



# Bargaining opens August 18

## *Aim is new National Agreement*

**N**ational Association of Letter Carriers President Fredric V. Rolando has announced that the union and the U.S. Postal Service will open negotiations for a new National Agreement on Thursday, Aug. 18. The goal of the bargaining is a successor pact to the 2006-2011 contract that expires after midnight Nov. 20.

President Rolando noted that the parties have engaged in early, informal negotiations for a new contract as instructed by the delegates to the NALC's 67th Biennial National Convention. However, the first, formal session of the negotiations will take place in Washington after an opening ceremony in mid-August. Rolando

said that the union remains committed to the goals debated and voted on at that convention.

The National Agreement governs the wages and working conditions of the approximately 180,000 active city letter carriers across the United States. By law, if the parties fail to reach a negotiated agreement through collective bargaining, the contract is settled by a process called interest arbitration, which involves the creation of a tripartite arbitration board comprised of a union arbitrator, a management arbitrator and a neutral chairman of the board which seeks to resolve the impasse by hearing testimony from both sides and issuing a binding award. ☒

## Florida Food Drive activist remembered

**A**s letter carriers in southern Florida collected food for the hungry in May, their hearts were heavy with the loss of one of their most devoted advocates for the annual NALC food drive, Robert F. Lambert.

Lambert, a member of Clearwater, FL

Branch 2008, passed away on May 10, just days before the food drive. In his 12 years of involvement in the food drive effort, Lambert was instrumental in making Florida a consistent leader in food drive receipts. He coordinated the distribution of food, assuring that the collections reached 34 food relief agencies throughout Hernando County. Lambert also expanded food collection to area schools, encouraging students to contribute thousands of pounds.

As a politically active letter carrier, one of Lambert's biggest thrills was sharing the stage with Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA) during the 2003 Hero Awards ceremony in Washington DC when Branch 2008 received the Branch Service Award, according to Branch 2008 Executive Vice President Al Friedman.

Branch 2008 and others in the region dedicated their food collection efforts this year to Lambert. A scholarship has been established in his memory. ☒



### Food drive totals updated

Branch 19, New Haven, CT, should have been listed as having collected 155,000 lbs. The correct Category 10 winner is Branch 501, Paris, TX, which collected 151,306 lbs.