



President William H. Young has selected 30 NALC members to be participants in the next round of the union's Leadership Academy, convening late this summer—the fourth such class since the Academy began in 2005.

"These men and women were chosen because they have shown both the desire and the potential to become the leaders who will carry the NALC into the future," Young said. A listing of the class members—two from each of the 15 NALC regions—appears at right.

Hundreds of letter carriers from all over the nation applied for the Academy spots. While the carriers' past and present union leadership

roles were key factors in the selections, candidates were also required to compose an essay that outlined why they should be chosen to take part. Further, every applicant had to obtain the endorsement of a current union leader, such as a branch, state or national officer, who also agreed to

serve as a mentor to the candidate throughout the Leadership Academy process.

Applications have been reopened for future classes with the form available online (*see details on next page*).

Still going strong

President Young created the Leadership Academy in an effort to encourage a new generation of leaders to step forward from the rank and file, and to give them a broad education in critical skills.

"The Academy teaches these folks how we define the word 'leader' in the NALC," Young said. "Not every one of them will become a branch president or a national officer, but they will all come away from their courses better prepared to lead, no matter what they do."

Academy classes take place at the National Labor College in Silver Spring, Maryland, just outside Washington. The newly announced class, the second of 2007, is scheduled to attend three week-long sessions, August 13-17, October 15-19 and December 3-7.

However, President Young stressed that "learning how to become a leader doesn't happen by just sitting inside a classroom or office." Between class sessions in Washington, participants work on a variety of independent projects assisted by their mentors.

Letter carriers

selected for

Leadership Academy

Leadership Academy

Second class of 2007

Region 1

Matthew Kozlo, Branch 24, Los Angeles, CA
Jill Lemons, Branch 4006, Canoga Park, CA

Region 2

Laura Denevan, Branch 1192, Lewiston, ID
Eric Pardick, Branch 442, Spokane, WA

Region 3

Melissa Kinworthy, Branch 209, Pekin, IL
Margaret Parker, Branch 219, Aurora, IL

Region 4

Corey Belo, Branch 5996, Aurora, CO
Rene Eberhardt, Branch 1681, Casper, WY

Region 5

Maureen Holtgraves, Branch 5521, Shawnee Mission, KS
Jeremy Liebsack, Branch 5, Omaha, NE

Region 6

John Dick, Branch 3126, Royal Oak, MI
Anthony Weddle, Branch 14, Louisville, KY

Region 7

Mark Bubel, Branch 28, St. Paul, MN
Michael Smith, Branch 9, Minneapolis, MN

Region 8

E. Gerald Gauche, Branch 2464, Houma-Thibodaux-Lockport, LA
Chris Verville, Branch 4, Nashville, TN

Region 9

Veronica Flores, Branch 1690, West Palm Beach, FL
Byron Shelton, Branch 1091, Orlando, FL

Region 10

Sherri Butler, Branch 283, Houston, TX
Shawn Boyd, Branch 132, Dallas, TX

Region 11

Mark Camilli, Branch 358, Northeastern NY
Henry Gomez, Branch 385, Youngstown, OH

Region 12

Natalie Barrios, Branch 284, Erie, PA
Joseph Rodgers, Branch 157, Philadelphia, PA

Region 13

Doreen Carter, Branch 176, Baltimore, MD
Geneva Kubal, Branch 567, Northern Virginia

Region 14

William Bothwell, Branch 44, NH Merged
Gerald DiChiara, Branch 33, MA North Shore Merged

Region 15

Carol Brown, Branch 6000, Long Island Mgd., NY
Anthony Perconte, Branch 4102, Scotch Plains, NJ

"These men and women have a lot of talent and determination," Young said. "I'm confident that by adding them to the growing ranks of Academy graduates, we are helping to secure the future of the NALC."

Current class wraps up

Meanwhile, the first Leadership Academy class of 2007 was scheduled for its final week of course work June 4-8.

In April, participants gathered at the Labor College to review the take-home assignments they received during their first week of classes in January. Class discussions and projects dealing with issues unique to the labor movement and the NALC were packed into a grueling daily schedule that began early and ended well into the evening hours.

An overview of the union's contract administration unit, a review of the union's retirement and legislative departments and Health Benefit Plan, and the intervention process were just some of the topics addressed during the marathon sessions. Facilitators also continued to stress formal communication skills—both written and verbal.

Former Executive Vice President Jim Williams helped develop the Academy's curriculum and he now supervises the program together with retired Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Jim Korolowicz. National officers and headquarters staffers lead group discussions related to their fields of expertise.

Forms for the future

As noted earlier, applications are now being accepted for future sessions. "The Academy requires a monumental commitment of time and energy," Young reminded potential applicants. "We're looking for candidates who are serious—really serious—about learning what it takes to be a leader in the NALC."

The application form can be found on the NALC's website at www.nalc.org. Forms must be postmarked by September 30 in order for candidates to be eligible for selection for a 2008 session.

Any previous applicant who still wants to be considered for selection must submit a new application with updated information. The new application must include a renewed commitment from the mentor. ✉