

JEROME J. KEATING BRANCH



BRANCH NINE NEWS

"AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL"

1964

VOLUME 70 No 4

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May 2018

LATE NIGHT FIRE AT LORING STATION DISPLACES CARRIERS

A fire broke out at the Loring Station on Saturday, April 21, 2018. The fire was reported to the Fire Department about 11 p.m. and in order to get to the fire they had to break through the glass front door. The fire department was able to put the fire out, but Loring station will be closed until repairs can be made which will take anywhere from 6 months to a year.



Delivery, phone calls and retail operations have been moved to the Main Post Office. Customers with P.O. boxes can get their mail at the Butler Quarter Station, 100 North 6th Street, Suite 120B, Minneapolis, MN 55403.

The Loring carriers reported to work at the Main Office on Monday not knowing what their day would entail. Branch 9 President, Mike Zagaros, along with the Minneapolis Postmaster, Will Jones and Station Manager, Paul Hilo met with the carriers to give them an

update on the situation. As soon as vehicles, keys, scanners and mail became available the carriers were sent out to deliver DPS and parcels. On Tuesday, the carrier cases were ready to be labeled and set-up. Carriers were able to case available mail and their vehicles were slowly being released for use. No carriers have been allowed back into the station since the fire.

The Loring carriers now having to adjust to their new normal and home at the Main Office. This fire is a reminder to all stations about fire prevention by identifying fire hazards.

As we celebrate this Memorial Day holiday, please remember the service men and women and their families that have/are fighting for our country and beliefs.

*Thank you all for serving so valiantly!
The Officers of Branch 9*

Memorial Day

Remembering those who served.

*All Gave Some,
Some Gave All,
Gone,
But NEVER Forgotten!*



"Freedom isn't free!"

RETIREMENTS



Stewards Connie Beissel & Brad Knutson (far rt) watch as the newly retired Nick Bourassa, John Theurer, Brand Lindstrom (Burnsville) make their last punch. We hope you all have Happy and long Retirement!



Steward George Kell looks on as Mark Mellesmoen (Lake Street) takes his last punch. Congratulations Mark!

Diane Thomas (St. Louis Park) with Steward Mark Olufson on her last day. Enjoy your retirement Diane!



Denys Ackerman (Brooklyn Center) takes his last punch with Steward Ken Jambois.

In Memoriam
Leroy Pohl

Welcome New Members
Rosa Bermeo-Orellana
Janice Borgwardt
Sean Costa
Tonya Craig
Shaun Dejohnson
Luis Diaz
Spencer Falls
John Heithoff
April Jones
Cristian Mora-Ortiz
Kenneth Morrissey
Roderic Olson
Cynthia Terrazas-Smith
Latangeluv Turner
Agustin Vergara
Beverly Welck
Jonathan Xiaaj

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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.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Nothing stays the same, people say that change is inevitable. Change happens in the Postal Service and the Branch.

Management is asking carriers for a greater commitment to safety. One of the new instructions is to always carry a satchel when making a delivery. The Branch has received a number of phone calls asking why are they making carriers do this? Is this really necessary on mounted routes? The easy answer is yes they can, and they have. Management has an obligation to ensure that they provide a safe working environment. The Union is also charged with working with management to ensure that commitment is fulfilled. So, let's look at this new satchel policy. It is a district wide policy that all carriers (City and Rural) are required to have a satchel with them when making a delivery. It is not a criminal act nor is it a threat to a carrier's personal safety to make this a requirement (unless you have physical restrictions that prohibit you from using a satchel, in which case see your steward and your supervisor). Otherwise "Obey now and grieve later." Carriers have told me that it takes more time. It may, but you can still be required to carry a satchel. Others have said I know that customer doesn't have a dog. Have you ever seen a dog that has gotten loose on your route before? We've had carriers bitten by dogs that did not come from the house where the attack took place. For years Minneapolis has been on the top 10 list for letter carriers being attacked by dogs. In 2017, we dropped from number 10 to number 14 with 27 dog attacks. Through the first four months of 2018 we have had more than half of last year's total dog attacks and we haven't even reached the

summer months when the most attacks occur.

But what if safety takes more time? We should never allow our safety to be subject to time. If it takes more time, then we should be able to explain why it takes longer. Both Tony Williams, District Manager and Will Jones, Minneapolis Postmaster have said "take the time you need and need the time you take." That means you should not take shortcuts if they put you at risk. You can't make up time by being unsafe. If you don't feel right about a delivery and the way you are doing it, stop, look at your surroundings and find a different way to make that delivery, safely. If you can't find one, don't make the delivery and report it to your supervisor and your steward/safety liaison that day. The only way things can be corrected is if it's reported to management and the union. That includes reporting all injuries to ensure you receive the benefits that you are entitled to.

Unfortunately, we are still seeing too many carriers whose injury reports are not being filed or are needlessly delayed. If you are hurt on the job, report it to your supervisor and your steward. Your supervisor is to assist in ensuring that your injury is reported. Even if you're not sure about seeing a doctor, report it. There is nothing wrong with reporting an accident/injury that does not require medical attention. How will things change if we don't report and talk about it. If you are seeking medical attention about something that happened at work, you need to make sure that the appropriate paperwork is completed. Your steward will have a checklist that you can follow to make sure things like medical bills are being paid and you are being paid if you miss



Mike Zagaros

work because of it. There is new change in how the Branch will be handling potential injury reports. We are asking the Stewards to provide you with the appropriate checklist, and a release of information so that we may assist you with any claim is that filed. We are also asking that you sign off on the joint root cause report that is sent to the Postmaster and the Branch Office. That way you are aware of the results of the joint investigation.

Change is also happening here at the Branch Office. Our Executive Vice President Darrell Maus is retiring effective June 8th. As it gets closer to that day, I find myself with a wide array of feelings about this. I have known and worked with Darrell in a variety of capacities from grievances to route adjustments for nearly 25 years. Since 2007 we have both been on the Executive Board and we live near each other. We had a collegial relationship. If anyone needed anything Darrell was the guy to get it done. In 2011 that relationship changed dramatically when I asked Darrell to be the Branch 9 Executive Vice President because I was taking on the new position as Branch President. I remember talking with Darrell about the job and the workings

Pres. Report cont. on pg. 9

MDA Bowlathon Report

Thanks to all Branch 9 sisters and brothers, families and friends, the 2018 Ron St. Clair Branch 9 MDA Bowlathon was a great success!

Together we filled all of the 32 lanes at the New Hope Bowl, had some fun and raised over \$11,500 for MDA. Thank you also to our lane sponsors who are listed (on page 10) in this edition of Branch 9 News. These businesses are friends to Branch 9 letter



carriers and like us all, dedicated to helping find a cure Muscular Dystrophy.

Some high points of the night. There were some celebrities! Abby Loch, the MDA Ambassador for Minnesota joined us and bowled up a storm. Cassandra Rix from the MDA office joined MSALC President Ruben Perez from Austin, MN to help us sell a ton of 50/50 raffle tickets. St. Paul Branch 28 President Joel Malkush also brought a team of bowlers to help deliver a cure for MDA.

We had 37 silent auction baskets. We also had a panel of judges pick the best basket from 3 categories, **St. Louis Park won most practical with an auto maintenance basket; West Edina won best liquor basket and Andover won most unique with a S'mores basket.** All 3 stations were awarded donuts as their prize. It should also be mentioned that there were four different BBQ baskets, some great baskets as always from Jordan,

children's bikes from Blaine and a spectacular Minnesota Vikings memorabilia basket was donated by Jane Doe (Thomas Burnett Station). The generosity of Branch 9 letter carriers is really something to behold.

So in the end, the bowlathon raised \$2000 more for MDA this year than last and filled the New Hope Bowl with letter carriers and friends having fun. So please remember, when you enter your stations each morning, look around. You are in the presence of some really great American heroes, Branch 9 Letter Carriers.

By: Joe Rian
Branch 9 MDA Coordinator

A SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM ABBY LOCH

Abby Loch, the 2018 MN State Ambassador for the Muscular Dystrophy Association was a special guest at the most recent General Membership Meeting to thank Branch 9 for the recent fundraising bowl-a-thon.

She was fearless and excited to speak to those in attendance about how great the money raised is and how it is used to send kids to camp.



She presented Branch 9 with a thank you picture that she had created.

Abby should be inspiration to all!



Vang Thao always finds a way to say yes.

Brooklyn Center, MN, City Carrier Assistant Vang Thao says customer service is key to the Postal Service's success. "Never tell a customer 'no,'" says Thao, a Brooklyn Center, MN, city carrier assistant. "I've had people chase me down on my route to hand me packages, and I always take them — even if my bag is full."

Thao has three tips for his fellow carriers:

- Make it easy. Customers have a lot of shipping options, so you want to make it as easy as possible for them to choose USPS.
- Keep a positive attitude. "Always have a smile on your face when you talk to a customer," he says.
- Stop and listen. Thao says listening to your customers is important. He'll sometimes spend a few minutes just having conversations with people on his route.

Although Thao has been with the Postal Service for only two years, he knows customer service is key to the entire operation.

"Customer service is important because that's how we're able to keep our jobs," Thao says. "It's the most important thing as a letter carrier, because without customers we wouldn't have jobs at all."

Excerpt from USPS Link

Exec Vice President's Report

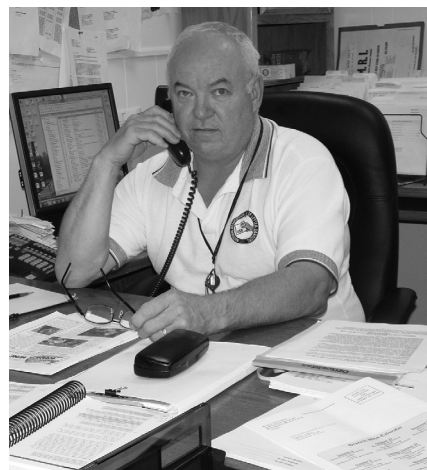
SAFETY - ITS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

With the increased volume of parcels on our routes the space at these stations has and will continue to be an issue with safety. All the extra equipment, like the machines for sorting parcels, carriers and vehicles in our garages and lots, plus the increase of gurneys full of parcels all have the walls of our buildings bulging. It is an obstacle course to move at all in our buildings on the work room floor. We must be more attentive and conscious in every step we take in the office. Be aware of what is around your case and keep it picked up and if more space is required see your safety liaison or steward. Watch where you are walking and make sure the floor is free of waste and debris to avoid a slip, trip, or fall. While we walk from our cases to the throwback case or retrieve your post and roll your gurney back to your case be extra cautious with every step. Keep these things in mind when you move to the street and begin to load your vehicle by using proper lifting methods and making sure your mail is placed in the vehicle in a way to avoid it shifting. Mail should never be placed on the dash, floor or double decked on top of another tray as it will slide at every stop or turn. This could be a distraction and may cause us to be in a vehicle accident while trying to keep the trays in one place.

When on the street we deliver mail in an environment that is completely out of our control. We cannot control other drivers, bike riders, pedestrians, pets or even the weather (although that would be nice). Watch where you are walking and make sure the ground is level and free of debris to avoid slips, trips, or falls. Take

the time to be safe on steps and be assured that they are in good condition and if not make sure your supervisor is notified. Be alert and always be aware of the conditions around you whether it's the weather, dogs or the busy street traffic we contend with daily. Make sure that any park points you have on your route are safe for a carrier to stand behind the vehicle and load their satchels free from the danger on busy traffic streets. Never use your cell phone when vehicle is in motion period. Never exit the vehicle with it running or parking brake not engaged. **RULE; IF YOU'RE NOT IN THE SEAT THE KEYS ARE IN YOUR HAND AND BRAKE IS ON.**

Carriers on mounted routes should never work the mail from their laps. This is considered a safety issue even though many carriers have been observed doing precisely that by management (whether on a 3999 or street observation) and nothing is ever said to them. You must walk and drive safely between stops whether the mail is ready to be put in the box when you get there or not. You need to take the time when driving to keep your hands and feet in control of the vehicle. On a park and loop route make sure you curb the wheels properly and apply the brake at each park point. Avoid any backing if possible and if you do have to check behind vehicle first and never drive up driveways to deliver post unless absolutely necessary. On a mounted route put the vehicle in neutral on level ground or in park on unlevel ground at each box. With the changing weather conditions on certain days whether storms or hot weather you must be even more focused on safety. Do not take shortcuts that may put your safety at risk. We cannot sacrifice safety for time. It is our responsibility to



Darrell Maus

be safe on the clock at all times. If ever an instruction is given to you by management that puts your safety at risk, see your steward. As Mike and I have said at several safety talks always leave yourself an out.

IN CLOSING

This will be the last article I write while serving as your Executive Vice President as I plan on retiring on June 8th. I want to thank Mike for giving me the opportunity to serve all of you as his Vice President. While it seems the time went by so fast we were able to accomplish the goals we had set out to do and are still working on others that as of yet need to be fulfilled. I thank the Executive Board members that I have worked with as well as all the Stewards who are tasked with the most difficult job in the Union. To the members of this Branch you are the greatest and it has been a pleasure and a great honor to serve you. While I may not be an active officer I will remain active in the issues of the NALC. A previous officer once was asked by his spouse why he continued to be active when he retired from his job as union officer he replied "being an officer in the union is not a job it is a cause that is why I stay active".

To all of you a giant
THANK YOU!

The Branch 9 Ron St. Clair MDA Bowlathon



TEAM MDA (AMBASSADOR ABBY LOCH & HER DAD, MIKE LOCH)



MIKE ZAGAROS, ABBY LOCH, JOE RIAN & CASSIE RIX



TEAM VOLUNTEERS (DAR ZAGAROS, JUDY NELSON & KEN JAMBOIS)



TEAM BRANCH 28



TEAM ANOKA / ANDOVER



TEAM BLOOMINGTON



TEAM BLAINE



TEAM BROOKLYN CENTER



TEAM BROOKLYN PARK



TEAM COON RAPIDS



TEAM ELMWOOD



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TEAM LAKE STREET



TEAM LOWRY/UNIVERSITY



TEAM LOST LAKE



TEAM NOKOMIS



TEAM POWDERHORN



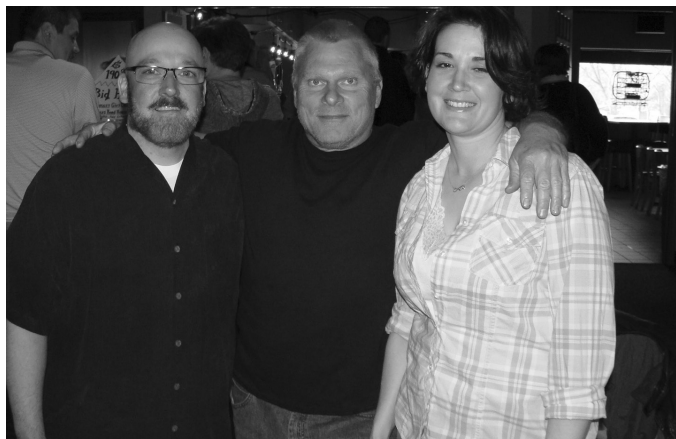
TEAM RETIRED



TEAM ST. LOUIS PARK



TEAM WEST EDINA



TEAM WEST EDINA

Pres. Report cont. from pg. 3

of the Branch. His first response was "don't worry I've got your back." Since that time, he became more than my colleague. He is my partner, my sounding board, my confidant, my conscience and most importantly my friend. It is our differences that make things work. His ability to look at the issue from a rank and file carriers point of view has been invaluable. While I had to look at the big picture, he was able to focus on the specific and never let me not see the trees that are in the forest. To that I say thank you D. I am a bit envious of you retiring. But then I realized that beginning June 11th I won't be seeing you every day and I won't be able to ask you to stop by my office to seek your advice and counsel. I also want to thank Peg, your lovely bride, for allowing me to interrupt family time to help me run our Branch. I will miss you both even though we only live 5 miles apart, it won't be the same. There's that change thing again.

I've asked Samantha Hartwig (Financial Secretary) to fill the position of Executive Vice President, Jim Nelson (Sergeant at Arms) to fill the position of Financial Secretary and Robb Petersburg (Lost Lake Steward) to be the Sergeant at Arms.

I hope to see you all at Darrell's retirement on June 8th at the Crystal VFW because after that, he will be gone fishing.

D, I hope you enjoy a long and healthy retirement, because you my friend have earned it.



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catch him Before he's gone!!!



Join Branch 9 for a Farewell Retirement Party honoring

Darrell Maus
Friday, June 8th
4:00 – 8:00PM

Crystal VFW
5222 – 56TH AVENUE NORTH
CRYSTAL, MN 55429

Please RSVP to the Branch 9 office at angie@Branch9nalc.com.

The Following is a list of Paid PAL 9 Members for March & April 2018

Very Concerned Members

David L Flynn	Vincent J Froehlich	Deborah Grunnes	James Hamilton	Susan K Hoban
Thomas W Hoban	Kieran Hughes	C. A. LaCroix	Ned McCraine	Jonathan Peterson
Wesley E Thomas				

Regular Members

Williard Beauchaine	Gregory J Caulfield	Morris R Gross	Craig L Hanschen	James M Harris
Sara S Harris	Herbert J Hess	Mary L Hoch	Thomas B Hoch	William Hofstad
Thomas G Holten	Bruce A Howe	Mary C Miller	David R Millette	Duane B Pederson
Jeremy J Rothstein	Peter T Schilling	Donna J Wiecks	Raymond Chris Williams	

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- * 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

May 28
Memorial Day

June 6
D-Day

June 12
Steward Meeting
7:00PM
Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN

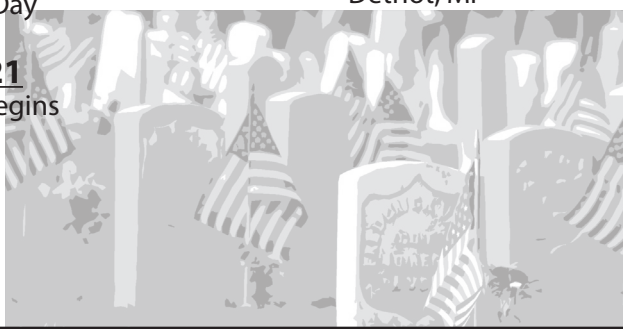
June 17
Father's Day

June 21
Summer Begins

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

July 10
Steward Meeting
7:00PM
Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN

July 16-20
NALC National Convention
Detroit, MI



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