



National Association
of Letter Carriers

William H. Young, President

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Postal Reform Bill Signed Into Law

Young Attends White House Ceremony

After more than a decade of legislative wrangling, the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act was signed into law December 20 by President Bush at a White House ceremony attended by NALC President William H. Young.

The postal reform legislation seeks to provide the U.S. Postal Service with the financial and structural flexibility to compete in the modern information age as computer technology has siphoned off much first class mail and is expected to continue to do so in future years.

Although the NALC did object strenuously to one provision — requiring injured postal employees to wait three days before beginning Continuation of Pay benefits — the union did embrace, and in fact helped develop, many of the more important provisions that will have a major influence on survival of the Postal Service.

“The signing into law of this bill today is the culmination of years of hard work by many NALC officers and the union’s legislative staff along with key stakeholders in the mailing industry and the Postal Service itself,” Young said.

“**This bill succeeded because of a coalition that placed the overall good for the postal community and the country above self-serving parochial considerations,**” Young said. “**It opens opportunities to the Postal Service to continue top quality six-day universal service to all Americans.**”

“**Now that the Postal Service has the means and flexibility it needed and desired, it is time for Postmaster General Potter and the USPS Board of Governors to reexamine management’s decision during negotiations to trash our successful partnership by opening the door to contracting out city letter carriers jobs to private firms,**” he added.

Final passage of the bill occurred in Congress on December 9, shortly before the 109th Congress adjourned sine die. It is the first new governing statute for the Postal Service since the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970.

Congress rejected all but one of the dozens of anti-labor recommendations of the President’s Commission on the Postal Service while significantly improving the Service’s long-term financial stability by resolving the military pension and escrow account issues in a favorable manner. (See the January *Postal Record* for complete details on the new law).

L.A. Rap Session to Discuss National Contract Issues

Event January 28 at Wilshire Grand

A National Rap Session has been called for Sunday, January 28 in Los Angeles to discuss the impasse in collective bargaining negotiations between the NALC and Postal Service and to outline the union’s preparations for interest arbitration.

The session will be held at the Wilshire Grand Hotel in Los Angeles from 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

NALC President William H. Young said every branch should make an effort to send at least one representative to this meeting.

“**I truly feel this is the most important Rap Session in NALC’s history,**” Young said. “**We are not only going to cover the status of contract negotiations, we are going to be debating the future of our union and the future of the United States Postal Service.**”

A welcoming reception will be held Saturday evening, January 27 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the hotel.

Participants who wish to arrive on Saturday, January 27 may book hotel rooms at the Wilshire Grand by calling 1-888-773-2888. Attendees must request the group rate for the National Association of Letter Carriers. NALC has negotiated a group rate of \$110 per night plus taxes.

Further information can be found on the union’s website: www.nalc.org.

Participants and their branches will be responsible for all expenses (travel, meals and room and tax charges).



*Enjoy the simple pleasures
of the holiday season*

National Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO
William H. Young, President

and the members of the NALC Executive Council

Fredric V. Rolando, Executive Vice President
Gary H. Mullins, Vice President
Jane E. Broedel, Secretary-Treasurer
George C. Mignosi, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
Dale P. Hart, Director of City Delivery
Brian E. Hellman, Director, Safety & Health
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Mike Weir	Gene Goodwin	Larry Cirelli

*National Association
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2007 Food Drive Set May 12

Young Challenges Branches for 10% Hike

Registration forms for branches to participate in the 15th annual NALC National Food Drive on May 12, 2007 will be mailed to all NALC branch presidents later this month and are due back at NALC headquarters no later than January 26 in order that coordinators’ packets can be sent to those branches.

The drive is the largest one-day food drive in the nation and has delivered over 70 million pounds of food to community food banks, pantries and shelters in each of the past three years. The May 2006 drive brought in 70.5 million pounds.

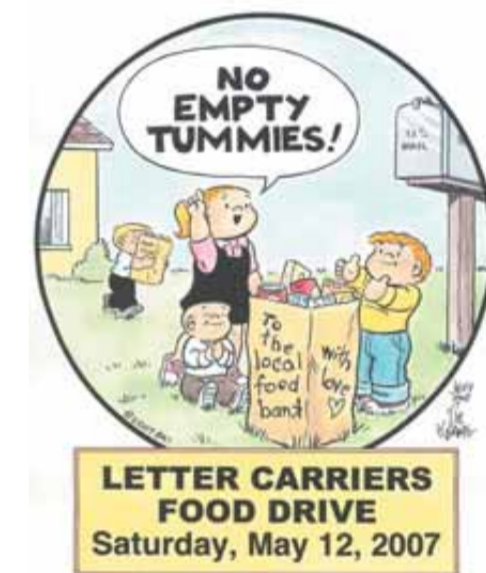
Once again this year, renowned syndicated newspaper cartoonist Bil Keane has provided the NALC with an original work of art to use in promoting the 2007 drive.

NALC President William H. Young challenged all branch presidents to increase their donations in 2007 by at least 10 percent above their 2006 total, and urged branches that have not participated in the past to sign up for the 2007 drive.

“**If every one of the nearly 1,500 NALC branches that participated in 2006 increased their total by just 10 percent, we would be near the 80 million pound mark for the first time in the drive’s history and be well on our way to what I believe is an achievable goal in the near future — delivering over 100 million pounds to community food outlets to Stamp Out Hunger,**” Young said.

Branches must re-register for the 2007 drive to receive the postcard order form. The coordinators’ packets will include a form for ordering FREE Campbell Soup/U.S. Postal Service postcards for delivery to postal customers.

Questions regarding the registration should be directed to Drew Von Bergen, national coordinator of the food drive, at (202) 662-2489, by email at vonbergen@nalc.org or by mail at NALC headquarters.



Lack of Inflation Limits COLA

One month before the end of the 12-month period that determines the 2007 Federal Employees’ Compensation Act (FECA) cost-of-living adjustment, the accumulation decreased to 2.2 percent following the release of the November Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) as average prices continued to fall.

This is the third straight month that the CPI-W declined.

The 2007 FECA COLA will be based on the increase in the CPI-W between December 2005 and December 2006. FECA COLAs are applicable only in cases where death or disability occurred more than one year prior to the adjustment’s effective date.

For retirees, there is still no accrual toward their 2008 cost-of-living adjustment based on the CPI-W for November. The 2008 retiree COLA will be based on the third quarter of 2006 and the third quarter of 2007.

As announced earlier, retirees under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) will receive a cost-of-living adjustment of 3.3 percent in 2007 and those under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) will receive a COLA of 2.3 percent.

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