



National Association
of Letter Carriers

Fredric V. Rolando, President

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NALC Bulletin

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

Spreading the word

Rolando makes White House, TV, radio appearances

During the holidays, NALC President Fredric V. Rolando took advantage of a number of opportunities to debunk some myths about the U.S. Postal Service's finances and to tout the many good things letter carriers do as we deliver for America six days a week.

Rolando, along with AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka and about a dozen labor leaders in all, was invited to meet with President Barack Obama Dec. 17 in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. There, the group held a productive discussion about American jobs and joblessness and how to address the difficult times facing workers. Rolando had a chance to raise the issue of Postal Service finances, including the onerous mandate to pre-fund future retiree health benefits, and he spoke about the many challenges facing the Postal Service and letter carriers.

Then, on Dec. 19, Rolando appeared on CNN's "State of the Union" program, one of the leading Sunday morning network talk shows, and described to host Candy Crowley how the Postal Service can adapt to the "Age of the Internet."

Rolando noted, for example, that the Postal Service is probably the fastest growing "division" of competitors FedEx and UPS, delivering the last mile for each by taking their parcels door to door. "It makes more sense for us to do it," he said, "because we go to every house, while they may go to every 50th house or 100th house.

"What you have here," he said, "if you take the mail out of the equation, you've got this incredible universal network of the American people—probably the only universal network—that goes to every home, every business six days a week."

Rolando later kicked off 2011 with an appearance on "The Skeptical Economist," a Fox Sunday morning radio show broadcast from Indianapolis on News Talk 1430 WXNT. Show host Peter Dunn said that his initial hypothesis for his Jan. 2 show was, "Is the United States Postal Service the worst-run business in America?"

"How quickly I may have disproven that to myself," he said, noting that after speaking with Rolando, "there's evidence that the United States Postal Service may be the best-run business in America."

On the show, Rolando said, "You don't have any other kind of universal network like you have with the Postal Service. We've just got to look to the future as we come out of this recession and see how much of the mail comes back from the recession and how much has gone to the Internet, and we've got to adjust our business model. And the employees of the Postal Service and the unions are more than willing to take the lead and figure out what needs to be done to make the Postal Service successful."

Rolando told Dunn and his audience that the biggest challenge the Postal Service is not the recession, nor is it electronic diversion of the mail to the Internet, but rather the mandate to pre-fund future retiree health benefits.

"We have no objection to this pre-funding," Rolando added. "We just want to take our surplus money from the Civil Service Retirement System and transfer it over to make these [annual pre-funding] payments."



FREDRIC ROLANDO
Pres., National Association of Letter Carriers

Struck Iowa carrier recovering slowly

Greg Kline, a 23-year letter carrier from Bettendorf, IA, is slowly recovering from serious injuries he suffered when a vehicle struck him as he walked his route Dec. 22.

Kline was crossing the 1300 block of West 3rd Street in Davenport when he was hit by a van, which caused numerous broken bones, including several skull fractures, as well as other injuries. Kline was airlifted to the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, where he was treated in the intensive care unit.

On Jan. 4, Kline was able to get out of bed and stand for the first time since the accident. Although he was scheduled to be transferred out of the ICU Jan. 7 and sent to a hospital closer to his home, he still faces a long recovery and rehabilitation.

Kline, an Army veteran, is a shop steward for Davenport Branch 506 and lives in Bettendorf with his wife Faye. He has two daughters.

Donations and cards may be sent to Kline and his family in care of NALC Branch 506, P.O. Box 911, Davenport, IA 52805.



Leadership Academy:

The members of the 10th Leadership Academy class received their certificates of completion in a ceremony at the National Labor College in suburban Washington Dec. 17. Beginning last July, the graduates—two representing each of the NALC's 15 regions—spent three non-consecutive weeks at the college taking in classes taught by NALC officers and headquarters staff members. Subjects included dispute resolution, public speaking skills, effective communications, the National Agreement and branch financial management. Between their classroom work at the NLC, students spent many hours with their mentors back home—usually a branch officer or national business agent—on homework assignments designed to develop their leadership skills. Participants for both of the 2011 classes have been selected, and the 11th class is set to begin its work in Washington Jan. 10. To clarify information in the January *Postal Record*, no decision has yet been made regarding participants in 2012 classes.



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President appoints RAAs

NALC President Fredric V. Rolando has announced the appointment of three regional administrative assistants.

James D. Henry (Region 1) became a letter carrier in 1988 after serving in the Marine Corps. Since then, he has served in several offices for Garden Grove, CA Branch 1100, from steward to chairman of the executive board to senior vice president. Henry has also worked on the dispute resolution team. He recently retired from the Marines as a reservist. As an RAA, he replaces Christopher Jackson, who was elected Region 1 national business agent last summer at the NALC Convention in Anaheim.

Mark Sims (Region 5) has been a letter carrier and NALC activist for 31 years. After serving as president of Springfield, MO Branch 203 and a Region 5 arbitration advocate, Sims came to NALC Headquarters in 2006 to work in the Contract Administration Unit. He replaces Dan Pittman, who was elected Region 5 NBA by the Anaheim convention.

Monica L. Walker (Region 8) has served as a letter carrier and NALC member since 1998. Her union offices have included Baton Rouge Branch 129 secretary and Louisiana State Association of Letter Carriers president. She also edited her branch newsletter and coordinated its food drive efforts. Walker is an NALC Leadership Academy graduate. She replaces Peter Moss, who was elected Region 8 NBA during last summer's convention.

A couple of friendly reminders

MDA: Local NALC branch fundraising totals for the Muscular Dystrophy Association in 2010 must be mailed to National MDA Coordinator Jim Williams c/o NALC Headquarters no later than **Jan. 15**. The form is available online at nalc.org/commun/mda.

Food Drive: The 2011 NALC National Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive is May 14—the second Saturday in May. Since it began in 1992, the drive has been held on the second Saturday in May, which often places it on the day before Mother's Day—but not always. Some calendars for 2011 were printed listing an incorrect date, on the assumption that the drive takes place on the day before Mother's Day. So please, mark your calendars now for the correct date: **Saturday, May 14**.

February 14-18

Advanced OWCP training for branch representatives scheduled

The NALC is offering advanced Office of Workers' Compensation (OWCP) training for branches with OWCP representatives who have experience representing injured workers as well as a serious interest in increasing their knowledge about OWCP issues and sharpening their representation skills.

The training will be held Feb. 14-18 at the National Labor College in Silver Spring, MD, just north of Washington. **There are only 30 spaces available for this class.**

Retired Assistant to the President for Compensation Ron Watson and an instruction team of NALC Headquarters staff will provide a theoretical grounding in OWCP law and regulations and how these intersect with our National Agreement with the U.S. Postal Service. The training also will offer in-depth and hands-on instruction on representing members when a claim is pending, accepted, denied or appealed. Employees' Compensation Appeals Board (ECAB), schedule awards and National Reassessment Process (NRP) issues also will be covered. Students can expect to spend up to 12 hours a day in the classroom, followed by evening assignments. For this reason, students are required to stay overnight at the Labor College.

The application form to attend the advanced OWCP training is printed below and is available online at nalc.org. **It must be completed and returned to NALC Headquarters no later than Jan. 14.**

Branches will be responsible for all transportation, lodging and related expenses. Do not make airline reservations before receiving confirmation of acceptance from the NALC Director of Education. The NALC has secured a rate of \$199 per day at the National Labor College, which includes a single-occupancy room and all meals. Lodging, reservation and payment information will be included in the letter of acceptance.

NALC ADVANCED OWCP REPRESENTATION SCHOOL

Application Form

NALC Branch No. _____ submits the following application to attend the
Advanced OWCP Representation class February 14-18 in Silver Spring, MD.

Name: _____ Contact phone # _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

E-mail address _____

Branches are responsible for all expenses travel and lodging. **Do not make airline reservations until receiving confirmation of acceptance from the NALC Director of Education.** The NALC has secured a rate of \$199 per day (\$995 total) at the National Labor College which includes a single-occupancy room and all meals. Lodging, reservation and payment information will be included in the letter of acceptance.

If this applicant is not initially selected, should he/she be kept on a waiting list for a possible cancellation?

YES NO

Briefly describe the applicant's experience representing injured workers with OWCP related issues. (How long, how many cases, what type, etc.) Attach an additional sheet if necessary.

Applicant's signature _____

Branch president's signature: _____

Mail completed form to: NALC Director of Education
100 Indiana Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20001-2144

NALC HQ Use Only
Date Rec'd: _____
App. # _____
By: _____