



NALC

Number 15-02

March 13, 2014

# Bulletin

## Strong 1st quarter for USPS

On Feb. 6, the U.S. Postal Service reported that it had made a \$1.1 billion operating profit in the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2015, up from \$765 million in the same period last year and \$144 million two years ago. In addition, USPS' cash balance grew to \$7 billion as of Dec. 31, 2014, an increase of more than \$2 billion from the same point in time last year.

"The Postal Service financial turnaround is continuing into its third year of operating profitability, never more evident than in this quarter," NALC President Fredric Rolando said. "This is great news for Americans throughout the country and for the millions of businesses that rely on a strong Postal Service."

Overall revenue increased by \$767 million over the same period last year, an increase of 4.3 percent. Volume increased as well, to 42.6 billion pieces in the first quarter of 2015, up from 42 billion pieces in the first quarter of 2014.

As letter carriers can attest, the package business was off the charts. The "Parcel Select, Parcel Return, and Standard Parcels" package segment volume increased by 22.6 percent over last year. Priority Mail volume increased by 8.5 percent over last year. Overall package revenue was up by 10.5 percent, boosting the Postal Service's bottom line.

"The continuing rise in both letter and package revenue—and now even in overall mail volume—is yet another reason why the Postal Service should strengthen—not degrade—its now-profitable networks," Rolando said. "We hope to work with lawmakers on both sides of the aisle, with the administration and with the new postmaster general to build on the progress achieved in the last Congress, within the mailing industry and among major stakeholders on consensus postal reform that promotes a strong and vibrant Postal Service."

## 2015 NALC 'Rap Session' announced

NALC is finishing up the arrangements for holding the 2015 national rap session (also known as the national conference) in Houston, TX, from July 17 to 19.

A reception will be held on Friday, July 17, with workshops on Saturday and the rap session held on Sunday.

Article 3 Section 4(b) of the NALC Constitution states: "The National President shall, once each year except in the year of the National Convention, call a national conference. This conference shall be voluntarily attended by only State and Branch Presidents or their designees, with their expenses to be borne by the State Association or Branch represented."

Information on registration and hotel accommodations will be available at a later date. Please check [nalc.org](http://nalc.org) for updates.

## Local work key to Food Drive's success

While national-level preparations are full-steam ahead for the 23rd annual Letter Carriers' "Stamp Out Hunger" Food Drive on Saturday, May 9, some of the hardest work taking place ahead of America's largest one-day food drive is happening on the ground at branches across the country.

"What makes this drive truly successful, year after year, is the amount of effort our food drive volunteers put in to help bring in as much food as possible," NALC President Fredric Rolando said. "Rather than taking a well-deserved rest after a full day of delivering the mail, countless letter carriers spend their precious free time working out ways to make their local food drive a success."

Last year, letter carriers and dedicated volunteers

helped collect almost 73 million pounds of non-perishable food, bringing the total to more than 1.3 billion pounds of food collected since the national drive began in 1992.

"Our food drive is a clear demonstration of the power of solidarity," Rolando said. "It starts with the individual letter carrier, who not only delivers the mail as usual on Food Drive Day, but also voluntarily collects the often heavy bags of non-perishable food that get left alongside our patrons' mailboxes."

All of that picked-up food then gets sorted by volunteers at the carrier's local office before it's hauled off to nearby food banks and food pantries.

In the past, the food drive has been helped by the support of a national sponsor that could foot the bill for the nationally distributed Food Drive Day reminder postcards upon which many customers have grown to depend. This year, however, no such sponsor has come forward.

NALC has agreed to help pay for the costs of printing a number of postcards, and thanks to the efforts of the non-profit Feeding America, many local food banks also have agreed to kick in what they can for postcard production as well. But even with this outpouring of timely support, it remains uncertain whether every address in America will receive a reminder postcard this year.

Another challenge that a lot of local branches face from year to year is securing sponsors for special food drive bags, and 2015 is no different.

"Far and away, specially marked food drive bags generate the biggest collections," NALC Director of Community Services Pam Donato said. "Customers love getting the reminder postcards, but nothing beats a bag that practically screams, 'Fill me up and set me outside!'"

The food drive's online toolkit, available at [nalc.org/food](http://nalc.org/food), provides local and regional coordinators with a wealth of resources to help make soliciting sponsorships for postcards and bags a little easier. The toolkit contains downloadable templates suitable for use by professional bag and card producers, as well as tips that coordinators can use for help in identifying and encouraging local sponsorships.



This year marks the 50th anniversary of three pivotal events in the struggle for civil rights in America: "Bloody Sunday," the Selma-to-Montgomery march, and the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. On Sunday, March 8, hundreds of letter carriers and their families joined leaders from other labor unions and a host of civil rights organizations—not to mention tens of thousands of visitors from all over the world—to commemorate these historic occasions with a reenactment of the historic civil rights march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

## HQ, regional staff appointments

NALC President Fredric Rolando has detailed three regional administrative assistants (RAAs) as regional workers' compensation assistants: from Region 2, Seattle Branch 79's Coby Jones; from Region 6, South Central Indiana Branch 828's Jeffrey Fultz; and from Region 11, Syracuse, NY Branch 134's Ronald Adams. These three letter carriers join four other NALC members as regional workers' compensation assistants: New Hampshire Merged Branch 44's Bill Bothwell; Kansas City, MO Branch 30's David Teegarden; Ft. Lauderdale, FL Branch 2550's Joanne Wright; and Philadelphia Branch 157's Lee Zachwieja.

For Region 2, Rolando has appointed Debra Dixon, vice president of Olympia, WA Branch 351 as an RAA. Dixon is a Region 2 arbitration advocate and district dispute resolution team member, as well as director of education and executive council member for the Washington State Association of Letter Carriers.

For Region 6, Rolando has named Louisville, KY Branch 14 Executive Vice President David Mudd as an RAA. Mudd has served as a route adjustment district lead, arbitration advocate and dispute resolution team member, and in 2008 he was named steward of the year for Region 6.

And for Region 11, John Collins now serves as an RAA. Collins was president of Zanesville, OH Branch 63 for nearly 25 years. He has served as a member of the Ohio State Association Executive Board and a primary dispute resolution team member for Region 11. He moves from his current position at Headquarters as assistant to the president for contract administration.

Meanwhile, Dallas Branch 132 member Shawn Boyd has been appointed an RAA for Region 10, replacing former Region 10 RAA Ken Claxton, who has retired. Boyd has served as a chief steward, Formal Step A designee and branch trustee, and he was a state board member and treasurer for the Texas State Association of Letter Carriers. Most recently, Boyd served at Headquarters as an assistant to the president for contract administration.

And President Rolando has named Charleston, WV Branch 531 President Tim McKay as Headquarters city delivery assistant. Aside from the branch presidency, McKay is also vice president of the West Virginia State Association of Letter Carriers. He is an arbitration advocate and local business agent, and has served as district lead for route adjustments.

The new appointments were effective March 2.

## NALC and 'A Grand Alliance'

The NALC is pleased to be working with the three other postal worker unions to form the foundation of what's known as "A Grand Alliance to Save Our Public Postal Service."

Rounding out this grand alliance is a growing number of progressive national organizations who share the goal of fighting for the protection and enhancement of a vibrant USPS, both for now and for generations to come. The alliance is made up of a broad group of other labor unions, civil rights groups, religious organizations and progressive policy advocates that all support high-quality public services for all Americans.

"This new alliance is a good complement to the coalition NALC and the other postal unions have been working closely with over the past 18 months," NALC President Fredric Rolando said, "a coalition made up of postal union and mailing industry stakeholders with a mission to advance in Congress a multi-point postal strategy that includes a comprehensive solution to pre-funding, freedom to offer new products, fair treatment on pension valuations, strengthened service standards and a moratorium on plant closings."

Visit [AGrandAlliance.org](http://AGrandAlliance.org) to find out more.

## CCA Retirement Savings Plan

Last August, NALC introduced the CCA Retirement Savings Plan (RSP). This plan provides city carrier assistants (CCAs) an opportunity to begin saving for retirement prior to a career appointment with the U.S. Postal Service. The plan is administered by the United States Letter Carriers Mutual Benefit Association (MBA), NALC's fraternal life and annuity insurance company.

Each year, the MBA's board of trustees reviews the financial aspects of that plan to set its interest rate. The rate is based on actuarial studies of mortality changes, current market conditions and the MBA's operations.

Due to changes in the annuity mortality table calculation of annuities minimum reserve, the CCA RSP for 2015 now offers an interest rate of 4 percent. The guaranteed interest rate will never be lower than 2 percent.

The revised brochure and applications are now available at [nalc.org](http://nalc.org) under "Member Benefits." You may also call the MBA at 202-638-4318, extension 30, if you have any questions.

## Strike remembered in oral histories

Letter carriers who were involved in the Great Postal Strike, which began 45 years ago on March 18, 1970, are telling their stories for a new book about the walkout.

The book is being written by Philip Rubio, an associate professor of history at North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro and author of *There's Always Work at the Post Office: African American Postal Workers and the Fight for Jobs, Justice, and Equality*.

Rubio conducted interviews last year at the NALC National Convention in Philadelphia for the new book, which will examine the United States Postal Service from the 1970 strike and its immediate aftermath to the current financial crisis.

The picture the interviews paint is one of a rich tapestry, with differing opinions and experiences. "Carriers told me of strike debates and votes held in union halls, bars, swing rooms, or even on the workroom floor," Rubio said. "Some of these debates and votes started in the weeks preceding the strike, while others happened spontaneously."

"Once the strike started, some local union officers would have to 'disappear' to avoid being served with court injunctions," he said. "Real rank-and-file leadership was being exercised by those who often had little or no experience in daily union affairs, and whose only communication was telephone, word of mouth, or news reports."

While much of the attention was on the New York City strikers, carriers throughout the country were engaged in the movement. "Participants frequently told how they felt they owed it to New York strikers to not leave them stranded," Rubio said.

After the book is completed, Rubio intends to house the oral histories at the Duke University archives in Durham, NC, where the interviews he conducted for his previous book are housed.

Those who wish to get in touch with Rubio about his work or to share a story with him can e-mail [The Postal Record](mailto:ThePostalRecord@nalc.org) at [postalrecord@nalc.org](mailto:postalrecord@nalc.org) or call 202-662-2480.



## Cost-of-living adjustment news

Based on the Feb. 26 release of the January 2015 Consumer Price Index (CPI), there will be no fifth cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for letter carriers under the 2011-2016 National Agreement, because there was no increase in the CPI between July 2014 and January 2015.

Visit [nalc.org](http://nalc.org) to download the latest paychart.

## Update concerning dues error

Due to a system error, the Postal Service did not increase approximately 30,000 NALC members' bi-weekly dues for 2015 in their Pay Period 1 paychecks as reported in the November Secretary-Treasurer's article in *The Postal Record*. The dues amounts for these members were to be corrected in Pay Period 3.

As reported recently on the NALC website, a temporary adjustment to recoup the dues amounts not paid from Pay Period 1 through Pay Period 2 will be made in the near future.

Affected members will have a temporary adjustment to recoup the dues amounts not paid reflected in their Pay Period 6 (covering Feb. 21–March 6, 2015) and Pay Period 7 (covering March 7–20, 2015) paychecks. Branches affected will also receive the adjusted amounts in Pay Period 6 and Pay Period 7.

Affected members' dues will then be decreased in Pay Period 8 (covering March 21–April 3, 2015) from the adjusted amount to the correct amount.

Any questions should be directed to the NALC Membership Department.

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NALC Bulletin is published semi-regularly by the National Association of Letter Carriers. Postage paid at Washington, DC, and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Membership Department, NALC, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS? Contact the Membership Department.

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Circulation: 10,000. Union-printed using soy-based inks.

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