



National Association
of Letter Carriers

William H. Young, President
October 3, 2008 No. 08-19

NALC Bulletin

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

President Young Denounces Postal Management Video About Street-Only Work

An internal management video on controlling delivery costs has raised concerns among NALC members across the country about a change to “full-time street assignments” in 2009.

The video, the September release of a monthly video series called *Field Updates with Pat Donahoe*, features a presentation by Deputy Postmaster General Donahoe on delivery costs that claims that the USPS will introduce a “full-time street concept” in 2009. It has been posted on a variety of postal web-sites frequented by NALC members.

The USPS has not provided NALC with a copy of the video that it broadcast on the internal management television network (USPS-TV), nor has the USPS discussed or provided the NALC with any information on the concept outlined in the video.

NALC first learned about the video in early September when its existence was revealed in a postal industry newsletter. President Young immediately conveyed the union’s outrage over the video to Postmaster General John E. Potter and emphasizing that:

“We are appalled that the Postal Service would announce a ‘concept’ that has never been discussed with the NALC, especially when a special joint task force on route inspections has been diligently working for months on mutually acceptable approaches to delivery issues.”

NALC will not accept any “concept” developed unilaterally by postal management outside the route inspection task force, much less a contract-violating “full-time street” concept like the one proposed by the Deputy Postmaster General.

“I urge all our members to remain calm,” President Young said. “NALC is proceeding with the negotiations with the Postal Service through our task force and we expect to reach win-win solutions on the issues of route evaluations and inspections. The Donahoe release is wholly inconsistent with the joint approach NALC and top-level postal management have been taking.”

“It is ridiculous; it is regrettable; and it is rejected,” Young said.

If the Postal Service seeks to unilaterally implement any change in city route structure without our consent during 2009, NALC will vigorously resist its introduction with every tool at its disposal.

Columbus Day Holiday – October 13, 2008



In 1892, President Benjamin Harrison urged citizens to participate in the 400th anniversary celebration of Columbus’ first voyage to the New World. During this celebration, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited publicly for the first time. In 1937, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt proclaimed October 12 as “Columbus Day” and in 1971, President Richard Nixon declared the second Monday of October as a national holiday.

Special Message from President Young



Brothers and Sisters:

Times are tough—and it looks like they’re going to get tougher. The financial crisis facing our country is serious and unprecedented. It’s scary when the president says, “This sucker could go down.”

Stock market mayhem. Bank failures and bank mergers, buy-outs and bankruptcies. Congressional hand-wringing and political finger-pointing. Working people are fed up and our message is: “No blank checks for Wall Street fat cats!”

The widespread anger and concern is certainly justified. The debacle on Wall Street and the deepening recession are punishing Main Street.

Mortgage foreclosures are spiking. Consumer loans are drying up. Credit card limits are being reduced. Unemployment—and prices—are rising. Retail sales are plummeting. The housing industry is in a shambles.

And, especially important to letter carriers, the Postal Service is hurting.

It now faces billion-dollar losses due to the largest volume declines since 9/11 and rising operating costs driven by soaring energy prices.

As I write this, both the Senate and House have just passed a bipartisan “rescue plan.” While it is certainly better than the original Bush administration plan, it may or may not help settle things down. In any event, the national election on November 4 is just over four weeks away and that’s when we will all have a chance to set a new course for America.

My purpose here is to restate some basic principles, because even after the crisis of this day is resolved, there are long-term issues that we, as letter carriers and as citizens, will have to confront, both as members and leaders of the NALC.

First – The health, stability and long-term viability of the United States Postal Service. There are those who would use the current crisis and its short-term impact on postal finances (see article at left) as an excuse to escalate their campaigns to weaken the Service—to privatize it, reduce service, out-source delivery and otherwise turn up the pressure on letter carriers in the workplace.

Let there be no mistake. We will fight those efforts with every ounce of energy and every resource and political tool we possess. At the same time, we will work with those in management and in Congress who want to preserve the U.S. Postal Service as vital and necessary to the American public. We are committed to continuing to provide the most efficient, most dependable, most affordable postal service in the world.

Second – No matter how the current crisis is resolved, the critical long-term issues challenging America will remain—guaranteeing affordable health care, strengthening Social Security and pensions, rebuilding the labor movement through the Employee Free Choice Act, restoring peace and the stature of our country abroad, protecting and enhancing our national security, rebuilding our nation’s infrastructure and implementing reforms to overcome two decades of reckless deregulation. When we go to the polls in November, these long-term issues should inform our judgment.

Finally – Let us not forget that the preservation and expansion of the middle class is the key to our success in the global economy. Letter carriers, who live and work in every nook and cranny of our diverse and wonderful country, know better than anyone how important it is to have a stable job, a decent salary, health insurance, and pension security. And we who enjoy these privileges know how hard it is to win and keep them. We must help others to achieve these protections, not just because it is the right thing to do, but also because it will help us to keep them for ourselves.

So, as the headlines scream, as the politicians posture and as the TV talking heads pontificate, let’s keep our eye on the big picture and the long term. Remember, we, the people, have the power to change our nation. On November 4, we can and must do it.

In solidarity,

William H. Young

William H. Young
President