



VOLUME 70 No 1 Official Publication of Branch Nine, NALC January/February 2018

STEWARD APPRECIATION DINNER

Serving in the role of a shop steward is oftentimes a difficult and thankless job. Some of us have a tendency to take for granted the efforts they make on our behalf. Probably the most important role of a shop steward is to initiate, investigate and process grievances at the local level. Stewards do many more things.

They communicate with the members information from the NALC, current issues and concerns, and advocate for members. Sometimes they may even have to tell a member who feels harmed that's not a violation. At the last Steward's Meeting we took a moment to thank them and show some appreciation for the work they do.

The stewards were treated to a chicken dinner with mashed potatoes and gravy after a long hard day delivering mail. Each Steward also received a Branch 9 NALC Steward stocking hat.



Stewards Nate Serie (Columbia Hts) and Joe Wineman (Powderhorn)



Steward Mark Olufson and Alt Steward Andy Olufson (St. Louis Park)



Steward Jim Julik (Elk River) Wearing his new hat.



Stewards Joe Tieman and Joe Tanner (Golden Valley)



Thank- you! Stewards Karen Thompson and Cindy Fossum (Lowry), Tony Winkels (University)



Steward Danny Vo (Coon Rapids) Nice hat!

**WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS!**

Traci Bangmon
Elese Barringer
Chris Coleman
Jayde Delano
Zachariah Ellsworth
Evelyn Fayant
Kenyatta Johnson
Nicholas Johnson
Phillip Koffel
Brian Kramer

Lindsay Mangan
Reid Oines
Santanna Pacheaco
Erica Pickens
Sarah Shafranski
Michael Thomas
Darrick Weatherby
Andrew Weir
Susan Wicklund
Emily Wold



**Join Branch 9 for the
2017 MDA Muscle Walk
of the Twin Cities, MN**

May 6, 2017

**Rosland Park
4300 W 66th St, Edina, MN 55435**

**Registration - 9:00 AM
Walk Starts - 11:00AM**

NOTICE TO ALL BRANCH 9 MEMBERS

**Any proposed amendments to the
2018 Branch 9 By-Laws must be
presented in writing to the
Recording Secretary no later than the
February 27, 2018 General Membership Mtg.**

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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

Happy New Year! More importantly thank you! Thank you for your efforts in getting the mail out this holiday season. What you accomplished with the staffing shortages, the weather and the increases in Parcel Post was nothing short of miraculous. Well done.

Well it's January of 2018. So, what does the new year have in store for us? There are two primary topics in the telephone calls to the Branch Office:

Delivery after Dark – What was once an occasional thing, has developed into a daily occurrence in 2017 and into 2018. The days of the 5:00 window has been replaced by carriers on the street past 6:00, 7:00, and even 8:00. p.m. But this is not unique to Branch 9 or even the Northland District. There have been reports of carriers out past 9:00, 10:00 and even 11:00 p.m. in other parts of the country.

Part of the problem stems from getting the mail out of the plant to the delivery unit. You'll notice that I said part of the problem is caused by mail processing. There are a variety of issues that causes the deliveries beyond the time that historically mail was expected to be delivered. One of them is when the mail is received at the delivery units. As a possible correction to this problem, Management is attempting to move the cutoff time back to 5:30 a.m. for Minneapolis. The result of this action should be that the mail arrives earlier than it has been.

The second part of the problem is the staffing at the delivery units on both sides of the process. Almost every day are we seeing people, other than clerks, in the units throwing post and racking DPS and other duties because there are not enough clerks. This is causing a delay in getting the post ready for the carriers when they are ready to head for the street. We

are also seeing a larger than usual number of open routes, either in whole or in part. The cause of this is not subject to a simple fix because there are several reasons for this from sick calls, carriers that have physical restrictions (from injuries on and off the job) and carriers being used for other things (i.e. 204Bs, and other duties).

As a result of this, Management is stepping up attendance control. In Minneapolis, we've been told that we are averaging over 50 sick calls a day. All EAS employees are receiving training on attendance control. So, what will this mean for carriers? The assumption is that there will be more discussions with carriers by management about any and all unscheduled absences. Please make sure that you are represented by your steward before any questions are asked. Secondly, if when you call in for an unscheduled absence and you are instructed to obtain medical documentation, get it and speak to your steward upon your return to work. What is clear, is that situation with carriers out on the street with late deliveries is continuing.

Conversions to Career – Since the creation of the City Carrier Assistant position we have seen a steady conversion of CCAs to Unassigned Regulars after a year to fifteen months. That ended in May of 2017. Since then, management has not converted any CCAs to Unassigned Regulars in Minneapolis. Last May we had 62 unassigned regulars. Today we are down to 6, so what happens when we reach zero? What we should see are CCAs being converted to career. But instead, we are being told that after the remaining Unassigned Regulars either bid to or be assigned to a new station and/or route, the new Grade 1 carrier residual vacancies will not go to converted CCAs, but will be withheld in anticipation of



Mike Zagaros

the excessing of clerk positions from Minneapolis and St. Paul. The excessing event that was originally scheduled for February has been postponed until May. In the interim, the number of Grade 1 positions that may be withheld will continue to get smaller. We are going to challenge any withholding in all the offices covered by Branch 9. Please note that Grade 2 (Carrier Technician) positions cannot be withheld and we expect these positions to be filled as they become residual. As more information becomes available we will make sure that everyone is aware.

Politics – Whether you call it Election 2018 or Labor 2018, the political season in Minnesota begins in earnest with the Caucuses on the first Tuesday in February. This election will determine our entire delegation to both the US Senate and the US House of Representatives for the first time since 1978. Along with this are the State Constitutional Officers (e.g. Governor ...) and the Minnesota House of Representatives, and other offices. If we learned anything about the last elections, getting out the vote and talking to people about our issues is what it will take. Last year we were able to stave off the attacks on Postal and Federal employees by getting the word out. But the same people who were seeking changes to our benefits and retirement are

RETIREMENTS



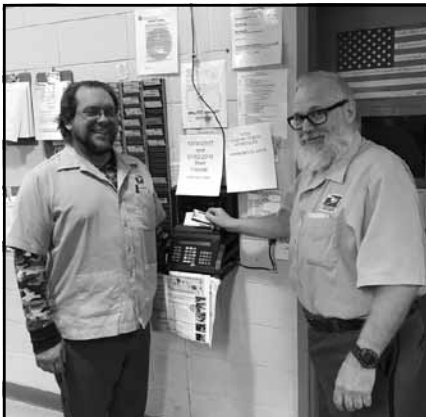
Congratulation Debbie Larson (Coon Rapids) on your retirement!



Angie Santiago Tuff (Bloomington) is all smiles during her last punch with Steward Vicki Fleming.



Stewards Connie Beissel & Brad Knutson look on as Rod Woelfle (Burnsville) makes his last punch. Congratulations!



Steward David Flynn looks on as Tom Root (T. Burnett) takes his last punch. Congratulations Tom!



Happy retirement Mary Creeden (Loring)!



Janet Rath (Lost Lake) is all smiles as she takes her last punch with Steward Robb Petersburg.



Steward Joe Tieman, newly retired Gary Hughes, Colleen Sagedahl and Dan Dietel (Golden Valley) and Steward Joe Tanner



Dolly Greenleaf and Wayne Westberg (Brooklyn Center) make their last punch with Steward Ken Jambois.

Executive Vice President's Report

WE ARE AGAIN IN THE POLITICAL ARENA

In the coming months our union's focus will be mainly on politics. Our pleas for action to volunteer have to be constant, from writing letters and making phone calls to your legislators to staying informed on current Postal Reform issues. To be followed with another important task. **VOTE!** We have to ensure that the future of our jobs, wages, health insurance and retirement benefits are protected. This will only happen if the right people that support Postal issues are elected. Once we succeed with electing the supporters of our issues in Congress we have to constantly monitor and contact them with the current issues that affect us. ***I have heard members say I'm not voting as a sign of protest. Not voting is not a sign of protest but rather a sign of surrender!***

First, ensuring the restructuring (reduction) of the pre-funding payments obviously will allow for more money to remain in the Postal Services' pocket! This will allow the USPS to initiate and be more aggressive in the selling of new products and services, which also helps to make a positive impression on the public. We need every carrier and customer to be aware and contact their legislator with concerns as Postal Reform has to be addressed by Congress in the coming months.

WHAT DO I SAY?

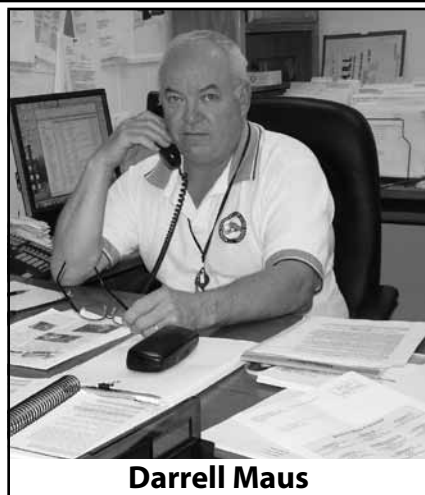
Carriers need to understand that the future of the USPS, and our livelihoods are at stake. We all agree that change is not only needed, but absolutely inevitable. Congress created this problem, Congress needs to fix it. Our current problem is that most carriers aren't quite sure what to say and write when communicating with their representatives or

senators. Some branches have provided their members with form letters that are basically "fill in the blank". These letters are easy to do but, they don't really convince your legislator that you're all that concerned or informed. A personalized letter is best because it actually requires someone to read it, not just count it. It will be more unique, and show that you, as its author, are informed and specifically concerned about specific issues as a voter and constituent. Bottom line, it's more real. It doesn't have to be lengthy, technical or worthy of a prize from your grammar teacher. Whether it be hand written, typed, or an email, they pretty much count as the same thing. I think it's important to send a letter by regular mail, as that happens to be the institution we're trying to save! And it's as easy as a few clicks of the keys to send that same letter as an attachment to an email to any legislator.

HERE ARE SOME TIPS FOR YOUR LETTER:

Identify yourself, as a resident and registered voter in their District/ State. This will help to drive home the message that you're one of the voters that voted for them during the election that put them in office. You will also want to tell them that you're a letter carrier with the USPS.

List your concerns, you don't have to be scientific or lengthy, just describe your situation and concerns. Refrain from broad generic statements like "Save the Post Office" but rather be specific about how pre-funding is financially damaging to the service and its business growth. We also must retain current door to door delivery because the citizens of this country are entitled to it. Our national web site "nalc.org" is constantly updated with current legislative issues as



Darrell Maus

well as our own branch website "branch9nalc.com". The best way to keep informed of current issues or actions needed to be taken by our members is to sign up for E-Activist with the NALC office.

Refer to the Bill Number, if available. Every bill has a number which identifies it in either the House (number starts with "H") or Senate (number starts with "S"). This will clarify your area of concern with the bill they'll eventually be voting on.

Ask them to contact you, don't be expecting a phone call directly from your congressman/ representative but you may receive a call or return letter/ email from one of their staffers, acknowledging your letter or email and telling you the representatives position (if they have one).

Follow Up, now if your actions and the action of others have earned a positive vote on your issues make sure to follow up with a thank you. Not only in a letter, but if by chance you meet them in person say thank you and ask them for their continued support.

The names and contact information for all legislators representing the State of Minnesota are listed in the pocket calendars that Branch hands out to every member yearly. The information is also listed on our website "branch9nalc.com" under the heading of Legislative.

This Is How February Became Black History Month



It was in 1964 when the author James Baldwin reflected on the shortcomings of his education. "When I was going to school," he said, "I began to be bugged by the teaching of American history because it seemed that that history had been taught without cognizance of my presence."

Baldwin's thoughts echoed those of many before and after him. Half a century earlier, when Carter G. Woodson had the same frustration, he set the foundation for what would become today's national Black History Month, observed each February.

In the early 20th century, while he earned a Masters degree from the University of Chicago and a Ph.D. from Harvard, both in history, Woodson witnessed how black people were underrepresented in the books and conversations that shaped the study of American history. According to the way many historians taught the nation's past, African Americans were barely part of the story—a narrative that Woodson knew was not true. So in 1915, he and Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (now the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, or the ASALH). The organization would promote studying black history as a discipline and celebrate the accomplishments of African Americans.

"If a race has no history, it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world, and it stands in danger of being exterminated," Woodson said of the need for such study.

In 1926, Woodson and the ASALH launched a "Negro History Week" to bring attention to his mission and help school systems coordinate their focus on the topic. Woodson chose the second week in February, as it encompassed both Frederick Douglass' birthday on February 14 and Abraham Lincoln's birthday on February 12.

The celebrations and studies spread quickly, as the ASALH tells it, driving demand for teaching materials and spurring the formation of black history clubs. But, though a newfound understanding of black culture and literature was spreading amongst the middle class, the idea of expanding the week to a month did not come until several decades later. During the Civil Rights Movement, Freedom Schools in the South embraced the week and its curriculum message as a way to contribute to the mission. By the mid-1960s, the most popular textbook for eighth-grade U.S. history classes mentioned only two black people in the entire century of history that had transpired since the Civil War—and that problem could no longer be ignored. It was in that decade that colleges and universities across the country transformed the week into a Black History Month on campus.

A number of mayors had already adopted the celebration as a municipal event by the time President Gerald Ford decreed Black History Month a national observance in 1976, on both the fiftieth anniversary of the first iteration and America's bicentennial year.

"In celebrating Black History Month," Ford said in his message,

"we can seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

Presidents have issued national decrees with each year's theme since the 1970s. African American History Month's 2016 theme is "Hallowed Grounds: Sites of African American Memories."

By Julia Zorthian
TIME Magazine - January 29, 2016



Born in St. Louis in 1901, Roy Wilkins was graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1923 with a degree in sociology. He went into journalism, working for newspapers in both Minnesota and St. Louis. He was assistant secretary of the NAACP from 1931-1934 and became editor of the "Crisis" in 1934. He moved to the position of executive secretary in 1955. He participated in the 1963 March on Washington, the 1965 march from Selma to Montgomery, and the March Against Fear the following year. His position included opposition to violence, Black Power, and student demands for all-black university departments. He died in 1981.

From the usstampgallery.com website

The First Stamp to Honor an African-American

On April 7, 1940, the Post Office Department (POD) issued a stamp honoring African-American educator Booker T. Washington (1856-1915) as part of its Famous Americans Series. The nation's first stamp to honor an African-American, it holds a unique place in American history. Social, economic, and legislative struggles since 1940 have produced deeper understanding and acceptance among racial groups. Today, the United States Postal Service (USPS) regularly honors African-Americans and their widely varied contributions to the nation and the world.

Born a slave in Hale's Ford, Virginia, Washington served as a role model for other struggling African-Americans, and, as founder of Alabama's Tuskegee Normal Industrial School (renamed Tuskegee Institute in 1937), he profoundly influenced the community's self-esteem and self-reliance. In 1938, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, responding to numerous petitions from African-American supporters, recognized the timeliness of such a stamp and directed that Washington be considered for this important stamp series.

Major Robert Richard Wright, Sr., among others, had aggressively lobbied for a stamp honoring Booker T. Washington since Roosevelt took office in 1933. When Wright read the POD's decision to feature Washington on the 10¢ stamp, announced in 1939, he reflected with gratification, [the stamp] "comes pretty nearly within the limit of seventy-five years of Negro Emancipation. He objected, however, to its high denomination, preferring to see it as one of the lower-priced, more affordable denominations used by the public daily. He worried that the cost of the 10¢ stamp "will not induce a large first day sale . . . among colored people. Echoing Wright's concerns, The Washington Tribune

recommended that its readers buy the stamp for special delivery and parcel post mailings. "Let's overlook no chance to use these new stamps which honor our eminent educator," urged the newspaper's editor in a special issue released on March 23, 1940.

Numerous institutions, all important in the lives of African-Americans, clamored to host the stamp's first day of issue ceremony. The POD selected Tuskegee Institute, founded by Washington in 1881, for this watershed ceremony's location. Guests gathered in the Institute



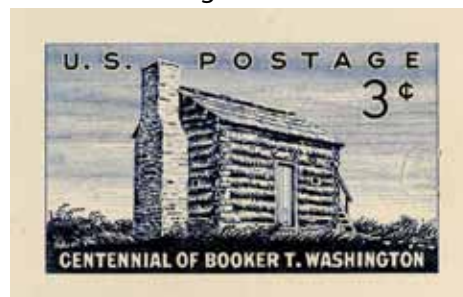
Chapel. Postmaster General James A. Farley attended the ceremony and afterwards, joined by the Tuskegee Club of Montgomery, Alabama, placed a wreath at Washington's tomb. George W. Peterson, an African-American Civil Service employee attached to the POD's Division of Stamps, attended and helped Tuskegee's postmaster, R. H. Harris, prepare the first day covers. Also an African-American, Harris attracted recognition in The Washington Tribune (March 23, 1940) as "one of the few colored postmasters in the United States." All told, twenty-five extra clerks assisted Harris in preparing the first day covers.

Enthusiasm for the Booker T. Washington stamp and its momentous significance for the African-American population

prompted two official second day of issue ceremonies, events unprecedented in philatelic history—one in New York City and the other in Philadelphia. Unable to attend the ceremony at Tuskegee, Major Robert Richard Wright, Sr., attended Philadelphia's ceremony, where he purchased a batch of 1,000 stamps. The press focused attention not only on Washington but also on Major Wright, a prominent African-American man in his own right. Wright, like Washington, had been born a slave. He had carved-out a distinctive niche within the community as an educator and administrator, through military service during the Spanish-American War, and as a banker.

Tuskegee Institute owns the first sheet of Booker T. Washington stamps sold, but it passed through several hands before reaching its final destination. Captain Alvin J. Neely, Tuskegee General Alumni Association's executive secretary, purchased the sheet, autographed by James A. Farley. Neely presented the sheet to Washington's daughter, Portia Washington Pittman, who then gave it to Dr. William J. Schieffelin, Tuskegee's chairman of the board, for preservation. Adding to the memorable event, the Tuskegee Philatelic Club issued covers with a hand-stamped cachet showing a likeness of Washington's graveside monument.

The POD honored Booker T. Washington once again in 1956, the centennial of his birth. The stamp's vignette features an image of a cabin similar to the one in which Washington was born.





Samantha Hartwig

OWCP Connect

In my last Article I talked about the paper work that is required just to get a claim for an on the job injury started. One of the frequent questions I get asked is how to find out the status of my claim, and if the Ca-7s submitted to the USPS injury Compensation Department were sent on to OWCP. Up until recently the only way to find out was to call on the telephone and follow the prompts through the automated phone system.

The good news is that very recently OWCP has brought back the claimant Query(CQS) for looking up the status of a case, compensation payments, and compensation tracking on line. The new CQS is only available to the claimant through an OWCP Connect account, and no one else will have access to it.

OWCP Representative Report

This is the process to set up an OWCP Connect account for CQS access. The claimant must go to the following online address: owcpconnect.dol.gov/owcplogin/. When you get to the page, go to Account Registration, click on the link and go through and set up your OWCP Connect account. As this is a secure site, you will need to create a password, select a security image, and answer three security questions. Make sure to have a paper and pen handy to write your information down! Keep that paper with your OWCP claim information.

After the account is set up you will be e-mailed a link to the e-mail address that was provided. This link must be activated within 24 hours of receipt of the e-mail. The link is the final step to activate the OWCP Connect account. Make sure to remember to check your e-mail.

During the account registration process, claimants must prove their identity by validating information entered against secure TransUnion Credit Bureau data. Information available to the credit bureau about an injured worker's credit history will be used for identity verification. This information is only used to verify the claimant and is not stored anywhere in OWCP's records.

The CQS will allow claimants to track in real time exactly when the USPS sent the Ca-7 on to OWCP.

The USPS only has five working days to get the CA-7 to OWCP, and in some cases the CA-7 has been returned to the employee for changes, which also delays compensation payments to the claimant and may be grievable.

The CQS is ONLY for the claimant. Claimant representatives, the USPS, and other parties do not have access to the CQS. This is a quick way to stay current with the paper work involved in an OWCP claim.

I have set up my very own OWCP Connect account for my own OWCP claim, and I have found the CQS to be very helpful. The CQS showed that my CA-2 for occupational disease that I filed on 10-23-2017 was received by OWCP on 11-1-2017, within the 10-day time limit. This is an example the type of information that the CQS can provide at your own fingertips.

As always give the Branch Office a call with any questions, or if you need assistance in creating your OWCP Connect Account.

Exec VP Report cont'd from page 5

We (as letter carriers) have a chance every day to make ourselves irreplaceable to our customers. Lastly I urge all members that have not done so to sign up for Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF), by giving \$5 a pay period and join our local PAL 9. For the members that have already joined a big THANK YOU!

UNIFORMS UNLIMITED

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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



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

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

11581 Ilex Street N.W., Coon Rapids, Mn 55448-2316

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Rodney Anderson, Secretary
Ron Lawrence, Treasurer

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Mike Zagaros Darrell Maus Bob Baird Barry Weiner Lisa O'Neill
Connie Beissel Jeremy Rothstein

P.A.L. 9 ANNUAL LETTER

January 2018

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

It almost seems as though this annual PAL 9 solicitation letter to our members is unnecessary. In light of all that is currently happening in the political arena, one would think that the citizens of our great country would be up in arms demonstrating in the streets and raising hell about the attacks on working people and the very democratic principles our nation was founded. Apparently this is not the case.

There are far too many issues that confront us as active carriers and retirees to list here. Go to the Branch 9 and NALC websites; seek out news beyond the traditional media outlets. Educate yourselves quickly. If you don't learn about the potential dangers to our careers, health and retirement benefits and taxes, you will in short order be asking yourself "what the hell happened". We cannot win these battles with an uneducated membership unwilling to take our fight to Congress.

The time for political correctness must come to an end. Stop worrying about alienating those of us who have different opinions. If we continue politics as usual with no reasonable discourse we will all eventually be literally be screwed. It is time to stand up to the uber-rich and stand up for the poor and middle class citizens.

Although this letter is traditionally a solicitation for money to fund our legislative efforts, this time out please consider it to also be a call to arms. The average person has never been in more danger of losing the middle class dream. Please contribute not only your money but also your time and energy to preserve our jobs and way of life. Let us all get involved and show the politicians the power of the people.

Lenny Larson
President PAL 9

Ron Lawrence
Treasurer PAL 9

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Coon Rapids, MN 55448-2316

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**Branch 9
Ron St. Clair MDA Bowl-a-thon**

Saturday, April 21, 2018

LOCATION

NEW HOPE BOWL
7107 42nd Avenue North
New Hope, MN 55427

TIME

7:00 - 9:30PM

If you have any questions, please contact
Joe Rian at the Branch office 612.781.9858.

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, May 6, 2018

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

**Minneapolis Ramada Plaza
1330 Industrial Boulevard, Minneapolis, MN**

2018 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 Rodney Anderson to
volunteer at 651.278.7887)

Amount Enclosed: _____

BRANCH 9 Ice Fishing Event

On January 14th 51 brave outdoorsmen and women traveled to Mille Lacs to take part in the annual Branch 9 fishing outing at Twin Pines Resort for an overnight stay on the lake in ice houses trying their luck to be the next winner of the largest fish caught contest.

There was anywhere from 2 to 10 people in the varying sizes of houses that were placed on the ice by the resort. The participants tried all the right procedures to become successful in their attempt to catch fish and the only thing we can blame the lack of fish caught on is the fish themselves that did not want to participate. There were houses that had underwater cameras and were able to see the fish just approach the bait but none succumb to the temptation to take it.

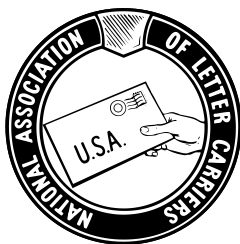
There was one walleye caught that was 18" and that was the only fish in the contest caught by Josh Weber who was a guest with Carrier Jon Raven in house 55 who



won the \$50 prize. Along with the comradery of being on the ice with friends enjoying the outdoors we were taken care by the resort with a great meal of chicken and ribs that everyone enjoyed.

The Region 7 office (612.378.3035) will be conducting its 39th Annual Regional Training Seminar from March 26th — March 29th, 2018.

39th Annual NALC Region 7 Training Seminar



March 26 - 29, 2018
Radisson Hotel
Minneapolis, Minnesota

On Monday and Tuesday we will be offering concurrent Basic Steward Training, Intermediate Steward Training and intensive OWCP Training conducted by RWCA Dave Teegarden. 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, including how to initially file a claim and what to do when a claim gets denied.

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

On Thursday we will cover the following topics in one group setting: Legislative updates, MDA, LCPF, Food Drive, Customer Connect, NBA Rap Session, and we will conclude the training with a National Presentation from a National Officer.

Pres. Report cont'd on page 3 still there. The tools we have to address these situations are you (our membership). How? By contributing to the Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF) and/or PAL 9, contacting your Federal Representatives and volunteering to help elect those who will help protect us and our interests now and in the future. By getting involved, we are working to ensure a future for our members. Contact the Branch Office for more information.

Tidbits – Backpay for CCAs – The backpay for CCAs is being moved back and should be on the February 23 paycheck. Those who were CCAs between November 2016 and August 7, 2017 should receive backpay for their CCA time on this paycheck. If you have questions about your backpay, contact the Branch Office.

Local Negotiations – All LMOUs have been resolved and are being prepared for signatures. As soon as the LMOUs are signed, they will be posted on the Branch 9 website. I would like to thank the Business Agent's Office for their assistance with bringing the impasse issues to a satisfactory resolution

Route Inspections – Management is looking at another round of 6 day count and route inspections this Spring. The units that are under consideration: Bloomington, Brooklyn Center, Thomas Burnett, Robbinsdale, Blaine Carrier Annex, Richfield and Eastside. As soon as we are notified as to when and where the inspections will take place, we will let you know.

Regional Training – This year, the Regional Training will be held March 26 – 29. This is a month earlier than when it has been traditionally held. For more information please see your steward or contact the Branch Office.

How will 2018 be? Will it be better than last year? Only time will tell. But we can get through this together.

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


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- * "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

Branch 9 Calendar

<p><u>February 19</u> PRESIDENT'S DAY Holiday</p> <p><u>February 27</u> <u>COMBINED</u> Steward Board 6:00PM General Membership Meeting 7:00PM Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN</p> <p><u>March 11</u> Daylight Savings Time Begins</p> <p><u>March 13</u> Steward Meeting 7:00PM Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN</p> <p><u>March 27</u> General Membership Meeting 7:00PM Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN</p>	<p><u>April 10</u> Steward Meeting 7:00PM Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN</p> <p><u>April 21</u> Ron St. Clair MDA Bowl-a-thon 7:00 PM New Hope Bowl</p> <p><u>April 25</u> General Membership Meeting 7:00PM Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN</p> <p><u>May 6</u> Red and Gold Retiree Banquet Noon Minneapolis Ramada Plaza</p> <p><u>May 12</u> Stamp Out Hunger 25th Anniversary</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