

Watson appointed as retirees dir.; Other promotions at Headquarters

With the retirement of NALC Director of Retired Members Ernie Kirkland at the end of March, NALC President Fredric Rolando appointed former Assistant to the President for Compensation Ron Watson as the NALC Director of Retired Members effective April 1.

Kirkland, a member of Central Kentucky Bluegrass Branch 361, was first elected president of that branch in 1978. He was appointed part-time regional administrative assistant for Region 6 in 1996, and was appointed as a full-time RAA for the region in 2000. He held that post until his election by acclamation as head of the union's Retired Members Department at the 2006 national convention in Las Vegas and was re-elected in 2010.

"I know I speak for the entire Executive Council and the many members Ernie has assisted throughout his career in wishing him health and happiness in his well-deserved retirement," Rolando said.

Watson was president of Corvallis, OR Branch 1274 for more than 10 years, as well as a part-time RAA and a local business agent until 1999, when he became a full-time RAA in Region 2. In April 2004, NALC President William Young named Watson as assistant to the president for compensation, where he served until his retirement in December 2006. He is an acknowledged expert on federal workers' compensation issues, and has continued to work on these issues for NALC as the need has arisen, including in testimony before congressional committees.

With the appointment of Watson, the Retired Members Department will have oversight over the Compensation Department.

"Ron has a long history of tirelessly assisting NALC members throughout his career, and will be a welcome addition to our headquarters team," Rolando said.



As NALC's expert on workers' compensation issues, Ron Watson was called to testify before a Senate hearing in July 2011.

Legislative promotions

Also on April 1, NALC's national field director for the last four years, Meaghan Slater, was promoted to political director, replacing Tucker McDonald, who left the NALC at the end of March to take a position at the American Federation of Government Employees. Slater, who started with the NALC as a regional field coordinator in 2006, takes on the role of advising Rolando on how congressional candidates stand on letter carrier issues and how best to allocate funds from COLCPE to candidates' campaigns and other projects.

Taking Slater's place as national field director is Jeremy Goldberg, who has been the RFC for the northeast region since 2009. He will coordinate the other RFCs in their grassroots activities across the country.

"Both Meaghan and Jeremy have shown great ability in helping further the NALC legislative agenda, and I know they will continue to do so in their new roles," President Rolando said. **PR**



Meaghan Slater



Jeremy Goldberg