NALC Bulletin
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Rolando announces RAA appointments

NALC President Fredric Rolando has announced the appointment of several letter carriers to regional administrative assistant (RAA) positions.

Calvin Brookins

Rolando has appointed Van Nuys, CA Branch 2462 President Calvin Brookins as an RAA for Region 1, which serves letter carriers in California, Hawaii, Nevada and Guam. Brookins' appointment fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Santa Clara Branch 1427 member Brian Voigt.

Brookins served as a shop steward from 1989 to 2001. For the past 13 years, he has served as Branch 2462 president; before that, he served as branch vice president and trustee. He also is an arbitration advocate.

Allan Rios

Rolando also has appointed Garden Grove, CA Branch 1100's Allan Rios as a Region 1 RAA. Rios, a Leadership Academy Class 16 graduate, began his advocacy for letter carriers as a shop steward in 2009. In 2010, he became an area steward; a year later, he took on the role of local business agent. Rios also is an arbitration advocate and has served on the Santa Ana District's Dispute Resolution B Team.

Charles Sexton

Brookins and Rios are joining RAAs Bryant Almario (a member of Branch 1427) and James Henry (a member of Branch 1100) as assistants to Region 1 National Business Agent (NBA) Christopher Jackson.

In Region 5, which serves the letter carriers of Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas, Rolando has appointed St. Louis, MO Branch 343 Recording Secretary Charles Sexton as an RAA to fill the vacancy created when former RAA Michael Birkett was elected last year as Region 5 NBA. Sexton is a Leadership Academy Class 2 graduate who has served as a local business agent and as an arbitration advocate.

Stephanie Stewart

President Rolando also has appointed Central Iowa Merged Branch 352 President Stephanie Stewart as an RAA for Region 5. Stewart, a Leadership Academy Class 9 graduate, also is the vice president of the Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers. She is an arbitration advocate as well, and among her other duties she has served on the district safety committee.

Stewart's appointment fills the vacancy created by the detailing of RAA Mark Sims, a member of Springfield, MO Branch 203, to Washington, DC, to the position of NALC Headquarters contract administration assistant.

Lynne Pendleton

And in Region 9, which serves the letter carriers of Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina, President Rolando has appointed Central Florida Branch 1091 letter carrier Lynne Pendleton as an RAA to fill the vacancy created when former RAA Kenneth Gibbs was elected last year as Region 9 NBA. Pendleton has served as a local business agent for Region 9, branch trustee and as a Dispute Resolution Team representative, as well as vice president of the Florida State Association. She is a graduate of Leadership Academy Class 5.

All of these appointments are effective as of Feb. 2.

Monitoring of USPS response to cyber breach continues

NALC is staying on top of the Postal Service's handling of the cyber breach in September that compromised the agency's computers that hold workers' personal and employment information, including medical, injury compensation, banking, Social Security and other personal information.

On Nov. 10, NALC received the first notification from USPS about the hack. A few days later, the union filed an unfair labor practice charge with the National Labor Relations Board against USPS, alleging that the Postal Servce had violated its duty to negotiate with the NALC over the impact of the security breach on letter carriers. That charge remains pending.

Current and former USPS workers whose information was compromised by the breach should have received in December a letter from the Postal Service containing important new information. Meanwhile, individual letter carriers may elect to enroll in the credit monitoring services offered by the Postal Service, with the knowledge that NALC may seek different or additional remedies.

Search for "hacked" at nalc.org to learn more.

NALC joins postal banking coalition

NALC President Fredric Rolando has announced that the union has joined a new coalition to explore ways the U.S. Postal Service could provide affordable financial services to the tens of millions of Americans who lack access to such services.

The coalition, the Campaign for Postal Banking, is made up of consumer advocates, community groups, worker representatives, faith-based groups and civil rights organizations.

"The Postal Service already provides several affordable financial services," Rolando said—such as money orders, Treasury check cashing and international electronic money transfers. "Not only do we as letter carriers touch every community in America, six days a week—and sometimes seven—but every community in America has at least one post office nearby, something that can't be said about banks and other similar financial institutions."

According to the latest Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) "National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked," 28 percent of U.S. households—or nearly 100 million people—are underserved by currently available banking options.

"This coalition will help us explore opportunities to close this gap and help move millions of Americans away from payday lenders and other predatory alternative financial services," the president said. "Our nationwide post office network, combined with its highly skilled and dedicated workforce, could help solve this serious public policy problem."

National election appeals denied

The National Election Committee met at NALC National Headquarters in Washington, DC, during the week of Jan. 6 to review the election-result appeals that the committee received in December from four unsuccessful candidates in the 2014 election of NALC national officers. The results of the national election were published in the December 2014 *Postal Record*.

Following a thorough review, the committee's decision was to deny the 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.

Letters from the committee notified the appellants of this decision.

Unfortunately, during the investigation of the appeals, NALC's election contractor, Peake-DeLancey, discovered that there were errors in the preliminary report of the election results in the final report that was mailed to branches. None of these errors affected the outcome of the election for any office. Moreover, the vote totals reported for each individual branch in the final report are accurate. However, in some regions the branch totals were not added correctly, which, in turn, resulted in errors in the national total. The corrected national vote totals for each candidate are actually higher than the totals reflected in the report.

A corrected report that also lists the discrepancies will be posted at nalc.org. Note that the discrepancies affected the vote count only in NALC Regions 2, 5, 9 and 15, and they affected only the national office races. The regional office races were not affected.

Pro-postal resolutions introduced

NALC FACT SHEET
Department of Government and Political Affairs — National Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO
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Six-day mail delivery

As it has for generations, the U.S. Postal Service provides affordable universal service as directed by the U.S. Constitution. In 1983, Congress first adopted an appropriations rider that required the Postal Service to deliver mail six days a week, a rider that has been included in every appropriations measure since. And for more than three decades, the Postal Service has been trying to find a way to eliminate that requirement.

Saturday delivery makes the USPS unique. At a time when e-commerce is creating a package shipping and delivery boom, it would be a short-sighted, strategic blunder to end Saturday delivery.

- The shared network used by the Postal Service to deliver letters, flats, magazines and books gives it a cost advantage in the delivery of residential parcels. This allows the USPS to offer UPS, FedEx and Amazon the most affordable prices for last-mile delivery service, which has been an effective and profitable partnership. In addition, direct mailers, weekly newspapers and small businesses (such as eBay merchants) depend on Saturday delivery for invoicing, bill payments and shipping. Slowing mail service while charging the same price would be especially harmful to these mailers.

Ending Saturday delivery would do more harm than good, driving away business and revenue.

- If Saturday revenue were eliminated, it would likely be gone for good. Even if the Postal Service then realized in hindsight that the service cut had not been worth it and it wanted to restore Saturday delivery, it still would likely be unable to regain the level of revenue it enjoyed before the cut.
- USPS' own customer surveys show that 35 to 40 percent of business mailers (who account for more than 95 percent of postal revenue) want Saturday delivery. Ending that service would drive mailers to alternative delivery methods or to leave the postal system altogether.
- A study conducted by Opinion Research Corporation International in 2012 for the Postal Service (and unearthed during the 2012 Postal Regulatory Commission's (PRC) review of USPS' network optimization plan) showed that slashing Saturday service, when combined with measures the agency has already taken (such as closing post offices and reducing service standards) would lead to a drop in mail volume of by 7.7 percent, causing a revenue loss of $6.36 billion and overwhelming a projected $0.3 billion reduction in expenses.

A delivery study commissioned by the PRC provided a model that showed there might be little to no net savings associated with cutting Saturday delivery. In fact, cutting Saturday delivery might cost the Postal Service money.

- The PRC hired the consultant Swiss Economics (SE) to review the USPS' most recent plan to eliminate Saturday mail delivery but continue package delivery. SE accepted at face value USPS' unrealistic assumptions about the loss of volume and revenue caused by this cut, yet it found that the Postal Service had overestimated the money it could save by ending Saturday letter mail. The savings could be as little as $625 million per year or as much as $1.4 billion, if mail volume fell by just 1.1 to 2.2 percent as assumed by USPS. *However, SE concluded that there might be no savings at all if volume fell by as little as 3.5 percent or as much as 7.5 percent, depending on other operational assumptions.*

Ending Saturday delivery would hurt jobs, the industry and prices.

- The Postal Service's 500,000 career jobs support more than 7.5 million private-sector jobs in the paper, printing, publishing, financial services, direct marketing and e-commerce industries. Downsizing USPS would reduce mail volume and result in downsizing in the private sector as well. Thousands of postal worker jobs would also be impacted by a reduction of services.
- There is no indication that the Postal Service could continue to deliver packages at competitive prices if it were to eliminate delivery of other mail, such as letters and periodicals, on Saturday. In fact, the result would likely be a significant price hike for both USPS and its competitors.

NALC supports H.Res. 12, which calls on Congress and the Postal Service to take all appropriate steps to continue six-day mail delivery

The 114th Congress was sworn in on Jan. 6, and in the House of Representatives, Reps. Sam Graves (R-MO) and Gerry Connolly (D-VA) wasted no time in renewing their commitment to preserving six-day mail delivery by quickly introducing H.Res. 12.

H.Res. 12 is identical to previous sessions' resolutions that called on Congress and the Postal Service to take all appropriate steps to continue six-day mail delivery. The version introduced early in the 113th Congress (2013-2014) wound up with 228 co-sponsors from both political parties.

"Attempts to eliminate Saturday delivery or any other postal services are, in reality, short-sighted excuses for failing to address an onerous pre-funding mandate that perpetuates a cut-cut-cut mentality," NALC President Fredric Rolando said. "Six-day mail delivery service meets the demands of American households and businesses, and we applaud Congressmen Graves and Connolly for leading efforts to preserve it."

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Door delivery

Six days a week (and sometimes seven), nearly 40 million residential and business customers throughout the country receive their letters, bills, medications, supplies and more through door delivery service, where a letter carrier delivers the item straight to a customer's door. This is part of a unique universal delivery network that's attractive to businesses, evidenced by the fact that the Postal Service is actually operationally profitable.

Customer preference for door delivery service: Currently, postal regulations allow for current door deliveries to be converted to cluster boxes, subject to customer approval. But according to the Government Accountability Office, cluster boxes are so unpopular compared with door delivery that, in 2014, less than 0.8 percent of business door-delivery customers opted to go to cluster-box delivery; for residence, just 0.1 percent. How would USPS customers react if they were forced to convert to cluster-box delivery?

- In some locations, USPS has been soliciting customers to convert to a cluster box that could be placed anywhere—a sidewalk or a location at the end of the street—meaning customers would have to retrieve mail from a cluster box. But postal regulations make it very clear: Customers and property owners have the right to retain their existing mode of mail delivery.

Level of service important to maintaining USPS revenue: Adjustments in levels of service can have an immediate impact on current-year revenue and a long-term impact on the viability of a business. If the level of the Postal Service service is cut, customers would likely respond by reducing their use of it. Reduced use would cause a drop in revenue. A significant enough drop in revenue due to service cuts would actually cause the USPS to lose more money than such service cuts would save.

- Cutting service should always be a last resort because it's a high-risk, high-stakes move. If the Postal Service realized after the fact that a service cut had not been worth the revenue decline, by then it might be impossible to regain all of that lost revenue by restoring the former service. Some customers would likely move on from using the USPS permanently; others would move to use it less.

Opportunity to generate revenue through Customer Connect: Letter carriers make personal contact with millions of Postal Service customers daily, a resource any company would love to have. To take better advantage of this role, the NALC and the Postal Service created a program in 2003 called **Customer Connect**.

- Letter carriers use Customer Connect to encourage commercial customers to ship using the Postal Service rather than with a private delivery service. At the same time, letter carriers interact with business owners, creating relationships as well as revenue opportunities.
- By the end of Fiscal Year 2014, nearly $2 billion had been generated over the life of Customer Connect. Ending door-to-door delivery not only would severely threaten the high level of service letter carriers provide, it also would take away an important competitive advantage from USPS. To eliminate this vital door delivery service that has generated significant profits would make no sense.

The eyes and ears of the community: Letter carriers are often first on the scene in situations that threaten the safety and security of the communities they serve.

- As one of the few—and some days only—point of human contact for home-bound patrons, letter carriers are particularly attuned to signs of an accident or illness. In 1980, NALC and USPS created **Carrier Alert**, a cooperative and voluntary community service program to monitor the well-being of elderly and disabled mail patrons.
- The very nature of letter carriers' jobs puts them in constant contact with the public. As a result, countless letter carriers are often the first to arrive at the scene of a crime, or perhaps they are the only witnesses to a crime committed against their neighbors and friends. NALC publishes stories about letter carrier heroism in its monthly membership magazine, *The Postal Record*, and each fall the organization pays public tribute to outstanding examples of letter carrier selflessness with an annual **Heroes of the Year** awards ceremony.
- The **Cities' Readiness Initiative** is a program that is expressly designed to take advantage of the Postal Service's universal network, relying on the voluntary participation of letter carriers to help protect Americans in the event of a biological incident, such as a terrorist attack. The program, which has been tested in several cities across America, involves letter carriers being trained to deliver medicines to residents in the aftermath of a biological event.

Millions of households across the country would be negatively affected by losing door-delivery service to cluster boxes. Customers would be required to walk inconvenient distances to get to these centralized neighborhood delivery locations to retrieve their mail and packages. The elderly and sick would have to walk these distances in sometimes harsh weather to collect their mail and retrieve crucial deliveries of medicine and other packages. Creating a burden such as this would be a disservice to all Americans. The U.S. Postal Service should not be drifting away from its universal service obligations at a time when the e-commerce boom is resulting in customers expecting increased deliveries with increased frequency.

NALC supports H.Res. 28, which protects door delivery for all business and residential customers.

The resolution, H.Res. 28, is identical to H.Res. 711, which was introduced last August during the 113th Congress and which ended up with 75 sponsors from both parties.

"This resolution affirms our message that cutting a vital service like door delivery is not the way to strengthen the Postal Service," President Rolando said. "We are grateful to Representatives Davis, Joyce and King for introducing this resolution right out of the gate in this session of Congress."

Visit nalc.org to download fact sheets and other information about these resolutions.

Saturday, May 9!

Registration for 2015 Food Drive in full swing

NALC President Fredric Rolando has sent a letter to branch presidents to encourage them to sign up as soon as possible to take part in the 23rd annual Letter Carriers' "Stamp Out Hunger" national food drive, set for Saturday, May 9.

"Our extraordinary history of filling local food shelves is possible because of the dedication and hard work of leaders such as you," Rolando wrote. "While our history provides us with confidence, what matters most is our renewed commitment to the Food Drive."

Included with Rolando's letter was the official branch Food Drive registration form. Branch Food Drive leaders can visit nalc.org/food to find these resources and much more—including the official artwork for this year's drive, designed by "Family Circus" artist Jeff Keane.

The Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive is the nation's largest single-day food collection effort—last year, it gathered 72.5 million pounds of food, marking the 11th consecutive year the drive has surpassed 70 million pounds and bringing the total to more than 1.3 billion pounds since the national drive began in 1992.

The registration form must be returned by mail (no faxes or e-mails) to NALC Headquarters by Feb. 15.

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