



## Get your motor runnin'... Head out on the highway...

**T**he Christmas decorations had been barely put away and the bowl games were not yet completed when the NALC hit the ground running in 2011 with educational opportunities for its members.

January got underway with the first week of Leadership Academy Class 11 held at the National Labor College in Silver Spring, MD. As the snow fell outside, 30 new Academy students spent up to 14 hours a day working in the classroom, in small groups and on individual assignments tackling the week's curriculum, which included such topics as labor (and NALC) history, the *NALC Constitution* and local bylaws, teaching techniques, leadership approaches, group dynamics, leadership and character, ethical decision-making and national contract negotiations. The high-water mark for the week came Thursday afternoon, when each student presented a 12- to 15-minute practice teaching session.

The following week found us in sunny San Diego for the first of two secretary-treasurer workshops. About 150 members were in attendance at the three-day training event. NALC Secretary-Treasurer Jane Broendel led a team of six trainers who presented a variety of subjects vital to branch officers' fiduciary responsibilities. Attendees learned about their branch's obligations regarding reporting to the Department of Labor and the IRS, records management, auditing, dues and membership as well as tax obligations and dealing with payments to officers and branch employees.

The next week it was back to the National Labor College, and more snow, for a week of arbitration advocacy training. NALC Director of Safety and Health Manny Peralta along with headquarters staff members put the 24 students through a rigorous and intensive five days of training that culminated in mock arbitration hearings before four retired national officers who served as the mock arbitrators. For more on this, see the article on page 7.

After having a week or so to catch our breath, it was back to the Labor College in mid-February for a week of advanced OWCP training. Thirty students were selected to attend this session, which was the first of its kind to be held by the NALC. Retired Director of Compensation Ron Watson and a team of instructors led the class through a

series of presentations and exercises designed to give the students a grounding in OWCP theory and law as well as skills for handling problems with OWCP that occur when claims are pending, after they have been accepted and when they are denied. Appeals to ECAB also were covered. The class was so popular that President Fredric Rolando authorized a second session, which will be held this April.

At the end of February, it was off to Orlando for the second round of secretary-treasurer workshops. Again, around 150 members traveled to the Sunshine State to participate in this training program. Should schedules permit in this national contract negotiation year, a third workshop may be offered later for those unable to attend the San Diego and Orlando sessions.

About the time you receive this issue of *The Postal Record*, Leadership Academy Class 11 will be returning for its second week, which will focus on public speaking, legislation, writing skills, branch financial administration as well as other topics.

As noted above, more educational opportunities and training are in the works as we go to press. This spring, national officers will be traveling throughout the country to state conventions and regional training sessions, carrying the latest information on current issues such as six-day delivery, Article 12 withholding and excessing, and 2011 contract negotiations. Additionally, a national rap session will be held sometime this summer or early fall. Watch for updated information about these and other training sessions to appear in future issues of *The Postal Record* and the *NALC Bulletin*.

**Starting with the applications received for the 2011** Leadership Academy classes, there has been a change to the procedure for handling the applications of those who applied but were not selected. Those individuals' current applications will be considered automatically for the 2012 Leadership Academy classes. They will no longer need to submit another essay or application form, but they may update any relevant information, such as additional experience or change of mentor. Any additional information must be postmarked by Sept. 30. Those who do not wish to be considered for 2012 are asked to notify the NALC. ☒