



National Association
of Letter Carriers

Fredric V. Rolando, President
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ROLANDO INSTALLED AS NALC PRESIDENT

Mullins Named to #2 Spot

Mignosi Appointed Union's Vice President



Fredric V. Rolando, 2nd from right, is handed the gavel of leadership as NALC's 18th president by retiring President William H. Young following a special installation ceremony July 2 at NALC Headquarters. Observing are new Executive Vice President Gary H. Mullins, far right, and new Vice President George C. Mignosi, far left. (Photo by Joe Conway)

Fredric V. Rolando, a member of Sarasota, Florida Branch 2148 and the union's Executive Vice President since December 2006, was installed as the 18th president of the National Association of Letter Carriers (AFL-CIO) effective July 4, following the retirement of William H. Young.

Rolando, 56, was sworn into office by Young at a special installation ceremony July 2 at NALC Headquarters. He officially took over the reins on July 4.

The new president in turn appointed Vice President Gary H. Mullins of Wichita Falls, Texas Branch 1227, as Executive Vice President, and Assistant Secretary-Treasurer George C. Mignosi of Brooklyn, New York Branch 41 as Vice President, succeeding Mullins. Rolando said he will shortly name a replacement for Mignosi.

NALC's new president began his postal career 31 years ago as a letter carrier in South Miami, Florida. As a member of South Florida Branch 1071, his first union post was as a shop steward. When Rolando relocated to Sarasota in 1984, he soon became chief steward there, and in 1988 was elected president of Sarasota Branch 2148. He later served as director of education for the Florida State Association of Letter Carriers and as a Regional Administrative Assistant for NALC's Atlanta Region before coming to Washington as a national officer.

Rolando was appointed as Director of City Delivery in February 2002 by former President Vincent R. Sombrotto to fill a vacancy. He was elected to a full term by acclamation at the 2002 NALC Convention in Philadelphia. In 2006, he was elected Executive Vice President.

Mullins, 58, was elected Director of City Delivery in 1998 and served in that post until February 2002, when he was appointed by Sombrotto to fill a vacancy as vice president and head up the union's Contract Administration Unit. He was elected NALC Vice President for a full term by acclamation at the 2002 Philadelphia Convention and re-elected in 2006.

Mullins started carrying mail in 1971. He was a shop steward for 18 years and president of Branch 1227 from 1978-1990. He was also president of the Texas State Association from 1987-1990 and served eight years as National Business Agent for Region 10 (Dallas).

Mignosi, 50, represented letter carriers in metropolitan New York for more than two decades before moving to headquarters in 2006 as Assistant Secretary-Treasurer. He began his postal career in 1979 at the GPO in New York City as a clerk, but soon moved to the carrier craft and became a member of Brooklyn Branch 41 in 1980.

After a stint as Region 15 (New York Metro) Regional Administrative Assistant, Mignosi was appointed National Business Agent in February 2002 to fill a vacancy, and was elected to that office by acclamation at the Philadelphia Convention later that year. At the 2006 National Convention in Las Vegas, he was elected Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, again by acclamation.

Baldwin Appointed Dallas Region NBA

Region 10 (Dallas) Regional Administrative Assistant Kathy S. Baldwin of Branch 842, Beaumont, Texas, was appointed by President Rolando as National Business Agent to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of NBA Gene Goodwin. Her appointment is effective July 18. The region includes Texas and New Mexico.



President Rolando praised Goodwin for his longtime, dedicated service to letter carriers throughout the Southwest.

"Gene has been instrumental in our union's efforts to reduce the backup on grievances through use of alternative dispute resolution procedures," Rolando said. "His knowledge and skills will be missed and we wish him an enjoyable retirement."

Baldwin, 50, served as branch secretary from 1986 to 1990, and then as president until 1999, during which she became a strong advocate of the annual Letter Carriers Food Drive. She also was a local business agent and arbitration advocate and credits retired RAA Pete Goodman with encouraging her to get more involved in the union and feels privileged to finish out Goodwin's term.

She has two sons and four grandchildren.

Financial Administration Training Set for Chicago

Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Broendel has announced that an educational training session will be held October 19-21 in Chicago for new branch secretary-treasurers and other local and state officers chiefly responsible for financial administration.

The session, and accompanying materials, is designed to assist branch and state officers in managing the "business" side of their local union organization. The session is intended primarily for branch secretary-treasurers, but other branch and state officers who deal directly with branch finances are also invited to participate. Priority will be given to **first-time attendees (limited to two per branch) and each session is limited to 150 participants.**

A form to request registration for the Chicago seminar is available on the union's website: www.nalc.org.

The training will cover all of the basics for financial officers: taxes, including payroll withholding requirements; accounting systems and maintenance of proper controls; reporting to the U.S. Department of Labor, including LM 2, 3 and 30; fiduciary duties under the Landrum-Griffin Act; bonding of branch officers; NALC dues; legal limits on certain types of union spending, and IRS reporting requirements, including Forms 990 and 900-T.

The Chicago seminar will have a special room rate of \$159 plus tax per night, single/double, is available October 18, 19 and 20. Deadline for the special rate is October 2.

The training session will begin at 8 a.m. on the first day and conclude by 12 noon on the third day. Branches will be responsible for transportation and lodging. **Please do not make plane reservations prior to receiving confirmation from the Secretary-Treasurer's office. Hotel information will be included with your letter of acceptance.**

NALC Marches for Health Care



NALC National Resident Officers and headquarters employees joined thousands of unionists June 25 on Capitol Hill to demonstrate in support of health care reform legislation pending before Congress. Top left shows Dir. of Retired Members Ernie Kirkland and Dir. of Safety and Health Brian Hellman at left, and Rockville, MD Br. 3825 Pres. Kenneth Lerch, (2nd from right) along with headquarters staff; in center, "The Sopranos" and "Nurse Jackie" star Edie Falco addressing rally, and at right, Asst. Sec.-Treas. George Mignosi leading a group of NALC staff. At bottom left are members of Hagerstown, MD Br. 443; in center, legislative staff secretary Paula Prince making a statement; and at right, Dir. of Health Benefits Timothy O'Malley leading an NALC group. (Photos by Joe Conway)

NALC Intensifies Effort To Save 6-Day Delivery

NALC President Fred Rolando is making it clear to the Postal Service and to Congress that ending six-day mail delivery to American households is unacceptable and this union will fight it with all the energy and power it can muster.

"Termination of six-day delivery would open the floodgates to all other delivery services in America to fill the void, resulting in a continual diminution of postal service, especially in the cost-effective areas of package and specialty delivery in which lies the economic future of the Postal Service," Rolando said.

NALC received a letter dated June 11 from the Postal Service requesting the union's input on a study of the feasibility of eliminating Saturday delivery. NALC rejected a timetable calling for a response by June 19, instead requesting a full briefing on the subject before responding.

Rolando said NALC is committed to working with Congress and the administration to find better ways to help the Postal Service remain viable: "Rather than contemplate a radical change like the elimination of Saturday delivery, we should pursue more sensible solutions."

He recommended that Congress re-examine all the retirement financing decisions made by the Bush administration that have so burdened the Postal Service in this time of economic crisis. He said shifting the cost of FERS benefits for military service performed by postal employees from postal ratepayers to the Treasury; granting the Postal Service eligibility for Medicare Part D subsidies, as intended by law; and fundamentally reforming the scheme for pre-funding retiree health benefits were "essential first steps."

"Expanding services and making full use of the Postal Service's invaluable last-mile network is the key to the future," Rolando added.

Passes House 404-0

Sick Leave Credit for FERS Annuitants Heads Again to Senate in Defense Bill

Sick leave credit language that was blocked in the Senate after winning House approval earlier in the year as part of an anti-tobacco bill, has been included in the Disabled Military Retiree Relief Act of 2009 that won House approval on a 404-0 vote June 25.

The measure was subsequently rolled into the Defense Authorization Bill (H.R. 2647) and sent to the Senate where it faces another tough battle since the Senate version of the Defense Authorization legislation does not include any sick leave credit language.

Last-minute parliamentary maneuvers by Sen. Jim DeMint (R-SC) blocked language from being included in the final version of the bill regulating tobacco. It would have allowed letter carriers and other postal and government workers under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) to receive credit for unused sick leave in the calculation of their annuities. The bill subsequently won final congressional approval and was signed into law by President Obama.

The disputed language would provide FERS postal employees and survivor annuitants with the same retirement benefit for unused sick leave as retirees under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS).

The latest bill also fixes the Postal Service's T-COLA levels in effect December 31 as the minimum T-COLA level for Alaska, Hawaii and U.S. territories as well. If the bill passes, those levels could rise if the federal locality rates rise in specific locations, but they could not be reduced.

Workers' Compensation Query System Available

The Affiliated Computer Services (ACS) Web Bill Processing Portal website has been expanded in a major way with a new feature called Claimant Query System (CQS) for workers' compensation questions by FECA claimants and their representatives.

The new CQS provides much more information for injured workers with 24-hour internet access to their case file status, accepted conditions, address of record, and compensation payments and tracking. CQS offers essentially the same information that was previously only available on a very limited basis to injury compensation specialists. The ACS Web Portal also provides claimants and their representatives with access to other claim-related information, which includes medical bill status and medical authorizations.

The ACS web address is: <http://owcp.dol.acs-inc.com/portal/main.do>. To access claimant information you must have a claim number, date of injury, and claimant's date of birth. Once logged in, the CQS link is on the left side of the page.

NALC Takes Action on Lack of VERS Counseling

On June 19, the NALC filed a National Level Interpretive Dispute with the Postal Service, pursuant to Article 15, Section 3.F of the National Agreement. This dispute involves aspects of the ongoing Voluntary Early Retirement (VER) made available to letter carriers.

Specifically, the Postal Service established an Irrevocable Date of June 19, 2009 for eligible employees to decide whether to accept the VER, but has failed to provide mandatory retirement counseling to those who have requested it prior to the irrevocable date. Such counseling is essential for employees to make a fully informed decision whether or not to accept the VER.

Letter carriers who have applied for the VER, requested retirement counseling and were not provided with retirement counseling prior to the irrevocable date should contact their National Business Agent for more information. This would include letter carriers who withdrew their application for the VER because retirement counseling was not provided prior to the irrevocable date.

NRP Settlement Clears Path for Hundreds of Grievances

The NALC and Postal Service have settled a national level grievance filed on the Postal Service's application of their National Reassessment Process (NRP), a management program that was devised to reassess all current limited duty job offers and to reassess how future limited duty job offers are made. The NALC, from the outset, has maintained that NRP cannot compromise injured employees' rights under 546 of the ELM.

After months of negotiations, the party's three-part settlement addresses all of the NALC's contentions in this grievance and solidifies the contractual rights of affected letter carriers. The parties agreed that NRP does not change management's obligations to provide limited duty to injured employees and it does not change the provisions of ELM 546. The parties also agreed that NRP does not create new criteria for assigning limited duty and that light duty carriers will not normally be displaced solely to make new limited duty or rehabilitation assignments unless required by law.

The settlement will allow for the continued processing of grievances that have been held in abeyance pending the outcome of this national case. For more information contact your NBA. For additional information and text of the settlement, go to the NALC web site: www.nalc.org.