



National Association
of Letter Carriers

William H. Young, President

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NALC Bulletin

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In Las Vegas!

Six-Day Delivery, Route Adjustments Dominate 2009 National Rap Session

President Young Announces Pending Retirement



Top row (l-r), Baltimore MD Br. 176 President Michael Smith asked question at Rap Session; Executive Vice President Fred Rolando gives an in depth report on the new route adjustment procedures; and Palatine, IL Br. 4268 President Carl Oefelein listens to answer to his question as others wait to take the mike. At bottom (l-r), Garden Grove, CA Branch 1100 member Ginger Austin signs up for series of workshops held on April 25; Vice President Gary Mullins presides at contract administration workshop, assisted by Dir. of Safety and Health Brian Hellman, Dir. of Life Insurance Myra Warren, and Asst. Sec.-Treas. George Mignosi; and President Emeritus Vincent R. Sombrotto receives a standing ovation when introduced at the Rap Session.

(Photos by Joe Conway).

More than 1,600 NALC leaders and activists from branches and state associations across the nation assembled at the Luxor Las Vegas Hotel April 25-26 for a 2009 National Rap Session and participated in workshops and an enthusiastic discussion of critical issues facing letter carriers, including route adjustments and the future of six-day delivery.



President Young presents an update on critical issues such as the six-day week and the financial future of the Postal Service to some 1,600 members at the National Rap Session April 26 in Las Vegas.

adjustment process, city delivery and contract administration issues, community service and Postal Service finances – all affected by the economic crisis that has swept the nation and caused concern for both the Postal Service and the NALC.

“Corporate greed got us to where we are,” Young said. “It was not working men and women who caused this recession. With Barack Obama as president, we have a chance to turn the economy around and to rebuild the Middle Class.”

Praises Campaign Workers

Young used the opportunity to praise all those letter carriers who were released to work on the various political campaigns last fall. He noted that although the NALC is only the 15th largest union in the AFL-CIO, it released more people for a longer time than any other union.

Young said most carriers would rather have stable routes, and for the first time, NALC has a seat at the table for route adjustments, urging members to support the ongoing route adjustment activity.

Although some time away, Young also discussed the next round of contract negotiations, which will be held in 2011.

“Our obligation as leaders is to make sure the benefits our predecessors got for us are not thrown away,” he said. “We will attempt to negotiate the best possible contract for our members as we have always done.”

No Delivery Cutback

Under questioning about a possible cutback to five-day delivery (as mentioned by Postmaster General John Potter), Young said Congress will never approve such a change.

“It would be the death-knell for USPS,” Young said. “Business expects six-day delivery and if we didn’t do it, someone else would swoop in and take it. That’s how business works: find a need and fill it.”

The topic of early-outs came up. Director of Retired Members Ernie Kirkland said it has yet to be determined whether the current VERA is an extension of the previous one or if it’s completely new.

Regarding the Committee on Letter Carriers Political Education (COLCPE), Young noted that when he began his term as president in 2002, COLCPE was spending \$1 million per two-year election cycle, funded heavily by retired members. He said the total now is \$3 million, and many more active letter carriers are donating to protect their future.

Saturday, May 9!

Letter Carriers’ Food Drive Effort Helps Millions of Hungry Families

Drive is Cited by First Lady Michelle Obama in DC Speech; Over 1,430 NALC Branches Join in Nationwide Collection



In left photo, Rep. Suzanne M. Kosmas (D-FL), center, is joined by former National Business Agent Matthew Rose, 2nd from right, and Jacksonville Branch 53 President Russ Dill, far right, in promoting the food drive at the congresswoman’s district office in Port Orange, FL April 17. Also pictured (l-r) are Josh Anijer, AFL-CIO Florida zone coordinator; Stacey Stepanovich, chapter president, Volusia/Flagler AFL-CIO Central Labor Council, and Frank Marinacci of Branch 53, NALC congressional district liaison. In right photo, Alexandria, VA Mayor William Euille, center, delivers a food drive proclamation to NALC Br. 567 Vice President Andre Washington, 2nd from left, and Postmaster John Budzynski, 3rd from right, at April 29 ceremony at Alexandria Main PO. Pictured, (l-r) are Br. 567 shop steward Michelle Robinson; Washington; food drive national coordinator Drew Von Bergen; Mayor Euille; Kenneth Miles Jr., manager, Customer Services; Budzynski; Kenneth Naser of ALIVE!, a recipient food bank; and Br. 567 food drive coordinator Brian McCormick.

(Photo by Jan Schrader, City of Alexandria).

Hundreds of thousands of NALC members, rural carriers, other postal employees and concerned citizens will engage in a generous act of volunteerism on Saturday, May 9, to help provide food for the growing number of American families facing hunger in these difficult economic times.

In addition to delivering their regular Saturday mail volume, carriers will pick up donations from their patrons and take them back to the post office where they will be prepared for delivery to local food banks, pantries and shelters in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Guam.

First Lady Michelle Obama cited the May 9 NALC drive in a speech April 30 in Washington about Americans who are helping others during the difficult economy.

“On Saturday, May 9th, the letter carriers from around the country will lead the charge in the nation’s largest single-day food drive,” Mrs. Obama said. “They’re asking everyone to leave non-perishable food donations in a bag next to your mailbox, and your postal carrier will pick them up when they deliver your mail. The effort is called “Stamp Out Hunger,” and last year over 73 million pounds of food were donated to food banks through this effort.”

NALC President William H. Young thanked all letter carriers in advance for the extra effort they will put in to help those impacted hardest by the economic crisis.

“There are countless families that are destitute – many where a job loss has hit for the first time – and with little or no income to feed, cloth and house themselves,” Young said. “Letter carriers have a proud history of community service and I am confident we will come through again on May 9.”

A special memo has been mailed to all branch food drive coordinators along with an official report form to let NALC headquarters know how much each branch has collected and to determine the top branches among 10 categories of NALC membership. Each winning branch will receive a NALC plaque and a donation of 1,000 cans of Campbell Soup for a local food bank or pantry.

Report forms of branch collections – mailed to food drive coordinators this week – are due back at NALC headquarters no later than Tuesday, May 26.

Clear Channel Radio Helps With Ryan Seacrest PSA

“American Idol” host Ryan Seacrest has joined notables helping to encourage donations for the May 9 NALC National Food Drive.

A 15-second public service announcement (PSA) spot by the Ad Council, featuring Seacrest, will air on many of the 800 radio stations owned by Clear Channel Radio, which reaches over 110 million listeners in all 50 states.

New York Carriers Lobby Washington



In left photo, freshman Rep. Christopher Lee (R-NY) is greeted by Executive Vice President Fred Rolando at New York Congressional Reception April 22, as Buffalo Branch 3 President Robert McLennan, looks on. In center, President Young speaks at New York rap session, with Vice President Gary Mullins at the left, and in right photo, Secretary-Treasurer Jane Broendel chats with new Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), who was appointed to seat formerly held by Hillary Rodham Clinton.

(Photos by Mike Shea)

No Fifth COLA Adjustment Yet

Following release of the Consumer Price Index for March for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) on April 16, there is still no projected accumulation for the fifth regular cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) period under the 2006-2011 National Agreement, nor any projected accumulation toward the 2010 retiree COLA.

The fifth contract COLA is to be based on inflation as determined by the CPI-W between January 2009 and July 2009. As announced previously, there was no pay adjustment for the fourth COLA period.

There also was no accumulation yet towards the 2010 retiree COLA following release of the March CPI-W by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The 2010 retiree COLA will be based on the increase in the average CPI-W between the third quarter of 2008 and the third quarter of 2009.

The projected accumulation toward the 2010 COLA for Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) participants stands at 1.2 percent through March. FECA COLAs are applicable only in cases where death or disability occurred more than one year prior to the adjustment’s effective date.