



Sisters & Brothers of the COSALC,

We hope that each of you have enjoyed the Centennial Sentinel. We have modified this issue to include many topics since we haven't had a recent issue distributed due to the NALC'er coming out in November. In the past few issues, we haven't received any responses from those receiving this additional newsletter. The COSALC Executive Board will be meeting in January to discuss the continuance of this publication outside of the normal newsletter. If you would like to see this publication continue, your response will be necessary to the board.

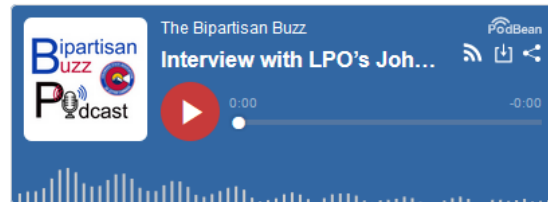
The History of the Centennial Sentinel

A monthly publication called 'The Slope' was created several years ago and was created specifically for those carriers on the Western Slope to assist in keeping them updated with various union issues since the branches are smaller and they may not have monthly meetings. After trying this for a few years and not getting much response, COSALC Executive Board Member Todd Tucker inquired to expand the newsletter to more members of smaller branches throughout Colorado to see if the monthly publication would have a stronger impact by adding other branches that may also not have regular monthly meetings and need to be kept informed. It was approved and the 'Centennial Sentinel' was created. Since its creation, we have sent out many issues of the Sentinel but have only received a few positive responses. The initial thought of the Sentinel was to mail it out the months we don't send out the larger NALC'er newsletter. As we know in life, everything comes with a cost. Not only the cost of printing and mailing, but the time it takes to put this publication together and attempt to get volunteers to deliver the message to members throughout Colorado.

Here's a few questions we have for you. Do you get anything from this publication? Is it worth continuing and if so, why is it different from other publications? Are you getting enough information from your local branch? Are you attending branch meetings or does your branch offer virtual meetings for you to attend if you are outside the local area? These are many questions we need answered to give the COSALC Executive Board enough information to determine if we continue with this additional publication. Please email your responses to sentinel@cosalc.org no later than January 31st, 2024. Thank you for your assistance in gathering this information.

The Bipartisan Buzz Podcast

We started a podcast called the Bipartisan Buzz and now have several episodes under our belt. Our most recent episode includes NALC Legislative and Political Organizers John Beaumont and Matt Tanner discussing several topics including the Letter Carrier Political Fund. We know your time is important and we are trying to deliver information to you at many different levels to keep you informed. The leaders of the Colorado State Association of Letter Carriers spend many hours of their own time to keep members informed. Please let us know if this podcast is a good venue to deliver additional information to you at your fingertips. It is located on Podbean and can also be downloaded on www.cosalc.org. Please check it out and let us know what you think and if there are any topics you want us to cover.



The Letter Carrier Political Fund

What do you know about the LCPF? Do you contribute to the LCPF? If you do, thank you! Let's clear up a few things first. There are many carriers out there that believe the NALC uses union dues collected by members for political contributions to members of Congress. **That is false!** It is against the law for our union dues to be used as political contributions to a politician. It must be voluntary and that's why the NALC created our PAC (Political Action Committee) previously called COLCPE.

What is a political action committee (PAC)?

A political action committee (PAC) raises money for the purpose of defeating or electing candidates to elected office.

- PACs are formed by corporations, associations, labor unions and individuals with common interests.
- PACs solicit **voluntary** contributions from individuals with common interests to advance a political process.
- PACs are non-partisan entities whose primary concern is to elect qualified candidates regardless of party affiliation.

Why should I join NALC's PAC, the Letter Carrier Political Fund?

- The Letter Carrier Political Fund identifies and contributes to candidates who support issues important to letter carriers.
- Joining the LCPF provides letter carriers with the opportunity to build electoral and legislative power required to ensure decisions that impact their lives are made with their best interests in mind.
- Only NALC members can contribute to the LCPF.
- Union dues are not used, **and cannot be used**, for political contributions.
- LCPF contributions are *voluntary* and can stop at any time. There is no open season.
- We encourage LCPF members to make suggestions for political contributions and to attend local fundraisers.
- LCPF members are encouraged to attend local events for members locally who support letter carrier legislative priorities.

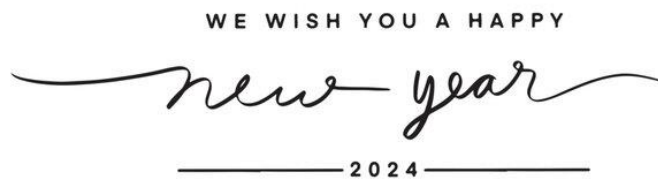
Letter Carriers and the Hatch Act

NALC encourages all members to be engaged in a wide range of political activities to advance the letter carrier agenda.

But...it is crucial to remember that all active letter carriers, career and non-career alike, are federal employees, and your political activities are governed by the Hatch Act—including online activities that involve social media (for example, Facebook and Twitter) as well as e-mail.

In general: Be off the clock, out of uniform (and government vehicles) and away from the workplace whenever you engage in any partisan political activity, and make sure that the activity is in a permissible category.

If you have questions or concerns that are not covered here, do not hesitate to first contact the Office of Special Counsel **by e-mail at hatchact@osc.gov** or by phone at **800-85-HATCH**.



2024 Colorado Steward's College

All the branch presidents received multiple emails from both NALC Region 4 NBA Dan Versluis and RAA John Robles on the upcoming steward's college scheduled for January 25th – 27th, 2024 in Loveland, Colorado. The hotel reservations at the Embassy Suites closed on December 31st, 2023. Hopefully all branch presidents reached out to their current and up and coming stewards to attend this great training event. RAA John Robles is working on a very in depth case study concerning a violence in the workplace event and how to put together a case file to protect your members. If you are wanting to attend, contact your branch president immediately and have them reach out to RAA John Robles immediately as well.

What does the future hold?

While we are still working through contract negotiations at the national level and will hopefully have a contract for the members to vote on or proceed towards arbitration, your state officers are working hard for you behind the scenes. COSALC will be working on updating new ways in 2024 to keep members connected to what's happening at a moment's notice. Currently, we have the Stay Connected thread also combined with the NALC Region 4 NBA's office, Facebook, Instagram and X (formally known as Twitter). If you aren't following us on these formats, please do so. We will have updated links on the home page of our website, **www.cosalc.org**, so you can easily locate them and connect.

We want to make the most of your time and ours. What works for you? Please reach out to any of your state officers and let them know what platforms work for you. We created the 'Coffee with COSALC' Zoom calls that occur every other Thursday from 7am-8am. Have you joined us? If you are interested in joining us, send an email to **coffee@cosalc.org** to be included and you will be sent the link each session. The sessions are a great place to ask questions and get necessary information. We are also usually joined by RAA John Robles every session to get information from the NBA's office.