



Rolando to Senate committee:

Consensus is the key to positive postal reform



NALC President Fredric Rolando testified on Jan. 21 before a Senate committee hearing on the U.S. Postal Service.

- the pre-funding mandate, which accounts for 86 percent of USPS' \$57 billion in reported losses;
- the policy that requires all postal retirement funds to be invested in low-yielding Treasury bonds; and
- the scheduled expiration in April of the 4.3 percent exigent rate increase.

"NALC has suggested a variety of legislative measures to address the pre-funding mandate," the president told the committee. "Reforms to the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program [FEHBP] to maximize participation in Medicare among eligible postal retirees would all but eliminate the \$50 billion unfunded liability for future retiree health, while raising Medicare spending by less than two-tenths of 1 percent annually."

The committee paid particular attention to investment of the retiree health benefits fund, and Rolando called on senators to "undertake prudent investment change to raise the long-term rate of return on the retiree health fund's assets, to achieve pre-funding goals, to offset the cost of postal Medicare integration, to relieve upward pressure on postage rates, and to reduce the misguided impulse to cut services."

Rolando said that the pension accounts under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS), when combined with the postal RHBF, account for nearly \$340 billion in Treasury securities. "That makes the Postal Service and its employees the third largest creditor of the U.S. federal government," the president said, "just behind China and Japan."

"No private company in America would invest its retirement assets in such an unsophisticated way," he said, "especially during a period when Treasuries are yielding 2 to 4 percent returns while health care costs grow 5 to 7 percent annually."

During the hearing, much attention was focused on a discussion of the consensus of those with particular interest in USPS on the principles of successful postal reform, including:

- stabilizing postal finances by making the exigent increase permanent while freezing capped postage rates until the Postal Regulatory Commission's (PRC) review is complete;
- resolving the pre-funding burden by maximizing Medicare participation among postal participants covered by FEHBP; and
- sensibly changing the way USPS invests the retiree health fund.

"All four unions, the Postal Service and a wide range of companies providing financial services, prescription drugs, newspapers, direct mail products and e-commerce sales have agreed on a set of principles," Rolando said. "Our coalition's recommendations are grounded in best private-sector practice, and are drawn from the consensus provisions of Senator [Tom] Carper's bill [S. 2051]. They represent the measures on which the coalition could agree while remaining confident that they would stabilize the Postal Service for years to come—which will allow the Service to adapt to meet the evolving needs of the nation."

Also testifying were Postmaster General Megan Brennan, Acting Postal Regulatory Commission Chairman Robert Taub, General Accountability Office Director of Physical Infrastructure Lori Rectanus, outgoing USPS Inspector General David Williams, former Treasury Department Chief Restructuring Officer James Millstein, National Newspapers Association President John Hutcheson and Domtar Paper Company's Rothschild Mill General Manager Kathy Collins.

Visit nalc.org to watch a video of Rolando's appearance, to download his submitted testimony and to read his full pre-hearing statement.

USPS must review, post OSHA Form 300A summary for 2015

Postal Bulletin No. 22433, dated Jan. 21, writes that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires all U.S. Postal Service installation and establishment heads to complete and post OSHA Form 300A, "Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses," for calendar year 2015, in accordance with 29 CFR 1904 and the *Employee and Labor Relations Manual (ELM)*, part 821, "Actions in the Event of Accident, Injury, or Illness."

From Feb. 1 through April 30, installations are required to post a copy of OSHA Form 300A for 2015 in a conspicuous place at every establishment where employees work or report to work.

"Make sure the form is posted properly in your office," NALC President Fredric Rolando said. "The accidents and injuries that letter carriers suffer on the job should be studied, understood and then used as opportunities to prevent similar accidents and injuries from happening to others."

Convention hotel room rates set



NALC has made special arrangements with 10 hotels to accommodate letter carrier delegates attending NALC's 70th Biennial National Convention in Los Angeles, Aug. 15-19.

All NALC-block hotels are within 1.4 miles of the Los Angeles Convention Center.

The room rates have been set so branches can begin budgeting for the convention.

Please do not contact the hotels. All room reservations will be made through the NALC's official housing company.

Visit nalc.org to download the list of hotels and room rates.

Has your branch registered yet for the 2016 Food Drive?

The 24th annual Letter Carriers' "Stamp Out Hunger"® Food Drive is on Saturday, May 14, and a letter from NALC President Fredric Rolando has been sent to every branch president, encouraging them to register for the world's largest one-day food drive.

"In light of the enormous success of the 2015 food drive, all letter carriers in every participating branch should consider themselves winners," Rolando wrote. "You and your members worked tirelessly with your communities to make a difference for millions in need."

Enclosed with the president's letter is the important food drive registration form. Branch presidents are asked to complete the orange-tinted registration form immediately, to let NALC Headquarters know how many postcards will be needed for residential deliveries and to identify branch food drive coordinators.

Reminder postcards will be made available to branches, at no cost, as long as they register by March 1.

United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW) has signed on as a national partner for this year's food drive.

"The partnership between UFCW and NALC is a natural one," NALC President Fredric Rolando said. "Working families not only see their letter carrier at least six days a week, they often see their grocery clerk or checker just as frequently. This partnership is perhaps even more appropriate since UFCW represents 1.3 million workers in food-related industries, such as grocery stores and food-processing facilities."

The other national partners are the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, the U.S. Postal Service, United Way Worldwide, AFL-CIO, Valpak and Valassis.



Branch food drive coordinators and others who work on the food drive should help remind their branch presidents to complete the registration form and make sure it gets mailed to: NALC, Food Drive Registration, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144. Note: No faxes or e-mailed registrations will be accepted.

Branch food drive coordinators will receive the coordinators' manual; a form for ordering posters, lawn signs, banners, hats, pins and T-shirts from the Frank Doolittle Co.; a special food drive DVD; and sample copies of the new Family Circus cartoon drawn for this year's drive (left). This treasure trove of information also is available at nalc.org/food.

The food drive is the largest one-day drive in the United States. In 2015, active and retired letter carriers, along with their family members and friends—not to mention countless volunteers—collected almost 71 million pounds of non-perishable food. These results brought the grand total to more than 1.4 billion pounds since the drive began in 1992.

Specific questions regarding the food drive should be directed to NALC Director of Community Services Pam Donato at 202-662-2489 or at donato@nalc.org.



NALC Veterans Group: 7,000 members and growing

The National Association of Letter Carriers is made up of approximately 277,000 active and retired members, of which almost a third are veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces.

To date, more than 7,000 NALC members have joined the NALC Veterans Group, which was designed to provide all NALC members who are military veterans access to the information and tools specific to veterans' rights and benefits within the U.S. Postal Service.

The NALC Veterans Group aims to give its members the means to connect with fellow NALC veterans and to stay informed on issues of importance to letter carrier veterans. These veterans traded their military uniforms for letter carrier uniforms, and they continue to serve their communities and their country.

The group also seeks to provide all NALC members who are also military veterans—active full-time and part-time letter carriers, as well as retired letter carriers—resources, rights information and a sense of camaraderie.

Veterans Group members receive a pin as a symbol of gratitude for their military service and membership in the NALC.

Visit nalc.org/veterans to learn more.

Rolando appoints RAAs, HQ staff



Bill Jackson

NALC President Fredric Rolando has appointed Downers Grove, IL Branch 1870 President Bill Jackson as regional administrative assistant for NALC Region 3, which serves letter carriers in Illinois. Jackson replaces Ken Miller, who has retired. Jackson served as Branch 1870 president for 12 years and, at the time of his appointment, was chairman of the Illinois State Association's executive board. Previously, he has served as Branch 1870's vice president, treasurer, Formal A representative and steward. Jackson also has served the members of Region 3 as an arbitration advocate, as Dispute Resolution Team member, as leader of the District Evaluation and Adjustment Team (DEAT) for route adjustments, as a Carrier Academy instructor, as a New Delivery coordinator and on the district advisory committee for the Employee Assistance Program. He is a graduate of Leadership Academy Class 5.



Paul Barner

President Rolando also has appointed Anita Lewallen as an RAA for Region 4, which serves letter carriers in Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming. Lewallen replaces Ray Tillman, who has retired. Prior to this appointment, Lewallen served as president of Conway, AR Branch 1592 since 2001 and as president of the Arkansas State Association since 2013. Additionally, she has served the region as an arbitration advocate, a route adjustment district lead, a primary Dispute Resolution Team member and a national Dispute Resolution Process facilitator. Lewallen is a graduate of Leadership Academy Class 6.

Both of these appointments were effective Jan. 4.

In addition, President Rolando has appointed former Region 9 RAA Paul Barner to serve as executive assistant to the president at NALC Headquarters in Washington, DC. Barner, a member of Roswell, GA Branch 4862, has held various positions in the branch as well as on the Georgia State Association's executive board. He served as an arbitration advocate, local business agent and Dispute Resolution Team member, and he is a graduate of Leadership Academy Class 3.



Anita Lewallen

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