



National Association  
of Letter Carriers

Fredric V. Rolando, President

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# NALC Bulletin

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## NALC Celebrates 120th Anniversary

On August 30, the National Association of Letter Carriers observes the 120th anniversary of the date in 1889 when a small band of letter carriers, meeting above Schaefer's Saloon in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, created a national association to represent them in obtaining better wages and benefits.



The 20-year-old statue dedicated during the union's Centennial near the site of Schaefer's Saloon in Milwaukee.

The 60-odd carriers unanimously voted to form the union, and quickly chose William Wood of Detroit as NALC's first president and appointed an Executive Board to work with members of Congress on legislation that would benefit them.

There had been three earlier attempts to form a union — in 1870 in Washington, DC; and in 1877 and 1880 in New York City — but they failed due in part to limited attendance because of the expense of traveling to the meeting. As a result, the Milwaukee carriers, in inviting their colleagues to that city in 1889, had it coincide with the annual reunion of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of Union veterans of the Civil War, so letter carriers could take advantage of reduced train fares.

A statue was erected and dedicated during the union's Centennial Celebration in 1989 in a small park near the site of the tavern in downtown Milwaukee and is regularly maintained by members of Milwaukee Branch 2. *Further information on the anniversary is included in the August Postal Record magazine.*

## NALC Mourns Death of Senator Kennedy

NALC President Fred Rolando led the union in mourning the death on August 25 of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-MA, who had championed many causes critical to letter carriers and all working men and women throughout his career.

"The 300,000 members of our union, and indeed all postal employees, have lost a dedicated champion of workers' rights," said Rolando.

"Throughout his Senate career, Senator Kennedy was at the forefront in working with our union on many of the critical issues important not only to postal employees, but to the U.S. Postal Service itself," Rolando added. "These included advancing budgetary legislation that facilitated an efficient, universal postal system to serve all Americans, and also ensuring that postal employees received wages, benefits and a workplace environment that they deserved."

Rolando also praised Kennedy's role in winning Hatch Act reforms that allowed a greater role in the nation's political process for all federal and postal employees.



In one of his many visits with the NALC, Senator Kennedy addresses the 2003 Hero of the Year awards ceremony.

## NALC to Appear on MDA Telethon

NALC President Fredric V. Rolando, MDA Coordinator Jim Williams and letter carriers representing the top NALC branches in last year's Muscular Dystrophy Association drive will appear on the nationally televised Jerry Lewis MDA Labor Day Telethon September 6 and 7 "live" from Las Vegas. They will present the NALC's pledges and donations for 2009 to help fight muscular dystrophy.

At last year's telethon, Williams presented pledges and donations totaling \$2.1 million to Lewis, helping the telethon attain a record \$65 million in donations and pledges.

Joining Rolando and Williams in on-air appearances will be Darrell Berube, Branch 41, Brooklyn, New York; Bob Bracy, Branch 14, Louisville, Kentucky; Ron Blazell, Branch 2, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Ed Walsh, Branch 358, Schenectady, New York; Larry Ames, Branch 56, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Dennis Spoto, Branch 425, Bergen County Merged, New Jersey; Bill Trudell, Branch 38, New Jersey Merged; Thomas Scott, Branch 619, Green Bay, Wisconsin; Randy Sorby, Branch 205, Fargo, North Dakota; Jeffrey Harness, Branch 924, Freehold, New Jersey; Michael Bagarozzi, Branch 5229, New City, New York; and Fran Mangano, Branch 41 Auxiliary, Brooklyn, New York.



Helping Jerry's Kids

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

### EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME

Monday, September 7 1:10 AM – 2:00 AM  
9:00 AM – 9:40 AM  
1:10 PM – 2:00 PM

### MOUNTAIN DAYLIGHT TIME

Sunday, September 6 11:10 PM – 12:00 AM  
Monday, September 7 7:00 AM – 7:40 AM  
11:10 AM – 12:00 PM

### CENTRAL DAYLIGHT TIME

Monday, September 7 12:10 AM – 1:00 AM  
8:00 AM – 8:40 AM  
12:10 PM – 1:00 PM

### PACIFIC DAYLIGHT TIME

Sunday, September 6 10:10 PM – 11:00 PM  
Monday, September 7 6:00 AM – 6:40 AM  
10:10 AM – 11:00 AM



## Labor Day 2009 Message From President Rolando

Labor Day is a special date for us both to celebrate and to remember our brothers and sisters who struggled to win a decent standard of living for all working people in America. In the 1930s, union members helped create the New Deal and the advances it delivered for working people, including Social Security, unemployment insurance, and fair labor standards laws. So, too, brave postal employees went on strike in 1970 to win collective bargaining rights for us – rights that propelled letter carriers and other postal workers into the Middle Class.

Labor Day is also a day to focus on the battles ahead. While there are signs the recession has bottomed out, we are facing a long and difficult road to recovery and the Postal Service faces a daunting array of challenges.

**The decisions made in Congress this fall – regarding health care reform, the Employee Free Choice Act and postal financial relief – will have a major impact on whether we turn this country around for working people and whether the Postal Service can thrive when the economy recovers.**

Letter carriers and the NALC are at the heart of these debates, right where we should be.

Health care reform will directly benefit letter carriers by removing the hidden tax we all pay now in higher health care premiums to cover care provided to uninsured workers. The Employee Free Choice Act is absolutely essential to rebuilding the Middle Class and defending our position at the bargaining table, because the pay and benefits other workers receive are always an issue.

For postal employees, passage of legislation in September to reduce the heavy burden on the Postal Service to pre-fund retiree health benefits is a vital first step toward strengthening the Service's long-term viability. But it must be a clean version of H.R. 22 or S.1507, without anti-union amendments.

Equally important to the future of both the Postal Service and to letter carriers is rejection of the misguided idea to begin dismantling the Postal Service (under the guise of cost-cutting) by reducing mail delivery to five days a week.

A few weeks ago, our various fights briefly converged into one when Republican leaders in Congress used an inaccurate comment by President Obama about the Postal Service to try to discredit health care reform. We immediately contacted the White House and corrected their information, and we also vigorously rebutted the cheap shots by the GOP (see the September issue of *The Postal Record*).

This episode is a stern reminder that we are up against determined, unscrupulous foes and that change will not come easy. This, the labor leaders of the 1930s and the postal strikers of 1970 knew well. It is going to take energy and solidarity to win.

As you enjoy the holiday break, remember that the true meaning of Labor Day is the struggle for progress, a struggle that never ends.

In Solidarity,

## Statement on USPS Early-Out Incentives

The Postal Service has negotiated agreements with the American Postal Workers Union and the National Postal Mail Handlers Union to offer cash incentives of up to \$15,000 to employees in the APWU and NPMHU's crafts to accept a Voluntary Early Retirement offer between now and November 30.

The agreements were prompted by the large financial losses incurred by the Postal Service as a result of the steep decline in mail volume due to the recession, as well as the heavy cost of pre-funding retiree health benefits. The incentives are targeted to the crafts with complements in excess of needs. A moratorium on excessing in the two unions' crafts will be imposed until October 9.

The Postal Service has not offered to negotiate a similar program for city or rural letter carriers with the NALC or the NRLCA.

At present, the complements of city and rural carriers remain more closely aligned with the Postal Service's needs to cover last-mile delivery at current mail volume. The new early-out programs should reduce the number of postal employees in other crafts excessed to the city carrier craft in the months ahead.

## Spots Open for Washington Financial Training

Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Broedel advises that there are still spots open for the September 28-30 educational training session in Washington, DC for branch secretary-treasurers and other local and state officers chiefly responsible for financial administration.

The session is intended primarily for branch secretary-treasurers, but other branch and state officers who deal directly with branch finances are also invited.

**"Any branch that has not trained its financial officers should take advantage of this opportunity," Broedel said.**

A form to request registration and additional information were included in the July 28 NALC *Bulletin*. The registration form also may be found on the union's website: [www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org). Please Express Mail your form to Secretary-Treasurer Broedel at NALC headquarters or fax to (202) 737-1540.

The Washington seminar room rate is \$189 plus tax, single/double, and is available for September 27, 28 and 29. **The previous hotel deadline of September 6 has been extended for a short period of time based on availability.**

## Philadelphia Site of 2014 Convention

The NALC Executive Committee has chosen Philadelphia as the site of the 69th Biennial NALC National Convention in 2014. The convention will be held July 21-25, 2014 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

The 67th Biennial Convention will be in Anaheim, California from August 9-13, 2010, and the 68th Convention will be in Minneapolis, Minnesota, July 23-27, 2012.



"The NALC and letter carriers across the nation are excited about returning to the City of Brotherly Love where we can conduct our important business sessions in modern, union-operated convention facilities, accompanied by an outstanding selection of unionized hotels within close proximity," said President Rolando in announcing the selection.

The 2014 convention host will be NALC Philadelphia Branch 157, which also was the host for the 63rd Biennial Convention in 2002. The Executive Committee vote came after a report from a Convention Site Committee headed by Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Broedel.

## No COLA Adjustment for January-July Period

The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) data for July, released on August 17 by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, reflected no COLA accumulation during the six-month fifth cost-of-living (COLA) period under the 2006-2011 National Agreement between January 2009 and July 2009. Since the CPI-W was still below the 644.303 high level attained in July 2008, there will be no COLA adjustment for the fifth period.

There also has not yet been any accumulation toward the 2010 retiree COLA based on the July CPI-W.

The next COLA period — the sixth under the contract — runs from now through January 2010.

The projected accumulation toward the 2010 COLA for Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) participants, which is based on the increase in the CPI-W between December 2008 and December 2009, is 2.8 percent through July.