



Thursday, August 12,
covering the
THIRD SESSION,
Wednesday, August 11

NALC Convention Chronicle



Vote of confidence

Above: Fredric Rolando thanks the delegates.
Right: Current Executive Vice President Gary Mullins congratulates Executive Vice President-elect Timothy O'Malley.
Below: Applause for Secretary-Treasurer Jane Broendel



Juanita McKissick, Branch 24 Los Angeles, to come to the podium to sing the National Anthem. David de la O, senior vice president of Garden Grove, CA Branch 1100, led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by an invocation by Father Ikechukwu Ikeucha of St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church of Whittier, CA.

In its first order of business of the day, the convention adopted a motion from the floor to declare Cecil Roberts, president of the United Mine Workers of America who addressed the convention Tuesday, an honorary member of the NALC. President Rolando then introduced William Burrus, president of the American Postal Workers Union.

A seat at the table

Burrus told the delegates that his union stands with the NALC in opposing Postmaster General John E. Potter's plan to drop Saturday mail delivery.

"We've been in that fight, we oppose it, and we're going to beat him," Burns said. "Potter's not going to get five-day delivery."

Not only would it be unwise to lose a day of delivery, Burrus said, the Postal Service owes the American people six days of service on principle. "How can [Potter] have the audacity to tell the American public you can't receive mail on Saturday? Forget about Saturday delivery—that mailbox belongs to us?"

The result of ending Saturday delivery, Burrus predicted, would be the end of the Postal Service's monopoly on the mailbox and on first class mail, even while the



William Burrus

Delegates to the 67th Biennial

Convention of the National Association of Letter Carriers on Wednesday overwhelmingly placed their faith in President Fredric V. Rolando and their future in his hands, electing him to the highest office in the union for the next four years.

"Damn!" Rolando said, reacting to the delegates' enthusiastic cheers. "Thank you for your vote of confidence."

The leadership team of Rolando and Timothy C. O'Malley, newly elected executive vice president, will face tremendous challenges, including saving Saturday delivery and renegotiating the National

Agreement in the wake of a deep economic downturn and dropping mail volume, but delegates displayed their trust in their union's leadership by electing all 10 resident national officers and three national trustees by acclamation.

The officer nominations were the highlight of a day that walked a line between reflecting on the past and preparing for the future.

Call to order

After enjoying entertainment provided by the Seattle letter carriers' band, President Rolando called the convention to order at 10 a.m. Wednesday. He asked



public continues to demand full mail service six days a week.

While both Burrus' union and the NALC face difficult challenges—the effort to save Saturday delivery, job losses and pressure for concessions in looming contract negotiations—he praised the NALC for its role in asserting the rights of Postal Service workers. While postal unions don't win every fight, he said, “we have a seat at the table,” he said. “Management's word is not the last word as it was in 1970.”

Making history

The delegates then viewed the film “The Strike at 40: Celebrating NALC's Heroes of 1970,” featuring several letter carriers who participated in the 1970 postal strike—including one little-known carrier named Vincent Sombrotto, who would go on to serve as NALC president for more than two decades.

Veterans of the strike described the tough working conditions and low wages—some were eligible for welfare and held second jobs—that sparked the illegal strike, and the tremendous risks they took in walking out. Few understood at the time how important their brave act would be to the future of the letter carrier profession. Ultimately, their strike won immediate improvements in pay and true collective bargaining for carriers, giving the NALC's leaders the tools to build on their progress and establish a middle-class lifestyle for themselves and thousands of carriers who followed in their footsteps.

After the film, President Rolando invited to the podium delegates on hand from New York Branch 36—the pioneers of the 1970 strike—and then led the convention in a cheer for them. He also asked delegates from around the country who joined the strike to stand and be recognized.

Greetings from former leaders

President Rolando read an open letter to the convention sent by President Emeritus Vincent Sombrotto. Expressing his regret at missing his first convention since 1972 due to health concerns, Sombrotto urged delegates to honor his fellow letter carriers who walked off the job in 1970. “Remember those brave strikers and honor them,” he wrote.

“I believe it is fair to say that we are at the cutting edge of a series of changes that will equal, if not surpass, the changes of the 1970s and the 1980s,” wrote Sombrotto, citing the loss of mail volume to the Internet and the current economic downturn. “I have every confidence that the NALC is up to the task of dealing with these changes.”

In his own letter to the delegates, President Emeritus James Rademacher echoed Sombrotto's sentiments. President Rolando read Rademacher's letter, which praised the carriers of New York Branch 36, Brooklyn Branch 41, Hartford, CT Branch 86 and the branches nationwide that joined in the strike. Despite the risk to their jobs and the threat of fines or jail time, wrote Rademacher, these brave letter carriers took action.

“These gallant members defied all these risks because their guaranteed security had turned into guaranteed poverty,” he wrote.

Passing the hat

Earlier in the day, as a follow-up on a floor motion approved on Tuesday, President Rolando directed tellers to collect funds from convention delegates to help support the families of two letter carriers who were killed this summer while delivering the mail, Eddie Lin of Garden Grove, CA Branch 1100, and Christine Jones of St. Louis Branch 343. The president reported that carriers donated a total of \$24,000—and since the motion had also called for National to match the funds collected, the families will receive \$24,000 each.

President Rolando next asked Director of Retired Members Ernie Kirkland to join him on the stage. Kirkland introduced the members of the Retirement Committee: Ron Brown, Br. 3126, Royal Oak, MI; James Dolan, Br. 157, Philadelphia; McDowell Frazier, Br. 24, Los



Angeles; Norman LeFrois, Br. 210, Rochester, NY; Doug Gulley, Br. 78, Columbus; John “Pee Wee” Walsh, Br. 29, Albany, NY; Steve Martinez, Br. 576, Phoenix; Clarence “Smokey” Smekofski, Br. 28, St. Paul; Cheryl Stately, Br. 9, Minneapolis; Ken Stephens Sr., Br. 106, Montgomery, AL.

Officers' nominations

The next order of business, as required by the *NALC Constitution*, involved calling for nominations for national office. President Rolando ceded the chair to Executive Vice President Gary Mullins, since the first nomination was for the office of president.

Mullins called for nominations, and only one was forthcoming—for Fredric V. Rolando of Sarasota, FL Branch 2148. Since there were no other nominations, Rolando was declared elected by acclamation.

Returning to the microphone, President Rolando sought nominations for all remaining offices, which were offered as follows (uncontested nominees were elected by acclamation):

Executive Vice President—Timothy C. O'Malley, Philadelphia Br. 157

Vice President—George C. Mignosi, Brooklyn, NY Br. 41

Secretary-Treasurer—Jane E. Broendel, Davenport, IA Br. 506

Asst. Secretary-Treasurer—Nicole Rhine, Lincoln, NE Br. 8

Director of City Delivery—Lew Drass, Huntsville, AL Br. 462

Director, Safety & Health—Manuel L. Peralta Jr., Garden Grove Br. 1100

Director of Life Insurance—Myra Warren, Dallas Br. 132

Director Health Benefit Plan—Brian Hellman, New York Br. 36



Opposite page: After the strike video (top) was shown, veterans from the 1970 strike from New York Branch 36 were recognized.

Opposite page (bottom): Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA) declared, "Five-day delivery was dead on arrival."

Director, Retired Members—Ernest Kirkland, Lexington, KY Br. 361

National Trustee—three positions

—Lawrence D. Brown Jr., Los Angeles Br. 24

—Randall L. Keller, Massachusetts Northeast Mgd. Br. 25

—Mike Gill, South Florida Br. 1071

Region 1 NBA—Christopher Jackson, Garden Grove Br. 1100

Region 2 NBA—Paul L. Price, Portland, OR Br. 82

Region 3 NBA—contested

—Kevin Schaible, Belleville, IL Br. 155

—Neal Tisdale, Springfield, IL Br. 80

Region 4 NBA—Roger Bledsoe, Oklahoma City Br. 458

Region 5 NBA—Dan Pittman, Kansas City, MO Br. 30

Region 6 NBA—Patrick C. Carroll, South Macomb, MI Br. 4374

Region 7 NBA—Chris Wittenburg, St. Paul Br. 28

Region 8 NBA—Peter S. Moss, Gulf Coast Mgd., MS Br. 1374

Region 9 NBA—Judy Willoughby, Tallahassee Br. 1172

Region 10 NBA—Kathy Baldwin, Beaumont, TX Br. 842

Region 11 NBA—contested

—Mike Hayden, Toledo Br. 100

—Dan Toth, Lorain, OH Br. 583

Region 12 NBA—contested

—William J. Lucini, Philadelphia Br. 157

—Michael D. Stanton, Haddonfield, NJ Br. 769

Region 13 NBA—Timothy W. Dowdy, Virginia Beach, VA Br. 2819

Region 14 NBA—contested

—John J. Casciano, Boston Br. 34

—Michael L. Willadsen, Hartford, CT Br. 86

Region 15 NBA—contested

—Walter Barton, Long Island, NY Mgd. Br. 6000

—Lawrence D. Cirelli, New Jersey Mgd. Br. 38

Resolutions

Next, President Rolando asked for and received the convention's approval to extend the day to 4 p.m. to finish up a number of business items. He then called to the stage Director of Safety and Health Brian Hellman to continue discussion of National Agreement resolutions.

Resolution 12, regarding density checks under Article 12, was withdrawn. The Executive Council's disapproval of Resolution 13 was upheld following a teller vote, by a vote of 2,627 to 1,222. This resolution had urged the NALC to approve utility kilts for purchase through the uniform allotment program.

Next, Director of Life Insurance Myra Warren led the convention's consideration of General Resolution 3. The Executive Council's disapproval of this resolution, which called for the member-

ship to boycott Voice of the Employee surveys, was upheld following a division.

Rep. Susan Davis

President Rolando then introduced the convention's next speaker, Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA). The president called Davis a "friend of the NALC" since her election in 2000 to represent her state's 53rd Congressional District, which includes San Diego.

"She authored H.R. 1604, the Universal Right to Vote By Mail Act," he said, "a bill that calls for allowing for the use of 'no excuses' absentee ballots in any federal election."

"Another way to raise revenue is to expand vote-by-mail," Davis said, "which also encourages participation in the electoral process."

The congresswoman saluted carriers' commitment to their routes and to their political causes. "Everything I learned about precinct-walking, I learned from letter carriers," she said. "And you carry the mail with such great care."

"It's no wonder that the American people have more confidence in you than in any other federal workers," she added. "And what you do is truly amazing. You are brave, given the potential dangers—and I know there are a number of them—that you face."

"I want you to know that Congress is listening to you, because you command as much respect in Washington as you do across the country. The proposal [to drop Saturday mail delivery] became dead on arrival in Congress because of everything you have done."

Davis encouraged letter carriers to stay politically active this fall. "I know everyone is angry and unsettled," she said, "but the answer is not to stay home and skip the election."

"We've gotten a lot done, but I think you would agree that we still have more to do," Davis said.

Food drive video

Next, President Rolando asked the delegation to watch a video containing highlights of this year's



Photo by Douglas Adams Jr.

Take me out to the ball game

NALC delegates, staff, and families turned out in force at Angel Stadium Tuesday night to see the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim battle the Kansas City Royals on "Letter Carrier Night."

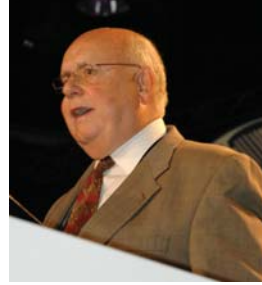
Those who arrived early enough caught President Rolando throw an amazing first pitch. Looking like a professional, Rolando stepped to

the mound, looked to the catcher, and shook off the sign. He then wound up and delivered... a one-bounce pitch. Delegates ribbed him for his pitch repeatedly from the convention floor the next day.

The daughter of Thursday's guest speaker, General Secretary of Communication Workers of the United Kingdom Bill Hayes, yelled "play ball," and his son served as honorary bat boy. The Angels emerged victorious, with Dan Haren out-pitching Kansas City's Bryan Bullington three to one.



NALC Director of Safety and Health Brian Hellman, Global FoodBanking's Bob Forney and Director of Health Benefits Tim O'Malley



national "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive and the drive's past achievements. Held annually on the second Saturday in May since 1993, this year's campaign saw the collection of more than 77 million pounds of food—putting the drive's 18-year collection total over the 1 billion-pound mark.

After the video, Rolando asked Bob Forney, president of food drive partner Global FoodBanking, to comment.

"You change lives," Forney said. "Without your help, I'm sure more people would suffer."

Joining Forney on the stage was John Faulkner of Campbell Soup Company, another key food drive partner and sponsor. Before handing out awards to the top branches in food drive collections, Rolando and Faulkner took a moment to recognize the NALC's Drew Von Bergen, who served as national food drive coordinator since the annual event's inception. Von Bergen retired earlier this year.

Food Drive Award Winners

Category I (1-49 members)

Branch 6013, Inverness, FL - 66,455 pounds

Category II (50-99 members)

Branch 1103, Ocala, FL - 382,000 pounds

Category III (100-199 members)

Branch 815, Billings, MT - 242,000 pounds

Category IV (200-349 members)

Branch 2072, Ft. Myers, FL - 445,500 pounds

Category V (350-499 members)

Branch 116, Fort Wayne, IN - 622,236 pounds

Category VI (500-699 members)

Branch 2008, Clearwater, FL - 1,392,267 pounds

Category VII (700-999 members)

Branch 704, Tucson, AZ - 924,847 pounds

Category VIII (1,000-1,499 members)

Branch 599, Tampa, FL - 2,062,529 pounds

Category IX (1,500-1,999 members)

Branch 2, Milwaukee, WI - 909,736 pounds

Category X (2,000 or more members)

Branch 3, Buffalo, NY - 1,697,528 pounds

Committee reports

President Rolando called Tim O'Malley, director of the health benefit plan, to the podium for the report of the Health Benefit Committee.

O'Malley introduced the committee: Lydia Caffrey (Chair), Br. 52 San Luis Obispo, CA; Barry Doherty, Br. 25 NE Massachusetts Northeast Merged; Lyal Hanson, Br. 4319 Anchorage; Danny Massari, Br. 157 Philadelphia; Robert Murphy, Br. 40 Cleveland; Hector Salinas, Br. 283 Houston and Marilyn Youman, Br. 1100 Garden Grove.

O'Malley reported that "the Plan remains in excellent shape." The committee's full report is available in the President's Biennial Report book.

Rolando then recognized Myra Warren, director of life insurance, who introduced the chair of the Mutual Benefit Association Committee, Anthony Loconto, South Florida Branch 1071. Loconto introduced the committee members: Allen Jelenik, Br. 2 Milwaukee; Cathy King, Br. 500 Harrisburg, PA; Charles Lewis, Br. 70 San Diego and Mary Liz Dow-Rubio, Br. 504 Albuquerque. Committee member Onorinda Amill, Branch 36 New York, was unable to attend the convention.

Loconto said the MBA was in "superb condition." The committee's full report is available in the President's Biennial Report book. "Do yourself a favor," Loconto said. "Invest in the MBA and invest in yourself."

Following a few announcements from Secretary-Treasurer Broendel, at 3:50 p.m. Rolando declared the Convention in recess until 10 a.m. Thursday. ☒



NALCAUXILIARY Wednesday, August 11

Delegates' toes were tapping to the tunes played by the Memphis Letter Carrier Band under the direction of Carl Flake as they entered the convention room. After the delegates sang the National Anthem and said the Pledge of Allegiance, President Kirby reconvened the 52nd National Convention.

Kathy Miller (Aux. 200—Iowa City, IA) led a moment of grace, after which the delegates recited the Auxiliary collect.

Nominees for president then gave election speeches. Bonnie Christy (Aux. 946—Aurora, IL) indicated that if she were to be elected, she would focus on increasing membership with new carriers' spouses and retirees, legislative involvement and communication with auxiliary members. Incumbent Linda Kirby (Aux. 465—Kenosha, WI) said she would continue to strengthen the auxiliary by continuing many of the initiatives she had begun—communications, membership, more legislative involvement

and making sure the auxiliary was prepared to survive into the future by working to resolve its IRS matters.

President Kirby called on Credential Committee Chair Cynthia Martinez (Aux. 377—Phoenix, AZ) for the final convention credentials. The convention accepted the report without objection. President Kirby retired the Credential Committee members and thanked them for their diligent service during this convention.

An election for president took place. The delegates to the 52nd National Convention re-elected Linda Kirby to serve the 2010-2012 term as president.

Chair of the Greetings Committee to the NALC Linda Kirby gave a report. All national auxiliary officers served on the committee and were introduced to the NALC Convention delegates. President Kirby's comments focused on membership as the key to our success, whether it relates to strengthening the membership or fighting legislative battles

together. President Kirby asked carriers to get their spouses involved in the auxiliary. When families band together, we can and will make a difference.

Jeremy Goldberg, NALC Regional Field Coordinator from the Legislative and Political Department, updated the delegates on keeping six-day delivery as well as the importance of the 2010 mid-term elections. Goldberg urged all auxiliary members to get actively involved, as these elections will be crucial to carriers and their families.

Delegates and guests then boarded buses to travel to Knott's Berry Farm for an enjoyable luncheon organized by NALCA Bylaws Chair Sue Prather (Aux. 141—Oklahoma City, OK).

*M. Marie Rasmussen,
NALCA Assistant Secretary*

Correction: Larry Kania of Buffalo-Western New York Branch 3 delivered the greetings from the NALC on Wednesday, not Robert McLennan as noted in yesterday's Auxiliary report.