



NALC Fact Sheet

Department of Legislative and Political Affairs — National Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO
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About Us: NALC and Our Members

The National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) represents 296,000 active and retired letter carriers who live or work in virtually every community in the country. We serve as the exclusive collective bargaining representative for the 206,000 active city letter carriers employed by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) and champion the interests of some 90,000 retired members. NALC is also dedicated to ensuring the Constitutionally-mandated Postal Service remains the most trusted and efficient provider of universal mail service in the world.

We are hard workers: Letter carriers are more productive than ever before. With delivery points increasing by about 1.3 million per year and fewer letter carriers than in years past, letter carriers must work hard and efficiently. In 2020, letter carriers delivered more than 424.9 million pieces of mail and packages each day to more than 161.4 million delivery points nationwide. This means that USPS processes and delivers nearly half (43 percent) of the world's mail.

We are veterans: Letter carriers are dedicated citizens, many of whom have traded a military uniform for a letter carrier uniform. The Postal Service is one of the largest employers of veterans in America – along with other employers, including the Department of Defense, Lockheed Martin and IBM. Indeed, some 73,000 postal employees and nearly a quarter of all letter carriers have served in the U.S. Military. These retired servicemen and women worked hard to protect this country, and they work just as hard to ensure the mail is safe and secure and delivered efficiently.

We are diverse: Letter carriers are as diverse as the communities we serve. For example, women comprise nearly 33 percent of the letter carrier workforce; African-Americans, 23 percent; Latinos, 11 percent; Asian-American/Pacific Islanders; 7 percent. The average age of letter carriers is 48, and the average job tenure of our members is almost 16 years.

We are community leaders: Each year, countless letter carriers donate time and effort to innumerable causes, partnering with community allies to strengthen the neighborhoods we serve. Along with the Postal Service, NALC holds the annual “Stamp Out Hunger” Food Drive, the nation’s largest single-day drive. Since the collection began in 1992, NALC has collected more than 1.76 billion pounds of food. In the 1950s, NALC became the first national sponsor of the Muscular Dystrophy Association and remains a top fundraiser for the organization.

We are neighbors: No one knows America’s neighborhoods like letter carriers do because the Postal Service’s unique delivery networks rely on letter carriers’ ability to reach every residential and commercial address six, and often seven, days a week. As a result, letter carriers are often first on the scene when something is wrong: coming to the rescue or spotting fires, injuries, and thefts along their delivery routes. Often the only source of daily contact for homebound Americans, thousands of letter carriers participate in the Carrier Alert program, a voluntary community service effort to help monitor the well-being of elderly and disabled mail patrons.

*Letter carriers are the public face of the most popular agency of the Federal government—
88 percent of Americans hold a favorable view of the Postal Service (Pew Research Center, 2018).*