



National Association
of Letter Carriers

William H. Young, President
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NALC Bulletin

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“NALC recognizes that the USPS is in the midst of a dramatic transformational period. Technology and competition present daunting challenges and exciting opportunities. Bold action is called for to overcome those challenges and to take advantage of these opportunities.”

– NALC President William H. Young, in presenting main contract proposals October 24, 2006

NALC Presents Postal Service With Main Contract Proposals COLA, 3% Yearly Wage Hike, Pay Upgrade Included

NALC President William H. Young and the union’s main table bargaining team presented postal management with a list of contract proposals October 24 dealing with the principal economic areas of the next National Agreement, as well as route inspections, workforce structure and health benefits.

The parties will resume main table talks October 26 as they work toward the November 20 expiration of the current 2001-2006 contract.

NALC’s opening economic proposal calls for a seven-year agreement which would include a continuation of existing cost-of-living adjustments, with no changes; general wage increases of 3 percent in each year of the agreement; and a pay upgrade of one grade for all letter carriers.

The union also proposed significant changes in the ways routes are evaluated and designed, and that the letter carrier craft be converted to a 100 percent all-regular work force. In addition, NALC offered creative suggestions for reducing the ever-increasing costs of health benefits without reducing the Postal Service’s share of the cost of premiums.

Improved Labor Relations

Young noted at the opening of the session that labor relations have improved dramatically during the current contract term despite multiple challenges and that the Postal Service has been able to improve service and maintain a strong financial footing.

“It has earned billions in profits and has been able to completely eliminate its outstanding debt, which at one time exceeded \$11 billion,” he said.

Although major strides have been made to change the adversarial culture of labor relations at the national and regional levels, Young said “the traditional paradigm of adversarial confrontation at the workroom floor level remains.”

“This situation is no longer acceptable,” Young told USPS negotiators. “A dramatic shift in paradigm to a cooperative relationship on the workroom floor must be driven by a commitment not merely to the survival of the Service, but to its revitalization as an essential and dynamic element of the domestic and commercial service sectors of our society.”

Joint Route Revisions

He called for a joint revision of the methodology for the evaluation and design of letter carrier routes to defuse daily confrontation over delivery issues. Young noted that unilateral efforts by the USPS in the past “not only have failed, but have been counter-productive.”

Young also said a 100 percent full-time regular city letter carrier workforce was needed.

“Letter carriers are the very heart of the service provided by USPS, as well as the deeply respected everyday face of the Service,” he said. “A dedicated cadre of full-time regular professionals is essential in an increasingly competitive and challenging environment.”

New FAX Line for CAU – (202) 662-2888

There is a new telephone line number for sending faxes to NALC’s Contract Administration Unit at NALC Headquarters in Washington — (202) 662-2888.

Cooke Wins Re-election as Region 11 NBA

Region 11 National Business Agent William J. Cooke was re-elected to a fourth four-year term to represent letter carriers in Ohio and Upstate New York according to official results of balloting announced October 23 by the National Election Committee.



Cooke

Cooke, a member of Schenectady, NY Branch 358, defeated Robert McLennan, president of Branch 3 in Buffalo, by a vote of 5,252 (55.7%) to 4,177 (44.3%).

The Cooke-McLennan race was the only contested election among the 28 spots on the NALC Executive Council. All others were elected or re-elected by acclamation at the Las Vegas Convention when no opposing candidate was nominated.

Cooke, who joined both the Postal Service and NALC in 1969, served as president of Branch 358 from 1979 to 1994 and also a Regional Administrative Assistant from 1983 to 1994, when he was elected as NBA.

Cooke and the other 27 National Officers, along with AFL-CIO delegates, will be installed December 8 in Washington, DC. For details of installation activities and Dinner Ticket Order Form, see the September-October issue of the Postal Record. The deadline for ordering tickets is November 13.



Chicago Branch 11 President Jimmie Canada, right, a member of the National Election Committee, closely inspects a Region 11 ballot envelope October 23 during the official count at PeakeDeLancey Printers, the official balloting association. Also observing are Election Committee Chair Joseph DeRossi of Brooklyn, NY Branch 41, center, and Todd Brew, Cleveland, OH Branch 40, left. (Photo by Mike Shea)

Alvarez to Head Legislative/Political Affairs; McDonald Named NALC Political Director

President Young on October 19 announced the appointment of Jennifer L. Alvarez as NALC’s new Director of Legislative and Political Affairs and Tucker McDonald as Political Director. Alvarez succeeds George B. Gould, who is retiring at the end of the year.

“America’s letter carriers deserve the high level of skill and experience Alvarez and McDonald bring to their legislative and political work,” Young said, expressing confidence that the two “would carry the message of NALC to Capitol Hill loudly and clearly.”



Alvarez



McDonald

Alvarez, a native of Huntington, New York, has worked as the union’s Special Assistant for Legislation since February 2004. Prior to coming to the NALC, she worked six years on the staff of the Postmaster General as a Governmental Affairs Representative for the U.S. Postal Service and served as a Presidential appointee in the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs at the Agriculture Department during the Clinton administration.

McDonald, who grew up in Lubbock, Texas, has been a Special Assistant for Political Education since July 2005. Prior to that, he served as a Regional Field Coordinator in the NALC’s grassroots political program. Before joining the union’s staff, he gained broad experience in gubernatorial and presidential politics.

Alvarez and McDonald will lead a nine-person Department of Legislative and Political Affairs that is responsible for NALC’s legislative and political programs. They will track and monitor legislation that affects letter carriers and other working people; lobby members of Congress and executive branch officials of the government on their behalf; raise money for the union’s PAC, the Committee on Letter Carriers Political Education (COLCPE); and work to elect Democrats, Republicans and Independents who support the political and legislative agenda of the nation’s letter carriers.

CSRS Retirees Due 3.3% Increase in 2007; FERS Annuitants to Receive a 2.3% Hike

Retirees under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) will receive a cost-of-living adjustment of 3.3 percent in 2007. The amount was set following release October 18 of the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for September, the final month of the year-long period reflecting inflation between the third quarter of 2005 and the third quarter of 2006 – the criteria for setting the COLA.

Retirees under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) will receive a COLA of 2.3 percent. Under current law, FERS COLA increases are set at 1 percentage point below the CSRS COLA if the CSRS COLA is 3 percent or higher.

The September figures reflected a slight decrease from the previous month’s estimate due in part to lower energy prices.

The accumulation toward the 2007 COLA for Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) participants stands at 3.1 percent based on the latest figures. The 2007 FECA COLA will be based on the increase in the CPI-W between December 2005 and December 2006.

The final contract COLA for active letter carriers under the 2001-2006 National Agreement went into effect September 2.