, **THE ADMINISTRATION IS DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION** to send lists of adult citizens in each state and for all 50 states to provide information on all American citizens who are registered to vote in the states. So much for our right to privacy. If this is not big brother, then what is?

At the same time, the Postal Service has suspended payments to our retirement plans, which if not stopped, will begin the deterioration of our retirement trust funds. While knowing this, the Trump executive order has now mandated the Service to spend resources that it claims is in critically short supply, to build this massive Big Brother bureaucracy to in essence allow the federal government access to our private information from each state, without going through the legal process within the states, legal processes that are governed by state law.

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Director of Legislation, William B. Cook

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THIS TRUMP EXECUTIVE ORDER WILL POLITICIZE THE POSTAL SERVICE BY CONTROLLING WHAT STATES CAN VOTE BY MAIL, IS AN UNFUNDED TRUMP MANDATE.

Ever since Trump 2's administration began, our union has fought against Trump's attempt to end the Postal Service's status as an independent agency by bringing the Service in under the Commerce Department. Our friends on the Hill have stood with us to prevent such a move; a move that would require an act of Congress.

Well Trump did not give up. He fired his PMG from the Trump 1 administration and appointed a new PMG in Trump 2 who is doing Trump's bidding. Without changing the laws which govern the Postal Service, Trump gained political control of the Postal Service from within, and with the advice and consent of the Republican controlled Senate. The Postal Service is now a political arm of the Trump campaign team. The last wall of defense in the fight to keep the Postal Service an independent (and thus non-partisan) agency is now in the courts. Ultimately if the United States Supreme Court does not support the constitutional rights of the states to govern their elections, the Trump's takeover will be complete.

President Vince Sombrotto had said, "*whatever we gain at the bargaining table can be lost in Congress*". So as we move into both the election season and the arbitration of our national contract, keep this in mind.

REMAIN FOCUSED AND KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE PRIZE. DO NOT BE DISTRACTED. OUR SURVIVAL IS ON THE LINE BOTH AS POSTAL EMPLOYEES AND AMERICAN CITIZENS.

*“Keep your eyes on
the **PRIZE**, not
the obstacles”*



Jim Langlois
Asst to the President for
Legislative & Political Organizing



It is all about the “Left” and the “Right”, just not the “Left” and “Right” you may think.....

The political divide within our country is at an all-time high, and we are no exception. Some within our Union favor Democrats, some favor Republicans, but many of us are in between. We encompass the entire political spectrum, and that is our strength. However, I am not writing this article to talk about Democrats or Republicans. I am writing this article to talk about the “Left” and the “Right”. Just not the “Left” and “Right” you may have been thinking about.

I ask the active members reading this article to take a minute to think about your workroom floor. Now think about the Letter Carrier who works to your Left; now think about that Letter Carrier who works to your Right. Are they contributing to the Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF)? My guess tells me there is an 88% chance they are not signed up. To the retired members reading this article, think about that breakfast group you meet with weekly. Look to your left, look to your right. Are they signed up to the LCPF? That is the only “Left” and “Right” members should care about, and we have a lot to do.

Think of our LCPF contributions as a Magic Wand. Our LCPF Magic Wand is dim, but immensely powerful. We currently only have it charged to 12% capacity. In fact, it may even be starting to flicker a little bit. What do we all do when our cell phones are only 12% charged? We will find the nearest charging outlet - that is what we need to do with our LCPF contributions. I am asking all of you reading this article to show the same sense of urgency to charge up our LCPF Magic Wand as we all do to charge up our cell phones.

I know I am preaching to the choir with many of you when I say that we need to increase the percentage of carriers contributing to LCPF. Due to your generous contributions to the LCPF, that Magic Wand was just bright enough when we needed it last year to fight off the provisions originally outlined in the so-called Big Beautiful Bill. Additionally, we passed the Social Security Fairness Act, which President Biden signed into law on January 5th, 2025. This was a 40-year fight, but finally, with Bipartisan support, we were able to have this signed into law. The Social Security Fairness Act repeals the WEP and GPO provisions in Social Security law that previously unfairly reduced or eliminated Social Security benefits for certain CSRS federal annuitants, including Letter Carriers.

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Jim Langlois
Asst to the President for
Legislative & Political Organizing

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We have many battles ahead in 2026 that will bring even more legislative challenges. We face continued threats from Congress, and let us not forget the very large object that is in the mirror- the midterm elections. For these reasons, I ask for your assistance in sharing this vital message with our members. The message is simple: sign members up to the LCPF.

The need to charge up that LCPF Magic Wand is a call to action like never before. Writing about the LCPF to our members in a Branch monthly publication, or through a stand-up talk at a union meeting, will simply not get us where we need to be. Instead, I ask all of you to get the message out to our members the most effective way possible- a one-on-one conversation. That one-on-one conversation may be a direct phone call, or a face-to-face in-person conversation.

As mentioned, only 12% of our members currently donate to the LCPF at the national level. There was a time when I could attend NALC events such as Branch meetings or Rap Sessions and sign up everyone in the room to the LCPF, and that was enough. That is no longer the case. The need is greater now. The legislative threats we are up against not only surround us but are staring right at us, with wide, unblinking eyes.

Signing up to the LCPF is one phone call away. Send your leads my way by having your members reach out to me @ 202-227-9535. I can sign members up to LCPF in 2 minutes, and if you are paying attention, I have just provided you with two simple leads. Look to your Left and look to your Right. We need to sign them up to the LCPF (off the clock and off the property, of course). Then ask them to do the same. This is no time for complacency. The name of our Left and Right party is the Letter Carrier Party. We have a lot more in common than what divides us.

Jim Langlois

Legislative and Political Organizer

By contributing 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 canceled. 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.