

NALC Leadership Academy



Getting it done

Graduates told leadership about more than job titles



Look closely at the names and faces in the most recent graduating class from the NALC Leadership Academy, which was honored on Dec. 17 after months of training at the National Labor College in Silver Spring, MD, and back home. Many of these letter carriers will be among the union leaders of the future.

Twenty-nine students completed their studies in the topics and skills they will need as NALC leaders, including communication, dispute resolution, negotiation, the National Agreement, branch finances, route adjustment and retirement.

At the graduation ceremony, NALC Vice President George Mignosi told the graduates that their influence on the lives of letter carriers may be applied in various ways, whether or not they run for union office.

“Leadership isn’t about a job title, it’s about getting things done, and getting others to back you up,” Mignosi said. “For instance, we have to keep the Postal Service healthy. That’s part of our mission. So, how many of you have found leads through Customer Connect? That’s one way to be a leader, just out on your route.”

Manuel L. Peralta Jr., NALC director of safety and health, urged graduates to invest what they’ve learned back into their branches, whether or not they do it as union officers. “You can be the caboose and lead the train,” he said.

Peralta described how Brian Ferris, former NALC director of city delivery, inspired him decades ago to become a union leader. Peralta asked graduates to consider the importance of inspiration, and of passing it on. “Think about who

The eleventh Leadership Academy

Region 1

Markeisha Lewis
Branch 1100
Garden Grove, CA

Alfred Ramos

Branch 52
Central California Coast

Region 2

Amie B. Gallo
Branch 111
Salt Lake City

Mats Julin

Branch 79
Seattle

Region 3

Samira A. Vigil
Branch 825
Elmhurst, IL

Joseph Moroney

Branch 4016
South Suburban Mgd., IL

Region 4

Katrina K. Lindell
Branch 5996
Centennial Merged, CO

Barry Bode

Branch 1131
Jonesboro, AR

Region 5

David A. Teegarden
Branch 30
Kansas City, MO

Larrissa Parde

Branch 8
Lincoln, NE

Region 6

Rob Randall
Branch 1691
Gladstone, MI

Lance D. Schwede

Branch 1106
Mayfield, KY

Region 7

Jeremy Rothstein
Branch 9
Minneapolis

Ryan Gautschi

Branch 1152
Minot, ND

Region 8

Maurey T. Bland Sr.
Branch 217
Jackson, MS

Montreal N. Cage Sr.

Branch 124
New Orleans

Region 9

Kevin N. Baker
Branch 545
Charlotte

Patricia Y. Badini

Branch 1690
West Palm Beach

Region 10

Everett D. Wyllie
Branch 404
Waco

Chris Synder

Branch 1227
Wichita Falls, TX



inspired you," he said." And whom do you intend to inspire next?"

NALC initiated the Leadership Academy in 2005, bringing 30 students—two from each of NALC's 15 regions—to Silver Spring. Each region's national business agent acts as a mentor for the students, with help from branch officers. The students study in three one-week classroom sessions taught by NALC officers and staff, and complete independent projects in between these sessions.

(One student from this graduating class was unable to attend this past session's third week and will finish with the next class.)

"I'm very proud of what our Leadership Academy students have achieved," President Fredric V. Rolando said. "They each develop their talents for union leadership in a very short time, gathering the knowledge and skills

needed to stand up for their fellow letter carriers."

The 11th Leadership Academy class has already begun its work (*see list below*). "We have so many talented, promising carriers to choose from among the applicants," Rolando said. "It's always hard to narrow it down to 30."

Rolando called on the next batch of Leadership Academy students to prepare for the many challenges facing the NALC, including politically motivated attacks on public-sector unions and preserving the long-term financial health of the U.S. Postal Service.

"Whether they choose to do it by becoming union officers, communicators, activists or volunteers," Rolando said, "the graduates will give back far more than they take in the Leadership Academy experience." ✉

Opposite page: NALC Director of Safety and Health Manuel Peralta Jr. reflects on who inspired him to be a leader.

Above: Academy attendees present their plans for how they will "pay it forward" by mentoring others when they return to their branches.

Below: NALC Vice President George Mignosi awards a graduation certificate to Robert Ahnen.

Class of winter/spring 2011

Region 11

Michelle R. Fisher
Branch 182
Dayton

Richard Cortes
Branch 375
Utica, NY

Region 12

Richard Folmer
Branch 268
Princeton, NJ

Paul Purcell
Branch 258
Reading, PA

Region 13

James Martin
Branch 142
Washington, DC

Walter L. Taylor, III
Branch 2611
Silver Spring, MD

Region 14

David Laboissonniere
Branch 15
Providence

Terry A. Powers
Branch 92
Maine Merged

Region 15

Paul Bounassi
Branch 425
Bergen Co. Mgd., NJ

Marie Tartaglione
Branch 41
Brooklyn

