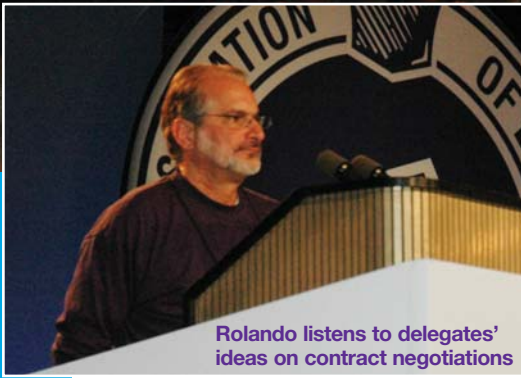




Friday, August 13,
covering the
FOURTH SESSION,
Thursday, August 12

NALC Convention Chronicle



Rolando listens to delegates' ideas on contract negotiations

Delegates weigh in on bargaining strategy

As if facing the pressures of a deep recession, dropping mail volume and a worldwide trend toward increased competition weren't enough, letter carriers face the difficult task of negotiating a new contract with the Postal Service. Although the current contract does not expire until November 2011, National Association of Letter Carriers President Fredric V. Rolando took the opportunity Thursday to listen to suggestions for potential negotiation strategies.

"This will be the most difficult round of contract talks in our history," Rolando told the delegates.

On a day focused on that arduous journey toward a fair contract, a virtual sea of blue was formed by the thousands of "3 Ways to Save 6 Day" T-shirts that displayed NALC members' commitment to doing all they can to put the

USPS on firm financial ground—by giving to COLCPE, registering as e-Activists, and pledging to join the Carrier Corps. After 50 minutes of discussion with President Rolando, delegates directed the national leadership to consider entering contract negotiations early to maximize the union's chances for success, and they expressed their confidence in the president and the rest of the Executive Council.

Call to order

Following some contemporary musical entertainment provided by the Memphis Letter Carrier Band, President Rolando called the convention to order Thursday shortly before 10 am. George Elias of San Diego Branch 70 sang the national anthem, and James Henry, Third Senior Vice President of Garden Grove, CA Branch 1100, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Bishop James Carrington, Pastor of Friendship Baptist Church in Yorba Linda, CA, gave the invocation.

Rolando first announced that Friday morning's workshops would begin at 7 and conclude at 8:30, and that the general session would begin at 9 to allow delegates enough time to get to the AFL-CIO jobs rally in downtown Los Angeles.

Box lunches and T-shirts will be distributed to participants, and no luggage is allowed on the buses to the rally.

The president then invited Teri Lin, the widow of Hao Yun "Eddie" Lin, to the podium along with members of his family, including his three children. A member of Garden Grove Branch 1100, Lin died June 3 on his route from injuries resulting from a dog attack. Teri Lin thanked the delegates for the overwhelming support they had extended to her and her family following the tragedy.

Next, Rolando introduced Odd Christian Overland, president of Postkom, the union representing letter carriers in Norway. Overland described his union's struggle with the pressures of competition and privatization in both Norway and throughout Europe.

Calling mail service "a part of the necessary infrastructure of a well-functioning society," Overland said postal services worldwide already face competition from the Internet, so labor unions must prepare for difficult times regardless of the competition they face from other delivery providers.

Delegates from 621 branches

Rod Holub, Manhattan, KS Branch 1018, chair of the Credentials Committee, then took the stage to



Odd Christian Overland



The family of fallen carrier Eddie Lin

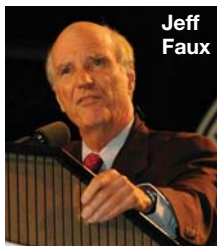


present the committee's final report. He also introduced the committee members: Craig Bishop, Br. 133 Sacramento; Alton Branson, Br. 142 Washington, DC; Kathleen Dahlman, Br. 540 Camden, NJ; Marie Didier, Br. 825 Oak Brook, IL; John Dyce, Br. 385 Gainesville, FL; Ethel Ford, Br. 283 Houston; Robbie Gardiner, Br. 116 Ft. Wayne, IN; Tom Gates, Br. 916 Portland, OR; Laurie Miale, South Florida Br. 1071; Carol Ann Rasmus, Br. 67 Elizabeth, NJ; Brian Simmons, Br. 18 SE Massachusetts Mgd; Amy Tuscherer, Br. 205 Fargo; Monica Walker, Br. 129 Baton Rouge; Mike Williams, Br. 47 Denver; Delano Wilson, Br. 2611 Silver Spring, MD; Carol Woods, Br. 201 Wichita; and James Yates, Br. 6000 Long Island, NY Mgd.

Holub reported that 28 national officers, 71 at-large delegates, and 7,253 branch delegates had been issued credentials for the convention, for a total of 7,352. Delegates from 621 branches represent all 50 states, the District of Columbia and three territories.

President Rolando then announced the appointees to the National Election Committee: Joe DeRossi, Br. 41 Brooklyn; Pam Donato, Br. 9 Minneapolis; Antonia Shields, Br. 530 Birmingham, AL; Mack Julian, Br. 11 Chicago and Ricardo Guzman, Br. 70 San Diego.

Next, Rolando introduced Jeff Faux, a distinguished fellow at the Economic Policy Institute. Faux described a long-term trend that began three decades before the current economic crisis—the end of the growth in wages that began after World War II.



Jeff Faux

“It’s no accident this happened at the beginning of the 1980s” after the election of President Ronald Reagan, he said, because Reagan’s encouragement of cheap overseas production and busting American unions stopped wages in their tracks. If the wage growth trend had continued, said Faux, average wages today would stand at double their current level.

Though unions are a strong backstop against eroding wages, Faux warned that even union members will face pressure to hold down pay. “You people here work for a great institution,” he said, “and you’ve got a great, strong, union, but no one can escape what’s happening in the labor force.” Faux said the economy needs more federal stimulus spending to boost the recovery. “If nobody spends, nobody works—this is the lesson from the Great Depression.”

“That was very helpful,” Rolando said as the rap session concluded. “We have a pretty good idea of what you’re thinking. It’s right where we’re thinking. Let’s see what’s happening in Congress, see what’s happening with the finances.”

Mini rap session

To gather input from the delegates about the upcoming renegotiation of the National Agreement, President Rolando led a mini “rap session” to discuss a number of strategic ideas. He warned that pressure for concessions will be fierce, and that the political environment could turn negative following the congressional elections this fall.

Rolando presented three options the union’s leadership had discussed: waiting until the contract nears expiration next fall to begin talks; bargaining jointly with the American Postal Workers Union and National Rural Letter Carriers’ Association, both of which have contracts expiring this year; or beginning negotiations early if postal management engages the NALC as a willing partner. He said the Executive Council was leaning toward the last option. “We can try to seek win-win solutions that take advantage of letter carriers’ key role in the Postal Service,” he said.

Rolando then opened the floor to comments about these or any other ideas for the best negotiating strategy, and delegates offered a range of suggestions. Some noted that legislation the union is pushing to correct the \$50 to \$75 billion Civil Service Retirement System overpayment by the Postal Service would greatly relieve pressure for concessions and should be a top priority. Other delegates rejected the joint negotiation option, given the weakness of the other unions’ bargaining positions.

The convention adopted a motion from the floor urging the Executive Council to explore the third option of exploring the possibility of early negotiations. Several delegates expressed their trust in the national leadership team’s ability to vigorously represent letter carriers in the next round of negotiations.

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We say “community”



Billy Hayes

Billy Hayes, general secretary of the Communication Workers Union, which represents letter

carriers in the United Kingdom, then addressed the convention. He said his workers face pressure to privatize from governments motivated by extreme ideology. “It’s not about reason, it’s not about rationality, it’s about dogma,” he said.

Hayes urged letter carriers and unions worldwide to work together for a united front against efforts to privatize postal agencies or degrade service. “When they say ‘profit,’ we say ‘public.’ When they say ‘competition,’ we say ‘community.’ And when they say ‘five days,’ we say ‘six days.’”

Resolutions

President Rolando then called to the podium Director of Life Insurance Myra Warren for consideration of General Resolution 6, which urged the NALC to take a position on racially divisive laws such as Arizona’s SB-1070. The NALC Executive Council’s disapproval, based on the understanding that the union does not normally take a position on lightning-rod issues that have little to do with letter carrier pay and benefits, was upheld following a brief discussion.

Coming to the stage next was Health Benefit Plan Director Tim O’Malley to continue consideration of general resolutions. O’Malley noted that the Executive Council had initially disapproved Resolution 7, which proposed distributing the *Carriers in a Common Cause* book to new and recent NALC members. However, the maker of the resolution, Oregon’s state association, amended it to the council’s satisfaction before it was brought to the convention floor for final consideration. Delegates gave their assent to the council’s approval, and it also upheld the disapproval of Resolution 9, which had proposed that the NALC categorize and publish presidential rulings.

Vice President George Mignosi took the microphone to lead consideration of a floor resolution that called for providing NALC members online access to arbitration awards in digital format. The resolution, approved by the Executive Council, was passed by the convention.

Then, noting that this was the last time he would take the stage at a national convention to lead a discussion of resolutions, retiring Executive Vice President Gary Mullins told delegates that Legislative Resolution 6, pressing for opposition of individual health care mandates, had been withdrawn. After a brief discussion, the convention upheld the

Opposite page: Delegates who participated in the 1970 Postal Strike gathered at the front of the hall for a group photo before the session began.

Executive Council's disapproval of Resolution 1, which called for the NALC's support of the 2009 Fair Tax Act. President Rolando then led delegates in a "letter carrier cheer" for Mullins.

Mileage and Per Diem

Called to the stage next was Mileage and Per Diem Committee Chair Antonia Shields of Birmingham, AL Branch 530, who introduced her committee's members: Trina Charles of Havelock, NC Branch 4970; Antoine Thigpen of Chicago Branch 11; and Jim Walzenbach of San Diego Branch 70.

Shields reported that, on the basis of a \$416.08 allowance, the total per diem cost was \$52,426.08 and the mileage allowance total was \$8,350.75, bringing the combined mileage and per diem allowance to \$60,776.83. The convention gave its assent to the committee's recommendation of approval.

COLCPE awards

Next, President Rolando turned to awards for member contributions to the Committee on Letter Carrier Political Education (COLCPE), the letter carriers' political action fund. He noted that 7.6 percent of the mem-

bership contributes to COLCPE via one of the available automatic donation methods, with 5.7 percent of active and retired carriers giving at the Gimme 5 for COLCPE level of \$5 per pay period.

"Before the convention started, 3,395 delegates had not given to COLCPE this year," Rolando noted. "I hope all of you rectified that this week." He then asked members wearing special COLCPE T-shirts to stand and be recognized.

COLCPE Awards based on the period 7/9/2008 to 7/16/2010

Branch with highest percentage of members contributing: Branch 57 Newport, RI
State with highest percentage of members contributing: Mississippi (Sharon Stockstill, State Chair)

Region with highest percentage of members contributing: Region 8 (Lew Drass, NBA)

Gimme 5 Awards

Branch with highest percentage of members contributing, 50-99 members: Branch 938 Hattiesburg, MS

Branch with highest percentage of members

contributing, 100-499 members: Branch 57 Newport, RI

Branch with highest percentage of members contributing, 500-999 members: Branch 860 Honolulu

Branch with highest percentage of members contributing, 1,000-1,999 members: Branch 181 Austin, TX

Branch with highest percentage of members contributing, 2,000-3,999 members: Branch 70 San Diego

Branch with highest percentage of members contributing, 4,000 or more members: Branch 1071 Miami, FL

State with highest percentage of members contributing: Hawaii State Association (Terry Kaolulo, State Chair)

Region with the highest percentage of members contributing: Region 8 (Lew Drass, NBA)

President Rolando then conducted two COLCPE contest raffle drawings. He first reached into a drum containing the names of all Gimme 5 contributors and drew out a ticket bearing the name of Stephen Lipski of South Jersey, NJ Branch 908. Lipski is the winner of a trip for two to next year's NCAA basketball finals, which includes a pair of tickets to the "Final Four" and the national championship game, airfare, a three-night hotel stay and a per diem for expenses.

The winner of a second raffle for lump-sum donors who aren't automatic givers was Raymond Eisenberger of Norristown, PA Branch 542, who won a 42-inch flat-panel high-definition television.

Scholarship Committee

Coming to the stage next at President Rolando's invitation was the Scholarship Committee, chaired by Jackie White of Los Angeles Branch 24. White first presented her committee's members, Sandy Laemmel of Detroit Branch 1 and Art Muoio of Rochester, NY Branch 210. Each member then read a portion of the committee's report and thanked delegates for their contributions to the scholarships created in memory of former NALC President William Doherty and John T. Donelon, longtime assistant to three NALC national presidents. Laemmel also read a thank-you letter from a recent scholarship winner. The committee encouraged members' continued support.

MDA awards

President Rolando next turned to the awards for branch fund-raising for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. "The NALC was the MDA's first national sponsor back in 1952," Rolando said, "and we will continue to be a sponsor

until a cure is found." He noted how hundreds of carriers took part in the NALC's first-ever national bowlothon conducted last November, and highlighted the many more who held car washes, poker tournaments and summer camps, all in an effort to help "Jerry's kids" find a cure for neuromuscular diseases.

He then introduced NALC National MDA Coordinator Jim Williams, a member of Portland, OR Branch 82, and MDA Director of Program Administration Tom Boyle.

"If you've ever spent any time with a family that's been impacted by one of those diseases," Williams said, "you come to realize just how important these things are that you do to raise money, because these kids have more courage than anyone you can imagine."

Rolando asked delegates to watch a short video on the NALC's partnership with MDA. Following the video, he handed out awards to the top MDA fund-raising branches:

Grand Prize \$128,434—Branch 38 Northern New Jersey Merged

Category I (2,000 or more members) \$56,000—Branch 41 Brooklyn

Category II (1,500 to 1,999 members) \$30,832—Branch 86 Hartford, CT

Category III (1,000 to 1,499 members) \$17,024—Branch 14 Louisville

Category IV (700-999 members) \$21,320—Branch 358 Schenectady, NY

Category V (500-699 members) \$24,709—Branch 56 Grand Rapids, MI

Category VI (350-499 members) \$10,954—Branch 197 Shreveport, LA

Category VII (200-349 members) \$12,850—Branch 619 Green Bay, WI

Category VIII (100-199 members) \$11,091—Branch 205 Fargo, ND

Category IX (50-99 members) \$6,801—Branch 924 Freehold, NJ

Category X (10-49 members) \$8,140—Branch 5229 New City, NY

Nalcrest

Next, President Rolando called to the stage Executive Vice President Gary Mullins, whom Rolando has appointed president of the trustees committee for Nalcrest, the letter carriers' Central Florida retirement community. Mullins introduced three other Nalcrest trustees: Matty Rose of South Florida Branch 1071; Don Southern of Lakeland, FL Branch 1779; and Tom Young of Garden Grove Branch 1100. Rolando, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Nicole Rhine and Director of Retired Members Ernie Kirkland also serve as Nalcrest trustees.

Mullins then introduced Nalcrest Manager Jerry Kane, a member of Jamaica, NY Branch 562, who delivered his report.

Convention sites

Taking the stage next was Secretary-Treasurer Jane Broendel, chair of the



President Rolando draws a winner for the COLCPE contest raffle



Tom Boyle

Branch 9 President Pam Donato leads a procession of members to celebrate the Minneapolis Convention in 2012.

Convention Site Committee, who introduced the members of her committee: Howard Komine of Honolulu Branch 860; James Korolowicz of Utica, MI Branch 4374; and Glen Norton of Las Vegas Branch 2502. The committee briefly outlined the process of reviewing potential convention cities—that the Executive Council chooses the convention location, usually about four years ahead of the event. Broendel noted that the 68th Biennial Convention is set for Minneapolis July 23-27, 2012.

Minneapolis Convention

Immediately following the Convention Site Committee report, President Rolando asked delegates to watch a brief video presentation showcasing the attractions that Minneapolis has to offer visitors.

Following the video, Rolando asked Pam Donato, president of Minneapolis Branch 9, to come to the stage. Accompanied by a recording of the song “1999” performed by Minneapolis native Prince, Donato and a cadre of Branch 9 members made their way to the stage, flinging fake snow onto convention delegates along the way.



NALCAUXILIARY Thursday, August 12

NALCA Executive Vice President Gary Mullins installed the officers of the NALCA for 2010-2012: President Linda Kirby (WI), Vice President Cythensis Lang (AL), Secretary Marie Rasmussen (WI), Treasurer Kathy Miller (IA) and Assistant Secretary Sue Prather (OK). After the installation, each officer addressed the delegates with a short acceptance speech.

National Auxiliary Secretary Marie Rasmussen led a Moment of Grace, followed by the Collect. The convention approved the minutes of the previous day as presented.

Resolutions Committee Chair Loretta Smith (Aux. 28—Dallas, TX) and committee member Darlene Fabio (Aux. 430—Racine, WI) announced that no resolutions were put forward for the convention.

Tonya Lloyd (Aux. 111—Austin, TX) Chair of the Country Store Committee gave a report. Members of the committee included all the delegates of Auxiliary 111. Lloyd thanked the members as well as giving special thanks to Darlene Fabio and Ralph Honda (Aux. 550—Grand Forks, ND) for all their work in the store. The preliminary total of money raised is \$3,217.50.

Donato explained the tongue-in-cheek gesture. “It doesn’t actually snow all the time in Minnesota,” she said on stage, contrary to many people’s belief. “In fact, today it’s sunny and 91 there.”

Donato told delegates that they could look forward to finding plenty to do in her northern city after a day’s convention business is finished—it’s the home of several professional sports teams, the famous Mall of America shopping complex, and a new light-rail system to help convention-goers and their families get around. “It’s a great, friendly town,” she said.

Noting both Minnesota Vikings quarterback Brett Favre’s uncertain future with the team and Rolando’s demonstrated athletic prowess in throwing out the first pitch at Tuesday’s night’s baseball game, Donato light-heartedly made the president the football team’s honorary quarterback. Rolando dismissed the committee with his thanks.

Distribution Committee

Rolando then called Distribution Committee Chair Jill Lemons to the stage. Lemons, a member of Canoga Park, CA Branch 4006, introduced the members of her committee:

Gilberto Abundis, San Antonio Br. 421;
Ronald Blank, Pittsburgh

We Care—We Share awards were presented to Auxiliary members who have contributed at least \$50 each year since the last convention. A preliminary report of income during the convention was distributed and explained to the delegates. Once final totals are in, a formal financial statement will be released.

Distribution Committee Chair Sylvia Frazier (Aux. 2720—Tulsa, OK) introduced her committee: Barb Grage (Aux. 78—Omaha, NE), Linda Herinckx (Aux. 795—Puyallup, WA) and Loudean Rodriguez (Aux. 444—Denver, CO). The delegates accepted the report.

President Kirby thanked the Tellers Committee Chair Jacque Ragsdale (Aux. 351—Wichita, KS) and members Matthew Strohl (Aux. 1—Portland, OR), Selina Dornan (Aux. 1248—Muskogee, OK), Peggy Winston (Aux. 1200—Newport News, VA), Jean Gaskin (Aux. 1200—Newport News, VA) and Sue Baxter (Aux. 327—Appleton, WI).

President Kirby thanked Sergeant of Arms Gloria Diaz (Aux. 444) and Boyd Culp (Aux. 2720) for their diligence and service during the convention.



Br. 84; Vincent Calvanese, Long Island Mgd Br. 6000; Joan Crugnale, Providence, RI Br. 15; Rene Eberhardt, Casper, WY Br. 1681; Daniel Espinosa, San Antonio Br. 421; Jeffrey Fox, Bergen Co. Mgd., NJ Br. 425; Yolanda Gipson, Chicago Br. 11; Orlando Gonzalez, New York Br. 36; Allen Harris Sr., Louisville Br. 14; Harry Judd Jr., Boston Br. 34; Manuel Mairena, San Mateo, CA Br. 1280; Richard Martinez, Albuquerque Br. 504; Ansel Maynard, Savannah Br. 578; Richard Montesarchio, Westchester Mgd., NY Br. 693; Michael McKinney, Southeast PA Mgd. Br. 725; Paul Mooney, Pittsburgh Br. 84; James Nelson, Minneapolis Br. 9; Melody Roberts, Memphis Br. 27; Phil Rodriguez, Salt Lake City Br. 111; Timothy Sheehan, Northeastern NY Br. 358; Tammy Sneed, Chattanooga Br. 62; Dianne Stewart, Los Angeles Br. 24; Dan Szucs, New Jersey Mgd. Br. 38; Charles Walls, Omaha Br. 5; Laura Walters, Tri-Valley, CA Br. 2902; Robert Wilkerson, Wilmington, DE Br. 191; Jacob Wilkins, Scottsbluff, NE Br. 1836; Cherrie Young, Wichita Falls, TX Br. 1227.

The convention approved a motion from the floor earlier in the afternoon to take up a collection for a member of Los Angeles Branch 24 whose house was recently destroyed by a fire. Before calling Secretary-Treasurer Broendel to the stage for the some announcements, Rolando directed the tellers to conduct the collection.

Broendel made a few brief announcements, and then at 3:07, Rolando declared the convention in recess until Friday. ☒

The convention warmly welcomed NALC MDA Coordinator Jim Williams and National MDA Vice President of Program Development Tom Boyle. Williams spoke about our long-term relationship with MDA. Our collective efforts are appreciated, and Williams thanked the delegates for what has been done and what we are going to do. Tom Boyle noted that the relationship with MDA has lasted for 58 years. Boyle thanked the auxiliary delegates for all of their support.

Eddie Pottenger (Aux. 444) gave a poignant farewell address. Edie retired from the National Board but said she will always be available to assist in any way she can.

The convention reached a consensus that the Country Store will continue at the 2012 convention. The Colorado Association of Letter Carriers Auxiliary volunteered to chair the committee.

Color Guard Vickie Payne (Aux. 8—Salt Lake City, UT) retired the flag. President Kirby declared the 52nd National Convention adjourned.

*M. Marie Rasmussen,
NALCA Secretary*