NALC Bulletin
Number 14-12
Sept. 19, 2014

Forces unite to oppose closures, consolidations

The Postal Service's proposal to close and consolidate 82 mail-processing facilities in 37 states continues to attract the ire of Congress, as well as a coalition of postal unions and mailers.

During Congress' August recess, 50 senators sent a letter to Senate appropriators denouncing the plan, asking instead that Senate appropriators impose a one-year moratorium on closures and consolidations to give Congress time to enact meaningful postal reform legislation. Providing an extra bit of clout to the letter, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) added his signature to it shortly after Congress reconvened on Sept. 9.

In the House, 160 representatives from both parties sent a similar letter to the House appropriators on Sept. 11. Their letter mirrors the Senate's, asking that those in charge of drafting appropriations language for Fiscal Year 2015 include language calling for the one-year moratorium.

On the heels of both of these letters, Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee Chairman Tom Carper (D-DE) and ranking member Tom Coburn (R-OK) sent their own letter to Senate appropriators opposing the moratorium, stating that the enactment of their postal bill, S. 1486, would solve the real problems the Postal Service faces.

"The NALC continues to oppose S. 1486 as written," President Fredric Rolando said, "which is why we joined the other postal unions in sending our own letter to Senate leaders to point out that business leaders and labor unions alike remain opposed to S. 1486, and that we have an alternative approach that maintains service standards and preserves services and jobs."

That letter, Rolando said, describes the consensus that the NALC has built with business and postal stakeholders that would restore the Postal Service to financial stability and pave the way for innovation and growth.

"While we acknowledge the hard work and honorable intentions of its authors," the postal coalition letter said, "S. 1486 is a deeply flawed bill that would raise postage rates on businesses and slash services and jobs unnecessarily, which is why it has failed to garner broad support in the Senate.

"Our plan draws heavily on the best portions of S. 1486 and offers sensible, responsible and mutually agreeable alternative reforms to the service cuts and price hikes," the letter said.

Visit nalc.org to read these letters.

While the moratorium language on closings and consolidations is not being considered as part of a short-term continuing resolution (CR) to keep the government funded past the end of Fiscal Year 2014 on Sept. 30, discussions about including such language will continue as Congress discusses a long-term funding plan, which is expected to be approved during the lame-duck session in December.

Installation of officers set for Dec. 13

The installation of NALC's 28 elected national officers for four-year terms will take place in Washington, DC, on the evening of Saturday, Dec. 13, at the Marriott Washington Wardman Park, 2660 Woodley Road NW.

Tickets for the event are available through NALC Secretary-Treasurer Jane Broendel's office at a cost of $80 per person.

Full payment (payable to Secretary-Treasurer, NALC), along with the ticket order form available at nalc.org, must be received by Broendel's office no later than Friday, Nov. 14.

Upon receipt of payment, tables will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis only for those who purchase a block of at least eight tickets. The maximum number of seats at each table is eight. Individuals or smaller parties purchasing tickets will be assigned to "open seating" tables.

The person authorized to pick up tickets must be listed on the order form, as only the officially designated person will be allowed to pick up tickets. Additional information on the location of and time for ticket pick-up will be included in the November *Postal Record*.

Installation dinner tickets include admission to the holiday party immediately following the installation. Attendance at the holiday party for all others is by invitation only. Branches who wish to attend the holiday party should contact Secretary-Treasurer Broendel's office by Nov. 14. No tickets for either function will be available after that date. The ticket order form is available at nalc.org.

Hotel room booking and rate information will appear in a future *NALC Bulletin* and will also be posted online at nalc.org.

Parking is available at the hotel for the price of $20 for self-park and $32 for valet. For a parking discount, mention NALC. The nearest Metro station to the Marriott Washington Wardman Park is the Woodley Park-Zoo/Adams Morgan station on the Red Line. Visit wmata.com for fare information and service updates.

NALC election ballots ready for mail

The National Election Committee, appointed at the Philadelphia Convention to conduct the election of national officers for the NALC, has set the dates, rules and procedures for the election and has conducted the random drawing to determine the order of the names as they will appear on the ballot for each office.

The election will be conducted by mail ballot and administered by an independent party, following the requirements of the *NALC Constitution* and the regulations of the U.S. Department of Labor and subject to oversight by the NALC National Election Committee.

Official election instructions will be included with all ballots mailed to eligible NALC members.

To be eligible to vote, a person must be a regular member of the NALC and in good standing as of June 1, 2014.

Preparation and mailing of ballots is to begin on Monday, Sept. 29, with any ballots ready to mail to go in the mail stream that day. Preparation and mailing will continue on Tuesday, Sept. 30.

Any active or retired member who does not receive a ballot by Wednesday, Oct. 8, must notify his or her branch officers. Those branches are instructed to immediately contact the NALC Membership Department to request a duplicate, replacement ballot.

The deadline for branch officers to contact the Membership Department is 4 p.m. Eastern Time on Friday, Oct. 10. **Only a branch officer can request a duplicate ballot.**

Ballots must be received by 9 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 20, to be counted. The counting of ballots will begin on Oct. 20.

Nominees who will appear on the ballot (in the order as they will appear on the ballot) are:

President:
—Fredric V. Rolando, Sarasota, FL Br. 2148
—David Noble, Washington, DC Br. 142

Executive Vice President:
—Timothy C. O'Malley, Philadelphia Br. 157
—Catherine Jones, Minneapolis Br. 9

Vice President:
—Deidre Beal, South Florida Br. 1071
—Lew Drass, Huntsville, AL Br. 462

Assistant Secretary-Treasurer:
—Judy Willoughby, Tallahassee Br. 1172
—Sharella Spikes, South Florida Br. 1071

National Trustees:
—Lawrence D. Brown Jr., Los Angeles Br. 24
—Randall L. Keller, Mass. Northeast Mgd. Br. 25
—Eryca Bloom, South Florida Br. 1071
—Brett Israel, Ft. Lauderdale, FL Br. 2550
—Mike Gill, South Florida Br. 1071

Region 3 National Business Agent:
—Tony Hutson, Springfield, IL Br. 80
—Michael Caref, Chicago Br. 11

Region 6 National Business Agent:
—Gary Smith, Grand Rapids, MI Br. 56
—Patrick C. Carroll, South Macomb, MI Br. 4374

Region 10 National Business Agent:
—Kathy Baldwin, Beaumont, TX Br. 842
—David Pratt, Albuquerque, NM Br. 504

Corrections: In previous publications, Eryca Bloom was incorrectly identified as Erica Bloom, and Tony Hutson was incorrectly listed as from Galesburg, IL Branch 88 (he is from Springfield, IL Branch 80).

Proud to serve—

2014 NALC Heroes honored

On Sept. 10, NALC President Fredric Rolando served as master of ceremonies for the 2014 National Heroes of the Year Awards. The annual ceremony, this year held at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, recognizes men and women who not only deliver the mail to 150 million households and businesses six days a week, but often assist in situations involving accidents, fires, crimes or health crises. The heroes represent thousands of letter carriers who more than deliver the mail. This year's honorees were:

NALC President Fredric Rolando served as master of ceremonies for the 2014 Heroes of the Year Awards at Washington's National Press Club.

National Hero of the Year: Jermaine Shirley of Greenwich, CT Branch 759, a city carrier assistant who smelled smoke in an apartment building one morning, alerted residents and caught two young children thrown to him as fire engulfed the building.

Eastern Region Hero: Robert George of Worcester, MA Branch 12, an Air Force veteran who pulled a driver to safety before the man's crashed truck burst into flames.

Central Region Hero: Jim Rurik of Columbus, OH Branch 78, who smothered the burning clothes of a fire victim with his postal jacket, then evacuated all residents of that victim's burning building.

Western Region Hero: Steve Filson of Central Oregon Branch 1937, a Navy veteran who saved the life of a man suffering heart failure.

Unit Citation Award: Cristy Perfetti and Steve Plunkett of Peoria, IL Branch 31, who, with help from their supervisor, rescued a boy who had been abducted at knife point, brought him to safety in their post office and trailed the suspect, who had prior convictions for crimes against children and was sentenced to life in prison.

Branch Service Award: Reading, PA Branch 258, whose members have been brightening families' Christmases for more than a decade. Each year, the branch collects money from postal workers, carriers, clerks and managers, and sponsors up to three families.

Humanitarian of the Year: Orlando Gonzalez of New York City Branch 36, a Region 15 regional administrative assistant who organized the annual "Vinny's Walk" of letter carriers to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Legacy Award: Victor Green, a member of Hackensack, NJ Branch 425 (now Bergen County Merged), who helped a generation of black Americans travel safely and without humiliation in pre-civil-rights-era America by publishing what was known as the "Green Book," an annual travel guide to inns and private homes that accepted African-Americans. Green died in 1960.

Members of the honorees' families and representatives from their NALC branches attended the ceremony, along with NALC national officers and staff, representatives from other postal unions, the Postal Service, the Postal Regulatory Commission, and invited guests from other labor unions and the mailing industry. Those delivering remarks at the event were Sen. Edward Markey (D-MA), Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY), Rep. José Serrano (D-NY), AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Elizabeth Shuler and USPS Vice President for Labor Relations Doug Tulino.

The 2014 NALC Heroes of the Year (from l): Steve Plunkett and Cristy Perfetti, Peoria, IL Branch 31, Unit Citation Award; Region 15 Regional Administrative Assistant Orlando Gonzalez, Humanitarian of the Year; Reading, PA Branch President Fred Ranalli, Branch Service Award; Jermaine Shirley, Greenwich, CT Branch 759, National Hero of the Year; Jim Rurik, Columbus, OH Branch 78, Central Region Hero; Robert George, Worcester, MA Branch 12, Eastern Region Hero; and Steve Filson, Central Oregon Branch 1937, Western Region Hero.

COLAs total $1,227 annually

Active career letter carriers are enjoying a boost in their paychecks this month as the cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) in the current National Agreement take effect.

In accordance with the 2011-2016 National Agreement, which was finalized by arbitrator Shyam Das, the first COLA of 7 cents per hour, or $146 annually, was originally calculated following the release of the January 2013 consumer price index (CPI), a measure of inflation. However, the National Agreement deferred payment of this COLA for approximately one year. It was paid beginning in March of this year.

The second COLA originally was calculated following the release of the July 2013 CPI but, as with the first COLA, payment of the second COLA was deferred for approximately one year. This COLA, 26 cents per hour, or $541 annually, becomes effective starting in Pay Period 20 (pay date Sept. 26).

There was no increase in the CPI in the second half of 2013, and therefore no third COLA covering the first half of this year.

The fourth COLA of 33 cents per hour, or $686 annually, was calculated following the release of the July 2014 CPI. Unlike the first and second COLAs, this one was not deferred, and it also became effective Pay Period 20—overlapping with the deferred second COLA from the previous year, for a total of $1,227.

The COLA increases will be added to the salaries of all steps in Table 1 and Step O of Table 2, with proportionate application of the COLA to Steps A through N of Table 2.

For example, if a carrier is on Step G of Table 2, he or she would receive 78 percent of the COLA. The percentage of the COLA increases in each step of Table 2 until it reaches 100 percent in Step O.

The National Agreement calls for three more COLA calculations, scheduled for payment on a normal (non-deferred) schedule.

While city carrier assistants (CCAs) do not receive COLAs, they receive three general wage increases over the course of the National Agreement in addition to the general wage increases all carriers receive. CCAs will receive two such wage increases effective Nov. 15, 2014. Visit nalc.org to review the latest pay chart.

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