



USPS 'Death Spiral' Quote of the Week

"The value of going to four days – removing a second day – is even greater."

– Postmaster General John E. Potter, quoted in May 10 Washington Post article after telling customers in Nashville that he hopes Saturday deliveries would end next spring, and noting that Tuesdays are the second-slowest day of the week.



National Association
of Letter Carriers
Fredric V. Rolando, President
May 14, 2010 No. 10-09

NALC Bulletin

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

Specter, Pennsylvania House Members Pledge Support of Six-Day Mail Delivery



Top photo shows Sen. Arlen Specter (D-PA) addressing the annual congressional breakfast of the Pennsylvania State Association of Letter Carriers in Washington as President Rolando and Executive Vice President Gary Mullins listen at the right. After Specter voiced his opposition to cutting back to 5-day delivery, hundreds of carriers in the audience, wearing their special T-shirts, rose and showed their preference for six-day delivery. (Photos by Mike Shea)

Longtime letter carriers' friend Sen. Arlen Specter (D-PA) was straightforward in his unabashed opposition to cutting back on six-day mail delivery in an address May 6 to a congressional breakfast of the Pennsylvania Association of Letter Carriers during its annual lobbying trip to Washington.

Hundreds of legislative activists attended the breakfast wearing their blue 'STOP 5-Day Delivery' T-shirts.

"I like your T-shirts. I've been fighting for six-day delivery for 30 years," Specter said. "What would Saturday be like if the mail didn't arrive?"

In his remarks to the gathering, NALC President Fred Rolando chastised the Postal Service's leadership at L'Enfant Plaza for its misguided push to cut service for the American people.

Unsubstantiated Figure

He said the Service's emphasis on a potential \$238 billion loss by the Postal Service was using "an unsubstantiated figure with no basis in reality" and "assumes a worst-case scenario." He also accused the Service of misleading the American people with material it is putting up on a special website.

"We are the Postal Service, we are not going to let management fool the public," the NALC leader said to a rousing cheer from the carriers as he pledged to continue to fight on their behalf as this issue is debated in the months ahead throughout Washington.

In his remarks, Specter also pledged to continue fighting for NALC-backed legislation if successful in a tough primary and then returned to Washington for another six-year term. In the midst of his current term, Specter switched from Republican to Democrat.

Specter's sentiments were echoed by numerous House members of the Pennsylvania delegation, many who announced their co-sponsorship of H.R. 173 which states that it is the sense of the House of Representatives that six-day delivery be maintained.

'You're Loved ... Trusted'

"I have real concerns about going to five-day," said Rep. Glenn Thompson (R-PA), who also thanked letter carriers for conducting their annual food drive. Rep. Jason Altmire (D-PA) pledged to "fight to keep six-day" and Rep. Jim Gerlach (R-PA) said he looks forward "to working with you to keep six-day delivery."

"You know you're loved. You're trusted by the people on your routes," Gerlach said.

"I like getting my mail on Saturday," said Rep. Tim Murphy (R-PA) pointedly.

"We're going to fight to keep six-day delivery that my constituents want," added Rep. Kathy Dahlkemper (D-PA).

At the Texas reception, held a week later in Washington, Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) told Lone Star State activists that she would continue her support of letter carriers as she had done in the past.



President Rolando explains the union's strategy to fight the Postal Service's proposal to cut back service to the American people to five days at a Texas NALC congressional reception in the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill. Texas State Chair Mickey Morris observes. At right, Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson greets a Texas activist.

Letter Carriers Top 1 Billion Lbs. In 18 Years of Annual Food Drive

Branch Reports Indicate Highly Successful Effort



East Lansing, Michigan Branch 2555 carrier Judy O'Rorke, left, shows off her haul amid some inclement weather while collecting for the May 8 NALC food drive. In center, carrier Tom Green and retiree Mickey Weiland help unload food at a warehouse for the Branch 22 drive in New Castle, Pennsylvania, and at right, Portland, Oregon Branch 82 carrier Isham Harris transfers some of his collection.

NALC members across the nation, from Hawaii to Maine and Alaska to Florida, worked double duty on May 8 delivering the mail and then collecting and delivering tens of millions of pounds of food donations from their postal customers to community food banks, pantries and shelters in a historic "Stamp Out Hunger" drive that pushed the total for the 18-year effort over the 1 billion pounds mark.

NALC President Fredric V. Rolando praised all NALC members and their rural carrier counterparts, as well as other volunteers whose dedication and compassion to help feed needy families in their communities has been the hallmark of the drive's success.

"You all were fantastic," Rolando said. "I'm sure there were a lot of sore backs and tired legs by the end of the day, but there also was the satisfaction of knowing that you sacrificed for a good cause."

"Our union and its members are proud to provide a helping hand to the millions of citizens on our routes who recognize that hunger in America is a continuing problem and want to assist their neighbors in time of need," Rolando said in releasing early data on the drive results. "Collecting these donations from the mailbox and taking them to local food banks and pantries is in keeping with our motto of 'Delivering for America'."

Partial reports received at a special Internet site (see May 3 NALC Bulletin) showed 19,724,393 pounds had already been counted, enough to push the 18-year drive total above 1 billion pounds. The total after the first 17 years was 982.7 million pounds. Reports were still pending from more than 1,000 local branches.

From California to Reno to the Ozarks and up to northern Minnesota, and across to Massachusetts and down to Florida, reports were coming in of record collections – due to some very good weather and the expansion of plastic bags being delivered to customers along with the postcards.

"I really think the people of the Ozarks just dug deeper to help the people," coordinator Tammie Yates of Ozark Mountain Branch 203 told the *News-Leader* in Springfield, Missouri.

In Albert Lea, Minnesota, where they had the third-largest amount in the 18 years, coordinator Scott Pirsig told the *Tribune* that the branch ran out of "thank you" cards because there were so many donations.

"I wish we could knock on every door and thank every person," Pirsig said. "It's not a success without everyone pitching in."

Last year, a record 73.4 million pounds of food were delivered to community food banks and pantries. Rolando said the early figures indicate that this year's total could match or exceed the 2009 level despite the poor economy.

Final official results of this year's drive, which was conducted in more than 10,000 cities and towns in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam and Puerto Rico, will be announced on June 1.

In addition to praising the carriers and other volunteers, Rolando expressed special appreciation to the union's national partners in the drive: the U.S. Postal Service, Campbell Soup Company, National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, Valpak, United Way Worldwide, the AFL-CIO and the Feeding America food bank network. He also thanked "Family Circus" cartoonists Bil and Jeff Keane, who again provided artwork to promote the drive, as well as to David Arquette, Courteney Cox, Ashley Force Hood, and Ryan Seacrest, who generously made celebrity endorsements.

Final Reports Due at NALC by May 25

Final reports by NALC branches on poundage collected in this year's food drive **MUST BE RECEIVED** at NALC Headquarters in Washington by May 25 for compilation of a final national total, as well as for inclusion in branch-by-branch totals to be published in the July *Postal Record*.

Only these final reports (forms were included with a special memo sent to all branch food drive coordinators) will be used. The partial, unofficial amounts entered on the independent Internet site will not be utilized further. The final reports will also be the only amounts used to determine the 10 branches to receive honors for collections in their membership category, and the resultant donation of 1,000 cans of Campbell Soup to a designated local food bank or pantry.

Final results should be mailed to:

NALC Food Drive Results
100 Indiana Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20001-2144

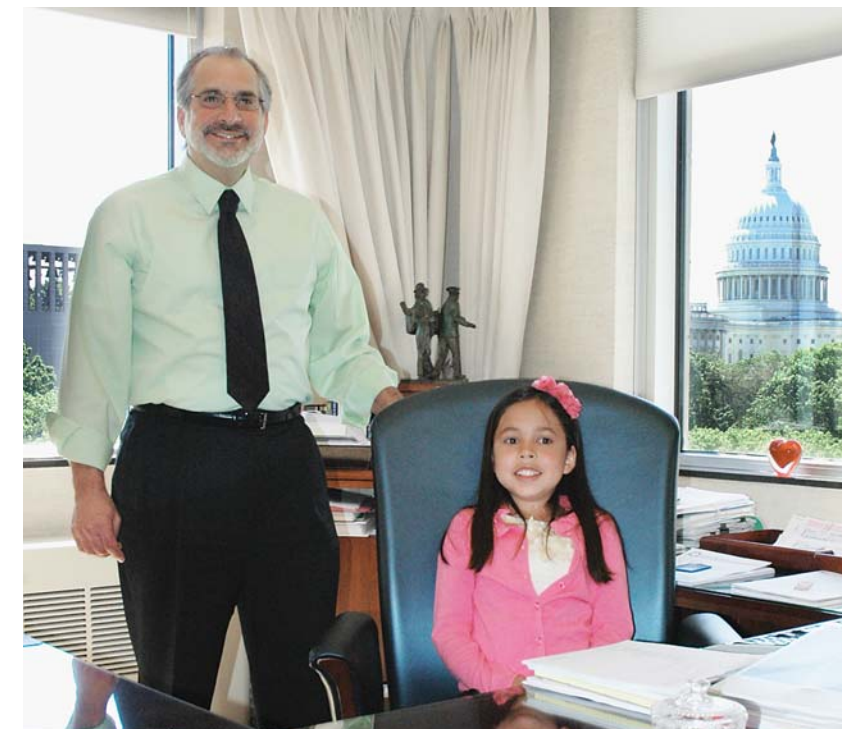
or faxed to (202)737-1540, or e-mailed to

vonbergen@nalc.org. Any faxed or e-mailed reports should also be mailed in as a backup.

\$1 = 1 Pound

Although the NALC does not encourage monetary donations along the route as part of the food drive, some customers nevertheless leave checks or cash in envelopes. This can be included in the poundage reported by branches, BUT only at the rate of one (1) pound per \$1.

MDA Ambassador Visits NALC Headquarters



MDA 2010 Goodwill Ambassador Abbey Umali of Redland, California, tries out President Rolando's chair in his office at NALC headquarters May 4 as Rolando beams approvingly. Abbey visited the union headquarters along with her parents, Joel and Wendi Umali, and Muscular Dystrophy Association program director Tom Boyle as the NALC moves forward to increase donations this year to fight muscular dystrophy and related illnesses.

Convention Baseball Tickets 'Sold Out'

All 7,244 special reduced-price NALC Night tickets available for the August 10 baseball game between the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim and Kansas City Royals on the second night of the 67th NALC Biennial Convention have been sold. Branches that have purchased those tickets will pick them up at the Baseball Ticket booth in the Convention Registration area on Saturday and Sunday.

Shuttle buses will be provided to transport the delegates from all hotels to and from the game.

Ticket availability was determined on a first-come, first-served basis. For those whose requests arrived at NALC headquarters after the tickets were sold out, their checks are being returned along with information on how regular-priced tickets may still be purchased directly from the Angels ticket operation by going to the single-game ticket website of the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim at http://losangeles.angels.mlb.com/ticketing/singlegame.jsp?c_id=ana. Tickets may also be purchased at the Angels Stadium ticket office, Ticketmaster locations or Ticketmaster by phone at 800-745-3000.