



National Association  
of Letter Carriers

Fredric V. Rolando, President

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# NALC Bulletin

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## Memorandum Signed On Route Adjustments

### New MOU Updates Alternate Process

#### Unfinished MIARAP Adjustments to be Completed First

President Fred Rolando announced on May 4 that NALC and the Postal Service have reached agreement on a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on route adjustments.

The Joint Alternate Route Adjustment Process (JARAP) and guidelines for implementing the MOU have been posted on the NALC website and joint training of District-level lead teams has begun. The guidelines seek to explain every provision in the agreement.

The new MOU updates and improves the alternate joint route adjustment process by mandating automatic data integrity reviews and gives both the union and management a say in which routes will be subject to review. However, the agreement makes it clear that incomplete reviews (or revisits) of the Modified Interim Alternate Route Adjustment Process (MIARAP) from 2009 must be given priority over the evaluation and adjustment of routes/zones under the JARAP process.

**“NALC is pleased to reach an agreement that improves the route adjustment process,” Rolando said. “The new agreement builds on the key principles established by both the Interim Route Adjustment Process (IRAP) and MIARAP processes – an equal place at the table for the union and the iron-clad requirement that no decision on any evaluation or adjustment can be made without the agreement of both union and management.”**

While unfinished MIARAP adjustments will be completed first, the new agreement provides two windows for new evaluations.

Routes to be evaluated on the basis of March and April data will be identified by May 21, 2010 and those to be evaluated on the basis of April and May data will be identified by June 18, 2010.

Further details on the new agreement are posted on the NALC website and will be included in the June Postal Record.

## Rolando Dispels Myths About 5-Day Delivery

### NALC Pumps Up Fight Against Proposal

Federal and postal employees in Washington DC and around the world via the Internet heard the truth about the Postal Service's 5-day delivery proposal April 28 directly from President Rolando on Federal News Radio's 'Your Turn' program hosted by widely known federal/postal reporter Mike Causey.

Rolando took the opportunity during the half-hour program to explain how the pre-funding obligation on the Postal Service for retirees' health care is unwarranted and has placed the Service in its current financial crisis.

Rolando explained that while USPS must adapt its long-term business model, it also needs Congress to revise the requirement for funding its retirement obligations. He added that projections of a \$238 billion deficit by the Postal Service over the next 10 years “assumes that absolutely nothing is done. It's a worst-case scenario.”

He also dispelled the myth that a survey shows the general public is fine with the elimination of six-day delivery.

“If you tell the public the real story, I think you get different results,” Rolando said.

**“If you ask the public — ‘Would you like to pay more money for postage? Would you like to give up your first born, or would you like to give up Saturday delivery?’ I think they're going to have a tendency to go with Saturday delivery. But, if you tell them the truth and you give them the real options, and some of the other things that we can do, I think you get a totally different result.”**

Rolando added that eliminating Saturday delivery would make the Postal Service less attractive to those who want to send something during the weekend, and undermine future revenue generation.

He said if Congress reforms the funding mechanism for retiree health, which requires \$5.5 billion yearly, the USPS would not seek to eliminate Saturday delivery. Besides that, a recent USPS Office of the Inspector General (OIG) report shows that the transfer of the surplus in the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) that should have gone to the retiree health fund in 2007 was short by about \$75 billion. This is enough to fully fund all future retiree health benefits.



In the meantime, Rolando explained, the USPS plan for 5-day delivery won't go anywhere — unless and until Congress says so!

**A link to the Federal News Radio website with a recording of President Rolando's appearance is available on the NALC website: [www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org).**

## Ronald L. Hughes

The NALC regrets to inform the membership of the passing of former NALC Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Ronald L. Hughes of Halifax, Massachusetts, who died April 15 after a long illness. He was 76.

Following service in the Korean Conflict, Hughes joined the U.S. Postal Service and had an active career of leadership in the NALC with a break again for service during the Vietnam War. He was a past president of Boston Branch 34 and a National Trustee, before being elected National Assistant Secretary-Treasurer in 1978. He served in that capacity until 1981.

Hughes is survived by his widow, Pauline, of Halifax and a son, Jonathan. Services were held April 23, with interment at the Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne.



In upper left photo, NALC St. Louis Br. 343 food drive coordinator Barry Linan joins famed drag racing star Ashley Force Hood and Campbell Soup's Joe Huxhold and Andrew Presberry beside Force Hood's Castrol GTX Ford Mustang “funny car” as she promotes the food drive in an ESPN2 taping at the AAA Missouri NHRA Midwest Nationals. At right, Region 1 food drive coordinator Paula Miller, second from right, is joined by Region 1 NBA Manuel Peralta, right, and carriers from Branches 2168 and 1439 at a ‘Bust a Billion’ kickoff ceremony in Rancho Cucamonga, California. Bottom photo shows active and retired letter carriers and family members gathered at the St. Petersburg, Florida P&DC to count and distribute millions of Publix supermarket plastic grocery bag cartons to be sent to post offices across Florida and Georgia to supplement the Campbell Soup-USPS postcards. In front is Al Friedman, Clearwater Br. 2008 coordinator, who supervised the activity.

## Branches Ready to ‘Bust a Billion’ In 18th NALC National Food Drive

Only a few days remain until the May 8 NALC National Food Drive — an icon in the nation's effort to help millions of families facing hunger — with expectations that the drive will break through the 1 billion pounds mark in total donations collected since the union's effort began 18 years ago.

As more than 1,400 NALC branches and scores of rurals-only post offices made last-moment preparations, the drive received a great boost from National Hot Rod Association funny car star Ashley Force Hood to complement nationwide exposure generated by entertainment stars Courteney Cox, David Arquette and Ryan Seacrest, and numerous local promotions by political and celebrity personalities all across the nation.

The drive this year hopes to exceed last year's 73.4 million pounds total, which would raise the food drive's 18-year total above the 1 billion pound mark, since the current total stands at 982.7 million pounds.

Force Hood, who began promoting the food drive in 2009 by social networking with her racing fans after seeing an ad in *Redbook* magazine, was outspoken in her praise of letter carriers and Campbell's involvement.

**“I really think it is neat that postal carriers ... are helping out and making it so easy to donate food,” Force Hood said. “I really think we can make a difference and I hope all my fans and NHRA fans in general will really get behind this and donate a lot of food.”**

More than 126 million postcards, sponsored by the U.S. Postal Service and Campbell Soup Company, were delivered to branches to remind residents to leave food out by their mailboxes on May 8. These followed more than 40 million special Valpak envelopes that were delivered in April and May also promoting donations.

Also joining in support of the drive as “National Partners” along with USPS, Campbell Soup, and Valpak direct mail marketing were the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association; AFL-CIO; United Way Worldwide, and Feeding America, the nation's food bank network.

Branch food drive coordinators were mailed last week the official form to report final poundage collected, as well as instructions on how to report the preliminary results on the Internet before 12 noon EDT Monday, May 10. The Internet address and information included in the material mailed to coordinators is the only method of reporting the unofficial, preliminary results.

**Final branch reports must be received at NALC Headquarters no later than Tuesday, May 25 to be included in list of branches in the *Postal Record* and be considered for special Campbell Soup/NALC Branch Awards.**

Information and materials about local branch food drives are needed for articles in the *Postal Record* and *NALC Bulletin* and for videos, including color photos with identification; videos of high quality, especially of local news coverage; and other materials such as proclamations, letters of thanks, and tearsheets of newspaper articles and editorials.

The top branches in 10 NALC membership categories will be honored and receive recognition at the NALC Convention in Anaheim in August, and Campbell Soup will provide a 1,000-can donation of soup to a food bank or pantry designated by each winning branch.

## Reporting ‘Preliminary’ Food Drive Results – Accenture Conducting Speedy Tabulation

Through the generous assistance of the Accenture, branch food drive coordinators this year can log onto a special Internet website and report over the weekend preliminary results of their food drives.

All registered branch coordinators were mailed a special packet that included information on how to access the website and special information needed to do the task.

This will enable the Accenture firm to provide NALC headquarters by Tuesday an unofficial, preliminary count on how much food was collected in order that local and national news media can be contacted.

Accenture, a global management consulting and technology services company, is helping NALC to speed reporting of preliminary food drive results through the use of advanced data collection and analysis tools. For the first time, this will allow the NALC to compile preliminary results within 48 hours after the drive.



**“This food drive makes such a tremendous difference for so many people around the country,” said Accenture senior executive Brad Martin. “The Accenture team admires the NALC's commitment to stamping out hunger in this nation, and it is gratifying to contribute our special skills to furthering the impact of such a worthy cause.”**

Branches will have until later in May to fill out the final report form (also included in the packet mailed last week) and mail it so that it arrives at NALC headquarters no later than May 25. Those figures will be the only ones that will be printed in the *Postal Record* and used to determine the Campbell Soup-NALC award winners.

**Branch food drive coordinators should check the Food Drive Page on the NALC website for additional information on reporting poundage, including the average poundage held by various postal hampers, containers, and trays.**