



National Association
of Letter Carriers

William H. Young, President

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NALC Bulletin

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Rap Session Agenda to Focus On Bargaining Impasse Issues

Capacity Attendance Expected in Los Angeles; Overflow Rooms Available at Sheraton Hotel

Hundreds of NALC branches from throughout the nation are making plans for a special National Rap Session on Sunday, January 28 in Los Angeles called by NALC President William H. Young and the union's 28-member Executive Council to discuss the impasse in negotiations between the NALC and Postal Service and to plan for possible interest arbitration.

The Rap Session will be held at the Wilshire Grand Hotel, 930 Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles from 8 a.m. to 12 noon on January 28.



President Young said he considers this "the most important Rap Session in NALC's history" because of the pending National Agreement arbitration.

A welcoming reception will be held Saturday evening, January 27 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the hotel.

The NALC block of rooms at the Wilshire Grand hotel is filled for the Rap Session. However, NALC has made arrangements for a limited number of

overflow rooms at the nearby Sheraton Los Angeles Downtown Hotel, 711 S. Hope Street, Los Angeles.

The NALC rate at the Sheraton is \$125 single/double plus 14 percent tax. **The cut-off date for making reservations at the Sheraton is Sunday, January 21.** Reservations may be cancelled, without penalty, if the hotel is notified no less than 72 hours prior to arrival.

An early departure fee of \$75 will be charged if an individual checks out prior to the reserved checkout time. To avoid this fee, the hotel must be advised at or before check-in of any change in the scheduled length of stay.

To make reservations, call the hotel directly at 213-488-3500 or through Sheraton's Central Reservation Office at 800-325-3535. Be sure to ask for the NALC rate.

Daily parking rates at the Sheraton hotel are \$10 for self-parking and \$14 for valet parking. Overnight parking rates with in-and-out privileges are \$22 for self-parking and \$24 for valet parking. Rates are subject to change without prior notice.

For those planning on driving to the Wilshire Grand hotel for the Rap Session, there is a self-parking lot across the street at a \$10-a-day charge. Valet garage parking only is available at the hotel for \$10 with a validation stamp.

After Rap Session!

Branch 24 to Host Reception/MDA Fund-raiser

Los Angeles NALC President Lawrence Brown, Jr., has invited those attending the National Rap Session to come to Branch 24 Headquarters following the session January 28 for a reception and 'Texas Hold-em' Fund-raiser with proceeds going to the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

The reception will begin at 1 p.m. and continue throughout the afternoon.

Brown said the branch headquarters at 774 Valencia Street is convenient walking distance from the Wilshire Grand. A free shuttle will also operate between the hotel and union headquarters.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday January 15, 2007

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal'."

New Day on Capitol Hill!

Young Confers with Key Legislators To Prevent Postal 'Contracting Out'

A new 110th Congress — headed up by numerous long-time friends and supporters of letter carriers and other working men and women on issues critical to their jobs and families — has begun setting a new legislative agenda in Washington.

"We are quickly seeing the fruits of our labor over the past two years as our union re-energized its political activity, marshaled a massive cadre of rank-and-file activists, and then played a critical role in scores of key congressional races across the country," said President William H. Young.

In a speedy display that a new day had come to Capitol Hill, the House on January 10 passed a \$2.10 phased increase in the minimum wage to \$7.25, the first boost in nearly a decade.

"We expect changes to be made, and we will monitor very closely the new Democratic leadership in both the House of Representatives and Senate to make sure that the critical issues facing the U.S. Postal Service and letter carriers remain at the forefront of their concern," Young added.

This is especially true of the Postal Service's dalliance with contracting out city letter carriers jobs — the issue that caused collective bargaining between NALC and USPS to reach an impasse and send it on a path towards interest arbitration.

In discussions with several key lawmakers during the transition between the 109th and 110th Congresses, Young received assurances that Congress would investigate fully and resist any actions by the Postal Service to contract out letter carrier work.

With the new Congress in office, Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), who has stood side-by-side with carriers for years, has been elevated to Speaker of the House, and Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD), a passionate supporter of the NALC, became House Majority Leader.

In the critical House committee affecting postal issues, letter carriers are fortunate to have two staunch supporters on both sides of the aisle — House Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Henry Waxman (D-CA) and Ranking Republican Tom Davis of Virginia. The full committee membership has not yet been announced, but Waxman has reorganized the subcommittee structure and created a new Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Post Office and the District of Columbia.

In the Senate, new Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Chairman Joe Lieberman (I-CT) takes charge, and together with Ranking Republican Susan Collins (R-ME) provide letter carriers with the same bipartisan leadership that was critical in passage of postal reform legislation and has benefitted carriers on numerous issues over the years.

The full Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee includes:

Majority		Minority	
Joe Lieberman, <i>chair</i>	Connecticut	Susan A. Collins	Maine
Carl Levin	Michigan	Ted Stevens	Alaska
Daniel Akaka	Hawaii	George Voinovich	Ohio
Thomas R. Carper	Delaware	Norm Coleman	Minnesota
Mark Pryor	Arkansas	Tom Coburn	Oklahoma
*Mary Landrieu	Louisiana	Pete Domenici	New Mexico
*Barack Obama	Illinois	John Warner	Virginia
*Claire McCaskill	Missouri	*John E. Sununu	New Hampshire
*Jon Tester	Montana		



Chairman Lieberman



Senator Collins



Chairman Waxman



Representative Davis

Branches Quickly Register for Food Drive

NALC branches from throughout the United States are quickly sending in their registration form to participate in the 15th annual NALC National Food Drive on Saturday May 12.

As the NALC Bulletin went to press, registrations from 385 branches had already been received. All branches must re-register for the 2007 drive, providing up-to-date contact information for branch food drive coordinators.

Registration forms are due back at NALC headquarters no later than January 26.

A full packet of materials will be sent to the coordinators in early February. The coordinators' packets will include a form for ordering FREE Campbell Soup/U.S. Postal Service postcards for delivery to postal customers.

Questions regarding the drive should be directed to Drew Von Bergen, national coordinator, at (202) 662-2489 or by email at vonbergen@nalc.org.