

# Carriers Continue Assault On USPS Contracting Out

Hundreds from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, West Virginia and District of Columbia Trek to Capitol Hill

NALC legislative activists from throughout the Middle Atlantic states swarmed over Capitol Hill in Washington during the past two weeks to make sure that House and Senate members realize the seriousness of their demand that the Postal Service stop contracting out letter carrier work.

NALC President William H. Young emphasized to legislative activists from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware and the District of Columbia that bringing an end to the Postal Service's policy of outsourcing new delivery points to private contractors is at the top of the union's congressional agenda.

**"We're going to stop them and we're going to stop them now, before they ruin the Postal Service," Young told carriers from NALC Region 13 (DC Region) at their congressional breakfast May 10.**

Young noted that 131 House members have already joined Rep. Albio Sires (D-NJ) as co-sponsors of H. Res. 282, which would express the sense of the House of Representatives that the Postal Service "should discontinue the practice of contracting out mail delivery services."

Young said the Postal Service can not survive if it continues to contract out 1 to 2 million new deliveries a year.

"They are determined to walk down the road of contracting out," he said. "They will rue the day they made that decision."

Throughout the Region 13 event, and a week earlier at the Pennsylvania congressional breakfast and a reception the night before honoring Sen. Robert Casey (D-PA), lawmaker after lawmaker challenged the Postal Service's thinking in trying to weaken the letter carrier craft.

## 'Dangerous Idea'

Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD) called it "a very dangerous idea" and said it was impossible for USPS to outsource the relationships letter carriers have built with their customers over the years.

An exasperated Del. Eleanor Holmes-Norton (D-DC) could not understand how the Postal Service could maintain that outsourcing was only for new postal territory.

"I've lived in New York," she said. "There's nothing new about the Bronx," citing one of the areas that the Service wants to contract out deliveries.

**"I thought I'd seen everything," Norton said. "They are trying to contract out my mailman. Don't you! You can't have my mailman."**

Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE), a guiding force behind Senate passage of postal reform legislation, admonished the USPS Board of Governors and postal management to make sure that the intent of Congress is adhered to as they implement the postal reform provisions.

Carper said contracting out "should be the exception, not the rule."

Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD) thanked the NALC for the assistance to him in his election campaign last year as well as helping Democrats take control of the Senate. Although there is still much to do, Cardin said there are already changes on Capitol Hill.

"We now pass legislation that respects workers' rights instead of taking away workers' rights," Cardin said.

## 'Trust the Eagle'

At the May 2 reception for Casey and NALC members who helped him win, the freshmen senator alluded to the contracting out issue and what it means to other Americans.

**"I trust those people who wear that white eagle," Casey said referring to the USPS logo. "Let's make sure that we're protecting you as you protect us."**

President Young echoed Casey's sentiment.

"It's about the sanctity of the mail," Young said. "The American people trust us."

At the Pennsylvania congressional breakfast the next morning, Casey's colleague, Sen. Arlen Specter (R-PA), cited his opposition to privatizing and contracting out.

"You professionals can do the job," he said.

"You know you can trust your letter carriers," said Rep. Allyson Schwartz (D-PA), and Rep. Tim Murphy (D-PA) added: "We are grateful you are on the front lines with so many families. You are the eyes and ears of the communities."



Top left shows President Young conferring with Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) at Region 12 breakfast; in center, Rep. Allyson Schwartz (D-PA) addresses the Pennsylvania State Association of Letter Carriers congressional breakfast, and in right photo, Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD) thanks carriers for helping him win election. At bottom left, Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE) left, is greeted by NBA Tim Dowdy after his speech; in center, Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) gives stirring comments on 'contracting out'; and at right President Young looks on as Sen. Arlen Specter (R-PA), a longtime friend of letter carriers, makes a point during his remarks at Pennsylvania breakfast.



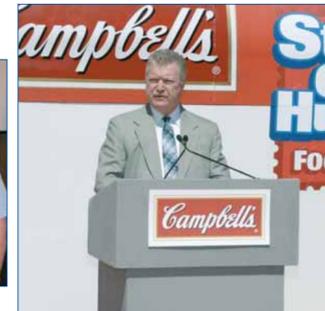
National Association of Letter Carriers

William H. Young, President  
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# NALC Bulletin

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## NALC Kicks Off Food Drive



Top left, Tim Kinslow of the Sterling, VA post office and a member of NALC Arlington VA Br. 3520 collects donations from employees of NALC Health Benefit Plan for the food drive; in center, Asheville, NC Br. 248 food drive coordinator Cassandra Scott, accepts proclamation from Asheville Mayor Terry Bellamy as branch president Jeff Grainger looks on, and at top right, Region 12 NBA William Lucini addresses South Jersey kickoff at Camden's Campbell's Field. At bottom right, Campbell Soup, food bank, and NALC officials are joined by letter carriers and Campbell Kid at Camden ceremony. At right, carriers load up start of 1 million can donation from Campbell Soup to drive.

Letter carriers across the nation were energized and looking skyward for good weather as the 15th annual NALC National Food Drive was about to begin on May 12, kicked off by a 1 million pound donation from Campbell Soup at a South Jersey ceremony May 8 at the new Campbell's Field baseball stadium in Camden, New Jersey.

Media attention grew daily as food drive day approached and more than 120 million Campbell Soup-U.S. Postal Service postcards promoting the drive were delivered by city and rural carriers in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam and the District of Columbia.

**NALC President William H. Young, accompanied by Region 15 National Business Agent Larry Cirelli and other carriers were to appear on the CBS-TV "Early Show" Saturday morning "live" from New York City along with the Harlem Globetrotters to promote the drive.**

The union's goal was to increase by 10 percent last year's 70.5 million total pounds of food delivered to food banks, pantries and shelters.

NALC Region 12 National Business Agent William Lucini led a large contingent of letter carriers from Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey and Delaware at the Campbell's Field ceremony. Lucini praised the commitment and hard work of Campbell Soup as a longtime partner with NALC on the drive.

Numerous other kickoff events and widespread media coverage occurred during the week before the drive.

In Florida, a special ceremony hosted by Cox Target Media and Valpak occurred at its new plant in the Tampa Bay area.

In Little Rock, Arkansas, KTHV reported that Gov. Mike Beebe joined other public officials in kicking off the NALC food drive at the Main Post Office May 9.

"It is important for all Arkansans to recognize that we have an obligation and a duty to help those who need assistance," Beebe said.

Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick proclaimed May 12 "National Association of Letter Carriers National Food Drive Day" and urged all citizens to participate.

At the NALC Health Benefit Plan in Ashburn, Virginia, employees joined Director of Health Benefits Timothy O'Malley in conducting their own collection to add to the contributions of Arlington, Virginia Branch 3520.

As has happened in past years, many newspapers wrote editorials praising letter carriers and encouraging citizen support.

"Thanks to the dedication of the nation's letter carriers, there will be fewer people going to bed hungry in the country," wrote the Ventura County *Star* in California.

"Three cheers to the carriers who make this drive possible, and to those who contribute," said the Chambersburg, Pennsylvania *Public Opinion*.

## Send in Totals!

Branch coordinators should return their official results form immediately to NALC headquarters so that a national total can be tabulated and branch results published in the *Postal Record*. **Results must be received at NALC Headquarters by May 30 at the latest.**