



## What a convention!

**A**lmost 8,000 NALC delegates attended the 67th biennial convention in Anaheim, CA. Let me tell you, they made us all proud! Each day started early with packed—and in some cases, standing-room-only—classes. After the classes, delegates moved on to the daily convention proceedings followed by afternoon classes.

Even knowing how bad this old world's economy is, you have to have a good feeling knowing that so many letter carriers participated in what may be the convention that helps turn our country around. The classes covered everything from legislative and political agendas to withholding full-time positions in the letter carrier craft. In all, more than 35 classes lasting an hour and a half each were given by national officers and staff during the week of the convention. I want to extend my personal thanks to the delegates and trainers who put in long hours to make our convention such a success.

**“All came away with the same conclusion: No Postal Service, no job; no job, no paycheck.”**

The class on zero tolerance for preventing supervisors from stealing work hours from our members was a big hit, too. The workshop showed how managers can make the routes look shorter on paper than they really are. It also covered how to decipher clock rings so you can combat supervisors fraudulently altering them in the future. President Rolando has the NALC staff reviewing all of the training material used at the convention. We hope to soon make it available to the regional NBA offices, and several items will be posted on the NALC website.

The NALC Contract Administration Unit scored a big A+ with the delegates by giving every delegate a DVD that included the NALC national contract, NALC-USPS JCAM, the Materials Reference System and thousands of other valuable documents. The phone book, aka the Contract Administration Unit workshop training book, ran a close second, with 564 pages of Step 4 decisions,

NALC-USPS memos and other training material.

I must say the most positive signs at the convention were the number of letter carriers standing in line signing up for automatic COLCPE checkoff from their post office paychecks. It didn't take more than 10 minutes in any of the legislative or retirement update classes before you could see our members sit up and start taking notes. We all came away with the same conclusion: No Postal Service, no job; no job, no paycheck. Each morning on my way into the convention, I could overhear letter carriers on their cell phones calling home to tell their brothers and sisters on the workroom floor that it's time to step up, and we have to do it now.

**We ended the convention with more than 3,000 letter carriers being bused to a jobs rally in Los Angeles.** We looked like a wagon train heading west as we traveled down the interstate! While the jobs rally was for the local unions in California, the AFL-CIO asked us to help fill the area around the government buildings. Well, we did much better than that. By the time all the buses arrived, it turned out to be a sea of blue NALC shirts saying “Five days, wrong way!”

That rally of NALC activists is still making headlines today. Not a week goes by that photos of letter carriers from that rally don't appear in some newspaper or on television. It's unreal how a two-hour rally has made such a positive impression on the American public. It also energized our members in attendance. Even after the rally, letter carriers moved to the street corners and chanted “Five days, wrong way!” over and over. Tell me that doesn't make you proud.

**This convention was also bittersweet for me.** As you now know, I have decided not to run for national office. After 20 years as a full-time officer in the NALC and starting my 40th year working for the Postal Service, I decided to buy a few more cows, mosey on back to Texas and check out my route at the Burkburnett, TX Post Office. Now, just where did I put my old letter carrier uniforms? ☒