



NALC Convention Chronicle

Saturday, July 26 covering the FIFTH SESSION: Friday, July 25

Convention closes with a whirl of action

The final day of the 66th Biennial NALC Convention in Boston was a quirky whirlwind of awards, speeches, resolutions and presentations—plus thank-yous and an invitation to meet again in Anaheim in 2010.

The stage was set for the session by the Cleveland Letter Carrier Band, which entertained arriving delegates with disco anthems not usually associated with brass-and-wind ensembles, including the Bee Gees' "Stayin' Alive" and Gloria Gaynor's "I Will Survive."

NALC President William H. Young called the convention to order at 10:05 a.m. and invited George Elias of San Diego, California Branch 70 to the microphone to sing the national anthem. Boston Branch 34 Executive Vice President John McMahon led the Pledge of Allegiance, and President Young then welcomed Imam Taalib Mahdee of Boston's Masjid al-Quran mosque to give the invocation. Before beginning, Mahdee reached inside his jacket and pulled a card from his pocket. Holding it aloft, he declared, "I understand your struggle—this is my union card from the SEIU." Delegates responded with a hearty round of applause.

Young called on Director of Health Benefits Tim O'Malley to come to the podium to resume consideration of legislative resolutions. Makers of several resolutions came to microphones and offered amendments to measures that had been disapproved by the Executive Council. The Council found those modifications agreeable enough to reverse their stance and approve the resolutions, including the so-called End the War resolution, which was changed to call for U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan to return home "as soon as possible." That means the NALC's official position is identical to that of the AFL-CIO.

President Young announced the results of Thursday's election of NALC delegates to



Above: Delegates from Garden Grove, California Branch 1100 take the stage to encourage members to attend the 67th convention, to be held in Anaheim in 2010.

Right: President Young helps Muscular Dystrophy Association Goodwill Ambassador Luke Christie to call on branches to better organize their fundraising campaigns.



the AFL-CIO. The top seven vote-getters (*) will represent letter carriers at AFL-CIO conventions through 2012:

- ▶ **Charles Heege**, New York City, New York Branch 36, (10,428 votes)*
- ▶ **Lloyd Doucet**, New Orleans, Louisiana Branch 124 (10,160)*
- ▶ **Phillip Wilkes**, Chicago, Illinois Branch 11 (9,950)*
- ▶ **Anita Guzik**, Los Angeles, California Branch 24 (9,801)*
- ▶ **Denise Brooks**, Bedford, Oregon Branch 1433 (9,725)*
- ▶ **Ingrid Armada**, Providence, Rhode Island Branch 15 (9,627)*
- ▶ **Stephen Hanna**, York, Pennsylvania Branch 509 (7,768)*
- ▶ **Anthony Kittrell**, Washington, DC Branch 142 (1,235)
- ▶ **David Hyman**, Tri-Valley, California Branch 2902 (1,065)
- ▶ **Terry Oberly**, Lancaster, Pennsylvania Branch 273 (1,031)
- ▶ **Lou Wagner**, Grand Rapids, Michigan Branch 56 (884)
- ▶ **Michael Barrett**, Fort Worth, Texas Branch 226 (827)
- ▶ **Mary Pardo**, San Antonio, TX Branch 421 (803)

- ▶ **Jacquelyn Stephenson**, Arlington, Texas Branch 2309 (654)
- ▶ **Willie Little**, Escondido, California Branch 2525 (605)

President Young and Secretary-Treasurer Jane Broendel automatically are delegates by virtue of their offices.



Secretary-Treasurer Jane Broendel introduces the Convention Site Committee.

Convention Site report

Next to the microphone was Secretary-Treasurer Broendel, who chairs the Convention Site Committee. Before introducing the members of the committee for their report, Broendel told delegates that for the 2010 convention in Anaheim, California, the union is considering adopting an online “passkey” system for hotel registration. No decision has been made, but Broendel said one advantage of the web-based system is that it would allow delegates to review room rates and hotel locations, then make and confirm their own reservations instead of going through the host branch. More information will be forthcoming as the 67th Biennial Convention draws closer, she said.

The secretary-treasurer then called on the committee members—Jack Geoghegan, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Branch 157; Howard Komine, Honolulu, Hawaii Branch 860; and Jerry Penn, Las Vegas, Nevada Branch 2502—to report. They explained the process of reviewing potential convention cities. The Executive Council chooses the convention location, usually about four years ahead of the event.

67th Biennial Convention

President Young then asked Charlie Miller, the president of Garden Grove, California Branch 1100—“the largest branch in the NALC,” Young noted—to come to the stage. Branch 1100, which has more than 8,000 members, is the host branch for the union’s 67th biennial gathering, set for August 9-13, 2010 in Anaheim.

As the Branch 1100 contingent made its way to the stage, its members handed out to delegates bright yellow flying discs, symbolizing the sunshine for which Southern California is famous. Coming to the microphone, Miller observed that he appreciated Boston’s reputation for professional sports championships, but he reminded delegates that the Anaheim Ducks hockey team won the 2007 Stanley Cup. Branch Executive Vice President Barbara Stickler told convention-goers that when they are not deliberating the union’s business, they have a wide choice of relaxation options. They include wineries, casinos, surfing and scuba-diving—and she pointed out that Disneyland is literally across the street from the Anaheim Convention Center.

Health Plan Committee

Next, President Young asked Director of Health Benefits O’Malley to return to the stage. O’Malley first told delegates that one health benefits resolution was submitted to the convention, but it had been withdrawn. He also assured delegates that despite current economic conditions, “your Health Plan is in good shape.” He then introduced the members of the Health Benefits Committee:

Lydia Caffrey (chair), Central California Coast Branch 52; James Eagen, New Jersey Merged Branch 38; Lynn Lynott, Scranton, Pennsylvania Branch 17; Thomas Nelson, New York



Garden Grove, California Branch 1100 President Charlie Miller (above) encourages everyone to attend the 2010 convention in Anaheim. The Convention Center (left) is located across the street from Disneyland.

City, New York Branch 36; Hector Salinas, Houston, Texas Branch 283; Tom Van Cleef, Las Vegas, Nevada Branch 2502; and Marilyn Youman, Garden Grove, California Branch 1100.

MBA Committee

Next, Director of Life Insurance Myra Warren delivered the MBA Committee’s report, which included some updates to figures listed in the Convention’s *Proposed Resolutions & Amendments* booklet. She then introduced the members of committee:

Dan Versluis (chair), Tucson, Arizona Branch 704; Chris Alessi, Tri-Valley, California Branch 2902; Vincent Lang, Mobile, Alabama Branch 469; Robert Ohlenschlaer, Buffalo-Western New York Branch 3; Lorenzo Perez, South Florida Branch 1071; and Barbara Turner, Washington, DC Branch 142.

Nalcrest report

President Young then asked Nalcrest manager Jerry Kane, a member of Jamaica, New York Branch 562, for his report on the NALC-owned retirement village located in central Florida. Kane spoke briefly, then acknowledged the members of the Nalcrest Committee:

President William Young; Vice President Gary Mullins; Secretary-Treasurer Jane Broendel; Ronald Brown, Royal Oak, Michigan Branch 3126; James Dolan, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Branch 157; and Tom Young, Garden Grove, California Branch 1100.

Muscular Dystrophy Association

President Young next directed delegates’ attention to the video screens, where a video was shown that described the NALC’s long history of support the Muscular Dystrophy Association, the union’s only official charity.

At the conclusion, Jim Williams, the union’s national MDA director, told delegates that the fund-raising putting green, where members could putt for a chance to win a big-screen television, and other activities at the MDA booth generated more than \$13,400.

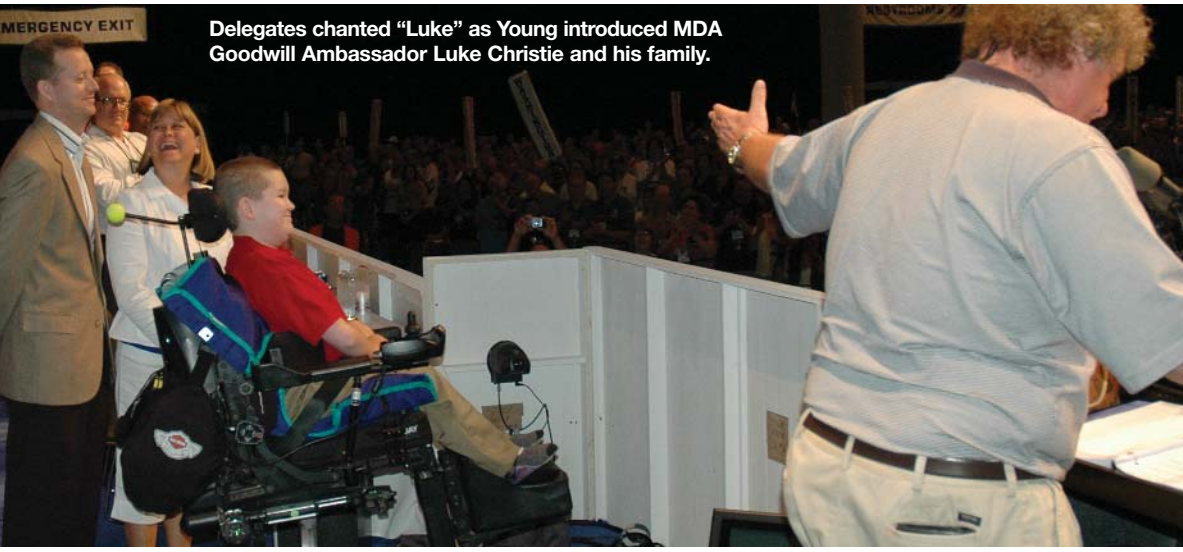
Williams then introduced MDA Program Director Tom Boyle, who gave a few brief remarks before turning the microphone over to National Goodwill Ambassador Luke Christie, who also addressed the 2006 NALC Convention in Las Vegas. Speaking from his wheelchair, the enthusiastic youth gave a brief but rousing and often moving speech, thanking the NALC for its long-time support for MDA, which dates back to the letter carrier “Porch Light Brigade” in 1952.

President Young gave Christie a special NALC hat and received the delegation’s unanimous consent to make him an honorary convention delegate. Christie then drew out names in two MDA raffles. The winner of a “Postal Monopoly” board game was Albuquerque, New Mexico Branch 504



Jim Williams





Delegates chanted "Luke" as Young introduced MDA Goodwill Ambassador Luke Christie and his family.

York Branch 210. Each member then read a portion of the committee's report and thanked delegates for their contributions to the scholarships created in memory of former NALC President William Doherty and John T. Donelon, longtime assistant to three NALC national presidents. The committee encouraged members' continued support.

President Young then took a moment of personal privilege to praise Region 2 Regional Administrative Assistant Jamie Lumm, a member of Kent, Washington Branch 2038, who has given \$2,600 to COLCPE in the past year, making him the No. 1 individual donor.

Young also thanked retired Executive Vice President Jim Williams and retired Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Jim Korolowicz for their ongoing successes with the Leadership Academy. "Thanks to their efforts, there have been 120 graduates so far, with another 30 set to start classes next month," Young said.

Carrier Corps

The president moved on to recognize the union's newest political strike force, the Carrier Corps. Created last summer, the Carrier Corps consists of active and retired letter carriers who commit to giving at least 10 hours of their personal time to knock on doors, make phone calls, hand out leaflets—whatever it takes to get out the vote and to stress the importance of the upcoming election to the future of the middle class and the entire labor movement. "We stand no chance of success unless we grow the Carrier Corps," Young said.

He then announced a number of Carrier Corps awards:

BRANCHES WITH THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF CARRIER CORPS MEMBERS:

- ▶ **50-99 members:** Morrisville, Pennsylvania Branch 2572
- ▶ **100-499 members:** Hayward, California Branch 1701
- ▶ **500-1,499 members:** Salt Lake City, Utah Branch 111

member John Trujillo. The grand prize, a big-screen TV, went to Don Southern, a member of South Florida Branch 1071 and former national Director of Retired Members.

Williams then announced an honor roll of branches that raised the most money for MDA in 2007 within their branch size category:

- ▶ **Grand Prize:** New Jersey Merged Branch 38, \$266,517
- ▶ **Category I (2,000-plus members):** St. Louis, Missouri Branch 343, \$47,422
- ▶ **Category II (1,500-1,999 members):** Central Florida Branch 1091, \$20,008
- ▶ **Category III (1,000-1,499 members):** Louisville, Kentucky Branch 14, \$41,359

- ▶ **Category IV (700-999 members):** Northeastern New York Branch 358, \$27,037
- ▶ **Category V (500-699 members):** Maine Merged Branch 92, \$14,162
- ▶ **Category VI (350-499 members):** Paterson, New Jersey Branch 120, \$11,728
- ▶ **Category VII (200-349 members):** Green Bay, Wisconsin Branch 619, \$16,624
- ▶ **Category VIII (100-199 members):** Fargo-West Fargo, North Dakota Branch 205, \$13,390
- ▶ **Category IX (50-99 members):** Freehold, New Jersey Branch 924, \$8,640
- ▶ **Category X (10-49 members):** New City, New York Branch 5229, \$13,000

Trustees for eligible delegates, including 32 Regional Administrative Assistants. When the original recommendation was made, President Young told the convention that all the union's RAAs were, for the first time, attending the convention to receive special training and would receive the per diem. The committee also examined transportation vouchers and recommended compensation for plane and train fares and mileage of \$9,099.46. Total for per diem was \$144,828. The report was approved unanimously.

President's Report

President Young then asked the members of the Committee on the President's Report to come to the stage:

Mike Barry (chair), Central California Coast Branch 52; Elizabeth Allevalo, Garden Grove, California Branch 1100; Roger Askew, Van Nuys, California Branch 2462; Karen Eshbarr, San Francisco, California Branch 214; Matty Rose, South Florida Branch 1071; and Paul Roznowski, Royal Oak, Michigan Branch 3126.

Barry noted that the report included numerous Presidential Rulings from the past year covering interpretation of the union's constitution and other regulations and rules, as well as an account of the union's activities and detailed reports from NALC Headquarters departments. The committee recommended approval of the report and it was adopted without dissent.

Scholarship Committee

Coming to the stage next at President Young's invitation was the Scholarship Committee, chaired by Jackie White of Los Angeles, California Branch 24. White first presented her committee's members, Sandy Laemmel of Detroit, Michigan Branch 1 and Art Muoio of Rochester, New



The Scholarship Committee (l-r): Sandy Laemmel, Art Muoio and Jackie White.

Mileage and Per Diem Committee

Next up was Mileage and Per Diem Committee Chair Jim Korolowicz of Utica, Michigan Branch 3274. Korolowicz introduced the committee members, Roxanne Luce of Sacramento, California Branch 133 and Jim Walzenbach of San Diego, California Branch 70, and then reported the committee recommended approval of the \$447 per diem proposed Wednesday by the National

- ▶ **1,500 members or more:** Minneapolis, Minnesota Branch 9
- ▶ **State with the highest percentage of Carrier Corps members:** North Dakota (State Chair Rick Olek)
- ▶ **Region with the highest percentage of Carrier Corps members:** Region 3 —Chicago (Neal Tisdale, National Business Agent)



NALC AUXILIARY Friday, July 25

Drawing to a close

Young then asked delegates to watch a short video that recapped the week of business and solidarity that was the 66th Biennial NALC Convention in Boston, a presentation that featured snapshots and short clips of the week's activities.

When the lights came up at the end of the video, Young first invited the members of the Distribution Committee on stage to receive the delegation's thanks:

Jill Lemons (chair), Canoga Park, California Branch 4006; Joan Crugnale, Providence, Rhode Island Branch 15; Susan Curry, Santa Clara, California Branch 1427; Nanette De La Rosa, Upland, California Branch 2168; Angela Dunn, Atlanta, Georgia Branch 73; Patricia Foster-Brown, Chicago, Illinois Branch 11; Jeffrey Fox, Bergen County Merged, New Jersey Branch 425; Mark Gortze, Hopkins, Minnesota Branch 2942; David Grosskopf Jr., Buffalo-Western New York Branch 3; Allen Harris Jr., Louisville, Kentucky Branch 14; Lewis Henry, New Hampshire Merged Branch 44; Peter Jablanski, Pascagoula, Mississippi Branch 2241; Melissa Kinworthy, Pekin, Illinois Branch 209; George Lengyel, Weirton, West Virginia Branch 3677; and Kathy McConnell, San Francisco, California Branch 214.

Also, Billy Miller, North Oakland County, Michigan Branch 320; John Mitchell, Independence, Missouri Branch 827; Steven Montuori, Brooklyn, New York Branch 41; Pascual Ortiz, New York City, New York Branch 36; Joseph Otero, New Jersey Merged Branch 38; Vicki Oxner, Arlington, Texas Branch 2309; Phil Rodriguez, Salt Lake City, Utah Branch 111; William Rolfe, Elyria, Ohio Branch 196; Norman Spence Jr., South Jersey Branch 908; Dianne Stewart, Los Angeles, California Branch 24; Dan Szucs, New Jersey Merged Branch 38; Dan Tegreeny, Central Florida Branch 1091; Sherunda Thomas, Houston, Texas Branch 283; James Weaver, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania Branch 500; and Jacob Wilkins, Scottsbluff, Nebraska Branch 1836.

President Young then asked the members of Boston Branch 34 to join him on stage and called on delegates to show their appreciation to the host branch. He then gathered Headquarters staffers on stage for similar recognition.

With the union's business complete, Young entertained a motion from the floor to adjourn the convention *sine die* until the 67th Biennial Convention in Anaheim. The motion was seconded and passed without objection. With that, President Young gavelled to a close the 66th Convention at 12:21 p.m.

President Young poses with delegates from host Branch 34, Boston, Massachusetts, thanking them for their work.



Executive Vice President Fred Rolando installs the national Auxiliary officers.

As delegates walked into the convention room for the final session, the Milwaukee Letter Carrier Band, under the direction of Gary Lavann, provided lively music.

Ohio State Association of Letter Carriers President Tony Heitic and the state's officers came to the podium to thank retiring board member Gloria Alexander for her years of dedication and service for the union and Auxiliary and wished her well in her retirement.

A moment of grace was provided by Gloria Alexander, who led the delegates in the reading of the collect.

Vice President Bonnie Christy reported that the following new and reinstated auxiliaries have formed since the last national convention: Appleton, Wisconsin; Greenwood, Mississippi; Lexington, Kentucky; Peoria, Illinois; Puyallup, Washington; Woodbury, New Jersey; York, Pennsylvania; Binghamton, New York; Richmond, Virginia; and Sacramento, California.

The chair recognized Country Store Chair Sue Prather, who gave an updated report of revenue generated at convention: \$2,494.50.

The chair recognized the chair of the Distribution Committee, Deborah Paar of Aux. 353—Tuscaloosa, Alabama, who introduced her committee and gave the final report of 32 items distributed. Chair of the Tellers Committee, Peggy Morris, gave the final report of two standing votes during the convention. Vicky Payne, Aux. 8—Salt Lake City, Utah, and Bob Batch, Aux. 111—Austin, Texas, were thanked for their diligence and service as the convention sergeants-at-arms. Kirby dismissed all committees and thanked them for their service.

NALC Executive Vice President Fred Rolando was welcomed to the podium for the installation of officers. Rolando thanked the Auxiliary for being an active partner in union causes and asked for our continued support to protect the future of letter carriers. Rolando then administered the oath of office to President Linda Kirby (Wisconsin), Vice President Bonnie Christy (Illinois), Secretary Marie Rasmussen (Wisconsin), Assistant Secretary Edie Pottenger (Colorado), Treasurer Kathy Miller (Iowa) and Bylaws Director Cythensis Lang (Alabama). Each officer addressed the delegates with thanks and a commitment to uphold the oath of their respective offices during the next term.

Drawings were held for the two quilts. The winner of the letter carriers' quilt was Mike Heitic from Ohio. The winner of the antique quilt of the states was Robert Hinson from Texas.

President Kirby lowered the gavel on the 51st National Convention of the NALC Auxiliary at 11:15 a.m.

*M. Marie Rasmussen,
NALCA Assistant Secretary*