



NALC CONVENTION CHRONICLE

Covering the fifth session: Friday, Aug. 12, 2022

The resident national officers and trustees led delegates in a Letter Carrier Cheer for President Rolando.



LAST HURRAH

The final day of the 72nd Biennial Convention was a time for delegates to look back at what they and their union had accomplished in the past week and in the past decades, and to look forward to a new generation of union activists and leaders. As they prepared to head back to their branches and their routes, the delegates recommitted themselves to stand up for letter carriers on the workroom floor, to deliver for democracy, and to defend the rights of all workers.

The delegates looked back at a convention that highlighted the special role of letter carriers in their communities and their long history of binding the nation together. After a week of educational workshops, they ended the convention with a wealth of new information to share with their branch members and to use to better the lives of their fellow carriers.

They closed the convention with a renewed energy and confidence that, by sticking together, letter carriers and other workers can win ongoing organizing and union rights struggles across the country as part of the emerging renaissance of labor.

With many delegates wearing "I'm Voting for Democracy" wristbands, they headed home to do their part in ensuring that elections remain free and fair, and to work to elect candidates who stand up for working people and for a strong democracy.

As President Emeritus William H. Young reminded delegates in his greeting, unity and activism are "the secret of our success."

GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS

Friday's session of the convention opened with Tim Greene of Asheboro, NC Branch 2560 singing an inspiring rendition of the National Anthem, followed by Jimmy Canada of Chicago, IL Branch 11 reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Hall Demir of the Zakat Foundation in Chicago gave the invocation.

President Rolando announced that Paul Roznowski of Royal Oak, MI Branch 3126 will serve as chairman of the Election Committee for the upcoming election of national and regional officers.

The delegates then watched a memorial to the 109 active and retired city

letter carriers who were lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Director of Retired Members Dan Toth, Director of Safety and Health Manuel L. Peralta Jr., Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Paul Barner and Vice President James Henry led consideration of resolutions, with many being adopted by the body. A complete list of the approved resolutions will appear in the September/October edition of *The Postal Record*.

Rolando called Assistant to the President for Community Service Christina Vela Davidson to the microphone for a presentation on the Letter Carrier Food Drive, and for the giving of awards to branches with the most food collected in 2022:

- Category 1 (2,500 or more members): Garden Grove, CA Br. 1100—1,000,571 pounds
- Category 2 (1,500-2,499 members): Seattle, WA Br. 79—455,617 pounds
- Category 3 (1,000-1,499 members): West Coast Florida Br. 1477—650,332 pounds
- Category 4 (700-999 members): San Juan, PR Br. 869—2,964,000 pounds
- Category 5 (500-699 members): Ponce, PR Br. 826—199,830 pounds

- Category 6 (350-499 members): Kalamazoo, MI Br. 246—221,912 pounds
- Category 7 (200-349 members): Columbia, MO Br. 763—431,401 pounds
- Category 8 (100-199 members): North Sound, WA Br. 450—748,948 pounds
- Category 9 (50-99 members): Helena, MT Br. 220—214,020 pounds
- Category 10 (26-49 members): Beaufort, SC Br. 3262—137,200 pounds
- Category 11 (1-25 members): Watervliet, NY Br. 178—51,000 pounds
- Top fundraiser: North Sound, WA Br. 450—\$59,724

REP. ROBIN KELLY (D-IL)

President Rolando then welcomed guest speaker Rep. Robin Kelly (D-IL) to the stage.

Kelly, a member of the House Oversight and Reform Committee, lauded NALC members for all they do. "No matter the weather, the busy holiday seasons and even a global pandemic, letter carriers keep working to ensure that everyone gets their mail," she said. "For more than 130 years, the National Association of Letter Carriers has worked to protect the rights of city letter carriers across the country. The association has been an incredible example of collective bargaining."

She said that NALC's high organization rate is a testament to the union's success in advocating for letter carriers and that she wants to continue to help.

"The past few years have been especially challenging," she said, adding, "That's why I have consistently worked in Congress to ensure that you have the tools and support you need to succeed."

Kelly congratulated NALC on having postal reform passed, including codifying six-day delivery into law.

"This is progress that has been a long time coming, and I know that many of you and your fellow letter carriers deserve a pat on the back for advocating for these priorities for so long," she said.

"I am confident that this won't be our last cause for celebration," she continued. "There is still more work to do to protect the vital services of the USPS. We should continue innovating how we use the USPS network to provide delivery services, expand partnerships and do everything we can to keep our letter carriers' workload manageable."



Rep. Robin Kelly (D-IL)

She concluded by telling the delegation, "My door is always open to letter carriers."

Carriers responded by giving her a Letter Carrier Cheer.

President Rolando invited Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Barner to the lectern. Barner gave a presentation about the NALC Disaster Relief Foundation (NDRF) and recognized the members of its board of directors: Anita Guzik of Los Angeles, CA Br. 24; Sandra Laemmel of Detroit, MI Br. 1; Gary Mullins of Wichita Falls, TX Br. 1227; Matthew Rose of South Florida Br. 1071; and Richard Thurman of St. Louis, MO Br. 343.

He also recognized the NDRF officers: President Davidson of Durham, NC Br. 382; Vice President Peralta of Garden Grove, CA Br. 1100; and Secretary-Treasurer Antonia Shields of Birmingham, AL Br. 530.

Barner reported that between its establishment in July 2018 and May of this year, the foundation had provided nearly \$1.5 million in grants and assistance to victims of 32 storms and wildfires in 23 states.

UNITED AUTO WORKERS

The president then welcomed Bob Lynk, president of United Auto Workers Local 578 in Oshkosh, WI, and Local 578 Chief Steward Kurt Sauer to the podium. Lynk and Sauer explained how Oshkosh has a union plant in Wisconsin ready to build the Next Generation Delivery Vehicle (NGDV), but that the company had announced that it would move construction to the right-to-work state of South Carolina.

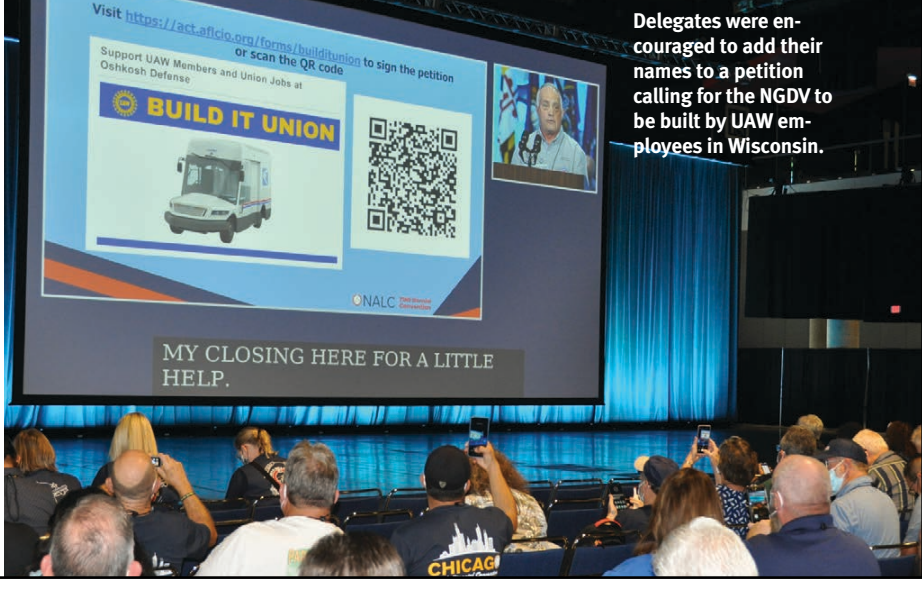
Lynk described his union's struggle to bring the NGDV back to Wisconsin. "We are proud of the work we do in Oshkosh," he said. "I am confident that the 84 years of unionized labor [presence] has given us the experience to build a fleet of high-quality electric vehicles for the USPS."

Lynk and Sauer asked the delegates and other letter carriers to add their names to a petition for the UAW to build the NGDV.

AFL-CIO DELEGATE ELECTION RESULTS

Rolando then brought Andrew Weiner of Jamaica, NY Branch 562, election commissioner and chairman of the Board of Tellers, to the stage to announce the results of the AFL-CIO delegate election (the top seven are listed below and will serve as AFL-CIO delegates):

- Michael O'Neill, New Jersey Mgd. Br. 38—10,447 votes
- Anita Guzik, Los Angeles, CA Br. 24—10,140 votes
- Elise Foster, Chicago, IL Br. 11—10,071 votes
- Lloyd Doucet, New Orleans Br. 124—9,822 votes



Delegates were encouraged to add their names to a petition calling for the NGDV to be built by UAW employees in Wisconsin.



Trustees Chairman Larry Brown took a moment to honor his friend, Fredric Rolando.

- Michael Willadsen, Hartford, CT Br. 86—9,485 votes
- Julie Quillam, Great Falls, MT Br. 650—9,369 votes
- Paul Rozzi, Pittsburgh, PA Br. 84—9,353 votes

Weiner then announced the total donations collected from delegates on the floor during the week. Chairman of the Board of Trustees Larry Brown of Los Angeles, CA Branch 24 announced the allocation of the donations. The Ruck March sponsored by the NALC Veterans Group after the Wednesday session raised \$26,244 for homeless veterans in Chicago. The collection on the convention floor, split between the family of a city carrier assistant who died and striking miners in Alabama, yielded \$28,772. Both amounts were matched by NALC Headquarters. The delegates approved the allocations.

A MOMENT OF PRIVILEGE

Trustees Chairman Brown took a moment of privilege to speak about his experience working with President Rolando, who is retiring in December.

Executive Vice President Brian Renfroe then read a letter of greeting from President Emeritus Young, who praised the passage of the Postal Reform Act. "All credit goes to the thousands of letter carrier activists who contributed to our PAC and lobbied their members of Congress," Young wrote. "I hope every delegate in Chicago understands that this is the secret of our success."

Delegates then watched a video tribute to Rolando. Surrounded by all the national officers, Rolando thanked Brown, Renfroe and the cheering delegates.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The president then called Director of Life Insurance Jim Yates to the lectern. Yates introduced the Mutual Benefit Association Committee: Eric Matras, Portland, OR Br. 82; Mark Godbee of Ballwin, MO Br. 5050; Vincent Mase, New Haven, CT

Br. 19; Annette Taylor, Annapolis, MD Br. 651; and Kathy Walter, Tucson, AZ Br. 704. The committee members delivered their report.

Yates then called forward the members of the Uniform Committee: Stafford Price Jr., Chicago Br. 11; Mark Adams, Suffolk, VA Br. 1112; Stephanie Baiungo, Las Vegas, NV Br. 2502; Greg Klopfer of Jamaica, NY Br. 562; and Lisa Schleich of Grand Junction, CO Br. 913. The committee members delivered the committee's report.

Rolando called Vice President Henry to the microphone to lead consideration of appeals. The delegates considered two appeals and voted to reject both.

The president brought Secretary-Treasurer Nicole Rhine to the lectern. Rhine introduced the members of the Convention Site Committee: Howard Komine, Honolulu, HI Br. 860 and Glenn Honolou, Las Vegas, NV Br. 2502 (committee member Jim Korolowicz, South Macomb, MI Br. 4374, was not present). Komine and Norton delivered the report of the committee about the upcoming conventions in Boston (2024) and Los Angeles (2026).

The delegates viewed a video recap of the convention.

The president then called Boston, MA Branch 34 President Mike Murray to the microphone. Murray whetted the delegates' appetites for the 2024 convention in Boston. The delegates viewed a welcome video about Boston.

President Rolando introduced Jill Lemons of Canoga Park, CA Branch 4006,

chairwoman of the Distribution Committee, to deliver the committee's report and to introduce the committee's members:

- Aldo Alvarez, Des Plaines, IL Br. 2076;
- Lakeyshyan "Keisha" Bryant, Greenwood, MS Br. 1080; Ronnie Blue, Macon, GA Br. 270; Reba Campbell, Knoxville, TN Br. 419; Horner Christian, Huntington, WV Br. 359; Richard Galvin, Boston, MA Br. 34; Angel Garcia, Lansing, MI Br. 122; James Giese, Stockton, CA Br. 213; Sandy Gleim, Rockford, IL Br. 245; Alphonso Floyd, Olympia, WA Br. 351; Wayne Harlow, Greenville, SC Br. 439; Michelle Jellison, Topeka, KS Br. 10; Tammy Jones, Reading, PA Br. 258; Pat Kelly, Levittown, PA Br. 4973; Phil Khan, Flushing, NY Br. 294; Oswald Lecky, South Jersey, NJ Br. 908; Eddie Lofland, Sioux City, IA Br. 908; William Lynch, Framingham, MA Br. 334; Stephanie Matthews, Atlanta, GA Br. 73; Jamaal Mattocks, Raleigh, NC Br. 459; Mark Murphy, Erie, PA Br. 284; Mark Nembhard, Virginia Beach, VA Br. 2819; Matt Parkin, Pocatello, ID Br. 927; Armando Pedreira, New Jersey Mgd. Br. 38; Jose Portales, San Antonio, TX Br. 421; Leon Prude, Los Angeles, CA Br. 24; Andrea Richardson, Memphis, TN Br. 27; Rai Santiago, Elizabeth, NJ Br. 67; Craig Schadewald, New Bern, NC Br. 780; Mark Seitz, Maine Mgd. Br. 92; Vu Tran, Santa Clara, CA Br. 1427; Tyrone Valdez, Chicago, IL Br. 11; Curtis Walker, Bensenville, IL Br. 11; and Ed Walsh, Northeastern NY Br. 358.

Rolando closed the last convention he will preside over with words of gratitude: "It's been an honor to serve as your president for 13 and a half years and to chair these last six conventions," he said. "Stay well; I love you guys."

After President Rolando expressed thanks to everyone who worked to make the convention possible, the 72nd Biennial Convention adjourned *sine die* at 12:22 p.m.



Boston Branch 34 members invited delegates to their city for the 2024 convention.

