



VOLUME 63 No 4 **Official Publication of Branch Nine, NALC** **May 2011**

How do you say “Good-bye” to someone who has been such a big part of your life?

By Julie Waldemar (NALC Health Benefits Rep)

Pam Donato, Executive Vice President, President, Friend – each of these titles has many memories for me. As a former Vice President and President, Pam had a big part in my opportunity to continue to work on PRAM with numerous management personnel. Working on PRAM gave me the opportunity to go to Washington, DC to work with NALC President, Fred Rolando on the Route Adjustment Task Force. I have many memories of being in Washington, DC with Pam and meeting Matty Rose (an NALC icon) who bought us our first meal. Pam showed me around the city including where to go for a trolley tour. On subsequent trips, traveling alone to Washington, DC, I flew in to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and because of Pam I knew enough to be able to get to where I needed to go and see what I wanted to see in my free time. I also went to Las Vegas for the first time with Pam. I’m not sure, but I think we were there for Health Benefits training. What I do remember is that you can walk any-



where, and I mean anywhere, and at the pace Pam always goes, that isn’t slow! I recall shopping at M&M World, Coke, and the mall (even if it was just for a belt), and we found a great Mexican restaurant that we try to eat at every time we’re there. So now (again because of Pam) I know when I go to Las Vegas I can get around and see what there is to see and eat at a few great restaurants including the seafood buffet at The Rio. What I learned to appreciate is not only did Pam prepare

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**Kick back
and relax.
You've earned it!**



Randy Searcy (Thomas Burnett) swipes his card for the last time.



Ron Doss (University Station) is all smiles on his last day.

Welcome New Members

Robert Braaten (Burnsville)
Timothy Frankland (Nokomis)
Brent Berskow (Golden Valley)
Marcus Thomas (Burnsville)
Rachel Flagg (Burnsville)
Dana Bak (Richfield)

In Memoriam
Ron Nelson

From the Editor's Desk

Reflections:

These past few months have seen some dramatic changes here at Branch 9.

Pam Donato's leaving to go to NALC Headquarters was a bombshell announcement to say the least. Pam has given me opportunities that few people at Branch 9 have had. Being the editor is a bigger responsibility than I ever imagined and I have a great respect for all of the past editor's. The time, travel and LWOP are more than most would guess. Having said that; I wouldn't change a thing. I do wish though, that I had studied English grammar more in school.

Mike Zagaros has assumed the position as President of Branch 9. I have the utmost respect for him, and he has my full support.

Darrell Maus is the new Exec. VP. The Branch is fortunate to have him and his talents. He has a good sense of humor and is quite articulate in his presentations. He also has my full support.

We have a new Acting Minneapolis Postmaster, Gina Hellermann. I've known Gina for a few years and am confident that she will work well with Branch 9 in solving any issues within her control.

After talking with some carriers, I am changing the direction of my articles. So, in future publications I will try to be more positive in my tone. I may still rip into management, but will also suggest some positive solutions. Suggestions are always welcome, positive or negative.

Chuck Glover

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President's Report

Changes

Have you ever had so much going on at one time that you did not know where to start? If you were to consider: the implementation of Flat Sequencing System (FSS); the newest Joint Alternate Route Adjustment Program (JARAP) agreement; the challenges on the political front; the MDA Bowl-a-thon, the Food Drive preparations, and the transition... it is difficult to know where to begin. Needless to say, it is a busy time for all of us.

FSS Implementation

As I am writing this, Lost Lake is finishing their first week dealing with what some are calling DPS Flats. Golden Valley, Thomas Burnett and West Edina are starting up this week to be followed by Burnsville, Anoka/Andover, Chanhassen, Blaine and Coon Rapids. That's it. There are no plans to implement FSS in any of the other Branch 9 offices unless they get additional machines. What we know is that the product, what there is of it, is in sequence. The accuracy rate is over 95% however, the amount of FSS mail has a wide variance from day to day. Management is conducting 3999s with the routes as quickly as possible and will most likely be conducting multiple 3999s on each route. On page 6 of this issue there is a checklist that should be used by every carrier who has a 3999 done on their route. This is doubly important and management is required to review the 3999 with the carrier within 3 days of the 3999. The carrier is also allowed to provide written comments about the 3999

so please include a copy of your checklist.

We have been told that management will begin adjusting the routes approximately 6 weeks after the implementation of FSS. But, these adjustments will be different. For the first time since 2004, there will be no union involvement in the initial adjustments. After management determines the value of the routes in an FSS environment, they will use COR to make what they will maintain are 8 hour assignments. 60 days after these adjustments there will be a joint review of the adjustments to see if the routes need further adjustment. Based on the history of other FSS sites there will be routes that need to be re-adjusted. During the 60-day evaluation period carriers need to make sure the data is accurate. Be patient and use 3996s (help slips) to document when you believe you have more work then you can do in 8 hours. If you are carrying overtime on a different route, make sure you complete the bottom portion of the 3996. The most important thing we can do, is to make sure that the lines of communication between the stations and the Branch Office are working and that we all know what is going on.

JARAP 2011

The National Parties have entered into another agreement to adjust routes. Once again only those units that either the Union or Management select will be reviewed. Those units selected will be using the data from March/April or April/May to make evaluations. This year's agreement



Mike Zagaros
Branch 9 President

has changes that are meant to improve the product such as the agreement on 3999s. One change deals with the data integrity issue. The parties agreed to have the Workload Workhour Report from the previous day to be posted at the unit. On page 7 of this issue there is an explanation of how to read it. Carriers should review the report to make sure that the volumes and workhours that are reported are accurate. If you find inaccuracies please notify your steward or the Branch Office. As I write this, local management has not yet identified any Branch 9 units for JARAP. We will keep you posted but with FSS and JARAP it looks to be a long hot summer.

Thank You Volunteers

We had a great turnout at this year's Bowl-a-thon. A special thanks to JoAnn Gilbaugh and her team of volunteers At the end of the evening we raised over \$ 8,000 for MDA. Congratulations to Lake Street for being the best at bowling and raising the most money. It looked like

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*Julie Waldemar continued
from page 1*

me and all who had an opportunity to go to RAP Sessions or National Conventions, but she really played a big part in seeing that we (the officers, stewards, and members) got everything out of our trips starting with training and ending in fun. But the training was first and foremost, starting with Lenny Larson, continuing on with Pam and now Mike Zagaros. I believe we are all the best trained carriers regarding our rights under the NALC Contract. It is said that if you don't know your rights, you don't have any. At Branch 9 we don't have that excuse. Best of all, we have had many wonderful opportunities to participate in community service projects and numerous good causes such as the food drive, the coat drive, MN State Fair, MDA, Nellie Stone Johnson, and many others. All of these projects and good causes has helped Pam earn the National position she is moving into. As a friend, Pam has done many memorable things. What I remember most is she got me started walking the Komen Walk for the Cure every Mother's Day. I think I have 7 different colored T-shirts and I just ordered my T-shirt for this year's walk. What I didn't know then, but now can appreciate, is where all the money I've raised goes. My twin sister had breast cancer two years ago (she is doing fine now). But, unfortunately I just learned that a childhood friend of mine died of breast cancer just 2 years ago. I'll keep walking and raising money all because of Pam.

So maybe good-bye isn't the right thing to say, maybe THANK YOU is a better sentiment. Thank you Pam for helping make me become who I am today. I am a better person because of you and with all the memo-

ries we have I know I'll never forget you, and I hope to see you around the NALC circles and around here too when you're back in town. Best of luck to you as you Trail Blaze your way through this new job. Working with President Fred Rolando makes this the perfect opportunity for you to not only dream about what the NALC can do, but now you will be a BIG PART in doing it.

CONGRATULATIONS on this promotion and again THANKS for everything!

What has the union done for me?

Wage increases and COLA's in every contract since 1970

**Sick Leave/ Annual Leave Pay
FMLA**

Holiday Pay

Penalty Overtime Pay

2 – 10 minute breaks

Uniform Allowance

No lay-off clause

**Respectfully submitted by
Connie Beissel (Burnsville)
A Proud Union Member**

By-Law Proposal Update

At the April 26th General Membership Meeting, two by-law proposals were presented. The by-law proposals were printed in the April edition of the Branch Nine News.

By-law submission #1 added language to **Article V. Section 2. "Eligibility for payment of any delegate for the 2012 National Convention in Minneapolis will include attendance at 9 of 12 General Membership Meetings preceding said convention."** This by-law was adopted by a 2/3 majority vote of those present and voting. The adopted by-law is being forwarded to the NALC National Committee of Laws for further action. By-law submission #2 was ruled out of order, because it was in conflict with the NALC National Constitution and could not be acted upon.



Tim O'Malley (NALC Exec.Vice President) poses with letter carriers during his visit to University Station.

Executive Vice President's Report

Pivoting

In the current environment of declining mail volumes, some things are beyond the control of the rank and file letter carriers like the daily workload on any certain route on any certain day. Every carrier has become aware that the mail stream is not consistent by any means and with the mailers wanting delivery on certain dates the daily workload varies and will continue to vary. Article 34 of the National Agreement recognizes a fair day's work for a fair days pay and therefore when the workload is light management does have the right for carriers to pivot to fulfill the 8 hours in a day. Pivoting is management utilizing the under time on a route or routes in the stations to have carriers work off their assignment and perform office or street duties on a vacant route due to staffing issues or a carrier being absent. Pivoting does not change the provisions of Article 41 of the National Agreement where it states carriers are to work their assignments as bid and then they can do the pivot. Management may curtail mail on the vacant routes that are to be pivoted off and also on the carriers assignment so that the carrier can pivot on that day as long as the delivery time standards on the curtailed mail is still accomplished. If you are asked by management to pivot and you believe it is more than you can do in 8 hours, request a 3996 for the time and inform management of the reason you feel you cannot do the pivot. If management then denies your request for auxiliary assistance then ask for instructions of what to do when you become aware of not being able to complete

the work in 8 hours. As always if any instructions are not clear or other issues arise, ask for time to speak with your steward.

Politics

Phone banks, literature drops, door knocks, envelope stuffing, do these tasks make you cringe and want to remember any kind of appointment that you might have for the same time so you're not able to volunteer. If you are like the majority of us the answer is yes. Yet we are at one of the most important times in the political arena where everything is on the table as far as our bargaining rights and benefits that we have had over the years. Having 5 people volunteer 20 hours each for a political function is great, but we need 50 people to volunteer 2 hours each. Having 1 person give \$100 to COLCPE is great, but rather we need 20 people to give \$5, or better yet, every carrier to give \$5. While it is great talking in front of large crowds at a rally, more importantly, we must talk to everyone we know one on one and then have them talk to one person and so on. We need to talk politics in our swing rooms on breaks, when we meet for lunch, and when we sit at our dinner table at home with our families. The political scene is where we can lose every good thing we have currently in our contract and we must have the involvement of every one of our members and their families. That is how you start a grassroots movement.

Retirement

It is the one word letter carrier's talk about and set their sights on with



**Darrell Maus, Branch 9
Executive Vice President**

joyous anticipation like the word Annual also would bring. It seems like our days are now filled with less joyous words like overtime, pivot, DOIS, and the phrase "sorry I have no help for you you're on your own". There have been many articles written to explain what to do to get ready for retirement and how long before the actual day you should have these certain things done. This article is to inform the "Retirees" what they have to do the days after their "last punch" day.

Article II, Section 1, of the Branch 9 By-laws states, "It is necessary to have filled out an 1187 to join the Branch. A Form 1189 (Dues Check Off Provision) must be signed by all retiring members within Branch 9 who wish to retain their membership in said organization and health benefits program." So every carrier who signed an 1187 to join the union is a member and that's known, but when you retire to continue being a member you must resign-up with an 1189 form to continue as a retired member. In the days after your "last punch" (ah great words right) you will receive from the office of the Financial Secretary of the NALC a letter and within it will be a Form 1189 to fill out and return. In addition you will also receive from

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Letter Carrier's Checklist for the 3999 Evaluation

To help you, the letter carrier, with your next route evaluation, please use this sheet to record important information from the day of your 3999. The information you provide below will assist in the evaluation of your route and help to better insure fairness in the process. Complete, then take to consultation.

Carrier Name: _____ Route# _____ Zip Code: _____
Date: _____ Day of Week: _____ Examiner's name: _____

Weather Conditions: Hot Sunny Cold Rain Snow Icy Other _____

Start Time: _____

Did you curtail mail? Y N If so, how much:

Move to Street: _____

OTDL? Y N
If yes: Rte# & start time
_____ & _____

Ltrs: _____

Return to Office: _____

Flats: _____

End Tour: _____

Mail Volume:

Heavy Average Light (circle one)

AM @Case: _____ Throwback: _____

Ltrs: _____ Ltrs: _____

Flats: _____ Flats: _____

Bypass:

Ltrs: _____

Flats: _____

Coverage: Y N Full Partial _____

Accountable: Heavy Average Light

Express: _____ Insured: _____

Certs: _____ COD'S _____

Red's: _____ Sign Conf: _____

DelCon's: _____ COA: _____

Post: Heavy Average Light

SPRs: _____

Pkg's: _____

Were you INSTRUCTED to curtail mail? Y N

Did you complete a 3996 (help slip): Y N if so, how much _____

Did you complete a 1571 (curtailment slip) Y N

Did you sort you Parcel Post on Street Time? Y N

Did you receive auxiliary assistance on the day of the 3999? Y N

Do you load and unload your truck on street time? Y N

Did management give instructions that changed the office or street work methods? Y N
(if yes, explain at bottom)

Were you insturcted to return by a certain time? Y N time _____

How do you determine when you leave for the street? volume? Y N or completing in 8 hrs Y N

Did you make your separations of raw mail on street time? Y N

Did you mark-up and endorse mail on Street Time? Y N

Did management ride in the vehicle? Y N

If so, did the examiner try to influence you to work faster? Y N

Did you receive a consultation by management after completing the 3999? Y N

If so, did management explain the results and discuss any changes or corrections made? Y

Did management ask for your input on the times of the 3999, and if it was representative? Y N

Was there anything unusual about the day? Please explain: _____

Attach a copy of this checklist to 3999 and forward with the other data to adjustment team

JARAP

Reprinted from The Central Mass Letter Carrier - May 2011 issue

As most of you know by now the parties at the national level have signed a new JARAP MOU for 2011. Which stations or offices will participate has not been decided as this article is being written. Much of the new MOU mirrors the previous ones, with some changes. One of those changes is that on each workday during the life of this agreement the Workhour Workload Report of all routes, for the previous day, will be posted in a convenient location for carriers to review. Carriers should make it a point to review this report daily to determine if there are any data integrity issues that must be addressed. For those of you that are not familiar with this report we have printed in this news letter a copy of one of them with numbers identifying some of the sections that you should look at and review. The numbers, and the information that they represent are as follows:

1. This is your route number.
2. This is your actual AM office time, based on your clock rings.
3. This is AM Auxiliary Assistance. Any type of assistance you may have had should be shown here.
4. This is your projected AM office time, from DOIS, based on volumes recorded by the supervisor.
5. This is your actual PM office time, again based on your clock rings.
6. This is your actual street time, minus your 30 minute lunch break, based on your clock rings.
7. This column shows any auxiliary assistance you may have received on the street.
8. This is your projected street times. This is normally your base street time from your last inspection or adjustment.
9. This actual total time is a combination of your actual AM office, actual street and actual PM office time.
10. This projected total time is a combination of DOIS' projected office time and your base street time.
11. These are your cased volumes for the day.
12. This is if you had a sequenced coverage for the day.
13. Parcel Post for the day.

If you disagree with any of these figures, or if the information is incomplete or missing, like auxiliary assistance, it is incumbent upon you to address it with management as soon as possible. If management does not agree with you, or cannot satisfactorily answer your concerns, then you should ask to speak to your Union representative immediately.

Workhour Workload Report (All Routes)

RESTRICTED INFORMATION

Delivery Unit: 0145301
Date Range: 02/19/2009 - 02/19/2009

Route	Office Time										Street Time					Total Time				Volumes					
	Act AM	AM Asst	Proj AM	AM Var	Act PM	PM Asst	Proj PM	PM Var	OEI	Ad Str	Str Asst	Proj Str	Str Var	SEI	Act Total	Proj Total	Total Var	TEI	Total Cased Ltr	Total Cased Fr	DPS	FSS	Seq	PP	Total Divd Pos
53001	2:28	0:00	1:27	1:00	0:12	0:00	0:06	0:07	197.36	6:14	0:00	5:37	0:37	84.26	6:53	7:06	1:44	59.06	197	285	1,896		477		2,855
53002	1:52	0:00	2:08	-0:16	0:07	0:00	0:05	0:02	242.13	6:04	0:00	5:51	0:13	78.58	6:02	6:04	-0:01	59.32	242	794	3,035		463	24	4,534
53003	3:27	0:00	1:04	2:23	0:00	0:00	0:10	-0:10	144.63	1:35	0:00	6:16	-4:40	315.82	5:02	7:29	-2:27	99.20	201	238	1,929		481	26	2,846
53004	1:19	0:40	1:18	0:42	0:11	0:00	0:06	0:07	189.81	5:22	3:06	6:10	2:16	48.40	10:38	7:31	3:07	38.57	196	212	1,736		400	19	2,544
53005	2:20	0:00	1:12	1:07	0:00	0:00	0:05	-0:05	207.29	6:22	0:00	6:30	-0:08	75.82	8:42	7:47	0:56	56.51	217	315	1,581		266	19	2,369
53006	2:59	0:00	1:30	1:29	0:00	0:08	0:10	-0:02	193.24	6:04	0:00	5:36	0:26	99.17	9:10	7:16	1:54	65.63	235	312	1,839		527	19	2,913
53007	2:20	0:00	1:10	1:10	0:10	0:00	0:06	0:05	243.60	5:36	0:00	5:35	0:00	109.13	6:05	6:50	1:15	75.37	232	133	1,643		593		2,801
53008	2:17	0:00	1:19	0:59	0:03	0:00	0:05	-0:02	288.03	6:18	0:00	5:57	0:21	106.96	8:38	7:21	1:16	78.00	245	193	1,796		587		2,821
53009	1:37	0:00	1:08	0:29	0:28	0:00	0:05	0:23	185.18	6:32	0:00	6:23	0:09	58.17	8:36	7:36	1:02	44.84	215	249	1,906		384	18	2,753
53010	1:58	0:00	1:27	0:28	0:11	0:00	0:05	0:07	198.57	6:35	0:00	5:45	-0:10	74.59	7:41	7:17	0:25	54.22	247	341	2,074		368	16	3,028
53011	2:27	0:00	1:19	1:08	0:05	0:00	0:05	0:00	232.80	4:47	0:00	6:01	-1:14	123.22	7:19	7:25	-0:07	80.57	215	231	1,697		486		2,809
53012	2:17	0:00	1:23	0:54	0:14	0:00	0:05	0:10	279.38	5:40	0:00	6:04	-0:24	124.16	8:11	7:32	0:39	85.95	244	237	1,786		659	14	2,826
53013	1:58	0:00	1:12	0:44	0:22	0:00	0:05	0:17	230.26	5:43	0:00	6:01	-0:18	91.78	8:00	7:17	0:43	65.82	244	248	2,245		457	16	3,162
53014	1:44	0:00	1:51	-0:08	0:08	0:00	0:06	0:04	230.31	6:07	0:00	6:00	0:07	70.75	8:00	7:56	0:04	54.12	242	593	2,678		385	16	3,898
53015	1:14	0:27	1:37	0:04	0:11	0:00	0:05	0:08	220.43	6:07	0:00	7:11	-1:04	66.99	7:59	8:52	-0:53	51.37	197	370	2,214		410	12	3,191
53016	2:29	0:00	4:59	-2:30	0:00	0:00	0:05	-0:05	190.72	1:35	4:55	5:57	0:33	72.76	8:59	11:00	-2:02	52.67	235	1,759	2,642		440	25	5,076
53017	1:59	0:00	1:08	0:51	0:00	0:00	0:05	-0:05	298.99	6:05	0:00	6:33	-0:28	97.86	8:04	7:45	0:18	73.72	192	198	1,851		584	21	2,625
53018	2:16	0:00	1:10	1:05	0:10	0:00	0:05	0:05	188.77	5:35	0:00	5:48	-0:13	81.00	8:00	7:03	0:57	56.50	193	190	1,696		336	16	2,414
53019	2:09	0:00	1:12	0:57	0:10	0:00	0:05	0:05	153.44	5:57	0:00	6:58	-0:01	59.83	8:16	7:15	1:01	43.04	188	179	1,295		340		2,002
53020	2:53	0:00	2:58	-0:03	0:00	0:23	0:05	0:18	133.94	1:43	3:58	6:12	-0:31	77.11	8:57	8:13	-0:16	48.83	223	829	2,208		437	20	3,707
53021	2:28	0:00	1:05	1:23	0:05	0:00	0:05	0:01	250.98	5:27	0:00	6:12	-0:45	117.43	8:00	7:21	0:39	80.00	222	189	1,935		543	20	2,899

MARCH FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS

A march for middle class rights was held in St. Paul, on Monday, April 4th. Workers marched from Cathedral Park, down John Ireland Blvd to the State Capital and held a rally on steps of the Capital. This was not solely a union workers rally. Various professions like college professors, nurses, and teachers, joined with letter carriers, construction workers, clergy, and students to honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who was gunned down on this date in Memphis, Tennessee. Dr. King was in Memphis marching in support of sanitation workers in their pursuit of a living wage. During the April 4th rally, Minnesota legislators were in session at the Capital Building, discussing our states budget problems. We hoped that they could hear us outside as we applauded each speaker as they implored our state lawmakers to use common sense in solving our fiscal dilemma. Standing outside in the cold blustery weather, the 1000 plus people beckoned the state lawmakers to listen to our one thunderous voice, "WE ARE ONE!"





WASHINGTON, DC BOUND

On Wednesday, April 20th, over 200 people gathered at the Italian American Club on Central Avenue to wish Branch 9 President, Pam Donato a fond farewell, as she heads off to NALC Headquarters in Washinton, DC. Pam's mom and dad were present to listen as several labor and NALC officers (past and present) showered her with well deserved accolades for her accomplishments while at Branch 9. The informal catered event allowed Pam to visit with people without the typical "shoptalk" on grievances and/or labor issues. A short program followed the dinner buffet at around 7PM and ended with a teary-eyed speech from Pam. The Branch 9 Executive Board presented her with a beautiful teardrop-shaped engraved crystal piece in recognition of her dedication to Branch 9. Well-wishers gave her a standing ovation to close the celebration.



Branch 9 Auxiliary President,
Darcy Smith



Branch 9 President Emeritus,
Lenny Larson



Branch 9 NALC

Fishing on Lake Mille Lacs Twin Pines Resort & Motel-Restaurant

Located just two hours north of the Twin Cities on U.S. Highway 169 (mile marker 232).

Poles and bait provided, but feel free to bring own poles. For more information call 1.800.450.4682 or visit www.twinpinesmillelacs.com



Sunday, June 5th

8:00AM - 12:00PM

(Meet at the resort at 8:00AM)

\$30/Adult

\$25/Children under 12



The Branch will be hosting a roasted chicken lunch (with hash browns, cole slaw and a drink) at Twin Pines Resort after we return from fishing. This lunch is included in the price.

Name: _____ Station: _____

Amount Paid: _____

Name of Guests (if under 14 include age): _____

Checks payable to: Branch 9 Fishing
2408 Central Avenue NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Deadline is on
Friday, May 20th

The Branch 9 Ron St. Clair Memorial MDA Bowl-a-thon was held on Saturday, April 16th. Over 100 Branch 9 members, friends and family gathered at the Park Tavern in St. Louis Park for bowling, 50/50 raffles, a silent auction and a chance to win a \$1,500 vacation get-away. If you weren't there, you missed all of the fun! Donnie Virden's Lake Street Station team took away the trophy for Best Series, and Lake Street station raised over \$1200 in pledges. Jeff Mattson, (Brooklyn Park) won 1st place for Best Individual Series. Stacie Ellingson (Anoka) won the vacation drawing. Joe Rian (Richfield) raised over \$400 & Joel Carter (East Side) raised \$325. Brooklyn Center won the station breakfast for the best silent auction basket. The creativity and variety of baskets this year was fabulous! The evening was a huge success and we raised over \$8,500 for MDA. Thank you to everyone who participated and especially to all of the volunteers who made this event happen.

Our next event will be the second annual Motorcycle River Run. Details to follow!

JoAnn Gilbaugh, MDA Coordinator



Sherry St. Clair and her son, Xihao, pose with Darrell Maus (Exec VP), and Mike Zagaros (President)



MDA's Jenna Wendorf (Exec. Director) draws the winning ticket for a \$1,500 vacation get-away.



MDA Lane Sponsor
Betts & Hayes, Ltd.
(Branch 9's Accountants)







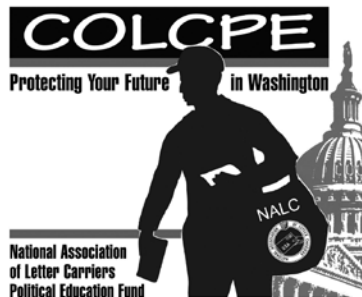
**Julie Waldemar,
NALC Health Benefits Rep.**

Did we hear you say that your New Year's resolution was to stop using tobacco? If so, I have great news for you. The NALC Health Plan, is proud to offer our members the **Quit For Life** Program at no extra cost. We want to help you make your resolution a reality.

**It's FREE.
It's confidential.
It works.**

The Quit For Life® Program is brought to you by the American Cancer Society® and Free & Clear®. The two organizations have 35 years of combined experience in tobacco cessation coaching and have helped more than 1 million tobacco users. Together they will help millions more make a plan to quit, realizing the American Cancer Society's mission to save lives and create a world with more birthdays.

Take the first step toward quitting today call 1.866.quit.4.life or go to www.quitnow.net/nalc



Exec VP Report continued from page 5

the Branch 9 Director of Retirees a similar letter with the same 1189 form enclosed. One of these forms must be completed, signed and returned to continue to retain your NALC membership.

Article II, Section 2 of the Branch 9 By-laws goes on to explain the dues amount for Retired Members and it varies from \$9.00 to \$24.00 yearly depending on when you retired for the members prior to December 31, 1996. But the By-law states "Members retiring after December 31, 1996 shall pay, per annum, an amount equal to two hours City Grade 1, Step D letter carrier's salary at the time of their retirement." Currently that rate is \$4.11 a month.

It is very important for new retirees to get their 1189 filled out and returned to the Branch 9 office (2408 Central Avenue NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418) immediately after receiving it. If after a time period the form is not received you will be dropped from the Membership Roster and will no longer have membership in the NALC. If you lose your membership you will also lose your health benefits if you are in the NALC Health Plan. Once your Union Membership and Federal Health Benefits are gone you **cannot** get them back.

So after that "last punch" day look for these 2 letters coming to you and don't just shrug them off, because they are very important to you and your future and furthermore the Retired Members of this Union are very important to the NALC.

Darrell Maus

With humble gratitude

By: Pam Donato
(Former Branch 9 President).

The last month has been a whirlwind! I am fairly used to setting a fast pace for my life and then trying to keep up with it. But, I think this time I left myself in the dust! Even so, I know I'll soon catch my breath long enough to personally thank so many Branch 9 members, friends and wonderful colleagues who have deeply touched me. Your thoughtfulness, kind words and generosity in wishing me well in my new position provided a priceless gift I promise I will cherish forever! Words are at times simply inadequate. But, in as much as this is printed communication, it is what I am left with! THANK YOU!

Know this as well. In the language of the heart, where unspoken words are understood, my heart is full and eternally grateful to each and every one of you!

Now let's get going! There's a lot to do...and no one is better to do it than all of us, TOGETHER!

No matter the miles, IN SOLIDARITY,

Pam



***President's Report continued
from page 3***

everyone had a good time. Thank you to all who attended. Fortunately the scores for the combined team of the Executive Board and the Postmaster's office somehow mysteriously disappeared, but I am pretty sure that my score was the worst. There will be more MDA events this year so stay tuned. We are hoping for a breakthrough year in our raising money for MDA.

We also had volunteers who were responsible for the success of several other Branch 9 events such as Pam's farewell party; the Retiree Banquet; the May Day Parade; the Food Drive, to the phone bank for the TSA representational election and the **We Are One Rally** at the Capitol. Branch 9 letter carriers are known and respected throughout the area for getting involved, showing up and getting things done. Our involvement with the labor community in support of working men and women demonstrates that the words on our masthead "an injury to one is an injury to all" is not just a saying and your efforts do us all proud.

Changes

At the close of the Retiree Banquet, there was a quiet moment when reality hit. I realized that my partner for the last four plus years would not be in office the next morning. Pam Donato would be leaving in the morning to begin her new challenges at Headquarters. I can call her on the telephone, but it would be different. I don't know if words can do justice to my feelings of mixed emotions of both joy and sadness I feel with her departure. Pam has made an indelible mark on the people of Branch 9 and on the

Region 7 Training



Margaret Anderson (Thomas Burnett), Darrell Maus (BR9 Exec. Vice President), Scott Cameron (Nokomis), Bob Robillard (Thomas Burnett), Jason Karnopp (Regional Agent Assistant), JoAnn Gilbaugh (Lowry), Troy Fredenberg (Regional Agent Assistant), Karen Pederson (Loring), Joe Rian (Richfield), Connie Beissel (Burnsville), Mike Zagaros (BR9 President), Samantha Hartwig (Eastside), Julie Waldemar (Golden Valley), Chris Wittenberg (National Business Agent).

Branch itself. As we move forward, we have a great starting point and the beginnings of a path that was carved out by her. Thank you Pam, for your passion; your compassion; your energy; your leadership and your friendship and all you have done for us the Brothers and Sisters of Branch 9.



The Following is a list of Paid Members of PAL 9 for April, 2011.

Very Concerned Members

Gregory S Piela
Charles Edward Rivers
James Fodstad
Janice E Wild (money from 50/50 Drawing at meeting)

Regular Members

Robert E Zastera
Carlos A Garcia
John M Keeley
Soris Swanson Gbala
Janice E Wild
David J Johnson
Gerald J Stauner
Dale Forde
Ned McCraine
Virgil R Magnuson

Ron Lawrence
Treasurer PAL 9

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

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Branch Nine Calendar

June 5

Branch 9 Fishing Trip to
8:00AM - 12 Noon
Twin Pines Resort
Lake Mille Lacs

June 7

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

June 12

Steve Hasser Benefit
11:30AM - 5:00PM
Isanti Comm. Center
121 1st Avenue
Isanti, MN

June 14

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

Tuesday, June 14

Stewards Meeting
7:00PM
Golden Valley VFW Post 7051
7775 Medicine Lake Rd
Golden Valley

June 28

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

Tuesday, June 28

General Membership Meeting
7:00PM
Golden Valley VFW Post 7051
7775 Medicine Lake Rd
Golden Valley

July 5

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

Tuesday, July 12

Stewards Meeting
7:00PM
Golden Valley VFW Post 7051
7775 Medicine Lake Rd
Golden Valley

July 12

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

Tuesday, July 26

General Membership Meeting
7:00PM
Golden Valley VFW Post 7051
7775 Medicine Lake Rd
Golden Valley

July 26

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

August 2

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

August 9

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

Tuesday, August 9

Stewards Meeting
7:00PM
Golden Valley VFW Post 7051
7775 Medicine Lake Rd
Golden Valley

August 14

Branch 9 Picnic
Aquatore Park
9191 Lincoln Street
Blaine

August 23

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

August 23

General Membership Meeting
7:00PM
Golden Valley VFW Post 7051
7775 Medicine Lake Rd
Golden Valley