



National Association
of Letter Carriers

William H. Young, President
March 3, 2006 No. 06-04

NALC Bulletin

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NALC Executive Council Tackles Issues in Phoenix

DOIS, Postal Reform, Negotiations Key Items

The 28-member NALC Executive Council conducted a week-long meeting in Phoenix, Arizona February 20-24 considering issues and events that could shape the future of the Postal Service for years to come, from postal reform legislation and upcoming contract negotiations to this summer's NALC Convention and management's favorite four-letter word — DOIS.

NALC President William H. Young did not mince words as he outlined the struggles facing the union.

"My job now is to prepare this union for the future," he said. "If we can't get the style of management under control, we're going to have problems for a long time."

Regarding management's use (or rather misuse) of the Delivery Operations Information System (DOIS), Young told the Executive Council that the situation is getting worse, not better.



President Young, second from right, discusses issues with NALC Executive Council in Phoenix. Pictured (l-r) are: Asst. Sec.-Treas. Jim Korolowicz, Vice President Gary Mullins, Executive Vice President Jim Williams, Young, and Secretary-Treasurer Jane Broedel.

(Photos by Mike Shea)

'Rigged System'

"They intentionally rigged this system for their own advantage," he said. "There's no question about it."

Young placed the blame for much of the late, late deliveries in the nation squarely on DOIS, saying that system is underestimating the number of hours it takes to deliver the mail.

"Why do you think we're having all the problems...having to deliver the mail at 6, 10, 11 o'clock at night," he asked. "In California, there are people putting guns on carriers when they come up to their porch at 10 o'clock at night."

Moving to the union's principal legislative issue, Young said that while postal reform is "close, very close," the union's e-Activists have some more work to do.

"There remains a lot of work to be done," Young said. "We have not yet passed postal reform. Don't anyone in this room rest on their laurels."

Conferees Not Named

George Gould, assistant to Young for political and legislative affairs, explained that House conferees have yet to be named for the House-Senate Conference Committee that will work on a compromise between the House- and Senate-passed versions of the legislation. A compromise bill must be approved by both the House and Senate before Congress can send the legislation to the White House.

The Council also discussed plans for the 65th Biennial NALC Convention to be held August 14-18 in Las Vegas, issues likely to be addressed in negotiations this fall on a new National Agreement, and how the NALC can be more effective in supporting pro-letter carrier candidates in the November congressional elections.

"This is our chance," Young told the Council, urging them and all active and retired letter carriers to get involved in the 2006 elections. Young also encouraged participation in the new "Gimme 5" campaign to increase contributions to the union's political action arm — the Committee on Letter Carriers Political Education (COLCPE).



NALC Executive Council in meeting February 20-24 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Seventh COLA – \$478

The seventh regular cost-of-living adjustment under the National Agreement will be \$478 annually based on the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for January announced February 22 by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The cost-of-living adjustment, effective the pay period beginning March 18 (pay date April 7), is the seventh of eight regular COLAs included in the 2001-2006 contract. It was based on the increase in the CPI-W between July 2005 and January 2006.

The seventh COLA of \$478 annually is equivalent to 23 cents per hour, or \$18.40 per pay period.

The latest COLA raised the annual pay for top rate carriers (CC Grade 1, Step 0) to \$48,428 annually, an increase of \$5,793 or \$222.81 per pay period since the beginning of the contract. COLA has accounted for nearly 50 percent of the total increase in salary.

The accumulation towards the 2007 retiree COLA stands at 0.7 percent based on the January CPI-W. The 2007 COLA is to be based on the increase in the CPI-W between the third quarter of 2005 and the third quarter of 2006.

The COLA for Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) beneficiaries in the year 2007, determined on the CPI-W from December 2005 to December 2006, stands at 0.8 percent based on the January data.

[AFL-CIO Kits Available!](#)

Postal Safety Should Be Focus On 2006 Workers Memorial Day

NALC branches should focus on issues of postal safety when they join in observance of Workers Memorial Day on April 28 and ensure that postal management is meeting all its health and safety obligations, according to NALC Director of Safety and Health Brian Hellman.

Hellman added that NALC branches should join in local observances by the AFL-CIO and other affiliated unions that commemorate the anniversary of enactment of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA).

He said that recent coal mining disasters that claimed 18 lives have focused the nation's attention on dangers faced by workers and the weakness of job safety protections, but noted that thousands of other workers will be killed on the job and millions injured or diseased before the year is over.

"Safety must be a Number #1 issue, not just on Workers' Memorial Day, but every day of the year," Hellman said. "Now is a good time for every NALC branch to examine closely the safety and health activities in their postal stations and ensure that postal management is meeting its obligation under the National Agreement and federal occupational safety and health laws."

Special AFL-CIO kits to aid NALC branches in participating in Workers Memorial Day are available by contacting Hellman at NALC Headquarters — (202) 393-4695.



[Food Drive Update!](#)

March 10 Deadline For Postcard Orders

The deadline for ordering Campbell Soup-U.S. Postal Service postcards to promote the NALC Food Drive is March 10. Branch coordinators should return their completed forms back to NALC headquarters as quickly as possible to ensure timely delivery of the bulk shipments to branches.

To date, over 1,360 branches have registered to participate in the May 13 drive and coordinators of those branches have been mailed special packets containing order forms, a 9½-minute DVD on the drive, artwork, a coordinator's manual and other materials.

Beware of Identity Theft Scam!

NALC has been advised by the Postal Service of an identity theft scam on postal employees being conducted by individuals posing as representatives of the Office of Federal Employees Group Life Insurance (OFEGLI) who are attempting to acquire employees' Social Security numbers, employee IDs and USPS personal identification numbers (PINs).

USPS said the group surfaced in Pittsburgh under the name Employee Services Division, UAF, based in Silver Spring, MD and is distributing business cards claiming to represent OFEGLI. OFEGLI does not solicit employees.

Letter carriers are asked to call their local Postal Inspection Service office immediately if they are contacted by anyone matching that description. Furthermore, the Postal Service said anyone asking for access to any Postal Service facility who says they are representing OFEGLI should not be allowed on postal premises.

The Postal Service reminds employees that USPS PINs should never be divulged to anyone and that employees should provide their Social Security number and Employee ID only when using it for a legitimate and official purpose, such as using PostalEASE or filing a health benefits claim.

Individuals who believe their USPS PIN has been compromised can establish a new one by calling the employee service line at (877) 477-3273.