



National Association
of Letter Carriers

William H. Young, President
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NALC Bulletin

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Contract Bargaining Kicks Off August 28

Convention Sets Stage for Negotiations

Formal opening of negotiations for a new National Agreement with the U.S. Postal Service will be held Monday, August 28 in the Ben Franklin Room at Postal Service headquarters in Washington, DC.

NALC President William H. Young has directed the union's entire 28-member Executive Council to be on hand for the traditional event that includes opening comments by both the NALC and the Postmaster General. Shortly after the event, the two sides will meet to set up initial discussion groups for various contract articles.

The current five-year National Agreement runs until November 20. If no agreement is reached by then, the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 calls for mediation and, if needed, binding arbitration to determine a new contract. Under the Act, postal employees, like other federal employees, are prohibited from striking.

At the 65th Biennial Convention in Las Vegas, delegates passed a number of resolutions giving direction to NALC negotiators, including one by Flushing, NY Br. 294 highly critical of the Delivery Operations Information System (DOIS).

"DOIS is a management tool that has created workplace conflict and discord and has no benefit to the letter carrier craft whatsoever," the resolution said.

The resolution added that NALC "should not agree to any implementation of DOIS that has no benefits to the letter carrier craft."

"The only true measure of our work is an honest day's pay for an honest day's work," the resolution added.

Other resolutions regarding the National Agreement, approved by the delegates, called on negotiators to seek (sponsoring branch in parenthesis):

- An additional case for all letter carriers who make a request because "one size fits all" casing constraints have failed and lead to increased repetitive motion injuries. (California State Association).
- Postal Service to have letter carriers scan all delivery confirmation packages upon pickup and for that to be considered letter carrier work. (Fargo, ND Br. 205).
- Article 26 be amended to allow any unused uniform allowance to be carried over to successive years. (Columbus, OH Br. 78).
- Approval for female letter carriers to wear capri pants that would be authorized for purchase through the uniform allotment program. (Albany, NY Br. 29).
- Postal Service be required to notify carriers of each move by their customers when received. (California State Association).
- Additional remedies for Article 8 violations because of constant short-staffing and constant mandating of non-OTDL employees to work overtime. (California State Association).

Pitts, Hegarty Pledge Support to NALC

National Rural Letter Carriers President Donnie Pitts and National Postal Mail Handlers President John Hegarty pledged to delegates that their unions would stand with the NALC in the fight for meaningful postal reform and against contracting out postal jobs.

Hegarty, president of the 50,000-member NPMHU, addressed the convention August 16 and noted that NALC and his union "have always worked together on important issues" and said that while NALC and NPMHU will not bargain together, they "will share resources and coordinate for fair agreements."

He expressed thanks for NALC's action in protesting the Postal Service's plan to contract out work at postal air mail centers.

A day later, Pitts said the rural carriers and city carriers have resolved many of the jurisdictional issues that divided the two unions for many years and are now working together on important legislation and the national food drive. He said they also will coordinate during negotiations.

"We might not be bargaining together, but we will be keeping each other informed and will all be working for the best contract," Pitts said.

President Young praised both Pitts and Hegarty for their close and cooperative association with NALC and called them both "valuable allies."



Pitts



Hegarty

NALC Building to be Named for Sombrotto

With a rousing cheer of approval, delegates on August 17 passed a floor motion to name the NALC national headquarters building in Washington, DC in honor of NALC President Emeritus Vincent R. Sombrotto.

The building will be named "The Vincent R. Sombrotto Building."

Sombrotto, 83, served as national president of the union from 1978 until his retirement in 2002, at which time he was designated president emeritus. In addition, he is one of seven elected delegates of the union to the AFL-CIO.

A former president of NALC Branch 36 in New York City, Sombrotto was the leader of the famed 1970 letter carriers strike that led to reforms including creation of the current U.S. Postal Service.

Union's Official Charity!

NALC on MDA Labor Day Telethon

NALC Executive Vice President Jim Williams and letter carriers representing the top NALC branches in last year's Muscular Dystrophy Association drive will appear three times on the nationally televised Jerry Lewis MDA Labor Day Telethon September 3 and 4 from Las Vegas to present 2006 NALC pledges and donations to help fight muscular dystrophy.

NALC branches provided \$1,269,651.07 in contributions to the 2005 campaign for research efforts spearheaded by the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

NALC President William H. Young, an MDA vice president, urged all members to make a special effort to collect funds for this research.

The schedule for appearances by Williams, NALC's MDA Coordinator Halline Overby and NALC branch representatives on the Labor Day Telethon is:



President Young introduces 2006 MDA National Goodwill Ambassador Luke Christie of Due West, SC to convention delegates.

EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME

Monday, September 4 1:10 AM - 2:00 AM
9:00 AM - 9:40 AM
2:35 PM - 3:20 PM

CENTRAL DAYLIGHT TIME

Monday, September 4 12:10 AM - 1:00 AM
8:00 AM - 8:40 AM
1:35 PM - 2:20 PM

MOUNTAIN DAYLIGHT TIME

Sunday, September 3 11:10 PM - 12:00 AM
Monday, September 4 7:00 AM - 7:40 AM
12:35 PM - 1:20 PM

PACIFIC DAYLIGHT TIME

Sunday, September 3 10:10 PM - 11:00 PM
Monday, September 4 6:00 AM - 6:40 AM
11:35 AM - 12:20 PM

Convention Honors Retiring National Officers



Nearly 1,200 delegates and guests attended a gala retirement dinner-dance at the Las Vegas Hilton August 17 for 10 National Officers who have retired since the last convention or will at the end of their terms in December. Joining together after the event were (l-r) National Trustee Daniel T. Rupp, former Dir. of Safety and Health Alan Ferranto, former Dir. of Health Benefit Plan Thomas H. Young, Jr., Asst. Sec.-Treas. James Korolowicz, Executive Vice President Jim Williams, former Region 13 National Business Agent Richard Gentry, former Region 9 NBA Matthew Rose, Dir. of Retired Members Donald Southern, former Region 7 NBA Barry Weiner, and Region 5 NBA Art Buck.

(Photos by Mike Shea)

Wasserman Schultz 'Wows' Delegates; Tierney Calls for Democratic Majority

On a day when thousands of delegates wore their red, white and blue "Gimme 5" T-shirts, Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL) brought them to their feet time after time with a rousing speech sharply critical of the Bush administration and the rubber-stamp GOP-led Congress that she said has destroyed the economic and social foundation that protects middle class Americans.

"I will make you a deal," she said on August 17. "You keep it up with your 'Gimme 5,' and we'll give you '15'—fifteen or more new Democrats in Congress (the number needed to switch party control in the House).



Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL) brings delegates to their feet with a stirring speech calling for election of a Democratic-controlled Congress in this fall's elections.

Over \$100,000 was raised during the convention for the Committee on Letter Carriers Political Education (COLCPE) through the "Gimme 5" program that targeted commitments of \$5 per pay period from active carriers, mainly through payroll deduction, and \$5 per month from retirees.

Another congressman, Rep. John Tierney (D-MA), echoed many of the Wasserman Schultz sentiments when he spoke August 18, asking delegates whether they've had enough of the Bush administration.

"A new Democratic majority in Congress, with your help, why we'll make health care more affordable, we'll invest in stem cell research, we'll work for real national security here and abroad," Tierney said. "We'll work for a new strategy in Iraq that stabilizes the region and brings our troops home with honor and respect and dignity."

A number of other distinguished speakers took the podium during the convention, including Yuitsu Yoneda, director Japan Postal Union; former White House Chief of Staff John Podesta, now head of the Center for American Progress; John Pedersen, Assistant Secretary, Union Network International; UFCW Executive Vice President Will McDonough, who asked delegates to partner with UFCW locals in the "Wake Up Wal-Mart" Campaign, and Oregon Secretary of State Bill Bradbury, who discussed how that state's successful vote-by-mail system can be expanded to other states.



Yoneda

Podesta

Pedersen

McDonough

Bradbury

Tierney

Appeal for Funds for Severely Injured Carrier

A collection was taken on the convention floor to help Atlantic City, NJ Branch 370 carrier Maureen DePrince with extensive hospital bills after she was critically injured when struck by a drunken driver while delivering mail on her route, severing both of her legs. The total collected was \$47,000, and delegates also passed a floor motion to have the national union match that amount, thereby providing DePrince with a total of \$94,000 toward her bills.

A fund has been established by Branch 370 for contributions. They can be sent to:

**Maureen DePrince Benefit Fund
Atlantic City Firemen's Federal Credit Union
P.O. Box 413
Northfield, NJ 08225-0413**

Kirby Elected Auxiliary President

Linda Kirby, of Kenosha, Wisconsin, was elected without opposition as president of the NALC National Auxiliary for the next two years during the Auxiliary's 50th Convention held in conjunction with the NALC Convention.

Also elected were: Bonnie Christy, vice president; Gloria Alexander, secretary; Kathy Miller, treasurer; Marie Rasmussen, assistant secretary; Cynthia Lang, Chairman/Laws; and Edie Pottenger, Director/Laws.

NALC Executive Vice President Jim Williams installed the officers for 2006-2008 term on August 18.

Correction!

Eighth COLA Effective September 2

The eighth cost-of-living adjustment under the 2001-2006 National Agreement of \$790 annually will be effective with the pay period beginning September 2 (pay date September 22). The August 17 NALC Bulletin contained incorrect dates.

Leading Food Drive Branches Presented Awards



America's Second Harvest President Vicki Escarra, far left, and Campbell Soup Co. Director/Brand Communications John Faulkner, third from right, join winners of this year's NALC/Campbell Soup awards to top two branches in five membership categories after awards were presented at the convention. Escarra addressed the convention, thanking delegates for the tremendous help NALC provides to the nation's largest network of food banks in the battle against hunger in America. Each of the 10 branches will receive 1,000 cans of Campbell Soup for a local food bank.

2008 Convention Set for Boston

Delegates were invited by Branch 34 President Bob Lind to come to the 66th Biennial National Convention in Boston in 2008. It will be first time in 40 years that the union's convention will be held in the city noted as the Cradle of Liberty.

In 2010, the convention is scheduled for Anaheim, California.

The 66th Convention is scheduled to be held from July 21-25, 2008 at the new Boston Convention & Exhibition Center.