

GET  
READY  
FOR

# NALC

69TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION  
JULY 21-25, 2014 • PHILADELPHIA, PA



**I**n mid-July, NALC will return to Philadelphia, birthplace of the post office and hometown of America's first postmaster, Benjamin Franklin, for the union's 69th annual convention. This will be our fourth convention held in the City of Brotherly Love—the first was in 1895.

The convention delegates will consider important union business, including elections of national officers and amendments to the *NALC Constitution*. But their mission will extend far beyond that—the delegates will discuss issues that relate to the future, and even the survival, of the U.S. Postal Service.

With Congress considering terribly misguided legislation that treats USPS as a failing institution—ignoring its recent financial recovery and success—the delegates will talk about strategies for standing up for our jobs, pay, benefits and collective-bargaining rights. If past conventions are a guide, they will also unite to follow up on these strategies. They will bring their message back to their branches resolved to lead all letter carriers to participate in the struggle and speak with a single, strong voice.

The delegates also will consider the many challenges letter carriers face in their jobs each day, such as safety issues, overtime and start times, as well as ongoing efforts to assure that managers

understand and honor the National Agreement and local agreements.

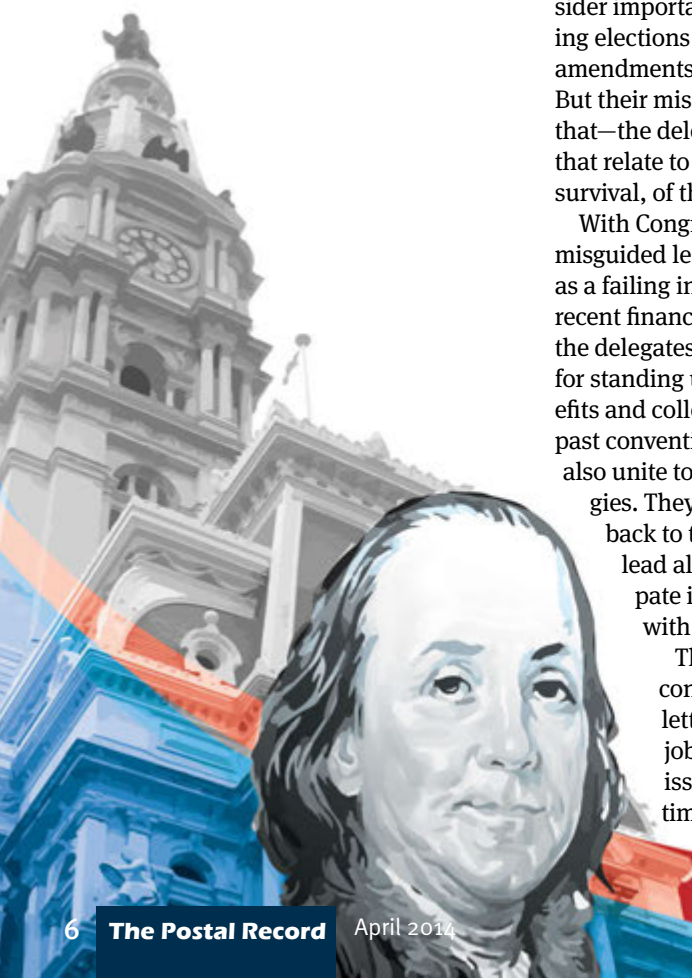
The future of the union and the Postal Service, and how city carrier assistants (CCAs) fit into it, also is a likely topic. The delegates may discuss how best to welcome and train CCAs, how to encourage them to join NALC and how to inspire them to take leadership positions in their union.

The delegates also will attend some of the several dozen training sessions and workshops offered at the convention on topics such as grievance investigation and research for shop stewards, effective communications and grassroots activism, OWCP and health benefits, retirement and the Mutual Benefit Association (MBA), to name a few.

This issue of *The Postal Record* features details about the convention, including how to submit proposed constitutional amendments and resolutions, how to obtain tickets for the Philadelphia Phillies NALC Night baseball game and the retiring officers dinner, tours to be offered in and around the city, and attractions in the downtown area.

In the next few months, we will provide additional information about convention business, including officer elections, the president's biennial report and convention workshops. More information about attractions in and around Philadelphia and a guide to getting around the city also will appear in future issues.

For the NALC, this summer will be the summer of brotherly love. **PR**



# PHILADELPHIA'S RICH HISTORY

**D**elegates to the 69th annual national convention and their families will have plenty of choices for entertainment and education in Philadelphia the week of July 21-25. This month we'll look at the city's history tied to Benjamin Franklin, the colonies' first postmaster general, and the American Revolution. Here's a sample of just some things to do and see in the downtown area. Look for more in future issues.

## INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

This urban park and visitor's center hosts Independence Hall, the site of both the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776 and the crafting of the U.S. Constitution, and the Liberty Bell. The famous bell with a crack down the side originally called legislators to meet in Independence Hall. Its name comes from the inscription on its side: "Proclaim liberty throughout all the Land unto all the inhabitants thereof," but it was first called the Liberty Bell by abolitionists who used it as a symbol to oppose slavery. The visitor's center is at the corner of N. 6th and Market Streets in downtown Philadelphia.

Tickets are not required to visit the Liberty Bell. However, tickets are necessary to tour Independence Hall. These free, timed tickets can be picked up at the Independence Visitor Center the day of your trip. For more information, go to [nps.gov/inde/planyourvisit](http://nps.gov/inde/planyourvisit). For a small fee, you may reserve tickets in advance through this site or by calling 800-967-2283 between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. Guided tours are available.

## THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

Given Benjamin Franklin's restless scientific mind, it's fitting that the official memorial to this founding father—and first postmaster general—is inside an interactive science museum. The highlights of this museum, Pennsylvania's most visited, are delights for grown-ups and children alike: a virtual reality exploration on the physics of sports, a simulated space station, a giant walk-through model of the human heart and, of course, exhibits on electricity. The museum is located at 222 N. 20th St.; it's open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Go to the museum's website, [fi.edu](http://fi.edu), for more information or to buy tickets online. General admission is \$16.50 for adults and \$14 for children ages 3-11.

## THE BETSY ROSS HOUSE

A few blocks from the Liberty Bell, at 239 Arch St., is the Betsy Ross House. Whether Betsy actually crafted the first American flag is uncertain, but her place in folklore makes her home a popular tourist stop. What's certain is that, by working as a seamstress, Ross managed to support seven children despite outliving three husbands. She is buried on the property.

The home is open daily for self-guided tours. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$4 for children.

Below: The Franklin Institute  
Bottom: The Betsy Ross House



Photo by B. Krist for Visit Philadelphia







Left: Elfreth's Alley

Below left: The B. Free Franklin Post Office



Photo by Ben Franske

Photo by Kjetil Ree

## ELFRETH'S ALLEY

A walk around the corner from Betsy Ross's house brings you to Elfreth's Alley, a quaint, narrow cobblestone road lined with colonial-era homes. Two of them—numbers 124 and 126—are open to the public as a museum, revealing the details of life in pre-Industrial Philadelphia. Tours are available for \$5 for adults and \$2 for children 12 and under. See [elfrethsalley.org](http://elfrethsalley.org) for more information.

## B. FREE FRANKLIN POST OFFICE AND MUSEUM

The Postal Service operates this small, quaint post office as a tribute to Benjamin Franklin, the first postmaster general, with a colonial theme. The USPS opened the post office in 1975 to mark the 200th anniversary of the Service; it occupies property Franklin once owned. This is the only post office that does not fly the U.S. flag, because the flag did not yet exist when Franklin took the postmaster's job in 1775. A commemorative postmark, "B. Free Franklin"—a signature Franklin used, believed to be a reference to American independence—is used to cancel stamps there. There's also a small museum about the history of the Postal Service at the site. It is located at 316 Market St. **PR**



# TIPS FROM A LOCAL

**N**ALC Executive Vice President and Philadelphia Branch 157 member Timothy O'Malley has many reasons to be proud of his hometown. Philadelphia is a "city

of firsts"—many of America's scientific, medical, political, religious and cultural advances happened here first, including the first post office—headed by Benjamin Franklin, who also served as the first postmaster general.

O'Malley is also proud of Philadelphians and their spirit. "The people are unique," he said. That spirit has been

shaped by sports teams and heroes, he said. "We've often been the underdog."

In addition to the attractions described in the story above, O'Malley recommends a few places in downtown Philadelphia to consider visiting:

### ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES

This collection of millions of specimens from the natural world features a modern museum with delights for children and adults alike. Open 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends. Located at 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway. Website: [ansp.org](http://ansp.org).

### AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM

With a collection of fine and folk art, photographs, memorabilia and costumes, this museum, an affiliate of the Smithson-

ian Institution, traces the experiences and contributions of African-Americans from the kingdoms of Africa to the present. Open Thursday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Located at 701 Arch St. Website: [aampmuseum.org](http://aampmuseum.org).

### RALPH'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT

America's oldest Italian restaurant, Ralph's is still pleasing diners with old-school Italian-American fare. It's still run by the family, the Dispignos, that opened it in 1900. Located at 760 S. 9th Street. Call 215-627-6011 or go to [ralphsrestaurant.com](http://ralphsrestaurant.com) for reservations. **PR**



# TOUR INFORMATION

**A**s in years past, tours will be offered for families to explore the city while delegates are working on convention business. Nine tours will be offered, including:

- Historic Area Riding/Walking Tour—Includes the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall
- Philadelphia Then & Now—Get to know both the historic area and the modern-day city
- Amish Country Tour—Includes traditional Amish-style lunch
- Longwood Gardens—America's premiere gardens, plus wine tasting

- Shopping Tour
- Colonial Homes Tour
- Family-Friendly Fun—At the Adventure Aquarium and Battleship *New Jersey*

For full descriptions of the tours, please go to [www.nalc.org/news/conv](http://www.nalc.org/news/conv). Visit [www.TourSignUp.com/NALC](http://www.TourSignUp.com/NALC) to sign-up online or complete the form below. Tours are cancelable and refundable (less a small fee) until June 30.

Many tours sell out in advance. Subject to availability, tours can be purchased on-site at the tour desk inside the Pennsylvania Convention Center, Hall C.



## Philadelphia Tour Program Registration Form

Monday, July 21	Save By June 20	After June 20	Qty Seats	Total \$
Picture Perfect Countryside	\$ 89	\$ 95		
Colonial Philadelphia Experience	\$ 55	\$ 60		
Philadelphia Then & Now	\$ 50	\$ 55		
Tuesday, July 22				
Philadelphia Then & Now	\$ 50	\$ 55		
Colonial Philadelphia Experience	\$ 55	\$ 60		
Wednesday, July 23				
The Simple Life: Pennsylvania' Amish	\$119	\$129		
Shopaholic's Dream	\$ 55	\$ 60		
Thursday, July 24				
City Mansions & Country Estates	\$ 79	\$ 85		
Fish & Ships	\$ 89	\$ 95		

<b>Total Charges</b>
\$

Mrs.  Ms.  Mr. First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Address (Suite / Apartment / etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

VISA  MasterCard  American Express

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Expire: 

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**Please note: Address above must match the billing address of credit card.**

Card Code AMEX 4 digits on front.  
Visa and MasterCard 3 digits on back.

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Month Year

Authorization Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please advise of any special needs:

**FAX or Mail\* to: FAX (215) 625-7981 ■ Specialty Tours & Events ■ 518 S. 7<sup>th</sup> Street ■ Philadelphia, PA 19147**  
Registration also available at [www.TourSignUp.com/NALC](http://www.TourSignUp.com/NALC) Questions graciously answered at: 215-625-7980

\*All tour and event orders must be received by July 11, 2014. All tours subject to availability and cancellation

# INFORMATION AND DEADLINES FOR CONVENTION ATTENDEES

**M**ake sure you're on schedule for all convention planning. In this section you'll find information about delegate eligibility lists, housing, amendments and resolutions, branch sales, the baseball night and the retiring officers' dinner.

**DELEGATE ELIGIBILITY LISTS** (DELS) for the 69th biennial national convention in Philadelphia July 21-25 have been mailed to all branches. The lists must be completed and returned to Secretary-Treasurer Jane Broendel's office at NALC Headquarters no later than May 21 in order for branch representatives to be registered as delegates.

All of the DELs have been mailed to the branch secretaries. If you are a branch secretary and you have not yet received your DEL, contact the Secretary-Treasurer's office at NALC Headquarters so a replacement DEL can be printed and mailed to out.

**HOUSING:** The NALC has made special arrangements with 23 hotels to accommodate letter carrier delegates attending the convention. All NALC-block hotels are within one mile of the convention center. The room rates have been set so branches can begin budgeting for the convention. Please do not contact the hotels. All room reservations will be made through the NALC official housing company.

The reservation process does not start until after the branch's DEL is received at NALC Headquarters, delegates are registered, and the credentials are mailed to the branch secretary.

Headquarters will be advising its official housing company, Meeting Services Plus, of all confirmed registered delegates. Anyone booking a room who is not a confirmed registered delegate at the time of the booking will be subject to cancellation and will receive a notice of such.

Individuals are advised that they must go through their own branch to make reservations and this cannot be done until the DEL has been received and processed, and credentials have been mailed to the branch secretary. Do not contact the host branch officers in Philadelphia about housing—they will not be able to assist you.

After Secretary-Treasurer Broendel's office has received the DEL and registered the delegates, the credentials will be mailed to the branch secretary. Included with the credentials is information on the housing process. This information includes a web address and a code specific to your branch so that you may reserve rooms for your delegates. Branch secretaries may prefer to copy the instructions and give them to delegates and allow them to make their own reservations. **Note that some hotels are already sold out, while others may have limited room availability.**

Visit the convention page at [nalc.org](http://nalc.org) for housing information and instructions.

**ALL PROPOSED AMENDMENTS** to the *NALC Constitution* to be submitted for consideration at the convention must be received by Broendel's office by May 21. That date is 60 days in advance of the convention, as prescribed by the Constitution. Proposed amendments will appear in this June's *Postal Record* for the membership to review.

**RESOLUTIONS** to be considered by delegates also must be received by the May 21 deadline in order to be printed in the Resolutions and Amendments book provided to delegates. Resolutions received after May 21 still may be considered at the convention.

**BRANCH SALES:** Branches wishing to sell items in the designated branch sales area during the convention must contact Broendel's office no later than April 7 to secure guidelines and forms. The completed

forms must be returned to Headquarters by April 21.

**THE NALC BASEBALL NIGHT** at Citizens Bank Park is Tuesday, July 22. Tickets to the Philadelphia Phillies–San Francisco Giants game are \$24 each, which includes bus transportation for those staying at NALC-block hotels. Tickets must be purchased in blocks by branch presidents, and any branch hoping to get seats for the game should act immediately. Download the ticket order form from [nalc.org](http://nalc.org) or see the form on page 62 of this issue of *The Postal Record*, then mail it along with a check or money order made payable to "Secretary-Treasurer, NALC" for the total amount, to: NALC Baseball Night; 100 Indiana Ave. NW; Washington, DC 20001-2144. All ticket orders must be received by June 1. Tickets will be available for pickup in the registration area; there will be no refunds on purchased tickets. Orders that cannot be filled will be refunded.

**THE RETIRING OFFICERS' DINNER** will be held on Thursday, July 24, at the Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Hotel. Tickets are \$80. Download the ticket order form from [nalc.org](http://nalc.org) or see the form on page 62 of this issue of *The Postal Record*, then mail it along with a check or money order made payable to "Secretary-Treasurer, NALC" for the total amount, to: Retiring Officers' Dinner; NALC Secretary-Treasurer; 100 Indiana Ave. NW; Washington, DC 20001-2144. The tickets will be held for pickup at the Retiring Officers' Dinner ticket booth located in the convention registration area. Guests wishing to be seated at the same table must submit their ticket orders and payment together in the same envelope (maximum eight guests per table). Order form and payment must be received by June 1.

Go to [nalc.org](http://nalc.org) for more convention news. **PR**