



National Association
of Letter Carriers

William H. Young, President

September 14, 2007 No. 07-17

NALC Bulletin

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

CONTRACT RATIFIED!



Pictured are members of the official Ballot Committee that supervised the referendum and certified the results. They are seated (l-r) Ron Mann, Pam Donato, Chairman Joseph DeRossi, Greg Genord, and Larry Martinez, and standing (l-r) Otis Walker, Roxanne Luce, Bill Winston, Mike Williams, Bill Schorsch, Mel Rexroth, Kate Tavernier, Paul Rozzi, Rod Holub and John Collins.

Active NALC members from across the country gave their enthusiastic support to the tentative agreement on a new five-year contract with the Postal Service, ratifying the pact by almost a 9-to-1 margin.

The vote for ratification was 104,346 to 11,895, according to Joseph DeRossi of NALC Branch 41, Brooklyn, New York, chairman of a special Ballot Committee that supervised the tabulation by Peake DeLancey Printers of Cheverly, Maryland, and certified the results.

The settlement, reached by negotiators on July 12, had been endorsed unanimously by the NALC Executive Council.

The contract includes general wage increases of 8.85 percent over the term of the agreement, along with semi-annual cost-of-living adjustments, and new protections against contracting out of letter carrier work by the Postal Service to private firms and individuals.

Further information on the contract implementation will appear in the October issue of The Postal Record.

NALC President William H. Young applauded the 89.8 percent approval vote by the union membership.

"I am extremely pleased that members of this union agree that this is a good settlement that meets the interests and needs of both letter carriers and the Postal Service," Young said.

The agreement provides a 1.4 percent wage increase retroactive to November 25, 2006; a 1.8 percent increase in November 2007; 1.9 percent in November 2008; 1.9 percent in November 2009, and 1.85 percent in November 2010.

The contract runs until November 20, 2011.

National Contract Training Conference Set for November 16-18 in Las Vegas

A NALC National Training Conference on the new 2006-2011 National Agreement will be held at Bally's/Paris Las Vegas November 16-18, with special rates for participants. The room rate at Bally's is \$159 single or double, plus 9% room tax. Additional persons in the room will be charged \$30 per person, per night, with a maximum of four persons per room.

Reservations can be made beginning September 17 by calling Bally's at 1-800-634-3434 and requesting the National Association of Letter Carriers rate. All reservations must be guaranteed with a deposit for the first night's room and tax charge. If guestroom reservations are guaranteed to a credit card, a first night's room and tax charge will be billed immediately to the cardholder's account.

The cut-off date for making reservations with the special NALC rate is **Friday, October 26.**

Workshop registration for the conference will begin at 4 p.m. on Friday, November 16, with a welcoming reception from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. On Saturday, four workshops will be conducted, each being given three times. The conference will conclude Sunday with a General Session from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

NALC Delivers \$2.1 Million to MDA



Jerry Lewis accepts the final check from NALC MDA Coordinator Jim Williams bringing to \$2.1 million the total in pledges and contributions from letter carrier branches.

NALC branches from across the country presented pledges and donations totaling \$2.1 million to the Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Association Labor Day Telethon this year, helping the telethon attain a record \$63.7 million in donations.

MDA Coordinator (and former executive vice president) Jim Williams represented NALC at the nationally televised event. He was accompanied by representatives of top NALC branches in 2006 MDA collections: Keith Hemmings Sr., New Jersey Merged Br. 38; Tom Schulte, Br. 343, St. Louis, MO; Ruth Ann Klotz, Br. 2, Milwaukee, WI; Bob Bracy, Br. 14, Louisville, KY; Rabbit Riley, Br. 358, Schenectady, NY; Frank Bove, Maine Merged Br. 92; Kevin Gorman, Br. 120, Paterson, NJ; Jim Hennessey, Br. 619, Green Bay, WI; Randy Sorby, Br. 205, Fargo, ND; Jeff Harness, Br. 924, Freehold, NJ, and Mike Bagarozzi, Br. 5229, New City, NY.

Williams reminded Lewis that NALC was one of the first major supporters of the MDA, which is leading the research for cures for neuromuscular disease, and has been involved with the telethon since the beginning.

"We are proud to have partnered with you all these years," Williams said.

"What the letter carriers do for MDA is worth it," Williams told Lewis in presenting the last of three checks totaling \$2.1 million. "When we see a child display the kind of courage that most can only imagine in the face of terrible adversity, our hearts are changed."

NALC President William H. Young, who serves as a MDA vice president, congratulated all letter carriers and other volunteers who helped NALC collect funds for the telethon.

NALC Backs Clinton

Senator Wins Lopsided Support in Membership Survey

Acting on the overwhelming membership preference in NALC's postcard survey of active and retired members, the union's 28-member Executive Council voted to formally endorse Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) for President of the United States in next year's elections.

NALC President William H. Young announced the action at a news briefing September 12 at NALC Headquarters, saying Clinton was "ready to lead this country from her first day in the White House."

Young emphasized that Clinton was the clear choice in the postcard survey that was included in the August issue of the *Postal Record* sent to all NALC members asking their preference among candidates who responded to a questionnaire.

"Our members made this decision," Young said. "We asked our members who we should support for President, and they answered loud and clear — Senator Clinton was their choice by a 2 to 1 margin over her closest rivals. There was no doubt she was the winner."

Young said the union sent questionnaires to 17 announced Republican and Democratic candidates, but only seven were returned, all from Democrats. "Given their answers, we could have supported any one of the seven," he said, adding, however, that it was not surprising that Clinton came out on top because of her strong record on postal issues.

In keeping with NALC's long-standing practice of confidentiality regarding internal polling of members, no further breakdown of the presidential preference survey is being announced. All seven candidates who responded to the 2008 questionnaire are good friends of letter carriers.

"Senator, in the primary elections next year, you can count on letter carriers to deliver for you, and I am confident that in the years to come, you too will deliver for America as the next President of the United States," Young said. "She's ready to lead this country from her first day in the White House."

Young said Senator Clinton was a strong supporter of postal reform legislation and was among the first to support legislation to prohibit the contracting out of carrier jobs to low-wage contractors whose status is used to unfairly deny them health insurance and pension protection.

On 'Contracting Out'

"As President, I will stand with you in this fight."

— Hillary Clinton, Sept. 12, 2007.

Senator Clinton congratulated the union on the overwhelming ratification of a new five-year National Agreement.

"I know that was a result of President Young's leadership and so much effort to build congressional support. I want to say a job well done," she said.

"You have seen first hand what the administration is trying to do to the Postal Service. You've seen how over the past 6½ years, they have steadily outsourced critical government functions to private companies," Clinton said.

"The administration wants to take the Postal Service — one of the most successful, efficient and trusted agencies in our government and undermine it by outsourcing delivery services," she said, noting that she is a co-sponsor of legislation that would outlaw most outsourcing. "As President, I will stand with you in this fight."

"There is nobody better prepared to take up the battle for universal health insurance, and there is no one I would trust more than Senator Clinton to strengthen Social Security in order to keep the promises we have made as a nation to our retirees, our disabled workers and to their survivors," Young said.

2008 NALC Health Plan Rates Reduced for All Categories

Letter carriers and other postal employees who are enrolled in the NALC Health Benefit Plan will have their cost for health insurance drop significantly in 2008 under new rates announced September 12 by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM). In addition, the Plan will see numerous improvements and utilize a new Preferred Provider Network.

"We, have been trying for several years to change the direction of the NALC Health Benefit Plan to better serve active and retired letter carriers and their families, and Now we have turned the corner," said NALC President William H. Young and Director of Health Benefit Plan Timothy O'Malley.

Employee contribution rates effective in January 2008 for active letter carriers and annuitants in the NALC Health Benefit Plan (with the reduction from the current 2007 rate in parenthesis) are:

	Self-Only	Self & Family
Active Carriers (biweekly)	\$ 32.61 (- \$6.19)	\$ 54.54 (- \$6.31)
Annuitants (monthly)	\$127.40 (-\$12.18)	\$247.00 (-\$10.77)

Some of the enhancements in the 2008 Plan include lower out-of-pocket costs for surgical and anesthesia procedures, no cost for inpatient room and board at a PPO facility, lower cost for emergency care at a non-PPO hospital due to an auto accident, concussion or heart attack and improved catastrophic protection. In addition, for letter carriers, the new plan includes coverage for custom functional foot orthotics.

Effective January 1, 2008, the Plan will replace Coventry Healthcare PPO Network (formerly First Health PPO Network) with the CIGNA HealthCare Shared Administration PPO Network as the new hospital and medical provider PPO network. This change will effectively double the size of our provider network to nearly 1 million providers.

It will have no effect on processing of claims for those with Medicare as the primary payer.

If you do not have Medicare and want to verify that your doctor or hospital is part of the new CIGNA network, call 1-877-220-NALC (6252) or visit the Plan website: www.nalc.org/depart/hbp and click on the link to the network on the left side.

Members not currently enrolled in the NALC Health Benefit Plan can do so during Open Season — November 12 through December 10.

Further information about the new benefits included in the 2008 Plan will appear in future editions of the NALC Bulletin and the October and November issues of the Postal Record.

This is a summary of some of the features of the NALC Health Benefit Plan. Detailed information on the 2008 NALC Health Benefit Plan can be found in the official brochure. Before making a final decision, please read the Plan's officially approved Brochure (R171-009). All benefits are subject to the definitions, limitations, and exclusions set forth in the official brochure.

Minneapolis Picked for 2012 Convention

The NALC Executive Council, meeting in Washington, voted September 11 to hold the union's 68th Biennial National Convention in 2012 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The convention host will be Minneapolis Branch 9. This is the first visit back to the Twin Cities area since 1986 when the 55th biennial convention was in St. Paul. The last Minneapolis convention was in 1956.

Minneapolis bested Chicago, Orlando and Philadelphia in cities considered by the Executive Council.

The 66th Biennial Convention will be held next July 21-25 in Boston, Massachusetts, and the 67th Convention will be in Anaheim, California in 2010.



Skyline of Minneapolis with Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome in foreground.