

UNI Rising Together



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August was a month full of global solidarity for NALC. Representatives from UNI Global Union, the global federation of unions with which NALC is affiliated, participated in several important events that it organized.

UNI brings together service-sector workers from more than 150 countries to help them achieve better jobs and better lives. NALC belongs to UNI's Post & Logistics sector, along with many other unions that represent national postal systems

in their home countries, as well as some unions that represent workers employed by private delivery companies such as UPS, DHL and Amazon. NALC's affiliation with UNI demonstrates our commitment to standing in solidarity with our sister and brother workers, no matter which company they work for or in which country they reside. It also is a great source of information sharing, particularly among unions in our sector.

NALC hosted our sectoral sister unions for meetings of two Post & Logistics committees at our Headquarters building in Washington, DC, Aug. 23-24. On the first day, the World Post & Logistics Committee discussed privatization of the postal sector in the European Union, as well as UNI's working agreement with the Universal Postal Union, a specialized agency of the United Nations that coordinates postal policies among member nations, in addition to the worldwide postal system.

One of the most interesting sessions was about efforts to organize last-mile drivers at private companies such as Amazon in the United States, Canada and Italy; DHL in several African countries; and Jadlog in Brazil. National postal systems around the world are all seeing increased competition from new delivery companies.

On the second day, the Americas Post & Logistics Committee discussed issues concerning postal unions in North and South America. Topics included postal worker health and safety, the increase in gig work in the sector, and the challenge of automation. The meeting also included an information session about a pension crisis that Brazilian postal workers are facing due to the alleged financial malpractice of one of their pension managers, the American bank BNY Mellon.

Next, four NALC staffers traveled to Philadelphia to attend the UNI World Women's Congress Aug. 25-26. Throughout the conference we heard the powerful voices of women leaders in the global labor movement speak candidly about the importance of gender equality in the



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workplace, the urgent need to combat violence against women, the specific health and safety needs of women at work, and the value of including young women's voices in the labor movement.

Finally, several NALC staffers, Secretary-Treasurer Nicole Rhine and President Brian L. Renfroe represented the union at the UNI Global Congress in Philadelphia Aug. 27-30. The global congress is held every four years and, much like the NALC convention, functions to set the agenda for the federation for the next several years through the passage of resolutions and strategic work plans. Union representatives from more than 400 unions in 109 countries joined together to pass resolutions asserting workers' rights to collective bargaining, healthy and safe workplaces, decent work in a global economy that is rapidly changing due to technology, and work that is not managed by algorithm or other digital interface, such as artificial intelligence. Delegates also affirmed the labor movement's commitment to achieving gender equality, building a sustainable future, fighting racism and other forms of discrimination, and holding corporations accountable for their actions.

The world congress also featured thoughtful and inspiring guest speakers who share UNI's moral commitment to defend workers and fight for a better world for all. One standout speaker was Maurice Mitchell, national director of the Working Families Party in the United States, who spoke earnestly about the power of solidarity, even when we do not—and in many cases, cannot—understand each other's unique experiences. It is not enough to superficially promise solidarity—it is a commitment that must be built and reinforced.

Brother Mitchell's keynote address spoke to the world congress theme, "Rising Together." Throughout the entire week-plus of UNI activities, in both Washington and Philadelphia, this theme resonated. Workers from national postal systems rise when last-mile delivery drivers from Amazon rise up for fair wages and working conditions. Women in the United States rise when women in Morocco rise up against workplace violence. As Mitchell said, "The bosses know that when the working class is in conflict with one another, they win. When workers see the victories of workers as our own, we win."