



Leadership Academy grads to take learning to branches

NALC Director of Life Insurance Myra Warren presided over the graduation ceremony for the 15th Leadership Academy class on May 10 at the Maritime Center in Linthicum Heights, MD, a few miles south of Baltimore. The longtime NALC officer told the graduating students that it is their time to show what they can do with the education they've received.

"I'm eligible to retire. This is your Postal Service," she said. "I'd like to be assured that the people who take over when I do decide to retire are prepared for the challenges that they face."

She stressed the importance of learning about the union's past, especially about the Great Postal Strike of 1970.

"What they did was pass us

a baton," she said. "Your job when you get a baton is to make things better."

She called on them to go back to their branches and regions and help mentor other NALC members there.

"Your responsibility is to train them about where we came from, where we are now, and where we are going," she said.

The class nicknamed itself the "InVINCEable 15" after President Emeritus Vincent Sombrotto, who died in January.

The commencement event capped several months of intensive training on the skills necessary for union members to become effective leaders. Under the tutelage of their mentors—established NALC leaders such as branch presidents or national business agents—the students combined three separate weeks of classroom learning at the Maritime Center with take-home assignments and special projects.

The 30 participants, two from each of the NALC's 15 regions, now add their names to an ever-lengthening list of graduates of the Academy, which



The Leadership Academy

Region 1

John McPherson
Branch 133
Sacramento, CA

Region 3

Steven Bilzing
Branch 155
Belleville, IL

Region 5

Joni Clark
Branch 645
Fort Dodge, IA

Region 7

Joan (Jody) Spencer
Branch 436
Racine, WI

Region 9

Donna Bennett
Branch 1569
Aiken, SC

Allan Rios

Branch 1100
Garden Grove, CA

John McConnell

Branch 316
Ottawa, IL

Chris Grunke

Branch 5
Omaha, NE

Scott Stolaas

Branch 718
Albert Lea, MN

Susan Chavez

Branch 1477
West Coast Florida

Region 2

Robert Johnston
Branch 4319
Anchorage, AK

Region 4

Thomas Dodge
Branch 1548
Gillette, WY

Region 6

Michelle Koerner
Branch 479
Terre Haute, IN

Region 8

Kiesha Cordier
Branch 469
Mobile, AL

Region 10

Kimberly Arnholt
Branch 3867
Pasadena, TX

Paul Rodriguez
Branch 1433
Medford, OR

Nick Smith
Branch 1902
Arizona Merged

Jason Stone
Branch 377
Evansville, IN

Ron Fullove
Branch 106
Montgomery, AL

Richard Gould
Branch 421
San Antonio, TX



was created in 2005. Retired NALC Executive Vice President Jim Williams and former NALC Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Jim Korolowicz coordinate a well-rounded and effective curriculum. They tap a number of NALC officers and Headquarters staff members and experts to teach classes on a wide variety of topics.

During their classes, students took part in often lively discussions on such subjects as the National Agreement and the union's legislative agenda to save America's Postal Service. They also learned more about the Dispute Resolution Process, strategic planning, branch financial responsibilities, retirement issues, DOIS and route protection, workers' compensation, ef-

fective negotiation techniques, getting the NALC's message out and dealing with the media.

Each week of the Academy also included an ongoing emphasis on effective written and oral communication skills in such forums as membership meetings, awards ceremonies and dinners, as well as written reports and oral presentations about their "take-home" projects.

This is the first class to graduate at the Maritime Center. NALC previously held the classes at the National Labor College and the Postal Service's Bolger Center.

President Fredric Rolando has announced the names of those selected to attend the 16th Leadership Academy (see list below). **PR**

Opposite page (top): Leadership Academy coordinator Jim Williams congratulates the participants.

Opposite page (bottom): Director of Life Insurance Myra Warren challenges the Academy graduates to pay their knowledge forward.

Above: The entire graduating class

Below: Rachael Saville of Central Iowa Merged Branch 352 receives her completion certificate.

Class of Summer/Fall 2013

Region 11

Robert Gillispie
Branch 182
Dayton, OH

Douglas Lawrence
Branch 134
Syracuse, NY

Region 12

Theodore Lee
Branch 84
Pittsburgh, PA

Timothy Foote
Branch 500
Harrisburg, PA

Region 13

Adam Cline
Branch 3677
Weirton, WV

Jacqueline McDaniel
Branch 2611
Silver Spring, MD

Region 14

James Harrington
Branch 3166
Warwick, RI

Fred Ordway
Branch 230
Nashua, NH

Region 15

Marc Ashmon
Branch 2876
Linden, NJ

Reinaldo Santiago
Branch 67
Elizabeth, NJ

