



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

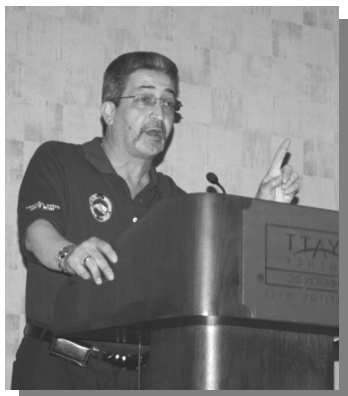


Representing Letter Carriers in New York State  
and Puerto Rico

Summer 2010

George T. Mangold, President

GM-17



George Mangold

## Protecting Our Pro Labor Friends

Our recent Congressional Cocktail Reception & Lobbying Trip to D.C. was extremely well received, and all NYSALC Officers and Branches should be commended for a job well done... Aside from direct lobbying all day on Wednesday, 7 Representatives and 5 Congressional Aides joined us for the Reception, and all unequivocally backed our position on 6 day delivery...

As we enter the summer of 2010, we cannot allow ourselves to become complacent... As of 6/15, 26 of our 29 NY Representatives are cosponsors of H. Resolution 173.. We need to get the other 3 on board..... (Lee, \*Serrano, and \*Towns...\* these Representatives are Chairs of Committees or Sub-Committees that this legislation could impact, so although they support our positions, they

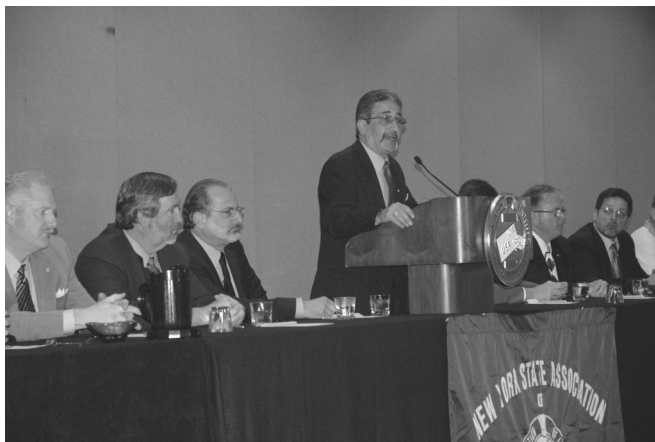
probably won't cosponsor).

Both Senators (Schumer and Gillibrand) agenda... We do expect an actual Bill to fix the prefunding and overpayment is-exacerbating the Postal Services' fiscal predict the timing... As the political shown, the anti-incumbent theme has anyone in office...

Regardless of how we feel about the Oil Spills, and other issues, we must be pro-labor friends; the alternative could and benefits... To that end, I encourage now, for the fall election cycle...

Carrier Corps members should be up-must be recruited... We may also need to work on the AFL-CIO GOTV pro- targeted Congressional Districts, so be prepared with a few members; we will need all the help we can get!!!!

In conjunction with NBA Dan Toth's office, NYSALC recently participated in a Political Action Training Seminar in Syracuse (5/2/2010). The attendees were addressed by NBA Toth, RFC Jeremy Goldberg, Director of Legislation/ State Legislative Liaison Bill Cook, and myself...

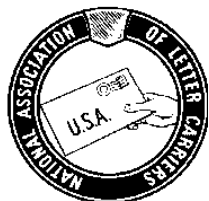


President Mangold addresses the NYS delegation concerning 6 Day delivery along with other issues that will jeopardize the future of the Postal Service before entertaining congressional representatives at the cocktail reception

are in full support of our be introduced, that would sue that are currently dilemma, but we cannot arena nationwide has produced a real threat to

Economy, Health Care, prepared to protect our be devastating to our jobs you to start to prepare

dated and new volunteers volunteers to be released grams, in specific tar-



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*"I'm pretty happy with my six-day mail service, and we've got to keep it that way."  
Rep Mike MaMahon (D-NY)*



*"These people who are talking about ending Saturday delivery are just plain wrong. We've got to stop this dead in its tracks."  
Rep-Carolyn*



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

## **Is Forrest Gump Right? “Stupid Is As Stupid Does.”**

**I** am reading articles and news reports from Postmaster General Potter saying that five-day delivery is a must if the Postal Service is to be saved. I am reading that he is saying that the service has lost billions in the last few years and will lose more in the next few years. Potter is the Postmaster General, who could argue with him? Well, how about Postmaster Potter himself? Potter himself told Congress that there is no actual need to cut service, contradicting his previous statements. The following is the transcript of his testimony:

*Postmaster General Jack Potter told Congress March 18 that recovering the \$75 billion USPS has been overcharged for the Civil Service pension fund could essentially solve the Postal Service's financial crisis, eliminating the need for draconian measures like cutting delivery days.*

**Sen. Durbin:** *The Inspector General says you have overpaid \$75 billion into the Civil Service Retirement System. If this is accurate, could you use this as a source for retiree health benefits and some of the other economic issues you're facing?*

**PMG Potter:** *Yes, sir.*

Take the chance of pushing more patrons away if you don't have to? Stupid. Take away our uniqueness of six day delivery? Stupid. Push more businesses away by providing less service? Stupid. Give reason for new competitors to jump into the Saturday delivery business and compete with us for other days and service as well? Stupid. If the \$75 billion were just moved to the retiree health benefits fund we would have made money the last few years.

Also, by law, we are **still paying billions into the over funded account!!!** Stupid! Is Potter screaming this to everyone in Congress and to the media outlets? Nope. He says let's just cut a day of delivery. Stupid is as stupid does. Some carriers think it is a good idea. I can get weekends off! Think again and remember where the idea is coming from. If the requirement of six day delivery is removed **there is nothing to stop the Postal Service from reducing it to four days or three days!** How would you like still work six days a week but deliver two full assignments, alternating between two routes. Route 1 gets delivered Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Route 2 gets delivered Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Under this scenario, the Postal Service only required to deliver to a home three days a week. So a carrier works six days and delivers each of their two assignments on alternating days. **Half the workforce is not needed.** Sound good? How would you like to do that job for 30 plus years? No, I didn't think so. This and worse is possible if the congressional requirement for six day delivery is repealed.

Now you have heard on some news sites that five-day delivery is coming. In some post offices they have given floor talks that it is a done deal. In the Postal Service's own 10 year plan they have five-day delivery as part of their approved operations. Just two problems, the National Association of Letter Carriers and the United States Congress. We are simply not going to let them get away with this stupidity. Only Congress can authorize the end of Saturday delivery. You, the NALC, have many friends in Congress. I have personally met with a number of Senators and Congressmen, Democratic and Republican alike, on the issue and they were all in our corner. In the upcoming weeks many NALC State Associations will be sending their delegations to the hill to convince Congress of what needs to be done.

A comedian once said, "you can't fix stupid." Well, maybe you can't but you can stop it. Combating stupidity is never easy. We will need your help. We will need you to contact your senators and congressmen by letter, phone, fax and e-mail. We need you to contribute dollars to COLCPE (Committee on Letter Carrier Political Education) to support our friends. We need you to sign up for e-Activist. All you need to do is give us your e-mail address and we will keep you informed so you will know what is the latest and what is going on. Sign up for Carrier Corp., taking a turn at the phone banks or knocking on doors to help out political candidates. We will need you to come out to vote our friends on election day and get your family and friends to come out and vote.

There is a lot that you can do and need to do. Don't let stupid win.

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



**Norman C. LeFrois**  
**Director of Retirees**



## **PASS THE WORD**

**A**s I sit down to write this article, I've just finished reading the June edition of the Postal Record. President Rolando's message was titled "Even Smart People Can Be Dead Wrong – And Dangerous." The title is actually what I have been discussing with anyone who will listen. I am asking this question over and over "Are Jack Potter's intentions pure?" If not, then why is Jack Potter attempting to destroy United States Postal Service? Only Jack Potter knows for sure what motivates him.

As National Business Agent of Region 11, part of my job responsibilities is to educate and motivate the members of this great region. On March 19<sup>th</sup>, the National Association of Letter Carriers executive council met for four days to discuss the current state of the United States Postal Service. After listening to President Rolando and my fellow colleagues, I decided that NOW is the time to educate and motivate all members of the region. After discussing strategies with Ron Adams and Mark Camilli, we agreed to attend as many union meetings as possible plus schedule special meetings. Pass the word.

On March 25<sup>th</sup> in Syracuse, NY, the first special union meeting took place, specifically for the Franklin Square letter carriers. The letter carriers wanted to voice concerns over climate issues at Franklin Square. Afterwards I spoke for approximately 30 minutes on the importance of COLCPE, E-Activist, and Carrier Corps. All members in attendance at the conclusion of my presentation enrolled in COLCPE. Branch 134 President Jim Lostumbo recognized the benefits of a special meeting and scheduled another in Ogdensburg, NY. Pass the word.

Our office since March 25<sup>th</sup> has been involved in 14 meetings with 3 more scheduled. In those 14 meetings, 220 members have pledged to COLCPE, 54 pledged to Carrier Corps, and 59 signed up for E-Activist. As of the date of this writing, Branch 134 has 45 new members pledged to COLCPE, and that is a GREAT start. It is clear to me that if members are educated on what is facing them, they will respond. What is facing the members of the NALC right now:

- USPS insistence on reducing service from 6 days to 5 to 4 to ?
- Unresolved issues with OPM regarding the overpayment to the civil service retirement to the tune of 75 Billion.
- Changing a law which requires pre-funding of future retiree health benefits at an accelerated rate.
- Working for a company with a 12 Billion dollar debt with a 15 Billion dollar ceiling. 2010 expected losses to exceed 7 Billion

These are just a few of our challenges. As a union, we must meet our challenges head on. If I can assist you in any way to promote education and motivation within the rank and file, do not hesitate to contact me. Since you are reading this article, I will consider you a leader. I need you to help me to reach every letter carrier in order to achieve our goals. Pass the word.

**W**ith the NYS Congressional Reception in the past, we now look towards the future when New York delegates will assemble at the National Convention.

This will be my 20th convention and in those 40 years I have been honored to have been given assignments by five different National Presidents. The assignment I currently hold on the Standing Retirement Committee has provided insight to the needs of the nations retired letter carriers.

It seems sometimes we are spinning our wheels with such things as WEP/GPO and Premium Conversion but we must not give up. Unfortunately when it appears that we are getting close, something more pressing comes up and those important pieces of legislation get pushed back. Still we must work to keep the issues alive.

Other issues involve retirees concerns are safeguarding Retirement Benefits, Cost of Living Allowances and Health Insurance benefits and premiums. While attending the National Convention I encourage your participation in events scheduled by the Retirement and Health Benefit Directors. Information imparted by our National Directors and their excellent staffs and the ability for members to ask questions is the perfect forum to gain insight on matters of importance to retired letter carriers.

Inasmuch as this newsletter is directed to Branch Presidents and other NYSALC Officers, I would suggest that at Branch/Station meetings and in Branch newsletters, retired members attending the convention be advised of the sessions that are available to them and encouraged to attend. As always continued support for COLCPE is necessary especially with the upcoming elections this November.

**Robert Morro**  
Editor



**Mark Sobel**  
Director of Education

## Carnivals in Town

Remember when I was a child my father once took me to a carnival which had plenty of sideshows with illusions, smoke and mirrors. Well the Postal Service has now become that carnival directing the American public away from the real issues that are troubling the Service.

Mail volume continues to decline and the service continues to think that it will capture savings through under-time, attrition, the Flat Sorting System (FSS) and a Transitional work force, but the truth is the Postal Service will collapse under the miss management, micro management style from the top that the last four years has demonstrated.

Fortunately Congressional representative are seeing through the smoke, mirrors and misdirection that the USPS carnival has been bombarding the public with every day.

On April 15<sup>th</sup> Rep Gary Connelly questioned Postmaster General Potter at the Oversight Committee Hearing titled

### **“Continuing to Deliver. An Examination of the Postal Service’s Current Financial Crisis and its Future Viability.”**

At that hearing Rep. Connelly blows the USPS estimates of losing \$238 billion dollars over the next ten years right out of the water. This hearing can be seen at: <http://postalnews.tv/2010/04/28/rep-connelly-questions-postmaster-general-john-potter/>.

All carriers need to be informed and reach out to their representative to keep the pressure on the postal service by blowing away the smoke, keep questioning whatever the Postal Service has to say. Six day delivery will be the start of a downward spiral for the Service. Congress must challenge the Postal Service to find alternative ways to raise revenue not find ways for other businesses to get a foot in the door on delivering our work on Saturdays. Whether our economy turns around is only part of the problem.

Congress must pass legislation to release the 75 billion over payment to the CSRS and loosen the strangle hold on the Postal Service so direct mailers and the public can have more confidence to begin to use our services more.

## **EDUCATE AMERICA NOW**

Sometimes education to protect the membership of the NALC has nothing to do with contracts or handbooks or manuals. Sometimes it takes a movement to educate those we serve, the public, our customers.

As much as we can teach our members how to know their rights and which article to use in their grievance, it has become quite apparent that nothing will save our jobs more than educating Congress, the media, the consumers, the corporations, the mass mail marketers, the American people.

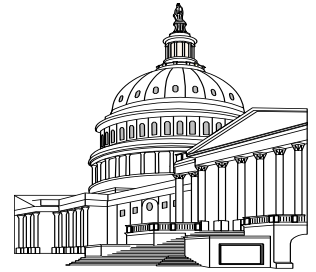
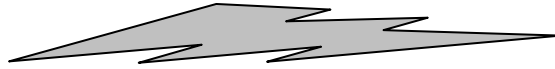
The Postal Service, under the misdirection of PMG Potter, has taken the low road of believing that cutting service will reinvigorate the business. It is wrongheaded and destructive. The Postal Service's leaders have never developed a business model, never enacted a ten-year plan to follow, never believed that they wanted to do anything but destroy the true fabric of America: the mail.

Education must begin by telling America how these so-called leaders who have evolved from the lower echelons of their craft, are sailing the Postal ship into a tsunami they neither wish to avoid or care to navigate. To educate our loyal customers, we must be the voice of reason, the voice of concern and the voice of trust. When I first became a letter carrier, it was more than a job.

Today Letter Carriers are the vehicles that kept America in communication with each other and despite the advent of electronic diversion, that will never change. Sometimes its not about grievances, but about what is right for America and the working men and women of this country.

Every union leader must educate their members and then send those members out to educate America whether by one patron at a time or one Congressional representative at a time. EDUCATE

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## **Vote By Mail and No Excuse Absentee Ballots in New York State Elections**

**W**ho knows but hopefully by the time you read this newsletter, the State budget crisis will have passed so that all other legislation can move. If the crisis is not resolved by the time the Assembly and Senate finish their session at the end of June, then we have lost another opportunity for real election reform in New York State. The budget crisis is holding up our legislation.

We are now at a turning point in our legislative/electoral cycle. As we move closer to the fall our own Postal Service budget crisis looms ever larger. We all have our tool kits from headquarters, so we need to mobilize our communities to support six day delivery.

As we do that we have to internally organize our branches to be ready for the fall Congressional elections. We have both of our US Senators and all of the members of the House of Representatives as well as all NYS office holders are

up for election this year.

Yesterday a poll reported out in New York that voters identified as independents are not rating Senator Schumer and Andrew Cuomo favorably. As a result the generic polls had both Schumer and Cuomo's favorability ratings slip for 60% to 51%. Now most of us who handicap the races say that Schumer and Cuomo are a shoo in based on common knowledge learned from our past experiences.



President Rolando speaks to the NYSALC and tells the delegates "the NALC will have to save the Postal Service from it's 5 day delivery plan."

However, based on our experience on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District race last fall, the formulas for predicting who is going to win an election have to be thrown out the window. We can leave no stone unturned to defend our friends in Congress.

If you have not signed up for COLCPE now is the time. If you have not signed up for Carriers Corps, now is the time. If you have not signed up for E-Activist, now is the time.

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# **Save Six Day Delivery!!!**