

President Young retires, hands reins to Rolando

NALC President William H. Young announced on June 4 that he would retire effective July 3 and resign his office, with Executive Vice President Fredric V. Rolando assuming the union's highest position under the terms of the *NALC Constitution*.

Young, who will turn 63 this August and is in good health, had frequently mentioned his intention to retire over the past year, but had not disclosed the date until the posting of a brief announcement on the union's website.

In his farewell President's Message appearing in this issue, Young notes he has served letter carriers in various capacities for 40 years and says, "Now it is time for me to pass the baton of leadership to a new generation of leaders." (*A retrospective account of his service to the NALC and its members will appear in the August Postal Record.*)

Rolando, 56, said he anticipates few problems making the transition to the office of president, thanks to many hours he and Young have spent together over the past year discussing the issues facing letter carriers and the NALC and strategies for dealing with them.

With eight years' experience as a national officer, he added, "I've been knocked around a little and learned some lessons. I couldn't have had a better teacher."

"I want the members to know that our commitment to seeking the best for them won't change," he said. "President Young and I have been working together closely to develop a vision and a program for the future and I believe this change should be smooth and seamless."

That does not mean there won't be bumps in the road and challenges ahead, he cautioned. "The situation for the Postal Service and the NALC is very fluid. A lot hinges on the economy. But our legislative and political agenda is clear and we are engaged with the Postal Service. There is work to be done, but

we have the resources to succeed," said Rolando, whose final Executive Vice President's column appears on page 40.

Bill Young was sworn in as the 17th National President of the NALC in December 2002, following an overwhelming victory in nationwide balloting, and was elected to a second four-year term by acclamation at the 2006 National Convention in Las Vegas. Rolando will complete that term. This is the first time in NALC's nearly 120-year history that the president has resigned from office.

A member of Central California Coast Branch 52 and a full-time union officer for more than 30 years, Young served as a regional administrative assistant and then National Business Agent in Region 1 before coming to national headquarters in Washington in 1990 as assistant secretary-treasurer. He then served as director of city delivery, vice president and executive vice president before succeeding his mentor, long-time NALC President Vincent R. Sombrotto.

Rolando belongs to the 350-member Sarasota, Florida Branch 2148. He began his letter carrier career in 1978 and was president of Branch 2148 for more than a decade. From 1992 to 1999 he was a part-time RAA for Atlanta Region 9, then was a full-time RAA from 1999 until February 2002, when President Sombrotto named him director of city delivery to fill a vacancy. He was elected to that post by acclamation at the 2002 convention in Philadelphia, and was elected executive vice president by acclamation at the 2006 convention.

Rolando holds a B.S. degree in criminology and psychology. He and his wife, Jolene, have four children; two daughters, ages 14 and 22, and two sons, ages 17 and 29. ☒



President Young makes a point during an Executive Council meeting in 2007.