**Bargaining for a new National Agreement continues**

As reported in the last NALC Bulletin, NALC and the U.S. Postal Service announced on May 20 that the bargaining period would be extended beyond the midnight expiration of the 2014-2016 National Agreement. This development came after 90 days of bargaining over the terms of a new agreement, culminating in a week of intense negotiations.

"Although through discussions we’ve worked hard to find a path forward—both on the main table on key economic provisions, and among the numerous committees composed of NALC Executive Council members and management representatives—we have not found an acceptable tentative agreement," NALC President Fredric Rolando said. "As long as we see a path toward success," Rolando said, "we will stay at the table and work as hard as we can to reach a new National Agreement."

During the extended period of negotiations, the terms and conditions of the 2015-2016 contract remain in effect.

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**House committee releases postal reform ‘discussion draft’**

On June 15, the leaders of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee released a discussion draft of a potential postal reform bill. The draft Postal Service Reform Act was issued jointly by Committee Chairman Rep. Frank Guinta (R-NH) and Ranking Member Elijah Cummings (D-MD).

NALC officers and Headquarters staff members are currently conducting a detailed review of the contents of this draft bill. Although the committee has acknowledged that the legislation is not yet finalized, many of our ideas for reform—our initial review has revealed a number of shortcomings and omissions in the draft bill, and at least one provision that NALC simply cannot support. That provision is one that would require the Postal Service to convert an undefined number of business and residential delivery points that now receive door delivery service to curb-line or centralized delivery service over the next five years. This cut in service is neither sensible nor necessary.

"We will do all that we can to work with our industry-labor coalition and with the members of the committee and their staffs to reach consensus on legislation that we can all support.

Meanwhile, the House committee is consulting stakeholders on the draft measure before it formally introduces it and marks up a bill. NALC will be intimately involved in that process.

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**Record total for 24th annual ‘Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive’**

The 24th annual Letter Carriers’ “Stamp Out Hunger®” Food Drive produced record-breaking results.

NALC announced on June 20 that the nation’s largest one-day food drive, held on Saturday, May 14, collected more than 80 million pounds of food, well above the previous record of 77 million pounds. And the food drive, held on Saturday, May 14, collected more than 80 million pounds of food, well above the previous record of 77 million pounds. The food drive has a history of producing record-breaking results.

**Stay safe in summer’s heat**

NALC urges letter carriers to learn about heat safety and pay close attention to the warning signs of overexposure to the sun and heat. Here are key pieces of advice:

- **Hydrate before, during and after work.** Prevention is important, so make sure to maintain good hydration by drinking at least 8 ounces of water every 20 minutes.
- **Utilize shade to stay cool.** When possible, use shaded areas to stay out of direct sunlight.
- **Know the signs of heat stress.** You should understand what heat stress is, and how it can affect your health and safety. Here are some things to look out for:
  - Hot, dry skin or profuse sweating
  - Headache
  - Muscle cramps
  - Nausea
  - Rash

Finally, it’s important to notify your supervisor or call 911 if you’re experiencing signs of heat-related illnesses. Go to the Safety and Health page at nalc.org for more on how to prepare for extreme heat and sun.

"Letter carriers need to remember to respond appropriately to the weather and immediately notify your supervisor if you feel that you are experiencing heat-stress symptoms or other weather-related issues," NALC President Fredric Rolando said. "Bottom line: Do not put yourself in danger."

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**Application period now open for 2017 Leadership Academy**

The application period for participation in the Leadership Academy in 2017 is now open.

Since 2005, NALC has sponsored letter carriers representing each of NALC’s 15 regions for this intensive training and development of the skills effective leaders need.

Under the tutelage of their mentors—established NALC leaders such as branch presidents or national business agents—the students combine three separate weeks of classroom learning with take-home assignments and special projects.

The mentor also should be in a position to provide time and venues for the student to practice the skills he or she needs to develop as a leader.

The deadline for registration of delegates was June 15. All credentials for branches that registered in the final days before the deadline were mailed out on June 17.

Branches that registered prior to June, but have not received their credentials, should contact the secretariat-office’s office at NALC Headquarters immediately.

**Important housing deadline dates:**

- **July 15:** Last day rooms will be available to book at the NALC rate. After July 15, rooms and preferred rates are not available.
- **July 22:** Last day to change or cancel a room or book a room through ConferenceDirect, based upon availability.
- **July 29:** First day that you may contact the hotels directly for all changes, cancels and new reservation requests.

**ConventionsNEWS: Guests of delegates or NALC members who are not registered delegates may register to receive a guest badge at the registration area at the national convention.

**Alternate delegates:** Branch presidents and secretaries both must sign credential/name tags of delegates and alternates who will be registering at the convention and bring the signed credential/name tags to Los Angeles for on-site registration.

Under Article 4, Section 5 of the NALC Constitution, before an alternate delegate is registered as a replacement for a regular delegate, written evidence must be presented stating that the duly elected delegate is unable to attend the convention.

**Tours:**

- **Los Angeles, Aug. 15-19**: The Postal Record and is available on the convention-page 2016 of nalc.org.

NALC added three hotels to the block and is available on the convention-page 2016 of nalc.org.