



NALC

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Bulletin

Declaration promises joint efforts

Postal unions form alliance

Declaring that “the U.S. Postal Service is under unprecedented attack,” the four postal unions announced on March 14 the formation of an alliance to fight back to preserve America’s postal service for the benefit of the public.

“A congressionally manufactured financial crisis drains the USPS of vital resources,” the union presidents wrote in a proclamation. “Six-day delivery is under constant threat of elimination. The reduction of service standards and the elimination of half of the nation’s mail processing centers have slowed service and wiped out tens of thousands of good jobs. Post offices in cities and small towns are being sold or closed or having their hours cut back.

“Corporate privatizers seek to gain control over larger segments of postal operations—and to get their hands on the Postal Service’s \$65 billion of annual revenue. The postmaster general’s policies of subcontracting and degraded service are fueling the privatization drive,” the proclamation declared.

“We stand with the people of our country in defense of their right to a universal postal service operated in the public interest.”

The goal of the alliance is to enlist public support in preserving the national treasure that is the U.S. Postal Service. The USPS is based in the Constitution, provides Americans with the world’s most affordable delivery network, and is operationally profitable without using a dime of taxpayer money.

The proclamation was signed by National Association of Letter Carriers President Fredric Rolando, American Postal Workers Union President Mark Dimondstein, National Postal Mail Handlers Union President John Hegarty and National Rural Letter Carriers’ Association President Jeanette Dwyer.

National day of action planned



In a spirit of solidarity with the other craft unions, NALC President Fredric Rolando is encouraging all NALC members to join with the members of the APWU and the other postal unions in a national day of action on Thursday, April 24, to protest the privatization of postal retail services at Staples stores.

“As we proved in our successful 2007 campaign against the contracting-out of mail delivery,” Rolando said, “Americans value and deserve postal services provided by highly trained, uniformed and accountable employees who work directly for the Postal Service, not for an office-supplies retail chain. Just as the members of the APWU stand with the NALC in our battle to preserve six-day mail delivery service, so do letter carriers stand with our brothers and sisters in this fight against privatization.”

Visit stopstaples.com to stay informed and to join the fight.

As Saturday, May 10 nears

Preparations for Food Drive intensify



As Saturday, May 10, draws ever closer, letter carriers in more than 1,200 branches nationwide are full steam ahead to get ready for the 22nd annual Letter Carriers’ Food Drive.

“Too many people in this country are still going hungry every day,” NALC President Fredric Rolando said. “As letter carriers, we see this firsthand in just about every community we serve. But we aren’t the type of folks who simply move on to the next delivery and hope someone else will do something about it. Instead, for more than two decades now, our members have taken the lead in the effort to help solve this ongoing national problem.”

Last year, with the help of thousands of volunteers,

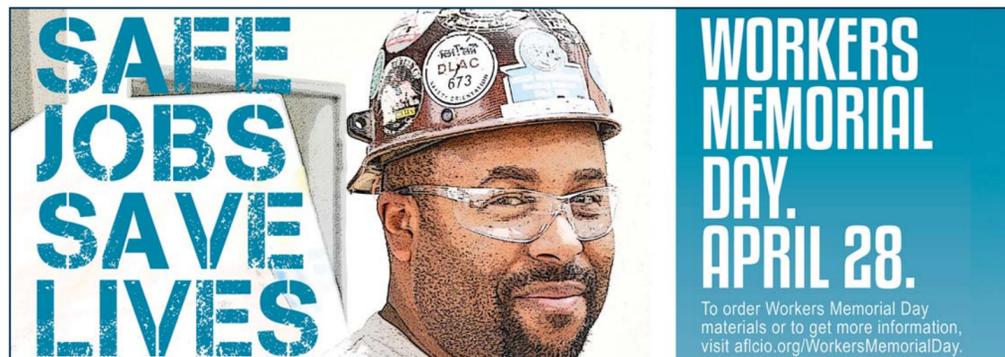
letter carriers all across America collected more than 74.4 million pounds of non-perishable food—the second-highest amount since the drive began in 1992, bringing the grand total to just under 1.3 billion pounds.

Food banks and shelters usually benefit from an upswing in charitable donations during the winter holiday season. By springtime, however, their stocks tend to dwindle to critically low levels. “Helping local support organizations deal with this post-holiday lull in donations is the main reason we hold our national drive on the second Saturday in May,” Rolando said, adding that since many school meal programs are suspended during summer months, millions of children are left scrambling to find alternate sources of nutrition.

As usual, support from national sponsors and partners also will prove crucial to the food drive’s success this year, and Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe has pledged the Postal Service’s full backing to the drive. “We’ll continue to encourage all postal employees across the country to support the food drive by collecting donations, delivering postcards and promotional bags, and doing everything they can to make this year’s food drive the best in our history,” Donahoe said.

The other national sponsors are United Way, Feeding America, Campbell Soup Co., AARP Foundation, the Publix grocery store chain, direct-mail marketing companies Valassis Communications and Valpak, Uncle Bob’s Self Storage, the AFL-CIO and the National Rural Letter Carriers’ Association.

Get the latest food drive information from the NALC website at nalc.org/food. Those with questions about the drive should contact NALC Community and Membership Outreach Coordinator Pam Donato at 202-662-2489, or send an e-mail to donato@nalc.org.



In Philadelphia July 21-25

Convention planning on track

The 69th Biennial NALC Convention is in Philadelphia July 21-25 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. Here are some things you might find useful to know:

NALC Baseball Night at Citizens Bank Park is Tuesday, July 22. Tickets to the Philadelphia Phillies–San Francisco Giants game are \$24 each, which includes bus transportation for those staying at NALC-block hotels. Tickets must be purchased in blocks by branch presidents, and any branch hoping to get seats for the game should act immediately. Download the ticket order form from nalc.org or see the form in the April *Postal Record*, then mail it along with a check or money order made payable to “Secretary-Treasurer, NALC” for the total amount, to: NALC Baseball Night; 100 Indiana Ave. NW; Washington, DC 20001-2144. All ticket orders must be received by June 1. If your group wishes to be seated together, all baseball ticket orders must be received in the same envelope. Tickets will be available for pickup in the registration area; there will be no refunds on purchased tickets. Orders that cannot be filled will be refunded.

The **retiring officers’ dinner** will be held on Thursday, July 24, at the Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Hotel. Tickets are \$80. Download the ticket order form from nalc.org or see the form in the April *Postal Record*, then mail it along with a check or money order made payable to “Secretary-Treasurer, NALC” for the total amount, to: Retiring Officers’ Dinner; NALC Secretary-Treasurer; 100 Indiana Ave. NW; Washington, DC 20001-2144. The tickets will be held for pickup at the Retiring Officers’ Dinner ticket booth located in the convention registration area. Guests wishing to be seated at the same table must submit their ticket orders and payment together in the same envelope (maximum eight guests per table). Order form and payment must be received by June 1.

For those **traveling by rail to the convention**, Amtrak is offering a 10 percent discount off the best available rail fare to Philadelphia between July 18 (three days prior to the start of the convention) and July 28 (three days following the last day of the convention). To book your reservation, call Amtrak at 800-872-7245 or contact your local travel agent. Reservations cannot be booked via the Internet; be sure to refer to Convention Fare Code X42S-990 when making your reservation. This offer is not valid on the Auto Train and Acela Service. Fare is valid on Amtrak Regional for all departures seven days a week, except for holiday blackouts. Offer valid with Sleepers, Business Class or First Class seats with payment of the full applicable accommodation charges.

In addition, for those **traveling by rail with a companion**, Amtrak offers a 30 percent companion rail fare discount for travel into Philadelphia. The discount requires two people traveling together round-trip, and it can be booked only via the “Book It Now” link at amtrak.com/VisitPhilly. The companion fare discount requires that reservations be made three days in advance; complete terms and conditions can be found at amtrak.com/VisitPhilly.

As at past conventions, **tours will be offered for families** to explore the city while delegates are working on convention business. Nine different tours of Philadelphia will be offered. For full tour descriptions, visit the convention page at nalc.org. To sign up for a tour online, visit toursignup.com/NALC or complete the form in your April *Postal Record*. Tours are cancelable and refundable (less a small fee) until June 30. Many tours sell out in advance. Subject to availability, tours can be purchased on-site at the tour desk inside the Pennsylvania Convention Center, Hall C.

Go to nalc.org for more convention news.



Buffalo letter carrier dies on duty



Buffalo-Western New York Branch 3 letter carrier Leo Sucharski, 76, died on Sunday, March 9, following an injury he sustained while on duty. Three days earlier on March 6, after delivering the mail, Sucharski had returned to his Eastside Station post office and parked his two-ton truck in the parking lot. After he got out of his vehicle, he reportedly slipped and fell on a large patch of ice, hitting his head. Another letter carrier came over to help Sucharski, who was then taken by ambulance to a hospital where he later died. Sucharski is survived by his wife, Annette, a sister, three children and six grandchildren. “I ask all letter carriers to join me in sending our deepest condolences to Leo’s family at this difficult time,” NALC President Fredric Rolando said.

Retired letter carrier receives Medal of Honor



Retired San Antonio letter carrier Santiago Erevia was among two dozen veterans who received on March 18 the military’s highest award, the Medal of Honor. President Barack Obama cited Erevia who, as a 23-year-old Army SPC4 in Vietnam, gave first aid to his wounded comrades and single-handedly destroyed four enemy bunkers. Erevia is one of three living recipients of the March 18 award. Another living honoree, Jose Rodela, is a retired mail handler. The honors were presented following a congressional review to determine whether any service members, from World War II onward, had been wrongly denied the Medal of Honor due to racial or religious bias. (Screen grab from KSAT-TV.)

New scanners are on the way



The Postal Service recently announced a contract with Honeywell International Inc. to produce the next generation of handheld scanning devices for letter carriers. The new scanner, called the Mobile Delivery Device (MDD), will eventually replace the Intelligent Mail Device (IMD), as well as the cell phones that most letter carriers have been pairing with the IMD to transmit scan data.

After USPS engineering tested the durability of about a dozen devices, NALC held several meetings with the Postal Service to discuss the best way to test them and determine which one was best suited for our jobs. Letter carriers were deeply involved in device tests, and fortunately, the Postal Service wound up choosing the device that the letter carrier-testers liked best.

The new MDD has a large screen and a full keyboard of both numbers and letters, and its scanning capability is a vast improvement over the IMD.

The first phase of the deployment will take place this summer and the new scanners will be assigned to approximately 75,000 city and rural routes, mostly in major metropolitan areas and other areas involved in the same-day and Sunday parcel delivery initiatives.

The second phase is expected to include an additional 75,000 routes and be completed by the end of calendar year 2014, with the final phase of deployment to cover all city and rural routes taking place in 2015.

Read more about the new scanner in Director of City Delivery Brian Renfro’s column in the April *Postal Record*.

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