



# Bulletin

## Memorandums renewed, modified

The NALC and USPS have agreed to renew three Memorandums of Understanding: Re: Full-time Regular Opportunities – City Letter Carrier Craft (M-01856), Re: Sunday Delivery – City Carrier Assistant Staffing (M-01857), and Re: Signing Overtime Lists (M-01858).

The MOUs remain largely unchanged except for one significant change in M-01857, where the parties agreed that city carrier assistants (CCAs) who served a cumulative 360 days as a city carrier assistant directly before being converted to full-time career status will not serve a probationary period.

You can read more about these MOUs in Director of City Delivery Brian Renfroe’s upcoming column in the May edition of *The Postal Record*.

### Saturday, May 9

## Food drive just around the corner



As this *NALC Bulletin* was being prepared, the 23rd annual Letter Carriers’ “Stamp Out Hunger” Food Drive on Saturday, May 9, was just weeks away, and NALC President Fredric Rolando encouraged letter carriers to be ready to lend a hand to their branches’ busy food drive coordinators.

“To help make this country’s largest one-day food-collection effort a success,” Rolando said, “we need the help of as many letter carriers and volunteers as we can get.”

The food drive is one of the most visible things we do as NALC members, the president said, noting that last year’s drive resulted in the collection of nearly 73 million pounds of non-perishable food left by customers’ mailboxes.

“Thanks to that generosity since the national drive began in 1992,” Rolando said, “letter carriers have picked up and delivered to local food banks more than 1.3 billion pounds of food.

There had been some concern that not every address in America would receive a food drive “save the date” postcard reminder in the mail after national sponsor General Mills dropped out of the drive at the last moment.

Fortunately, national food drive sponsor Feeding America spearheaded a successful campaign of seeking contributions from their affiliate food banks in communities across the country, while many NALC branches also had a measure of success in garnering financial backing from the local chapters of another national sponsor, United Way Worldwide, as well as other organizations.

The U.S. Postal Service, the National Rural Letter Carriers’ Association and the AFL-CIO are the drive’s other national sponsors.

Perhaps most importantly, a lot of NALC branches themselves dug deep and made generous contributions toward postcard production. “We’re grateful that so many were willing to make an investment that could pay off in a big way on Food Drive Day—in the form of filled food pantry shelves,” said NALC Community and Membership Outreach Coordinator Pam Donato, the national coordinator for the food drive.

Visit [nalc.org/food](http://nalc.org/food) for tips on conducting a successful food drive, plus a host of resources including the coordinators’ manual, support documents, graphics, solicitation videos and answers to frequently asked questions.

Get in touch with Donato at 202-662-2489 or at [donato@nalc.org](mailto:donato@nalc.org) if you need further help.

## ‘Rap session’ housing info now available

Participants planning to attend the NALC’s 2015 National Conference—better known as a “rap session”—may now begin making their hotel reservations. National rap sessions for state and branch presidents (or their designees) are authorized in non-convention years by the *NALC Constitution* under Article 3, Section 4(b).

The session will be held July 17-19 in Houston, with registration taking place on Friday, July 17, followed by a full day of workshops Saturday, July 18, and the conference session itself on Sunday, July 19.

To help the national union plan the event, state and branch presidents will soon receive a postcard instructing them to use a link on the NALC website to indicate whether their state and branch organizations will participate in the rap session and, if so, who will represent them in Houston.

A limited number of rooms have been set aside for attendees at the Hilton Americas—Houston, with a group rate of \$169 single/double (plus 17 percent tax). A charge of \$20 will be added for each guest over double occupancy, with a maximum of four guests per room.

To receive the group rate, callers must identify they are with the NALC using group code *1LC*.

The Hilton is located in the heart of downtown Houston, across the street from Discovery Green Park, next to Toyota Center and two blocks from Minute Maid Park.

*Note:* Rates cannot be changed at check-in or check-out for guests who fail to identify their affiliation with NALC at the time the reservation is made.

All reservations and any changes must be made by the cutoff date of Monday, June 23. After this date, reservations will be accepted by the hotel based on availability and hotel rate.

Visit [nalc.org](http://nalc.org) for full reservation details, as well as information about travel to and from the hotel from one of Houston’s two airports.



## Court issues lawsuit decision

On March 27, the U.S. District Court in Washington, DC, issued a 52-page decision in the 20-year-old lawsuit filed by Washington, DC Branch 142 retiree David Noble against the NALC.

The District Court dismissed the plaintiff’s claim that 12 former officers, including President Emeritus William H. Young and the late President Emeritus Vincent R. Sombrotto, had improperly accepted a \$500 monthly allowance for in-town expenses.

The in-town expenses issue was the only remaining issue involving the individual officers after a 2008 decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit had rejected Noble’s claims regarding the payment of per diem and the employee share of FICA (Social Security) taxes.

The District Court deferred for a later decision a single remaining issue involving Noble’s request to review NALC records.

## Rolando rebuts Brookings’ claims

In an April 1 letter to the editor of *The Washington Post*, NALC President Fredric Rolando rebutted some misleading statements made recently by the Brookings Institution—statements that were reported on by the *Post* as well as other news outlets.

“The U.S. Postal Service and private delivery firms aren’t unmitigated rivals; they’re often partners,” Rolando wrote. “Private carriers now bring millions of packages to post offices for last-mile delivery, saving themselves and their customers money via the Postal Service’s unmatched networks.”

The president wrote that postal unions have many ideas—beyond fixing the pre-funding mandate—for moving the Postal Service forward.

“While this unfair \$5.6 billion annual charge, required of no other entity, must be addressed, we’ve proposed and supported other ideas,” he wrote, listing examples such as expanding Sunday or same-day delivery using private partnerships with local stores, as well as allowing companies to use space at postal plants to store products close to customers and then have letter carriers deliver them.

“Financially, the Postal Service is mounting a dramatic comeback,” Rolando wrote. “With an improving economy sparking increases in letter revenue and online shopping boosting package revenue, the Postal Service had an operating profit of \$1.4 billion in fiscal 2014; already in fiscal 2015, operations are \$1.4 billion in the black.”

You can read the president’s letter—which links to the *Post*’s story about the Brookings report—at [nalc.org](http://nalc.org) under “Postal Facts.”

### National Association of Letter Carriers

100 Indiana Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20001-2144  
202-393-4695 | [www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org)

**Fredric V. Rolando, President**

**EDITORIAL STAFF:**  
Philip Dine, Director of Communications and Media Relations  
Mike Shea, Designer/Web Editor  
Joe Conway, Internet Communications Coordinator  
Rick Hodges, Writer/Editor  
Jenessa Kildall, Editorial Assistant

*NALC Bulletin* is published semi-regularly by the National Association of Letter Carriers. Postage paid at Washington, DC, and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Membership Department, NALC, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS? Contact the Membership Department.

© 2015 by the National Association of Letter Carriers.

Circulation: 9,500. Union-printed using soy-based inks.

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube by going to [NALC.org](http://NALC.org).

