



**VOLUME 69 No 7**

**Official Publication of Branch Nine, NALC**

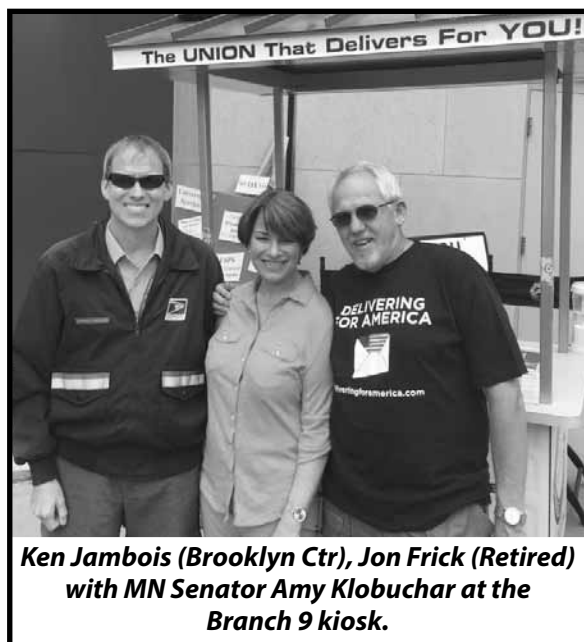
**September 2017**

## 2017 MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

The smell of corn dogs, cotton candy and the beer garden are now gone from the Minnesota State Fair grounds. But, the Branch 9 kiosk had another successful year and the fun and memories should last us well into winter! We had a fantastic turn out of both active and retired Branch 9 members who volunteered to staff our kiosk and inform the fair goers of all the current political issues that will affect America's Post Office.

Our seasoned volunteers mentored the rookie volunteers in the fine art of "working the crowd" and "Informing the public of the real issues of the service"! We realized very quickly that the public wanted to be part of the action to insure their Postal Service survived and remained in place as is. This year we informed them of issues pending in Congress that could affect how the Postal Service will be providing service in the future. Good service is crucial to maintaining a vibrant, public Postal Service that connects residents and businesses alike in all areas and provides living-wage jobs that

strengthen our communities and it was unanimous that they wanted to keep their post office. We also had handouts from the Minneapolis Installation on how to apply and become a City Carrier Assistant to begin a postal career. There were some that still think



**Ken Jambois (Brooklyn Ctr), Jon Frick (Retired) with MN Senator Amy Klobuchar at the Branch 9 kiosk.**

taxpayer money is used for postal operations and that the current system is wasting their money. Comments like UPS or FedEx would do a better job and do it cheaper and would be better for the country. When we informed them of the amount of packages

the Postal Service delivers for these companies in our last mile system and they were amazed.

This being our 14th year at the AFL-CIO's House of Labor, we had many fairgoers return specifically to our booth to see what we were up to this time around.

**Repeat "customers" are the greatest compliment to any organization.** They know we're up to something good and they want to be sure to get involved. As they would leave our booth, they thanked us over and over for the information and as always informed us of how they loved their carrier and don't want to ever lose them or the Postal Service. When we emphasized how important it was to contact their Congressman and relay the message of how important "THEIR POST OFFICE" is to them it was almost always followed up with the commitment to do so.

**GREAT JOB AND THANK YOU  
TO ALL OF OUR STATE FAIR  
VOLUNTEERS!**

By: Darrell Maus  
Exec Vice President

## RETIREMENTS



*Jean Anderson (Burnsville) is all smiles as she takes her last punch with Steward Connie Beissel.*



*Todd Brandel (Anoka) with Alt Steward Greg Riggs. Wishing you a Happy Retirement Todd!*



*Larry Gildner (Powderhorn) makes his last punch with Steward Joe Wineman looking on. Congratulations Larry!*



*Ruth Maloney (Edina) takes her last punch with Steward Kevin Rood. Enjoy your retirement Ruth!*

### Welcome New Members

Patrick Arboe  
Holly Ayster  
John Beyer  
Daniel Bishop  
Jason Clark  
Nicholas Donaldson  
Joseph Gage  
Yolanda Granados  
Genet Gudisa  
Tanina Henry  
John Lam  
Kayla Lamar  
Luke Marcott  
Mohamed Mohamed  
Suleima Saldivar  
Raycene Stanback

### Retirement Seminar

**November 15, 2017**

6:30PM

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

This will be an opportunity for you and your spouse to ask questions and receive information regarding your retirement.

**Please RSVP to the Branch office  
by November 10, 2017  
at 612.781.9858**

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

#### **Branch 9 Officers**

**President**  
Mike Zagaros

**Exec. Vice President**  
Darrell Maus

**Recording Secretary**  
JoAnn Gilbaugh

**Treasurer**  
Lisa O'Neill

**Financial Secretary**  
Samantha Hartwig

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

**Sergeant at Arms**  
Jim Nelson

**Trustees**  
Ken Jambois  
Stacy Ellingson  
Joe Rian

**Director of Retirees**  
Rodney Anderson  
C: (651) 270-7807

**NALC Health Benefits Rep.**  
Mike Smith  
HBR: (612) 963-6252

The Branch Nine News is a monthly publication of NALC Branch 9, and is published in the interest of and for the members of NALC Branch 9.

The opinions expressed by the writers are not necessarily those of the OFFICERS, or of NALC Branch 9.

**Articles MUST be submitted to the editor by the 1st of the month, and must be signed.** The Editorial Staff reserves the right to edit or refuse to print articles which are derogatory in nature.

Any official NALC organization may reproduce our articles provided appropriate credit is given.

## President's Report

By the time you read this, all career and CCA carriers should have received their pay raises through the September Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). This includes for Career Carriers the November 2016 General Wage Increases and the 3 COLAs that have already accumulated under the terms of this contract. For CCAs, while you do not receive COLA payments, your pay was augmented by an additional 1% on top of the General Wage Increase that happens in November. In addition, CCAs with more than 12 weeks or 52 weeks of service will receive step increases of 50 cents per hour when they have achieved those thresholds.

This leads to the next question what about the **"retroactive pay" or "back pay?"** **When will we get it?** It is anticipated that carrier carriers will receive their payments on their paycheck for pay period (PP) 24, which is December 1. For CCAs the retroactive pay will be after the first of the year. Why? The reason being given for this is due to the complexities and differences of this category (How the new step increases impact the back-pay period and whether they were converted during the back-pay period.) and secondly the Accounting Service Center cannot make wholesale changes between PP 25-2017 PP 2-2018, due to the end of the year calculations and obligations. This is the first time, carriers will be will be receiving back pay for all paid hours. As we learn more information, we will get it to you.

During recent station visits, after the questions about pay, the topic usually turns to subjects like pivoting and forced overtime. What should you do when the subject of pivoting comes up; or when you have more work that you can do on your assignment

and be back in 8 hours comes up? Pivoting is defined as **"a method of utilizing the undertime of one or several carriers to perform duties on a temporarily vacant route or to cover absences. Pivoting is not limited to periods when mail volume is light and when absences are high but can be utilized throughout the year for maintaining balanced carrier workloads."** Across the Nation on workroom floors you can hear a supervisor who says, "I want you to pivot 45 minutes on route #####." This often followed by the carrier saying, "I'm going to over 8 on my own" These are the first two steps in the dance called the 'letter carrier two step.' It happens every morning during the supervisor go around. The result of this dance often leaves letter carrier frustrated and angry, especially when the carrier is working overtime that they did not want to work and the OTDL carriers are going home in 8. So how should you handle this type of situation?

**Estimating the workload.** If you are the regular and have been on the route for a while, make your best guess based on what you know: the mail at your case, your DPS and your post, how long it normally takes to case, pull down, load your vehicle and deliver your route. The M-41 places a responsibility upon a carrier to notify management when they have more work than the carrier thinks he/she can do in 8 hours. A carrier documents that fact with a 'help slip' PS Form 3996. If you are new to the route, you might want to talk to the T-6/Utility for the route.

The supervisor will use one of their programs to estimate how long they think the carrier will be on their route and whether you can deliver a pivot in addition to your route on straight time. A pivot is



**Mike Zagaros**

only a pivot when the net result is an 8-hour day. If you are assigned a pivot and end up working more than 8 hours then it is not a pivot. Management's reliance on the morning figures, is no better or worse than the estimate of the carrier. The National Parties have agreed that management's estimate does not establish a leave time or a return time or work load.

**What should you do when you and your supervisor don't agree?** Don't argue, that almost never changes anything. Simply ask for a response to your 3996. If there is no response or it is denied, ask for direction from as to what you should do it your if your estimate is more accurate? Only management can authorize overtime. You should be told what management wants you to do, either work the overtime or bring it back. If they do not provide instructions, ask to see your steward. If the supervisor tells you to take it with you, **follow the instruction and ask to see your steward.**

The morning go-round should not be confrontational. If you find that you have more work than you can do in 8 hours, inform your supervisor and document that fact by completing the PS form 3996 'help slip.' If management refuses to provide you with a PS

*Pres. Report continued on page 7*

# Branch 9 Volunteers Having Fun at the Fair!



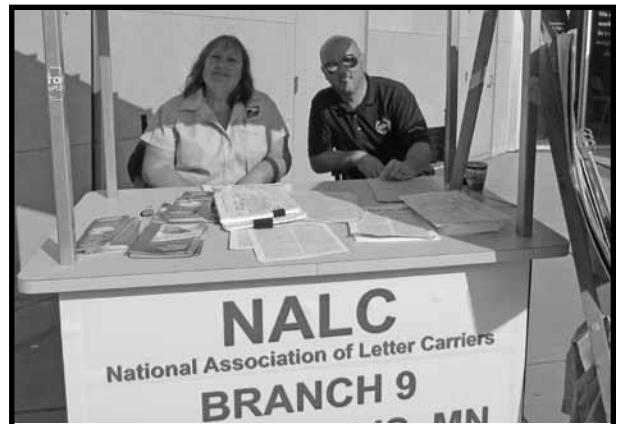
*Mike Meier (St Louis Pk) & Vicki Fleming (Bloomington)*



*Ken Jambois (Brooklyn Ctr) & James Spencer (Coon Rapids)*



*Minnesota Senator Al Franken*



*Connie Beissel (Burnsville) & Jason Karnopp (RAA)*



*Dee Lunzer (Lake Street), 4th CD Representative  
Betty McCollum & Connie Beissel*



*5th CD Representative Keith Ellison, Michelle Guzman (Coon Rapids), Connie Beissel & Christa Abraham (Loring)*



## Exec Vice President's Report

### Parcel Delivery

With the upcoming inspection process looming and the 3999's that are being done in our stations we must brush up on the proper procedures for the handling of parcels. In the M-41 (322.31) it states *"For any parcel that does not fit into the customer's mailbox or parcel locker (when available), an attempt to deliver must be made at the customer's door. If no one is available to receive the parcel, follow the procedures in 322.11 and 322.312."* This requires the carrier to attempt the package at the door even with prior approval from customers of where to leave them if they are not home. Carriers are not to merely drop and leave the parcels whether there is an agreed upon location or not.

#### 322.11 When a carrier is authorized to leave ordinary parcels

(a) Parcels must not be left in an unprotected location such as a porch unless the mailer participates in the carrier release program by endorsing the package *"Carrier-Leave if No Response"* or the addressee has given written directions for an alternate delivery location. Examples of protected locations are a locked vestibule, locked hallway, or with a doorman of an apartment building inside a storm door of a residence, etc. Form 3849, Delivery Notice/Reminder/Receipt, with the "It is located \_\_\_\_\_" block completed must be left in the mail receptacle location. **Parcels must not be left where adverse weather can affect them.**

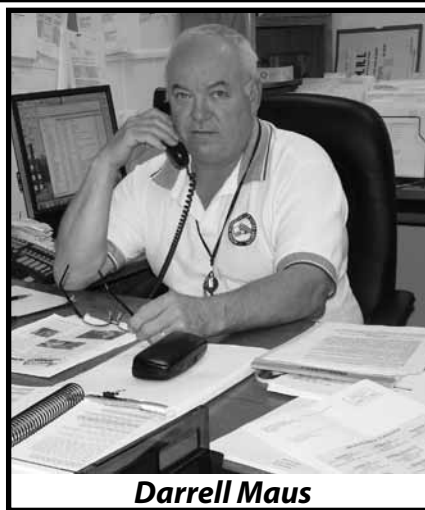
(b) By following the mailer's or addressee's instructions, the Postal Service provides customers with a more convenient way to receive parcels. Carriers are not liable for loss or theft where these instructions and postal regulations are followed.

(c) Mailers who participate in the carrier release program understand that there are areas where the Postal Service will not leave parcels for security reasons. Mailers also understand that carriers do not leave packages without protection from inclement weather. If there is not a suitable location to leave a carrier release parcel, Form 3849 must be left.



#### 322.312 When the Carrier is Not Authorized to Leave Ordinary Parcels.

(a) When someone is usually available to receive parcels. *When an ordinary or unnumbered insured parcel is not delivered on the first attempt and the carrier knows that someone at the address is usually available to receive parcels, do not leave Form 3849, Delivery Notice/Reminder/Receipt.* Write the date and the carrier's initials and route number near the address and return the parcel to the office. Place the parcel in the gurney at the carrier's case. Attempt a second delivery on the next delivery day. If the



**Darrell Maus**

parcel is not delivered after the second attempt, complete and leave Form 3849. Legibly endorse the form with the following information; Article number, date, Sender's name, Type of mail, Article requiring signature at time of delivery, Addressee's name and address, amount due, and Date and time customer can pick up at the office.

(b) When someone is not usually available to receive parcels. *If no one is available to receive the parcel and the carrier knows that someone at the address is not usually available to receive parcels, complete and leave Form 3849 after the first attempt.* Endorse the parcel near the address, showing the reason for non-delivery, e.g. N L (notice left), date attempted, and the carrier's initials and route number. Upon returning to the office, deposit the parcel in the designated place for undelivered parcels.

As we are partners in the Customer Connect Program and with the increased revenue and packages that we help generate it is equally important for us to follow these provisions of the M-41. **As always seek clear instruction from your supervisor if parcel delivery process is not handled in this manner at your station.**

## **HELP POSTAL EMPLOYEES HURT BY HURRICANE HARVEY**

*You can help postal employees hurt by Hurricane Harvey right now by making an immediate donation to the Postal Employees' Relief Fund (PERF).*

**VISIT [POSTALRELIEF.COM](http://POSTALRELIEF.COM) TO MAKE A DONATION  
WITH YOUR CREDIT CARD.**

**You can also mail a donation check to:**

**Postal Employees' Relief Fund  
P.O. Box 7630  
Woodbridge, VA 22195**

PERF helps postal employees and retirees whose homes were significantly damaged by natural disasters or house fires.

PERF is not an emergency relief or immediate needs replacement agency such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or the Red Cross or insurance companies that are paid to replace property.

Rather, PERF (Combined Federal Campaign #10268) provides relief grants to help qualifying individuals get re-established after a loss, based on an application process.

Visit [postalrelief.com](http://postalrelief.com) to learn more.

**Help postal employees  
hurt by Hurricane Harvey**



**Make an immediate donation:**  
Go to [postalrelief.com](http://postalrelief.com) with your credit card  
or send a check to Postal Employees Relief Fund,  
P.O. Box 7630, Woodbridge, VA 22195



CFC#10268

### **Postal Uniforms/Footwear/Rain Gear**

You can send slightly used or new postal uniforms, footwear and/or rain gear to the following branches that can act as hubs for uniforms for the surrounding branches/letter carriers:

Houston Branch 283  
c/o Harvey Help  
2414 Broadway Blvd.  
Houston, TX 77012

Corpus Christi Branch 1259  
c/o Harvey Help  
1220 S. Alameda  
Corpus Christi, TX 78404

NALC Region 10's office will do its best to assist these branches with distribution.  
Other affected branches can get in touch with the Region 10 office for help in getting  
affected letter carriers what they need.

## CPI increases slightly in August, driven mostly by gasoline and shelter costs

NALC.org - Sep 14, 2017

The Bureau of Labor Statistics released the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for August 2017 today. Overall prices increased 0.4 percent in August and 1.9 percent since August 2016. It has remained in the range of 1.6 percent to 2.3 percent on an annual basis since June 2011.

Almost all of this increase came from the gasoline and shelter indexes, with the gasoline index increasing 6.3 percent and the shelter index increasing 0.5 percent.

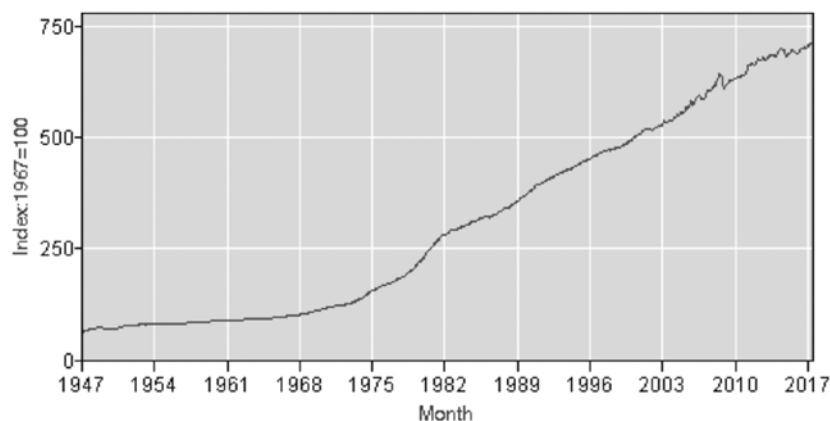
In addition, the rent index increased 0.4 percent. The increasing cost of housing and rent is particularly troubling for working people in a time of low wage growth.

The indices for motor vehicle insurance, medical care, and recreation all increased in August as well.

A surprising piece of data has been the decelerating cost of medical care. Medical care cost increased a mere 0.2 percent in August and 1.8 percent since August 2016, making it the smallest increase since 1965. This is most likely due to an unusual decline in the pay of doctors, according to the CPI index.

While August registered an increase in the CPI index, overall the data indicate a continued trend of historically low inflation that has been most acutely seen since the onset of the 2007 financial crisis. The persistently low inflation may influence the Federal Reserve to hold off on increasing the federal funds rate, a key short-term interest rate that influences the cost of borrowing.

A graph of the CPI-U (base year = 1967) is shown below:



### Pres. Report cont'd from page 1

Form 3996, see your steward. If management has you curtail mail, ask them what they want you to curtail. Only management can authorize you to curtail mail and fill out a PS form 1571 'curtailment slip' again to document what you are doing. If you are assigned a 'pivot' and you believe the combined work is more than 8 hours follow the procedures above. If you are carrying overtime on someone else's route complete the bottom portion of the PS 3996. If you have any questions contact your steward or contact the Branch Office.

Beginning in October 16th and ending November 14th, the Branch has the opportunity to open negotiations on a new Local Memorandum of Understanding (LMOU) for the 11 different installations: Anoka, Belle Plaine, Burnsville, Champlin, Chanhassen, Elk River, Jordan, Osseo, Shakopee and Minneapolis. You can see the current LMOUs on the Branch 9 Website, [www.branch9nalc.com](http://www.branch9nalc.com) go under the contract tab and select your installation under the LMOU tab. If you have any ideas on potential changes contact the Branch Office or send me an email at [mikez@branch9nalc.com](mailto:mikez@branch9nalc.com)

### Gently Used Uniforms Needed

Branch 9 needs your help restocking our used uniform supply for new CCAs.

Shirts,  
Pants,  
Shorts,  
Winter Gear,  
Rain Gear, etc.  
(we need everything)

Please donate your gently used (without holes or stained) and freshly washed uniforms.

# NAFTA renegotiations show differences between Canadian and U.S. wages and unions

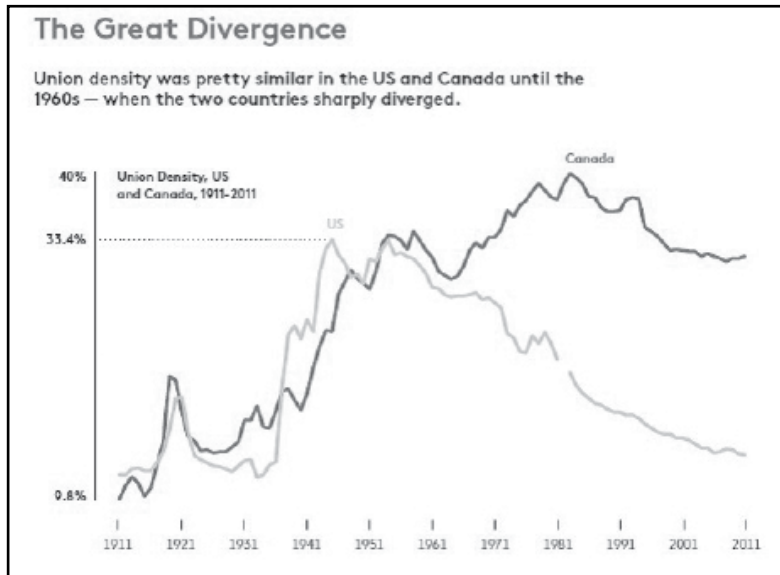
NALC.org - Sep 11, 2017

Will Canada help end right-to-work? That is the topic of a recent op-ed by labor journalist Steven Greenhouse in the Los Angeles Times which offers a fascinating perspective on Canadian vs. American wages and labor practices.

In the recent talks regarding the renegotiation of NAFTA among the three parties, the Canadian government has argued that the low wages and labor standards in the United States are creating pressure on Canadian wages, as firms struggle to compete with lower-wage American workers. The Canadian government is therefore insisting that the United States end so-called right-to-work laws. The concerted effort to smash labor unions in the United States has been so effective that the country is increasingly regarded as "low-wage" by other industrialized nations, such as Canada.

The low wages caused by right-to-work laws have been well documented. According to the Economic Policy Institute, states that have enacted these laws have wages 3.1 percent lower than in non-RTW states.

While the efforts on behalf of the Canadian government are no doubt self-interested, it is a highly revealing look into how the two countries, both very similar economically, diverged with regard to wages, benefits and union rights. It underscores previous data shown below published in the Summer 2016 issue of Jacobin magazine showing the divergence in union density between Canada and the United States over the past 50 years.



The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that union density in the United States was 10.7 percent in 2016, down from 20.1 percent in 1983. Union density in Canada by contrast was 28.8 percent in 2014, down from 37.6 percent in 1981 according to Statistics Canada.

# UNIFORMS UNLIMITED

Minneapolis  
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



**CRIBBAGE TOURNAMENT**

**Wednesday, October 4, 2017**

**10:00AM**

**PLACE:**

**NALC Branch 28  
1715 Van Dyke Street  
Maplewood, MN  
651.771.0533**



**\$3.00 ENTRY FEE**



**General Membership Meeting  
Tuesday, October 24th  
7:00PM**

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

**50 Turkeys Available  
Must be present to win!**



**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

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

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

### NALC Membership Survey

Brothers and Sisters,

In order for us to provide you with the latest information and with the advent of newer technologies such as email, text messaging, social media outlets (Facebook, twitter, etc.,) and our own [branch9nalc.com](http://branch9nalc.com) website. We are asking you (our members) if we may communicate with you through these methods.

Please complete the survey below and return to branch office. You can do that by giving this survey to your station steward, mailing it to Branch 9 at 2408 Central Ave NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418, emailing the information to [mikez@branch9nalc.com](mailto:mikez@branch9nalc.com) or sending a text to 612-387-0220.

Are you a Retired Member  Full-time Regular  CCA

Your Preferred Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to receive text messages? Yes  No

What is your preferred way of receiving information?

Branch Nine News

Email

Text Message

Branch 9 Website

Branch 9 Facebook Page

Twitter

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# ***Branch 9 Holiday Party***

**Sunday, November 19, 2017**

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

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

**\$5.00/Person**

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

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

*Buffet Lunch  
Noon - 3:00PM*

*A fun day out with the family!*

*Coloring for kids  
of all ages*

*REGISTRATION DEADLINE  
Monday, November 13th*

*Special Guest  
SANTA!!*

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

## **Branch 9 Holiday Party Registration Form**

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

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

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

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

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

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


Change Service Requested

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
TWIN CITIES MN  
PERMIT NO. 91964

**Stay informed by:**

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

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



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

## Branch 9 Calendar

**October 1- 3**  
*MSALC Convention*

**October 9**  
*Columbus Day*  
HOLIDAY

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

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

**October 31**  
*Halloween*

**November 5**  
*Daylight Savings Time Ends*

**November 10**  
*Veteran's Day Observed*  
HOLIDAY

**November 11**  
*Veteran's Day*

**November 14**  
*Stewards Meeting*  
7:00PM  
Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN

**November 15**  
*Retirement Seminar*  
6:30PM  
Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN

**November 23**  
*Thanksgiving*  
HOLIDAY

**November 28**  
*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