



VOLUME 69 No 6

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July/ August 2017

DEAF DISEMPOWERMENT: BRIDGING THE GAP

Last May, I had the opportunity to attend the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) Conference for Deaf/Hard of Hearing postal employees in Washington D.C. The conference was held at Kellogg Conference Center at Gallaudet University, the world's only university for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students. This was the first time APWU allowed Deaf/Hard of Hearing workers from other crafts to attend. Approximately 50 people attended the conference, with 8 of them being Deaf letter carriers from the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC).

I flew into Washington D.C. the evening before the conference, and attended a small social where I met other deaf workers from all over the nation. During our discussions, many concerns and personal experiences regarding working with USPS and our respective unions were raised, including the willingness of APWU officers to work with, and support Deaf/Hard of Hearing individuals.

Tuesday, May 2nd, the agenda included workshops on retirement, the everyday disempowerment of deaf people, and an open forum with questions and concerns answered by APWU vice-president Debby Szeredy.

The retirement workshop was put on by Kramer Wealth Manager, a deaf-run company with over 60 years of combined experience, and an extensive background in federal retirement programs. They presented their workshop in full ASL and learned a lot about our TSP, FERS and CSRS programs with ease and understanding. Someday, I would like to see them lead a workshop for all of our Deaf postal workers in Minneapolis/St. Paul area.

The afternoon portion of the conference was presented by Trudy Suggs/T.S. Writing Services, LLC. Her presentation on the Everyday Disempowerment of Deaf People was a thought provoking and inspirational discussion on how we can change and improve our



Mike Meier
St. Louis Park Carrier

experiences working with USPS. Disempowerment within USPS is an everyday occurrence for Deaf employees, and is something that we can work together to improve. Currently, access to resources are not ASL friendly as English is not our first language. Deaf employees are often left out of service talks as Video Relay Interpreters are not reliable and technical difficulties are common. Management and in some cases local union branches are not familiar with how to provide reasonable accommodations, communicate, and/or advocate for equal access. Trudy's discussion touched on many of these issues, and how they can be positively addressed by Deaf workers, our unions, and USPS management.

Near end of the conference, the floor opened up with lots of questions and concerns from many of the attendees. Debby



Continued on page 15

RETIREMENTS



Scott Randolph (Fridley) is all smiles as he takes his last punch with his wife Lori. Congratulations on your retirement!



Gene Delano (Main Office) takes his last punch with Steward Jenna Thro. Congratulations on your retirement!



Jim Bredemus (Coon Rapids) makes his last punch with his stewards Victor Boehmer and James Spencer. Enjoy your retirement Jim!

Welcome New Members

Asia Armour
Bonita Benjamin
Ransom Carruthers
Shannon Curley
Varlai Kamarn
Jerone Kellum
Charcora McKinnie
Megan Niedbala
Ryan O'Neill
Benjamin Reed
Blaze Swift
Saylay Woniewala

Delegate Election Notice for the 2018 National Convention

This is an official notification to the membership of Jerome J. Keating Branch 9 NALC Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Nominations for **delegates to the 2018 NALC National Convention in Detroit, MI will be held during the September GMM on Tuesday, September 26, 2017 at 7:00PM.** General Membership Meetings are held at the Crystal VFW, 5222 - 56th Avenue North, Crystal, MN 55429

Candidates must complete the appropriate Letters of Intent and return same to the Recording Secretary at the September General Membership Meeting in which they are nominated or within 10 days thereafter by no later than 5:00PM.

Should an election of delegates to the 2018 NALC National Convention be necessary, it will be held at the October General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, October 24, 2017.

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Treasurer
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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

The end of summer is at hand and children are preparing to return to school. We too have to work on our preparations for the rest of the year. Now that the membership has spoken and the New National Agreement has been ratified by an overwhelming margin. It's time to begin the process of implementing the terms of the National Agreement. This Agreement covers the period from May 21, 2016 through November 20, 2019.

Pay – The most common question being asked is when will we see pay increases and when will we receive the back pay? At the time of this writing, I don't have an answer, but as soon as it is available we will post it on the Branch 9 website (www.branch9nalc.com) and the Branch 9 Online Facebook page.

COLA information – It was just announced that the third COLA, payable in September, will be for an additional 13 cents per hour, bringing the COLA increases under this Agreement to a total 30 cents per hours so far.

CCA Health Benefits – There will be a special enrollment period to allow CCAs to enroll or change your health benefits to take advantage of the new language increasing the Postal Service payments toward self plus one and family coverage under the USPS Health Benefit Plan (USPSHBP.) **The Special Enrollment Period will be from September 4th through October 19th. Those taking advantage of this special enrollment period will have coverage effective October 28th.** If you miss this enrollment period, you will have to wait for the next Open Season in November/December and the insurance won't be effective until January 6th, 2018. All current CCAs should receive this information mailed to your home along with the new

rates for the USPSHBP. If you have any questions give us a call.

Local Negotiations – The National Parties have designated the 30-day window between October 16th and November 14th for the union and the installation heads (Postmasters) to engage in bargaining for the next LMOU. We are currently reviewing the current LMOUs (available on the Branch 9 Website under the Contract tab LMOUs) and making preparations for these negotiations. If you have any suggestions about your LMOU (Minneapolis and 10 Associate Offices) we need to hear from you. Our plan is to have a discussion an hour before (6:00PM) the August General Membership Meetings for Minneapolis and at sites near the Associate Offices. As always you are welcome to drop us a line or an email. You can reach me at mikez@branch9nalc.com. As more information about the new National Agreement becomes available we will get it out to you.

OWCP – There continues to be problems with getting bills paid for traumatic injuries. The first problem comes when managers, supervisors or others tell injured carriers to give their bills to them and they will take care of it. **Please don't do that!** Medical bills are paid through the Department of Labor's online portal. Once you have a claim number, give it to your provider. They will need to submit the charges for payment. That website is <https://owcp.dol.acs-inc.com/portal/main.do>. Both you and your provider can get more information about bill payment on that site.

The second problem deals with medical coding. When your claim is accepted, it will be given an ICD10 code (International Classification of Diseases) of the expected condition. If the bill has other codes listed on it, your



Mike Zagaros

claim will most likely be denied with the reason being "is not for the accepted condition." For most traumatic injuries, OWCP will do what is called a 'quick close' That is where OWCP assigns the case a number and authorizes up to \$1500 for medical treatment and then closes the case without approving a specific condition. If the condition exceeds that amount, then they will reopen the case and either make a decision or ask for more information. **It is important that when you received this developmental letter asking for information please respond to it.**

If you have questions about medical bills or a developmental letter, contact Samantha Hartwig on Thursday's at the Branch Office or you can speak to Darrell or I about your questions.

Congress – Congress is in recess during the month of August, but they will be back. Upcoming is the Budget for the next fiscal year which begins on October 1st and the debt ceiling. I urge you to read the information on the NALC's Website (see <https://www.nalc.org/government-affairs/legislative-activities/budget-battle-2017>).

This affects us all, please contact your member of Congress and let them know how it will impact you.

Exec Vice President's Report

FORM 50 WHAT IS IT?

The USPS has an Official Personnel Folder (OPF) on employees that contains documents concerning your appointment, compensation, benefits, administrative and payroll records. This article is going to explain one of the forms that will be in your eOPF the **Form 50**.

Mike and I both get phone calls at the office with especially new carriers asking when their annual leave earned will increase or when they can expect to get their next step increase and other benefit information questions. The majority of the answers to these questions can be found on the Form 50 sent to carriers. With the overwhelming vote to accept the tentative agreement just agreed to by the national parties most of our newer lower seniority carriers will be receiving a new updated Form 50. This article is to help you understand and realize how much helpful information is on this form. The Form 50 is a notice of personnel action that has occurred in your career. It covers any action such as changing from a carrier 1 position to carrier 2, step increase, contract pay increase, or change in route. The information on this form will also inform you of your benefits and other career information that I will now explain. A copy of the Form 50 is printed in this paper.

Lines 1-10 - is your personal information and this should be reviewed every time you receive it to verify or correct.

Line 11 - is a veteran's preference code 1-is a non-veteran, 2-is a 5 point veteran, 5-is a 10 point

veteran and 3, 4, and 6 codes all deal with any type of veteran disability classification.

Line 14 - is a self-identification disability code usually with a 05 meaning no disability.

Line 15 - leave computation date is the date you became a career employee.

Line 16 - is the date you entered on duty with prior time as a non-career (TE or Casual) employee.

Line 17 - is the date your retirement years begin and your annuity will be based on.

Line 18 - is the same as 17 only it has the pay period and beginning year listed (PPYR).

Line 19 - TSP (Thrift Savings Plan) eligibility will mostly list a Y meaning you're eligible with deductions or possibly one of 4 other classifications.

Line 20 - is the computation or enrollment date TSP began.

Line 21 - lists whether you had prior CSRS (Civil Service) service time for retirement reasons.

Line 23 - lists how many hours of annual leave you receive each pay period and **Line 24** - tells you in what pay period and year the earned hours will increase

and **Line 25** - tells us our leave is advanced at the beginning of the year and our sick leave is earned by pay period.

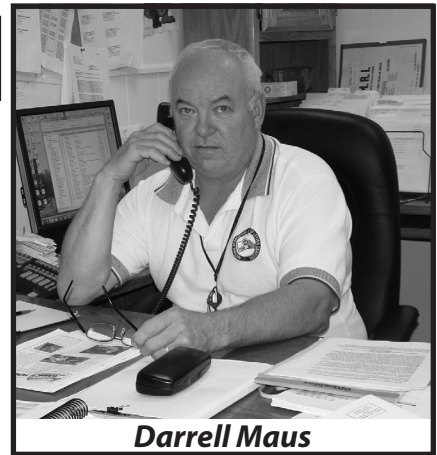
Line 26 - tells you in years and months of the military credit you have earned for retirement.

Line 28 - lists your retirement plan that you are covered by.

Line 30 - lists the amount of life insurance you are enrolled in and the amounts.

Lines 32-50 - deal with station information you work at and the rural carrier craft.

Lines 51-55 - is your occupation



Darrell Maus

code, position title, label code, and designation and position code.

Line 57 - tells us we have a uniform allowance.

Line 60 - states whether you are a Q 1 or Q 2 City Letter Carrier.

Lines 61-62 - informs you of your grade and step currently at and the yearly salary.

Line 65 - informs you of the pay period and year your next step increase happens.

Line 84 - is the remark section that gives an explanation and reason why this form was generated and sent to you whether step increase or new position or whatever action triggered the form.

The remaining lines that I did not explain deal with issues that usually do not affect city carriers.

It is important that the information on the Form 50 is verified and corrected (if necessary) to avoid problems later in your career.

So as you can see this Form 50 has a lot of information on it that deals with your personal information and benefits that you currently have and will earn in the future. It is important that this information is verified and corrected if necessary to avoid problems later in your career. As always if there are any questions or concerns about your pay or benefits please contact your steward and/or the branch office.

01	Effective Date	Notification of Personnel Action	02	Social Security Number
				

EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

03	Employee Name - Last		38	Probation Expire Date	
04	Employee Name - First		39	FLSA Status	
05	Employee Name - Middle		40	Pay Location	
06	Mailing Address Street/Box/ Apt		41	Rural Carrier - Route	
			42	Rural Carrier - L – Route ID	
07	Mailing Address – City		43	Rural Carrier – Pay Type	
08	Mailing Address – State		45	Rural Carrier – FLSA	
09	Mailing Address – Zip +4		46	Rural Carrier – Commit	
10	Date of Birth		47	Rural Carrier – EMA	
11	Veteran's Preference		48	Rural Carrier – Hours	
12	Sex		49	Rural Carrier – Miles	
13	Ethnicity – Race		50	Job Sequence	
14	Disability		51	Occupation Code	
15	Leave Comp Date		52	Position Title	
16	Enter on Duty Date		53	Labor Dist Code	
17	Retirement Comp Date		54	Designation/Activity	
18	Service Anniversary – PPYR		55	Position Type	
19	TSP Eligibility		56	Limit Hours	
20	TSP Service Comp Date		57	Allowance Code	
21	Prior CSRS Service		58	Employment Type	

SALARY INFORMATION

22	Frozen CSRS Time				
23	Leave Data Category		59	Pay Rate Code	
24	Leave Data – Chg PPYR		60	Rate Schedule Code	
25	Leave Data – Type		61	Grade/Step	
26	Credit Military Service		62	Base Salary	
27	Reserve for Future Use		63	COLA	
28	Retirement Plan		64	COLA Roll-In Ind	
29	Employee Status		65	Next Step PPYR	
30	Life Insurance		66	Merit Anniversary Date	
31	Special Benefits		67	Merit Lump Sum	

POSITION INFORMATION

32	Employ Office – Finance No.		68	Special Salary Code	
33	Employ Office – Name		69	Protected RSC	
34	Employ Office – Address		70	Protected Grade/Step	
			71	Expiration PPYR	
			72	Protection RC Hours	
35	Duty Station – Finance No.		73	Protected RC Miles	
36	Duty Station – Name		74	RC Guaranteed Salary	
37	Appt. Expiration Dale		75	Annuity Amount	

NATURE OF PERSONNEL ACTION

77	Nature of Action Code		78	Authority	39-USC Sect 1001			
79	Description							
80	Code	81	Code	82	Code	83	Code	
84	Remarks							

85	Authorization MANAGER HUMAN RESOURCES SHARED SERVICE CENTER		86	Processed Date	
			87	Personnel Office ID	
			88	OPF Location	

**2017 RED & GOLD RETIREE BANQUET
HONORED GUESTS**

70 YEAR RETIREE (JOINED IN 1946 - 1947)

WALTER C CZEREPAK
WILLIAM L RAUSCH

GEORGE L FARMER
DELMONT R STOKKE

ANDRO HIBEN

60 YEAR RETIREE (JOINED IN 1957)

ROBERT V ATHERTON
WILLIAM H HALOS
ROBERT C MEYERSON

JACK J BARTLETT
JOHN L HILDEN
WALTER W REED

THOMAS P CRONIN
DAVID R JACKSON
PETER H RICHIE

50 YEAR RETIREES (JOINED IN 1967)

DONALD M CARLSON
LAVERN E DORNBUSCH
ROLLAND V GARDNER
DUANE M HOVERMAN
DONALD KOLOGY
RONALD G LAWRENCE
CHARLES R PEASHA
GENE TRONNES
BARRY J WEINER

KENT P CLELAND
RONALD L EVERSON
ALLAN J GULDEN
ARNOLD E JOHNSON
JAMES E KRUEGER
LARRIE D LOVSTAD
LLOYD C SCHUBICH
WILLIAM C TUFFS

RICHARD H COLBURN
DENNIS D FOLKE
DALLAS V HOLM
ROGER W JOHNSON
ROBERT D LANDA
ROBERT J MILLER
GERALD D THOMAS
GARY L WEBER



70 YEAR HONOREES
*Walter Czerepak, George Farmer and Andro Hiben
(missing Delmont Stokke)*



60 YEAR HONOREE
John Hiben



50 YEAR HONOREES (Lt Side)
*Donald Carlson, Kent Cleland, Richard Colburn &
Dennis Folke*



50 YEAR HONOREES (Rt Side)
*Al Gulden, Dallas Holm, Ron Lawrence, Sonny Tuffs &
Barry Weiner*

**Starting in 2017 Branch 9 decided to start honoring more of retirees.
The following is a list of our 65, 55 year retirees.**

65 YEAR RETIREES (JOINED IN 1948 - 1952)

1948

GEORGE E GUSTAFSON

RUSSELL C MAGNUSON

ROGER E RITTER

1949

WALTER E GEGNER

JOHANNES S MAGDAL

MARVIN L SOREM

1951

FRANK W NEWMAN

ROBERT L SOLBERG

1952

JACK C CARLSON
RICHARD J MARTIN
EARL W WEISEL

KENNETH F HAWKINSON
HERMAN A METZLER

JOSEPH J KINNEY
WALLACE M SJOQUIST

55 YEAR RETIREES (JOINED IN 1958 - 1962)

1958

BRUCE A ALLEN
CHARLES L FRIEND
JEROME J WAALK

DONALD C BEYL
CHARLES L LENZEN

DARRELL E DAHLIN
KENNETH L SYKORA

1959

DOUGLAS H BUYSTEDT
DAVID L HEMPEL
CLAIR F MATTSON

GORDON V CLEMENS
ELMER J HILL
HAROLD L TILBURY

CLARENCE C GERVAIS
JAMES W JOHNSON
JAMES G ZELENAK

1960

JOHN G BAILEY
ROGER W CORYELL
DONALD B LEMAY
EUGENE P MCNULTY
WAIN D PEARCE
DELMAR P WOIDA

HARRY A BLOOM
WILLIAM J GIMBLE
ROGER E LINDAHL
LUVERNE MICKELSON
DAYTON J SJOSTROM

JEROME BONA
MELVIN H LANGE
JEROME M MADSEN
JOE F PASIOWITZ
GLEN J TRUDELL

1961

LARRY L BLESJ
LINDAHL B GLEASON
ARTHUR G KUJAWA
RICHARD D OLSON
DAVID B THOMPSON

LARRY S DAHLBERG
HERBERT L HALVERSON
ROBERT J LOGELIN
GLENN K PAULSON

HENRY H EGGERS
ANTHONY J KRUSE
ROBERT W MASUDA
FRANCIS M RICE

1962

EARL D ANDERSON
REGIS F GAUDET
JOHN M KEELEY
JOHN J VESOVICH

GERALD L ARNOLD
ROGER G HARWARTH
JOHN P MCPARTLAN

LOWELL H BERGET
KENNETH O HONKANEN
WILLIAM A MECHELS

April 5, 2017

Dear President Zagaron

Thank you for sending a letter to me. I am the George Farmer that you notified of the banquet to be on May 7th.

I found the news of being invited to be the Guest of Honor very exciting. I never dreamed that would happen. The whole family is excited. Its to bad that my wife is not with us anymore, she passed away 16 years ago. My youngest son is willing to be the guest. He was a navy man, but for the last years he has been a letter carrier for the St Cloud Postoffice. Working for the Postoffice runs in the family - My Grandma was a rural delivery with horse and buggy in the World War I. My first 18 months in the Post office was with the railroad mail service, then the Mpls Post office called me so I quit the Railroad one day and worked for the Mpls Post office the next day.

Since I have been retired for so many years I find that I do not know many at the dinners any more. I do see one that I trained in, I cannot remember his name, but we usually have a good visit.

I am 95 years old now. Will very soon be 96. I retired at 30 years plus 1 day I was 55 when I retired.

I have had a Great Life.

I decided to work for the post office when I was in the 9th grade at a small town school.

I had gone to the library and found a book that described different jobs. I liked what I read and have never been sorry for my choice.

Thank you for deciding to do this.

Sincerely

George Farmer



Pam Donato, George Farmer (70 Year Honoree),
Ron Watson, Dean & Susan Farmer



George Farmer 70 Year Honoree



Bob and Ann Baird with Joe Rian



JoAnn Gilbaugh, Samantha Hartwig and Stacey Ellingson



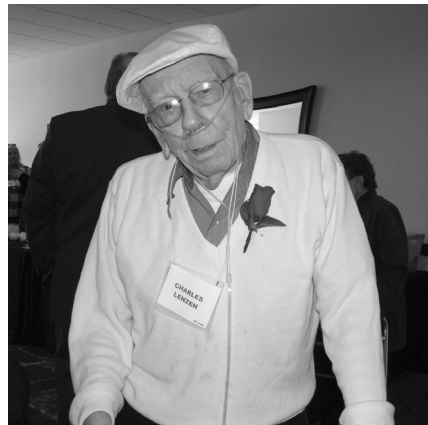
Peggy Maus, Connie Beissel and Dar Zagoras



President Emeritus Lenny Larson gives Kent Cleland (50 Year Honoree) a Veteran's pin from the NALC



Del Woida (55 Year Member)



Charles Lenzen (55 Year Member)



Jean and Steve Philson



Roger Harwarth (55 Year Member), Larry Blesi (55 Year Member), Jerome Bona (55 Year Member) and Dallas Holm (50 Year Honoree)



Jon Frick, David Thompson (55 Year Member) and Glen Lindfors



Karen Corwin and Al Gulden (50 Year Honoree)



Todd Kunkel and Doug Duax



John McPartlan (55 Year Member) and JoAnn Gilbaugh



Peggy Maus, Pam Donato and Darrell Maus



Joe Thomas with Sue and Jim Fodstad



Ann Henry, Barry Weiner (50 Year Honoree), Ron Watson, Chris Wittenberg and Mike Zagaros



Rosemary Bedor and Alice Nopola



Dennis Folke (50 Year Honoree) and Joe Bedor



Lowell (55 Year Member) and Lois Berget



Gordon Balfe and his daughter Beth Balfe



Jonathan and Pamela Peterson



Sisters & Retirees Theresa Oelrich and Mary Hargreaves



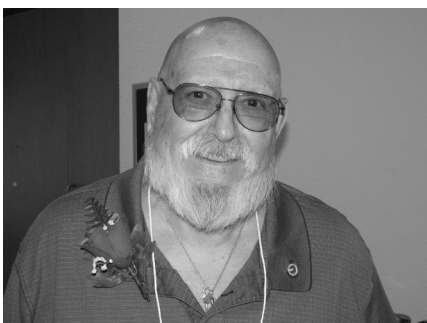
Marlys Fox and Melia Derrick



Tom Dvorak, Rita and Gene McNulty (55 Year Member) and Richard "Groucho" Patterson



Vernon and Norma Zierman



Ron Lawrence (50 Year Honoree)



Ron Sumstad



Dennis Ryan and Lisa O'Neill



**Tim Coryell with his father
Roger Coryell (55 Year Member)**



**Deloris Holm with Mary and
Ronald Sholl**



**Ric Colburn (50 Year Honoree)
Mar Archambault and Rollie Matt**



Rose and Louis Kovacs



**Janet Hauliczek and Richard D. Olson
(55 Year Member)**



**Marvin & Cindee Gurewitz,
Walter Czepak (70 Year Honoree),
Martina Priadka, Gloria, Sonia and
Marvin Czepak**



Carol Garnto and Burton Baker



**Rodney Anderson
Director of Retirees**



**John Hilden (60 Year Honoree)
and Jane Karas**



Harold Tilbury



**Lynn Lockwood and Art Kujawa
(55 Year Member)**



Delmont Stokke (70 Year Honoree)



**Ron Watson
National Director of Retired Members**



**Jan Wild with her daughter
Heather Briggs**



**Florence Rice, Bernie & Jerry Arnold
(55 Year Member) and Fran Rice
(55 Year Member)**



**Barry Weiner accepts the Retiree
of the Year award from Mike Zagaros**



Andro Hiben (70 Year Honoree)



Robert Zimdars



**Darrell Maus awards Roger Johnson
with his 50 Year Gold Card and pin.
Roger lives in Florida and was unable
to attend the banquet.**



1970 Strikers



Samantha Hartwig
Branch 9 OWCP Representative

SCHEDULED AWARDS

Everyone knows it is no fun getting hurt on the job. It is even less fun dealing with Postal Management, and all the paper work that is required to be filed when requesting compensation for an on the job injury with OWCP. For many carriers who get hurt on the job they do recover fully; however, some carriers are never the same, even with Postal Management doing their job properly, and all paper work filed timely and completely.

One of the worst things that can happen to anyone who gets hurt on the job is losing some level of function of the injured body part. Sometimes, for example, things like a dog bite can damage nerves in the body causing a permanent loss of function, to some degree, or even total loss, for that body

part. In other words, the injured carrier is at Maximum Medical Improvement (MMI), and will not get any better, even with therapy and/or surgery.

If you have an accepted OWCP claim, are at MMI, and have some, or total loss of the ability to use the injured body part you could qualify for a Scheduled Award.

A Scheduled Award is an additional benefit for injured carriers who have a permanent loss of function of an injured body part. To qualify for a Scheduled Award that injured person MUST be at MMI. Only a medical doctor (MD) can determine when someone has reached MMI.

The MD must use the American Medical Association's (AMA) Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment, Sixth Edition to calculate an impairment rating for the injured body part. The medical evidence must explain the impairment, and the degree of the impairment. There are some parts of the body that do not qualify for a Scheduled Award, such as the back.

A Scheduled Award is requested on a form Ca-7, the medical evidence supporting impairment, degree of the impairment using the AMA Sixth Edition, and the date MMI has been reached MUST be included.

It is suggested that the best time to request a Scheduled Award is after the wage loss compensation payments have stopped. Requesting a Scheduled

Award while receiving wage loss compensation could result in a reduction of the Scheduled Award or delay till all after all wage loss compensation has stopped.

The Branch office can assist with Scheduled Awards, please call with any questions 612-781-9858.



Dear Mr. Zagaros,

I would like to thank the members of Branch 9 for granting me the J. Wesley Woods Scholarship. I am attending the College of St. Benedict this fall and excited to start my Biology degree. Ultimately, I plan to seek out a degree in medicine. Your scholarship gift will be very helpful to me and my family, as I start on my path of higher education.

Thank you,
Lexi Radotich

**UNIFORMS
UNLIMITED**

Minneapolis
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Minneapolis, MN 55405
612-377-0011

The Twin Cities Postal Headquarters



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

Burnsville does it again!

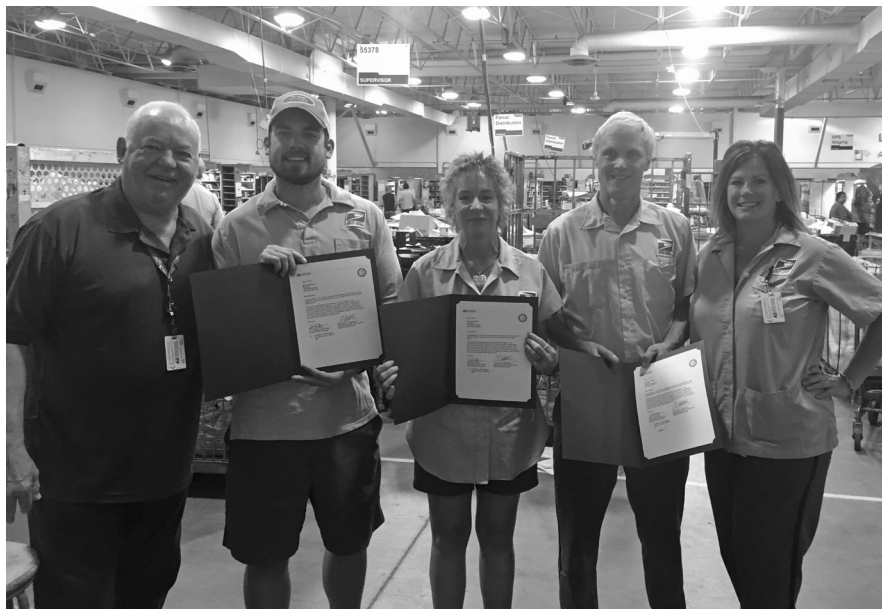
The Customer Connect Program is alive and well in Burnsville.

On July 20 Kelly Buesgens came out to Burnsville to honor 3 of our carriers for recommending our postal products to their customers. Of the larger offices in the Branch 9 Minneapolis area, we had the most leads that produced the highest sales revenues. Our carriers know the importance of having their customers switch to the best delivery company in the business for packages. The more revenue we can generate for our employer, the better off we will all be in the long run.

Letter carrier Greg Hagen was the top sales leader with a \$616,980.00 sales lead from a company on his route. Letter carrier Ben Braaten had a sale of \$84,760.00 from one of his customers, followed by letter carrier Deb Ochetti whose lead generated \$1,615.20.

Each one of these carriers received an award for taking the time to talk to their customers about the many ways that we can save them money and still get the best delivery service offered over any of the competitors.

Connie Beissel
Burnsville Customer Connect Coordinator



Darrell Maus (Exec Vice President), Ben Braaten, Deb Ochetti, Greg Hagen and Kelly Buesgens (Northland Dist. Customer Connect Coordinator)

BRIDGING THE GAP continued from page 1

Szeredy, VP of APWU was overwhelmed with the number of questions and could not answer them all in the allotted time. This, in and of itself, was an example of disempowerment as this was our only opportunity to ask questions of officers with an ASL interpreter and have equal access. The fact that not all of the questions were able to be addressed is an indicator that this conversation needs to occur with more regularity in an environment where Deaf employees have equal access to express their concerns and receive responses directly from union officers.

I am very grateful to Branch 9's Executive Board for their decision to send me to this conference. I learned a lot about how to bridge communication, and look forward to working with the NALC to increase access to information, and improve working relations for all Deaf employees.

LOCAL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

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

At 6:00PM prior to the August 22nd General Membership Meeting at the Crystal VFW we will be discussing and gathering information for possible changes on the current LMOUs.



AME'S UNIFORMS

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Kerry Herdine
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- *Signing up for E-activist at NALC.org
- * 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

Branch 9 Calendar

August 22
LMOU Discussions
6:00PM
&
General Membership Meeting
7:00PM
Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN

August 24 - September 4
MN State Fair

September 5
Labor Day
Holiday

September 11
Make Difference Day/
Patriot Day

September 12
Stewards Meeting
7:00PM
Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN

September 26
General Membership Meeting
7:00PM
Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN

October 1 - 4
MSALC Convention

October 10
Stewards Meeting
7:00PM
Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN

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



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