



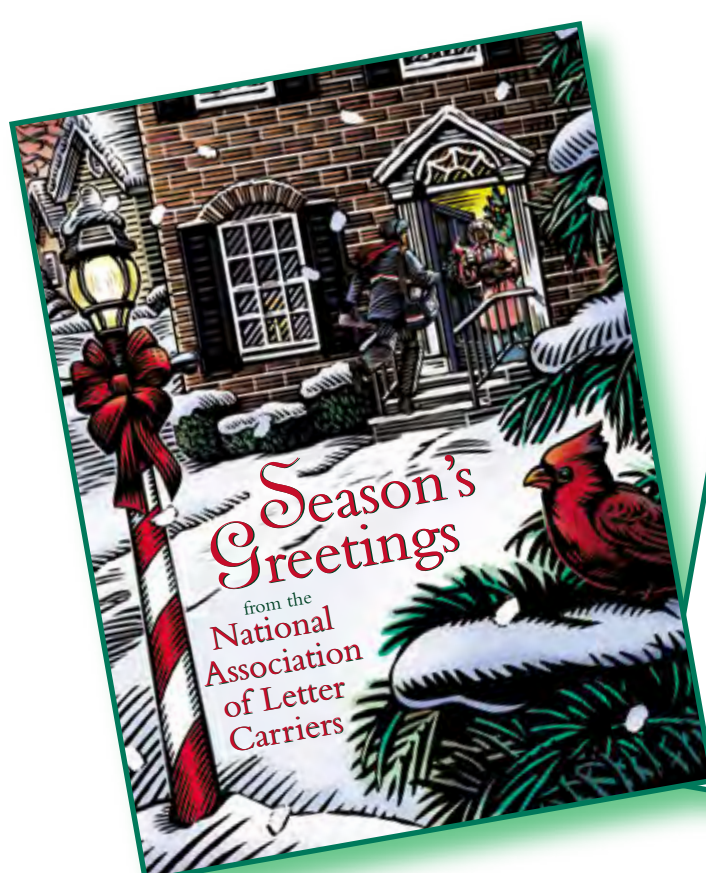
**National Association
of Letter Carriers**

William H. Young, President

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NALC Bulletin

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



Second COLA Soars to \$333

The projected accumulation for the second regular cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) under the 2006-2011 National Agreement increased to \$333 following release December 14 of the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for November.

Spurred by rising gasoline prices and higher costs for clothing, prescription drugs and airline tickets, overall consumer inflation had the largest month-to-month hike since September 2005 following Hurricane Katrina.

The second COLA for letter carriers will be based on inflation between July 2007 and January 2008 and will be payable in the second full pay period following release of the January 2008 index.

The \$333 annual accumulation equals 16 cents per hour or \$12.80 per pay period.

The accumulation toward the 2009 retiree COLA stood at 1.1 percent following release of the November CPI-W. The 2009 retiree COLA will be based on the increase in the average CPI-W between the third quarter of 2007 and the third quarter of 2008.

As previously announced, the COLA in 2008 for retirees under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) will be 2.3 percent and retirees under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) will receive a 2.0 percent increase.

The accumulation toward the 2008 COLA for Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) participants stands at 4.4 percent based on the latest figures. The 2008 FECA COLA will be based on the increase in the CPI-W between December 2006 and December 2007.

Relief Fund Okays \$248,000 in New Grants To Victims of Katrina and Other Disasters

Aid to Postal Employees in 2007 Tops \$3.5 Million

The Executive Committee of the Postal Employees' Relief Fund approved \$248,000 in new grants at its meeting December 18, bringing to \$3,549,000 the total in assistance to active and retired postal employees in 2007.

The new grants approved included \$222,000 to victims of Hurricanes Katrina, Wilma and Rita that devastated the Gulf Coast. An additional \$26,000 in aid went to victims of natural disasters and home fires in Kansas, Illinois, Colorado and New Mexico.

Of the 482 grants totaling \$3,549,000 during the year, 419 grants totaling \$3,074,000 were for victims of the Gulf Coast hurricanes in 2005 and 63 others totaling \$475,000 were for other natural disasters and home fires.

The fund, created and operated by the four postal unions, including NALC; three management associations, and the U.S. Postal Service, provides outright grants to postal employees and retirees who suffer damage from major natural disasters and home fires.

Information on the fund and applications for assistance from PERF are available on the Fund's website: www.postalrelief.com; by calling PERF at (202) 408-1869; or by writing to Postal Employees' Relief Fund, P.O. Box 34500, Washington, DC 20043-4500.

Iowa NALC Member Wins Elk Hunting Trip; Appearing on 'Escape to the Wild' Show

Jason Berkley, a 33-year-old NALC member and former shop steward from Central Iowa Merged Branch 352 won a dream Rocky Mountain hunting trip and will appear January 4 on the nationally telecast Escape to the Wild program on the VERSUS Network.

Berkley, a carrier in Des Moines, got selected for the elk hunting trip to Colorado after his wife, Cindy, wrote to the program telling producers that the experience would help rejuvenate Berkley after the tragic death of their seven-year-old daughter, Jamie, who suffered from a genetic disorder called Angelman's Syndrome, and died from meningitis.

After Jamie's passing in September 2006, the heartbroken Berkley family carried on and are in the process of adopting two other children with Angelman's Syndrome, knowing they had the love and experience to care for them.



NALC member Jason Berkley, left, listen to advice from guide during elk hunting trip in Rocky Mountains of Colorado.

Escape to the Wild is a TV program of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP) and sponsoring unions and contractor associations that awards hardworking union members with the hunting or fishing trip of a lifetime.

The program can be viewed in the season premiere of Escape to the Wild on Friday, January 4 at 7pm (ET) on the VERSUS Network. An encore airing will occur Sunday, January 6 at 10am (ET).