



NALC Convention

Chronicle

Thursday, August 17
covering the
THIRD SESSION:
Wednesday, August 16



Record-setting convention re-elects President Young

William H. Young was re-elected as President of the National Association of Letter Carriers by acclamation Wednesday at the 65th Biennial NALC Convention, the largest gathering in the union's 117-year history, which also elected or re-elected 26 other national officers.

The nomination and election of Young and other officers was one highlight of the third day of the convention, held at the Las Vegas Convention Center. Only one National Business Agent position among all the 28 Executive Council positions will be contested later this year.

Another dramatic moment came when President Young made a ringing declaration of NALC's relentless opposition to contracting out postal jobs, vowing to the visiting president of the Mail Handlers, "We will stand with you to stop any attempt to privatize the Mail Handler craft, the Letter Carrier craft, or any other postal craft." Delegates endorsed the promise with an ovation.

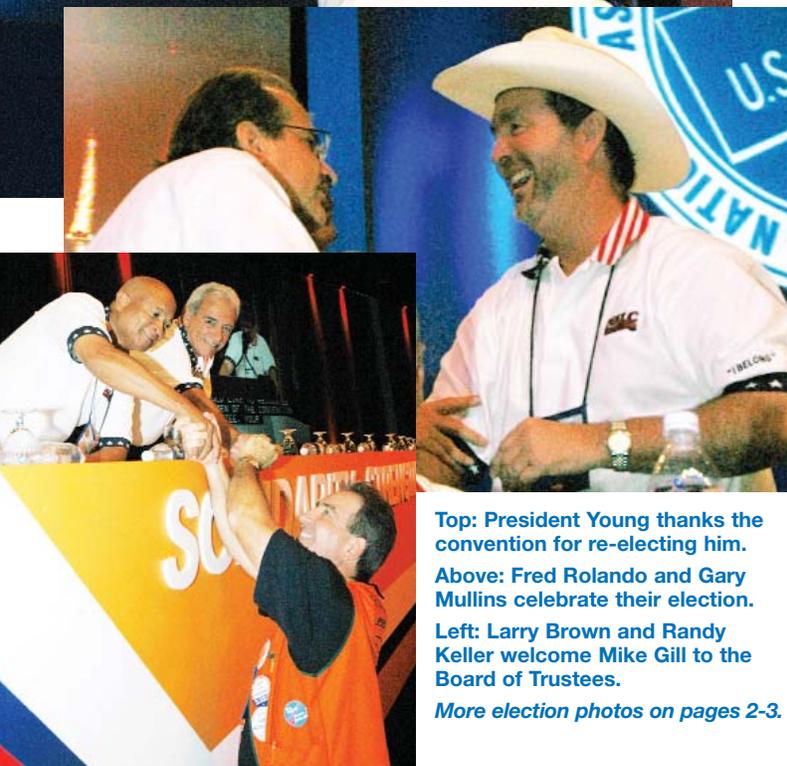
Delegates filed into the hall accompanied by tunes from the Seattle Letter Carrier Band. President Young called the session to order at 10:01 a.m. and introduced Roxanne A. Castricone of El Paso, TX Br. 505, who sang the National Anthem *a capella*. Laurie Miale, treasurer of South Florida Br. 1071, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The invocation was given by Bishop Craig T. Hall, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

As President Young began some opening remarks, he was interrupted by an open microphone he had not recognized—a breach of practice arranged to allow Brooklyn, NY Br. 41 President Joe DeRossi to advise delegates that "60 years ago today, William H. Young entered this world kicking and screaming—much the way we know him today!" The delegation joined in a rousing version of "Happy Birthday to You" as a group from Young's home Central California Coast Br. 52 wheeled out a large cake.

Back at the microphone, President Young reminded the delegates of Thursday's planned COLCPE Day events, including the "Gimme 5 for COLCPE" raffle, and reported the announcement of the final cost-of-living adjustment under the 2001-2006 National Agreement.

"Every letter carrier will receive a \$790 annual increase.



Top: President Young thanks the convention for re-electing him.

Above: Fred Rolando and Gary Mullins celebrate their election.

Left: Larry Brown and Randy Keller welcome Mike Gill to the Board of Trustees.

More election photos on pages 2-3.

Other officers elected without opposition:



Secretary-Treasurer
Jane Broendel



Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
George Mignosi



Director of City Delivery
Dale Hart



Director of Safety and Health
Brian Hellman



Director of Retired Members
Ernie Kirkland



Director of Life Insurance
Myra Warren



Director, Health Benefit Plan
Tim O'Malley



Region 1 NBA
Manny Peralta



Region 2 NBA
Paul Price



Region 3 NBA
Neal Tisdale

That's \$30.40 per pay period," he said. With the fund-raising campaign setting a target of \$5 per pay period, Young said, "As the saying goes, Gimme 5 for COLCPE."

Historic 'plan for the future'

President Young also praised the delegates for Tuesday's actions changing the *NALC Constitution* to overhaul the union's political and legislative machinery. "That was an historic event," he said. "You approved a plan for the future, and I am grateful."

The redirection of resources will reinforce the new Field Plan, which is critical to protecting letter carrier jobs and benefits and to improving the lot of working families, he said.

"When every congressional representative and senator has his own personal letter carrier liaison, we will be in a position to start changing the direction this country is heading," Young said, adding, "Long after I'm gone, you and the letter carriers who come after you will be reaping the benefits of what you did yesterday."

Food Drive video and awards

Delegates viewed an inspiring new 12-minute video promoting the NALC National Food Drive, which used materials from the 14th annual collection last May. President Young then introduced Vicki Escarra, president and CEO of America's Second Harvest, the food bank network that is a major partner in the drive.

In brief remarks, Escarra praised the NALC and the nation's letter carriers for their critical role in fighting hunger in America. "It is a travesty that the wealthiest nation in the world has 38 million people who are hungry. It's wrong," she declared. "It's wrong that one-third of them are children. It's wrong that 4 million of them are elderly."

The NALC Food Drive, coming in the spring, fills a critical need, she said. "Your effort means we can feed kids over the summer" when school breakfast and lunch programs stop.

President Young then called forward representatives of the top two branches in five size categories to receive awards. Each branch also will get 1,000 cans of Campbell's soup for a local pantry:

Category I (1-99 members)

Venice, FL Br. 5480—127,967 lbs
Ocala, FL Br. 1103—124,250 lbs

Category II (100-499)

Snohomish County, WA Br. 791
—394,483 lbs
Fort Myers, FL Br. 2072
—323,200 lbs

Category III (500-999)

Clearwater, FL Br. 2008
—1,311,454 lbs
Tucson, AZ Br. 704
—1,115,793 lbs

Category IV (1,000-2,499)

Buffalo/W. New York Br. 3
—1,902,962 lbs
West Coast Florida Br. 1477
—1,501,557 lbs

Category V (2,500 or more)

Garden Grove, CA Br. 1100
—1,031,806 lbs
Long Island Mgd, NY Br. 6000
—1,008,000 lbs

Thrift Board executive

Gary Amelio, executive director of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, which oversees the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), was welcomed to the microphone. Amelio noted that more than 600,000 active and retired postal employees participate in the TSP, making them a major share of the 3.6 million account holders. TSP holds \$186 billion in retirement savings.

Amelio thanked letter carriers for delivering some 3.5 million cards and 3.5 million DVDs last year to TSP participants describing the plan's newest offering, the Lifecycle (L) Fund. The Thrift Board executive also commended NALC for its leading role in the Employee Thrift Advisory Council, an employee group that oversees and advises on TSP operations.

Nominations for national office

The next order of business specified by the *Constitution* was nominations for national office. President Young ceded the chair to Executive Vice President Jim Williams, since the first nomination was for the office of president. When Williams called for nominations, only one was offered—William H. Young—by President Reuben Tate of President Young's home branch.

With no further nominations forthcoming, Young was declared elected by acclamation.

Returning to the microphone, an obviously emotional President Young took a moment to express his appreciation, saying he was "deeply moved" by the expression of confidence and approval of his leadership. "I thank you from the bottom of my heart," he said.

The president then called for nominations for all remaining offices, which were offered as follows (uncontested nominees were elected by acclamation; an asterisk denotes a re-elected officer):

Executive Vice President—Fredric V. Rolando, Sarasota, FL Br. 2148

Vice President—Gary H. Mullins, Wichita Falls, TX Br. 1227*

Secretary-Treasurer—Jane E. Broendel, Davenport, IA Br. 506*

Asst. Secretary-Treasurer—George C. Mignosi, Brooklyn, NY Br. 41

Director, City Delivery—Dale P. Hart, San Mateo, CA Br. 1280

Director, Safety & Health—Brian Hellman, New York, NY Br. 36*

Director, Life Insurance—Myra Warren, Dallas, TX Br. 132*

Director, Health Benefits—Timothy C. O'Malley, Philadelphia, PA Br. 157*

Director, Retired Members—Ernest Kirkland, Lexington, KY Br. 361

National Trustee—Three positions

—Lawrence D. Brown Jr., Los Angeles Br. 24*

—Randall L. Keller, Mass. NE Mgd. Br. 25*

—Mike Gill, South Florida Br. 1071

Region 1 NBA—Manuel L. Peralta Jr., Garden Grove, CA Br. 1100

Region 2 NBA—Paul L. Price, Portland, OR Br. 82*

Region 3 NBA—Neal Tisdale, Springfield, IL Br. 80*

Region 4 NBA—Wesley Davis, Hot Springs, AR Br. 543*

Region 5 NBA—Mike Weir, St. Louis, MO Br. 343

Region 6 NBA—Patrick C. Carroll, South Macomb, MI Br. 4347*

Region 7 NBA—Edward L. "Ned" Furrur, Milwaukee, WI Br. 2*



Region 4 NBA Wes Davis
Region 5 NBA Mike Weir
Region 6 NBA Pat Carroll
Region 7 NBA Ned Furr
Region 8 NBA Lew Drass
Region 9 NBA Judy Willoughby
Region 10 NBA Gene Goodwin
Region 12 NBA Bill Lucini
Region 13 NBA Tim Dowdy
Region 14 NBA John Casciano
Region 15 NBA Larry Cirelli

Region 8 NBA—Lew Drass, Huntsville, AL Br. 462*
Region 9 NBA—Judy Willoughby, Tallahassee, FL Br. 1172*
Region 10 NBA—Gene Goodwin, Houston Br. 283*
Region 11 NBA—Contested
 —William J. Cooke, Schenectady, NY Br. 358
 —Robert J. McLennan, Buffalo-Western NY Br. 3
Region 12 NBA—William J. Lucini, Philadelphia, PA Br. 157*
Region 13 NBA—Timothy W. Dowdy, Virginia Beach, VA Br. 2819*
Region 14 NBA—John J. Casciano, Boston, MA Br. 34*
Region 15 NBA—Lawrence D. Cirelli, New Jersey Mgd. Br. 38

Record-setting convention

The final report of the Credentials Committee showed that the 65th Biennial Convention was the largest ever, eclipsing the 61st Convention, held in Las Vegas in 1998. Credentials Chair Carol Ann Maggio of San Francisco Br. 214 reported that 9,199 delegates had registered—83 more than the 9,116 present in 1998. The 2004 Honolulu Convention was attended by 7,429 delegates.

The breakdown for the 65th Convention included 9,097 branch delegates from 715 branches from all 50 states, the Virgin Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia; 74 at-large delegates; and 28 national officers.

Mileage and per diem

Just before noon, National Trustees Chair Lawrence D. Brown Jr. presented the recommendation of the trustees for the convention mileage and per diem allowance: Lost time per day, supplementary payment, \$187; hotel daily rate, single occupancy, \$99; meals and incidentals, \$64; for a total of \$350. The Mileage and Per Diem Committee will make a final report Friday.

The committee also recommended stipends for committee members under Rule 22 totaling \$46,500, which the convention approved:

Credentials Committee: \$16,900—\$800 per member (19), \$900 for chair; Board of Tellers: \$13,650—\$450 per teller (29), \$600 for election commissioner; Distribution Committee: \$8,050—\$400 per member (19), \$450 for the chair.

Also, \$250 each for Health Benefits (7) and Mutual Benefit Association (5) committees—\$3,000; \$475 each for Retirement Committee (4)—\$1,900; \$200 each for Rules Committee (5)—\$1,000; \$200 each for Committee on the President's Report (6)—\$1,200; \$200 each for Mileage and Per Diem Committee (3)—\$600; \$200 each for Committee to Extend Fraternal Greetings to the Auxiliary (5)—\$1,000.



UNI's John Pedersen

International guest

Next, President Young welcomed to the podium John Pedersen, the Assistant General Secretary of Union Network International, the global federation of postal unions. Among the nearly 1,000 unions that make up UNI, Pedersen said, the NALC is "one of the most solid and supportive."

Pedersen reminded delegates that what happens to a postal system in one part of the world can have an impact

thousands of miles away. By way of example, he said, "Japan Post's privatization was inspired by European efforts."

"Our greatest challenge is the increasing deregulation and opening of markets to competition," Pedersen said, which would result in the destruction of universal postal service, an increase in postal rates, and attacks on pay and benefits.

Such a scenario would represent a win for large-volume mailers, he said, and he vowed, "UNI will not passively watch that happen."

Convention Site Committee

President Young called upon Secretary-Treasurer Jane Broendel for the report of the Convention Site Committee. Broendel, who serves as chair, introduced committee members Jack Geoghegan of Philadelphia, PA Br. 157, Howard Komine of Honolulu, HI Br. 860, and Jerry Penn of Las Vegas Br. 2502.

Penn reported that in looking for sites for the 2010 convention, the committee visited San Francisco, Los Angeles and Anaheim. Geoghegan remarked while that all three cities met the requirements for the convention, the Executive Council voted last year to award the 67th Biennial Convention to Anaheim. The 2008 convention will be held in Boston.

Retirement Committee report

When the Retirement Committee came forward for its report, Director of Retired Members Don Southern, who



Following an appeal from Atlantic City, NJ Br. 370 delegates, President Young announced that a collection will be taken Thursday morning for the benefit of Maureen DePrince, a Br. 370 member critically injured by a drunken driver while delivering her route. The national union will match the funds collected at the convention.

Br. 370 members, who were collecting funds outside the hall, have set up a fund to receive direct contributions:

Maureen DePrince Benefit Fund
Atlantic City Firemen's Federal Credit Union
PO Box 413
Northfield, NJ 08225-0413

Cards and letters of support may be sent to: Maureen DePrince Family, c/o USPS, PO Box 2750, Ventor, NJ 08406-2750.



President Young vows to stand with NPMHU President John Hegarty (l) in the fight against contracting out.

serves as chair, asked for a moment of silence for two members who had died since the Honolulu Convention: Al Marino of New York, NY Br. 36 and Florence Johnson of Garden Grove, CA Br. 1100.

Southern told delegates the committee's responsibilities include reviewing proposed

retirement resolutions (none were presented this year), writing articles *The Postal Record*, and encouraging retiree contributions to COLCPE. He then presented the members of the committee:

McDowell Frazier, Los Angeles, CA Br. 24; Doug Gulley, Columbus, OH Br. 78; Norm LeFrois, Nashua, NH Br. 230; Jim Souza, Clearwater, FL Br. 2008; John Walsh, Albany, NY Br. 29; Don DeCoste, Miami, FL Br. 1071; Pete Goodman, Arlington, TX Br. 2309; John Spencer, Santa Clara, CA Br. 1427; and Kenneth Stephens Sr., Montgomery, AL Br. 106.

LeFrois presented a report that noted retiree publications created since the last convention. The convention approved the report.

Battle against contracting out

President Young gave a warm introduction to John Hegarty, the president of the 50,000-member National Postal Mail Handlers Union, saying he has been a valuable ally in postal reform efforts and dealing with the USPS. Hegarty told the convention that the NPMHU and the NALC "have always worked together on important issues," most recently joining forces to protest USPS's proposal to contract out the work performed at the nation's Air Mail Centers.

Noting that the contracts of the four postal crafts all expire in November, Hegarty said that, while not bargaining together, his union and the NALC "will share resources and coordinate for fair agreements."

In both the political and collective bargaining arenas, he said, "Our mission must be to get involved, stay involved, and get others involved."

The union leader, who noted he has a brother who is an NALC member, also spoke about the split in the labor movement and efforts to repair the damage. NPMHU is affiliated with Laborers' International Union of North America, one of the unions that left the AFL-CIO to create the Change to Win coalition last summer. Hegarty said recent developments make him optimistic his union will be able to re-establish ties with the AFL-CIO in the near future.

In thanking Hegarty for his remarks, President Young reiterated his declaration in his keynote address regarding contracting out—"It ain't gonna happen!"

The convention then turned to National Agreement resolutions. With Vice President Gary Mullins presenting the proposals, the delegates, after brief discussion, upheld the Executive Council's disapproval of four resolutions. On Monday, the convention adopted *en bloc* all approved resolutions.

Following a few short announcements, the convention was adjourned at 1:20 p.m. until 10 a.m. Thursday.



NALC AUXILIARY Tuesday, August 15

Yes, Elvis is alive and well, and he joined the Auxiliary at its breakfast on Wednesday morning. The breakfast, held prior to the day's business session, was attended by delegates, guests and friends, and "Elvis," who provided the entertainment—and he was at his best. The Auxiliary was taken back in time to the Elvis era and it was great! The many pictures taken will keep the memories of this event alive for years to come.

It was back to business at 12:30 with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and the Collect. Chaplain Peggy Winston provided the group with an inspirational message entitled "Let Them Know," and Kathy Miller read the thought for the day. The minutes from Tuesday were read, corrected and approved.

Sandy Struecker, a member of Auxiliary 213 and chair of the Audit Committee, introduced her committee. Each committee member provided a short résumé on their qualifications to serve. Struecker reported that all the books are in good order. In addition, the secretary's books have been audited by an outside firm. A motion to accept the committee's report was approved.

A motion was made to have the treasurer's books audited by an outside firm prior to the new treasurer taking office. The motion passed.

Two-minute speeches were given by new persons seeking office. Speeches were given by Cythensis Lang from Mobile, AL; Marie Rasmussen from Racine, WI; and Vickie Payne from Salt Lake City, UT. Endorsement letters were then read for these three members, along with letters endorsing current officers seeking office. Nominations were then made for all positions. Since the offices of president, secretary, assistant secretary, treasurer and director each had only one candidate, President Jester declared that these officers were elected by acclamation. Newly elected officers are: President Linda Kirby, Secretary Gloria Alexander, Treasurer Kathy Miller, Assistant Secretary Marie Rasmussen, and Director Cythensis Lang. An election for vice president will take place on Thursday at 1:30 p.m. Nominees for vice president are Bonnie Christy and Vickie Payne. President Jester reminded all delegates to bring their credential cards on Thursday.

The Awards Committee, chaired by Ruth Myers, Salem, OR Auxiliary 260, presented awards to the states of New Mexico and Minnesota for establishing new auxiliaries. Their final report was accepted.

The afternoon session ended with the distribution of door prizes.

—Ann Borowski, Milwaukee Auxiliary Branch 144