

New Leadership Academy graduates ready to pay investment forward



Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Mack I. Julion presides over the graduation ceremony.

NALC Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Mack I. Julion presided over the graduation ceremony of the 31 members of NALC Leadership Academy Class 26. The ceremony was held on May 5 at the Maritime Center in Linthicum Heights, MD, just south of Baltimore.

Julion, a graduate of Leadership Academy Class 2, spoke about the transformative effect the Academy had on him as an NALC activist.

“I came in as an individual. I came in as ‘me’ and what I can accomplish,” he said. “I left with a sense of ‘we.’ We were a group.”

Julion talked about how over the course of the training, he came to feel that NALC had made an investment in him.

“It was a humbling experience,” he said. “I felt a need, a desire, a mission, to go back and not just pay back [what NALC invested in me] but to pay it forward. To pay it into other members of NALC and into NALC as a whole.”

That didn’t mean an expectation that there was a job or an appointment waiting for him. “This doesn’t entitle us to anything,” he told the new graduates. “It only challenges us to go

out there and work that much harder to be willing to give back because there is a lot of sacrifice in what we do,” he said.

“I would hope that each and every one of you—with this accomplishment—feels a great sense of gratitude and humility and that you’re given the opportunity to serve your brothers and sisters. And always keep that in the forefront.

“What we do, we keep the members first,” he concluded.

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—the students combined three separate weeks of classroom learning at the Maritime Center with take-home assignments and special projects.

After the commencement, the graduates were assigned to work at their national business agents’ offices for a week to learn in a different environment.

The 31 participants (listed below) now add their names to an ever-lengthening list of graduates of the Academy. During their classes, students took part in often lively discussions on such subjects as the National Agreement and the union’s legislative agenda. They also learn more about the Dispute Resolution Process, strategic planning, branch financial responsibilities, retirement issues, route protection, workers’ compensation, effective negotiation techniques, and the use of social media for branch communications.

Current NALC officers, Headquarters staff members and even retired national presidents are tapped to teach classes on a wide variety of topics. The attendees also were guided by daily



A breakout group of attendees lead a presentation to the rest of the class.



Above: Leadership Academy Class 26
Left: Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Julion presents a graduate certificate to Landon S. Yoshikawa.

class instructors: former National Business Agents (NBAs) Troy Clark and Chris Wittenburg; Region 1 NBA Keisha Lewis; Region 5 Regional Administrative Assistant Larrissa Parde; and Assistant to the President Ed Morgan.

Each week of the Academy also includes an emphasis on acquiring effective written and oral communication skills through such means as written and oral reports. Back in their branches, graduates will make use of those skills in such forums as membership meetings, awards ceremonies and dinners.

The application period for participation in the Leadership Academy is expected to open this summer. **PR**



NALC Leadership Academy Class 26 graduates

Yesenia Robles
 Garden Grove, CA Br. 1100

Landon Yoshikawa
 Honolulu, HI Br. 860

Kollin Luman
 Portland, OR Br. 82

Misty Shea
 Tacoma, WA Br. 130

Miriah McMillan
 S. Suburban IL Mgd. Br. 4016

Tyrone Valdez
 Chicago, IL Br. 11

Jenilee Jackson
 Fort Collins, CO Br. 849

Timothy Fisher
 Arizona Mgd. Br. 1902

Patrick Baker
 Jefferson City, MO Br. 127

Andrea Malena
 Omaha, NE Br. 5

Elizabeth Bays
 Western Wayne Co., MI Br. 2184

Jeremy Swift
 Lafayette, IN Br. 466

Brian Doerr
 Sioux Falls, SD Br. 491

Luke Kane
 St. Paul, MN Br. 28

Samuel Hill
 Hattiesburg, MS Br. 938

Carman Montgomery
 Mobile, AL Br. 469

Wayne Green Jr.
 Winston-Salem, NC Br. 461

Wayne Harlow
 Greenville, SC Br. 439

Leigh Smith
 Decatur, GA Br. 2225

Tijuana Abbott
 Houston, TX Br. 283

Ron Stover
 Dallas, TX Br. 132

Feliciana Duran
 Toledo, OH Br. 100

Matthew Toth
 Elyria, OH Br. 196

Joshua Leeking
 Lancaster, PA Br. 273

Kevin Moore
 Philadelphia, PA Br. 157

Chad Fallecker
 Charleston, WV Br. 531

Cara Neri
 Petersburg, VA Br. 326

Anthony Bossi
 MA Northeast Mgd. Br. 25

Shauna Houghton
 New Hampshire Mgd. Br. 44

Eric Lomax
 Jamaica, NY Br. 562

Michelle Schulze
 Morristown, NJ Br. 272