



Tuesday, August 10,
covering the
FIRST SESSION,
Monday, August 9

NALC Convention Chronicle



President Fredric Rolando maps out the business for the week ahead.

Future in focus as President Rolando calls Anaheim convention to order

In a passionate and rousing opening address on Monday to the nearly 7,000 delegates present in Anaheim for the 67th Biennial National Association of Letter Carriers Convention, President Fredric V. Rolando spelled out the challenges facing the NALC over the next five days of the convention as well as for the months and years to come.

Combining his trademark humor with a fiery zeal that brought cheering delegates to their feet numerous times over the course of almost 90 minutes, Rolando called on each individual carrier to save the United States Postal Service, even if it means saving it from postal management.

The president set the tone for the week, touching on topics ranging from the need for letter carrier legislative activism to help preserve six-day mail delivery service, to push Congress to make important legislative changes, and to create innovative ideas for a Postal Service of the future—making certain that no member of the NALC could come away from the Monday session without a deep understanding of what lies ahead for letter carriers.

“The real strength of our union is the pride that each member feels as we serve our customers, in every neighborhood—at 150 million addresses nationwide—*six days a week*,” he said near the close of his speech. “We will stand up to protect the future of the Postal Service, because this

is our company, and *we are the Postal Service!*”

“Together, we are 300,000 strong, and together, we will succeed,” he said.

In addition to Rolando’s opening remarks, Monday’s attendees heard from NALC President Emeritus William H. Young and Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D-CA), learned how the simple act of delivering the mail helped reunite a mother and her missing son, and began to tackle the tough union business of working through a few contentious contract resolutions.

Getting down to business

Hundreds of letter carrier delegates streamed into Exhibit Hall D of the Anaheim Convention Center to the strains of patriotic musical selections performed by the Seattle letter carriers’ band.

At the front of the massive auditorium was the traditional main stage and podium, flanked by two giant video screens to either side. Across the wings of the stage were the words “Honoring the past” and “Imagining the future.”

Shortly after 10 a.m., National Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Broendel called the 67th Biennial Convention of the National Association of Letter Carriers to order and asked South Florida Branch 1071 member Stephanie Bostic to come forward to sing the “Star-Spangled

Banner.”

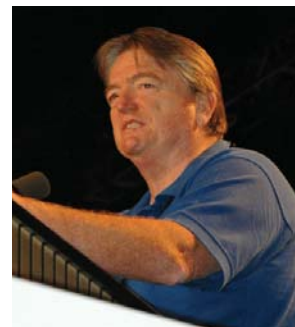
Following Bostic’s emotional rendition of the national anthem, Broendel invited Garden Grove, California Branch 1100 Executive Vice President Barbara Stickler to lead the assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Next, the Rev. Paula Swavely, senior minister of the Orange County Center for Spiritual Renewal, led the invocation, and Broendel then asked delegates to observe a moment of silence in remembrance of union members who had died since the 2008 National Convention in Anaheim.

Convention host Branch 1100 President Charlie Miller was invited to the stage, where he welcomed the convention to Orange County. Miller then introduced Anaheim Postmaster Art

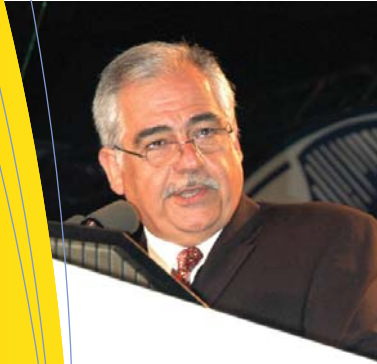


Secretary-Treasurer Jane Broendel



Garden Grove, California Branch 1100 President Charlie Miller

Region 1 National Business Agent Manuel Peralta Jr.



Cardenas, who provided a few brief welcoming remarks as well.

Next, Broendel acknowledged retired national officers gathered on the main stage, including former Executive Vice President Jim Williams, former Region 11 National Business Agent Bill

Cooke, former Region 10 NBA Gene Goodwin, former Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Jim Korolowicz, former Health Plan Director Tom Young, former Region 5 NBA Joe Miller, former Region 9 NBA Wayne White, former Region 7 NBA Barry Weiner, former Vice President Ron Brown, former Region 7 NBA Ned Furr, former Director of Safety and Health Al Ferranto, former Region 12 NBA Jim Dolan, former Director of Retired Members Don Southern, former Region 9 NBA Matty Rose, and former Region 14 NBA Paul Daniels.

Then, Region 1 NBA Manny Peralta came to the podium to acknowledge his fellow business agents from the union's 14 other regions, as well as each NBA's regional administrative assistants.

Broendel followed that with an introduction of the current resident national officers and trustees.

In welcoming President Rolando to the stage for his keynote address, Broendel noted how the union's top leader has been forced in his first year in office to operate on two levels—both to save the Postal Service from itself as well as to protect the interests of letter carriers.

"President Rolando's job now includes saving the Service from its own shortsighted arrogance," Broendel said. "This union will be ready to push, prod and kick the Postal Service to do the right thing."

Rolando's address

After entering the hall to Tom Petty's "I Won't Back Down," Rolando began his address by reminding delegates that all isn't bleak, and that the NALC remains the largest and best organized open shop union in America, while enjoying success in programs like Customer Connect and the annual Food Drive.

"I challenge anyone to name another union with a longer and richer tradition," he said.

And the NALC is a force for innovation, he said, raking in \$1 billion in new business since 2003 for the Postal Service through the Customer Connect program, not to mention the one billion pounds of donated food collected over the past 18 years in the annual "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive.

In addition, the various route adjustment innovations "show that we have the ability to think big and to act in a way that both protects our members and promotes the long-term viability of the Postal Service," Rolando said.

However, lowered mail volumes brought about by the worst recession since the Great Depression and increasing electronic diversion of the mail present tremendous challenges to letter carriers.

"The task for us all is to act now, while we still have a big, big business, to develop the new products and new services that will take advantage of both our huge network of employees and facilities and of our last-mile franchise," he said.

Then there are the other problems the Postal Service faces that are all-too-familiar to letter carriers—such as the overpayment of nearly \$75 billion in pension contributions, and the requirement to aggressively pre-fund future retiree health benefits to the tune of \$87 billion, something no other government agency or private business is required to do.

The Postal Service's proposal to cut costs by dropping a day of mail delivery would only worsen the prospects for the USPS.

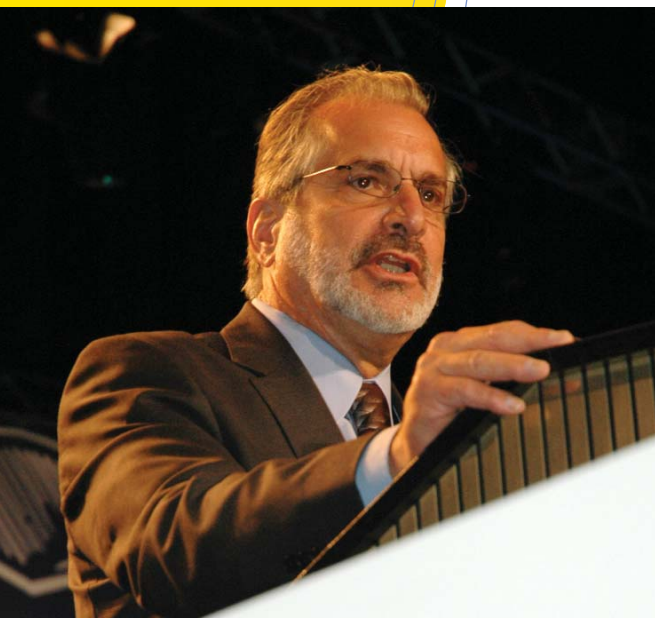
"The very idea of abandoning a day of service, harming customers, forcing them to alternative delivery systems, undercutting public reliance on postal deliveries—it's all so wrong that it borders on the lunatic," he said.

And, of course, our current contract expires just over 14 months from now. Bearing that in mind, Rolando outlined his four major goals for the next National Agreement:

- ◆ to extend and enforce the ban on outsourcing city carrier jobs
- ◆ to win more work for letter carriers through the assignment of new deliveries
- ◆ to develop a better, fairer system for evaluating and adjusting routes
- ◆ to prepare for the next round of wage bargaining.

"It is no exaggeration to say that the next round of bargaining will be the most difficult in our history," Rolando said, proposing to spend time Thursday discussing the NALC's approach to negotiating a new contract.

"Let me be up front and unambiguous about one thing, however," Rolando said.





Abby Potash and Sam Fastow

“And chip this one in stone: NALC is 100 percent committed to fight to protect the job security and standard of living of letter carriers, no matter what economic conditions we face. We will not give it up.

“If the Postal Service approaches bargaining in good faith, and with creativity, it will have a willing partner. [But] if the USPS approaches bargaining with the goal of gutting our pay and benefits, or tries to exploit the national economic crisis by making demands for sharp cuts and givebacks,” Rolando declared, “it will have a bloody fight on its hands.”

The union’s legislative activists will continue to have a role to play in protecting the NALC’s interests, Rolando said, electing pro-letter carrier and pro-labor candidates from both parties, and lobbying Congress to protect our pensions, health care and other benefits.

The union’s two top legislative goals remain permanently reforming the retiree health pre-funding provisions of the 2006 postal reform law, and defeating the Service’s proposal to eliminate Saturday mail delivery.

Some progress has already been made, thanks to H.R. 5746, a bill offered by Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA), which seeks to recover and transfer the postal pension surplus to the postal retiree health fund to fully pre-fund all future retiree health benefits. The next step will be to repeal the \$5.5 billion pre-funding payments, which is likely to become more feasible once Congress sees that the retiree health fund is fully funded.

Rolando urged delegates to contact their congressional representatives to make sure they are co-sponsors of H.R. 5746.

Saving Saturdays

“We must also stop the Postal Service from making the biggest strategic blunder since it gave away the Express Mail market in 1978,” Rolando said, “when it voluntarily loosened the private express statutes at the urging of a small, unknown company in Memphis called Federal Express. The rest is history.”

He called giving up the key advantage the USPS has over its competitors at the same time it is raising rates “downright crazy.”

“Thanks to our legislative and political activists, we are making real gains in the battle” to save Saturday delivery,” Rolando said.

“This week I will ask each of you to pledge to find three businesses back home to formally oppose the loss of Saturday delivery. I am convinced we will win the battle for the hearts and minds of the American people.”

Rally for jobs

The president put this struggle in the context of the overall economy.

“As long as there are 15 million Americans out of work and another 13 million discouraged and underemployed workers, the outlook for the Postal Service will remain bleak,” he said, since payroll growth is the number one indicator of future mail volume growth.

Rolando announced that AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka will speak to the convention before heading to a massive noon “Rally for Jobs” in downtown Los Angeles, a rally that will also call for supporting the preservation of six-day delivery as a means toward saving 80,000 postal employee jobs.

The president outlined a proposal to alter the convention’s hours on Friday to allow delegates to take part in the rally, which the convention approved.

Necessary innovation

The real key to bolstering the USPS’ future, Rolando said, is innovation that will increase services and revenue.

“In a perfect world, we would have a more-than-willing partner in the Postal Service, willing to explore and experiment out-of-the-box,” he said. “Unfortunately, at the moment, we have a Postal Service dedicated to cuts in service, not service expansion.”

Rolando acknowledged the contributions of active and retired members in the evolution of what a letter carrier is today, and pointed to the results of the annual Ponemon Institute study that showed the Postal Service is once again the most trusted government agency.

Our work with the food drive, the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Carrier Alert, and the Cities Readiness Initiative all certainly play a role, he said. And for many Americans around the country, the letter carrier is the only face they see each day.

He concluded by telling the delegates that there is plenty for NALC members to do—not just during the convention week, but in the months and years ahead, as NALC works to save Saturday Delivery, revitalize the Postal Service and help rebuild America.

Sam’s story

President Rolando then introduced Vincent Giuliano, vice president of govern-

ment relations for Valassis Direct Mail Inc. In 1985, Giuliano, in conjunction with the Center for Missing and Exploited Children, devised the idea of the “America’s Looking for Its Missing

Children” program, which places photos of abducted or lost children on Valassis’ Red Plum coupon mailers. Coming to the stage with Giuliano was Sam Fastow, along with his mother, Abby. In 1997, a 10-year-old Sam was abducted from his home in Hamburg, New Jersey, by his father—but was located and rescued just eight months later thanks to a patron in Alvin, Texas, who recognized Sam’s face from the cover of a Red Plum packet.

“I know delivering mail is your job,” Sam said, “but for families with missing kids, you also deliver hope.”

Credentials report

President Rolando next called to the stage Rod Holub of Manhattan, Kansas Branch 1018, the chair of the Credentials Committee. Holub reported that, as of Monday morning, 6,447 convention delegates had registered, including 6,358 branch delegates, 61 delegates-at-large, and 28 national officers, with more arriving during the course of the day. Holub noted that the preliminary tally represented 568 branches from all 50 states, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. He said registration was continuing and the committee would present a final report later in the week.

Board of Tellers

President Rolando then announced his appointment under Article 5, Section 6 of the NALC Constitution of Joe DeRossi of Brooklyn, NY Br. 41 as Election Commissioner. DeRossi, in turn, announced the names of the members of the Board of Tellers:

Helen Amill, Br. 36, New York, NY; David Barbuizi, Br. 25, Mass. NE Merged; James Beach, Br. 644, Muscatine, IA; Kevin Boyer, Br. 763, Columbia, MO; Shawn Boyd, Br. 132, Dallas, TX; Geoffrey Brown, Br. 11, Chicago, IL; Lisa Contos, Br. 2778, Sparks, NV; Terry Davis, Br. 1358, Tulsa, OK; Rocco Evangelista, Br. 78, Columbus, OH; Jim Falvey Jr., Br. 82, Portland, OR; Paul Gillie, Mid-Michigan Br. 256; Jose Gonzalez, Br. 24, Los Angeles, CA; Pete Goodman, Br. 2309, Arlington, TX; Michael Harazmus, Br. 46, Springfield, MA; Thomas Harlow, Br. 439, Greenville, SC; Danny Hatchett, Br. 197, Shreveport, LA; Mark Judd, Br. 2184, W. Wayne Co., MI; Ivars Lauersons, Br. 214, San Francisco, CA; William LeLand, Br. 132, Dallas, TX; Ed Mansfield, Br. 2148, Sarasota, FL; Vincent Mase, Br. 19, New Haven, CT; Clarence McCarthy, Br. 709, Reno, NV; Timothy McKay, Br. 531, Charleston, WV; Keith Nelson, Br. 4319, Anchorage, AK; Laurence Pasciuto, Br. 2502, Las

Vegas, NV; Darla Peterson, Br. 491, Sioux Falls, SD; Jeffrey Rainey, Br. 30, Kansas City, MO; Marilyn Ray, Br. 1071, South Florida; Joe Rutkowski III, New Jersey Mgd. Br. 38; George Sarvis, Br. 137, Hudson Valley, NY; Marie Tartaglione, Br. 41, Brooklyn, NY; Paul Toms, Br. 39, Indianapolis, IN; Sandy Otis Walker, Br. 914, Lake Charles, LA; Marion Ware, Br. 283, Houston, TX; Andrew Weiner, Br. 562, Jamaica, NY; Timothy Whelan, Br. 157, Philadelphia, PA; Leo Zachwieja, Br. 157, Philadelphia, PA.

Friday 'Rally for Jobs'

After delegates approved the rules of the Convention as proposed by the Rules Committee, President Rolando asked delegates to consider two special motions: to use Thursday morning's session as a sort of mini rap session to discuss the next round of collective bargaining, and to modify the Convention schedule to allow delegates to participate in an AFL-CIO "Paychecks Pay the Bills" jobs rally at noontime Friday in downtown Los Angeles. Delegates approved both schedule changes.

The Rules Committee: Dan Tegreeny (chair), Central Florida Br. 1091; Karrie Blough, Austin, TX Br. 181; Tom Cleer, Arlington, VA Br. 3520; Ron Resop, Arizona Mgd. Br. 1902; Stephanie Stewart, Central Iowa Br. 352.

As a result, Friday morning's workshops will be moved to an earlier time, with further details to be announced during Tuesday's session, although President Rolando did announce that rally participants will receive special T-shirts plus box lunches, and that buses will convey participants from the Anaheim Convention Center to the rally and back.

President Emeritus Bill Young addresses the convention.



Young looks back

President Rolando then took the microphone to propose a resolution declaring his predecessor, William H. Young, "president emeritus." The delegates approved the resolution by acclamation, whereupon



All's 'faire' at opening reception

The 67th Biennial Convention launched Sunday with a well attended opening reception. Delegates and family members arriving from Alaska to Puerto Rico and Maine to Guam came for food, music, and entertainment in the California sun.

Children and adults alike amused themselves at carnival-style game booths, with prizes for winners. Others sat for caricatures and removable tattoos or enjoyed the antics of entertainer "Alvin the Average." Over the three-hour event, letter carriers connected with old friends and made new ones while they enjoyed pizza, sliders, soft pretzels and funnel cake.





From top:
Executive Vice
President Gary
Mullins, Vice
President
George Mignosi
and Assistant
Secretary-
Treasurer
Nicole Rhine



President Rolando invited now-President Emeritus Young to address the convention.

Looking back on his more than three decades of service to letter carriers as a national officer—not to mention 21 national conventions, including this one—Young expressed his unwavering confidence in the union’s members. “I was interested in seeing what you and I together could accomplish,” he said, “and by God, you never let me down, and I thank you.”

Young also offered some advice to the delegates: “During your deliberations, do not let any single issue divide this union.” At the conclusion of Young’s remarks, President Rolando led delegates in a “letter carrier cheer” for Young.

President Rolando then addressed the floor regarding the current Joint Alternate Route Adjustment Process, or JARAP. He acknowledged that creating the process had proved difficult and painful at times, but he said the process for handling route adjustments continues to steadily improve. “The monster here is not the process—the monster is the volume,” he said. He then asked delegates involved with JARAP at the branch level to stand up and be recognized for the work they do.

Resolutions considered

Executive Vice President Gary Mullins then took the podium to explain the process by which convention resolutions are considered. He introduced the resolutions the Executive Council had recommended for approval. A motion to adopt those resolutions *en bloc* was approved by acclamation.

The adopted resolutions included a proposal to require all temporary employees (TEs) to take the 473 exam, to let employees use

accrued sick leave to care for a family member, to use national resources for a national “day of action” campaign to save Saturday service, and for TEs to be capped at current levels and existing TEs to be converted to regular carriers.

Legislative resolutions adopted included a call to support legislation expanding Family and Medical Leave Act coverage to care for children of any age, legislation granting parity in retirement income taxation, a bill giving retirees access to Medicare Part D subsidies, a proposal to petition for a postal union member to be appointed to the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC), legislation to provide benefits to all letter carrier families regardless of sexual orientation, and a call for the repeal of federal law that preempts a state’s definition of marriage so Postal Service employees can receive benefits based on a particular state’s law.

Next, Vice President George Mignosi introduced for consideration resolutions that the Executive Council had recommended for disapproval. The sponsors of National Agreement Resolutions 15 and 16 withdrew them, noting that the passage of Resolution 14 in the previous *en bloc* vote had addressed their concerns. Resolution 14 adds proposed language that would abolish a route or full-time duty assignment if more than 50 percent of the delivery points assigned have been eliminated.

The Convention agreed to the disapproval of National Agreement Resolution 7, which would have granted “super-seniority” to alternate stewards, and of National Agreement Resolution 8, which would have forbidden the union from entering into a national route adjustment agreement that restricted the ability of branches to initiate grievances.

The delegates began a debate over National Agreement Resolution 9, which would require a vote of the national membership before the union could



NALCAUXILIARY Monday, August 9

Auxiliary delegates to the 52nd National Convention were greeted by the lively sounds of music provided by the Memphis Letter Carrier Band under the direction of Carl Flake. Color Guard Vickie Payne (Aux. 8—Salt Lake City, Utah) presented the colors. The band accompanied Donna Beckwood, Branch 530 Birmingham, Alabama, who sang the National Anthem. President Linda Kirby (Wisconsin) called the meeting to order, with this year’s theme being “Membership—The Key to Our Success.”

President Kirby introduced the National Auxiliary board: Cythensis Lang (Alabama), vice president; Marie Rasmussen (Wisconsin), secretary; Edie Pottenger (Colorado), assistant secretary; Kathy Miller (Iowa), treasurer; and Sue Prather (Oklahoma), bylaws chair. Peggy Morris (Texas) was introduced as a past national president and Bonnie Christy (Illinois), Geraldine Turner (South Carolina) and Patsy Mester (Illinois) were introduced as past national officers. James Stewart was named convention parliamentarian.

Edie Pottenger (Aux. 444—Denver) presented a moment of grace and led the delegation in reciting the organization’s collect.

Jeanette Meyer, president Aux. 361—Modesto, California, welcomed all the officers, delegates and guests to California for the convention. Jeanette wished everyone a great convention and hopes we enjoy the great weather.

Six first-time convention delegates introduced themselves. President Kirby announced committee assignments.

Rep. Loretta Sanchez DEMOCRAT -CA



enter into a national agreement on route adjustment that uses unverified DOIS counts and volume inputs. A teller vote was called for but was held off to allow Rep. Loretta Sanchez a chance to speak to the delegates.

President Rolando then introduced Rep. Sanchez, who has represented Anaheim in the House since 1997. Rolando noted that Sanchez is a strong supporter of letter carriers and a co-sponsor of H. Res. 173, the congressional resolution calling for the continuation of six-day mail delivery, as well as of H.R. 5746, the bill that would correct an erroneous \$50 billion to \$75 billion overpayment to the U.S. Treasury by the Postal Service into the Civil Service Retirement Fund.

“You’re good as gold”

Inviting members of Garden Grove Branch 1100 to join her on stage during her speech, Rep. Sanchez brimmed with affection and enthusiasm for letter carriers and for all working men and women. She said she admired letter carriers’ hardworking “six-day legs” and pledged to keep them walking six days of the week. She also said she admired how letter carriers manage to reach the remote Arkansas town where her grandmother lives. “You’re as good as gold, and we’re going to keep you that way,” she said.

Sanchez also noted that letter carriers provide plenty of services beyond delivering

mail, such as collecting donations for the annual food drive, helping customers in crisis, and providing daily contact for isolated people.

“I know all the work you do that’s not in the job description,” she said. “That’s what being an American is all about—doing all of that.”

Sanchez heralded the accomplishments of the current Congress, including credit card reform, financial regulation and “the gift of health care for everyone.” She criticized opponents in Congress for attempting to block this agenda. “Enough of the ‘no,’” she said. “People don’t send us to Washington to do nothing.”

The delegates rewarded her with a “letter carrier cheer” after she expressed confidence that an economic recovery would be led by working men and women, saying that “Americans are the most productive workers in the world.”

The Convention then returned to consideration of Resolution 9. After the delegates approved extending the day’s business and moving the Secretary-Treasurer’s report to Tuesday, the teller vote on Resolution 9 was held. Delegates ultimately upheld the Executive Council’s disapproval of the resolution by a vote of 3,451 to 1,428.

The Convention adjourned shortly after 3:30 p.m. ☒

Letter carriers bought close to 650 raffle tickets for the MDA benefit Sunday afternoon—hundreds more than expected. Each had their eyes on the grand prize Harley Davidson motorcycle, but Nancy Taylor, Br. 3867 Pasadena, Texas, was the one who rode away with the bike.



Dressed in period clothing, each national officer represented a national president from the Auxiliary’s past. The Auxiliary’s involvement over the last 105 years has reflected the changes to the NALC, but the mission remains the same—to support the NALC and its charities.

Credentials Committee Chair Amanda Miller (Aux. 141—Oklahoma City) introduced committee member Cynthia Martinez (Aux. 377—Phoenix, Arizona) and presented the convention credentials

report. Bylaws Co-Chairs Sue Prather (Aux. 141) and Cythensis Lang (Aux. 2517—Mobile) introduced their committee members: George Anna Myers (Aux. 4—Kansas City, Missouri), Paula Connell (Aux. 2907—Edison, New Jersey) and Jeanette Strohl (Aux. 1—Portland, Oregon). Bylaws duly submitted for action prior to the convention were presented. Those actions are part of the recorded minutes.

National Treasurer Kathy Miller (Aux. 200—Iowa City) updated the delegates

on the filing of e-postcards and possible implications if the postcards are not filed appropriately and timely.

All delegates were reminded to make their individual and auxiliary donations to COLCPE, MDA and the William C. Doherty Scholarship Fund. Recognition of two-year contributors of at least \$50 per year to COLCPE will be recognized during Wednesday’s business session.

**M. Marie Rasmussen,
NALCA Secretary**