

TO; FSALC OFFICERS, BRANCH PRESIDENTS, CDL'S AND SLL
FSALC PRESIDENTS OCTOBER 2011 UPDATE

ONE MILLION

The goal to get one million signatures on petitions to SAVE AMERICA'S POSTAL SERVICE. The petitions will be sent to all the members of Congress to illustrate the public wants and deserves the best Postal Service in the world, six days a week.

NALC President Rolando is using various means to get the message out to the membership, the mailers, the citizens and Congress. E-activists messages, phone calls, social media and the most efficient means of communication, the US mail. I believe the hardest group to convince is our own membership. If the average Union member would realize the major importance of the attacks on Organized Labor and the working families they would become an unstoppable movement. Congress would listen and take notice that Letter Carriers of America want to Save America's Postal Service.

The forces trying to dismantle the Postal Service have an underlying strategy. It is to attack the strongest and most efficient Federal Public Employee Union in America. Several states have been under siege by ultra right wing governors and legislatures to erode Union rights and benefits. Florida is on the hit list. The next step is the Federal Unions and NALC is the number one target. However, what the opposition does not realize is that, "we may not be the best, but I ain't seen none better". We will organize, and win with the help of the NALC Family. Remember in the fight for our benefits, pay and the pride in delivering America's mail, active, retired members and the AFL-CIO are part of the aggressive movement. I believe the residents that receive and use the US mail daily are on our side. Let's all help them dispatch that message to Congress.

FLORIDA AFL-CIO CONVENTION

I was joined by two other NALC delegates that attended the Florida AFL-CIO Convention in Orlando, FL October 9-12, 2011. Brothers Marty Ireland Branch 2550, Ft Lauderdale and Dennis Bonilla Branch 53, Jacksonville, FL and I represented the NALC at the Convention. Currently only two NALC Branches are affiliated with the Florida AFL-CIO. The FSALC is affiliated as a State Union and is why there were three delegates at the Convention.

I submitted two Resolutions for the Convention to consider, which were accepted unanimously. They were supporting Vote By Mail and Permanent Absentee Balloting. These two measures will be a focal point in the AFL-CIO's lobbying efforts at the State Capital this upcoming legislative session.

The NALC has a Legislative Field Plan that includes affiliation with the AFL-CIO and is being fulfilled in the FSALC's Legislative aggressive movement. However, it is not enough, we must join ranks to have reciprocal support with our brothers and sisters in other Unions.



Senator Bill Nelson was the Keynote Speaker. I had an opportunity to discuss Postal Service issues with him. He is in support of the US Postal Service and its current level of Service. Details of the Convention and other AFL-CIO information can be found by logging on to www.flaficio.org (L to R, Matty Rose President, FSALC, Dennis Bonilla Branch 53 and Marty Ireland Branch 2550)

NALC NATIONAL RAP SESSION

I only had one day to recover from the Florida AFL-CIO Convention and off to the NALC National Rap Session in Las Vegas, NV. The NALC website (nalc.org) has a review of the schedule and proceedings. I suggest the NALC website be reviewed often to keep abreast of the daily happenings which have an affect on our existence.

The attendance at the Rap was estimated to be 1500. President Rolando invited the three NALC President Emeritus to address the attendees. President Radamacher, Sombrotto and Young. The dynamics of the meeting was meaningful to illustrate the importance of our legislative efforts to stop the calculated attacks on the US Postal Service and the Unions. There was an update on the National Negotiations as the Contract expires November 20, 2011, at midnight. The NALC

has hired top gun consultants to show the information being disseminated by the PMG to the Congress and the public is misleading and incorrect.

Several workshops were available for the participants. Florida was well represented and the FSALC officers that attended should have a current report on fsalc.com.

FSALC FALL TRAINING SEMINAR WEST PALM BEACH, FL

Rounding out the end of this busy month was the FSALC Training Seminar, hosted by Branch 1690 West Palm Beach, FL. The FSALC officers met the morning prior to the Seminar beginning on October 28, 2011. The membership was invited to attend and observe the meeting. Internal workings of the State, planning, budgets and goals were discussed. Lynne Pendleton FSALC Assistant Secretary was absent and excused due to being on assignment at NALC headquarters.

The afternoon session was dedicated to Legislation. The members experienced an introduction to the FSALC association with the Florida AFL-CIO. President Mike Williams and the Staff explained how the Legislative Program operates. One of the affiliate organizations associated with the AFL-CIO at the National and State level is the Alliance for Retired Americans. A presentation of their function, organization and support for NALC issues was given. Meaghan Slater from the NALC Legislative Department presented a power point, keeping us current with our political and legislative strategies. The powerful agenda ended with a Q&A.

Saturday was a full day of individual classes that was sent to each Branch President prior to the seminar. In addition the Supervisor Of Elections for Palm Beach County was there to register voters and process absentee ballot requests.

Sunday allowed time for a MDA presentation and a contractual update by NBA. Comments from the audience and another Q&A wrapped up the Seminar. Over 200 members attended the gathering and experienced what the FSALC has to offer. It could only have been accomplished with the help of Branch 1690, in cooperation with the FSALC officers and the NBA's office.

FUTURE EVENTS, MAKE IT A PRIORITY

The FSALC officers have set the dates and location for events in 2012 for training and legislative activities.

An exclusive legislative Working Family Lobbying trip is planned for February 7-9, 2012 in Tallahassee, FL. (Branch 1172)

Punta Guida, FL is the sight selected for the fall FSALC traditional training and legislative seminar. (Branch 1477) The dates are October 26-28, 2012.

Five District meetings will be held in March and April of 2012. Locations and times will be announced in another mailing before December 1, 2011. Check fsalc.com for updates.

The Southeast area of the NALC legislative structure has a new NALC Regional Field Coordinator working out of NALC Headquarters. She is Leigh Ann Martin and can be contacted at 202 393 4695 or 202 423 2482. Call and welcome her to the NALC family.

HEALTH BENEFIT OPEN SEASON, ONLY ONE CHOICE

Open season to select a health benefit plan is from November 14 to December 12, 2011. If you are not a member, now is the time to join. There is no better choice knowing the Union Plan is taking care of you. See nalc.org and click on departments and then health benefits for details.

The NALC HBP poster features Susan Seward a letter Carrier and Chairperson of Branch 1071 trustees Miami, FL.

PRESIDENT'S ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES IN OCTOBER 2011

Lots of time was spent planning for the three events previously mentioned. Daily phone calls, computer e-mailing and US mailing absorbs much of the time in keeping the leadership of the FSALC apprised of current events.

My NALCREST duties as assigned by President Rolando add another degree to my responsibilities to Florida active and retired letter carriers.

Don't forget to nominate and elect delegates for the NALC National Convention to be held in Minneapolis, MN July 23-27, 2012.

Until we meet again, In Unity and Solidarity,

Matty Rose FSALC President

November 6, 2012

