

First CCA graduates from Leadership Academy

Christopher Henwood of Rutland, VT Branch 495 was only one of the 31 NALC members who graduated from the 19th Leadership Academy class on June 5, but he holds the distinction of being the first city carrier assistant to do so.

NALC Director of Life Insurance Myra Warren presided over the graduation ceremony at the Maritime Center in Linthicum Heights, MD, a few miles south of Baltimore. She thanked the graduates for taking it upon themselves to apply to the Academy and to learn how to be bet-

ter leaders, no matter what position they ultimately hold.

“As graduates of Class 19, as you go out into your branches, stations and states, what I want you to think about is: As a leader, it’s not about the title,” she said. “You can’t take a title with you when you go.

“What I want you to remember is to always be open, be teachable, and always be approachable. That’s how we lead.”

She also encouraged them to be creative in how they lead and inspire others. She concluded by calling on them to always be out there working for the betterment of others.

“In 30 years, people won’t remember what house you lived in,” she said. “People aren’t going to remember what car you drove. They aren’t going to remember the clothes you wore. What they will remember is what you did



to help the Postal Service reform and to help your brother and sister letter carriers.”

The commencement event capped several months of intensive training on the skills necessary for union members to become effective leaders. Under the tutelage of their mentors—established NALC leaders such as branch presidents or national business agents—the students combined three separate



The Leadership Academy

Region 1

Paula Marshall-Arguello
Branch 183
Santa Rosa, CA

Veronica Gaaney
Branch 133
Sacramento, CA

Region 2

Kevin McKinstry
Branch 909
Pendleton, OR

DeeDee Roberts
Branch 791
Everett, WA

Region 3

Jon Calloway
Branch 80
Springfield, IL

Aaron Taylor
Branch 4016
S. Suburban IL Merged

Region 4

Gordon McCune
Branch 1902
Arizona Merged

John Wofford
Branch 1042
Stigler, OK

Region 5

Eli Lisiecki
Branch 5
Omaha, NE

Sion Odum
Branch 8
Lincoln, NE

Region 6

Nathan Kelle
Branch 377
Southwest Indiana

Thomas Minshall
Branch 246
Kalamazoo, MI

Region 7

Dawn Knutson
Branch 715
Beloit, WI

Jason Schafer
Branch 507
Madison, WI

Region 8

Usani McElvain
Branch 1402
Murfreesboro, TN

Chris Strickland
Branch 1096
Tuscaloosa, AL

Region 9

Robert Hamilton Sr.
Branch 313
Brunswick, GA

Matthew Naufel
Branch 4716
Naples, FL

Region 10

Albert Anchondo
Branch 505
El Paso, TX

Linda Boroughs
Branch 132
Dallas, TX



weeks of classroom learning at the Maritime Center with take-home assignments and special projects.

The 31 participants, two from each of the NALC's 15 regions (and a third from Region 9 who was unable to complete a previous class), now add their names to an ever-lengthening list of graduates of the Academy, which was established in 2005. Retired NALC Executive Vice President Jim Williams and former NALC Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Jim Korolowicz coordinate a well-rounded and effective curriculum with the full-time assistance of Director of Education Jamie Lumm and Director of the Information Center Nancy Dysart. They tap a number of NALC officers and Headquarters staff members and experts to teach classes on a wide variety of topics.

During their classes, students took part in often lively discussions on such subjects as the National Agreement and the union's legislative agenda to save America's Postal Service. They also learned more about the Dispute Resolution Process, strategic planning, branch financial responsibilities, retirement issues, DOIS and route protection, workers' compensation, effective negotiation techniques, getting the NALC's message out and dealing with the media.

Each week of the Academy also included an ongoing emphasis on effective written and oral communication skills in such forums as membership meetings, awards ceremonies and dinners, as well as written reports and oral presentations about their take-home projects.

President Fredric Rolando has announced the names of those selected to attend the 20th Leadership Academy (*see list below*), which will begin this month.

For more on the curriculum of the Leadership Academy and how to apply for a future class, see story on page 12. **PR**

Opposite page (top): Director of Life Insurance Myra Warre gives the commencement speech.

Opposite page (bottom): Retired Executive Vice President Jim Williams offers his advice to the graduates.

Above: The entire class

Below: Christopher Henwood of Rutland, VY Branch 495 receives his completion certificate.

Class of fall/winter 2015

Region 11

André Laney Sr.
Branch 40
Cleveland, OH

Dale Liptak

Branch 63
Zanesville, OH

Region 12

Erica Jemiola
Branch 162
Pittston, PA

William Phillips

Branch 769
Cherry Hill/
Haddonfield, NJ

Region 13

Wanda Bennett
Branch 496
Richmond, VA

Kristin Williams

Branch 6066
Chesapeake, VA

Region 14

Thomas Hughes
Branch 57
Portsmouth, RI

Samie Smith

Branch 34
Boston, MA

Region 15

Douglas Del Guercio
Branch 272
Rockaway, NJ

Jeff Fezza

Branch 38
New Jersey Merged

