



VOLUME 62 No 2

Official Publication of Branch Nine, NALC

March 2010

City Letter Carriers Vote to Stay Out!

This was the headline that was printed in the MINNEAPOLIS STAR Newspaper on March 21st 1970. Branch 9 letter carriers voted to strike and walked off the job in what was the first strike by federal employees in U.S. history. The strike started in New York City, and quickly spread across the country. By March 23rd, there were almost 250,000 postal employees on strike. At the time of the strike, letter carriers were earning \$3.06 an hour, or \$2.00 a week too much to qualify for welfare.

Strikers agreed to return to work so that contract negotiations could begin. In the first week of April, the NALC attained an agreement that included a 14% pay raise, collective bargaining with binding arbitration, and a reduction from 21 to 8 years for carriers to reach the top step of their pay grade.

Every letter carrier who walked off the job not only risked losing pay, but their jobs, their retirement, and they could have ended up in jail because their strike was illegal. We owe these men and women who "Walked the Line for Branch 9" an enormous debt of gratitude.

Submitted by the Editor



Photo from NALC.org



Cover of Time magazine March 1970

Upcoming Events

North/South Hockey Game
 Sunday, March 14th
 Breck School Anderson Arena
 Golden Valley

Turtle Lake Casino
 Sunday, March 21st
 Southdale Shopping Center
 SE corner

Branch 9 Newer Employee Meeting
 Thursday, March 25th
 Crystal VFW

MDA Bowl-a-Thon
 Sunday, April 25th
 Memory Lanes

NALC Region 7 Training Seminar
 April 26th - 30th
 Holiday Inn Metrodome

Red & Gold Retiree Banquet
 Sunday, May 2nd
 Minneapolis Ramada Plaza

Special Meeting
6:30 pm Thursday
March 25th at
Crystal VFW

Branch 9
Newer
Employee
Meeting

Questions about
Excessing...
Withholding...
Making Regular...

TEs PTFs and
Junior Regulars
this meeting is designed
for you get the latest
information on what is
happening so that you can
tell fact from fiction.

Postal Service gets

Bioterrorism Task

WASHINGTON - If the nation ever faces a large-scale attack by a biological weapon like Anthrax, the U.S. Postal Service will be in charge of delivering whatever medical aid Americans will need. In an order released Wednesday, President Barack Obama put the Postal Service in charge of dispensing "Medical Countermeasures" to biological weapons. Federal agencies must develop a response plan that includes possible escorts for postal service workers.

- Associated Press

March is Women's History Month



Patricia Roberts Harris
 First African American named to a Presidential Cabinet



1952 stamp belatedly acknowledged women's military role during WWII.



Alice Paul
 Founder of National Womens Party and author of Equal Rights Ammendment



Soujourner Truth
 Born Isabella Baumfree, she was the first black woman to speak publicly against slavery

More information about historical women on stamps at: www.infoplease.com

Women who left their stamp on history.

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- | | |
|----------------------|----------------|
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| Exec. Vice President | Mike Zagaros |
| Recording Secretary | Melia Derrick |
| Treasurer | Darrell Maus |
| Financial Secretary | Rick Onslow |
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| Director of Retirees | Cheryl Stately |

NALC Health Benefits Rep Julie Waldemar
 612-963-6252

The Branch Nine News is a monthly publication of NALC Branch 9, and is published in the interest of and for the members of NALC Branch 9. The opinions expressed by the writers are not necessarily those of the OFFICERS, or of NALC Branch 9. Articles MUST be submitted to the editor by the 3rd Friday of the month, and must be signed. The Editorial Staff reserves the right to edit or refuse to print articles which are derogatory in nature. Any official NALC organization may reproduce our articles provided appropriate credit is given.

President's Report

TWO SCORE AND NOT SO LONG AGO...

Forty years ago, Branch 9 members voted at a special meeting to go out on strike. They followed the vote with action. They did not report to work on the morning of March 21, 1970. Instead, carriers showed up in mass at a parking lot to grab picket signs and then walked over the Hennepin Ave. Bridge to the Main Post Office in Minneapolis. While Postal Inspectors took pictures for evidence of the unlawful action of participating in the strike, these members walked with "ON STRIKE" signs defiantly hoisted in the air. The following days saw continued strike activities, resulting in President Nixon ordering the National Guard in to sort and deliver the mail. (That did not work out so well). The detailed news articles and other preserved artifacts here in our own Branch and around the country are of great interest.

This is a rich piece of our own Labor History, with at least 10 of these strike heroes *still* carrying mail! Over 300 of our 1970 Strikers are enjoying their much

deserved retirement. All of them would gladly share their personal recollection of the events, the financial sacrifice (as they certainly did not get paid by the US Postal Department while on strike!) and the fear they had of losing their jobs as a result of the illegal strike. At the time of the strike, letter carriers made \$3.06 per hour, compared to

a Roofer at \$7.28 p/h, a Radiator Repairman at \$6.20 p/h, and Street Sweepers and Garbage Collectors at \$4.43 p/h.

Each March, we recognize these bold letter carriers and the stand they took **together**. While the collective nature of their actions could not be denied or overcome, (over 200,000 stopped work around the country!), the strike was only possible and successful because each carrier made an individual and personal decision to act! We are eternally grateful for their heroism and the strength we draw from knowing we also possess the power of improving our work lives.

MIARAP OUT!

As the agreements which created MIARAP expired on Feb. 28, we are getting a clearer picture of what is left in the aftermath. Generally speaking, we gained

the strike was only possible and successful because each carrier made an individual and personal decision to act!

23 assignments back in the most recent round of "Pin the tail on the mail volume" evaluation and adjustments. As much as the mail volume proved to be much heavier than postal managements' Armageddon predictions, the lion's share of gained time had to do more with the REALITY of time



*Pam Donato
President Branch 9*

it actually took on the street verses the unachievable forecasts made in round 1 of the process. So, what we've got is what we've got... for now. The National parties will undoubtedly come to agreement on another evaluation and adjustment process, you guess the acronym. Management not surprisingly believes they have a lot of time and routes they need to cut. We will be ready too, with truthful clock rings and an appreciation for taking as long as it takes day in and day out.

SAINTS GAME

In light of this year's National Convention in August, Branch 9 will offer a Saints game and picnic instead of our large picnic at Aquatore Park in Blaine. We have 150 **reserved seats** for June 13th's game against the Sioux Falls Fighting Pheasants. We will have a tail gate party ahead of the game in a reserved area of the Saints Midway parking lot. Tickets for the reserved seat and picnic meal will be \$10 each (limit 4 per member). A flyer will be in the next mailing to the station stewards. Sign up is limited on a first come first served basis. Please see your steward to sign up and reserve seats.

In Solidarity
Pam



SKI TRIP 2010



Just an easy one hour drive northeast of the Twin Cities in Dresser, WI. is Trollhaugen ski area, and the perfect Valentine's Day venue for family skiing and tubing.

Branch 9 hosted an outdoor cookout with hot dogs and brats cooked over a hardwood fire, and body warming apple cider along with chips plus heartshaped cookies fueled the participants.

Director of Retirees, Cheryl Stately and Darlene Zagaros checked in Branch 9 members at the chalet, while Mike Zagaros and Deb Grunnes set up the serving line and stoked the oakwood fire to a perfect grilling temperature.

With light snow falling and mild temps, carriers and their families enjoyed the bonding time. Branch 9 continually demonstrates through its member activities that our union sees the family as a focal point in a letter carriers life, and also be a good steward of public relations with the general public.

Chuck Glover



Executive Vice President's Report

Excess... You've Got To Be Kidding

Sometimes you just have to wonder if people are making stuff up just to make stuff up. Take for example the latest from the *wunderkinds* from the Western Area. They are saying that the Minneapolis Installation will need to reduce the number of full-time carriers by at least 57 people. That somehow we could do without these 57 people. They made this determination even though we have not hired a career carrier since 2007. They made this determination even though we routinely have carriers out past 5, 6, 7 sometimes even 8 o'clock at night. They made this determination even though under this round of MIARAP we have been adding time and 23 assignments to stations. They made this determination before MIARAP evaluations were even finished. Yes, I know that the air in Denver is thinner than it is here, but I think these people are dealing with oxygen deprivation. Still, sometime in the next month the 57 junior full-time regulars will be receiving a letter informing them that they are/will be excess to the needs of the Minneapolis Installation (that's the Stations & Branches in the 554 zip codes area). The letter will tell them that no sooner than 60 days from the date of letter that they may be excessed (moved) outside the installation. First things first, if you receive one of these letters **DO NOT PANIC**. **This letter does not mean that you are going anywhere, anytime soon, if at all.**

So if they don't know when or if this is going to happen, why are they sending these letters out in the

first place? It's kind of like the right hand not telling the left hand what is going on. Excessing occurs when there is a need to reduce the number of employees faster than by attrition (retirement, transfer, etc). The contract requires that management give advance notice to the affected unions of at least 6 months if possible whenever a letter carrier is to be excessed and 60 days notice to the affected carriers. Similar letters have gone out in other districts of the Western Area and to date no one has been moved. Does that mean that it can never happen here? No, it does not. Will it is another story!

When management can demonstrate that there is not sufficient work available for full-time employees in one installation, they have an obligation to try to find work for these employees in other installations by reassigning them. That is what the principles of withholding and excessing of Article 12 are all about. Unfortunately, some of the language is about as clear as mud. In simple terms, the primary principle in reassigning people is to keep the dislocation and inconvenience to employees in the regular workforce (career carriers) to a minimum while still meeting the Postal Service needs and the rest of the terms of the contract.

Prior to excessing a full-time carrier there are a few steps that must be taken. First, management has to separate all TEs prior to excessing any letter carrier unless they prove that the work being done by the TEs is not enough work to support a full-time position. Second, management



Mike Zagaros
Executive Vice President Branch 9

must reduce "to the extent possible" the hours of PTFs before excessing employees. Again this is to minimize the impact on the more senior full-time employees.

There are other rules that apply to where, how far and in what craft carriers can be assigned. But that can be covered at a later date. Suffice it to say that management is not prepared to excess anyone from Minneapolis Installation at this point in time. The Business Agent's Office will be having ongoing discussions with the Western Area and we will be meeting with the District over this issue in the coming weeks.

These are stressful times. There has been a lot of talk about reducing to delivery to 5 days, route adjustments or elimination due to the poor financial situation of the Postal Service and the coming of FSS machines to Minneapolis. Regardless of what you've heard, all is not gloom and doom. While excessing outside of Minneapolis may one day com, it's not here yet. Stay tuned.

For more information about excessing and other issues affecting our junior employees, please come to our next newer employee meeting on Thursday, March 25th at the Crystal VFW at 6:30 p.m. see you there.

Way Down Yonder

It was a little like a dream. There I was, walking into this Associate Office in Jordan, Minnesota a week or so before Christmas. Pam and Mike invited me to come along to pay tribute to retiring carrier Geno Taddi.

Jordan is a little town about 35 miles from Minneapolis, south of the river. The Post Office is not too far from the old downtown, where the bar Geno's family used to own, still stands. The Post Office is small-2 full routes, 1 aux route and 4 rurals.

But back to that dream...

As we entered the workroom floor something seemed a bit off. Then it hit me; Christmas music was playing, people were smiling while they worked and everybody stopped



to say hello to the three of us. Of course, as a carrier in the big city I was immediately suspicious. Who smiles at work anymore?

Well, Geno for one, and not just because he's retiring. A somewhat shy guy, Geno's lived in Jordan his whole life. In Minneapolis, the first city carrier was hired in 1873. In Jordan, the first letter carrier was Geno. He goes back to before there ever was a Highway 169. He also knows pretty much everyone in

town. In fact, pretty much everyone in town was due the next day for a farewell Open House in the lobby, thrown by the Postmaster/Station Manager/Supervisor yet! My suspicion grew.

There was Union Steward, Kathy Carlson. Hands down one of the nicest people I've ever met. And always smiling. Always. Even while casing. This had to be some kind of management version of The Stepford Wives.

As the morning continued, the workers moved around and through each other in productive choreography. All crafts work together at this station. The clerks know the carrier's habits and rhythms. The carriers confab

daily, and often decide amongst themselves who will be helping who that day. The rurals mingled freely with the city carriers. Crafts were crossed with no talk of grievances. Even the Postmaster contributed and by

contribute I mean *did actual floor work*. Amazing!

Of course no place associated with the Post Office is immune to absurdity. As can be expected, the person on the tail end of Jordan's little bit of postal dysfunction was the lone PTF.

Donna Siegle is, in Geno's own words, "the best sub I've ever had." Of course she's had a lot

of practice. She's been one for 22 years. Work has been steady. Donna carries the aux and extra on Geno and Kathy's routes. She works six days a week like most subs and has gone 22 years with no paid holidays and no guarantee of 40 hours. But she loves the job and the little town and hopes to some day make regular. You would think with Geno retiring that Donna would be realizing that wish, but Jordan's Postmaster lamented that the route would probably be held for, you guessed it, "excessed" carriers from Guam or someplace. Still, Donna will be working in the closest thing to Postal paradise I can imagine. An office where everyone gets along. Where respect and trust are the norm and humiliation and badgering are frowned upon. Where customer service actually means something, and hard work is rewarded with a lobby full of friends come to say goodbye to a man who'd become a fixture in their lives. Like I said. A dream. P. S. Good luck, Geno! Keep smiling, Kathy! And hang in there, Donna!

**By Joe Sadowski
Diamond Lake**



New retiree, Geno Taddi show Jordan steward, Kathy Carlson how the last clock ring is done.

Branch 9 Turtle Lake Casino Run Turtle Lake, WI

When: Sunday, March 21, 2010

What: Each ticket purchased is good for one(1) round trip transportation to the casino, \$5.00 in quarters, AND free lunch buffet at the casino.

Cost: Price per ticket \$10.00/ each.

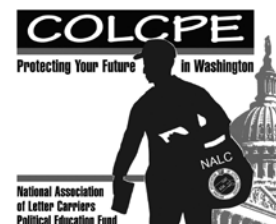
Depart from Southdale Mall parking lot (SE corner, near York Ave and 69th Street - to the left of Valet parking) in Edina at 10AM. Return roughly by 5:00PM

- * Maximum of 57 people on the bus
- * No alcohol allowed on the bus, however alcohol is served at the casino.
- ** **To Reserve - you must sign up and pay your Station Steward.**

Give me 5 COLCPE Contributors go free of charge!



(must be 21 or older)





2010 PAL 9 Members



PAL 9 Very Concerned Members

Jack A Soderlind	Donald B LeMay	Howard G Lamson	Emelyn A Peasha
Ron Lawrence	Troy D Fredenburg	Jeffrey Stanko	Adrian R Hames
Arthur H Kujawa	Steven D Petersen	Richard A Anderson	Peter F Benzoni
Ronald W Kelly	Aaron J Kriz	Ronald C Moore	Albert L Olson
Eugene P Mc Nulty	Julianne K Waldemar	Dennis M Johnston	James P Couillard
Thomas B Flavin	Gordon E Johnson	Marlys Ann Fox	Frederick M Johnston
Gordon N Doll	Theresa M Ronning	Douglas B Lemke	Melia Derrick
John f Marszalek	Gregory S Piela	Robert E Zimdars	Leonard A Larson
Robert Baird	Elizabeth A O'Neill	Pamela K Donato	Carl F Palm
David J Wallentiny	William A Mechels	Jason A Karnopp	George C Torvik
Kenneth A Jambois	Kenneth A Freiermuth	Thomas J Radtke	Richard A Onslow
Jonathan E Peterson	Roger E Johnson	Cheryl K Stately	Ted M Parker
Jon D Thompson	Kelly Marie Lundgren	Robert J Miller	Theresa M Homstad

PAL 9 Regular Members

Hugh Byrne	Marvin L Sorem	Gerald R Hansen	David R Jackson
Harold H Zieba	Colleen E Sagedahl	Ben Brodsky	Charles W Anderson
Stanley B Mackcow	William P Knotz	Debbie A Frank	Joe L Williams
Burton O Pansch	Johannes S Magdal	Edwin G Pohlmann	Mark G Holland
Philip O Johnson	Roberta H Stanchfield	Arthur A Heikkila Sr	Morris R Gross
Donna J Wiecks	James A Cassell	Walter C Czerepak	William M Babb
William Carey	Larry Blesi	Daniel H Norling	Curtis F Britz
Sharon L Spooner	Jerome J Duke	John R Sporrang	Donald M Carlson
Daryl E Blatzheim	William H Halos	Paul R Tanick	Donald Hodgdon
Charles L Lenzen	Timothy j Highland	Norman L Vetsch	Greg Wallin
Geno Taddei Sr	Lawrence S Dahlberg	Clark H Kick	Kent p ClelandAllan J
Guilden	Robert W Ess	Michael A Hess	Jon E Frick
Michael Kahleck	Kenneth C Nelson	Duane Foyt	Peter W Geschwind
Richard C Raum	Jeffrey D Sherman	Dallas V Holm	Virgil R Magnuson
Robert I Gossler	James F Hill	Robert R Harris	Edward Issenhuth
Gerald J Eliason	Margaret A Savaloja	T W Bearth	Philip H Sheridan
David T Wrzos	Marvin Mattila	Joseph F Pasiowitz	Peter H Richie
Robert V Andersen	Earl O Mealman	Arthur C Warmbold Jr	Russell O Swanson
Dennis W Jaeger	Gregory J Bedor	Thomas M Costello	Richard Rimer Jr
Stephen A Hasser	Virginia A Hasser	Harold H Delaria	Ronald P Sumstad
Lawrence W Elfelt	Thomas J Ryan	Harold R Anderson	Everett A Schraan
Thomas Holten	George Skrbich	Rodney E Anderson	George G Muzetras
Norma Peterson	Kenneth O Honkanen	Robert James Hooper	Joseph P Bedor
Mary K Fick	Jeffrey J McHugh	Donald A Granger	Roy C Eide
Adrian C Anderson	Robert A Czanstkowski	Harley Ring Jr	Lori Ann Randolph
Scott A Randolph	Lawrence M Schuster	Nyelo Dean K Natto	James R Sharp
Gordon M Balfe	Raymond C Williams	Katherine Colby Borlton	Mary Jo Koch
Richard L Wells	Kathleen M Overcott	Joseph J Kinney	David J Antoine
Wallace M Sjoquist	Elwood W Hansen	Richard A Dreher	Gregg W Holmes

**BRANCH 9 VETERANS
COMMITTEE
MEETING**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2010
6:30 P.M.
BRANCH 9 OFFICE
2408 CENTRAL AVE. NE
(612) 781- 9858**

After a few months inactivity, the Branch 9 Veterans Committee is reconnoitering. Although this meeting time may be a bit inconvenient, we planned it to accommodate the carrier's late work schedules. This meeting is open to all active and retired Branch 9 veterans. Your attendance is encouraged in order to help us create programs to assist, honor and recognize all of our military veterans past and present and also continuing commitment to our great nation.

TENATIVE AGENDA

- Veterans' Picnic
- Construction of a Memorial
- Veterans' Resource Consolidation
- Open Agenda

**Mike Trudeau Co-Chair
Lenny Larson Co-Chair**

The mission of Branch 9, National Association of Letter Carriers Veterans Committee is to recognize with honor, our military veterans. Provide ongoing support for returning veterans and families of veterans being deployed. Provide assistance for returning veterans re-integrating with their families, community and work. Provide resources for veterans to community, veterans associations, and support groups. To never allow any generation of military veterans go unrecognized.



**Minnesota Association of County
Veteran Service Officers**

Minnesota County Veterans Service Officer listing
The County Veterans Service Officers (CVSO) are usually your first contact to assist you with VA benefits and issues.
Please view the list of Minnesota counties below to contact your local CVSO.

Anoka

Duane Kruger
Government Center, Room 233
2100 - 3rd. Ave
Anoka, MN 55303
(763) 323-5290
eMail to:
duane.krueger@co.anoka.mn.us
www.co.anoka.mn.us/departments/
vet_services/

Carver

Dave Priem
Veterans Service Office
555 West 1st St.
Waconia, MN 55387
(952) 442-2323
eMail to:
dpriem@co.carver.mn.us

Dakota

Michael Labovitch
Dakota County Veterans Services
Office
P. O. Box 18145
West St. Paul, MN 55118-0145
(651) 554-5601
eMail to:
Michael.Labovitch@co.dakota.mn.us
www.co.dakota.mn.us/Departments/
Veterans/

Hennepin

Milton Schoen
Government Center
300 S 6th Street SW, First Level
Minneapolis, MN 55487-0013
(612) 348-3300
eMailto:
milton.schoen@co.hennepin.mn.us
http://www.co.hennepin.mn.us/

Ramsey

Maria Wetherall
90 W. Plato Blvd, Ste 210
St. Paul, MN 55107
(651) 266-2545
eMail to:
AskVeteransService@co.ramsey.
mn.us
www.co.ramsey.mn.us/vs/

Scott

Todd Kubinski
Government Center, Room 212
200 Fourth Ave W
Shakopee, MN 55379-1220
(952) 496-8176
eMail to:
tkubinski@co.scott.mn.us

Washington

Robby Robinson
P. O. Box 6
14949 62nd St N
Stillwater, MN 55082-0006
(651) 430-6578
eMail to:
vso@co.washington.mn.us
www.co.washington.mn.us/info_for_
residents/community_services/

Wright

Genell Reese
10 2nd St NW, RM C-114
Buffalo, MN 55313-1184
(763) 682-7326
eMail to:
Genell.Reese@co.wright.mn.us
www.co.wright.mn.us/department/
vetservcivdef/

PAL 9 Regular Members

Wallace Eckdahl	Jeff Smeets	Herman M Weidner	William "Sonny" Tuffs
Russell Sondrol	Dwayne W Nienaber	Lowell H Berget	Barry J Weiner
Allen M Smith	Sonia M Stark	Paul D Traynor	Pauline P Pepper
Joe C Dinville	J W "Bill" Stambaugh	Elmer J Hill	Aloysius W Ruzicka
Dominick J Prest	Raymond O Tranby	August W Graziano	Dwane L Thompson
Robert E Zastera	David R Millette	Gerald L Arnold	Richard W Hobot
Ron K Anderson	Darrell Gene Maus	John F Doll	Michael J Smith
Mark A Kiel	Larry F Chlebeck	Jerry A Sandmann	Gordon G Pulley
Gary W Kvistberg	Barbara L Gelschus	Paul P Felegy	David L Peterson
Charles L Friend	Daniel C Holland	James W Allen	Alf V Mork
Carl H Walsten	Wesley Claude Meade	Mary E Hargreaves	Paul R Nielsen
Russell W Ofsthun	Steven M Bostrom	Peter T Schilling	Ralph F Oslund
Lyle J Herrmann	Lindhahl B Gleason	George E Martin	Vernon J Zierman
Wendy K Noren	Teri L Koch	Gerald K Schraber	Kenneth W Johnson
Thomas E Buchner	Gary A Kroeten	Richard C Graves	Dan L Olson
Barb Watzak	Thomas M Woller	Theodore F Hoven	Donald Barker
Linda Stipe	Mark D Mellesmoen	Steven R Grivicich	Delmont R Stokke
Michael Welch	Pamela Welch	Rodney A Bursch	John D Brandt
John G Burmis	Terry M O'Neill	Katherine E Duax-Kunkel	Todd A Kunkel
David J Johnson	Gary Weihl	Steven H Ukasick	Jack J Bartlett
Lloyd Toll	Stephen J Wallerius		

Ron Lawrence Treasurer PAL 9

2010 Retiree Banquet Honorees**Class of 1950****60 YEAR MEMBERS**

GLENN E. DELANO
JOHN F. DOLL
PAUL P. FELEGY
GEORGE VADOS

Class of 1960**50 YEAR MEMBERS**

JOHN G. BAILEY
HARRY A. BLOOM
JEROME BONA
BERTRAM L. CARPENTER
ROGER W. CORYELL
WILLIAM J. GIMBLE
MELVIN H. LANGE
DONALD B. LEMAY
ROGER E. LINDAHL
JEROME M. MADSEN
GEORGE E. MARTIN
EUGENE P. MCNULTY

LUVERNE MICKELSON
RALPH J. MOUDRY
VERNON G. OLSON
JOE PASIOWITZ
WAIN D. PEARCE
DAYTON J. SJOSTROM
JACK A. SODERLIND
RUSS V. SONDROL
GEORGE C. TORVIK
WILLIAM B. TRACY
GLEN J. TRUNDELL
DELMAR P. WOIDA

**UNIFORMS
UNLIMITED****The Twin Cities Postal Headquarters**

Minneapolis
2220 Lyndale Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55405
612-377-0011

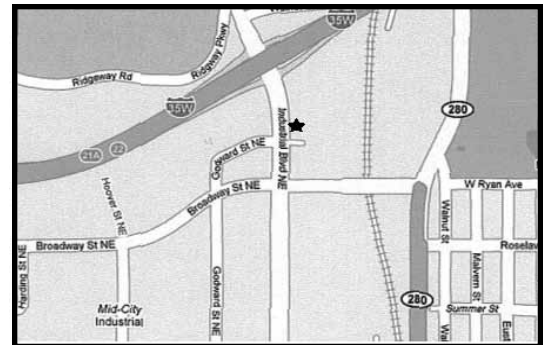
USA
Union preferred

St. Paul
935 N. Dale Street
St. Paul, MN 55103
651-224-7567

Branch 9's Annual Red and Gold Retiree Banquet Sunday May 2, 2010 Minneapolis Ramada Plaza 1330 Industrial Boulevard, Minneapolis



Lunch Buffet Menu
Mixed Green salad
Pasta Salad
Grilled Flank Steak
Forest Mushroom demi-glace
Chicken Breast with Lingonberry
Hash-n-white Cheddar Potatoes
Wild Rice Blend
Fresh Seasoned Vegetables
Assorted Rolls and Butter
Fruit Pies and Tortes
Fruit Trays and Cake



For more than 50 years Branch 9 has honored its retirees with the Red & Gold Banquet. Please join us for a day of good times and good fellowship, as we say thank you to those who have come before us.

Active members, stewards are also encouraged to join the festivities

Registration Noon - 1:30

Social Hour 12:30 - 1:30

Lunch 1:30 - 3:30

Reservations must be returned to the Branch Office no later than Monday, April 26.

Retirees and their spouses are free!

The \$12 per person registration fee is refundable upon arrival. Cost for active members is \$18; stewards \$9

Name: _____

Name of your Guest: _____

Retired

I would like a ride to the Banquet

Active

I am willing to give someone a ride
(Call Cheryl Stately 612.788.0960)

*Return by April 26 to:
Branch 9, NALC
2408 Central Avenue NE
Minneapolis 55418*

Amount Enclosed _____

J. Wesley Woods - \$1,000 Scholarship Application Form

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

High School _____

Member parent's name _____

Work unit _____

School to attend (if known) _____

Jerome J. Keating/Austin B. Carlson \$2,000 Scholarship Application Form

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

High School _____

Member parent's name _____

Work unit _____

School to attend (if known) _____

Walter E. Couillard/ Eugene P. McNulty \$2,000 Scholarship Application Form

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

High School _____

Member parent's name _____

Work unit _____

School to attend (if known) _____

High School Seniors: Submit scholarship applications to Branch 9 by May 25, 2010

Every spring, Branch 9 awards three scholarships to graduating seniors: the J. Wesley Woods Scholarship (\$1000); the Jerome J. Keating- Austin B. Carlson Scholarship (\$1000); and the Walter E. Couillard- Eugene P. McNulty Scholarship (\$2000). The awards have made it easier for many students to begin their post-secondary education while honoring the sacrifices and contribution of important Branch 9 Leaders.

The following rules apply to all three scholarships:

A. Any senior who is graduating from high school and is a dependent of a Branch 9 member is eligible for these scholarships.

B. The scholarships may be used for any accredited trade school, vocational/technical institute, community college, or university.

C. Three names will be drawn for each scholarship. The first name picked will be the winner, then first and second runner-up respectively. The winners of any drawing will not be eligible for the other drawing.

D. The application for the drawings will run in the March, April, and May issues of the Branch Nine News. The drawing will be held at the May General Membership Meeting. The applications shall contain the following information:

1. The applicant's name, address, and home phone number.

2. The name of the applicant's parent or guardian who belongs to Branch 9.

3. The intended school of choice, if known.

E. Payments to the winners will be made after they have enrolled and can show proof of payment towards their tuition.

Members with dependents who graduate from high school this spring and who plan to attend an accredited education institution next fall, should complete the applications and return them to the Branch Office by May 25 or bring them to that night's meeting. All three forms should be submitted as there are separate drawings for each scholarship. Please only one application per scholarship.

Adult Learners Scholarship

Leonard A. Larson/ Barry J. Weiner Scholarship

Adult Learners:
**Submit scholarship
application to
Branch by May 25, 2010**

**Leonard A. Larson/
Barry J. Weiner
Adult Learner Scholarship
Application Form**

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Active or Retired _____

Work unit _____

Two (2) \$1000 scholarships will be awarded.

The following rules apply to the two scholarships:

A. Any member active and retired in good standing of Branch 9 are eligible for one of the two scholarships.

B. The scholarships may be used for any accredited trade school, vocational/technical institute, community college, or university. The Adult Learner Scholarships may also be used for any community, county or state adult educational program.

C. One name will be drawn for each scholarship. The first name picked will be the winner. The winners of any drawing will not be eligible for the other drawings.

D. The application for the drawings will run in the March, April, and May issues of the Branch Nine News. The drawing will be held at the May General Membership meeting. The applications shall contain the following information:

1. The applicant's name, address, and home phone number.
2. Whether active or retired.

E. Payment to the winners will be made after they have enrolled and can show proof of payment towards their tuition.

F. Benefits under the Adult Learner Scholarships expire one year from date of drawing.

Members who plan to attend an accredited education institution should complete the application and return it to the Branch Office by May 25, or bring it to that night's meeting.

In Case You Forgot

**David K. Roe
Scholarship
two \$1,000
scholarships**

**Hubert H. Humphrey
Memorial Award
two \$1,000
scholarships**

**Donald Pilla
Memorial Award
one \$1,000
scholarship**

**Martin Duffy Adult Learner
Scholarship Award
two \$500 scholarships**

**Nellie Stone Johnson
Scholarship Award**

Application forms for all scholarships and complete eligibility requirements will be available at Stewards and General Membership meetings through April, 2010.

Branch 9
MDA Bowl-a-Thon
Sunday, April 25, 2010

Location:

Memory Lanes
 2520 26th Avenue South
 Minneapolis, MN 55406



Time

1:00 - 4:00PM

30 lanes of bowling (all teams bowl at same time)

**Teams of 4 - 6 (*MAIL*) your teams with names to Branch 9, at
 2408 Central Avenue NE, Minneapolis, MN 55428.**

2 games, shoes rental with a minimum donation of \$50/bowler.

Silent and live auctions, free taco bar, cash bar

Activities for the Kids

**Contest for best gift basket; winning station
 will receive a free breakfast.**

Deadline for registration is Monday, April 12th.

Team: _____

Bowler #1 _____

Bowler #2 _____

Bowler #3 _____

Bowler #4 _____

Bowler #5 _____

Bowler #6 _____

The Next Big Thing

NRP: The National Reassessment Process

Anyone who has worked for the USPS for any amount of time knows that the Postal Service constantly dreams up new procedures and ideas for trying to “improve” the performance of the USPS, and all its employees. Now begins Phase 2 of the NRP (National Reassessment Process) in the Minneapolis Installation. NRP is a program designed by the USPS to reassess all employees who have restrictions, and/or permanent limitations which may not allow an employee to complete all functions of their craft assignments. Phase 1 of NRP just bypassed the Minneapolis Installation all together. This may not sound like a bad thing, but the USPS is using the NRP as a way to bypass their obligation in the ELM Section 546, to find an injured employee working within the craft, within the installation, and within the tour.

ELM 546:

a. Current Employees. When an employee has partially overcome a compensable disability, the Postal Service must make every effort toward assigning the employee to limited duty consistent with the employee’s medically defined work limitation tolerance (see 546.611).

In assigning such limited duty, the Postal Service should minimize any adverse or disruptive impact on the employee. The following considerations must be made

in effecting such limited duty assignments:

(1) To the extent that there is adequate work available within the employee’s work limitation tolerances, within the employee’s craft, in the work facility to which the employee is regularly assigned, and during the hours when the employee regularly works, that work constitutes the limited duty to which the employee is assigned.

The management team will identify all limited duty carriers in each station. Then there will be a work status meeting with the postmaster, and a carrier representative to go over a new job offer. Some meetings have already taken place, and we have found several errors on the part of the USPS. It is important that if any carrier learns that he/she will be having a meeting to go over their restrictions, any medical documentation the carrier has needs to be brought to the meeting. This will help identify any errors the USPS may have caused.

The problem is that the USPS has not been recognizing all possible tasks an injured employee may be able to do within their work restrictions. The USPS has said that when NRP enters an installation that no more “MAKE WORK” will be allowed for Limited Duty Carriers. The USPS has not defined “make work”. The USPS feels that “make work” is work that is unproductive in nature, and therefore not required work needed

as part of the USPS obligation toward limited duty assignments. For example sometimes a limited duty carrier will have such severe restrictions that answering the phone is one of his/her duties while in a limited duty status. Answering the phone is a job that is performed every day, the USPS says it is not productive. The phone needs to be answered. Finding the answer for one of many of the USPS patrons is a productive task.

All union stewards need to be informed if any limited duty carrier is sent home due to lack of work. The USPS must have proof there is no work available at the installation for the injured employee. The steward must contact the branch office immediately, and request that management show evidence of lack of work within the craft, station, and tour. If management fails to provide evidence of lack of work, then a grievance must be filed. A key component of management’s responsibility is they need to “make every effort” to find work for a limited duty carrier as required in the ELM. Many times management has failed to “make every effort” to find work.

The NRP process is here to stay, and the USPS has tried to use it as a way to justify not meeting their obligation to all limited duty employees, as soon as stewards learn a carrier in their station will be part of a NRP meeting, they need to inform the branch office right away.

**Samantha Hartwig
Eastside Station**

Branch Nine News
2408 Central Avenue NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418-3712

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Branch Nine Calendar

March 14

Daylight Savings time
Begins. Set Clocks
Forward one hour

March 19

Veterans Committee
Open to all
6:30PM
Branch 9 office
2408 Central Ave NE
Minneapolis, MN

March 21

Turtle Lake Casino Run
Southdale Mall (SE corner)
10:00AM-5:00PM

March 23

Nokomis Retiree's Breakfast
9am- Fred Babcock VFW
6715 Lakeshore Drive
Richfield

March 23

General Membership
Meeting 7:00 PM
Crystal VFW Post 494
5222 56th Ave North
Crystal, Mn 55429

March 25

Newer Employee
Meeting 6:30 p.m.
Crystal VFW Post 494
5222 56th Ave North
Crystal, Mn 55429

April 6

Northside Retiree's Breakfast
9:30am Elsie's
729 Marshall St. NE
Minneapolis

April 13

Stewards Meeting
7:00 PM
Crystal VFW Post 494
5222 56th Ave North
Crystal, Mn 55429

April 13

Southside Retiree's Breakfast
Fred Babcock VFW-9am
6715 Lakeshore dr
Minneapolis

April 22

General Membership
Meeting 7:00 PM
Crystal VFW Post 494
5222 56th Ave North
Crystal, Mn 55429

April 25

MDA Bowl-a-Thon
1:00 - 4:00PM
Memory Lanes
2520 26th Ave South
Minneapolis

April 27

Nokomis Retiree's Breakfast
9am- Fred Babcock VFW
6715 Lakeshore Drive
Richfield

May 2

Red and Gold Retiree Banquet
Minneapolis Gateway Hotel
1330 Industrial Blvd, Mpls.
Registration - noon
Lunch - 1:30PM

May 4

Northside Retiree's Breakfast
9:30am Elsie's
729 Marshall St. NE
Minneapolis

May 8

Food Drive