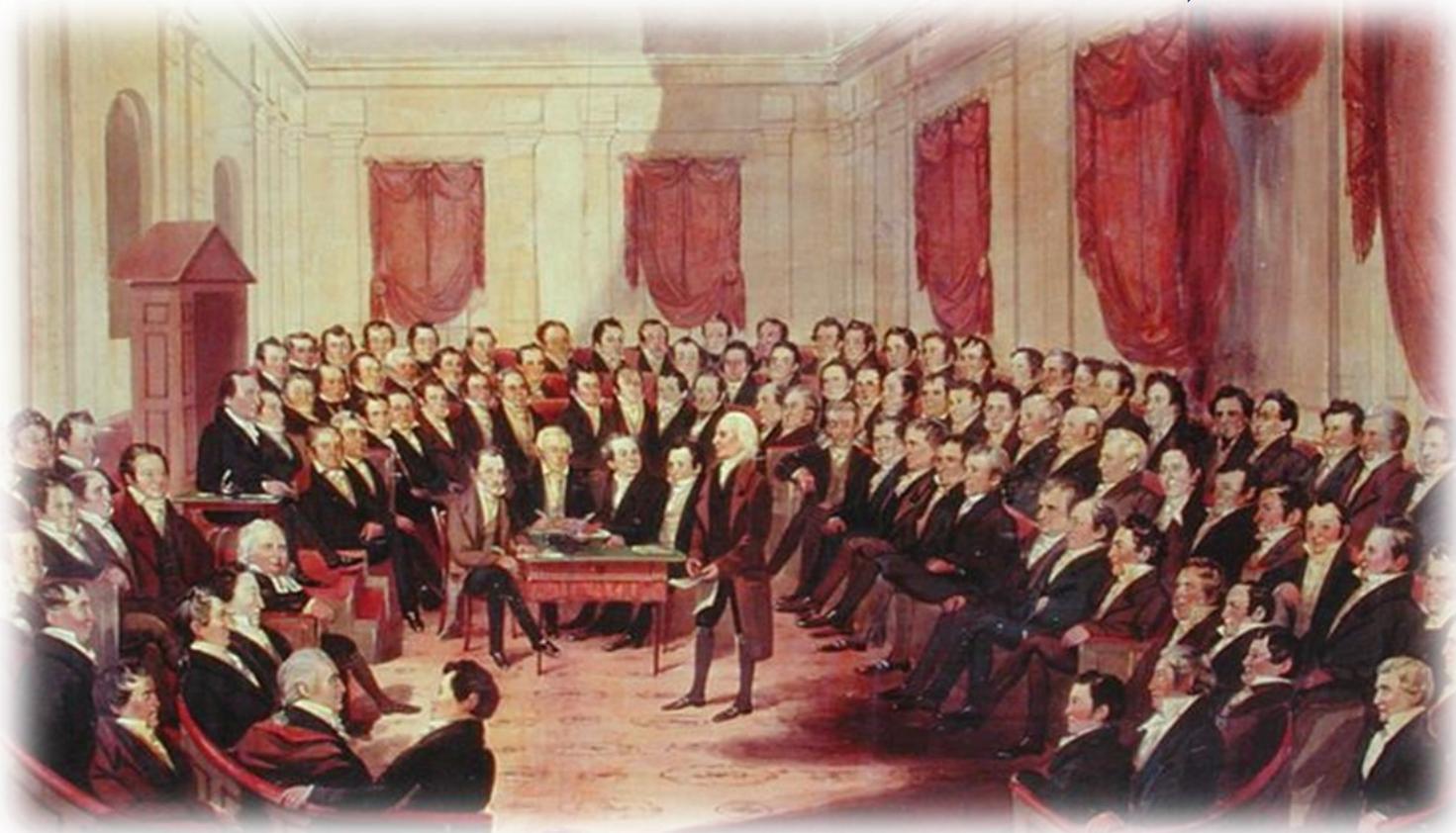


★ KEEP FOR YOUR REFERENCE ★

LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2021



Like this picture from the past, the future of the United States Post Office can seem a bit blurry around the edges. It is up to us to bring those edges back into focus and help to define what it is we want the future of the Postal Service to look like. The purpose of this newsletter is twofold; first and foremost is to provide you with ideas and suggestions to make it easier and more comfortable for you to make those ever-important congressional contacts. Second is to provide you with as much information as possible on the bills and resolutions you want to see passed.

Current Bills & Resolutions

Legislation specifically geared towards postal interests

Contact Info

How and where to contact your Congressmen

Congressional Map

Do you know who your Representative is?

Sample Letters

Don't know what to say? Let us help!

WARLCA 2021 Legislative Newsletter

WARLCA Legislative Director: Lorrie Crow

WARLCA President: Kurt Eckrem

Hello WARLCA members. You have received this special legislative newsletter put out by the WARLCA State Board. Most of you are aware that the rules and guidelines under which the USPS conducts business are controlled by the United States Congress through the legislative process, and postal legislation is handled just like any other kind of legislation. Resolutions are introduced, cosponsors are lined up to support the legislation, committees that oversee various functions of the Federal Government take a look at the impact of the legislation on their specific area of influence, amendments may be added, and the legislation is then voted upon by the entire House of Representatives and the Senate and goes to the President for his signature. Although the process sounds pretty straightforward, there are all kinds of things that can happen along the way which will derail the process, even on the best pieces of legislation. That is where you as a member of the WARLCA can help.

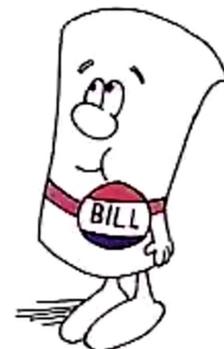
Typically, legislation that helps the Post Office in turn helps the rural craft, by keeping

the business strong and rural carriers employed. However, legislation that negatively impacts the Post Office is not good for the rural craft either. You don't have to look any further than the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006 with its prefunding mandate to see an example of that. Bottom line, Congress will take action, or sometimes take no action, based upon what their constituents think is important. That is the reason we are sending out this newsletter.

This year, in this Congressional session, we have perhaps the best opportunity we have had in years to get positive, meaningful postal legislation passed. As you will see as you look through this newsletter, there are several bills currently in the House and in the Senate that our union believes will greatly improve the future financial stability of the company we work for. But our Representatives need to know it is important to us; not to just a few of us, but to ALL of us! We need every rural carrier reading this to commit to making contact with your Representative in the House and with Washington's

two Senators to tell them we need these bills passed now. Not in a few months or next year, but NOW! It is that important. And we need you to convince your friends and family to make those contacts as well. Your livelihood is important to them too, isn't it? We have included contact information for our Representatives as well as some suggestions for making phone calls and sending emails or letters. It really doesn't matter how you make those contacts, just that you do it, and the sooner the better. I guarantee it is not as hard as you think, and you will feel good about yourself for having played a part in getting the bills passed and our employer back on track. On behalf of the WARLCA State Board, we thank you.

WARLCA President
Kurt Eckrem



How To Call or Write Your Congressmen Effectively

There are many different avenues in which to contact your Legislators: phone calls, letters, in person at their local offices, and of course email. It is easy enough to find the committee assignment and contact information for all of our respective Legislators as they are listed on the WARLCA.com webpage under the legislative tab, or for more complete information on them, you can visit their official webpage.

Phone calls are easy and can be done at any time and from anywhere. Many people find it easier to call after hours and leave a message rather than having to talk to someone directly. You have a limited amount of time to leave a message so you have to be precise and quick on what you want your message to say. Having a script prepared in advance can make this much easier, such as:

Hello my name is _____. I am a constituent and a rural letter carrier from _____. I am calling to urge you to support H.R. 695, the USPS Fairness Act, by co-sponsoring this bill which was introduced by Congressmen DeFazio and Reed.

We need your support to end the pre-funding mandate. During the 116th Congress, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 2382 with a bi-partisan vote by more than two-thirds majority, but unfortunately it never came up for a vote in the Senate. Your support will allow this important piece of legislation to be voted on by the House again this congressional session. Please support H.R. 695 and remember that many of the Postal Service's financial problems stem directly from the pre-funding mandate imposed on the Postal Service in 2006.

*Thank you for your support on this matter
Have a good day*

Writing actual letters sadly has become a lost art, hence the decline in First Class mail. To this day, I still love to get cards and letters in the mail, knowing someone has actually spent the time and energy to convey their feeling and thoughts through something that I can hold in my hand and often save. I digress. So, let's go with emails; if you are on their website there is always a link that will allow for emails. Before doing this though may I suggest drafting the letter first, it is easier to edit your thoughts this way and if saved gives you the ability to revisit what it was you said when following up. After spending a great deal of time fumbling around, I have found this to work the best for me. Once you are happy with what you have written all you have to do is a copy and paste.

Due to Covid-19, in-person meetings are not a viable option at this time. Hopefully as things improve, they will be opening up their doors again and welcoming us in soon. However, many of our representatives or their aides are availing themselves via video conferencing for the foreseeable future. If you choose to go this route, it is important to remember to call and make an appointment and be on time. You are going to want to stay on topic and be prepared by knowing the particulars of the issue you want to discuss.

How to get prepared and what you want your message to include.

There are several different bills and resolutions before the House and Senate right now that pertain to the Postal Service. It can be difficult to stay up to date on all of them. My suggestion is that

you pick one or two and make them your focus, research them and find out how your particular representative feels about them. Remember a bill is referred to as “H.R.” in the House and “S.” in the Senate and will become a law if passed. A resolution, on the other hand is referred to as H. Res in the House and S. Res in the Senate and are generally advisory in nature. Once a bill or resolution is introduced in the House, it is then referred to a committee or committees for review.

I live in the 5th Congressional District so Cathy McMorris Rodgers is my representative. With this in mind, I found that H.R. 3076, The Postal Service Reform Act, has been referred to three different committees, one of which is the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Representative Rodgers is assigned to this committee, and I want her to support this bill, so I will want to send her a letter. Easier said than done, right? The following is an example of what I would send to Representative McMorris Rodgers.

Dear Representative McMorris Rodgers,

I am writing as a constituent and would like to voice my strong support for the Postal Service Reform Act, H.R. 3076, introduced by Representative Carolyn Maloney on 5/11/2021. I am asking you to cosponsor H.R. 3076. This bill could be the first step in returning the Postal Service to financial solvency.

This bill will repeal the excessive 2006 mandate that requires the Postal Service to pre-fund decades of health benefits for its retirees in advance—a requirement virtually unheard of anywhere in the private or public sectors. The legislation would not increase the deficit and was scored neutral under the Congressional Budget Office pay-go rules. Since 2007, the pre-funding mandate accounts for roughly 82 percent of financial losses for the Postal Service and 100 percent of the Postal Service’s losses from 2013-2018. No other company or government agency in America is forced to pre-fund retiree healthcare.

Not only am I a rural resident I am also a rural letter carrier and fully understand the importance of mail delivery for myself and my neighbors. Rural carriers not only provide the essential service of delivering mail, parcels, and medications, but in this past year we have been the life source for many of our out of the way elderly customers. Many of whom have not have regular contact with others due to quarantine and social distancing. Quite often, we are their only personal contact for weeks on end, they not only rely on us for essential needs but as a safety net, and we in turn look after them and are able to monitor their well-being.

Please support H.R. 3076 and remember that many of the Postal Service’s problems stem directly from the pre-funding mandate imposed on the Postal Service in 2006. By supporting H.R. 3076, you will help ensure the financial stability of the Postal Service by saving the USPS billions of dollars annually by allowing the agency to reimburse the Office of Personnel Management on a pay-as-you-go system.

Thank you for your continued support of the United States Postal Service and your attention to this issue. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]

There are sample letters on the NRLCA website that you can refer to, I actually did some cut and paste for parts of this letter and the phone message. I don't know that there really is a right or wrong way to relay your opinions, but there are a few things you really should include:

1. Make sure you are referring to the correct prefix and number. There is a big difference between H.R. and H. Res, and legislation numbers change from one congressional session to the next.
2. Try to include at least one talking point about that particular bill or resolution.
3. Try to make it personal and relatable to you as a constituent.
4. Include your name and address.
5. Although you can send letters to your representative's Washington DC address, it is recommended that they are sent to their local office.

For the purposes of this newsletter, only the legislation that the **NRLCA** supports will be listed. For a complete list of all legislation pertaining to the Postal Service, please visit WARLCA.COM. Or sign up for email updates by sending an email to our webmaster, Isa Lopez.

NRLCA-Supported Bills To Keep An Eye On

H.R.695

Introduced by Representative Peter DeFazio on 2/20/2021 and referred to the **House Oversight and Reform Committee**.

To amend title 5, United States Code, to repeal the requirement that the United States Postal Service prepay future retirement benefits, and for other purposes.

A BILL

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "USPS Fairness Act".

SEC. 2. REPEAL OF REQUIRED PREPAYMENT OF FUTURE POSTAL SERVICE RETIREMENT BENEFITS.

Subsection (d) of section 8909a of title 5, United States Code, is repealed.

S.145

To amend title 5, United States Code, to repeal the requirement that the United States Postal Service prepay future retirement benefits, and for other purposes.

FEBRUARY 1, 2021

Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. SCHATZ) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the **Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs**.

A BILL

To amend title 5, United States Code, to repeal the requirement that the United States Postal Service prepay future retirement benefits, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "USPS Fairness Act".

SEC. 2. REPEAL OF REQUIRED PREPAYMENT OF FUTURE POSTAL SERVICE RETIREMENT BENEFITS.

Subsection (d) of section 8909a of title 5, United States Code, is repealed.

The preceding two bills are identical in both the House of Representatives and the Senate and they are very straight forward and do not require any explanations. [H.R.695](#) was formerly referred to as H.R. 2382 in 116th Congress which passed in the House with a bi-partisan vote on 2/5/2020. [S.145](#) was formerly referred to as S.2965 in the 116th Congress but received only seven Senate co-sponsors and was never brought to the floor for a vote. It is up to us to urge our Senators to back the new bill [S.145](#).

The next two bills to consider have incorporated parts of, or all of, many of the other bills presented to you either in this publication or in the information you can find on the WARLCA legislative updates. The text on these two bills is too large to be included here, to see the entire official text, it can be found at congress.gov.

H.R.3076

Introduced on 5/11/2021 by Representative Carolyn Maloney of NY and referred to three committees, **House Oversight and Reform Committee, House Energy and Commerce Committee, and the House Ways and Means Committee**.

To provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes.

MAY 11, 2021

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. FOXX, and Mr. COMER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes.
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

SHORT TITLE. — This Act may be cited as the “Postal Service Reform Act of 2021”.

Very short summary; this bill includes the following

- ⇒ Medicare integration
- ⇒ Repeal of the pre-funding mandate (H.R.695)
- ⇒ Rural newspaper provision
- ⇒ Flats operation study
- ⇒ Reporting requirements
- ⇒ Performance targets and transparency

S.1720

As of 05/30/2021 text has not been received for S.1720 - A bill to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes.

Introduce by Senator Gary Peters of MI, referred to the **Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee**.

Although the congress.gov has not published the official text for this bill as of print, it was reported during the NRLCA Legislative Training to includes the following;

- ⇒ Eliminates the pre-funding requirement
- ⇒ Medicare integration
- ⇒ Require USPS to deliver 6-days per week
- ⇒ Require publication of data on USPS website

⇒ Identical to the version passed in the House.

There are already 21 co-sponsors to this bill, 10 of which are Republicans, half of that battle is already won.

The following two Bills are probably going to generate quite a bit of controversy, but keeping in mind that our ultimate goal is to save the Postal Service, the shipping of alcoholic beverages will provide some much-needed revenue.

H.R.3287

117th Congress (2021-2022)All Information (Except Text)

Sponsor: Rep. Speier, Jackie [D-CA-14] (Introduced 05/17/2021)
Committees: House - Oversight and Reform; Judiciary
Latest Action: House - 05/17/2021 Referred to the **Committee on Oversight and Reform**, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

As of 05/30/2021 text has not been received for H.R.3287 - To amend title 18, United States Code, and title 39, United States Code, to provide the United States Postal Service the authority to mail alcoholic beverages, and for other purposes.

S.1663.

Sponsor: Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR] (Introduced 05/17/2021)
Committees: Senate - Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Latest Action: Senate - 05/17/2021 Read twice and referred to the **Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs**.

As of 05/30/2021 text has not been received for S.1663 - A bill to amend Title 18, United States Code, and Title 39, United States Code, to provide the United States Postal Service the authority to mail alcoholic beverages, and for other purposes.

Bills are generally sent to the Library of Congress from GPO, the Government Publishing Office, a day or two after they are introduced on the floor of the House or Senate. Delays can occur when there are a large number of bills to prepare or when a very large bill has to be printed.

NRLCA-Supported Resolutions To Keep An Eye On

H.Res. 47

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should take all appropriate measures to ensure that the United States Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the Federal Government and is not subject to privatization.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 13, 2021

Mr. LYNCH (for himself and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the **Committee on Oversight and Reform**

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should take all appropriate measures to ensure that the United States Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the Federal Government and is not subject to privatization.

Whereas the United States Postal Service is a constitutionally mandated service per article I, section 8, clause 7 of the Constitution;

Whereas the United States Postal Service is a self-sustaining, independent establishment that does not receive taxpayer funding and relies solely on revenue derived from the sale of postal services and products;

Whereas the United States Postal Service and its more than 500,000 employees are at the center of the \$1.4 trillion mailing industry, employing a total of 7.5 million Americans;

Whereas the United States Postal Service serves the needs of 157 million business and residential customers at least six days a week, maintains an affordable and universal network, and connects the country's rural, suburban, and urban communities;

Whereas the United States Postal Service is consistently the highest rated agency of the Federal Government in nonpartisan opinion polls;

Whereas the United States Postal Service is the Nation's second-largest employer of military veterans;

Whereas postal employees are dedicated public servants who do more than process and deliver the Nation's mail, they serve as the eyes and ears of the Nation's communities and often respond first in situations involving health, safety, and crime in their communities;

Whereas privatization of the United States Postal Service would result in higher prices and reduced services for its customers, especially in rural communities; and

Whereas privatization of the United States Postal Service would jeopardize the booming e-commerce sector and cripple a major part of the Nation's critical infrastructure: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should take all appropriate measures to ensure that the United States Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the Federal Government and not subject to privatization.

H. Res.109

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of door delivery for all business and residential customers.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 5, 2021

Introduced in the House of Representatives by Representative Stephanie Murphy of FL, referred to the **House Oversight and Reform Committee**

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of door delivery for all business and residential customers.

Whereas the United States Postal Service has announced that it may need to eliminate or reduce levels of door-to-door delivery service by the conversion of millions of homes and businesses to centralized delivery or curbside and require those who wish to retain their door service to pay a delivery tax;

Whereas reduced levels of service will have an immediate impact on current year revenue and a long-term impact on the viability of a business inevitably causing a larger drop in revenue from service cuts than from the estimated savings of elimination or reducing door delivery;

Whereas door delivery is a vital service that the American people have relied on since the 1860s in both rural and urban areas and ensures the security of mail and packages;

Whereas voluntary conversion of businesses in 2013 equated to a mere 0.8 percent of voluntary conversions confirming that businesses depend on in-person contact with letter carriers to ensure transactional security and initiate new business and revenue for the Postal Service;

Whereas millions of Americans will be forced to retrieve their daily mail and packages from a centralized location removing the daily convenience for Americans in receiving checks, medications and other essential items; and

Whereas eliminating or reducing door delivery services will serve as a hindrance for the elderly and disabled who will be forced to retrieve their mail and packages and be required to submit to a cumbersome application process in order to opt out of the requirement: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of door delivery for all businesses and residential customers.

H.Res.114

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of its 6-day mail delivery service.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 11, 2021

Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself and Mr. GRAVES of Missouri) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of its 6-day mail delivery service.

Whereas the United States Postal Service has announced that it may need to reduce the frequency of its mail delivery service from 6 days a week to 5 days a week;

Whereas 6-day mail delivery service is an essential service that the American people have relied on since 1912, particularly working families that depend on the Postal Service for the timely delivery of their paychecks; and

Whereas reducing mail delivery service to 5 days a week would inevitably cause not only delays in the delivery of mail, but higher postal costs, due to the many hours of additional overtime that the Postal Service would require in order to handle the resulting back-up of mail: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of its 6-day mail delivery service.

H.R.3076, Postal Service Reform Act of 2021

During our recent legislative training, we were told that H.R.3076 has a real chance of passing both the House and Senate (S. 1720) with a bi-partisan vote. With that in mind, WARLCA President Eckrem has provided us with a comprehensive explanation of what is in the bill that we want to promote.

H.R.3076 was introduced on May 11, 2021, by Representative

Carolyn Maloney, along with Reps. Gerald Connelly, Virginia Foxx, and James Comer. The stated goal of the legislation is to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes. H.R.3076 was initially referred to the Oversight and Reform Committee, which marked up the bill (passed it out of committee) on May 13th. It was also referred to both the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee where, as of this writing, it still awaits action. H.R.3076 has quite a few features, some of which are incorporated from

other pieces of legislation. What follows is a brief summary of several of the primary provisions:

***Repeal of the pre-funding mandate**- H.R.3076 incorporates the provisions of H.R. 695, the USPS Fairness Act. As almost every postal employee knows, the largest portion of the Post Office's losses over the last 15 years has been due directly to the pre-funding of retiree health benefit premiums as required in the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA) of 2006, to the tune of \$5.5 billion annually. This mandate would have put most companies out of business and has severely crippled the USPS in its efforts to upgrade and stay competitive. If enacted, H.R.3076 would cancel any outstanding payments owed on the day preceding the enactment, and would instead substitute a payment system which would take into account the government contribution required from those funds already deposited against the net claims costs. Starting in 2024, those computations would be made no later than June 30th, with the actual payment made no later than September 30th. These dates would hold in each subsequent year.

***Medicare Integration**- Particularly of interest to retired

rural carriers and those who intend to retire from the Post Office, H.R.3076 would shift the burden of retiree health benefit premium costs from the Postal Service by requiring postal retirees to enroll in Medicare. This provision has been a sticking point in past versions of this legislation; however, since the costs for retired postal employees' health benefits will need to be covered, as troublesome as this provision may seem to some, it is an integral part of modifying the pre-funding mandate imposed in PAEA in 2006 (see above). If enacted this year, the Medicare Integration provision is slated to begin in January 2023. There are built-in requirements for plenty of notification and information to be made available, and former employees who have been retired for some time will not face the penalties for delayed Medicare enrollment. We have been told that since a very high percentage of retired rural carriers are already enrolled in Medicare, the impact on the rural craft may not be as significant as with other crafts.

***FEHB Plan Premiums**- Under H.R.3076, health insurance companies which participate in the Federal Employee Health Benefit Plan and offer plans to postal employees would be re-

quired to use actuarial data from a pool of only postal employees, annuitants, and their families when determining premium rates for those plans. By the information in some reports, this could result in overall lower premiums for postal employees in general.

***Non-postal services**- Of perhaps less impact on the day-to-day work of a rural carrier, but important to the Post Office's bottom line, H.R.3076 would allow the USPS to offer non-postal services, such as postal banking. It would also allow the Post Office to enter into agreements with state, local, and tribal governments to provide services, as long as those services did not interfere with current postal business. Any such agreements would be subject to approval by the Postal Board of Governors. Additional revenue from non-postal services could certainly offset other increasing costs, but that revenue would have to be reported separately from normal postal business.

***Flats operation study and reform**- Another provision of H.R.3076 would stipulate that the Postal Regulatory Commission and the Inspector General would jointly initiate a study into inefficiencies in the collection, sorting, transport, and de-

livery of flats. Since flats are not as easy to handle as other classes of mail, the study would examine the most efficient practices for the processing and delivery of flats and determine if rate adjustments were necessary. The PRC and the IG would have 180 days to complete the study and present the results to the Postmaster General, who would then notify Congress of the date of implementation.

***Other Provisions-** There are several other provisions in H.R. 3076 which would cover such things as making sure that competitive and market dominant classes of mail cover their costs, that the Post Office must fund the Postal Regulatory Commission, and that there are clear and transparent performance targets for the Postal Service moving forward. This last

provision has created a bit of consternation because there is some concern as to who determines the scope and the achievability of those targets, the Postal Service or the PRC. One further provision in this bill requires the Postmaster General report to the President, the PRC, and to the appropriate Senate and House committees every six months on the financial condition of the Post Office.

The National Rural Letter Carriers' Association fully supports H.R.3076, and is encouraged by the bi-partisan backing it has received in the House of Representatives. WARLCA members are encouraged to contact their representatives regarding H.R.3076. For those in the 1st Congressional District, Rep. Suzan DelBene sits on the House Ways and Means Com-

mittee, and for those in the 5th and 8th Congressional Districts, Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers and Rep. Kim Schrier both sit on the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Contacts by constituents in those three Districts would be extremely effective.

On May 19th, a bi-partisan group of 20 Senators introduced S. 1720, legislation which mirrors the language in H.R. 3076. Currently, S.1720 is before the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Neither of Washington's two Senators, Patty Murray or Maria Cantwell, have signed on as cosponsors of S. 1720. Please reach out to both of them and ask them to support this important legislation.

The district map can also be found on the WARLCA.com website.

If you choose to contact your representative via US mail it is recommended that you use their local office address.



Contact Information for the 117th Congress

Representatives

1st District-Suzan DelBene (D)

Ways and Means Committee

<https://delbene.house.gov/>

[Tweet - @RepDelBene](#)

Washington DC Office

2330 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

Phone (202) 225-6311

Kirkland Office

450 Central Way

Kirkland, WA 98033

Phone (425) 485-0085

Mount Vernon Office

204 W. Montgomery St

Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Phone (360) 416-7879

2nd District-Rick Larsen (D)

Armed Services and Transportation and Infrastructure Committees

<https://larsen.house.gov/>

[Tweet - @RepRickLarsen](#)

Washington DC Office

2163 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

Phone (202) 225-2605

Bellingham Office

119 North Commercial Street, Suite 275

Bellingham, WA 98225

(360) 733-4500

Everett Office

Wall Street Building

2930 Wetmore Avenue, Suite 9F

Everett, WA 98201

Phone (425) 252-3188

3rd District Jaime Herrera Beutler (R)

Appropriations Committee

<https://herrerabeutelr.house.gov/>

[Tweet - @HerreraBeutler](#)

Washington DC Office

2352 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

Phone (202) 225-3563

Vancouver Office

O.O. Howard House (Officers' Row)

750 Anderson Street, Suite B

Vancouver, WA 98661

Phone (360) 695-6292

Chehalis Office

Chehalis City Hall Bldg.

350 N. Market Boulevard

Chehalis, WA 98532

Phone (360) 695-6292

*does not receive mail.

4th District-Dan Newhouse (R)

Appropriations Committee

<https://newhouse.house.gov/>

[Tweet - @RepNewhouse](#)

Washington DC Office

504 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

Phone (202) 225-5816

Yakima Office

402 E. Yakima Ave., Suite 445

Yakima, WA 98901

Phone (509) 452-3243

Tri-Cities Office

3100 George Washington Way #130

Richland, WA 99354

Phone (509) 713-7374

North District: Okanogan and Douglas Counties

P.O. Box 135

Grand Coulee, WA 99133

Phone (509) 433-7760

5th District-Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R)

Energy and Commerce Committee

<https://mcmorrie.house.gov/>

[Tweet - @cathymcmorris](#)

Washington DC Office

1035 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

Phone (202) 225-2006

Spokane Office

10 North Post Street, Suite 625

Spokane, WA 99201

Phone (509) 353-2374

Walla Walla Office

26 E Main Street, Suite 2

Walla Walla, WA 99362

(509) 529-9358

Colville Office

555 South Main Street

Suite C

Colville, WA 99114

Phone (509) 684-3481

6th District-Derek Kilmer (D)

Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, Chair Appropriations.

<https://kilmer.house.gov/>

[Tweet - @RepDerekKilmer](#)

Washington DC Office

1410 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

Phone (202) 225-5916

Tacoma Office

950 Pacific Avenue, Suite 1230

Tacoma, WA 98402

Phone (253) 272-3515

Bremerton Office

345 6th Street, Suite 500

Bremerton, WA 98337

Phone (360) 373-9725

Port Angeles Office

332 E 5th St.

Port Angeles, WA 98362

Phone (360) 797-3623

7th District-Pramila Javapal (D)

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Want to help the NRLCA be heard on the Hill? Become a PAC Sustaining Donor!

Support NRLCA-PAC

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A monthly deduction from your checking account on the 5th of each month



PAC...What Is It?...Why Is it Important?

PAC, which stands for Political Action Committee, is a committee which collects voluntary contributions from members of a group.

It distributes funds to candidates for Federal offices and makes a report on its activities. It is important because it accumulates small contributions (we average \$25 a contributor) into a *central* account so that larger contributions may be made to a candidate for Congress. Therefore, each contribution has increased importance to the candidate.

Why does NRLCA have a PAC?

Our PAC is a *lobbying* tool. It is something which is of assistance to the National office in working *for* legislation, which will help rural carriers, and *against* legislation which is detrimental to rural carriers.

Is PAC used to buy votes?

Emphatically, NO! PAC helps our organization get access to the legislators and our story told.

How does PAC help us?

PAC helps because candidates must raise money to conduct an election campaign. They are compelled to ask people for assistance. After they have asked us for assistance with their campaigns, it then becomes easier for us to get them to listen to us when we have an issue of concern. So the short answer is, PAC helps us get legislators to listen to us.

Does that mean they will vote our way?

Not necessarily.

Why do we need to insure that we are listened to?

The job of a Congressman or Senator is so very complex that there are thousands of interests pushing for their attention. They may not intend to cast a vote which would do us harm, but inadvertently it may occur. A fact of life is that there are over 10,000 registered lobbyists in the city of Washington, all trying to interest Members of Congress in issues of concern to them.

What is wrong with the current system that campaigns are so outrageously expensive?

The answer is that the very first campaign reform law done in 1974 was a good law. It would have placed absolute limits on the total any candidate could spend in running for Congress.

The U.S. Supreme Court, *put the limits on individuals and PAC contributions*, and took the limits off of the total amount any one campaign could spend. This is what has created the current problem.

With *no* limits on the amount anyone may spend, candidates, who can raise huge amounts of money, campaign very little and rely on television for 90% of their campaign, which is very expensive. They create the illusion of reaching out to touch voters, but *really* the only way they do it is by buying millions of dollars worth of television.

What is the answer?

Limiting contributions and PAC contributions is *not* the way to solve the problem. The average contribution which we receive is about \$25, which doesn't sound like a lot of money. But when we put it together, from some 8,000 - 12,000 rural letter carriers who contribute on behalf of all of the 90,000 members, we do pretty well. In making contributions for your interest, we maintain the high ethical standards of this Association. But PAC is necessary to insure we get listened to at critical points in time.

What criteria are used for contributions?

We evaluate their voting records, or for challengers we ask questions concerning our issues. We look at their committee assignments. We look to see if we are able to establish communication.

Has PAC worked for us?

It is only a tool, and we have attempted to use it well. I think it has been of great assistance to those of you who have contributed because it has helped fight off cuts to our retirement system. Additionally, it has helped us reverse the IRS's retroactive audits and pass a special EMA tax provision of 150% of the IRS standard mileage allowance.

Yes, PAC does help.

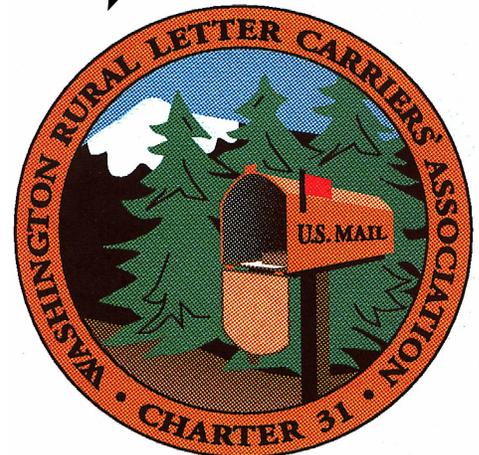


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Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Jun 16 2021: Zoom Meeting with Monte Hartshorn
- Jun 27 2021: Zoom Meeting with Patrick Pitts
- Sep 26 2021: Retirement Seminar, Seattle WA **CANCELED**
- Aug 17-21 2021: National Convention, Orlando FL **CANCELED**
- Oct 9 2021: New Guarantee Year Begins
- Nov 9-Dec 14 2021: OPM Open Season
- Dec 4 2021: Christmas Overtime Period Begins
- May 21 2022: Retirement Seminar, Kennewick WA
- May 22-24 2022: State Convention, Kennewick WA
- Sep 6-9 2022: National Convention, Orlando FL