



National Association  
of Letter Carriers

Fredric V. Rolando, President  
January 15, 2010 No. 10-01

# NALC Bulletin

100 Indiana Ave. NW Washington, DC 20001-2144 202.393.4695 www.nalc.org

## NALC and Organized Labor Succeed In Obtaining Critical Improvements To Congressional Health Reform Bill

### Rolando Says Legislation Moving Through Congress Provides 'Significant Progress' for American Workers

The NALC and much of the labor movement, led by AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, have been successful in negotiating an agreement with the Obama administration and congressional leaders to significantly improve the financing provisions of pending health care reform legislation that will expand coverage to 30 – 35 million Americans who today lack health insurance.

The measure would also reform the discriminatory practices of the private health insurance industry, improve both Medicare and Medicare Part D, and make a serious attempt to rein in skyrocketing health care costs. Despite its \$90 billion-a-year pricetag, the reform would reduce the federal budget deficit while protecting the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program (FEHBP), which provides health insurance for NALC members and their families.

Major issues still remain to be resolved between the House and Senate versions of the legislation, but a vote on final passage could come before President Obama's State of the Union message in February.

**"Although this compromise legislation is disappointing to those of us who support a single-payer system or a strong public insurance option, it nevertheless represents significant progress for working Americans," said NALC President Fred Rolando. "The bill will benefit letter carriers specifically by covering the uninsured members of their families and helping to keep the cost of health care from soaring out of control."**

The most contentious sticking point for NALC and the labor movement in general concerned a proposed excise tax on high-cost health plans slated to begin in 2013.

Originally targeted at family plans costing more than \$13,000 per year (and self-only plans costing more than \$6,500), this 40 percent levy on health plans was included in the Senate bill as a way to finance reform and to discourage excessive spending on health care. But it threatened to unfairly tax union health plans that were costly – not because of overly generous benefits, but because of demographic and geographical factors.

Thanks to relentless lobbying by NALC and other unions, the tax thresholds were increased first to \$23,000 and \$8,500 in the Senate and then to \$24,000 and \$8,900 as a result of the White House agreement reached by the AFL-CIO on January 14. Those thresholds will also be adjusted upwards to account for age and gender differences and to account for any surge in health care inflation between now and 2013. Furthermore, dental and vision coverage will no longer be counted against the threshold, effectively raising the levels by as much as an additional \$2,000. In addition, the AFL-CIO deal secured an exemption for collectively bargained health plans through 2017, an exemption that may or may not cover bargaining unit postal employees with FEHBP plans.

"We had hoped to get rid of the excise tax altogether," Rolando acknowledged, "but since the average cost of FEHBP plans (\$13,000 for family and \$6,900 for self-only) falls far below the new thresholds, our plans will not be taxed for the foreseeable future."

"We are still concerned that the indexing of the thresholds is inadequate," he added, "since health care premiums have traditionally risen much faster than inflation and FEHBP plans like the NALC HBP could be hit by the tax sometime in the next decade."

Under the law, the thresholds for the tax will rise by the increase in the Consumer Price Index plus 1 percentage point. "Fortunately, we will have 10 years to fix the indexing provisions of the law or repeal the tax altogether," Rolando said.

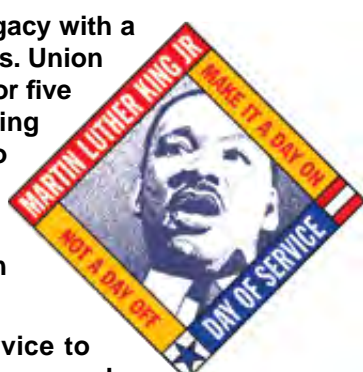
## Martin Luther King Holiday a 'Day of Service'

Letter carriers will join Americans from all walks of life on the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. federal holiday Monday, January 18, in observance of a National Day of Service in honor of the slain civil rights leader.

The AFL-CIO is having a weekend-long national celebration of Dr. King's legacy with a call for the White House and Congress to adopt meaningful job creation policies. Union members from around the country are gathering in Greensboro, North Carolina for five days of activities, including community service projects, a jobs town hall meeting and workshops and commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Greensboro sit-ins.

Across the country, working Americans will hold roundtables, marches and rallies to remind members of Congress that Dr. King's vision for the nation included not only civil rights but also economic justice for all Americans.

In 1994, Congress dedicated the federal holiday as a national day of service to strengthen communities and achieve common goals in meeting national challenges such as poverty, economic insecurity, illiteracy, hunger, and environmental degradation. Suggested types of service include preparing and delivering meals, refurbishing schools and community centers, collecting food and clothing, removing graffiti and cleaning neighborhoods, reading to children, and training mentors and tutors for youth.



## CLUW Advances Cervical Cancer Awareness

The Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) wants women to know that cervical cancer – the second leading cancer in women worldwide – is preventable with the Pap test, the HPV (human papillomavirus) test and the HPV vaccine. It has joined as a partner in the Pearl of Wisdom Campaign to Prevent Cervical Cancer, spreading the word to share with their mothers, daughters, sisters and friends.

In January, National Cervical Cancer Awareness Month, the Pearl of Wisdom campaign is urging women to "Take the Pearl Pledge" to schedule their annual gynecologic examination; tell five friends about their pledge and ask them to join them; and wear a Pearl of Wisdom in support of cervical cancer prevention.

Women can visit [www.PearlofWisdom.us/Pledge](http://www.PearlofWisdom.us/Pledge) to participate. The Pearl of Wisdom campaign aims to secure 4,070 pledges by Mother's Day (May 9). This is the same number of U.S. women who were projected to die of cervical cancer in 2009. Women can wear their own pearls to participate, or they can purchase a Pearl of Wisdom pin through the campaign. All proceeds go to the U.S. Pearl of Wisdom Campaign fund, which supports U.S.-based cervical cancer prevention activities.

Formed in 1974, CLUW is a nonpartisan organization for union women within the union movement with members from 54 international and national unions across the United States and Canada. CLUW is endorsed by the AFL-CIO.

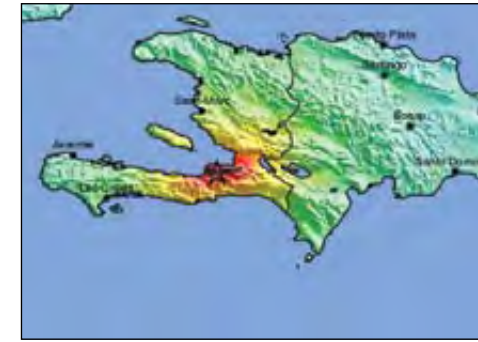
**(For more information on cervical cancer prevention, see CLUW's 'Cervical Cancer Prevention Works' program at [www.cluw.org/cervcancer.html](http://www.cluw.org/cervcancer.html).)**



## Rolando Urges NALC Membership To Give to Haiti Earthquake Relief

One of the greatest natural disasters in history has devastated the Caribbean island nation of Haiti and the people there are in desperate need.

NALC President Fred Rolando noted that while the extent of the loss of life, injuries and total destruction in Haiti is unknown, it surely will be of unbelievable magnitude, surpassing Hurricane Katrina, possibly the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, and potentially be among the highest death tolls ever.



USGS Map

**"As help rushes from this country to our nearby neighbor, our thoughts and prayers go out to all who have died, suffered injury or seen their lives shaken to the core by this horrific earthquake," Rolando said. "Letter carriers have a great tradition of helping those in need, and now I ask that you join me in making a commitment of hope to these victims by sending a generous charitable donation."**

Those interested in providing volunteer personal assistance should contact the Center for International Disaster Information at [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) and (703) 276-1914.

The AFL-CIO has identified several charitable organizations that are providing aid to Haiti. Donations may be made to:

- **American Red Cross International Response Fund:** [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org), or toll-free at 1-800-REDCROSS. Contributions also can be mailed to American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37243, Washington, DC. 20013 or to your local American Red Cross chapter.
- **RN Response Network:** [www.NationalNursesUnited.org](http://www.NationalNursesUnited.org).
- **United Way Worldwide Disaster Fund:** <https://volunteer.united-e-way.org/uwwwdisaster/donate/> or mail checks with the Fund reference to United Way Worldwide, P.O. Box 630568, Baltimore, MD 21263-0568.
- **The Solidarity Center Emergency Relief Fund:** [www.solidaritycenter.org](http://www.solidaritycenter.org).
- **Partners in Health:** [www.pih.org/inforesources/news/Haiti\\_Earthquake.html](http://www.pih.org/inforesources/news/Haiti_Earthquake.html) or send to Partners in Health, P.O. Box 845578, Boston, MA 02284-5578.
- **Doctors Without Borders:** [www.doctorswithoutborders.org](http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org), or toll-free at 1-888-392-0392. USA Headquarters: 333 7th Avenue, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10001-5004.

## Rural Carriers Become National Partner In NALC 'Stamp Out Hunger' Food Drive

### New 'Family Circus' Artwork Arrives for May 8 Promotion

The National Rural Letter Carriers' Association (NRLCA), which has been a longtime supporter of the NALC National Food Drive in many locales across the country, has accepted an invitation by NALC President Fred Rolando to become a full national partner in the May 8 drive to "Stamp Out Hunger."

With the new national role, NRLCA will assist NALC and the drive's other co-sponsors in promoting the volunteer collection of non-perishable food on the second Saturday in May, encourage increased participation by rural carriers in the effort, and help deliver donations to local food banks, pantries and shelters.



NRLCA's logo will appear on national publications and other promotional materials of the drive alongside those of the other national partners: the U.S. Postal Service; Campbell Soup Company; Valpak; the AFL-CIO; United Way Worldwide and its local United Ways; and Feeding America, the nation's food bank network.

Announcement of the new alliance between NALC and the NRLCA came as famed newspaper cartoonists Bil and Jeff Keane again provided the drive with special artwork to help alert citizens of the May 8 collection.

Hundreds of NALC branches have already registered to participate in the food drive which stands on the cusp of breaking the 1 billion-pound mark in donations over the history of the 18-year-old humanitarian effort.

As the *NALC Bulletin* went to press, the number of registered branches for the 2010 drive stood at 474. Branches that have not yet registered are urged to as soon as possible in order that materials can be sent to them to assist in their local drive. **There is a January 25 deadline for receipt of branch registration forms.**

NRLCA President Don Cantriel, in advising President Rolando of his union's action, said the NRLCA was eager to be more involved in helping to fight hunger in America.

**"After several years of participating in the NALC food drive in a very limited capacity, the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association is extremely excited by the invitation from President Rolando and the NALC to have a greater role in the NALC food drive," Cantriel said. "We look forward to becoming a more active partner in the whole process and working closely with our brothers and sisters of the NALC for a very worthy cause."**

President Rolando, noting the severe situation that still exists in the nation's economy and resultant jump in the number of food insecure Americans to more than 49 million, has asked all branches to redouble their efforts to surpass last year's record collection of 73.4 million pounds, and push past the 1 billion-pound mark since the national drive began in 1993.

"There are millions and millions of fellow Americans who do not have jobs right now, or if they do, the wages are low, the benefits meager, and the security non-existent," Rolando said. "Members of our great union have come to their aid in the past, and we must do it again. I urge all branches – however small or large – to sign up and be part of this great humanitarian effort on May 8."

Questions regarding the food drive should be directed to Drew Von Bergen, national coordinator, at [vonbergen@nalc.org](mailto:vonbergen@nalc.org).



## Compensation Act 2010 COLA – 3.3 Percent

The 2010 cost-of-living adjustment for Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) participants will be 3.3 percent based on the December Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) released by the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics on January 15.

The FECA COLA adjustment is based on the increase in the CPI-W between December 2008 and December 2009, and will be effective March 1. FECA COLAs are applicable only in cases where death or disability occurred more than one year prior to the adjustment's effective date.

There was no projected accumulation yet for the sixth regular cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) under the 2006-2011 National Agreement, nor any projected accumulation toward the 2011 retirees COLA.

The December CPI-W at 630.600 was still below the base month level of 644.303 for July 2008. The sixth COLA, if any, will be based on CPI-W data in the report for January 2010, released in February.

Because there was no COLA adjustment for 2010, the 2011 retiree COLA will be based on the increase in the average CPI-W between the third quarter of 2008 and the third quarter of 2010.





National Association  
of Letter Carriers

Fredric V. Rolando, President  
January 29, 2010 No. 10-2



# NALC Bulletin

100 Indiana Ave. NW Washington, DC 20001-2144 202.393.4695 www.nalc.org

## ***Bolsters NALC Assertion!***

# Report Shows USPS Overcharged By \$75 Billion in Pension Liability

## Funds Could Be Used to Prepay Retiree Health Benefits

A special report by the USPS Office of Inspector General strengthens the case that NALC has made over the past three years that the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) badly miscalculated the postal surplus in the Civil Service Retirement Fund, money that could resolve much of the Postal Service's short-term financial woes.

The OIG's investigative research unit report shows USPS was overcharged an astounding \$75 billion for pension liabilities that should have been paid for by the U.S. Treasury, since they relate to service performed before USPS was created in 1971. This means the onerous prefunding schedule included in the 2006 Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act is grossly inflated, since OPM shortchanged the Postal Service Retiree Health Fund in 2007, when the agency transferred the surplus into the fund.

NALC President Fred Rolando welcomed the OIG report and said the union would make sure that the finding and recommendations are brought to the attention of every member of Congress.

**"This report by the Postal Service's own internal agency provides a easily discernable pathway toward a solid future for the Service, meeting its pension and health benefits obligations, and giving postal stakeholders the time needed to develop a blueprint for long-term continued service to the American people," Rolando said.**

The study shows the current system of funding the Postal Service's Civil Service Retirement System pension responsibility is inequitable and has resulted in USPS overpaying \$75 billion to the pension fund.

The OIG estimates that if the overcharge was used to prepay the Postal Service's health benefits fund, it would fully meet all of the Postal Service's accrued retiree health care liabilities and eliminate the need for the required annual payments of more than \$5 billion. Also, the health benefits fund could immediately start meeting its intended purpose — paying the annual payment for current retirees, which was \$2 billion in 2009.

The report said this is the third time the Postal Service has been overcharged. In 2002 it was determined the Postal Service would overfund CSRS by \$78 billion. Legislation in 2003 corrected this overfunding. Then it was determined the Postal Service was overcharged \$27 billion for CSRS military service credits. In 2006 these funds were returned to the Postal Service by Congress, and the surplus was used to fund retiree health care liabilities.

The OIG study, "The Postal Service's Share of CSRS Pension Responsibilities," undertaken in conjunction with the Hay Group, is the third paper sponsored by the OIG that delves into the financial entanglements between the Postal Service and the federal government — generally at the expense of the Postal Service.

**The latest report said the Postal Service was overcharged by \$75 billion for payments to CSRS retirees from 1972 to 2009.**

"The OIG suggests that this amount be returned to the Postal Service's CSRS pension fund. Any excess above what is needed to fund CSRS liabilities could then be transferred to the Postal Service's retiree health care fund, which would fully fund its health care liability and eliminate the need for further congressionally required payments to the fund. All of the Postal Service's current pension and health care obligations to its employees would then be fully funded," USPS said.

*Further details and a link to the full report can be found on the NALC website: [www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org).*

## USPS Computer Problem Delays NALC Dues Increase; Problem Expected to be Fixed by Pay Period 3-2010

Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Broendel alerts members and branch leaders of a computer error reported by the Postal Service's Data Center in Eagan, Minnesota that affected the dues withholding of some 56,000 members in Pay Period 1 of 2010.

Broendel said that as a result of the computer's processing error, the increase in NALC dues scheduled for Pay Period 1 of 2010 was not implemented for more than one-fourth of the NALC's membership.

The Postal Service expects to correct the error in Pay Period 3.

The union's Membership Department at NALC Headquarters is working with the Postal Service to make NALC and its branches whole for any loss of dues income due to the error. In addition, special adjustments in dues requested by individual branches will now be delayed until Pay Period 6.

NALC properly submitted the data needed to implement the new dues amounts in a timely manner, but nonetheless regrets any inconvenience to branches and members.

# More Than 1,000 Branches Registered for Food Drive

## New Survey Shows Extent of Hunger Problem

With still more than three months until the annual NALC National Food Drive on May 8, more than 1,000 NALC branches have already sent in their registration forms to participate in the nation's largest one-day effort to help needy families and "Stamp Out Hunger."



The demonstrated enthusiasm also indicates that this year — the 18th since the nationwide drive began in 1993 — will be the time when letter carriers break through the 1 billion-pound level in total donations delivered to community food banks, pantries and shelters.

And the time for a highly successful drive could not be more urgent.

On January 26, the respected Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) released a report showing that Americans in every congressional district and virtually all large metropolitan areas were struggling to afford enough food for their families.

The report showed that food hardship — running out of money to buy the food that families need — which stood at 16.3 percent of respondent households in the first quarter of 2008 was at 18.5 percent in the fourth quarter of 2009. It was even worse for households with children, jumping from 14.9 percent to 24.1 percent.

FRAC President Jim Weill said the report, based on a Gallup survey, shows that food hardship "is truly a national problem." FRAC is a Washington-based non-profit organization working to eradicate hunger and undernutrition in America.

As this issue of the *NALC Bulletin* went to press, registration forms for the 2010 food drive had been received from 1,052 branches.

**Branch presidents who have not yet registered, or may have not received or misplaced the registration form, can still register by quickly sending in the form mailed to all branches, or by filling out the Alternate Form below and returning it to NALC headquarters, or by emailing the requested information to [vonbergen@nalc.org](mailto:vonbergen@nalc.org).**

Within a few weeks, a new 2010 food drive packet will be sent via Priority Mail to all registered food drive coordinators containing the forms for ordering Campbell Soup-U.S. Postal Service Priority Mail postcards to alert citizens of the drive; a new video on the drive; a new full-color poster that can be purchased in bulk at cost; information on mailing of special Valpak envelopes promoting the drive; information on special websites and social media connections related to the drive; and camera-ready artwork featuring the 2010 "Family Circus" cartoon about the drive.

National partners with the NALC in this year's drive are the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, U.S. Postal Service's Priority Mail, Campbell Soup Company, Valpak direct marketing, United Way Worldwide and its local United Ways, the AFL-CIO, and Feeding America, the nation's food bank network.

In 2009, the NALC drive set a new record of 73.4 million pounds in non-perishable donations, bringing the total for the 17 years of the drive to 982.7 million pounds.

**A list of registered food drive branches will be available on the Food Drive page of the NALC website: [www.nalc.org/commun/fooddrive/index.html](http://www.nalc.org/commun/fooddrive/index.html). Questions regarding the food drive should be directed to Drew Von Bergen, national coordinator, at [vonbergen@nalc.org](mailto:vonbergen@nalc.org).**

## 18th Annual NALC National Food Drive Alternate Registration Form

Branch # \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Branch Food Drive Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Office Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

Branch President

Return IMMEDIATELY to: NALC National Food Drive; 100 Indiana Ave. NW;  
Washington DC 20001-2144; or fax to (202) 737-1540 – and mail in a backup copy.





National Association  
of Letter Carriers

Fredric V. Rolando, President

February 12, 2010 No. 10-3



# NALC Bulletin

100 Indiana Ave. NW Washington, DC 20001-2144 202.393.4695 www.nalc.org

## President Obama's FY 2011 Budget Backs Continued Six-Day Delivery Pledge to Work for Strengthened Postal Service

President Obama's Fiscal 2011 budget proposal to Congress requires the continuation of six-day delivery by the U.S. Postal Service. The Obama administration also promised to work with postal unions and other stakeholders to keep the Postal Service strong for years to come.

In setting the amount in the budget for "revenue forgone" -- to cover the costs of free and reduced rate mail -- the spending plan says payments will be made "provided that 6-day delivery and rural delivery of mail shall continue at not less than the 1983 level...."

The proposal, submitted to Congress on February 1, also states:

"The Administration will work with the Postal Service, its employee unions, the Congress, and other stakeholders to make sure the Postal Service has the tools and authorities it needs to remain viable as a pillar of the American economy and a vital public resource through the current crisis and over the long haul."

Language in a separate section, however, proposes changes in the Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) that could be a problem. The NALC is checking the possible ramifications of those proposals and will act to protect letter carriers' interests.

Further information, including a link to the appropriate Budget language, is available on the union's Website: [www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org).

## First Class Service Praised Despite \$297 Million Loss

The Postal Service on February 9 reported that it had a net loss of \$297 million in the first quarter of this fiscal year, despite high scores in delivery performance.

"In spite of the financial challenges we face today, Postal Service employees never lose sight that customer service is our top priority," said Postmaster General John E. Potter, noting that on-time delivery for single-piece overnight First-Class Mail held at 96 percent for the fifth straight quarter.

"It's a tremendous result and we are proud to provide the highest levels of service to our customers," Potter said.

## Obama: Postal Privatization a 'Bad Idea'

In a citizen question-and-answer interview on YouTube, President Obama made clear that he **does not** support privatization of the U.S. Postal Service.



Obama, in answer to a question, said privatization of government services is "a bad idea most of the time" — and definitely a bad idea when it comes to the U.S. Postal Service."

The President said private firms like Fedex and UPS, would love to handle profitable deliveries, such as business-to-business, but he added that "those companies would not want to provide universal service" such as delivery of a postcard to a remote location.

A link to the YouTube interview is available on the union's Website: [www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org).

## Baseball Night Ticket Order Form



Los Angeles vs. Kansas City Royals  
Tuesday night - August 10, 2010



I would like to order the following tickets for my branch (delegates, spouses, children) for the Baseball Night game at the 67th NALC Biennial Convention in Anaheim (Checks should be made out to: Secretary-Treasurer, NALC).

(Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_ Reserved tickets @ special NALC price of \$10 each (payment encl..) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Branch # \_\_\_\_\_

Branch City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Name and phone # of person picking up

Branch tickets at convention: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Return the form as soon as possible, with a check or money order for full payment, to:  
NALC Baseball Night; 100 Indiana Ave., NW; Washington, DC 20001-2144

## 'Snowmageddon' Reinforces Letter Carriers As Heroes of United States Postal Service

### Some Deliveries Interrupted, but Most Get Through As East Coast Blizzards Close Federal Government

When Herodotus was talking about 'Neither snow nor rain, nor heat nor gloom of night ... etc.' it is doubtful he had in mind the kind of blizzards that swept along the East Coast during the past week, challenging normal life from Washington to Boston.



The Washington Post featured NALC member Jason Herald (insert) on its front page coverage of the blizzard that struck the East Coast. (Photo by Dayna Smith/The Washington Post)

This might be a normal day in Buffalo or some of the Plains States, but in Washington, DC it literally paralyzed everything, including the federal government, which shut down offices for four days. It had such an effect that President Obama dubbed it "Snowmageddon."

At the height of the blizzard, mail delivery was briefly suspended in Washington, DC, Philadelphia and Baltimore and numerous other smaller cities and towns.

But despite the conditions, letter carriers heroically did everything they could possibly do to make sure that mail got delivered to homes and businesses along their routes. And it was not missed on the general public or on the news media.

Once again, letter carriers were the face of what the public loves about the U.S. Postal Service

— dedication, public service, resilience, and simply going above and beyond what anyone would expect.

The persistence of letter carrier was so evident that The Washington Post — one of the most respected newspapers in the nation — devoted a huge portion of its front page on February 10 to three photos of NALC Branch 3520 member Jason Herald delivering mail in Fairfax City, Virginia, just south of Washington, DC and then had an article headlined: "Even in snow, mail carriers still manage to deliver."

Herald told the Post that he just escaped an avalanche of snow coming off the roof of a two-story home as he approached the front door.

"I saw it coming at the last second and backed out of the way," Herald said.

Several other newspapers and radio and television stations from the Atlantic Coast to Ohio heralded the dedication of letter carriers and pleaded with postal customers to clear paths in the snow to aid them.

*Union City*, the blog of the Metro Washington AFL-CIO Labor Council, highlighted its report on February 11 on the Post article by reporter Tom Jackman, and noted Herald's NALC membership.

And in McKeesport, Pennsylvania, Postmaster Daniel Lyons told the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* he was very proud of the efforts letter carriers were making.

"I don't think people fully understand just how difficult it is," Lyons said.

### ATTENTION: Branch Presidents!

## Convention Baseball Tickets Available for Branch Orders

The NALC has reserved 7,000 tickets to the Los Angeles Angels-Kansas City Royals baseball game on Tuesday night, August 10 for a special NALC Baseball Night at the 67th Biennial Convention in Anaheim.

President Rolando and other NALC officials will participate in special pre-game ceremony at Angels Stadium prior to the 7:05 p.m. opening pitch.

The tickets are being made available by NALC to its branches at a special reduced price of \$10 per ticket for NALC delegates and family members, which includes bus transportation to and from the game to Convention hotels. Branches must purchase the tickets in block and must include a check for the total cost with their order. Tickets will not be sold individually.

Seating will be allotted on a first-come, first-served basis, based on the date of receipt of full payment. There are no refunds.

To obtain the tickets, mail in the adjacent form together with a check for the entire amount. Branches must designate one individual to pick up the tickets at the special Baseball Booth at Convention Registration.

There is limited handicapped seating at Angels Stadium. Please indicate with your order if any special handicapped seating is needed.

Questions should be directed to Drew Von Bergen, NALC director of public relations, at [vonbergen@nalc.org](mailto:vonbergen@nalc.org).





National Association  
of Letter Carriers

Fredric V. Rolando, President  
February 26, 2010 No. 10-4

# NALC Bulletin

100 Indiana Ave. NW Washington, DC 20001-2144 202.393.4695 www.nalc.org

## Rolando Applauds President For Pushing U.S. Congress To Tackle Health Care Reform

### White House Actions Mitigate Excise Tax, Lack of Public Option

NALC President Fred Rolando applauded President Obama and his administration for not backing down on the politically volatile demand that Congress pass health care reform legislation, calling it “a vital letter carrier issue” that must be resolved to protect families from skyrocketing health insurance costs.

**“President Obama deserves credit for his perseverance to address the health care crisis at a time when so many Americans are losing their employer-provided plans due to the recession,” Rolando said as the White House convened a bipartisan summit to try to arrive at a palatable comprehensive measure to address the nation's need.**

Rolando emphasized that he supports the administration's move to offer a series of amendments to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act passed by the Senate in December (60-39) and reconcile it with similar legislation passed by the House of Representatives last July.

Rolando said slowing down the skyrocketing cost of health care “is vital to the long-term viability of the Postal Service.”

He noted that letter carrier health insurance premiums have doubled over the past 10 years and will double again if reform is not undertaken, urging both political parties in Congress “to work constructively with the White House to get the job done.”

The Obama proposal would not create a new public insurance option, but it would extend coverage to more than 30 million uninsured workers by expanding Medicaid for the working poor and by creating state-based health care exchanges where uninsured workers could buy affordable private insurance at large-group rates in a system modeled on the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program. Under the legislation, insurance plans would be strictly regulated: they would not be able to deny coverage due to pre-existing conditions, discriminate among customers, or unfairly raise rates without justification and they would be required to cover the uninsured children of Americans (up to the age of 26) who choose family coverage.

And although the Obama proposal retains the Senate bill's 40 percent excise tax on high-cost health plans (which NALC and other unions strongly object to) as a means to restrain cost growth, it mitigates the potential negative impact of the tax by raising the thresholds above which the tax applies from \$23,000 to \$27,500 for family plans and from \$8,500 to \$10,200 for self-only plans. The proposal extends the five-year grace period negotiated by the labor movement for plans covering union workers to all plans — pushing back the implementation date of the tax to 2018. It also provides for raising the thresholds further in 2018 if health inflation exceeds expectations and, beyond 2018, to adjust for gender and age factors that often increase the cost of plans. After 2018, the thresholds will be indexed to inflation plus one per cent.

**“These changes make it very unlikely that letter carrier plans will be hit by the tax,” Rolando observed. “We can work to eliminate the tax in favor of better cost-containment strategies in the future.”**

Like the House and Senate bills, the Obama plan is largely paid for by reducing the wasteful subsidies to private plans offered through Medicare Advantage and by requiring employers to buy insurance for their employees or pay into a fund to help low-wage workers purchase affordable insurance. It is also fiscally responsible since it will reduce the federal deficit by more than \$100 billion over the next 10 years and by a trillion dollars in the following 10 years. This is achieved even though the White House amendments eliminate the so-called “donut hole” in the Medicare Part D prescription drug program that straps the finances of many elderly patients who have very high drug bills.

## NALC Backs Bargaining Rights For TSA Airport Security Officers

### Urges President Obama to ‘Do the Right Thing’; Supports AFGE Bid for Representation Vote

NALC President Fredric V. Rolando joined labor leaders on February 23 in a rally outside of AFL-CIO Headquarters urging President Obama to “do the right thing” and grant collective bargaining rights to 40,000 transportation security officers who screen passengers at our nation's airports.



NALC President Fred Rolando tells February 23 rally that President Obama should allow government transportation security officers to have collective bargaining rights. (Photo by Mark Sims)

With the White House in sight less than two blocks away, Rolando told several hundred demonstrators that 2010 marks 40 years since letter carriers and other postal employees won the kind of collective bargaining rights that workers at the Transportation Security Agency (TSA) now seek.

“The stability and productivity that resulted from those 40 years of bargaining (by postal employees) have made the Postal Service the most trusted agency in the federal government,” Rolando said. “The brothers and sisters who serve as transportation security officers have earned the trust of the American people and deserve the same rights that postal employees enjoy.”

**“NALC calls on President Obama to do the right thing for the hard-working men and women at the TSA who keep us safe every day: Give them bargaining rights and let the American Federation of Government Employees organize them immediately,” Rolando added, pledging NALC's “unending solidarity with the AFGE and with America's transportation security officers.”**

The demonstration had been arranged by AFGE, which a day earlier filed a petition with the Federal Labor Relations Authority for an election to allow the 40,000 TSA officers to vote on union representation. The Bush administration in 2003 stripped the workers of bargaining rights.

“It is way past time for the Obama administration to give the (transportation security officers) their right to bargain collectively and hold their election so they can sit down at the table with management, start the negotiations and change their lives for the better,” said AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Arlene Holt Baker.

### Convention Registration Delayed by Blizzards!

Secretary-Treasurer Jane Broendel reports that due to the back-to-back blizzards that hit the Washington, D.C. area, convention delegate registration is running behind schedule by approximately one week.

“NALC headquarters is working to catch up on the backlog of convention delegate registrations received from branches,” she said. “The registration packets have been kept in date order so they will be processed in the same order as they arrived.”



## Baseball Tickets Going Fast!

NALC branches throughout the country are ordering reserved tickets at a fast pace for a special Baseball Night during the 67th NALC National Convention in Anaheim, California, this August. As the *NALC Bulletin* went to press, 1,287 tickets had already been ordered and paid for, with additional orders arriving daily at NALC Headquarters.



Angels Stadium in Anaheim, California, will be the site of the NALC Convention Baseball Night August 10 for the game between the Los Angeles Angels and the Kansas City Royals. (Photo by Alan Penner)

The union has reserved 7,000 tickets to the Los Angeles Angels-Kansas City Royals game on Tuesday night, August 10. The event will also feature a special first pitch ceremony with NALC President Fred Rolando at Angels Stadium prior to the 7:05 p.m. start time.

**The reduced-price tickets are available to NALC branches at a cost of \$10 per ticket for NALC delegates and family members, which includes bus transportation between the game and Convention hotels.**

Branches must purchase the tickets in block and must include a check for the total cost with their order. Tickets will not be sold individually. Seating will be allotted on a first come-first served basis, based on the date of receipt of full payment at NALC Headquarters. There are no refunds.

To obtain tickets, mail the form that was included in the February 12 *NALC Bulletin*, and include with it a check (made out to “Secretary-Treasurer, NALC”) for the entire amount. Branches must designate one individual to pick up the tickets at the special baseball booth at convention registration. The forms and checks should be mailed to: NALC Baseball Night; 100 Indiana Ave., NW; Washington, DC 20001-2144.

There is limited handicapped seating at Angels Stadium. Please indicate with your order if any special handicapped seating is needed.

Questions should be directed to Drew Von Bergen, NALC Director of Public Relations, at (202) 662-2489 or [vonbergen@nalc.org](mailto:vonbergen@nalc.org).

## Food Drive Branches Near 1,300; USPS Urges Cooperative Effort

Nearly 1,300 NALC branches have signed up as participants in the 18th annual NALC National Food Drive on Saturday, May 8 — the largest one-day food drive in the nation, which helps stock local food banks, pantries and shelters in all 50 states and U.S. jurisdictions and has become an icon in the effort to “Stamp Out Hunger.”

As this issue of the *NALC Bulletin* went to press, registration forms for the 2010 food drive had been received from 1,287 branches, along with many rural-only post offices.

**A special Priority Mail packet for branch food drive coordinators is in the final stages of completion and is expected to be in the mail to all registered branches during the week of March 1.**

Included in the packet are forms for ordering the Campbell Soup-Priority Mail postcards and official food drive posters. Coordinators are asked to return the postcard order form IMMEDIATELY. The packet also has a new 8½ minute video that includes a message from President Rolando, plus other materials important to the success of every local drive.

As branches worked to prepare for the drive, the two top officials at the Postal Service — Postmaster General John E. Potter and Deputy Postmaster General Patrick R. Donahoe — issued letters supporting the effort.

“Working together, I am confident we will exceed the 1 billion-pound benchmark in donations collected by letter carriers from postal customers to help feed families in need,” Potter said in a letter to President Rolando. “The generosity of our customers and the determination of our employees have never been stronger.”

Separately, Deputy Postmaster General Donahoe sent a letter to all area vice presidents/operations and district managers urging management support of the drive.

**“I encourage you to start planning now — don't wait,” Donahoe said. “Assign the necessary staff and develop your operational and transportation plans to support the food drive.”**

“Please give the food drive your full support, including approval for any appropriate local promotions (such as carriers replacing uniform shirts with the Food Drive T-shirt during the campaign),” Donahoe added.

Questions regarding the food drive should be directed to Drew Von Bergen, national coordinator, at [vonbergen@nalc.org](mailto:vonbergen@nalc.org).

### Your Branch Registered?

To see if your branch is registered for the 2010 NALC National Food Drive, go to the Food Drive page of the NALC website for an updated list of all participating branches as of February 26.

**COMMEMORATE THE 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
1970 POSTAL STRIKE**

**Learn about the dramatic events of the 1970 postal strike that re-shaped the mail service from those who were there.**

Speakers will discuss how the strike changed the mail service and impacted postal employees' lives.

- Vincent R. Sombrotto, president emeritus of the National Association of Letter Carriers
- William Burrus, president of the American Postal Workers Union
- George Gould, former Legislative and Political Director of the National Association of Letter Carriers and director of the House Subcommittee on Postal Operations and Services

After the program, union members are invited to a coffee reception. Please RSVP to [NPMprograms@si.edu](mailto:NPMprograms@si.edu) or 202-633-5528 by March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Watch the event live online at:  
[www.postalmuseum.si.edu/programs](http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/programs)

Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> • 1 p.m.  
Smithsonian National Postal Museum  
Discovery Center

The Museum is located at 2 Massachusetts Ave., NE in Washington, DC, adjacent to the Union Station rail and subway center.

## No COLA for Sixth Contract Period

Due to the continuing weak economy, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for January, released on February 19 by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, reflected insufficient inflation to trigger a cost-of-living adjustment during the sixth COLA period under the 2006-2011 National Agreement. The period ran from July 2009 to January 2010.

**The CPI-W stood at 633.176 in January, still below the 644.303 level attained in July 2008, and therefore there was no COLA adjustment for the sixth period. The next regular COLA period — the seventh under the contract — runs from January to July of this year.**

There also has not yet been any projected accumulation toward the 2011 retiree COLA based on the January CPI-W. Because there was no retiree COLA adjustment for 2010, the 2011 retiree COLA will be based on the increase in the average CPI-W between the third quarter of 2008 (215.5) and the average for the third quarter of 2010 (July, August and September 2010).

The projected accumulation toward the 2011 COLA for Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) participants, which is based on the increase in the CPI-W between December 2009 and December 2010, stands at 0.4 percent through January. As previously reported, the 2010 FECA COLA will be 3.3 percent, payable effective March 1. FECA COLAs are applicable only in cases where death or disability occurred more than one year prior to the adjustment's effective date.





National Association  
of Letter Carriers

Fredric V. Rolando, President  
March 12, 2010 No. 10-5



# NALC Bulletin

100 Indiana Ave. NW Washington, DC 20001-2144 202.393.4695 www.nalc.org

## NALC Battles USPS Plan To End Six-Day Delivery

### Rolando Responds to ‘Plan for the Future’; Says Proposal Would Worsen Bottom Line Thousands of Letter Carrier Jobs in Jeopardy

The NALC reacted quickly when Postmaster General John E. Potter released the Postal Service's seven-point “action plan for the future” in Washington March 3, making sure that Congress, the Obama administration, large mailers and the general public know the disastrous consequences of ending Saturday mail delivery.



President Rolando explains to New Jersey NALC activists March 11 how the union would continue six-day mail delivery and work to resolve the Postal Service's financial difficulties. (Photo by Mike Shea)

Many of the ideas outlined in the action plan — such as repealing the retiree health prefunding requirement by fixing the USPS's overfunding of CSRS pensions and liberating the Postal Service to offer new products and allow pricing flexibility — are ones that NALC embraces.

“Unfortunately, the plan also endorses the elimination of Saturday mail delivery, which the NALC believes is unnecessary and counterproductive,” Rolando said. “Reducing the scope and quality of service will not restore the Postal Service to health — it is likely to drive mailers away and therefore worsen, not improve, the Postal Service's bottom line.”

Rolando noted that many American businesses, such as those that distribute mail order prescription drugs, DVDs and weekly magazines, rely on six-day delivery. The plan also threatens to unnecessarily eliminate thousands of letter carrier jobs at a time when the country faces a severe unemployment crisis.

In a statement to the press immediately after Potter's announcement, Rolando noted that a January report released by the postal Inspector General showed that the USPS was overcharged by \$75 billion for postal pension costs and urged Congress to take immediate steps to correct the error.

**“If Congress takes such action, the Postal Service will have the financial breathing room needed to develop a more successful plan,” Rolando said.**

The PMG's plan received a cool reception from several of the most important lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

### Congress Skeptical

In Maine, the Associated Press reported that Sen. Susan Collins, ranking Republican on the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, which has jurisdiction over postal matters, expressed skepticism about Potter's proposal.

**“The Postal Service should focus on serving the customers better, attracting new customers and increasing volume — not on cutting services,” Collins said, according to the AP. She added that businesses will seek other alternatives if mailing days are cut, further eroding the Postal Service's shrinking mail volume and leading to more severe financial problems.**

**“Saturday is an important delivery day — everything from bank statements and dealing with your bills to the social component of going down to the post office” — Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) ranking Republican on the House Postal Subcommittee.**

“Those are serious changes,” warned Rep. Marcy Kaptur, (D-OH). “There may be businesses that are harmed. There may be hospitals that are harmed (without) Saturday delivery.” She said she would keep an open mind until congressional hearings are held.

The Potter plan, entitled “Ensuring a Viable Postal Service for America,” was put together with the assistance of two consulting companies, the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and McKinsey and Company. BCG produced a forecast of future mail volume that predicts a continued decline from 177 billion pieces in 2009 to 150 billion pieces in 2020, while McKinsey helped the USPS analyze various business strategies and develop its plan.

After the report came out, NALC issued a press release and engaged the news media to defend universal, six-day delivery and the interests of letter carriers and the general public they serve.

**“It is deeply disturbing that the Postal Service appears to be committed to eliminating Saturday service, though Congress would have to approve such a change,” Rolando said. “NALC will fiercely resist this proposal on Capitol Hill.”**

To be successful, the union will need the help of every active and retired letter carrier in the nation. Those who have already signed up as e-Activists will be kept abreast of strategies and plans on a regular basis. Those who have not yet signed up, should do so immediately!

“Don't put this off for a single day. There is no tomorrow. Today is the time we all must act to save the Postal Service for the American public and to save jobs for letter carriers this year and for decades to come,” Rolando said.

### Map Out Strategy

Later in March, the union will hold its annual legislative conference in Washington for all state NALC leaders and a strategy will be mapped out to make sure every lawmaker and all Americans know what is at stake in this ill-conceived proposal.

Some parts of the Postal Service's plan — concerning “workforce flexibility” — will require negotiation with the NALC and the other postal unions at the bargaining table. NALC fully expects to engage the Postal Service in the months and years ahead to find win-win solutions through negotiations.

**“We have proven over the past 18 months that we are capable of adapting and responding to the crisis,” Rolando said. “But we will insist on protecting good quality jobs and Congress must do its part to help stabilize the Postal Service by addressing the pre-funding issue.”**

On March 24, the House Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce, the Postal Service and the District of Columbia will hold a hearing on the Office of Inspector General's report on the postal pension surplus. If correctly calculated and transferred to the Postal Service Retiree Health Fund, the surplus postal funds in the CSRS could significantly reduce or eliminate the pre-funding payments altogether.

NALC is working around the clock with allies in Congress and in the Obama administration to address the financial crisis facing the USPS. Check the union's website [www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org) regularly for more details on the USPS plan and the union's views on its components and to sign up as an e-Activist.

**“I think there's going to be a great deal of negotiation, a lot of haggling ... before plans are actually set in stone” — Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL).**

### The First Step!

## Congress Must Act to End the Obscene \$75 Billion Pension Overcharge on USPS

The proposal by the Postal Service that six-day delivery be eliminated so that the Service can get back to a healthy financial status highlights one glaring point: the gross inequity that Congress and the past administration imposed on USPS regarding retiree health benefits.

“This union is as strong as any in its determination to protect every employee's future retiree health benefits,” said President Rolando. “But this continuing \$5 billion a year pre-funding requirement makes no sense when surplus pension funds could be used to entirely pre-fund these benefits. It is an unconscionable albatross that could lead to the death of the Postal Service as we know it. Congress must immediately terminate this burden and let the Postal Service begin to regain its financial health.”

A special report by the USPS Office of Inspector General strengthens the case NALC has made over the past three years that the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) badly miscalculated the postal surplus in the Civil Service Retirement Fund.

The OIG's investigative research unit report shows USPS was overcharged an astounding \$75 billion for pension liabilities that should have been paid for by the U.S. Treasury, since they relate to service performed before USPS was created in 1971.

This means the onerous pre-funding schedule included in the 2006 Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act is grossly inflated, since OPM shortchanged the Postal Service Retiree Health Fund in 2007, when the agency transferred the surplus into the fund.

Go to [www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org) for a fact sheet and links to the full OIG report.

## New Jersey Leads Off NALC Lobbying Visits



Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ) makes a point at a New Jersey Rap Session March 10 in Washington, DC (top photo) during the state's annual lobbying trip to the nation's capital that allowed NALC activists to tell their lawmakers face to face how they feel about the proposed end of six-day mail delivery. Pictured are (l-r) Vice President George Mignosi, Exec. VP Gary Mullins, President Rolando, Menendez, New Jersey State President Tony Massa, Dir. of Health Benefits Timothy O'Malley, and Region 12 NBA William Lucini. In bottom photos (l-r) Reps. Rush Holt, Donald Payne, John Adler and Bill Pascrell, all (D-NJ), and Rodney Frelinghuysen, (R-NJ), emphasize support for letter carriers' issues at NJSALC congressional breakfast March 11. (Photos by Mike Shea)

## President Rolando Reacts to Twin Editorials In New York Times and Washington Post

On March 11, President Rolando sent letters to *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* in response to lead editorials in both newspapers a day earlier endorsing PMG Potter's call for elimination of six-day delivery and other aspects of the Postal Service's “plan for the future.”

Although the editorials were slightly different in scope (*The Post* was much harsher), Rolando addressed the key points in both responses:

**“No business ever bounced back to health by rushing to offer slower service and turning customers away. Eliminating Saturday delivery would send the wrong message to both citizens and businesses, that this public service is about to get a lot worse. That alone could push away many mailers, including movie and video game distributors, prescription drug companies and magazines.**

**“We agree the Postal Service needs more flexibility to provide new services and win new revenues. But the single most important step Congress could take immediately is to reform the mandate to pre-fund future retiree health care obligations.**

**The worst thing the Congress could do is allow the USPS to drop Saturday delivery instead of fixing the pre-funding problem. That course would damage the long-term prospects for the Postal Service and destroy another 50,000 good jobs, just when officials are scrambling to create more.”**

## Rolando Joins AFL-CIO Colleagues In Backing Measure to Create Jobs

### Vice President Biden, Secretary Solis Address Labor Leaders

NALC President Rolando joined his fellow members of the AFL-CIO Executive Council at their mid-winter meeting in Orlando, Florida in passing a resolution calling for nationwide action by unions and the progressive movement to put America back to work and target politicians who voted to deny aid for the unemployed and against creation of jobs.

The council also called for strong actions against Wall Street firms that pay enormous bonuses but won't pay taxes, and against corporations that take the public's money and use it to downsize and outsource jobs.

“Mass unemployment is intolerable,” the Council said. “Action is required. The AFL-CIO calls upon the entire labor movement — our affiliated unions, our state and local labor councils, the millions of members of Working America and our allies in communities and progressive movements across this country — to come together in a great effort to create and protect good jobs.”

Rolando was also on hand to hear Vice President Joe Biden defend the administration's bailout of the banking industry, saying without it “we would have been in a flat-out depression and millions more would be out of jobs.”

“Had we not done these unpopular things to stabilize the banking industry, the auto industry, the housing sector, if we didn't have growth of nearly 6 percent, we wouldn't have any shot at all,” Biden said. “They're necessary preconditions to create genuine, renewed economic growth.”

Labor Secretary Hilda Solis said that creating good jobs that offer affordable health care and retirement security is the Obama administration's top priority.

“I wake up every morning worried about the millions of Americans out of work — about the millions of Americans who have given up even looking for the jobs that aren't there,” she told the Council. “None of us expected this and we did not create this crisis — but each and every one of us is called to do more.”

## Going, Going .....!!!

More than half of the available reserved seat ticket orders and payments for a special Baseball Night during the 67th NALC National Convention in Anaheim, California, have been purchased already by NALC branches for their delegations attending the convention.

As the *NALC Bulletin* went to press, more than 3,600 tickets had been purchased by delegates and their family members for the Tuesday, August 10 game between the American League West champion Los Angeles Angels and the Kansas City Royals at Angels Stadium.

Tickets are \$10 each for NALC delegates and family, with bus transportation to and from the game provided FREE of charge.

To obtain tickets, mail the form that was included in the February 12 *NALC Bulletin*, and include with it a check (made out to “Secretary-Treasurer, NALC”) for the entire amount. The forms and checks should be mailed to: NALC Baseball Night; 100 Indiana Ave., NW; Washington, DC 20001-2144.

There is limited handicapped seating at Angels Stadium. Please indicate with your order if any special handicapped seating is needed.

Questions should be directed to Drew Von Bergen, NALC Director of Public Relations, at (202) 662-2489 or [vonbergen@nalc.org](mailto:vonbergen@nalc.org).

### 20 Million+!

## Postcard Orders Arriving Daily For May 8 National Food Drive

After a series of delays caused by the multiple East Coast blizzards and some other logistical problems, the special packets for the 2010 NALC National Food Drive went into the mail March 5 & 8 in Priority Mail envelopes to branch food drive coordinators across the country.

Included in the packets are order forms for the FREE Campbell Soup/U.S. Postal Service postcards that are to be delivered to postal customers involved in the drive during the week before the May 8 food drive. Branches should IMMEDIATELY return the completed form by mail to NALC Headquarters. If desired, the form can also be faxed to the number on the ordering form.

**As the *NALC Bulletin* went to press, orders had already been received for more than 20 million postcards.**

There are two separate forms for the postcards: one for ordering English language postcards that will be to most addresses in the nation, and another for ordering Spanish language postcards that will be utilized in Puerto Rico and parts of other U.S. cities with large Hispanic populations.

In addition, the packet includes a third form for ordering (at cost) the official full-color poster for the 2010 drive featuring a “Family Circus” cartoon by artists Bil and Jeff Keane. Included in the packet is a reduced-size sample draft of the poster.

The posters are available for purchase in bulk at the same cost as last year: 25 posters for \$15; 50 posters for \$25; 100 posters for \$45; 200 posters for \$85, and 500 posters for \$200. Full payment must accompany all orders.

Questions regarding the food drive should be directed to Drew Von Bergen at [vonbergen@nalc.org](mailto:vonbergen@nalc.org).



Front of Campbell Soup/U.S. Postal Service postcard for the 2010 NALC National Food Drive.





National Association  
of Letter Carriers

Fredric V. Rolando, President

March 26, 2010 No. 10-06

# NALC Bulletin

100 Indiana Ave. NW Washington, DC 20001-2144 202.393.4695 www.nalc.org

## DON'T BE MISLED!

## Only Congress Can Authorize The End of Saturday Service NALC '5-Day is the Wrong Way' Web Site Launched

The Postal Service has presumptuously and brazenly set up a website to lull the public into believing that the elimination of Saturday delivery and collections service is a done deal. The NALC reacted quickly to this deception and launched its own '5-Day is the Wrong Way' page on the union's web site.

On March 24, the USPS issued a press release announcing the web site which offers misleading information and "planning guides" for businesses and households on the seemingly imminent change to five-day delivery. The action follows an attempt to confuse letter carriers and other USPS workers about the same issue in a slick postcard sent to every postal employee.

There is just one problem with all this: It's *NOT TRUE*.

**"The arrogance of the Postal Service in this campaign to sell five-day delivery as the answer to the Postal Service's problem is astounding," said NALC President Fred Rolando. "Given that Congress has shown very little interest in eliminating Saturday service, the Postal Service should focus its energies on real solutions, not risky and counterproductive service cuts."**

The Postal Service took the outrageous step to launch the deceptive web site:

- Despite the fact that current law requires 6-day delivery and that Congress has not given its approval to the Postal Service's proposal to cancel delivery and collections services on Saturday;
- Despite the fact that neither the Appropriations Committees nor the Postal Service's oversight committees have even held hearings on the radical proposal to slow service and destroy 50,000 to 80,000 good jobs in the middle of a jobs crisis; and
- Despite the fact that the Postal Service has not even filed for an advisory opinion from the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC), which must hold hearings and subject the Postal Service's questionable financial claims to democratic scrutiny.

**"What makes matters worse is that the Postal Service is sending a very confusing message to Congress," Rolando said. "Just a week ago, the PMG told a Senate hearing that 'we wouldn't have to go to five-day delivery' if Congress corrected the deeply flawed retiree health pre-funding policy'."**

Over the past few years, the NALC has led the drive to reform the pre-funding policy. That drive has been assisted in recent months by reports by the Postal Service's own Inspector General that show that, measured accurately, the USPS surplus in the Civil Service Retirement Fund is large enough to fully fund future retiree health benefits. Fixing this problem would save the USPS at least \$8 billion annually — far more the speculative \$3 billion annual savings the USPS claims it can get from reducing service.

"The Postal Service should stand down on this reckless drive to end Saturday delivery — it would do more harm than good and it distracts us from the real solution, eliminating the crushing burden of a deeply flawed pre-funding policy," Rolando added.

NALC has mobilized its grassroots lobbying network to challenge the Postal Service's plans and will vigorously participate in the PRC proceedings on Saturday delivery.

**In order to combat the misleading information offered by the Postal Service, NALC has launched a new page on its web site dedicated to making the case that "5-Day is the Wrong Way." A press release issued on March 26, notified the media and general public about how they can "learn the whole story" about the Postal Service's wrong-headed plans. Go to [www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org).**

In the weeks and months ahead, NALC will use its e-Activists, Carrier Corp volunteers and all the staff and resources of its national headquarters office to fight for retiree health funding reform and continued universal service, six days per week. It will also seek to inform the public and key decision makers through a targeted media campaign and other activities. Carriers who are not e-Activists are encouraged to sign up on the NALC's web site.

## State Chairs Strategize Against USPS Plan



NALC President Fred Rolando, left, and AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, right, were among numerous speakers and panel members who addressed NALC state legislative chairs during their week-long annual workshop in the nation's capital March 22-26. The sessions were aimed at developing the strategy the union will implement shortly to fight USPS efforts to reduce mail service to the American public. The chairs were briefed throughout the week by NALC's legislative and political experts.

(Photos by Joe Conway)



## Sombrotto Reflects on 1970 Postal Strike At 40th Anniversary Smithsonian Panel



NALC President Emeritus Vincent R. Sombrotto, center, led a two-hour discussion of the 1970 Great Postal Strike in a 40th anniversary presentation March 20 at the Smithsonian Institution's National Postal Museum in Washington. Sombrotto holds up memorabilia from a referendum taken by New York City Branch 36 to engage in striking without waiting for the national union to approve such action. Other presenters at the discussion, video-streamed worldwide on the Internet, were APWU President William Burrus, left, and George B. Gould, retired NALC director of legislative and political affairs, who was a staff official of a key postal subcommittee at the time.

(Photo by Mike Shea)

## Workers Memorial Day Set for April 28

With a theme of "Good Jobs, Safe Jobs. NOW," letter carriers on April 28 will join their brothers and sisters in the labor movement in observance of Workers Memorial Day to commemorate the anniversary of enactment of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) nearly four decades ago.

NALC Director of Safety and Health Brian Hellman is urging NALC branches to join in local observances by the AFL-CIO and other affiliated unions.



**"This is an appropriate opportunity also for branch officials to do a special check up on how postal management is meeting its obligations for health and safety in the workplace," Hellman said. "When things get tight, too often it is health and safety issues that get overlooked or ignored."**

Special AFL-CIO kits to help NALC branches participate in Workers Memorial Day are available by contacting Hellman at NALC Headquarters — (202) 393-4695, or go to the AFL-CIO website.

## NALC Secretary-Treasurer Broendel Honored

NALC Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Broendel was among 11 union women honored March 18 in Washington with the first annual Working Women's Awards by the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) for their extraordinary achievements, leadership and for being exemplary models for working women who seek to advance in their workplace, union and community.



Secretary-Treasurer Jane Broendel, right, holds her award as she receives congratulations from CLUW President Karen J. See, left, and CLUW presenter Christi Rojas of the United Steelworkers union.

(Photo by Bill Burke/Page One)

Among those honored along with Broendel were AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler and AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Arlene Holt Baker, as well as two CLUW presidents emerita — Joyce D. Miller and Gloria T. Johnson.

The event was held in conjunction with Women's History Month.

"I am truly honored to be recognized along with a number of women who had first broken the 'glass ceiling' in the American labor movement," Broendel told the gathering. "But I'm here representing the hundreds of women activists at all levels of the NALC and other unions, who over the last few decades have served in a multitude of capacities, demonstrating their dedication and ability in representing their sisters and their brothers."

## Ohio Letter Carriers Lobby Capitol Hill



Just as Congress took up final passage of health insurance reform and held hearings on USPS' financial situation, NALC members from Ohio hit Washington on their annual lobbying excursion March 16-18. A delegation of Cleveland-area activists visits with longtime NALC friend Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-OH), center, to discuss issues.

(Photo courtesy of Todd Brew)

## Seventh COLA Has No Accumulation Yet

With the continuing weak economy, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for February, released on March 18 by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, reflected no accumulation yet for a cost-of-living adjustment during the seventh COLA period under the 2006-2011 National Agreement. The period runs from January to July of this year.

**The CPI-W stood at 633.105 in February, still below the 644.303 level attained in July 2008. As previously reported, there was no COLA for the sixth contract period.**

There also has not yet been any projected accumulation toward the 2011 retiree COLA based on the February CPI-W.

The projected accumulation toward the 2011 COLA for Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) participants, which is based on the increase in the CPI-W between December 2009 and December 2010, remained at 0.4 percent through February.





National Association  
of Letter Carriers

Fredric V. Rolando, President

April 16, 2010 No. 10-07

# NALC Bulletin

100 Indiana Ave. NW Washington, DC 20001-2144 202.393.4695 www.nalc.org

## Rolando Blasts GAO Report

### ‘Full-Throated Attack’ on Contract Document Ignores Critical Financial Issues; NALC to Deliver Truthful Facts to Congress

NALC President Fred Rolando lambasted a congressionally requested April 13 report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) on the Postal Service's progress toward financial stability as a “full-throated attack on collective bargaining, our contractual COLA clause, our contractual limits on contracting out, and our contractual protections of full-time career positions.”

Saying that the “hurried and haphazard audit report” virtually ignored the most critical ingredient in the Postal Service's current financial squeeze – the \$5.5 billion per year payment imposed by Congress in 2007 to pre-fund retiree health obligations – Rolando pledged that the NALC will spare no effort in bringing the truth to lawmakers as Congress deliberates what action to take.

#### President Rolando's complete statement:

“The Government Accountability Office was directed by the Congress in 2006 to produce a report by December 2011 ‘evaluating in-depth various options and strategies for the long-term structural and operational reforms of the United States Postal Service.’ GAO was instructed by Congress in the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act to make recommendations regarding how the ‘Postal Service's business model can be maintained or transformed in an orderly manner that will minimize adverse effects on all interested parties and assure continued availability of affordable universal postal service throughout the United States.’ The directive in the law also said: ‘The Government Accountability Office shall not consider any strategy or other course of action that would pose a significant risk to the availability of affordable, universal postal service throughout the United States.’

**The Congress outlined, in detail, what it ordered GAO to do, and how to do it. GAO ignored Congress.**

Instead, it delivered an obviously hurried and haphazard audit report. GAO virtually ignored the most critical ingredient in the Postal Service's current financial squeeze, the \$5.5 billion per year payment, imposed by Congress in 2007, to pre-fund retiree health obligations. And its conclusion that the USPS business model was not viable was based on the false premise that the USPS has not been able to cut costs as much as its revenues have declined in recent years. In particular, the report states that ‘USPS lost \$12 billion over this period [2007-2009], despite achieving billions in cost savings, reducing capital investments, and raising rates.’

But this assertion is completely misleading. It glosses over the critical fact that if it were not for the excessive pre-funding payments, the USPS would have been profitable over the past three years—USPS prefunding payments totaled \$12.4 billion over the past three years, more than accounting for the \$11.7 billion in reported losses. In fact, the Postal Service has been able to adjust its costs to a decline in its revenue—a decline resulting from the worst recession in 80 years, which the GAO soft-pedals as a simple ‘economic downturn.’

Instead of the report requested by Congress, GAO has issued a full-throated attack on collective bargaining, our contractual COLA clause, our contractual limits on contracting out, and our contractual protections of full-time career positions. GAO outlines a series of disastrous future options, including

moving part or all of USPS to ‘a private corporate model;’ increasing ‘the percentage of part-time employees, who could work more flexible schedules’ and allow the USPS to flexibly adjust to workload, ‘which varies greatly depending on the day of the week and the time of the year;’ and changing the law's interest arbitration rules to put a thumb on the scale for the Postal Service.

Rather than conducting the five-year ‘in depth’ detailed review and analysis of this key national institution that Congress directed, GAO ‘conducted this performance audit from August 2009 to April 2010 in accordance with generally accepted government audit standards.’ (p. 3). An ‘audit,’ not an ‘in-depth’ evaluation.

**But even with that crabbed green eyeshade view of its mission, GAO cut corners: [W]e did not assess the reasonableness of these projections [retiree health valuations] or OPM's actuarial assumptions and methodology. We utilized OPM's valuation results to analyze the financial impacts of selected options for funding USPS' retiree health benefit obligations. We**

**did not assess the validity of USPS' financial and mail volume projections due to time and resource constraints.’ (p. 2).**

The problem with this quick once-over approach is that it is precisely OPM's ‘actuarial assumptions and methodology’ that are at the heart of a dispute between the USPS Office of Inspector General and OPM over whether the USPS has been over-charged by \$75 billion in pension costs—funds that could be returned and transferred to the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund to relieve the USPS of the need to make crushing pre-funding payments. If the OIG is right (and NALC believes OIG is right), that \$75 billion cures USPS' principal financial problem ... and then some. And it is precisely the validity of USPS's ‘financial and mail volume projections’ that define the extent of the long-term challenge facing the USPS and establish what the future needs may be.

**To simply accept USPS projections—notoriously and regularly off-target—due to ‘time and resource constraints’ is simply irresponsible—not what Congress ordered, and not what the public interest requires.**

The media's appetite for news of any threatened disaster being what it is, the GAO report will make an initial big splash. But it is Congress, not the news media or the GAO, that will decide whether the Postal Service is worth saving, and how.

And it is the NALC that will spare no effort in bringing the truth—and the real data—to Congress for its deliberation. And it is NALC's membership that will rise to the challenge to make sure that the real public, their patrons, and the mailers, know the facts and act on them. The country deserves nothing less.”



President Rolando discusses NALC's strategy to fight USPS's attempt to end Saturday delivery before hundreds of New York carriers in Washington on their annual lobbying excursion. Listening (l-r) are Vice President George Mignosi and Executive Vice President Gary Mullins. (Photo by Mike Shea)

## New York Lawmakers Join 6-Day Delivery Fight



“People depend on the mail six days a week. It's important to my constituents, but more importantly, it is important to America.” – Rep. Michael Arcuri (D-NY)



“These people who are talking about ending Saturday delivery are just plain wrong. We've got to stop this dead in its tracks” – Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY)



“We believe in Saturday delivery. It is the source of contact for so many people.” – Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY)



“I'm pretty happy with my six-day mail service, and we've got to keep it that way.” – Rep. Mike McMahon (D-NY)



“I actually think we should do seven-day delivery. Instead of cutting back, maybe we should think about expanding.” – Rep. Dan Maffei (D-NY)

Sens. Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand (both D-NY) pledged to help the NALC fight to retain six-day mail delivery for the American people. They made this promise when delegations of carriers from their home state visited them April 14 on Capitol Hill during the state NALC's annual lobbying trip.

Schumer and Gillibrand, who have been with letter carriers on key issues in the past, told the groups during separate visits that they would stand with them as the NALC takes on the Postal Service's plan to end Saturday delivery for Americans.

Similar commitments of support came from numerous House members, during both private visits in their Capitol Hill offices and in remarks at a congressional reception hosted by the New York State Association of Letter Carriers at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Washington (see quotes above).

### Hutson Appointed RAA in Region 3 (Chicago)

President Rolando has appointed, effective April 5, Jerry “Tony” Hutson, of Branch 88 in Galesburg, Illinois as Regional Administrative Assistant in the Chicago Region (Illinois) to fill the spot of Mack Julion, Jr., who was recently elected president of Chicago Branch 11.

Hutson, 38, has been chief steward for Branch 88 for the past six years. He was a graduate of NALC's first Leadership Academy class in 2005. He has served as an arbitration advocate since 2005. Hutson, his wife, Robin, and a stepdaughter currently reside in Galesburg.

## Over 1,400 NALC Branches Primed To Help ‘Stamp Out Hunger’ May 8 Trucking Help Coming from Uncle Bob's Self Storage

Letter carriers in more than 1,400 NALC branches in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam are in final preparation for what is expected to be a hallmark event in the 18-year history of the NALC National Food Drive – breaking through the 1 billion pounds mark in total donations delivered to help hungry families in America.

To help transport the donations from postal locations to food banks and pantries, the NALC has received the generous support of Uncle Bob's Self Storage®, one of the largest self-storage companies in the nation.

This year also brings a new national role for our rural letter carrier counterparts with the inclusion of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association as a national partner, along with the U.S. Postal Service, Campbell Soup Company, Valpak, the AFL-CIO, United Way Worldwide and Feeding America, the nation's food bank network.

Again this year, more than 125 million postcards sponsored by the Postal Service and Campbell Soup will be delivered to homes just before the drive, reminding residents to leave out some groceries for their carrier to pick up on May 8. Another 40 million Valpak envelopes also urged donations, and national Television and Radio public service announcements were being aired featuring entertainment stars David Arquette, Courteney Cox and Ryan Seacrest.

A memo will be sent out next week to all branch food drive coordinators explaining the process for reporting food drive results.

Uncle Bob's Self Storage® has in the past been helpful to food banks in its home area of Buffalo, New York and in Florida, and now has expanded its offer to all 24 states where it has operations – Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

A spreadsheet that lists all of Uncle Bob's locations throughout the nation, as well as the name and phone number of a contact person, has been e-mailed to all NALC food drive coordinators and is also available on the Food Drive page of the NALC website.



Transportation assistance is coming from Uncle Bob's Self Storage to deliver goods to food banks and pantries.

## Anaheim Convention Visitors' Discounts!

For information on a special Show Your Badge and Save discount program and Disney discount tickets available for delegates to the NALC Convention, visit the convention page on the NALC website: [www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org).

### Less than 80 left!

## Baseball Tickets Almost ‘Sold Out’



Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim star center fielder Torii Hunter smashes a hit at Angels Stadium in Anaheim. (Angels photo)

All 7,000 tickets initially reserved for the special NALC Night at the August 10 Kansas City Royals-Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim baseball game during the 67th Biennial NALC Convention in Anaheim have been sold. The NALC was able to acquire an additional 250 tickets, but less than 80 of those remain unsold.

Any branch interested in acquiring any of the few remaining tickets should get their order into NALC headquarters immediately. Ticket orders and checks received from branches after the ticket allotment is exhausted will be returned.

**Orders and payment must be received at NALC headquarters no later than Monday, May 3.**

Designated branch officials can pick up their tickets at a special baseball booth at convention registration. Tickets are \$10 each for NALC delegates and family, with bus transportation to and from the game provided FREE of charge.

To obtain tickets, mail the form that was included in the February 12 *NALC Bulletin* and include with it a check (made out to “Secretary-Treasurer, NALC”) for the entire amount. The forms and checks should be mailed to: NALC Baseball Night; 100 Indiana Ave., NW; Washington, DC 20001-2144.

There is limited handicapped seating at Angels Stadium. Please indicate with your order if any special handicapped seating is needed.

## No Accumulation Yet for Seventh COLA

The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for March, released on April 15 by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, still reflected no accumulation yet for a cost-of-living adjustment during the seventh COLA period under the 2006-2011 National Agreement. The period runs from January to July of this year.

**The CPI-W stood at 636.025 in March, still below the 644.303 level attained in July 2008.**

There also has not yet been any projected accumulation toward the 2011 retiree COLA based on the March CPI-W.

The projected accumulation toward the 2011 COLA for Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) participants, which is based on the increase in the CPI-W between December 2009 and December 2010, stood at 0.8 percent through March.





National Association  
of Letter Carriers

Fredric V. Rolando, President

May 4, 2010 No. 10-08



# NALC Bulletin

100 Indiana Ave. NW Washington, DC 20001-2144 202.393.4695 www.nalc.org

## Memorandum Signed On Route Adjustments

### New MOU Updates Alternate Process

#### Unfinished MIARAP Adjustments to be Completed First

President Fred Rolando announced on May 4 that NALC and the Postal Service have reached agreement on a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on route adjustments.

The Joint Alternate Route Adjustment Process (JARAP) and guidelines for implementing the MOU have been posted on the NALC website and joint training of District-level lead teams has begun. The guidelines seek to explain every provision in the agreement.

The new MOU updates and improves the alternate joint route adjustment process by mandating automatic data integrity reviews and gives both the union and management a say in which routes will be subject to review. However, the agreement makes it clear that incomplete reviews (or revisits) of the Modified Interim Alternate Route Adjustment Process (MIARAP) from 2009 must be given priority over the evaluation and adjustment of routes/zones under the JARAP process.

**“NALC is pleased to reach an agreement that improves the route adjustment process,” Rolando said. “The new agreement builds on the key principles established by both the Interim Route Adjustment Process (IRAP) and MIARAP processes – an equal place at the table for the union and the iron-clad requirement that no decision on any evaluation or adjustment can be made without the agreement of both union and management.”**

While unfinished MIARAP adjustments will be competed first, the new agreement provides two windows for new evaluations.

Routes to be evaluated on the basis of March and April data will be identified by May 21, 2010 and those to be evaluated on the basis of April and May data will be identified by June 18, 2010.

Further details on the new agreement are posted on the NALC website and will be included in the June Postal Record.

## Rolando Dispels Myths About 5-Day Delivery

### NALC Pumps Up Fight Against Proposal

Federal and postal employees in Washington DC and around the world via the Internet heard the truth about the Postal Service's 5-day delivery proposal April 28 directly from President Rolando on Federal News Radio's 'Your Turn' program hosted by widely known federal/postal reporter Mike Causey.

Rolando took the opportunity during the half-hour program to explain how the pre-funding obligation on the Postal Service for retirees' health care is unwarranted and has placed the Service in its current financial crisis.

Rolando explained that while USPS must adapt its long-term business model, it also needs Congress to revise the requirement for funding its retirement obligations. He added that projections of a \$238 billion deficit by the Postal Service over the next 10 years “assumes that absolutely nothing is done. It's a worst-case scenario.”

He also dispelled the myth that a survey shows the general public is fine with the elimination of six-day delivery.

“If you tell the public the real story, I think you get different results,” Rolando said.

**“If you ask the public — ‘Would you like to pay more money for postage? Would you like to give up your first born, or would you like to give up Saturday delivery?’ I think they're going to have a tendency to go with Saturday delivery. But, if you tell them the truth and you give them the real options, and some of the other things that we can do, I think you get a totally different result.”**

Rolando added that eliminating Saturday delivery would make the Postal Service less attractive to those who want to send something during the weekend, and undermine future revenue generation.

He said if Congress reforms the funding mechanism for retiree health, which requires \$5.5 billion yearly, the USPS would not seek to eliminate Saturday delivery. Besides that, a recent USPS Office of the Inspector General (OIG) report shows that the transfer of the surplus in the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) that should have gone to the retiree health fund in 2007 was short by about \$75 billion. This is enough to fully fund all future retiree health benefits.



In the meantime, Rolando explained, the USPS plan for 5-day delivery won't go anywhere — unless and until Congress says so!

**A link to the Federal News Radio website with a recording of President Rolando's appearance is available on the NALC website: [www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org).**

## Ronald L. Hughes

The NALC regrets to inform the membership of the passing of former NALC Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Ronald L. Hughes of Halifax, Massachusetts, who died April 15 after a long illness. He was 76.

Following service in the Korean Conflict, Hughes joined the U.S. Postal Service and had an active career of leadership in the NALC with a break again for service during the Vietnam War. He was a past president of Boston Branch 34 and a National Trustee, before being elected National Assistant Secretary-Treasurer in 1978. He served in that capacity until 1981.

Hughes is survived by his widow, Pauline, of Halifax and a son, Jonathan. Services were held April 23, with interment at the Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne.



In upper left photo, NALC St. Louis Br. 343 food drive coordinator Barry Linan joins famed drag racing star Ashley Force Hood and Campbell Soup's Joe Huxhold and Andrew Presberry beside Force Hood's Castrol GTX Ford Mustang “funny car” as she promotes the food drive in an ESPN2 taping at the AAA Missouri NHRA Midwest Nationals. At right, Region 1 food drive coordinator Paula Miller, second from right, is joined by Region 1 NBA Manuel Peralta, right, and carriers from Branches 2168 and 1439 at a ‘Bust a Billion’ kickoff ceremony in Rancho Cucamonga, California. Bottom photo shows active and retired letter carriers and family members gathered at the St. Petersburg, Florida P&DC to count and distribute millions of Publix supermarket plastic grocery bag cartons to be sent to post offices across Florida and Georgia to supplement the Campbell Soup-USPS postcards. In front is Al Friedman, Clearwater Br. 2008 coordinator, who supervised the activity.

## Branches Ready to ‘Bust a Billion’ In 18th NALC National Food Drive

Only a few days remain until the May 8 NALC National Food Drive — an icon in the nation's effort to help millions of families facing hunger — with expectations that the drive will break through the 1 billion pounds mark in total donations collected since the union's effort began 18 years ago.

As more than 1,400 NALC branches and scores of rurals-only post offices made last-moment preparations, the drive received a great boost from National Hot Rod Association funny car star Ashley Force Hood to complement nationwide exposure generated by entertainment stars Courteney Cox, David Arquette and Ryan Seacrest, and numerous local promotions by political and celebrity personalities all across the nation.

The drive this year hopes to exceed last year's 73.4 million pounds total, which would raise the food drive's 18-year total above the 1 billion pound mark, since the current total stands at 982.7 million pounds.

Force Hood, who began promoting the food drive in 2009 by social networking with her racing fans after seeing an ad in *Redbook* magazine, was outspoken in her praise of letter carriers and Campbell's involvement.

**“I really think it is neat that postal carriers ... are helping out and making it so easy to donate food,” Force Hood said. “I really think we can make a difference and I hope all my fans and NHRA fans in general will really get behind this and donate a lot of food.”**

More than 126 million postcards, sponsored by the U.S. Postal Service and Campbell Soup Company, were delivered to branches to remind residents to leave food out by their mailboxes on May 8. These followed more than 40 million special Valpak envelopes that were delivered in April and May also promoting donations.

Also joining in support of the drive as “National Partners” along with USPS, Campbell Soup, and Valpak direct mail marketing were the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association; AFL-CIO; United Way Worldwide, and Feeding America, the nation's food bank network.

Branch food drive coordinators were mailed last week the official form to report final poundage collected, as well as instructions on how to report the preliminary results on the Internet before 12 noon EDT Monday, May 10. The Internet address and information included in the material mailed to coordinators is the only method of reporting the unofficial, preliminary results.

**Final branch reports must be received at NALC Headquarters no later than Tuesday, May 25 to be included in list of branches in the *Postal Record* and be considered for special Campbell Soup/NALC Branch Awards.**

Information and materials about local branch food drives are needed for articles in the *Postal Record* and *NALC Bulletin* and for videos, including color photos with identification; videos of high quality, especially of local news coverage; and other materials such as proclamations, letters of thanks, and tearsheets of newspaper articles and editorials.

The top branches in 10 NALC membership categories will be honored and receive recognition at the NALC Convention in Anaheim in August, and Campbell Soup will provide a 1,000-can donation of soup to a food bank or pantry designated by each winning branch.

## Reporting ‘Preliminary’ Food Drive Results – Accenture Conducting Speedy Tabulation

Through the generous assistance of the Accenture, branch food drive coordinators this year can log onto a special Internet website and report over the weekend preliminary results of their food drives.

All registered branch coordinators were mailed a special packet that included information on how to access the website and special information needed to do the task.

This will enable the Accenture firm to provide NALC headquarters by Tuesday an unofficial, preliminary count on how much food was collected in order that local and national news media can be contacted.

Accenture, a global management consulting and technology services company, is helping NALC to speed reporting of preliminary food drive results through the use of advanced data collection and analysis tools. For the first time, this will allow the NALC to compile preliminary results within 48 hours after the drive.



**“This food drive makes such a tremendous difference for so many people around the country,” said Accenture senior executive Brad Martin. “The Accenture team admires the NALC's commitment to stamping out hunger in this nation, and it is gratifying to contribute our special skills to furthering the impact of such a worthy cause.”**

Branches will have until later in May to fill out the final report form (also included in the packet mailed last week) and mail it so that it arrives at NALC headquarters no later than May 25. Those figures will be the only ones that will be printed in the *Postal Record* and used to determine the Campbell Soup-NALC award winners.

**Branch food drive coordinators should check the Food Drive Page on the NALC website for additional information on reporting poundage, including the average poundage held by various postal hampers, containers, and trays.**





## USPS 'Death Spiral' Quote of the Week

**'The value of going to four days – removing a second day – is even greater.'**

– Postmaster General John E. Potter, quoted in May 10 Washington Post article after telling customers in Nashville that he hopes Saturday deliveries would end next spring, and noting that Tuesdays are the second-slowest day of the week.



National Association  
of Letter Carriers

Fredric V. Rolando, President

May 14, 2010 No. 10-09

# NALC Bulletin

100 Indiana Ave. NW Washington, DC 20001-2144 202.393.4695 www.nalc.org

## Specter, Pennsylvania House Members Pledge Support of Six-Day Mail Delivery



Top photo shows Sen. Arlen Specter (D-PA) addressing the annual congressional breakfast of the Pennsylvania State Association of Letter Carriers in Washington as President Rolando and Executive Vice President Gary Mullins listen at the right. After Specter voiced his opposition to cutting back to 5-day delivery, hundreds of carriers in the audience, wearing their special T-shirts, rose and showed their preference for six-day delivery. (Photos by Mike Shea)

Longtime letter carriers' friend Sen. Arlen Specter (D-PA) was straightforward in his unabashed opposition to cutting back on six-day mail delivery in an address May 6 to a congressional breakfast of the Pennsylvania Association of Letter Carriers during its annual lobbying trip to Washington.

Hundreds of legislative activists attended the breakfast wearing their blue 'STOP 5-Day Delivery' T-shirts.

"I like your T-shirts. I've been fighting for six-day delivery for 30 years," Specter said. "What would Saturday be like if the mail didn't arrive?"

In his remarks to the gathering, NALC President Fred Rolando chastised the Postal Service's leadership at L'Enfant Plaza for its misguided push to cut service for the American people.

### Unsubstantiated Figure

He said the Service's emphasis on a potential \$238 billion loss by the Postal Service was using "an unsubstantiated figure with no basis in reality" and "assumes a worst-case scenario." He also accused the Service of misleading the American people with material it is putting up on a special website.

"We are the Postal Service, we are not going to let management fool the public," the NALC leader said to a rousing cheer from the carriers as he pledged to continue to fight on their behalf as this issue is debated in the months ahead throughout Washington.

In his remarks, Specter also pledged to continue fighting for NALC-backed legislation if successful in a tough primary and then returned to Washington for another six-year term. In the midst of his current term, Specter switched from Republican to Democrat.

Specter's sentiments were echoed by numerous House members of the Pennsylvania delegation, many who announced their co-sponsorship of H.R. 173 which states that it is the sense of the House of Representatives that six-day delivery be maintained.

### 'You're Loved ... Trusted'

"I have real concerns about going to five-day," said Rep. Glenn Thompson (R-PA), who also thanked letter carriers for conducting their annual food drive. Rep. Jason Altmire (D-PA) pledged to "fight to keep six-day" and Rep. Jim Gerlach (R-PA) said he looks forward "to working with you to keep six-day delivery."

"You know you're loved. You're trusted by the people on your routes," Gerlach said.

"I like getting my mail on Saturday," said Rep. Tim Murphy (R-PA) pointedly.

"We're going to fight to keep six-day delivery that my constituents want," added Rep. Kathy Dahlkemper (D-PA).

At the Texas reception, held a week later in Washington, Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) told Lone Star State activists that she would continue her support of letter carriers as she had done in the past.



President Rolando explains the union's strategy to fight the Postal Service's proposal to cut back service to the American people to five days at a Texas NALC congressional reception in the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill. Texas State Chair Mickey Morris observes. At right, Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson greets a Texas activist.

## Letter Carriers Top 1 Billion Lbs. In 18 Years of Annual Food Drive

### Branch Reports Indicate Highly Successful Effort



East Lansing, Michigan Branch 2555 carrier Judy O'Rourke, left, shows off her haul amid some inclement weather while collecting for the May 8 NALC food drive. In center, carrier Tom Green and retiree Mickey Weiland help unload food at a warehouse for the Branch 22 drive in New Castle, Pennsylvania, and at right, Portland, Oregon Branch 82 carrier Isham Harris transfers some of his collection.

NALC members across the nation, from Hawaii to Maine and Alaska to Florida, worked double duty on May 8 delivering the mail and then collecting and delivering tens of millions of pounds of food donations from their postal customers to community food banks, pantries and shelters in a historic "Stamp Out Hunger" drive that pushed the total for the 18-year effort over the 1 billion pounds mark.

NALC President Fredric V. Rolando praised all NALC members and their rural carrier counterparts, as well as other volunteers whose dedication and compassion to help feed needy families in their communities has been the hallmark of the drive's success.

"You all were fantastic," Rolando said. "I'm sure there were a lot of sore backs and tired legs by the end of the day, but there also was the satisfaction of knowing that you sacrificed for a good cause."

"Our union and its members are proud to provide a helping hand to the millions of citizens on our routes who recognize that hunger in America is a continuing problem and want to assist their neighbors in time of need," Rolando said in releasing early data on the drive results. "Collecting these donations from the mailbox and taking them to local food banks and pantries is in keeping with our motto of 'Delivering for America.'"

Partial reports received at a special Internet site (see May 3 NALC Bulletin) showed 19,724,393 pounds had already been counted, enough to push the 18-year drive total above 1 billion pounds. The total after the first 17 years was 982.7 million pounds. Reports were still pending from more than 1,000 local branches.

From California to Reno to the Ozarks and up to northern Minnesota, and across to Massachusetts and down to Florida, reports were coming in of record collections – due to some very good weather and the expansion of plastic bags being delivered to customers along with the postcards.

"I really think the people of the Ozarks just dug deeper to help the people," coordinator Tammie Yates of Ozark Mountain Branch 203 told the *News-Leader* in Springfield, Missouri.

In Albert Lea, Minnesota, where they had the third-largest amount in the 18 years, coordinator Scott Pirsig told the *Tribune* that the branch ran out of "thank you" cards because there were so many donations.

"I wish we could knock on every door and thank every person," Pirsig said. "It's not a success without everyone pitching in."

Last year, a record 73.4 million pounds of food were delivered to community food banks and pantries. Rolando said the early figures indicate that this year's total could match or exceed the 2009 level despite the poor economy.

Final official results of this year's drive, which was conducted in more than 10,000 cities and towns in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam and Puerto Rico, will be announced on June 1.

In addition to praising the carriers and other volunteers, Rolando expressed special appreciation to the union's national partners in the drive: the U.S. Postal Service, Campbell Soup Company, National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, Valpak, United Way Worldwide, the AFL-CIO and the Feeding America food bank network. He also thanked "Family Circus" cartoonists Bil and Jeff Keane, who again provided artwork to promote the drive, as well as to David Arquette, Courteney Cox, Ashley Force Hood, and Ryan Seacrest, who generously made celebrity endorsements.

## Final Reports Due at NALC by May 25

Final reports by NALC branches on poundage collected in this year's food drive **MUST BE RECEIVED** at NALC Headquarters in Washington by May 25 for compilation of a final national total, as well as for inclusion in branch-by-branch totals to be published in the July *Postal Record*.

Only these final reports (forms were included with a special memo sent to all branch food drive coordinators) will be used. The partial, unofficial amounts entered on the independent Internet site will not be utilized further. The final reports will also be the only amounts used to determine the 10 branches to receive honors for collections in their membership category, and the resultant donation of 1,000 cans of Campbell Soup to a designated local food bank or pantry.

Final results should be mailed to:

NALC Food Drive Results  
100 Indiana Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20001-2144

or faxed to (202)737-1540, or e-mailed to vonbergen@nalc.org. Any faxed or e-mailed reports should also be mailed in as a backup.

**\$1 = 1 Pound**

Although the NALC does not encourage monetary donations along the route as part of the food drive, some customers nevertheless leave checks or cash in envelopes. This can be included in the poundage reported by branches, **BUT only at the rate of one (1) pound per \$1.**

## MDA Ambassador Visits NALC Headquarters



MDA 2010 Goodwill Ambassador Abbey Umali of Redland, California, tries out President Rolando's chair in his office at NALC headquarters May 4 as Rolando beams approvingly. Abbey visited the union headquarters along with her parents, Joel and Wendi Umali, and Muscular Dystrophy Association program director Tom Boyle as the NALC moves forward to increase donations this year to fight muscular dystrophy and related illnesses.

## Convention Baseball Tickets 'Sold Out'

All 7,244 special reduced-price NALC Night tickets available for the August 10 baseball game between the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim and Kansas City Royals on the second night of the 67th NALC Biennial Convention have been sold. Branches that have purchased those tickets will pick them up at the Baseball Ticket booth in the Convention Registration area on Saturday and Sunday.

Shuttle buses will be provided to transport the delegates from all hotels to and from the game.

Ticket availability was determined on a first-come, first-served basis. For those whose requests arrived at NALC headquarters after the tickets were sold out, their checks are being returned along with information on how regular-priced tickets may still be purchased directly from the Angels ticket operation by going to the single-game ticket web-site of the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim at [http://losangeles.angels.mlb.com/ticketing/singlegame.jsp?c\\_id=ana](http://losangeles.angels.mlb.com/ticketing/singlegame.jsp?c_id=ana). Tickets may also be purchased at the Angels Stadium ticket office, Ticketmaster locations or Ticketmaster by phone at 800-745-3000.





National Association  
of Letter Carriers

Fredric V. Rolando, President  
May 27, 2010 No. 10-10

# NALC Bulletin

100 Indiana Ave. NW Washington, DC 20001-2144 202.393.4695 www.nalc.org

## Settlement Reached On Medical Records

### Follows Union Lawsuit to Stop Coercion When Investigators Seek Information

### Tougher Restrictions for OIG Agents, Postal Inspectors

The NALC has entered into a settlement agreement with the Postal Service and the USPS Office of Inspector General (OIG) that imposes significant new restrictions on OIG agents and postal inspectors when they seek to obtain confidential medical information about employees from the employees' doctors or other personal health care providers.

The settlement follows months of intense negotiations by the parties' attorneys under the supervision of a U.S. magistrate judge.

NALC President Fred Rolando, who participated in the negotiations, said he was extremely pleased with the final outcome.

**"The restrictions imposed by this settlement should prevent OIG agents from intimidating and coercing doctors and other providers who would otherwise choose to maintain the confidentiality of sensitive information," Rolando said. "Even more significantly, the settlement will ensure that union advocates can prevent the Postal Service from using improperly obtained information as evidence against employees in arbitration cases."**

As previously reported (NALC Bulletin 08-01), the NALC and American Postal Workers Union filed a joint lawsuit against the Postal Service and OIG in January 2008 in federal court in New York City, seeking to stop OIG agents from obtaining confidential medical information about employees without their knowledge or consent during the course of investigations of alleged workers compensation or sick leave fraud.

NALC had discovered incidents in which health care providers were intimidated by OIG agents into turning over medical information about employees that had no relevance to any legitimate investigation of alleged misconduct.

The settlement agreement, which goes into effect 60 days after execution, recognizes that under federal law, OIG agents and postal inspectors may, under certain circumstances, seek to obtain relevant information from an employee's health care provider without the employee's consent as part of a legitimate investigation of suspected fraud or other misconduct. However, the agreement requires OIG agents and postal inspectors, before interviewing an employee's health care provider, to give the health care provider a form letter, negotiated by the parties, that explicitly states that the health care provider "is not required to speak" about the employee's health information to the agent or inspector.

The letter also tells the health care provider that he or she "may take as much time as necessary" to decide whether to discuss the employee's health information and may consult with whomever he or she chooses (other than the employee) in making that decision. The letter also requires the agent or inspector to identify, in writing, the specific information sought and to provide a written explanation of how that information is relevant and material to a legitimate law enforcement investigation.

The settlement further provides that any information obtained from a health care provider without complying with the stated requirements may not be used by the Postal Service for any purpose, including discipline or discharge of the employee, and will not be admissible as evidence in any arbitration involving the discharge or discipline of the employee.

## Deadline of June 10 Approaches For Amendments & Resolutions

### Also Final Day to Register as Delegate/Alternate

For delegates to the 67th Biennial Convention in Anaheim, Thursday, June 10 is a critical deadline day, the final day to register as a delegate or alternate and more.

Proposed amendments to the *NALC Constitution* to be considered at the convention must be received by Secretary-Treasurer Jane Broendel at NALC Headquarters by June 10. They will then appear in the July *Postal Record*.

Resolutions also must be received at NALC Headquarters by June 10 in order to be printed in the Resolutions and Amendments book provided to delegates. Any resolutions received after June 10, however, may still be considered at the convention.

All resolutions and amendments must conform to the provisions spelled out in Articles 12 and 19 of the *NALC Constitution* regarding form and method of endorsement.

## Illinois Carriers in Washington



President Rolando (top left) addresses the annual congressional reception of the Illinois Association of Letter Carriers May 20 in Washington about the importance of retaining six-day delivery. At top right, Illinois State Chair Ken Christy engages Reps. Janice Schakowsky (D-IL), center, and Deborah Halvorson (D-IL). In bottom left photo, Rep. Melissa Bean (D-IL) emphasizes her support for letter carrier issues, and, at right, Rep. Bill Foster (D-IL) explains his pro-worker positions to the gathering.

(Photos by Mike Shea)

## Food Drive Total to be Announced June 1

The national total poundage collected during the May 8 Letter Carriers National Food Drive, compiled on reports from more than 1,400 NALC branches across the nation, will be announced June 1.

Preliminary information inputted to a data base within days of the drive showed that the 2010 effort had pushed the 18-year total above the 1 billion-pound mark, confirming the drive's reputation as the largest one-day food drive in the United States, and suggesting that this year's total could reach or exceed last year's 73.4 million-pound record.

In all cities and towns, the effort was deeply appreciated by both those in need and those organizations and agencies that handle food distribution.

**"We are so blessed by this annual food drive, and we truly appreciate the cooperation of the letter carriers," said Alice Cordes, director of Churches in Mission in Mooresville, Indiana, to Indianapolis Branch 39 food drive coordinator Ollie Brown. "I hope they all fully realize the impact they have on this community and how much we appreciate the work that they do."**



Letter carriers and volunteers of Hagerstown, Maryland Branch 443 gather around their banner and food collected as they beam at the outpouring of support in the May 8 drive.

As the date for the announcement neared, branches were rushing to complete their collection of donation amounts, in some cases involving scores of different towns and cities. Many branches reported record amounts, especially among those that were using the added incentive of plastic bags delivered to homes in addition to the Campbell Soup-Postal Service postcards, as well as those areas where rural carriers provided unprecedented support with their union, the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, on board this year as a national partner.

### Baseball Buses Run Only From 'Convention Hotels'

The shuttle buses that will operate on Tuesday night, August 10, to transport convention delegates and guests to and from Angels Stadium for NALC Baseball Night will operate from only those hotels in the convention block.

Delegates staying in other hotels will need to acquire other transportation on their own. Buses returning from the game will stop only at convention block hotels.

### Scooters, Wheelchairs, and Oxygen Available in Anaheim

Any delegate or guest who needs to rent a scooter or wheelchair for the Anaheim Convention can contact Scooter Village at (888) 956-2246. Be sure to mention that you are attending the 67th Biennial Convention of the National Association of Letter Carriers to receive a discount.

There is no charge for delivery or pick-up. Reservations may also be made online at <http://www.scootervillage.com/conventionschedule.htm>. It is encouraged that you reserve in advance.

Any delegate who requires oxygen refills while in Anaheim can also be assisted by Scooter Village. The prescription, diagnosis, amount of oxygen and type of equipment needed and type of payment (cash, credit card, check) will be required. It is suggested that you call a day ahead — although same-day service may be available. For oxygen patients, portable units and tanks are available. Call at least three days before arrival.

## Seventh COLA Still Has No Accumulation

The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for April, released on May 19 by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, continued to reflect no accumulation yet for a cost-of-living adjustment during the seventh COLA period under the 2006-2011 National Agreement. The period runs from January to July of this year.

**The CPI-W stood at 637.316 in April, still below the 644.303 level attained in July 2008.**

There also has not yet been any projected accumulation toward the 2011 retiree COLA based on the April CPI-W.

The projected accumulation toward the 2011 COLA for Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) participants, which is based on the increase in the CPI-W between December 2009 and December 2010, increased to 1.1 percent through April.

See June *Postal Record* for Reservation Form for Retiring Officers' Dinner



# Nationwide Campaign Launched By NALC

## Stop USPS from Making ‘Big Mistake’



NALC is taking its campaign to preserve the long-term viability of the Postal Service to the streets this summer.

President Fred Rolando launched the “Save Saturday Delivery” campaign with a national mailing to branch leaders and state-level legislative activists. Included in the mailing is a comprehensive toolkit designed to help local leaders weigh in with Congress on the need to keep Saturday delivery and mobilize support for our position with the Postal Regulatory Commission.

“This fight cannot be won in Washington alone,” Rolando said. “We need every member to help us prevail – giving up Saturday delivery to competitors is the most short-sighted idea imaginable. We must stop the Postal Service from making such a big mistake.”

The “Save Saturday Delivery” toolkit contains fact sheets, talking points and instructions for activists.

NALC congressional district liaisons and state legislative chairs will organize in-district visits with House and Senate members and organize letter-writing campaigns aimed at key legislators.

Branch leaders will conduct community outreach to encourage opposition to the elimination of Saturday delivery, both in Congress and within the PRC, which is conducting a formal review of the USPS proposal for weekday-only collections and delivery. Its advisory opinion, which will be released by the end of the year, could be influential in Congress – the only body with the power to approve the USPS plan.

The NALC believes that eliminating Saturday delivery would do more harm than good – it will simply push more mailers out of the postal system by making it less valuable.

“Slower service and higher rates is not a business strategy,” Rolando said. “Congress must reform the retiree health pre-funding provisions of the law. And we must do our part to preserve the excellent level of service we provide, six days a week, and seek to add new services that will generate new revenue for the USPS.”

Through the “Save Saturday Delivery” campaign, NALC aims to educate members of Congress, as well as the general public, about what it’s really going to take to fix the Postal Service.

“The Postal Service is a vital national service and we have a responsibility to fight for its future,” Rolando said.

## Ticket Deadline July 8!

# Retiring Officers to be Honored

The NALC will honor national officers who will retire at the end of their current terms in December or have retired since the Boston Convention at a reception and dinner at the Hilton Anaheim on August 12 – Thursday evening of the 67th Biennial NALC Convention.

Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Broendel said the Retiring Officers’ Dinner will begin with a reception at 6 p.m. followed by a dinner at 7 p.m.. A special salute to the retirees will follow dinner and the evening will end with dancing until 11 p.m.

Additional details will be in future *NALC Bulletins* and on the union website: [www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org).

Those planning to attend should purchase tickets as soon as possible by sending full payment along with the Retiring Officers’ Dinner order form to: Retiring Officers’ Dinner; c/o NALC Secretary-Treasurer; 100 Indiana Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144.

Tickets are \$80 each and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Tables of eight seats may be reserved in advance, but only after the order and payment are received at NALC headquarters.

Regions, branches and individual members must use the order form below or printed in the June *Postal Record* to buy tickets. Tickets and table assignments will be held for pick-up at the Retiring Officers’ Dinner Booth in the convention registration area. You must list the person authorized to pick up tickets on the order form, as only that person will be able to receive the tickets. Checks payable to Secretary-Treasurer, NALC must be received at NALC national headquarters no later than July 8.

Retiring Officers’ Dinner  
NALC Secretary-Treasurer  
100 Indiana Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20001-2144

Checks payable to  
“Secretary-Treasurer, NALC”  
must be received no later  
than July 8.

Retiring Officers’ Dinner Order Form

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ tickets for the NALC Retiring Officers’ Dinner on Thursday, August 12, 2010, at the Hilton Anaheim. Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ (@ \$80 per ticket). Tickets will be held for pickup at the Retiring Officers’ Dinner ticket booth located in the convention registration area.

Person designated to pick up ticket(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Branch number\_\_\_\_\_ Phone number where you can be reached \_\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_ ZIP\_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate if you or anyone in your party has any special dietary considerations \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to “Secretary-Treasurer, NALC” must be received no later than July 8.

## Update on Convention Hotels!

REMINDER – June 25 is the final day to cancel a convention hotel registration in Anaheim without a penalty. Also, the Hyatt hotel has lowered its rate to \$159 a night. Anyone with an existing reservation will have their room rate adjusted automatically

## Amtrak Offering Discount to and from Anaheim

A special convention fare discount is being offered by Amtrak for delegates wishing to travel by rail to the NALC Convention in Anaheim.

The 10 percent discount off the best available fare to Anaheim is being offered for travel between August 6 and August 16. Details of the offer and information on how to make a reservation with the discount can be found on the Convention section of the NALC website: [www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org).

# 77.1 Million Pounds!

## Stamping Out Hunger!

# Letter Carriers’ Food Drive Sets Record in Donations

## Tampa, Florida Branch 599 Top in Nation



National champion Tampa, Florida Branch 599 food drive coordinator Lori McMillion shows off a massive amount of food at a warehouse in Tampa, part of the more than 2 million pounds collected by the branch on May 8.

It seemed like a lot to letter carriers and rural carriers on May 8, and now we know why. Americans donated a record 77.1 million pounds of non-perishable food to help ‘Stamp Out Hunger’ in their communities this year in the annual NALC National Food Drive.

President Fred Rolando announced that the final tally for this year’s drive by 1,444 NALC branches was 77,132,180 pounds of food collected along postal routes in more than 10,000 cities and towns in all 50 states and U.S. jurisdictions and delivered to local food banks, pantries and shelters to help needy families.

The nation’s largest one-day effort to combat hunger set a new record. The results of the May 8 effort easily eclipsed last year’s previous record of 73.4 million pounds.

The 18th annual drive boosted the total donations collected since the drive began in 1993 to more than 1 billion pounds – 1,059,800,000 pounds exactly.

“Despite the lingering effects of the recession, postal customers came through again this year in the continuing fight against hunger in America,” Rolando said. “I am especially proud of our members and the thousands of rural letter carriers and other volunteers who delivered the generous donations from millions of caring citizens who wanted to help needy families in their communities.”

Tampa, Florida NALC Branch 599 collected 2,062,529 pounds to emerge as the top local union branch in the country, edging out West Coast Florida Branch 1477, which includes St. Petersburg. Branch 1477 had led the nation the past two years. Buffalo/Western New York Branch 3 was third, followed by Garden Grove, California Branch 1100.

Rolando expressed appreciation to the union’s national partners in the drive – the U.S. Postal Service’s Priority Mail, Campbell Soup Company, the National Rural Letter Carriers’ Association, Valpak Direct Marketing Systems, United Way Worldwide and its local United Ways, the AFL-CIO, and the Feeding America food bank network. Rolando also thanked “Family Circus” cartoonists Bil and Jeff Keane, who yearly provide special artwork, and actors David Arquette and Courteney Cox, television host Ryan Seacrest, and drag racing star Ashley Force Hood for their promotional support.

NALC/Campbell Soup 2010 Award Winners			
Here are the winners of the NALC/Campbell Soup awards that will receive plaques at the August 9-13 National Convention in Anaheim, California. Campbell Soup also will donate 1,000 cans of soup to a food bank designated by each of these 10 branches.			
Category I (1-49 members)		Category VI (500-699)	
Br. 6013 Inverness, FL	66,455 lbs.	Br. 2008 Clearwater, FL	1,392,267 lbs.
Category II (50-99)		Category VII (700-999)	
Br. 1103 Ocala, FL	382,000 lbs.	Br. 704 Tucson, AZ	924,847 lbs.
Category III (100-199)		Category VIII (1000-1499)	
Br. 815 Billings, MT	242,000 lbs.	Br. 599 Tampa, FL	2,062,529 lbs.
Category IV (200-349)		Category IX (1500-1999)	
Br. 2072 Fort Myers, FL	445,500 lbs.	Br. 2 Milwaukee, WI	909,736 lbs.
Category V (350-499)		Category X (2000+)	
Br. 116 Fort Wayne, IN	622,236 lbs.	Br. 3 Buffalo/Western NY	1,697,528 lbs.

## Secretary-Treasurer Broendel Announces!

# Training Set on LM-2 Electronic Filing System

The U.S. Office of Labor Management Standards (OLMS) will hold two 90-minute web-based training seminars on the LM-2 electronic filing system for union financial officers. This training is designed to explain the operation of the system, how to register and apply for a secure password and personal identification number (PIN), as well as the actual use of the LM-2 form.

In April, the OLMS held testing sessions with financial officers, comptrollers and accountants from a variety of labor organizations, searching for input on improvements to the electronic LM-2 system.

These upcoming online seminars, or “webinars,” are geared toward national and branch officers who are responsible for completing the LM-2 form, as well as toward financial experts such as auditors and accountants who assist with LM-2 form preparation. Participation in these webinars, of course, requires a good Internet connection. PC users need Windows XP or newer, and Macintosh users need to have Mac OS X 10.4.11 (Tiger) or newer.

Pre-registration is required because participation in each webinar is limited.

The first webinar will be held Thursday, June 24, at 1 p.m. EDT. Register by going to this web address: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/450141689>. The second session is Thursday, July 15 at 1 p.m. EDT. Register by going to this web address: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/692399241>. (Note: both web addresses begin with https, not http..) Online training on Forms LM-3 and LM-4 will be held later.

# Optional Tours Available at Convention

All delegates and guests are welcome to participate in optional tours while in Anaheim for the NALC National Convention. To reserve tours online, please go to the NALC Convention web page: [www.nalc.org/news/conv/index.html](http://www.nalc.org/news/conv/index.html). All requests will be handled on a first-come, first-served, space available basis.

Reservations must be prepaid online or faxed to the tour operator, ACCESS Destination Services. Payment is due at the time of the reservation. You may also print the Optional Tour Form and fax it to ACCESS Destination Services.

Confirmations will be sent to those attendees who provide an e-mail address. Your Printed Confirmation Is Your Ticket. If you don’t have e-mail, you may call 949-454-2111 to check your order. Allow one week for processing. Meals are not included on any tour; however time will be allotted on all-day tours for lunch on your own. Late and on-site tour prices will be \$3 more per ticket. Early bird deadline is July 23.

Tours will depart from the curbside in front of Hall A of the Convention Center. At the end of each tour, guests will be dropped at key hotels: Disney’s Paradise Pier, Hilton Anaheim and the Hyatt Orange County. For further questions, contact ACCESS Destination Services at [nalc@accessdmc.com](mailto:nalc@accessdmc.com).





National Association  
of Letter Carriers

Fredric V. Rolando, President

June 18, 2010 No. 10-12

# NALC Bulletin

100 Indiana Ave. NW Washington, DC 20001-2144 202.393.4695 www.nalc.org

## Retiring Officers' Dinner!

# Eight NALC National Officers To be Honored at Convention

## Reservations Must be Received at NALC by July 8



William H. Young



Gary H. Mullins



Dale P. Hart



Mike Weir



Wesley Davis



Ned Furru



Gene Goodwin



William Cooke

The NALC will honor three national officers who will retire at the end of their current terms in December and five others who have retired since the Boston Convention in 2008 at a reception and dinner at the Hilton Anaheim on August 12 — Thursday evening of the 67th Biennial NALC Convention.

Honorees will be: retired former President **William H. Young**, retiring Executive Vice President **Gary H. Mullins**, retiring Director of City Delivery **Dale P. Hart**, retiring National Business Agent **Mike Weir** (St. Louis Region), and retired NBAs **Wesley Davis** (Denver Region), **Ned Furru** (Minneapolis Region), **Gene Goodwin** (Dallas Region), and **William Cooke** (Cincinnati Region).

The Retiring Officers' Dinner, according to Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Broendel, will begin with a reception at 6 p.m. followed by a dinner at 7 p.m. in the Hilton. A special salute to the retirees will follow dinner and the evening will end with dancing until 11 p.m.

Those planning to attend should purchase tickets as soon as possible by sending full payment along with the Retiring Officers' Dinner order form to: Retiring Officers' Dinner; c/o NALC Secretary-Treasurer, 100 Indiana Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144.

Tickets are \$80 each and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Tables of eight seats may be reserved in advance, but only after the order and payment are received at NALC headquarters.

Regions, branches and individual members **must** use the order form below or printed in the last *NALC Bulletin* or the June *Postal Record* to buy tickets. Tickets and table assignments will be held for pick-up at the Retiring Officers' Dinner booth in the convention registration area. You must list the person authorized to pick up tickets on the order form, as only that person will be able to receive the tickets. Checks payable to Secretary-Treasurer, NALC **must be received at NALC national headquarters no later than July 8.**

## Retiring Officers' Dinner Order Form

Mail order form and  
payment to:

Retiring Officers' Dinner  
NALC Secretary-Treasurer  
100 Indiana Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20001-2144

Checks payable to  
"Secretary-Treasurer, NALC"  
must be received no later  
than July 8.

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ tickets for the NALC Retiring Officers' Dinner on Thursday, August 12, 2010, at the Hilton Anaheim. Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ (@ \$80 per ticket). Tickets will be held for pickup at the Retiring Officers' Dinner ticket booth located in the convention registration area.

Person designated to pick up ticket(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Branch number \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number where you can be reached \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate if you or anyone in your party has any special dietary considerations \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to "Secretary-Treasurer, NALC" must be received no later than July 8.

## Attention: Branch Officers:

## Make Sure Form 1189 is Filled Out Completely

Secretary-Treasurer Jane Broendel reminds branch officers that when they are completing Form 1189, **Request and Authorization for Voluntary Allotment from Annuity for Payment of Organization Dues to NALC**, please be sure the form is entirely completed, including the Civil Service Annuity Number (CSA).

Currently there is an overwhelming backlog at the Office of Personnel Management, thus, if the Form 1189 is not properly completed, a further delay in processing will occur.

# Tragedy Strikes Two Carriers NALC Members in California and Missouri Victims of Dog Attack and Lightning Bolt

NALC President Fred Rolando and members throughout the nation are mourning the loss of two union members killed while delivering mail on their routes in two dangerous situations that every letter carrier faces — dog attacks and hazardous weather.

Christine Jones, 34, was struck and killed by a bolt of lightning during a thunderstorm June 15 while she delivered mail on her route in Ferguson, a suburb of St. Louis. She was a member of NALC St. Louis Branch 343.

Hao Yun "Eddie" Lin, 33, a member of Garden Grove, California Branch 1100, died June 3 from head injuries after being attacked by a Rottweiler while he delivered mail May 25 in Oceanside, about 40 miles north of San Diego.

President Rolando said these two tragic deaths of letter carriers from incidents while delivering the mail points out the many dangers facing all carriers when they go out on their routes each day and is a reminder that all carriers should always be aware of their surroundings and prepared to take swift action when needed.

**"Our heartfelt sympathies go out to the families, friends and colleagues of Sister Jones and Brother Lin," Rolando said. "Both of these fine, young letter carriers were well-liked and conscientious in their work and they will be missed."**

Rolando said the union will be watching closely the official investigations into both of these fatal incidents.

According to the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, Jones took shelter under a large sweetgum tree during a driving rainstorm when lightning struck the tree, leaving a large scar on the tree and knocking off Jones' shoes and hat. She was pronounced dead a short time later at Christian Northeast Hospital. Among her survivors is a six-year old son.

Lin died in the hospital several days after the dog attack which occurred after the Rottweiler was able to push a door open, chased Lin down the block and then reportedly lunged or jumped on him, causing him to strike his head on the ground, according to the *San Diego Union-Tribune*. A passerby called for help after finding Lin on the ground, and hospital treatment was unsuccessful. Lin is survived by a wife and three children.

# NALC Receives 'J. Edward Day Award' From Association for Postal Commerce

## Rolando Accepts Honor for Union's Annual Food Drive

The National Association of Letter Carriers' annual food drive has received another award — the prestigious J. Edward Day Award of the Association for Postal Commerce, the highest honor bestowed by that organization.

NALC President Fred Rolando accepted the award on behalf of the union June 8 during PostCom's spring meeting in Washington, D.C. PostCom board chairman Joseph Schick presented the handsome wooden plaque to Rolando, who thanked the organization on behalf of all letter carriers.

NALC was the first group to receive the award, which in the past has gone to several postmasters general, legislative leaders and the head of the Postal Rate Commission.

In announcing the award, PostCom President Gene Del Polito said NALC was being honored in recognition of the service it "renders on behalf of the postal community and the nation through its annual food drive for the needy — a service that is singular in its importance and effect on the lives of thousands of Americans."

The award is named after former Postmaster General J. Edward Day, who served during the Kennedy administration and inaugurated the ZIP Code in 1963. The Association for Postal Commerce is a national association of businesses and organizations that use or support the use of mail as a medium for business communication or commerce.



President Rolando holds the annual J. Edward Day Award of the Association for Postal Commerce, the organization's highest honor, presented June 8 during PostCom's spring meeting in Washington, D.C. The award was presented by PostCom Chairman Joseph Schick, left. At right is NALC Director of Public Relations Drew Von Bergen, the food drive's retiring national coordinator. (PostCom photo)

# 8,694 Delegates Registered For Anaheim Convention

The number of delegates registered for the 67th Biennial NALC Convention August 9-13 at the Anaheim Convention Center has reached 8,694, representing 664 NALC branches throughout the nation.

The week-long convention, hosted by Garden Grove Branch 1100, will be one of the largest in NALC history. The record for officially credentialed delegates is 9,199 at the 2006 Las Vegas convention.

Formal registration at the convention site will begin on Saturday, August 7. The opening general session is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Monday, August 9.

# Seventh COLA – No Accumulation

The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for May, released on June 17 by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, continued to reflect no accumulation yet for a cost-of-living adjustment during the seventh COLA period under the 2006-2011 National Agreement. The period runs from January to July of this year.

**The CPI-W stood at 637.809 in May, still below the 644.303 level attained in July 2008.**

There also has not yet been any projected accumulation toward the 2011 retiree COLA based on the May CPI-W.

The projected accumulation toward the 2011 COLA for Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) participants, which is based on the increase in the CPI-W between December 2009 and December 2010, stood at 1.1 percent through May.





National Association  
of Letter Carriers  
Fredric V. Rolando, President  
July 9, 2010 No. 10-13

# NALC Bulletin

100 Indiana Ave. NW Washington, DC 20001-2144 202.393.4695 www.nalc.org



In addition to NALC President Fred Rolando (c), National Rural Letter Carriers' Association President Don Cantriel (l) and American Postal Workers Union President William Burrus were among the labor and business leaders who were called to testify before a June 23 congressional subcommittee hearing on the Postal Service's plan to cut Saturday mail delivery.

## Rolando to Congress: Cutting Saturday would be 'a blunder of the first order'

For the first time since the Postal Service announced its so-called "action plan" for the future, NALC President Fred Rolando testified before a congressional committee and soundly rejected a key component of the Service's proposal—the elimination of six-day delivery—calling the idea "a blunder of the first order, saving very little money and risking the loss of much more revenue over time.

**"Cutting service is not a way to strengthen the Postal Service," Rolando said. "In America, business is conducted 24 hours a day, seven days a week."**

Rolando's remarks were among those submitted by labor and business leaders who were called to testify before the Senate subcommittee that has jurisdiction over the Postal Service. Members of the corresponding House subcommittee were also invited to the June 23 hearing.

Rolando pointed out the economic impact of implementing the flawed business strategy. "At a time when the nation is suffering an acute jobs crisis, throwing another 80,000 decent [postal] jobs away in a moment of panic does not make sense," he said, noting that President Obama opposes eliminating Saturday mail delivery service, as do at least 225 House members who have signed on as co-sponsors of House Resolution 173, which supports the preservation of six-day service.

The NALC president blamed measures enacted by the 2006 postal reform act for the Postal Service's sorry economic state. "Even if the economy had not crashed, hard-wiring a 10-year schedule to pre-fund 80 percent of a 75-year liability was, in hindsight, a mistake," Rolando said. "This decision by Congress, not the recession and not the impact of the Internet, is primarily responsible for the financial crisis faced by the Postal Service in recent years.

**"If not for these payments, the USPS would have been profitable in three of the past four years—despite the deepest downturn since the Great Depression," Rolando said. "There is no way to sugarcoat this: Congress must undo the unintentional error of 2006."**

Rolando asked Congress to call on the Office of Personnel Management to refund the \$75 billion it overcharged the Postal Service for pension costs dating back to 1971, a major accounting error that the USPS Office of Inspector General revealed in a report in January. Recalculating those pension costs and moving the resulting surplus into the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefit Fund would give the Service the financial space it needs to restructure itself for the Internet age, Rolando said. *(See Report: OPM owes USPS \$50-55 billion, at right.)*

Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA), chair of the House subcommittee, noted that the future retiree health benefits fund already contains \$35 billion. "There's a fair case to be made that repaying the overcharge could cure the Postal Service's short- and middle-term pre-funding requirements," he said.



Rep. Stephen Lynch

## Sen. Robert C. Byrd November 20, 1917–June 28, 2010

Sen. Robert C. Byrd (D-WV), the longest-serving member of Congress in American history, died June 28. He was 92.

Elected to the House of Representatives in 1953, Byrd moved to the Senate six years later and began what would become an unprecedented 52-year career there.

Byrd was a strong supporter of unions and the NALC. Included among his accomplishments as majority leader during the 1970s was breaking a Republican filibuster against labor law reform.

"Letter carriers across America and in the Mountain State have lost a long-time friend," said NALC President Fredric V. Rolando. "Throughout his remarkable half-century of service in Congress, Senator Byrd never wavered from his support for working people."



Sen. Robert C. Byrd

The search for a replacement to serve the remainder of Byrd's term through 2012 was still under way as this *Bulletin* was prepared.



### Anaheim Convention updates!

## Change is coming for the MBA workshop

The Mutual Benefit Association has announced that its workshop format at the NALC's 67th Biennial Convention in Anaheim will be different from those held in prior convention years. The MBA will now hold an early morning workshop on Tuesday, August 10, instead of a breakfast.

"Due to an overwhelming demand for a more comprehensive training on our insurance products, my staff and I will be facilitating in-depth product information training," said NALC Director of Life Insurance Myra Warren. "You asked and we're going to deliver, with a hands-on workshop about MBA's products and services."

This training is exclusively for branch MBA representatives or potential reps as designated by their branch president. Information will be presented in a small-group format, with the hope that this will allow for a greater interaction between the attendees and the staff. "We believe this will also increase the comprehension of information and the overall enjoyment of the session," Warren said.

Those interested in attending should complete the reservation coupon below and return it to the MBA as soon as possible. Once your reservation is received, your name will be placed on the confirmation roster. Seating is limited.



### MBA Workshop Training Registration

NALC's 67th Biennial Convention  
Tuesday, August 10, 7:30-9:30 a.m.  
Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim, California

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Branch number \_\_\_\_\_

Are you the branch MBA representative? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you the branch president's designee? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Branch president's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: United States Letter Carriers Mutual Benefit Association,  
Attn: Dianne Williams, 100 Indiana Avenue NW, Suite 510, Washington, DC 20001

### It's payback time

## Report: OPM owes USPS \$50-55 billion

The Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) submitted a report on June 30 that showed that the Postal Service has been overcharged by at least \$50 billion-\$55 billion for Civil Service Retirement System pension costs related to work performed by the taxpayer-supported Post Office Department before 1971. The report confirmed a similar finding in January by the Service's Office of the Inspector General, though the PRC estimate was about a third less than the \$75 billion found by the IG.

"The report supports a broadly shared conclusion in the postal industry that the Postal Service has massively over-funded its pension liabilities," said NALC President Fred Rolando, "and that the surplus funds in the CSRS postal account could be used to meet USPS' obligations to pre-fund its future retiree health benefits.

"Congress now has all the evidence it needs to quickly correct this accounting error," Rolando added. "Doing so would help put the Service back on more profitable footing and enable it to maintain its excellent level of service without having to resort to radical, short-sighted cost-cutting measures such as eliminating Saturday mail delivery service."

By law, the OPM, which is responsible for calculating the Postal Service's CSRS pension liability, must now recalculate the Service's pension assets in light of this report.

"Given that the \$5.5 billion annual cost of pre-funding retiree health costs—not the recession and not the Internet—is responsible for the Postal Service's recent financial losses," Rolando said, "we call on Congress and the Obama administration to act this year on legislation to relieve the Postal Service of this unfair burden."



PRC Chairman Ruth Goldway

### It doesn't add up

## Making postage rate increase a labor issue ignores USPS' bigger financial problems

NALC President Fred Rolando quickly responded to charges that the blame for the recently announced postage rate increase lies with USPS' labor costs.

"At stake here is finding a long-term, common-sense solution to the financial problems plaguing the Postal Service," Rolando said in a press release July 7, noting that the answer is not "to be found by making false and misleading claims about postal labor costs to avoid a postage rate increase, as some mailers are now doing.

"The smartest solution is to reform the congressional mandate to massively pre-fund future retiree health benefits.

"The Postal Service has reviewed its operations repeatedly over the past three years and has reacted quickly to the changing economic landscape. Jointly with the NALC, it has evaluated and adjusted letter carrier routes four times in the past 18 months. These hard-nosed reviews have saved the Service over a billion dollars and have significantly reduced its workforce while it reached record levels of productivity.

"To make this a labor issue ignores the larger financial issues at play. We are committed to making changes that are in the best interest of consumers. But to address the problem, we should not resort to knee-jerk reactions and criticisms."

### Sixth straight year!

## USPS is 'most trusted government agency'

For the sixth consecutive year, a study by the Ponemon Institute has found that Americans still trust the Postal Service above all other government agencies when it comes to safeguarding their personal information.

Nearly nine out of 10 Americans surveyed by the Institute's 2010 *Privacy Trust Study of the United States Government* ranked the USPS first among 75 federal government agencies.

"While overall trust in the government declined this year, trust in the U.S. Postal Service remains at an all-time high," said Larry Ponemon, chairman and founder of the Ponemon Institute.

## Rolando names new RAA for Region 4

NALC President Fred Rolando has named Dan Versluis the new regional administrative assistant for Denver Region 4, which serves letter carriers in Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming. The appointment is effective July 12.

Versluis, the president of Tucson, Arizona Branch 704 since 2003, replaces Al Linde, who retired June 25.

"We're grateful for the many years of service Al has provided to NALC members," said President Rolando, "and I'm sure I join all letter carriers both in wishing him well in his retirement and in wishing good luck to Dan."

## Another tool to keep members informed

NALC President Fred Rolando has announced the launch of *NALC Activist Alert*, the union's legislative and political action blog.

"For the NALC to continue to be successful in both the legislative and political arenas, it is imperative that we keep our members up-to-date with the most current information," Rolando said. "This blog is another tool we intend to use to help make sure that happens."

The NALC Activist Alert blog is online at [nalcactivistalert.com](http://nalcactivistalert.com).

## Requirement for convention alternates

Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Broendel advises that alternates seeking to replace delegates at the NALC National Convention must adhere to the following requirement:

"Article 4, Section 3 of the *National Constitution* requires written evidence from any delegate being replaced or from the branch secretary stating that the delegate is unable to attend the convention. This document should be presented at registration by the alternate delegate."

## Signed credential cards needed at registration

Delegates and any alternates replacing delegates are reminded that the credential cards previously sent to branch secretaries must be in alphabetical order and signed by both the branch president and branch secretary before being presented at registration. Branch secretaries should also bring their delegate eligibility list and any correspondence related to delegate registration with them to registration.

Registration will be held in Exhibit Hall C on Level 1 at the Anaheim Convention Center during these hours:

Saturday, August 7, 12 noon to 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, August 8, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Monday, August 9, 8 a.m. to 12 noon

After 12 noon on Monday, August 9, registration will continue in the NALC Headquarters Office on Level 2 of the Convention Center.

## Open captioning on convention screens

General session video presentations, including podium and floor action, will be open-captioned so that hearing-impaired delegates can sit with their delegations.

If a delegate needs other special accommodations for the disabled, including a need for a signing interpreter in workshops, contact the Secretary-Treasurer's office at NALC Headquarters by **July 26**.





National Association  
of Letter Carriers

Fredric V. Rolando, President

July 27, 2010 No. 10-14

# NALC Bulletin

100 Indiana Ave. NW Washington, DC 20001-2144 202.393.4695 www.nalc.org

**Before Congress now**

## Postal finance bill introduced, advances Calls on OPM to refund billions to USPS



Rep. Stephen Lynch

The Federal Workforce, Postal Service, and the District of Columbia subcommittee of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee in the House of Representatives passed legislation on July 21 that is designed to credit the Postal Service with between \$50 and \$75 billion in pension assets unfairly allocated by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). The legislation, H.R. 5746, was introduced on July 15 by subcommittee chair Stephen Lynch (D-MA) and marked up by the committee on July 21. The 8-1 vote in favor of the legislation sends the bill to the full committee for action as early as this week.

The Lynch bill is designed to help the Postal Service recoup tens of billions of dollars in surplus funds it has accumulated in the Civil Service Retirement System since 1971, the year the taxpayer-supported Post Office Department was reorganized into a self-sufficient government agency. The funds were siphoned away by the OPM, which unfairly charged CSRS benefits paid for pre-1971 service to the Postal Service instead of the Treasury.

**"This bill is a huge step in the right direction," said NALC President Fredric Rolando. "It lays the groundwork for restoring financial stability to the USPS."**

Exactly how much the OPM has overcharged the Postal Service is up for debate—the Service's Office of the Inspector General reported in January that it was \$75 billion, while the Postal Regulatory Commission announced a few weeks ago that the figure is likely to fall between \$50 billion and \$55 billion.

Once the recalculation is complete, Rep. Lynch's bill calls for transferring the surplus into the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefit Fund, though the timing of that transfer is left up to the OPM.

**"If the Service can get this money back and use it to fully fund the retiree health benefit account," Rolando said, "the Postal Service will be on solid footing to ask Congress to remove the onerous pre-funding provisions that have caused it to lose money in recent years."**

Currently, the USPS is obligated to pre-fund its retiree health benefit account by paying an average of \$5.5 billion into it annually through 2016, an overly aggressive schedule conceived and agreed to months before the economic "crash" that led to the Great Recession. No other government agency or private company is required to pre-fund future retiree health benefits, and if the USPS hadn't been required to make such gigantic pre-funding payments, it would have been profitable in recent years—despite the worst recession in memory.

"Giving the Postal Service some financial breathing room will allow it to back away from some of its most misguided plans to save money, including cutting Saturday mail delivery service," Rolando said. "This legislation advances our fight to save Saturday delivery and preserve letter carrier jobs. The fight is far from over, but we are making progress."

"We are grateful for Congressman Lynch's hard work and dedication to helping to keep the Postal Service healthy."

## Customer Connect hits \$1 billion mark

NALC Director of Safety and Health Brian Hellman, the national officer who oversees the Customer Connect program, has announced that the business lead-generation initiative has crossed the \$1 billion threshold in the total amount of new annual revenue generated by leads submitted by letter carriers since the program began in 2003.

Through Customer Connect, letter carriers are encouraged to take advantage of the special relationship we have with our business patrons and to ask them to consider using the Postal Service for package shipping instead of private delivery services.

**"Letter carriers continue to do our part to promote the value of using the USPS," said NALC President Fred Rolando. "Thanks to Customer Connect, the Postal Service has a dedicated salesforce of men and women who touch every mailbox in America, six days a week."**

**"It also reinforces our point that increasing postal revenue is as important as cutting costs when it comes to securing the financial stability of the Postal Service."**

While the \$1 billion mark is a great triumph, Rolando said that it's only a good start compared to what the program could deliver if all letter carriers and management worked together to make it a success.

**"At a time when the USPS can use all the revenue it can get," Rolando added, "wouldn't it make more sense for Postal Service management to work with us on expanding Customer Connect, rather than spending millions trying to cut Saturday mail delivery?"**

## Seventh COLA: No accumulation

The Consumer Price Index for June, released July 16 by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, continued to reflect no accumulation yet for a cost-of-living adjustment during the seventh COLA period under the 2006-2011 National Agreement. The period runs from January to July of this year.

Also based on the June CPI, there also has been no projected accumulation toward the 2011 retiree COLA. Meanwhile, the projected accumulation toward the 2011 COLA for Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) participants, which is based on the CPI increase between December 2009 and December 2010, stood at 1 percent through June.

## Financial training sessions scheduled

Secretary-Treasurer Jane Broendel has announced that two educational training sessions will be held early next year for new branch secretary-treasurers and other local and state officers who are chiefly responsible for financial administration. Other branch and state officers who deal directly with branch finances are also invited. Priority will be given to first-time attendees (limited to two per branch) and each session is limited to 150 participants.

One session will be held in San Diego and the other in Orlando. More detailed information will be printed in upcoming editions of the *NALC Bulletin* and *The Postal Record* and will also be posted online at nalc.org.



## Convention Countdown!

# Delegate count: 8,776

As of this issue's printing, 8,776 NALC members are registered to attend the 67th Biennial NALC Convention in Anaheim, California, August 9-13, where the union will gather to map out a battle plan in the ongoing fight to save Saturday mail delivery service and to find ways to help put the Postal Service back on track.

Delegates will consider resolutions on various issues, including bargaining proposals for contract negotiations once the current contract runs out next fall, as well as nominate candidates for the 28 national offices to lead the NALC for the next four years.

Before and after the general sessions, several hours will be devoted to informative and instructional workshops. The complete workshop schedule is included in the June issue of *The Postal Record* and is provided online at nalc.org.

## Shuttle bus service

Free shuttle service is provided between the convention center and NALC hotels in the official housing block: Disneyland Hotel, Disney's Paradise Pier, Howard Johnson's, Doubletree Guest Suites, Embassy Suites Hotels Anaheim South and the Hyatt Regency Orange County. All other hotels in the NALC block are within walking distance.

Hours (subject to change): Saturday, August 7, 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Sunday, August 8, 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Monday, August 9 through Wednesday, August 11, 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday, August 12, 6:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.; Friday, August 13, 6:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Routes operate continuously every 10 to 15 minutes immediately before and after workshops and business sessions and every 15 to 20 minutes all other times.

Shuttle service will be provided for the baseball game at Angel Stadium on Tuesday, August 10, only. All guests at hotels within walking distance of the convention center will board shuttles to the baseball game at the Anaheim Hilton.

A schedule will be posted at all NALC hotels and at the convention center.

## Parking at the convention center

Delegates may park in Car Park #1 for entry on the west side for Exhibit Hall C or D. Delegates may use Car Park #4 as well. The Anaheim Convention Center suggests that delegates use Car Park #1—it's more accessible for those unfamiliar with the area. Handicapped parking for Car Park #1 is on the top level close to elevators. Handicapped parking for Car Park #4 is on the first level close to elevators.

Upon entering either lot, be sure to inform cashiers that you're there for the National Association of Letter Carriers. Cashiers will help direct you to the halls.

Parking costs \$12 per vehicle, per entry, with no in-out and no overnight parking.

## Signed credential cards needed at registration

Delegates and any alternates replacing delegates are reminded that the credential cards previously sent to branch secretaries must be in alphabetical order and signed by both the branch president and branch secretary before being presented at registration. Branch secretaries should also bring their delegate eligibility list and any correspondence related to delegate registration with them to registration.

Registration will be held in Exhibit Hall C on Level 1 at the convention center Saturday, August 7, 12 noon to 5:30 p.m.; Sunday, August 8, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Monday, August 9, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. After noon Monday, August 9, registration will continue in the NALC Headquarters Office on Level 2 of the convention center.

## Accommodations for the disabled

**Wheelchair and scooter rental:** Contact Scooter Village at 888-956-2246. Mention that you're attending the NALC convention to receive a discount. No charge for delivery or pick-up.

**Oxygen:** If you require oxygen refills while in Anaheim, Scooter Village can also assist you. You'll need your prescription, diagnosis, the amount of oxygen needed and the type of equipment required. To order refills, payable by cash, credit card or check, it's suggested that you call a day ahead, although same-day service may be available.

## Blood drive

A blood drive will be held Wednesday, August 11, and Thursday, August 12, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Hilton Anaheim in the California Ballroom. Sign up in advance by calling 800-448-3543 and give sponsor code NALC. On-site appointments may be made based on availability.

## Retiring officers' dinner

The NALC will honor three national officers who will retire at the end of their current terms, plus five others who have retired since the 2008 convention, at a reception and dinner at the Hilton Anaheim on Thursday, August 12. A limited number of tickets is still available for the reception that begins at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7. A special salute to the retirees will follow dinner and the evening will end with dancing until 11. Tickets are \$80 each, payable by check made out to "Secretary-Treasurer, NALC." Stop by the Retiring Officers' Dinner booth in the convention registration area to check on ticket availability.

# NALC Health Benefit Plan breakfast / workshop

The NALC Health Benefit Plan Breakfast Workshop is Monday, August 9, 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Tickets are going fast—don't miss your opportunity to attend.

Tickets will be available at the NALC HBP Office in Convention Center Room 210 AB, or you may purchase your ticket the morning of the breakfast, provided tickets are still available. The breakfast will be held at the Anaheim Hilton Pacific Room CD, second floor.

The following branches will receive awards at the breakfast: Cleveland, OH Br. 40; Hartford, CT Branch 86; Toledo, OH Branch 100; Centennial CO Br. 5996; Clearwater, FL Br. 2008; Houston, TX Br. 283; Bergen County Merged, NJ Br. 425; Norwalk, CT Br. 147; Arvada, CO Br. 4405; Concord, NH Br. 72; and Auburn, CA Br. 3060.



## HBP Breakfast / Workshop Registration

NALC's 67th Biennial Convention  
Monday, August 9, 7:30-9:30 a.m.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Branch number \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: \$28 Location: Hilton Anaheim, Pacific Rooms C/D, 2nd floor

Mail to: NALC Health Benefit Plan Breakfast/Workshop, 20547 Waverly Court, Ashburn, VA 20149

For information: 703-729-8103 or 703-729-8104





National Association  
of Letter Carriers

Fredric V. Rolando, President

August 6, 2010 No. 10-15

# NALC Bulletin

100 Indiana Ave. NW Washington, DC 20001-2144 202.393.4695 www.nalc.org

## House, Senate bills to preserve six-day delivery language

Letter carriers can claim a key victory in the ongoing war over Saturday delivery, thanks to their lobbying efforts with both senators and House members. Just before Congress headed into its August recess, lawmakers marking up separate appropriations bills retained specific, carry-over language that states that “6-day delivery and rural delivery of mail shall continue at not less than the 1983 level.”



Sen. John Tester

That appropriations language is what grants Congress the final say on the days of delivery service. It has remained the same in every federal budget since 1984 and looks set to continue for the upcoming fiscal year.

“Folks in rural and frontier communities often rely on their Saturday mail to bring them the things they need to live,” said Sen. John Tester (D-MT), who serves on the Senate Financial Services and General Government Appropriations subcommittee. “Many Montanans live long distances from the nearest pharmacy or newsstand. Getting mail six days per week is part of what keeps rural America strong and thriving.”

Tester's subcommittee approved the FY 2011 appropriations bill July 27. Two days later, the full Senate Appropriations committee gave the bill its stamp of approval as well.

Meanwhile, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services successfully marked up its own bill on July 29, also with the language on six-day delivery left unchanged. The full House Appropriations Committee will take up the bill after the August recess.

## How the USPS can really save itself

*The following is a letter from NALC President Fredric Rolando sent to the editor of The Washington Post and was printed in the July 31 edition, written in response to an opinion piece calling for the elimination of Saturday delivery.*

The July 23 Washington Forum commentary by Paul B. Carroll and Chunka Mui, “How USPS can save itself,” raised some important points about the future of the U.S. Postal Service. The agency must make changes to continue to provide a vital service to the American people, but cutting service, particularly Saturday mail delivery, should not be one of them.

For the Postal Service to effectively plan for the future, Congress must lift unnecessary financial burdens, allowing the agency to think long term rather than make shortsighted cuts to stay above water.

The Postal Service has been backed into a corner by a multibillion-dollar overpayment into the Civil Service Retirement Fund and a congressional mandate that it prefund its retiree health benefits on an accelerated schedule. Since 1971, the Postal Service has made as much as \$75 billion in overpayments into its federal retirement fund. If that money were returned to the Postal Service, it could be used to meet the requirement to prefund retiree health benefits. This unnecessary requirement, which forces the agency to pay a 75-year liability in a 10-year time frame, has turned Postal Service profits into losses in two of the past three years.

## EPI: Congressional mandates account for most of USPS' recent losses

Contrary to popular belief, Americans' increasing use of the Internet for digital communication is not the most important cause of the USPS' losses in recent years. So says the Economic Policy Institute, a progressive Washington think tank, in its recent report on the subject.

EPI found that at the heart of the current financial crisis is the congressionally-mandated pre-funding of the Postal Service's retiree health benefits—a requirement imposed on no other government entity or private-sector company.

### Economic Policy Institute

Research and Ideas for Shared Prosperity

The EPI report bolsters the NALC's own findings—that had the Postal Service not been bound to pre-fund future retiree health

benefits on such an aggressive schedule, the Service would have operated in the black in 2007 and 2008—at the height of the Great Recession—and probably would have come close to breaking even again last year.

“Despite the severe statutory challenges imposed upon the USPS, the agency has nevertheless prudently managed its retiree benefits,” the report said, noting that “USPS already has the assets to cover all retiree health benefits until at least 2025.” Better still, the Service's pension plans “were 99.5 percent funded as of the end of the Postal Service's 2009 fiscal year.”

EPI also highlights the findings of both the USPS Office of the Inspector General and the Postal Regulatory Commission that an accounting error by the Office of Personnel Management dating back to 1971 has resulted in a \$50 billion to \$75 billion Postal Service overpayment into the Civil Service Retirement Fund.

The EPI report calls for several steps that Congress should take to correct the \$75 billion pension overpayment, including directing OPM to fairly calculate the Postal Service's pension obligations, and then transferring the pension surplus to the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund.

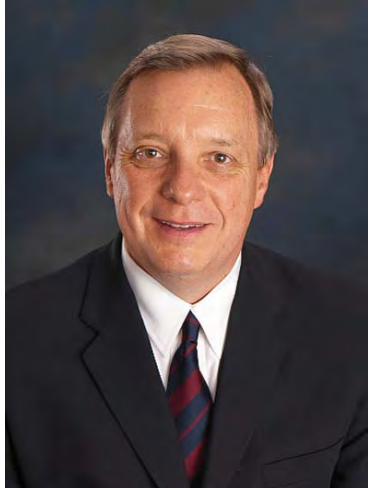
In fact, these are the two main thrusts of H.R. 5746, a bill introduced by Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA) last month. With 41 co-sponsors as this *Bulletin* went to press, this bill is at the heart of NALC's legislative agenda for the near future. President Rolando recently sent an e-Activist message asking members to contact their representatives about the bill. The full House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform will consider H.R. 5746 after the August recess.

If Congress implements its recommendations, EPI argues that cutting Saturday mail delivery service would not be necessary at all, and could ultimately spare the 80,000 full- and part-time postal positions that would be placed on the chopping block by eliminating a day of mail delivery.

During the Senate's recent appropriations discussions, Illinois Sen. Richard Durbin seemed to echo EPI's findings.

“There's a question about whether they overpaid into their pension system and we haven't resolved that,” he said. “That's a big amount of money. It's billions.”

*The complete EPI study is posted online at [nalc.org/saturday](http://nalc.org/saturday).*



Sen. Richard Durbin

## Swing and a miss

On July 29, Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT), the ranking member of the House Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service, and the District of Columbia, introduced H.R. 5919, a bill that calls for giving the postmaster general the authority to implement up to 12 non-mail delivery days each fiscal year.

“Congressman Chaffetz has been generally friendly toward letter carriers and the Postal Service,” said NALC President Fredric Rolando, “and I believe his heart is in the right place in trying to find a compromise to give the Postal Service some help in getting out of its financial mess.

“But this bill would give the Service the authority to randomly assign what amounts to 12 furlough days a year, which would in effect override our collective bargaining agreement with the Postal Service. We cannot support such legislation.”

## Convention time is here!

**More than 8,700 carriers in Anaheim for NALC Convention; saving six-day mail delivery highlights agenda**

The largest convention among AFL-CIO affiliated unions gets under way Monday as more than 8,700 letter carriers representing every U.S. state and territory convene in Anaheim, California for our week-long 67th Biennial National Convention at the Anaheim Convention Center.

NALC President Fredric V. Rolando will deliver the keynote address August 9 shortly after the convention convenes.

Also scheduled to address the delegates during the five-day gathering are U.S. Reps. Loretta Sanchez and Susan Davis (both D-CA); AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka; NALC President Emeritus William H. Young; United Mine Workers President Cecil Roberts; American Postal Workers Union President William Burrus; National Rural Letter Carriers' Association President Don Cantriel; Communication Workers Union General Secretary Billy Hayes; Norwegian Post and Communications Union (Postkom) President Odd Christian Overland; Economic Policy Institute Founding President and distinguished fellow Jeff Faux; UNI Global Union's head of Post and Logistics Neil Anderson; and Global FoodBanking Network Founder and President Bob Forney.

In addition to ongoing discussions about the Postal Service's misguided money-saving proposal to end Saturday mail service, convention delegates will debate and then approve or disapprove resolutions and constitutional amendments submitted by delegates and discuss next year's contract negotiations. They will also nominate candidates for all 10 national resident officer positions, three national trustee posts, and the 15 national business agent slots.

Additionally, daily workshops on a variety of special-interest topics will be held before and after the general session.



The Anaheim Convention Center

Convention coverage will be provided in special editions of the *NALC Bulletin* and daily on the union's website at [nalc.org](http://nalc.org). A full write-up on Anaheim's activities will appear in a combined September-October issue of *The Postal Record*, arriving in mailboxes October 1.





National Association  
of Letter Carriers

Fredric V. Rolando, President

August 11, 2010 No. 10-16



# NALC Bulletin

100 Indiana Ave. NW Washington, DC 20001-2144 202.393.4695 www.nalc.org



## Convention Monday

**Rep. Loretta Sanchez**

## ‘You’re as good as gold’

President Rolando introduced Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D-CA), who has represented Anaheim in the House since 1997. Rolando noted that Sanchez is a strong supporter of letter carriers and a co-sponsor of H. Res. 173, the congressional resolution calling for the continuation of six-day mail delivery, as well as of H.R. 5746, the bill that would correct an erroneous \$50 billion to \$75 billion overpayment to the U.S. Treasury by the Postal Service into the Civil Service Retirement Fund.

Inviting members of host Garden Grove Branch 1100 to join her on stage during her speech, Rep. Sanchez brimmed with affection and enthusiasm for letter carriers and for all working men and women. She said she admired letter carriers’ hardworking “six-day legs” and pledged to keep them walking six days of the week. She also said she admired how letter carriers manage to reach the remote Arkansas town where her grandmother lives. “You’re as good as gold, and we’re going to keep you that way,” she said.

Sanchez noted that letter carriers provide plenty of services beyond delivering mail, such as collecting donations for the annual food drive, helping customers in crisis, and providing daily contact for isolated people.

“I know all the work you do that’s not in the job description,” she said. “That’s what being an American is all about—doing all of that.”



Rep. Loretta Sanchez

## Young given special honor

President Rolando proposed a resolution declaring his predecessor, William H. Young, “president emeritus.” After delegates approved the resolution by acclamation, Rolando invited now-President Emeritus Young to address the convention.

Looking back on his more than three decades of service to letter carriers as a national officer, Young expressed his unwavering confidence in the union’s members. “I was interested in seeing what you and I together could accomplish,” he said, “and by God, you never let me down, and I thank you.”

## Friday ‘Rally for Jobs’

President Rolando asked delegates to consider modifying the Convention schedule to allow delegates to participate in an AFL-CIO “Paychecks Pay the Bills” jobs rally at noontime Friday in downtown Los Angeles. Delegates approved, and as a result, Friday morning’s workshops will be moved to an earlier time, with further details to be announced. Buses will convey participants from the Anaheim Convention Center to the rally and back.

“As long as there are 15 million Americans out of work and another 13 million discouraged and underemployed workers, the outlook for the Postal Service will remain bleak,” he said, since payroll growth is the number one indicator of future mail volume growth.

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka will speak to the convention before delegates head to the massive noon rally, which will also call for supporting the preservation of six-day delivery as a means toward saving 80,000 postal employee jobs.

**Past, present, future**

## Saving Saturday tops agenda as Rolando opens convention



In a passionate and rousing opening address on Monday to the nearly 7,000 delegates present in Anaheim for the 67th Biennial National Association of Letter Carriers Convention, President Fredric V. Rolando spelled out the challenges facing the NALC over the next five days of the convention as well as for the months and years to come.

Combining his trademark humor with a fiery zeal that brought cheering delegates to their feet numerous times over the course of almost 90 minutes, Rolando called on each individual carrier to save the United States Postal Service, even if it means saving it from postal management.

After entering the hall to Tom Petty’s “I Won’t Back Down,” Rolando began his address by reminding delegates that all isn’t bleak, and that the NALC remains the largest and best organized open shop union in America, while enjoying success in programs like Customer Connect and the annual Food Drive.

**“I challenge anyone to name another union with a longer and richer tradition,” he said.**

And the NALC is a force for innovation, he said, raking in \$1 billion in new business since 2003 for the Postal Service through the Customer Connect program, not to mention the one billion pounds of donated food collected over the past 18 years in the annual “Stamp Out Hunger” food drive.

However, lowered mail volumes brought about by the worst recession since the Great Depression and increasing electronic diversion of the mail present tremendous challenges to letter carriers.

Then there are the other problems the Postal Service faces that are all-too-familiar to letter carriers—such as the overpayment of nearly \$75 billion in pension contributions, and the requirement to aggressively pre-fund future retiree health benefits to the tune of \$87 billion, something no other government agency or private business is required to do.

The Postal Service’s proposal to cut costs by dropping a day of mail delivery would only worsen the prospects for the USPS.

**“The very idea of abandoning a day of service, harming customers, forcing them to alternative delivery systems, undercutting public reliance on postal deliveries—it’s all so wrong that it borders on the lunatic,” he said.**



Mindful that the National Agreement expires 14 months from now, Rolando outlined his four major goals for the next contract: to extend and enforce the ban on outsourcing city carrier jobs; to win more work for letter carriers through the assignment of new deliveries; to develop a better, fairer system for evaluating and adjusting routes; and to prepare for the next round of wage bargaining.

“Chip this one in stone: NALC is 100 percent committed to fight to protect the job security and standard of living of letter carriers, no matter what economic conditions we face. We will not give it up.”

The union’s two top legislative goals remain permanently reforming the retiree health pre-funding provisions of the 2006 postal reform law and defeating the Service’s proposal to eliminate Saturday mail delivery.

Some progress has already been made, thanks to H.R. 5746, a bill offered by Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA), which seeks to recover and transfer the postal pension surplus to the postal retiree health fund to fully pre-fund all future retiree health benefits.

The next step will be to repeal the \$5.5 billion pre-funding payments, which is likely to become more feasible once Congress sees that the retiree health fund is fully funded.

Rolando urged delegates to contact their congressional representatives to make sure they are co-sponsors of H.R. 5746.

“We must also stop the Postal Service from making the biggest strategic blunder since it gave away the Express Mail market in 1978,” Rolando said, “when it voluntarily loosened the private express statutes at the urging of a small, unknown company in Memphis called Federal Express. The rest is history.”

**“Thanks to our legislative and political activists, we are making real gains in the battle to save Saturday delivery,” Rolando said.**

“The real strength of our union is the pride that each member feels as we serve our customers, in every neighborhood—at 150 million addresses nationwide—six days a week,” he said near the close of his speech. “Together, we are 300,000 strong, and together, we will succeed,” he said.



## Convention Tuesday

**UMWA President Cecil Roberts**

## Unions, members stand together

United Mine Workers of America President Cecil Roberts made Tuesday feel like Sunday morning, firing up delegates with a spirited tribute to working people, the righteousness of their cause, and the power they wield when they stand together. The proud West Virginia native brought thousands of letter carriers to their feet again and again as he preached a message of solidarity, justice and compassion.

“Shoulder to shoulder, back to back, your fight is our fight,” he roared. “Saturday mail delivery should continue!”

Taking the stage to the tune of Patti Smith’s “People Have the Power,” Roberts thanked letter carriers for their consistent support of mine workers, especially those struck by tragedy. “One of the first unions of all to say ‘What can we do? What can we help with, legislatively? What can we do to comfort your people?’ has been the letter carriers,” he said.

In return, Roberts pledged that miners would support the NALC’s efforts to save Saturday delivery. “We will do whatever you ask us to do, because you have been with us over and over again,” he said. “Your jobs are important to our economy. We stand squarely on your side.”

Roberts noted that 14 working men and women die on the job each day in America. “As we fight for jobs, we must remember that we must make these jobs safer,” he said. More than 210,000 mineworkers have died in this country, he added, half in mine accidents and half from black lung disease.

The best way for workers to ensure their safety, said Roberts, is to organize and join a union. “You want a safer workplace?” he asked. “Join a union!” Roberts then listed a litany of benefits unions bring to workers and all Americans, from better health care to improved pensions to workplace fairness—closing to particularly loud applause with this: “You want to tell the boss to kiss your ass? Join a union!”

## Fighting for the ‘last mile’

Delegates viewed a video entitled “Fighting for the Last Mile—NALC’s Campaign to Save the Postal Service,” a film that detailed the union’s continuing fight to stop Postmaster General John Potter’s efforts to drop a day of mail delivery. The feature explained the complex financial issues that have put the Postal Service in a bind, as well as the NALC’s effort on all fronts to save Saturday delivery by fixing these financial problems while opposing Potter’s short-sighted plan.

“The answer is not to take letter carriers off the street,” Rolando said in the video. “It’s to give the Postal Service access to their own money.”

Rolando said copies of the video will be distributed to branches, the media and members of Congress, and will be posted on the NALC website.



UMWA President Cecil Roberts



NRLCA President Don Cantriel



UNI's Neil Anderson

## NRLCA President Don Cantriel

“Rural carriers are our good friends and partners in all we do,” President Rolando said in introducing Don Cantriel, president of the National Rural Letter Carriers’ Association. “And the NRLCA has as much to lose with the elimination of Saturday deliveries as we do.”

Cantriel noted that in 2010, the NRLCA became a full-fledged partner in the annual Stamp Out Hunger food drive. “We proudly stand by you in this endeavor,” he said.

Calling the Postal Service “a patient,” Cantriel quipped that it “may be sick, it may need a little medication, but it does not need a limb removed.

“That is precisely what the Postal Service wants Congress and the American people to do, to sacrifice Saturdays for the greater good of the company,” he said.

Cantriel suggested that USPS consider some management trimming. “We don’t need layer after layer of management to tell us to do our jobs or to manage other managers,” he said. “Don’t try to save the Postal Service on the backs of workers.”

## Neil Anderson, Union Network Int’l

On Tuesday afternoon, Neil Anderson, post and logistics director for Union Network International (UNI), spoke to the Anaheim delegates.

“There are 20 million UNI members in the service sector worldwide, including 2 million postal workers, and the NALC is a proud UNI member,” President Rolando said in his introduction of Anderson, who served as a postal worker in New Zealand early in his career.

“You know all too well that you have to watch what’s happening in the rest of the world,” Anderson said.

He gave the example of the trade negotiations between Canada and the European Union (EU). “The EU wants Canada to sign on to a trade agreement which would require Canada to liberalize its postal service,” Anderson said.

“In the Netherlands, its postal service, TNT, proudly points to the 11,000 jobs it will shift to part-time positions and that it will deliver mail only three days a week, to save costs,” Anderson said. In Italy, however, “six days is not enough for them,” he continued. “They say, ‘The Internet is our competition,’ and we will continue to deliver not just six days a week, but twice a day, with express and parcels in the afternoon.”

“They’re saying, ‘To give better service, we have to give more service,’” Anderson said. “Innovation is how we’re going to meet the competition in the future.”





# Convention Wednesday

## Saluting the heroes of 1970

Convention delegates viewed the film “The Strike at 40: Celebrating NALC’s Heroes of 1970,” featuring several letter carriers who participated in the 1970 postal strike—including one little-known carrier named Vincent Sombrotto, who would go on to serve as NALC president for more than two decades.

Veterans of the strike described the tough working conditions and low wages—some were eligible for welfare and held second jobs—that sparked the illegal strike, and the tremendous risks they took in walking out.

Few understood at the time how important their brave act would be to the future of the letter carrier profession. Ultimately, their strike won immediate improvements in pay and true collective bargaining for carriers.

After the film, President Rolando asked delegates from around the country who had joined the 1970 strike to stand and be recognized.

## APWU President William Burrus

Addressing the convention Thursday morning, American Postal Workers Union President William Burrus told delegates his union stands with the NALC in opposing Postmaster General John E. Potter’s plan to drop Saturday mail delivery.



APWU Pres. Burrus

“We’ve been in that fight, we oppose it, and we’re going to beat him,” Burrus said. “Potter’s not going to get five-day delivery.”

While postal unions don’t win every fight, he said, “we have a seat at the table. Management’s word is not the last word as it was in 1970,” before the Great Postal Strike and the subsequent reorganization that resulted in the creation of the Postal Service.

Not only would it be unwise to lose a day of delivery, Burrus said, the Postal Service owes the American people six days of service on principle. “How can [Potter] have the audacity to tell the American public you can’t receive mail on Saturday?”

The result of ending Saturday delivery, Burrus predicted, would be the end of the Postal Service’s monopoly on the mailbox and on first class mail, even while the public continues to demand full mail service six days a week.

## Calif. Rep. Susan Davis

President Rolando welcomed to the convention Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA), calling her a “friend of the NALC” since her election in 2000 to represent her state’s 53rd Congressional District, which includes San Diego. Davis is the author of H.R. 1604, the Universal Right to Vote By Mail Act, a bill that calls for allowing for the use of ‘no excuses’ absentee ballots in any federal election.

“Another way to raise revenue is to expand vote-by-mail,” Davis said, “which also encourages participation in the electoral process.”

“It’s no wonder that the American people have more confidence in you than in any other federal workers,” she said. “And what you do is truly amazing. You are brave, given the potential dangers—and I know there are a number of them—that you face.

“Congress is listening to you, because you command as much respect in Washington as you do across the country,” Davis said. “The five-day proposal became dead on arrival in Congress because of everything you have done.”



Rep. Davis



# Convention Thursday

### Mini rap session

## Convention discusses approach to next contract

To gather input from the delegates about the upcoming renegotiation of the National Agreement, President Rolando led a mini “rap session” Thursday to discuss a number of strategic ideas. He warned that pressure for concessions will be fierce, and that the political environment could turn negative following the congressional elections this fall.

Rolando presented three options the union’s leadership had discussed: waiting until the contract nears expiration next fall to begin talks; bargaining jointly with the American Postal Workers Union and National Rural Letter Carriers’ Association, both of which have contracts expiring this year; or beginning negotiations early if postal management engages the NALC as a willing partner. He said the Executive Council was leaning toward the last option. “We can try to seek win-win solutions that take advantage of letter carriers’ key role in the Postal Service” he said.

Rolando then opened the floor to comments about these or any other ideas for the best negotiating strategy, and delegates offered a range of suggestions. Some noted that legislation the union is pushing to correct the \$50 to \$75 billion civil service retirement system overpayment by the Postal Service would greatly relieve pressure for concessions, and should be a top priority. Other delegates rejected the joint negotiation option.

The convention adopted a motion from the floor urging the Executive Council to look into the third option of exploring the possibility of early negotiations. Several delegates expressed their trust in the national leadership team’s ability to vigorously represent letter carriers in the next round of negotiations.



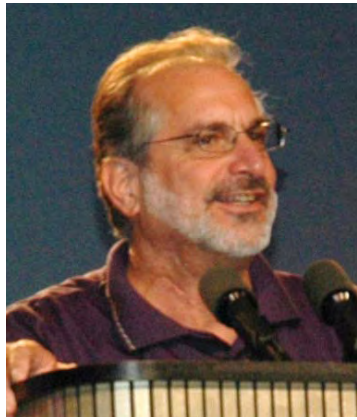
Postkom's Overland

## Postkom’s Odd Christian Overland

Odd Christian Overland, president of Postkom, the union representing letter carriers in Norway, addressed delegates, describing his union’s struggle with the pressures of competition and privatization in both Norway and throughout Europe. Calling mail service “a part of the necessary infrastructure of a well-functioning society,” Overland said postal services worldwide already face competition from the Internet, so labor unions must prepare for difficult times regardless of the competition they face from other delivery providers.

### Familiar, new faces

## Rolando re-elected



President Rolando

Delegates to the 67th Biennial Convention of the National Association of Letter Carriers on Wednesday overwhelmingly placed their faith in President Fredric V. Rolando and their future in his hands, electing him to the highest office in the union for the next four years.

“Damn!” Rolando said, reacting to the delegates’ enthusiastic cheers. “Thank you for your vote of confidence.”

The leadership team of Rolando and Timothy C. O’Malley, newly elected executive vice president, will face tremendous challenges, including saving Saturday delivery and renegotiating the National Agreement in the wake of a deep economic downturn and dropping mail volume, but delegates displayed their trust in their union’s leadership by electing all 10 resident national officers and three national trustees by acclamation.

O’Malley, the director of the Health Benefit Plan, was elected executive vice president, also by acclamation. He will replace Gary Mullins, who is retiring at the end of his term in December. Meanwhile, Director of Safety and Health Brian Hellman of New York City Br. 36 was elected by acclamation to take over as health plan director.

Region 1 National Business Agent Manny Peralta of Garden Grove, CA Br. 1100 was elected director of safety and health, while Region 8 NBA Lew Drass of Huntsville, AL Br. 462 was elected director of city delivery to replace the retiring Dale Hart. Both ran unopposed.

Additionally, convention delegates elected by acclamation several resident national officers who will continue in their current roles, including Vice President George C. Mignosi of Brooklyn, NY Br. 41, Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Broendel of Davenport, IA Br. 506, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Nicole Rhine of Lincoln, NE Br. 8, Life Insurance Director Myra Warren of Dallas Br. 132, and Retired Members Director Ernest Kirkland of Lexington, KY Br. 361.



Secretary-Treasurer Broendel and Vice President Mignosi

Trustees Chair Larry Brown of Los Angeles Br. 24 and Trustees Randall Keller of Massachusetts Northeast Merged Br. 25 and Mike Gill of South Florida Br. 1071 were all re-elected by acclamation.

Convention delegates elected the following national business agents by acclamation: Christopher Jackson, Garden Grove, CA Br. 1100 (San Francisco Region 1); Paul Price, Portland, OR Br. 82 (Pacific Northwest Region 2); Roger Bledsoe, Oklahoma City Br. 458 (Denver Region 4); Dan Pittman, Kansas City, MO Br. 30 (St. Louis Region 5); Pat Carroll, South Macomb, MI Br. 4374 (K-I-M Region 6); Chris Wittenburg, St. Paul, MN Br. 28 (Minneapolis Region 7); Peter S. Moss, Gulf Coast Mgd., MS Br. 1374 (Memphis Region 8); Judy Willoughby, Tallahassee, FL Br. 1172 (Atlanta Region 9); Kathy Baldwin, Beaumont, TX Br. 842 (Dallas Region 10); and Tim Dowdy, Virginia Beach, VA Br. 2819 (District of Columbia Region 13).

The national business agent positions in five NALC regions are contested:

- Chicago Region 3: between Neal Tisdale of Springfield, IL Br. 80 and Kevin Schaible of Belleville, IL Br. 155.
- Cincinnati Region 11: between Dan Toth of Lorain, OH Br. 583 and Mike Hayden of Toledo Br. 100.
- Philadelphia Region 12: between Bill Lucini of Philadelphia Br. 157 and Michael D. Stanton of Haddonfield, NJ Br. 769.
- New England Region 14: between John J. Casciano of Boston Br. 34 and Michael L. Willadsen of Hartford, CT Br. 86.
- New York Region 15: between Lawrence D. Cirelli of New Jersey Mgd. Br. 38 and Walter Barton of Long Island, NY Mgd. Br. 6000

An election committee appointed by President Rolando and chaired by Joseph DeRossi of Brooklyn, NY Br. 41 will oversee distribution of ballots and recording of results in those elections. Committee members include Pam Donato, Minneapolis Br. 9; Antonia Shields, Birmingham, AL Br. 530; Mack Julian, Chicago Br. 11; and Ricardo Guzman, San Diego Br. 70.

## Final count: 7,253 delegates

The Credentials Committee reported that 28 national officers, 71 at-large delegates, and 7,253 branch delegates had been issued credentials for the convention, for a total of 7,352. Delegates from 621 branches represented all 50 states, the District of Columbia and three territories.

## Economic Policy Institute’s Jeff Faux



EPI's Faux

Rolando introduced to the convention Jeff Faux, a distinguished fellow at the Economic Policy Institute, who described a long-term trend that began three decades before the current economic crisis—the end of the growth in wages that began after World War II.

“It’s no accident this happened at the beginning of the 1980s” after the election of President Ronald Reagan, he said, because Reagan’s encouragement of cheap overseas production and busting American unions stopped wages in their tracks. If the wage growth trend had continued, said Faux, average wages today would stand at double their current level.

Though unions are a strong backstop against eroding wages, Faux warned that even union members will face pressure to hold down pay. “You people here work for a great institution,” he said, “and you’ve got a great, strong, union, but no one can escape what’s happening in the labor force,” Faux said.

## CWU-UK’s Billy Hayes

Billy Hayes, general secretary of the Communication Workers Union, which represents letter carriers in the United Kingdom, addressed the convention Thursday, telling delegates that his workers face pressure to privatize from governments motivated by extreme ideology. “It’s not about reason, it’s not about rationality, it’s about dogma,” he said.

Hayes urged letter carriers and unions worldwide to work together for a united front against efforts to privatize postal agencies or degrade service. “When they say ‘profit,’ we say ‘public.’ When they say ‘competition,’ we say ‘community.’ And when they say ‘five days,’ we say ‘six days.’”



CWU's Hayes

## 68th Biennial Convention: Minneapolis



Following a video showcasing the attractions that Minneapolis has to offer visitors, President Rolando asked Pam Donato, president of Minneapolis Branch 9, to come to the stage. Accompanied by a recording of the song “1999” performed by Minneapolis native Prince, Donato and a cadre of Branch 9 members made their way to the stage, flinging fake snow onto convention delegates along the way.

On stage, Donato explained the tongue-in-cheek gesture. “It doesn’t actually snow all the time in Minnesota,” she said. “In fact, today it’s sunny and 91 there.”

Donato said delegates could find plenty to do in her northern city after a day’s convention business is finished—it’s the home of several professional sports teams, the famous Mall of America shopping complex, and a new light-rail system to help convention-goers and their families get around. “It’s a great, friendly town,” she said.





National Association  
of Letter Carriers

Fredric V. Rolando, President

August 18, 2010 No. 10-18



# NALC Bulletin

100 Indiana Ave. NW Washington, DC 20001-2144 202.393.4695 www.nalc.org



## Convention Friday



About 3,500 NALC members joined hundreds of other union workers at the “Paychecks Pay the Bills” rally in Los Angeles.

## Delegates rally for jobs

After a week of talk about solidarity, saving six-day delivery and reversing the downward-trending economy, members of the National Association of Letter Carriers put those words into action on Friday by descending on Los Angeles City Hall en masse to join an AFL-CIO jobs rally. Some 3,500 carriers, a number dwarfing the other union members and activists at the gathering, chanted, “Five day, wrong way!” “Six-day delivery!” and gave letter carrier cheers to speakers who called for Congress to preserve good union jobs.



NALC President Fredric V. Rolando addresses the crowd.

**“I am here today with more than 3,000 blue-shirted letter carriers that we bused up from our convention in Anaheim to join you for three simple reasons,” President Fredric V. Rolando told the cheering assembly: “jobs, jobs, jobs—the No. 1 issue in the country today.”**

Letter carriers were joined on the city hall lawn by hundreds of their brothers and sisters from the building trades, the American Federation of Teachers, Unite Here, and other unions. Trucks and vans representing numerous local and national news organizations—even one from China!—lined up along a

couple of city blocks, and at least two news helicopters hovered above the fray as their cameras captured the event from their vantage point 1,000 feet in the air.

**“As those of you in Southern California know all too well, American jobs are a bigger issue today than they’ve been in many decades,” Rolando said at the microphone, addressing the crowd. “We must preserve existing jobs and we must create new jobs.”**

Rolando told the gathering that if the Postal Service’s penny-wise and pound-foolish plan to save money by cutting a day of mail delivery service were approved, 80,000 postal worker jobs would be on the chopping block.

**“Our fight to save the Postal Service and Saturday delivery is a fight that is critical for our union but it also has major implications for every American and every community,” he said. “It is your fight as well as ours.”**

“It is no coincidence that the attack in recent years on the job security, wages, working conditions and pensions of working and middle-class people came at a time when unions faced major challenges,” Rolando said. “No one knows this better than Rich Trumka, the president of the AFL-CIO. That’s why we are fighting with him to restore balance to our labor-management system and to provide a level playing field for workers who want to organize.

“We also heartily endorse President Trumka’s call for a huge public investment in infrastructure and for additional assistance to state and local governments to avert mass layoffs of police, firefighters and other public servants in the months ahead,” he said. “A new stimulus bill that prevents damaging layoffs and tax increases would guard against a worsening of the recession.”

**President Trumka delivered a fiery address as well. “How are we going to rebuild America?” he asked. “With jobs! Who’s going to rebuild America? Working people with jobs!”**

Other speakers included Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Rep. Jane Harman (D-CA), and several Southern California labor leaders who spoke of local initiatives to get financing to fund transportation construction.

With a swell of activism and the knowledge that great effort will be needed to overcome the great challenges facing the NALC and its members, delegates dispersed from Anaheim to close the 67th Biennial Convention.

## AFL-CIO’s Richard Trumka

On Friday morning, August 13, President Rolando brought to the stage Richard Trumka, president of the AFL-CIO.

Trumka told the delegates that the struggle to create jobs and raise wages was key to the economic recovery. “When working people rise up, our entire economy rises up,” he said.

Trumka said the labor movement was still fighting to pass the Employee Free Choice Act, a bill to restore the full rights of workers to organize that has stalled in Congress. “It’s alive and it’s well and it’s as essential as it’s ever been,” he said. “We’re not going to quit until every worker who wants a union has a union.”

The proposal by Postmaster General John Potter to eliminate Saturday delivery, Trumka said, was an attack on workers rather than a plan for restoring the United States Postal Service. “That’s not the way to fiscal health, that’s the way to disaster,” Trumka said.

“This is about an excuse to take a knife to the letter carriers,” he added. “Let’s call it what it is—it’s ugly, it’s a sham, and it’s senseless.”

Letter carriers take satisfaction in their service to the public, Trumka said. “You don’t become a public employee to become wealthy,” he said, “you do it to be of service to your fellow citizens. You do it so you can take pride in the work you do.”

Trumka urged letter carriers to remain active politically in the crucial elections this fall. “We will win these elections on November 2nd,” he said, “and when we do, it will strengthen us for the fight on November 3rd and 4th and 5th and 6th, and every day after that until we get the jobs that we need.”



AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka at NALC’s Anaheim convention

## Eight honored at Retiring Officers’ Dinner

More than 1,000 friends and family members turned out for the Retiring Officers’ Dinner on Thursday, August 12, to honor the eight NALC national officers who have either left office since the 65th Biennial Convention in Las Vegas or who will do so at the end of their term this December. The dinner, speeches and dancing provided union members an opportunity to celebrate the careers of the Executive Council members who have spent much of their letter carrier careers with the NALC defending the pay, benefits and working conditions of their fellow members.

Following the meal, NALC President Fredric V. Rolando, whose own position as the union’s top leader had been reaffirmed by an enthusiastic convention the previous day, served as the master of ceremonies and invited each retiring officer to come before the crowd to say a few words. Although their remarks ran from humorous to reflective, each honoree was effusive in his thanks to the men and women with whom they worked and whom they served.

Those honored were President Emeritus William H. Young, Executive Vice President Gary Mullins, Director of City Delivery Dale Hart, former Denver Region 4 National Business Agent Wes Davis (who was unable to attend the gathering), St. Louis Region 5 NBA Mike Weir, Minneapolis Region 7 NBA Ned Furru, former Dallas Region 10 NBA Gene Goodwin and former Cincinnati Region 11 NBA Bill Cooke.





National Association  
of Letter Carriers

Fredric V. Rolando, President

September 7, 2010 No. 10-14



# NALC Bulletin

100 Indiana Ave. NW Washington, DC 20001-2144 202.393.4695 www.nalc.org

## Office of the Inspector General

# Postal Service overpaid \$6.8B to pension fund

The Civil Service Retirement System is not the only “beneficiary” of a massive Office of Personnel Management miscalculation, a new report shows.

A crucial component of the NALC’s campaign to prevent the U.S. Postal Service from cutting Saturday mail delivery service has been to shore up the Service’s finances by recouping between \$50 billion and \$75 billion that the Service has overpaid into CSRS, the result of an accounting error dating back to the formation of the USPS in 1971.

Now, an August 16 report filed by USPS Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Financial Accountability John Cihota finds that the OPM has overcharged the Federal Employees Retirement System as well, to the tune of \$6.8 billion.

“It is important that the trend of overpayments does not continue,” Cihota wrote. “The Postal Service faces a challenging future and its responsibilities and the true cost of funding postal operations needs to be absolutely clear.”

The Service contributed \$3 billion to its pension plans in fiscal 2009, and has funded 99 percent of its future obligations, while the federal government funded just 41 percent of its future pension costs.

These latest findings compound concerns about the Postal Service’s retiree benefits funds. USPS Inspector General David Williams reported in January that the Service has overpaid into its CSRS account by \$75 billion, the result of an OPM miscalculation that forces the USPS to pay a higher portion of the pensions than it owed.

Cihota’s report notes that variables such as sick-leave credit, mortality estimates and future return rates are critical to calculating FERS funding obligations and determining how much of the \$6.8 billion surplus could be used to address other financial issues.

The report recommended that the Postal Service pursue legislative action to adjust its funding requirements until the FERS surplus is reduced.

Meanwhile, H.R. 5746, which addresses the Service’s CSRS surplus issue, will be taken up by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform when Congress ends its summer recess and resumes regular business September 13.

# Rolando, carriers appear on annual MDA telethon

NALC President Fredric V. Rolando and letter carriers representing the top fund-raising branches in the country were set to present a check for \$1.9 million to the Muscular Dystrophy Association during the 2010 Jerry Lewis MDA Telethon over the Labor Day holiday weekend (which occurred as this edition went to press).

“NALC members and MDA have been allies for more than half a century,” said Rolando, who is also an MDA national vice president. “It’s a relationship we treasure and one we’re committed to maintaining until our help is no longer needed—the day when treatments and a cure have been found.”

Also invited to appear during the 21½-hour telethon broadcast were Richard O’Connell Jr., representing New Jersey Merged Branch 38, the top fund-raising branch, bringing in \$128,434; Marie Tartaglione, Brooklyn Branch 41 (Category I–2,000 members or more), \$56,000; Curt Roessler, Hartford, CT Branch 86 (Category II–1,500–1,999 members), \$30,832; Bob Bracy, Louisville Branch 14 (Category III–1,000–1,499 members), \$17,024; and Michael Curran, Northeastern New York Branch 358 (Category IV–700–999 members), \$21,320.



Alison Coad, Green Bay Branch 619 (Category VII–200–349 members), \$12,850; Lon Smedsrud, Fargo-West Fargo Branch 205 (Category VIII–100–199 members), \$11,091; Jeffrey Harness, Freehold, NJ Branch 924 (Category IX–50–99 members), \$6,801; Michael Bagarozzi, New City, NY Branch 5229 (Category X–10–49 members), \$8,140; and Fran Magano, Brooklyn Auxiliary 2003 (Special Category), \$4,700.

Active and retired letter carriers and their families raised the \$1.9 million for “Jerry’s Kids” over the last year through golf tournaments, walk-a-thons, bingo nights, pancake breakfasts, raffles, roadblock canister drives and more, including the annual national “Deliver the Cure” bowlathon.

The national portions of the telethon were broadcast live from the South Point Hotel, Casino and Spa in Las Vegas.

# Financial training scheduled for San Diego, Orlando

Secretary-Treasurer Jane Broendel has announced that educational training sessions have been scheduled for January 17–19 in San Diego and February 27–March 1 in Orlando.

The training is tailored to assist new branch secretary-treasurers and other local and state officers who are chiefly responsible for financial administration.

The sessions are intended primarily for branch secretary-treasurers, but other branch and state officers who deal directly with branch finances also are invited. Priority will be given to first-time attendees (limited to two per branch) and each session is limited to 150 participants.

A form to request registration for either the San Diego or Orlando seminar is printed at right and also may be found on our website at nalc.org.

The training will cover the basics for financial officers: taxes, including payroll withholding requirements; accounting systems and maintenance of proper controls; reporting to the Department of Labor, including LM-2, LM-3 and LM-30; fiduciary duties under the Landrum-Griffin Act; bonding of branch officers; NALC dues; legal limits on certain types of union spending; and IRS reporting requirements, including Forms 990 and 990-T.

The San Diego seminar room rate is \$149 plus tax, single/double, and is available January 16–18. The deadline for the San Diego rate is December 27.

The Orlando seminar will have a special room rate of \$129 plus tax, single/double, and is available February 26–28. The deadline for the Orlando special rate is February 6.

The training sessions will begin at 8 a.m. on the first day and conclude by noon on the third day. Branches will be responsible for transportation and lodging. **Please do not make airline reservations before receiving confirmation from the Secretary-Treasurer’s office. Hotel information will be included with your letter of acceptance.**



The National Election Committee met in Washington the week of August 27 to work on scheduling the National Business Agent elections. Pictured are (from l) Mack Julion, Chicago Branch 11; Antonia Shields, Birmingham, AL Branch 530; Chair Joseph DeRossi, Brooklyn Branch 41; Pam Donato, Minneapolis Branch 9; and Bill Lister, St. Louis Branch 343.

# National Business Agent elections scheduled

The National Election Committee has announced that election ballots will be mailed October 7–8 for the contested National Business Agent positions in Regions 3, 11, 12, 14 and 15. Candidates for resident national officer positions, the three national trustee positions, and the other 10 National Business Agents were elected by acclamation on August 11 at the Anaheim convention.

In Anaheim, two individuals were nominated for each of the following NBA positions:

**Chicago Region 3:** Kevin Schaible of Belleville, IL Branch 155 and Neal Tisdale of Springfield, IL Branch 80.

**Cincinnati Region 11:** Daniel E. Toth of Lorain, OH Branch 583 and Mike Hayden of Toledo Branch 100.

**Philadelphia Region 12:** William J. Lucini of Philadelphia Branch 157 and Michael D. Stanton of Haddonfield, NJ Branch 769.

**New England Region 14:** John J. Casciano of Boston Branch 34 and Michael L. Willadsen of Hartford Branch 86.

**New York Region 15:** Larry Cirelli of New Jersey Merged Branch 38 and Walter Barton of Long Island Merged Branch 6000 .

All National Business Agents are elected by the membership within their respective regions.

Official instructions will be included with all ballots mailed to eligible NALC members.

The Election Committee chair, Joseph DeRossi of Brooklyn Branch 41, said ballots must be received by 8 a.m. on October 27 to be counted. To be eligible to vote, a person must be a regular member of the NALC and in good standing as of June 1, 2010.

Ballots will be mailed from Washington on Friday, October 8. Members who do not receive a ballot by October 15 must notify their branch officers. Those branches must then immediately contact the NALC Membership Department to request a duplicate, replacement ballot. The deadline for branch officers to contact the Membership Department is 4 p.m. ET Monday, October 18. **Only a branch officer can request a duplicate ballot.** The NALC Membership Department phone number is 202-662-2836.

In addition to DeRossi, the other members of the Election Committee as appointed by President Rolando are Pam Donato of Minneapolis Branch 9, Antonia Shields of Birmingham, AL Branch 530, Mack Julion of Chicago Branch 11, and Bill Lister of St. Louis Branch 343.

# Deadline for Leadership Academy applications

The deadline for applications to the 2011 Leadership Academy is rapidly approaching. Four applicants from each of the 15 NALC regions will be selected to participate in either the winter/spring or summer/fall classes.

Those interested in applying can obtain a copy of the application form from nalc.org or from their national business agent.

Applications must be completed and received at NALC Headquarters by September 30. Those who have previously applied must submit a new form with updated information and a renewed commitment from their mentor.

All active NALC members are eligible to apply.

## Attention branches!

# Don’t lose your tax-exempt status!

Some NALC branches have failed to file the appropriate Form 990, which is due five months and 15 days after the end of the fiscal year. **Failure to file three consecutive years places the branch at risk of losing tax-exempt status.**

Fortunately, the IRS has extended the deadline to October 15.

All NALC branches, including those with no local income, must file a 990.

Branches with less than \$25,000 in annual income may file a 990-N electronically. Branches eligible to file the 990-N must go to irs.gov, supply the eight information items called for, and file electronically. Branches that must file the slightly more involved form 990-EZ, and are filing late, will be required to pay a compliance fee.

Details are available on the IRS website.



## Secretary-Treasurer Seminar registration form

Please register me\* for one of the following NALC Secretary-Treasurer Seminars:

☐ **January 17–19, 2011, in San Diego, California.** Registration deadline is December 27. Room rate [single/double] is \$149 plus tax.\*\*

☐ **February 27–March 1, 2011, in Orlando, Florida.** Registration deadline is February 6. Room rate [single/double] is \$129 plus tax.\*\*

☐ If your chosen seminar is already full, check here if you’d like to be registered for the other one.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Branch or state position \_\_\_\_\_

Branch # \_\_\_\_\_ Branch city \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Home address: Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number (required) \_\_\_\_\_

\* Limited to two individuals per branch

Send to:

Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Broendel  
National Association of Letter Carriers  
100 Indiana Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20001-2144

**\*\* Please do not make airline reservations until you receive an acceptance letter.**



Mail your vote in

Over half of the country offers balloting by mail

For many, voting is not as easy as it should be—from having to schedule the time to go to a polling station on the way to or from work, to waiting in inclement weather or in long lines.

Not so in Oregon, where, since 1998, all elections are conducted by mail. That means voters can take their time and make their decisions in the privacy of their own homes.

While no other state has gone that far, 28 other states allow citizens to request a mail-in ballot before the November 2 election. The remaining 21 states have requirements that make obtaining a mail-in ballot more difficult. Regulations vary by state, but increasingly, so-called no-excuse absentee voting is permitted, and voters are taking advantage of the option.

Below is a list of states that allow some form of voting by mail. Check the rules for your state by contacting county officials in charge of voting or your state’s secretary of state. More information about voting can be found online at [canivote.org](#).

Alaska	Kansas	Maryland	North Carolina	Utah
Arizona	Maine	Montana	North Dakota	Vermont
California	Hawaii	Nebraska	Ohio	Washington
Colorado	Idaho	Nevada	Oklahoma	Wisconsin
Florida	Illinois	New Jersey	Oregon	Wyoming
Georgia	Iowa	New Mexico	South Dakota	

Installation of NALC national officers set for December 4 in Washington

The installation of the NALC’s 28 elected national officers for four-year terms will take place in Washington on the evening of **Saturday, December 4**, in the ballroom of the Hilton Washington and Towers Hotel, 1919 Connecticut Avenue NW.

Tickets for this special evening are now available through the office of the NALC Secretary-Treasurer for \$65 per person.

Full payment (payable to **NALC Secretary-Treasurer**), along with the order form printed below and in the September/October edition of *The Postal Record*, must be received by the office of Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Broendel **no later than Wednesday, November 10**. The order form will also be available online at [nalc.org](#).

Upon receipt of payment, tables will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis **only for those who purchase a block of at least eight tickets**. The maximum number at each table is eight. Individuals or smaller parties purchasing tickets will be assigned to “open seating” tables.

The person authorized to pick up tickets must be listed on the order form, as only the officially designated person will be allowed to pick up tickets. Additional information on the location of and time for ticket pick-up will be included in the November *Postal Record*.

Installation dinner tickets include admission to the holiday party immediately following the installation. **For all others, attendance at the holiday party is by invitation only.** Branches that wish to attend only the holiday party should contact the Secretary-Treasurer’s office by Wednesday, November 10. No tickets for either function will be available after that date.

The NALC room rate at the Hilton Washington and Towers is \$199 single/double. The rate is good for the nights of December 3–4 only. All reservations must be made directly through the Hilton Washington and Towers, 1919 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20009. Call 800-HILTONS (800-445-8667) and be sure to request the special NALC rate.

Look for additional details regarding installation activities in upcoming *NALC Bulletins* and the November *Postal Record*.

NALC Health Benefit Plan

Coverage extension for dependents up to age 26 – requirements

On March 23, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Public Law 111-148, was signed into law. As a result of this law, children will be eligible for health coverage under their parent’s “Self and Family” enrollment up to age 26. This law allows married children to be covered, removes dependency requirements, removes residency requirements, and does not require a child to be a student or have prior or current insurance coverage to be placed on their parent’s “Self and Family” enrollment. For the FEHB program, this provision is effective as of January 1, 2011.

The following are the changes to FEHB dependent requirements:

Children	Effect of the Affordable Care Act
Between ages 22 and 26	Eligible for coverage under their parent’s “Self and Family” enrollment up to age 26.
Married children	Eligible for coverage up to age 26 (but <i>not</i> their spouse or their own children). This is true even if the child is currently under age 22.
Children with, or eligible for, employer-provided health insurance	Eligible for coverage up to age 26.
Stepchildren	Need not live with the enrollee in a parent-child relationship to be eligible for coverage up to age 26.
Children incapable of self-support	Eligible to continue coverage if a mental or physical disability began before age 26.
Foster children	Eligible for coverage up to age 26. <i>(revised 9/13/2010)</i>

The NALC Health Benefit Plan will be notifying current enrollees of these changes by way of letters included in the Open Season materials. Once these letters are available, the Plan will provide everyone with sample copies of them. The letters will each be based specifically on the type of enrollment the member currently has with the Plan.

*So, what do you need to do to enroll a newly eligible child?* If you are currently enrolled in a “Self and Family” policy, you will need to send your request to the NALC Health Benefit Plan by completing the form on the reverse side of the letter you will receive in your Open Season kit. You will receive a copy of the letter(s) once they are completed. If the dependent was never listed on our enrollment, a birth certificate copy must be included with the form. Once this information is received by the Plan’s Membership/Eligibility Department, the child will be added.

If you are currently enrolled in a “Self Only” policy, you must change to a “Self and Family” enrollment through human resources (for postal employees, the Human Resources Shared Services Center) or through the retirement system. This is considered a “Change in Family Status” Qualifying Life Event (QLE). The child will not be covered until their “Self and Family” enrollment takes effect. The enrollee has 31 days prior to January 1, 2011 (i.e., December 1, 2010) to 60 days after January 1, 2011 (i.e., March 3, 2011) to make the QLE change.

Open Season:  
Nov. 8 – Dec. 13  
(for postal employees,  
Nov. 8 – Dec. 14)

If the enrollee makes the change as a QLE, the effective date of the QLE will be December 19, 2010, for federal employees. The newly eligible child’s effective date of coverage will be January 2, 2011, for federal employees. The newly eligible child’s effective date of coverage will be January 1, 2011, for postal employees.

Enrollees may also make this change during Open Season, November 8 through December 13 (for postal employees, through December 14). If the change is made during Open Season, coverage for the child will not begin until the effective date of the Open Season change. This is January 2, 2011, for most federal employees. *For postal employees, it will become effective on January 1, 2011.*

The table below shows the different dates of coverage for most employees and OWCP recipients enrolling in FEHB or changing from a “Self Only” to a “Self and Family” enrollment as a “Change in family status (QLE change)” or as an “Open Season change.”

Enrollee	Change in family status (QLE change)	Open Season change
Postal employees	January 1, 2011	January 1, 2011
Federal employees	January 1, 2011	January 2, 2011
OWCP recipients	January 1, 2011	January 16, 2011

For Postal Service employees, CSRS/FERS annuitants, Temporary Continuation of Coverage (TCC) enrollees and former spouses, an enrollment or change in enrollment made either as a “Change in family status (QLE change)” or as an “Open Season change” will provide coverage of eligible children on January 1, 2011. This is also true for other agencies and other retirement systems with a pay period that begins on January 1, 2011.

If you have a “Self Only” enrollment and would like your newly eligible child to be covered, you must change to a “Self and Family” enrollment. If you do not change to a “Self and Family” enrollment as a “Change in family status (QLE change)” or an “Open Season change,” then your child will not be covered.

If you are enrolled through Temporary Continuation of Coverage (TCC) or Spouse Equity, you must provide the NALC Health Benefit Plan with the completed form on the reverse side of your letter if you are currently enrolled in a “Self and Family” plan. If you are currently enrolled in a “Self Only” policy, you must make a change to a “Self and Family” enrollment through the National Finance Center (NFC) or retirement system. The Plan may ask for a copy of the newly eligible child’s birth certificate or other documentation in order to verify eligibility for coverage.

For children with their own TCC policy, the Plan will notify them that they are again eligible for coverage under their parent’s “Self and Family” enrollment. They should not cancel their TCC enrollment until they are assured of the date they will be covered under their parent’s Self and Family enrollment.

Former spouses with a TCC or Spouse Equity policy will need to complete the form on the reverse side of their notification letter if they are already enrolled in a “Self and Family” policy. If the member is enrolled in a “Self Only” policy, they will need to change their enrollment to “Self and Family.”

Children who converted to an individual policy with their parent’s carrier may no longer need that policy once they resume coverage under their parent’s “Self and Family” enrollment.

If the newly added dependent is enrolled in another group health insurance plan, COB rules will always apply.

The NALC Health Benefit Plan will continue to keep members updated on any additional changes as they occur. Find the latest information online at [nalc.org/hbp](#).

Installation of National Officers

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ tickets for the NALC Installation Dinner, Saturday, December 4, 2010 at the Hilton Washington Towers

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (@ \$65 per ticket) for \_\_\_\_\_ table(s) seating 8 or for open seating  
(Please circle one of the above.)

Tickets will be held for pickup on your arrival in Washington, DC.

Person designated to pick up ticket(s) \_\_\_\_\_

NALC Branch number \_\_\_\_\_ National Business Agent \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate if you or anyone in your party has any special dietary considerations: \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to Secretary-Treasurer, NALC must be received by November 10. Mail order form and payment to: INSTALLATION DINNER, c/o Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Broendel, NALC, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144.



PRC rejects exigent rate increase, punts financial crisis to Congress

Commission backs NALC on definition of exigent circumstances, faults USPS case

Noting that the U.S. Postal Service and its employees had successfully adapted to the adverse effects of the Great Recession—cutting costs enough to more than offset the loss in mail revenue due to the recession—the Postal Regulatory Commission on Sept. 30 rejected the Service’s request for a 5.6 percent “exigent” rate increase.

The PRC did not dispute that the severity of the recession constituted “extraordinary or exceptional” circumstances, but it concluded that the Postal Service had failed to demonstrate that its recent financial losses were “due to” the Great Recession. Rather, the Commission argued—as the NALC has for the past two years—that the losses are the direct result of the congressional mandate to massively pre-fund retiree health benefits.

The USPS filed for the emergency increase in July.

**“Congress and the Obama administration must sit up and listen to what the PRC is saying,” National Association of Letter Carriers President Fredric V. Rolando said. “The time for delay is over. We must adopt Congressman Stephen Lynch’s bill [H.R. 5746] and repeal the pre-funding provisions of the law as soon as possible.”**

The Lynch bill would allow the USPS to pre-fund its future retiree health benefit costs with the massive postal surplus in the Civil Service Retirement System, calculated by independent experts for both the PRC and the USPS Office of Inspector General.

The NALC called on Congress to adopt Rep. Lynch’s legislation during the so-called “lame duck” session of Congress after the mid-term elections, which would lay the groundwork for repeal of the annual pre-funding payments now in the law in the early days of the next Congress.

**“Contrary to the irresponsible rhetoric of hyper-partisan leaders in the Republican Party, the Lynch bill does not involve any taxpayer money and cannot by any stretch be called a ‘taxpayer bailout,’” Rolando added. “We want to use our own money—excess pension funds amassed over decades as a result of employee and employer contributions to the CSRS—to pre-fund our future retiree health benefits.”**

Ruling a victory for NALC

“The Commission finds that the Postal Service has shown the recent recession to be an exigent circumstance but it has failed both to quantify the impact of the recession on its finances and to show how its rate request relates to the resulting loss of mail volume,” said PRC Chair Ruth Goldway. “Therefore, we unanimously deny its exigent rate request.”

Although NALC did not take a formal position for or against the exigent rate case, it did intervene to ensure the proper implementation of the exigent rate case provision of the law. In so doing, we argued that the events of recent years clearly complied with the definition of “extraordinary or exceptional” circumstances set out in the law.

The union also fought a motion by the Affordable Mail Alliance (AMA), a coalition of mailers, to limit the definition of exigent circumstances to those involving terrorist attacks and similar disasters.

“We are gratified that the whole Commission endorsed our view and rejected that of the self-selected group of mailers that formed the AMA,” President Rolando said.

In July, the Postal Service had asked for the PRC’s permission, under the terms of the 2006 Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, to raise postage and parcel rates to offset revenue shortfalls that it said were brought on by the “extraordinary or exceptional” mail volume declines resulting from the Great Recession. The Service had argued that without such an increase, it would be unable to make its scheduled pre-funding payments into the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefit Fund as mandated by the PAEA.

For the next three months, the Commission heard testimony on the subject from a variety of sources and reviewed hundreds of comments from the public. Ultimately, the PRC concluded in its findings “that the recent recession and its impact on postal volumes” indeed qualified as “an ‘extraordinary or exceptional’ circumstance” as defined by the PAEA.

“The recent recession [was] unique in kind and severity in post-war America,” the Commission said. “The credit crisis disproportionately damaged the very economic sectors on which demand for postal services depends most—real estate, banking, mortgage lending, credit card lending, insurance and advertising.”

However, the Commission determined that the Service would have had serious money problems even if the recession had not happened, thanks to what it called the “overly ambitious requirement for the Postal Service to pre-fund its future retiree health benefit premiums” mandated by the PAEA.

**“The Commission’s ruling confirms what we have been saying for more than a year now,” President Rolando said, “that the key to the Postal Service’s financial future lies in relieving the onerous requirement to fully fund its retiree health benefit fund within a 10-year time frame by paying \$5.5 billion a year—a requirement foisted upon no other corporation or government agency in America.” The account already contains more than \$37 billion—enough to handle the needs of current and future retirees for decades, he added.**

The Postal Service “has been unable to fund this obligation from operations, and has instead used up all of its retained earnings and drawn down from its \$15 billion borrowing authority,” the Commission’s report noted. “Even with the requested increase, the Postal Service would be unable to meet this annual obligation either in 2011, or in succeeding years.”

The report wasn’t all gloom and doom, however. Indeed, the Commission recognized that the USPS had slashed expenses by \$6 billion last year, and that Postal Service cost-cutting has stayed ahead of mail volume declines over the last 12 months.

“The Postal Service is making up lost ground, reducing hours far in excess of the declines,” the report said. “This offers a positive outlook for the future.” The Commission also sounded another upbeat note—that as the effects of the recession are fading, mail volume appears to be rebounding.

**“We continue to press Congress to pass H.R. 5746, which calls for refunding the decades of Postal Service overpayment into the Civil Service Retirement System—worth between \$50 billion and \$75 billion—and transfer the resulting surplus into the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefit Fund to offset the PAEA’s pre-funding requirement,” President Rolando said. “We remain hopeful that our friends in both the House and Senate will draw upon the PRC’s findings and use them to get this law passed in Congress’ ‘lame duck’ session before the end of the year.”**

Installation of NALC national officers set for December 4 in Washington

The installation of the NALC’s 28 elected national officers for four-year terms will take place in Washington on the evening of **Saturday, December 4**, in the ballroom of the Hilton Washington and Towers Hotel, 1919 Connecticut Avenue NW.

Tickets for this special evening are now available through the office of the NALC Secretary-Treasurer for \$65 per person.

Full payment (payable to **NALC Secretary-Treasurer**), along with the order form printed at right and in the September-October edition of *The Postal Record*, must be received by the office of Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Broendel **no later than Wednesday, November 10**. The order form is also online at nalc.org.

Upon receipt of payment, tables will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis **only for those who purchase a block of at least eight tickets**. The maximum number at each table is eight. Individuals or smaller parties purchasing tickets will be assigned to “open seating” tables.

The person authorized to pick up tickets must be listed on the order form, as only the officially designated person will be allowed to pick up tickets. Additional information on the location of and time for ticket pick-up will be included in the November *Postal Record*.

Installation dinner tickets include admission to the holiday party immediately following the installation. **For all others, attendance at the holiday party is by invitation only.** Branches that wish to attend only the holiday party should contact the Secretary-Treasurer’s office by Wednesday, November 10. No tickets for either function will be available after that date.

The NALC room rate at the Hilton Washington and Towers is \$199 single/double. The rate is good for the nights of December 3-4 only. All reservations must be made directly through the Hilton Washington and Towers, 1919 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20009. Call 800-HILTONS (800-445-8667) and be sure to request the special NALC rate.

USPS, GOP share blame in denial of pre-funding waiver

Just days before the clock wound down on Fiscal Year 2010, Senate Republicans pulled the rug out from under the U.S. Postal Service by blocking Majority Leader Harry Reid’s plan to provide a \$4 billion reduction in the \$5.5 billion Postal Service Retiree Health Benefit Fund payment due September 30, under the patently lopsided pre-funding provision mandated by Congress in 2006 within the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act.

Reid’s deferment proposal was crafted with two simple goals in mind: to allow Congress more time to work on reforming the flawed pre-funding provisions of the PAEA and to help keep the Postal Service’s recession-ravaged financial health on life support. A nearly identical waiver attached to a similar emergency spending bill last year—notably not an election year—was included and approved with little controversy.

The \$4 billion deferral was deleted from a continuing resolution to keep the federal government open for business through early December. No Republican senator would agree to a vote on the resolution unless a group of provisions, including the pre-funding deferral, was dropped from consideration. GOP leadership in the House of Representatives took a similar position—adding the postal pre-funding issue to a list of items they opposed in any resolution passed by the Senate.

But Congress is not solely at fault for this bleak outlook.

**“Sadly, postal management must share the blame for this financial fiasco,” NALC President Fredric V. Rolando said in a statement. “The postmaster general and his top executives wasted the entire year seeking unpopular measures to eliminate Saturday delivery and stack the deck against employees in collective bargaining rather than focusing on the pre-funding reform backed by mailers and the entire postal community.”**

Indeed, the Postal Service waited until just a couple of weeks ago to start preparing the waiver request. And according to Capitol Hill staffers, postal management informed Senate leaders that the USPS could still make the pre-funding payment even if the relief request was rejected—even though the Service has publicly maintained all year that making the full \$5.5 billion pre-funding payment for retiree health would jeopardize its financial position.

And so, the Service now projects losing about \$7 billion this year. Conventional wisdom and lazy journalism draw an easy line from Point A to Point B, attributing billions lost to so-called “electronic diversion” of mail—i.e., e-mail or paying bills over the Internet.

**Wrong.** The fact is, nearly 80 percent of this year’s loss comes from the PAEA’s needlessly aggressive requirement to pre-fund most future retiree health benefits within 10 years. You could try to name another federal agency or private company with the same obligation, but you would come up empty. No other American entity is burdened with such a requirement.

Just before this *Bulletin* went to press, the Postal Service complied with the law and made the \$5.5 billion payment on Sept. 30, raising the balance in its Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund to more than \$41 billion. The action reduces its end-of-year cash position to just \$2 billion and exposes the USPS to unnecessary financial risk in the coming year.

S. 3831

Senate solution goes too far

Delaware Sen. Tom Carper (D) introduced legislation on Sept. 23 designed to address the U.S. Postal Service’s more than \$50 billion overpayment into the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) over the last 40 years, as well as the aggressive schedule for pre-funding the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefit Fund (PSRHBF) mandated by the 2006 Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA).

In an e-mail message to the members of the union’s e-Activist Network, National Association of Letter Carriers President Fredric V. Rolando said that the Postal Operations Sustainment and Transformation (POST) Act of 2010, S. 3831, “addresses the financial reforms the Postal Service needs in a comprehensive and commendable way.”

**“Unfortunately, the legislation also includes a number of provisions that the NALC cannot support,” Rolando said, “including the elimination of Saturday delivery and directions to arbitrators to consider certain management objections when rendering their decisions.**

“We are hopeful that we can work productively with Senator Carper and the other members of his Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee to amend S. 3831 in way that will result in NALC support for the legislation,” he said.

Meanwhile, H.R. 5746, introduced by Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA) at the end of July, listed at least 115 co-sponsors as this *NALC Bulletin* was being prepared. The key difference between this bill and Carper’s Senate legislation is that H.R. 5746 limits its scope to fixing the OPM overcharge and to directing that the USPS CSRS surplus be transferred to the PSRHBF.

H.R. 5746 has been passed by Lynch’s House Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Post Office, and the District of Columbia and, at last report, was still awaiting action by the full Oversight and Government Reform committee.

Issa editorial forces NALC to pull endorsement

NALC President Fredric V. Rolando announced Sept. 21 that the union was pulling its endorsement of California Rep. Darrell Issa (R-49th), the highest ranking Republican on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. The committee has jurisdiction over the U.S. Postal Service.

“Congressman Issa previously had taken very positive positions on issues pertaining to letter carriers and the challenges facing the United States Postal Service,” Rolando said. “We endorsed him because he had pledged his support on numerous occasions to work with the NALC and the Postal Service to find alternatives to eliminating Saturday mail delivery. He made statements in committee hearings in opposition to any efforts to move to a part-time workforce. And during several meetings with NALC staff, he indicated his interest in reforming Postal Service finances to help put them on more secure footing—without the use of taxpayer funds.

“The fact that he could become the next chairman of the oversight committee if Republicans were to take control of the House of Representatives next month made this endorsement a matter of national importance,” he said.

However, Rep. Issa’s op-ed commentary in the Sept. 21 edition of The Washington Times forced the NALC to reconsider and ultimately withdraw its endorsement.

“In the piece, [Issa] falsely claims that the USPS is seeking a ‘taxpayer bailout’ and proposes that Congress get involved in collective bargaining to force concessions from postal labor unions,” Rolando wrote in a message to the NALC’s e-Activist Network.

Rep. Issa’s name was included on the list of NALC-endorsed candidates that appears in the October issue of *The Postal Record*. An updated list now appears on the website at nalc.org.

Meanwhile, the *Times* on Sept. 23 printed President Rolando’s response to Issa’s article.

“Politicizing one of America’s great institutions by getting Congress involved in the collective bargaining process is the last thing we should do,” Rolando added. “The Postal Service has not received a dime of taxpayer support in more than 25 years and offers the best, most affordable service in the world.”

Links to both Rolando’s and Issa’s articles are available at nalc.org.

Installation of National Officers

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ tickets for the NALC Installation Dinner, Saturday, December 4 at the Hilton Washington Towers.  
Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (@ \$65 per ticket) for \_\_\_\_\_ table(s) seating 8 or for open seating (Please circle one of the above.)

Tickets will be held for pickup on your arrival in Washington, DC.  
Person designated to pick up ticket(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
NALC Branch number \_\_\_\_\_ National Business Agent \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Please indicate if you or anyone in your party has any special dietary considerations: \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to **Secretary-Treasurer, NALC** must be received by **November 10**.

Mail order form and payment to:  
INSTALLATION DINNER, c/o Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Broendel,  
NALC, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144.





National Association  
of Letter Carriers

Fredric V. Rolando, President

October 18, 2010 No. 10-22

# NALC Bulletin

100 Indiana Ave. NW Washington, DC 20001-2144 202.393.4695 www.nalc.org

## Washington luncheon honors 2010 NALC Heroes of the Year



The National Heroes of the Year Awards were held Oct. 7 in Washington. Pictured are (seated, from l) Deborah Czarny and Penny Bell, Muskegon, MI Br. 13; James Dupont, Rogers, AR Br. 1514; Larry Gunkel, Wichita Br. 201; Jeffrey Vollmar, Freehold, NJ Br. 924; (standing, from l) J.D. Stewart, Seattle Br. 79; NALC President Fredric V. Rolando; Jack Hayes, Seattle Br. 79; Heroes judges Shelby Hallmark from the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs and Montgomery County, MD Fire and Rescue Service Chief Richard Bowers; Salli Hislop, Salt Lake City Br. 111; Heroes judge Jordan "Bud" Biscardo, vice president of United Way Worldwide; and John Dyce, president of Youngstown Branch 385 and chair of the Ohio State Association of Letter Carriers. (Not pictured: Thomas Nehlen, Youngstown Br. 385.) (Photo by Mike Shea)

Several letter carriers were recognized for their heroism and community service at a special event October 7 in Washington.

"NALC has a proud tradition of public service that goes far beyond delivering the nation's mail," National Association of Letter Carriers President Fredric V. Rolando told those gathered for the annual Heroes of the Year awards ceremony. "But today, we are here to recognize and celebrate the selfless contributions of individual letter carriers, whose heroism and service make a real difference in their communities."

The following are the 2010 National Heroes of the Year:

**Eastern Region Hero:** Jeffrey Vollmar, a carrier from Freehold, NJ Branch 924, was delivering mail when he heard a young woman shout that her house was on fire and her mother was still inside. Without concern for his own safety, he ran into the smoke-filled house and found her on the second floor, disoriented. After bringing her outside, he ran back into the house and put out most of the flames.

**Central Region Hero:** Youngstown Branch 385 letter carrier Thomas Nehlen saw smoke on his route one morning, billowing from a house. He charged right into the house and helped the residents clustered in the kitchen reach safety outside. Later that same afternoon, delivering mail in another part of town, he helped a 12-year-old boy who had crashed his bicycle into a van in traffic. Ohio State Chair John Dyce accepted the award on Nehlen's behalf.

**Western Region Hero:** Salli Hislop was on her mail route when a customer's dog ran to her truck, barking urgently. Recognizing this as unusual behavior for the dog, the Salt Lake City Branch 111 letter carrier investigated and found the customer lying on his front porch, apparently suffering a heart attack. She performed CPR. Paramedics later revived him, thanks to Hislop's prompt attention.

**Special Carrier Alert:** Muskegon, MI Branch 13 carrier Penny Bell was concerned when she noticed mail piling up in an elderly customer's mailbox, and more worried when she noticed that the hard-of-hearing woman's TV wasn't on loud as usual. She asked her sub, fellow Muskegon carrier Deborah Czarny, to check on the customer the next day. Seeing the same signs, Czarny pounded on the door, heard a faint voice and got into the house with a neighbor's key. They found the resident on the floor, where she'd been for four days, disoriented.

**Humanitarian of the Year:** Larry Gunkel helps feed almost 35,000 families across Kansas and runs a Food 4 Kids backpack program that provides food over the weekend for nearly 5,000 Kansas schoolchildren. Gunkel, former president of Wichita Branch 201, where he began his involvement with feeding people through the annual NALC national food drive, now is retired and is food program manager for the Kansas Food Bank.

**Branch Service Award:** Several Seattle Branch 79 letter carriers were recognized for their work building homes for Louisiana residents displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Representing the branch were Jack Hayes and J.D. Stewart.

**National Hero of the Year:** James Dupont had just finished delivering mail on his rural Arkansas route when he saw a truck and car collide head-on. The member of Rogers, AR Branch 1514 pulled the driver from the truck and, as the vehicle caught on fire, saved a passenger engulfed in flames. He then managed to bend open the door of the burning car to rescue that driver—injuring himself in the process.

A panel of three independent judges selected the heroes from among stories printed in *The Postal Record* between July 2009 and June 2010 in the magazine's "Proud to Serve" section. President Rolando gave special recognition to two of them—United Way Worldwide Vice President Jordan "Bud" Biscardo and Office of Workers' Compensation Programs Director Shelby Hallmark, who are both retiring as Heroes judges this year. Rolando also thanked the third judge, Montgomery County, MD Fire and Rescue Service Chief Richard Bowers, who has served as a judge for the past two years.

### Dec. 4 in Washington

## Tickets still available for national officers' installation

The installation of the NALC's 28 elected national officers for four-year terms will take place in Washington on the evening of **Saturday, December 4**, in the ballroom of the Hilton Washington and Towers Hotel, 1919 Connecticut Avenue NW.

Tickets for this special evening are still available through the office of the NALC Secretary-Treasurer for \$65 per person.

Full payment (payable to **NALC Secretary-Treasurer**), along with the order form printed below, must be received by the office of Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Broendel **no later than Wednesday, November 10**. The order form is also available online at nalc.org.

Upon receipt of payment, tables will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis **only for those who purchase a block of at least eight tickets**. The maximum number at each table is eight. Individuals or smaller parties purchasing tickets will be assigned to "open seating" tables.

The person authorized to pick up tickets must be listed on the order form, as only the officially designated person will be allowed to pick up tickets.

Installation dinner tickets include admission to the holiday party immediately following the installation. **For all others, attendance at the holiday party is by invitation only.** Branches that wish to attend only the holiday party should contact the Secretary-Treasurer's office by Wednesday, November 10. No tickets for either function will be available after that date.

The NALC room rate at the Hilton Washington and Towers is \$199 single/double. The rate is good for the nights of December 3-4 only. All reservations must be made directly through the Hilton Washington and Towers, 1919 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20009. Call 800-HILTONS (800-445-8667) and be sure to request the special NALC rate.

### Ballot deadline: Oct. 27

## NBA elections underway

Election ballots for the contested national business agent positions in Regions 3, 11, 12, 14 and 15 were mailed out October 7-8.

At the 67th Biennial NALC Convention in Anaheim this summer, two individuals were nominated for each of the following NBA positions:

**Chicago Region 3:** Kevin Schaible of Belleville, IL Branch 155 and Neal Tisdale of Springfield, IL Branch 80.

**Cincinnati Region 11:** Daniel E. Toth of Lorain, OH Branch 583 and Mike Hayden of Toledo Branch 100.

**Philadelphia Region 12:** William J. Lucini of Philadelphia Branch 157 and Michael D. Stanton of Haddonfield, NJ Branch 769.

**New England Region 14:** John J. Casciano of Boston Branch 34 and Michael L. Willadsen of Hartford Branch 86.

**New York Region 15:** Larry Cirelli of New Jersey Merged Branch 38 and Walter Barton of Long Island Merged Branch 6000.

All national business agents are elected by the membership within their respective regions. Candidates for resident national officer positions, the three national trustee positions, and the other 10 national business agents were elected by acclamation at the convention.

**Ballots must be received by 8 a.m. on October 27 to be counted. To be eligible to vote, a person must be a regular member of the NALC and in good standing as of June 1, 2010.**

### Rolling right along

## MDA Bowlathon approaches

Scores of NALC branches are gearing up for the second annual national bowlathon for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

**The event, set for Sunday, November 7, will take place in bowling alleys and lanes in cities and towns across the nation.**

In last year's inaugural effort, thousands of carriers, their families and friends helped the NALC raise more than \$300,000 for the MDA, helping to boost the Association's total contribution to this year's Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon for MDA to \$1.9 million.

Branches that registered to participate in this year's bowlathon should have received their information packets already. After the bowlathon, participating branches should send their official scoring forms to NALC Headquarters as soon as possible. For assistance, please contact Linda Giordano, the union's community service coordinator, at 202-662-2489.



## Help those in need through CFC

The annual Combined Federal Campaign is going on now, giving letter carriers many ways to pitch in to help those in need. It also presents a great opportunity to give to the Postal Employees' Relief Fund (PERF) and the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA).



The MDA, which letter carriers support through so many varied activities, can also benefit from CFC donations. MDA helps thousands of families and works tirelessly toward developing treatments and cures for neuromuscular diseases. The NALC has been an official sponsor of MDA for more than 50 years; it's also the union's only official charity.

PERF gives grants to postal employees who face disasters like fires and floods, covering expenses not covered by insurance or other disaster relief. A committee of union leaders and managers, including President Rolando, oversees PERF.

PERF depends heavily on CFC donations—more than 90 percent of its income comes from payroll deductions. Because PERF has very low administrative costs, nearly all the money goes directly to postal workers in need.

**The CFC number for PERF is 10268. MDA's CFC number is 0536. Donations to both are tax-deductible.**

### Branch financial training

## Florida filling up fast; California space available

Secretary-Treasurer Jane Broendel asks members to act now and sign up for two upcoming educational training sessions—January 17-19 in San Diego and February 27-March 1 in Orlando.

There are still seats available for the first session in San Diego; however, the Orlando meeting is filling up fast.

The training is tailored to assist new branch secretary-treasurers and other local and state officers who are chiefly responsible for financial administration. It's intended primarily for branch secretary-treasurers, but other branch and state officers who deal directly with branch finances also are invited. Priority will be given to first-time attendees and each session is limited to 150 participants.

A form to request registration for either the San Diego or Orlando seminar is printed below and also may be found in this *Bulletin* posted online at nalc.org.

The training will cover the basics for financial officers: taxes, including payroll withholding requirements; accounting systems and maintenance of proper controls; reporting to the Department of Labor, including LM-2, LM-3 and LM-30; fiduciary duties under the Landrum-Griffin Act; bonding of branch officers; NALC dues; legal limits on certain types of union spending; and IRS reporting requirements, including Forms 990 and 900-T.

The San Diego seminar room rate is \$149 plus tax, single/double, and is available January 16-18. The deadline for the San Diego rate is December 17.

The Orlando seminar will have a special room rate of \$129 plus tax, single/double, and is available February 26-28. The deadline for the Orlando special rate is February 5.

The training sessions will begin at 8 a.m. on the first day and conclude by noon on the third day.

Branches will be responsible for transportation and lodging. **Please do not make airline reservations before receiving confirmation from the Secretary-Treasurer's office. Hotel information will be included with your letter of acceptance.**



## Secretary-Treasurer Seminar registration form

Please register me for one of the following NALC Secretary-Treasurer Seminars:

☐ **January 17-19, 2011, in San Diego, California.** Registration deadline is December 17. Room rate [single/double] is \$149 plus tax. **\*\***

☐ **February 27-March 1, 2011, in Orlando, Florida.** Registration deadline is February 5. Room rate [single/double] is \$129 plus tax. **\*\***

☐ If your chosen seminar is already full, check here if you'd like to be registered for the other one.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Branch or state position \_\_\_\_\_

Branch # \_\_\_\_\_ Branch city \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Home address: Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number (required) \_\_\_\_\_

Send to:

Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Broendel  
National Association of Letter Carriers  
100 Indiana Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20001-2144

**\*\* Please do not make airline reservations until you receive an acceptance letter.**

## Installation of National Officers

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ tickets for the NALC Installation Dinner, Saturday, December 4, 2010 at the Hilton Washington Towers

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (@ \$65 per ticket) for \_\_\_\_\_ table(s) seating 8 or for open seating

Tickets will be held for pickup on your arrival in Washington, DC.

Person designated to pick up ticket(s) \_\_\_\_\_

NALC Branch number \_\_\_\_\_ National Business Agent \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate if you or anyone in your party has any special dietary considerations: \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to **Secretary-Treasurer, NALC** must be received by **November 10**. Mail order form and payment to: **INSTALLATION DINNER, c/o Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Broendel, NALC, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144.**





National Association  
of Letter Carriers

Fredric V. Rolando, President

November 2, 2010 No. 10-23

# NALC Bulletin

100 Indiana Ave. NW Washington, DC 20001-2144 202.393.4695 www.nalc.org

## The 2011 NALC Health Benefit Plan

# Saving you money and keeping you healthy

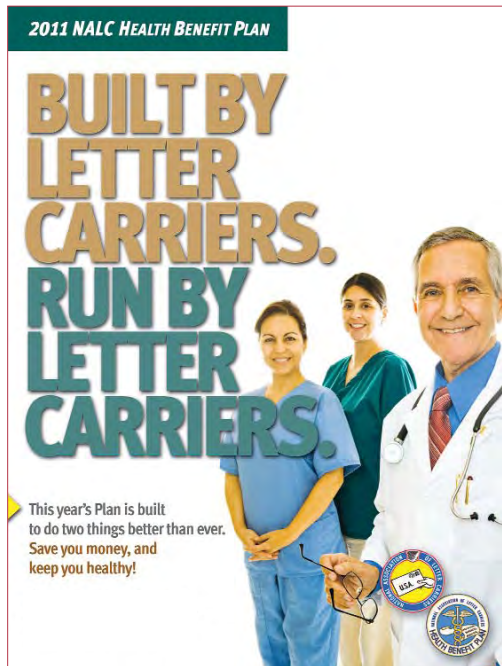
The 2011 NALC Health Benefit Plan package is sure to create a buzz during this year's Open Season, November 8 through December 13, when word of the Plan's low-cost generic prescription programs spreads.

The Plan is making 90-day fills of thousands of generic drugs available *exclusively* to members of the NALC Health Benefit Plan through the CVS Maintenance Choice Program and through the Caremark mail order program for only \$7.99 when the Plan is the primary payer, and for only \$4 when Medicare Part B is the primary payer.

The amount letter carriers will pay for a 90-day supply of a 2011 NALCSelect generic medication purchased through the Plan's mail-order program, or at a CVS/Caremark Pharmacy (including Longs Drugs) through the Maintenance Choice Program, is just \$5—or \$4 when Medicare Part B is your primary carrier.

Type of Enrollment	Enrollment code	Non-Postal Premium				Postal Premium	
		Biweekly		Monthly		Biweekly	
		Gov't share	Your share	Gov't share	Your share	USPS share	Your share
High Option Self	321	\$180.66	\$74.14	\$391.43	\$160.64	\$203.24	\$51.56
High Option Self and Family	322	\$403.98	\$151.07	\$875.29	\$327.32	\$454.48	\$100.57

You can protect your family's health when you enroll in the NALC Health Benefit Plan. The 2011 Preventive care benefit for adults includes 100-percent coverage for routine adult screenings when rendered by a PPO provider, such as mammograms, osteoporosis and colorectal screenings, routine pap test, diabetic and PSA testing, annual EKG, and certain adult routine immunizations endorsed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



The Plan will also pay for, in full, an annual routine physical exam, a routine office visit on the same day as a pap test, and the initial office visit associated with a covered routine sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy screening test when services are rendered by a PPO provider.

In addition, the Plan pays for all childhood immunizations recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics, in full, for children from birth through age 21, and provides 100-percent coverage of routine annual physical examinations for children and examinations done on the day of covered immunizations (beginning at birth through age 21).

The Plan's director, Timothy O'Malley, listens to Plan members' suggestions for benefit changes. Here are some of the 2011 changes made thanks to the "You Asked For It" program:

- Non-PPO pathologists, radiologists, anesthesiologists and emergency room physicians will be paid at the PPO benefit level when the services are rendered at a PPO ambulatory surgical center.
- The Plan will cover the quadrivalent human papillomavirus (HPV4) vaccine for males age 9 through 26 under the Preventive care benefit.

Check out the official 2011 NALC Health Benefit Plan brochure (RI71-009) at [nalc.org/depart/hbp](http://nalc.org/depart/hbp) and see how far your health care dollar can go.

## This Sunday, November 7!

# MDA Bowlathon benefits NALC's only official charity

Scores of NALC branches are gearing up for the second annual national bowlathon for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

The event, set for this Sunday, November 7, will take place in bowling alleys and lanes across the nation.

In last year's inaugural effort, thousands of carriers, their families and friends helped the NALC raise more than \$300,000 for the MDA, helping boost the Association's total contribution to this year's Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon for MDA to \$1.9 million.

After the bowlathon, participating branches should send their official scoring forms to NALC Headquarters as soon as possible. For assistance, please contact Linda Giordano, the union's community service coordinator, at 202-662-2489.



## Penalty Overtime Exclusion for 2010

During a four-week period (two consecutive pay periods) in December, the application of penalty overtime is suspended (Article 8, Sections 4 and 5).

By correspondence dated October 5, 2010, the Postal Service has designated the Penalty Overtime Exclusion period for 2010. The dates for the exclusionary period are December 4-31, 2010 (Pay Period 26-10, Week 1 through Pay Period 01-11, Week 2).

## Nine-year tenure to end

# Potter to step down as postmaster general

Postmaster General John E. "Jack" Potter announced October 25 that he will retire from his post effective December 3.



Jack Potter  
USPS Photo

Potter, who has served as postmaster general since 2001, announced his decision during a Chicago meeting of the Postal Service Board of Governors. Deputy Postmaster General Patrick R. Donahoe will succeed Potter.

In a statement announcing his retirement, the 55-year-old former clerk praised the Service's nearly 584,000 employees.

"I fully appreciate their support in maintaining the tradition of trust that dates back to Benjamin Franklin and the founding of our nation," Potter said. "It is our people that define our organization and it is their dedication and sense of purpose that drives our business."

National Association of Letter Carriers President Fredric V. Rolando lauded Potter in a statement:

America's letter carriers wish Jack Potter a long and healthy retirement. Although we have had profound strategic differences with Jack in recent years over the best approach for securing the long-term viability of the Postal Service, we had a good working relationship with him and his team. He was an honorable partner in collective bargaining and served his country well during a very difficult period in the history of the Postal Service.

NALC offers its congratulations to Pat Donahoe on his appointment to be the next postmaster general. We welcome the selection of a career postal employee who is committed to working with the postal unions to ensure that the Postal Service continues to provide high-quality and affordable service to America's mailers and citizens.

In an interview last year, Donahoe said, "Our unions want to do the right thing. We have to resolve pay and labor issues internally and I think that it's important that we do that, because if we do that, that makes for a stronger Postal Service." I could not agree more with that statement. The 284,000 members of the NALC look forward to working with the new postmaster general to make this a reality in the months and years ahead.

Donahoe is a 35-year Postal Service veteran and also, like Potter, a former clerk. He has served as deputy postmaster general since 2005.



Patrick Donahoe  
USPS Photo

# Business agent election results tabulated, certified

NALC Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Broedel announced October 29 that the final tabulation of votes in the election of national business agents for Regions 3, 11, 12, 14 and 15 has been certified both by the independent balloting association, Peake DeLancey Printers, LLC of Cheverly, MD, and by the National Election Committee.

All five incumbents were re-elected to their positions.

**In Chicago Region 3**, Neal Tisdale of Springfield, IL Branch 80 received 3,687 votes, and Kevin Schaible of Belleville, IL Branch 155 received 2,242 votes.

**In Cincinnati Region 11**, Daniel E. Toth of Lorain, OH Branch 583 received 4,091 votes, and Mike Hayden of Toledo Branch 100 received 3,507 votes.

**In Philadelphia Region 12**, William J. Lucini of Philadelphia Branch 157 received 4,509 votes, and Michael D. Stanton of Haddonfield, NJ Branch 769 received 2,083 votes.

**In New England Region 14**, John J. Casciano of Boston Branch 34 received 6,288 votes, and Michael L. Willadsen of Hartford Branch 86 received 2,392 votes.

**In New York Region 15**, Larry Cirelli of New Jersey Merged Branch 38 received 6,616 votes, and Walter Barton of Long Island Merged Branch 6000 received 3,914 votes.

All other candidates for national officer were elected or re-elected by acclamation at the Anaheim Convention in August when no opposing candidate was nominated.

The chair of the National Election Committee is Joseph DeRossi of Brooklyn Branch 41, and the committee members are Pam Donato of Minneapolis Branch 9, Antonia Shields of Birmingham, AL Branch 530, Mack Julion of Chicago Branch 11, and Bill Lister of St. Louis Branch 343.

The 10 resident national officers, three national trustees and 15 national business agents will be installed December 4 in Washington. For details of installation activities and the dinner ticket order form, see the October 18 *NALC Bulletin* or the September-October issue of *The Postal Record*. The deadline for ordering tickets is November 10.



The National Election Committee reviews the business agent election results. Pictured are (clockwise, from l) Bill Lister, St. Louis Br. 343; Mack Julion, Chicago Br. 11; Chair Joseph DeRossi, Brooklyn Br. 41; and Antonia Shields, Birmingham, AL Br. 530. (Not pictured: Pam Donato, Minneapolis Br. 9.)

## 19th annual!

# 2011 Food Drive is Sat., May 14



Although it's still months away, preparations have already begun for the 2011 NALC National Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive on May 14—the second Saturday in May.

Since it began in 1992, the drive has always been held on the second Saturday in May. That often places it on the day before Mother's Day—but not always.

Unfortunately, some calendars for 2011 have already been printed listing an incorrect date, on the assumption that the drive takes place on the day before Mother's Day.

So over the next several months, when we ask you to "mark your calendars" for Saturday, May 14, it's an actual request, not just a suggestion!



Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and via RSS feed. Visit [nalc.org](http://nalc.org) to find out how.





**National Association  
of Letter Carriers**

Fredric V. Rolando, President

November 22, 2010 No. 10-24

# NALC Bulletin

100 Indiana Ave. NW Washington, DC 20001-2144 202.393.4695 www.nalc.org

## Bringing some focus to the true picture of USPS finances

On November 12, the U.S. Postal Service released a report stating that it had lost \$8.5 billion in Fiscal Year 2010, which ended September 30.

In fact, actual postal losses instead amounted to about \$500 million. That's still a big number, but it's quite smaller than \$8.5 billion, and more than 50 percent lower than last year's \$1.1 billion loss.

Two factors this year made all the difference. The first is that the 2006 Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act legally bound the USPS on September 30 to once again make a \$5.5 billion payment toward pre-funding its Postal Service Retiree Health Benefit Fund. It bears repeating that this mandate to pre-fund the PSRHB in just 10 years is at once highly unusual, since no other corporation or agency is required to pre-fund benefits at all (much less at such an onerous level), and it's unnecessary. Even before September 30, the fund already contained enough cash to cover current and future retiree health benefits for decades to come.

Last year, Congress voted to help the USPS and allowed a one-time, significant reduction in its 2009 payment requirement. This year, for a number of mostly political reasons, it opted not to. (The Postal Service shares some of the blame here, since it spent most of 2010 wasting time on the campaign to eliminate Saturday mail delivery, and then chose, at the 11th hour, to ask Congress for some financial relief.)

As a result, the cash-strapped Service was backed into a corner: Either it could make the full \$5.5 billion payment, or it could default. It chose the first option.

Second, there was an added wrinkle this year. An adjustment was made in how workers' compensation costs are calculated, based on the government's assumptions about interest rates and on long-term predictions regarding compensation and health care costs.

Even though no money actually changed hands, generally accepted accounting practices forced the Postal Service to recognize on its balance sheet a non-cash expense of \$2.5 billion.

That's \$5.5 billion for pre-funding the PSRHB plus \$2.5 billion for future workers' compensation costs, making for an \$8 billion loss. Add the actual half-billion dollars of business losses, resulting mainly from still struggling mail volume (thanks to the country's deepest recession in nearly 80 years), and that's where one gets the headline-grabbing, misleading \$8.5 billion figure.

## OPM delays mean some retirees must wait on pensions

As many as 38,000 federal retirees have been waiting four to six months—and some up to a year—to get the full retirement benefits they've earned.

Among those affected are more than 2,600 members of the National Association of Letter Carriers.

NALC officers, including Director of Retired Members Ernie Kirkland, are working with retirees and the Office of Personnel Management to resolve the situation.



Ernie Kirkland

The problem stems from OPM's decision several years ago to switch its pension work to an online process. Since it felt the move would reduce its workforce needs, the agency began downsizing. However, the 2008 failure of the RetireEZ automation program meant that work volume remained steady, but there were fewer OPM staffers to handle the paperwork.

The result: Delays for thousands of retirees over the past year, as they wait to get their correct pension checks until OPM sorts this all out.

In the meantime, retirees have been receiving interim annuities—generally about 60 percent of the proper amount, sometimes far less. To compensate, many have had to dip into their life savings or take out loans just to meet expenses.

Eventually, an affected retiree's actual annuity payment is finally calculated, and a check is cut to cover the missing amount.

"We are aware of this problem, we've been in contact with OPM and other parties, and we've provided OPM's director with some suggestions on how to resolve this matter," NALC President Fredric Rolando said.

OPM Director John Berry has pledged to raise the interim annuity payments made to retirees, though it means that some will temporarily be overpaid and later will have to pay back the difference. He also hopes to hire more employees and have them work overtime as necessary, a plan that requires congressional approval.

Meanwhile, "if people have a dire need, they can contact our office and, on a case-by-case basis, we will try to have them looked at, based on need," the NALC's Kirkland said.

Kirkland advised letter carriers considering retirement to make sure they have cash reserves of at least five months of their anticipated retirement earnings, which could include the value of up to 440 hours of annual leave.

Additionally, he suggested that applications for retirement be started at least four months before the anticipated retirement date, and he urged each member to make sure that any money owed for military service or for redeposit of funds toward the annuity is paid before the retirement application is processed.

## Installation of National Officers

Tickets for the National Officers' Installation Dinner may be picked up on Friday, December 3, between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and between 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. in the Secretary-Treasurer's office at the NALC's Vincent R. Sombrotto Headquarters Building, 100 Indiana Avenue NW.

On Saturday, December 4, tickets may be picked up between 12:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. at the check-in counter in front of the Cabinet Room of the Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Avenue NW.

The person authorized to pick up tickets must be the one listed on the order form because only the officially designated person will be allowed to pick up tickets.

Installation dinner tickets include admission to the holiday party immediately following the installation. For all others, attendance at the holiday party is by invitation only.

The deadline for ordering tickets has passed.

### Bowling for a cure

## Second annual MDA Bowlathon raises money, awareness

Thousands of letter carriers and their families and friends filled bowling alleys across America on Sunday, November 7, for the second annual NALC National Bowlathon for MDA.

"It's great to see letter carriers help cure muscular dystrophy on their day off, especially when they have fun doing it," NALC President Fredric Rolando said.

The bowlathon raised thousands of dollars in a single day for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, the union's only official charity since 1954.

The hundreds of branches that participated are still collecting pledges and reporting amounts raised. Branch totals and the national tally will appear in a future *NALC Bulletin*.

"Our second annual bowlathon is sure to be a huge success," NALC National MDA Coordinator Jim Williams said. "Letter carriers across the country were very enthusiastic about this event, and I think they will top last year's fundraising mark."

**Participating branches need to send in their accounting sheets to NALC Headquarters by December 1.**



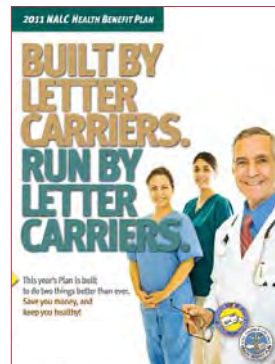
Letter carriers from South Florida Br. 1071 (l), St. Louis Br. 343 (c) and Savannah Br. 578 were among the thousands of NALC members and their families across the country who took part and helped raise money Sunday, November 7, in the second annual National Bowlathon for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

## Open Season continues to 12/13

It's *baaaacck!* Open Season, of course.

Until December 13, federal and postal employees have the opportunity to choose their health coverage for the 2011 benefit year.

The NALC Health Benefit Plan hopes that, as final numbers trickle in, it will once again experience an increase in membership.



If you're already a member, or if you joined during this Open Season, the NALC Health Benefit Plan thanks you. Your union-sponsored plan welcomes you and looks forward to providing you with outstanding service.

However, if you haven't made a final decision, the good news is that there is still some time left for you to join the NALC Health Benefit Plan.

As you make this decision, the Plan encourages you to take the "Director's Challenge" and "dare to compare" your current plan against the NALC's plan. You'll see that the NALC Health Benefit Plan is a comprehensive plan with great service, quality benefits and reasonable premiums.

Here's how to take the challenge:

- Go to [www.opm.gov/insure](http://www.opm.gov/insure).
- Go to the bottom of the screen and, under the title "Health," click on "Compare Health Plans."
- On the next screen, type in your ZIP Code and hit "Enter." This will take you to [www.opm.gov/insure/health/search/planssearch.aspx](http://www.opm.gov/insure/health/search/planssearch.aspx). Then select the plans you wish to compare (up to four plans).
- Choose an employee type, such as "U.S. Postal Service" or "Annuitant." Click "Next."
- Choose a pay frequency, such as bi-weekly or monthly. The comparison will be shown on your screen.

All of the new information for Open Season 2011 plans is there for you to see.

In addition, on the front page of the NALC Health Benefit Plan's web page, there is a link that takes you to the 2011 NALC Health Benefit Plan video.

Once you've had a chance to compare and read the information, the Plan is confident that you'll agree: The NALC Health Benefit Plan is the right plan for you and for your family.

During this Open Season, NALC Health Benefit Plan Director Timothy C. O'Malley is traveling throughout the nation, promoting the Plan at fairs and branch meetings. The following question about the "Five-Year Rule" has been coming up regarding membership in the Plan and he would like to clarify:

"When you retire, you usually stay in the FEHB Program. Generally, you must have been enrolled in the FEHB program for the last five years of your federal service. If you do not meet this requirement, you may be eligible for other forms of coverage, such as Temporary Continuation of Coverage (TCC). This information can be found on Page 92 of the NALC Health Benefit Plan 2011 brochure (R1 71-009)."

The NALC Health Benefit Plan wishes you a happy and blessed Thanksgiving.



## Food Drive kick-off:

NALC President Fredric V. Rolando (l) recently met with representatives of the union's partner organizations at the Vincent R. Sombrotto Headquarters Building in Washington during a planning session for the 2011 Letter Carrier Food Drive. The drive will be conducted on **Saturday, May 14** (not May 7, as has been posted in some locations). Among the attendees at the kick-off were (from l) NALC Community Services Assistant Kathy Carriere, Community Services Coordinator Linda Giordano, retired National Food Drive Coordinator Drew Von Bergen, and Jordan L. (Bud) Biscardo from United Way of America. Also on hand were representatives of the food drive's official sponsors, including the U.S. Postal Service, Campbell Soup Company, and Feeding America, the country's largest food bank network.





National Association  
of Letter Carriers

Fredric V. Rolando, President

December 8, 2010 No. 10-25

# NALC Bulletin

100 Indiana Ave. NW Washington, DC 20001-2144 202.393.4695 www.nalc.org

## Rolando testifies before Senate POST Act hearing

National Association of Letter Carriers President Fredric V. Rolando testified December 2 before the Senate Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, which oversees the U.S. Postal Service. Committee Chairman Thomas R. Carper (D-DE) called the hearing to discuss solutions to the financial challenges facing the Postal Service, which gave President Rolando the opportunity to comment on Sen. Carper's postal reform bill, S. 3831, the Postal Operations Sustainment and Transformation (POST) Act, introduced earlier this year.



NALC President Fredric V. Rolando

Pointing out one of the bill's positive features, Rolando noted in his submitted testimony that the POST Act seeks to provide immediate relief to the excessive burden of pre-funding future retiree health benefits imposed by the 2006 Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, by allowing the Postal Service to use the \$50 billion to \$75 billion surplus, built up in its Civil Service Retirement System pension account over the past 40 years, to cover those pre-funding payments.

But there are some aspects of POST that the NALC cannot support, Rolando said, including a modification of the arbitration language. "The proposed changes to this section of the law would highlight three managerial objectives among the factors to be considered by arbitration boards, while neglecting to mention any employee objectives that are typically presented to arbitrators," Rolando said.

"The NALC believes this proposed change in arbitration methods is based on misinformation provided by the Postal Service," Rolando said. "Its so-called 'fact sheet' on arbitration says that arbitrators are 'not required to take the fiscal health of the USPS into account,'" he added.

"This is flatly untrue and the Postal Service knows it," he said. "Arbitrators are required to consider all the evidence presented to them by the parties. There is no way for an arbitration board to avoid considering the finances of the Postal Service in its decisions. And even if the law did not require arbitrators to consider all evidence, they would do so as a matter of well-established professional practice.

"We don't think Congress should put its thumb on the scale in favor of management," he added.

Rolando also emphasized the NALC's strong opposition to another POST provision—giving the Postal Service the authority to reduce the frequency of delivery from the currently mandated six days per week.

"Eliminating Saturday delivery would be a mistake of the first order," he said. "It would save very little money and risk the loss of much more revenue over time. Cutting service—and inconveniencing customers—is not a way to strengthen the Postal Service."

And Congress needs to consider the massive job losses should Saturday mail delivery be taken away. "At a time when the nation is suffering an acute jobs crisis, throwing another 80,000 decent jobs away in a moment of panic does not make sense," Rolando said.

In this regard, he said, "the POST Act is especially dangerous because Congress would essentially be outsourcing an important public policy decision on the scope of universal service to whoever occupies the position of Postmaster General at any given time.

"NALC has demonstrated repeatedly in recent years that it is prepared to do its part to help preserve the long-term viability of the USPS," he added. "Just as we have worked with the Postal Service at the bargaining table in recent years to adjust routes and effectively deal with the steep decline in mail volume as a result of the recession, we are prepared to work with the members of this subcommittee to craft legislation that will serve the best interests of the country as well as our members."

Also testifying at the December 2 hearing were Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe; Postal Regulatory Commission Chairwoman Ruth Goldway; Jonathan Foley, director of planning and policy analysis at the Office of Personnel Management; Phillip R. Herr, director of physical infrastructure issues at the Government Accountability Office; National Association of Postmasters of the United States President Robert Rapoza; and Jerry Cerasale, the Direct Marketing Association's senior vice president for government affairs.

### Still time to enroll!

## FEHB 'Open Season' for postal employees ends Dec. 14

### Carriers switching to NALC Health Benefit Plan

Only a few days remain before the end of the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program (FEHBP) Open Season, the once-a-year period when federal and postal employees can either enroll in, or switch enrollment to, a health benefit plan to protect themselves and their families.

For active postal employees, the deadline is 5 p.m. Central Time on December 14. Interested letter carriers should complete the PostalEASE FEHBP worksheet included in the mailing sent by the USPS to their homes and enter enrollment information directly into PostalEASE via the USPS website at <https://liteblue.usps.gov>, at a PostalEase kiosk, or by telephone at 877-477-3273 (option 1).

The Open Season period for retirees and federal employees ends December 13.

The NALC Plan is the one plan among those in the FEHBP program that is owned and operated by the union that represents all city delivery letter carriers of the U.S. Postal Service. It was created 60 years ago with the best interests of letter carriers in mind, and that commitment continues today.

Newly installed NALC Health Benefit Plan Director Brian Hellman notes that hundreds of new members have been joining the Plan during this enrollment campaign.

"The phones are extremely busy at the Plan as potential members are calling in," Hellman said. "The membership is responding to the many improvements made in the Plan, and they recognize the Plan provides quality service, benefits and reasonable premiums."

Hellman urged branch presidents, shop stewards and Health Benefit Plan representatives to make a final effort to talk to each NALC member about the many benefits of being enrolled in the NALC Plan in 2011.

### Director's Challenge

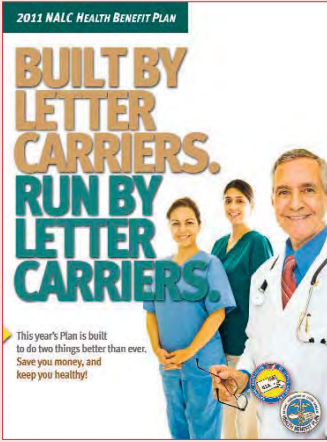
If you remain undecided, Hellman encourages you to take the "Director's Challenge" and compare your current plan with the NALC Health Benefit Plan. You will see that the NALC Health Benefit Plan is a comprehensive plan, featuring quality service, benefits and reasonable premiums.

Here's how you accept the "Director's Challenge:"

- Go to <http://www.opm.gov/insure>.
- Go to the bottom of the screen and, under the title "Health," click on "Compare Health Plans." This will take you to <http://www.opm.gov/insure/health/search/plansearch.aspx>.
- Insert your ZIP Code. Click "Enter," then select the plans you wish to compare (up to four).
- Choose an Employee Type, such as "U.S. Postal Service or Annuitant." Click "Next."
- Choose a pay frequency, such as bi-weekly or monthly.
- The comparison will be shown on your screen.

All of the new information for the Open Season for 2011 plans are there for you to see.

Members with any questions should go to the Plan's website at [nalchbp.org](http://nalchbp.org) for additional information or to view the new 2011 Open Season video about the Plan. You can also contact your branch health benefits representative or call the Plan at 888-636-NALC (6252).



## National officers installed in Washington Dec. 4

Fredric V. Rolando and the rest of the NALC Executive Council were sworn in to four-year terms as officers of the National Association of Letter Carriers December 4 at the installation ceremony at Washington's Hilton Hotel.

NALC President Emeritus William H. Young served as installing officer before a crowd of nearly 1,000.

"My proudest moment [as president of the NALC] was watching this young man—your president—assume the duties of that office in some of the most troubling times that we've ever faced in this nation," Young said. "He's focused, he's determined, and he will not fail if he gets the level of support that I got from all of you—and I'm sure that he will."

"I can't tell you," Rolando said, "how much it means to each and every one of us to have friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, colleagues who want to be part of this celebration, and many of you have traveled far, and at great expense, to do so.

"Tonight, we can celebrate the installation of the new leadership of this great union," he continued. "But we also have to brace ourselves for the challenges that lie ahead. For make no mistake about it: The future of our profession—and indeed, in profound ways, the future of this country—is at stake."

Seven elected AFL-CIO delegates also took the oath of office. Retiring Executive Vice President Gary Mullins, served as master of ceremonies, welcoming special guests, including Postal Regulatory Commission Chairwoman Ruth Goldway, American Postal Workers Union President Cliff Guffey, National Rural Letter Carriers' Association President Don Cantriel, and Dallas Jones from the National Postal Mail Handlers Union, who attended on behalf of NPMHU President John Hegarty. Also attending was AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler, who addressed the gathering.



Installation highlights: (left) Retiring Executive Vice President Gary Mullins, the evening's master of ceremonies, leads a letter carrier cheer for AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler; (center) President Emeritus William H. Young (r), the installing officer, administers the oath of office; (right) President Fredric V. Rolando addresses the gathering. (Photos by Mike Shea)

## Miami carrier killed on his route

Letter carrier Bruce Parton, a member of South Florida Branch 1071, was shot and killed while delivering mail to an apartment complex on his route.



Bruce Parton

Shortly before 3 p.m. Monday, December 6, police were called to the Miami neighborhood for a report of shots fired in the area. When they arrived on the scene, they found that Parton had been shot at least twice.

Eyewitnesses told police that after the shooting, the gunman had driven off in Parton's LLV but then abandoned the truck a short distance away before fleeing on foot.

Parton was quickly airlifted via a helicopter that landed on a field at a nearby elementary school. He was later pronounced dead at Jackson Memorial Hospital.

"It's a tragic loss of our brother and fellow letter carrier," Branch 1071 President Mike Gill said. "Our members' thoughts and prayers are with his family."

The 60-year-old Parton was a letter carrier for 29 years. He was married and had a 15-year-old son as well as an adult son and daughter.

"Letter carriers all across America mourn this senseless, tragic loss," NALC President Fredric V. Rolando said.

As this *NALC Bulletin* was being prepared, a manhunt was under way for the shooter. The Postal Inspection Service has offered a \$25,000 reward for information leading to the shooter's arrest.

Sympathy cards and letters to his family may be addressed to: Family of Bruce Parton, P.O. Box 693754, Miami, FL 33269-3754.

### Negotiations with sister unions continue

## NALC addresses USPS 'spin, distortion' during APWU, NRLCA talks

The NALC recently responded to a U.S. Postal Service press release regarding its contract negotiations with the American Postal Workers Union and the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, a statement NALC President Fredric V. Rolando said was "full of spin and distortions aimed at influencing public opinion."

"We recognize that the USPS faces major challenges that need to be addressed to secure its future," Rolando said, "but this cannot be done responsibly if one party engages in blatant and self-serving attempts to mislead people."

The Postal Service statement said that in the event of an impasse, "An arbitrator determines the final outcome and is not legally required to consider the Postal Service's financial obligations when rendering a decision."

"This is nonsense," Rolando replied, "because arbitrators are required to consider all evidence presented by the parties. Since the USPS always presents information on its financial situation, its finances always are considered.

"The press release phrasing is a thinly disguised attempt to prompt congressional meddling in the traditional labor-management process by legislation that would insert one-sided language favoring the Postal Service's positions," he said. "We don't think it's the role of Congress to get involved on behalf of either side, including ours."

The Postal Service also put a spin on the issue of eliminating Saturday delivery, claiming the public favors five-day delivery over using taxpayer funds and other alternatives.

"In fact, as the USPS well knows, the Postal Service has not used a dime of taxpayer money for 25 years," Rolando said, "and no one is proposing that it do so now."

The Postal Service release also said, "To remain strong into the future, the Postal Service needs to control costs through a flexible workforce to adapt to the nation's changing mailing trends."

"We all know what this means—a decrease in quality through transforming the workforce into a collection of temporary employees, rather than maintaining the current high standards of a workforce that the very same press release says has led the public to regard the Postal Service as the most trusted government agency six consecutive years," Rolando said.

"These various spins, half-truths or outright distortions are no way to inform the public and to have a rational discussion about the best way to secure the future of a great national institution on which 150 million households and businesses rely for mail delivery six days a week," Rolando concluded. "We stand ready to engage in a serious discussion that considers the best interests of the American people."

As this *NALC Bulletin* was being prepared, the NRLCA contract discussion was headed to arbitration while extended contract talks continued between the USPS and the APWU.

### Financial training update

## Orlando session is full; San Diego space still available

Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Broendel reports that there is no more room in the branch secretary-treasurer seminar in Orlando February 27-March 1. **However, space remains available for the January 17-19 session in San Diego.**

Acceptance and rejection notices for both sessions will be mailed out shortly.

Sessions are intended for branch secretary-treasurers, but other branch and state officers who deal directly with branch finances also are invited. Priority is given to first-time attendees (limit two per branch) and each session is limited to 150 participants. A registration form and complete details were printed in the October 18 edition of the *NALC Bulletin*, available online at [nalc.org](http://nalc.org).

The San Diego seminar room rate is \$149 plus tax, single/double, and is available January 16-18. Registration deadline is December 27.

Sessions begin at 8 a.m. on the first day and conclude by noon on the third day. Schedules and meeting room location information will be mailed out to registered participants shortly before each session. Branches are responsible for transportation and lodging. **Please do not make airline reservations before receiving confirmation from the Secretary-Treasurer's office.** Hotel information will be included with your letter of acceptance.



Follow your union on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and via RSS feed. Visit [nalc.org](http://nalc.org) to find out how.