

NALC Leadership Academy



A better tomorrow

Graduates asked to put their skills to work today



NALC Executive Vice President Timothy C. O'Malley called on the graduates of the 11th Leadership Academy class to remember the people they represent as they rise to the challenges of today and tomorrow. His remarks came as he presided over the graduation ceremony on May 13 at the National Labor College in Silver Spring, MD, a few miles north of Washington, DC.

The event capped several months of intensive training on the skills necessary for union members to become effective leaders. Under the tutelage of their mentors—established NALC leaders such as branch presidents or national business agents—the students combined three separate weeks of classroom learning at the labor college with take-home assignments and special projects.

The 30 participants add their names to an ever-lengthening list of success-

ful graduates of the academy, which was created in 2005. Retired NALC Executive Vice President Jim Williams and Jim Korolowicz, a former national assistant secretary-treasurer, collaborate with Director of Education Jamie Lumm to coordinate a well-rounded and effective curriculum. The trio also taps a number of NALC officers and Headquarters staff members and experts to prepare lectures and lessons on a wide variety of topics.

During the group's final week in Washington last month, students took part in often lively discussions on such subjects as JARAP and COR, strategic planning, workers' compensation, retirement issues, contract enforcement, negotiating techniques, the NALC Health Benefit Plan, Mutual Benefit Association and recruiting others to step up as union leaders.

The 12th Leadership Academy

Region 1

Richard Najera
Branch 231
Central California

Eileen Smith
Branch 290
Santa Barbara, CA

Region 2
Willie Groshell
Branch 82
Portland, OR

Camille Knutsen
Branch 450
North Sound, WA

Region 3

Jean A. Faw
Branch 825
Oak Brook, IL

Geoffrey A. Brown
Branch 11
Chicago

Region 4
Bobby Moore
Branch 1902
Arizona Mgd.

Paul J. Davis
Branch 555
Cheyenne, WY

Region 5

Tina M. Hunt
Branch 343
St. Louis, MO

Kevin Holmes
Branch 5050
Ballwin, MO

Region 6
Noel LaBrecque
Branch 256
Mid-Michigan

Gregory Felts
Branch 489
Anderson, IN

Region 7

BaLynda Schweitzer
Branch 822
Appleton, WI

Michael Keller
Branch 28
St. Paul, MN

Region 8
Danna U. Fournutia
Branch 3861
Westwego, LA

Charissa Dotson
Branch 27
Memphis, TN

Region 9

Marilyn M. Ray
Branch 1071
South Florida

Brian Sullivan
Branch 4862
Roswell, GA

Region 10
Gina Mendoza-Telck
Branch 226
Fort Worth, TX

Kenneth R. Chapin
Branch 3867
Pasadena, TX



And to make the most of their time in the Washington area, Academy students also came together after their dinner breaks to learn about conducting one-on-one campaigns, interest-based dispute resolution, and group dynamics.

Each week of the Academy also includes an ongoing emphasis on effective written and verbal communication skills in such forums as membership meetings, awards ceremonies and dinners, as well as written reports and oral presentations about their “take-home” projects.

“You’ve done great work here,” O’Malley said, “but now you need to take back what you’ve learned and utilize it. Don’t let anyone deter you.”

He called on them to help during these difficult times when Congress is looking into union contracts, like the recently ratified APWU agreement.

Their work will also be needed to help the Postal Service weather the current financial hardships.

“It’s with your leadership that this union and the Postal Service will survive,” he said.

Next up

President Fredric V. Rolando has announced the names of those selected to be members of the 12th Leadership Academy (*see list below*). This next batch will begin at the end of July, plus two more week-long sessions at the labor college in October and December.

NALC is now accepting applications for two 2012 classes. The application for these classes is available on nalc.org or from a member’s national business agent, with the application period closing on Sept. 30. ✉

Opposite page: Executive Vice President Timothy C. O’Malley tells the graduates that he wishes he could have had their training back when he became a full-time branch officer in 1985.

Above: The 11th Leadership Academy class

Below: O’Malley presents the completion certificate to Jeremy Rothstein.

Class of summer/fall 2011

Region 11

Trent Heckman
Branch 118
Mansfield, OH

Susan Lewis
Branch 3
Buffalo-Western NY

Region 12

Bill McCommons
Branch 284
Erie, PA

Leo Zachwieja
Branch 157
Philadelphia

Region 13

Frances Meader
Branch 1977
Newark, DE

Rich Accord
Branch 2420
Beckley, WV

Region 14

Brian D. Manning
Branch 34
Boston, MA

James A. Cavalieri
Branch 25
Mass. N.E. Mgd.

Region 15

Orlando Gonzalez
Branch 36
New York City

Gregory Klopfer
Branch 562
Jamaica, NY

