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MCCA ANNOUNCES NALC WILL HOST BIENNIAL EVENT AT BCEC IN '08
More than 14,000 People Expected to Attend, \$19 Million in Revenue Anticipated

The Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA) today announced that the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) will hold its 66th Biennial Convention at the new Boston Convention & Exhibition Center (BCEC) July 20-26, 2008. 9,000 union members and their families - 14,000 total - are expected to attend the event, bringing an estimated \$19 million in revenue to the City of Boston.

"We are very pleased the NALC chose the BCEC for their 2008 Convention," said James E. Rooney, MCCA Interim Executive Director. "The union visits great convention cities every two years and has overlooked Boston in the past because we didn't have the space to accommodate them. Now that we have the BCEC, we were able to compete for their business and we know the facility's appeal and the success of 2008 will make us an even stronger competitor for future years."

The NALC is the union of city letter carriers employed by the U.S. Postal Service. Their national convention, open to delegates elected by their local branches across the country, meets every two years and is the union's supreme governing body. At the conventions, delegates consider constitutional amendments, discuss key issues in standing committees, set national policy for the NALC and attend educational workshops and seminars. Additionally, delegates to every other convention nominate candidates for election for national office in the NALC.

"This is a great convention for the City of Boston," said Gloria C. Larson, Chairman of the MCCA. "Large conventions like this bring a tremendous amount of revenue into the cities they visit and they build the cities' reputations as premier convention destinations for associations. We look forward to them coming and spreading the word about the BCEC."

The NALC was founded in 1889 and has 302,000 members across the country. The union's members delivered 202 billion pieces of mail last year, six days a week, to over 140 million homes and businesses in every city, suburb and town in the United States.

"We're looking forward to meeting in one of the America's great cities in 2008," NALC President William H. Young said, noting that "nothing could be more appropriate than letter carriers from throughout the nation walking the streets of 'America's Walking City.'"

Congressman Stephen F. Lynch said, "I'm thrilled that the brothers and sisters of the NALC have chosen Boston as the home of their national convention. The City of Boston's proud union history make it an ideal match for the Letter Carriers, and I'm hopeful that this new partnership will encourage other labor unions to bring their conventions here as well."

"Bringing the National Association of Letter Carriers to Boston is another great step forward for the convention center," said Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino. "I am thrilled that 14,000 people will experience the richness of the new Boston and its diverse neighborhoods."

The NALC's 2004 Convention will be held in Honolulu and the 2006 Convention will be held in Miami. For more information about NALC, please visit their Web site at www.nalc.org.

The BCEC is scheduled to open in less than a year, at the end of June 2004. Currently, there are 29 definite events and 72 tentative events scheduled at the BCEC through 2010.

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