



July 21st, 2026

Brothers & Sisters,

On May 28, 1994, I began my career as a Letter Carrier in Chicago, IL. I was proud to join our union on day one and become part of NALC Branch 11. I started attending meetings regularly at the old union hall at 1411 S. Michigan. I liked to sit up in the balcony. We used to have the North Side vs. South Side softball game every year at Thillens stadium, and my steward would take us out for pizza afterwards. She never wanted to keep any of the meager stipend she received from the Branch. In 2000, I became the steward and I've been going to every branch event I could - parties, MDA events, picnics, meetings, trainings, Balls and conventions - ever since.

When I ran for National Business Agent in 2014 and won, my branch was ecstatic. At least most of the members were. 367 members from my own branch voted for my opponent in that election. Of course, 1,466 voted for me so you could definitely say, "my branch supported me". Which brings me to 2026, and the current election for president of the NALC. I know I have a ton of support in my branch. Many of you went out of your way to tell me so in the last week. People I carried mail with at Ravenswood where I started, or 22nd St. where I carry at now, or even Cicero where I was at until I found out how many stairs those routes had! And then there's the people that I helped in some way over the years or those that know me so well now that we're like family. And, in 2022 I orchestrated the arbitration award that made the Postal Service pay the Branch \$2500 for every subsequent Cease and Desist violation that occurred, making us millionaires overnight! I get some love for that for sure.

But this is why I've grown weary of all the "slate" maneuvering, the coming together of people from different areas to dictate to the members who they should or shouldn't vote for. We are a proud "one member, one vote" union. The members that want to vote against me get the same chance that the ones that want to see me as the next president get. If you run for office on a "slate", do you lose the right to form your own opinion? Are you obligated to vote for every single person in that "slate of candidates"? I believe we're better than that. As a fraternal union of letter carriers – **vote for who you want** family!

The answer to our problems is not to run the same playbook over and over. A playbook that says we must defend the same status quo that is drowning us, while telling us the ambition to even try for change is foolish. I reject that thought process and I hope you do too.

I love you Branch 11 and wholeheartedly thank you for the support that you have given me throughout the years. I thank the officers for the attached letter of support as well. But seriously, if you want to vote for someone else that's ok! Your vote is still your vote. A secret vote at that!

Fraternally Yours,

Mike

Michael B. Caref

July 18, 2026

On August 1, 2024, the members of Branch 11 voted to endorse Region 3 Business Agent and Branch 11-member, Mike Caref for his NALC National Presidential candidacy. Branch 11's endorsement came after the executive board met, endorsed, and unanimously voted to support Mike on June 5, 2024.

To date, the aforementioned endorsement and Branch 11 Officers' support for Mike Caref as NALC President remain unyielding, as evidenced by the signatures that follow below:

Elise M. Foster, President



Dominique O. White, Health Benefit Rep



Ronald L. Morgan, Vice-President



Robert Fuentes, Trustee



Yolanda R. Cavett, Recording Secretary

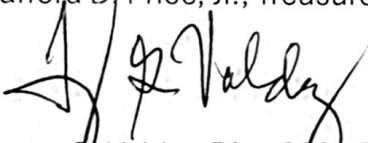
Karen Ceska, Trustee



Stafford D. Price, Jr., Treasurer



Derek Sykes, Trustee



Tyrone G. Valdez, Dir. of City Del./S&H Rep



Erika Estrada, Auditors



James (Opie) Williams, Asst. Sec'y-Treas.



Shanaya Benson, Auditors

Sheila D. Hudson, M.B.A. Rep.



Charles L. Bundy, Auditors



Brina M. Archie, Sergeant-At-Arms