



NALC CONVENTION CHRONICLE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, COVERING THE **SECOND SESSION**, TUESDAY, JULY 22



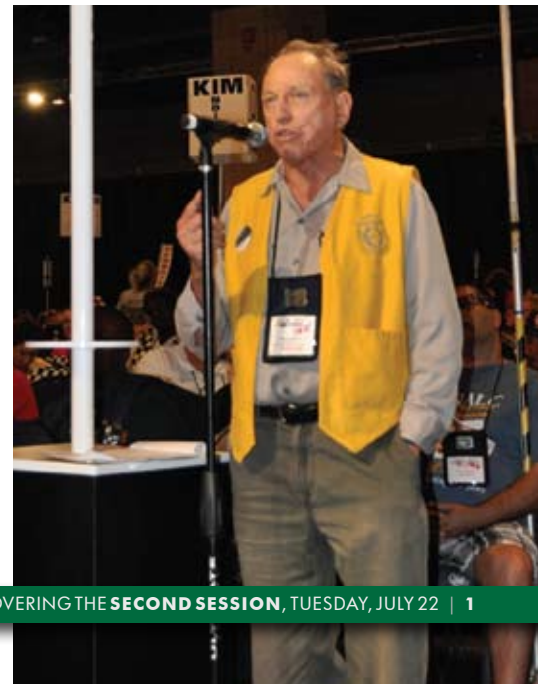
WITH NODS TO THE PAST, PRESENT DELEGATES FACE FUTURE CHALLENGES

invited Philadelphia Branch 157's Estes Smith to the stage to sing the National Anthem, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Branch 157's Jay Nichols and an invocation by Rabbi Avi Winokur of Philadelphia's Society Hill Synagogue.

Before the regular business of the convention got under way, delegates entertained a motion to pass the hat to help support the family of Mount Clemons, MI Branch 654 letter carrier David Jorah. The 42-year-old letter carrier died unexpectedly while attending his teenage son's out-of-state baseball game, and his family is dealing with significant financial hardship while it waits for various agencies to sort through a mountain of red tape before benefits get disbursed. The convention approved the motion, which under the convention's Rule 23 also needs to be approved by the National Trustees.

Next, President Rolando dispatched the Committee to Extend Greetings to the NALC Auxiliary, holding its 54th biennial

NALC President Fredric Rolando (left) calls upon members (above and below) to add to the discussion of the data produced by the Special Review Committee.



Tuesday at the Pennsylvania Convention Center found delegates to the NALC's 69th biennial convention taking time to seriously discuss the various challenges carriers must overcome to progress toward future success, while gaining greater appreciation for the sacrifices made by earlier generations to preserve the pay, benefits and working conditions we enjoy today. Along the way, they dispatched the regular convention business and they heard from friends old and new. It was a day of nostalgia and pride as the National Association of Letter Carriers continues its common cause of delivering for America.

DOWN TO BUSINESS

NALC President Fredric Rolando called the convention to order at 10:01 a.m. and



Above: Carriers from California listen as Amanda Renteria explains why she is running for the House seat in the 21st district. **Left:** Delegates escort Rep. Mike Fitzpatrick (R-PA) to the stage.

SPECIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

The president then asked the convention to suspend the normal rules for debate to allow for a free-flowing discussion about the future of the NALC.

“In Minneapolis two years ago, I created a Special Review Committee to dig into some ideas we had for the NALC to be more efficient and effective,” Rolando said. “Since then, the committee has been meeting and gathering data, and the members are here to report on their initial findings as well as to share some ideas we’ve received since we gathered in Minneapolis.

“The influx of CCAs has eased the pressure some,” he said, “but this is still a valuable discussion for us to have.”

The president then introduced the members of the committee, who he said represented every facet of the NALC’s governance structure: Chicago, IL Branch 11 President Mack Julion; Mid-Michigan Branch 256 President Paul Gillie; Pawtucket, RI Branch 55 President Jim Langlois; Utah State Association President Philip Rodriquez; NALC Board of Trustees Chairman Larry Brown; NALC Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Nicole Rhine; and NALC Secretary-Treasurer Jane Broendel.

Julion, Gillie, Langlois and Rodriquez each took turns at the mic to review the various ideas the committee has discussed about revamping the union’s structure as well as its method of planning and holding conventions.

Then, for about an hour, one delegate after another rose under personal privilege



convention at the Pennsylvania Convention Center this week.

NALC Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Nicole Rhine was at the podium next to give the report of the Executive Council on amendments to the *NALC Constitution*. Rhine then called to the stage National Trustees Chairman Larry Brown and Board of Trustees members Mike Gill and Randy Keller, who led discussion of the five proposed amendments.

Before the trustees began, the convention approved a motion to accept *en bloc* those amendments recommended for approval by the NALC Executive Council. Following divisions, the Committee’s recommendations for disapproval were upheld for Amendments No. 1 (calling for a minimum dues structure for city carrier assistants) and No. 3 (regarding deduction of dues from a member’s branch per capita check). Amendment No. 2 was withdrawn by its makers.

Next, Vice President Lew Drass briefly reviewed the convention appeals process. Appeals will be addressed by the convention during Friday’s general session.

Drass outlined a change in the appeals procedure that the Executive Council feels will allow both sides of the dispute to be fully and fairly presented to the convention. Following the appellant’s presentation, the

affected branch or state association will be allowed to have a representative address the convention for five minutes to respond. Such representatives need to get in touch with Drass before Friday.

Also, the appellant can reserve one minute of his or her five minutes of presentation time for rebuttal to the branch or state association, and the appellant will have an opportunity to indicate whether he or she wishes to reserve that one minute of rebuttal time.

AMANDA RENTERIA, CANDIDATE FOR CONGRESS

Invited to the stage to speak next was Amanda Renteria, a Democrat running for a seat in the House of Representatives for California’s 21st congressional district.

“Our city center is the post office,” Renteria said of her small town located in California’s Central Valley. “It’s where everyone gathers, and letter carriers go around and share that community spirit.

“A postal job should be a good-paying, middle-class job,” she said. “No matter how hot, how heavy, you deliver. And you don’t just carry letters. You care for your community.”

President Rolando led delegates in a letter carrier cheer for Renteria.

to offer a wealth of new ideas as well as to share some serious concerns they had over concepts presented in Philadelphia as well as in Minneapolis in 2012.

“This is the beginning of the process,” Rolando stressed. “We’ve made no decisions or recommendations, but we’re setting up a deliberative review process before we recommend any changes the next time we meet as a body in Los Angeles in 2016.”

In closing the discussion, Rolando urged carriers to send their ideas to the committee, which will continue its work and present its recommendations at the 2016 convention in Los Angeles.

ORGANIZING AWARDS

Rolando then presented awards to the best-organized branches in three size categories. The winners were: Branches with 1,000 or more members—South Florida Branch 1071 and Boston, MA Branch 34 (tie), both with a 97.8 percent membership rate; branches with 500 to 999 members—Rochester, NY Branch 210, with a 98.4 percent membership rate; and branches with fewer than 500 members—Albany, NY Branch 29, with a 100 percent membership rate.

Branches with the highest rate of organization of CCAs also received awards. The winners were: Branches with 1,000 or more members—Connecticut Merged Branch 20, with a 95.4 percent rate of CCA membership; branches with 500 to 999 members—San Bernadino, CA Branch 411, with 100 percent of its CCAs signed up as members; and branches with fewer than 500 members—Albany, NY Branch 29, with a 100 percent CCA organization rate.

MILEAGE AND PER DIEM

Antonia Shields of Birmingham, AL Branch 530, chairman of the Mileage and Per Diem Committee, then came to the stage. Shields introduced committee members Kenneth Montgomery of Rochester, NY Branch 210, and Lyn Liberty of Phoenix, AZ Branch 576. Shields reported that the per diem amount was set at \$441.08. The recommendations of the committee were adopted by voice vote.

REP. MIKE FITZPATRICK

Rolando introduced Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick, a Republican who represents Suburban Philadelphia’s Bucks County. After being escorted to the stage by delegates from his district, Fitzpatrick told the convention that members of Congress from both political parties ought to share his strong support for the Postal

The following amendments to the NALC Constitution were approved by the delegates at the National Convention.

- Amend General Law 1 of the *Constitution and General Laws of the United States Letter Carriers Mutual Benefit Association* to include parents or legal guardians of NALC members.

Service, especially given the fact that it is enshrined in the U.S. Constitution.

“It is crucial that Congress do all that is possible to ensure [the Postal Service’s] fiscal solvency,” he said. “It’s the letter carriers who are the front lines of making that happen.”

Fitzpatrick described his struggles in Congress to preserve six-day delivery, solve the pre-funding of future retiree health benefits and stand up to congressional foes who don’t see the value of the Postal Service. “Some have even hinted that the Postal Service is not needed in the 21st century, and to them I say, That’s dead wrong,” he said. Quoting the city’s favorite son and first postmaster general, Benjamin Franklin, Fitzpatrick said, “When the well is dry, then we’ll know the worth of water.”

Rolando echoed the call for members of both political parties to commit to a strong Postal Service. Fitzpatrick, he said, is “a reminder that the Postal Service is not a blue state service or a red state service; it is an American service that deserves broad, bipartisan support.”

President Rolando led delegates in a letter carrier cheer for Fitzpatrick.

DOCUMENTING 125 YEARS

The delegates then watched a documentary, “125 Years of Delivering for America,” that celebrated NALC’s history, from the first letter carriers who worked for pennies a letter, to the struggle for rights, respect, safety and decent pay, to the strike of 1970 that lifted carriers into the middle class. Hosted by letter carrier and part-time actor Lorenzo Hudson of Long Island Merged Branch 6000, the piece concluded with the activism by today’s letter carriers to protect their jobs, pay, benefits and work conditions—activism that follows in the footsteps of their predecessors. Following the video, Rolando introduced Hudson, who was rewarded with a letter carrier cheer.

The delegates then approved two resolutions offered from the floor to produce commemorative belt buckles and pins celebrating the 125th anniversary of the union.

- Delete the word “Career” from all references to the “Postal Career Service” in the *NALC Constitution*, the *Constitution for the Government of Subordinate and Federal Branches*, the *Constitution for the Government of State Associations*, and the *Constitution and General Laws of the United States Letter Carriers Mutual Benefit Association* in order to ensure that non-career bargaining unit employees are covered.

RETIREMENT COMMITTEE AND NALCREST

Rolando introduced NALC Director of Retired Members Ron Watson, who in turn introduced the members of the Retirement

Committee: Ron Brown of Royal Oak, MI Branch 3126; Doug Gulley of Columbus, OH Branch 78; and John Walsh of Albany, NY Branch 29. Watson presented the committee’s report to the delegates.

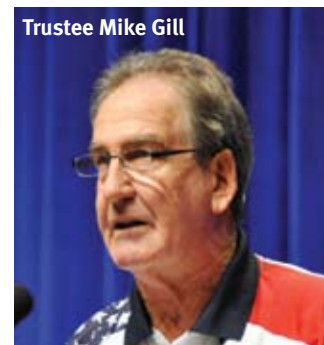
After showing a video about Nalcrest that focused on the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the letter carriers’ retirement community in Florida, Rolando gave the microphone to Nalcrest President Matty Rose of South Florida Branch 1071. Rose introduced Nalcrest trustees Tom Young of Garden Grove, CA Branch 1100 and Don Southern of Lakeland, FL Branch 1779. Rose, Young and Southern each told the delegates about the many amenities available to retirees who choose to live at Nalcrest.

NATIONAL AUXILIARY

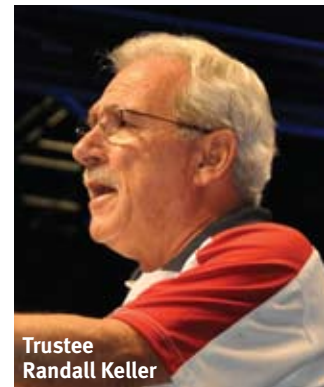
Rolando then presented the microphone to Executive Vice President



Chairman of the National Trustees Lawrence Brown Jr.



Trustee Mike Gill



Trustee Randall Keller



The NALC Auxiliary Executive Council applauds new president Cynthia Lang.

Timothy O'Malley, who is liaison to the NALC Auxiliary. O'Malley introduced the chairman of the Greetings to the Auxiliary Committee, Ron Bergstrom of Green Bay, WI Branch 619, and committee members Emre Edwards of Austin, TX Branch 181 and Mary Smith of Greenwood, MS Branch 1080.

After presenting the committee's report, O'Malley introduced Auxiliary President Linda Kirby, who in turn introduced the Auxiliary's officers: Vice President Cynthia Lang, Secretary Marie Rasmussen, Assistant Secretary George Anna Myers and Treasurer Pam Fore. Kirby announced that she was retiring as presi-

dent and that Lang had been elected to take the helm of the Auxiliary.

"I promise to carry out the great Auxiliary tradition while moving the organization forward to keep up with the times," Lang said.

DALE HART

In a heart-warming tribute, Rolando

then welcomed former Director of City Delivery Dale Hart to the stage. Hart, who is in a wheelchair after breaking his neck in a fall, defied doctors who told him he would not regain the ability to speak.

Hart urged the delegates to harness the power of the labor movement to

once again elevate the middle class. "You are the NALC—you're members of the strongest union in the United States of America," he said. "Stand up and show that."

Hart expressed gratitude for the donations, cards and well wishes letter carriers have sent him. "I'm deeply touched by your generosity." The delegates gave Hart a standing ovation and a letter carrier cheer.

Rolando recessed the convention at 3:19 p.m.



NALC AUXILIARY TUESDAY, JULY 22

Following the National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance, NALCA Vice President Cythensis Lang (Auxiliary 2517, Mobile, AL) led a poignant memorial service in memory of auxiliary sisters and brothers who have passed since our last convention.

An updated credentials report was given by Assistant Secretary George Anna Myers (Auxiliary 4, Kansas City, MO), chair of the credentials committee, and member Cynthia Martinez (Auxiliary 377, Phoenix, AZ): 35 auxiliaries, 25 states, five national officers, six state vice presidents, eight state presidents, 65 delegates and 67 voting delegates. President Kirby thanked the committee members for their diligence and service.

Kirby called on the bylaw committee to continue with proposed bylaws. Five bylaws were presented and adopted. Kirby thanked Bylaw Committee Chair Patsy Mester (Auxiliary 21, Springfield, IL) and committee member Nancy Southern (Auxiliary 2621, Lakeland, FL) for their diligence and service.

Pam Donato, NALC Director of Community Membership and Outreach, stressed the importance of awareness of needs in our communities in order to continue to grow community involvement programs. Donato stressed that she is the conduit for local outreach activities and thanked the auxiliary delegates for the help and support

given.

Kirby welcomed to the podium NALC Executive Director Timothy C. O'Malley, NALC greeting committee chair Ron Bergstrom of Green Bay, WI Branch 619 and committee members Emre Edwards of Austin, TX Branch 181 and Mary Smith of Greenwood, MS Branch 1080. O'Malley remarked, "The NALC has always had two secret weapons when it comes to political action and legislation—we actively seek to retain retirees as members and we have supported the NALC Auxiliary." O'Malley recognized that for much of the NALC's 125-year history, letter carriers were politically muzzled, but had a way around that constraint—the NALC Auxiliary.

In accordance with NALCA bylaws, Article X, Section XI, a professional audit was performed within 30 days of the convention for the dates July 21, 2012 to May 31, 2014. Bill Katt, C.P.A. of Kenosha, WI, gave the Auxiliary a clean report. Audit committee Chair Sandi Williams (Auxiliary 138, Dayton, OH) and committee members Ruth Myers (Auxiliary 260, Salem, OR) and Gaye Meredith (Auxiliary 28, Dallas, TX) reported the books of the secretary and treasurer were in good order and meet all specifications according to NALCA bylaws and protocol. President Kirby thanked the committee members for their diligence and service.

Mileage and Per Diem Chair Ann

Borowski (Auxiliary 144, Milwaukee, WI), and committee members Geneva Robinson (Auxiliary 4, Kansas City, MO) and Judy Arldt (Auxiliary 111, Austin, TX) reported that their review of all expenses incurred are consistent with travel, lodging and per diem of the convention and moved to accept the report as presented. The motion passed. President Kirby thanked the committee members for their diligence and service.

Nominations for national officers for the 2014 to 2018 term were made: president—Cythensis Lang; vice president—Cynthia Martinez; secretary—George Anna Myers; treasurer—Pam Fore (Auxiliary 2621, Lakeland, FL) and assistant secretary—Linda Davis (Auxiliary 194, Yakima, WA). In accordance with NALCA bylaws, when only one candidate has been nominated for each office, the candidate is declared the elected officer.

NALC Director of Health Benefits Brian Hellman addressed the delegates; Hellman told the delegates that his job and desire is to be in a position to help people. His office stands ready to assist carriers and families on matters related to the HBP. Hellman also thanked the Auxiliary for its long, rich history of supporting the NALC.

President Kirby recessed the meeting at 12:47 p.m.

—M. Marie Rasmussen, NALCA Secretary