

State chairs come to DC for annual spring training

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 Monday training sessions and updated the letter carrier leaders on the various battles the union continues to fight.

"We have a lot of work to do this year," Rolando said. "We need to work to create a labor-friendly House, to get a filibuster-proof majority of 60-plus senators, and to hold on to the White House.

"Meanwhile, the NALC continues to look for ways to work with the White House on a menu of items the Obama administration could 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 news media seem to be taking hold gradually. "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.

"A negotiated contract is always preferable, since an arbitrated contract tends not to deal with as many workroom-floor issues," Rolando said. "But 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." (See story on page 4.)

For the remainder of the day Monday, members of the Legislative and Political Action Department outlined the NALC's strategy going into the fall elections. On Tuesday, the legislative chairs visited House and Senate members to lobby for support of letter carrier issues. ☐



Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) spoke to the state presidents about the importance of preserving the Postal Service.



Rep. William Pascrell (D-NJ)



Above: Rep. Rush Holt (D-NJ)

Below: Rep. Jim Renacci (R-OH)



State legislative visits

Springtime also means the beginning of a new season of lobbying trips by state associations. Scores of letter carriers from New Jersey made the journey to Washington March 27-29. On the night of March 28, NALC Executive Vice President Timothy O'Malley led a rap session for the gathered Garden State activists. The following morning, the New Jersey delegation held a congressional breakfast and heard remarks from

Reps. Rush Holt (D-12th) and William Pascrell (D-8th) before they headed to Capitol Hill to engage in lobbying House and Senate members.

Activists from Ohio visited the same week, coming together for a rap session at NALC Headquarters March 28 led by O'Malley. That evening's congressional reception featured remarks from Reps. Bill Johnson (R-6th), Jim Renacci (R-16th) and Marcy Kaptur (D-9th). The following day, the Ohio contingent discussed letter carrier concerns with congressional representatives on both sides of the Hill.



Above: Executive Vice President Timothy O'Malley (c) with Rep. Bill Johnson (R-OH)

Right: Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH)



NALC members from Ohio met with Dem. Sen. Sherrod Brown (c).



Above: Executive Vice President Timothy O'Malley (c) with Rep. Bill Johnson (R-OH)

Right: Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH)