

# New **GIMME 5** contest for COLCPE

## COLCPE donors could collect \$1,000

**F**ive lucky donors to COLCPE will win \$1,000 each in a new “Gimme 5” competition announced by NALC President William H. Young. There’s a new twist to this year’s contest—the race to qualify is among NALC branches, grouped by size, with members of five winning locals automatically entered in the contest drawing.

“We want to build on our success over the past two years,” President Young said. “And by success, I mean both the way we increased COLCPE contributions and the fact that we helped elect a president who cares about working families and more pro-labor members of Congress, in both the House and Senate.”

**“We can’t relax now. You can tell already that the losers in 2008 are just itching to start the 2010 campaign. We have to be ready to answer them.”**

**—President William H. Young**

The new contest, he said, puts the focus on growing automatic Gimme 5 donations of \$5 or more per pay period at the branch level, the source of the union’s organizational strength.

The Committee on Letter Carrier Political Education, or COLCPE, is NALC’s political action committee. Funds are used to support candidates—Republicans, Democrats and independents—who support letter carriers’ issues, and to help finance get-out-the-vote and other political activities. Absolutely no union dues money is used to support political candidates.

Contributions to COLCPE are entirely voluntary. Tens of thousands of active and retired NALC members choose to give each year, many through regular deductions from their paychecks or monthly annuity payments, or by electronic funds transfer from their checking accounts.

“It’s tempting to rest on our laurels, but we can’t relax now,” President Young warned. “You can tell by the political posturing around the economic stimulus legislation that the losers in 2008 are just itching to start the 2010 campaign. We have to be ready to answer them.”

“Our struggle to rebuild the middle class is just beginning,” he added.

“Gimme 5 for COLCPE” was launched just three years ago, in March 2006, with the aim of increasing the number of automatic contributors. The target of \$5 per pay period represents just 50 cents per work day. The goal for retiree contributions is \$5 each month. (Of course, any amount is welcome.)

“A steady stream of contributions is really important for planning by our Legislative and Political Affairs Department and for budgeting our resources over the coming months,” Young explained.

### How the contest works

For the 2009 COLCPE campaign, the union locals will be divided into five categories:

Branches with 2,000 or more members, 1,000 to 1,999 members, 500 to 999 members, 100 to 499 members, and 50 to 99 members.

Between now and the end of the year, branches will strive to sign up as many active and retired members as possible as *automatic Gimme 5-level* COLCPE

donors. The five branches with *the highest percentage* of members who are Gimme 5 contributors in their size category as of December 31 will be the winners.

At that point, each winning branch will conduct a raffle among all of its Gimme 5 members and the winner will receive a \$1,000 American Express gift card. In addition, the five winning branches will each receive laptop computers for branch use, and the COLCPE coordinators of each winning branch will receive a \$200 gift card upon completion of a report on their branch's winning strategy.

There will be a special prize for making the greatest progress. The branch recording the most growth in percentage of automatic contributors during the contest months also will stage a \$1,000 raffle for eligible members, receive a laptop, and the COLCPE coordinator will receive a gift certificate. (The branch winning this special prize must not have won in its size category in the general competition.)

And don't think for a minute that branches with 49 or fewer members are being forgotten. All Gimme 5 contributors in these branches will be entered into a separate raffle, with one lucky winner drawn for a \$1,000 gift card.

Over coming months, branch standings will be reported and updated on the NALC website so members can track the progress of their home branch. Winning branches will be announced in the February 2010 *Postal Record*, the annual COLCPE recognition issue. ✉

**Note:** Contributions to COLCPE are not tax deductible.



## Rally for EFCA

NALC officers and staff joined their brothers and sisters from the AFL-CIO for a rally to support the Employee Free Choice Act, held at the Capitol on February 4. The event featured speakers who lost their jobs for trying to form a union as well as congressional representatives and senators (Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin makes a fiery appeal for EFCA above). At left, union members hold boxes full of the 1.5 million signed petitions the AFL-CIO collected to show the widespread support for the measure, which would make it easier for workers to join a union as well as protect them from illegal retribution. The rally was part of the effort to convince Congress to pass the bill and deliver it to President Obama, who has promised to sign it.