



The Official Publication of the  
New York State Association  
of Letter Carriers – N.A.L.C.

75

Representing Letter Carriers in New York State  
and Puerto Rico

Summer 2009

GM-14

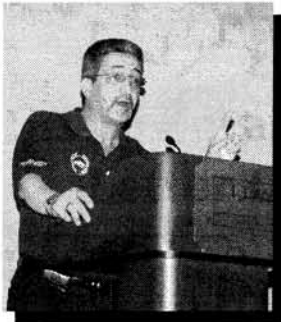
---

---

George T. Mangold, President

---

---



Our recent annual DC lobbying trip (April 21-23) was phenomenal, and all NYSALC Officers and Executive Board members, along with all NYSALC Branches, are to be commended for their help in ensuring our success. Upon the Executive Board's decision to switch from our traditional Congressional Breakfast, we entertained 8 Representatives, our junior Senator, and 5 Congressional Aides at a Cocktail Reception, at the Hyatt-Regency Capitol Hill. The event was well attended (160 members, President Young, the NALC Executive Board, and our Legislative Department) and totally enjoyed by everyone....

New York is extremely proud in having all of our Representatives as cosponsors to HR 22, and 26 of 28 Representatives as cosponsors of EFCA. Both Senators fully support the provisions of HR 22, and await its' Senate companion, while both are cosponsors of EFCA. We still have work to do in gathering support for HR 1203-S 491 (Premium Conversion), HR 235-S 484 (Repeal of WEP & GPO), and HR 1604 (Vote by Mail).

\*\* One additional caveat; President Bill Cook, CDL Rabbit Riley, and Br.358 volunteers (in conjunction with the NYS AFL-CIO) deserve a special mention, for their total commitment performed in the Special Election in CD 20..virtually unknown Scott Murphy-D. overcame a 20% + deficit, to defeat long-time Assemblyman Jim Tedisco-R.

There are some very interesting developments in the NYS Senate, which SSL-Director of Legislation Bill Cook, will address in his article. We will need full cooperation from ALL BRANCHES, to SUPPORT State Senator Addabbo (Bill# S. 5028-S. 2868), and OPPOSE State Senator Kruger (Bill# SB 2132, S 4408)...Let's Move on This!!!

New York State has fallen behind on COLCPE contributions.  
We can do much better.  
We must.

**Give to COLCPE**  
**Give to YOUR future!**



---

---

PO Box 2000  
Astoria Station  
Long Island City, NY 11102  
Cell # (347) 813-9582  
Work # (718) 932-3459  
Office & Fax # (718) 392-0715  
Home & Fax # (718) 204-1055



**NY STATE ASSOCIATION  
OF LETTER CARRIERS**

George T. Mangold – President  
(Branch 357)  
Art Muoio – Vice President  
(Branch 210)  
Robin Koes – Secretary  
(Branch 190)  
Charles Heege – Treasurer  
(Branch 36)  
George Sarvis – Delegate at Large  
(Branch 137)  
Andrew Weiner – Alt. Delegate at Large  
(Branch 562)  
William B. Cook – Dir. of Legislation  
(Branch 358)  
Norman LeFrois – Director of Retirees  
(Branch 210)

Robert Morton – Editor  
(Branch 693 )

**EXECUTIVE BOARD – DISTRICTS**

Tinnelly District – Jay Jackson  
(Branch 29)  
Central District – James Lostumbo  
(Branch 134)  
Southern Tier – Genesee Valley  
Kevin Van Kuren  
(Branch 333)  
Niagara Frontier District  
Robert McLennan  
(Branch 3)  
Hudson Valley District – John Springman  
(Branch 36)  
Long Island District – Walter Barton  
(Branch 6000)  
Caribbean District – Carmelo Montañez  
(Branch 826)

Director of Education – Mark Sobel  
(Branch 294)

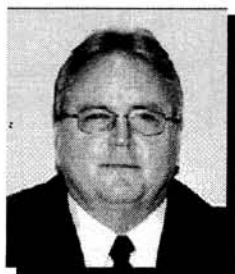


New York State attendees at the recent 2009 Congressional Cocktail reception listen intently as State President George Mangold speaks, while National President Bill Young looks on.



***COLCPE opens  
many doors***

**Daniel Toth**  
**National Business**  
**Agent**  
**Region 11**



**Hello**

Hello, New York. This is a great honor to be writing my first NYSALC article to you as Region11's National Business Agent. It is also an honor to following retired NBA Bill Cooke's footsteps.

NBA Cooke's leadership has not only helped the Letter Carriers of Region 11 but also on a national level as he worked with the Executive Council on several National Agreements. Bill, along with the active members of NYSALC has built a strong foundation in protecting the member's rights through the halls of congress. As of writing this, NY's leadership is once again illustrated by just about every single Congressional Representative serving New York State has signed on to H.R.22 and both Senators have signed on for EFCA.

I look forward to working with NYSALC and the local branches to increase the level of training for our advocates as well with the three pronged approach of increasing participation in COLCPE, Carrier Corp, E-Activist and assisting the finest CDLs in the country.



health care and retirement plans. There have been no layoffs or reduction in pay. We still have a company to go to work to in the morning.

We still must do our part and more. Get involved in Customer Connect. Every dollar brought in counts. Contribute to COCLPE. Every dollar helps us get a friend in congress. Do your job professionally and make sure others do the same. With mail volume off, adjustments are necessary but we want them done right with letter carriers having an equal voice on how the adjustments are done. We are in troubled times and we must all do our part. If we stick together, work to together, we can survive together. Do your part.



**Larry Cirelli**  
**National Business**  
**Agent**  
**Region 15**

**The Times We Are In**

Everyone can see that we are in tough times. From the autoworkers in Detroit getting slammed, to long time local companies going out of business like Circuit City, Linens n Things just to name a few. Many local banks are changing names, not once, but twice or more, as they get taken over by other concerns. Our brothers and sisters in the private workforce are suffering losses never before seen. Loss of raises, freeze on pensions, reduction in health benefits and most importantly loss of jobs. The banking problems, the housing problem and unemployment have hit hard. It is being called the "Great Recession" and rightfully so.

Well, the Great Recession or whatever you want to call it has hit the Postal Service hard. Our employer has incurred losses in 10 of the last 11 fiscal quarters. The loss for the second quarter was \$1.9 Billion. Year to date the loss is \$2.3 Billion. This is despite two price increases. The Postal Service is taking unprecedented steps to combat the situation. They have closed entire districts offices. Reduced management personnel at each level and cut costs in almost every area they have. They are finally considering reducing postmasters, opting out of leases, selling buildings and doing a special summer sale for Standard Mail in hopes to increase business.

We have to do our part. History shows they cannot do it alone, that they cannot be left to do it alone. With our congressional contacts, we have introduced H.R. 22 that can save the service \$2.5 billion. The Senate is considering their version as of this writing. We are preparing a way for them to save \$500 million in health plan costs. Letter carriers are pushing Customer Connect as never before. The week of this writing \$1.5 million in new sales was brought in by letter carriers in Region 15. We have started a new route adjustment process, MIARAP. While MIARAP will not be popular, it is absolutely necessary in order to survive these tough times. There are 7.5 billion less pieces of mail from mail volume a year ago. This is almost a 15 percent drop. We have to adjust to survive. No company, not even one as large as the Postal Service can endure such continued losses.

Please remember, as bad as things are we have not had to suffer the same losses as others. Adjustments to our routes are bothersome and annoying but we still have our jobs,

**Norman C. LeFrois  
Director of Retirees**



At the outset let me express my congratulations to President George Mangold for hosting an excellent Congressional Reception recently in Washington, DC This was a change from our annual traditional breakfast and from all reports the format was well received by both the delegates and

Congressional Representatives. We had New York's junior Senator in attendance and also a Republican Congressman from Upstate New York, representing a District that has previously eschewed attending our events. The new format allowed not only Congressional Representatives to mingle with the delegates and National Officers but gave the delegates themselves an opportunity to mingle with other Branches where issues could be discussed and varying ideas could be exchanged.

Our lobbying efforts have shown good results especially with regard to House Resolution 22 which will provide the needed financial relief to the Postal Service. However as retired members we have specific interests and while the issues have been kicked around for several years, now is the time to focus on bringing them to the top of the list.

H.R. 235 would repeal the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) that deny our retirees their full Social Security benefits. H.R. 1203 would allow our retirees to pay monthly health benefit premiums with pre-tax dollars. Companion bill S. 491 has been introduced in the Senate.

We have talked about these bills many times in the past but it is in the current 111<sup>th</sup> Congress that we have the best chance of having some action taken . Our efforts must continue and contact with our Congressional Reps is paramount. Information on these bills is available on the web; [thomas.loc.gov](http://thomas.loc.gov). Take time to look up these important pieces of legislation and look to see if your Congressional Rep is listed as a co-sponsor. If so write or call them to express your thanks. This is important since they appreciate hearing from a constituent who is pleased with the way they are being represented. If they are not listed ask them to become a co-sponsor. In preparation for a call asking them to co-sponsor, be prepared. Go to the NALC web site's legislative department and print out a NALC Fact Sheet pertaining to the specific bill you wish to discuss. These fact sheets clearly detail the bill and the reasoning why it is so important to the federal retiree.

We are very fortunate to have a retirement that is guaranteed and health benefits that have a lions share paid by the government but we are also susceptible to the whims of the Congress. Consequently we must be heard on a regular basis and must provide the resources necessary to ensure that those sensitive to the needs of the working class and those of us now retired are elected to their respective Congressional offices. Through COLCPE donations you can provide those resources.



In closing let me express my personal congratulations to recently retired National Business Agent, Bill Cooke. Bill has represented New York Letter Carriers in Region 11 for many years and is deserving of a long and happy retirement. Best wishes to Bill and his family as he enters his new life as a retired member.

Region 15 NBA Larry Cirelli (l.) joins State President Mangold and other NY State members as they discuss NALC issues with NY junior Senator Gillibrand.



NY State delegation to the Washington DC Congressional Cocktail Hour accompanies State President George Mangold in meeting with NY Senator Schumer.

**Special Message from  
President George Mangold**

ATTENTION ALL CDLS, BRANCH PRESIDENTS & OFFICERS..

NYS SENATOR KRUGER D- HAS INTRODUCED S-4408, WHICH WOULD ALLOW OTHER SERVICES(UPS,FED.EXPRESS) TO DELIVER MAIL BALLOTS TO THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS OFFICES, SHOULD WE GET A "NO EXCUSE ABSENTEE BALLOT" BILL PASSED...PLEASE CONTACT YOUR STATE SENATORS <http://www.nysenate.gov/senators> TO OPPOSE THIS LEGISLATION..THE ELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE CRUCIAL IN THIS:

**Joseph P. Addabbo Jr. D.15 (Chairman)**

**Martin Malavé Dilan D.17**

**Brian X Foley D.3**

**Joseph A. Griffo D.47**

**Tom W. Libous D.52**

**Thomas P. Morahan D.38**

**Jose M. Serrano D.28**

**SUMMARY:**

**S4408 KRUGER** No. Same as KRUGER Amd SS1-106 & 5-210, EI L

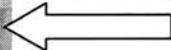
Recognizes delivery services other than US postal service for the delivery of papers under the election law; includes state board of elections as an entity to receive timely voter registration forms.

\*\*\* YOU SHOULD ALSO BE AWARE, THAT CHAIRMAN ADDABBO HAS INTRODUCED LEGISLATION, THAT WOULD ALLOW "NO EXCUSE" ABSENTEE BALLOTS IN NY STATE. THE BILLS ARE S-5028 & S-2868. WE ARE WAITING FOR THE BILLS RELEASE IN THE NEAR FUTURE...PLEASE CONTACT YOUR RESPECTIVE NYS SENATORS ( ESPECIALLY ELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS LISTED ABOVE ) FOR SUPPORT.

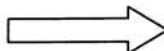
THANKS FOR YOUR COOPERATION,  
GEORGE T. MANGOLD,



**Brian Higgins 27<sup>th</sup> CD**



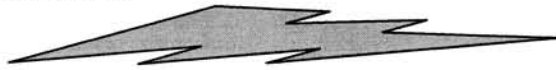
**Christopher Lee 26<sup>th</sup> CD**



**Dan Maffei 25<sup>th</sup> CD**

*NY State Association of Letter Carriers*

**William B. Cook**  
**Director of Legislation, NYSALC**  
P. O. Box 358  
Schenectady, New York 12301  
[518] 374-1046  
[518] 374-1047 (fax)



On Tuesday May 11, 2009 the New York State Senate Standing Committee on Elections held a public hearing in Albany. The purpose of the hearing was to take testimony on a number of bills pending before the Committee. The New York State Association of Letter Carriers along with two other allies [The Vote By Mail Project and Pitney Bowes] testified in support of “No Excuse Absentee Ballots”.

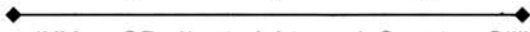
The Legislative Department of the NALC worked closely with the NYSALC to develop the testimony given. The following is a portion of the testimony that I presented to the Committee; “In these tough economic times, we see more and more families struggling to make ends meet. Too many citizens simply can not sacrifice the money and time it takes to wait in long lines to vote. The voters of New York deserve the right to cast their ballot through the mail.

Our own members are disadvantaged during election season. As employees of the United States Postal Service, letter carriers work long hours leading up to and on Election Day. The nation’s letter carriers are work late on Election Day to pick up and deliver every last minute absentee ballots to insure that every one of our customers’ votes will be counted. In so doing many of our own members struggle with balancing the competing priorities of work, caring for their families, and voting. My members, our citizens, your constituents need flexibility, security, and reliability to be able to cast their votes. The no excuse absentee ballot is an integral option that our citizens need to exercise their duty and responsibilities as citizens of this great country.

Voters all over this country are already taking advantage of voting by mail. In the 2008 election, we witnessed a significant increase in mail-in ballots. One in four Americans cast their ballots by marking their ballot at home and then returning it with the assistance of the Postal Service. This represented a 50% increase over 2004. Americans are attracted to the flexibility, convenience, and safety of voting by mail.”

There are two bills pending; S5028 and S2868. You can stay up to date with the progress of these two bills by logging on the NYS Senate website. The NYS Assembly also has a companion bill . These pieces of legislation are the foundation that we need to build to eventually get to the automatic “vote by mail” for state and local elections that you see in other states.

One bill allows all registered voters to get an absentee ballot without having to give a reason for voting by absentee ballot. The other bill allows the registered voter to notify the local Board of Election that they want an absentee ballot for every election. Now is the time for all of us to contact our legislators to urge them to support this reasonable election law reform.



Congressman Timothy Bishop (NY – CD 1) at right, and Senator Gillibrand (l.) address NY State assembly. George Mangold, NY State President looks on as does Brian Hellman, National Director of Safety, from NY State.



*NY State Association of Letter Carriers*