

Reflecting on 2013



**Timothy C.
O'Malley**

week of August. The NALC held its national rap session in Las Vegas on Feb. 9. During the rap session, the highlights of the new National Agreement were reviewed. President

“As you can see, when the membership comes together, we can overcome any obstacle.”

Rolando stressed the importance of signing up the new city carrier assistants into the union. Organizing and training this new category of letter carriers is essential to our craft. They are the future of our union and the Postal Service.

Six-day delivery remained our theme for the protection of the Postal Service. On March 21, a continuing resolution was passed in Congress. In response to the PMG's comments and the need to maintain six-day delivery, President Rolando called for a National Day of Action to take place on March 24. Three days prior to the rally, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a legal opinion stating that Postmaster General Donahoe's claim that the Postal Service has the right to cut mail delivery schedule from six days to five days "rests upon a faulty USPS premise," adding that there is no legislative authority from Congress allowing the change. On March 26, President Barack Obama signed the continuing resolution into law, which provided for funding the government and renewed the language that calls for six-day delivery through Sept. 30. As you can see, when the membership comes together, we can overcome any obstacle. The National Day of Action was a great success thanks to the state associations, branches, our loyal

membership and the American public.

Meanwhile, President Rolando continued to appear on numerous radio shows, in TV interviews, and in newspapers across the country providing the arguments to protect six-day delivery, end the pre-funding requirements, and give the Postal Service the opportunity to offer new products.

Nine weeks after the PMG announced that he was going to unilaterally eliminate Saturday delivery beginning in August, the USPS Board of Governors announced that it was backing away from the plan.

On Saturday, May 11, the NALC Food Drive was held and more than 1,400 branches participated. Once again, the food drive was a great success. More than 74 million pounds were collected. Excellent job, everyone. Helping people is rewarding. So many people are in need, and the food drive is extremely important during these difficult economic times and recent natural disasters. Thank you for your help.

In June, Rep. Issa released a "discussion draft" of a possible postal reform bill. Sen. Carper was also working on his bill. The best solution to date was from Sen. Sanders, with S. 316. President Rolando called for S. 316 to be the blueprint for postal reform legislation.

At the AFL-CIO convention in September, President Rolando asked delegates to pass a resolution calling for its affiliated unions to help the postal unions win postal reform that would help the Postal Service innovate and grow, and to help defeat legislation that would slash jobs and service. The resolution was adopted by acclamation.

The 2013 Heroes of the Year ceremony was held on Oct. 10. It was a great day to recognize the men and women in blue who go above and beyond in helping people during their everyday work.

On Nov. 16, we received a 1 percent increase to the basic annual salary for the grade and step in effect on the date of this agreement, and the CCAs also received a 1 percent increase to their hourly rate.

As we move into December, we continue to deal with political issues confronting us in the House and the Senate. Please be prepared to answer the call from President Rolando in the event a bill is moved forward, whether it be negative or positive. We must be prepared to contact our legislators to request their assistance.

The holidays are upon us, and our thoughts turn to this festive time of the year with our families and friends. I would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy and enjoyable holiday. May there be joy, love, peace, and understanding in your hearts this holiday season and throughout the coming new year.