

Another bounce back for Clinton



Texas State Association members cheer during a Hillary Clinton rally held before that state's primary.

With primary election wins in Ohio, Texas and Rhode Island, New York Sen.

Hillary Clinton staged a political resurrection last month and remained in a virtual dead heat in the race for the Democratic nomination for president.

"Heading into the March 4 primaries, the news media had pretty much counted Hillary out," said NALC President Bill Young. "But when letter carriers voted last summer to endorse Senator Clinton for president, we knew we were backing a fighter."

As this issue of *The Postal Record* went to press, members of the NALC Carrier Corps and other letter carrier activists and volunteers were focused on get-out-the-vote efforts for the April 22 primary in Pennsylvania, the next "battleground state."

"After spending hours delivering mail, our members are putting on their blue activist T-shirts and pulling out all the stops to make sure Hillary comes out on top in the Keystone State," Young said.

The NALC leader warned against complacency. "Yes, the polls show Hillary leading [Illinois Sen. Barack] Obama in Pennsylvania, and yes, she has many friends in labor there," he said. "But winning Pennsylvania isn't a

lock, and it doesn't sew up the nomination, not by a long shot."

Between the Pennsylvania vote and the Democratic convention in Denver, seven other states have primaries scheduled: Indiana and North Carolina May 6, West Virginia May 13, Kentucky and Oregon May 20, and Montana and South Dakota June 3. With Clinton and Obama separated by just over 100 delegates, Young said, "It's still a race—a race letter carriers intend to help our friend Hillary win."

Unresolved at press time was what to do about delegates from Michigan and Florida. The Democratic National Committee disqualified them for shifting their primaries ahead of "Super Tuesday," February 5. Clinton won both states, although no candidates campaigned in either one. Some sort of re-vote remained an option, but Florida Democrats ruled out holding a mail-in do-over.

'Maverick' label disputed

Meanwhile, self-described "maverick" Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona was his party's nominee in all but name after his March 5 victories.

While part of McCain's allure is his "independent streak," a new website, mccainrevealed.org, presents evidence that a McCain presidency would amount to a third term for George W. Bush.

The site, prepared by the AFL-CIO's Committee on Political Education, notes that McCain has voted in lockstep with the president 89 percent since 2001—a whopping 95 percent of the time in 2007.

And McCain's record shows he is no friend of working people. He opposed last year's minimum wage increase, voted against the Employee Free Choice Act, and is on record as being against collective bargaining rights for government employees, including local police and fire fighters, and federal Transportation Security Administration workers. ☒



Dallas, Texas Branch 132 members volunteered their time to construct more than 250 Hillary signs.



Executive Vice President Fred Rolando, I, shakes hands with Sen. Frank Lautenberg, as New Jersey State Association President Tony Massa looks on.



Frank Pallone Jr. (D-6th)



Rush Holt Jr. (D-12th)

Garden State carriers lobby

Kicking off the traditional rite of spring letter carrier visits to Washington, a delegation of NALC activists from New Jersey came to Capitol Hill in March to lobby their elected officials.

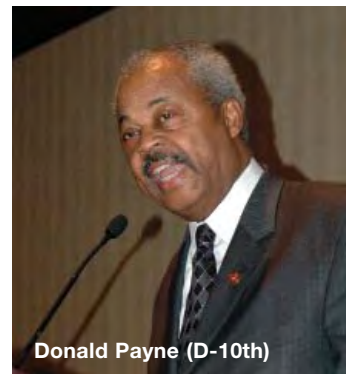
Included on the agenda was a legislative breakfast, where scores of Garden State carriers heard remarks from a number of their congressional representatives, including Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D) and Reps. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-11th), E. Scott Garrett (R-5th), Rush Holt (D-12th), Frank Pallone (D-6th), William Pascrell (D-8th), Donald Payne (D-10th), Steven Rothman (D-9th) and Albio Sires (D-13th).

Later, the union's national officers and staff, as well as New Jersey State Chair Tony Massa, conducted a lively rap session that included an update from the NALC's Legislative and Political Department on the union's election-year program.

Also on the political front, the NALC state chairs' semi-annual training conference was getting under way in Washington as this issue of *The Postal Record* went to press. Coverage of that meeting will appear in next month's issue. ✉



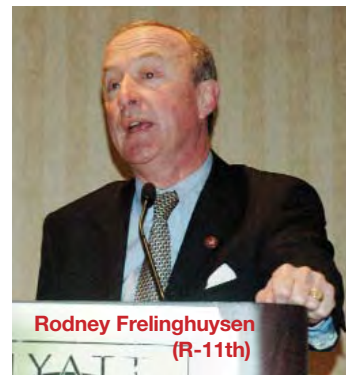
Albio Sires (D-13th)



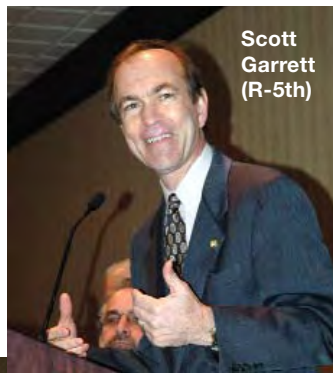
Donald Payne (D-10th)



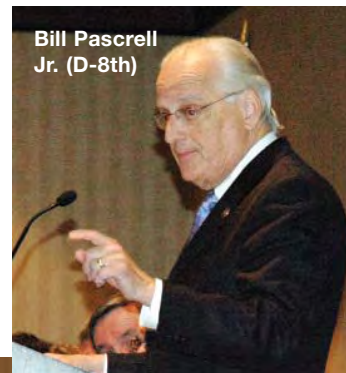
Steven Rothman (D-9th)



Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-11th)



Scott Garrett (R-5th)



Bill Pascrell Jr. (D-8th)



Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D)



Sen. Robert Menendez (D) spoke to a group of the activists while they were in Washington.

Photo by Pat Flannery

