



THE RED RIVER CARRIER

TT MORRIS BRANCH 1227, WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS

Bowie, Breckenridge, Burkburnett, Electra, Graham, Hedley, Henrietta, Iowa Park, Jacksboro, Megargel, Munday, Mineral Wells, Olney, Quanah, Seymour, and Vernon Merged

October 2025

Volume 35, Issue 7

If you don't have a seat at the table, you're probably on the menu

Notice of Nominations and Election

NOMINATIONS

Nominations for election of officers and delegates of T. T. Morris Branch 1227 will take place at the regular Branch Meeting on November 13th, 2025, at 7:00 PM at your union hall, 5310 Southwest Pkwy, Wichita Falls TX 76310. Nominations will be the first order of business. Candidates must be present to accept nomination when made of, if absent in writing. All candidates will be required to certify that they have not served as nor applied for a supervisory position in the past twenty-four (24) months and that they are eligible to serve IAW Title V of the Labor Management Disclosure Act of 1959 as amended. Candidates may accept nomination for one officer position only. Nominations will be accepted for the following positions:

President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, Sergeant at Arms, Director of Retirees, and one Trustee position.

All offices are for a two-year term except for the Trustee position which is for three years. Each term begins on January 1st, 2026.

NOMINATIONS WILL ALSO BE ACCEPTED FOR DELEGATES TO THE 74TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION

(The convention is scheduled to be held in Los Angeles CA from August 3rd to August 7th, 2026)

ELECTION

If necessary, an election of officers and delegates will be conducted by secret ballot at the regular branch meeting on December 11th, 2025, at 7:00 PM at your union hall, 5310 Southwest Pkwy, Wichita Falls TX 76310. The election will be the first order of business.

Any member who, for any reason, will be unable to vote on December 11th may obtain an absentee ballot by writing to the election commissioner at: Election Committee, NALC Branch 1227, PO Box 546, Burkburnett TX 76354-0546. Request for absentee ballots must be received by the election committee no later than November 25, 2025. Write in votes are not permitted and will render you ballot invalid.

President's Report by Chris Snyder

First, I would like to make up for something I missed in last month's newsletter. We need to congratulate our own Vice President, Ryan Raeke, on his election to the position of Vice-President of the Texas State Association of Letter Carriers.

As has been discussed many times, like it or not, we are Federal Employees and subject to the whims of Congress and whoever is sitting in the White House. And this is where the Texas State of Association of Letter Carriers comes in.

The NALC has always been engaged in lobbying and political action since its founding in 1889. At the 2006 65th biennial convention held in Las Vegas, the delegates voted to amend Article 1, Section 2 of the NALC Constitution of the Government of State Associations. The change was made so the explicit focus of the state associations would be to guide and direct all activities relating to legislation within the state. The change also stipulated that financial resources previously allocated to seminars and training be redirected to this new primary objective. This change reflected a shift in strategy to better position the NALC to influence lawmakers and advocate for letter carriers' interests at the state and federal levels. Every state has its own association. Before 2006, the primary focus of the state associations was training and education of letter carriers and branch officers for the state.

The Texas State Association of Letter Carriers is broken down into six districts. This breakdown puts specific people in place to meet with members of Congress within the current 38 congressional districts within the state. By doing this, the Congressperson for that district has a particular letter carrier member to become familiar with so that person can advocate for legislative objectives that are friendly to our causes.

Why is politics so important and why should it matter to you?

To understand the answer, it is important to have a look at the history of the NALC and particularly the period prior to the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970.

Prior to 1970, the United State Post Office Department was a cabinet-level executive department of the federal government. This meant that letter carriers, and all postal employees were federal civil service employees. At that time:

- **Wages and Benefits Set by Congress:** Letter carrier salaries, benefits, and working conditions were not determined by a union's negotiation with management. They were set by an act of Congress. Every time letter carriers wanted a raise, a new pension plan or better working conditions, they had to convince lawmakers in Washington, D.C., to pass legislation.
- **Political Appointments:** The Postmaster General was a political appointee, and the entire system was subject to the whims of politics and patronage. As a matter of fact even letter carriers, prior to the Civil Service Reform Act in 1883 (Pendleton Act), were hired and fired based upon political patronage when workers were offered jobs in exchange for partisan donations and allegiance.
- **"Gag Rules" and Limited Rights:** Postal employees were subject to "gag rules" that prohibited them from lobbying Congress or even talking about their working conditions. The NALC spent years fighting for the right to organize and petition the government. The NALC finally won with the signing of the Lloyd-LaFollette Act of 1912. Even then, the right to strike was explicitly forbidden for all federal employees.

Back then the NALC's existence was fundamentally political and was built not on work stoppages, but by building relationships with lawmakers and advocating for their members' interest on Capital Hill. The NALC accomplished many things through this approach, such as the eight-hour workday in 1888, back pay for overtime in 1893, and the Lloyd-LaFollette Act of 1912, giving them the right to organize and lobby. Despite this the results were slow and unfair. This festered in the late 1960 with many letter carriers living in poverty conditions, collecting food stamps and working multiple jobs.

The Great Postal Strike of 1970:

While many of you new members have seen the video in cadet when you signed up for the union, I recommend everyone to watch the video or read the book to understand how we got to where we are today.

An illegal “wildcat” strike took place and was the largest illegal strike against the federal government in U.S. history. This strike, while I can go on and on about it, was highly successful and forced the government to act and President Nixon to sign the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970. This act:

- Transformed the Post Office Department into the United States Postal Service, an independent agency.
- Granted postal unions the right to bargain collectively for wages, benefits and working conditions. Gone were the days pre-1970 of what was called “collective begging”.
- Provided a process for binding arbitration to resolve contract disputes, in lieu of the right to strike.

Why Politics Still Matter to You and I (The Letter Carriers) Today:

- **The USPS is Still a Government Entity:** The Postal Service is still an “independent establishment of the executive branch.” This means that laws passed by Congress can and, in most cases, will have a direct impact on the USPS and its employees. We don’t have to look far to see things like the provisions I wrote about in the last article concerning our pensions and the amount of money we would have to contribute, the high 3 to high 5 and the supplement.
- **Attacks on Collective Bargaining and Benefits:** Things like the 2006 law mandating the pre-funding of future retiree health benefits and, though we haven’t yet been affected, the stripping of collective bargaining in other federal agencies such as the AFGE (American Federation of Government Employees) and the Veteran Affairs (VA) to name a couple.
- **Protecting the Postal Service Itself:** While there is nothing that prevents our competitors, such as UPS, FedEx, and Amazon, from lobbying Congress, the USPS isn’t allowed to lobby Congress. That leaves it up to the unions of the USPS to lobby Congress to protect and strengthen the USPS ... our employer and the source of our livelihood. This is not an easy act, as Postal Employees we are limited by the Hatch Act in things that we are allowed to do. While the Hatch Act was revised in 1993, allowing for more political freedom,

there are still significant limitations as to what we can do.

This all leads back to the State Associations across the country. Political action is not just part of the union’s work – it is a core function. This is important because, if you will remember, back in January/February of this year President Trump was threatening to move the United States Postal Service into the Commerce Department, a cabinet-level executive department of the federal government. This move would have put all active carriers back to pre-strike placement. Wages and benefits would all be subject to the whims of Congress.

It’s also important to understand that Trump’s “Big Beautiful Bill” recently passed by Congress was stripped of three attacks on letter carriers and other federal employees due to strong lobbying by your union and other federal unions. The parts that were removed would have increased your retirement contributions by 4.4%, base retirement would have been calculated on your high five rather than the current high three and would have removed the Social Security supplement for those that retire before the age of 62. **(Editor’s note: That supplement saved my bacon when I was told I could no longer work at the age of 60. Without that supplement, we would have been hard-pressed to make it.)**

The NALC’s political action committee and its lobbying efforts are crucial to ensuring our voices are heard in Washington. However, your union dues **cannot** be used for this purpose. That is why the NALC established the Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF). This political fund is used to support any candidate, regardless of political affiliation, who supports letter carriers. Yes, like you I hate that our politics are so tied to money. But, that’s the way it is and until that changes, it is up to us to protect ourselves. It is disappointing to note that our branch is consistently at the bottom of the contribution list, with only 5.71% of our members contributing in 2024. And many, many of those who do contribute are retired members.

Your contribution, whether it’s \$1, \$2, or \$5 per pay period, is a powerful investment in our future. By contributing to the LCPF, you help ensure that our interests are heard loud and clear by the lawmakers who hold the power to shape our careers and our lives. Let’s make our voices heard together and increase our participation in this critical fund.

Disclaimer: 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. Any guideline amounts are merely suggestions, and you may contribute more or less than the guidelines suggest and the union will not favor or disadvantage you by reason of the amount of your contribution or your decision not to contribute. 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, name of employer and occupation of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year.

PRESSURE CAN PUSH YOU INTO A CORNER



- EVERY PIECE OF MAIL MATTERS
- CUTTING CORNERS ONLY MAKES THE PROBLEM BIGGER
- MANAGEMENT'S NUMBERS ARE NOT WORTH RISKING YOUR CAREER





SIGN ME UP!

How to contribute to the Letter Carrier Political Fund using PostalEASE — ONLINE Enrollment

Through PostalEASE, active letter carriers can contribute directly from their USPS paychecks to the Letter Carrier Political Fund (NALC's PAC) by designating the Political Fund as one of the three payroll "allotments."

Online Enrollment

1. Login to USPS's Postal Ease website at <https://ewss.usps.gov>
You may also get to the Postal Ease website through the USPS LiteBlue website See the instructions below
2. Click "I agree"
3. Enter your Employee ID number and Password and click "Submit"
If you have not yet set up a password click the link provided on the page or go to:
<https://ssp.usps.gov/ssp-web/welcome.xhtml>
If you forgot your password click the link provided on the page or go to:
<https://ssp.usps.gov/ssp-web/einVerification.xhtml>
4. Under Payroll click "Allotments / Payroll Net To Bank"
5. Click "Continue"
6. Click "Allotments"
7. Enter the 9-digit Financial Institution Routing Number: 0 6 4 0 0 0 1 7
8. Enter your 17-digit Account Number _____ 0 0 3 4 9 5 2 5 3 5
See instructions in step D at right
9. Enter Account type as "checking"
10. Enter amount of your Allotment: \$ _____
The maximum yearly amount is \$5,000
11. Click VALIDATE
12. Click SUBMIT
13. Print or write down your confirmation number for your records

To get to Postal Ease through Lite Blue:

- Got to www.liteblue.usps.gov
- Enter you employee ID and Password and click "Log On"
- Click "My HR"
- Click "Employee Apps"
- Click "PostalEASE"
- Begin at step 1 above

BEFORE YOU START, YOU'LL NEED:

- A. Your 8-digit Employee ID Number (on your paystub)
- B. Your USPS password
- C. Your Postal Record Number (Located on the back cover of your Postal Record magazine, above your name. Or call 202.393.4695 to get your Postal Record Number). See the example below.



- D. To create your personal account number, insert the seven digits of your Postal Record Number to the spaces below:

_____ 0 0 3 4 9 5 2 5 3 5

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. Any guideline amounts are merely suggestions, and you may contribute more or less than the guidelines suggest and the union will not favor or disadvantage you by reason of the amount of your contribution or your decision not to contribute. 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, name of employer and occupation of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year.



SIGN ME UP!

How to contribute to the Letter Carrier Political Fund using your retirement ANNUITY

Using your **Annuity**, retired NALC members can contribute directly from their CSRS or FERS annuities to the Letter Carrier Political Fund (NALC's PAC) on a monthly basis. This is a convenient way to make regular donations to the political action fund similar to the payroll system available to active carriers.

Enroll by Phone

Call the NALC Retirement Office at 202.662.2877 anytime or toll-free at 1.800.424.5186 Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon or 2 to 4 p.m. (ET). (Note: you will need your CSA retirement Claim number.)

Enroll Online

1. Go to www.servicesonline.opm.gov
2. Enter your CSA number, beginning with the letter A and ending with a zero. SAMPLE: A22222220
3. Enter your PIN (Personal Identification Number). If you don't know it, click Using Services Online for help with one.
4. Once you've entered your CSA number and PIN, click Log In.
5. On the next page, click ALLOTMENTS TO ORGANIZATIONS.
6. Click START
7. Select the Letter Carrier Political Fund (Formerly COLCPE)
8. Enter the amount of your monthly contribution. (*Maximum yearly amount is \$5,000*)
9. Click SAVE
10. On the next page click YES (if correct), then print the next page for your records.

Enroll by Mail

Complete this form and send to:

NALC Retirement Department, Attention: Letter Carrier Political Fund, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144

I, _____ (your name) wish to contribute to the Letter Carrier Political Fund. I authorize the Office of Personnel Management to withhold the amount below from my *monthly* annuity payments:
☐ \$30 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$15 ☐ \$10 ☐ Other: \$_____ (Maximum amount per year is \$5,000) and forward that amount to the Letter Carrier Political Fund (NALC's PAC). I make this authorization voluntarily and may revoke it at any time by notifying the Letter Carrier Political Fund in writing.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Full Name (please print): _____ Branch: _____

CSA: _____ Phone: _____

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. Any guideline amounts are merely suggestions, and you may contribute more or less than the guidelines suggest and the union will not favor or disadvantage you by reason of the amount of your contribution or your decision not to contribute. 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, name of employer and occupation of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year.



SIGN ME UP!

How to contribute to the Letter Carrier Political Fund using ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFER

Through a **MONTHLY** Electronic Fund Transfer, NALC members can contribute directly from their bank account to the Letter Carrier Political Fund (NALC's PAC). On the 1st of every month, the Political Fund will automatically (and without a fee) deduct from your bank account the amount you choose to contribute (ex: \$5 donation each month for twelve months, totaling \$60 for the year).

Electronic Fund Transfer Authorization

Fill out and return this form with a **voided check** to the address below

I, _____ (your name) hereby authorize my bank to deduct from my checking account the **MONTHLY** sum of:

☐ \$30 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$15 ☐ \$10 ☐ Other: \$_____ **PER MONTH** and forward that amount to the Letter Carrier Political Fund (NALC's PAC) (Maximum amount per year is \$5,000). I make this authorization voluntarily and may revoke it at any time by notifying the Letter Carrier Political Fund in writing.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Full Name (please print): _____ Branch #: _____

Postal Record #: _____ Routing #: _____ Account #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

ATTACH A VOIDED CHECK HERE.

Please send this completed form and your voided check to:

The Letter Carrier Political Fund
100 Indiana Ave NW,
Washington, DC 20001-2144

Your Postal Record Number (circled):

***** AUTO** 5- DIGIT 54321

XXXXXXXX LC 9876 W 13 08

Letter Carrier
1234 Main Street
Anywhere, US 54321-9999

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. Any guideline amounts are merely suggestions, and you may contribute more or less than the guidelines suggest and the union will not favor or disadvantage you by reason of the amount of your contribution or your decision not to contribute. 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, name of employer and occupation of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year.

Staple your voided check here

WITH KUDOS TO BROTHER
RYAN RAEKE!

**BE SURE TO CHECK OUT OUR NEW
BRANCH WEBSITE!**

nalcbranch1227.org

**IT'S A WORK IN PROGRESS AND THERE
WILL BE MORE ADDITIONS AS WE MOVE
FORWARD.**

Officers of Branch 1227

President Emeritus: Gary Mullins

President Emeritus: Renae Earnest

President:

Chris Snyder

csnalcl227@gmail.com

940-781-0319

Vice President & MBR:

Ryan Raeke

raekenalc1227@gmail.com

940-782-0222

Secretary/Treasurer:

Larry Snyder

lastime64@gmail.com

940-781-8516

Sergeant at Arms:

Thom Williamson

kartopp49@gmail.com

940-631-4092

Director of Retirees & HBR:

Gary Mullins

mullinsgh@msn.com

940-782-0714

Three Year Trustee:

Keith Deason

kdeason@hotmail.com

940-613-3344

Two Year Trustee:

Mark Honkomp

markhonkomp@icloud.com

940-235-5323

One Year Trustee:

Jeanette Good

thegoodman777@gmail.com

940-733-9181

Stewards

Bowie: Larry Wilson

Burkburnett: Ryan Raeke

Morningside: Jesus Montano

All other offices: Branch President

Mailing Addresses

Branch

5310 Southwest Pkwy

Wichita Falls TX 76310-3020

President

PO Box 4154

Wichita Falls TX 76308-4154

The Red River Carrier is published by T.T. Morris Branch 1227 of the National Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO. It is produced entirely inhouse by the editor.

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the author and are not necessarily those of the officers, stewards, or editor of NALC Branch 1227.

All members of the branch are invited to submit articles to the editor in care of the editor's email listed below. Deadline for publication is the 15th of the month. The editor retains the right to edit or reject articles due to personal attacks or libelous statements.

Editor: Larry Snyder

Email: lastime64@gmail.com

NALC BRANCH 1227
PO BOX 546
BURKBURNETT TX 76354-0546

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME VALUE MAIL, PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

US POSTAGE PAID
NON-PROFIT ORG
PERMIT 286
BURKBURNETT TX 76354

BRANCH MEETING SCHEDULE

2025

OCTOBER 9th, NOVEMBER 13th,

DECEMBER 11th

MEETINGS BEGIN AT 7 PM

ALL MEETINGS TAKE PLACE AT YOUR UNION HALL

5310 SOUTHWEST PKWY, WICHITA FALLS TX 76310