

NALC Leadership Academy



Thirty more 'good guys' Latest graduation swells ranks of informed union activists

NALC Executive Vice President Timothy O'Malley presided over the graduation ceremony for the 12th Leadership Academy class Dec. 9 at the National Labor College in Silver Spring, MD, a few miles north of Washington, DC.

The commencement 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.

“During the strike in the ‘70s, there was the phrase, ‘The return of the good guys,’” O'Malley said in his remarks. “That’s what we need again. We need you to go back to your branches and get yourselves and others involved, to help save the Postal Service.”

“There’s currently a question in Washington about whether the Postal Service should go to five-day or stay at six-day delivery,” O'Malley said. “I say we go to seven days and build an even stronger business that will serve the American public far into the future. With your help, we can do this.”

The 30 participants, two from each of the NALC’s 15 regions, now add their names to an ever-lengthening list of graduates of the Academy, which was created in 2005. Retired NALC Executive Vice President Jim Williams



The Leadership Academy

Region 1

Sonji Pakeman
Branch 2293
Beverly Hills, CA

Paul Peterman
Branch 2502
Las Vegas

Region 2

Jim Burke
Branch 1266
Lewis Co., WA

Brett Davies
Branch 331
Boise, ID

Region 3

Erika Estrada
Branch 11
Chicago

James Richter
Branch 825
Oak Brook, IL

Region 4

Michael Anderson
Branch 35
Little Rock, AR

Maria Teresa Hernandez
Branch 6156
Sun City, AZ

Region 5

Amanda Beckley
Branch 201
Wichita, KS

Brian Grunwaldt
Branch 984
St. Charles, MO

Region 6

Jered Andrus
Branch 56
Grand Rapids, MI

Stacye Johnson
Branch 468
S. Central KY

Region 7

Samantha Hartwig
Branch 9
Minneapolis

Joshua Witzel
Branch 507
Madison, WI

Region 8

Joseph Hall
Branch 1999
Kingsport, TN

Atrisha Looney
Branch 469
Mobile, AL

Region 9

James Thigpen
Branch 53
Northeast Florida

William Wray
Branch 459
Raleigh, NC

Region 10

Teodoro Espinoza
Branch 505
El Paso, TX

Marie Montano
Branch 504
Albuquerque, NM

OPPOSITE PAGE:

Top: Retired Executive Vice President and Leadership Academy coordinator Jim Williams congratulates the participants on completing their course of studies.

Below: Executive Vice President Timothy O'Malley encourages the graduates to use what they learned back at their branches to help members of the union.



and Jim Korolowicz, a former national assistant secretary-treasurer, coordinate a well-rounded and effective curriculum. They also tap 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 the the National Agreement and the union's legislative agenda to save America's Postal Service.

During their classes, students also learned more about the Dispute Resolution Process, strategic planning, branch financial responsibilities, retirement issues, DOIS and route protection, workers' compensation, effective negotiation techniques, and getting the NALC's message out and dealing with the media.

Each week of the Academy also included 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.

Next up

President Fredric Rolando has also announced the names of those selected to be members of the 13th Leadership Academy (*see list below*). This next batch will begin its "semester" later this month, plus two more week-long sessions at the labor college in March and May. Another class is being prepared for late 2012 as well.

"It's important that we help pass on our knowledge to the next generation of union leaders," Rolando said. "The Postal Service remains relevant because of the way it has adapted through hundreds of years, finding ways to serve the public. And so must the leaders of our union adapt through each generation to serve the needs of our members." ✉

Above: O'Malley joins the entire graduating class.

Below: Orlando Gonzalez of New York Branch 36 receives his completion certificate.

Class of Winter/Spring 2012

Region 11

Gregory Rowe
Branch 134
Syracuse, NY

Kathleen Steinmuller

Branch 40
Cleveland

Region 12

Andrea Goodwin
Branch 2572
Morrisville, PA

Paul Poniatowski

Branch 908
S. Jersey

Region 13

Brian Congleton
Branch 3520
Northern VA

Lorene Thomas

Branch 2819
Virginia Beach

Region 14

Robert Dion
Branch 212
Lawrence, MA

David Gagnon

Branch 86
Hartford, CT

Region 15

Carmen Flores
Branch 36
New York

Bruce Stallworth

Branch 924
Freehold, NJ

