



National Association
of Letter Carriers
William H. Young, President
February 22, 2008 No. 08-03

NALC Bulletin

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‘Contracting Out’ Moratorium Extended Through July 31

Agreement Also Reached on Updating List of Offices Covered by Five-Year Prohibition Against Outsourcing

NALC President William H. Young announced on February 21 that the moratorium on delivery subcontracting called for by the Article 32 Committee Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in the National Agreement will be extended to July 31, 2008. 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 (as determined at the time the contract was negotiated).

The NALC and the Postal Service, meanwhile, have agreed on an updated 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.

At the time of the ratification vote, there were 3,071 offices on the tentative list of “protected offices.” Under the terms of the MOU, the parties agreed to review the list and amend it as necessary to ensure its accuracy. The new list, which will be posted on the NALC’s website as soon as possible, now includes some 3,579 offices.

The issue of converting CDS routes in these “protected” offices will now be addressed.

Welcomes Extension

President Young welcomed the extension, noting that “the challenge of verifying the delivery operations of a company as large and complex as the Postal Service is very time-consuming.” It took the parties months to complete the work and future corrections to the list will be made as needed.

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 lauded the spirit of cooperation that exists between the parties and thanked Postmaster General John E. Potter and Vice President for Labor Relations Doug Tulino for negotiating in good faith on the issue of the memorandum.

Level of Trust

“The Postal Service recognizes that the success of the Article 32 Committee depends on an accurate list of protected offices and a basic level of trust between the parties,” Young remarked. “I am hopeful that we can maintain this trust as the discussions go forward.”

Young, who leads the NALC’s team of negotiators on the Article 32 Committee, vowed to defend the interests of letter carriers while working to reach an acceptable agreement with postal management.

“Now it is time to get down to the hard work of fulfilling the work of the Article 32 Committee,” he said.

The list of city carrier offices protected by the MOU on Subcontracting will be included in the copy of the new National Agreement, which can now be printed and made available to branches.

Attention Branch Officers!

Dues Checkoff Update!

The USPS is not continuing dues withholding automatically on members who change from Transitional Employee (TE) to career.

Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Broendel reminds branch officers that when NALC members who are transitional employees are promoted to career, the branch must have them complete and sign a new Form 1187. The Form 1187 submitted on behalf of career employees differs from that of the TE 1187 in the method in which cancellation of dues can occur.

Contract COLA – \$458

The next regular cost-of-living adjustment under the 2006-2011 National Agreement will be \$458 annually based on the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for January released February 20 by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The cost-of-living adjustment, effective the pay period beginning March 15 (pay date April 4), is the second of eight COLAs included in the 2006-2011 contract. No adjustment was made after the first COLA period as a result of minimal inflation.

The new COLA of \$458 annually is equivalent to 22 cents per hour, or \$17.60 per pay period.

The latest COLA raised the total annual pay for top rate carriers (CC Grade 1, Step O) to \$51,251.

The accumulation towards the 2009 retiree COLA stands at 1.5 percent based on the January 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 0.5 percent based on the January data. The 2008 FECA COLA of 4.3 percent, effective March 1, was announced a month ago. FECA COLAs are applicable only in cases where death or disability occurred more than one year prior to the adjustment’s effective date.

Note: Although the COLA formula included in the contracts of all four postal unions is identical, the NALC’s COLA of \$458 annually is \$21 less than the COLA payable to APWU- and NPMHU-represented employees, who will receive a COLA of \$479 annually. The one-penny-per-hour difference stems from a difference in the contracts’ base months, which results in different COLA amounts due to rounding rules. The base month for the NALC COLA clause is May 2007, while the base month used by the APWU and the Mail Handlers is July 2006. In the current adjustment period, the NALC COLA clause generates 22.9625 cents per hour, which by agreement rounds down to 22 cents per hour. The 0.9625 remainder (nearly a full penny per hour) has been banked and will be paid out in a future COLA. The APWU and NPMHU COLA rounds to 23 cents per hour.

Nearly 1,300 Branches in Food Drive; Coordinator’s Packets Going in Mail

New System for Awards to Top NALC Branches



Branch activity for the May 10 NALC National Food Drive is heating up and the official Coordinator’s Manual and other materials are ready for mailing to registered branches. As the NALC Bulletin went to press, the number of registered branches for the 2008 drive has swelled to 1,277.

At the same time, the NALC has received a unique drawing from famed syndicated cartoonists Bil and Jeff Keane to help promote the 2008 drive. A black-and-white slick of the cartoon, along with additional wordage and logos of the official national partners in the drive, is included in the packet being mailed to registered coordinators.

A digital version of the full-color cartoon is also available, if needed. Coordinators desiring one of the color versions should email National

Coordinator Drew Von Bergen with their request at vonbergen@nalc.org.

A new award system will be used this year to recognize branches that lead their membership categories in food collections. In 2008, NALC will present awards to branches in 10 membership categories that collect the largest amount of food in the drive. (The previous system gave awards to the top two branches in each of five membership categories.) The Campbell Soup Company will also donate 1,000 pounds of soup to a local food bank designated by each of the 10 winning branches.

The top branch in 10 membership categories (active and retired) will be honored:

Category I	1 to 49 members	Category VI	500 to 699 members
Category II	50 to 99 members	Category VII	700 to 999 members
Category III	100 to 199 members	Category VIII	1000 to 1499 members
Category IV	200 to 349 members	Category IX	1500 to 1999 members
Category V	350 to 499 members	Category X	2000 members and over.

Details regarding the awards and an Official Results Reporting Form will be mailed to all branch food drive coordinators shortly before the May 10 drive. In addition to the special soup donation, each winning branch will receive a plaque at the 66th Biennial NALC Convention in Boston July 21-25 in recognition of its accomplishment.