



NALC

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# Bulletin

## New 'Questions and Answers' on city carrier assistants

On March 15, the national parties updated the "Questions and Answers, 2011 USPS/NALC National Agreement" with a new jointly developed document, numbered M-01870 in the Materials Reference System (MRS).

M-01870 may be found on the NALC website in the MRS located under the "Workplace Resources" tab.

As with the three previously developed sets of questions and answers, M-01870 provides the mutual understanding of the national parties on issues related to the 2011 USPS/NALC National Agreement.

This document fully replaces the March 6, 2014, "Questions and Answers, 2011 USPS/NALC National Agreement" (M-01833).

It is separated into two sections: the first concerning city carrier assistants (CCAs) and the second section addressing other contractual provisions.

The document contains several new questions and responses. All of the previous questions and answers from M-01833 are included in M-01870; however, some of the previous question numbers have changed. They are arranged in the order in which related articles of the National Agreement appear. Each addition and change are identified by underscoring in M-01870.

NALC Director of City Delivery Brian Renfro explained the changes in detail in his column in the April issue of *The Postal Record*. The column is also available at [nalc.org](http://nalc.org).

## Public unions score victory with Supreme Court decision

On April 5, the Supreme Court deadlocked 4-4 in a case that had threatened to cripple the ability of public unions to collect fees from workers who chose to not join and did not want to pay for the unions' collective-bargaining activities.

"Today, working people have persevered in the face of another attack on our rights," AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka said. "All over the country, working people are showing that we won't allow wealthy special interests or their politicians to stand in our way to join collectively and make workplaces better all across America."

A ruling in favor of the plaintiffs would have affected millions of government workers and weakened public-sector unions, which stood to lose fees from those who simply chose not to join while benefiting from the unions' efforts on their behalf.

Because of the deadlock, the lower court's ruling will stand, but the ruling will apply to this case only and will not set a precedent.

**Saturday, May 14**

## 24th annual Food Drive is just around the corner

The Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive is held each year on the second Saturday in May. This year, that's Saturday, May 14.

But on Food Drive Day and the days that follow—if past drives serve as any indication—many of us likely will hear from customers who missed the drive, or forgot about it.

"So many of us put so much time and effort into the food drive each year that it's hard to understand how the people we see on our routes at least six days a week could not know about it," NALC President Fredric Rolando said.

"That's why making sure we do what we can to spread the word about the food drive is so crucial to ensuring its success," Rolando said.

Thanks to backing this year from our new national food drive partner, the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW), every postal customer this year should receive a postcard in the mail that serves as a tangible food drive reminder. And courtesy of a generous grant again this year by another important national partner, the U.S. Postal Service, the postcards are sent postage-paid through the use of the special G-10 permit. (The other national partners are the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, United Way Worldwide, AFL-CIO, Valpak and Valassis.)

If the situation presents itself, Rolando said, carriers should take advantage of that special one-on-one relationship we have with our customers to let them know about the drive.

"If you're handing a customer a letter or package in person," he said, "something as simple saying, 'Don't forget the food drive is on Saturday,' could go a long way toward gaining the drive a place on that person's mental calendar."

Bags, of course, also contribute mightily to food drive success. Paper or plastic, if a postal customer receives a specially marked food drive bag in the mail or at the grocery store, it often can double or even triple that patron's donation.

But bags can be expensive, and it usually takes the generosity of a local or regional sponsor to help defray the costs. That's why every postal customer doesn't get a special food drive bag—at least not yet.

In the meantime, though, letter carriers can still count on traditional, tried-and-true marketing materials to help effectively get the word out about the food drive.

"With the permission of your local managers," NALC Director of Community Services Pam Donato said, "work with your fellow employees—in the letter carrier craft and as well as the others—to get them to wear food drive gear on the day of the drive as well as in the days leading up to it.

"Also, ask your postmaster if you can put up a food drive poster," she said, "and look on your route for businesses that allow notices to be placed in windows or on community boards."

"Letter carriers are communicators," President Rolando said. "Our job is to deliver messages—in envelopes or boxes—to every address in this country at least six days a week. I am confident that we will all do our very best to help ensure that every postal customer is fully aware that our annual food drive will take place once again this year on the second Saturday in May."

For those customers who still might miss the message and the drive, Donato has some reassuring words: "In most cases, let those folks know that we'll gladly accept a make-up bag of food set out by the mailbox on the following Monday, or they can take the food directly to their nearest post office or local food bank."

Last year's drive gathered 70.6 million pounds of food, bringing the grand total to more than 1.4 billion pounds since the annual national drive began in 1993. Questions? Need help? Contact your branch or regional food drive coordinator; the latest contact lists are posted at [nalc.org/food](http://nalc.org/food).



Actor Edward James Olmos (c) is the celebrity spokesperson for the 2016 food drive. Olmos recently recorded English and Spanish public service announcements promoting the drive and featuring letter carriers and members of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union.

## Delivering the cure for MDA

The NALC embraced the Muscular Dystrophy Association as its official charity in 1952, becoming the first official national sponsor of the group founded in 1950.

In the decades since, NALC members have used scores of techniques to raise money for MDA, from bowlathons and fill-the-satchel events to raffles, pancake suppers, golf tournaments and backyard carnivals.

Every year, NALC honors those branches that deserve special recognition and thanks for their work in raising money for MDA. The grand total for calendar year 2015 was \$1,162,121.

In addition to being cited in the April *Postal Record*, the branches that won their categories for 2015 will have an opportunity to attend a special function designated by NALC President Fredric Rolando.

Last year, NALC announced three levels of donating for MDA reporting. For 2015, there were 29 branches at the gold level. The highest level of per capita was recognized as the winner of a new prize (replacing the former Grand Prize): the Gold Winner. For 2015, that was **Manteca, CA Br. 4249**, raising \$122.73 per capita.

Here are the Gold Level winners in each branch-size category:

- Category 1 (2,000+): Long Island Mgd., NY Br. 6000, \$57,487
- Category 2 (1,500-1,999): Portland, OR Br. 82, \$22,821
- Category 3 (1,000-1,499): Arizona Mgd. Br. 1902, \$15,137
- Category 4 (700-999): Northeastern NY Br. 358, \$20,122
- Category 5 (500-699): Grand Rapids, MI Br. 56, \$22,265
- Category 6 (350-499): Yonkers, NY Br. 387, \$11,487
- Category 7 (200-349): Green Bay, WI Br. 619, \$13,313
- Category 8 (100-199): Fargo-West Fargo, ND Br. 205, \$15,892
- Category 9 (50-99): Jefferson City, MO Br. 127, \$8,371
- Category 10 (10-49): New City, NY Br. 5229, \$3,373

The April issue of *The Postal Record* contained a listing of all branches that NALC is aware of having made a contribution to the efforts to provide help and hope to families affected by muscular dystrophy. If you do not see your branch listed, or if the amount listed is inaccurate, please contact Geneva Kubal by e-mail at [mda@nalc.org](mailto:mda@nalc.org) or by phone at 202-756-7403.



## New Region 12 RAA appointed



Brian Thompson

NALC President Fredric Rolando has appointed New Castle, PA Branch 22 President Brian Thompson as regional administrative assistant for NALC Region 12, which serves letter carriers in Pennsylvania and in southern and central New Jersey. Thompson replaces Ray McDonald, who retired. Thompson served as Branch 22 president since 2010. Previously, he served terms as Branch 22 executive vice president, secretary/treasurer and shop steward. Thompson also served NALC members in Region 12 as an arbitration advocate, as NALC District Team lead, on the Evaluation and Adjustment Team and/or NALC Core Tech throughout all of the joint route adjustment processes, and he served on the Pennsylvania State Association of Letter Carriers' executive board. In 2013, Thompson participated in the National Joint Task Force for Article 8, Route Adjustment, Workplace Environment and City Delivery. He is a graduate of Leadership Academy Class 8. Thompson's appointment was effective April 4.

**Aug. 15-19**

## Information for NALC's 70th biennial convention in L.A.

**Delegate eligibility lists:** Delegate eligibility lists for NALC's 70th biennial national convention in Los Angeles Aug. 15-19 have been mailed to all branches. The lists must be completed and returned to Secretary-Treasurer Nicole Rhine's office at NALC Headquarters no later than June 15 in order for branch representatives to be registered as delegates to the convention.

Any branch that has not received its delegate eligibility list should have the branch president or secretary contact the Secretary-Treasurer's office at NALC Headquarters immediately.

Delegate and housing packets are not sent to branches until the properly completed delegate eligibility list is returned to the Secretary-Treasurer's office.

**Hotels:** The original block of hotels for the convention is full. NALC is aware of the issue and is working to add additional hotels for convention delegates.

If your branch has received your delegate credentials/hotel information but has not made room reservations, we recommend that you fill out the housing form that was enclosed with your credentials, listing your preferred hotels from the original hotel list, and send it either by e-mail or fax to the housing bureau. This will assist NALC in determining the number of additional hotels needed.

Please note that if rooms are not available for your preferred hotel, you will be placed in one of the hotels being added to our block.

The contact information for the housing company is included in the housing instructions, which is sent with the credential packet. Please do not contact the hotels. All room reservations will be made through the NALC's official housing bureau.

**Amendments and resolutions:** All proposed amendments to the *NALC Constitution* to be submitted for consideration at the convention must be received by Rhine's office by June 15. That date is 60 days in advance of the convention, as prescribed by the *Constitution*.

Proposed amendments will appear in this July's *Postal Record* for the membership to review.

Resolutions to be considered by delegates also must be received by the June 15 deadline in order to be printed in the *Resolutions and Amendments* book provided to delegates.

Resolutions received after June 15 still may be considered at the convention.

**Branch sales:** Branches wishing to sell items in the designated branch sales area during the convention must contact Rhine's office no later than April 18 to secure guidelines and forms. The completed forms must be returned to Headquarters by May 2.

**Time limits waiver:** NALC and the U.S. Postal Service have agreed to a 31-day moratorium on time limits for the processing of all grievances at the local, regional and national levels due to the 70th biennial NALC Convention.

Under M-01874 (available for review under the Materials Reference System at [nalc.org](http://nalc.org)), the moratorium starts on Aug. 7 and concludes on Sept. 6.



## National Association of Letter Carriers

100 Indiana Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20001-2144  
202-393-4695 | [www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org)

**Fredric V. Rolando, President**

**EDITORIAL STAFF:**  
Philip Dine, Director of Communications and Media Relations  
Mike Shea, Designer/Web Editor  
Joe Conway, Internet Communications Coordinator  
Rick Hodges, Writer/Editor  
Jenessa Kildall, Editorial Assistant

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