



National Association
of Letter Carriers

William H. Young, President

April 28, 2006 No. 06-07

NALC Bulletin

100 Indiana Ave. NW Washington, DC 20001-2144 202.393.4695 www.nalc.org

Final Preparations Underway For May 13 NALC Food Drive

Nearly 1,500 Branches in Anti-Hunger Effort

Only a few days remain before the 14th Annual NALC National Food Drive—an event that has grown steadily over the years to become an icon in this nation's effort to combat the hunger that is faced daily by more than 30 million Americans.

On Saturday May 13, NALC letter carriers will be joined by their rural counterparts, other postal employees, union brothers and sisters, corporate and civic volunteers and countless other supporters to provide the biggest one-day infusion of food to help needy working families and the elderly, as well as the homeless and other disadvantaged individuals have a better and more nutritious summer this year.

This year's drive promises to be one of the largest ever. To date 1,454 NALC branches have signed up to conduct local drives, along with 24 rural-only post offices that have stepped forward. Together, well over 10,000 cities and towns in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam and the District of Columbia are involved.

NALC President William H. Young noted that letter carriers see the "silent suffering" that hunger brings to millions of the less fortunate.

"I'm proud that tens of thousands of letter carriers and tens of thousands more of our brother and sister postal employees and other volunteers come together so we can 'Stamp Out Hunger,'" Young said.

This year, a special Public Service Announcement created by corporate co-sponsor Campbell Soup Company and featuring the famed Harlem Globetrotters will be seen on television stations and cable outlets throughout the nation to promote citizen involvement.

Campbell's is also providing special Internet-delivered messages to encourage support and a number of full-page ads in national magazines in advance of Saturday, May 13.

Postal consumers can obtain more information at either the NALC website: www.nalc.org or a special Campbell Soup site: www.stampouthunger2006.com.

These promotions will occur as Americans begin receiving over 115 million postcards, sponsored by Campbell Soup and the U.S. Postal Service, to remind them to leave donations by their mailboxes. This comes in the aftermath of delivery of some 40 million Valpak envelopes that also promoted the drive.

Branch food drive coordinators will shortly receive an official reporting form for final results of their branch food drive, with instructions to return it to NALC Headquarters as quickly as possible. The form must be returned to NALC Headquarters no later than June 1. The final tally will be announced in conjunction with National Hunger Awareness Day on June 6.

A list of branch totals and a complete story on the 2006 drive will appear in the July issue of the Postal Record.



Second Leadership Academy Class



Members of the second NALC Leadership Academy class gather for a group photo during a break in their training sessions at the National Labor College near Washington, DC. Applications from NALC members interested in being part of the next class in January 2007 will be accepted from June 1-August 1. For more information, see the May issue of *The Postal Record*.

OPM Will Apply Hatch Decision To Future Postal Retirements

The NALC has learned that the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has decided that it will apply the Merit Systems Protection Board's (MSPB) landmark decision in *Hatch v. OPM* prospectively.

The Board's original November, 2004 ruling in the Hatch case and subsequent reconfirmation (see *NALC Bulletin 05-18*) held that an injured full-time employee who returns to limited duty, but cannot work 40 hours per week, is still entitled to have his or her retirement annuity calculated as if the employee had been in full-time status.

The ruling reversed OPM's policy of giving only partial retirement credit to employees who incur a job-related injury and return to work on a part-time schedule.

The MSPB determined that even though the employee in question was limited to 20 hours work per week, his service should be viewed as full-time service for purposes of retirement credit. The MSPB ordered OPM to recalculate Hatch's annuity giving him full credit for the time period following his injury when he worked his reduced schedule. The Hatch decision was not appealed to the federal courts.

OPM officials have confirmed that the agency will apply the Hatch decision to factually similar situations, under both CSRS and FERS, including future applications for retirement benefits and other cases which are brought to OPM's attention. In particular, claims will be processed as full-time when: (1) the employee has a full-time appointment; (2) the employee is in receipt of OWCP benefits; and (3) the employee works part of the day and is on LWOP for part of the day.

Letter carrier retirees whose annuities were improperly reduced in similar cases are urged to file requests for reconsideration with the OPM based on the Hatch ruling.

Convention Housing Block Expanded

The NALC recently signed agreements with Harrah's and the Aladdin Resort and Casino to add 900 rooms to the original convention housing block that is nearly booked up for the NALC 65th Biennial National Convention in Las Vegas.

The special reduced-price convention rate for both of the added hotels is \$99 (single or double), with a \$20 surcharge for a third person in the room at Harrah's, and a \$30 surcharge at the Aladdin. The rates are exclusive of applicable state and local taxes, currently 9 percent. The NALC will provide shuttle buses from both hotels as well as the other "Strip" hotels in the NALC block—Riviera and Flamingo—to the convention center and events held at the Las Vegas Hilton.

All housing requests must be accompanied by the Delegate Registration and Housing Reservation Form, housing list and Delegate Eligibility list. *These forms were sent to all branch secretaries in early February 2006.* The completed forms and \$100 per room deposit should be sent to: NALC 65th Biennial Convention, National Association of Letter Carriers, 100 Indiana Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20001.

Ticket Deadline June 30!

Retiring NALC Officers to be Feted At Las Vegas Dinner on August 17

The NALC will honor 11 national officers who will retire at the end of their current terms in December or have retired since the last Convention at a reception and dinner at the Las Vegas Hilton, August 17—Thursday evening of the 65th Biennial Convention.

Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Broendel said the Retiring Officers' Dinner will begin with a reception at 6 p.m. in the Hilton Pavilion, followed by an elegant dinner at 7 p.m. in the Hilton Ballroom. A special salute to the retirees will follow dinner and the evening will end with dancing until 11 p.m.

The following current and retired national officers will be honored: Executive Vice President **Jim Williams**, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer **Jim Korolowicz**, Director of Retired Members **Don Southern**; retired Director of Safety and Health **Alan Ferranto** and retired Director of Health Benefits **Thomas H. Young Jr.**; National Business Agents **Arthur Buck** and **Dale Hart**; retired NBAs **Richard Gentry**, **Matthew Rose**, and **Barry Weiner**; and National Trustee **Daniel Rupp**.

Members and friends planning to attend should purchase tickets as soon as possible by sending full payment along with the Retiring Officers' Dinner order form printed below to: Retiring Officers' Dinner; c/o NALC Secretary Treasurer; 100 Indiana Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144. Tickets are \$75 each and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Tables of 10 seats will be reserved in advance, but only after the order and payment are received at NALC headquarters.

Regions, branches and individual members must use the order form to buy tickets. Tickets and table assignments will be held for pick-up at the Retiring Officers' Dinner Booth in the convention Registration area. You must list the person authorized to pick up tickets on the order form, as only that person will be able to pick up the tickets. Checks payable to *Secretary-Treasurer, NALC* must be received at NALC national headquarters no later than June 30.

Workers Memorial Day Observed Fatalities on Job Up for First Time in Decade

A number of NALC branches have made plans to join their AFL-CIO colleagues in locations throughout the nation today (April 28) in observance of Workers Memorial Day, the anniversary of enactment of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA).

NALC Director of Safety and Health Brian Hellman suggested that letter carriers focus on issues of postal safety as part of their observance to ensure that postal management is meeting all its health and safety obligations.

Hellman also cited a report by the AFL-CIO that showed the rate of workplace fatalities rose overall in 2004, with an average 152 workers losing their lives every day due to workplace injuries and illnesses and another 11,780 injured daily. The highest fatality rates were in Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, West Virginia and Kentucky.

NALC branches that had requested AFL-CIO Workers Memorial Day kits from NALC Headquarters, include:

Br. 28, St. Paul, MN	Br. 280, Marion, OH	Br. 1364, Idaho Falls, ID
Br. 47, Denver, CO	Br. 283, Houston, TX	Br. 2572, Morrisville, PA
Br. 82, Portland, OR	Br. 442, Spokane, WA	Br. 2611, Slvr Sprng, MD
Br. 86, Hartford, CT	Br. 500, Harrisburg, PA	Br. 3126, Royal Oak, MI
Br. 129, Baton Rouge, LA	Br. 512, Waterloo, IA	Br. 3825, Rockville, MD

"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," Hellman said.



Eighth COLA Stands at \$166

The projected accumulation for the eighth and final regular cost-of-living adjustment under the 2001-2006 National Agreement stood at \$166 following release April 19 of the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for March.

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 \$166 annual accumulation equals 8 cents per hour or \$6.40 per pay period.

The projected accumulation toward the 2007 retiree COLA was 1.3 percent following release of the March 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 1.5 percent based on the March data.



Retiring Officers' Dinner Order Form

Please reserve _____ tickets for the NALC Retiring Officers' Dinner on Thursday, August 17, at the Las Vegas Hilton. Enclosed is \$ _____ (@ \$75 per ticket). Tickets will be held for pick up at the Retiring Officers' Dinner Booth in the Convention Registration area.

Person designated to pick up ticket(s) _____

NALC Branch number _____ Daytime phone # _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Indicate dietary considerations in your group: _____

Checks should be made payable to Secretary-Treasurer, NALC and must be received no later than June 30. Mail order form and payment to: Retiring Officers' Dinner; c/o NALC Secretary-Treasurer; 100 Indiana Ave., NW; Washington, DC 20001-2144.