



National Association  
of Letter Carriers

Fredric V. Rolando, President

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# NALC Bulletin

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## President Obama's FY 2011 Budget Backs Continued Six-Day Delivery

### Pledge to Work for Strengthened Postal Service

President Obama's Fiscal 2011 budget proposal to Congress requires the continuation of six-day delivery by the U.S. Postal Service. The Obama administration also promised to work with postal unions and other stakeholders to keep the Postal Service strong for years to come.

In setting the amount in the budget for "revenue forgone" -- to cover the costs of free and reduced rate mail -- the spending plan says payments will be made "provided that 6-day delivery and rural delivery of mail shall continue at not less than the 1983 level...."

The proposal, submitted to Congress on February 1, also states:

"The Administration will work with the Postal Service, its employee unions, the Congress, and other stakeholders to make sure the Postal Service has the tools and authorities it needs to remain viable as a pillar of the American economy and a vital public resource through the current crisis and over the long haul."

Language in a separate section, however, proposes changes in the Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) that could be a problem. The NALC is checking the possible ramifications of those proposals and will act to protect letter carriers' interests.

Further information, including a link to the appropriate Budget language, is available on the union's Website: [www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org).

### First Class Service Praised Despite \$297 Million Loss

The Postal Service on February 9 reported that it had a net loss of \$297 million in the first quarter of this fiscal year, despite high scores in delivery performance.

"In spite of the financial challenges we face today, Postal Service employees never lose sight that customer service is our top priority," said Postmaster General John E. Potter, noting that on-time delivery for single-piece overnight First-Class Mail held at 96 percent for the fifth straight quarter.

"It's a tremendous result and we are proud to provide the highest levels of service to our customers," Potter said.

## Obama: Postal Privatization a 'Bad Idea'

In a citizen question-and-answer interview on YouTube, President Obama made clear that he **does not** support privatization of the U.S. Postal Service.



Obama, in answer to a question, said privatization of government services is "a bad idea most of the time" — and definitely a bad idea when it comes to the U.S. Postal Service."

The President said private firms like Fedex and UPS, would love to handle profitable deliveries, such as business-to-business, but he added that "those companies would not want to provide universal service" such as delivery of a postcard to a remote location.

A link to the YouTube interview is available on the union's Website: [www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org).

### Baseball Night Ticket Order Form



Los Angeles vs. Kansas City Royals  
Tuesday night - August 10, 2010



I would like to order the following tickets for my branch (delegates, spouses, children) for the Baseball Night game at the 67th NALC Biennial Convention in Anaheim (Checks should be made out to: Secretary-Treasurer, NALC).

(Please Print)

Reserved tickets @ special NALC price of \$10 each (payment encl.) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Branch # \_\_\_\_\_

Branch City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Name and phone # of person picking up

Branch tickets at convention: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Return the form as soon as possible, with a check or money order for full payment, to:  
NALC Baseball Night; 100 Indiana Ave., NW; Washington, DC 20001-2144

## 'Snowmageddon' Reinforces Letter Carriers As Heroes of United States Postal Service

### Some Deliveries Interrupted, but Most Get Through As East Coast Blizzards Close Federal Government

When Herodotus was talking about 'Neither snow nor rain, nor heat nor gloom of night ... etc.' it is doubtful he had in mind the kind of blizzards that swept along the East Coast during the past week, challenging normal life from Washington to Boston.



The Washington Post featured NALC member Jason Herald (insert) on its front page coverage of the blizzard that struck the East Coast. (Photo by Dayna Smith/The Washington Post)

This might be a normal day in Buffalo or some of the Plains States, but in Washington, DC it literally paralyzed everything, including the federal government, which shut down offices for four days. It had such an effect that President Obama dubbed it "Snowmageddon."

At the height of the blizzard, mail delivery was briefly suspended in Washington, DC, Philadelphia and Baltimore and numerous other smaller cities and towns.

But despite the conditions, letter carriers heroically did everything they could possibly do to make sure that mail got delivered to homes and businesses along their routes. And it was not missed on the general public or on the news media.

Once again, letter carriers were the face of what the public loves about the U.S. Postal Service

— dedication, public service, resilience, and simply going above and beyond what anyone would expect.

The persistence of letter carrier was so evident that The Washington Post — one of the most respected newspapers in the nation — devoted a huge portion of its front page on February 10 to three photos of NALC Branch 3520 member Jason Herald delivering mail in Fairfax City, Virginia, just south of Washington, DC and then had an article headlined: "Even in snow, mail carriers still manage to deliver."

Herald told the Post that he just escaped an avalanche of snow coming off the roof of a two-story home as he approached the front door.

"I saw it coming at the last second and backed out of the way," Herald said.

Several other newspapers and radio and television stations from the Atlantic Coast to Ohio heralded the dedication of letter carriers and pleaded with postal customers to clear paths in the snow to aid them.

*Union City*, the blog of the Metro Washington AFL-CIO Labor Council, highlighted its report on February 11 on the Post article by reporter Tom Jackman, and noted Herald's NALC membership.

And in McKeesport, Pennsylvania, Postmaster Daniel Lyons told the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* he was very proud of the efforts letter carriers were making.

"I don't think people fully understand just how difficult it is," Lyons said.

### ATTENTION: Branch Presidents!

## Convention Baseball Tickets Available for Branch Orders

The NALC has reserved 7,000 tickets to the Los Angeles Angels-Kansas City Royals baseball game on Tuesday night, August 10 for a special NALC Baseball Night at the 67th Biennial Convention in Anaheim.

President Rolando and other NALC officials will participate in special pre-game ceremony at Angels Stadium prior to the 7:05 p.m. opening pitch.

The tickets are being made available by NALC to its branches at a special reduced price of \$10 per ticket for NALC delegates and family members, which includes bus transportation to and from the game to Convention hotels. Branches must purchase the tickets in block and must include a check for the total cost with their order. Tickets will not be sold individually.

Seating will be allotted on a first-come, first-served basis, based on the date of receipt of full payment. There are no refunds.

To obtain the tickets, mail in the adjacent form together with a check for the entire amount. Branches must designate one individual to pick up the tickets at the special Baseball Booth at Convention Registration.

There is limited handicapped seating at Angels Stadium. Please indicate with your order if any special handicapped seating is needed.

Questions should be directed to Drew Von Bergen, NALC director of public relations, at [vonbergen@nalc.org](mailto:vonbergen@nalc.org).