



Having some fun
with fund-raising

New COLCPE contests for members

Every NALC member is eligible to participate in two new contests designed to foster fund-raising for COLCPE, the union's non-partisan political action fund. The winners will enjoy either a trip to the World Series or a new flat-screen TV.

"We're grateful for all those who have already stepped up to help out, but there's still plenty of room for more to join in our cause," NALC President William H. Young said in announcing the contests. The winners will be drawn during the 66th Biennial National Convention in Boston in late July.

The raffles are a special "thank you" to those who donate money to the Committee on Letter Carrier Political Education. Drawings in recent years for such prizes as vacation trips,

Super Bowl tickets and high-tech gadgets have proved popular with NALC members.

"Combining consistent fund-raising with dedicated activism, we can help shape the results of this year's elections and turn the political tide in our favor," Young said. "But there's no reason we can't have some fun along the way."

This year's grand prize is a trip for two to the 2008 World Series, which includes tickets for two games, plus airfare, three nights hotel accommodations and a per diem for expenses. Every active and retired member who is on the books by July 7 as a "Gimme 5 for COLCPE" contributor will be eligible to win.

To become a Gimme 5 contributor, active letter carriers must sign up to give \$5 per pay period to COLCPE, either by using one of their three payroll allotments or by automatic funds transfer (AFT) from a personal bank account. Retired members are Gimme 5 givers when they automatically contribute \$5 by AFT or directly from their monthly annuity payments. (Complete enrollment instructions appeared in the February *Postal Record* and are posted on the website at nalc.org.) Regular, automatic donations to COLCPE are preferred, Young said, because they help the Legislative Department to plan and budget funds more efficiently.

Convention delegates who are not yet Gimme 5 contributors will have a chance to qualify for the World Series drawing by signing up at the Legislative Department's booth just off the convention floor.

Also eligible for the drawing are active letter carriers who have given at least \$120 to COLCPE between January 1 and June 30, and retired

The latest COLCPE contest will feature top prizes of a trip to see the World Series or a new flat-screen TV.



members who have donated \$60 or more by that same deadline.

President Young will draw the name of the grand-prize winner during one of the convention's general sessions.

The winner of a second convention COLCPE contest might not see the World Series in person, but will be able to watch the fall classic and other shows on a new 32-inch flat-panel LCD high-definition television set. But there is a catch: For this drawing, only retired and active members who are automatic Gimme 5 contributors will qualify to win.

Just like the World Series drawing, all Gimme 5 donors must be on the books at Headquarters by July 7, and convention delegates who still have not signed up at that level by the time they reach Boston may do so at the Legislative Department booth. The name of the winner of the hi-def TV also will be drawn during the convention.

Coordinating success

"The cash we raise through COLCPE supports those in Congress who support letter carriers," said President Young. "The money also helps pay for our fellow letter carriers who will be working with our brothers and sisters in the AFL-CIO in the months before the November election." Nearly 120 letter carriers were released for the federation's Labor 2006 campaign, and NALC hopes to double that number this fall for Labor 2008.

"A lot of the credit for our recent fund-raising success goes to our branch COLCPE coordinators," said Young, who created that position in February 2006 as part

of his legislative "Field Plan for the Future." The Field Plan calls for branches having 50 or more members to appoint a COLCPE coordinator, whose task is to recruit more NALC members to give to the letter carrier PAC (preferably at the Gimme 5 level). Branches with fewer than 50 members are encouraged to appoint COLCPE coordinators, if possible.

To show coordinators some appreciation for their hard work, a special raffle just for them will be held during the COLCPE class at the Boston convention. The top prize: an Apple iPhone.

Each COLCPE coordinator will receive one raffle ticket for each member of their branch who is signed up to give to the fund at the Gimme 5 level. Coordinators will also be required to submit a one-page summary of their fund-raising efforts, which must be received by the Legislative Department at NALC Headquarters by June 30.

During the COLCPE class at the convention, coordinators will be divided into three categories: those from branches of up to 99 members, those from branches with 100 to 499 members, and those from branches with 500 or more members. An iPhone winner will be drawn at random from each of these three groups. ☒

Unions are forbidden by federal law to use general treasury money, including members' dues, to support candidates for public office. NALC uses only completely voluntary COLCPE money for non-partisan political education and candidate support. Contributions to COLCPE are not tax-deductible.

Branch rewards for Carrier Corps recruiting

NALC branches that go all-out to recruit volunteers for the Carrier Corps of political activists will be rewarded at the Boston national convention with new office computer systems.

President Young created the Carrier Corps last summer. Members pledge to give at least 10 hours of their free time in support of a variety of get-out-the-vote activities, including phone banking, precinct walks, and handing out flyers and leaflets. The volunteers receive a special "NALC blue" T-shirt to wear while working on these political awareness efforts.

As a thank-you to the branches that support the program, a computer system will be awarded to the branches with the highest percentage of Carrier Corps volunteers, by June 30, in four membership categories—50 to 99 members, 100 to 499 members, 500 to 1,499, and 1,500 or more members.

"Thousands of carriers joining the Carrier Corps can add up to tens or even hundreds of thousands of hours of volunteer time helping to get our friends elected," Young said.

"The money we raise for COLCPE helps us open doors on Capitol Hill," said President Young, "and our Carrier Corps volunteers deliver the letter carrier agenda all over the country. We're grateful for the sacrifices all our members make to preserve our way of life. Working together, we can hold on to our hard-won pay, benefits and collective bargaining rights." ☒