



**VOLUME 72 No 1**

**Official Publication of Branch Nine, NALC**

**January/February 2020**

## **USPS Fairness Act passes House**

The House of Representatives passed the USPS Fairness Act (H.R. 2382) in a 309 to 106 vote. As letter carriers know, this bipartisan bill seeks to end the mandate for the Postal Service to prefund retiree health care decades in advance.

Passage of H.R. 2382 is a tremendous achievement for letter carriers and the broader postal community. This is the first major piece of legislation tackling postal issues that has passed the House of Representatives since the 2006 passage of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, which forced the disastrous prefunding mandate onto our employer.

"Letter carriers should be proud

of their hard work to educate members of Congress and gain their support on this very important issue," said NALC President Fred Rolando. "House



passage is a major victory in the battle to end this disastrous mandate, but our work is not done. We must now turn our attention to the Senate."

NALC asks letter carriers to please thank their Members of Congress who voted in support of the bill. The roll call vote of yea's and nay's may be found @ <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2020/roll037.xml>.

Now that the bill has advanced through the House, it will be up to the Senate to take action on S. 2965, the bipartisan companion bill. Letter carriers should be ready to engage and educate their Senators and staff on the need to repeal the prefunding mandate.

NALC will continue to monitor this critical bill's progression and be sure to keep letter carriers up to date on any movement.

### **NOTICE TO ALL BRANCH 9 MEMBERS**

**Any proposed amendments to the 2020 Branch 9 By-Laws** must be presented in writing to the Recording Secretary no later than the February 25, 2020 General Membership Mtg.

## RETIREMENTS



Last Punch for Joe Magrak (University) with Steward Tony Winkels

Thanks Joe! Enjoy your retirement.



Last Punch for Scott Zaske (Loring) with Steward Vince Froelich  
Happy Retirement!



Last Punch for Randy Streich (Bloomington) with President Mike Zagaros  
Best Wishes in retirement



Last Punch for Scott England (West Edina)  
Enjoy your retirement.

## NEW MEMBERS

- Sandra Rynders
- Brittany Yezbak
- Darko Appiah-Danquah
- Christopher Berg
- Michael Edwards
- Justin Frank
- Stacie Gonzalez
- Cody Haskin
- Jerwin Jones
- Victoria Jones
- Gary Keim
- Mao Lee
- Ronald Leines
- Sidney Melancon
- Makala Moore
- Leeanna Murph
- Kevin Palm
- Loren Paulson
- Brooke Quach
- Richard Raming
- Matthew Randall
- Samantha Reis
- Ronald Skanse
- James Symczak
- Olugbenga Taiwo
- Sydney Thomson
- Gwyneth Tracy
- Melissa Watson

## In Memoriam

**Delmar Woida**  
**Thomas Owens**  
**Fredrick True**  
**Paul Tanick**

*Paul was named "Minnesota's Iron Man" in the local news because he never called in sick in 40 years as a letter carrier. His son Andy, who informed the branch of his passing, was also a National scholarship award winner.*

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**President**  
Mike Zagaros

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Samantha Hartwig

**Recording Secretary**  
JoAnn Gilbaugh

**Treasurer**  
Lisa O'Neill

**Financial Secretary**  
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Jim Nelson

**Trustees**  
Robb Petersburg  
Johnna Lush  
Chris Pennock

**Director of Retirees**  
Melia Derrick

**NALC Health Benefits Rep.**  
Ken Jambois  
HBR: (763) 370-1392

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

### **Its hard to imagine that this will be my last article as your Branch President.**

It has been a wild journey. Many have asked, why am I doing this now? There are several reasons. First and foremost, after talking it over with my wife Darlene we decided it is the time for me to step aside and do what's best for me and my family. After making the decision, it was later confirmed that this is the right move now as I am once again undergoing treatment for cancer. This is the 6th time, and as I get older the treatments take more of a toll. The reason for doing this after the March General Membership Meeting, allows me the opportunity ensure all the reports for 2019 are completed and Samantha and the Executive Board will be focusing on 2020 and beyond.

As my term is ending with my retirement and in accordance with the Article VI Section 1 of the NALC Constitution for Federal and Subordinate Branches, the following is my end of term report. Much of what transpired in 2019 was in my end of year report in December, however there are few items that require further explanation to show what constitution call the progress and condition of the Branch. Executive Board: While two people are retiring from the Branch (Mike Smith, Health Benefits Representative and yours truly) by the end of the March 2020 General Membership the Executive Board will have changed by 75% from when we were installed: The New Executive Board will be: **President Samantha Hartwig; Executive Vice President JoAnn Gilbaugh, Recording Secretary Robb Petersburg; Financial Secretary Stacey Ellingson; Treasurer Lisa O'Neill; Editor Jeremy Rothstein; Health Benefit Representative Ken Jambois; Sergeant-at-Arms Jim Nelson; Trustees (3) Johnna**

**Lush, Chris Pennock, Christa Abraham.** These people are my colleagues and friends and I wish them well.

Branch 9 Finances: 2019 was the first year of the 2019 – 2021 term. We finished the year with expenses in the budget categories a slightly under budget (\$634). But that is not a complete explanation. The Branch spent approximately \$ 15,500 for motions that were not included in the budget. These "off budget" motions were approved by the membership at the General Membership Meeting. The Executive Board approved approximately \$3,300 at Executive Board meeting based on the authority given to the Executive Board from the motion passed at the previous December Budget Motion. The bottom line is that we took in more than we spent by over \$30,000. We continue to be good stewards of the members money. This year's budget was set at a membership of 1340 members which we should continue to be above

**Grievances:** We finished 2019 with 1,487 that is neither good nor bad. It all depends on your perspective. We still have 43 open grievances from 2019 or slightly less than 3% of the total grievances filed and almost none older than 6 months. In 2020 we have 45 open cases for 2020. But if it is your grievance, you have the right to expect resolution of your grievance as soon as possible. Again, it depends on your perspective; but we can do better.

**The Burning Issues** as I make the rounds of Stations and Branches the questions remain the same, conversions and about the National Agreement. Conversions, there has been news regarding conversion in both the Associate Offices and the Minneapolis Installation. In Minneapolis there are no unassigned regulars to fill



**Mike Zagaros**

the residual vacancies that exist. I firmly believe that there will be conversions to be regular in the month of February. The current rules for Minneapolis are that for every 4 residual vacancies, 1 will be filled by a transfer request. (In the Associate Offices that ratio is 1 of 6.) The National parties have resolved the issue of CCA with over 30 months (25 months for CCAs in the Northland District) of relative standing by converting them to PTFs in our Associate Offices. As a PTF you are entitled positions with career benefits, (life insurance, participate in the Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan, FERS Retirement and participating in the Thrift Savings Plan.)

**National Agreement,** as of this writing the NALC has announced that the Arbitrator Dennis Nolan has accepted the appointment to serve as the neutral chair of the arbitration panel who will decide the terms of our next National Agreement. Arbitrator Nolan is familiar to both the NALC and the USPS. He has served as an arbitrator for over a hundred cases including 16 National Level cases. He will be joined by NALC General Counsel Mr. Bruce Simon (from Cohen Weiss and Simon) who has served as the NALC's arbitrator in numerous Interest Arbitration Cases for the NALC. The USPS will be represented by Attorney Robert Dufek. Now that

*Pres. Report cont'd on page 4*

*Pres. Report cont'd from page 3*

the panel has been named, the parties will be setting a schedule and are expected to begin this Spring. The terms of the expired National Agreement continue to be in effect.

**Labor 2020** While it seems like the race for the White House has been going on forever (at least a year) we are now in the primary/caucus season. In Minnesota, we have all of the major party caucuses are caucuses. The DFL and GOP precinct caucuses will be held on Tuesday February 25 (same night as the February General Membership Meeting) and will begin at 7:00 p.m. For Stewards and Delegates to the National Convention, if you bring evidence that you were attending your caucus that night, you will be given meeting attendance for the February General Membership Meeting. The caucuses determine the direction of the parties for this election cycle. If you are not sure where your caucus will be meeting? Got to the caucus finder on the Minnesota Secretary of State's website at <https://caucusfinder.sos.state.mn.us>. On Tuesday March 3rd (Super Tuesday) there will be the Presidential Primary (the first in almost 20 years in Minnesota.) The results of our primary will determine which candidates will receive x number of delegates from Minnesota for their party's National Convention. If you have any questions about getting involved party politics, give us a call. As letter carriers, we need to have participants in all facets of this process.

**There are so many people to thank.** I've had a lot of friends and mentors who were instrumental in providing assistance, guidance and opportunities throughout my NALC Career. From Lenny Larson and Jan Wild who gave me my first opportunities in organizing, grievance handling, and as an opportunity to serve as the Treasurer of Branch 9. To Gene

McNulty who asked me to be the second UMPS representative and gave me the opportunities to be an arbitration advocate. To Barry Weiner who taught me the finer points of arbitration and asked me to serve as one of your Regional Administrative Assistants and later as the Step B Representative for the Northland, Dakota and Alaska Districts. I always referred to you as "Boss" out of respect. Much of what I've achieved is because of your tutelage. Joe Bedor who advice and counsel has been invaluable in throughout my time as a union representative. To Charlie Peasha who taught me how to use computers and desktop publishing when I served as the Editor of the Branch 9 News and was always willing to answer my questions, regardless of how many times I asked them. To Pam Donato who brought me back to Branch 9 as your Vice President. On a personal level, you've helped me in so many ways that you may never know but I am truly grateful. To Darrell Maus and Samantha Hartwig, you two have served as my confidants during my years as President. I wouldn't have made it without you. To all the officers, stewards and members that I have met over the years. I hope that I have been of some assistance to you. You all have made a difference in my life for the better.

**Some final thoughts:** I started my Union career as the third Steward at the Brooklyn Center. This happened for the same reason as I had for joining the Union. Someone asked me. Past President Bill Mechels and President Emeritus Lenny Larson had an off the clock meeting for the Brooklyn Center carriers. I joined the NALC right after that meeting. Shortly after that I was asked to be a Steward and did so. Currently we have approximately 40 non-members. Do you know if there are non-member in your office? Have you asked them to join the Union? Its not just the Steward's job. The same is true for most of the things that the Union is involved in whether it is the Food Drive,

MDA and political events PAL9 and Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF). We need members to be involved. But it will take someone to take the time to ask them to get involved.

On March 24th I will call to order my last General Membership Meeting as your President. It has been my most profound honor to represent the men and women of the Branch 9 for what has been 34 years in one capacity or another. I will still be around; my last official act will be to swear in my Successor Samantha Hartwig as our Branch President at the March General Membership Meeting. It will just be in a different capacity as a retired member of Branch 9.

*Thank You.  
MZ*

## Scholarship Winner



I would like to express my gratitude for the Walter E. Couillard/Eugene P. McNulty Scholarship I was awarded. I feel very fortunate to have received this scholarship as it will help me with my college expenses, which will also help me reach my dream career. I am currently a student at Normandale Community College pursuing a Social Studies Secondary Education major. I appreciate the opportunity to be awarded this scholarship along with all the hard work of everyone that is apart of Branch 9.

*Thank You,  
Christine Allmann*

## Exec. Vice President's Report

**As we move into the year** a few pieces of legislation have passed the House of Representatives that will help the USPS and working people.

H.R. 2382 USPS fairness Act passed by a vote of 309 to 106. All eight Minnesota's Congressional Representatives voted in support of H.R. 2382 and that is due in part to all of the hard work that letter carriers have done across the State of Minnesota to inform all of our House Representatives of what H.R. 2382 is, how it will help the USPS, and in turn how strengthening the USPS is important for their constituents. Issues with the USPS are bi-partisan issues, and as the results of the vote in the House of Representatives indicate both sides of the aisle (Democrat and Republican) understand the importance and the value that the Postal Service brings to the American People.

Now the USPS Fairness Act will move on to the Senate. Our next task is to get the Senate version of this House Bill passed. The Senate version of the USPS Fairness Act is S.2965. We need to take the time to inform our Senators, Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith, of S.2965, and ask for them to not only become co-sponsors, but to also vote in support of the bill.

The next piece of legislation that passed in the House of Representatives is H.R. 2474 Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act.

This bill amends the National Labor Relations Act and related labor laws to extend protections to union workers. Specifically, it

- revises the definition of "employee" and "supervisor" to prevent employers from classifying employees as exempt from labor law

- protections,
- expands unfair labor practices to include prohibitions against replacement of or discrimination against workers who participate in strikes,
- makes it an unfair labor practice to require or coerce employees to attend employer meetings designed to discourage union membership,
- permits workers to participate in collective or class action litigation,
- allows injunctions against employers engaging in unfair labor practices involving discharge or serious economic harm to an employee,
- expands penalties for labor law violations, including interference with the National Labor Relations Board or causing serious economic harm to an employee, and
- allows any person to bring a civil action for harm caused by labor law violations or unfair labor practices.

The PRO Act is another important piece of legislation that favors the working class. The Senate version is S.1306, and we need to ask our Senators to support this legislation.

We have been seeing an increase in discipline for carriers "failing to maintain a work schedule". Right now, the USPS has made attendance the "flavor of the month", and carriers are receiving discipline for using unscheduled sick leave. There is no consistency among management as to the number of absences that constitute the issuance of discipline.

A few things to remember is that anytime you believe that a conversation with management may lead to discipline request your steward. If your steward is unavailable, then it is incumbent



**Samantha Hartwig**

upon your management person to contact the Branch Office. Do not answer any questions till you have union representative.

If you have a condition that may qualify for the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) request FMLA paperwork. You have the option to use either the FMLA forms from the Department of Labor, or the NALC FMLA forms. If you would like the NALC FMLA forms call the Branch Office and we can make sure to get the form for your situation to you.

When you have the FMLA form that you have chosen to use, take it to your treating physician for completion. Then after the FMLA form is completed send it the FMLA Office either by mail or fax to:

**HRSSC FMLA WESTERN  
PO Box 970910  
Greensboro NC 27497-0910  
FAX: 651-456-6071**

If your FMLA gets approved it will provide you with up to 12 weeks of protected leave, that you can't be disciplined for. This leave is unpaid, so you will need to use your sick leave, annual leave, or leave without pay.

If you called in sick because you were ill, and don't have an FMLA

*EVP. Report cont'd on page 7*

**Branch 9  
Ron St. Clair MDA Bowlathon**

**Saturday, April 18, 2020**

**LOCATION**

NEW HOPE BOWL  
7107 - 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North  
New Hope, MN 55427

**TIME**

7:00 - 9:30PM

**If you have any questions, please contact  
Christa Abraham at the Branch office 612.781.9858.**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Sunday, May 3, 2020**

**Branch 9's Annual  
Red and Gold Retiree Banquet**

**Delta Hotels by Marriott Minneapolis Northeast  
1330 Industrial Boulevard, Minneapolis, MN**

**2020 Retiree Banquet Registration Form**

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

Name of Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

*Retirees - \$12/Person  
Stewards - \$12/Person  
Active - \$18/Person*

Retired       I would like a ride to the Banquet  
Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Active       I am willing to give someone a ride  
(Please call Angie to volunteer at  
612.781.9858)

*Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_*

# The 2020 Census Why We Ask

The census asks questions that provide a snapshot of the nation. Census results affect your voice in government, how much funding your community receives, and how your community plans for the future.

When you fill out the census, you help:

- Determine how many seats your state gets in Congress.
- Guide how more than \$675 billion in federal funding is distributed to states and communities each year.
- Create jobs, provide housing, prepare for emergencies, and build schools, roads and hospitals.

We ask this question to collect an accurate count of the number of people at each address on Census Day, April 1, 2020. Each decade, census results determine how many seats your state gets in Congress.

State and local officials use census counts to draw boundaries for districts like congressional districts, state legislative districts, and school districts.

Our goal is to count people once, only once, and in the right place according to where they live on Census Day. Keeping this goal in mind, we ask this question to ensure that everyone living at an address is counted.

**In FY2016, Minnesota received \$15,459,175,947** through 55 federal spending programs guided by data derived from the 2010 Census.

The **Counting for Dollars 2020 Project** aims to understand 1) the extent to which the federal government will rely on data from the 2020 Census to guide the distribution of federal funding to states, localities, and households across the nation and 2) the impact of the accuracy of the 2020 Census on the fair, equitable distribution of these funds.

The project has analyzed spending by state for 55 federal programs (\$883,094,826,042 in FY2016). Three types of programs are analyzed:

- Domestic financial assistance programs provide financial assistance — including direct payments to individuals, grants, loans, and loan guarantees — to non-federal entities within the U.S. — such as individuals and families, state and local governments, companies, and nonprofits — in order to fulfill a public purpose.
- Tax credit programs allow a special exclusion, exemption, or deduction from gross income or provide a special credit, a preferential rate of tax, or a deferral of tax liability.
  - Procurement programs award a portion of Federal prime contract dollars to small businesses located in areas selected on the basis of census-derived data.

**Each year, Minnesota communities receive 15 billion dollars from the federal government on the basis of the census count.**

- \$2,796 per Minnesotan per year
- \$27,960 per Minnesotan per decade
- \$6,660,375,000 Medical Assistance Program (Medicaid)
- \$3,043,012,113 Federal Direct Student Loans
- \$602,563,639 Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP)
- \$113,774,946 Low Income Home Energy Assistance
- \$659,896,484 Highway Planning and Construction

The 2020 Census is easy. The questions are simple.  
Information source <https://mn.gov/2020-census>

*EVP. Report cont'd from page 5*

condition management can take you at your word for absences of 3 days or less. The language in the Employee Labor Relations Manual states:

*513.361 Three Days or Less  
For periods of absence of 3 days or less, supervisors may accept the employee's statement explaining the absence. Medical documentation or other acceptable evidence of incapacity for work or need to care for a family member is required only when the employee is on restricted sick leave (see 513.39) or when the supervisor deems documentation desirable for the protection of the interests of the Postal Service.*

The ELM language cited above does refer to management being able to request documentation if the employee is on restricted sick leave or when the supervisor "deems desirable" documentation. The additional issue we have been seeing is that management is unilaterally flagging carriers as "deems desirable" without any explanation as to why, and the carriers are NOT on restricted sick leave for absences of less than 3 days. The random and arbitrary use of "deems desirable" is also grievable. To date management has not committed to defining what the threshold is to classify anyone as "deems desirable". If you have been told by management that you are "deems desirable" make sure to speak with your station steward.

Some important upcoming dates that everyone should mark down as "save the date" for Branch 9. Saturday April 18th will be our annual MDA bowl-a-thon. Sunday May 3rd is our annual retiree banquet. Saturday May 9th is the Stamp out Hunger Food Drive. If you are interested in volunteering at any of these upcoming events, please the Branch Office know.

*In Solidarity,  
SH*



**Dave Allmann**

We survived yet another December. This year came with a record amount of packages. Fortunately we also had favorable weather. This played a big role in helping create one of the safest holiday seasons to date. Give yourself a pat on the back.

Now is not the time to be complacent about safety. We still have at least 2 months of winter to get through, yet we have no idea what to look forward to. As I was writing, I got a winter storm alert calling for 8-12 inches of snow followed by below normal temps, this is the kind of thing we have to be prepared for.

The somewhat mild weather thus far has created plenty of ice. Recent colder temperatures have only hardened the ice making each step interesting to say the least. I'm sure you have felt your foot step down only to slip, always an uncomfortable feeling

## Safety Liason Report

followed by saying that was close. The challenge is how to navigate through the snow while knowing there is ice lurking below.

Wearing ice grippers can certainly help when it comes to walking on ice. But there is also an added hazard when wearing the ice grippers. When you step on bare concrete or pavement, they can cause you to slip. Ice can become so hard that your ice grippers are unable to penetrate the ice. Any snow on top of the ice only increases the challenge.

We can take necessary precautions to help increase the likelihood of staying on our feet such as keeping a steady pace and limiting changing directions. Let your body weight work for you, a smaller stride will keep your feet under you, while a bigger stride puts your feet away from your weight and lightens load. It is kind of like a pickup truck with nothing in its bed. They are light and slide all over the road when on snow and ice. When you add weight in the bed it gives the truck much better traction.

Steps need extra special attention when navigating. We have to remember on every step to accommodate the extra inch or so of the ice gripper. Using the whole step with your whole foot will make each step safer. When stepping with the ball of your foot or the heel on the step, the chance

of you slipping increases. Always be cautious of drippings from the roof that can cause a small layer of ice to build up.

As the wind chills and temperatures drop, frostbite can occur in a matter of minutes if you're not protected. Dressing in layers is one of the best ways to protect you from frostbite. Start with good wicking undergarments that will allow your body moisture to escape away from your skin. Your next layer should be material that will insulate and keep the heat in. The top layer material should consist of wind blocking capabilities. This will help you maintain a warmer core. A warmer core will help keep your extremities warm. Use your hat/hood as a thermostat, as you warm, take the hat off and as you cool, put the hat back on. Know the warning signs of frostbite.

How are your CCA'S doing? Check in with them and make sure they are properly dressed for the elements. While they should know how to dress, we need to teach how to stay warm and make it back safely. We have the experience that needs to be passed down.

We are coming off one of the best couple of months when it comes to safety. Let's meet the challenges of winter and maintain this streak. Don't let this winter ruin your upcoming vacation plans.



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

## AME'S UNIFORMS

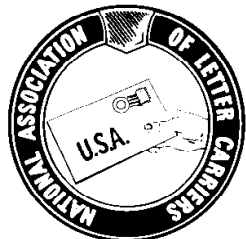
**OUR BUSINESS IS MAKING YOU LOOK GOOD!**

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**



**NALC Region 7  
Training Seminar**



The Region 7 office (612.378.3035) will be conducting its 41th Annual Regional Training Seminar from March 30th — April 2nd, 2020.

This year’s training will be held in the Delta Hotels by Marriot. Located at 1330 Industrial Blvd. NE Minneapolis, Minnesota.

On Monday and Tuesday we will be offering concurrent Basic Steward Training, Intermediate Steward Training and intensive OWCP Training conducted by RWCA Larrissa Parde. Basic Steward Training provides an introductory view of the various responsibilities of the shop steward. Intermediate Steward Training focuses extensively on “Burden of Proof”, case presentation and preparing Formal Step A and Step B grievance packages. Lastly, the OWCP training will give attendees a better understanding of the OWCP claims process. RWCA Larrissa Parde will provide training geared towards more complex OWCP issues.

On Wednesday we will be offering four separate workshops in which each attendee will attend each class one time.

On Thursday we will conclude the training with a National Presentation from a National Officer.

**Director of  
Retirees  
Report**

**Wow!** A Minnesota Republican Social Security proposal that merits some thought. As the 2020 legislative session is gearing up, both parties are outlining their agendas. One of the Republican ideas is that the state repeals taxing your social security income. Minnesota is one of thirteen states that does so and rakes in about \$400 million each year. Each of these states tax the SS income according to some income based figure i.e. single filers whose income is \$25,000 or married couples with a \$32,000 income or more. This tax, among others, makes us one of the least tax friendly states for retirees. Governor Walz in his budget has included a reduction in the tax by \$22.9 million over the next two years. The Democrats argue that the money is needed to fund essential services for seniors; services like a good health care system and Metro Mobility. Even with our tax rate, AARP ranks Minnesota 11th for retirees based on the available services and quality of life. So, do we live with the Democratic reduction or support the Republican complete elimination of this tax? Dilemmas!

That problem illustrates that your vote counts! We have our first Presidential primary since 1992 on March 3. This \$11.9 million project is being conducted to allow more people to actually participate. Otherwise people wanting to make a choice had a two hour window during a party caucus. This has proved to be a struggle for working people and families. On Facebook and in personal conversations I have

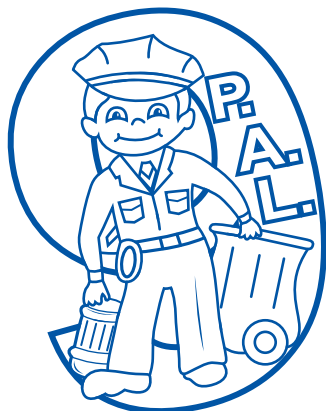


**Melia Derrick**

heard complaining about having to declare a party. One person even worried that he had to declare “allegiance” to the party. As an election judge, I can firmly state that second worry is not the case. You will be asked whether you want a Democratic or Republican ballot (the two Grass parties did not support a candidate). There is no required statement signing that you belong to or support that party. It is true that your information, the same information on your driver’s license, the fact that you voted and for which party, will be made available to the four major parties. If you have attended a caucus, your party already has the personal information. Yes, this information will probably be used for mailings and contacts throughout this election cycle. More revenue for USPS??

Stay tuned in  
MD





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

### P. A. L. 9 (Political Action League)

Joel Carter  
President

James Fodstad  
Treasurer

Rodney Anderson  
Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS

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Ron Lawrence  
Barry Weiner

Connie Beissel  
Johnna Lush  
Mike Zagaros

Samantha Hartwig  
Elizabeth O'Neill

Lenny Larson  
Jeremy Rothstein

January 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

**Re. P.A.L. 9 ANNUAL LETTER**

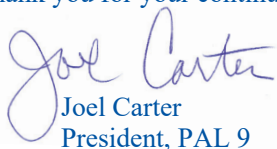
As Lenny and Ron would say, *"it's that time of year again!"* **Time to ask for your financial support of Branch 9's Political Action Fund, PAL 9.** Our ability to participate fully in political campaigns helps ensure that letter carrier issues and concerns are heard when Congress decides the future of the Postal Service, and our welfare as employees and retirees.

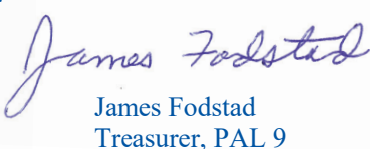
Labor-friendly candidates had noteworthy success in the 2018 election, winning a majority in the U.S. House as a backstop against anti-worker and anti-Postal Service legislation. But we still have the obstacles of a Republican controlled Senate, not to mention a president who proposes privatizing the Postal Service.

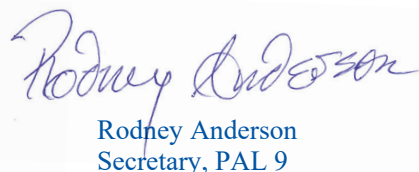
In Minnesota we re-took the majority in the State House, but the Republican majority in the MN Senate blocked many progressive measures to improve our state. So, we have a tall order in the coming election this fall. We need to hold our gains in the Minnesota and U.S. House. If we can achieve a majority in the U.S. and MN Senate, and elect a president sympathetic to worker and postal progress, we can sustain our present success in pay, benefits, and working conditions.

This past year has seen the retirement of long-time PAL 9 President Lenny Larson, and Treasurer Ron Lawrence. We thank them for their many years of leadership and service (30 years in Ron's case!). Rodney Anderson continues as Secretary. Jim Fodstad has taken over as Treasurer, and I have assumed the post of PAL 9 President.

Thank you for your continued support.

  
Joel Carter  
President, PAL 9

  
James Fodstad  
Treasurer, PAL 9

  
Rodney Anderson  
Secretary, PAL 9

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street, Apartment, City, State and Zip)

\_\_\_\_\_ Annual Dues (\$25.00)

\_\_\_\_\_ Very Concerned Membership (\$50.00 or More)

\_\_\_\_\_ Active Carrier (Station \_\_\_\_\_)

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James F. Fodstad  
7032 Jersey Avenue North  
Brooklyn Park, MN 55428

\_\_\_\_\_ Retired Carrier

## The Following is a list of Paid Members of PAL 9 for January, 2020

### Very Concerned Members

James Couillard	Sonia Stark	Peter Schilling	Francis Rice	
Rick Onslow	Pat Paplow	Lenny Larson	Patrick Rottach	Kelly
Sharon Spooner	James Cassell	Mark Larson	Lundgren	
Ronald Davis	David Forsell	John West	Ruth Pisk	
Gregory Caulfield	Steve Peterson	Larry Blesi	Tim Kivela	
Tim Bedor	James Johnson	Jane C Hoffman-Weis	Jerry Sandman	
Tim Highland	Greg Bedor	Roger Johnson	Susan Becker	
Jericho Tabor	Chuck Jennings	Don Houltus	Johnea Rystedt	
Charles River	Mark Mellesmoen	Kieran Hughes	Ron Barker	
Jeff Stanko	Steve Winover	Troy Fredenburg	Melia Derrick	
Russell Flaten	Duane Foyt	Larry Dahlberg	Karen Schneider	
Fredrick Johnston	David Wallentiny	Dale McNellis	Thomas Ryan	
Ron Lawrence	Connie Beissel	Cyril Toay	Lerald Mellom	
Philip Sheridan	Glenn Paulson	Jonathan Peterson	Michael Welch	
Dave Pierson	Kent Cleland	Renee Hickerson	Pamela Welch	
Bob Baird	Rodney Anderson	Martin Cornell	John Marszalek	
Herman Metzger	Douglas Buystedt	Ron Moore	Richard Hobot	
Phil Wixsten	Ken Jambois	David Johnson	Jon Thompson	
James Fallon	William Halos	Harry Sedesky	Jerry Bumgartner	
			Duane Pederson	

### Regular Members

Mary Ann Knoss	Theresa Oelrich	Jerry McGlade	Edward Issenhuth	Katy Johnson
Jon Frick	Mary Skerbinc	Gary Svidron	John Burmis	Ron Sumstad
Raymond Tranby	Michael Gravenish	Luke Marcott	Paul Hultgren	Doug Dopp
Debra Frank	George Wisuri	Carl Walsten	Ken Lucas	George Muzetras
Curtis Britz	James Hill	Burton Pansch	Robert Dondelinger	Steven Boughton
Jeff Sherman	Dennis Bahn	Steve Olson	Barry Berkovitz	Alexis Wheeler
John Dombrowski	Gary Weihl	Michael Kahleck	Joseph Williams	Robert Hollis
Bruce Mackow	Robert Logelin	Mark Olufson	Lucille King	Roberta Stanfield
Gerald Schraber	Ned McCraine	Jeffrey Babey	Claire Steinburg	Katherine Duax-
Darrell Maus	Larry Melander	Jerome Bona	Dale Schmitz	Kunkel
Greg Wallin	Craig Ites	Colleen Sagedahl	Scott Randolph	Todd Kunkel
David Wrzos	Del Stokke	Charles Friend	David Blank	Russ Ofsthun
Terry O'Neill	Daniel Loppnow	Andrew Olufson	Kathleen Demoret	Jeffery Johnson
James Faldo	Tom Tadlock	Robert Masuda	Bill Stambaugh	Harley Ring
Karma Khampa	William Tuffs	Cheryl Dombrock	Jeanne Spratt	Jeffrey Johnson
Robert Czanstkowski	Herman Weidner	Bruce Howe	James Nelson	
Dallas Holm	Lindahl Gleason	Brett Thompson	Steve Bjoraker	
John Keely	Ronald Dauner	Thomas Holten	Larry Clebeck	
Arthur Kujawa	Theresa Ronning-	Steven Wallerius	Michael Adams	
Alf Mork	Allen	Larry Schuster	Rob Osborne	
James Hiben	David Peterson	Douglas Lemke	Timothy Bearth	
Kitty Berg	Geno Taddei	Donald Carlson	Kenneth Johnson	
Vernon Zierman	Michael Mroska	Chris Pennock	Ted Parker	Submitted by
Lavern Dornbusch	Mary Hargreaves	Jack Bartlett	Linda Stipe	Jim Fodstad
Jeff Smeets	Mary Folke	Betty Brown	Mark Holland	Treasurer PAL 9
Joe Pasiowitz	Pauline Pepper	Dennis Johnston	Arnold Johnson	
Karl Parkos	Ronald Chandler	David Cornelius	Andro Hiben	
Sheryl Christensen	Gary Hughes	Kim Kline	Gerald Arnold	
Joe Bedor	Gary Mathews	Glenn Ingersoll	Michelle Benson	

Branch Nine News  
2408 Central Avenue NE  
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- \* [Branch9nalc.com](http://Branch9nalc.com) (website)
- \* "like" our **Branch 9 Facebook Page**
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**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

**February 17**  
PRESIDENT'S DAY

**February 25**  
General Membership Meeting  
7:00PM  
Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN

**March 8**  
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

**March 10**  
Steward Meeting  
7:00 PM  
Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN

**March 24**  
General Membership Meeting  
7:00PM  
Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN

**March 24**  
Branch 9's 130th  
Birthday!

**March 30 to April 2**  
Region 7 Training

**April 1**  
Mike Zagaros' Retirement Party  
@Delta Hotels by  
Marriot Minneapolis NE

**April 14**  
Food Drive Cord. Mtg  
6:00 PM  
Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN

**April 18**  
Ron St. Clair Bowlathon  
MDA Fundraiser  
New Hope Bowl

**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

**POCUM**  
4th Monday of the Month  
6:00PM - MFT 59  
67 8th St. NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55412