



NALC Convention

# Chronicle



Friday, August 18  
covering the  
FOURTH SESSION:  
Thursday, August 17

## 'Gimme 5' is alive!

**A** sea of white T-shirts filled the Las Vegas Convention Center Thursday as the 65th Biennial Convention of the NALC celebrated COLCPE Day, marking an essential infusion of enthusiasm into the union's political fund-raising effort.

Delegates also completed consideration of National Agreement resolutions and heard invigorating and informative addresses from guest speakers, but the day belonged to COLCPE, the NALC's political action committee.

"Gimme 5 is alive!" exclaimed President William H. Young as he looked out over the convention hall, where virtually every delegate wore the shirt marked with a blue high-five hand.

Young asked the delegates to stand and "turn your backsides to me" so he could see the results of the Gimme 5 campaign that included a raffle for a trip to Hawaii drawn later in the day. Gimme 5 refers to the target donation of \$5 per pay period from active carriers or \$5 a month from retirees.

The convention was called to order at 10:02 a.m. and Timothy L. Greene, Asheboro, NC Br. 2560, sang the National Anthem *a capella*. Mark Travers, secretary of South Florida Br. 1071, led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Rev. Emmanuel Wasson III of Holy Trinity African Methodist Episcopal Church in North Las Vegas gave the invocation.

Following through on a Wednesday comment, President Young introduced the song "Dear Mr. President" by Pink. The lyrics include references to the homeless and hungry and pose the question, "How do you sleep?"

Returning to the microphone, Young said the song was among his favorites because it cuts to the heart of the nation's social and political problems. "Most people in America think



Above: Amid a sea of white 'Gimme 5' T-shirts, President Young offers the convention's appreciation to Rep. Wasserman Schultz for her rousing speech.

Below: The delegates turn their backs, but not on COLCPE.

the country is going in the wrong direction," he said. "Our efforts to build our strength and to rebuild the labor movement are aimed at changing that direction."

"You've given us the resources to begin making that change," Young said. "We have raised well in excess of \$100,000 for COLCPE at this convention.

"This shows how the leaders of this union walk the walk instead of just talking the talk."

### Lively congressional address

The hall was still buzzing when President Young welcomed to the podium Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz from Florida's



20th District. The freshman Democrat was escorted to the stage by letter carriers from South Florida Br. 1071 and Ft. Lauderdale Br. 2550. She opened a spirited address by saying she understood why the NALC moved the convention to Las Vegas—a lack of union facilities.

“I support your message: If *you* won’t let workers organize your business, we won’t give you *our* business,” she said, drawing the first of 20 or more rounds of applause that interrupted her 25-minute address.

Wasserman Schultz noted she was a co-sponsor of postal reform legislation that protects carriers’ rights and praised NALC members for their dependable service to America. “As a postal customer, I thank you for never wavering in your commitment to bind the nation together.”

She was sharply critical of President Bush “and the rubber-stamp Republican Congress,” saying they had “failed by every measure” and were destroying the economic and social foundation that supports middle-class families.

“They’re like a bunch of those bobble-head dolls,” she said, referring to the GOP leadership and drawing loud laughter as she nodded her head rhythmically. “Yes, Mr. President. Yes, Mr. Vice President. Yes, large multi-national corporations. Yes, special interests.”

“I will make you a deal,” she said, wrapping up her remarks. “You keep it up with your ‘Gimme 5,’ and we’ll give you 15—15 or more new Democrats in Congress,” the number needed to switch control of the House.

Delegates gave the congresswoman a sustained and boisterous round of applause and cheers. “My father used to say dynamite came in small packages,” President Young said, standing beside the petite Wasserman Schultz. “We sure just got a dose of dynamite!”

Later, responding to a delegate’s request, Young said that a DVD including her speech as well as remarks by other speakers would be made available to all branches.

## Vincent R. Sombrotto Building

Next, President Young entertained a motion from the floor to designate the National Headquarters building in Washington the “Vincent R. Sombrotto Building” to honor President Emeritus Sombrotto, NALC’s national president from 1979 to 2002. The convention enthusiastically approved and Young said, “From now on, the building at 100 Indiana Avenue will be known as the Vincent R. Sombrotto Building.”

## e-Activist Awards

President Young told the convention that for the past two years he has been on a mission to increase the rolls of the e-Activist network, which both alerts and educates members about legislative developments. He recognized the branches most successful in pushing the e-Activist total near the 150,000 member goal:

Branch Size	Percent e-Activists	Branch
50-100	96.36%	Scotch Plains, NJ Br. 4102
101-200	84.70%	Greater Valley Mgd. PA Br. 4317
201-300	88.23%	Aurora, IL Br. 219
301-400	73.29%	Emerald Empire, OR Br. 916
401-500	69.74%	Albany, NY Br. 29
501-600	66.48%	Shawnee Mission, KS Br. 5521
601-700	63.98%	El Paso, TX Br. 505
701-1,500	93.12%	Salt Lake City, UT Br. 111
1,500-2,500	59.22%	Cincinnati, OH Br. 43
2,500+	52.95%	Pittsburgh, PA Br. 84

**Top branch:** Scotch Plains, NJ Br. 4102, 96.36%

**Top states:** North Dakota (52%), Wyoming (51%), Alabama (47%).

**Top regions:** Region 12 (50.49%), Region 2 (47.34%), Region 3 (44.83%), Region 13 (43.72%).

Shortly after 11 a.m., in accordance with the *Constitution*, President Young announced the appointment of the National Election Committee: Chairman Joe DeRossi, Brooklyn, NY Br. 41, and members Todd Brew, Cleveland, OH Br. 40; Jimmie Canada, Chicago, IL Br. 11; Barbara Stickler, Garden Grove, CA Br. 1100; and Wayne Wharton, New Orleans, LA Br. 124.



John Podesta

## Address by John Podesta

President Young then introduced John Podesta, who held key White House positions, including chief of staff, for eight years under President Bill Clinton. He is now head of the Center for American Progress, a progressive Washington think tank.

Podesta continued the criticism of the Congress, calling it “the most do-nothing Congress since the Truman administration.” Lawmakers on Capitol Hill will work just 90 days this year, he said, “but they are hard at work to make things worse for working families.”

The GOP leadership is “hell-bent on eliminating the policies and programs” that support the middle class, he said, citing the recent bill that combined a cut in the estate tax with an increase in the minimum wage and changes in who can earn it. “They wanted to cut the pay of people who work at the Hilton while Paris Hilton and her family get an additional \$250 million in tax breaks.”

“It’s not about choosing between Democrats and Republicans,” he said. “It’s about choosing which values are important to us.”

Next at the podium was Jerry Kane, general manager of Nalcrest, who reported on the state of the union’s Florida retirement complex. He introduced several Nalcrest residents and staff members. President Young then introduced the Nalcrest trustees, who, in addition to himself, are: Vice President Gary Mullins; Secretary-Treasurer Jane Broendel; Ron Brown, Royal Oak, MI Br. 3126; Jim Dolan, Philadelphia, PA Br. 157; and Tom Young, Garden Grove, CA Br. 1100.

Asst. Secretary-Treasurer Jim Korolowicz came to the microphone to resume consideration of National Agreement resolutions. Delegates upheld the Executive Council’s disapproval of three proposals before the convention paused for a special guest speaker.

## NRLCA President Pitts’ address

President Young introduced Donnie Pitts, recently re-elected president of the National Rural Letter Carriers Association, saying, “I value his friendship and the NALC values the solidarity of his union.” He described the NRLCA as an important ally in the fight against contracting out and for postal reform.

Pitts picked up on the theme of cooperation between the two delivery crafts. “Over the years, we have drifted together and drifted apart as issues arose and were resolved,” he said. Today, the two unions are together on legislation, the national Food Drive, and have resolved hundreds of jurisdictional disputes.

Referring to approaching contract talks, Pitts said, “We might not be bargaining together, but we will be keeping each



**President Young thanks NRLCA President Donnie Pitts for the continued efforts to improve relations between the two unions.**

other informed and will all be working for the best contract.”  
 “In today’s working environment, only the strong survive—and we are survivors,” Pitts declared.

### **COLCPE awards, drawing**

Returning to the COLCPE Day events, President Young honored top COLCPE contributors in various categories for the period of July 1, 2004 to August 3, 2006:

**Highest dollar contribution:** Branch—New York, NY Br. 36—\$126,277; State—New York—\$380,740; Region—Region 15—\$303,152

**Highest percentage of contributors:** Branch—Waipahu, HI Br. 4683—88%; State—North Dakota—33%; Region—Region 7—19%

**Most automatic contributors (payroll or EFT):** South Florida Br. 1071

**Highest percentage of automatic contributors:** up to 100 members—Longview, WA Br. 2214; 101-500 members—Valley Stream, NY Br. 2189; 501+ members—Royal Oak, MI Br. 3126

The grand exclamation point on COLCPE Day events was the drawing for three prizes. The names of automatic contributors at the “Gimme 5” level or higher and those who gave more than \$120 in 2005 or 2006 were all placed in a golden drum.

Executive Vice President Jim Williams and Vice President Gary Mullins tumbled the names thoroughly and President Young pulled out the names of the winners, accompanied by a drum roll from the Pittsburgh band.

First out was Forrest Robison, Saginaw, MI Br. 74, who won an iPod music player.

Next, the winner of a flat screen TV was David Bragaw, Lincoln, NE Br. 8.

When President Young drew the winner of the grand prize—a one-week trip for two to Hawaii—he returned to the podium and said, “I don’t believe it. You couldn’t plan it any better than this.” The winner was Melissa Garrett, Tupelo, MS Br. 1593, a graduate of the NALC Leadership Academy, who came to Las Vegas as an unpaid delegate from her branch “because she thought it was so important to be here,” Young said.

### **Benefit collection results**

Early in the session, President Young called on the Board of Tellers to take up the promised collection for Maureen DePrince, an Atlantic City Br. 370 member critically injured by a drunken driver. He announced that delegates gave \$31,051.05 and that Br. 370 members reported collecting \$10,200 at a booth outside the hall. Young said that when the numbers were verified, the national union would match the amount “and the sister probably will get a check from the NALC for about \$90,000.”

The convention returned to contract resolutions, with



## **NALC AUXILIARY** Thursday, August 17

**T**he Washington State Letter Carriers Band welcomed the Auxiliary delegates to Thursday’s session, which once again opened with a prayer, the Collect, the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem.

Tom Boyle from the Muscular Dystrophy Association was introduced. Boyle shared a video with the group, which was especially touching because it featured a remembrance of Grant Nailen, the grandson of National President Lynne Jester and the Letter Carriers Buddy for the Wisconsin State Letter Carriers. Nailen lost his battle with muscular dystrophy earlier this year.

A special raffle was held for a set of books written by Mattie Stepanek, who was the National MDA goodwill ambassador. The raffle netted \$225 for the MDA. Boyle ended his visit with a thank-you to the group for all of its support.

Assistant Secretary Linda Kirby presented the Grant Nailen awards to the Auxiliaries which raised the most money for MDA. Auxiliary 946, along with Aurora, IL Br. 219, were each awarded first place for collecting \$4,000. Awards were also given to Charleston, WV Auxiliary 395 for collecting \$1,000 and to Oklahoma City, OK Auxiliary 141, \$810.

Minutes from Wednesday were corrected and filed.

A motion from the floor to change the bylaws to allow just one member on the laws committee was defeated.

A second motion to have the treasurer’s books audited by an outside firm by June 30 was approved.

Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, who represents Florida’s 20th District, briefly addressed the group.

The We Care-We Share presentation was made. Groups donating to COLCPE were given awards and thanked for their contributions.

Joan Spero reported that there were 52 registered visitors at the convention, eight new members present, one new auxiliary added and two auxiliaries reinstated.

Gloria Alexander gave the thought for the day, entitled “Promise Yourself.”

A motion that the minutes from Friday’s session be approved by the executive board after the close of this convention was approved.

Certificates were given to all Auxiliaries that contributed to MDA.

A thank-you to parliamentarian Dollie McPartlin was given by Lynne Jester.

Gloria Alexander gave a report on the status of the misappropriation of funds. She was given a standing ovation and was thanked for all her work on this project.

Alexander then gave instructions to the delegates on the voting procedures.

The Greetings Committee gave a report on their visit to the letter carriers convention, saying they were well received and they accomplished the signing up of one new Auxiliary.

Information and suggestions for the next convention in Boston were shared with the group.

The session ended with the delegates casting their votes for vice president.

—Ann Borowski, Milwaukee Auxiliary Branch 144

Director of City Delivery Fred Rolando, Director of Safety and Health Brian Hellman, and Director of Life Insurance Myra Warren presenting the proposals.

Resolution 13, to end the “one size fits all” casing configuration and to provide an additional case to carriers who request one, was approved by the delegates despite the Executive Committee’s recommendation against it.

Resolution 24, seeking to gain access to the USPS Folio information system for NALC advocates, went to a teller vote. Delegates rejected the resolution 2,972 to 2,082.

Director of the Health Benefit Plan Tim O’Malley was introduced and said that no health plan resolutions had been submitted for consideration. He then introduced the HBP Committee:

Chair Lydia Caffrey, Central California Coast Br. 52; Janette Dolabson, Van Nuys, CA Br. 2462; Mary Harris, Richmond, VA Br. 496; John Hunter, Grand Rapids, MI Br. 56; Daniel Massari, Philadelphia, PA Br. 157; Peter Skrzypczynski, Chicago, IL Br. 11; and Darrell Walker, Waco, TX Br. 404.

Mileage and Per Diem Committee Chair Don McQuigg of Anchorage, AK Br. 4319 reported that, based on the Trustees’ recommended \$350 per diem, the committee set the total per diem expenditure at \$111,300, with

\$5,440.35 for mileage, for a grand total of \$116,740.35. The convention accepted the committee’s report.

## Leadership Academy graduates

President Young called on Executive Vice President

Williams to introduce the 60 letter carriers who made up the first two NALC Leadership Academy classes. Williams said the national union is committed to continuing the academy, noting that “whether we are successful leaders is judged in part on those who follow us.”

“We are not saying that these students are automatically going to become our leaders,” he stressed. “They have to earn that. That’s the way it has always been in the NALC.”

The names of the graduates—four from each NALC region—were displayed on the video screens in the hall.

President Young announced that one contract resolution introduced from the floor to allow carriers to take 8 hours of annual leave instead of holiday pay had been approved by the Executive

Council and, with no objection, it was adopted.

After brief announcements the convention adjourned at 2:29 p.m. until 10 a.m. Friday.



Brian Hellman



Fred Rolando



Tim O’Malley



Myra Warren

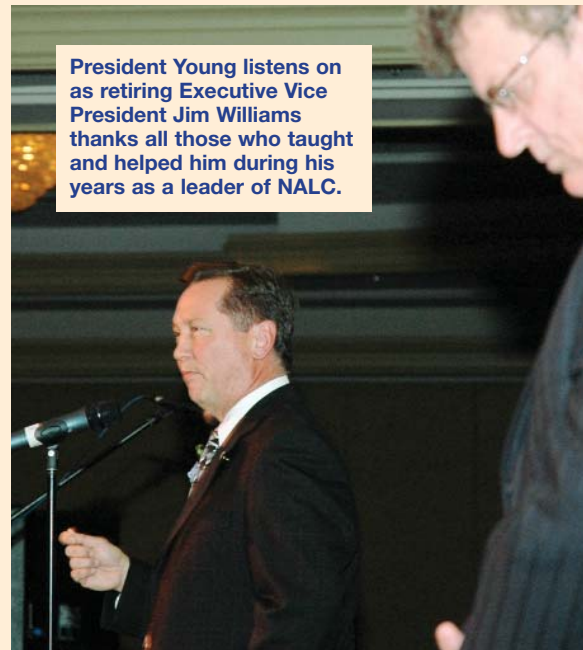
# Retiring Officers’ Dinner

Nearly 1,200 people packed into the Las Vegas Hilton ballroom Thursday evening for the Retiring Officers’ Dinner. The dinner/dance was an opportunity for delegates, friends and family to pay tribute to 10 national officers who have retired since the 2002 Convention or will retire at the end of this year.

“These are 10 friends who have supported me and the working men and women of the NALC,” NALC President William H. Young said, calling the evening’s festivities an almost “futile attempt to pay homage to these 10 men who have served the union so well.”

Each retiring officer was invited to say a few words to the crowd.

The honored officers were Executive Vice President Jimmy Williams; Assistant Secretary-Treasurer James Korolowicz; Director of Retired Members Donald T. Southern; National Trustee Daniel T. Rupp; former Director of the Health Benefit Plan Thomas H. Young Jr.; former Director of Safety and Health A.C. (Al) Ferranto; Region 5 National Business Agent Art Buck; former Region 7 National Business Agent Barry Weiner; former Region 9 National Business Agent Matthew L. (Matty) Rose; former Region 13 National Business Agent Richard G. (Dick) Gentry.



President Young listens on as retiring Executive Vice President Jim Williams thanks all those who taught and helped him during his years as a leader of NALC.

