



NALC Convention
July 21-25, 2008 • Boston, MA

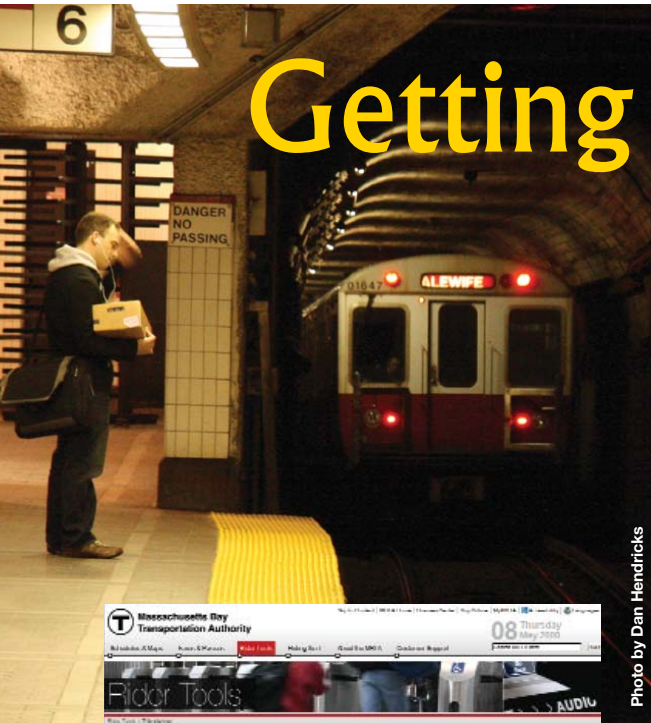
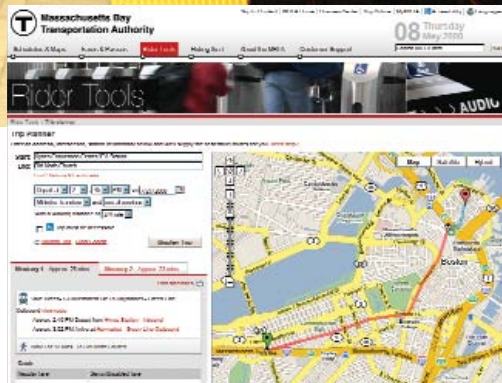


Photo by Dan Hendricks



Top: A rider waits for a Red Line train.
Above: An online trip planner can be found at mbta.com.

Getting around Boston

A 2007 Brookings Institution study determined what 4.5 million Bostonians have known for years: their fair city is one of the most walkable in the United States.

But delegates to this summer's convention—letter carriers who have already spent plenty of time on their feet, thank you—will be pleased to note that Boston has a healthy array of alternative ways to get around town.

Bus and rail: The five-line subway system, known as “the T,” links most of the popular historic and commercial sites in Boston. The municipal bus service goes many places where rail does not.

A one-way bus trip costs \$1.50; on the subway, it's \$2. Convention delegates who are planning to make more than a few trips on the system would be well advised to purchase a LinkPass, which allows unlimited travel on both subway and bus. The daily LinkPass, on sale at subway stations and some retail locations, runs \$9. A weekly LinkPass could prove to be real bargain, costing just \$15 for seven days' transportation.

More information, including an easy-to-use trip planner, is available online at mbta.com.

Taxis: In Boston, taxis are still known officially as “hackney carriages,” a hold-over from pre-Revolutionary War days. Most people nowadays just call them taxis or cabs.

Taxi fares are set by the city of Boston, and run \$1.75 for the first 1/8-mile, then 30 cents for each additional 1/8 of a mile. For trips from Logan International Airport, expect to pay an additional \$6 to cover MassPort and Mass Turnpike tunnel tolls; going to the airport, add \$2.25. There are six licensed taxi companies.

Airport transportation: Bus, van, subway, limousine, even water taxi—these are the ways convention delegates and their families can get to and from Logan Airport. Check out massport.com/logan/getti_typeo.html to determine which mode of travel best suits your needs.

Many hotels offer free shuttle service to and from the airport—call ahead to see if yours is one of them. ☒

Amtrak offers convention travel discount

Delegates planning to take the train to or from the 66th Biennial NALC Convention in Boston can take advantage of a special convention discount off Amtrak's lowest available fare, Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Broendel announced.

The 10 percent price cut is valid for all Amtrak regional departures (except Acela and Auto Train) between July 18 and July 28—a time span that covers the three days both before and after the July 21-25 convention.

To make a reservation, call Amtrak at 800-872-7245 or contact a local travel agent. Refer to the NALC convention fare code X79S-937 when making the reservation. The convention discount can not be applied to reservations made via Internet.

Offer is valid for sleeper, business class or first class seats with payment of the full applicable accommodation charges. ☒



COLCPE contest cut-offs coming

NALC members have just a few weeks left to qualify for the latest contests created to build up COLCPE, the union's political action fund.

"The response to these raffles has been tremendous," said NALC President Bill Young. "We're pulling together support for the political activism that we need to get our country back on the right track, and we're having a little fun while we do it."

Two raffles will be held at this summer's national convention in Boston as a way of saying thanks to the men and women of the NALC who give every pay period to the non-partisan Committee on Letter Carrier Political Education.

The top prize is a trip for two to baseball's World Series, a getaway that includes a pair of tickets for two games, airfare, a three-night hotel stay and a per diem for expenses.

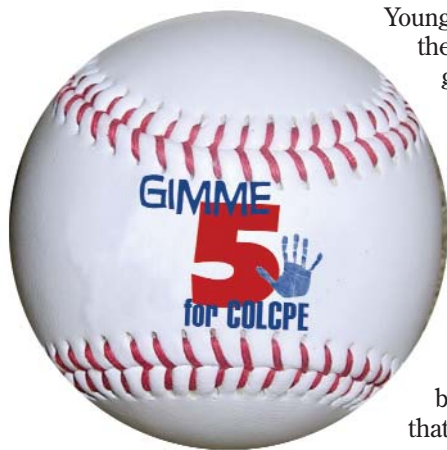
To be eligible to win the trip, active and retired letter carriers must be recorded at NALC Headquarters as "Gimme 5 for COLCPE" contributors by July 7. For active carriers, that means contributing \$5 per pay period by automatic funds transfer (AFT) or by using one of their three payroll allotments. For retirees, "Gimme 5" is \$5 per

month directly from their annuity payments or by AFT.

Last-chance sign-ups will be accepted at the Legislative Department's booth at the Convention Center. Additionally, "lump sum" donors who do not give automatically will be eligible to win the baseball prize if they are active carriers who have contributed at least \$120 between January 1 and June 30, or retirees who have given \$60 in that same time period.

But wait, as they say—there's more: A second drawing at the convention will award a 32-inch flat-panel high-definition television to one lucky letter carrier who is a Gimme 5 contributor by July 7 or signs up at the convention (lump-sum givers do not qualify for this drawing).

President Young will draw the names of both prize-winners during the convention. ☒



Time limits waived

The NALC and the Postal Service have agreed to a waiver of time limits during July for all grievances because of the union's 66th Biennial Convention, which takes place in Boston July 21-25. The agreement, signed by NALC President William H. Young and USPS Vice President-Labor Relations Doug Tulino, covers all parties at the local, regional and national levels for the entire month of July, not just the week of the convention.

COLCPE coordinators

As a special show of gratitude, all branch COLCPE coordinators who attend the convention in Boston will be in the running to win one of three Apple iPhones. Each coordinator will receive one raffle ticket for each member of their branch who gives at the Gimme 5 level. During the convention's COLCPE class, coordinators will be split up according to branch size: up to 99 members, 100 to 499 members, and 500 or more members. One iPhone winner will be drawn from each of the three groups. ☒

Carrier Corps reward for branches

Branches with high percentages of Carrier Corps volunteers are in the running to win a new office computer system.

Introduced last summer, the Carrier Corps is composed of NALC members who pledge 10 hours or more of their personal time for some form of union-sanctioned political activism, such as walking precincts or staffing a phone bank. The volunteers receive the signature "NALC blue" Carrier Corps T-shirt.

At the 66th Biennial Convention in Boston next month, four branches with the highest percentage of Carrier Corps participation as of June 30, based on membership size, will be awarded a new computer system for their branch office. The categories are 50 to 99 members, 100 to 499 members, 500 to 1,499 members, and 1,500 or more members. ☒



Convention workshop schedule

More than 20 workshops will be offered for delegates to the Boston convention. Detailed descriptions of each program were published in the May *Postal Record*, pages 24-27, but the schedule was still being set. For planning purposes, here are the days and times for the sessions. All are scheduled for two

Monday, July 21

Morning

Health Benefit Plan Breakfast/Workshop
Contract Administration Unit Briefing
(repeated Tuesday afternoon)
Effective Branch Communication
NALC's Legislative and Political Agenda

Afternoon

City Delivery Issues and Flat Sequencing System
(repeated Tuesday morning)

Tuesday, July 22

Morning

Mutual Benefit Association Breakfast/Workshop
(reservation coupon, page 46)

LM-3
Branch COLCPE Coordinators and Growing "Gimme 5"
City Delivery Issues and Flat Sequencing System

Afternoon

Making Your Food Drive More Successful
Contract Administration Unit Briefing
Branch Trustee Training

hours. Morning programs begin at 7:30 a.m.; afternoon workshops are to begin at 2:15 p.m., although that time depends on when the day's plenary session ends.

The schedule, class summaries and room numbers will be printed in the Pocket Guide distributed to delegates upon registration.

Wednesday, July 23

Morning

Navigating the Future: USPS and Postal Reform
Customer Connect
Duties of the Branch Secretary-Treasurer

Afternoon

Labor 2008: Campaign School
'Over There': Global Postal Panel

Thursday, July 24

Morning

Retirement Breakfast/Workshop
(reservation coupon, page 47)
OWCP: The Basics
How to Sell the NALC Health Benefit Plan
MDA and the NALC

Afternoon

Congressional District Liaison Training
Thrift Savings Plan

Friday, July 24

Morning

Retirement Planning for Active Carriers
Safety and Health Committees and EAP
Next Generation Leadership

Customer Connect Wednesday, July 23 Morning

(This session was inadvertently omitted from last month's descriptions)

Both the NALC and USPS recognize that revenue growth through increased use of postal products and services is vital to the success of the Postal Service. Customer Connect is designed to leverage the skills of NALC members and the trust customers have in letter carriers to attract new delivery business. This workshop, led by Assistant-Secretary Treasurer George Mignosi, will give branch officers and interested delegates information on how the program works and update them on the nationwide rollout.

Delegates can give gift of life

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive during the Boston convention on Wednesday, July 23, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Delegates and guests can schedule appointments to donate now at www.bloodpartners.org/redcross/nalc.

A blood drive at the Las Vegas convention in 2006 collected 101 pints of blood. Giving blood is simple and safe. The entire process takes about an hour, including registration, a questionnaire, the drawing of a pint of blood, and a 15-minute refreshment period.

"Letter carriers are renowned for their generosity," said President Bill Young. "I encourage all delegates to support this drive."

Certain medications, health problems or chronic conditions may disqualify some people from donating blood. Those with questions about giving blood can contact the New England region chapter of the American Red Cross toll-free at 800-462-9400.

The Red Cross needs to collect 7,000-plus pints of blood every week to meet the needs of 170 hospitals it serves in New England. ✉



A delegate donates blood at the 2006 Las Vegas Convention.



Proposed amendments

The following proposed amendments to the NALC Constitution will be considered by the delegates to the 66th Biennial Convention in Boston. Proposed new language is printed in **bold**; ~~strike-through~~ indicates proposed language to be deleted. The Constitution is available on the NALC website, NALC.org. Look under About NALC>Facts & History>Union Structure.

NALC Constitution

Delegates to the Convention

Amend Article 4, Section 3 as follows:

Sec. 3. At the regular election of Branch delegates, the Branch shall elect the same number of alternates as there are delegates elected; and, at the election of Delegates-at-Large, the State Association shall elect also two alternate Delegates-at-Large who shall be recognized as the delegate in the event of the inability of any delegate to attend the Convention, or of the death or resignation of any delegate. The Branch may elect both paid and unpaid delegates and alternates as long as every qualified member has an equal opportunity to run for both the paid and unpaid positions; provided, that the alternate who received the highest number of votes shall be assigned to act instead of any one delegate who is unable to attend such Convention; and, when more than one delegate is unable to attend such Convention, alternates shall be assigned in accordance with the number of votes cast for each one in the election, and shall be certified in such numerical order to act in their stead. A delegate and his/her alternate shall not both be admitted during any one biennial or special meeting. Any vacancy in the office of delegate, Delegate-at-Large, or their alternates may be filled **by election** by the Branch or by the State Association. An alternate delegate before being admitted to the National Convention shall present either his/her certificate of election or written evidence from the Secretary of his/her Branch, or from the delegate for whom he/she is elected alternate, that the elected delegate is unable to attend the meeting of the National Association.

NALC Executive Council

Source and Distribution of Revenue

Amend Article 7, Section 2(a) as follows:

Sec. 2 (a). There shall be a minimum dues structure which shall consist of the following: Each **career** member shall pay monthly dues equal to two hours base pay for an NALC Grade 1, Step D letter carrier employed by the United States Postal. **Each Transitional Employee member shall pay monthly dues equal to one hour base pay for an NALC Grade 1, Step D letter carrier employed by the United States Postal Service.** One third of such dues shall be allocated to the national union and shall be designated the national per capita tax. The remaining two thirds of such dues shall be allocated to the member's branch and shall be designated minimum branch dues.

Branch 1152, Minot, SD

Source and Distribution of Revenue

Amend Article 7, Section 3(d) as follows:

Sec. 3

(d). Fifty (50) cents per member per annum, deductible semi-annually, of all per capita tax shall be deposited in the NALC Contingency Fund. ~~Use of the revenues from this Fund shall be limited to promoting, publicizing, and coordinating a nationally mandated work stoppage.~~ **Legislative and Political Action Fund to be used as authorized and directed by the National President.**

NALC Executive Council

Resolutions

Amend Article 12 as follows:

Section 1. A book containing resolutions to be placed before the National Convention shall be printed and distributed to all delegates one (1) month before the National Convention. Resolutions shall be posted on the NALC website as they arrive at the National Headquarters.

Section 2. Any Branch in good standing or any State Association may, at any time, forward to the National Secretary-Treasurer resolutions properly attested by their President and Secretary-Treasurer for consideration by the appropriate Union authority. Such resolutions must be in duplicate, and each shall be on a separate piece of paper. Resolutions pertaining to the National Working Agreement, which should, insofar as possible, identify the Article and Section to be changed, shall be forwarded to the Chief Spokesman of the NALC Negotiating Team; those pertaining to legislation shall be forwarded to the NALC Director of Legislation; and all others shall be forwarded to the NALC Executive Council for their consideration and appropriate action. Those appropriate authorities shall report to the National Convention on all such resolutions and the action thereon.

New York State Letter Carriers Association

Constitution for the Government of Subordinate and Federal Branches

Duties of Officers—President

Amend Article 6, Section 1 as follows:

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Branch; preserve order; sign all warrants on the Treasurer ordered drawn by the Branch, and all other papers ordered by the Branch; have general supervisory powers over the Branch; see that officers perform their duties, enforce the Constitution, By-Laws, Rules and

to the NALC Constitution

Regulations of the Branch; appoint all committees not otherwise provided for; give the deciding vote when a tie occurs; examine and announce the result of all balloting and other votes. He/she shall not make or second any motion or take part in any debate while in the Chair; he/she shall ascertain from the Financial Secretary before adjournment of the meeting the amount of money received since the previous meeting, and from the Treasurer if he/she has received the same. At the end of his/her term, he/she shall make a report showing the progress and condition of the Branch.

He/she shall, together with the Treasurer, sign and file with the Secretary of Labor on behalf of the Branch, an annual financial report if required by public law. The filing of such report will be required unless the Branch has received express notification from the National Association that it is exempt from such requirements.

He/she shall, by virtue of his/her office, be the chief steward for the Branch, and he/she may delegate such authority to other members. **The President shall at all times have the authority to relieve any steward, whether appointed or elected, of any representational duties or functions, and to assign such duties or functions to another member appointed by the President, whenever the President concludes that such action is necessary to ensure that the Branch meets its representational responsibilities or to ensure Branch compliance with NALC policy.**

NALC Executive Council

Fees, Dues, Fines and Assessments

Amend Article 7, Section 2 as follows:

Sec. 2. The rates of dues and initiation fees may be increased only by majority vote by secret ballot of the regular members in good standing at a special or regular meeting after reasonable notice has been given that this question will be before the meeting, except that a Branch may provide in its by-laws that such majority vote may be had by secret ballot referendum. The same rules of procedure shall apply to the levy of a special or general assessment and to the imposition of fines upon members found guilty of charges preferred against them, except that such assessments or fines must be approved by a two-thirds vote. **Branch By-law provisions requiring a vote greater than a majority of the regular members in good standing at a special or regular meeting to amend the Branch By-laws do not apply to proposals to increase the rates of dues or initiation fees or to levy a special or general assessment.**

NALC Executive Council

Charges

Delete Article 10, Section 8 in its entirety:

~~Sec. 8. Any National, State, or Branch Officer or member of a Branch who, having first been charged under this Article with using or attempting to use the Branch, or any portion of it, or his/her influence therein, for political purposes,~~

~~is determined by the Branch in accordance with the procedures prescribed in this Article to be guilty of the charge, shall be guilty of perjury and shall suffer expulsion.~~

NALC Executive Council

Appeals

Amend Article 11, Section 2 as follows:

Sec. 2. When an appeal from the action of the Branch is taken, the following rules must be observed:

First: The appeal must be in writing and filed with the recording secretary of the Branch, together with any written testimony, arguments and briefs, within twenty days from the date of the Branch meeting at which the decision to be appealed from was made. **An appellant's request for documents and records to support his/her appeal shall not be unreasonably denied by the Branch.**

Second: The recording secretary shall submit, and read to the Branch at its next regular meeting following the receipt of the appeal, the notice of intention to appeal, the appeal and all written testimony, arguments, briefs, and evidence submitted by the appellant.

Third: The Branch shall then be allowed twenty days to prepare its reply which shall be in writing with the seal of the Branch attached thereto.

A copy of this reply shall be immediately transmitted by the recording secretary to the appellant. The recording secretary shall also immediately transmit the appeal, together with all testimony, arguments, briefs, and evidence submitted by the appellant and the reply of the Branch thereto via registered mail, to the Chairperson of the Committee on Appeals of the National Association. Either party to an appeal from a decision of the Branch to the Committee on Appeals of the National Association may, if dissatisfied with the decision, appeal to the National Convention of the National Association of Letter Carriers, in accordance with the procedure set out in Article 11, Section 4 of the National Constitution.

NALC Executive Council

Constitution and General Laws of the United States Letter Carriers Mutual Benefit Association

Law 5—Plans of Insurance

Amend Law 5, Section 6 by adding:

(e) Branches that purchase G-001 Supplemental Term Life Insurance on behalf of their active members shall have Gold Card Members in recognition of their 50 years of devoted service to the National Association of Letter Carriers included in this insurance plan at no additional charge.

Branch 120, Paterson, NJ