

RETIREMENTS



Carol Garnto (Lost Lake) is all smiles as she receives her retirement watch and pin from Darrell and Mike. Happy Retirement Carol!



Ron Davis (Lake Street) receives his retirement watch from Mike Zagaros.



Dave Tillman (Elmwood) receives congratulations on his retirement from Mike and Darrell.



Charles McDonough (Lowry) receives his retirement watch from Mike Zagaros.



James Coleman (University) makes his last punch and receives congratulatory handshake from his Steward Tony Winkels.



Rodney Bursch (Lost Lake) makes his last punch with Steward Robb Petersburg. Congratulations Rodney!



Left: Mike Hamlin (Osseo) makes his last punch as Darrell Maus and Steward Roger Mass look on. Best Wishes!

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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.

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Executive Vice President's Report

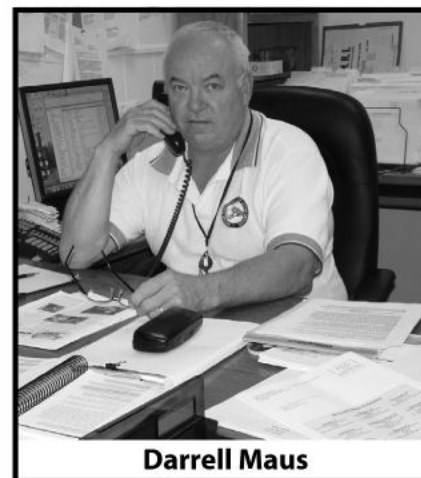
Numbers

Numbers can tell us many things. They can be used as identifiers such as an employee identification number or a telephone number. The number 9 is the number used to identify the city letter carriers who have chosen to belong to the NALC in Minneapolis area as Branch 9. These numbers quantify the amount of active members we have in our in our smallest office, Mound (3 members) and our largest office, Coon Rapids with (105 members). Branch 9 has 1411 active members working at 38 offices and 663 retired members. Everywhere we look around someone uses a number to describe us. But, we are so much more than a number, it doesn't matter whether it is 9 (Branch number) or 2071 (current total members) the most important number for us is not even a number it's the word "us."

Unions have always been and continue to be about the members, the "us." The people who have chosen to belong and act in concert with each other for the betterment of all. In 1889, 60 letter carriers first gathered to establish the National Association of Letter Carriers. As we prepare to enter into a new year the power of "us" enables us to overcome our challenges.

The challenges we face come from all sides. Some are from our competitors; some are from those who want to see "us" disappear entirely. There are even some from within the Postal Service making what I believe are shortsighted number driven decisions that

are based more on some formula rather than reality. Whether it is the one about reducing the number of days of delivery that would somehow promote the Postal Service or the fallacy of using DOIS as the only number than can decide our workday, its numbers. How many have seen the following scenario played out on the workroom floor. A supervisor carrying a clipboard approaches a carrier at their case and asks "How you going to be today?" "Oh I don't know," is the response from the carrier. "Well according to DOIS you are (fill in the blank) minutes under..." The battle lines have needlessly been drawn and the gauntlet thrown. Why, because of a number or series of numbers that say so. Some say that these are the carriers own numbers or demonstrated performance from a day in the past therefore they can predict how much time is needed today. That may be the case or it may not be due to the intangibles of a letter carrier's route. But, if we allow a computer to make decisions that we know are wrong who is at fault? The National Parties have agreed (M-1664) that DOIS is only a tool and it cannot be the sole determining factor on how much time is needed on a given day. The contract still allows "us" the carriers to make an estimate of what we believe it will take to deliver the route. It also allows "us" to request assistance or overtime where we believe it is needed by the use of a Form 3996. Yet every day there are carriers that think that they are out there alone and not sure of how or what to use to help themselves. They are letting the numbers be greater than the power of "us."



Darrell Maus

Now that the elections are over, we need to look around and survey the landscape. It does not matter whom you voted for in November, because that is history. The job for all of us is to look at the challenges facing us. Our purpose as members of this union remains to do collectively what we cannot do individually.

As 2017 moves on our jobs/benefits as letter carriers continues to be under attack. We need to constantly pay attention to the rhetoric coming out of Washington. We need to be aware that many have determined that us as public employees have too much. Too much in benefits, salary, pensions and work rules and all of these are at risk. If we stay unified, with the power of "us" we will be able to overcome every challenge we face

The carriers of our past before us overcame all challenges they were faced with because of the power of "us." As we look to the future it will be unifying and beneficial as long as we remember that "us" is more important than any number.

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Connie Beissel is honored with the 2016 Political Activist Award

On December 14, 2016, the St. Paul Regional Labor Federation (RLF) gathered together for their annual meeting/holiday party. That night one of our own, Connie Beissel was honored with the 2016 Political Activist Award for logging in the most volunteer hours representing the RLF not just in the Metro Area, but in the entire state.

Connie's diligent work over the past decade or so has made her a dedicated political advocate by helping to protect the rights of worker's in Minnesota and the nation.

Connie is a legendary figure to

anyone involved with Branch 9, the MSALC, and the NALC.

She is a city carrier out of Burnsville, a Branch 9 member and a very common fixture at our MN State Fair booth helping to inform people of the truth about letter carrier issues and the Post Office. She attends MSALC (State) and NALC (National) conventions as her "vacations." She sits on the Branch 9 Political Coordinators Committee, the PAL 9 Board, is the 2nd Congressional District Liaison and she sits on the governing board of the St. Paul RLF. To top all of that off, she also chairs the Dakota County Area Labor Assembly.



Connie Beissel pictured with her Political Activist Award

Warmest congratulations to the richly deserving Connie Beissel!

Mike Zagaros becomes a Jailbird to help out the MDA!

The Branch Nine News has some scandalous news to share.

It seems that our own Mike Zagaros recently had to do a bit of time behind bars. Yes, that's right, he was in the slammer and here is the low-down.

Wednesday, January 25, 2017, Our Branch 9 jailbird, was "locked-up" for a great cause. He helped children and adults with life-threatening muscle diseases by raising "bail" money to donate to the MDA. Mike raised \$1,120 (putting him in the top 5 jailbirds for funds raised.

The critical dollars raised by this and other MDA fund raisers

help to support MDA's lifesaving mission *to free individuals and the families who love them from the harmful effects of Muscular*

Dystrophy, ALS and other related diseases.

Please make a tax-deductible donation to support the mission of the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Your gift will help speed up MDA's progress in muscle disease research and care, and make a difference to children and adults living with muscle disease right here in our community.

To help visit www.2.mda.org/



Pictured: Joel Malkush, Branch 28 President Mike Zagaros participated in the MDA Lock-Up fund raiser.



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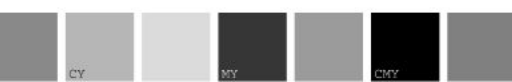
Minneapolis
2220 Lyndale Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55405
612-377-0011

The Twin Cities Postal Headquarters



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

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Branch 9
Ron St. Clair MDA Bowl-a-thon
Saturday, April 22, 2017

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

TIME
 7:00 - 9:30PM

- ◆ 20 lanes of bowling
- ◆ Teams of 4 - 5 - **FAX your teams including names** to the Branch Office at 612.781.9849
- ◆ \$40 per bowler minimum collected for MDA - checks made out to Branch 9
- ◆ Bowlers will receive 2 games, shoe rental, pizza and a fun filled evening! Cash bar and restaurant on site
- ◆ Silent auction, 50/50 and raffle drawings
- ◆ Contest for best gift basket - winning stations (3) will receive donuts
- ◆ Deadline for registration is **Tuesday, April 18th**
- ◆ All proceeds will go to MDA

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The Branch 9 Holiday Party was on Sunday, December 11th at the Cinema Grill in New Hope and as you can see from the pictures a good time was had by all that attended.



Santa had some time this season to check on those on the nice list.



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All the attendees enjoyed good food, fun, classic Christmas movies (Frosty the Snowman, How the Grinch Stole Christmas and Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer) and a visit from Santa!



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**Samantha Hartwig
Financial Secretary & OWCP Rep.**

OWCP Representative Report

claim. This developmental letter is not a denial letter, it means that more information about the injury is required, such as medical documentation not being submitted yet.

A developmental will state something similar to the following example: This office is in receipt of your claim for a traumatic/ occupational injury that you filed on (DATE). You are employed as a letter carrier by the United States Postal Service. You stated that you sustained a medical condition as a result of failing... In order for a claim to be accepted under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA), the claim must meet 5 basic elements.

1. Be Timely Filed
2. Be made by a Federal Civil Employee.
3. Establish Fact of Injury, which has both a factual and medical component. Factually, the injury, accident or employment factor alleged must have actually occurred. Medically, a medical condition must be diagnosed in connection with the injury or event.
4. Establish Performance of Duty. The injury and/or medical condition must have arisen during the course of employment and within the scope of compensable work factors.
5. Establish Causal Relationship, which means the medical evidence establishes that the diagnosed condition is causally related to the injury or event.

The documentation received to date has been reviewed, and it is insufficient to support your claim because: The reason will be stated by OWCP, and you may be asked to gather a medical narrative, and answer more questions about the injury with

an enclosed questionnaire. OWCP will give you 30 days to respond to the developmental letter from the date that OWCP wrote the developmental letter, not 30 days from when you receive the developmental letter in the mail.

When a developmental letter is sent to the injured carrier due to the lack of a Causal Relationship that means the MD has not explained, using objective medical findings, how the job as a city letter caused the injury. Take the developmental letter with you to the MD, and have the MD answer all the questions asked by OWCP; this can be done in the form of a of medical narrative.

For example: To simply state the carrier was walking and fell does not always indicate the causal relationship to OWCP. A better, and clearer way for OWCP to understand the casual relationship in a medical narrative from the MD would be to state; as the carrier was walking from one house to the next house while delivering the mail he/she stepped in the hole, and fell, which caused the ankle to twist. This is simply an example as every injury is different.

OWCP allows injured employees the ability, by computer, to upload medical documentation, carrier statements, and even appeals of denials electronically through their E-COMP system. E-COMP is a great way to get medical information to OWCP quickly. Once a document is electronically uploaded, OWCP will have it within 4 hours. Since you only have 30 days to get questions answered when a developmental letter is sent out, E-COMP is a great way to get information to OWCP timely. The Branch Office can assist with uploading documents electronically.

If you have any questions, please call the Branch Office at 612-781-9858.

When carriers get injured on the job either by a traumatic injury, or an occupational injury it is important to get the proper forms to OWCP quickly. In my previous two articles, I outlined the forms needed when a carrier does get injured on the job, CA-1 for traumatic injuries, and CA-2 for occupational injuries.

There are time lines that must be met when filing a claim. Management must get the notice of injury (CA-1 or CA-2) to the USPS Injury Compensation department, to be forwarded on to OWCP; otherwise it may have a negative impact on the claim being accepted by OWCP. It is very important to follow up with local management on the processing of any claim for compensation. In addition to the notice of injury all relevant medical documentation must be submitted immediately, and be signed by a Medical Doctor (MD). Any medical documentation not signed by an MD is likely to be denied by OWCP.

Many times, OWCP will send a developmental letter to an injured carrier requesting more information. If you do get a developmental letter in the mail from OWCP, do NOT ignore it, there is a 30-day time limit to respond. Ignoring a developmental letter almost always results in a denial of the

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USPS reported a \$522 million operating profit for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2017.



USPS reported a \$522 million operating profit for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2017. This profit reflects the growth of the Postal Service into the No. 1 e-commerce delivery provider. The agency provides more last-mile deliveries than

any private carrier. The financial results also have been supported by growth in marketing letter mail and by a slowing rate of decline in First-Class letter mail. During the first quarter, USPS benefited from an influx of election-related mail, and a large volume of packages and other holiday mail (cards, catalogs, etc). It continued its operating profitability despite the loss of revenue from a 2016 stamp price cut, which reduced quarterly revenue and operating profit by \$570 million.

SOURCE: Actual results from USPS 10-Q reports for 1Q 2012-1Q 2017

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Jessica Berg
- Trisha Fedder
- Nicholas Heaton
- Dee Lunzer
- Matthew Martindale
- Mark Nelson
- Leora Smith
- Steven Smith
- Tammy Snyder
- Von Waldemar
- Adam Wieser

IN MEMORIAM

Wallace Eckdahl

CRIBBAGE TOURNAMENT Thursdayday, April 6, 2017

10:00AM

PLACE:

NALC Branch 28
1715 Van Dyke Street
Maplewood, MN
651.771.0533

\$3.00 Entry Fee



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

Ame's Uniforms are a UNION PREFERRED vendor

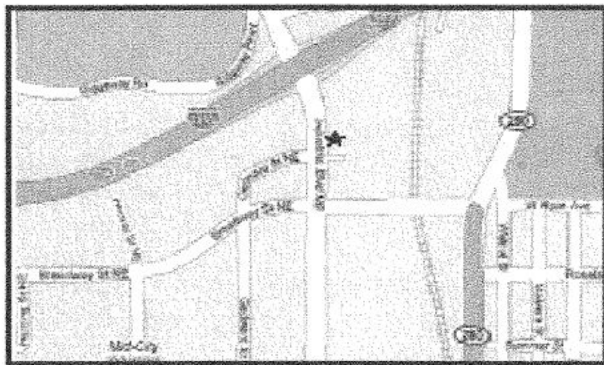
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**Branch 9's Annual
Red and Gold Retiree Banquet
Minneapolis Ramada Plaza
1330 Industrial Boulevard, Minneapolis, MN**

Sunday, May 7, 2017

For more than 50 years we have honored our retirees with a Red & Gold Banquet. Please join us the first Sunday in May for a day of good times and good fellowship, as we say thank you to those who have come before us



**Registration: Noon - 1:00
Social Hour: 12:30 - 1:15
Lunch: 1:15 - 3:30**

*Registration Fee for Retirees and Station Stewards is \$12.00/per person.
Cost for Active Members is \$18.00/per person
*The Registration Fee for Retirees is refundable upon arrival.**

2017 Retiree Banquet Registration Form

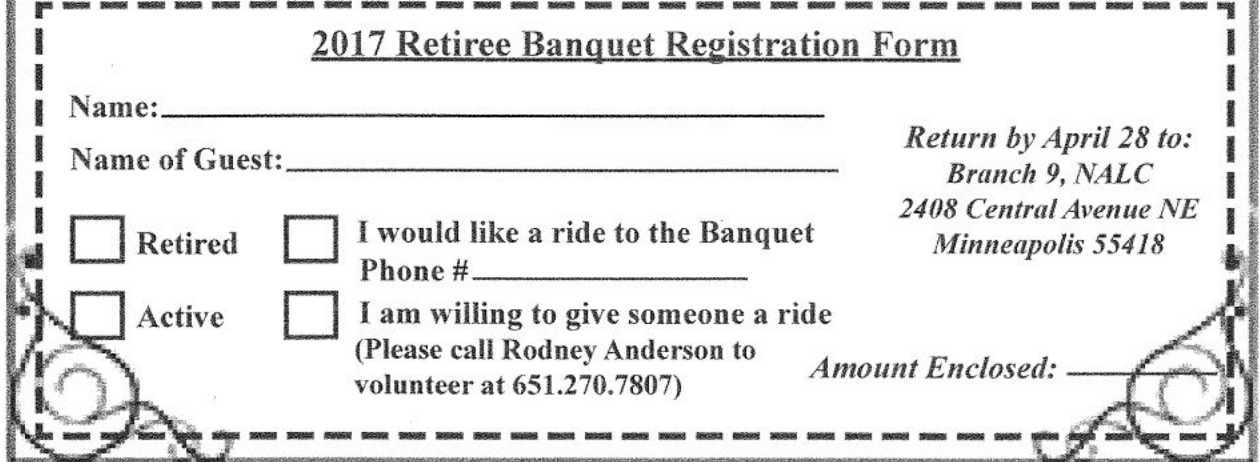
Name: _____

Name of Guest: _____

- Retired
- Active
- I would like a ride to the Banquet
Phone # _____
- I am willing to give someone a ride
(Please call Rodney Anderson to
volunteer at 651.270.7807)

*Return by April 28 to:
Branch 9, NALC
2408 Central Avenue NE
Minneapolis 55418*

Amount Enclosed: _____



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The Following is a list of Paid Members of PAL 9 for January, 2017.

Very Concerned Members

Earl Anderson	Rodney E Anderson	Robert Baird	Ronald Barker	Gregory J Bedor
Joseph Bedor	Constance W Beissel	Larry Blesi	Gerald W Broman	Joel F Carter
James Cassell	Russell N Cordahl	James P Couillard	Lawrence Dahlberg	James Fallon
David Flynn	James Fodstad	David J Fourell	Cindy Fossum	Duane Foyt
Troy Fredenburg	Vincent J Froehlich	Deborah A Grunnes	Thomas Guthrie	William H Halos
James Hamilton	Mary E Hargreaves	Samantha Hartwig	Robert R Hollis Sr	Donald Holthus
Kenneth Jambois	Roger E Johnson	Dennis M Johnston	Frederick Johnston	Richard A Kelly
Timothy Kivela	Arthur Kujawa	Todd A Kunkel	Lenny A Larson	Ron Lawrence
Darrell Maus	Eugene P McNulty	Mark D Mellesmoen	Ronald C Moore	Lisa O'Neill
Richard Auslow	Steven D Petersen	Jonathan E Peterson	David L Pierson	Charles E Rivers
Theresa Ronning-Allen	Patrick A Rottach	Thomas J Ryan	Jerry A Sandmann	Charles E Scheid
James Sharp	Philip H Sheridan	Marvin L Sorem	Sharon L Spooner	Jeffrey B Stanko
Sonia Stark	Gerald J Stuner	Michael T Theisen	Jon D Thompson	Cyril Toay
Douglas T Waldhoff	David J Wallentiny	Barry J Weiner	Alexis F Wheeler	Philip E Wixsten
Delmar Woida	Michael T Zagaros	Robert E Zimdars		

Regular Members

Adrian C Anderson	Gerald L Arnold	H. R. Anderson	Ron K Anderson	Dennis Bahn
Jack J Bartlett	Jeremy E Baumgartner	Timothy W Bearth	Steven Bjoraker	Daryl E Blatzheim
Curtis F Britz	John G Burmis	Donald M Carlson	Dale R Carney	Gregory Caulfield
Larry F Chlebeck	Kent P Cleland	Thomas M Costello	Walter C Czepak	Ronald J Davis
Kathleen Demoret	Robert J Dondelinger	Douglas D Dopp	Lavern E Dornbusch	Thomas F Dvorak
Lawrence W Elfelt	Russell E Flaten	Justin B Florey	Mary C Folke	Debbie A Frank
Jon E Frick	Charles L Friend	Clarence C Gervais Jr	Lindahl B Gleason	James R Grage
Michael T Gravenish	Richard C Graves	Allan J Gulden	Nancy T Hall	Gordon Hanna
Robert R Harris	Roger G Harwarth	Virginia A Hasser	Michael Hess	James Hiben
Renee C Hickerson	Timothy J Highland	Elmer J Hill	James F Hill	Richard W Hobot
Mary L Hoch	Thomas B Hoch	Dallas V Holm	Gregg W Holmes	Thomas Holten
Bruce A Howe	Theodore F Hoven	Leonard L Hrcncir	Gary Hughes	Paul H Hultgren
Glenn W Ingersoll	Edward Issenhuth	Charles R Jennings	Kenneth W Johnson	John M Keeley
Ronald W Kelly	Mary Ann Knoss	William P Knotz	Karin A Lebak	Donald B LeMay
Douglas B Lemke	Charles L Lenzen	Ronald D Levinson	Vernon B Lieser	Harold Lindberg
Daniel J Loppnow	Kelly Marie Lundgren	S. Bruce Mackcow	Gerald Markey	Marvin Mattila
Robert W Masuda	Gary J Mathews	Gerald T Mattox	Jerry D McGlade	John P McPartlan
Lerald E Mellom	Mary C Miller	Robert J Miller	David R Millette	Alf V Mork
Michael J Mroska	George G Muzetras	James M Nelson	Kenneth C Nelson	William A Nelson
Dwayne W Nienaber	Terrence O'Neill	Theresa A Oelrich	Russell W Ofsthun	Bruce G Olson
Dan L Olson	Andrew T Olufson	Mark E Olufson	Ted M Parker	Joseph Pasoiwitz
Glenn Paulson	Charlie Peasha	Emelyn A Peasha	Duane B Pederson	Pauline Pepper
David L Peterson	Matthew E Peterson	Gordon G Pulley	Lori A Randolph	Scott A Randolph
Richard J Rimer Jr	Harley Ring Jr	Roger E Ritter	Jeremy J Rothstein	John C Rothstein
Aloysius W Ruzicka	Margaret A Savaloja	David W Scheil	Dale Lee Schmitz	Karen Schneider
Gerald K Schraber	Lawrence M Schuster	Jeffrey D Sherman	Wallace M Sjoquist	Mary E Skerbinc
Jeffrey W Smeets	J.M. Spratt	Mike J Spurbeck	J.W. Bill Stambaugh	Roberta Stanchfield
James R Stanley	Delmont R Stokke	Ronald P Sumstad	Gary Svidron	Jericho F Tabor
Geno Taddei Sr	Paul R Tanick	Brett T Thompson	Thomas R Thorsen	Raymond Tranby
Patricia A Wagner	Stephen J Wallerius	Greg Wallin	Carl H Walsten	Gary Weihm
Richard L Wells	Joe L Williams	Anthony R Winkels	George A Wisuri	Gay R Woodgate
David T Wrzos	Robert E Zastera	Vernon J Zierman		

**Submitted by:
Ron Lawrence
Treasurer PAL 9**

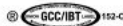
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Stay informed by:

- *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

February 28
General Membership Meeting
7:00PM
Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN

March 14
Steward Meeting
7:00PM
Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN

March 28
General Membership Meeting
7:00PM
Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN

April 6
Cribbage Tournament
10:00 AM
Branch 28 Hall

April 11
Steward Meeting
7:00PM
Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN

April 22
Ron St. Clair MDA Bowl-a-thon
7:00 PM
New Hope Bowl

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

May 7
Red and Gold Retiree Banquet
Noon
Minneapolis Ramada Plaza

May 13
Stamp Out Hunger
25th Anniversary

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

