

'Open Season' Ends Dec. 10 To Enroll in NALC Health Plan

Only a few days remain until the annual 'Open Season' expires during which active and retired letter carriers and other postal employees can enroll in the 2008 NALC Health Benefit Plan. The deadline for enrollment is Monday, December 10, 2007. For enrollment information go to: www.nalc.org/depart/hbp/news/newmbrs/join.

Thousands of NALC members have already chosen to switch to the NALC Plan this year after reviewing materials sent to them from the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program and the NALC Plan.

Carriers who want to take advantage of this once-in-a-year opportunity can learn about the NALC Plan by reviewing the literature sent to them and also by viewing a special video on the NALC website. Just click on http://nalc.org/depart/hbp/Open_Season/index.html and you can view the 10-minute video on your personal computer.



National Association of Letter Carriers

William H. Young, President

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1.8 Percent Wage Boost In Checks December 14

Under terms of the 2006-2011 National Agreement, letter carriers will receive a 1.8 percent general salary increase beginning with their paychecks on December 14. The pay hike is effective as of November 24.

The amount of the increase will be based on the basic annual salary for the grade and step in effect as of November 24, 2006 – at the start of the contract.

The new wage adjustment will bring the top scale for most city carriers (Grade 1, Step 0) to \$50,793 annually.

This is the second of five such increases under the contract, in addition to semi-annual cost-of-living increases and a one-time lump sum COLA payment at the start of the contract.

The entire new letter carrier pay schedule is available at the Contract Administration Unit section of the union's web site (www.nalc.org) and also will be printed in the January 2008 issue of the *Postal Record* magazine.

National Trustees Meet at NALC Hqs



The union's three National Trustees met at NALC headquarters December 5 with National Resident Officers and legal and financial advisors to discuss the NALC Health Benefit Plan and U.S. Letter Carriers Mutual Benefit Association insurance programs, along with other matters. At top, President Young briefs the trustees and other participants. At bottom left, Board of Trustees Chairman Lawrence D. Brown Jr. of Los Angeles Br. 24 addressing the group, accompanied by Trustees Randall L. Keller, Massachusetts NE Merged Br. 25, center, and Mike Gill, South Florida Br. 1071. In right photo, Director, Health Benefit Plan Timothy O'Malley makes a point as NALC Annuity Trust Fund Asst. Administrator Rick La Follette, left, and HBP Administrator Calvin Engel, center, listen. (Photos by Mike Shea)

New 'Official' Logo Unveiled For Letter Carriers Food Drive 'Stamp Out Hunger' Effort Set for May 10



The annual NALC National Food Drive – entering its 16th year in 2008 – now has an official logo.

The logo incorporates the name of the union and also the slogan – "Stamp Out Hunger" – that has become popular through the intense promotion by Campbell Soup Company over the years.

The logo will be available to all NALC branches for use in promoting the annual drive on the second Saturday of May, which next year will occur on Saturday, May 10, 2008.

NALC President William H. Young is challenging all branches to increase their effort in 2008 and to surpass the amount of donations collected in the past.

"Our annual 'Stamp Out Hunger' drive plays a critical role in America's effort to aid families in need, especially in providing high-quality and high-protein food for their diets," Young said. "I am proud that NALC members and other volunteers can help by delivering donations from citizens along our postal routes to their community food banks, pantries and shelters."

Registration forms for branches to participate in the 2008 drive will be mailed to all NALC branch presidents later this month and will be due back at NALC headquarters by January 25 in order that coordinators' packets can be sent to those branches, including forms for ordering the FREE Campbell Soup-U.S. Postal Service postcards and the official food drive poster.

The drive is the largest one-day food drive in the nation and has delivered over 70 million pounds of food to community food banks, pantries and shelters in each of the past four years. The May 2007 drive brought in 70.7 million pounds.

Branches that have participated in the food drive in the past **must re-register** for the 2008 drive to receive the postcard order form.

Questions regarding the registration should be directed to Drew Von Bergen, national coordinator of the food drive, at (202) 662-2489, by email at vonbergen@nalc.org, or by mail at NALC headquarters.

Flexible Spending Account (FSA) Enrollment Continues to Dec. 29

The 'Open Season' period during which letter carriers and other postal employees can enroll in or change their Flexible Spending Accounts will expire at 6 p.m. ET on Saturday, December 29.

There are two types of FSAs available to postal employees: the Health Care FSA for health care expenses and the Dependent Care FSA for dependent care (day care) expenses.

The health care component covers such out-of-pocket costs as prescriptions, doctor and dentist visits, vision care, even over-the-counter medical items like aspirin or bandages. It also includes expenses like FEHB health plan deductibles or copayments, and amounts for certain procedures your dental or vision insurance doesn't cover. Dependant care covers day care expenses.

Employees can get a tax break when signing up for Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs) and deciding the amount to contribute for 2008. A designated amount goes every payday to your FSAs, which are accounts to cover eligible health care and dependant care expenses throughout the year with tax-free money. In other words, whatever is contributed isn't subject to federal income tax, Social Security tax, or Medicare tax.

Employees can contribute up to \$5,000 to each account. The full amount is available beginning January 1, 2008, to cover eligible expenses, even though FSA contributions are taken over the entire year. Employees can enroll using *PostalEASE*.

February 11-12!

Union Financial Officer Training Offered

NALC Secretary-Treasurer Jane E. Broendel has announced that the School for Workers at the University of Wisconsin-Extension at Madison is offering a two-day program February 11 and 12 for union financial officers on updating record keeping skills for compliance with the Landrum-Griffin Act and the new LM-2 form, including itemization of expenses and time allocations of branch officers.

The program will also cover auditing and financial planning and also will provide a half day of training in a computer lab on how to set up records in Quick Books Pro software. This includes setting up charts of accounts, payroll and generating other reports.

The program begins at 8 a.m. on Monday, February 11 at the Pyle Center in the campus area of Madison. The program concludes Tuesday, February 12 at 4 p.m. The registration fee of \$325 includes tuition, materials, sample forms and spreadsheets, a CD-ROM of a model financial standards code, and a copy of *Auditing Local Union Financial Records* by Professor John Lund. Lodging is separate, but a block of guest rooms has been reserved at a special rate. The registration deadline is January 14, 2008.

For more information, contact Carol Graham at the School for Workers at (608) 262-4496 or via email at carol.graham@uwex.edu. To register online, go to: <http://schoolforworkers.uwex.edu/madinstitutueSpring.cfm>.