









### NALC Membership Survey

Brothers and Sisters,

In order for us to provide you with the latest information and with the advent of newer technologies such as email, text messaging, social media outlets (Facebook, twitter, etc.,) and our own [branch9nalc.com](http://branch9nalc.com) website. We are asking you (our members) if we may communicate with you through these methods.

Please complete the survey below and return to branch office. You can do that by giving this survey to your station steward, mailing it to Branch 9 at 2408 Central Ave NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418, emailing the information to [mikez@branch9nalc.com](mailto:mikez@branch9nalc.com) or sending a text to 612-387-0220.

Are you a Retired Member  Full-time Regular  CCA

Your Preferred Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to receive text messages? Yes  No

What is your preferred way of receiving information?

Branch Nine News

Email

Text Message

Branch 9 Website

Branch 9 Facebook Page

Twitter

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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# Executive Vice President's Report

## Weingarten Rights

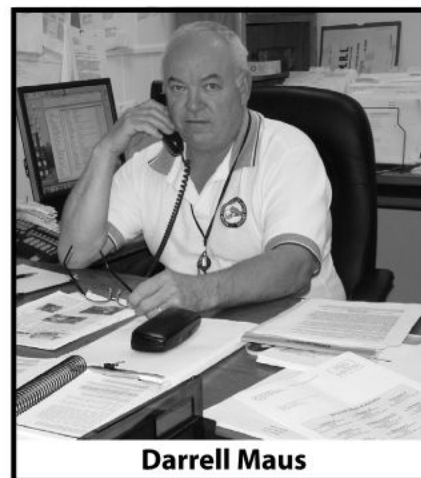
With the number of carriers being called into managers offices for discussions I want to make sure every carrier knows their rights under Weingarten. The J-Cam states, "Federal labor law, in what is known as the Weingarten Rule, gives each employee the right to representation during any investigatory interview which he or she reasonably believes may lead to discipline." This rule cannot be exercised by the steward but rather the employee must request their steward to be present. Also, the employee has the right to a pre-interview consultation with the steward before going into the office where information can be discussed privately. The branch has become aware of instances where the steward was not requested prior and afterwards the carrier has informed the branch they wished they had requested their steward's representation prior to the meeting especially when it involves the OIG agents or postal inspectors. This especially occurs in cases that deal with our newer and junior employees whether CCAs or Regulars. Watch out for them and lets all make sure they know they are not alone. In all Minneapolis offices, there has been a long time established and recognized agreement that whenever a carrier is called into the office for any type of discussion the steward is to be present, unless the carrier does not want the steward there. This rule also gives the employee the right for the steward's assistance, the steward is not there only as a silent partner. Management would be in violation of the rule if they were to try to restrict the steward to the role of only a witness or a passive observer. So, when your presence is requested in the office by a supervisor or manager know your rights and exercise them. Ask

for your steward representation for your own protection under the contract.

## Safety

We deliver mail in an environment that is completely out of our control. We cannot control other drivers, bike riders, pedestrians, pets or even the weather (although that would be nice). Watch where you are walking and make sure the ground is level and free of debris to avoid slips, trips, or falls. Take the time to be safe on steps and make sure they are in good condition, and if not, your supervisor is to be notified. Be alert and always be aware of the conditions around you whether it's the weather, dogs or the busy street traffic we contend with daily. When loading your vehicle mail should never be placed on the dash, floor or double decked on top of another tray as it will slide around at every stop or turn. This could be a distraction and may cause you to be in a vehicle accident while trying to keep the trays in one place. Never use your cell phone when vehicle is in motion period.

Carriers on mounted routes should never work the mail from their laps. This is considered a safety issue even though many carriers have been observed doing precisely that by management (whether on a 3999 or street observation) and nothing is ever said to them. You must walk and drive safely between stops whether the mail is ready to be put in the box when you get there or not. You need to take the time when driving to keep your hands and feet in control of the vehicle. On a park and loop route make sure you curb the wheels properly and apply the brake at each park point. On a mounted route put the vehicle in neutral on level ground or in park on unlevel ground at each box. With the



Darrell Maus

changing weather conditions on certain days whether storms or hot weather you must be even more focused on safety. Do not take shortcuts that may put 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.

As Mike and I have said at several safety talks "always leave yourself an out."

## THANKS TO OUR MDA BOWLATHON LANE SPONSORS

On behalf of the membership of Branch 9 National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) I would like to express our profound thanks for the businesses and individuals who supported the 2017 Ron St. Clair MDA Bowlathon as lane sponsors. Your support was critical to our success as we were able to donate more than \$10,000 this year to the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). Your exceptional generosity helped nearly 200 kids with neuromuscular diseases attend Camp Courage this summer. That is just fantastic! Thank you so much!

See page 6 for the list of our 2017 Lane Sponsors.

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**"Pres. Report" continued from pg. 3**  
 the bill out of committee. There are still several steps that this bill needs to go through, and at that time we will have the opportunity to seek changes. He explained that there were two specific issues that needed to be changed in order for the NALC to support the bill". **1. To provide a hardship exemption to the mandatory Medicare Integration for those who won't be able to use it. 2. To change/eliminate the new language about door to door delivery.** He also explained that having the majority of the members of the House supporting and co-sponsoring **HRes. 28** is important and it expresses the sense to the House that the USPS should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of door delivery for all business and residential customers. With the majority supporting door to door delivery, it is believed that we will be able to satisfactorily resolve this issue.

The second issue is the **President's 2018 Budget** which is as bad as or maybe even worse than the presidential budgets from the 1980's. This new budget includes increases in the FERS contribution requirement with no corresponding increase in benefits. Eliminates the FERS supplement "the bridge". Changes how retirement benefits are determined. Currently they use the high three-year calculations and want to change it to high five-year calculations. This change will reduce the amount of the FERS defined benefits. This budget also wants to eliminate COLAS, Saturday Delivery, reduce/eliminate door to door delivery along with other changes for Federal Employees and retirees. So, what can be done about it? In July and August our members of Congress will be "in district" and may be willing to speak to their constituents. If you are in the 2nd, 3rd or 6th CDs, please contact Representatives Lewis, Paulson, and Emmer about postal issues. Let them know about the impact

of Postal Reform and the potential impact on your job and your family. You can call, email or write a letter the choice is yours. But as President Rolando said, "we need a steady stream of people (members, family and friends) contacting our members of Congress asking them for their support on Postal Issues." If you live the 1st, 4th, 5th 7th and 8th CDs please thank your representative for their support.

There is also another way to get involved, and that is by contributing to the Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF) and Branch 9's Political Action League (9PAL). These funds are not only used to financially support candidates who support postal issues, but help in our lobbying efforts on behalf of letter carriers and our families. If you are able to contribute to the LCPF, you can initiate the process on Lite Blue or by following the instructions on the [NALC.org](http://NALC.org) website, attend a monthly General Membership Meeting (every 4th Tuesday) or the monthly Officer and Steward's Meeting (every 2nd Tuesday) and there will be assistance available to help you sign up. If you are interested in contributing to 9 PAL, just mail a check to 9 PAL, Attn. Treasurer, 11581 Ilex Street, Coon Rapids, MN 55448 or bring your contribution to any meeting and we will make sure it gets delivered. You can call it job insurance or getting a foot in the door, **but be assured our participation matters.** If you have any questions about the new proposed agreement or the legislative and political issues please give me a call or send letter to the branch office or send me an email to [mikez@branch9nalc.com](mailto:mikez@branch9nalc.com).

**Food Drive**

Thank you all that participated in the 25th NALC Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. Your hard work helped the Minneapolis/St Paul branches to collect over 1 million pounds of food and cash equivalency. I would like to thank our station coordinators, drivers and volunteers for their efforts on behalf of the hungry. This

year's efforts provided 813,132 meals to those in need. I want to particularly, thank our own Branch 9 Food Drive Coordinators Samantha Hartwig and Michelle Guzman for all their efforts. We would not have been as successful as we were without you. This was Samantha's last food drive as the Branch 9 Food Drive Coordinator. Thank you Samantha for all your efforts on behalf of the hungry! I know that Michelle will be looking for another co-coordinator for next year. If you are interested please let us know.

**Member Survey**

As time marches on, the way we communicate with each other is changing too. The Branch has a website [www.branch9nalc.com](http://www.branch9nalc.com), a Facebook page "Branch 9 Online", and a Twitter presence @Branch9NALC, (although we are still trying to get it up to speed), we have several email lists and we receive multiple texts from members, and of course we still have mailings and the telephone, but as more and more people get rid of their land lines this presents us with a question. What is the best way to reach you, our members? On page 4 of this issue is a member survey. We would like you to let us know your current contact information and also your preferred method of receiving information related to the NALC. Please fill out the form and mail it to the office, or give it to your steward or the director of retirees at one of the retiree breakfasts, or you can bring it to one of our monthly meetings. Our world is changing, and changing rapidly, and I believe that it is important that we give you as much information as we can in the method that you would prefer. We are not eliminating our more traditional means of communication. We are simply trying to communicate with the membership in the method that you would prefer.

Enjoy your summer and remember to be safe

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### City Carrier Assistant and New Career Employees Meeting

Thursday, August 17th, 2017  
7:00PM

Crystal VFW  
5222 56th Avenue North (Bass Lake Road)  
Crystal, MN 55429

This meeting provides CCA's and new career employees a great opportunity to learn more about your rights at work and your future with the Postal Service.

### LOCAL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The 30-day period of negotiations on the 11 LMOU's for the Branch 9 installations will begin on October 16, 2017.

During **the July 25th and the August 22nd General Membership meetings** at the Crystal VFW we will be discussing and gathering information for possible changes on the current LMOUs.

Join Branch 9 for

*“The Great Minnesota  
Get-Together”*

**August 24 - September 4**



2 shifts available:  
9:00AM - 1:00PM  
1:00 - 5:00PM



**Call the Branch or see your steward to sign-up.**

# UNIFORMS UNLIMITED

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

## The Twin Cities Postal Headquarters



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

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