

RECORD FOOD DRIVE!



National Association
of Letter Carriers

William H. Young, President

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73.1 Million Pounds Delivered To Help 'Stamp Out Hunger' West Coast Florida Br. 1477 Claims Title



Left photo shows Ft. Myers, FL Br. 2072 food drive coordinator Chris Johnson unloading with help of (l-r) volunteer Caesar Medina, carrier Thom Cannon, Publix volunteer Ron Tennant and rural carrier Dawn Schombs. In center, Tony Le of Br. 214, San Francisco, hands his donations to Norma Leonardo at Bryant Station Annex. At right, Oklahoma City Br. 458 Westside carrier Jennifer Duggan proudly shows off some of that branch's 478,822 pound haul.

It was a tough year, but letter carriers again came through in an astonishing way, setting a new record for food collected in the annual NALC National Food Drive — 73.1 million pounds, more than 2.4 million pounds above last year's total.

The total of 73,113,915 pounds delivered to community food banks, pantries and shelters across America eclipsed the previous record of 71.3 million pounds set in 2005 and helped stock these institutions for the summer months. It brought the total for the drive's 16 years to more than 909 million pounds.

West Coast Florida Branch 1477 took top honors, collecting 1,717,218 pounds of donations. Its effort ended a five-year reign by Buffalo/Western New York Branch 3 as the top branch in donation. Buffalo came in second overall this year, and was top in its classification.

The 16th annual "Stamp Out Hunger" drive was conducted by nearly 1,500 branches in more than 10,000 cities and towns in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam and the District of Columbia.

NALC President William H. Young thanked the millions of American families who left food by their mailboxes on May 10.

"It is heartwarming that in these difficult times, when all families are feeling the effects of high food and gasoline prices, that so many Americans put aside their own financial concerns to help others facing hard times," Young said. "They should be applauded for their generosity toward millions of needy Americans - including many working families, children and the elderly."

He also congratulated all NALC members who devoted long hours of hard work to make the drive a success, and rural carriers, and other postal employees and volunteers who collected, processed, and delivered the donations to local food banks and pantries.

"In these rough economic times, I know that those who will be receiving this food will be very appreciative of your sacrifice and dedication," Young said.

Young expressed appreciation to the U.S. Postal Service and Campbell Soup Company, which together supplied over 120 million postcards to promote the drive, along with other promotional activities. He also thanked the other major supporters: Cox Target Media-Valpak, the direct mail marketing firm; United Way of America and its local United Ways; the AFL-CIO; America's Second Harvest, the nation's food bank network; and cartoonist Bil Keane, who yearly provides special "Family Circus" artwork to promote the drive.



A partial report on the drive will appear in the July special convention issue of The Postal Record. A full report with photos and totals reported by each branch will appear in the combined August-September Postal Record.

Convention Workshop

A Food Drive Workshop will be conducted at the Boston Convention on Thursday, July 24 from 7:30-9:30 a.m. in Room 253 A-B-C at the Convention Center (updated date, time and location).

NALC/Campbell Soup 2008 Award Winners

Here are the winners of the NALC/Campbell Soup awards that will receive plaques at the July 21-25 National Convention in Boston. Campbell Soup also will donate 1,000 cans of soup to a food bank designated by each of these 10 branches.

Category I (1-49 members) Br. 859 Prescott, AZ	112,000 lbs.	Category VI (500-699) Br. 92 Maine Merged	298,000 lbs.
Category II (50-99) Br. 1103 Ocala, FL	184,120 lbs.	Category VII (700-999) Br. 2008 Clearwater, FL	1,349,018 lbs.
Category III (100-199) Br. 815 Billings, MT	171,000 lbs.	Category VIII (1000-1499) Br. 1477 West Coast Florida	1,717,218 lbs.
Category IV (200-349) Br. 2072 Fort Myers, FL	371,000 lbs.	Category IX (1500-1999) Br. 421 San Antonio, TX	859,404 lbs.
Category V (350-499) Br. 826 Ponce, PR	410,510 lbs.	Category X (2000+) Br. 3 Buffalo/Western NY	1,612,659 lbs.

8,852 Delegates Registered For July 21-25 Convention

Hotel Space Tight in Boston for Biennial Event



Delegates registered for the 66th Biennial NALC Convention July 21-25 at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center has reached 8,852, representing 680 NALC branches throughout the nation.

The week-long convention, hosted by Boston Branch 34, will be one of the largest in NALC history. The record for officially credentialed delegates is 9,199 at the 2006 Las Vegas convention.

Formal registration at the convention site will begin on Saturday, July 19. The opening general session is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Monday, July 21.

Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Broedel announced that an additional hotel – **Embassy Suites Boston at Logan Airport, 209 Porter Street** – has been added to the convention block, bringing the total of convention block hotels to 23. For complete information on these hotels, see the convention page of the NALC website: <http://nalc.org/news/conv/hotellistMA.pdf>. Broedel also advises that due to the large number of delegates planning on attending, some branch delegations may need to be divided between two or more hotels to be included in the convention block.

In addition, some delegates desiring double rooms may have to be placed in the Embassy Suites at Logan Airport with a pull-out sofa bed in the room adjacent to the bedroom.

Special workshops will be conducted at several times each day throughout the convention. Full information on this will appear in the July issue of the *Postal Record*.

Information and registration forms are also available on the NALC website for tours that are available during the convention. All tours will depart promptly from the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center. Tickets should be picked up at the Tour Desk at the BCEC in Exhibit Hall A. Deadline to register is July 3.

"Delegates and guests are strongly urged to take advantage of the advanced reservations and ticket purchase options since these unique and exciting tours have limited availability and onsite registration cannot be guaranteed," Broedel said.

Illinois, Pennsylvania NALC Activists Lobby Senate and House Members



Sen. Robert Casey (D-PA), top left, addresses annual congressional breakfast of the Pennsylvania State Association of Letter Carriers May 22 in Washington. In center, longtime letter carriers' friend Sen. Arlen Specter (R-PA) speaks, as Region 12 NBA Bill Lucini and Pennsylvania State President Joe Antal look on. At top right, freshman Rep. Chris Carney (D-PA) pledges to work with NALC on critical issues. At bottom left, NALC President William H. Young discusses legislative agenda with carriers at Illinois state association congressional reception May 22, as State President Ken Christy observes. At bottom right, members of Chicago Branch 11 delegation assemble with Director of Life Insurance Myra Warren (front row, 4th from left) during a break in the reception. Branch President Jimmie Canada is at center in back row.

(Photos by Mike Shea)

Appellate Court Rules on Noble Suit

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit has issued a ruling in the 14-year-old lawsuit brought by letter carrier David Noble against NALC and 12 current and retired national officers, including President William H. Young and President Emeritus Vincent R. Sombrotto.

In a split decision issued May 16, the court rejected Noble's claims that the NALC Executive Council improperly authorized the union's payment of the employee share of FICA (Social Security) taxes for national officers and regional administrative assistants. The court also rejected Noble's challenge to the payment of per diem allowances to national officers who attend the NALC biennial convention.

The Court of Appeals, however, remanded back to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, for additional findings of fact, Noble's challenge to the union's long-standing practice of paying a \$500 monthly in-town expense allowance to the 10 national officers who work full-time in Washington. The court made no final decision on the propriety of the in-town expense allowance. It directed the trial court to make additional findings on this issue.

"While I am confident that we will ultimately prevail on this issue, obviously more work needs to be done," Young said. He expressed satisfaction that the court upheld the validity of the FICA and per diem payments, but was disappointed the panel was unable to resolve the dispute over the in-town expenses.

The issues raised in the lawsuit were initially the subject of internal union charges filed by Noble in 1993. The charges were heard by a Special Meeting of the NALC Convention, which voted overwhelmingly to reject them. Noble subsequently filed his suit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia in February 1994.

Following extensive pretrial proceedings, the case was heard in a non-jury trial by District Court Judge Emmet Sullivan in April 2004. President Young, President Emeritus Sombrotto, Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Broedel, and other witnesses testified for the defendants.

In a decision issued September 30, 2004, Judge Sullivan found in favor of the officers and the union on all issues. His ruling established that the contested elements of compensation accepted by the officers were authorized by the NALC Constitution and were reasonable as a matter of law.