



National Association  
of Letter Carriers

William H. Young, President  
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# NALC Bulletin

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## Labor Day Message from President William H. Young



Brothers and Sisters:

Union democracy. That is what this great union of letter carriers is built on and what sustains us in all the struggles we face on the job, in the halls of Congress and often against oppressive, anti-worker, anti-union policies by our own government.

In this edition of the NALC Bulletin, as we approach Labor Day 2007, we can see union democracy in action. It highlights two specific examples of how our union does not act from the top down, but rather from its members up through their elected union leaders, in determining critical issues facing our craft, the Postal Service and our nation.

I and my fellow Executive Council members need your votes – one way or the other – on ratification of a tentative National Agreement achieved in negotiations with the Postal Service. Your decision will be binding, but to make this example of union democracy work, we need your vote.

We also need your guidance on who our union should consider endorsing in the 2008 presidential election. That election is a long way away, but as I'm sure you've read and heard, the critical primaries are only four months away. The NALC Executive Council needs to know your preference so it can act with your best interest in mind if it chooses to endorse a candidate.

Please make sure to meet the deadlines cited in these Bulletin articles. This would be a great expression of what Labor Day truly means in our nation.

## New September 6 Deadline For All Ratification Ballots Official Tally Set to Begin September 7; Aimed at Ensuring All Votes Included

All ballots received by 11:59 p.m. Thursday, September 6 will be counted in the pending ratification vote on the tentative agreement for a new five-year National Agreement with the U. S. Postal Service.

The original August 27 deadline **has been extended for all outstanding ballots** due to the delayed mailing of ballots to thousands of members.

As indicated by the last *NALC Bulletin*, the later deadline was initially intended to apply only to the 16,600 eligible members affected by the delayed mailing, which was caused by computer problems. However, Ballot Committee Chairman Joe DeRossi of Brooklyn, New York Branch 41 has announced that the September 6 deadline will apply to all outstanding ballots.

DeRossi cited two reasons for extending the deadline: the heavy volume of phone calls from members expressing confusion about the two deadlines, and concern that dozens of members who recently returned to work after serving in Iraq and Afghanistan had not received ballots.

**"Before we begin the process of tallying the votes, we want to make sure that every eligible member has a chance to cast a ballot," DeRossi said. "We especially want to make sure that those who have bravely served the country overseas are not put at a disadvantage."**

DeRossi also announced that the process of tallying the votes would also be delayed until September 7. As a result, there will be no interim results announced.

### Young Applauds Decision

NALC President William H. Young applauded the decisions taken by the Ballot Committee.

"Every active member who is eligible to vote has a right to vote for or against the tentative contract based on his or her views," Young said. "I am especially pleased that there will be no interim results to report—as a long-time voter in California, I always objected to learning the results of national elections before I cast my ballot."

Members of the Ballot Committee will begin counting the votes for and against the tentative agreement September 7 and will announce the results as soon as possible the following week, once the tallies are certified.

**Eligible members—active city letter carriers who were dues-paying members as of April 13, 2007—who have not received a ballot may consult the NALC website to find out whether they were affected by the computer glitch. A list of affected members and their branch numbers (but no other identifying information) has been posted on the NALC website located at [www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org). Those without access to a computer should seek the assistance of your local branch leadership.**

If you are on the list, a new ballot has been mailed and you will be given extra time to vote.

### Replacement Ballot

If you did not receive a ballot and your name is not on the list, contact your branch president

## Local Negotiations Period Extended Pending New Contract Ratification

### Article 30 Talks Could Continue Until November 14

The tentative agreement for a 2006-2011 National Agreement calls for a 30-day period of local negotiations under Article 30 to begin on October 1, assuming the contract is ratified.

Given the limited time to prepare for these negotiations and the fact that branch leaders may be hard pressed to do so, NALC proposed a 15-day extension to the normal period for local negotiations and the Postal Service agreed. Thus, the period for local negotiations will run from October 1 to November 14—pending, of course, the ratification of the tentative agreement.

"I want to thank top postal management for accommodating the needs of our local leaders," President Young said.

If the contract is not ratified, local negotiations will have to be rescheduled.

**Although the results of the ratification vote will not be known for 10-14 days, branches are urged to prepare for these negotiations in any case. In order to assist branches with their preparations, NALC will soon distribute a Guide to Local Negotiations to all NALC branches. The guide will help ensure that branch leaders fully understand their roles and responsibilities with regard to local negotiations.**

If the contract is not ratified, branches should retain the guide for use in the future once a new contract is finalized.

The Contract Administration Unit and the Education Department have specifically updated the guide for the 2007 round of local bargaining. It outlines the rules for local negotiations, offers advice on planning and conducting them, reviews the 22 items covered by Article 30 and describes the impasse procedures to be used if the negotiations stall.

Article 30 negotiations provide an important way to address working conditions at the local level. As such, they are very important to NALC members. It is hoped that the guide will help branch leaders negotiate the best possible Local MOUs.

## Still Time for Presidential Pick!

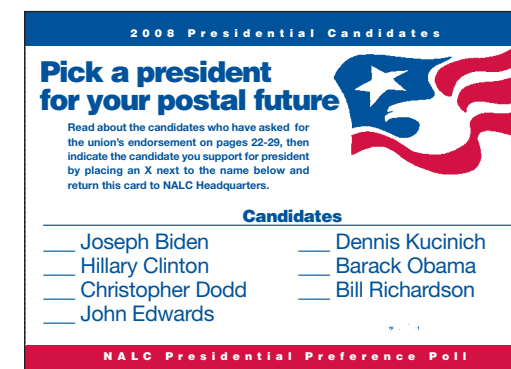
Time is running out in NALC's presidential endorsement survey.

The postcard survey will help the union decide who to endorse in the 2008 election of the next President of the United States.

**Members who have not yet voted are urged to immediately return the postcard which was included in the August issue of *The Postal Record*. Completed postcards must be received by September 7 in order to be counted.**

The postage-paid survey card, which can be found inside the front cover of the magazine, lists the names of seven candidates seeking NALC's endorsement for president. These candidates qualified for the possible endorsement by completing an issues questionnaire sent to all candidates of both parties. Their answers are published on pages 22-29 in the August issue.

The membership survey will guide the Executive Council's deliberation over a possible endorsement during the week of September 10.



### Union's Official Charity!

## Watch MDA Labor Day Telethon!



NALC MDA Coordinator and former Executive Vice President Jim Williams and letter carriers representing the top NALC branches in last year's Muscular Dystrophy Association drive will appear three times on the nationally televised Jerry Lewis MDA Labor Day Telethon September 2 and 3 from Las Vegas. They will present the NALC's pledges and donations for 2007 to help fight muscular dystrophy.

The NALC provided \$1.3 million in contributions to the 2006 campaign for research efforts spearheaded by the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

The schedule for appearances by Williams and NALC branch representatives on the Labor Day Telethon is:

#### EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME

Monday, September 3 1:10 AM – 2:00 AM  
9:00 AM – 9:40 AM  
2:35 PM – 3:20 PM

#### CENTRAL DAYLIGHT TIME

Monday, September 3 12:10 AM – 1:00 AM  
8:00 AM – 8:40 AM  
1:35 PM – 2:20 PM

#### MOUNTAIN DAYLIGHT TIME

Sunday, September 2 11:10 PM – 12:00 AM  
Monday, September 3 7:00 AM – 7:40 AM  
12:35 PM – 1:20 PM

#### PACIFIC DAYLIGHT TIME

Sunday, September 2 10:10 PM – 11:00 PM  
Monday, September 3 6:00 AM – 6:40 AM  
11:35 AM – 12:20 PM

immediately so that he or she can request a replacement ballot from the national headquarters in time to meet the new deadline of September 6.

**The tentative agreement has been endorsed by all 28 members of the NALC Executive Council.**

Ballots were mailed beginning August 6 to 203,450 NALC active letter carrier members in good standing as of April 13, 2007, along with a copy of the tentative National Agreement, a return envelope, and a sheet of ballot instructions. Once the computer error was discovered, 16,630 new ballots were mailed on August 15, 2007.

A complete summary of the agreement is provided in *The Postal Record* and on the NALC website ([www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org)).