



Legislative Letters

Our Inaugural Issue

February 2024

Monthly Newsletter of the Arizona State Association of Letter Carriers

H.R. 82: The Social Security Fairness Act What Comes Next

Now that Congress has returned to work from the holiday break, we can expect to see increased activity on The Social Security Fairness Act. Following the November 21, 2023 subcommittee hearing in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the bill will be going through the markup process.

H.R. 82 was referred to the Ways and Means Committee, which is chaired by Representative Jason Smith from Missouri's 8th Congressional District. Committee chairs typically choose whether the bill placed before the committee is the bill as referred or if a new draft will be written.

After the proposed legislation is introduced in the committee, the members will introduce and consider possible amendments to the bill, including replacing the original text with a substitute.

The markup process ends when the committee reports the bill to the full chamber. The bill is reported to the full chamber only after a majority of the committee votes to do so. We will be sure to keep you updated on the process as it continues, but in the meantime, please contact our representatives who have not signed on as cosponsors to the legislation: Representative David Schweikert, Representative Eli Crane, and Representative Andy Biggs.

Federal Retirement Fairness Act (H.R. 5995)

What this legislation does for you:

Allows certain federal employees to make catch-up retirement contributions for time spent as non-career employees after Dec. 31, 1988, making it creditable service under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS)

Who would be eligible for the benefit:

Letter carriers who were employed as casuals, transitional employees, or city carrier assistants, providing them with greater retirement security. A significant number of active city letter carriers have worked in a non-career position, and that time is not currently creditable for retirement. This bill would change that, allowing letter carriers, and millions of other federal employees, to buy back this time and plan for their well-earned retirements.

This is the first issue of the Arizona State Association's monthly publication. Our goal in creating this newsletter is not only to keep members across the state engaged with political issues that are relevant to letter carriers, but also to inform members about the purpose of state associations in our great union.

State associations are tasked with assisting "the National Association of Letter Carriers in maintaining a more perfect organization and improving the Postal Service; to organize letter carriers within the State; and to guide and direct all activities relating to legislation within the State."

With the upcoming general election, you can expect to see a massive increase in political advertisements regarding candidate views on a multitude of policies. Ultimately, we are focused on supporting candidates for federal office that support our issues and are willing to support the legislation that benefits letter carriers.

With our numerous legislative goals, we have many avenues to look down for allies. We will use this publication, as well as our upcoming regular WebEx meetings, to provide information to branches and our members to ensure we are as prepared and educated on issues as possible.

Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act (H.R. 618)

What this legislation does for you:

This bill expands the role of nurse practitioners and physician assistants in providing services to injured federal workers under the federal workers' compensation program.

In general, only physicians may fulfill these roles under current law.

How this legislation helps Letter Carriers:

This would allow nurse practitioners and physician assistants acting within the scope of their practice to:

- prescribe or recommend treatment for injured federal workers
- certify the nature of an injury and probable extent of disability
- provide prescribed treatment for injured federal workers
- participate, with a physician designated by the Department of Labor, in a mandatory workers' compensation examination of an injured worker

Did you know on the NALC Website, under the NALC Legislative Action Center, you can:

- Find your representatives and senators, and can contact them;
- Access NALC fact sheets on our priority issues and legislation;
- Learn more about bills in the House and Senate;
- Take action on issues that matter to letter carriers;

Please take the time to check out this site. Stay politically informed of bills and resolutions. Contact lawmakers about these issues that are important to us.

Annual Retirement Seminar

Our retirement seminar was a great success with more than 70 attendees. We want to sincerely thank Dan Toth, Dan Versluis, and Brent Fjerestad for taking the time to come educate members.



Please be on the look out for future communications from the Arizona State Association of Letter Carriers regarding our upcoming regular WebEx meetings, as well as other events. We want to thank everyone who attended and participated in the drawing that raised \$464 for the Gerald Patrick Gaskin Scholarship Fund.

Our Legislative and Political Organizer John Beaumont will be conducting legislative training focused on teaching letter carriers how to discuss our issues. If you would like to attend this training, please contact State President Tim Fisher at 602-821-9966.

Our website is undergoing renovations and will be up and running soon!

To be added to the distribution list, please send us an email at:

ArizonaLetterCarriers@gmail.com

Tell us your name and your branch number and we will add you to our mailing list!