

Negotiating a postal future

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NALC President
Fredric Rolando

The uncertainty over legislation that could address the Postal Service’s financial crisis hung over negotiations between the Postal Service and the National Association of Letter Carriers, as USPS continued to push for slash-and-burn options while NALC was working toward building a stronger future for USPS. (For more on the union’s legislative agenda, see story, page 6.)

As reported last month, the main table negotiations got off to a rocky start with the Postal Service releasing three incendiary white papers days before the opening of negotiations. Those white papers requested that Congress allow USPS the ability to override negotiated contracts by laying off 120,000 employees, to reduce our health and retirement benefits and to gut bargaining rights.

NALC believes there is a better solution. Congress should give the Postal Service access to its own funds, which include tens of billions from the

overfunded CSRS and FERS accounts. Congress should also address the onerous and unfair pre-funding of retiree health benefits. Then the Postal Service would have breathing room to innovate and build a USPS that will serve the American public well into the future.

“Make no mistake, we’re looking at two very different visions of what a Postal Service will look like in the future,” President Fredric Rolando said. “We’re looking toward a future of new products and services that will be of value to all Americans. Postal management is looking toward a future where there is no Postal Service.”

Despite the chasm of differences separating the two parties, negotiations for a new National Agreement are continuing to move forward. As this issue went to press, several bargaining committees were meeting on specific contract articles (see list of committees below). The small working groups have been meeting regularly to discuss topics such as

Bargaining committees

MOU review, pending interpretive disputes and revenue

Executive Vice President Timothy O’Malley

Chair, Board of Trustees Larry Brown
National Trustee Randy Keller

Dispute Resolution Process (Article 15), preamble, contents, index, Article 43 and notations on memorandums and transitional employee application

Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Nicole Rhine

Region 15 NBA Larry Cirelli
Region 10 NBA Kathy Baldwin

Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11 and 24

Director, Health Benefit Plan Brian Hellman

Region 8 NBA Peter Moss
Region 3 NBA Neal Tisdale

Articles 6, 7, 9, 21 and 32

Main table negotiations—
President Fredric Rolando

Article 8

Director of Retired Members Ernest Kirkland

National Trustee Mike Gill
Region 2 NBA Paul Price

Secretary-Treasurer Jane Broendel greeted the Heroes of the Year judges when they were at NALC Headquarters to make their choices. Pictured (from l) are Richard Daschbach, Richard Bowers, Broendel and Bud Biscardo.



Heroic carriers to be recognized

the dispute-resolution process and reassignments.

“Talking is a good start toward finding areas where we can work together,” Rolando said, “but until there is a complete agreement, there is no agreement.”

The current five-year contract, covering more than 200,000 city carriers, will end at midnight on Nov. 20. If the parties fail to reach an agreement, federal law establishes a system of mediation and binding arbitration to resolve the dispute; the law forbids strikes by postal workers.

The American Postal Workers Union started negotiating last year and came to an agreement with the Postal Service earlier this year, while the National Rural Letter Carriers’ Association, which also started negotiations last year, is headed to arbitration. The National Postal Mail Handlers Union’s contract ends at the same time as ours and is also currently in negotiation. ☒

Each month, letter carriers, union officers and Postal Service management send stories and news clips about the actions of letter carriers to *The Postal Record* for publication in the Proud to Serve section. The hundreds of stories are truly a testament to the extent to which letter carriers know and care about our communities, and they represent some of the many ways letter carriers serve the public every day through the Postal Service’s valuable universal delivery network.

Carriers have proven to be selfless heroes in cities everywhere. “We have the unique privilege, by virtue of our daily presence in most every community in America, of looking out for the elderly, protecting children, saving lives, thwarting crime, safeguarding property, and generally serving as an army of guardian angels in neighborhoods throughout the country,” President Fredric Rolando said.

From the myriad reports published in *The Postal Record* between the July issue and the June issue of the following

year, a panel of three independent judges selects a Hero of the Year and several heroes representing three regions of the country, a Carrier Alert hero, a humanitarian hero and a service-oriented branch.

The judges who chose this year’s heroes were Chief Richard Bowers of the Montgomery County, MD Department of Fire and Rescue Services; Jordan “Bud” Biscardo, AFL-CIO community services liaison at the United Way of America; and Richard Daschbach, chair and chief judge of the Employees’ Compensation Appeals Board at the U.S. Department of Labor.

The carrier and branch heroes selected by the judges were recognized in a special ceremony in Washington, DC, at the end of September. Full coverage of the event will appear in the November *Postal Record*.

Letter carriers are urged to send information or news articles about heroism and service beyond the call of duty on the part of their fellow carriers to *The Postal Record* for consideration. ☒

Articles 12, 25, 34 and 41 (and various subcommittees)

Director of City Delivery Lew Drass
Region 9 NBA Judy Willoughby
Region 1 NBA Christopher Jackson
Region 14 NBA John Casciano
Region 7 NBA Chris Wittenberg
Region 12 NBA William Lucini
National Trustee Mike Gill
Region 13 NBA Timothy Dowdy
Region 11 NBA Daniel Toth

Articles 13, 14, 16, 19, 29, 35, 42 and Interpretive step and arbitration (Article 15) (and various subcommittees)

Director of Safety and Health Manuel Peralta Jr.
Region 6 NBA Patrick Carroll

Region 11 NBA Daniel Toth
Region 12 NBA William Lucini
Region 10 NBA Kathy Baldwin
Region 4 NBA Roger Bledsoe
Region 1 NBA Christopher Jackson
Region 2 NBA Paul Price
Region 7 NBA Chris Wittenberg
Region 15 NBA Larry Cirelli
Region 9 NBA Judy Willoughby
Region 5 NBA Dan Pittman
Chair, Board of Trustees Larry Brown
National Trustee Randy Keller

Articles 17, 18, 20, 22, 23 and 31

Secretary-Treasurer Jane Broendel
Region 4 NBA Roger Bledsoe
Region 5 NBA Dan Pittman

Articles 26, 27, 28, 33 and 36

Director of Life Insurance Myra Warren
Region 3 NBA Neal Tisdale
Region 6 NBA Patrick Carroll

Article 30

Vice President George Mignosi
Region 8 NBA Peter Moss
Region 14 NBA John Casciano