



National Association  
of Letter Carriers

William H. Young, President

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# NALC Bulletin

100 Indiana Ave. NW Washington, DC 20001-2144 202.393.4695 www.nalc.org

## Bloch Chosen Neutral Arbitrator For Determining Next Contract

### Fall Dates Scheduled for Hearing Testimony; Final Decision Anticipated in Mid-November

The NALC and Postal Service have jointly selected noted arbitrator Richard Bloch to serve as the third, and neutral, arbitrator for the binding interest arbitration to determine the new National Agreement for city letter carriers.

The two parties have sent a joint request to the director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service that Bloch be formally appointed to the neutral arbitrator position.

**At the same time, Arbitrator Bloch and the two sides have selected four weeks for hearing on testimony in the arbitration: the weeks of September 10 and September 24; October 29, and November 5. There is a likelihood that one or more dates may be added in advance of September.**

It is anticipated that a final award in the arbitration will be received in mid-November.

The other two arbitrators will be NALC General Counsel Bruce Simon of the New York law firm of Cohen, Weiss & Simon as NALC's appointed arbitrator, and Robert Dufek of the Washington, DC law firm of Morgan Lewis, as the Postal Service's appointee.

Bloch has had a distinguished career and served in 2002 as president of the prestigious National Academy of Arbitrators. He also received national attention in 2005 when he served as arbitrator in a widely publicized dispute between professional football star Terrell Owens and the Philadelphia Eagles over a four-week disciplinary suspension against Owens.

**Simon, who has been NALC's General Counsel since 1979, has served as the NALC appointed arbitrator in four past interest arbitrations which determined the 1984-87, 1990-94, 1994-98 and 1998-2001 contracts.**

Dufek served as the USPS-appointed arbitrator in the 2000 contract arbitration between the Postal Service and the American Postal Workers Union.

Terms of the 2001-2006 National Agreement remain in effect pending the award to be issued by the Bloch Panel.

## National Rural Carriers Union Supports NALC Food Drive

### NRLCA President Pitts Encourages Members To Help Out in Effort to 'Stamp Out Hunger'

The president of the National Rural Letter Carriers Association (NRLCA), who marched alongside President Young during the recent protest at USPS headquarters against contracting out, is also lending his support to the May 12 NALC National Food Drive.

"I encourage each of you to consider the good that occurs through this endeavor and, if possible, participate," NRLCA President Donnie Pitts said in a featured message in *The National Rural Letter Carrier* magazine.

Pitts endorsement again this year came as nearly 1,500 NALC branches were in final preparation for the drive, and nationwide publicity efforts — including special Campbell Soup coupons in Sunday newspapers — were being launched to encourage donations. A Public Service Announcement (PSA) featuring the famed Harlem Globetrotters is being aired on television stations across the nation.

In his message, Pitts said that although the NRLCA is not an official sponsor of the food drive, it actively supports the effort.

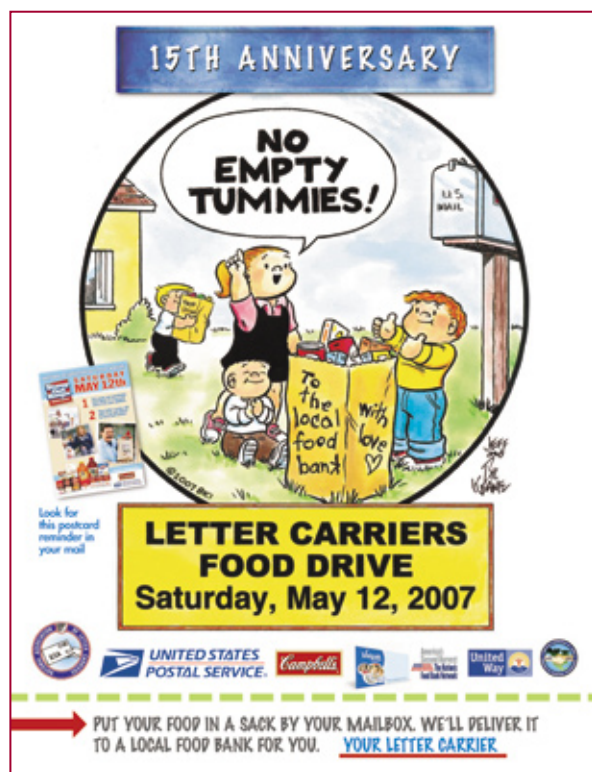
**"Rural letter carriers often work shoulder-to-shoulder with city letter carriers to collect food and contribute to the event's success," he said.**

Pitts noted that participation in the drive is voluntary for both city and rural carriers.

The final effort in setting up the drive comes as more and more food banks are voicing concern about the low level of supplies they have on hand this year.

Bill Carnegie of the Community Food Bank in Tucson, Arizona told KSMB-TV April 26 that typically the food bank receives enough from its holiday drive to last until the letter carriers drive, but not this year.

"This past year, holiday giving was down and we have already exhausted our food drive supply," he said.



## Illinois Carriers Fight 'Contracting Out'



At top left, President Young praises Congressional District Liaisons from Illinois — standing behind him — for their hard work in educating that state's House and Senate members on key issues facing the union, including contracting out of city carriers jobs by the Postal Service. At top right, Young addresses the Illinois NALC congressional reception April 26 as National Business Agent Neal Tisdale looks on. At bottom left, Illinois NALC President Ron O'Brien speaks at RAP session at NALC Headquarters, introducing President Young. Bottom right pictures part of the large gathering listening to Young give an update on the battle against contracting out.

(Photos by Mike Shea)