



VOLUME 63 No 10 Official Publication of Branch Nine, NALC December 2011

2012: Legislative Call to Action

Save the Post Office Bills

H.R. 1351

Currently being held up in the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform by the Chairman of this Committee, Rep. Issa. This bill currently has 227 co-sponsors. If enacted, this bill would correct the accounting error that led OPM to overcharge the Postal Service by billions of dollars, and direct them to use most of its \$6.9 billion surplus in the FERS system to satisfy two obligations in FY2011.

S. 1853

This Senate bill was introduced by Sen. Bernar Sanders (I-VT). This bill would recalculate and restore retirement annuity obligations of the Postal Service, eliminate the requirement that the USPS pre-fund the CSRS Fund, place restrictions on the closure of postal facilities, create incentives for innovation for the USPS, and maintain levels of postal service.



If legislation hurdles aren't bad enough, we are subjected to the daily destructive rhetoric by our own Postmaster General. His talk show circuit serves to bolster the bravado of those who seek to dismantle us.

**The Branch 9 Executive Board wishes
to extend to all Branch 9 members
and their families a very
Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays
and with your help a
Happy New Year!**

Legislative Poison

H.R. 2309

This bill sponsored by Rep. D. Issa (R-Ca.) was passed out of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform by a vote of 22-18. All but one Republican voted in favor of the bill; Democrats voted against it. If enacted, it would require the USPS to develop and submit to the Commission a plan for the closure or consolidation of postal retail facilities, mail processing facilities, and USPS area and district offices. Requires the USPS to close or consolidate postal facilities recommended by the Postal Reorganization Commission. Authorizes the USPS to reduce delivery to five-days and make adjustments in the rural delivery of mail. Requires the USPS to submit a financial plan and budget to a Postal Service Financial Authority which would have the authority to renegotiate contracts. Revises provisions relating to the USPS workforce, including redetermining pay comparability, limiting contributions to life and health insurance. Limits collective bargaining rights. Sets forth provisions for contracting out postal services.

S. 1789

Introduced by Sen. Lieberman (I-CT), and passed out of Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs. Requires postal retirees and their family members who are eligible for Medicare coverage to enroll in Medicare Parts A and B. Requires any arbitration board to consider USPS health, comparable wages and benefits in deciding a contract dispute. No later than 2015, convert door delivery to curblines, sidewalk delivery points, or centralized delivery points. Requires USPS to establish a health benefits plan outside of the FEHB. Imposes restrictions on additional benefits for dependents of disabled employees.



This has been another busy year with many changes, in the stations and in our Branch office. I want to use one of my privileges as editor to thank Darrell and Mike for allowing me more poetic license with the newsletter. I also want to thank Angie, in the Branch office, for the daunting task of proofing the newsletter without screaming



Columbia Heights steward, Loren McNellis congratulates Mary Hargreaves on her retirement.



Rick Alagna (Lost Lake), with steward, Carol Garnto.



Danette Warner (Eastside) receives her 25 year pin from Branch 9 President, Mike Zagaros.



Emy Peasha (Plymouth) and her husband, Charlie, celebrate her retirement.



Retiring en masse from West Edina, are Dave Shaw, John Prochazka, Steve Tinglestad, Bob Shelstad (steward), and Denny Ellis.

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President's Report

It's December, as many of you are preparing for the holiday season, it also tradition that the President's Report be a year in review. So as we look forward to 2012, one thought continues to go through my head. Will 2012 be more of the same? I hope not. But then again who really expected 2011 to turn out the way that it did. Change is the operative word to describe what has happened this year. There was change on almost every front, from what happened at the stations, to changes on the political and legislative fronts, to the changes that happened at the Branch Office. One thing is for certain we are not done dealing with the changes.

Changes at the Stations - Unit Consolidations - In 2011 the workroom floor changed and in some cases changed dramatically. The Minneapolis Installation was reduced by 3 units as the carriers from Plymouth were moved to Golden Valley; the Metro Hub carriers were moved back to the Main Office; Zone 24 carriers were moved from West Edina to Elmwood and the Blaine carriers were moved back to Coon Rapids.

Route Adjustments, Route Elimination & Excessing - Once again the NALC and the USPS worked to jointly review and adjust where necessary most of the routes in the offices served by Branch 9 under the JARAP process. There was give and take as time was added and taken out of units by both sides using the joint process. Thank you to all Branch 9 members for your participation in this process. Your efforts provided a stark contrast to the type of adjustments that were used in the other offices: (Golden

Valley, Lost Lake, Coon Rapids, Thomas Burnett, West Edina and Burnsville). These offices were handled differently because of FSS (Flat Sequencing System). The implementation of and adjustment to routes under FSS has brought more havoc to the units involved than anything in recent memory. From May through August carriers were subjected to management's unilateral actions and the results could not have been more telling. Under the joint JARAP process the impact was measured a route here and an aux route there with letter carriers participating throughout. Under FSS, there were over 50 assignments eliminated in those 6 units resulting in overburdened routes and carriers being excessed out of their units more then ever before. This happened despite our requests to work jointly with management on the implementation of and participate with the initial adjustments. Instead the routes at the FSS units were adjusted unilaterally in the same manner as the rest of the country in the backroom of Ops Support. While the FSS agreement calls for a joint review process after the adjustments, so far we have been unable to reach an agreement as to the value of the adjusted routes at the FSS units. The next step is 6 day count and inspections at these units after the first of the year. Until then, we need to continue to let management know when we have more work than can be done in 8 hours because the routes are too long or we have too much mail or both. What we are talking about is **Contract Compliance** - We continue to hold management accountable for their actions under the terms



Mike Zagaros

of the National Agreement. We will continue to investigate and where necessary, file grievances when we believe those actions are in violation of the National and Local Agreements. Unfortunately the number of grievances filed continued to rise in 2011, to the highest level in over 25 years. The leading contributor continues to be overtime and discipline. It is not the number of grievances that are the most troubling; but the number of grievances on the same subject matter that are not being resolved at the station level that is the most troubling. Grievances over the same or similar issues continue to be appealed to Formal Step A and Step B in order to get the same resolution only much later yet the violations continue. Another issue contributing to the increase in grievances is **Staffing** - As when we began the year, staffing still remains a significant problem. Yes, management did hire more TEs in January and February. But in the months that followed some of our more experienced TEs were not brought back at the end of their terms. This occurred at the same time as nearly 50 of our senior carriers retired. The net result is that we will have fewer carriers available

Continued on page 7



Dear President Mike,

I received a reply from Congresswoman Michelle Bachman after I sent her a letter encouraging her to support HR 1351. I told her that she should be taking more time to listen to her constituent's issues and less time trying to run for the Presidency, after all, it was her constituents who voted her into that position so maybe she should concentrate on us here in Minnesota.

Unfortunately, she seems to think that we're asking for a taxpayer bailout. It's an insult that she didn't care enough to investigate any of the issues that I addressed. I felt she was unwilling to get informed of the issues facing the USPS.

On another note, I tried to get several union members to sign the petition to save six day delivery and **THEY ACTUALLY REFUSED** - What?? Yep, these union members actually refused to sign, even after Jim Nelson and I ran a contest to give \$40 to the person with the most signatures. I asked them; "at what point do you engage in your job and what's going on with it?" All they could say is that they wanted Saturdays off. To keep from replying crudely, I bit my tongue and now it's weally, weally swollen.

I asked Postmaster Dan to sign our petition but he said he couldn't and shouldn't. HAHHAHAHA!!! He gave me some BS about this and that - it was a sweet tap dance, maybe

even a "10" on *Dancing with the Stars*, but I couldn't get him to sign. He avoided the issue, but I figured, HEY, WHY NOT TRY, what can it hurt? Yes, for your information, I was off the clock when I asked - so you can relax.

In solidarity,
Your sister,

Stacey Ellingson
Anoka/Andover City Carrier

Quick Guide to introducing a Bill in Congress.

Introducing the Bill and Referral to a Committee

The person or persons who introduce the bill are the sponsors. When a bill is introduced, it is given a number: H.R. signifies a House bill and S. a Senate bill. The bill is then referred to a committee with jurisdiction over the primary issue of the legislation.

Committee Action: Hearings and Mark Up

The chairman of the committee determines whether there will be a hearing on the bill and whether there will be "mark up." Usually, a subcommittee holds the hearing. A mark up is when members of the committee officially meet to offer amendments to make changes to the bill as introduced. After amendments are adopted or rejected, the chairman moves to vote the bill favorably out of committee. The bill will go to the entire body if the committee favorably reports out the bill.

Committee Report

The committee chairman's staff writes a report of the bill describing the intent of legislation. The members of the minority may file dissenting views as a group or individually.

Usually, a copy of the bill as marked up is printed in the report.

Floor Debate and Votes

The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate determine if and when a bill comes before the full body for debate and amendment, and final passage. In the Senate, a senator can offer an amendment without warning so long as the amendment is germane to the underlying bill. A majority vote is required for an amendment and for final passage.

Referral to the Other Chamber

When the House or the Senate passes a bill it is referred to the other chamber where it usually follows the same route through committee and floor action. This chamber may approve the bill as received, reject it, ignore it, or amend it before passing it.

Conference on a Bill

If only minor changes are made to a bill by the other chamber, usually the legislation goes back to the originating chamber for a concurring vote. If the conferees are unable to reach agreement, the legislation dies. If agreement is reached, a conference report is prepared describing the committee members' recommendations for changes. Both the House and the Senate must approve of the conference report. If either chamber rejects the conference report, the bill dies.

Action by the President

After the conference report has been approved by both the House and Senate, the final bill is sent to the President. If the President approves of the legislation, he signs it and it becomes law. If the President does not take action for ten days while Congress is in session, the bill automatically becomes law.

Executive Vice President's Report

Refreshing our Skills

With the past adjustments that have been made to routes, whether FSS or JARAP, they have been followed up with 3999's and constant street scrutiny by management. Since the majority of a carriers day occurs on the street and there are no time standards for street time it is also where management continuously pushes us to take short cuts (if possible) in order to make their times. The union has bargained long and hard to establish breaks and lunches as part of our contract and we should not neglect the right to use them. With that being said there are three very important issues that we also need to remember and they are safety, service, and consistency.

Safety

With DUO's (station consolidations) the space at these stations has and will continue to be an issue with safety (all the extra equipment, carriers, and vehicles that are now in one building rather than two). Be aware of what is around your case and keep it picked up and if more space is required see

your safety liaison or steward. Watch where you are walking and

make sure the floor is free of waste and debris to avoid a slip, trip, or fall. Keep these things in mind when you move to the street and begin to load your vehicle by using proper lifting methods and making sure your mail is placed in the vehicle in a way to avoid it shifting. Mail should never be placed on the dash, floor or double decked on top of another tray as it will slide at every stop or turn. This could be a distraction and may cause us to be in a vehicle accident.

Carriers on mounted routes should never work mail from their laps this is considered a safety issue despite the fact that many carriers have been observed doing precisely that by management (whether on a 3999 or street observation) and nothing is ever said to them. We have to walk and drive safely between stops whether the mail is ready to be put in the box when you get there or not. We also need to take the time to have the vehicle in our control whether on a park and loop route and you curb the wheels properly and apply the brake at each park point or on a mounted route and we have to put the vehicle in neutral on level ground or in park on unlevel ground at each box. With the changing weather conditions of the season and the reduced hours of daylight it requires us to be more focused on safety. Do not take shortcuts that puts your safety at risk. We cannot sacrifice safety for time. It is our responsibility to be safe on the clock at all times. If ever an instruction is given to you by management that puts your safety at risk, see your steward.

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Service

Mention the words "Post Office" to anyone and they will most likely generate an image of their carrier. We are the post office to our customers and we are called upon everyday to answer questions about postage, packaging, services, regulations, directions, as well as trying to explain an issue with a mailed parcel or one they have not yet been received. To lose the communication and trust



Darrell Maus

of our customers is something that would be a bigger blow to the post office than saving a few minutes of pay in your day. Still we are under obligation to follow our instructions and it is hard when these instructions go against the service carriers have delivered in the past because of management's attempts to save time.

Consistency

The one thing that is on every customers mind is knowing who their carrier is every day and being able to count on their mail being delivered accurately and timely. Customers want to be assured that they are receiving all the mail that is addressed to them and to also rest assured that any mail they have mailed will be delivered to the place where it is addressed. Our customer rating has always been the highest and we continuously have been the most trusted federal government agency. Carriers must continue to ensure this and not let it be a casualty of making projected numbers. With that being said we also have to follow the instructions from our supervisors and managers. If clarification is needed for any instruction that is given or whether it is proper make sure you ask for your steward. We must pay special attention to everything that is around each and every day and ensure we do not allow these three issues to be forgotten.

In closing, I want to wish all carriers and their families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

FROSTBITE 101

Every winter someone will end up with a case of frostbite. Frostbite is a serious condition that can have long term ramifications if it is not treated properly. Here is some basic information about frostbite and what you should do to avoid being injured by it.

What is Frostbite?

It is an injury resulting from freezing of the tissues in the body. The hands and feet are most commonly affected, but the nose, cheeks, shins, ears, and even the corneas of the eyes may be affected by frostbite.

What causes Frostbite?

When we are exposed to severe cold for an extended period of time, the body slows the blood flow to the arms and legs in order to provide blood flow to our internal organs. As this process continues, our extremities (the farthest from your heart) becomes colder and colder.

What are the symptoms of Frostbite?

In mild or superficial cases, one may experience burning, numbness, tingling, itching, or cold sensations in the affected areas. The regions appear white and frozen, and if you press on them, they retain some resistance. In more severe cases, there is an initial decrease in sensation that is eventually completely lost. Swelling and blood-filled blisters are noted over white or yellowish skin that looks waxy and turns a purplish blue as it rewarms. The area is hard, with no resistance when pressed on, and may appear blackened and dead.

What can we do to prevent Frostbite?

The first step in preventing frostbite

is knowing whether you are at an increased risk for the injury. Tobacco smokers, diabetics and people with diseases of the blood vessels are at an increased risk because there is decreased amount of blood flow to their arms and legs. Fatigue, dehydration, improper clothing are other contributing risk factors.

5 Things to Remember:

1. **Dress for the weather.**
2. **Layers are best, and mittens are better than gloves (keeps you warm fingers together while warming each other.)**
3. **Cover your head, face, nose, and ears at all times.**
4. **Clothing should fit loosely to avoid a decrease in blood flow to the arms and legs.**
5. **Shoes should be waterproof.**

When to seek medical care.

A doctor must be able to see and feel the affected area. A simple telephone call is probably not sufficient in all but the mildest cases of cold injury to hands and feet. You need to see a doctor for care. At the time of initial evaluation, it is very difficult to categorize the injury as superficial or deep, and even more difficult to ascertain the amount of tissue damage. Therefore, all people should be seen by a doctor, who will supervise the rewarming process; attempt to classify the injury, and further guide the treatment process. Someone with frostbite will need evaluation for, and possible treatment of hypothermia and dehydration.

Please take a few minutes this winter to protect yourself. Those few minutes can save you from an extended time of pain and suffering later.

A MESSAGE TO BRANCH 9 RETIREES

Brother and Sister retirees. We can be proud of the fact that we retirees are almost always the most active and responsive segment of the NALC membership when it comes to doing the things our leaders ask to be done in order to both protect our own hard earned and well deserved benefits, and preserving the Postal Service and the jobs of the active carriers.

Part of what accounts for that is we pay attention and read the communications from the union so that we can stay informed and be ready to act when necessary.

In order to enhance that, we are asking all branch retirees with e-mail to provide your e-mail address to the branch. Just send an e-mail to the branch: angie@branch9nalc.com, and be sure to identify yourself.

The privacy and security of your e-mail address will be protected and secured just as other contact info the union has about you is. And you will not be deluged with messages. The branch will continue to use the US Mail to communicate with us but in this day and age of electronic communications, circumstances arise where it is more effective to use e-mail to inform and activate us.

I think this is really important given the critical challenges to the Postal Service and our retirement benefits which currently confront us so I implore you all to cooperate with this request.

Sincerely,

Barry Weiner
Retired National Business Agent

President's article continued from page 3

in 2012 to get the mail delivered than we had in March of 2011. Where do we go from here? Wherever that is, we will persevere if we continue to stick together and talk to each other. We will get through these changes but there is more on the horizon away from the workroom floor. While these changes affect us on a personal level, the more destructive changes continue to develop and are being discussed elsewhere primarily as we look ahead to "Election 2012" and look back on the **Changes on the Political and Legislative Fronts.**

In January we were looking at a changing of the guard politically as the Republicans were taking over the US House and many state legislatures. I for one was not prepared for the depth and breadth of the anti-worker, anti-union, anti-government war that was about to be unleashed on America. Last year at this time I wrote we need to "pay attention to the rhetoric coming out of Washington..." and that "many have determined that public employees have too much. Too much in benefits, salary and pensions and work rules..." We found that it wasn't just rhetoric that was being spewed but a systematic attack on the working middle class. In February, Wisconsin Public Employees, almost without warning, found themselves the target of a governor who wanted to strip their collective bargaining rights away. The same was soon to follow in other states like Ohio and Indiana. Next, the new Chair of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Rep. Issa decided that he needed to change the Postal Service and chose to interject himself into everything, from collective bargaining, to how and

where the mail should be processed to how often and where the mail should be delivered. His bill would do nothing short of destroying the Postal Service as we know it. But, he is the chair and his bill is the only one that he has allowed to reach the House Floor. The Senate also has a bill which is almost as bad and in some instances worse. It is clear that the impact and changes of these bills would be devastating. It is almost as if Congress has its fingers in their ears and saying so what if door to door delivery has been a staple of city delivery since the Civil War. So what if America wants mail delivered six days a week to their homes. So what if people are used to mailing a first class letter and having it delivered overnight. Let's just take it all away because we know better. That's why we have to talk to our family, friends, and neighbors to let them know the truth and also what it at stake.

The one positive that has come about from these attacks is that more carriers are getting involved in this fight. In 2011 we've had the most dramatic increase in COLCPE contributions in memory. Thank you to the stewards and other COLCPE contributors who are taking the time to go to members one at a time and explain the urgency and the need to belong as a "Gimme 5" contributor to COLCPE." A special thank you needs to go to Branch 9 COLCPE Coordinator Lisa O'Neill for her time and efforts in nearly doubling our Branch 9 contributors to COLCPE in the last year. But COLCPE is just one part of raising money for political involvement. The other is PAL9, the Branch's political action fund. It provides us the opportunity to work on behalf of letter carriers, working families and organized labor on those issues that impact us on the local, state

and national level. In addition, more Branch 9 members and their families have participated and are participating in phone banks, door knocks, rallies and petition drives as we recognize the difficult battles that remain. So thank you to all those who gave of their time this year. Your participation was and is greatly appreciated. But the work continues and the stakes will only get higher as we enter the 2012 election cycle. We will need to step up our involvement there to because the attacks on working families, labor, public employees and the Postal Service will not go away. The need to speak loudly to provide an alternative to the half-truths, misrepresentations and outright lies that is being spread by those who want to see us gone.

As we began 2011, our world looked different than the way we are finishing it. We did not know what to expect from FSS or the changes in the political landscape but we are learning. When the attacks on public employees in neighboring states began, the membership answered and said if you take on one of us, you're fighting all of us. This year has been a year of changes. Among other things our own Pam Donato answered the call from National President Rolando to work as a special assistant. This summer, the NALC opened negotiations with the Postal Service over a new National Agreement. Days before the opening session there were salvos from the Postmaster General and those in Congress demonstrating that these negotiations will be vastly different then ever before. But the NALC is up to the task. We have the right man in President Rolando leading our negotiating team and we have the membership standing right beside him. With everything going on with

Continued on page 8

A Small Price to Pay

We live in bleak times. Our country and our industry are in decline. Our government is paralyzed by partisan dysfunction. Across the river the Ford plant will close for good next year...

I consider myself rather fortunate to be a Letter Carrier for the United States Postal Service. I'm rather fond of my pay, my benefits and my job security. I would like to keep all of them. It is for this reason that I give five dollars a pay period to COLCPE. It is a rather small price to pay, all things considered.

Recently, my wife had to have a surgery. She is back to work now and will be just fine. The bill for that operation was \$30,000. I never had to worry about money. Insurance paid for virtually all of it.

Our Transitional Employees are not so lucky. It is my understanding, given what the Postmaster General is asking of Congress, that the Postal Service never plans to hire another career employee. We're just too damn expensive and too hard to get rid of. I also hear that the Postal Service wants to withdraw us from the FEHBP and manage our health insurance themselves. Do you want the people who believe no one ever gets sick running your health insurance? I sure as hell don't!

Right now we as Letter Carriers face a perfect storm of challenges. I hear a lot of carriers complain. They blame the union for the actions of management. They say the union has become weak. Well, a union is only as strong as its membership. You can talk all you want, but if you are not giving to COLCPE you are not walking the walk!

Justin Florey
Nokomis Station

IMPORTANT: A Non-Partisan Congressional Research Service reported to a Senate Subcommittee the following testimony on Civil Service & the U.S. Postal Service. This summary indicates a Congressional mindset that we need to stand up as NARFE members and write our Legislators **NOW**.

1. **A worker's payments do not** establish a right to any given benefit level or post-retirement benefit increases.
2. **Congress can change** the benefit level or post-retirement benefit increases.
3. **Congress can change any** retirement eligibility criteria, benefit formula, or COLAs at any time.
4. **There is no contractual relationship.** Retirement systems are considered entitlements granted by the Legislature.

5. **All cash from employee payroll withholding** is earmarked for Federal Retirement, **but it is deposited in a general** U.S. Treasury account and **can be used** for any purpose. **No payments are retained** in the Civil Service Retirement Trust Fund. The ultimate guarantors of government pensions are the taxpayers.

6. **The credits in the trust fund are referred** to as nonmarketable interest bearing securities of the U.S. Government. **The Trust Fund accounts are for new withholdings and payments to annuitants.** We have a **Bond/IOU** from the U.S. Treasury in our Trust Fund.

Article reprinted from the Minnesota Federation of Chapters of National Active and Retired Federal Employees.

President's article continued from page 7

the Postal Service and Congress trying to change everything about the Postal Service and our jobs I am reminded of the refrain of the old Stealer's Wheel song. "Clowns to the left of me, Joker's to the right, here I am stuck in the middle with you."

As we move into 2012 there will be plenty to do. We will still have to deal with the changes from 2011 and in July we will be hosting our Sisters and Brothers from around the country at this year's National Convention. But together we will be ready.

To all the members of Branch 9, I want thank you for your support in what has been a trying year for many. In this holiday season, may you, your families and friends enjoy this time together in happiness and peace. Have a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

Mike

**Jerome J. Keating Local Branch 9
National Association of Letter Carriers**

P. A. L. 9 (Political Action League)
11581 Ilex Street N.W., Coon Rapids, Mn 55448-2316

**Lenny Larson, President
Cheryl Stately, Secretary
Ron Lawrence, Treasurer**

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**Mike Zagaros Darrell Maus Bob Baird Rick Onslow
Barry Weiner Olin Moore Lisa O'Neill**

Dear Brothers & Sisters;

This annual fundraising letter for the Branch 9 Political Action League is more than three months earlier than normal. We decided this course of action for several reasons, the most important of which is the imminent danger to our retirement, health benefits and over 200,000 Postal Service jobs.

In our letter last year, we asked how long it would be before they came after our retirement benefits and cautioned you about the PMG trying to sway public opinion in favor of five day delivery. Just a few months later our concerns have become today's reality. He has convinced some powerful members of Congress to introduce legislation that would allow postal management to reduce delivery days, void our no layoff clause, and take over our retirement and health benefits plans. A one day reduction in delivery alone would cause a layoff of approximately 20,000 carriers.

The very thought of turning our retirement and health benefit plan over to the Postal Service should make you shudder. Postal employees are the largest group contributing to both. These plans are based on shared risk and contribution. If they take a half a million workers out, the risk for the group will rise and the shared benefits will fall. The smaller group (us) will likely see immediate cost increase and a reduction of benefits.

Space restraints do not allow us to give a complete explanation of all that is going on. We encourage you to read ALL NALC Union publications and bulletins. Go to the Branch 9 and NALC web sites for current updates. ATTEND A UNION MEETING. DONATE TO 9 P.A.L. DONATE TO COLCPE. Pay attention, stay informed, and get involved. We are not crying wolf. Our jobs, benefits and the very existence of the Postal Service are on the line.

Like it or not, big business with their big money can spend nearly unlimited amounts to influence Congress. Your contributions to 9 P.A.L. and COLCPE will be urgently needed.

Combined with your participation to get the message out, we can win this fight. Contribute today!

Lenny Larson
President PAL 9

Ron Lawrence
Treasurer PAL 9

Name: _____

Address: _____

___ \$ 25.00 Annual Dues

___ Very Concerned Membership (\$50.00 or More)

___ Active Carrier (Station _____)

Clip & Mail to: **Ron Lawrence**
11581 Ilex Street NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55448-2316

___ Retired Carrier



Time is Running Out



BRANCH 9 NALC MDA RAFFLE

1. Raffle tickets are \$5/each
 2. First Prize is \$1,000
 3. Second Prize is a one week (Sat - Sat), 2 person vacation condo in Palm Springs, CA (airfare is NOT included).
Valued between \$350 - \$600 depending on availability and time of year. For more information go to www.cappublishing.com.
 4. The drawing will be held at the January 24, 2012 Branch 9 General Membership Meeting.
 5. The winner need NOT be present to win.
 6. Checks are to be made out to Branch 9 MDA Fund and All proceeds will go to MDA.
 7. There is NO LIMIT to the number of tickets you can buy.
- If you have any questions, please contact the Branch 9 office at 612.781.9858

**UNIFORMS
UNLIMITED**

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

USA
Union preferred

The Twin Cities Postal Headquarters

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

4th Annual Branch 9 NALC

Ice Fishing Outing on Lake Mille Lacs Twin Pines Resort & Motel-Restaurant

Located just two hours north of the Twin Cities on U.S. Highway 169 (mile marker 232).

For more information call 1.800.450.4682 or visit www.twinpinesmillelacs.com

Noon Sunday to Noon Monday

January 15th & 16th

\$40/Adult

\$35/Children under 14



Contact Ken Jambois with questions at 763.370.1392

The Branch will be hosting a chicken and rib buffet at Twin Pines Resort on Sunday, January 15th from 3:00 - 8:00PM. This dinner is included in the price of the ice house.

Several Houses Available:

- *4 Hole Ice House (sleeps 2 - 3)
- *6 - 10 Hole Ice House (sleeps 4 - 6)
- *8 - 12 Hole Ice House (sleeps 5 - 6)
- *10 - 12 Hole Ice House (sleeps 8)
- *10 - 14 Hole Ice House (sleeps 10)
- *11 Hole Ice House (sleeps 10)
- *14 Hole Ice House (sleeps 14)

Each include: Propane heat, lights, table/chairs, covered pad for bunks, carpeted floors. Cook stoves are available in the larger houses. **Check in time is 1:00PM.**

Branch 9 Ice Fishing

Name: _____ Station: _____

Type of Ice House: _____ Amount Paid: _____

Name of Guests (if under 14 include age): _____

Checks payable to: Branch 9 Ice Fishing
2408 Central Avenue NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418

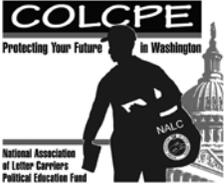
**Deadline is
Tuesday, January 10th**

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

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Stay informed by:
Signing up for E-activist at NALC.org
Branch9nalc.com (website)
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Follow us on Twitter



Branch Nine Calendar

January 3

Northside Retiree’s Breakfast
9:30AM
Elsie’s

729 Marshall St. NE, Minneapolis

January 15 & 16

4th Annual Ice Fishing Outing
Twin Pines Resort & Motel
Lake Mille Lacs
Noon Sunday to Noon Monday
Flyer and info on page 11

February 7

Northside Retiree’s Breakfast
9:30AM
Elsie’s

729 Marshall St. NE, Minneapolis

January 10

Southside Retiree Breakfast
9:00AM
Fred Babcock VFW

6715 Lakeshore Drive, Richfield

January 24

Nokomis Retiree Breakfast
9:00AM
Fred Babcock VFW
6715 Lakeshore Drive
Richfield

February 14

Southside Retiree Breakfast
9:00AM
Fred Babcock VFW
6715 Lakeshore Drive, Richfield

Tuesday, January 10

Stewards Meeting
7:00PM
Golden Valley VFW Post 7051
7775 Medicine Lake Rd
Golden Valley

Tuesday, January 24

General Membership Meeting
7:00PM
Golden Valley VFW Post 7051
7775 Medicine Lake Rd
Golden Valley

Tuesday, February 14

Stewards Meeting
7:00PM
Golden Valley VFW Post 7051
7775 Medicine Lake Rd
Golden Valley