



Leadership Academy grads on cutting edge of labor

NALC Director of Retired Members
 Ron Watson presided over the graduation ceremony for the 17th Leadership Academy class on June 6 at the Maritime Center in Linthicum Heights, MD, a few miles south of Baltimore. The longtime NALC officer told the graduating students that with the knowledge they've received, they are now at the forefront of the organized labor movement.

"Look at the Leadership Academy. Look at the food drive. Look at our arbitration advocacy win rate," he said. "You're activists in a union that is on the cutting edge."

He told the anecdote of attending an AFL-CIO training on mentoring. When he approached the instructor before the class began, the teacher said that the AFL-CIO had modeled the training on what the NALC had developed for the Leadership Academy.

"You worked really hard, didn't you?" he asked the graduates on June 6. "Long hours? Difficult work? You did things you didn't even know you could do?" he asked.

He encouraged them to continue that work to be the leaders who take the NALC membership to "places that people haven't gone to, but need to."

He told them to never stop: "I ask you to go back to your branch, to your state association, to headquarters and be on the cutting edge."

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 Maritime Center with take-home assignments and special projects.

The 29 participants, two from each of the NALC's 15 regions (one post-



The Leadership Academy

Region 1

Dean Jones
 Branch 709
 Reno, NV

Region 3

Tara Devereaux
 Branch 407
 Kankakee, IL

Region 5

Christopher Fayard
 Branch 5521
 Shawnee Mission, KS

Region 7

Michael Chavez
 Branch 717
 Austin, MN

Region 9

Averell Mattocks
 Branch 459
 Raleigh, NC

Michelle Luke
 Branch 860
 Honolulu, HI

Kimberly Herberger
 Branch 522
 Bloomington, IL

Brian Greunke
 Branch 89
 Fremont, NE

David Zimney
 Branch 2942
 Hopkins, MN

Patrick Mullen
 Branch 2008
 Clearwater, FL

Region 2

Craig Chamberlin
 Branch 1104
 Vancouver, WA

Region 4

Tiffany Buskirk
 Branch 4405
 Arvada, CO

Region 6

Donald Karl
 Branch 2317
 Midland, MI

Region 8

David Kirkland
 Branch 1630
 Dothan, AL

Region 10

Matt Haggard
 Branch 2279
 Lufkin, TX

Kimberly Mortensen
 Branch 111
 Salt Lake City, UT

Timothy JayJohn
 Branch 399
 Fort Smith, AR

Kieaunta Roberson
 Branch 39
 Indianapolis, IN

Reed Ordoyne
 Branch 2464
 Houma-Thibodeaux-
 Lockport, LA

James Kimbrell
 Branch 181
 Austin, TX



poned the training because of a death in the family), 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 and former NALC Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Jim Korolowicz coordinate a well-rounded and effective curriculum. They tap a number of NALC officers and Headquarters staff members and experts to teach classes 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, 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.

President Fredric Rolando has announced the names of those selected to attend the 18th Leadership Academy (*see list below*), which will begin next month. NALC also is accepting applications for future Leadership Academy sessions. To apply, go to www.nalc.org/nalc/members/leadership.html. **PR**

Opposite page (top): Leadership Academy coordinator Jim Williams congratulates the participants.

Opposite page (bottom): Director of Retired Members Ron Watson explains how NALC is innovating and striving to improve.

**Above: The entire graduating class
Below: Jim Ruetze of Corpus Christi, TX Branch 1259 receives his completion certificate.**

Class of summer/fall 2014

Region 11

Scott R. Howell
Branch 297
Alliance, OH

Lori Ann Mottolo
Branch 3688
Willoughby, OH

Region 12

Sean Geackel
Branch 920
Bux-Mont, PA

Edward Morgan
Branch 157
Philadelphia, PA

Region 13

Nona Roop Hall
Branch 524
Roanoke, VA

Jason Roseborough
Branch 176
Baltimore, MD

Region 14

Christopher Myers
Branch 109
Derby, CT

Mark Seitz
Branch 92
Maine Merged

Region 15

Roy Jancio
Branch 38
New Jersey Merged

Paul Marks
Branch 41
Brooklyn, NY

Joseph Morelli
Branch 6000
Long Island Mgd., NY

