Bulletin
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Given positive Q3 numbers—

Congress needs to preserve and strengthen USPS, fix pre-funding

The Postal Service on Aug. 11 released figures that showed an operating profit of slightly more than $1 billion for the first three quarters of Fiscal Year 2014, continuing a trend of operating profitability that began in October 2012.

"As the economy improves, letter mail revenue is growing," NALC President Fredric Rolando said, "and as more people shop online, package revenue is skyrocketing.

"The Internet is now a net positive for USPS, auguring well for the future as e-commerce grows," Rolando said.

In the third quarter, which USPS Chief Financial Officer Joseph Corbett called "a very good quarter in a lot of ways," mail revenue increased by $424 million, package revenue rose 6.6 percent, standard mail revenue rose 5.1 percent and first-class mail revenue was up 3.2 percent.

"The red ink at USPS is attributable to non-mail factors," Rolando said: "chiefly, the 2006 congressional mandate that the Postal Service pre-fund future retiree health benefits, something no other public or private entity is required to do."

That accrued cost of the annual $5.6 billion charge accounted for most of the "losses," he said.

The other factor this quarter was an adjustment in workers' compensation interest rates, which the CFO called "a technical fair-value adjustment," just on paper.

"Given the positive mail trends," the president said, "it would be irresponsible to degrade services to Americans and their businesses, which would drive away mail—and revenue—and stop the postal turnaround in its tracks. Lawmakers need to preserve and strengthen the profitable postal networks—which are the future of the USPS as it increasingly delivers not just six but seven days a week—while fixing the pre-funding fiasco."

National Election Committee reviews nominations

The National Election Committee, appointed at the NALC's 69th Biennial Convention in Philadelphia to conduct the election of national officers, held a teleconference on Aug. 8 to review the nominations for national office submitted at the convention on July 23, following the procedure outlined by the *NALC Constitution*.

Prior to the teleconference, National Election Committee Chairman Joe DeRossi, a member of Brooklyn, NY Branch 41, distributed the submitted nomination forms to the nine election committee members for review.

Upon examination, the committee determined that three nominations did not meet the requirements for certification under the terms of the *NALC Constitution*, and committee members voted unanimously to disqualify all three.

Those disqualified were director of retired members candidate Ken Ring of Minneapolis Branch 9, director of safety and health candidate Travis Lober of Arizona Merged Branch 1902, and national trustee candidate William Heller of St. Petersburg, FL Branch 1477.

As a result of these disqualifications, the committee declared winners in two of the races for national office:

- Manuel L. Peralta Jr., a member of Garden Grove, CA Branch 1100, for director of safety and health
- Ron Watson, a member of Corvallis, OR Branch 1274, for director of retired members

The third disqualification leaves a field of five remaining nominees for the three national trustee offices.

The committee was scheduled to conduct a lottery at NALC Headquarters, to be held after this *NALC Bulletin* went to press, to determine the order in which candidates for each contested office will be listed on the official ballots. The dates of the election and the procedures to be followed will be announced after that meeting, and the committee is expected to mail ballots by early October.

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 National Election Committee.

Official instructions will be included with all ballots mailed to eligible 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. National business agents will be elected by the members in their respective regions. Once the ballots are mailed, any active or retired members who do not receive a ballot must notify their branch officers. Those branches must then immediately contact the NALC Membership Department to request a duplicate, replacement ballot. **Only a branch officer can request a duplicate ballot.**

Door-delivery resolution introduced

On Aug. 1, Reps. Susan Davis (D-CA), David Joyce (R-OH) and Peter King (R-NY) introduced H. Res. 711, which calls on Congress to take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of door delivery for all business and residential customers.

"Over the past few months, there have been attempts in Congress to reduce door delivery service and, in its place, implement a 'delivery fee' for those who retain their service or switch their mode of delivery," NALC President Fredric Rolando said. "H. Res. 711 is an important bipartisan measure to help showcase the role of universal service to the American people."

Businesses in the U.S. already have expressed their desire to keep door-to-door delivery. In fact, in 2013 USPS introduced a voluntary cluster box conversion program for which less than 1 percent of businesses signed up.

Visit nalc.org to track the progress of this and other NALC-supported bills that are under congressional consideration. The website also links to the latest information detailing the rights of both postal customers and letter carriers when USPS solicits to change the mode of mail delivery, including a downloadable fact sheet that outlines customers' rights.

It's official!

NYC P.O. now named for Sombrotto

On Aug. 8, President Barack Obama signed into law H.R. 2291, which officially renamed Manhattan's Grand Central Station Post Office, located at 450 Lexington Ave. in New York City, as the Vincent R. Sombrotto Post Office.

"It is gratifying to see this simple yet profound honor bestowed on this great man," NALC President Fredric Rolando said. "I personally thank all those who contacted their congressional representatives to ask for their support of the bill, and we're also grateful to the New York congressional delegation in both the House and Senate for shepherding this bill all the way to the White House."

Sombrotto, a member of New York City Branch 36, led the Great Postal Strike of 1970. He later served as NALC president from 1979 to 2002. He died Jan. 10, 2013.

The measure swiftly moved through both houses of Congress this summer before landing on President Obama's desk for his signature on Aug. 8. USPS will work with Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), the original sponsor of the legislation, to prepare a dedication ceremony.

Application deadline for 2015 Leadership Academy approaching

The Aug. 31 application deadline for the 2015 NALC Leadership Academy is days away.

The Leadership Academy is a months-long program of intensive training on the skills necessary for union members to become effective leaders. Under the tutelage of their mentors—established NALC leaders such as branch presidents or national business agents—the students combined three separate weeks of classroom learning with take-home assignments and special projects.

Classes are held at the Conference Center at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum, MD, near BWI-Marshall Airport outside Baltimore.

The application form is available for download from nalc.org and can also be obtained from your national business agent's office. Any active NALC member may apply.

NALC President Fredric Rolando encourages those interested to submit an application. Rolando will select two letter carriers from each of the NALC's 15 regions. The selected students will be notified by mail by October.

Class 19 is set for Jan. 11-16, March 22-27 and May 31-June 5. Class 20 is scheduled for July 26-31, Sept. 27-Oct. 2 and Dec. 6-11.

Students are required to complete outside-learning projects upon returning home following Weeks 1 and 2, and upon graduation the students will spend a fourth week working in their national business agents' offices.

Transportation, room, meals, lost wages and other costs involved with attending the Academy and working in the business agent's office are paid by the NALC.

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