



The Anaheim showdown

It's almost here, the NALC National Convention in Anaheim, California! This could well be our best chance to send a strong message to the Postal Service and the Postal Board of Governors that we are united.

I expect there to be more than 8,000 letter carriers in attendance, all sharing one simple goal: To save the U.S. Postal Service from postal management.

I hope your branch will be represented among the rank-and-file membership in Anaheim. If not, then keep up with the daily action by going to the NALC website, nalc.org. President Rolando has been working around the clock with all of the national officers, laying the groundwork for a multi-pronged approach to attacking all the

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naysayers who want to sell off the Post Office to the highest bidder—that is, if there is anything left after the USPS Board of Governors gets through with it.

Now, here's where I hope you as a member can help. Your branch may still have one more meeting before your delegates load up and head out to the convention. If not, give them a call on their cell phones, because this is important. We have received several resolutions for the delegates to discuss and vote on. It's what our constitution calls for, and the delegates have a duty to deal with each one—and we will. What we cannot do is spend precious convention time on items that will not be worth the paper they are written on if we lose the Postal Service.

As I look over some of the resolutions that have come in so far, I understand how important they are to the members or branches who submitted them, but the delegates at this convention will have an even bigger task. For, without a Post Office, all the resolutions we have passed over the years will mean nothing. When faced with losing 20,000 to

30,000 letter carrier jobs in the next 12 months, the bottom line is simple and my money is on the delegates.

Getting 8,000 union rank and file to take in valuable input from our membership to put together a national plan for saving the Post Office will not happen in one day at the convention. Delegates attending this national convention will have plenty of work to do, both on and off the convention floor.

Per the delegates' request, we will be hosting classes on almost every subject you can think of from the very popular Contract Administration Unit workshop to legislation, branch officers' training and even classes on the economics of—you guessed it—the Postal Service.

However, this class, unlike the numbers listed in the GAO report, will not be fictional! We will run classes in both the early morning and in the afternoon so you can get the biggest bang for the buck. These workshops and the information you receive will help you jumpstart your branch

when you return.

Changing horses for just a minute, I want to express my personal appreciation to the branches and state associations whose functions I have had the pleasure of attending over the years. Just in the last few weeks I have been honored to attend an NALC Region 1 training seminar, Branch 38 scholarship awards and branch meeting, and the New Hampshire state convention. You know, even with all the problems we face at the Post Office, all across the country, you just have to visit with the membership at one of these functions to know that, at the end of the day, everything is going to be OK.

We have a heavy load to carry as federal workers, but that's all right, you see, because for the most part, letter carriers are the most visible and most familiar government employees our customers know. The public just voted us the most trusted of all federal government employees again this year. That'll put a smile on your face. Now where did my horse get off to? ☒