

Secretary-Treasurer Broendel honored by CLUW

NALC Secretary-Treasurer Jane Broendel was among 11 union leaders honored by the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) March 18 in Washington at the first annual Working Women's Awards. The ceremony recognized the women for their extraordinary achievements and leadership and for their example as models for all working women who seek to advance in their workplaces, unions and communities.

In October 2009, CLUW elected Karen J. See of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) as its president. See, together with CLUW's national executive council, created the event to coincide with Women's History Month, celebrated in March. NALC member Victoria Sawicki of Detroit, Michigan Branch 1, who serves as a national vice president on CLUW's executive council, helped plan the event.

Among those also honored with Broendel were AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler and AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Arlene Holt Baker, as well as two CLUW presidents emeritae—Joyce D. Miller and Gloria T. Johnson.

The award reception included a presentation about each honoree, describing their leadership on the job and in their particular union over the years. Awards were presented to each recipient by specially chosen, up-and-coming young women union activists, a gesture meant to both highlight and reinforce the notion of sisterhood among women union members.

Broendel is one of the highest ranking women in the American labor movement today. She also holds the distinction of being the first female resident national officer in NALC history.

"I am truly honored to be recognized along with a number of women who had first broken through the 'glass ceiling' in the American labor movement," Broendel told the gathering. "But I'm here representing the hundreds of women activists at all levels of the NALC and other unions, who over the last few decades have served in a multitude of capacities, demonstrating their dedication and ability in representing their sisters and their brothers." ✉

To find out more about CLUW, including how to join, go to their website at cluw.org.



Secretary-Treasurer Jane Broendel (r) receives the award from CLUW President Karen J. See (l) and Christi Rojas, the CLUW presenter from the United Steelworkers.

NALC and USPS jointly train Step B members

NALC and USPS reaffirmed their commitment to reducing grievances through the Dispute Resolution Process by training 30 new Step B members during a joint NALC/USPS training session held March 22-26 at USPS' Bolger Academy near Washington, DC. The trainers came from NALC and Postal Service headquarters, Postal Service Area Labor offices, NALC regional offices and current experienced Step B teams, while the students (pictured at right) were a mix of both union and management representatives from throughout the USA.

The intensive training touched on relevant topics, including contract application, decision writing, computer-based research and dispute resolution skills. In order to be certified as Step B representatives, students must be able to demonstrate that they can work diligently and cooperatively with their counterpart, use a computer to research subjects, write



clear, concise and contractually correct decisions and pass a final examination on their contract knowledge.

Once certified, Step B teams, which include one union member and one management member, work together to try to resolve grievances that the local parties could not settle. In order to resolve disputes, the Step B Teams rely on their contract knowledge and the *Joint Contract Administration Manual*, a

reference guide of contract interpretations agreed to by the national parties.

NALC Assistant Secretary Treasurer Nicole Rhine and Postal Service Headquarters Manager Labor Relations Policy & Programs Alan Moore, who oversee the process for the parties, spoke to the students about their commitment to reducing the number of grievances and to assuring the grievance procedure is both fair and fast. ✉