

JEROME J. KEATING BRANCH



VOLUME 70 No 8

Official Publication of Branch Nine, NALC

October 2018

### PULL!

#### Reflections on Branch 9's Inaugural Trap Shoot Event

By: Ashley Keul, Minnehaha

On Sunday, September 16th I joined 23 letter carriers and their guests for the first Clay Trap Shoot sponsored by Branch 9. We met at Metro Gun Club in Blaine to shoulder our shotguns for a few hours of a clay-busting, camaraderie-building good time!

Now, I haven't shot trap since my Hunter's Safety Field Test when I was 12, but I was certainly not alone in my inexperience. Many others I spoke with shared similar stories of only shooting a bit in their youth and some folks had never before even handled a firearm. On the other end of the

*Pull cont'd on page 6*

## U.S. MAIL NOT FOR SALE

On October 8, we told Congress that U.S. Mail is Not For Sale! Rallies by all four postal unions (NALC, APWU, NRLCA and NPMHU) were held throughout the country to say no to privatizing the Postal Service.



### **Branch 9 Elections**

Ballots for the contested Branch 9 Officers election will be mailed out on **October 30, 2018.**

All Ballots must be returned to the Election Committee **before** November 20th.

## **Branch 9 Election**

### **Office of President**

- \*Mike Zagaros - Candidate
- \*Cathy Jones - Candidate
- \*Jeff Johnson - Candidate

### **Office of Exec. Vice President**

- \*Samantha Hartwig - Candidate
- \*Caitlin Hill - Candidate

The following positions  
were elected unopposed:

### **Recording Secretary**

JoAnn Gilbaugh

### **Treasurer**

Lisa O'Neill

### **Financial Secretary**

Jim Nelson

### **Editor**

Jeremy Rothstein

### **Sergeant at Arms**

Jeff Reed

### **Trustees**

Stacey Ellingson  
Ken Jambois  
Robb Petersburg

### **Director of Retirees**

Melia Derrick

### **NALC Health Benefits Rep.**

Mike Smith

Ballots for contested Branch 9  
Office election will be mailed out  
on October 30, 2018.

If you do not receive a ballot  
please contact the Branch Office  
at 612-781-9858.

All Ballots must be returned to  
the Election Committee **before**  
**November 20th.**

Ballots will be collected at  
9:00 a.m. November 20, 2018.

### **Election Committee**

Joe Rian (Chairperson),  
Johnea Rystedt  
Chris Pennock

## **RETIREMENTS**



*Carol Gallus (St. Louis Park) last day  
with Steward Mark Olufson. Happy  
Retirement Carol!*

## **In Memoriam**

Theodore Hovan

## **Welcome New Members**

Selwyn Abrahamson  
Christina M Garcia  
Eric D Hunt  
Shakenia Kellum  
Gregory J Krohnfeldt  
Felicia A MaGee  
Travis R McDowell  
Michael A Perillo  
Joseph D Redemann  
Hannah M Root  
Tashi Tsering

## **Branch 9 Candidate Forum**

Tuesday  
October 23, 2018

@ 6:00 PM  
(Before the GMM)

Crystal VFW  
Crystal, MN

Come and hear from the  
candidates in person.

Branch 9, NALC  
2408 Central Ave. NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55418  
Voice: (612) 781-9858  
Fax: (612) 781-9849  
Website: [branch9nalc.com](http://branch9nalc.com)

### **Branch 9 Officers**

#### **President**

Mike Zagaros

#### **Exec. Vice President**

Samantha Hartwig

#### **Recording Secretary**

JoAnn Gilbaugh

#### **Treasurer**

Lisa O'Neill

#### **Financial Secretary**

Jim Nelson

#### **Editor**

Jeremy Rothstein  
[branch9news@branch9nalc.com](mailto:branch9news@branch9nalc.com)

#### **Sergeant at Arms**

Robb Petersburg

#### **Trustees**

Ken Jambois  
Stacey Ellingson  
Joe Rian

#### **Director of Retirees**

Rodney Anderson  
C: (651) 270-7807

#### **NALC Health Benefits Rep.**

Mike Smith  
HBR: (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 1st 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

**Starting Times** - One of the fastest ways to anger a letter carrier is to give them a later starting time. This week, with very few exceptions, the Minneapolis Installation has moved the carriers starting time. For some, it is a change of up to an hour later and people are asking if there is anything that can be done about it. This is not a temporary change and it's not just Minneapolis. Management maintains that these are permanent changes. When asked why now? The response is that due to problems with Mail Processing they can't process the mail to with enough time to meet the carrier's current starting time. In addition, there are problems getting the mail and parcel post ready in a timely fashion at the stations and finally that based on their projections and that carriers are spending too much time in the office. You are probably asking yourselves so how does starting carrier later fix these problems? I'm not sure that it does. Management has the ability to make permanent changes to starting times as long as the notify the carriers in advance. Which they did. But there are problems that are associated with later starting times.

First with later starting times, there is a corresponding later departure time to the street and a later return time to the station. More mail reaches the plant later and the mail comes in later creating a vicious cycle. The second problem with later starting times at this time of the year is that carriers will be required to be delivering in the dark because daylight saving time ends on November 4th when we set the clocks back an hour costing us an hour of daylight. Right now, with few exceptions, letter carriers are on the street past 6:00 pm every day. Now with later starting times, it is expected that this number will increase. That means

more carriers will be delivering in the dark. But what about this talk about safety?

This is not the first time that carriers are routinely delivering after dark. At the end of the day, it will be up to each carrier to work as safely as possible by preparing for this real event. Are there other ways that you can do your route that minimizes your exposure to delivering in the dark? If so, let your supervisor know. Not every route has deliveries that can be altered so that you are not walking in the darkness. What about headlamps? The use of headlamps is not an authorized piece of equipment even though management is purchasing them and carriers are using them. These are decisions that carriers will be required to make. Every Union Bulletin Board should have a posting about "Delivery After Dark" on it. I hope that everyone will take some time and review it. Talk about it at your morning "safety huddles" make sure that more experienced carriers are talking with the newer carriers about what to expect and things that they can do to be safer.

**Accidents and Injuries** - This year, there has been an increase in the number of accidents, that have taken place. As the leaves fall, the amount of slips, trips and falls increase. Extra attention needs as to take place to ensure that where you are walking is safe. Is there something under those leaves that can cause you to get hurt? Are those steps and walkways free from hazards? Are you using handrails? Make sure that your mail is ready to deliver before you climb steps not as you are climbing. The same hold true for motor vehicle accidents. We need to ask ourselves, are we sure that we can get from here to there safely? Are you taking that extra look to make sure it is safe for you



**Mike Zagaros**

to move your vehicle before you actually do it? We need to stop this faster, faster, faster mantra and say safe, safer and safest and focus on the little things that will keep you safe. Even if you do everything right, accidents will happen. That's why they are called accidents. If you are involved in a motor vehicle accident. Report it to your Supervisor right away. Stay there until you are told by management to leave. But what if there is no answer on the phone or scanner? It is still the carrier's responsibility to contact your station. After you have told your supervisor, tell your steward. If you are injured, see a doctor of your choosing. Make sure that necessary paperwork (CA-1) has been provided to you and that you understand what is supposed to happen next. If you are unclear as to what should happen next, see your steward or contact the Branch Office. There is help available to you, but only if you make the first step and ask questions.

Tuesday, November 6th, Election Day – By now most of us are so tired of the incessant attack ads against this candidate or that one, that we just want it to be over. But we have to close the deal and vote. In Minnesota there are so many options available so that we can make our voice heard. If you have not taken advantage of

*Pres. Report cont. on pg. 4*

**I am selfish:**

I want a full retirement, NOT 347,329 dollars short due to the White House paper on changing retirement by eliminating COLA's and increasing employee contributions. The total cost for a 30 year retirement that these will save or you will NOT get.

**I am selfish:**

I want to have my fellow carriers have a GREAT retirement. Not by contributing more for less benefits!

**I am selfish:**

I want to be able to retire without worrying that things will change. NONE of yours or my retirement benefits are guaranteed. There is no "grandfather" clause. IT can and is up for tremendous changes!

**I am selfish:**

I contribute to LCPF, not because I am rich! To try to ensure that what I have now, will stay there. Most of you just received a COLA, because the PO was feeling generous? NO, because of our negotiation and friends in congress! Think that is FREE and they know what is right??

**I am selfish:**

I contribute to PAL 9. Because that money goes to local candidates who support postal issues. You have to have money to open the door to talk to people and tell them your side of the story. PAL 9 has a great history of getting to candidates early and keeping

*Pres. Report cont. from pg. 3*

either the "no excuse absentee ballot" or early voting, then it will be time to go to the polls. Voting like everything else requires preparation. Who will you vote for? This election day, our entire congressional delegation (House and Senate) is up for election. We need to ask ourselves, do they support us and our jobs and benefits as letter carriers? You can look at the Branches website to review which candidates have been endorsed by Branch 9. But

them for years. Both sides of the political spectrum have received money.

**I am selfish:**

I despise carrying scabs on my dime. We have people who do not pay union dues but the UNION has to carry them and represent them. They contribute NOTHING and get the SAME hard earned benefits that I am paying for! But they cannot represent themselves or go to the PO and get their own benefits. So, they are riding for FREE!! How do you feel about that??

I am very disappointed in my fellow carriers! Only 11% contribute to LCPF. Really, am I and the others that dumb? OR do others not realize, not care or not concerned about their future?

IT is your future, what are you doing to preserve it?

Even less to PAL 9. WHY? When things are gone, it is too late to wake up.

A quote that I am using: "They" will never be happy until the working man cannot retire. Given by Ron Watson, NALC Director of Retirees, July 2018 National Convention on Planning your Retirement, seminar.

Think about your future and how you are making sure it is there!!

Pat Paplow  
AO Board Representative

we need to do more. Do your friends and family know which candidates supports you? Polls will open at 7:00 am and close at 8:00 pm. The ELM requires that management allow you to exercise your right to vote. If there are any questions that you have about this contact the Branch Office.

Fall is a time of transition, between the warmth of summer and the cold realities of winter. Let us make sure that we are doing so safely, and by making our voice heard.

**The following candidates have been endorsed by Branch 9 for the 2018 election.**

Visit [www.mnvotes.org](http://www.mnvotes.org) to check your registration, register to vote, and find out where you vote.

**Governor & Lieutenant Governor**

[--] Tim Walz & Peggy Flanagan

**United States Senate**

[--] Amy Klobuchar  
[--] Tina Smith

**Attorney General**

[--] Keith Ellison

**Secretary of State**

[--] Steve Simon

**State Auditor**

[--]Julie Blaha

**United States Congress**

[--] Dist. 1: Dan Feehan  
[--] Dist. 2: Angie Craig  
[--] Dist. 3: Dean Phillips  
[--] Dist. 4: Betty McCollum  
[--] Dist. 5: Ilhan Omar  
[--] Dist. 6: Ian Todd  
[--] Dist. 7: Colin Peterson  
[--] Dist. 8: Joe Radinovich

**Minnesota Senate District 13 (Special Election)**

[--] Joe Perske

## Exec Vice President's Report

It has been a very busy summer, and as we move into fall there is no slowing down. Staffing in Minneapolis does not show any immediate signs of improvement. Forced overtime is a daily occurrence in most of our stations. Management has been simultaneously scheduling overtime desired list carriers (OTDL) and Non-overtime carriers (Non-OTDL). Back in 2012 when we had the WOO (Window of Operations) grievances there was also frequent simultaneous scheduling back. We took several grievances at that time to arbitration, where we did ultimately prevail and the WOO ended.

Right now, it feels as if we are returning to the WOO situation back in 2012, and the only thing we can do is file grievances. The language that we received from the arbitrator in the WOO cases stated that simultaneous scheduling of OTDL and Non-OTDL carriers is not meant to be a regular occurrence. In every station where the OTDL carriers are being bypassed, and the Non-OTDL carriers are forced to work overtime it is important for the stewards to keep a total of how many times a grievance has been filed in your station for the exact same violation. We need to be able to prove that the simultaneous scheduling of the OTDL and the Non-OTDL carriers is regular in nature, which is not the intent of Article 8. When simultaneous scheduling occurs, stewards need to file the grievances and use the process we have to enforce the contract. Additionally, anytime a Non-OTDL is forced to carry overtime off their assignments, and the OTDL is not maxed to 12 hours that is simultaneous scheduling.

There is a new USPS initiative that is in process in which the Postmaster and the MCSOs are now doing daily street

observations on letter carriers. They are checking to make sure that carriers are being safe while delivering the mail, and in Postal Uniform. As long as you are in uniform, have your dog spray, curb the wheels of your Postal truck when parked, and have your satchel there should be nothing to worry about. Don't forget that anytime management wants to bring you into the office to talk about your performance you have the right to request a union steward. Do not argue with management on the street. If a union steward is not provided please contact the Branch office for assistance.

On Monday October 8th Branch 9, along with Saint Paul and Hopkins letter carriers, the APWU Union and our Brothers and sisters from the AFL-CIO from across the State of Minnesota held a rally in front of the Minneapolis Main Post Office to say, "US Mail Is Not For Sale". With 219 Co-sponsors (218 were needed) on HR-993 in the House of Representatives we are well on our way to stop the treat of privatization that the current administration in the White House seeks to make a reality. In the Senate we have S.Res 633 which mirrors the H.Res 993. In the Senate we need 51 co-sponsors, and so far, the list continues to grow. Senator Tina Smith has signed on, now we need to ask Amy Klobuchar to also sign on. Please take a moment and thank Tina Smith for her support, and call Amy Klobuchar's office or send her a letter asking for her support by signing on to S. Res 633.

On September 7th, JoAnn Gilbaugh and I were invited to attend the DFL's Women's Leadership Event. It was great opportunity to personally meet DFL candidates Tina Smith for the Senate, and Peggy Flanagan for Lieutenant Governor, and even Dean Phillips for the 3rd Congressional District. We were



**Samantha Hartwig**

able to discuss some letter carrier issues and ask for their support. Being able to make friends at all levels of government will benefit all letter carriers now, and in the future. It is vital that we work hard to get our message heard. All of the speakers at this event were women leaders in the DFL party, and it encourages me to see how far women have come since fighting for the right to just to vote.

Remember that November 6th is Election Day. Get out and vote or vote early. Voting by mail is also a great option if you don't want to walk into a polling place, you can request a ballot from the Minnesota Secretary of State's website: [www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-early-by-mail/](http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-early-by-mail/).

I can see voting by mail as a wave of the future, but this year I will have once in a lifetime opportunity to go to my polling place with my son for the first election that he is old enough to vote in. I truly believe that all elections are important and encouraging the younger generation to vote is essential to the Democracy of this country. While we work toward engaging and encouraging the members of Branch 9 to vote for Labor friendly candidates, we cannot forget about our family members too. Remember to get out the vote on November 6th!



*Pull cont'd from page 1*

spectrum of course, there were quite a few very experienced shooters in our group. All of this really reassured me, because with this range of abilities I knew that not only would we be provided thorough training by the gun club staff, but there would be several seasoned shooters available to guide us along the way, too.



Indeed, our day began with about thirty minutes of firearm safety and range protocol led by Rick, owner of Metro Gun Club. This was mandatory for all participants, so we were all on the same page about how to properly handle our firearms and to understand a bit of the etiquette and technique of the sport as it is practiced at this gun club. Rick began with an introduction to the types of firearms we would be using, 12 or 20 gauge shotguns, and three different ways our shotguns may be loaded, this is called the "action"— pump, semi-automatic or break. Many folks brought their own shotguns but the club made available several to borrow, so he made sure to cover the way to safely inspect and operate these types of actions. Then Rick discussed and demonstrated the Golden Rules of firearm safety: 1) Always treat each firearm as if it were loaded, 2) Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction, and 3) Be sure of

your target and beyond, check and double check. Rick explained that part of safe muzzle control also meant that we were forbidden from bending to the ground to pick up cartridges, or shotgun ammunition, we were instead to use the available hip pouches or vests with deep pockets for easy and safe access to our cartridges. Safe, respectful handling of our firearms at all times was reiterated in many different ways so we were all very clear about how the day was to proceed.

We then dove into the finer points of how a trap shoot works. According to Rick, the small orange disks, called clay pigeons, are launched into the air at about 41 mph to simulate the flight speed of a pheasant. In our case, we would be working with a mechanical launcher, housed in a low concrete box called a trap house, set on the edge of a wide, grassy field. The launcher would send a clay flying either out to the center of the field or off to the left or right in a random pattern. There would be five stations where our group mates would stand in a slight arc, several yards behind the trap house. We would then take turns, shooting one at a time, five cartridges from each of the 5 stations. Because we know the clay pigeon would be starting off in the trap house, Rick instructed



that when it was your turn to shoot, you would focus the muzzle of your shotgun on the top edge of the trap house. When ready to shoot, you yell "PULL" and a staff member engages the launcher. As the clay pigeon flies out over the field, you try to follow the arc of the flying clay and shoot ahead of it, in order to hit it. Um, much easier said than done! With that, it was time to grab our eye and ear protection, pouches or vests, and head down to the fields to put this instruction to the test.



I caught up with Rick to inquire about a 20 gauge to borrow, since 12 gauges have a bit more kick, or recoil. With my semi-automatic in hand, I met up with my group mates to begin taking turns on the line. I was excited and had been really looking forward to this event but felt nervous about shooting at a flying target with a firearm I had never handled. I wished for an opportunity to shoot at a stationary target to really get a feel for it, before adding in this complexity of a moving target. Without any ammunition, I practiced the movement of loading and unloading, this is known as working the action. Then, as I stood safely pointing down the field, I practiced shouldering my shotgun, placing the butt of stock in my shoulder. This was as prepared as I was going to be, it was time to start!

"PULL!" CRAAAAACK! "PULL!" CRAAAAACK!

With that it was my turn. I readied my feet in a strong, steady stance

and grabbed a cartridge from my pouch. I loaded the shotgun, took a deep breath, raised it up to my shoulder (right in that soft, smushy spot below the collarbone where a tank top strap lands) and exhaled. It felt like five minutes went by, then I switched off the safety and leaned forward with another big



breath. With the muzzle trained on the top of the trap house, I yelled, "PULL!" CRAAAACK!

After that first shot, my nerves were gone. I relaxed into a rhythm with this firearm and enjoyed celebrating the clays broken by myself and my group mates. It was pretty exhilarating to watch the orange disks break apart and the joy and satisfaction on the faces of people who have never before shot a firearm.

As the shooting wrapped up we made our way to a lovely shaded picnic area where Mike and Sam were tending to the grill and setting up a nice lunch spread. While we traded scores and stories over our meal, Ken was tallying up the totals for the top shooters. It was such a surprise to find out that our friendly competitive shoot was going to culminate in an awards ceremony with prizes and even a trophy! I've got to say there's nothing like a trophy to up the ante a bit, go ahead and sign me up for the Second Annual

Trap Shoot, because that trophy is coming home with me next year!

Finally, a big thanks goes out to Ken, Mike, Sam and all those who participated to help make this event a (clay pigeon) smashing success!

**First Place**

Adam Minnick (Osseo)  
with 38 of 50 shots

**Second Place**

Joe Miskowiec  
(son of Mark Miskowiec, Blaine)  
with 34 of 50 shots

**Third Place Tie**

Jack Hanson and Jim Nelson  
both with 23 of 50 shots



JoAnn Gilbaugh  
Recording Secretary

"THEY WHISPERED TO ME 'you cannot withstand the storm.' I whispered back 'I am the storm.'"

It's powerful statement. It's a reminder that what others think, believe or say is no match for what we know to be true about ourselves and our abilities. It's a statement of empowerment; a declaration of strength.

This modified quote applies to us. It fits what we hear daily from Management, Congress and those

who wish to destroy our livelihood and subsequent retirement.

The storm is management's unrelenting pressure and badgering. It's the constant battle with Congress to do the right thing with Postal Reform and to reject privatization. It's the dark clouds that overshadow the future of our retirement. They believe we cannot withstand the storm.

Our response matters and needs to be loud and clear. We are the storm. It's time to turn the tables. We have the numbers. We have the strength. United we can enforce the National Agreement and impact Management's actions. As a combined voice, we have the ability to not only be noticed, but guarantee we are heard. With increased participation in LCPF, we can ensure Congress will address issues that negatively impact the USPS. Unified we can thwart the proposed unfair changes to our retirement benefits.

A storm takes more than a little wind; more than some rain, lightning and thunder. If there are missing elements, it fizzles. A thriving storm is the result of many dynamics converging. Each part is integral, combining and merging until it bursts forth. With committed involvement, a storm the size and strength of the collective membership of the NALC cannot be denied.

The storm is brewing. Join hands brothers and sisters, we can do this. We are empowered. We are strong. It's time to let them know; we are the storm.

In Solidarity,  
JoAnn Gilbaugh

# Branch 9 at the Great Minnesota Get Together!



*Gubernatorial Candidate Tim Walz w/ Mary Weitz, Chris Pennock, Denny Ryan and Rodney Anderson*



*Gubernatorial Candidate Tim Walz with Stacey Ellingson*



*Look at all the vistors we had at our Kiosk.*



*Stacey Ellingson, Connie Beissell and Ken Jambois*



*Solidarity*



## AME'S UNIFORMS

**OUR BUSINESS IS MAKING YOU LOOK GOOD!**

Br. 9 Retired Letter Carrier  
Kerry Herdine  
Home: 952.854.2655  
Cell: 612.805.8407

We offer "Life of the Garment" guarantee.  
If fixable we will repair your uniform at no cost to you.  
Take waist in/out and change hem length

**Ame's Uniforms are a UNION PREFERRED vendor**





# Branch 9 Holiday Party

**Sunday, November 18, 2018**

**12:00 to 4:00PM**

**New Hope Cinema Grill  
2749 Winnetka Avenue North  
New Hope, MN 55427**

**\$5.00/Person**

*Available space for 200 people - first come, first served.  
Limit of 6 tickets per Branch 9 member (Active, CCA & Retired)  
and immediate family only.*

*Watch the Christmas  
Classic Cartoons on a  
large movie screen*

**Buffet Lunch**  
12:15 - 3:00PM

*A fun day out with the family!*

*Coloring for kids  
of all ages*

**Registration Deadline**  
Tuesday, November 13th

*Special Guest  
SANTA!!*

*Return registration form and payment  
(checks made out to Branch 9 Holiday Party) to:  
Branch 9, 2408 Central Avenue NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418*

## Branch 9 Holiday Party Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Station: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Guests: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Guests (Please include ages of children): \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

**BRANCH 9  
RETIREMENT SEMINAR**

**November 15th, 2018**

**6:30 PM**

Crystal VFW  
5222-56th Ave. N  
Crystal, MN 55429

Please RSVP to the Branch office at 612-781-9858 if you plan on attending.



**General Membership Meeting  
Tuesday, October 23rd  
7:00PM**

**CRYSTAL VFW  
5222- 56th Avenue North  
Crystal, MN 55429**

**50 Turkeys Available**

**Must be present to win!**

**UNIFORMS  
UNLIMITED**

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

**The Twin Cities Postal Headquarters**

USA  
Union preferred

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

## Branch 9 Candidates for Executive Vice President



Leadership In Action

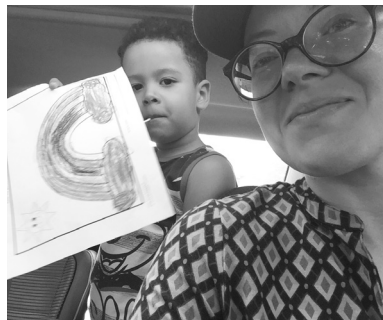
I began my career with the USPS in 2003 as a PTF carrier assigned to the Main Office downtown Minneapolis. During my orientation I knew it was important to join the union. I come from a union home, my dad is a retired cement finisher, and I recall vividly the strike sign that hung on the wall in the garage, and how proud he was to be part of a union. I guess you could say it is in my blood. The first day on the job my supervisor brought me into the office and told me that they didn't want me, but they were stuck with me. I was so nervous after that moment, and I couldn't believe this is how someone would be treated. As a single mom with a three year old at that time I just sucked it up, and began to learn how to deliver the mail. Then I got to know my co-workers, and they supported me, and guided me along the way; with their assistance I passed my probation. I learned from my co-workers that words in a contract are not enough. Knowledge, action and the support of a group, a UNION; that is the key!

I have worked tirelessly over the last 15 years learning grievance handling, arbitration, local negotiations, and OWCP so that I can effectively represent ALL our members.

I am mentoring our newest NALC leaders, giving them the tools, and confidence I have been able to utilize in my 15 years as a letter carrier. I am committed to helping all members in Branch 9, leading with my actions; not just words!

Please vote for me for Executive Vice President of Branch 9.

In Solidarity,  
Samantha Hartwig for Executive Vice President



Brothers and Sisters, Aunts and Uncles, Devotees to Service within the Letter Carrying Craft and beyond, My name is Caitlin Hill, and I would be honored to serve as your Executive Vice President alongside President Cathy Jones. I belong to the cohort of carriers who began under the umbrella classification of our current entry level position known as City Carrier Assistants.

Those who started as CCAs will increasingly represent the majority of our workforce. It is essential that we bridge the gap between former PTRs, PTFs, TEs, Casuals and CCAs as we seriously address the implications of privatization. I support Cathy Jones' platform and will hold our future President accountable while insisting that Branch 9 members do the same with my role as Executive Vice President. It is essential that we all cross the street from our corresponding corners and emerge victorious on the common ground that will maintain and strengthen our livelihood, our identity as members within the communities we serve, and the services our communities **DEPEND** on us to deliver.

We must reestablish the palpable feeling of solidarity beyond the letters themselves, in bold print. We must not be fooled or lulled into a false sense of security by the former futile attempts at privatizing the Postal Service. We must educate our members and the public, our patrons, on the implications of privatization on a local, national and global scale so as to grasp the liberties under threat.

Too many have sacrificed their mental, physical and emotional well-being by battling for their rights on an individual level with little to no avail. Collective bargaining may be arduous. However, we mustn't underestimate the power of our collective voice. We must fight to ensure that all voices are welcome, present, and accounted for.

In solidarity,  
Caitlin



## Branch 9 Candidates for President



Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

My name is Cathy Jones. I'm humbled that my name has been placed into nominations to be the 49th President of Branch 9. When I began my career in 2006, I was a single mom trying to make ends meet. Today I stand before you ready to serve and ready to guide the next generation of Branch 9 leaders.

I'm immensely grateful to have worked with many of you over the years, I thank you for your knowledge and advice along the way. I've had the opportunity to hold a variety of positions within our branch, whether I was protecting the contract as a Steward, making sure our books were in order as a Trustee, leading teams into stations to deal with difficult issues that needed immediate attention, doing the political work to make sure we elect labor friendly candidates, or organizing a school supply drive. I know that when we stand together in solidarity there is nothing we can't do.

Tough times call for a strong leader who's not afraid to have the uncomfortable conversations and act on a plan. With privatization looming over us, CCAs over-worked and underpaid, the absence of dignity and respect in the workplace, and unsafe and filthy workroom floors, we can do better!

My top priorities will include:

Safety: advocating for a complete overhaul of the way we do business and demanding accountability;  
 Inclusion: everyone counts, all voices matter;  
 Training: a new and more effective approach;  
 The Contract: we will fiercely protect it with a progressive strategy;  
 Community Engagement: building together for the common good.

Vote Cathy Jones for President and Caitlin Hill for Executive Vice President.  
 Let's come together and build on common ground.

In Solidarity,  
 Cathy



My name is Mike Zagaros and for the past 7 years I have had the privilege to be your Branch President. It truly is a privilege, because you've allowed me to be a part of your lives and hopefully I have been able to make a difference in your lives too. I am asking you for your support and your vote as President of Branch 9 for the 2019- 2021 term.

For the last 30 years I have served the membership in variety positions at the Station, Branch and Regional level. While experience is important, I believe that the deciding factor should be who is best equipped to make a difference today and into the future as we deal with the continuing evolution of both the Postal Service and the NALC.

As letter carriers we know that the culture around us is constantly changing. Sometimes for the better and sometimes not. Your Branch President needs to be an advocate for all members in a variety of forums be it on the workroom floor through the grievance/ arbitration process, the sometimes complex journeys through worker compensation and to meeting and working with our elected officials to ensure that they are aware of the impacts of proposed legislation. Plus there are the administrative duties that go along with managing the affairs of a Branch of over 2000 members. One of the most important duties of the President is to educate and develop the current and the next generations of leaders.

This is a formidable list, but it is what you have a right to expect in your President. I believe that I am the best candidate to represent all letter carriers into the future and I am asking for your vote as President of Branch 9.

Mike Zagaros

**Branch 9 Candidates for President**



VOTE JEFF JOHNSON  
FOR BRANCH 9 PRESIDENT

I'm Jeff Johnson, a candidate with honesty and integrity. I am a candidate who will fight for the rights of all union workers because when we stand together we can do powerful things. I am here to look out for all carriers, from young workers in their first week of the job looking for a wealth of information, to veteran carriers concerned with contract rules that are no longer honored, to any carrier with unexpected health or family crises, to the soon-to-be retirees. I believe policies, procedures and contracts should be honored and that the purpose of contracts, rules and regulations are to provide a safe and stable work environment with respect and dignity.

With 20 years of experience, I have gained a deep and thorough knowledge of the policies and procedures that govern our workplace. I use that knowledge to assist union stewards to correct a wrong when management breaks policies to the detriment of me or fellow workers. When rules are not followed, and the union doesn't step in, more rules will be broken, and policy goes out the window. That's how a union loses ground becoming weak and ineffective.

I was a candidate for President in 2015 and since that time nothing has changed. The union continues to lose members and political clout.

As President I will:

- Support workers when policies meant to protect them are not enforced
- Ensure that grievances are completed on time
- Stop the loss of members who were not being helped
- Continue to go to training to become a stronger leader
- Take a genuine interest in our rank and file
- Honor the diversity that exist in our union

A VOTE FOR JEFF JOHNSON IS A VOTE FOR US  
LET'S PUT SOME RESPECT BACK INTO BRANCH NINE!

**NALC NATIONAL ELECTIONS RESULTS**

Here are the results, listed in ballot order.

**President**

***Fredric Rolando, Sarasota, FL Br. 2148: 48,977***

David Noble, Washington, DC Br. 142: 11,099

**Executive Vice President**

***Brian Renfro, Hattiesburg, MS Br. 938: 42,708***

Rachael Elmore, Freehold, NJ Br. 924: 16,064

**Vice President**

***Lew Drass, Huntsville, AL Br. 462: 38,732***

Sara Gresham, Newport News, VA Br. 609: 19,314

**Secretary-Treasurer**

Jerry Kerner Jr., Baltimore, MD Br. 176: 15,317

***Nicole Rhine, Lincoln, NE Br. 8: 42,981***

**Assistant Secretary-Treasurer**

***Paul Barner, Roswell, GA Br. 4862: 35,315***

Kathryn R. Myers, Billings, MT Br. 815: 22,153

**Director of City Delivery**

***Christopher Jackson, Garden Grove, CA Br. 1100: 43,886***

Thomas A. Houff, Richmond, VA Br. 496: 13,470

**Director, Safety and Health**

***Manuel L. Peralta Jr., Garden Grove, CA Br. 1100: 42,006***

Douglas L. Peters II, Lansing, MI Br. 122: 16,071

**Director of Life Insurance**

Alan Nagata, Salt Lake City, UT Br. 111: 17,889

***James W. Yates, Long Island Merged, NY Br. 6000: 39,449***

**Director, Health Benefit Plan**

Robert R. Brunette, Sheboygan, WI Br. 102: 14,363

***Stephanie Stewart, Central Iowa Mgd. Br. 352: 43,355***

**Director, Retired Members**

***Daniel Toth, Lorain, OH Br. 583: 43,952***

Thomas E. Fath, Decatur, IL Br. 317: 13,047

**National Trustees (three positions)**

***Lawrence D. Brown Jr., Los Angeles, CA Br. 24: 41,832***

***Michael Gill, South Florida Br. 1071: 40,170***

Carol E. Paxton, New Orleans, LA Br. 124: 27,487

Rolando Rodriguez, Anderson, IN Br. 489: 16,029

***Mack I. Julion, Chicago Br. 11: 35,138***

more informatin and results at <https://www.nalc.org/news/nalc-updates/nalc-national-elections>

Vote  
Cathy Jones For  
Branch 9 President  
&  
Caitlin Hill for  
Executive Vice  
President



Branch 9 NALC Members,

Our membership is key to sustaining the vitality of our organization.

We recognize that we have members committed to service all across the political spectrum.

The attacks on our organization are a threat to this commitment to service.

If it is truly our hope to salvage and ensure this sacred solidarity, then it is imperative that we invite, engage and employ every single one of our member's insight, gifts, and innovative contributions.

Please join us for the candidate forum October 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 6pm preceding the general membership meeting @ 7pm. Located at The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) POST #494



# A Vote For Today & Tomorrow



**Mike Zagaros  
for President  
Branch 9**

- ◆ Elected Steward at Brooklyn Center
- ◆ Branch 9 Organizer
- ◆ Treasurer Branch 9
- ◆ NALC UMPS Representative
- ◆ Regional Administrative Assistant
- ◆ Regional Arbitration Advocate
- ◆ Editor of the Branch Nine News
- ◆ NALC Step B Representative
- ◆ Branch 9 Executive Vice President
- ◆ Branch 9 President

**Vote Mike Zagaros for  
President of Branch 9  
&**

**Vote Samantha Hartwig for  
Executive Vice President of Branch 9**



**Samantha Hartwig  
for Executive Vice President  
Branch 9**

- ◆ 2007 elected Union Steward at the Eastside Station.
- ◆ New employee orientation organizer for the NALC.
- ◆ 2009 Branch 9 food drive coordinator.
- ◆ 2009 became a Formal Step A advocate for Branch 9
- ◆ 2011 Minnesota State Food Drive Coordinator.
- ◆ 2012 Trustee for Branch 9
- ◆ 2012 graduated NALC Leadership Academy class 13.
- ◆ 2013 graduated U of M Union leadership Program
- ◆ Attended the NALC Advanced OWCP class.
- ◆ Attended the NALC OWCP class for handling appeals of denied claims.
- ◆ Attended NALC financial officer training.
- ◆ 2016 became Financial Secretary for Branch 9
- ◆ 2016 OWCP representative for Branch 9.
- ◆ June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018 appointed Executive Vice President of Branch 9

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](http://NALC.org)
- \* [Branch9nalc.com](http://Branch9nalc.com) (website)
- \* "like" our Branch 9 Facebook Page
- \* Follow us on Twitter

**Contribute to the PAC**  
The Letter Carrier Political Fund is the anchor for NALC's legislative and political activities.



[nalc.org/government-affairs/political-activity](http://nalc.org/government-affairs/political-activity)

## Branch 9 Calendar

<p><b><u>October 9</u></b> Steward Meeting 7:00PM Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN</p> <p><b><u>October 14</u></b> Election Door Knock TBD</p> <p><b><u>October 23</u></b> General Membership Meeting 7:00PM Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN</p> <p><b><u>November 4</u></b> DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS</p> <p><b><u>November 6</u></b> ELECTION DAY VOTE!</p>	<p><b><u>November 12</u></b> VETERAN'S DAY</p> <p><b><u>November 13</u></b> Steward Meeting 7:00PM Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN</p> <p><b><u>November 15</u></b> Retirement Seminar 6:30 PM Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN</p> <p><b><u>November 27</u></b> General Membership Meeting 7:00PM Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN</p>
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**Northside Retiree Breakfast**  
1st Tuesday of the Month  
9:30AM @ Elsie's  
729 Marshall St. NE, Minneapolis

**N Suburban Retiree Breakfast**  
1st Friday of the Month  
8:30AM @ Denny's Restaurant  
9020 Quaday Avenue NE, Otsego

**Southside Retiree Breakfast**  
2nd Tuesday of the Month  
9:00AM @ Fred Babcock VFW  
6715 Lakeshore Dr, Richfield

**Nokomis Retiree Breakfast**  
4th Tuesday of the Month  
9:00AM @ Fred Babcock VFW  
6715 Lakeshore Dr, Richfield

**POCUM**  
4th Monday of the Month  
6:00PM - Labor Centre -2nd Floor  
312 Central Ave, Minneapolis