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. The January 12, 2010, earthquake in Haiti that measured 7.3 on the Richter scale has been described as one of the most powerful ever recorded, destroyi...
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 erroneous 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 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.

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 21.1 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.

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. Questions regarding the food drive should be directed to Drew Von Bergen, national coordinator, at vonbergen@nalc.org.

18th Annual NALC National Food Drive
Alternate Registration Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Branch #</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Branch Food Drive Coordinator: | | |
|---------------------------------| | |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mailing Address</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>ZIP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office Phone</th>
<th>Cell Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Email Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(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.
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.

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.

“Despite 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.

“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.

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.

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.

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.
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 Federal Open Market Committee recently made the determination 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 (60-30) 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 in which qualified uninsured workers could purchase 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 proposal retains the Senate bill’s 40 percent excise tax on high-cost health plans which NALC and other unions have object to a move to restrain cost growth by imposing a productivity tax that would have a negative impact on the tax that applies to the top 1 percent of taxpayers and would affect the wages of low- and middle-income workers.

Baseball Tickets Going Fast!

NALC Backs Bargaining Rights For TSA Airport Security Officers

URA 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.

With the threat of the tax 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 TSA 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 public and deserve the same kind of trust that postal employees enjoy.”

“NALC Backs 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 “unswerving 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.

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

Convention Registration Delayed by Blizzards!

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. territories and has become the “go-to” solution for food banks when they need more food to feed the hungry. The union has reserved 7,000 tickets to the Los Angeles Angels-Kansas City Royals game on Tuesday night, August 11, at Angel Stadium in Anaheim, California, and inaugurated its partnership with NALC President Fred Rolando at Angel Stadium prior to the game.

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

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.

Questions should be directed to Drew Von Bergen, NALC Director of Public Relations, at (202) 662-2499 or vonbergen@nalc.org.

 nghèoness and development.

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

Apart from the usual promotions and the “donut hole” in the Medicare prescription drug program that has remained intact, the Senate bill 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. It is achieved even though the White House eliminates the so-called “donut hole” in the Medicare prescription drug program that strips the finances of many elderly patients who have very high drug bills.
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 5, making sure that Congress, the Obama administration and the general public know the disreputable consequences of sending Saturday mail delivery.

The five new delivery days would mean Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. The Postal Service would end Saturday delivery.

Many of the ideas outlined in the action plan — such as requiring the retiree health prefunding requirement by 2012, using USPS’s outstanding of $75 billion to pay down outstanding debt and offer new products and allow pricing flexibility — are ones that NALC has endorsed.

“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 will not save the agency money, nor improve, the Postal Service’s bottom-line.”

It is in a statement to the press immediately after Potter’s announcement, Rolando noted 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 plan to get the nation’s mail system running smoothly,” he said.

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

Congress Skeptical

In Marx, the Associated Press reported that Sen. Susan Collins, ranking Republican on the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, said she and her colleagues have expressed skepticism about Potter’s proposal.

“The Postal Service is suffering,” the AP quoted her as saying. “We need them to focus on serving the customers, attracting new customers and increasing volume — not on cutting services.”

Collins, according to the AP, said Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Oklahoma, a key supporter of Postal Service reform, also plans to send the Postal Service’s shrinking mail volume and leading to more severe financial problems.

“Saturday is an important delivery day — everything is coming from bank statements and dealing with your bills to the social security being cut down to the post office,” Kansas—Chautauqua (KS) ranking Republican on the House Post Office Subcommittee.

Thursday is will lose Tuesday through Saturday deliveries, but the Postal Service is considering another five days of operations, including the weekend, meaning that people will be losing Saturday delivery.

“Saturday would be an important day for many of the customers, but the Postal Service is considering another five days of operations, including the weekend, meaning that people will be losing Saturday delivery.

The Postal Service is receiving a lot of feedback from the public about Saturday delivery, and the postal service has received a lot of feedback from the public about Saturday delivery.

The proposal by the Postal Service that six-day delivery be eliminated so that the Service can get back to a five-day delivery. The plan also threatens to unnecessarily eliminate the Saturday service in a time when the country faces a severe unemployment crisis.

It is in a statement to the press immediately after Potter’s announcement, Rolando noted 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.

“My union and I represent thousands of postal workers who depend on Saturday delivery to deliver letters and provide critical services to our customers,” he said in a statement.

“Reducing the scope and quality of service will not restore the Postal Service to health — it will not save the agency money, nor improve its bottom-line.”

â€œSome are serious changes,â€ said Potter. â€œOthers, we believe, are more modest changes, and we think they are necessary to help the Postal Service become more efficient.â€

After the report came out, NALC issued a press release and engaged the news media to defend the Postal Service postcard for the 2010 NALC National Food Drive went into the mail March 5 & 8 in Priority Mail envelopes to some 62,000 homes in New Jersey.

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 April 26 opening.

More than half of the available reserved seat ticket orders and payments for a special Baseball Night during the 56th National Association in Congress on America, which has been purchased by NALC branches for their delegations attending the convention.

Tickets are $10 each for NALC delegates and their families to the game played Friday night at 6:05 p.m.

To obtain tickets, mail the form that was included in the February 12 NALC Bulletin and include with it a check payable to the Trustees of NALC National Food Drive. The form and ticket should be returned to:

NALC National Food Drive
100 Indian Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20001-6249

Reservations are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The form and ticket should be returned to:

NALC National Food Drive
100 Indian Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20001-6249

More than half of the available reserved seat ticket orders and payments for a special Baseball Night during the 56th National Association in Congress on America, which has been purchased by NALC branches for their delegations attending the convention.

Tickets are $10 each for NALC delegates and their families to the game played Friday night at 6:05 p.m.

To obtain tickets, mail the form that was included in the February 12 NALC Bulletin and include with it a check payable to the Trustees of NALC National Food Drive. The form and ticket should be returned to:

NALC National Food Drive
100 Indian Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20001-6249

More than half of the available reserved seat ticket orders and payments for a special Baseball Night during the 56th National Association in Congress on America, which has been purchased by NALC branches for their delegations attending the convention.

Tickets are $10 each for NALC delegates and their families to the game played Friday night at 6:05 p.m.

To obtain tickets, mail the form that was included in the February 12 NALC Bulletin and include with it a check payable to the Trustees of NALC National Food Drive. The form and ticket should be returned to:

NALC National Food Drive
100 Indian Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20001-6249

More than half of the available reserved seat ticket orders and payments for a special Baseball Night during the 56th National Association in Congress on America, which has been purchased by NALC branches for their delegations attending the convention.

Tickets are $10 each for NALC delegates and their families to the game played Friday night at 6:05 p.m.

To obtain tickets, mail the form that was included in the February 12 NALC Bulletin and include with it a check payable to the Trustees of NALC National Food Drive. The form and ticket should be returned to:

NALC National Food Drive
100 Indian Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20001-6249

More than half of the available reserved seat ticket orders and payments for a special Baseball Night during the 56th National Association in Congress on America, which has been purchased by NALC branches for their delegations attending the convention.

Tickets are $10 each for NALC delegates and their families to the game played Friday night at 6:05 p.m.

To obtain tickets, mail the form that was included in the February 12 NALC Bulletin and include with it a check payable to the Trustees of NALC National Food Drive. The form and ticket should be returned to:

NALC National Food Drive
100 Indian Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20001-6249

more than half of the available reserved seat ticket orders and payments for a special Baseball Night during the 56th National Association in Congress on America, which has been purchased by NALC branches for their delegations attending the convention.

Tickets are $10 each for NALC delegates and their families to the game played Friday night at 6:05 p.m.

To obtain tickets, mail the form that was included in the February 12 NALC Bulletin and include with it a check payable to the Trustees of NALC National Food Drive. The form and ticket should be returned to:

NALC National Food Drive
100 Indian Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20001-6249

20 Million+!

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.

President Biden reacts to multiyear financial plans for the Postal Service.
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 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 than 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.

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. Carrier who are not e-Activists are encouraged to sign up on the NALC’s web site.

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 38 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 Burnus, 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.

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) 393-4895, 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.

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 – Joyce D. Miller and Gloria T. Johnson.

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

“My labor movement career has been dedicated to women’s rights. I’ve served as a Board member and Chair of the AFL-CIO Women’s Committee, and have been an active participant in many women’s movement organizations and “firsts,”” Broendel said. “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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.
New York Lawmakers Join 6-Day Delivery Fight

Sen. Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand (both D-NY) pledged to help the NALC fight to retain six-day 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 visits that they will stand with them as the NALC takes on the Postal Service’s plan to end six-day delivery for Americans.

Similar commitments of support came from numerous House members, both during private visits to their Capitol Hill offices and in remarks that were to be made on the House floor. These remarks were to be delivered by the New York State Association of Letter Carriers at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Washington (see quotes above).

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 hallmartik event in the 19-year history of the Postal Service’s 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 recruited a 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 participation of the National Rural Letter Carriers’ Association as a national partner, along with the U.S. Postal Service, Campbell Soup Company, Valero, 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, Courtney Cox and RXSearcead.

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 – Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, 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 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.

Anahiem 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.
Rolando Dispels Myths About 5-Day Delivery

By Ronald L. Hughes

May 4, 2010

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 June Postal Record’.

Rolando Dispels Myths—An equal place at the table for the union and the iron-clad requirement 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 June 18, 2010.

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

In upper left photo, NALC President Rolando is joined by former drag racing star Ashley Force Hood and Campbell Soup’s Joyce Rashold and andretiree carriers from Branches 2168 and 2192. At left, Branch 2185 Supervisor Carl Stow, Branch 2168 Manager, and Branch 2192 Manager, the latter 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 coupons to be sent to post offices across Florida and Georgia to supplement the Campbell Soup-USPS postcards. In front is VA Friedman, Clearwater Br. 2003 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 pound mark 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.

For those 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 for mailboxes on May 8. These followed more than 40 million special Valpak envelopes that were delivered in April and May also promoting the drive.

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 tear sheets 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.

In 18th NALC National Food Drive

The National Association of Letter Carriers, with headquarters in New Orleans, is a federation of local, state and national Letter Carriers’ associations across the United States.

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.

Through 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 rapid reporting of preliminary food drive results through the use of advanced data collection and analytics tools.

For the first time, this will allow the NALC to compile preliminary results within 48 hours after the drive.

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. These forms 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 types of food, such as canned goods, containers and dry goods.
**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 custodians in Nashville that Saturdays would end next spring, and noting that Tuesdays are the second-slowest day of the week.

---

**Letter Carriers Top 1 Billion Lbs.**

In 18 Years of Annual Food Drive

**Branch Reports Indicate Highly Successful Effort**

President Rolando, Michigan Branch 233 member, right, and Tammie Yates of Ozark Mountain Branch 203 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," Pirig said. "It’s not a success without everyone pitching in."

Last year, a record 75.4 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.

Initial 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, Guan 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, the Salvation Army, the United States Farmers Cooperative Soup Company, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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 May by Washington, D.C. for a completion of a total national, as well as for inclusion in the national totals that will be placed in the 2009 NALC Directory.

Only these final reports (forms included with a special memo wanting all branch food drive coordinators) will be used. The partial, unofficial amounts entered on the independent Internet site will not be utilized.

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 May by Washington, D.C. for a completion of a total national, as well as for inclusion in the national totals that will be placed in the 2009 NALC Directory.

Only these final reports (forms included with a special memo wanting all branch food drive coordinators) will be used. The partial, unofficial amounts entered on the independent Internet site will not be utilized.

**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 "Stampout Hunger" drive that pushed the total for the 18-year effort over the 1 billion pound mark.

NALC President Fredric D. Rolando and his right-hand carrier counterparts, as well as other volunteers who dedicated and compassion to help feed America’s hungry, revealed their commitment outside the hallmarks of the drive success.

"You all were fantastic," Rolando said. "I’m sure there were a lot of sore backs and that kind of thing 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 mailboxes 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 for the first 17 years was 967.7 million pounds. Reports were still pending from more than 1,000 local branches.

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

"I really think that the people of the Ozarks just dug deeper to help the people," coordinator Tamemie Yates of Ozark Mountain Branch 260 told the News-Leader in Springfield, Missouri.

In Albert Lea, Minnesota, where they had the third-largest amount in the 18 years, coordinator Scott Pirig 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," Pirig said. "It’s not a success without everyone pitching in."

Last year, a record 75.4 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, Guan 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, the Salvation Army, the United States Farmers Cooperative Soup Company, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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 May by Washington, D.C. for a completion of a total national, as well as for inclusion in the national totals that will be placed in the 2009 NALC Directory.

Only these final reports (forms included with a special memo wanting all branch food drive coordinators) will be used. The partial, unofficial amounts entered on the independent Internet site will not be utilized.

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 May by Washington, D.C. for a completion of a total national, as well as for inclusion in the national totals that will be placed in the 2009 NALC Directory.

Only these final reports (forms included with a special memo wanting all branch food drive coordinators) will be used. The partial, unofficial amounts entered on the independent Internet site will not be utilized.

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 May by Washington, D.C. for a completion of a total national, as well as for inclusion in the national totals that will be placed in the 2009 NALC Directory.

Only these final reports (forms included with a special memo wanting all branch food drive coordinators) will be used. The partial, unofficial amounts entered on the independent Internet site will not be utilized.

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 May by Washington, D.C. for a completion of a total national, as well as for inclusion in the national totals that will be placed in the 2009 NALC Directory.

Only these final reports (forms included with a special memo wanting all branch food drive coordinators) will be used. The partial, unofficial amounts entered on the independent Internet site will not be utilized.
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.

Settlement Reached On Medical Records

Follows Union Lawsuit to Stop Coercion When Investigators Seek Information

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 to submit Resolutions.

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.
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 work with Congress in 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 – give your Saturday delivery to competitors is the most shortsighted 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 organizing events in an effort to raise awareness of 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 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 our communities this year in the annual NALC National Food Drive.

President Fred Rolando announced that this year’s drive by 1,444 NALC branches was 77,132,100 pounds of food collected along postal routes in more than 10,000 cities and towns in all 50 states and Puerto Rico and delivered to local food banks and shelters to help needy families.

Tampa, Florida Branch 599 collected 2,828,523 pounds to emerge as the top local union branch in the country, topping West Coast Florida Branch 1477, which includes St. Petersburg, Branch 187 and Branch 75 in Pinellas County, Florida. Buffalo-Western New York Branch 3 was third, followed by Garden Grove, California Branch 119.

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, Valley Discount 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 Courtney Cox, television host Sonja Sohn, and drag racing star Ashley Force Hood for their promotional support.

Stop USPS from Making ‘Big Mistake’

NALC Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Seacrest, and drag racing star Ashley Force Hood for their promotional support.

NALC Bulletin

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS

1801 North First Street
Washington, DC 20001-2144

www.nalc.org

Update on Convention Hotels!

Postal Record

Stop USPS from Making ‘Big Mistake’

NALC/Campbell Soup 2010 Award Winners

Here are the winners of the NALC/Campbell Soup awards that will receive plaques at the August 9-12 National Convention in Anaheim, California. Campbell Soup also will donate 1,000 cases of soup to a food bank designated by each of these 10 branches.

Category I (1-49)
Branch 704 Tucson, AZ 924,847 lbs.
Branch 1031 Inverness, FL 382,000 lbs.

Category II (50-99)
Branch 1105 Ft. Lauderdale, FL 66,455 lbs.
Branch 915 Billings, MT 242,000 lbs.

Category III (100-199)
Branch 2008 Clearwater, FL 1,392,267 lbs.
Branch 116 Fort Wayne, IN 623,236 lbs.

Category IV (200-499)
Branch 599 Tampa, FL 2,063,529 lbs.
Branch 2340-2345 4,545,000 lbs.

Category V (500-999)
Campbell Soup
Branch 599 Tampa, FL 2,063,529 lbs.

Category VI (1000+)
Campbell Soup
Branch 599 Tampa, FL 2,063,529 lbs.

Stamping Out Hunger!

Letter Carriers’ Food Drive

Sets Record in Donations

Tampa, Florida Branch 599 Top in Nation

It seemed like a lot to letter carriers and rural carriers on May 3, and now we know why. Americans donated a record $10.2 million to Campbell Soup’s Operation Stamp Out Hunger to help needy families in their communities this year in the annual NALC National Food Drive.

President Fred Rolando announced that this year’s drive by 1,444 NALC branches was 77,132,100 pounds of food collected along postal routes in more than 10,000 cities and towns in all 50 states and Puerto Rico and delivered to local food banks and shelters to help needy families.

Tampa, Florida Branch 599 collected 2,828,523 pounds to emerge as the top local union branch in the country, topping West Coast Florida Branch 1477, which includes St. Petersburg, Branch 187 and Branch 75 in Pinellas County, Florida. Buffalo-Western New York Branch 3 was third, followed by Garden Grove, California Branch 119.

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, Valley Discount 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 Courtney Cox, television host Sonja Sohn, 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 9-12 National Convention in Anaheim, California. Campbell Soup also will donate 1,000 cases of soup to a food bank designated by each of these 10 branches.

Category I (1-49)
Branch 704 Tucson, AZ 924,847 lbs.
Branch 1031 Inverness, FL 382,000 lbs.

Category II (50-99)
Branch 1105 Ft. Lauderdale, FL 66,455 lbs.
Branch 915 Billings, MT 242,000 lbs.

Category III (100-199)
Branch 2008 Clearwater, FL 1,392,267 lbs.
Branch 116 Fort Wayne, IN 623,236 lbs.

Category IV (200-499)
Branch 599 Tampa, FL 2,063,529 lbs.
Branch 2340-2345 4,545,000 lbs.

Category V (500-999)
Campbell Soup
Branch 599 Tampa, FL 2,063,529 lbs.

Category VI (1000+)
Campbell Soup
Branch 599 Tampa, FL 2,063,529 lbs.

Secretary-Treasurer Brooendel 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 sessions on LM-2 electronic filing systems for local union officials and 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. Participants will be able to take the LM-2 test at the end of the session. 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/692399241. (Note: both web addresses begin with https, not http.)

For questions about LM-2 training contact the NALC’s National Office of Labor Relations at nalc@accessdmc.com.
Eight NALC National Officers To be Honored at Convention

Reservations Must be Received at NALC by July 8

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 Postal Record, retiring Director of City Delivery

H. Mullins

reserved in advance, but only after the order and payment are received at NALC headquarters.

100 Indiana Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144.

with the Retiring Officers’ Dinner order form to: Retiring Officers’ Dinner; c/o NALC Secretary-Treasurer, authorized to pick up tickets on the order form, as only that person will be able to receive the tickets.

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.

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.

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 Annual 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.

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.
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 a new law to give federal employees a long-overdue raise.

“Letter carriers across America and in the Mountain State have lost a long-time friend,” said NALC President Fred Rolando. “Throughout his remarkable half-century of service in Congress, Senator Byrd never wavered from his support for pension reform. The search for a replacement to serve the remainder of Byrd’s term through 2012 was still under way as this Bulletin was printed.”

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.

“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.

Nearly nine out of 10 Americans surveyed by the Institute’s 2010 Privacy Trust Study of the United States Government found that USPS was among 75 federal government agencies.

Making postage rate increase a labor issue
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. The Postal Service has massively over-funded its pension system costs related to work performed by the taxpayer—amounting to an estimated $5.5 billion annual cost of pre-funding retiree health costs—not the recession and not the Internet—according to Rolando.

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.”

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.

Rolando names new RAA for Region 4

NALC President Fred Rolando has named Dan Venutia the new regional administrative assistant for Region 4, which serves letter carriers in Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming.

Venutia is a 23-year postal employee who has served as a Region 4 board member.

“Venutia’s extensive knowledge and experience will allow him to immediately begin his new role,” Rolando said.

Requirement for convention alternates

Delegates and any alternates replacing delegates are reminded that the credential cards previously issued 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, 9 a.m. to 12 noon

Open captioning on convention screens

General session video presentations, including podium and floor action, will be open-captioned on convention screens.

Dear NALC President Fred Rolando:
Subject: President of Tucson, Arizona Branch 704

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent decision by the USPS to begin phasing out Saturday mail delivery.

As a long-time customer of the Postal Service and a member of the Tucson Amateur Poets' Circle, I urge you to reconsider this decision.

Saturday mail delivery provides crucial services for our local community, including the exchange of cultural and artistic works. The loss of this service will have a negative impact on the overall community.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
Postal finance bill introduced, advances

The Federal Workforce, Postal Service, and the District of Columbia subcommittee of the Government Reform Committee in the House of Representatives passed legislation today that would require the Postal Service with between $50 and $75 billion in pension assets unallocated by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). The legislation, H.R. 7466, was introduced on July 15 by subcommittee chair Stephen Lynch (D-MA) and marked up on July 21. The bill authorizes $5 billion in new pension contributions into the health benefit fund. The legislation sends the bill to the full committee for action as early as next week.

The Lynch bill is designed to help the Postal Service restructure 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 in 1971, which transferred the USPS workers’ benefits to 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 June that the OPM had undercharged the USPS $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 Retirement 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 benefits, it will be a huge step forward,” Rolando said. “The Postal Service reform bill passed by Congress includes a provision to correct the on-going misappropriation of the funds in question.”

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 2026, 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, include cutting Saturday mail delivery,” said the 81-year-old Lynch. “This legislation advances our fight to save Saturday delivery and preserve carrier job security. 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.”

Shuttle bus service

Free shuttle service is provided between the convention center and NALC hotels in the official housing blocks: Disneyland Hotel, Disney’s Paradise Pier Hotel, Sheraton Garden Grove, Doubletree 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, 8:30 a.m. to 9 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 work.

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 stadium will be picked up by shuttle buses and shuttled 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 car park staff 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 888-999-3267. Meals are free at the NALC convention to receive a discount; you will receive a card with the amount of oxygen needed and the type of equipment required. To order refills, payable by cash, check, credit card or check, it’s suggested that you call a day ahead, although same-day service may be available.

Customer Connect hits $1 billion mark

NALC Director of Safety and Health Brian Hallinan, 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 to the USPS 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 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 the Postal Service and the NALC, our carriers can do their part to help put this country back on track.”

While the $1 billion mark is a great triumph, Rolando said that it’s only a 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?”

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 2006 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 212 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 Br. 86; Toledo, OH Br. 100; Centennial CO Br. 5990; Clearwater, FL Br. 2008; Houston, TX Br. 5935; San Diego County Merged, NJ Br. 420; Norwalk, CT Br. 147; Arvada, CO Br. 4460; Concord, NH Br. 72; and Auburn, CA Br. 3060.

Accommodations for the disabled

Wheelchair and scooter rental: Contact Scooter Village at 888-999-3267. Meals are free at the NALC convention to receive a discount; you will receive a card with the amount of oxygen needed and the type of equipment required. To order refills, payable by cash, check, credit card or check, it’s suggested that you call a day ahead, although same-day service may be available.
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.”

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 a 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 25, also with language on six-day delivery left unchanged. The full House Appropriations Committee will take up the bill after the August recess.

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.

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 Retirement 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.

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 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 Ødd Christian Olavland; 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 amendments rejected by the Postal Service’s executive vice president and its general council. They will also nominate candidates for all 10 national resident officer positions, three national trustee posts, and the 15 national business agent slots.

Convention coverage will be provided in special editions of the NALC Bulletin and daily on the union’s website at 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.
**Ralph Nader**, a well-known consumer advocate and presidential candidate, recently addressed the convention of the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC). Speaking passionately, Nader outlined the critical role of letter carriers in ensuring the nation’s vital mail delivery service.

"You are as good as gold, and we are going to keep you that way," he said to delegates. "I know all the work you do that’s not in the job description," he added. "That’s what being an American is all about—doing all of that."

Nader emphasized the importance of fighting for the future of the Postal Service, warning that the abolition of Saturday mail delivery would have devastating consequences for letter carriers and their communities. He highlighted the high cost of part-time work and the need for better health care and pensions for letter carriers.

"We will do whatever you ask us to do, because you have been with us over and over again," he said. "We will continue to fight for your vision." He praised the NALC for its dedication to protecting the jobs and benefits of letter carriers.

Nader concluded his speech by reminding delegates of the importance of solidarity and warned against the privatization of the Postal Service. "We have to fight for the future of the Postal Service," he urged, "because it is the backbone of the nation’s economy."
**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 name Vincent Sombrillo, 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.

“We’ve been in that fight, we oppose it, and we’re going to beat it,” Burrus said. “Postmaster is 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 industrialization 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 you 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.

**President Rolando**

O’Malley, the director of the Health Benefit Plan, was elected executive vice president, also by acclamation. He is retiring at the end of his term in December. Meanwhile, Director of Safety and Health Brian Hillman of New York City Br. 38 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 for Region 1. He succeeds Anthony Mignosi 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. Brookman of Davenport, IA Br. 506, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Nicole Rhine of Lincoln, NE Br. 6, Life Insurance Director Mynor Warren of Dallas Br. 132, and Retired Members Director Ernest Kirkland of Lexington, KY Br. 235.

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.”

**Secretary-Treasurer Brookman and Vice President Mignosi**

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.

**Chi-fil-Pres. Davis**

“Damn!” Rolando said, reacting to the delegates’ enthusiastic cheers. “There are very few 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 shrinking mail volume, but delegates displayed their trust in their union’s leadship by electing all 10 national resident officers and three national business agents by acclamation.

**Chairman Faux**

Convention convention delegates elected the following national business agents by acclamation: Christopher Jackson, Garden Grove, CA Br. 1100; Postmaster General Region 1; Jerry Price, Portland, OR Br. 80 (Pacific Northwest Region 2); Roger Bledsoe, Oklahoma City Br. 458 (Denver Region 4); Dan Pittman, Kansas City MO Br. 30 (St Louis Region 4); Louis Reginald Mitchell, South Miami Br. 4574 (K-I-M Region 6); Chris Wittenburg, St. Paul MN Br. 28 (Minneapolis Region 7); Peter S. Moss, Gulf Coast Mgt., MB Br. 1374 (Memphis Region 8); Judy Temple, Theola Br. 180 (Dallas Region 9); Kathy Baldwin, Beaumont, TX Br. 642 (Dallas Region 10); and Tim Dowdy, Virginia Beach, VA Br. 2918 (District of Columbia Region 13).

The national business agent positions in five NALC regions are contested:
- Chicago Region 3: between Neal Tisdaile of Springfield, IL Br. 80 and Kevin Schibelle of Belleville, IL Br. 155.
- Cincinnati Region 11: between Dan Toth of Lorain, OH Br. 563 and Mike Hayden of Toledo Br. 100.
- New England Region 14: between John J. Casiano of Boston Br. 34 and Michael L. Willadson of Hartford, CT Br. 38.

An election committee,chaired by President Rolando and joined by Joseph DeFusco of Brooklynlyn, NY Br. 41 will oversee distribution of ballots and recording of results in those elections. Committee members include Pam Donato, Minneapolis Br. 28; Antonia Shields, Birmingham, AL Br. 506; 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**

Rolando introduced to the convention Jeff Faux, a distinguished fellow at the Economic Policy Institute, who described a long-term trend that began 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 offshore overseas production and boosting 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. “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.”

**CUW-U’s BILLY HAYES**

Billy Hayes, general secretary of the Communication Workers Union, which represents letter carriers in the United Kingdom, addressed the convention on Wednesday, noting that his union delegates that their workers face pressure to privatize from governments motivated by ex- traneous ideology. “It’s not about labor, it’s not about nationally, it’s about dogma,” he said.

Hayes urged letter carriers to continue to fight back against efforts to privatize postal agencies or degrade service.

“When they say ‘profit’ you say ‘public.’ When they say ‘competition,’ we say ‘community.’ And when they say ‘five days,’ we say ‘six days.’”

**68th Biennial Convention: Minneapolis**

Following a video showcasing the attractions that Minneapolis has to offer, President Rolando asked Pam Donato, president of Minneapolis Branch 29, to come to the stage. Accompanied by a band playing a medley of the song “1989,” Donato walked across the stage, saying “I am so honored to be here.”

On stage, Donato explained the tongue-in-cheek gesture, “It doesn’t actually snow all the time in Minnesota,” she said. “In fact, Thursday’s sunny and it’s 71 degrees.”

Donato said delegates could find plenty to do in her northern city after a day’s convention business is finished—“It’s 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.”

---

**Veterans of the Strike**

A film documenting the tough working conditions and low wages faced by letter carriers in the 1970 strike was shown to delegates.

#### Additional Reading
- **Familiar, new faces**
  - Rolando re-elected
  - Delegates to the 67th Biennial Convention of the National Association of Letter Carriers on Wednesday overwhelmingly placed their faith in President Rolando and their future in his hands, electing him to the highest office in the union for the next four years.
- **Economic Policy Institute’s Jeff Faux**
  - Rolando introduced to the convention Jeff Faux, a distinguished fellow at the Economic Policy Institute, who described a long-term trend that began decades before the current economic crisis—the end of the growth in wages that began after World War II.
- **CUW-U’s Billy Hayes**
  - Billy Hayes, general secretary of the Communication Workers Union, which represents letter carriers in the United Kingdom, addressed the convention on Wednesday, noting that his union delegates that their workers face pressure to privatize from governments motivated by extraneous ideology.
- **68th Biennial Convention: Minneapolis**
  - Following a video showcasing the attractions that Minneapolis has to offer, President Rolando asked Pam Donato, president of Minneapolis Branch 29, to come to the stage.

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, “Free day, wrong day” “Six-day delivery!” and gave letter carrier cheers to speakers who called for Congress to preserve good union jobs.

“I am here today with more than 3,000 blue-shirted letter carriers that we bussed up from our convention in Anaheim to join you for three simple reasons,” President Frederic 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 United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Millwrights, SIEU, AFSCME, Unite Here, and other unions. Trucks and vans representing numerous local and national union organizations — even one from Chile — lined up along a couple of city blocks, and at least two more 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.”

Trumka told the gathering that if the Postal Service’s penny-wise, 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 huge implications for every American and every community,” he said. “It is our fight as well as ours.”

“It is no coincidence that the current recession has taken place 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. “If you lose us, we’re better than the Postal Service, 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 any carrier who wants 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 and creates new jobs will be a victory for us and a victory for 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.

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 six retiring officers of the National Association of Letter Carriers who have other left office since the 65th Biennial Convention in Las Vegas or who will do so at the end of this term of this dinner. The dinner, speeches and dancing provided the backdrop for the presentation of the letters of commendation to the Executive Council members who have spent much of their letter carrier careers with the NALC defending the job, benefits and working conditions of their fellow members.

Following the meal, NALC President Frederic 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 wished each retiring officer to come before the crowd to say a few words. Although their remarks ran from humorous to reflective, each honored was effusive in his thanks to the men and women with whom they served and to those who served them.

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 Deho (who was unable to attend the gathering, St. Louis Region 5 NALC Mike Wetl, Minneapolis Region 7 NALC Red Furr, former Dallas Region 10 NALC Gene Goodwin and former Cincinnati Region 11 NALC Bill Cooke.

AFL-CIO’s Richard Trumka

On Friday morning, August 13, President Rolando brought to the stage Richard Trumka, the leader 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 save the six-day delivery of the United States Postal Service. “That’s not the way to fiscal health, that’s the way to disaster,” Trumka said.

On Friday morning, August 13, President Rolando brought to the stage Richard Trumka, the leader 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 save the six-day delivery of 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.”

Trumka urged letter carriers to remain active politically in the crucial elections this November, “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.”

The National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) is the largest labor union in the United States representing over 300,000 members who serve 60,000 communities throughout the nation.

The NALC is a founding member of the AFL-CIO, the national federation of unions and labor councils, and it is affiliated with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).
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 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 Ciotta notes that the OPM has overpaid 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,” Ciotta wrote. “The Postal Service faces a challenging future and its responsibilities and the true cost of funding postal operations need 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 benefit 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 ought.

Ciotta’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 in the FERS surplus reported.

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.

Financial training scheduled for San Diego, Orlando

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 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 $129,436; Marie Tartaglione, Brooklyn Branch 41 (Category I–1,200 members or more), $56,000; Kurt Rosalea, Hartford, CT Branch 86 (Category II–1,500-1,999 members), $30,832; Bob Bennett, Louisville Branch 14 (Category III–1,000-1,499 members), $17,024; and Michael Cursen, Northeastern New York Branch 358 (Category IV–700-999 members), $21,305.

On average, as appearing as were their respective "South" Andrus, Grand Rapids Branch 35 (Category V–500-699 members), $24,709; Donna Bracy, Louisville Branch 14 (Category VI–200-499 members), $10,954; Allison Coed, Green Bay Branch 23 (Category VII–200-499 members), $12,850; Lon Smredzrod, Fargo-West Fargo Branch 205 (Category VIII–100-199 members), $11,091; Jeffrey Harness, Fremont, OH Branch 924 (Category IX–99-99 members), $6,805; Michael Bagarozzi, New City, NY Branch 5229 (Category X–50-99 members), $6,140; 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.

Deadline for Leadership Academy applications

The deadline for applications to the 2011 Leadership Academy is rapidly approaching. Four applicants will be selected 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. NALC branches with less than $25,000 in annual income may file form 990-EZ, and are filing late, will be required to pay a compliance fee.

Details are available on the IRS website.
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 canvote.org.

- Alaska
- Arizona
- California
- Colorado
- Florida
- Georgia
- Kansas
- Maine
- Montana
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- South Dakota
- Utah
- Vermont
- Washington
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming

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 enrolment 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 enrolment, 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” enrolment—movement 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” enrolment 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.

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) and 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 federal employees, OWCP recipients enrolling in FEHB or changing from a “Self Only” to a “Self and Family” enrolment as a “Change in family status (QLE change)” or as an “Open Season change.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enrollee</th>
<th>Change in family status (QLE change)</th>
<th>Open Season change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Postal employees</td>
<td>January 1, 2011</td>
<td>January 1, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal employees</td>
<td>January 1, 2011</td>
<td>January 2, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OWCP recipients</td>
<td>January 1, 2011</td>
<td>January 16, 2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For Postal Service employees, CSRS/FEERS annuitants, Temporary Continuation of Coverage (TCC) enrollees and former spouses, an enrolment or change in enrolment 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” enrolment and would like your newly eligible child to be covered, you must change to a “Self and Family” enrolment. If you do not change to a “Self and Family” enrolment 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” enrolment 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” enrolment. They should not cancel their TCC enrolment until they are assured of the date they will be covered under their parent’s Self and Family enrolment.

Former spouses with a TCC or Spouse Equity policy will need to complete the form on the reverse side of your 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 enrolment 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” enrolment.

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.
The NALC Bulletin national officers for the fiscal year 2010-11 have been selected. Greg C. Begley has been re-elected as president of the NALC and Fredric V. Rolando has been re-elected as secretary-treasurer. These officers will serve through June 30, 2011.

见识和勇气的组合

注释和说明

一、安装NALC国家官员的安装

安装了NALC的25名选中官员的国家官员将在12月4日在华盛顿的Hilton Washington and Towers Hotel安装。这将是NALC的第24次国家官员的年度会议。

“安装在NALC的再选举的国家官员的国家官员将在12月4日在华盛顿的Hilton Washington and Towers Hotel安装。这将是NALC的第24次国家官员的年度会议。我们希望，您将能够参加这个重要的会议。”

总统Rolando说。全国协会领导层对会议的召开非常高兴，因为这将是该协会成立50周年的重要事件。

“我们期待在这个重要的会议上与所有官员进行交流和沟通。”全国协会主席Fredric V. Rolando说。全国协会领导层对会议的召开非常高兴，因为这将是该协会成立50周年的重要事件。

在2009年12月21日的NALC全国会议结束时，全国协会主席Fredric V. Rolando宣布了安装NALC全国官员的日期。全国协会领导层对会议的召开非常高兴，因为这将是该协会成立50周年的重要事件。

全国协会主席Fredric V. Rolando宣布了安装NALC全国官员的日期。全国协会领导层对会议的召开非常高兴，因为这将是该协会成立50周年的重要事件。
Washington luncheon honors 2010 NALC Heroes of the Year

The National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC), the nation’s largest letter carrier union, will honor the five recipients of its annual Heroes of the Year Awards during its 2010 National Convention next week in Anaheim, California.

Several letter carriers were recognized for their heroism and community service at a special event October 7 in Washington.

NALC President Fredric V. Rolando told those gathered for the annual Heroes of the Year awards ceremony at the Hyatt Regency on October 7 in Washington. Pictured are (seated, from l) Deborah Czarny and John Dyce, both of Muskegon, MI Br. 13, and (standing, from l) Penny Bell, Muskegon, MI Br. 13; James Dupont, Rogers, AR Br. 1514; Larry Gunkel, Wichita, KS Br. 201; Jeffrey Vollmar, Freehold, NJ Br. 924; and Thomas Nehlen, Youngstown, OH Br. 385.

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. 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 and returned to his car to get his fire extinguisher. He roused the contents of the kitchen into the pan to help those in need. It also presents a great opportunity to give to the Postal Employees’ Relief Fund.

Western Region Hero: Bob Slaton, who ran a Food 4 Kids backpack program that provides food over the weekend for nearly 5,000 Kansas City children in need, was honored in the Western Region.

National Hero of the Year: Youngstown Branch 385 letter carrier Thomas Nehlen saw smoke on his route one morning and returned to his car to get his fire extinguisher. He roused the contents of the kitchen into the pan to help those in need.

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. Stauert.

The installation of the NALC’s 20 selected national officers for four-year terms will take place in Washington on October 9, 11:00 a.m., in the ballroom of the Hilton Washington and Towers Hotel, 1915 Connecticut Avenue NW.

Tickets for this special evening are still available through the office of the NALC Secretary-Treasurer for $85 per person.

Tickets will be available for national officers’ installation

The installation of the NALC’s 20 elected national officers for four-year terms will take place in Washington on Saturday, December 4, in the ballroom of the Hilton Washington and Towers Hotel, 1915 Connecticut Avenue NW.

Full payment (payable to NALC Secretary-Treasurer) with the order form printed below, must be received by the office of Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Brenneman no later than Wednesday, November 10. The order form is also available online at NALC.org.

Upon receipt of payment, tickets will be mailed to the address on the order form.

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

**Please do not make airline reservations until you receive acceptance letter.**
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.

Non-Postal Premium Postal Premium

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Enrollment</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Weekly</th>
<th>Monthly</th>
<th>Biweekly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Option Self</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>$180.66</td>
<td>$74.14</td>
<td>$911.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$160.64</td>
<td>$60.24</td>
<td>$813.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Option Self and Family</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>$403.98</td>
<td>$151.07</td>
<td>$975.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$327.32</td>
<td>$120.57</td>
<td>$654.74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You can protect your family's health when you enroll in the NALC Health Benefit Plan. The 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 PNA 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, talks 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 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.

Find out the official 2011 NALC Health Benefit Plan brochure (R179-009) at nalc.org/depart/hbp and see how far your health care dollar can go.

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 $1.3 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 202-662-2499.

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.

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 640,000 employees.

“T 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 people that define our organization and it is their dedication and sense of purpose that drives our business.”

NATC 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 NATC 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.

Business agent election results tabulated, certified

NALC Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Broendel 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 DeLancy 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 2,687 votes, and Kevin Schable 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 M. 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 6,888 votes, and Michael Willadsen of Hartford Branch 86 received 2,392 votes.

In New England Region 15, Larry Cirelli of New Jersey Branch 38 received 3,116 votes, and Walter Bartson of Long Island Branch 600 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 Pat Donahoe of Minneapolis Branch 9, Antoinia Shields of Birmingham, AL Branch 530, Mack Jullion of Chicago Branch 11, and Bill Listler 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 NATC Bulletin or the September-October issue of The Postal Record. The deadline for ordering tickets is November 10.

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 to find out how.
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. That $8.5 billion was 30 percent more than the $6.4 billion it lost in fiscal 2009. The 2009 payment requirement was the last year the government pre-funded the PSRHB. For all others, attendance at the holiday party is by invitation only.

The deadline for ordering tickets has passed.

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.

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 $2.2 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.

Open Season continues to 12/13

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/insurance.
• 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/insurance/health/search/plansearch.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.

If you’re already a member, or if you joined during this Open Season, 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 FEHBP Program. Generally, you must have been enrolled in the FEHBP 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 situation is found on Page 50 of the Benefit Plan 2011 brochure (RT 71-009).”

The NALC Health Benefit Plan wishes you a happy and blessed Thanksgiving.
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 Rolando the opportunity to comment on Sen. Carl Levin’s (D-MI) proposal to cut Sunday service.

"We must not make the mistake that is currently being made in public discourse right now," Rolando said. "People are saying that it’s time to cut delivery days or cut the number of delivery hours, and that’s not what’s going to save the Postal Service. What’s going to save the Postal Service is}