

NALC Leadership Academy



Growing the grassroots

Latest graduation swells ranks of informed union activists

NALC Vice President George Mignosi presided over the graduation ceremony for the 13th Leadership Academy class May 11 at the National Labor College in Silver Spring, MD, a few miles north of Washington, DC. The longtime NALC activist told the graduating students that they need to return to their

branches and help form the grassroots effort we need to help save America's Postal Service.

“You can be a source of information for your fellow carriers,” Mignosi said. “You can be the voice of reason who lets your mem-

bers know that we can overcome the challenges we face.

“Let the American public know that we're not trying to protect the Postal Service for us, but for all Americans who use the delivery network.”

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.

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



The Leadership Academy

Region 1

Scott Mahe
Branch 2778
Sparks, NV

Brett Munoz
Branch 213
Stockton, CA

Region 2

Amy Ellis
Branch 68
Ogden, UT

Michael Keels
Branch 79
Seattle, WA

Region 3

Belinda Anderson
Branch 245
Rockford, IL

Brenda Smith
Branch 305
Joliet, IL

Region 4

Michael Doherty
Branch 47
Denver, CO

Douglas Jaynes
Branch 324
Greeley, CO

Region 5

Brenda Fisher
Branch 1015
Cape Girardeau, MO

Rod Holub
Branch 1018
Manhattan, KS

Region 6

Barbara Neubauer
Branch 4374
South Macomb, MI

Gary Smith
Branch 374
Northern KY

Region 7

Janet Musta
Branch 28
St. Paul, MN

Patrick Van Egeren
Branch 619
Green Bay, WI

Region 8

A. Ray Maki
Branch 364
Clarksville, TN

Flindell Zanders
Branch 197
Shreveport, LA

Region 9

Anthony Ali
Branch 1091
Central Florida

John Mitchell
Branch 1779
Lakeland, FL

Region 10

Katherine McGarity
Branch 2805
New Braunfels, TX

Carlos Rodriguez, Jr.
Branch 1456
Brownsville, TX

OPPOSITE PAGE:

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

Below: Vice President George Mignosi tells the graduates that this is just the beginning of their work. They now need to put their skills to use back in the field to help save America's Postal Service.

was created in 2005. Retired NALC Executive Vice President Jim Williams 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 their classes, students took part in often lively discussions on such subjects as the National Agreement and the union's legislative agenda to save America's Postal Service. They 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 oral 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.

This was the last class that will graduate at the National Labor College campus, as college officials have announced their intention to sell the campus this year and continue the NLC's work as an online program.

Next up

President Fredric Rolando has also announced the names of those selected to be members of the 14th Leadership Academy (*see list below*). This next batch will begin its "semester" at the NLC, but then move to the Bolger Center in Potomac, MD, for the final two weeks of classes. No decision on where future classes will be held has been announced.

As this issue of *The Postal Record* was being prepared, a second representative from Region 13 was being selected. ✉

Above: The entire graduating class

Below: Brian Congleton of Northern Virginia Branch 3520 receives his completion certificate.



Class of Summer/Fall 2012

Region 11

Brian Collins
Branch 358
Northeastern NY

Gregory Rowe

Branch 134
Syracuse, NY

Region 12

Dwayne Achey
Branch 274
Lehigh Valley, PA

Chad Wagner

Branch 509
York, PA

Region 13

Michael Matthews
Branch 651
Annapolis, MD

To be named

Region 14

Paul Nee
Branch 44
New Hampshire Mgd.

Christene Vitone

Branch 51
Fall River, MA

Region 15

Christine Strasser
Branch 38
New Jersey Mgd.

David Van Aken

Branch 357
Long Island City, NY