



National Association
of Letter Carriers

William H. Young, President
August 14, 2008 No. 08-16

NALC Bulletin

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

Third COLA – \$1,498

The next regular cost-of-living adjustment under the 2006-2011 National Agreement will be \$1,498 annually based on the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for July released August 14 by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

This is the largest cost-of-living adjustment, in dollars, for letter carriers in history.

The cost-of-living adjustment, effective the pay period beginning August 30th (pay date September 19th), is the third of eight COLAs included in the 2006-2011 contract. No adjustment, however, was made after the first COLA period as a result of minimal inflation.

The new COLA of \$1,498 annually is equivalent to 72 cents per hour, or \$57.60 per pay period.

The latest COLA raised the total annual pay for top rate carriers (CC Grade 1, Step O) to \$52,749. A complete, updated letter carrier pay chart is available on the union's website: www.nalc.org.

The accumulation towards the 2009 retiree COLA stands at 6.2 percent based on the July CPI-W. The 2009 COLA is to be based on the increase in the CPI-W between the third quarter of 2007 and the third quarter of 2008.

The COLA for Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) beneficiaries in the year 2009, determined on the CPI-W from December 2007 to December 2008, stands at 5.1 percent based on the July data. FECA COLAs are applicable only in cases where death or disability occurred more than one year prior to the adjustment's effective date.

Emery A. 'Rocky' Rothrock

It is with deep regret that we inform the NALC membership of the death on August 11 of former National Business Agent Emery A. "Rocky" Rothrock of New Albany, Indiana.

Rothrock, 85, who served as a B-17 fighter pilot during World War II, was a letter carrier in New Albany. He later became a member of the NALC Board of Trustees and served as a National Business Agent from August 1972 to January, 1977 for the Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan (KIM) Region.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Margie L. Rothrock; two sons and a daughter, two brothers and a sister, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. A funeral service was scheduled for August 15 in New Albany. Memorial contributions can be made to St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, Clarksville, Indiana.

Ceremony September 18!

Five California Letter Carriers Share 'Hero of the Year' Award

North Carolina Member Named Top 'Humanitarian'

Five members of Greater East Bay Branch 1111 in the Oakland, California area, who helped rescue more than 100 people from a three-alarm fire at a senior citizens' apartment building, have been named winners of the 2008 "Hero of the Year" Award of the National Association of Letter Carriers.

NALC President William H. Young will present the National Hero of the Year award to **Alan Girard, Rick Quinonez, Gilbert Rangel, Tanya Joseph and Karen Hill** at a special luncheon ceremony September 18 at the Washington Court Hotel in Washington, DC.

Girard noticed smoke and an orange glow coming from the second floor of the six-level building as he finished his rounds. Using his passkey to gain entry, he quickly pulled a fire alarm and knocked on doors to alert residents of the spreading blaze. He was soon joined by colleagues who had noticed the growing fire – arriving on the scene like a cavalry of white postal vehicles – and together they led the residents to safety before firefighters arrived.

The union's annual National Humanitarian of the Year award will be presented to **David Lundy of High Point, North Carolina Branch 936**, who along with his wife, spent a year in persistent pursuit of obtaining care for an elderly patron.

Lundy became aware of an elderly woman on his route who was unable to properly care for herself. He and his wife took it upon themselves to check on her, often after hours; attempted to locate her family for help, and ultimately got her placed in a nursing home where she is receiving medical attention, meals and proper hygienic care.

Young noted in announcing the awards that the winners continue the proud tradition of letter carriers who have performed heroic and humanitarian acts throughout the union's 119-year history.

"The NALC is extremely proud of these men and women," Young said. "Countless members of this union come to the aid of people everyday along their postal routes and elsewhere. Often this is done at risk of personal danger and we are proud to recognize these acts of heroism."

Rhonda Russell of New York City Branch 36 in New York was named the recipient of the Special Carrier Alert Award for alerting officials to a major identity theft case when she noticed a volume of credit card mail in the name of an 85-year-old woman who had been in a nursing home for several months.

Three regional heroes will also be honored at the September 18 event:

- **Paul Gereffi of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida Branch 2550** was named Eastern Region Hero for helping subdue a disgruntled man who had assaulted his boss with a steak knife. Driving along his route, Gereffi noticed a man with a shirt covered in blood behind a building. After calling 911, he and another witness held the attacker until police arrived.
- **Dean Dunkel of Cedar Rapids, Iowa Branch 373** was named as Central Region Hero for crawling inside a partially submerged car and rescuing the driver after she skidded off the road during a torrential rain storm into a creek. Rushing waters threatened to swallow up the vehicle with the woman inside until Dunkel took swift action.
- **Raymond Rivera, Jr. of San Antonio, Texas Branch 421** was named Western Region Hero for rescuing two little girls who were being attacked by a pair of pit bulls as the girls played near his home. Rivera grabbed one pit bull by the face as it was biting one of the girls in the face, and restrained it for 45 minutes until authorities arrived. Another neighbor controlled the other dog. The girl received more than 100 stitches and required plastic surgery.



Labor Day Message from President William H. Young



Brothers and Sisters:

Labor Day is being observed on Monday, September 1 this year and that early date is welcome. That's because this holiday – set aside to remember and celebrate the accomplishments of working men and women – also is the traditional launching date for campaigns to elect local, state and national leaders who will formulate and implement pro-worker laws and policies.

After nearly eight years of the Bush administration and its anti-worker appointments, policies and legislation, America's working families need all the time possible to make sure that during the next four years, the occupant of the White House and a solid majority of Congress are individuals who are committed to helping letter carriers and other working Americans.

Every letter carrier, active or retired, must take advantage of the 65 days that will remain until Election Day on November 4 to educate themselves about the presidential candidates and their positions on critical issues they will face should they assume the highest office in this nation next January.

You have read and heard about the presidential endorsement voted by your delegates to the NALC National Convention in Boston and how this union plans to carry out our mandate to help achieve victory. In the days ahead, in the *Postal Record* and in my e-Activist messages, I will provide more information on this effort and also make clear where this union stands on the many important Senate and House races.

In my six years as your president, it has become more and more clear to me that regardless of what we achieve at the bargaining table, or in grievances or arbitration hearings, the most critical determinant of our future will be the actions of the new Congress and the next President. Who holds those positions is immensely important to your job as a letter carrier and to your family's prosperity.

This will be especially important when the 111th Congress convenes and lawmakers resume work toward passage of the Employee Free Choice Act – and then a presidential signature – essential to continue a vibrant labor movement to restore the middle class in America.

Now it's up to you! Have an enjoyable and relaxing Labor Day Holiday with your family and friends – and then get ready for nine weeks of non-stop action.

In Solidarity,

William H. Young

Williams, MDA Branch Leaders On Annual Labor Day Telethon

NALC MDA Coordinator and former 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 August 31 and September 1 "live" from Las Vegas. They will present the NALC's pledges and donations for 2008 to help fight muscular dystrophy.

At last year's telethon, Williams presented pledges and donations totaling \$2.4 million to MDA, helping the telethon attain a record \$63.8 million in donations and pledges.

NALC was the first major union supporter of the MDA when the telethon was created. MDA is leading the research for cures for neuromuscular disease.



Joining Williams in on-air appearances will be Michael Bagarozzi, Branch 5229, New City, New York; Bob Bracy, Branch 14, Louisville, Kentucky; Kevin Gorman, Branch 120, Paterson, New Jersey; Mary Helmer, Branch 1091, Central Florida; Frank Maresca, Branch 358, Northeastern New York; Fran Timm, Branch 619, Green Bay, Wisconsin; Frank Bove, Branch 92, Maine Merged; David DeFrancesco, Branch 38, New Jersey Merged; Jeffrey Harness, Branch 924, Freehold, New Jersey; Dale Holman, Branch 205, Fargo, North Dakota; and Wally Rutherford, Branch 343, St. Louis, MO.

The schedule for appearances by Williams and NALC branch representatives on the Labor Day Telethon is:

EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME		MOUNTAIN DAYLIGHT TIME	
Monday, September 1	1:10 AM – 2:00 AM 9:00 AM – 9:40 AM 1:10 AM – 2:00 PM	Sunday, August 31	11:10 PM – 12:00 AM
		Monday, September	7:00 AM – 7:40 AM 11:10 AM – 12:00 PM
CENTRAL DAYLIGHT TIME		PACIFIC DAYLIGHT TIME	
Monday, September 1	12:10 AM – 1:00 AM 8:00 AM – 8:40 AM 12:10 PM – 1:00 PM	Sunday, August 31	10:10 PM – 11:00 PM
		Monday, September 1	6:00 AM – 6:40 AM 10:10 AM – 11:00 AM

Join the 'Million Member Mobilization'

The NALC is teaming up with the AFL-CIO to enlist 1 million union members to put their names and photos on a petition to insist the new Congress pass the Employee Free Choice Act. And we want to help get 500,000 of those names by Labor Day.

Will you join the battle for a stronger labor movement?

NALC President William H. Young said that even though letter carriers have a strong union and a good contract, members of this union need to fight for all workers. EFCA will help by providing for union recognition at a workplace based on signature cards. It also will require binding arbitration, if needed, to attain an initial contract.

"EFCA will assist NALC at the bargaining table for years to come by helping to restore the middle class labor standards that made America great," Young said. "It will make it easier for workers to form a union, negotiate a contract, ensure their jobs are well-paid and protected and provide a chance for a better life."

NALC members can join the Million Member Mobilization by going to www.freechoiceact.org/nalc, attach a photo of yourself if you have one, and hit the submit button. If you have already sent in the Million Member Mobilization postcard from the July *Postal Record* magazine, you can add your photo by going to www.freechoiceact.org/nalcphoto.

That's one way to put some real meaning into Labor Day this year.

