



## Still Delivering: A history of the Letter Carriers



Above: A panel from the exhibit at Wayne State University's Reuther Library.

Below: NALC President Fred Rolando welcomes visitors during the opening reception.

# NALC archives yield rich display of history

A crowd of roughly 150 people gathered at Wayne State University's Reuther Library in Detroit September 21 to celebrate the opening of a major exhibit, "Still Delivering: A History of the Letter Carriers 1889-2009." Through photographs, pamphlets, uniforms, memorabilia and historical documents from NALC's archival collection, the exhibit brings the union's 120-year history vividly to life.

Branch 1 whose papers are housed at the archives, also attended.

"Still Delivering" occupies the main exhibit hall in the atrium of the Reuther Library. Many visitors stopped to have their picture taken with the two life-sized photos of letter carriers—one historic and one contemporary—that open the exhibit. The display moves from the earliest days of mail delivery in what became the United States, through the advent of free city delivery in 1863, and ends with the changing face of mail in the 21st century.

Along the way, visitors can learn about the founding of the NALC in 1889, the construction of the Washington headquarters building, and national leaders through the years. The 1970 postal strike, an event that guarantees NALC a prominent spot in any account of organized labor in America, comes alive through such items as a strike placard, contemporary editorial cartoons, photos, newspaper headlines and clippings. Hands-on items throughout the display offer more in-depth information to the curious.

Visitors unfamiliar with the details of NALC history were amazed at the wealth of materials available. "Every NALC member should see this," was repeated again and again.

Faces of letter carriers throughout the exhibit remind visitors of the people behind the mail. Numerous small panels and displays document postal culture: sheet music about letters and the mail, the Ladies Auxiliary, letter carrier bands, items from past conventions. The Letter Carrier Food Drive is highlighted, along with other community service activities. The displays of uniforms worn by male and female letter carriers through the years attracted a lot of attention, with many carriers swapping stories of when they had finally (and reluctantly) given up their leather satchels.

NALC's official archives have been housed at Reuther since 2001. Kathryn Dowgiewicz, the archivist who curates the exhibit, drew on the extensive collec-



Photos courtesy of Michael F. Sheridan, president of South Macomb, Michigan Branch 4374.

"While most people won't ever use NALC's archives for historical research," President Fred Rolando noted, "this display is a way of making the union's treasures accessible to everyone."

In addition to Rolando, Dr. Jay Noren, president of Wayne State University, and Mike Smith, director of the Walter P. Reuther Archives, addressed the opening ceremony. A recurring theme in their remarks was the important role played by NALC in American labor history and why that makes telling the union's story—and keeping it alive—important.

The audience included almost 120 NALC branch officers who were in Detroit for a meeting of the Committee of Presidents and other NALC members from the area. President Emeritus James Rademacher, a member of Detroit

tion of historical items and memorabilia to tell the union's story. Once the items were selected, designer/fabricator Camille Craycraft laid out each panel and display case. Due to fragility and historic significance, only scanned images of documents and photographs were used, not originals. Branch 1 also provided items to flesh out the portrait of the NALC's early days in Detroit.

The display will be on view at the Walter P. Reuther Library on the campus of Wayne State University until June 2010. Viewing hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The exhibit is free. The records in NALC's archival collection are also available for research at the library. For more information on the NALC collection, see reuther.wayne.edu. ✉



President Emeritus James Rademacher offers recollections from his time as head of the union.

# Call goes out for 2010 convention

## New housing system set up

**T**HE "CALL" FOR DELEGATES to attend the NALC's 67th Biennial Convention in Anaheim, California, next summer was mailed in late October to all branches and state associations. NALC Secretary-Treasurer Jane Broendel, who oversees convention arrangements, said the formal "Convention Call" should have been received by the time this *Postal Record* arrives.

Included in the official call is a delegate allotment card advising each branch of the maximum number of delegates it may send to the convention, to be held August 9-13 at the Anaheim Convention Center. The delegate count is determined by the branch's active and retired membership as of October 1 this year. A branch is entitled to one vote and one delegate for each 20 members or fraction thereof. Each state association has two delegates-at-large.

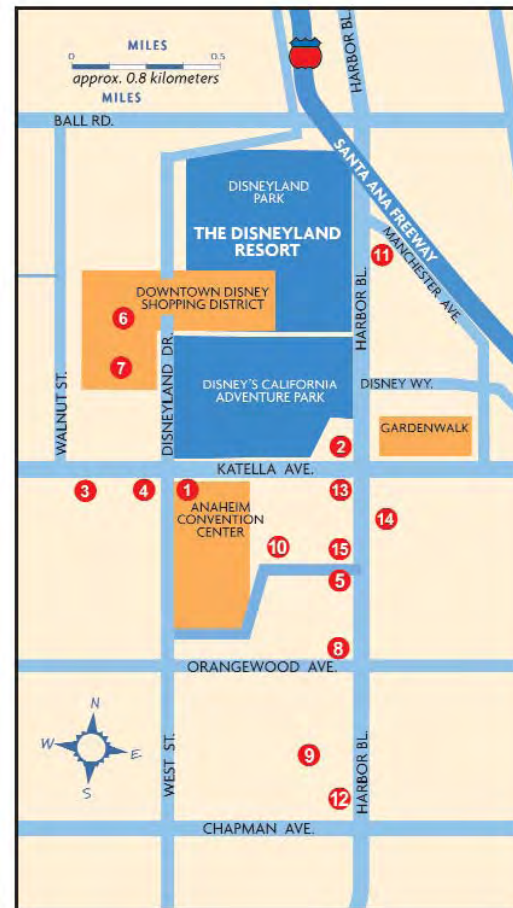
In an important change from past conventions, Secretary-Treasurer Broendel

said there will be a new online procedure for making housing reservations. This means there will no longer be a host branch housing committee. Complete details will be announced later, but Broendel discusses the process in the secretary-treasurer's column on page 26.

The process of registering local branch members who have been elected as delegates will not begin until February.

The NALC has made special arrangements with 15 hotels to accommodate letter carrier delegates attending the convention. All NALC-block hotels are within one mile of the convention center; their locations and room rates are shown below and at right. The Hilton Anaheim will be the NALC Headquarters Hotel during the 2010 gathering.

The room rates for NALC-block hotels have been set so branches can begin budgeting for the convention. ✉



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### List of hotels

Hotel	Rate	Distance to CC in miles
1. Anabella Hotel	\$139	Next Door
2. Anaheim Desert Palms	\$135	.2
3. Best Western Pavilions	\$130	.25
4. Best Western Stovall's <sup>®</sup>	\$135	.25
5. Clarion Hotel	\$149	.2
6. Disneyland <sup>®</sup> Hotel*	\$181	.75
7. Disney's <sup>®</sup> Paradise Pier Hotel*	\$181	.5
8. Doubletree Guest Suites	\$162-182	.5

Hotel	Rate	Distance to CC in miles
9. Embassy Suites Hotel	\$169	.75
10. Hilton Anaheim*	\$169	Next Door
11. Howard Johnson Plaza	\$119	1
12. Hyatt Regency, Orange County	\$170	1
13. Portofino	\$159	.2
14. Red Lion Hotel and Suites	\$149	.33
15. Sheraton Park Hotel*	\$182	.2

\* Union Hotels