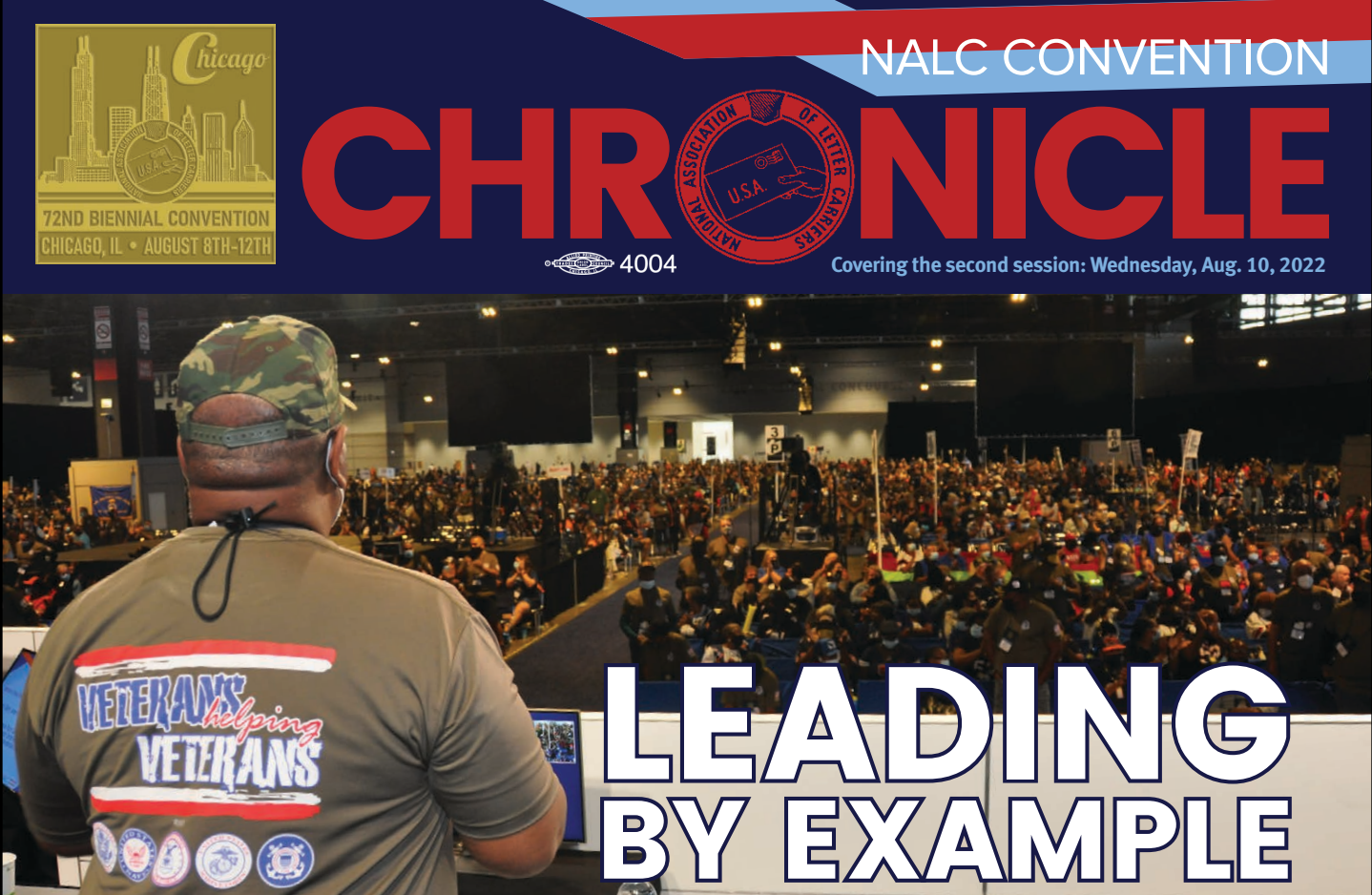


Bulletin

Special Convention Edition



On the third day of NALC's 72nd National Convention, leadership was on display from all quarters. On the day designated by the NALC Constitution for nominations of the union's national and regional leaders for the next four years, activists from within and without NALC demonstrated that leadership is not simply a title—it comes from the determination to stand up and do what is right.

The delegates were inspired by leaders of courageous efforts by everyday workers to organize at Amazon, despite the odds, as well as by postal and international union leaders who are carrying on the struggle around the world.

They nominated for election and in some cases chose their union's leadership team, embracing the democratic process for choosing leaders.

They honored carriers who are military veterans, leaders of another kind who showed—once again—what they are made of when they held a ruck march fundraiser, hiking along Chicago's lake-shore to raise funds for fellow veterans in need in the Chicagoland area.

And they celebrated a watershed event

in the union's history—the Great Postal Strike of 1970, led by ordinary members who stood up to the federal government and won.

Delegates heard from participants of the strike, many of them veterans of World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, who reminded them that the strike came "from the rank-and-file carriers—from the ground up."

It's a lesson that delegates will take from the convention to their branches and beyond.

BACK TO WORK

Wednesday's session of the NALC national convention kicked off with Stephanie Bostic of South Florida Branch 1071 singing a soaring rendition of the National Anthem and Chicago, IL Branch 11 member Tim L. Willis leading the Pledge of Allegiance. The Rev. Michael L. Pfleger, pastor at the Faith Community of Saint Sabina in Chicago, gave the invocation.

President Rolando announced that, following the release of the July consumer price index, the sixth cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) under the current contract

is \$2,455, an increase of 3.8 percent. He noted that the COLA clause would generate at least a 10 percent salary increase over the course of the current National Agreement.

ORGANIZING

President Rolando then called to the microphone Executive Vice President Brian Renfroe to recognize branches with the highest percentage of organization.

Top: Vice President James Henry stands, along with fellow veterans, to be thanked by the delegates for their service.

Below: Bruce Didriksen is congratulated on being elected Region 15 national business agent by consent.



"For many years, we've been the best-organized open-shop union in America," he said, noting that NALC's overall organization rate is 93 percent.

Renfroe then handed out first-place organizing awards.

The top organized branch with 2,500 or more active carriers is Boston, MA Branch 34 with a 97.72 percent organization rate.

The best-organized branch with between 1,500 and 2,499 active carriers is Flushing, NY Branch 294 with a 97.59 percent organization rate.

NOMINATIONS

President Rolando turned to the next order of business, as required by the NALC Constitution: calling for nominations for national and regional office, which were offered from the floor as follows (uncontested nominees were elected by consent; contested nominees are listed in nominating order):

President (contested)
—Brian L. Renfroe, Hattiesburg, MS Br. 938
—David Noble, Washington, DC Br. 142

Executive Vice President (contested)
—Paul Barner, Roswell, GA Br. 4862
—Kenneth R. Gibbs Jr., South Florida Br. 1071

Vice President
—James Henry, Garden Grove, CA Br. 1100

Secretary-Treasurer (contested)
—Nicole Rhine, Lincoln, NE Br. 8
—Cie Sharp, Long Island Mgd., NY Br. 6000

Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
—Mack I. Julion, Chicago, IL Br. 11

Director of City Delivery
—Christopher Jackson, Garden Grove, CA Br. 1100

Director of Safety and Health
—Manuel L. Peralta Jr., Garden Grove, CA Br. 1100

Director of Retired Members (contested)
—Linda Kellam Mann, Minneapolis, MN Br. 9

Director of Life Insurance (contested)
—James W. Yates, Long Island Mgd., NY Br. 6000

Director, Health Benefit Plan (contested)
—Matthew Webster, Cleveland, OH Br. 40
—Stephanie Stewart, Central Iowa Mgd. Br. 352

National Trustees (three positions; contested)
—Lawrence D. Brown Jr., Los Angeles, CA Br. 24

—Francisco Jose Cabrera, Greater East Bay, CA Br. 1111
—Sandra D. Laemmel, Detroit, MI Br. 1

—Charles P. Heege, New York, NY Br. 36
—Dorothy Kay Hall, Wenatchee, WA Br. 1350

—Rolando Rodriguez, Indianapolis, IN Br. 39

Region 1 NBA (contested)
—Markeisha Lewis, Garden Grove, CA Br. 1100
—Calvin Brookins, Van Nuys, CA Br. 2462

Region 2 NBA
—Nick Vafiades, Longview, WA Br. 2214

Region 3 NBA
—Michael Caref, Chicago, IL Br. 11

Region 4 NBA
—Dan Versluis, Tucson, AZ Br. 704

Region 5 NBA
—David A. Teegarden, Kansas City, MO Br. 30

Region 6 NBA
—David L. Mudd, Louisville, KY Br. 14

Region 7 NBA
—Patrick Johnson, Milwaukee, WI Br. 2

Region 8 NBA
—Steve M. Lassan, Nashville, TN Br. 4

Region 9 NBA (contested)
—Cliff Edwin Davidson Jr., Durham, NC Br. 382

—Don Lyerly, West Coast Florida Br. 1477

Region 10 NBA
—Shawn Boyd, Dallas, TX Br. 132

Region 11 NBA
—Mark S. Camilli, Northeastern NY Br. 358

Region 12 NBA
—Brian Thompson, New Castle, PA Br. 22

Region 13 NBA
—Vada E. Preston, Tidewater, VA Br. 247

Region 14 NBA
—Richard J. DiCecca, Massachusetts Northeast Merged Br. 25

Region 15 NBA
—Bruce Didriksen, New Jersey Mgd. Br. 38

In a subtle acknowledgement that he would not be seeking reelection, President Rolando joked, "Damn, couldn't even get nominated." Letter carrier delegates responded with a round of applause, for which Rolando thanked them.

He then reviewed the voting process for AFL-CIO delegates and asked for nominations from the floor.

NALC's membership size means that the union can send nine delegates to the federation's convention. Rolando and Rhine serve as delegates by virtue of their offices; election of the remaining seven will take place on Thursday.

The nominees are (in ballot order): Michael J. O'Neill, New Jersey Merged Branch 38; Elise M. Foster, Chicago, IL Branch 11; Julie Quilliam, Great Falls, MT Branch 650; Robert James, Snohomish Co., WA Branch 79; Michael L. Willadsen, Hartford, CT Branch 86; Lloyd P. Doucet Jr., New Orleans, LA Branch 124; Jeff Parr, Santa Rosa, CA Branch 183; Rick Horner, Seattle, WA Branch 79; Charles Bonner, Palm Springs, CA Branch 4149; Anita Guzik, Los Angeles, CA Branch 24; Ben Jackson, Atlanta, GA Branch 73; and Paul Rozzi, Pittsburgh, PA Branch 84.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

President Rolando then called Credentials Committee Chairman Delano Wilson of Silver Spring, MD Branch 2611 to the floor. Wilson introduced the committee members: Linda Borroughs, Dallas, TX Br. 132; Jon Calloway, Springfield, IL Br. 80; BaLynda Croy, Appleton, WI Br. 822; John Dyce, Youngstown, OH Br. 385; Oscar Ferreira, Fort Lauderdale, FL Br. 2550; Ethel Ford, Houston, TX Br. 283; Sean Geackel, Bux-Mont, PA Br. 920; Chuck Goushian, Camden, NJ Mgd. Br. 540; Sonny Guadalupe, New York, NY Br. 36; Patrick Harris, Garden Grove, CA Br. 1100; Todd Hornyak, Columbus, OH Br. 78; Brad Jasper, Yonkers, NY Br. 387; Anthony Lauderdale, Nashville, TN Br. 4; Cathy Madrid, San Mateo, CA Br. 1280; Cameron McFarlane, Worland, WY Br. 5384; Jacqueline McGregory, Western Wayne Co., MI Br. 2184; Dave Norton, Portland, OR Br. 82; Robb Petersburg, Minneapolis, MN Br. 9; Ryan Stockton, Sacramento, CA Br. 133; Deriwn Taylor, Detroit, MI Br. 1; Aishia Tolson, Newark, DE Br. 1977; Susan Ugone, Hartford, CT Br. 86; and Julius Vickers, Northeast Florida Br. 53.

Wilson then gave the committee's final report, stating that 4,461 delegates (as well as 60 delegates-at-large) representing 569 branches from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam and Puerto Rico were in attendance. The delegation voted to accept the report.

The delegates thanked Simpson with a Letter Carrier Cheer.

Rolando then called Caroline Wyatt of Birmingham, AL Branch 530 to the microphone. Wyatt, who has worked as a tireless advocate for union organizers at the Bessemer, AL, Amazon facility, introduced Stuart Appelbaum, president of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union.

Appelbaum told the delegates about his union's struggle to win union representation for workers at Amazon and why the effort is far more than just another organizing campaign. He detailed the harsh working conditions at the Bessemer facility and the aggressive anti-union tactics employed by Amazon. As a uniquely large and powerful corporation whose business model relies on mistreating workers, Amazon poses a threat to workers everywhere, he said.

SOLIDARITY

The delegates then viewed a videotaped greeting from Mark Dimondstein, president of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU). Dimondstein expressed solidarity with letter carriers and noted that the experience of the pandemic has supercharged the labor movement beyond postal workers.

"Workers are drawing important lessons from the pandemic," he said. They are learning that "workers deserve better, that we make the world go 'round, and we are witnessing a welcome rise in working-class militancy."

Dimondstein called for all workers to build on that momentum: "As we look forward to our personal lives getting back to normal, let's recommit to a fight for a new normal."

President Rolando welcomed Jan Simpson, president of the Canadian Union

of Postal Workers, to the podium. Simpson told delegates about the shared obstacles of U.S. and Canadian postal employees and urged them to overcome them together.

"In Canada, like the U.S., multiple challenges are coming together to shape the future of the postal sector," she said, including automation, deregulation and competition from the private sector. "All of these are interconnected. All of these are being used by employers, even in the public sector, to intimidate workers and diminish our sense of our own value and the value of our work," Simpson said.

"We have to understand, and reject, this," she continued. "We have to know our value and how to build worker power."

The delegates thanked Simpson with a Letter Carrier Cheer.

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"If left unchallenged, Amazon would determine what the future of workers would look like and how workers are treated," Appelbaum said. "In that future, we don't want Amazon's model to be everyone's model."

Though union organizers at Amazon's facility lost the first election, the National Labor Relations Board ruled that Amazon had unfairly interfered and ordered a new election. The Board is now counting the ballots in that new election. Even if the results of the new election don't come out in the union's favor, Appelbaum said, the campaign has awakened new organizing efforts among workers in other Amazon facilities and other big corporations that have held unions back, such as Starbucks.

He pledged, therefore, not to give up on

Amazon, regardless of the outcome of the new election.

"Workers everywhere now understand that if you can stand up to Amazon, with all its money and all its power," he said, "you can come together and stand up to your employers anywhere in this country."

More than two-thirds of Americans support unions, he noted—the highest level in 55 years. "We have to take advantage of the moment, and that includes standing up to Amazon," he said.

"A wildfire is spreading. A movement is building. Organizing encourages further organizing," Appelbaum said. "This is our moment!"

The delegates thanked Appelbaum with a Letter Carrier Cheer.

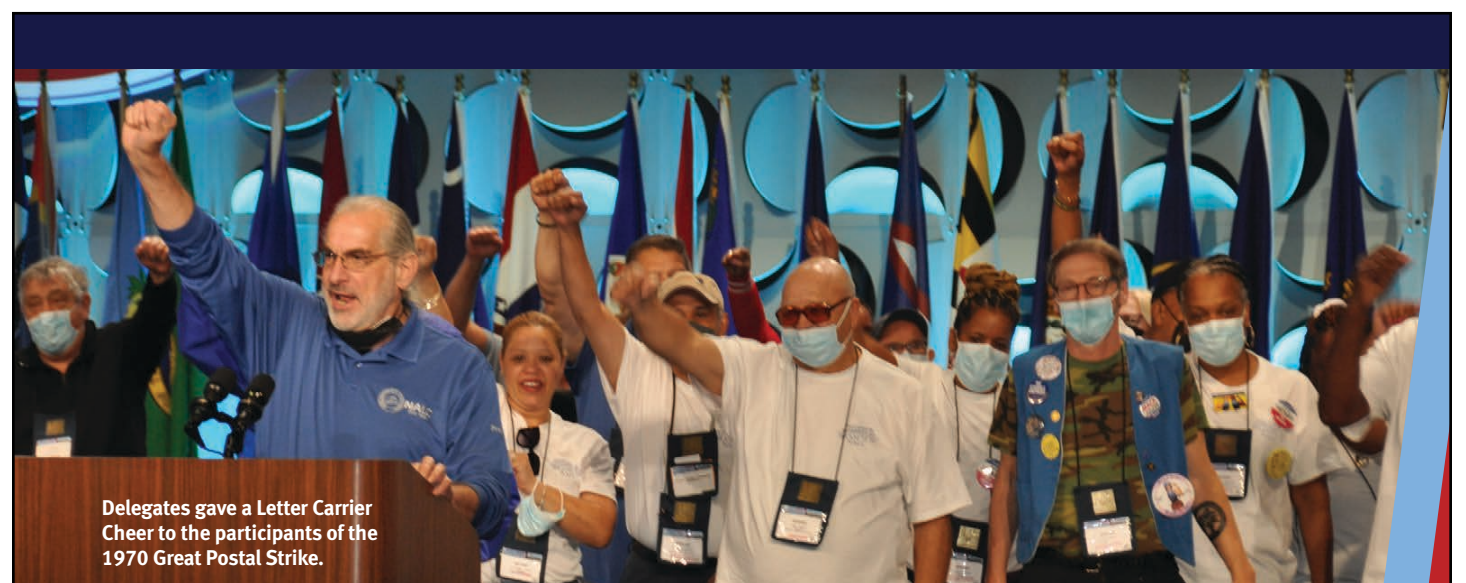
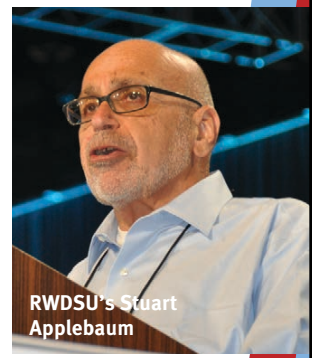
Rolando then invited Director of Safety and Health Manuel Peralta Jr. to the stage. Peralta recognized letter carriers who had excellent results in obtaining Customer Connect leads.

Rolando subsequently called the Board of Trustees—Chairman Lawrence D. Brown Jr., Sandra D. Laemmel and Mack I. Julion—to the stage. Brown delivered the trustees' report.

Rolando then introduced guest speaker Alke Boessiger, deputy general secretary of the UNI Global Union.

Boessiger talked about how the pandemic has massively affected workplaces by accelerating 10 years of changes into two years, including artificial intelligence and automation, and she called for diversification in postal services.

"As we look toward the future in post, postal services must expand into financial, social and logistical services," she said, adding, "This requires different labor skills, the restructuring of business



Delegates gave a Letter Carrier Cheer to the participants of the 1970 Great Postal Strike.

models, and innovative responses from us as the unions. If we work together, we can create a post which is publicly owned, modern, innovative and carbon neutral."

She decried Amazon's anti-unionization stance and its war on workers, and said that strong unions are the key to a world of social justice.

"As trade unionists, our power comes from our members," Boessiger said. "The work that you do every day—as shop stewards, as union leaders, winning that

The NALC Veterans Group hosted the Ruck March held after the general session.



NALC AUXILIARY

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 10

Madam President Cynthia Lang resumed our meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and the reciting of the collect. Meeting minutes were approved with additions and corrections.

We collected \$390 for the William Doherty Scholarship and \$495 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association

from our members. The bylaws were completed. The meeting was continued upstairs to take photos of the Auxiliary. The meeting was recessed until 10 a.m. on Aug. 11.

—Submitted by Linda Davis, NALC Assistant Secretary



The NALC Board

This is the NALC Convention Chronicle distributed to delegates

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