

Finding Aid

NALC: Office of the President

J. Joseph Vacca  
Collection

1962-1979  
(bulk 1976-1979)

7 Linear Feet

Accession No. 1914

**NALC: Office of the President**  
J. Joseph Vacca Collection  
7 Linear Feet  
1962-1979, (bulk 1976-1979)

Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University, Detroit MI

**Accession Number:** 1914

**Creator:** National Association of Letter Carriers

**Language:** Material entirely in English

**Access:** Papers are open for research

**Use:** Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library *Rules for Use of Archival Materials*

**Notes:** Citation style: "National Association of Letter Carriers, Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University"

**Scope and Content:**

Records from the office of J. Joseph Vacca, the 15<sup>th</sup> president of the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC), were originally deposited in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs by NALC in 2001 and opened for research in December of 2006. Additionally, another deposit occurred in February of 2007 and the new material has subsequently been incorporated into the collection.

J. Joseph Vacca was elected national president of NALC in 1976 by delegates at the 50<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention in Houston, TX and began his term of office in January of 1977. He succeeded President James H. Rademacher who chose not to run for reelection amid growing dissension within the union.

A native of Cleveland, Vacca entered the Post Office Department in that city in 1948 and soon served as station representative for Branch #40. He quickly rose through the ranks, elected branch president in 1965, national assistant secretary-treasurer in 1968, vice president in 1972, and executive vice president in 1974. In 1976 he ran for the office of president of NALC against Vincent R. Sombrotto, a vocal proponent for change and supporter of the 1970 wildcat strike. Vacca won that election but, upon reaching the president's office, faced the same dissension and disunity as Rademacher. In 1978 he was defeated in his attempt to win reelection, this time losing the contest to Sombrotto. Mr. Vacca retired in McLean, VA and passed away on November 4, 2003.

During his one term as national president, Vacca led the Postal Labor Negotiating Committee through the 1978 contract negotiations, but the agreement tentatively approved by the negotiating parties was rejected by the rank and file. Amid threats of a walkout, the negotiating parties were forced into mediation and the national contract eventually went through arbitration. Files documenting these unprecedented events, interfiled with the papers of Vice President Francis Connors who was also a party to the 1978 negotiations, can now be found in the NALC Vice President's Collection.

A large portion of the material contained in the President Vacca Collection is reflective of the administrative duties of the office of the president. Records include Executive Council minutes and reports, financial records of the Nalcrest Foundation and the NALC Health Benefit Plan, the Annuity Trust Fund, plus convention materials and responses to editorials—mostly critical—from across the country, as well as correspondence and communication from states and branches. These records also contain constitutional rulings by the Committee of Laws and information relating to the NALC national constitution, as well as records documenting charges against state, local and national officers that were filed and/or processed during Vacca's term of office.

**Important subjects covered in this collection are:**

- American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations
- Equal Opportunity and Full Employment Act of 1976
- Insurance Plans
- Mail Sorting
- Conventions, National and State
- National Labor Relations Act
- National Labor Relations Board
- Postal Reorganization and Salary Adjustment Act of 1970
- Postal Service
- Strikes
- Technology
- United States Postal Service
- Wildcat Strikes

**Important correspondents in this collection are:**

- Andrews, Emmett
- Bailar, Benjamin F.
- Bolger, William F.
- Conway, James V. P.
- Harvey, Paul
- Healy, James J.
- Johnson, Lonnie
- Ketchum, William M.
- Meany, George
- Miller, Lester F.
- Ruddock, Andrew E.
- Sendak, Theodore L.
- Tinsley, Thomas A.
- Wilson, Charles

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**Series I: Subject Files, 1962-1979**

Materials in this series include correspondence, editorial responses, convention committee files, Executive Council minutes, NALC building and Nalcrest Foundation records, and files related to the NALC health benefit and MBA retirement insurance plans.

**Series II: Charges Against Officers, Agents and Trustees, 1972-1979**

Correspondence, investigation reports, and other materials documenting charges issued against NALC branch, state and national officers.

**Series III: NALC Constitution, 1976-1979**

**Subseries A, Articles of the Constitution, 1976-1979**

Files in this series contain selected articles of the national NALC Constitution along with related correspondence.

**Subseries B, Constitutional Rulings, 1977-1979**

Consists primarily of correspondence between Richard P. O'Connell, Chairman of the Laws Section, and branch officers regarding compliance with the national Constitution.

**Series IV: State Files, 1975-1979**

Files in this series includes correspondence and communication with branch and state offers and national business agents (NBAS), copies of NBA correspondence, grievances, questions, authorizations, and constitutional interpretations.

**Series I: Subject Files, 1962-1979**

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31. Convention, 51<sup>st</sup> Biennial; Correspondence, General, 1977-1978
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34. Convention, 51<sup>st</sup> Biennial; Resolutions Committee
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