



National Association
of Letter Carriers

William H. Young, President
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Obama Invited to Address NALC Boston Convention Delegates to Vote on Endorsement; Young Praises Clinton on Campaign

Union to Advise Membership on McCain's Anti-worker Record

NALC President William H. Young on June 10 invited Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL), the presumptive Democratic Party nominee for President of the United States, to address the union's 66th biennial convention July 21-25 in Boston. Young said a resolution will be brought before the delegates for an endorsement in the November general election.

More than 8,800 delegates from all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia and other jurisdictions have registered to attend the convention, making it the largest convention among unions affiliated with the AFL-CIO, and a cross-section of America's working men and women.

While congratulating Obama for his historic accomplishment, Young praised Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY), who was supported by the NALC following a mail ballot of all active and retired members, for what he called "a magnificent campaign" in which she garnered more primary support than any woman in history.

"Her grit, determination and class made us very proud of that choice," Young said of Senator Clinton. "We worked extremely hard and can be very proud of our effort on her behalf."

The NALC president said, however, that the union must now shift its attention to the general election and where the union stands in that fray.

"This union makes decisions differently than some others," Young said. "We are not a top-down union. Instead, we allow our members to make the decisions that are most important for all of us. A presidential endorsement is that kind of decision."

Young said a resolution will be introduced at the Boston convention to support Senator Obama.

"Given his progressive views and outstanding record fighting for working people over the years, and given Senator (John) McCain's poor record on matters affecting America's workers, I have no doubt that Senator Obama will win the enthusiastic support of our members," Young said, adding that the union has extended an invitation to Obama to speak at the convention.

Convention Opening Reception Cancelled Due to Labor Dispute No Food Service to be Available at BCEC In Solidarity With UNITE-HERE Workers

NALC President William H. Young has announced that the opening reception for the 66th Biennial NALC Convention, scheduled for Sunday evening, July 20 at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center (BCEC) has been cancelled due to a lingering contract dispute between Local 26 of the UNITE-HERE union and Aramark Corporation, which handles food service at the convention site.

Young also announced that all food services at the Convention Center will be unavailable during the entire period of the July 21-25 convention. He said all breakfasts scheduled for the convention center have been cancelled though the workshops associated with the breakfasts will go forward. The union is investigating other possible venues for the breakfast workshops. Other workshops will remain as scheduled in the convention center, but without food or beverages.

If alternative venues for the breakfasts are found, Young said bus transportation would be available for delegates to attend them, and the price of the breakfasts will remain the same.

"I regret having to make this announcement, but this is what the labor movement is all about – solidarity with our brothers and sisters in their time of critical need," Young said. "Local 26 is engaged in a protracted contract dispute with the firm that provides food service to the convention and it is our duty and privilege to be able to support their members."

"Delegates, guests and speakers will have to do without food and drink from convention services during the sessions and workshops," he said. "But we'll make it through, just like we did in New Orleans in 1990 when a workplace dispute resulted in no food service."

Young said the NALC Executive Council will propose to convention delegates that they consider reducing general sessions to four hours – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. – with expanded time for workshop activity each day before and after the sessions. Individual sessions can be extended easier than shortened due to busing schedules.

Young emphasized that all business before the convention will be dealt with before adjournment.

Members of Local 26 voted on June 3 to authorize a strike against Aramark, a Philadelphia-based multinational company that provides food service to BCEC. According to Local 26, few of the 300 banquet servers, dishwashers and other food service workers at the state-owned BCEC receive employee benefits even though fellow members of Local 26 who perform similar jobs on similar schedules at nearby unionized hotels receive health, housing, life insurance and other benefits.

Third Contract COLA at \$956

The accumulation toward the third cost-of-living adjustment under the 2006-2011 National Agreement stands at \$956 annually based on the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for May released June 13 by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The \$956 annually is equivalent to 46 cents per hour, or \$36.78 per pay period.

The third COLA will be based on the difference in the CPI-W between January 2008 and July 2008, and will be payable the second full pay period following release of the July 2008 index on August 14.

The accumulation towards the 2009 retiree COLA stands at 4.5 percent based on the May CPI-W. The 2009 COLA is to be based on the increase in the CPI-W between the third quarter of 2007 and the third quarter of 2008.

The COLA for Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) beneficiaries in the year 2009, determined on the CPI-W from December 2007 to December 2008, stands at 3.4 percent based on the May data. FECA COLAs are applicable only in cases where death or disability occurred more than one year prior to the adjustment's effective date.

'Contracting Out' Moratorium Extended To September 30

NALC President William H. Young announced June 13 that he has obtained agreement from the Postal Service to extend the moratorium on delivery subcontracting called for by the Article 32 Committee Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in the National Agreement through September 30, 2008, the end of the USPS Fiscal Year.

The moratorium applies to city carrier offices *not* covered by the National Agreement's life-of-the-contract ban on CDS routes in offices that employ only city carriers.

The NALC and the Postal Service, meanwhile, continue to update the list of city carrier offices covered by the MOU on Subcontracting. That MOU prohibits any outsourcing of delivery in covered offices for the life of the contract. Young said another list of affected CDS routes that will be converted to regular delivery in June will soon be released.

The extension of the moratorium on subcontracting in offices where letter carriers work side by side with rural carriers and CDS contractors will permit the Article 32 Committee to complete its work, as outlined in the MOU contained in the 2006-2011 contract.

Young applauded the continued cooperation of Postmaster General John E. Potter and Vice President for Labor Relations Doug Tulino on the issue of the moratorium.

Young Says No Lawmaker Gets 'Free Pass' on EFCA Emphasizes Critical Nature of Support In Determining Union's Endorsements

NALC President William H. Young reiterated in direct, forceful language to Ohio legislative activists June 11 that support for passage of the Employee Free Choice Act will be paramount in determining the union's endorsement in this November's congressional elections.

"We have to challenge all Members of Congress to get behind our agenda," Young said at the Ohio annual congressional breakfast in Washington. "And by that I mean the Employee Free Choice Act."



President Young makes clear that support of the Employee Free Choice Act is crucial for any congressional candidate seeking the union's endorsement this year.

The legislation, which has already passed the House but is languishing in the Senate, would strengthen America's working families and preserve NALC's bargaining power as a union, would restore workers' freedom to form unions and to bargain over their pay and working conditions. While enactment is doubtful in the remaining days of the Bush administration, organized labor has made it the top priority for the 111th Congress that will convene in January.

"If we don't stand up now – I don't care if you are a Democrat or Republican – this has got to stop," Young said, noting that many states, including Ohio, have been decimated by the policies of the Bush administration.

Citing one Ohio congressman by name, Young described how his opposition to passage of the EFCA legislation could jeopardize NALC support this year despite being one of the members of Congress who have won the union's endorsement in the past and have a generally good legislative record.

"You are either with us or against us," Young emphasized. "No one gets a free pass."

Several members of the Ohio congressional delegation – including Reps. Zack Space, Marcy Kaptur and Betty Sutton (all D-OH) applauded NALC members for conducting the annual

"Stamp Out Hunger" food drive and noted its impact on Ohio where plant closings have created a high unemployment rate.

"You make it possible for them (those in need) to maintain their dignity," Kaptur said.

Sutton called the drive "a lifeline" to many in her district, and bristled at the description of many recipients as "the new poor." She noted that many of them even were food donors last year.

Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-OH) decried the growing trend to privatize government work, including the nation's healthcare system.

"You have to make sure the Members of Congress deliver," Kucinich said. "You have to make sure the President delivers."

Rep. Steve Chabolt (R-OH), stressed his opposition to the creation of a 'Do Not Mail' registry, saying he had serious concerns about its negative impact on small businesses. He added that "it would be irresponsible to take away an important means of communication" by restricting mail delivery.



At left, President Young extols the first-term record of Rep. Betty Sutton (D-OH) following her comments to the annual Ohio congressional breakfast in Washington. In center, Ohio State NALC President Tony Heitic, r, welcomes Rep. Charlie Wilson (D-OH) to the podium. At right, Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) praises carriers for their humanitarian work in the annual food drive.

(Photos by Mike Shea).

Food Drive Update!

Inverness, FL Branch 6013 Top in Category #1

NALC Branch 6013 in Inverness, Florida, with 67,970 pounds of food collected, has been moved to the top spot in Category #1 (1-49 members) in the NALC-Campbell Soup competition, following corrected information submitted by Prescott, Arizona Branch 859 on the amount of poundage it collected during the May 10 NALC National Food Drive.

The initial report on the drive (NALC Bulletin 08-09) showed the Prescott branch in first place in its category.

Prescott Branch 859 President Mitch Kobold reported that his branch actually collected 57,000 pounds for the May 10 drive, placing it in third place. Kobold said the branch also conducted another drive during the winter that collected 55,000 pounds.

Overall, the drive set a new record of 73.1 million pounds.

Branches that have not yet reported their food drive collection total, should do so immediately in order to be included in the Postal Record listing. Photos, videos and other materials should also be sent to NALC headquarters.