On Jan. 26, the U.S. Postal Service announced that it was declining to further extend its collective-bargaining negotiations with the NALC. As required by law, it explained, that decision was based on a "binding resolution" decision. NALC President Fredric Rolando said, “We had been making steady progress in negotiations, but as deadlines approach it’s clear that the key issues at the heart of the dispute—pre-funding and health benefits for the next 75 years within a decade—remain unresolved by both sides.”

“Now that the formal litigation process has begun, we will pursue a negotiated agreement through mediation and prepare vigorously to vigorously defend our members in interest arbitration, if it reaches that step,” he said.

The decision triggers as impasses that will automatically send contract talks to mediation under the auspices of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. If no consensus agreement between NALC and USPS is reached within a 60-day period of mediation, the issues will be submitted for final and binding resolution before an interest arbitration panel, which under law must consider all the evidence presented by both parties.

“Unnecessarily hastening this turn of events, NALC continues to believe that a negotiated agreement is in the best interests of the parties, the businesses that rely on us, and the nation we serve,” Rolando said. “We will continue to negotiate in good faith as mediation takes place under the law’s dispute-resolution process, even as we prepare for binding arbitration. We will continue to work with Congress to make the changes that are needed to our current business model and to advance a new business model that will revitalize and preserve the USPS as a vital element of the nation’s business and cultural infrastructure.”

Be sure to follow the latest developments at natalc.org.

**Welcome back, Congress!**

Postal issues front and center as reps return to DC

As the nation’s elected representatives returned to Washington this month to begin the second session of the 112th Congress, NALC President Fredric Rolando praised a special greeting to all House and Senate members to mark the beginning of the 112th session.

“On behalf of the nearly 300,000 men and women who make up the National Association of Letter Carriers, as he wrote, “I would like to extend our warm welcome back to you and give you a brief update on letter carriers’ actions in the field over the last six weeks.”

In individually addressed letters, Rolando noted that carriers continue to closely watch the progress on Capitol Hill of a number of pending postal reform measures, some of which would have major impacts on letter carriers if they were to become law.

“Various bills making their way through both houses of Congress would eliminate our unique six-day delivery service, making it more difficult for the Postal Service to remain competitive and offer essential services to customers in areas that are already using thousands of dollars in efficiency savings a day of delivery. See story below.”

Rolando also noted that new legislation, if signed by the president, could bring an end to the national program providing financial investment services. Postal management adamantly states that this survey is not sanctioned by the USPS. The NALC continues to believe that a negotiated agreement is in the best interests of the parties, the businesses that rely on us, and the nation we serve, he continued...
Senate effort to reform USPS takes new direction

Last fall, Sen. Joe Lieberman (I-CT), Sen. Collins (R-ME), Tom Carper (D-DE) and Scott Brown (R-MA) introduced S. 1789, the 21st Century Postal Reform Act of 2011, which they touted as a bipartisan bill that would allow the Postal Service to modernize and reduce its huge postwar debt load. But after the Senate group called for major amendments to S. 1789 that would help preserve six-day mail delivery, the bill languished in the Finance Committee.

The Senate group said they were prepared to work with the Administration and the Postal Service, which has proposed to end Sunday mail delivery and cut Saturday deliveries to five days, to devise a plan that would provide benefits to public-sector retirees. The bill would allow the Postal Service to raise rates and would postpone the day of reckoning for the service’s retirement system.

As a result, S. 1789 would guarantee the loss of Saturday service within two years—and the elimination of six-day delivery. Combined with the service’s proposal to end all first-class mail delivery on Sunday and to begin phasing out six-day delivery over the next 10 years, the bill would represent a major victory for the Administration, which has been pushing for six-day mail delivery for the past two years.

The Senate group called for major amendments to S. 1789 that would help preserve six-day mail delivery through stopping the service’s proposal to end Sunday mail delivery, limit the number of mail-processing plant closings and create a blue-ribbon commission to develop an entrepreneurial business model for the Postal Service.

The senators’ letter also called for an end to the 2006 postal reform law requirement to fully fund future retiree health benefits for the next 75 years within just 10 years, noting that the account is already flush with funds. That burden is unique to the Postal Service among all businesses and government agencies.

Neither S. 1789 nor S. 1583 was considered for legislation in the Senate by the time this Bulletin was being prepared.

Minneapolis 2012

Convention registration continues; special accommodation announced

More than 3,500 NALC members already have been registered to delegate to the union’s 68th Biennial National Convention July 23-27 in Minneapolis. Many more packets continue to arrive every day, and the Office of the Secretary-Treasurer reports that registration is strong to begin credentials to delegates as quickly as possible. Meanwhile, check out our for the latest news about the convention, including housing information for regional members and more.

Attendees at the convention who may need assistance due to a disability can avail themselves of the following accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):

➤ Wheelchair lift vehicles: The service is providing two wheelchair lift vehicles to transport delegates to and from the Minneapolis Convention Center for hotels within the block that are not within walking distance. A complete list of participating hotels will be available to delegates at the Convention Center. These vehicles will be available during convention hours on an on-call basis. Requests for this service can be made directly to the hotel. A wheelchair will be available to those who request a ride.

➤ Parking: Handicapped parking is available to individuals with valid disability parking permits in surrounding ramps and lots as well as at parking meters on the street.

➤ Reliable Medical Supply, Inc.: 763-566-4060, reliamed.com: If you require oxygen refills while in Minneapolis, you may contact one of the suppliers below. You’ll need the following information about your equipment: the type of equipment required, the type of power source (electric, battery, diesel, propane, gas or rechargeable), the size of the equipment and your phone number.

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Advanced LWC TWE training for branch OWCP reps

The NALC is offering advanced training for branches with OWCP representatives who have experience representing injured workers and a serious interest in increasing their knowledge and sharpening their representational skills about Lost Wage Earnings Capacity (LWEC) decisions.

The training will be held at the National Labor College in Silver Spring, MD. The deadline for registration is July 28, 2012.

The program will be limited to 30 attendees. All expenses are provided for attendees.

The subject of OWCP LWEC determinations is little understood but extremely important to all letter carriers who suffer an on-the-job injury. Acting Assistant to the President for Compensation Coby Gonzalez is a 15-year letter carrier and a 2011 graduate of the Leadership OWCP program.

va.gov

The LTU seems to have done their job, and I’m hoping that the cancellation of 18 percent of service to save 3 percent of the budget is not a rational business formula," said Rolando. "This would only drive customers away and further reduce revenue." Obama’s budget was released just a few days after the USPS Board of Governors announced that it will propose to the so-called “super committee” for approval legislation to cut postal service delivery to five days per week in 2012 and four days in 2013, and one more day beginning in 2014. "The 18 percent service cut to save 3 percent of the budget is not a rational business formula," said Rolando. "This would only drive customers away and further reduce revenue."

The OTPS is designed to foster market competition by cutting service standards and providing a competitive advantage to private-sector competitors with new delivery options, such as FedEx, UPS, and Amazon.com. These changes will result in a significant loss of Saturday service and the elimination of Sunday service across the country. The OTPS also will result in significant reductions in letter delivery standards and will allow the Postal Service to reduce its delivery network by 10 percent, saving $10 billion a year. The OTPS would also enable the Postal Service to increase its rates for letter and package delivery, which are currently lower than those of the private sector.

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As this NALC Bulletin was being prepared, plans were underway for another round of “Save America’s Postal Service” demonstrations, this time to be held after work on Thursday, April 12, at U.S. senators’ home offices across the country.

“We had great success with our September 27 events at House members’ offices in spreading the word about the real solutions we offered,” NALC President Fredric Rolando said, “so we’re going to use the same strategy to let senators know that letter car- 
riers simply cannot support S. 1789—the 21st Century Postal Reform Act—as currently written.”

The timing and impact of these events are critical since S. 1789 is likely to be brought up the week following the April 12 demonstrations. (See story at right.)

If S. 1789 were to pass, the bill would hurt the Postal Service by:

➤ Not addressing the overpayment into the CSRS pension fund; and
➤ Leaving in place the postmaster general’s deeply flawed “business plan.”

The president noted that the Postal Service has a wide variety of supporters, many of whom may wish to participate in some of the various Save America’s Postal Service demonstrations. “While you’re off the clock, get in touch with small-business owners, Patrick Donahoe effectively endorsed House Republicans’ subcommittee hearing on March 27. This radical bill, sponsored by Senate Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-IA), aims to dismantle the USPS by revoking the employees’ union contracts, slashing delivery and shipping services and shuttering major portions of the USPS’ networks at a cost of 200,000 jobs.

“We support the FERS reform,” Rolando said during his ability to move and consolidate the network. We want the ability to move from one-day to five-day delivery. Practically everything in the old business model is in support.”

Go to nalc.org to listen to the PMG’s remarks.

“Comments such as these drive home the fact that we need S. 1789 to offer a fundamental alternative to the ‘forever stamp’ endorsed by the Postal Service. But for S. 1789 to be that alternative, it must be amended to maintain quality service, to restore the USPS’ capacity to grow, and to preserve good postal jobs for veterans and other Americans.”

Members can stay informed on the latest developments by signing up for the e-Activist Network. The sign-up form is on nalc.org.

“The MBA must be prepared to renew at any time our fight to preserve the Postal Service,” Rolando said. “Our commitment to this cause will help us win that fight.”

The legislative chairs of the NALC’s state associations came to Washington March 19-20 for two days of training and lobbying.

NALC President Fredric Rolando opened the training Monday morning and updated the letter carrier leaders on the various issues the union has in the proverbial fire.

“Some people have a lot to work with the Postal Service,” Rolando said. “We need to work with the Postal Service to get a bigger workforce and a bigger White House plan. Meanwhile, the NALC continues to look for ways to work with the White House on a menu of items the Obama administration had failed to implement right now to help strengthen the Postal Service,” he said. “But as far as an endorsement in the presidential election goes, we’ll make a decision on that at this summer’s convention, just like we did in Boston in 2008.”

Rolando noted how members’ efforts to deliver our message to the White House seem to be having their gradual benefit. “Practically every news story on the Postal Service’s financial crisis now includes at least some mention of the pre-funding problem, which is quite a difference from what we saw just a year ago,” he said.

Of course, a big issue on members’ minds was the status of contract negotiations. “We remain in mediation with the Postal Service as we continue to work toward a new collective-bargaining agreement,” the president said, “and unless something changes or unless the two parties agree to extend mediation, we’re ready to move to interest arbitration following the April 8 deadline. The initial contract is always preferable, since an arbitrated contract tends not to deal with as many workroom floor issues,” Rolando said.

“The next few weeks will be crucial,” Rolando said. “And even if we wind up going to interest arbitration, we’ll continue to try to negotiate an agreement with the Postal Service right up until when the arbitrator is ready to announce a decision.

For the remainder of the day Monday, members of the Legislative and Political Action Department outlined the NALC’s strategies during the fall elections. On Tuesday, the legisla-

tive chairs visited House and Senate members to lobby for support of letter carrier issues.

The NALC’s state legislative chairs listened to an update from the union’s legislative department on the status of postal reform on Capitol Hill.
Senate passes S. 1789; NALC disappointed, determined

On April 25, despite tens of thousands of phone calls from NALC members voicing their opposition from around the country, the U.S. Senate voted to pass legislation that would dramatically change the Postal Service. This was during the final vote before the Senate adjourned for the Memorial Day holiday. The bill moves to the House of Representatives for consideration next week, where it is expected to pass. NALC is determined to fight against this legislation and to keep watch to prevent the bill from passing in the House.

The legislation is a threat to the Postal Service’s viability. If enacted, it would require the Postal Service to switch from five-day delivery in two years—a cost of $40 billion job—before it can switch to five-day delivery. The Senate bill also proposes several other changes to the Postal Service, including the elimination of the Saturday mail delivery for the American people and their businesses.

The bill is a threat to the Postal Service’s financial footing. It would force the Postal Service to make one-time, up-front payments of $40 billion in the current fiscal year to pay for the change to five-day delivery in two years. This would leave the Postal Service with no money to operate.

The legislation opens a dangerous way to fully remove the ever-increasing difficulty of five years of future retiree health benefits. If it were enacted, the Postal Service would lose its status as a U.S. Government agency, and would then lose its ability to operate in a stable financial environment.

We are determined to fight against this legislation and to keep watch to prevent the bill from passing in the House. We will continue to mobilize our resources to ensure that the bill does not become law.

Are you an e-Activist?

Stay informed and get the very latest updates from the NALC via the e-Activist Network. Go to nalc.org today to sign up or to update your e-mail address.

NALC releases white paper on USPS business model, postal reform

Successful revitalization of the U.S. Postal Service requires a strategic business plan that leverages the unmatched reach of its network, legislative action to allow it to move to a congressional mandated two-day delivery in 2012, and meaningful changes to the way it does business.

The “NALC White Paper” is the result of an in-depth assessment of the Postal Service’s business model and the recommendations of renowned international financial advisory firm Lazard.

The white paper is available for review at nalc.org.

Before Congress: NALC Director of Safety and Health — Manuel L. Peralta Jr. recently discussed the importance of protecting the nation’s security by participating in the Cities’ Readiness Initiative, a program to distribute antiterrorism materials to federal, state, and local emergency management officials.

NALC reconvened on April 17 the interest arbitration process related to the USPS’ decision to change the delivery day for Saturday from five days to two days in 2012. The three parties entered into mediation negotiations on April 18.

“While the Postal Service clearly faces enormous challenges, we do believe that its revitalization is achievable,” read the white paper, prepared by renowned international financial advisory firm Lazard. “While the Postal Service without a doubt has faced financial difficulties, it has demonstrated that it can adapt to new technologies and economic conditions.

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The white paper is available for review at nalc.org.
The case against S. 1789

NALC President Fredric Rolando released a comprehensive critique of S. 1789, the 21st Century Postal Service Act, in late April. The critique highlights the many areas where the bill falls short of addressing the real issues facing the USPS or where it does serious damage to the Postal Service’s network and its employees. The critique is available for review at nalc.org.

On April 25, the Senate passed S. 1789, a measure that embraces the postmaster general’s downsizing strategy while failing to ade-

quately address the crushing mandate to pre-fund future retiree health benefits, which would continue to cost the Postal Service about $4.7 billion to $8.3 billion per year, every year, from now on. No other agency or company faces this burden.

On top of that, the bill calls for giving the PMG the authority to move to a five-day delivery schedule in two years, at a cost of $80,000 to 100,000 good-paying middle-class postal jobs, if he feels the cut in serv-

ice is needed to keep USPS afloat. Slashing so many jobs in the midst of a national jobs crisis would weaken the country’s economic recovery.

If S. 1789 were to become law, it would force the USPS to degrade its unique six-day-per-week, last-mile mail delivery network in the name of funding future retiree health benefits that are already mas-

sively pre-funded. Also, it would seriously undermine the Postal Ser-

vice’s ability to build on its growing success in the delivery of residential parcels and e-commerce packages.

And, alarmingly, S. 1789 attacks the rights and benefits of postal workers by amending the collec-

tive-bargaining provisions of current law to favor postal management, and by slashing workers’ com-

pensation benefits for injured workers.

But this is just the latest step in an ongoing and lengthy legislative battle.

“Despite all of this bad news, it’s important for us to remain positive because the legislative process is far from over,” President Rolando said. “For one thing, it may take some time to get a postal reform bill through the House, which then would be followed by the appointment of a joint House-Sen-

ate conference committee whose job it would be to come up with a bill both chambers could pass and President Obama would be willing to sign.

“So please use this critique in any meetings or conversations you will have with your senators and representatives in the coming weeks,” Rolando said.

The president also said that the union is mobilizing its resources to stage a grassroots and media campaign to oppose Rep. Darrell Issa’s so-called “postal reform” bill in the House.

“Thank you for your continued hard work and dedication as we continue our fight to save the Postal Service and do what we can to spur it toward creating a business model to help it thrive for decades to come,” Rolando said.

The 2012 NALC Guide to Route Inspections was created to assist shop stewards and branch officers in identifying contractual viola-
tions that take place during management’s unilateral six-day route counts and inspections/adjustments, and with filing successful grievances on those violations. This guide is now available on the City Delivery page of the NALC website at nalc.org.

The sections in this guide take you through the inspection in chronological order and provide an easy reference to various provi-
sions and related national settlements that govern route inspections.

There also is a section with detailed descriptions and advice on how to read the various forms, reports and screens used during the route count and inspection process. Once you learn how to read one of our examples, you will be able to understand every one of the same type of form, report or screen you will ever see.
Cities Tour:
The Minneapolis/Saint Paul area is rich in Northern European culture. Guides will tell you about the areas' cultural heritage and benefits and will lead us on a walking tour that will give you an opportunity to learn about the history of the United States Postal Service.

Lake Minnetonka Cruise:
Take a brunch cruise of Lake Minnetonka, with more than 125 miles of waterways accessible by boat, and enjoy the stunning views of the area's unique lakes and lakeshores. You'll have the opportunity to learn about the history of the lake and its surrounding areas.

Historic Stillwater:
This historic town is home to many of the area's oldest buildings, including the iconic St. George's Church, which was built in 1854. The town is also known for its many historic sites, including the Stillwater State Park and the Stillwater National Wild and Scenic River.

Casinos:
There are several casinos in the area, including the Mystic Lake Casino Hotel, which is one of the largest Indian casinos in the United States. You'll have the opportunity to try your luck at the gaming tables, or you can just relax and enjoy the entertainment and dining options.

Shyam Das named arbitration chair for next NALC-USPS pact

The NALC and the Postal Service have agreed upon the selection of National Arbitrator Shyam Das as chair of the joint arbitration committee that will be responsible for negotiating a new labor agreement between the union and the USPS.

We understand that the parties will continue to work on the agreement and to make progress towards finalizing the labor agreement.

We look forward to working with the parties to reach a fair and equitable agreement that will benefit both the NALC and the Postal Service.

Now accepting applications for 2013 Leadership Academy

Shortly after the conclusion of the 2013 Leadership Academy classes began. Application forms are available for download at redcrossblood.org. Click here for the online scheduler at redcrossblood.org. Click to book an appointment.

ther questions, please contact Event Lab at jnoble@eventlab.net or 952-224-8558.

70.5 million pounds!

Carriers celebrate another successful Food Drive

Letter carriers led the charge against hunger on Saturday, May 12 by collecting more than 70.5 million pounds of food during the NALC's 8th annual regional "Stomp Out Hunger" food drive.

"These amazing results will enable us to continue feeding the people that we supply across the country to help feed the 56 million Americans who lack sufficient food," said NALC President Fredric Rolando.

The annual one-day drive, the largest in the nation, is held on or around Saturday in May. In 2016, it was held in 340 cities in every state, territory and the District of Columbia.

"Six days a week, we deliver mail to every address in America, letter carriers see firsthand the needs in the communities we work in, and they bring that consciousness to this event," said Rolando.

Assembling the more than 1.6 billion NALC branch letters were rural letter carriers and other postal employees, plus members of other unions and civic groups.

The drive's national partners this year were Campisol Co., AMP, the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, Foodbank America, Meals, The U.S. Postal Service, United Way Worldwide, the AFL-CIO and Uncle Bob's Self Storage. Supplemental collection bags were provided by AMP, Campbell's, the Public Library drive and International Paper. Also, Campbell's provided additional revenue to postal customers of the drive and Walgreens encouraged donations on its websites.

"The letters and packages that arrive at our local NALC and local and national offices, the assistance of those groups that help our branches collect the food, and the generosity of our postal partners, all helped make it a huge success," Rolando said.

Anchoring the drive were the letters and packages delivered by NALC members. The letters and packages were accepted at postal collection boxes, HIP boxes, USPS truck gates and at American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Goodwill and other official collection sites.

"We will vigorously defend letter carriers' wages and benefits and seek to advance our bargaining agenda," said Rolando.

Two classes will be held in 2013. Each class consists of three separate weeks of instruction on a variety of subjects. In 2013, Class 15 is scheduled for the weeks of Jan. 6-11, March 3-8 and May 5-10, while Class 16 is scheduled for the weeks of Aug. 4-9, Oct. 6-11 and Dec. 8-13.

Sessions have been held at the National Labor College in Silver Spring, MD. However, the NLC is transitioning its operations to a new location in Washington, DC, area.

Students are required to complete outside learning projects upon returning home following Weeks 1 and 2. And upon graduation, the students will spend a week working in their respective national agencies' offices.

Two applicants from each of the 15 NALC regions will be chosen for each of the 2013 classes. Those selected will be notified in early October.

Important note about TSP deductions

To help low-income employees and the subsequent program reporting needs, the NALC is processing TRF Savings Plan deductions for Pay Periods 10 and 11 in Pay Period 12.

Postal Vision 2020:

On June 13, NALC President Fredric Rolando joined the United States Postal Service's annual Postal Vision 2020 conference in Washington. The conference serves as a forum for discussion of the future of postal commerce and the role the Postal Service plays in the nation.

"This drive allows letter carriers to help replenish food banks during difficult summer months when millions of children have no school breakfast or lunch programs to count on," said Rolando.

"This year, NALC letter carriers will collect a record 70.5 million pounds, making this the ninth consecutive drive surpassing 70 million pounds of collected food to bring the grand total to more than 1.2 billion pounds picked up since the annual food drive began in 1996."

These record results were achieved after the continuing tough economy, which makes the drive all the more important. So, too, does the timing.

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Delay on H.R. 2309 looks likely; NALC members need to stay alert

Thanks in part to thousands of phone calls from NALC members, it looked less and less likely that the House of Representatives would take up before its summer recess the so-called postal reform legislation introduced last fall by Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA), chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. Even so, NALC President Fredric Rolando cautioned members to stay on guard about this dangerous piece of legislation.

“Congressman Issa claims that H.R. 2309 addresses the Postal Service’s undeniable financial crisis,” Rolando said. “The key problem, though, is that his bill ignores the actual cause of the Postal Service’s recent financial problems—the part of the 2006 Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act that requires the Postal Service to pre-fund 75 years’ worth of future retiree health benefits on a needlessly aggressive schedule.”

No other company or government agency is required to pre-fund such benefits at all, let alone at such a level. This mandate has caused 85 percent of the $32 billion in losses USPS has reported over the last five-and-a-half years. Repealing the pre-funding requirement is the simplest start to solving the Postal Service’s financial problems, Rolando said.

“There is nothing to like about this bad, unfixable bill,” he said. “The House needs to scrap it, go back to the drawing board and come up with one that not only prioritizes the preservation of this country’s only universal delivery network, but also strengthens it for the future.”

A detailed rundown of what’s wrong with H.R. 2309 can be found at nalc.org.

“A key problem is that Congress is trying to craft postal reform around what it thinks is USPS’ business plan,” Rolando said, “when it’s clear that the Postal Service doesn’t actually have a business plan.”

“Trying to create a reform bill that starts with cutting service and degrading USPS’ networks, he added, is a recipe for disaster that ultimately will drive more business out of thepostal system and send the agency into a death spiral.

NALC members can keep up with the latest developments via the NALC e-Activist Network. A sign-up form is available at nalc.org.

NRLCA award announced; NALC-USPS hearing schedule set

On July 3, an arbitration board issued an award that set the terms of a new four-and-a-half-year national agreement between the Postal Service and the National Rural Letter Carriers’ Association.

“Naturally, the award addresses numerous issues that are unique to the rural letter carrier craft,” NRLC President Fredric Rolando said. “But the wages and benefits that were awarded are clearly modeled on the terms of the 2010 agreement between the USPS and the American Postal Workers Union.”

The president also noted that the board specifically rejected the Postal Service’s call for a more radical restructuring of the economic provisions of the USPS-NRLCA agreement.

“The Chairperson is convinced that no restructuring of a single labor contract can address all of the USPS’s financial challenges created, in large part, by the recession and the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act with its retiree health benefits pre-funding obligations,” Arbitrator Jack Clarke stated in issuing his award decision.

A summary of the terms of the NRLCA-USPS award can be found at nalc.org.

As previously reported, the NALC and the Postal Service have agreed on the selection of National Arbitrator Shyam Das as chairman of the arbitration board that is tasked with hammering out the next contract between the NALC and USPS. The board has scheduled its first meetings for early August, with hearings subsequently taking place on a number of dates through January—a necessary schedule considering the complexity of the issues before the board, Rolando said.

Arbitration update

Delegates just around the corner

The 68th Biennial NALC Convention gets under way Monday, July 23, in Minneapolis, and more than 9,100 letter carriers representing every U.S. state and territory have registered as delegates for the week-long meeting at the city’s convention center.

NALC President Fredric Rolando will deliver the keynote address shortly after the convention convenes on Monday morning.

Also scheduled to address delegates during the five-day gathering are Lazard Co. Senior Advisor Ron Bloom, Communications Workers of America President Larry Cohen, Union Network International-American President Ruben Cortina, Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton, Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN), Syndicorum President Michel Gorbel, National Postal Mail Handlers Union President John Hegarty, Cana-dian Union of Postal Workers President Denis Lemelin, Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak, MSNBC Host Ed Schultz, AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, Democratic National Committee Chairwoman Rep. Debbie Wasserman Shultz (D-FL), and Endicia Chief Development Officer Harry Whitehouse.

Delegates can expect to hear the latest updates in our battle to save the Postal Service, including our campaign to defeat H.R. 2309 on the House floor. Your branch and state representatives also will debate and then approve or disapprove resolutions and constitutional amendments submitted by delegates.

Additionally, daily workshops on a variety of topics will be held before and after the general sessions, including a new week-long stewards training school.

Convention coverage will be provided in special editions of the NALC Bulletin and daily at nalc.org. A full write-up on the activities in Minneapolis will appear in the September edition of The Postal Record.

Important convention notes:

Delegates: Branches are reminded to bring their delegate credentials with them to the convention.

Alternate delegates: Alternate delegates who replace registered delegates need to bring with them to the convention their letters of authorization signed by their branches’ presidents and secretaries.

Military care packages: Volunteers from both the NALC and NALC Auxiliary conventions will collect donated items from delegates to be sent to NALC members who are on active military duty. Examples of requested items include beef jerky, shampoo, deodorant, prepaid phone cards, baby wipes, lip balm, lotion, AA batteries, playing cards, energy bars and chewing gum. Prohibited items include obscene or pornographic material, liquor, cigarettes and aerosol cans. Monetary donations are discouraged. Also, volunteers will distribute NALC postcards for delegates to write personal messages of support and thanks to our members who are serving in the military. These postcards will be mailed with the goods collected. USPS gurneys featuring labels/posters to identify collection points for this drive will be placed at several locations throughout the Minneapolis Convention Center.

Kudos for carriers and CRI

A July 11 story in The Washington Post covered the Postal Regulatory Commission’s meeting the day before, where a discussion of the role of letter carriers under the Cities’ Readiness Initiative took center stage. The CRI is designed to use the Postal Service’s universal delivery network and the voluntary participation of letter carriers to deliver medicines to Americans in the aftermath of a biological event, such as a terrorist attack.

During the meeting, officials from the Department of Health and Human Services, as well as USPS and the PRC, praised NALC President Fredric Rolando and rank-and-file letter carriers for their role in the program tests that have taken place in Louisville, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Philadelphia, Boston and parts of San Diego County.

The Cities’ Readiness Initiative “proves that the Postal Service is about more than delivery of hard-copy mail,” PRC Chairman Ruth Goldway said. “One of the [postal] network’s strengths is that it’s better suited than other delivery methods, with letter carriers familiar with every street. I hope we can build on this network in other not-so-dramatic situations, such as fires, floods and food-poisoning outbreaks.”
If we don’t save the USPS, no one else will!

Rolando keynote opens Minneapolis convention

NALC President Fredric V. Rolando told the delegates assembled in Minneapolis on Monday for the union’s 68th biennial convention that city letter carriers have a “secret weapon” in our fight to preserve the Postal Service and our futures.

“We have each other,” he said.

“Remember to keep your head up, and remember the power of a union. You have a way to overcome all the fear and uncertainty about the future by fighting for each other.”

In his second convention keynote address as NALC president, Rolando referred a number of times to the rough ride letter carriers will face in the coming days and months.

“Fasten your seat belts, brothers and sisters,” he said. “This convention is going to make history. And we are going to face extreme turbulence as we do so.

“But make no mistake,” he said. “Our primary task this week will be to determine the future of the Postal Service. That is bold, some might think, arrogant talk. But it is true.

“The future of the Service is too monumental a task to leave to the hopeless management running the agency, or to this deadlocked Congress, or this disgraced White House. If we, the National Association of Letter Carriers, do not seize the moment, show the way and demonstrate that the Service can be saved—and how—the sad fact is that no one else will do it. Period.”

The work begins

The letter carrier band from Salt Lake City provided a selection of rousing musical numbers as delegates streamed into the Hall D of the Minneapolis Convention Center on Monday morning.

National Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Broendel called the convention to order shortly after 10 a.m., calling to the stage South Florida Branch 1071’s Stephanie Boxicic to sing “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

Next, Minister Branch 9 Executive Vice President Darrell Maus led the delegates in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by some words of encouragement and inspiration from Rabbi Melissa Simon, leader of Minneapolis’ Shir Tikvah.

Broendel then asked the delegates to observe a moment of silence to remember NALC members who had died since the union last met in convention, in Anaheim in 2010.

Current Branch 9 President Mike Zagoros joined former branch President Pam Donato—now serving in Washington as a special assistant to President Rolando—in welcoming delegates to the “City of Lakes.” Also greeting the assembly were Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton and Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak.

Next, Broendel acknowledged the NALC’s retired national officers who were on hand for the convention. She then asked Region 7 National Business Agent Chris Wittenburg—who region includes Minnesota—to take the podium to introduce the other NBAs to the audience and acknowledge each region’s administrative assistants. Broendel then returned to the microphone, introduced each of the union’s resident national officers, and then asked delegates to give a warm letter carrier welcome to President Rolando.

Setting the stage

“Minneapolis has a special place in American history,” the president said as he began his keynote address to the convention. In 1934, he said, “a truckers’ strike turned into a months-long general strike in this city that created mass support for unionization.”

Minnesota, he said, also is the state that produced four giants in the United States Senate: Hubert Humphrey, Eugene McCarthy, Walter Mondale and Paul Wellstone. “Boy, could we use a few of them in the Senate today,” he said wryly.

Rolando immediately got down to business, outlining some of the challenges letter carriers face in 2012, not least of which is the Postal Service’s financial trouble. But worse, he said, “it has no strategy—zero—and no business plan—zero.”

Postal managers, he said, have only one answer: “Cut service. Cut Saturday delivery. Close facilities. Cut the workforce. Reduce wages and benefits. Contract out. Shrink, shrink, shrink ourselves.”

Making things even more complicated are the rampant anti-union sentiment in modern America, as well as how Congress remains deadlocked on most issues, not just postal ones.

Looking for answers

“But to criticize is easy,” Rolando said. “The real question is whether we have a solution.”

For help in finding a solution, he said, the NALC last fall turned to Ron Bloom, whom President Barack Obama tapped in 2009 to save and restructure the auto industry. Bloom also had a measure of success in helping to turn around America’s steel industry.

“Minneapolis has a special place in American history,” he said. “It has chosen the path of confrontation.

The president assured delegates that the union will vigorously defend letter carrier wages and benefits and seek to advance bargaining goals through interest arbitration.

“One includes having the vision and courage to take a hard look at every level of our organization to determine what changes we must make to ensure that we have the ability to adapt to changing circumstances,” Rolando said. “Whether that includes downsizing, restructuring or just minor tinkering, we must position ourselves to adapt so that we can remain a great union that can protect the rights and interests of our members.”

Bringing his remarks to a close, Rolando returned to his address’ opening imagery. “There is turbulence ahead, brothers and sisters,” he said. “We have no choice but to fly through it, seaweeds fastened through the legislative and political battles, through the fight for a new business model, through interest arbitration and through the struggles to enforce our contract.”

But there is a constitutional right to do what the convention, Rolando said, “and we will do it with our usual dedication and respect for each other, and our diverse views.

“We have 270,000 brothers and sisters committed to helping each other and to building a better workplace and a better country, one family at a time,” the president concluded. “Let’s make this the best convention in the history of the NALC.”
Postal employees. However, seeds of hope can be seen in the growing-shared sacrifices from consumers, Congress, postal management and private employers. "We intend to keep fighting, not just for ourselves, but for all workers—public and private." Ro

Our fight, our future

Rolando showed delegates a special video, titled ‘Our Fight, Our Future.’ that reviewed our legislative and political battles of the last two years and previewed the ones ahead. "The battle for the Postal Service is part of a larger war on workers," Rolando said in the video. "We intend to keep fighting, not just for ourselves, but for all workers—public and private."

The history of the Postal Service, he said, teaches us that we need three things to succeed: A leader with vision who wants the Postal Service to succeed; a Congress that sees the value of the network; and letter carriers who stand up for themselves and this institution. If they don’t have, nobody will—but if they do, extraordinary things can happen.

"The basic facts of the Postal Service are dire and dramatic," Bloom said. "Congress created it, and whether by action or inaction, indifference or malice, many people are prepared to see it fade away."

"When history is written, we will ask, 'What will come next?' But what we will see is that the second decade of the 21st century was the beginning of the end of the Postal Service, or will it be when the National Association of Letter Carriers held its annual meeting in late July and grabbed the wheel and said, ‘We will write our own history—we will stand up and save the United States Postal Service.’"

Greetings from past presidents

Next, Vice President George Mignosi honored almost 50 letter carriers who have reached the $1 million milestone for Customer Connect leads. "This is our country," he concluded. "We built it, we make it run. It’s time that we took it back for the American people."

Hegarty also noted that President Rolando is set to speak at the NPMHU convention in a couple of weeks.

"In the good old days, he would be treated as Enemy No. 1," Rolando said with a smile. "Or at least someone to be very wary of." Now, the president said, Bloom is a trusted advisor as the NALC and the Postal Service confront the agency’s financial reality.

"Ron made it clear that we might not like everything he had to say after he conducted his review, but if they do, extraordinary things can happen."

"We’ve always worked together, on postal reform legislation and other issues," Rolando said of the NALC and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) but more importantly with a graduate, comes to the NALC with a background as a union organizer for the National Labor Relations Board. "It's up to us. It's up to all of us."

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Among the handful of resolutions that the NALC’s 35th National Convention in Minneapolis, Minn., passed Thursday is a measure that calls for the Postal Service to consider creating a campaign at a 2100 letter carrier staff members who had traveled to the conv...
NALC makes its case as arbitration begins

The chairman of the three-person arbitration board is Shyam Das, a member of the American Arbitration Association. The other two members of the arbitration panel are Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Broendel of Athens, OH, Branch 997, and Robert Rolando of New Jersey. Rolando was a member of the NALC’s Executive Council from 1996 to 1998 and has been a postal worker since 1976.

The arbitration panel has heard numerous cases involving United Steelworkers as well as the Major League Baseball Players Association. Das also noted that the NALC makes its case as arbitration begins.

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Arbitration continues; new MOU announced

The NALC and the Postal Service were set to meet again for formal arbitration hearings on Oct. 29. A report on these proceedings toward a new collective-bargaining agreement between the two parties will be included in a future issue.

Meanwhile, on Oct. 9, NALC President Fredric Rolando announced that NALC and USPS had entered into a memorandum of understanding designed to alleviate some of the staffing issues that have plagued many delivery units across the country.

The MOU provides for:
➤ the conversion of up to 6,000 part-time flexible (PTF) city letter carriers to full-time regular;
➤ the filling of vacant residual CC-01 and CC-02 positions that are not withheld for Article 12; and
➤ the limited authorization to hire an additional 3,400 bargaining-unit transitional employees (TEs).

“These steps, along with the creation of a work group to validate the continued need to withhold positions, should help alleviate some of the staffing issues,” Rolando said.

A link to the MOU, M-01797, can be found at nalc.org.

NALC’s special election web page helps keep voters informed

Election Day is just weeks away, and the NALC has created a special page on nalc.org that’s filled with links to tools you can use to stay informed about what’s at stake on Nov. 6.

The page contains a wealth of information, including links that help answer questions about early-voting time frames or absentee ballot request deadlines. Another link helps web page visitors figure out how and where to vote, how to get registered to vote or how to check their registration status. Other links help with locating polling places and provide information about each state’s voter ID laws.

A link to the page is prominently placed on the home page at nalc.org.

Retiree COLAs announced

The 2013 retiree cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will be 1.7 percent under both the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS), following the release of the September Consumer Price Index (CPI) on Oct. 16.

The COLA rate reflects the difference between the average CPI in the third quarter of 2011 and the third quarter of 2012. CSRS annuities are adjusted by the full amount of the difference in CPI. FERS annuities are increased according to the following rules:
➤ If the increase in the CPI is 2 percent or less, adjust the COLA by the full CPI increase.
➤ If the CPI increase is between 2 percent and 3 percent, the COLA is 2 percent.
➤ If the CPI increase is more than 3 percent, the adjustment is 1 percent less than the CPI increase.

As the CPI increase is under 2 percent, FERS annuities are adjusted by the full amount.

ABC News names carriers “Persons of the Week”

Letter carriers received some high-profile exposure on Sept. 21 when “ABC World News Tonight” named letter carriers “Persons of the Week” in a segment that focused on this year’s NALC Heroes of the Year ceremony held the day before in Washington.

The piece mentioned several of this year’s honorees and what they had done, interviewed them, showed video from this year’s heroes ceremony with President Fredric Rolando presenting them with their awards, talked to those rescued, provided historical context, and overall got across the message of carriers’ value and dedication to the communities we serve.

A YouTube clip of the story is posted on nalc.org.
A harm to one is a harm to all
NALC responds to Hurricane Sandy

As October draws to a close, Hurricane Sandy had landed and left a huge swath of destruction throughout the northeastern United States.

Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont, not to mention the effects of the hurricane but also by the massive flooding and tragic fires left in its wake.

“The daily news reports on this disaster can be difficult to handle,” said NALC President Fred Rolando. “More than 100 dead and many more injured, hundreds of thousands homeless or without power, the loss of billions of dollars and the effect on the lives of millions.”

“The UFCW is a future in every community, by virtue of both our work and our family lives, Rolando said. “That means we must be in the business of helping, that means we must be in the business of helping, that means we must be in the business of helping to see that these families have the resources they need to recover. These materials can be found at nalu.org.”

“NALC understands that a harm to one is a harm to all and that our members need us.”

A letter mailed to branch presidents contained a list of benefits for which members might be eligible, from the American Red Cross, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Postal Workers’ Employee Assistance Program (PEAP), the Postal Employees’ Retirement System and the assorted state and federal employee assistance programs. The information is located online or by calling 1-800-999-1628.

For those affected by Sandy, the NALC has put together information on how to access federal and state financial assistance and the recovery process. These materials can be found at nalu.org.

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Congressional compromise misguided, misses the mark

On Nov. 16, Sen. Joseph Lieberman (I-CT), the retiring chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, held a bipartisan meeting of House and Senate leaders to discuss an alarming idea: to allow the U.S. Postal Service to end Saturday mail delivery service but retain package delivery on that day.

“I’m sure Senator Lieberman’s intentions are good, but his misguided notion falls into the trap of failing to address the root cause of problems the Postal Service continues to face,” NALC President Fredric Rolando said. “In fact, his proposal ignores the 2006 congressional mandate to pre-fund 75 years’ worth of future retiree health benefits and to do so within just 10 years.

“This crisis, manufactured by Congress, is what’s creating on Capitol Hill a false sense of urgency to act immediately,” Rolando said. “There is no argument that something must be done to solve the Postal Service’s financial problems, but Senator Lieberman’s so-called compromise would eliminate 25,000 city carrier jobs, jeopardize a $31.3 billion national mailing industry that employs 7.5 million Americans in the private sector, and drive more business away from the Postal Service by undermining the value of our current service.

“Moreover, it would hurt the USPS’ ability to take advantage of the exploding package-delivery market.

“Rather than rushing ahead with a fatally compromising between a bad House bill and a bad Senate bill,” the president said, “Congress should take careful steps first to address pre-funding – especially since the pre-funding account already contains more than enough cash to meet the health benefit needs of future retirees for decades to come.

“Addressing pre-funding would help take away the manufactured sense of urgency and allow the entire postal community—employees as well as lawmakers and managers—to come together to develop a forward-looking business plan to help the Postal Service succeed in the 21st century,” Rolando said.

The president has sent messages via the NALC e-Activist Network alerting members to Lieberman’s plan, adding that anything can happen during Congress’ lame-duck session. In fact, reports were emerging that key House and Senate staffs were planning to meet to hammer out a compromise bill that could be presented to both chambers of Congress as early as the first week of December.

“The NALC is committed to fighting any back-end deal, especially one that could be attached to must-pass legislation such as a ‘fiscal cliff’ measure or a Hurricane Sandy relief bill,” Rolando said.

21st Food Drive: Saturday, May 11

NALC branches throughout the country are getting an early start on preparations for the 21st annual NALC Food Drive, which will take place on Saturday, May 11.

“On the second Saturday in May, letter carriers once again will proudly lead the country’s largest single-day drive to help fight hunger in America,” NALC President Fredric Rolando said. “We look forward to working together to help the million Americans who are hungry and desperate need, and I once again call on every active and retired NALC member to get started now to prepare to make this coming drive another successful one.”

Branch food drive coordinators should soon receive in the mail registration packets, which should be returned as soon as possible—by Jan. 15 at the latest— to NALC Community and Membership Outreach Coordinator Pam Donato. If you have questions or need help, call Donato at 202-662-2489 or send an e-mail to donato@nalc.org.

Open Season ends Dec. 10!

Are you in the NALC Health Plan?

With Federal Employees Health Benefits program Open Season ending Dec. 10, now is the time to think about how the new and improved benefits in the NALC Health Benefit Plan make it a great choice for letter carriers. If you are already a member, during Open Season you can make changes to your coverage, such as adding a spouse or family member as covered members.

A key change to the Plan in 2013 is lower rates. Active letter carriers will pay $52.95 biweekly for Self Only coverage or $103.26 for Self and Family coverage. The monthly annuitant premium will be $90.66 for Self Only coverage and $326.04 for Self and Family coverage.

Other changes include new or expanded benefits for conditions that letter carriers typically confront on their physically demanding jobs, such as back or foot problems.

Joining the NALC Health Benefit Plan gives you access to the preferred provider network of Cigna HealthCare Shared Administration Open Access Plus (OAP). The Plan also includes coverage of prescription drugs, with mail delivery available.

And if you call the NALC Health Plan, you will talk to a customer service representative at the Plan’s headquarters who works for the NALC Plan and only the NALC Plan—someone who knows the benefits inside and out.

For more information about Open Season and your choices, go to opm.gov/insurance/openseason. From this website, you can compare the NALC Plan with other choices available to you in the FEHB program, including coverage and rates.

Penalty Overtime Exclusion

As referenced in Article 8, Sections 4 and 5 of the National Agreement between the NALC and the USPS, the December period during which penalty overtime regulations are not applicable consists of four consecutive service weeks. This year, the December period begins Pay Period 26-12-Week 1 (Dec. 1, 2012) and ends Pay Period 01-13-Week 2 (Dec. 28, 2012).

Financial report

Pre-funding obscures USPS productivity records

On Nov. 15, the Postal Service released its financial report for Fiscal Year 2012, which ended Sept. 30. Of particular interest was the report’s finding that the deficit from postal operations declined sharply from $8.4 billion in 2011 to $4.2 billion in 2012.

“The report makes clear that the financial crisis at the Postal Service is largely political in nature,” NALC President Fredric Rolando said, “and that the Postal Service is actually returning to health in operational terms as the economy improves.”

Rolando said that the report’s highlighting of $15.9 billion in losses obscures other key indications of improving financial health as well.

“Shipping revenues are up 8.7 percent, which is a positive sign for the future. Meanwhile, the decline of first-class mail has slowed and employee productivity is at a record high,” he said, “and only 16 percent of the overall losses actually had to do with mail delivery.”

Those losses, Rolando said, would be easier to weather if it weren’t for the future retiree health benefit pre-funding mandate, which accounts for $11.1 billion in 2012.

Interest arbitration update

The interest arbitration board that will set the terms of a new National Agreement between NALC and USPS continues to meet and also to accept written testimony and exhibits from both sides.

The chairman of the three-person arbitration board is Ithamar Das, a member of the American Arbitration Association’s National Group and a full-time labor arbitrator since 1986. The other members of the board are Bruce Simon, representing the NALC, and Robert Dufex for USPS.

The NALC anticipates that an award decision will be made sometime in January.

For late-breaking updates, you can check nalc.org, “like” the NALC’s Facebook page at facebook.com/nalc.national, or follow the union’s Twitter feed at twitter.com/nalc_national.

TSP offers help to Sandy victims

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) has made temporary changes to the financial hardship withdrawal rules for participants affected by Hurricane Sandy.

These changes allow participants who were affected by Hurricane Sandy, or who had a family member affected by Hurricane Sandy, to take a hardship withdrawal and to continue making TSP contributions in the six-month period after the hardship withdrawal.

The TSP will treat any “Financial Hardship In-Service Withdrawal Request” as a qualifying hardship, provided you meet all of the necessary criteria.

The complete list of criteria, plus the withdrawal request form, can be found at nalc.org/sandy. The web page also contains useful information for those who were affected by Sandy, as well as links to information about contributing to the Postal Employees’ Retirement Fund (PERF).

For those who continue to be affected by the aftermath of Sandy, the NALC has put together information and resource materials to help members deal with the recovery process at nalc.org/sandy.

“The NALC understands that a harm to one of us is a harm to all of us,” Rolando said. “We always have and we always will take care of our own.”

Benefits for which members might be eligible include those from the American Red Cross, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Postal Service’s Employee Assistance Program (EAP), the AFL-CIO, Unite Here, United Auto Workers, the Postal Employees ‘Retirement Fund (PERF), the special charitable organization operated by the various union and management organizations of the Postal Service to solely benefit postal employees.

President Rolando has asked those outside the Northeast who escaped Sandy’s devastation to consider making a special personal donation to PERF.

“For more than 20 years, PERF has been NALC’s means of providing financial support directly to letter carriers,” Rolando said. “We need to keep this fund strong so that those hit by Hurricane Sandy are met by the strength and solidarity of all of the NALC.”

Any member who needs assistance in getting help can contact NALC Community and Membership Outreach Coordinator Pam Donato at 202-662-2489 or send an e-mail to donato@nalc.org.

Coalition to Congress: Feds already have helped

The Federal-Postal Coalition—which of the NALC is a member—sent a letter to members of Congress on Nov. 19 asking that federal workers be excluded from any potential cuts that occur as part of talks to avoid the so-called “fiscal cliff”.

We urge you to contact congressional leaders involved in negotiations, as well as President Obama, to remind them that the federal workforce already has borne the burden of substantial budget savings over the past two years.

Since the beginning of 2011, the budget savings derived from reduced compensation to the federal workforce has totaled at least $103 billion (over $50,000 per employee). This includes $60 billion worth of budget savings from the first two years of the pay freeze, and at least $28 billion worth of savings from the reduced 2013 pay raise proposed by the president.

Based on the Employment Cost Index, federal pay scales should increase by 1.7 percent in January, yet federal pay is frozen at least through March 2013. Unless federal employees receive the modest 0.5 percent raise proposed by the president, they will be taking yet another hit.

The federal workforce also contributed $15 billion, achieved through a 2.3 percent increase in newly hired federal employees’ retirement contributions, used to offset the cost of an additional nine months of unemployment insurance spending as part of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act.

Federal and postal employees and their families are hardworking, middle-class Americans who are struggling during these tough times just like other Americans. No other group has been asked to financially contribute the way they have, and it is time our nation’s leaders found other ways to reduce the deficit than continually taking from those who have dedicated their lives to public service.

Read the complete letter posted at nalc.org under “Latest News.”
Letter carriers consider retiree benefit cuts

The NALC has expressed its sternest concerns to the family and friends of the victim of the mass shooting Dec. 14 in Newtown, CT, and President Fredric Rolando has extended his personal sympathy.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with those touched by this senseless act," Rolando said. "Sadly, there have been far too many such rampages in recent years, and our House and Senate representatives to do the right thing and decide that the next year's 'fiscal cliff' discussion." Rolando said.

The NALC opposes such blatantly unfair proposals, and we strongly urge President Obama and Congress to do the right thing by allowing any member who needs assistance in getting help to contact NALC Community and Membership Outreach Coordinator Pam Donovan at 800-920-0600.

The NALC has put together a webpage filled with information and resource materials to help members sort through the recovery process. Check it out at nalc.org/hurricane.

Il carrier shot while on duty

East St. Louis, IL—Branch 319 letter carrier Willie Frazier was shot on the afternoon of Dec. 11 while he was delivering mail on his route.

Reports say Frazier, 65, was working his usual route in Cahokia, a suburb of East St. Louis, when a gun fight broke out about a block away from him. The 65-year-old carrier then reportedly turned his vehicle around, but a bullet from the gunfight struck him in the left leg. He is reportedly in critical condition at a hospital.

This marks the second time an U.S. postal employee has been killed this year. Last March, a letter carrier was killed in Washington, DC.

The NALC has organized a hundredfold across the country, standing ready, willing and able to give comfort and support to the grieving families of the victims.

Branch financial training set for Orlando, Cleveland

Secretary-Treasurer Jane Brosnihan reminds members that registration is still under way for these two training sessions to assist branch secretaries-treasurers with their payroll and fiscal operations. Please make your arrangements to attend immediately to limit number of participants. A form to request registration for either the Orlando or Cleveland seminar is printed below and also may be found online at nalc.org. Registering in time will ensure participation in training at NALC Headquarters in Wash-ingtong by the registration deadline. One form per registrant, please.

The training will provide information for federal finance officers, including payroll withholdings requirements, reporting system and accounting controls, and the investor relations of the Department of Treas-

eral of State and federal agencies. The email address of the members selected to receive the offer will be sent to the local NALC headquarters.

Branches may also offer other reservations before receiving confirmation from the secretary-treasurer's office. Information may be obtained with your agreement.

Post-Sandy relief efforts continue

For those letter carriers still dealing with the lingering effects of Hurricane Sandy, a variety of resources, benefits and programs are posted on the special web page.

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hundredfold across the country, standing ready, willing and able to give comfort and support to the grieving families of the victims.

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