The fifth regular cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for career letter carriers under the 2016-2019 National Agreement (GoS) annually following the release of the July 2017 Consumer Price Index (CPI) (RSC Q4). It will be added to every step in Table 1 and Step O in Table 2, and then applied proportionately to Steps A through H in Table 2 (see chart at bottom right). The increase will be effective Sept. 1, 2018, and reflected on paychecks Sept. 21.

Stewart promoted to HBP

Central Iowa Merged Branch 352 member Stephanie Stewart has been named director of the Health Benefit Plan (HBP) following the retirement of Director Brian Hellman. NALC President Fred Rolando appointed Stewart to complete Hellman’s term after detailing her to the HBP. Previously, Stewart was a regional assistant (RRA) for Region 5 (Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas). She began her letter carrier career in Des Moines, IA, in 1995. She served in numerous roles for the union, including as Branch 352 first vice president, vice president and president, before Rolando appointed her as RRA in 2015. Stewart graduated from Leadership Academy Class 5 in May 2018.

Rolando also appointed David Teegarden of Kansas City, MO Branch 31 as Region 5 RAA to fill the vacancy left by Stewart. Teegarden began his postal career salary as a part-time flexible (PTP). He has served as a steward, arbitrator, branch 352 vice president, and vice president. In 2015, President Rolando appointed him as a regional workers’ compensation assistant (RWCA). To fill the RWCA vacancy left by Teegarden, President Rolando appointed Larissa Parde of Lincoln, NE Branch II.

NALC members continue push for House Resolution 993

In mid-July, a bipartisan group of 50 representatives introduced House Resolution 993, which calls on Congress to take all necessary measures to ensure that the Postal Service remains an independent entity of the federal government and not be subject to privatization. The introduction of the sense-of-the-House measure by Reps. Rodney Davis (R-IL) and Stephen Lynch (D-MA) came in response to the Office of Management and Budget’s proposal and restructuring plan titled “Delivering Government Solutions in the 21st Century.” The report, which takes direct aim at numerous agencies, calls for privatizing the Postal Service.

NALC members have contacted their representatives requesting they co-sponsor the resolution. As this Bulletin was going to press, 130 House members had co-sponsored the resolution, but 218 co-sponsors are needed to achieve a majority. To send a strong message to Congress and the administration that any attempt to privatize the Postal Service will not be welcomed, NALC will continue to contact their representatives and ask them to sign on to H. Res. 993. You can find more information about the resolution and about contacting your representative on the NALC Member App for smartphones or online at NALC’s Government Affairs page.