

# Eyes on the prize(s)

## COLCPE contest count is underway

**W**e don't know the winners of the 2009 COLCPE contest yet, but we do know that the ranks of automatic contributors to NALC's political action committee increased by the hundreds last year, thanks in large measure to the hard work of branch COLCPE coordinators.

The latest "Gimme 5 for COLCPE" contest promised prizes ranging from \$1,000 American Express gift cards for individuals to computer systems loaded with NALC software for winning branches. The union hopes to reap a greater benefit—advancing the letter carrier political agenda on Capitol Hill.

"Thanks to the ongoing generosity of many of our active and retired members, our union is ready to pursue our many legislative goals in 2010," said NALC President Fred Rolando. Key among those objectives is increasing labor-friendly majorities in Congress, where the entire House and a third of the Senate are up for election in November.

Before fall rolls around, though, letter carriers will continue to press the NALC's agenda in Washington, including financial relief for the Postal Service, fair and effective health care reform, and passage of the Employee Free Choice Act.

"Pulling the economy out of a nose-dive, lopping a digit off the unemployment rate—there's no doubt that Congress will have plenty on its plate this year," Rolando said. "COLCPE will help make sure our priorities don't get lost."

Contributions to the Committee on Letter Carrier Political Education come from active and retired carriers and are used to support candidates, regardless of party, who support the NALC's political agenda. The money also helps finance get-out-the-vote and other political activities. Absolutely no union dues money is used to support political candidates.

"Gimme 5" began in 2006 to encourage active carriers to automatically

donate \$5 per paycheck—just 50 cents per work day—through payroll deduction or electronic funds transfer (EFT) from a checking account. Retired carriers are asked to contribute \$5 per month from annuity payments or via EFT.

### Winning ways

Next month's issue of *The Postal Record* will be the annual tribute to COLCPE contributors. In addition to the lists of regular, occasional and group contributors, the magazine will also include the winners of last year's contest.

Around the time you receive this magazine, a raffle will take place at NALC Headquarters in Washington, and five fortunate Gimme 5 givers will be selected to win \$1,000 American Express gift cards—one each from branches with the highest percentage of Gimme 5 contributors in five branch-size categories: 2,000 or more members, 1,000 to 1,999 members, 500 to 999 members, 100 to 499 members, and 50 to 99 members.

Those top five branches will also receive laptop computers for branch use, and their COLCPE coordinators will pick up a \$200 gift card in recognition for their hard work over the past year.

Gimme 5 contributors in branches with 49 or fewer members will be entered into a separate raffle, with a winner drawn to receive a \$1,000 gift card.

The winning doesn't stop there: The branch with the highest overall growth in percentage of automatic contributors will hold a \$1,000 raffle for eligible members, receive a laptop, and its COLCPE coordinator will pick up a gift certificate.

And stay tuned—NALC is already cooking up another COLCPE contest for 2010. Details will appear in a future edition of *The Postal Record*. ☒

**Note:** Federal law forbids the use of union dues to support political candidates. Contributions to COLCPE are 100 percent voluntary.



## Paying tribute to you

**N**ext month's *Postal Record* will be the annual special edition honoring NALC members who contributed in 2009 to our political action fund, the Committee on Letter Carrier Political Education (COLCPE).

This special COLCPE issue continues a tradition inaugurated five years ago of using the union's official journal to thank all those who help financially support the letter carrier legislative and political program.

**SCRIBES TAKE NOTE:** There will be no Branch Items, nor State, Retiree or Auxiliary reports in the February issue. Scribes and other correspondents should hold their submissions for the March issue. The deadline for March is February 10. (Election Notices and Mutual Exchange ads will appear as usual.) ☒