



NALC CONVENTION CHRONICLE

COVERING THE FOURTH SESSION:
THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2026



Rep. Hakeem Jeffries is escorted to the stage by delegates from New York.

PRESSING ON

President Brian L. Renfro opened Thursday's session at 8:04 a.m. and the day began with a moving rendition of the national anthem by Michelle Bjornseth of Bismarck, ND Branch 957. Rebecca Renteria of Los Angeles, CA Branch 24 led delegates in the Pledge of Allegiance. Dr. Kathy Cash, chaplain for the American Legion's Department of California, gave the invocation.

Renfro invited to the stage Election Commissioner Andrew Weiner, who explained the voting process for the union's AFL-CIO delegate elections, which would take place from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. following Thursday's general session.

President Renfro called the Committee on Mileage and Per Diem to the lectern. The committee's acting chair, Kenneth Montgomery of Rochester, NY Branch 210, took the microphone to offer condolences following the recent death of Committee Chair Antonia Shields. The members of the committee introduced themselves: Josiah Morse of

Maine Merged Branch 92; Jose Romero of Albuquerque, NM Branch 504; and Ryan West of Bloomington, IL Branch 522. Montgomery reported that the committee had recommended \$5,073.49 for mileage and per diem and \$66,800 for stipends for a total of \$71,873.49. The delegates adopted a motion to accept the final report.

The NALC president returned to the podium and recognized delegates at the microphones. A number of requests were made to "pass the hat" for injured carriers and for the families of carriers who have died, and several moments of silence were held. There were also calls for the national union to match funds raised in the passing of the hat, as well as to match funds for various branches' Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) fundraisers and for the NALC Disaster Relief Foundation.

Renfro then announced the names of the National Election Committee members that he had appointed. Those members are: Lamanda Bradshaw, Modesto, CA Br. 1291; Mike Hansen, Salt Lake City, UT

Br. 111; Brian Wiggins, Seattle, WA Br. 79; Veronica Ramirez, Arlington Heights, IL Br. 2810; Kathy Walter, Tucson, AZ Br. 704; Morgan Harrington, Southwest Michigan Br. 246; Linda Johnson, Duluth, MN Br. 114; Sylvain Stevens, Charlotte, NC Br. 545; Juan Munoz, Corpus Christi, TX Br. 1259; Monique Mate, Rochester, NY Br. 210; Michele Galda, Camden, NJ Merged Branch 540; Melissa Johnson, Rockville, MD Br. 3825; Joseph Stearns, Massachusetts Northeast Merged Br. 25; Eric Lomax, Jamaica, NY Br. 562; and Mike O'Neill, New Jersey Merged Branch 38.

Secretary-Treasurer Nicole Rhine next made some announcements to the delegation, including about a drawing for ballot placement of candidate names for AFL-CIO delegates and the retrieval of union awards. President Renfro then declared a return to executive session and the suspension of the convention livestream to take care of official union business after a short break.

The delegates heard an appeal of two decisions by the Executive Council related to the collective-bargaining

process and the investigation of Article 10 charges in April 2025. Executive Vice President Paul Barner offered the Executive Council's rebuttal. The body voted to uphold both decisions of the Executive Council with teller votes of 2,637 to 1,376 on the collective-bargaining decision and 2,616 to 1,317 on the decision about the Article 10 investigation.

After the votes, the executive session ended and the livestream resumed as consideration moved to legislative resolutions. A motion was made and passed to not read the resolutions and only hear the Executive Council's report on any disapproved resolution.

SOLVING HARD CHALLENGES

The delegates then viewed a video message from Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI), ranking member of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee and strong NALC ally.

"I grew up in a union household, and I learned firsthand the power and importance of unions to fight for workers' rights," Peters said.

Peters reminded the carriers that he led the effort in the Senate to pass the Postal Service Reform Act of 2022, which included the elimination of pre-funding of retiree healthcare benefits and a permanent requirement for six-day delivery.

"That effort shows that big reforms can still be accomplished when we come together in a bipartisan manner to solve hard challenges," he said.

Peters also noted that with the support

of NALC, he succeeded in removing provisions from President Trump's "One Big Beautiful Bill" last year that would have slashed postal retirement benefits and required USPS to sell off its new postal vehicle fleet.

"NALC's advocacy was absolutely crucial, and you made sure that Congress heard your voices loud and clear," he said.

Peters decried President Trump's attempt to hijack voting by mail. "Postal employees should never be forced to verify ballots," Peters said, "or decide which pieces of mail should be delivered. And I'm going to continue to fight these illegal and unconstitutional efforts."

"I will continue to hold the Postal Service and the Trump administration accountable, and work to find a path forward to improve its finances," he concluded, "so that you can continue to deliver for another 250 years."

The delegates responded with a Letter Carrier Cheer.

RESOLUTIONS

The delegates then turned to consideration of legislative resolutions, with Executive Vice President Barner reading the Executive Council's reports on the resolutions. The convention approved resolutions to allow retired carriers to continue contributions to the Thrift Savings Plan, to continue six-day mail delivery for every house, and to create a Farmworkers Day paid holiday.

The delegates debated the longtime issue of locality and area wages and

overturned the Executive Council's disapproval of a resolution to "lobby for adding USPS to the locality pay provisions in the law enjoyed in the 54 areas federal employees receive this benefit" on a teller vote of 1,909 to 1,781.

The convention took a recess for lunch at 1:07 p.m. and resumed at 1:48 p.m. The delegates watched a video explaining the battles NALC has faced and the legislative efforts the union has used to combat those issues.

A SEA OF BLUE

President Renfro then welcomed Ha-keem Jeffries (D-NY), minority leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, to the podium to speak to the delegates. Jeffries was escorted into the convention hall by letter carriers from New York.

The son of public employees, Jeffries praised carriers for their dedication to their work and said he shares their goals: "Your values are my values, and my values are your values."

Jeffries said he was proud of the passage of the Postal Service Reform Act and the Social Security Fairness Act, and pledged to enact legislation to protect carriers from violence. If his party wins back majority control of the House of Representatives in the midterm elections, he said, he will go much further.

"Life is too expensive in the United States of America," he said, and workers are struggling to survive. "We believe that in this great country of ours, when you work hard and play by the rules, like all of you do, you should be able to live an affordable life, a comfortable life and live the good life," Jeffries said. "A good-paying job, good housing, good healthcare, a good education for your children, and when it's all said and done, a good retirement. That's what this union fights for, and that's what we're going to fight for."

"And that, of course, means at all times," he added. "We're going to make sure those MAGA extremists keep their hands off your Social Security and your Medicare."

No movement has done more to fight for the American dream than labor, Jeffries said. "We will continue as House Democrats to stand with you and push back against the attacks on unions, and when

NALC President Renfro thanks Rep. Jeffries.



we get control of the gavel, to protect the right to organize at all times.”

Jeffries also pledged to confront the “unprecedented corruption” in the Trump administration.

“If folks are too focused on enriching themselves, their family members, their friends and their donors, they’re not focused on making your life better,” he said. “Beginning on Day 1, when the House Democrats get the gavel, we’re going to hold the crooks accountable.”

Echoing the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who said “press on, and keep pressing,” Jeffries urged the delegates not to give up their efforts: “At this moment in time, we’ve got to press on and keep pressing,” he said. “Press on until victory is won!”

The delegates responded with an energetic Letter Carrier Cheer, and adopted a resolution making Jeffries an honorary member of NALC. Renfroe pointed to the sea of blue Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF) shirts in the crowd representing donors to the NALC’s political action committee.

FINISHING STRONG

The Board of Tellers dispersed into the hall to pass the hat, collecting funds for those selected under Rule 26.

The convention took up the *National Agreement* resolutions, with Vice President James Henry and Secretary-Treasurer Rhine reading the Executive Council’s recommendations on the resolutions. Over a few hours, the body dealt with 48 resolutions, 37 of which were passed. A summary of the passed resolutions and amendments will be published in the September/October edition of *The Postal Record*.

President Renfroe returned to the podium for announcements, including that the Board of Tellers had collected more than \$32,000 in cash, and the Venmo total had not been calculated yet. NALC Headquarters will match the final total based on a motion from the delegates.

The delegates then viewed a video message from American Postal Workers Union (APWU) President Jonathan Smith, who opened by praising letter carriers for their dedication to their jobs.

“You sacrifice every day to make sure you serve the American people,” Smith said. “It needs a lot more respect.”

The Board of Tellers collect more than \$32,000 from delegates during the “pass the hat.”



Letter carriers are called heroes when calamity strikes, such as the COVID-19 pandemic or natural disasters, he added, but they are heroes every day they deliver.

Smith pledged that APWU will stand with NALC in the struggle against privatization and other threats to the Postal Service. “We are a thriving service, not a failing business,” he said.

“When they come for you, they come for us,” Smith promised. “We will fight this battle to the very end.”

“We will fight like hell!” he said. “Hands off the U.S. Mail!”

President Renfroe adjourned at 4:22 p.m. to allow delegates to vote in the AFL-CIO delegates election immediately after the session.

Previously in the session, Secretary-Treasurer Rhine told delegates that branches who won awards for food drive and Muscular Dystrophy Association fundraising could be picked up from the Community Services booth in the exhibit hall, and that LCPF awards would be mailed to the winning branches. Award winners were displayed on the screens during breaks.

LETTER CARRIER POLITICAL FUND

The first-place winners of the LCPF awards for 2024 and 2026 by branch size are below.

Highest percentage of contributors:

- 2,500 or more members: New Jersey Merged Branch 38 (11.18%)
- 1,500-2,499 members: Columbus, OH Branch 78 (16.52%)
- 1,000-1,499 members: South Suburban Merged Branch 4016 (45.27%)

- 700-999 members: Camden, NJ Merged Branch 540 (49.25%)
- 500-699 members: Bridgeport, CT Branch 32 (40.29%)
- 350-499 members: Wheeling, IL Branch 4739 (56.09%)
- 200-439 members: Framingham, MA Branch 334 (90.47%)
- 50-199 members: North Tonawanda, NY Branch 661 (233.33%)

Largest per capita contribution:

- 2,500 or more members: Cleveland, OH Branch 40 (\$3.34)
- 1,500-2,499 members: Columbus, OH Branch 78 (\$5.96)
- 1,000-1,499 members: South Suburban Merged, IL Branch 4016 (\$5.36)
- 700-999 members: New Haven, CT Branch 19 (\$23.06)
- 500-699 members: Ponce, PR Branch 826 (\$25.88)
- 350-499 members: Reading, PA Branch 258 (\$18.68)
- 200-349 members: South Central Indiana Branch 828 (\$21.83)
- 50-199 members: Longview, WA Branch 2214 (\$93.02)

Highest percentage of members contributing:

- 2,500 or more members: New Jersey Merged Branch 38 (15.30%)
- 1,500-2,499 members: Buffalo-Western New York Branch 3 (23%)
- 1,000-1,499 members: Austin, TX Branch 181 (33.13%)
- 700-999 members: South Jersey Branch 908 (31.97%)
- 500-699 members: Ponce, PR Branch 826 (24.39%)

- 350-499 members: Reading, PA Branch 258 (49.41%)
- 200-349 members: Pawtucket, RI Branch 55 (76.15%)
- 50-199 members: West Warwick, RI Branch 2158 (58%)

Highest per capita contribution:

- 2,500 or more members: New Jersey Merged Branch 38 (\$27.76)
- 1,500-2,499 members: Buffalo-Western New York Branch 3 (\$44.21)
- 1,000-1,499 members: Austin, TX Branch 181 (\$58.67)
- 700-999 members: Honolulu, HI Branch 860 (\$67.63)
- 500-699 members: Ponce, PR Branch 826 (\$64.89)
- 300-499 members: Reading, PA Branch 259 (\$92.65)
- 200-349 members: Pawtucket, RI Branch 55 (\$128.81)
- 50-199 members: Longview, WA Branch 2214 (\$184.98)

The state association first-place winners were:

- Highest percentage of members contributing: Rhode Island (34.67%)
- Highest percent) in contributors: Iowa (15.50%)
- Highest per capita contributions: Hawaii (\$66.26)
- Largest per capita contribution: Connecticut (\$7.58)

The first-place winners among regions were:

- Highest percentage of members contributing: Region 14 (14.46%)
- Highest percent) in contributors: Region 5 (6.54%)



NALC convention delegates vote for AFL-CIO delegates.

- Highest per capita contributions: Region 2 (\$32.63)
- Largest per capita contribution: Region 12 (\$3.91)

FOOD DRIVE

The award-winning branches with the most food collected in 2026:

- Category 11 (1-25 members): Lynden, WA Br. 4132—21,277 pounds
- Category 10 (26-49 members): Staunton, VA Br. 513—80,845 pounds
- Category 9 (50-99 members): Butte, MT Br. 621—157,244 pounds
- Category 8 (100-199 members): Southern Delaware Br. 906—331,635 pounds
- Category 7 (200-349 members): Columbia, MO Br. 763—673,118 pounds
- Category 6 (350-499 members): Sun City, AZ Br. 6156—265,693 pounds
- Category 5 (500-699 members): Ponce, PR Br. 826—546,600 pounds
- Category 4 (700-999 members): Clearwater, FL Br. 2008—1,501,767 pounds
- Category 3 (1,000-1,499 members): Oklahoma City, OK Br. 458—1,337,470 pounds
- Category 2 (1,500-2,499 members): Central Florida Br. 1091—649,120 pounds

- Category 1 (2,500 or more members): Los Angeles, CA Branch 24—1,005,500 pounds

MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY ASSOCIATION

Awards for branches that raised the most for MDA for 2025, by size category:

- Category 10 (1-49 members): Astoria, OR Br. 295—\$3,476
- Category 9 (50-99 members): Manitowoc, WI Br. 490—\$12,780
- Category 8 (100-199 members): Zanesville, OH Br. 63—\$9,996.80
- Category 7 (200-349 members): South Central Indiana Br. 828—\$14,020.02
- Category 6 (350-499 members): Erie, PA Br. 284—\$16,752
- Category 5 (500-699 members): Fort Wayne, IN Br. 116—\$19,214.36
- Category 4 (700-999 members): North-eastern New York Br. 358—\$16,650
- Category 3 (1,000-1,499 members): Louisville, KY Br. 14—\$19,220.21
- Category 2 (1,500-2,499 members): Portland, OR Br. 82—\$20,715
- Category 1 (More than 2,499 members): New Jersey Mgd. Br. 38—\$51,558.28



NALC AUXILIARY

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

SUBMITTED BY CRYSTAL BRAGG, NALCA SECRETARY

The Thursday session opened with the pledge, collect and prayer.

The minutes from Wednesday were read. Changes were made to name spelling. The minutes were approved with changes.

Audit Committee report: More description is needed with entries, as well as details on each transaction. The bank balance and books match. A motion was made and seconded,

and the motion passed.

Bylaws Committee report: No changes. A motion was made and seconded, and the motion passed.

New officers installed (at right): President Warditra Hughes-Hancock of Aux. #549 in North Carolina, Secretary Chandra Thurman of Aux. #11 in Missouri and Treasurer Lynn Loge of Aux. #99 in Washington.

