



National Association
of Letter Carriers

William H. Young, President
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NALC Bulletin

100 Indiana Ave. NW Washington, DC 20001-2144 202.393.4695 www.nalc.org

Young Urges Congress to Bolster Financial Status of Postal Service

Also Seeks End to Three-Day 'Waiting Period' Before Injured Postal Employees Get Benefits



NALC President William H. Young, left, gestures as he makes a point during testimony before the House Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service and the District of Columbia May 8 on implementation of postal reform legislation enacted in December, 2006. Also pictured are Mail Handlers President John Hegarty, center, and Rural Carriers Vice President Don Cantriel. (Photo by Mike Shea)

NALC President William H. Young told Congress May 8 that it should take three definitive steps to fix harmful financial problems not addressed in postal reform legislation enacted in 2006, and also to remedy an inequity affecting injured postal employees as a result of a provision that was included in the law.

Young, along with representatives of the Postal Service and other postal unions and management associations testified before the House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce, Postal Service and the District of Columbia on implementation of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act.

While noting that there has been an improvement in labor relations at the Postal Service – especially with the moratorium against contracting out of letter carrier work – Young said there was much that Congress could do to help the Postal Service now and in the future including passage of Vote-by-Mail legislation, and by addressing the threat of so-called Do-Not-Mail initiatives.

He asked Chairman Danny Davis (D-IL) to have Congress take three steps that could bolster the Postal Service's financial stability:

- Correct the calculation of the \$5 billion annual cost of pre-funding by the Postal Service of health benefits for postal retirees, which Young called "excessive." Such a step could save the Postal Service – and the stamp-buying public – hundreds of millions or even billions of dollars a year.
- Develop legislation to return to the U.S. Treasury the financial liability, currently imposed on the Postal Service, of the cost of Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) benefits associated with military service of postal employees similar to that transferred under postal reform legislation for Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) benefits.
- Reverse the decision by the Department of Health and Human Services to deny the Postal Service the employer subsidies provided by the Medicare Modernization Act for prescription drug benefits for tens of thousands of Medicare-eligible retirees.

"The Postal Service will face some very challenging times in the months and years ahead," Young testified. "NALC is committed to doing its part to help the Postal Service succeed. We hope Congress will do its part, too – as it has always done."

Young also raised one other important issue that came out of the haggling between Congress and the White House over postal reform – inclusion of a three-day waiting period on injured postal employees before they can begin receiving benefits under the Workers' Compensation program (OWCP).

"I was adamantly opposed to that provision because it is discriminatory," Young said. "No other group of federal workers is required to wait three days. Nobody has ever given me a good explanation of why injured postal workers should be singled out in this way."

"I urge the Congress to reverse this unfair provision as soon as possible," he concluded.

Financial Officer Training Available

NALC Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Broendel has announced that the School for Workers at the University of Wisconsin at Madison is offering a two-day program September 3 and 4 for union financial officers.

The class includes basic record keeping to assist in compliance with the requirements of the Landrum-Griffin Act, with a focus on records kept to comply with the LM-2, LM-3 and LM-4 regulations. The program will also concentrate on record keeping practices that are essential for branches facing audits by the Labor Department – including expense and credit card policies, maintaining records of minutes, receipts and disbursements. Also covered is auditing and financial planning and participants will spend a half-day in a computer lab working with Quick Books Pro. This will include setting up charts of accounts, payroll and generating useful reports.

The program begins September 3 at 8 a.m. at the Pyle Center on the campus of UW-Madison and concludes September 4 at 4 p.m. The \$325 registration fee includes tuition, lunches and breaks as well as a CD-ROM containing sample forms, spreadsheets and model financial standards and a copy of Professor John Lund's book *Auditing Local Union Financial Records*. Lodging is separate, but a block of rooms has been reserved at a rate of \$81/single and \$91/double at the Lowell Center (includes breakfast and parking). The direct phone number is (608) 256-2621.

Registration deadline is August 4 and enrollment is very limited. For information, call (608) 262-2112 or go to: <http://schoolforworkers.uwex.edu>. Online registration is accepted.

Connecticut Carriers Take Issues to Congress



In center photo, Sen. Joseph Lieberman (I-CT), c, chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, is thanked by President Young, r, and Connecticut State President Al Lacombe following his address to congressional breakfast of the Connecticut State Association of Letter Carriers May 9 in Washington. Others speaking included Rep. Christopher Murphy (D-CT), left photo, and Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), right photo. A large delegation of letter carrier activists also visited House and Senate offices to discuss letter carrier issues. (Photo by Mike Shea)

Headin' to Beantown!

Registration Deadline May 21 For NALC Boston Convention

66th Conclave Already Attracting 8,376 Members; Deadlines Near for Amendments/Resolutions

Only a few days remain until the deadline for registration of delegates for the 66th Biennial NALC Convention July 21-25 at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, hosted by NALC Boston, Massachusetts Branch 34.



Registration forms must be received at NALC Headquarters in Washington by Wednesday, May 21, along with housing requests and deposits.

The Boston convention is expected to be one of the larger in NALC history. Registrations totaled 8,376 members as of May 12. The record for officially credentialed delegates at a NALC Convention is 9,199.

The convention opens on Monday, July 21. Registration will begin on Saturday, July 19.

Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Broendel reminds members that May 21 is the deadline for submission of proposed amendments to the NALC Constitution to have them considered at the Convention, and also is the deadline to have any proposed resolutions printed in the *Resolutions and Amendments* book that will be provided to Convention delegates.

Proposed amendments and all resolutions should be sent to: Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Broendel, NALC Headquarters, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144.

Branch officials are reminded that when sending in the delegate eligibility list, also be sure to include the Delegate Registration and Hotel Reservation Form; if a branch is seeking a hotel reservation in the NALC block, be sure to include the arrival and departure dates.

The large number of registrations has caused a further increase in the number of hotels in the Official Convention Block, now at 21 hotels. **Because rooms are filling up rapidly, some branch delegations may need to be divided between two or more hotels to be included in the Convention Block.**

The latest hotels added to the Convention Block are: **Doubletree Hotel Boston Downtown**, 821 Washington St.; **Doubletree Club Hotel Boston Bayside**, 240 Mt. Vernon St.; and **Hampton Inn & Suites**, 811 Massachusetts Ave.

As with the other hotels, requests for housing must be made by May 21 through the National Secretary-Treasurer's Office and rooms will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. All requests must be accompanied by a completed Delegate Registration & Hotel Reservation Form, Room Reservation Form, Delegate Eligibility List and a \$185 deposit for each room requested.

Blood Drive Set

A special NALC blood drive will be conducted during the Convention under the auspices of the American Red Cross.

The drive will be conducted on Wednesday, July 23 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Grand Ballroom West at the Convention Center.

Appointments can be made by going to: www.bloodpartners.org/nalc.

Stamping Out Hunger!

Letter Carriers Deliver! Some Branches Report Record Donations While Others Reflect Economic Downturn



Photos (clockwise from top left) show Garden Grove, California Br. 1100 carrier Paul Gillette; North Coast California Br. 183 coordinators (l-r) Sylvia Parr, Paula Arguello and Linda James discussing plans with San Francisco District Manager Winnie Groux at Santa Rosa kickoff; Miami, Florida Br. 1071 carrier Fearon Williams showing off his haul; Lincoln, Nebraska Br. 8 carrier Kevin Hevelone collecting bags in the rain; Massachusetts Lt. Gov. Timothy Murray (4th from right) at Boston Br. 34 kickoff – pictured (l-r) are carriers Michael Kidd, Mike Gorchman, David Thureson and Phil Ronan, Murray, carrier Brian Manning, Boston Postmaster James Holland and Br. 34 President Robert Lind; and El Paso, Texas Br. 505 carrier Michael Mendoza with some of his pickup.

Early reports of donation totals from the 2008 NALC National Food Drive clearly show that letter carriers again have succeeded in delivering to the communities where they work and live – supplying local food banks, pantries and shelters with millions of pounds of food to help the needy through the summer months.

A number of branches have already reported in record poundage, but the effects of the nation's sagging economy showed its impact in other cities, causing drop-offs in some communities from last year.

The deadline for reports to be received at NALC headquarters is May 28. The final total will be announced June 2.

NALC President William H. Young thanked all letter carriers, other postal employees and volunteers for their unselfish sacrifice in order to help others in their communities.

"Letter carriers represented by NALC, as well as rural carriers in many areas, worked long and hard on May 10, delivering the mail and also collecting food donations," Young said. "Because of their commitment, millions of American families who are caught in an economic squeeze will be able to get sufficient nutrition as they look to better times ahead. Thank you all for your hard work and sacrifice. You have made our union proud."

Young also extended appreciation to the union's national partners in the drive – the U.S. Postal Service, Campbell Soup Company, Cox Target Media – Valpak; United Way of America and local United Ways; the AFL-CIO and its affiliated unions, America's Second Harvest and our longtime friend, cartoonist Bil Keane.

Send in Totals!

Branch coordinators should return their official results form immediately to NALC headquarters so that a national total can be tabulated and branch results published in the *Postal Record*. **Results must be received at NALC Headquarters by May 28 at the latest by mail, fax or email.**

Third Contract COLA at \$633

The accumulation toward the third cost-of-living adjustment under the 2006-2011 National Agreement stands at \$633 annually based on the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for April released May 14 by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The \$633 annually is equivalent to 30.4 cents per hour, or \$24.33 per pay period.

The third COLA will be based on the difference in the CPI-W between January 2008 and July 2008.

The accumulation towards the 2009 retiree COLA stands at 3.5 percent based on the April 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 2.4 percent based on the April data. FECA COLAs are applicable only in cases where death or disability occurred more than one year prior to the adjustment's effective date.