



National Association  
of Letter Carriers

William H. Young, President

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# NALC Bulletin

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## Urge Your Representative To Support House Res. 22

### Young Asks Members to Phone Their Representatives

NALC President William H. Young has made it clear that passage of the bipartisan legislation (House Resolution 22) to ease requirements on the U.S. Postal Service for pre-funding virtually all future retiree health benefit costs over the next 8 years is vital to the future of USPS and all letter carriers, and he has sent that message to Congress.

Now, President Young needs all letter carriers to help out.

**"H.R. 22 won't solve all the Postal Service's problems. We all have a lot of work to do," Young said. "But make no mistake about it: Without H.R. 22, the continued viability of the Postal Service is in serious trouble."**

As the NALC Bulletin went to press, 57 members of the House of Representatives have signed on as co-sponsors of the legislation which is sponsored by Reps. John McHugh (R-NY) and Danny Davis (D-IL).

Check the list below. If your representative is not listed, please call them at the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and ask them to co-sponsor H.R. 22 today. If you don't know who your representative is, you can find who it is by going to [www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org) and clicking on "Legislation & Politics" in the Departments Section. You can also see a fact sheet on H.R. 22 and an updated list of co-sponsors.

H.R. 22 co-sponsors (57) as of February 26 are:

<b>Abercrombie [HI-1]</b>	<b>Davis [CA-53]</b>	<b>Kildee [MI-5]</b>	<b>Rehberg [MT]</b>
<b>Baca [CA-43]</b>	<b>Diaz-Balart [FL-21]</b>	<b>Kucinich [OH-10]</b>	<b>Roe [TN-1]</b>
<b>Bartlett [MD-6]</b>	<b>Edwards [TX-17]</b>	<b>Latham [IA-4]</b>	<b>Ros-Lehtinen [FL-18]</b>
<b>Berry [AR-1]</b>	<b>Ellison [MN-5]</b>	<b>Lofgren [CA-16]</b>	<b>Roybal-Allard [CA-34]</b>
<b>Bishop [NY-1]</b>	<b>Filner [CA-51]</b>	<b>Massa [NY-29]</b>	<b>Sestak [PA-7]</b>
<b>Boozman [AR-3]</b>	<b>Gordon [TN-6]</b>	<b>McGovern [MA-3]</b>	<b>Space [OH-18]</b>
<b>Boren [OK-2]</b>	<b>Halvorson [IL-11]</b>	<b>Michaud [ME-2]</b>	<b>Terry [NE-2]</b>
<b>Boswell [IA-3]</b>	<b>Hare [IL-17]</b>	<b>Moore [KS-3]</b>	<b>Thompson [MS-2]</b>
<b>Braley [IA-1]</b>	<b>Hastings [FL-23]</b>	<b>Murphy [CT-5]</b>	<b>Upton [MI-6]</b>
<b>Burton [IN-5]</b>	<b>Hinchey [NY-22]</b>	<b>Murtha [PA-12]</b>	<b>Visclosky [IN-1]</b>
<b>Carney [PA-10]</b>	<b>Holden [PA-17]</b>	<b>Oberstar [MN-8]</b>	<b>Walz [MN-1]</b>
<b>Chandler [KY-6]</b>	<b>Honda [CA-15]</b>	<b>Pastor [AZ-4]</b>	<b>Wexler [FL-19]</b>
<b>Conyers [MI-14]</b>	<b>Kagen [WI-8]</b>	<b>Pingree [ME-1]</b>	<b>Woolsey [CA-6]</b>
<b>Courtney [CT-2]</b>	<b>Kaptur [OH-9]</b>	<b>Platts [PA-19]</b>	<b>Young [FL-10]</b>
<b>Davis [IL-7]</b>			

President Young urged NALC members to take a few minutes to make this important call, if your representative is not listed above.

**"Our jobs and our future depend on it," he said.**

In talking with your representative's office, make it clear that the NALC fully supports funding future retiree health benefits – we are depending on those benefits when we retire. But given the current economic environment, pre-funding on such an accelerated schedule is no longer feasible. H.R. 22 preserves the Postal Service's obligation to pre-fund and protects our health benefits while helping to sustain the Postal Service through a very troubling time for our nation.

For additional information, go to the NALC website at [www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org).

## PMG to Managers: Honor the Contract

Postmaster General John E. Potter, in a February 23 letter to USPS Officers and PCES Managers, said he wants them to honor the terms of collective bargaining agreements with postal unions, and sees compliance as a critical factor in fostering labor-management cooperation during the difficult economic period facing the Postal Service.

**"Our bond with our employees has never been more important than it is today," Potter said. "That bond is represented by the collective bargaining agreements with our unions."**

Potter noted that as the Postal Service adapts to a dynamic and dramatically changing environment, it will, by necessity, see even more change in the business.

**"But one thing cannot change," Potter said, "our adherence to the provisions of our labor agreements. They are our word. They are our pledge of fairness to our employees."**

The PMG told the management officials that it is up to each of them to make sure that the changes brought to USPS are changes for the better.

"Respecting and protecting the provisions of the collective bargaining agreements will help us to do that," Potter concluded.

A copy of the PMG's letter is available on the NALC website: [www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org).

## Atlantic City Assailant Get Lenient Sentence

NALC member Maureen DePrince of Atlantic City, New Jersey Br. 370 lost both of her legs and her sight when a vehicle driven by Allen Miller, who had been drinking and had little sleep, slammed into the back of her postal van in 2006, pinning her between two vehicles. For that, Miller was sentenced on February 19 to only five years in jail, with credit for time already served.

NALC President William H. Young expressed outrage at the lenient sentence handed down by Judge Michael Donio.

"It's not right and justice has not been served," Young said. "Sister DePrince will suffer for the rest of her life from this tragedy, yet her assailant will be a free man within a couple of years. In this case, the punishment surely did not fit the crime."

Following the accident, many NALC members and branches – including delegates to the 2006 Las Vegas Convention – donated funds to aid in her recovery.

## Branches Making Room Reservations For Las Vegas Training Conference

Branches from across the country are making plans for the NALC National Training Conference and Rap Session scheduled for April 25-26 at the Luxor Las Vegas hotel in Nevada where room reservations at special rates are being secured at a brisk pace.

Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Broendel said that in addition to the training sessions and Rap Session, a welcoming reception will be held on the evening of April 24.

Tower Deluxe rates at the Luxor are set at \$130 per night (single/double), plus taxes and fees, currently 9 percent. A charge of \$30 will be added for each guest over double occupancy, with a maximum of four (4) guests per room.

To make an online hotel reservation, go to <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/NALC09P>. You may also call (877) 848-2527 or (702) 262-4450. When calling, be sure to mention the group code NALC09P to ensure you get the group rate. Book by March 30 to reserve a room. For more information, go to <http://www.luxor.com/>.

Shuttle and taxi service are available at McCarran International Airport, located about two miles from the hotel. For additional information on ground transportation, visit the McCarran website: [http://www.mccarran.com/03\\_index.asp](http://www.mccarran.com/03_index.asp).

## Two Top Hollywood Stars Help Food Drive Effort

### Magazine Ads to Feature Courtney Cox and David Arquette; Registered Branches for May 9 NALC Drive Exceed 1,200

More than 1,200 NALC branches have registered to participate in the 17th annual Letter Carriers "Stamp Out Hunger" Food Drive on May 9, and now they are getting a star-powered boost from a Hollywood couple – Courtney Cox and David Arquette – to help increase donations from the public.

The couple, both members of the Entertainment Council of Feeding America, the new name for America's Second Harvest, will be featured on full-page public service ads from Campbell Soup Company that will appear in dozens of major national magazines this spring promoting the drive.

NALC President William H. Young welcomed the couple to NALC's effort to help feed the rising number of families that are at hunger risk in this economic crisis.

"In many endeavors, Courtney Cox and David Arquette have shown their dedication to assist others in need," Young said. "Their help in spreading the message of this year's food drive to millions of additional Americans hopefully will result in a boost in donations that are needed now more than at any time since the drive began 17 years ago."

The two stars are expected to engage in other promotional activity as the drive date nears.

Cox is best known for her role in the television sit-com, "Friends," Arquette, her husband, who also was a "Friends" actor, but also is known for highly successful roles in such movies as "Scream." Both are involved in many community service activities.

As NALC branches move into the next gear in preparation for the drive, Priority Mail packets have been mailed from NALC headquarters to food drive coordinators for all registered branches.

Included in the packets are an order form for the FREE Campbell Soup/Priority Mail postcards for delivery to homes just before the drive; an order form for the official Food Drive Poster featuring a "Family Circus" cartoon by Bil Keane; a new DVD on the NALC Food Drive; camera-ready artwork; information on a special website for food drive coordinators, and an example of the Valpak envelope being mailed to more than 40 million homes in April and early May promoting the drive.



## Is Your Branch Registered for Drive?

NALC members can determine whether their branch is registered to participate in the May 9 Letter Carriers Food Drive by going to the union's website: [www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org) and logging onto the food drive page under community services.

All branches that were registered as of February 24 are listed and will receive special packets that include forms for ordering FREE Campbell Soup-Priority Mail postcards and other materials.

If a branch still needs to register, a branch official should immediately contact National Coordinator Drew Von Bergen at (202) 662-2489 or at [vonbergen@nalc.org](mailto:vonbergen@nalc.org).

## 'Customer Connect' Sales Blitz Underway

The U.S. Postal Service has launched a special 90-day "Customer Connect Blitz" asking letter carriers to send them leads about customers who need help in lowering their shipping costs in these difficult economic times.

Members of the NALC have been the workhorses of the Customer Connect program since its inception, sending USPS over 229,000 leads that resulted in nearly \$600 million in annualized revenue.

The blitz began on February 23 and will continue to May 15 and is aimed particularly at small- and mid-sized customers.

Assistant Secretary-Treasurer George Mignosi, who spearheads NALC's coordination in the Customer Connect program, urged carriers to jump into action when they see a competitor's truck at businesses on their routes.

**"Simply ask the customer if they would be interested in saving money on their packages," Mignosi said. "If they respond yes, have them complete a Customer Connect lead card and let them know a postal representative will contact them within a couple of days. The Sales Team will do the rest."**

Mignosi added that this is an opportune time to approach these customers since the Postal Service can save many customers time and money with their shipping needs. He pointed out that the USPS has free carrier pickup; the lowest published prices for packages weighing up to 5 pounds; lower online pricing; volume rebates for Express Mail; no fuel or residential surcharges; no extra charges for Saturday delivery and pickup; free eco-friendly packaging and much more.

## MBA Launches New Insurance Options

The union's Mutual Benefit Association has rolled out a new line of life insurance products aimed in most cases at lowering the premiums for policy coverage.

United States Letter Carriers



Mutual Benefit Association

**"The MBA has super-sized your life insurance options without increasing the cost," said Director of Life Insurance Myra Warren. "Corporate America could take a page from your MBA."**

In addition, the MBA has increased from \$50,000 to \$100,000 the limit on life insurance coverage it is offering.

For additional information, contact MBA at (202) 638-4318 and ask for the New Business department.

## No Adjustment for Fourth COLA Period

There will be no pay adjustment for the fourth regular cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) period under the 2006-2011 National Agreement, nor is there any projected accumulation yet toward the 2010 retiree COLA.

The fourth COLA is based on inflation as determined by the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) between July 2008 and January 2009. The CPI-W in January was substantially BELOW the CPI-W for July 2008.

**In order for there to be a further adjustment during the 2006-2011 contract period, the CPI-W at the end of any COLA period must now exceed the 644.303 mark recorded last July. The fifth COLA period runs from January 2009 through July 2009, and any adjustment will be based on the July index, which will be announced by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics in August.**

There also was no accumulation yet towards the 2010 retiree COLA following release of the January CPI-W. The 2010 retiree COLA will be based on the increase in the average CPI-W between the third quarter of 2008 and the third quarter of 2009.

The projected accumulation toward the 2010 COLA for Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) participants stands at 0.4 percent through January. As previously reported, there will be no 2009 cost of living adjustment for FECA participants because of no inflation during the past year. FECA COLAs are applicable only in cases where death or disability occurred more than one year prior to the adjustment's effective date.

## Attention: Members with Special Needs

Members who have special needs for attending the NALC Training Conference and Rap Session April 25-26 at the Luxor Las Vegas hotel in Nevada, April 24-26, should contact the office of Secretary-Treasurer Jane Broendel at NALC Headquarters no later than March 25.

For information on hotel accommodations, contact the hotel directly at (800) 876-0006.

For medical products or equipment rental, contact one of the following rental companies:

Better Life Mobility  
2695 S Decatur Blvd, Ste 100  
Las Vegas, NV 89102  
(877) 876-9606 Fax: (702) 876-4366  
[www.betterlifemobility.com](http://www.betterlifemobility.com)

Desert Medical Equipment  
5030 S Decatur Blvd  
Las Vegas, NV 89118  
(702) 876-9171 Fax: (702) 876-9083  
[www.desertmedicalequip.com](http://www.desertmedicalequip.com)

Mobility products available, including wheelchairs, power chairs, scooters, wheelchair lifts, wheelchair and wheelchair accessible vans.

Medical products include wheelchairs, seating and positioning equipment, scooters, lifts and ramps, walkers/canes, personal care/bath products and oxygen & concentrator rentals.