



Letter carrier focus group provides feedback on NGDV

As reported in the May edition of *The Postal Record*, the contract to design and produce the Next Generation Delivery Vehicle (NGDV) was awarded on Feb. 23 to Oshkosh Defense. Since the awarding of the contract to replace the current fleet of delivery vehicles, Oshkosh Defense has been working on the initial design of the first production models of the NGDV. Its design is based on specifications developed by the Postal Service after discussions with representatives of NALC.

In July, a group of 21 letter carriers selected by NALC traveled to Oshkosh, WI, to review Oshkosh's design and provide feedback. Two of those included in the group, **Amanda Greer** of St. Paul, MN Branch 28 and **Reed Ordoyne** of Houma-Thibodaux-Lockport, LA Branch 2464, were part of the initial group of carriers who met with Postal Service representatives in 2014, at the beginning of the process.

The NALC members selected to participate have approximately 400 years of combined experience delivering the mail. Individually, their experience level as letter carriers ranges from four to 35 years. Collectively, they have driven most types of modern delivery vehicle, from the Jeep to the Mercedes Metris. They have worked in all kinds of weather, from the intense heat of Arizona during the summer months to

the frigid temperatures and abundant snow found in Alaska and Minnesota in the winter. The group included carriers who deliver mail on all types of routes in urban, suburban and rural areas of the country.

During the two days in July that the group spent in Oshkosh, the carriers had the opportunity to inspect the features of the NGDV and ask questions of Postal Service engineers and representatives of Oshkosh Defense. After reviewing the new NGDV, each carrier subsequently had a chance to provide feedback, both oral and written, about the vehicle's positive features and about what could be improved.

Going forward, the NGDV team, which includes NALC Director of City Delivery Christopher Jackson as well as Oshkosh Defense personnel, will review the feedback from the carriers and decide which changes should be made to the final design of the new NGDVs. Once the final design is approved, Oshkosh will begin building prototype vehicles, which will go through several rounds of testing. These tests will include durability testing of the vehicle and its components, as well as testing of the vehicle during delivery conditions. Once all testing has been completed, Oshkosh plans to begin production of the NGDVs in Spartanburg, SC, for delivery to the Postal Service. **PR**

The group included: (seated from l) LaDena Long from Las Vegas Br. 2502; Yesenia Robles of Garden Grove, CA Br. 1100; Tom Devros of Anchorage Br. 4319; Charles Bundy of Chicago Br. 11; Alfredo Villa of Phoenix Br. 576; Tamara Twinn of Centennial, CO Br. 5996; Andy Tuttle of Lawrence, KS Br. 104; Ben Dixon of Detroit Br. 1; Amanda Greer of St. Paul, MN Br. 28; Reed Ordoyne of Houma-Thibodaux-Lockport, LA Br. 2464; (standing, from l) Amber Blank of Wilmington, NC Br. 464; Janine Singleton of Dallas Br. 132; Ethel Ford of Houston Br. 283; Aaron Lyttle of Cincinnati, OH Br. 43; Lori Ann Mottolo of Willoughby, OH Br. 3688; Alexandra Stillpleix of Pittsburgh Br. 84; Greg Busby of Charleston, WV Br. 531; Chareke Batten of Tidewater, VA Br. 247; Matt Leger of Fall River, MA Br. 51 and Brad Jasper of Yonkers, NY Br. 387