

Leadership Academy graduates level up, urged to pay it forward by serving members



Leadership Academy attendees work on a group project.

President Brian L. Renfroe, the other NALC national officers and Headquarters letter carrier and professional staff members teach classes on a variety of topics.

NALC Vice President James Henry presided over the graduation ceremony of the 30 members of NALC Leadership Academy Class 29. The ceremony was held on Dec. 13 at the Maritime Conference Center in Linthicum Heights, MD, just south of Baltimore.

The commencement event capped several months 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—the students combined three separate weeks of classroom learning at the Maritime Conference Center with take-home assignments and special projects.

During their classes, students took part in often lively discussions on such subjects as the National Agreement and the union’s legislative agenda. They also learned more about the Dispute Resolution Process, strategic planning, branch financial responsibilities, safety and health, retirement issues, route protection, workers’ compensation, effective negotiation techniques and the use of social media for branch communications.

Each week of the Academy also includes an emphasis on fine-tuning effective written and oral communication skills. Back in their branches, graduates will make use of those skills in such forums as membership meetings, awards ceremonies and dinners.

“The example that is being set here by you coming through the Leadership Academy and the amount of hours and dedication and friendships and the camaraderie that you have developed, that’s something that will stick with you for the rest of your life and for the rest of your career,” Henry told them.

President Brian L. Renfroe, the other NALC national officers, and Headquarters letter carrier and professional staff members are tapped to teach classes on a wide variety of topics. The attendees also were guided by daily class instructors: former National Business Agents (NBAs) Troy Clark and Chris Wittenburg; Region 1 NBA Keisha Lewis; Region 5 Regional Administrative Assistant Larrissa Parde; and Assistant to the President Ed Morgan.

Henry praised the 30 attendees, two from each NALC region, for their work, noting that it doesn’t matter where you come from, as long as you’re willing to





put in the effort. “I grew up in Los Angeles, specifically down in Compton,” he said. “I have not had the opportunities to really partake of a lot of higher education, but I’ve been blessed to be able to do all right in regard to representation. The fact of the matter is that anything that is worth having is worth working for.”

He urged them not to rest on their laurels, but that it’s what they do from here that will define them.

“The best ability is dependability. I don’t care how well you speak. I don’t care how smart you are. I don’t care how well you write. If it cannot be relied upon, it means nothing,” he said. “When you leave out of here today, be able to be depended upon. Let your membership know that if they come to you, that they can depend on you. That if you don’t have the answer, you will seek the answer from someone that

does have the answer. Make sure that your sense of duty is always prevalent in any and everything that you do, because these carriers on the workroom floor, they depend on us. It is something that should not be taken lightly.

“You have to have a service heart. You’ve got to want to do this job.”

After the commencement, the graduates were assigned to work at their respective NBA offices for a week to learn in a different environment.

Henry told the graduates that after they finish leveling up their training, to make sure they “pay it forward” back at their branches. “Each one of us has an obligation to take what we have and help those who are yet to come and those who we are working with,” he said. “Be an inspiration and a light for those who are with us and following behind us.” **PR**

Leadership Academy Class 29

Andres Gaytan receives his certificate from Vice President James Henry.



NALC Leadership Academy Class 29 graduates

Andres Gaytan
Central California Coast Br. 52

Emiliea Reeves
Honolulu, HI Br. 860

Scott Anderson
Seattle, WA Br. 79

Randall Wirtz
Snohomish Co., WA Br. 791

Brina Archie-Sams
Chicago, IL Br. 11

Aaron Purnell
S. Suburban Mgd., IL Br. 4016

Carrie Ann Johnson
Sun City, AZ Br. 6156

Alexis Padilla
Tucson, AZ Br. 704

Jennifer Anderson
Waterloo, IA Br. 512

Brett Meissinger
Colby, KS Br. 4635

Ronald Slone
Saginaw, MI Br. 74

Daryl Tindale
Mid-Michigan Br. 256

Robb Petersburg
Minneapolis, MN Br. 9

Nick Sachs
St. Paul, MN Br. 28

Diana Hughes
Decatur, AL Br. 1314

Lawanna Thomas
Baton Rouge, LA Br. 129

Scott Stanley
Spacecoast Florida Br. 2689

Heather Walker
Roanoke Rapids, NC Br. 3331

Zacharias Finley
Midland, TX Br. 3792

Shannon Lively-Calabretta
Albuquerque, NM Br. 504

Micheal Miskell
Buffalo-Western NY Br. 3

Jenna Morin
Lancaster, OH Br. 340

Robert Farrell
Erie, PA Br. 284

Charles Pasquino
Wheeling, WV Br. 66

Michael Ridgely
Silver Spring, MD Br. 2611

John Bahl
Newport, RI Br. 57

Aaron Hastings
Connecticut Mgd. Br. 20

Sean Killeen
Long Island Mgd., NY Br. 6000

Armando Pedreira
New Jersey Mgd. Br. 38

Jeffrey Polo
Elizabeth, NJ Br. 67