

NALC to conduct special election

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has advised the NALC that it has rejected complaints filed by four unsuccessful candidates in the 2014 election of national officers, but at the DOL's request, NALC will conduct a special election for the office of director of retired members.

As previously reported, in December 2014, the National Election Committee received appeals submitted by candidate for national president David Noble, candidate for national trustee Eryca Bloom, candidate for vice president Deidre Beal and candidate for assistant secretary-treasurer Sharella Spikes. The committee met at NALC Headquarters in Washington, DC, during the week of Jan. 6 to review the election-result appeals.

The committee's decision was to deny the appeals.

Each of the four appellants subsequently filed election protests with the DOL, which has advised NALC that its

investigative findings do not provide a basis for action by the DOL to set aside the protested election.

However, the DOL also advised the NALC that it did not agree with the National Election Committee's decision to reject the nomination of Minneapolis Branch 9 member Ken Ring for the office of director of retired members. In August of 2014, the committee determined that three nominations for national officer positions did not meet the requirements for certification under the terms of the *NALC Constitution*, and committee members voted unanimously to disqualify all three.

In the case of candidate Ring, the committee found that the nomination/acceptance form submitted on his behalf during the 2014 convention in Philadelphia did not contain his handwritten signature.

Ring's disqualification resulted in the uncontested election of Corvallis,

OR Branch 1274 member Ron Watson as director of retired members.

The DOL found that the nomination/acceptance form submitted on behalf of candidate Ring had an electronic signature. It further concluded that neither the form nor the NALC's notice of nominations, as published in *The Postal Record*, provided sufficient notice that a handwritten signature was required.

During a teleconference conducted on June 2, the NALC Executive Council unanimously agreed to accept the DOL's request to conduct a special election for director of retired members between Watson and Ring.

Under the terms of a compliance agreement signed by NALC President Fredric Rolando on June 5, the election will be conducted before Oct. 15, 2015.

Further details regarding the special election will be in a future *Postal Record* and will be posted on the NALC website. **PR**

APWU and NRLCA contract negotiations with USPS head toward mediation

As this issue of *The Postal Record* was being prepared, both the American Postal Workers Union and the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association had reached impasses in their negotiations with the Postal Service on new collective-bargaining agreements.

For the APWU, contract negotiations ended without an agreement on May 27, following a one-week extension of talks. In accordance with the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA), if bargaining reaches a stalemate, the union and management must participate in mediation or an alternate method. Mediation is expected to last at least 60 days.

During negotiations, the USPS destroyed the possibility of reaching a deal by insisting on severe cuts in pay and benefits, APWU President Mark Dimondstein said, even though progress had been made on non-economic issues.

For the NRLCA, on May 20, after more than two months of contract talks and the appearance of progress toward a negotiated settlement, talks stalled and an impasse was declared.

The NRLCA's final proposals provide for appropriate and reasonable wage increases, continued cost-of-living adjustments and the maintenance of core benefits, the NRLCA said in a statement.

The parties expected to meet soon to discuss the next steps.

"Preparations for our own negotiations began immediately after the arbitration ruling that decided the current contract," NALC President Fredric Rolando said. "As we get closer to the end of our own contract, those preparations are intensifying."

The 2011-2016 National Agreement between the National Association of Letter Carriers and the United States Postal Service is set to expire on May 20, 2016, but will remain in effect until a new agreement is reached through bargaining or interest arbitration. **PR**