

Finding Aid

National Association of Letter Carriers

Office of the Vice President

1968-1986  
(Predominately 1975-1986)

12 Linear Feet

Accession No. 1917

**NALC: Office of the Vice President**

1968-1986  
(Predominately 1975-1986)

12 Storage Boxes

Accession No. 1917

Materials in this collection were deposited in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs by the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) in 2001. These consist primarily of the records of Francis J. Conners, the bulk of which were generated during his tenure as vice president of NALC.

Conners became a letter carrier in 1947 following service in the U.S. Navy during World War II. While working, he also took courses at St. Joseph's University and received his degree in 1950. In 1954, Conners became a shop steward for Branch #157 in Philadelphia. He was elected branch vice president in 1961 and branch president in 1962. In 1966, Conners began serving as national business agent for the Philadelphia Region and held that position until he was elected to the office of national vice president in 1976. In 1986, he was elected national executive vice president. He was also married and a father; he and his wife Ann were parents to nine children. Conners retired from NALC in 1998 following a long and successful career. He passed away on June 23, 2001 at the age of 74.

As national vice president, Conners served under Presidents J. Joseph Vacca and Vincent R. Sombrotto. He worked as chief negotiator during the turbulent 1978 contract negotiations and again during negotiations in 1981, 1984, 1987 and 1990. Throughout his years as a national officer, Conners worked to improve labor-management relations and reduce workplace tension. To this end he strongly promoted the National (NALC-USPS) Joint Employee Involvement (EI) Program and co-chaired the National Joint EI Committee throughout its existence in the 1980s and 1990s. Conners' records pertaining to the EI Program can be found in the executive vice president's collection.

A large portion of the material in this collection consists of chronological records in the form of general correspondence and communications with state and branch officers and members. This material illustrates the administrative nature of much of the work performed by the vice president's office, while other records, such as those relating to the 1978 contract negotiations and the U.S. Postal Service data collection study, provide insight into the specific responsibilities of the office as well as information of historical value relating to NALC and the letter carrier craft.

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

AFL-CIO  
American Postal Workers Union  
Collective Bargaining  
Collective Labor Agreements Postal Service  
Contract Negotiations  
Insurance Plans  
Letter Carriers  
NALC Branches  
NALC Conventions, National and State  
National Association of Letter Carriers (U.S.)  
National Rural Letter Carriers Association  
Postal Service  
Postal Service Employees  
Special Delivery Messengers  
Strikes  
United States Postal Service  
United States Postal Service Handbooks  
United States Postal Service. Fiscal Handbook.

**Important correspondents in this collection are:**

Emmet Andrews  
William F. Bolger  
James V. P. Conway  
James C. Gildea  
William Gomberg  
Lonnie Johnson  
James J. LaPenta, Jr.  
George Meany  
Lowell P. Weicker, Jr.

**Related Collections**

NALC: Office of the President, James H. Rademacher  
NALC: Office of the President, J. Joseph Vacca  
NALC: Office of the Executive Vice President  
NALC: Office of the Secretary-Treasurer  
NALC: Research and Education Department  
NALC Auxiliary

**Note on Arrangement**

When deposited, the chronological records contained in this collection were separated by year. In order to make the information more accessible to researchers, yearly records were merged according to subject. Unless otherwise noted, material is now arranged first alphabetically by subject, and then in chronological order.

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#### **Series I, Chronological Files, 1968-1986, Boxes 1-2:**

##### **Subseries A, Correspondence, General, 1981-1985, Boxes 1-2:**

This subseries contains primarily correspondence from branch and state association officers and from NALC members, with frequent requests for route bids, route changes, transfers, clarification of health benefits, resolution of health benefits problems, grievances and constitutional interpretations. Correspondence is chronological by month and year.

##### **Subseries B, National Business Agents, 1968-1985, Box 2:**

Material in this subseries consists of correspondence, reports, and requests for information from the National Business Agents with regard to developments in their respective regions. Files are arranged in alphabetical order by agent's name.

##### **Series C, Regional Administrative Assistants, 1977-1979, Box 2:**

Correspondence with various regional administrative assistants, a large portion containing congratulatory messages regarding their promotions to this position. Files are labeled and arranged in numerical order by Region number.

##### **Subseries D, State Files, 1973-1986, Boxes 3-5:**

The materials in state files consist primarily of correspondence with branch and state officers, reports, invitations to local events, and requests for information.

#### **Series II, Carrier Working Methods Program (CWMP), 1977-1980, Boxes 5-6:**

Materials in this series relate to a data collection study conducted by the U.S. Postal Service, using selected letter carriers from all regions of the country as a data base. Documents include instructions, schedules, procedures, a description of the study, correspondence, signed protest forms from letter carriers desiring to opt out, and follow-up reports from members taking part in the study.

#### **Series III, Contract Negotiations, 1977-1978, Boxes 6-12:**

This series contains materials gathered in preparation for and during the 1978 contract negotiations. It should be noted that much of this material was generated by both President Vacca and Vice President Connors, but remained in the office of the Vice President and has become part of that collection.

**Subseries A, Postal Labor Negotiating Committee (PLNC), 1977-1978,**  
Boxes 6-7:

Correspondence, minutes, reports, summaries, and miscellaneous housekeeping files generated by members of the PLNC prior to and during the negotiations process.

**Subseries B, General Contract Negotiations, 1975-1978,** Boxes 7-8:

Correspondence, media information, handwritten notes taken during main-table negotiations, signed tentative agreements, and transcripts of Telecom status reports sent to the NALC membership. Of particular interest is documentation of events that unfolded following rejection of the negotiated agreement, such as threats of a walkout, threats of a temporary restraining order, mediation hearings, and the eventual arbitration of the agreement. Folders are arranged in alphabetical order by subject.

**Subseries C, General Negotiations (Proposals), 1970-1979,** Boxes 8-10:

Proposals, counter-proposals, discussion papers, drafts, arguments, back-up material, and working tentative agreements. Folders are arranged in numbered Article sequence.

**Subseries D, Craft Negotiations, 1975-1978,** Box 11:

Proposals, counter-proposals, meeting notes and back-up material relating to craft contract negotiations.

**Subseries E, Handbook Revisions, 1975-1978,** Boxes 11-12:

Correspondence, handbooks, drafts, proposed revisions and back-up material.

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- 28. Romero, Joe Z. (Dallas), 1977-1985
- 29. Sebolt, Jack R. (Kentucky-Indiana-Michigan), 1977-1985
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