



## Leadership Academy deadline is Aug. 31

**T**he application period for the 2013 Leadership Academy classes, which opened on June 1, will close on Aug. 31. This is one month earlier than in past years. The reason for this change is to allow the selections to be made earlier so that those chosen will have additional advance notice to make leave and travel arrangements. Application forms are available on the NALC website or can be obtained from your national business agent's office. Any active member may apply for one of the 60 spots filled each year.

I also want to remind prior applicants that all previous applications have been moved to inactive status. So, those who have applied in the past and wish to be considered for one of the 2013 Leadership Academy spots must reapply by completing a new application form. This will help us to keep the applications current and to better ensure that those who are selected for the Academy are still interested in attending.

There will be two Leadership Academy classes in 2013. Each class consists of three separate weeks of instruction on a variety of subjects. In addition to three weeks of classroom study at the Academy, students also are required to complete outside learning projects upon returning home following Weeks 1 and 2. Upon graduation, the students will spend a week working in their national business agent's office.

As noted in an earlier article, we are moving the location of the Leadership Academy, as the National Labor College campus is closing. The classes in 2013 will be held at the Maritime Institute of Technology, located about 30 miles from NALC Headquarters in Linthicum Heights, MD, very near the Baltimore-Washington (BWI) airport. Class 15 is scheduled for the weeks of Jan. 6-11, March 3-8 and May 5-10. Class 16 is scheduled to be held Aug. 4-9, Oct. 6-11 and Dec. 8-13.

Upon selection, students will be advised of the exact dates and times they will need to be available for each class. Transportation, room, meals, lost wages and other associated costs while attending the Academy and work-

ing in the business agent's office are paid by the NALC.

I encourage any NALC member who is at all interested to find a mentor and submit an application. As mentioned above, completed applications must be received at NALC Headquarters by Aug. 31. Two applicants from each of the 15 NALC regions will be chosen for each of the 2013 classes. Those selected will be notified in early October. Mentors will receive an informational packet explaining their role and giving them some mentoring ideas and tips.

### The dog days of summer

**I want to take the rest of my space here to recognize all of** the letter carriers out there toiling on their routes during one of the hottest summers on record. Although I carried mail for more than 20 years before becoming a full-time union official, I never had to work under the conditions and in the kind of weather that many of you out there have been doing this year. Scanners, FSS, DPS and MSP points are some things I never had to deal with, and five hours on the street was considered a bad day. With starting times moved later and later, you are out on the street during the hottest parts of the day in the late afternoon traffic, arriving home well after most folks have finished dinner.

For all but about one year of my career, I carried in the Seattle area of the Pacific Northwest, where two days in a row over 85 degrees was considered a heat wave and on most days we were done with our routes by 2:30 p.m. Sure, I had read in *The Postal Record* about hot temperatures in places like Phoenix and Las Vegas and about the humidity of the Midwest and East Coast, but I had no idea what that was really like. Now that I live in the Washington, DC, area, I have developed—due in no small part to my letter carrier wife who works in the area—a deep admiration and respect for what you all are going through each day as you report for another long, hot, sweltering day on your routes. Some days I don't know how you do it. You are amazing. ☒