

JEROME J. KEATING BRANCH



BRANCH NINE NEWS

"AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL"

1964

VOLUME 62 No 8

Official Publication of Branch Nine, NALC

Sept/Oct 2010

Fairgoers Send a Message to Postal Regulatory Commission **KEEP 6 DAY DELIVERY!**



Lake Street Carrier Pat Rottach was one of the volunteers who worked at the Branch 9 kiosk at the Labor Pavillion during the State Fair. Over 2500 fairgoers filled out postcards and made supportive comments about the Postal Service to the Postal Regulatory Commission. Their message was loud and clear - "Keep 6 Day Delivery."

Milestones

Coon Rapids celebrates 380 years of membership in the NALC



Mike Johnson, Terry Hannum (30 years), Jeff Heimer, John Hanna, George Shimmel, Mike Zagaros, Mary Skerbinc, Marlys Fox, Joel Smith, Chuck Lilligren, Karen Torrell, Scott Putnam, Jayme Greising, Mark Holtey and Doug Lemke received their 25 year 30 year membership pins



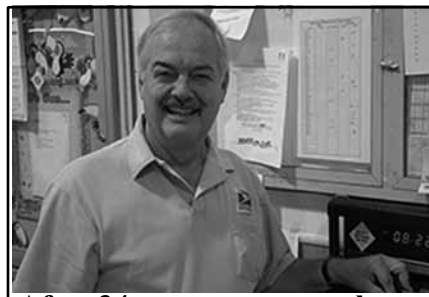
Terry Hannum (CR) celebrates 30 years as a member of Branch 9



Bernie Martinson (Thomas Burnett) is all smiles as he heads into retirement.



Harold Johnson (Burnsville) makes the final punch and heads out for hunting, on September 30th.



After 34 years, two months, and two days, Gary Pierson (Burnsville) clocks out for the final time on September 30th.

Branch Nine, NALC
2408 Central Ave. NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418
Voice: (612) 781-9858
Fax: (612) 781-9849

E-Mail Addresses:
Website:
branch9nalc@branch9nalc.com
Editor:
branch9news@branch9nalc.com

Branch Nine Officers

President
Pam Donato

Exec. Vice President
Mike Zagaros

Recording Secretary
Melia Derrick

Treasurer
Darrell Maus

Financial Secretary
Rick Onslow

Editor
Chuck Glover

Sergeant at Arms
Jim Nelson

Health Benefits Rep.
Julie Waldemar

Trustee
Mike Smith

Trustee
Barb Watczak

Trustee
Jeremy Rothstein

Director of Retirees
Cheryl Stately

NALC Health Benefits Rep.
Julie Waldemar
(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 3rd Friday 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

MACRO POLITICS - IN YOUR PERSONAL WORLD

As we approach election 2010, every one of us has been poked, prodded and likely even p***** off by all of the politics. We can't avoid the mean and often misleading commercials on TV. We are not only pulling the political mail out of our own mailbox each night, but also putting it into other mailboxes all day long. Ads on the radio, in our newspapers and general conversations with friends and co workers are often swirling with political issues and opinions. Even your union is weighing in. We write about the importance of politics and getting involved. We endorse candidates in all sorts of races. We beg for volunteers and money for COLCPE. Yes, your union also has "political opinions". And while I can appreciate that each member has a litany of considerations in their decisions to support certain candidates for elected office, I want to share with you the line between the dots as to why.

When members call our office, the concerns or reasons for the calls are cyclical. Let me give you a few of the general categories as of the last few years.

My Boss is forcing me to pivot!

Management has messed up my route with adjustments again!

I'm being excessed out of my station!

When will I make regular?

My request for annual to go to my... (fill in the blank) was denied!

Every one of these calls is completely legitimate. And there is no argument that having a contract that spells out the "rules" and the right to representation to enforce those rules is at the core of what your union does. But, the cause of many of these violations is directly linked to Congress, the White House and the politics of the day.

PIVOTING, ROUTE ADJUSTMENTS, (AND THE EVENTUAL EXCESSING) is a direct result of the financial condition of the USPS, not to mention the overall economic condition of our country and the affect on mail volumes. Yes, pivoting and route adjustments have always been issues. But the forceful and reckless thinking behind the recent versions of pivoting and route adjustments is unique to THIS time and CURRENT conditions. Getting relief of the absurd financial burden of the pre funding of retiree health-care costs would improve the condition dramatically!

EXCESSING, WITHHOLDING, MAKING REGULAR AND ANNUAL LEAVE, all issues of career compliment, staffing and restructuring. Again, these issues are not new comers to NALC/USPS conversations. But the haphazard thought process and disconnect between reality and spreadsheet fantasy is at a whole new level. Most of these "decisions" are prefaced with "we are all lucky to have a job!". I am thankful for my job, but that doesn't excuse the destructive consequences of poorly staffed stations or reducing days of mail delivery. Poorly staffed stations and cutting delivery days are a result of the poli-



*Pam Donato
Branch 9 President*

tics the Postmaster General and of the far right in Congress. Many of them have eyed up privatizing the Postal Service forever and have used the financial situation internally and externally to justify tearing the USPS down. "Downsizing Government" is a great conversation starter for the right wing and may have an initial appeal. But each of us needs to understand that not all cuts are good, especially if what is being cut is YOUR job and YOUR benefits. Being frugal and efficient is good. Recklessly cutting without a clear understanding of the consequences is just wrong. (And it sounds alot like letting COR adjust your route.)

Let there be no misunderstanding of the connection between your job (your day in and day out concerns) and the political choice you make on November 2nd. The NALC, both nationally and Branch 9 locally, endorses candidates because those candidates pledge to support the USPS and our rights as workers. Take pages 10 & 11 of this paper with you to the polls. Please consider how your choices in the election booth affect your job, your family's income and your family's peace of mind. The "big picture" of politics really does have a seat in your break room, in your union hall and a chair at your family's table.

Delivery After Dark

With Day Light Savings Time, seasonal shorter daylight hours and later start times, carriers are once again dealing with delivering mail after dark.

There is no blanket policy regarding *Delivery after Dark* because the very core issue to contend with is whether a particular carrier on a particular route can **SAFELY** deliver the mail. Bottom line, each carrier must weigh their individual circumstances about the type of delivery to be carried (door to door, walking, mounted, apartments, cluster boxes, etc.), their surroundings (unfamiliar, high crime, many steps, animals and hills, etc.) and their experiences in attempting to make after dark deliveries.

Some mail delivery may be able to be made safely even after daylight hours. Most apartments have lighted entry ways and don't present the safety hazards that walking on uneven terrain, up and down stairs, going door to door and being exposed to the elements would. Because carriers have the most experience and best knowledge of what is safe or unsafe in the performance of their duties, and because they are often times held responsible for accidents and injuries that might occur while completing those duties, only the carrier, themselves, can make the decision on whether Delivering after Dark can be done safely.

So, if presented with a situation where you believe you'll be out delivering mail after dark, **REMEMBER THAT YOU DO HAVE RIGHTS**, and follow these instructions:

- 1.) **Inform your supervisor in the morning of your need of auxiliary assistance in order to complete your street duties before dark. THIS MEANS FILL OUT A FORM 3996-HELP SLIP.**
- 2.) **Notify your supervisor prior to heading out to the street that you may not be able to complete your duties on the street by dark.**
- 3.) **When out on the street you realize that you definitely will be out after dark, call your supervisor and make them aware of that reality. Stress your concern for your safety and again request auxiliary assistance.**
- 4.) **Assuming no help arrives and you are faced with darkening conditions, attempt to continue.**
- 5.) **IF while attempting delivery, you literally experience a safety hazard (i.e. stumbling, tripping, hear dogs barking but unable to see that threat, not able to see potential dangers using your LLV/van's outside mirrors ...) call your supervisor. Explain your situation and notify them that you cannot safely continue delivery then return to your station.**
- 6.) **COMPLETE FORM 1571-Curtailment form for the undelivered mail.**

Be sure to hand the curtailment slip to the supervisor, and **ASK FOR A COPY**. The copy is for your protection. You could also request a Form 1767-Notice of Hazardous Working Condition. This will help you document the safety hazards you encountered while attempting delivery after dark.

It is important to note that these instructions are not intended to endorse or encourage the unnecessary curtailment of any mail. It is about each carrier's safety and the protection of the mail in our charge.

This is also not a blanket policy or approach. It very simply is the responsibility of each carrier to measure their safety and ensure that they are working safely. PERIOD.

Pam & Mike

Executive Vice President's Report

Labor & Elections - Time To Be Heard

After Labor Day and the closing of the State Fair, school begins again and the leaves begin to turn and fall. These are all signs of the changing of the seasons. I know in Minnesota we sometimes think of the changing of the seasons being either winter or road construction, but with the falling of the leaves we find ourselves in the final days of a different season, the election season.

To many, I can hear your collective groans of "not again." And the answer is "yes again". As I write this article we are a few short weeks from the next "most important election of your lives." Hopefully when you wake up on Wednesday, November 3rd, you will be pleased. Pleased because the candidates you voted for have been elected to be your representative at the city, county, state, and federal levels.

Why is this election so important? First and foremost is that it should always be a big deal who represents us and why. Second because every vote counts at election time, a lesson we in Minnesota know all too well, showing up and voting matters. Just ask US Senator Al Franken how important 312 votes are. Finally the continued health and welfare of our jobs and our families can and will be impacted by whomever ends up representing us.

Some of you are saying to your-

selves, OK, so who are the endorsed candidates for Congress. Because all we have to do is pay attention to who is in Congress, right? Wrong. But the rest of the ballots are just Local, County and State races, why should the Branch be at all interested in those races? I mean who really cares who is the going to be the next Soil and Water Supervisor?

There are several reasons for getting involved in what some may deem to be lesser races. The Governor has a huge say in how the Congressional District boundaries are made. Take a look at how Minnesota Congressional and Legislative Districts are shaped. Did you know that since Minnesota became a state there have only been three times when someone other than a Republican Governor has been involved in determining Congressional boundaries? In 1931 Gov. Floyd B. Olson (Farmer/Labor); in 1971 Gov. Wendell Anderson (DFL) and 2001 Gov. Jesse Ventura (Independence) the rest have been Republicans.

State wide constitutional offices can have a impact on our lives. Secretary of State Mark Ritchie is not only a supporter of organized labor but "Vote by Mail" as well.

Candidates for the State Legislature often move on to higher political office. Half of the current Minnesota Congressional Delegation came from State Legislature. Labor has been involved in all of these races.



Mike Zagaros
Branch 9 Exec Vice President

In some we were successful and some we weren't. The same is true of County and City races as well.

We also get involved in these races because it is right to support the candidates who will work for working families. We get involved to support brothers and sisters in other unions, as it says on the masthead "an injury to one is an injury to all." Issues like Prevailing Wage and the Employee Free Choice Act have an impact not only on other unions but us as well. In collective bargaining you can bet that how others are doing in wages and benefits will be brought up next summer at the bargaining table. We support them because they support us.

It's no secret that a lot of families are hurting. Working families are being whipsawed, minimized and largely ignored this election cycle with wedge issues and negative campaigning. There is a lot of cynicism and fear about the economy and the future. Working families deserve better. Yes this election is about jobs. But what kind of jobs? Yes, this election is about where candidates stand on putting people back to work. Will they support

Continued on page 16

STOP BLAMING THE UNION

*Submitted by Chuck Glover
(Burnsville)*

Some managers are lax and lazy. Some want to be your best buddy. Some are flat out incompetent. Whichever style, the result is the contract is disregarded. The runners, kiss-asses, golf buddies, etc., usually get preferential treatment from these "so called" managers. When a steward enforces the contract, these cry-baby's are the first to scream "FOUL". These carriers are so wrapped up in themselves they don't see the damage done, by their pompous actions to their fellow carriers.

The NALC exists for its members; which means every dues paying carrier, young and old. Its purpose is to protect all of us from the abusive manager.

The National Contract is there for your well being. Do you really think that Postal Management conjured up the National Agreement because they felt it was the right thing to do? Most of the National Articles are the result of hard fought actions by your union.

Both the Union and Management have different roles and responsibilities. It is no one's fault when each side lives up to those obligations and responsibilities.

REQUIEM

Former Branch 9 carrier, Vince Lupo passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, July 3rd. He was 51 years old. Vince left the carrier craft in 2002 to take a position at the Postal Data Center, yet is still revered fondly after all these years.

Vince had fought a long battle with depression over the course of the past several years. Unfortunately, his struggle ended sadly, as Vince took his own life.

Please take a moment from your busy lives to say a prayer for Vince and his family.

*Pete Benzoni
Diamond Lake Station*



**Cheryl Stately,
Branch 9 Director of Retirees**

Well, summer has come and gone already. Hope everyone had a great one! Now it is time to start thinking about the Holidays.

The next retiree cribbage tourney is on November 3 at Branch 28's building. 1715 Van Dyke St. in St. Paul. Call me if you need a ride.

The Retiree Christmas Party is set for December 1st at the Fred Babcock VFW in Richfield. There is a flyer elsewhere in this paper. Hope it will be as good a turn out as in the past years.

The Main Office active and retired carriers Christmas Retirement Party is set for December 15th and will be held at the Crystal VFW again this year. The menu and cost will be the same as last year (meat loaf dinner at \$5.00 each).

With the elections coming up in November, we need to police the candidates and vote for the ones who have seniors and labor issues as their strong points. But more importantly, **remember to vote!**

In Solidarity,
Cheryl Stately

Red Plum Victory



Sam FASTOW, along with his mother, Abby, spoke at the 67th Biennial Convention in Anaheim. In 1997, Sam was abducted from his home in New Jersey by his father. He was located and rescued eight months later thanks to a patron who recognized Sam's face on the front of a Red Plum packet. "I know delivering mail is your job," Sam said, "but for families with missing kids, you also deliver hope."

67th Biennial Convention- Anaheim

August 9 -13, 2010.

On Sunday, the National hosted an afternoon “Icebreaker” for all delegates, on the Plaza at the Anaheim Convention Center. Delegate were able to pick up their credentials and workbooks before the start of workshops Monday morning. Workshops started at 7:30AM until 10:00AM, then on to the general assembly to discuss and vote on proposed amendments to the NALC Constitution, resolutions for the national officer’s to act upon, and issues that delegates want the NALC to propose in national negotiations. The afternoon workshops began around 2:30PM and usually lasted until 5:30PM.



Darrell Maus (Treasurer) and Tom Woller (Retiree) soak up the beautiful weather on the plaza.



Samantha Hartwig (Eastside), JoAnn Gilbaugh (Lowry), Karen Pederson (Loring), Lisa O'Neill (Coon Rapids) and Mike Zagaros, pose during a break in convention business.



Branch 9 President, Pam Donato, as Chairperson of the Band Committee, gave her report to the convention. The Band selected entertained the delegates with a variety of beautiful music.



Mike Smith (Trustee), Melia Derrick (Recording Secretary), and Samantha Hartwig (Trustee) sampled some of the wide varieties of ethnic foods at the many food stations around the plaza.



On Friday, 3200 letter carriers traveled by bus to Los Angeles City Hall for a rally in support of union workers in the Los Angeles area. Local labor leaders fully supported the NALC’s position on 6 day delivery.



Branch 9’s Minnesota 2012 booth. Maps, brochures, and transportation information were available. Carol Garnto (Lost Lake), and Melia Derrick (Brooklyn Park), answered questions and promoted all that Minneapolis has to offer to future delegates.



NALC President, Fred Rolando spoke to the rally crowd castigating the Postal Services position on less than six day delivery, by saying that their actions are short-sighted and counter-productive to the long term viability of the Postal Service.

Branch 9's State Fair Booth Wrap up

Chuck Glover, Editor



Senator Al Franken (DFL) stopped by the Labor Pavillion to talk about the importance of organized labor .

Another successful State Fair was wrapped up on Labor Day. This year our focus was on educating the public about the consequences of less than 6-day delivery at the Branch 9 kiosk. The public has been awash with the propaganda put out by Postmaster General Potter. Letter Carrier volunteers answered questions and gave the visitors the “rest of the story” to preserve 6-day delivery and put the Post Office back on a fiscally sound course. Patrons filled out lime green postcards supporting the NALC’s effort to maintain 6-day delivery. Over 2500 postcards were then mailed to the Postal Regulatory Commission.

New to the Labor Pavilion were the brick pavers commemorating various union members including two pavers in remembrance of former Branch 9 Director of Retirees Don Anderson and Dick Silk. Both were heavily involved in the Branch’s efforts with the State Fair.

Local, State, and National politician’s stopped by to talk to the crowds and chat with the workers at the many labor kiosks.

This year we had poster-sized Greeting boards thanking our older veterans, which Fair-goers signed. The posters will be framed and sent to several veteran’s homes around the state.

State Fair crowd’s that stopped by our kiosk were overwhelmingly satisfied with their letter carrier. Everyone wanted to brag about their carrier and many knew them by name.

I wish to thank the many volunteers that helped us this year; especially Julie Waldemar (Ply), Connie Beissel (Burnsville), Mike Zagaros, Pam Donato, Jim Magnuson (Ret), and the one and only Pat Rottach (Lake St) who interacted with the crowds better than anyone.



VETERANS DAY

REMEMBER THOSE WHO GAVE ALL

(The following was transcribed from videotape in October, 2000 by Wisconsin resident, Michael T. Powers)

Each year my video production company is hired to go to Washington, DC, with the eighth grade class from Clinton, Wisconsin, where I grew up, to videotape their trip. I greatly enjoy visiting our nation's capitol, and each year I take some special memories back with me. This fall's trip was especially memorable.

On the last night of our trip, we stopped at the Iwo Jima Memorial. This memorial is the largest bronze statue in the world and depicts one of the most famous photographs in history-- that of the six brave soldiers raising the American Flag at the top of Mount Surabachi on the island of Iwo Jima, Japan during World War II.

Over one hundred students and chaperones piled off the buses and headed towards the memorial. I noticed a solitary figure at the base of the statue, and as I got closer he asked, "Where are you guys from?"

I told him that we were from Wisconsin... "Hey, I'm a cheese head, too! Come gather around, Cheese heads, and I will tell you a story."

(James Bradley just happened to be in Washington, DC, to speak at the memorial the following day, and was there that night to say good night to his dad, who had previously passed away. He was just about to leave when he saw the busses pull up. I videotaped him as he spoke to us, and received his permission to share what he said from my videotape. It is one thing to tour the incredible monuments filled with history in Washington, DC, but it is quite another to get the kind of insight we received that night.)

When all had gathered around, he reverently began to speak. (Here are his words that night.)

"My name is James Bradley and I'm from Antigo, Wisconsin...My dad is on that statue, and I just wrote a book called *Flags of Our Fathers*' which is #5 on the New York Times Best Seller list right now. It is the story of the six boys you see behind me.

Six boys raised the flag. The first guy putting the pole in the ground is Harlon Block. Harlon was an all-state football player. He enlisted in the Marine Corps with all the senior members of his football team. They were off to play another type of game. A game called **WAR**. But it didn't turn out to be a game. Harlon, at the age of 21, died with his intestines in his hands. I don't say that to gross you out, I say that because there are generals who stand in front of this statue and talk about the glory of war. You guys need to know that most of the boys in Iwo Jima were 17, 18, and 19 years old."

(He pointed to the statue) "You see this next guy? That's Rene Gagnon from New Hampshire. If you took Rene's helmet off at the moment this photo was taken and looked in the webbing of that helmet, you would find a photograph...a photograph of his girlfriend. Rene put that in there for protection because he was scared. He was 18 years old. It was just boys who won the battle of Iwo Jima...Boys. Not old men."

"The next guy here, the third guy in this tableau, was Sergeant Mike Strank. Mike is my hero. He was the hero of all these guys. They called him the **old man** because he was so old. He was already 24. When Mike would motivate his boys in training camp, He didn't say "Lets go kill some Japanese" or "Let's die for our country." He knew he was talking to little boys. Instead he would say, "You do what I say, and I'll get you home to your mothers."

"The last guy on this side of statue is Ira Hayes, a Pima Indian from Arizona. Ira Hayes was one who walked off Iwo Jima. He went into the White House with my dad. President Truman told him, "You're a hero." He told reporters, "How can I feel like a hero when 250 of my buddies hit the island with me and only 27 of us walked off alive?"

"So you take your class at school, 250 of you spending a year together having fun, doing everything together. Then all 250 of you hit the beach, but only 27 of you classmates walk off alive. That was Ira Hayes. He had images of horror in his mind. Ira Hayes died dead drunk, face down at the age of 32." (ten years after this picture was taken).

Veterans continued page 12

Branch 9/AFL-CIO Endorsed Candidates for Minnesota State Legislature

Minnesota House

District 19A
Barrett Chrissis

District 19B
Chris Brazelton

District 32A
David Hoden

District 32B
Katie Rodriquez

District 34A
Leanne Kunze

District 40B
Ann Lenczewski

District 41B
Paul Rosenthal

District 43A
Audrey Britton

District 43B
John Benson

District 44A
Steve Simon

District 44B
Ryan Winkler

District 45A
Sandra Peterson

District 45B
Lyndon Carlson

District 46A
Michael Nelson

District 47A
Denise Dittrich

District 47B
Melissa Hortman

District 48B
Jim Abler

District 49B
Jerry Newton

District 50A
Carolyn Laine

District 51A
Zak Chlebeck

District 51B
Tom Tillberry

District 58A
Joe Mullery

District 59A
Diane Loeffler

District 59B
Phyllis Kahn

District 60A
Marion Greene

District 60B
Frank Hornstein

District 61A
Karen Clark

District 61B
Jeff Hayden

District 62A
Jim Davnie

District 62B
Jean Wagenius

Minnesota Senate

District 18
Hal Kimball

District 34
Laura Helmer

District 41
Steve Elkins

District 44
Ron Latz

District 45
Ann Rest

District 46
Linda Scheid

District 47
Leo Foley

District 49
Paul Meunier

District 51
Don Betzold

District 58
Linda Higgins

District 59
Larry Pogemiller

District 60
Scott Dibble

District 61
Linda Berglin

District 62
Patricia Torres Ray

District 63
Ken Kelash

Branch 9 Endorsed Candidates for U.S. Congress



**1st District
Rep. Tim Walz**



**2nd District
Shelley Madore**



**3rd District
Jim Meffert**



**4th District
Rep. Betty McCollum**



**5th District
Rep. Keith Ellison**



**6th District
Tarryl Clark**



**7th District
Rep. Collin Peterson**



**8th District
Rep. James Oberstar**

Branch 9 Endorsed Candidates for State-wide Offices



**Secretary of State
Mark Ritchie**



**Governor & Lt Governor
Mark Dayton & Yvonne Prettnner Solon**



**Attorney General
Laurie Swanson**



**State Auditor
Rebecca Otto**

*Vote
November 2nd*

*See You
At The Polls*

THEN AND NOW

submitted by Barry Weiner, retired National Business Agent.

One highlight at the NALC Convention in Anaheim was the commemoration of the 40 year anniversary of the 1970 postal strike and the honoring of the letter carriers of Branch 36 in New York City who launched and led it. Many of you are aware, that as a young letter carrier, and member of Branch 36 at the time, I was one of the participants. A newly created video, chronicling the event, which I was privileged to be a part of, was shown to the convention. I mention this, not to boast, but as a back drop for sharing a perspective I have on how I think that event compares to the challenges which we all face together here and now.

The strike was indeed an epic and significant event in postal, and U.S. labor history. The consequences of its outcome are enormous and the risks posed to those who participated very dire. Now, I suppose it would be nice for my ego to say, or at least to think, that I had been a part of the most important battle the NALC and its members have, or ever will face. But the truth is that I sincerely believe the challenges which presently confront us are much more potentially grave than what we faced back then.

We can never know for sure, but it is my view that had the strike failed, and that certainly was possible, the Post Office Department would have gone on, and the NALC, despite a horrendous set back, would have found a way to survive and pick itself up to fight the battles of that time another day.

On the other hand, I think it is very possible, that if we are not successful in meeting our present challenges, the Postal Service, the NALC and the letter carriers it represents, will eventually perish.

I assume that if you are reading this article, you have been paying enough attention to be aware of the challenges of which I speak so I will not reiterate them. My hope is that sharing this perspective will help motivate you to do those things which the NALC leadership is calling upon us to do to meet those challenges and prevail. Chief amongst, is signing up for COLCPE payroll deductions, joining the Carrier Corp and volunteering some of your time and, over course, voting for NALC and labor friendly candidates in the upcoming congressional elections which our union has endorsed.

If we do these things together, perhaps 40 years from now, there will be an NALC convention showing a video to commemorate and honor the letter carriers who fought The Battle of 2010/2011 to Save the Postal Service.

Letter carriers did what needed to be done back then, Let's all rise to the occasion now.

Barry

Veterans cont. from page 9

“The next guy, going around the statue, is Franklin Sousley from Hilltop, Kentucky. A fun-lovin’ hillbilly boy. His best friend, who is now 70, told me, “Yeah, you know, we took two cows up on the porch of the Hilltop General Store. Then we strung wire across the stairs so the cows couldn’t get down. Then we fed them Epsom salts. Those cows crapped all night.” Yes, he was a fun-lovin’ hillbilly boy. Franklin died on Iwo Jima at the age of 19. When the telegram came to tell his mother that he was dead, it went to the Hilltop General Store. A barefoot boy ran that telegram up to his mother’s farm. The neighbors could hear her scream all night and into the morning. Those neighbors lived a quarter of a mile away.

“The next guy, as we continue to go around the statue, is my dad, John Bradley, from Antigo, Wisconsin, where I was raised. My dad lived until 1994, but he would never give interviews. When Walter Cronkite’s producers or the New York Times would call, we were trained as little kids to say “No, I’m sorry, sir, my dad’s not here. He is in Canada fishing. No, there is no phone there, sir. No, we don’t know when he is coming back.” My dad never fished or even went to Canada. Usually, he was sitting there right at the table eating his Campbell’s soup. But we had to tell the press that he was out fishing. He didn’t want to talk to the press.”

“You see, my dad didn’t see himself as a hero. Everyone thinks these guys are heroes, cause they are in a photo and a monument. My dad knew better. He was a medic. John Bradley from Wisconsin was a caregiver. In Iwo Jima he probably held

Veterans continued page 15

November Showdown

*Written by Olin Moore, TE,
Lowry Station*

In 2008 140 million Americans voted. This fall in the 2010 midterm elections only 80 million Americans are expected to vote which is a big problem for anyone who supports government providing safety nets for the 40 million Americans who are living in poverty. So how is this relevant to the Post Office? The Post Office is the nation's original safety net meant to bind the people of our nation together.

If the Republicans take control of Congress bad things could happen to the Post Office. For example, even though many Republicans support postal issues they may want to see Postal workers take pay cuts or reductions in benefits to offset the perceived postal budget shortfall. But is this the right solution or the intended Bush solution? Of course it is not the right solution and yes Bush did intend for the financial crisis to make observers think that union

postal workers are paid too much. They are just unskilled workers, after all, is how the creed goes.

Is the shortfall real or perceived? The Post Office has run budget deficits during the Great Recession—the shortfall is real—but most of the reason for it is the overly aggressive payment schedule President Bush and the Republican Congress put in place for the Post Office to pre-fund its Health and Pension funds. If you take this burden away the Post Office is either in the black financially or barely in the red even in our bad economy due to all of our hard work sorting and delivering the mail. Declining mail volume has contributed to our woes, as well, but the Bush pre-payment ploy ensnared the Post Office into the fiscal crisis we are in today.

This is why elections matter and why this one matters a lot. In my opinion, a Republican Congress won't have the votes to privatize the Post Office all together, or

at once, but it will have enough votes to create more political pretzels that make working at the Post Office far more salty and twisted than it is currently. If you don't believe me you had better enroll in a good yoga class because you are going to have to get really limber and flexible to handle Republican Postal Reform 2.0. Just keep in mind the non-union Speedy Delivery driver makes about \$12 an hour; that could be us if we are not vigilant.

So I encourage all Letter Carriers to go out and help elect Tarryl Clark to Congress in the Sixth District and Jim Meffert to Congress in the Third District. However if you are a Republican Letter Carrier and you won't help elect a Democrat, I beg you to do the next best thing as a union member, please call either Congressman Erik Paulson or Congresswoman Michelle Bachmann and ask them to cosponsor H.R. 5746 which will fix this mess.

**UNIFORMS
UNLIMITED**

The Twin Cities Postal Headquarters

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

USA
Union preferred

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



Retiree Holiday Party Wednesday, December 1st

*Retired Carriers will celebrate their Annual Christmas Party
This year's event will once again feature friendly libations, good food, and
plenty of time for reminiscing and extending holiday cheer to all our
colleagues who we have worked with and known for so many years.
Join us at Fred Babcock VFW Post 5555. The social hour begins
at 6:00PM with dinner from 7:00 - 9:00PM*

Date: December 1st, 2010
Time: 6:00PM - Cocktails (cash bar)
Dinner 7:00 - 9:00PM
Place: Fred Babcock VFW Post 5555
 6715 Lakeshore Drive
 Richfield, MN
 612.869.5555

Dinner Menu
 Choice of Prime Rib or
 1/2 Oven-baked
 Chicken or Walleye
 Salad
 Potato
 Vegetable
 Coffee, Tea, Milk

Please complete the reservation form & return to the Branch Office by November 26th

NALC Retiree Holiday Party

Name _____

(Choose One) Chicken Prime Rib Walleye

I will be bringing _____ guest(s) @ \$17.00 each

Name of guest _____ Chicken Prime Rib Walleye

Name of guest _____ Chicken Prime Rib Walleye

Cost: \$17.00 per plate

*All Checks must be
make out and mailed to:*

**NALC Branch 9 - Holiday Party
2408 Central Avenue NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418**



Your Vote Can Help The Post Office

*Jeremy Rothstein,
Recording Sec. Normandale*

This November 2nd we have a chance to help the Post Office and help our jobs, just by voting. We need representatives who will support **H. R. 5746** which is, *"To amend the provisions of title 5, United States Code, relating to the methodology for calculating the amount of any Postal surplus or supplemental liability under the Civil Service Retirement System."* This would officially recalculate the over payment made by the USPS which is estimated between 50-70 billion dollars. HR 5746 would give us our money back. If the money was given back to the Post Office; It would be in a better financial situation than it is now. Postmaster General Jack Potter acknowledged as much at a March 18 hearing before a Senate Appropriations Subcommittee. *"If that [recovering the \$75 billion and applying it to future retiree health care] were to happen," he said, "we wouldn't have to go from six- to five-day delivery."* It's our money. It's from the postage paid by customers and from our labor. Even the OIG is on our side, Inspector General David Williams in April said in The Federal Times. *"Fixing these overcharges will allow the Postal Service to address its real challenges and implement its plan at a safer pace. The Postal Service and its employees deserve justice in this matter*

and the ability to fix the real problems." Congress now has all the evidence it needs to correct this error. However, not every one in Congress is supporting HR 5746.

We do have the support by most of those in Congress from Minnesota, however three are not signed on yet. Those three are up for re-election this November 2nd. In the 6th District Michele Bachmann, in the 3rd District Erik Paulsen and in the 2nd District John Kline are **not** signed on. We need those who support us and the Post Office in Congress. This November 2nd we need to **VOTE FOR: Tarryl Clark in the 6th, Jim Meffert in the 3rd and Shelley Madore in 2nd.** This is a vote for the viability of the company you work for, the stability of your job and the standard of living in your home life. Vote this Nov. 2nd for your job: **6th District Tarryl Clark, 3rd District Jim Meffert and 2nd District Shelley Madore.** It's that simple to help. If you want to do more, tell your friends and family how they can help or volunteer.



Bylaw Proposal

Article 1 Section IV
Change to read

Branch Steward Board Meetings will be held on the Second Tuesday of each month. The General Membership Meeting will be held on the Fourth Tuesday of each month. The meetings will be held at 7:00 PM. The place of the meetings will be determined by a standing motion of the Branch. By decision of members in attendance at a General Membership Meeting, future meetings may be combined or cancelled, or meeting night changed for legitimate business reasons.

*Submitted by Pamela Donato
to be acted upon at the 11/30/10
General Membership Meeting*

Veterans cont. from page 12
over 200 boys as they died. And when boys died in Iwo Jima, they writhed and screamed in pain." "When I was a little boy, my third grade teacher told me that my dad was a hero. When I went home and told my dad that, he looked at me and said, "I want you always to remember that the heroes of Iwo Jima are the guys who did not come back. Did NOT come back." "So that's the story about six nice young boys. Three died on Iwo Jima, and three came back as national heroes. Overall, 7,000 boys died on Iwo Jima in the worst battle in the history of the Marine Corps." Suddenly, the monument wasn't just a big piece of metal with a flag sticking out of the top. It came to life before our eyes with the heartfelt words of a son who did indeed have a father who was a hero. Maybe not a hero in his eyes, but a hero nonetheless.

(VP Rep. cont. from page 5)

the pocketbook issues of working families?

Branch 9 has endorsed candidates, mostly, as part of the State AFL-CIO screening and endorsement process. Some have been specifically endorsed at Branch General Membership Meetings. Pam Donato, Lenny Larson, Connie Beissel and I have sat on various endorsement screenings, listening to candidates for a variety of offices from School Board and City Councils to the State Legislature, State Constitutional Offices and the US Congress. The candidates are questioned on where they stand not only with Unions but more importantly with working families. We don't care what political party they come from or if they are non-partisan. The question is where do they stand on the issues that are important to us and our families. Because at the

end of the day, that is what matters.

As Election Day approaches, ask yourself who will be my Representative? Do they really represent me? Will they do what is right for me, my friends, neighbors and my family? This is the same question that should be asked before every election. These are the reasons that our members spend the time making phone calls and knocking on doors reminding us to get out and vote. Vote for the candidate who represents you. In this issue there is a partial list of candidates who have been endorsed by the Minnesota AFL-CIO. They have asked for labor endorsement and support. We include this to let you know who has been screened and who has been endorsed. The decision on who you vote for is yours. The most important thing is that you vote.

There is a fancy slogan going around that says "Minnesota works

when Minnesotans work." The same this is true about lives of letter carriers. We do better when others are working and have good wages and benefits.

But this won't just happen on it's own. We can't afford to just take off this election and leave it to others to do the work of choosing our representatives. We have to be prepared to do our part and vote on Election Day or by Absentee Ballot and don't stop until your ballot is complete. Because it does matter who is elected as the County Soil and Water Supervisor. They are responsible to facilitate the conservation of water, soil, and related natural resources through education, technical assistance, and implementation of sound land use practices, in the most cost-effective manner, for the benefit of current and future generations. But more importantly because they are your elected representative and they speak for you.

It's Time To Vote For Someone Who Will Represent US

The MN 6th CD once again, has a tight race for its congressional seat in the 2010 election. Incumbent Republican Michelle Bachmann is running for a third term in a closely contested race against DFL challenger, MN State Senator Tarryl Clark.

The 6th CD still has the highest home foreclosure rate in Minnesota as well as the highest unemployment rate. Congresswoman Bachmann has yet to author legislation to help her district or even begin the road to recovery. She has been very busy though traveling the country promoting herself, her views and raising campaign funds. I understand that politics require self

promotion but when will the constituents of the 6th CD hold the incumbent congresswoman responsible for her actions or really her lack of action. It is time for Michelle Bachmann to be held accountable for not addressing the needs of the 6th CD like education, creating jobs, infrastructure or health care to name a few. The constituents of the 6th CD can do that when they vote on November 2.

Tarryl Clark has a legislative record of working across the aisle to solve difficult problems and promote working family issues. She has shown herself to be a voice of reason and person of dedication to public service whether through gov-

ernment, church or charity.

If you are a constituent of the 6th CD, you owe it to yourself to become informed about the candidates running for congress this year. Every vote counts and every vote is needed. It's time we in the 6th had a representative in congress who WANTS to represent US! PLEASE VOTE.



Lisa O'Neill
MSALC Vice President

CARRIER ROUTE INFORMATION

(To be used with every route adjustment consultation 2 pages)

NAME: _____ ROUTE #: _____ STATION: _____

I CURTAIL MAIL...

(Check all that apply)

- _____ At the beginning of the week
- _____ At the end of the week
- _____ To pivot and carry off another route in 8 hours
- _____ Daily to keep my route to 8 hours

3996 HELP SLIPS AT MY STATION ARE:

(Check all that apply)

- _____ Used by me to request assistance
- _____ Used by management to assign and record overtime
- _____ Used by management to assign and record pivot time
- _____ Not provided to me when I request assistance
- _____ Are never used

MY DAILY RINGS ARE:

Hour/Min

BT	722	_____ : _____
MV	721	_____ : _____
MV	744	_____ : _____
ET	XXX	_____ : _____

TRUE OR FALSE

(Circle one)

- | | | |
|------|-------|--|
| TRUE | FALSE | The leave time (according to DOIS) my supervisor refers to each morning is accurate. |
| TRUE | FALSE | DPS verification and bundling is done on office time in the AM. |
| TRUE | FALSE | Management counts my post and SPRS on their daily AM walk around. |
| TRUE | FALSE | In March and April my route receives mail directly from other routes. |
| TRUE | FALSE | Management has explained the Carrier Flow Chart to me. |
| TRUE | FALSE | I regularly case mail in the PM. |

CLOCK RINGS

(Circle one)

TRUE	FALSE	I separate my raw outgoing mail on office time. (If TRUE, _____ minutes.)
TRUE	FALSE	Management rings my pivot time.
TRUE	FALSE	Management rings my overtime.
TRUE	FALSE	I ring to street time before loading post to my vehicle.
TRUE	FALSE	I ring to street time before loading DPS to my vehicle.
TRUE	FALSE	I ring to office before unloading my vehicle in the afternoon.
TRUE	FALSE	I am consistently allowed to complete all of my assignment tasks before I end tour each day.

CFS, UBBM, DPS, ERRORS, "3M MAIL" AND MISCELLANEOUS ROUTE MAIL IS:

(Check all that apply)

- I separate on street time as I deliver my route.
- I separate on office time after I punch in from the street and it takes me _____ minutes a day.
- I leave bundled at my case at end tour and worked with the next day's mail in the AM

Office Functions that are part Fixed Office Time

- Prepare Slips for Signature Required Pieces (Sign/Confirm., Etc.)
- Pick Up/Log Scanner
- Equipment Needs
- Accountable Mail
- Multi Del. Point Maintenance
- Apartments/Cluster Boxes/Businesses
- Will Call Mail
- Vacation Holds
- Change of Address
- MNA/Registers/Warning Cards
- Edit Sheet Maintenance
- Heavy SPR's and/or Post
- Carrier Pick Up(s)
- Check for Sleepers
- S999 Mail/Holdouts/Handoffs
- Handling Skultch
- Safety/Standup Talks
- Replenishing Forms
- Trips to Throw Back
- Facing Mail/Separating Collection Mail
- 3996's & 1571's
- Customer Issues (Phone Calls, Etc.)
- Review DPS
- Check for sleepers
- S9999 Mail/Holdouts/Handoffs
- Handling skultch

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

Change Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
MINNEAPOLIS
MINNESOTA
PERMIT NO. 1964



Branch Nine Calendar

October 24

Branch 9 Casino Run
10AM - 5PM
Turtle Lake Casino
Turtle Lake, WI

October 26

Nokomis Retiree Breakfast
9:00AM
Fred Babcock VFW
6715 Lakeshore Drive, Richfield

***October 28**

General Membership Meeting
7:00PM
Crystal VFW Post 494
5222 56th Ave North, Crystal

November 2

Northside Retiree's Breakfast
9:30AM Elsie's
729 Marshall St. NE, Minneapolis

Tuesday November 2

Election Day
VOTE!

Wednesday November 3

Retiree Cribbage Tourney 9:30 AM
1715 Van Dyke Street
St. Paul, MN 55119

November 9

Southside Retiree Breakfast
9:00AM
Fred Babcock VFW
6715 Lakeshore Drive, Richfield

***Tuesday, November 9**

Stewards Meeting
7:00PM
Crystal VFW Post 494
5222 56th Ave North, Crystal

***Tuesday, November 30**

General Membership Meeting
By-Law Proposal Considered
(see page 15)
7:00PM
Crystal VFW Post 494
5222 56th Ave North, Crystal

December 1

Retiree Holiday Party
6:00PM
Fred Babcock VFW Post 5555
6715 Lakeshore Drive
Richfield, MN