



**National Association
of Letter Carriers**

William H. Young, President

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NALC Bulletin

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Memo of Understanding Signed for New City/Rural Disputes

The National Association of Letter Carriers, the National Rural Letter Carriers Association, and the Postal Service have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (M-01568) regarding the processing of new city/rural grievances.

Any settlement at Step A (city) or Step 1 or 2 (rural) that would result in the reassignment or assignment of deliveries requires the agreement of authorized representatives of all three parties at that level.

Additionally, if a grievance is appealed to Step B (city) or Step 3 (rural), the representatives at that level will ensure the file is properly developed and documented, and forward the file along with their supported recommendations to the national level for review by the national city/rural committee.

The memorandum will expire in one year if not extended by the parties.

Eighth COLA Stands at \$47

The projected accumulation for the eighth and final regular cost-of-living adjustment under the 2001-2006 National Agreement stood at \$47 following release March 16 of the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for February.

The eighth COLA will be based on inflation between January and July 2006 and will be payable in the second full pay period following release of the July, 2006 index. The \$47 annual accumulation equals 2¼ cents per hour or \$1.80 per pay period.

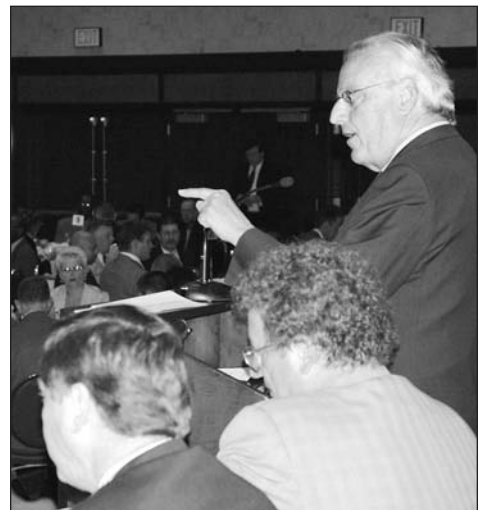
The seventh COLA of \$478 annually was announced last month and will take effect on March 18. It will be reflected in carriers' paychecks on April 7.

The projected accumulation toward the 2007 retiree COLA was 0.8 percent following release of the February CPI-W. The 2007 COLA is to be based on the increase in the CPI-W between the third quarter of 2005 and third quarter of 2006.

The 2007 COLA for Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) participants, to be determined on the CPI-W from December 2005 to December 2006, stands at 0.9 percent based on the February data.

New Jersey Letter Carriers Kick Off Spring Lobbying

First of Numerous State Delegations on Capitol Hill; Enactment of Postal Reform Bill Tops Agenda



In left photo, Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ) states his support for postal reform to New Jersey carriers at a congressional breakfast. In center, Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ) addresses the gathering as NALC President William H. Young listens, and at right, Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-NJ), makes a point. *(Photos by Mike Shea)*

Hundreds of letter carrier political activists from New Jersey kicked off the union's 2006 face-to-face Spring lobbying excursions March 15-16, urging their House and Senate members to finalize congressional work on postal reform legislation and send it to the White House.

The trip by New Jersey carriers, which included a Rap Session with NALC Resident Officers, visits to offices of their senators and representatives, and a congressional breakfast, will be repeated over the next months by activists from across the country.

NALC President William H. Young praised the Garden State carriers who made the journey. Young noted the absence of former NALC Secretary-Treasurer Richard P. O'Connell, who passed away last October. A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of O'Connell, who was a fixture at the annual New Jersey breakfasts.

Young also took the occasion to remind the gathering of the bipartisan nature of NALC's legislative policy.

"The important thing to me is not what party they're in, but what they support," Young said, adding that NALC will continue to support all members of Congress that support the union's agenda.

Newly seated Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ) thanked the NALC for all of its past support and urged letter carriers to vote for him this November when he seeks a full six-year term. Menendez, a former House member, was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Sen. Jon Corzine when Corzine took over as New Jersey governor.

Menendez said he voted for postal reform in the House and is looking forward to voting for it again in the Senate (when compromise language from a House-Senate conference committee comes up for a final vote).

"It is past time to get postal reform and move into the 21st Century," Menendez said.

Several House members — both Republicans and Democrats — also addressed the March 16 congressional breakfast.

"I support the postal reform bill — the House version," said Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ). "I know the White House is against it."

Rep. Rush Holt (D-NJ) urged NALC members to continue working with their representatives on Capitol Hill until final Congressional passage is achieved.