



Wednesday, August 11,
covering the
SECOND SESSION,
Tuesday, August 10

NALC Convention Chronicle



Standing together

Unions, members pledge solidarity in struggle to save Saturday delivery

American workers and union members worldwide—all joined together in the just cause of helping to preserve letter carrier jobs by saving Saturday delivery.

Along with Roberts, representatives of other labor organizations came to the stage to pledge their solidarity in our struggle—just as letter carriers have stood with them so often in the past, whenever they were in need.

Call to order

The Memphis Letter Carrier Band played several patriotic tunes at the start of the day's events and NALC President Fredric Rolando called Tuesday's session of the convention to order shortly after 10 am. Darnell Lawrence of Garden Grove, CA Branch 1100, sang "The Star-Spangled Banner," followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Kirk Biaz, First Senior Vice President of Branch 1100. The invocation was then offered by Rabbi Mark B. Goldfarb of Temple Beth Ohr in La Mirada, CA.

The convention then moved to consideration of proposed constitutional amendments as presented by the Committee of Laws: NALC Vice President George Mignosi, Director of Life Insurance Myra Warren and Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Nicole Rhine. An amendment

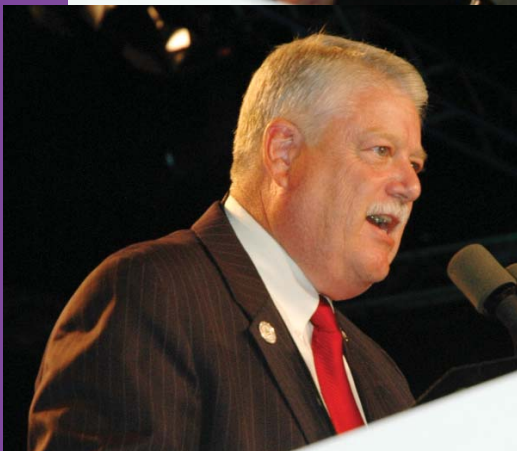
to limit scheduling of rap sessions to the summer months was defeated, as was a proposal to require posting of proposed resolutions and amendments on the NALC website a month before the convention. A third proposed amendment was withdrawn.

President Rolando next introduced the NALC National Trustees: Lawrence D. Brown, Jr., Branch 24, Los Angeles; Randall Keller, Branch 25, Northeast Massachusetts Merged; and Michael Gill, South Florida Branch 1071. The trustees noted that a resolution related to the Mutual Benefit Association had been ruled out of order.

Above: Fred Rolando leads a letter carrier cheer for United Mine Workers of America President Cecil Roberts.

Left: National Rural Letter Carriers' Association President Don Cantriel

Below: Neil Anderson, of UNI Global Union, shows off his solidarity by wearing an NALC-branded shirt.

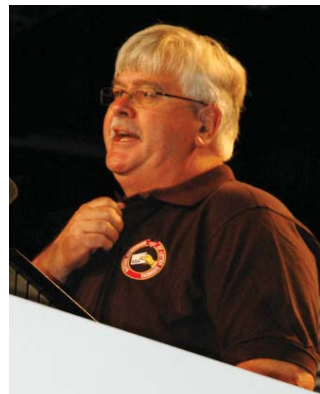


United Mine Workers of America President Cecil Roberts made Tuesday feel like Sunday morning, firing up delegates to the 67th Biennial Convention of the National Association of Letter Carriers with a spirited tribute to working people, the righteousness of their cause, and the power they wield when they stand together. The proud West Virginia native brought thousands of letter carriers to their feet again and again as he preached a message of solidarity, justice and compassion.

Noting that the NALC had always been there for miners, Roberts pledged to stand behind letter carriers in their fight to preserve six-day mail delivery. "Solidarity doesn't flow one way like a river," he said. "Solidarity is like a huge ocean."

"Shoulder to shoulder, back to back, your fight is our fight," he roared. "Saturday mail delivery should continue!"

Roberts' speech was part of a day stressing unity among letter carriers,

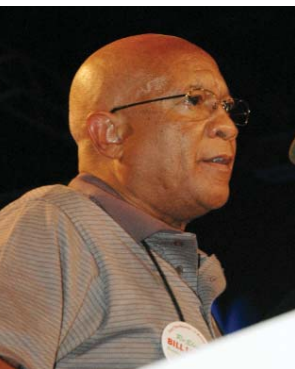


Shoulder to shoulder, back to back

Taking the stage to the tune of Patti Smith's "People Have the Power," Roberts thanked letter carriers for their consistent support of mine workers, especially those struck by tragedy. "One of the first unions of all to say 'What can we do? What can we help with legislatively? What can we do to comfort your people?' has been the letter carriers," he said.

In return, Roberts pledged that miners would support the NALC's efforts to save Saturday delivery. "We will do whatever you ask us to do, because you have been with us over and over again," he said. "Your jobs are important to our economy. We stand squarely on your side."

NALC Trustees Larry Brown (chair), Randy Keller and Mike Gill



Roberts noted that 14 working men and women die on the job each day in America. "As we fight for jobs, we must remember that we must make these jobs safer," he said. More than 200,000 mineworkers have died in this country, he added, half through mine accidents and half from black lung disease.

The best way for workers to ensure their safety, said Roberts, is to organize and join a union. "You want a safer workplace?" he asked. "Join a union!" Roberts then listed a litany of benefits unions bring to workers and all Americans, from better health care to improved pensions to workplace fairness—closing to particularly loud applause with this: "You want to tell the boss to kiss your ass? Join a union!"

Following Roberts' fiery speech, Secretary-Treasurer Jane Broendel presented her convention report. She deliv-

ered some sobering news: The union's membership rolls have dropped to 268,656, down from 303,037 two years ago. The number of individual branches has also decreased in the same period, from 2,386 to 2,267, although some of this decrease was attributable to mergers.

President Rolando then introduced the members of the Mileage and Per Diem Committee: Chair Antonia Shields, Br. 530, Birmingham, AL; Trina Charles, Br. 4970, Havelock, NC; Antoine Thigpen, Br. 11, Chicago; and Jim Walzenbach, Br. 70, San Diego. Shields presented the report of the committee, which the convention accepted.

Fighting for the 'last mile'

The delegates then viewed a video, "Fighting for the Last Mile—NALC's Campaign to Save the Postal Service," a 28-minute film that detailed the union's continuing fight to stop Postmaster General John Potter's efforts to drop a day of mail delivery. The feature explained the complex financial issues that have put the Postal Service in a bind, as well as the NALC's effort on all fronts to save Saturday delivery by fixing these financial problems while opposing Potter's short-sighted plan.

"The answer is not to take letter carriers off the street," Rolando said in the video. "It's to give the Postal Service access to their own money."

Following the film, a motion was made from the convention floor, calling for a vote of "no confidence" in Postmaster General Potter. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Rolando then asked delegates to fill out a form contained in their convention delegate's bags, pledging—while off the clock and out of uniform—to convince at least three businesses on their routes to send comments to the Postal Regulatory Commission opposing the switch to five-day delivery. He said copies of the video will be distributed to branches, the media and members of Congress, and will be posted on the NALC website.

Organizing awards

Rolando then presented awards to branches that had been the most successful at organizing since the 2008 convention in Boston:

Best organized:

Branches with 1000-plus members:

South Florida Br. 1071

Branches with 500 to 999 members:

Toledo, OH Br. 100

Branch with under 500 members:

Fall River, MA Br. 51

Most improved:

Branches with 1000-plus members:

Hartford, CT Br. 86

Branches with 500 to 999 members:

Kansas City, MO Br. 30

Rolando next called forward the members of the Committee on the President's Biennial Report. Committee chair James Wright of Fort Lauderdale, FL Branch 2550 then introduced the members of his committee:

Stephen Leeds, Branch 5420, Brick Town, NJ; Larrissa Parde, Branch 8, Lincoln, NE; Luis Rivas, Branch 2076, Des Plaines, IL; and Steven Schultz, Branch 442, Spokane.

Delegates approved the committee's report by acclamation.

NRLCA President Don Cantriel

Invited to the stage next was Don Cantriel, president of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association.

"Rural carriers are our good friends and partners in all we do," President Rolando said in his introduction, "and the NRLCA has as much to lose with the elimination of Saturday deliveries as we do."

Cantriel noted that in 2010, the NRLCA became a full-fledged partner in the annual Stamp Out Hunger food drive. "We proudly stand by you in this endeavor," he said.

Calling the Postal Service "a patient," Cantriel quipped that it "may be sick, it may need a little medication, but it does not need a limb removed."

"That is precisely what the Postal Service wants Congress and the American people to do, to sacrifice Saturdays for the greater good of the company," he said.

Cantriel suggested that USPS consider some management trimming. "We don't need layer after layer of management to tell us to do our jobs or to manage other managers," he said. "Don't try to save the Postal Service on the backs of workers."

Resolutions

Before turning back to National Agreement resolutions, a motion from the floor was approved for a collection to be taken up to benefit the families of two letter carriers who died recently while delivering mail.

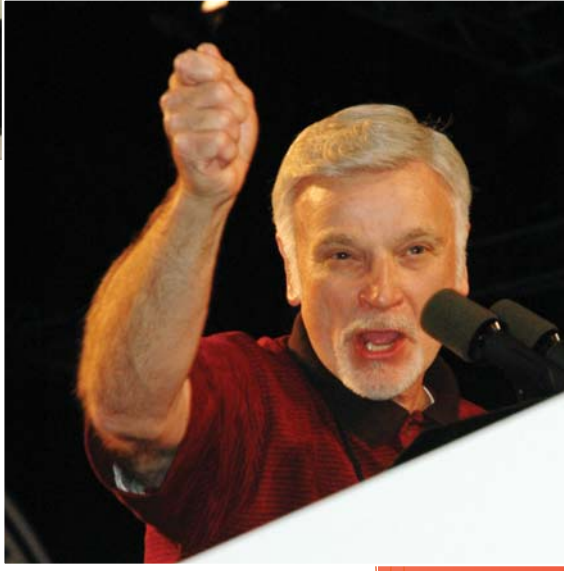
Eddie Lin, a member of Garden Grove Branch 1100, died June 3 from head injuries he received after he was attacked by a Rottweiler on his route. Twelve days later, Christine Jones, a member of St. Louis Branch 343, died after lightning struck the tree she was near.

A second motion to ask National to match the collected money was also approved. Tellers will take up that collection Wednesday morning, with proceeds to be split evenly between the two families.

Director of City Delivery Dale Hart presented National Agreement Resolution 10, which called for prohibiting NALC from entering a route adjustment agreement



Lee Drees, Director, City of ...	Region 1
Michael J. Peruta, Jr., Director, Safety & Health	Region 2
Wynne Warren, Director, Life Insurance	Region 3
Brian E. Nelson, Director, Health Insurance	Region 4
Ernest E. Kirkland, Director, Retired Members	Region 5
Board of Trustees	
Lawrence D. Benson, Jr.	Region 6
Richard J. Keller	Region 7
Michael J. Gill	Region 8
Patrick G. Carroll	Region 9
Chris Wittingburg	Region 10
Pete Moss	Region 11
Judy Wroughton	Region 12
Kathy Barkman	Region 13
Darrell E. Smith	Region 14
William J. Landon	Region 15
Thomas W. Dewey	Region 16
John J. Cavonius	Region 17
Larry Chead	Region 18



Cecil Roberts' fiery oratory brought delegates to their feet.

without putting the agreement to a membership vote. After a brief debate, the Convention upheld the Executive Council's recommendation for disapproval. Next, Director of Retired Members Ernie Kirkland began discussion on National Agreement Resolution 11, which called for collection procedures to follow the M-39 Handbook. Shortly after the resolution was read, it was withdrawn.

Branch publications awards

Next, President Rolando honored the publications contest's first-place award winners, which were announced during Monday morning's branch communications workshop:

Best Cartoon or Photo

Cartoon by Richard Lapine, *Zenith Branch News*, Br. 114, Duluth, MN

Promoting Unionism

Richard Thayer, "It's Union Time!" *The North Carolina Letter Carrier*, North Carolina State Association

Best Editorial or Column

Lois Strobel, "Darrell's Diagnosis," *Branch 82 B-Mike*, Portland, OR Br. 82

Best News or Feature Story

Javier Rodriguez, "Banking on Obama," *South Florida Letter Carrier*, South Florida Br. 1071

Overall Excellence, Small Branch

(tie) *The Beast of Burden*, Santa Barbara, CA Br. 290, and *The Union Vision*, Toms River, NJ Branch 2128

Overall Excellence, Large Branch

(tie) *South Florida Letter Carrier*, South Florida Br. 1071, and *Branch 34's CLAN*, Boston Branch 34.

Best Website

nalcbranch1100.org, Garden Grove Br. 1100

Neil Anderson, UNI

The next speaker invited to the stage was Neil Anderson, post and logistics director for Union Network International (UNI), to which the NALC belongs.

"There are 20 million UNI members in the service sector worldwide, including 2 million postal workers," President Rolando said in his introduction of Anderson, who served as a postal worker in New Zealand early in his career.

"You know all too well that you have to watch what's happening in the rest of the world," Anderson said.

He gave the example of the trade negotiations between Canada and the European Union (EU). "The EU wants Canada to sign on to a trade agreement which would require Canada to liberalize its postal service," Anderson said.

"In the Netherlands, its postal service, TNT, proudly points to the 11,000 jobs it will shift to part-time positions and that it will deliver mail only three days a week, to save costs," Anderson said. In Italy, however, "six days is not enough for them," he continued. "They say, 'The Internet is our competition,' and we will continue to deliver not just six days a week, but twice a day, with express and parcels in the afternoon."

"They're saying, 'To give better service, we have to give more service,'" he said.

"Innovation is our future," he said. "Innovation is how we're going to meet the competition in the future."

Band committee report

President Rolando next called on Band Committee Chair Pam Donato of Minneapolis Branch 9, who introduced the other committee members, Charles Sexton of St. Louis Branch 343 and Ernest Phillips of Cleveland Branch 40.

NALC Auxiliary

Invited to the stage next was National Association of Letter Carriers Auxiliary President Linda Kirby. She extended greetings to the NALC from the Auxiliary, which is holding its own convention on the second floor of the Anaheim Convention Center.

Kirby then introduced the Auxiliary's national board: Vice President Cythensis Lang, Secretary Marie Rasmussen, Treasurer Kathy Miller, retired Assistant Secretary Edie Pottenger and newly elected Assistant Secretary Sue Prather.

"We represent your families," Kirby told the NALC delegates. "Six-day delivery is important to our livelihood, and we will continue to help you in your fight to protect it."

e-Activist Awards

Before presenting awards to the branches with the highest levels of e-Activist Network members, President Rolando introduced a short video that showed images reflecting on the importance and relevance of the Postal Service as a crucial component to

Director of Retired Members Ernie Kirkland, Director of City Delivery Dale Hart and Director of Life Insurance Myra Warren



communications in the 21st century.

He then handed out the e-Activist awards, which were based on network participation as of July 2010:

Highest percentage

Branches with 50 to 99 members:

Minot, ND Br. 1152

Branches with 100 to 499 members:

Newport, RI Br. 57

Branches with 500 to 999 members:

Royal Oak, MI Br. 3126

Branches with 1,000 to 1,999 members:

Austin Br. 181

Branches with 2,000 to 3,999 members:

San Diego Br. 70

Branches with 4,000-plus members:

South Florida Br. 1071

State with the highest percentage: Alaska

Region with the highest percentage: Region 2

Uniform Committee

President Rolando called forward the members of the Uniform Committee, chaired by Director of Life Insurance Myra Warren, a member of Dallas Branch 132.



NALCAUXILIARY Tuesday, August 10

The Washington State Letter

Carriers Band provided an entertaining mix of music as delegates prepared to reconvene the session.

National Auxiliary Vice President Cythensis Lang led the Memorial Service, which paid tribute to auxiliary brothers and sisters who have passed away since last convention. Donna Beckwood, Branch 530 Birmingham, Alabama, sang a moving version of "Yesterday."

President Kirby reconvened the business session and called upon the audit committee for their report. Audit Committee Chair Alice Weed (Aux. 2809—Mankato, Minnesota) and committee member Crystal Bragg (Aux. 153—Decatur, Illinois) reported the results of their audit. They found the books of Secretary Marie Rasmussen and Treasurer Kathy Miller to be in good order, and both officers have met the specifications according to the bylaws.

The mileage and per diem committee, chaired by Patsy Mester (Aux. 21—Springfield, Illinois) and committee member Ann Borowski (Aux. 144—Milwaukee, Wisconsin) presented the mileage and per diem report. The delegates approved the report as presented.

Director of Health Benefits Tim O'Malley

Warren introduced the other members of her committee:

Tom Gavin of Scranton, PA Branch 17, and Stafford Price of Chicago Branch 11. Warren reported that her committee had considered only one resolution, which would be presented to delegates later in the convention.

Clarifying route adjustments

Toward the end of the general session, Rolando took the microphone under personal privilege to clear up some misconceptions about the part the Delivery Operations Information System (DOIS) plays—or does not play—in adjusting letter carrier routes.

"The union passed a resolution several years ago that said, basically, that 'DOIS doesn't mean s—t,'" Rolando said. "It can't tell leave times, it can't set return times—it can not be the sole determinant of a letter carrier's work schedule.

"That's why no system the NALC uses adjusts letter carrier routes to DOIS.

"If anywhere in this country after that settlement, you've got supervisors that are walking around with a clipboard, telling you what time you should leave and come

back, and that your workload is based on DOIS," he said, "you should be filing a grievance on every report, every day, because that violates the settlement.

back, and that your workload is based on DOIS," he said, "you should be filing a grievance on every report, every day, because that violates the settlement.

Unite Here

On Monday afternoon, 150 NALC members went to a Unite Here picket at a local Embassy Suites, where housekeepers are expected to clean 20 rooms in eight hours for a mere \$8.83 an hour. To meet this they are often forced to work through breaks.

"NALC supports our working brothers and sisters," Rolando said. "I sent with our members a letter to the manager that said, 'We won't be staying there.'"

A motion was put forth asking the NALC to donate money to help pay the wages of the 35 workers who walked off the job to join the picket. Rolando said he would pass the convention's request on to the national trustees for their consideration.

Rolando recessed the Convention shortly before 3 p.m. ☒

thanked the auxiliary for its assistance in new member sign-up during open enrollment periods. O'Malley called on the auxiliary to continue its strong support as we all face legislative issues, stating "Together we can overcome the issues."

Vice President Cythensis Lang (Alabama) presented her organizer's report. New auxiliaries formed since last convention include Aux. 1570, Santa Clara, California; Aux. 2621 Winterhaven/Lakeland, Florida; Aux. 1222, Lawton, Oklahoma; Aux. 388, Janesville, Wisconsin and Aux. 507, Madison, Wisconsin. Robert McLennan, Br. 3 Buffalo/Western New York, delivered greetings to the auxiliary from NALC. He introduced the NALC greetings committee: Emre Edwards, Br. 181 Austin, Texas; Tony Gonzales, Br. 35 Little Rock, Arkansas; Mary Smith, Br. 1080 Greenwood, Mississippi and Mitchell Terral, Br. 2589 Lubbock, Texas. McLennan told the delegates that when he looked up the word "auxiliary," his favorite definition was "held in reserve for exceptional service." On behalf of the committee, he thanked the auxiliary for its service and support through the years, especially in the legislative arena and in support for the charities of the NALC. NALC Executive Vice

President Gary Mullins accompanied the greetings committee to the podium. Mullins announced that NALC President Fred Rolando appointed him as the first-ever liaison to the NALCA. This action proves the sincere efforts that are needed to save the Postal Service.

Delegates divided into groups to brainstorm on ways to increase membership on the local level in order to become even stronger and more viable supporters of the NALC and the missions.

Nominations of officers took place. Linda Kirby (Aux. 465—Kenosha, Wisconsin) and Bonnie Christy (Aux. 946—Aurora, Illinois) were nominated for president. Cythensis Lang (Aux. 2517—Mobile, Alabama) was nominated for vice president. Marie Rasmussen (Aux. 430—Racine, Wisconsin) was nominated for secretary. Kathy Miller (Aux. 200—Iowa City, Iowa) was nominated for treasurer. Susan Prather (Aux. 141—Oklahoma City, Oklahoma) was nominated for assistant secretary. An election for president will take place Wednesday morning. All other officers were declared elected.

*M. Marie Rasmussen,
NALCA Assistant Secretary*