



National Association  
of Letter Carriers

William H. Young, President

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# NALC Bulletin

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## Harkin Introduces Senate Bill To Outlaw 'Contracting Out'

### Young Praises Move to Protect Letter Carriers

Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA) on May 23 introduced in the U. S. Senate legislation to protect city and rural letter carriers from having their work contracted out by the U.S. Postal Service to private firms and individuals.

The bill, S. 1457, is titled the "Mail Delivery Protection Act of 2007" and would forbid the Postal Service from entering into any contract "with any motor carrier or other person for the delivery of mail on any route with 1 or more families per mile."

The only exceptions allowed are contracts in effect at the date of enactment of the bill which could continue until terminated under the terms of such contract, or could be renewed, and also service on a rural route may be converted to contract delivery service when such route no longer serves a minimum of 1 family per mile.

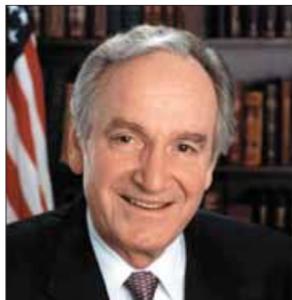
NALC President William H. Young said the Harkin bill would bring a halt to the Postal Service's drive to privatize mail delivery.

"Every active and retired letter carrier in the nation, and their families, should thank Senator Harkin for taking this courageous stand against those forces that would destroy the U.S. Postal Service," Young said.

**"At the same time, it is now critical that the other members of the Senate hear one loud voice from our members—by letter, phone, email, personal office visit—to bring about a groundswell of support for S. 1457 that will ensure its swift consideration in the Senate and eventual enactment by the 110th Congress,"** Young said.

Joining Harkin as early co-sponsors of the bill were: Sens. Max Baucus (D-MT), Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), Robert Casey (D-PA), John Kerry (D-MA), Jon Tester (D-MT), Byron Dorgan (D-ND), Patrick Leahy (D-VT), and Patty Murray (D-WA).

In introducing the legislation, Harkin said outsourcing mail carriers jeopardizes the reliable and secure delivery of mail because independent contracting firms do not use the same extensive recruiting and screening processes the USPS does in hiring and training mail carriers.



Sen. Tom Harkin

"Outsourcing mail delivery to people who have not undergone the Postal Service's extensive screening and training process leaves open the possibility that convicted felons, identity thieves, or other undesirable workers could have access to the sensitive materials that pass through the mail on a daily basis," Harkin said.

The Iowa senator said that last year, when the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act became law, the House of Representatives explicitly and overwhelmingly rejected contracting out mail delivery.

He said despite that clear Congressional guidance, the USPS has nonetheless begun an aggressive program of placing the responsibility for residential mail delivery in the hands of the lowest bidder in states across the country.

**"We cannot allow the Postal Service's management to jeopardize the safe and reliable delivery of mail to our homes,"** said Harkin. **"This bill will ensure that the quality mail service Americans depend on continues."**

## Young Applauds McCotter House Resolution To Urge Communities to Prevent Dog Bites

NALC President William H. Young praised a high-ranking member of the House Republican leadership for sponsoring House Resolution 419 that calls on communities to take steps to protect letter carriers and other citizens against dog bites.

The resolution, introduced in Congress May 21 by Rep. Thaddeus G. McCotter (R-MI), chairman of the House Republican Policy Committee, would also have Congress recognize National Dog Bite Prevention Week, May 20-26.

Young said the NALC backs McCotter's resolution to raise awareness among Americans of the always traumatic and very often serious injuries that occur from such incidents. More than 3,000 letter carriers were victims of dog bites last year.

"Congressman McCotter deserves to be commended for taking a leadership role in bringing the attention of Congress and the nation to this ongoing problem for all career letter carriers," Young said. "Every day, these men and women have to be on their guard against an unexpected attack. Communities and residents must do more."

"Local governments and homeowners must ensure that it is safe for letter carriers and others to walk through their neighborhoods without fear of being attacked," Young said. "This includes adopting and then enforcing sufficient laws to control dangerous animals."

## New York Carriers Deliver Message to Congress



Hundreds of New York letter carriers lobbied on Capitol Hill against contracting out and other critical issues, then welcomed the lawmakers to their congressional breakfast May 24. NALC Executive Vice President Fred Rolando, center photo, said the central issue is one of public policy—do Congress and the American people want a privatized, unscrutinized workforce delivering sensitive mail. Also pictured (l-r) are Democratic Reps. Carolyn McCarthy, John Hall, Tim Bishop and Michael Arcuri.

## Retiree COLA Reaches 1.5 Percent

The 2008 COLA for retirees stood at 1.5 percent following the release by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics May 15 of the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for April.

The accumulation reflects the difference between the April CPI-W and the average CPI-W for the third quarter of 2006. The COLA will be paid in 2008 based on the increase between the third quarter of 2006 and the third quarter of 2007.

For Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) participants, their 2008 FECA COLA stands at 2.5 percent based on the latest figures. That COLA will be based on the increase in the CPI-W between December 2006 and December 2007.

There is no contract COLA for active carriers pending implementation of a new National Agreement.

## Sombrotto Sculpture Nears Completion



President Emeritus Vincent R. Sombrotto, left, acknowledges a standing ovation May 23 at a New York Rap Session in Washington after a plaster cast of a bust of Sombrotto was unveiled. The bronze bust will be exhibited at the NALC headquarters building that now bears his name. Leading the applause is President Young, who praised Sombrotto's 24 years as NALC leader. (Photo by Mike Shea)

## NALC Food Drive Reports Pouring In; Final Total to be Announced June 4



Left photo shows KRXV "live" radio donation point in Olympia, WA with (l-r) DJ Kris Marshall, Mrs. Thurston County Jennifer Houghton, KRXV marketing dir. Jerry Farmer, Thurston County Food Bank Exec. Dir. Robert Colt and Br. 351 food drive coord. Ric Zassenhaus. In right photo (l-r) supervisor Jerry Prassie collecting food with US Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), his children, and Clearwater, FL Br. 2008 coord. Al Friedman.

Early reports of donation totals from the 2007 NALC National Food Drive indicate that letter carriers have once again delivered—and delivered in a big way to supply community food banks and pantries throughout the summer months.

Although it's too early to project a final figure, a number of branches reported record poundage. But, as always happens, there were some too that showed a dropoff from last year.

**The deadline for reports to be received at NALC headquarters is May 30. The final total will be announced June 4.**

NALC President William H. Young expressed the appreciation of the national officers for the spirit of volunteerism exhibited by so many letter carriers and others to make the drive a success.

### Photos, Videos Needed

Photos, videos, publicity, letters of commendation and other food drive materials should be mailed to NALC Headquarters as soon as possible for use in article, videos and other promotional items.

**"We know how hard it was for letter carriers and their rural carrier counterparts to both deliver the mail and collect food donations for the drive,"** Young said. **"This unselfish dedication and sacrifice will allow millions of American families to have a better summer this year. I am grateful, and I am sure that all of them are grateful also."**

Young also extended special appreciation to the union's national partners in this effort—the U.S. Postal Service, Campbell Soup Company, Cox Target Media – Valpak; United Way of America and local United Ways; the AFL-CIO and its affiliated unions, America's Second Harvest and our longtime friend, cartoonist Bill Keane.

### Registration Deadline July 13!

## Seminar for Secretary-Treasurers Scheduled for August 20-21 in DC

Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Broendel has announced that an updated educational training session will be held August 20-21 in Washington, DC for branch secretary-treasurers and other local and state officers chiefly responsible for branch financial administration.

The session and accompanying materials are designed to assist branch and state officers in managing the business side of their local union organization. The session is intended primarily for branch secretary-treasurers, but other branch and state officers who deal directly with branch finances are also invited to participate.

**Registrants will be limited to two individuals per branch in order to accommodate as many branches as possible. Priority will be given to first-time attendees. The registration deadline is July 13.**

Broendel noted that taking care of branch business can be a complicated task, requiring several officers to contribute their time, energy and expertise.

"It is also a job that must be done correctly at all times," Broendel said, "not only because federal laws require it, but also because the members of our democratic union deserve no less."

The training session will cover all of the basics for financial officers:

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| Taxes, including payroll withholding requirements.                   | Bonding of branch officers.                                |
| Accounting systems and maintenance of proper controls.               | NALC dues.   |
| Reporting to the U.S. Department of Labor, including LM 2, 3 and 30. | Legal limits on certain types of union spending.           |
| Fiduciary duties under the Landrum-Griffin Act.                      | IRS reporting requirements, including Forms 990 and 900-T. |

The session will be held at the Holiday Inn on the Hill, 415 New Jersey Ave., NW, Washington, DC - (800) 638-1116. **A special NALC room rate of \$162 plus tax per night, single/double, is available for August 19, 20, and 21. Deadline for the special NALC rate is July 19.**

The training session, limited to 150 participants, will begin at 8 a.m. on Monday, August 20 and conclude by 4 p.m. Tuesday, August 21. Branches will be responsible for transportation and lodging. **Please do not make hotel or plane reservations prior to receiving confirmation of acceptance from Secretary-Treasurer Broendel's office.**



## Secretary-Treasurer Seminar Registration Form

Please register me\* for the NALC Secretary-Treasurer Seminar, Aug. 20-21, 2007 in Washington, DC. (Registration deadline July 13)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Branch or State Position \_\_\_\_\_

Branch # \_\_\_\_\_ Branch City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

\* Limited to two individuals per branch.

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