

Postal positive



Andy Rooney, the curmudgeonly commentator on the CBS News program "60 Minutes," extolled the value of the Postal Service during the October 4 broadcast of the popular magazine-style show and argued against cuts in delivery service and closing of offices. You can read or watch his remarks by going to the "60 Minutes" section of cbsnews.com. ☒

No 2010 retiree COLA

There will be no 2010 cost-of-living adjustment for postal annuitants under either the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) or Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS).

COLAs are computed based on the change in the Consumer Price Index from one year to the next. But amid the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, the Bureau of Labor Statistics calculated the CPI actually decreased between the third quarter of 2008 and the same period in 2009.

Because Social Security also uses the CPI numbers for its COLAs, Social Security recipients will not see a raise in January, either.

As this magazine was being prepared, the White House and congressional leaders were considering a one-time \$250 payment to be sent to those who receive Social Security, as well as to CSRS annuitants. (CSRS beneficiaries who also receive Social Security would be limited to one payment.) ☒

Secretary-Treasurer training



NALC Secretary-Treasurer Jane Broendel (above, second from l) led two sessions of training for branch and state officers who deal directly with union finances. With the help of NALC's Director of Education Jamie Lumm (above, l), Broendel trained participants on taxes, payroll, accounting systems and more. The first training was held September 28-30 in Washington, (pictured) and the second October 19-21 in Chicago.

Through Customer Connect, letter carriers are taking advantage of their special relationships to encourage business patrons to use USPS instead of private delivery services. Since the startup in mid-2003, letter carriers have generated more than **\$788 million** in new annual revenue.

