



National Association
of Letter Carriers
Fredric V. Rolando, President
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NALC Bulletin

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

NALC Executive Council Receives Fiscal Update On USPS Operations

Rolando and Other Postal Union Leaders In White House Meeting to Discuss Crisis

Meeting for the first time since President Fred V. Rolando was sworn-in as this union's new leader, the 28-member NALC Executive Council convened July 20-22 at NALC headquarters, faced with a Postal Service struggling to overcome a sharp decline in mail volume due to the economic crisis.



President Rolando addresses the NALC Executive Council July 20 in Washington as Executive Vice President Gary Mullins looks on. (Photos by Mike Shea)

President Rolando and the NALC staff briefed the Council on the Postal Service's finances and efforts in Congress to enact financial relief in the short run, as well as discussions with the White House and key leaders in the House and Senate on long-term solutions to the Postal Service's problems.

On July 24, Rolando joined leaders of the other three major postal unions in a meeting at the White House to bring the importance of speedy legislative action to the direct attention of top aides in the Obama administration.

Postal Service mail volume has declined by some 13 percent this year through May as the recession has deepened. Despite the elimination of 36,000 career jobs over the past year, the USPS could lose \$7 billion this year due to the economic meltdown and the onerous cost of pre-funding retiree health benefits, which this year will cost \$5.4 billion.

"NALC is grateful for the efforts on both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue to find solutions to this crisis - H.R. 22 has advanced in the House of Representatives and next week our friends in the Senate are planning to mark up a proposal from the Obama administration that would also provide short-term financial relief," Rolando said.

"We welcome this relief," Rolando emphasized. "But any short-term legislation is just the first step - we also need to enact comprehensive reforms to allow the Postal Service to pre-fund its future retiree health benefits on a more reasonable and affordable schedule."

The Executive Council, which includes four new National Business Agents - Roger Bledsoe, Dan Toth, Chris Wittenburg and Kathy Baldwin - and new Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Nicole Rhine, also received reports on the NALC's efforts to lobby Congress to enact the Employee Free Choice Act as well as comprehensive health care reform legislation.

"It won't be enough to simply survive the Great Recession," Rolando observed. "We have to rebuild the middle class to create a prosperous economy in which the Postal Service can thrive. Giving other workers the right to organize and access to affordable health care will help us at the bargaining table and cut our costs for health insurance."

The Council reviewed the status and problems associated with the Modified Interim Alternative Route Adjustment Process and debated the full range of issues facing the union in the months and years ahead.



At left, President Rolando presents a gift certificate from the Executive Council to retired past President William H. Young, who stopped by to say farewell; in center, Council members participate in proceedings; and at right Director of City Delivery Dale Hart speaks as Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Nicole Rhine makes note.

Rhine Named Asst. Secretary-Treasurer

President Rolando, on July 15, appointed Region 5 (St. Louis) Regional Administrative Assistant Nicole R. Rhine as the NALC's new Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, a National Resident Officer at the union's headquarters in Washington.

Rhine succeeds George Mignosi who had earlier been elevated to the union's Vice President position. She will serve out the remainder of Mignosi's term that ends in December, 2010.

Rhine, 44, a member and former president of Lincoln, Nebraska Branch 8, had been appointed as an RAA for Region 5 (Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas) by President William H. Young in December 2006. In addition to serving as a steward, branch secretary and president of Branch 8, she was a local business agent and arbitration advocate. She was elected Nebraska state association president in 2001 and also served as a legislative liaison.



Nicole Rhine

A letter carrier for 15 years, she holds a journalism degree from the University of Kansas.

H.R. 22 Ready for House Floor Action

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee has given its blessing to H.R. 22, marking up (approving) the measure July 10 that would allow the Postal Service to pay its share of contributions for annuitants' future health benefits out of the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund for three years.

No amendments were offered during the mark-up and the July 10 vote was unanimous.

When floor time is scheduled, the full House of Representatives will vote on the legislation, and if passed, it will be sent to the Senate. In the meantime, NALC has continued discussions with all 338 co-sponsors of the bill to ensure that they remain steadfast in their support as this measure moves forward.

NALC Backs Trumka for AFL-CIO President

The NALC has endorsed AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka in his bid to become the next president of the 13 million-member American Federation of Labor/Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) at the federation's convention in September.

President Rolando announced that the union's Executive Council had voted unanimously by teleconference to support Trumka to succeed retiring President John J. Sweeney when balloting occurs at the convention in Pittsburgh September 13-17.

"Rich Trumka has the leadership experience, skills, and savvy to take the helm of America's labor movement at this critical time in our history," Rolando said. "We have confidence that he will be a significant force for the unification of all unions in the House of Labor, enabling us to have a major role with the Obama administration in rebuilding our nation's economy."



Rich Trumka

Oops! Coding Error Causes Middle Initial Mistake

In what was obviously a failed attempt to generate greater mail volume, letters sent out July 10 by President Rolando to all NALC members contained errors in the middle initial of recipients due to a computer coding mistake. Unfortunately, instead of members **mailing back** notes complaining about the error, a number of them have called our Membership Department.

It also was **purely coincidental** that the initials inserted were mostly either an "F," "V" or "R," according to President **Fred V. Rolando**.

Humor aside, members can be assured that the union has an accurate record of their names. NALC regrets any confusion caused by the error.

No Active COLA Accumulation Through June

Although there was another small increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) data for June, released on July 15, there still is no projected accumulation for the fifth regular cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) period under the 2006-2011 National Agreement.

The fifth contract COLA is to be based on inflation as determined by the CPI-W between January 2009 and July 2009.

There also was no accumulation yet toward the 2010 retiree COLA following release of the June CPI-W by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The projected accumulation toward the 2010 COLA for Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) participants, based on the increase in the CPI-W between December 2008 and December 2009, rose to 3.0 percent through June.

Reuther Library to Honor NALC with Special Exhibit; Opening Ceremony Set for September 21 in Detroit

The Walter P. Reuther Library at Wayne State University, which serves as the official archivist of the NALC's historical records, has announced plans for a special exhibit on the history of the National Association of Letter Carriers. The exhibit will open in September and will be on display for one year at the Library's facility (<http://www.reuther.wayne.edu/>) in Detroit.

NALC President Fred Rolando and other current and former NALC officials have been invited for a special ceremony to open the exhibit on the afternoon of Monday, September 21.

NALC Branch Presidents who plan on attending the Committee of Presidents meeting scheduled for September 20-21 are invited to attend the ceremony. Those interested in attending the event must contact Detroit Branch 1 President Sandy Laemmel at (313) 962-8296 or (800) 699-6252. Further details will be posted soon on the NALC website.

Another Workshop Added!

Financial Training Sessions Scheduled For Washington and Chicago This Fall

Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Broendel has announced that an additional educational training session has been scheduled for September 28-30 in Washington, DC for new branch secretary-treasurers and other local and state officers chiefly responsible for financial administration. This is in addition to the one previously announced for October 19-21 in Chicago (see *NALC Bulletin* 09-12).

The session is intended primarily for branch secretary-treasurers, but other branch and state officers who deal directly with branch finances are also invited. 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 either the Washington or Chicago seminar is printed below and may also be found on the union's website: www.nalc.org.

The training will cover the basics for financial officers: taxes, including payroll with-holding requirements; accounting systems and maintenance of proper controls; reporting to the 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 Washington seminar room rate is \$189 plus tax, single/double, and is available September 27, 28 and 29. The deadline for the Washington rate is September 6. The Chicago seminar will have a special room rate of \$159 plus tax, single/double, and is available October 18, 19 and 20. The deadline for the Chicago special rate is October 2.

The training sessions 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 airline reservations prior to receiving confirmation from the Secretary-Treasurer's office. Hotel information will be included with your letter of acceptance.**



Secretary-Treasurer Seminar Registration Form

Please register me* for one of the following NALC Secretary-Treasurer Seminars:

Sept. 28-30, 2009 in Washington, DC. (Registration deadline is Sept. 6. Room rate [single/double] is \$189 plus tax.)

Oct. 19-21, 2009 in Chicago, IL. (Registration deadline is Oct. 2. Room rate [single/double] is \$159 plus tax.)

If your chosen seminar is already full, check here if you'd like to be registered for the other one.

Name _____

Branch or State Position _____

Branch # _____ Branch City _____ State _____

Home Address: Street _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone Number (Required) _____

*Limited to two individuals per branch

Return to:

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