



National Association  
of Letter Carriers

Fredric V. Rolando, President

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# NALC Bulletin

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## DON'T BE MISLED!

# Only Congress Can Authorize The End of Saturday Service NALC '5-Day is the Wrong Way' Web Site Launched

The Postal Service has presumptuously and brazenly set up a website to lull the public into believing that the elimination of Saturday delivery and collections service is a done deal. The NALC reacted quickly to this deception and launched its own '5-Day is the Wrong Way' page on the union's web site.

On March 24, the USPS issued a press release announcing the web site which offers misleading information and "planning guides" for businesses and households on the seemingly imminent change to five-day delivery. The action follows an attempt to confuse letter carriers and other USPS workers about the same issue in a slick postcard sent to every postal employee.

There is just one problem with all this: It's *NOT TRUE*.

**"The arrogance of the Postal Service in this campaign to sell five-day delivery as the answer to the Postal Service's problem is astounding," said NALC President Fred Rolando. "Given that Congress has shown very little interest in eliminating Saturday service, the Postal Service should focus its energies on real solutions, not risky and counterproductive service cuts."**

The Postal Service took the outrageous step to launch the deceptive web site:

- Despite the fact that current law requires 6-day delivery and that Congress has not given its approval to the Postal Service's proposal to cancel delivery and collections services on Saturday;
- Despite the fact that neither the Appropriations Committees nor the Postal Service's oversight committees have even held hearings on the radical proposal to slow service and destroy 50,000 to 80,000 good jobs in the middle of a jobs crisis; and
- Despite the fact that the Postal Service has not even filed for an advisory opinion from the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC), which must hold hearings and subject the Postal Service's questionable financial claims to democratic scrutiny.

**"What makes matters worse is that the Postal Service is sending a very confusing message to Congress," Rolando said. "Just a week ago, the PMG told a Senate hearing that 'we wouldn't have to go to five-day delivery' if Congress corrected the deeply flawed retiree health pre-funding policy'."**

Over the past few years, the NALC has led the drive to reform the pre-funding policy. That drive has been assisted in recent months by reports by the Postal Service's own Inspector General that show that, measured accurately, the USPS surplus in the Civil Service Retirement Fund is large enough to fully fund future retiree health benefits. Fixing this problem would save the USPS at least \$8 billion annually — far more the speculative \$3 billion annual savings the USPS claims it can get from reducing service.

"The Postal Service should stand down on this reckless drive to end Saturday delivery — it would do more harm than good and it distracts us from the real solution, eliminating the crushing burden of a deeply flawed pre-funding policy," Rolando added.

NALC has mobilized its grassroots lobbying network to challenge the Postal Service's plans and will vigorously participate in the PRC proceedings on Saturday delivery.

**In order to combat the misleading information offered by the Postal Service, NALC has launched a new page on its web site dedicated to making the case that "5-Day is the Wrong Way." A press release issued on March 26, notified the media and general public about how they can "learn the whole story" about the Postal Service's wrong-headed plans. Go to [www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org).**

In the weeks and months ahead, NALC will use its e-Activists, Carrier Corp volunteers and all the staff and resources of its national headquarters office to fight for retiree health funding reform and continued universal service, six days per week. It will also seek to inform the public and key decision makers through a targeted media campaign and other activities. Carriers who are not e-Activists are encouraged to sign up on the NALC's web site.

## State Chairs Strategize Against USPS Plan



NALC President Fred Rolando, left, and AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, right, were among numerous speakers and panel members who addressed NALC state legislative chairs during their week-long annual workshop in the nation's capital March 22-26. The sessions were aimed at developing the strategy the union will implement shortly to fight USPS efforts to reduce mail service to the American public. The chairs were briefed throughout the week by NALC's legislative and political experts.

(Photos by Joe Conway)

## Sombrotto Reflects on 1970 Postal Strike At 40th Anniversary Smithsonian Panel



NALC President Emeritus Vincent R. Sombrotto, center, led a two-hour discussion of the 1970 Great Postal Strike in a 40th anniversary presentation March 20 at the Smithsonian Institution's National Postal Museum in Washington. Sombrotto holds up memorabilia from a referendum taken by New York City Branch 36 to engage in striking without waiting for the national union to approve such action. Other presenters at the discussion, video-streamed worldwide on the Internet, were APWU President William Burrus, left, and George B. Gould, retired NALC director of legislative and political affairs, who was a staff official of a key postal subcommittee at the time.

(Photo by Mike Shea)

## Workers Memorial Day Set for April 28

With a theme of "Good Jobs, Safe Jobs. NOW," letter carriers on April 28 will join their brothers and sisters in the labor movement in observance of Workers Memorial Day to commemorate the anniversary of enactment of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) nearly four decades ago.

NALC Director of Safety and Health Brian Hellman is urging NALC branches to join in local observances by the AFL-CIO and other affiliated unions.



**"This is an appropriate opportunity also for branch officials to do a special check up on how postal management is meeting its obligations for health and safety in the workplace," Hellman said. "When things get tight, too often it is health and safety issues that get overlooked or ignored."**

Special AFL-CIO kits to help NALC branches participate in Workers Memorial Day are available by contacting Hellman at NALC Headquarters — (202) 393-4695, or go to the AFL-CIO website.

## NALC Secretary-Treasurer Broendel Honored

NALC Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Broendel was among 11 union women honored March 18 in Washington with the first annual Working Women's Awards by the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) for their extraordinary achievements, leadership and for being exemplary models for working women who seek to advance in their workplace, union and community.



Secretary-Treasurer Jane Broendel, right, holds her award as she receives congratulations from CLUW President Karen J. See, left, and CLUW presenter Christi Rojas of the United Steelworkers union.

(Photo by Bill Burke/Page One)

Among those honored along with Broendel were AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler and AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Arlene Holt Baker, as well as two CLUW presidents emerita — Joyce D. Miller and Gloria T. Johnson.

The event was held in conjunction with Women's History Month.

"I am truly honored to be recognized along with a number of women who had first broken the 'glass ceiling' in the American labor movement," Broendel told the gathering. "But I'm here representing the hundreds of women activists at all levels of the NALC and other unions, who over the last few decades have served in a multitude of capacities, demonstrating their dedication and ability in representing their sisters and their brothers."

## Ohio Letter Carriers Lobby Capitol Hill



Just as Congress took up final passage of health insurance reform and held hearings on USPS' financial situation, NALC members from Ohio hit Washington on their annual lobbying excursion March 16-18. A delegation of Cleveland-area activists visits with longtime NALC friend Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-OH), center, to discuss issues.

(Photo courtesy of Todd Brew)

## Seventh COLA Has No Accumulation Yet

With the continuing weak economy, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for February, released on March 18 by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, reflected no accumulation yet for a cost-of-living adjustment during the seventh COLA period under the 2006-2011 National Agreement. The period runs from January to July of this year.

**The CPI-W stood at 633.105 in February, still below the 644.303 level attained in July 2008. As previously reported, there was no COLA for the sixth contract period.**

There also has not yet been any projected accumulation toward the 2011 retiree COLA based on the February CPI-W.

The projected accumulation toward the 2011 COLA for Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) participants, which is based on the increase in the CPI-W between December 2009 and December 2010, remained at 0.4 percent through February.