



National Association
of Letter Carriers

William H. Young, President
February 12, 2009 No. 09-03

NALC Bulletin

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Critical for Letter Carriers!

Young Points to H.R. 22 As Vital to USPS Future

Legislation Would Ease Onerous Pre-funding Demands

NALC President William H. Young delivered marching orders to legislative chairs and state presidents February 9 as they kicked off their annual training session in Washington and he had one main theme – make sure every senator and representative knows how important it is to letter carriers and the U.S. Postal Service that H.R. 22 is passed.

“If we don’t take care of this, we won’t have to worry about vote-by-mail, Employee Free Choice Act, or anything else,” Young said.



President Young addresses opening session of week-long training for state legislative chairs, emphasizing need for NALC members to lobby Congress to pass H.R. 22 quickly. (Photos by Joe Conway)

The critical need for Congress to adopt the legislation came to the forefront when Postmaster General John E. Potter testified before a Senate Homeland Security subcommittee and laid out the damage the current economic crisis has had on the Postal Service. Potter urged passage of H.R. 22, introduced January 6 by Reps. John McHugh (R-NY) and Danny Davis (D-IL), and suggested that if financial relief were not forthcoming, the Service might have to cutback on mail delivery and close more postal facilities.

While branding any threat to reduce six-day delivery as a “red herring,” Young agreed with Potter on the importance of H.R. 22 to the Service’s future and that of all letter carriers.

Existing law requires USPS to pre-fund its retiree health obligations, something no other agency of the federal government, state or municipal government, or private company in the U.S. economy is required to do. Even worse, USPS must set aside 80 percent of these projected costs over the next eight years – even though the very few companies that voluntarily pre-fund these benefits amortize them over 30, 40 or 50 years.

The 2006 Postal Accountability and Efficiency Act mandated pre-funding of \$5.5 billion to \$5.7 billion per year over a 10-year period. USPS has already paid \$32.6 billion into a special fund for this purpose. On top of that, the Service pays about \$2 billion per year for its share of current retiree health premiums.

Young said H.R. 22 would allow USPS to pay for its current retirees’ health premiums out of the existing retiree health fund, while continuing to build up its retiree health fund for the future. That change would save USPS \$2.6 billion a year and help the Postal Service avoid unnecessary service cuts.

Mail Volume Drops

The Postal Service announced February 4 that it had ended its first quarter (October 1-December 31, 2008) with a net loss of \$384 million as the economic recession contributed to a 5.2 billion piece decline in mail volume compared to the same period a year ago. The 9.3 percent drop marked the eighth consecutive quarter of accelerating volume declines. USPS is projecting that volume for the year will be down 12-15 million pieces.



At left, state chairs, NBAs, and national Auxiliary officers listen to President Young outline the union’s priorities on Capitol Hill for the 111th Congress. At right, NALC Northeast Field Coordinator Meaghan Slater makes a note during a brain-storming session for training participants.

Most Trusted – AGAIN!

For the fifth consecutive year, letter carriers and other postal employees are the most trusted federal employees, according to a new survey by the Ponemon Institute. As in every year since the survey started in 2004, the U.S. Postal Service ranked at the top of 74 federal agencies in the privacy trust survey.

In a USPS news release February 5, Delores Killete, USPS vice president and consumer advocate, made it clear that letter carriers are the focal point of the customers’ trust.

The release said:

“Killete attributed the number one ranking, in part, to the trusted relationship Americans have with letter carriers who deliver mail to every home and business across the country. Many know their letter carriers by name and see them as welcome and trusted members of the local community.”

The survey asked 7,000 Americans, selected at random, to rank federal agencies based on their ability to handle and protect personal information. Questions ranged from factors that create trust in an agency and how confident consumers are that the agency will protect their private information, to limiting the amount of information collected.

Special Ticket Discount for NALC Members For 2009 Harlem Globetrotters World Tour

NALC NALC members throughout the United States again this year have an opportunity for a special discount when they attend the 2009 “Spinning the Globe” World Tour of the legendary Harlem Globetrotters with their unique brand of family fun in over 200 cities.

Fans every year have been captivated by the Globetrotters’ basketball wizardry, hilarious antics and fan interaction, all presented by some of the world’s greatest athletes and entertainers.

The 243-game tour runs until the final week of April.

Now in their 83rd consecutive season of touring the world, the Harlem Globetrotters have played in 120 countries on six continents, entertaining more than 128 million fans and crossing barriers between cultures, societies and people from all walks of life. The Globetrotters are one of only six teams to be inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

Use the special discount ticket below for ticket purchases at the box office. To purchase tickets and get the NALC discount online, go to: www.harlemglobetrotters.com/NALC.



NALC Members

SAVE \$7

- Redeemable at the arena box office during normal business hours
- May not be combined with any other offers
- Not valid on Courtside or VIP seats
- Subject to ticket availability
- Must be redeemed at least 24 hours prior to game time
- Offer expires 5/1/09

www.harlemglobetrotters.com



For your convenience, this discount may also be redeemed online by finding your performance at www.harlemglobetrotters.com. Enter the password NALC in the Special Promotions/Discounts section on the ticket purchase page. Additional convenience charges will apply to online purchases.

Statement of President William H. Young On Compliance with National Agreement

Let me make the following clear to one and all, including Postal Service management at headquarters and in the field, and all letter carriers, at every level in the union and in every post office: No one, at any level, has any authority to amend or violate the national contract, period.

I continue to receive calls from branch officers who inform me that local managers have approached them and attempted to secure agreements to violate the national contract. These same managers have the audacity to suggest that I am cooperating with the Postal Service and that they should, too!

The plain fact is that I encourage cooperation with the Postal Service because I realize the current financial crisis requires cooperation, where appropriate.

If any manager approaches you with a suggestion for creative cooperation, advise them to send their ideas to USPS headquarters, which will then make the determination whether to present such ideas to us. Some of the ideas floating around now are not grounded in common sense. For example, the idea of prohibiting all carriers from working their non-scheduled day off, and then requiring non-ODL carriers to work overtime is a clear violation of the contract – one we will stop through the grievance procedure, and one that will cost the USPS dearly in the end. We must be mindful of the critical difference between contract amendment/contract violation on the one hand, and creative, positive cooperation on the other.

William H. Young

NALC JOINS RALLY FOR EFCA BILL

NALC President William H. Young (at front, far right facing camera) and scores of other NALC officers and staff listen to House Education and Labor Chairman George Miller (D-CA) during rally at U.S. Capitol in Washington in favor of passage of the Employee Free Choice Act. Petitions were delivered to Congress with more than 1.5 million signatures urging speedy action. The legislation would make it easier for employees to establish a union and also to achieve an initial contract once recognized.

(Photo by Mike Shea)



Host Branch Sought for 2014 Convention

NALC Branches interested in hosting the 69th Biennial NALC Convention in 2014 should notify Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Broendel in writing by March 16, 2009.

To host the convention, a city should have at least 4,200 hotel rooms within reasonable distance from a convention facility. The convention center must seat 8,500 delegates on one level and have appropriate meeting room space for workshops and offices.

In keeping with the rotation schedule as set forth in the NALC Constitution, branches in the Southern, Eastern and Northeastern Regions whose cities meet the above-stated requirements, will be considered.

(The next convention will be held August 9-13, 2010 in Anaheim, California, and the 2012 Convention is set for Minneapolis, Minnesota)

Over 1,100 Branches in May 9 Food Drive; Coordinators’ Packets Being Prepared

Postcard Order Forms Will Be in the Mail Shortly



Branch activity for the May 9 NALC National Food Drive is heating up and the official Coordinator’s Manual and other materials are in the final stages of production for mailing to registered branches. As the NALC Bulletin went to press, the number of registered branches for the 2009 drive jumped to more than 1,100.

Included in the packet that will be sent via Priority Mail to all branches that have registered for the 2009 drive will be forms for ordering FREE Campbell Soup/Priority Mail postcards to alert residents along postal routes of the drive (Spanish versions also are available); and a form for ordering the official full-color poster that is available at cost. Also in the packet will be a new DVD about the food drive for use at branch meetings, stand-ups in the workplace, and at local civic organization meetings, along with other materials to help branch coordinators.

The NALC has also received a drawing from famed syndicated cartoonists Bil and Jeff Keane to help promote the 2009 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. The cartoon will also be featured on the official food drive poster and will be included on the postcard.

A full-color and/or black and white digital version of the cartoon artwork is also available, as is artwork of the official “Stamp Out Hunger” logo, which depicts a large postage stamp. Coordinators desiring one of the versions should email National Coordinator Drew Von Bergen with their request at vonbergen@nalc.org.

Again this year, awards will be made to recognize branches that lead their membership categories in food collections. NALC will present plaques to branches in 10 membership categories that collect the largest amount of food in the drive. 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 branches 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 more.

Lumm Appointed Director of Education; McElroy to Special Assignment RAA

NALC President William H. Young has appointed James Lumm, regional administrative assistant since 2004 for Region 2 (Pacific Northwest) to a staff position at NALC Headquarters as Director of Education.

Lumm, 55, succeeds Ralph Goldstein, who retired after 24 years of service to the NALC.

“Ralph has been an outstanding member of our staff and has contributed greatly to the cause of letter carriers over the years,” said President Young. “We all wish him well in retirement and thank him for his service to the NALC.”

Prior to his stint as RAA, Lumm served for six years as a full-time Step B representative for the Dispute Resolution process in Region 2. That followed 10 years as director of education for the Washington State NALC, and five years as branch president in Kent, Washington. He began his postal and NALC careers in 1978 in Santa Barbara, California.

President Young also announced the appointment of Hugh McElroy of Rockville, Maryland Branch 3825 to serve as a Regional Administrative Assistant on Special Assignment to work at NALC headquarters on a project involving city-rural carrier issues.