



Leadership Academy grads encouraged to mentor others

NALC Director of City Delivery Brian Renfro presided over the graduation ceremony for the 18th Leadership Academy class on Dec. 12 at the Maritime Center in Linthicum Heights, MD, a few miles south of Baltimore. The first Leadership Academy graduate to be elected as a resident national officer told the graduating students that he understood what they were feeling, as he had been there, but that it is what they do next that truly matters.

“This is not the end, this is the beginning,” he said. “You’ve had the opportunity that a select few people in this union get to experience.

“What this class does is shorten the learning curve. It will allow you, as it allowed me, to learn skills that it took many previous officers years of experience to learn.”

He told the attendees that no matter what role

they play in the union going forward, they have certain responsibilities as graduates of the Leadership Academy.

“That may mean you’re a leader in your station as a shop steward. That may mean you’re a leader in your branch as an officer or a branch president. That may mean you’re going to be a regional administrative assistant, national business agent or resident national officer. That’s not the important part. The important part is whatever role you play, you exemplify those qualities in a leader that you’ve learned here,” he said.

And one of the most important qualities they should never abandon, he said, is to, “Maintain your humility. That’s the most important thing for you to be successful, in my opinion.

“It’s not about me. It’s not about you. It’s about everyone. Always keep that in mind.”

The commencement event capped several months of intensive training on the skills necessary for union members to become effective leaders. Under the



The Leadership Academy

Region 1

Linda Alfaro
Branch 1100
Garden Grove, CA

John R. Burton
Branch 2462
Van Nuys, CA

Region 2

Tanya Vakhrusheva-Wiita
Branch 4491
Fairbanks, AK

Brian Wiggins
Branch 79
Seattle, WA

Region 3

Holly Dexter
Branch 11
Chicago, IL

Chantay Rogers
Branch 1107
Wilmette, IL

Region 4

Jody Baker
Branch 35
Little Rock, AR

Jeffrey Frey
Branch 47
Denver, CO

Region 5

Kelly Strottman
Branch 352
Des Moines, IA

Kyle Turner
Branch 5847
Hazelwood, MO

Region 6

Harbert Davis
Branch 116
Ft. Wayne, IN

Brandon Griffin
Branch 1326
Gary, IN

Region 7

Jamie Corke
Branch 28
St. Paul, MN

Howard Pope
Branch 1298
Waupaca, WI

Region 8

Charles Doucet
Branch 106
Montgomery, AL

Colleen Tracy
Branch 62
Chattanooga, TN

Region 9

Bruce Hamilton
Branch 1091
Central Florida

William Heidt
Branch 780
New Bern, NC

Patrick Mullen
Branch 2008
Clearwater, FL



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 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 established 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.

The graduates now go to complete their “fourth week,” serving in their NBAs’ offices, learning about the union work conducted there.

President Fredric Rolando has announced the names of those selected to attend the 19th Leadership Academy (*see list below*), which will begin next month. **PR**

Opposite page (top): Director of City Delivery Brian Renfroe gives the commencement speech.

Opposite page (bottom): Academy attendees take part in a teaching exercise.

Above: The entire graduating class
Below: Lori Ann Mottolo of Willoughby, OH Branch 3688 receives her completion certificate.

Class of summer/fall 2014

Region 10

Teshonda Jamerson
Branch 283
Houston, TX

Juan Munoz

Branch 1259
Corpus Christi, TX

Region 11

Michael Brim
Branch 78
Columbus, OH

Anthony Ross
Branch 583
Lorain, OH

Region 12

Timothy Mulvena
Branch 157
Philadelphia, PA

Darrell Vance

Branch 500
Harrisburg, PA

Region 13

Walter Brummage
Branch 910
Fairmont, WV

Cynthia Goodwin
Branch 4819
Lanham, MD

Region 14

Evan Cohen
Branch 15
Providence, RI

Christopher Henwood

Branch 495
Rutland, VT

Region 15

Joseph DeStefano
Branch 137
Hudson Valley Merged, NY

Mike Ely
Branch 60
Stamford, CT

