



VOLUME 64 No 3 Official Publication of Branch Nine, NALC April 2012

# STAND UP OR... IT MAY BE GONE


Monday, March 26th, S-1789 (21st Century Postal Service Act of 2011) was brought to the Senate floor for debate, but a vote on the Bill was delayed until after Easter. Under its current form, the NALC is opposed to this legislation, as it does not properly address the pre-funding issue which places an undue burden on the Post Office. This Bill authorizes the USPS to negotiate jointly with all employee bargaining representatives to establish a Postal Service Health Benefits Program outside of the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHB).

It also requires any arbitration board deciding a contract dispute between USPS and labor organizations to consider all relevant factors including: (1) the financial condition of the USPS, (2) requirements for consideration of comparability of wages and benefits to those offered the private sector, (3) no later than September 30, 2015, to convert door delivery


points to curbside delivery points, sidewalk delivery points, or centralized delivery points. It sets forth provisions relating to the contracting out of postal services, including the establishment of the position of Advocate for Competition. Revises federal workers' compensation benefits for current beneficiaries in the workers compensation system and future enrollees, and imposes restrictions on additional benefits for dependents of disabled employees. These are only some of the provisions in S-1789. Stay informed and call your Senator's today (phone number's are on page 2) and ask them to vote NO, on this Bill in its current form. Also call the 1-888 number on page 2, as this tallies carrier calls and sends a message that we are vigilante. It's time to stand up for your career. Make the call. A tentative schedule for the NALC Day of Action is April 12th, so stay tuned for updates.



**Food Drive 2012**  
It's that time of year again and we are preparing for the 20th Annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. As with other years we are working closely with our local sponsors: Cub Foods, WCCO Radio, Kare11, MTSA Trucking, and Second Harvest Heartland. With all of us working together, the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive will once again be a success.  
*Food Drive continued on page 12*



**Proposed Amendment's to the Branch 9  
By-Laws on page 15. Action to be taken  
at the Tuesday, April 24, 2012  
General Membership Meeting.**





**Kyle Hawkinson (Elmwood) makes his final clockring flanked by (l) Steward's Perry Korzenowski and PO Johnson.**

**Senator Amy Klobuchar**  
Phone (202) 224-3244

**Senator Al Franken**  
Phone (202) 224-5641

**1-888-863-6103**

Pensions for lawmakers under FERS are calculated at 1.7% of their "high threes"—their average annual pay based on their three highest-earning years for their first 20 years of service, and 1% for all remaining years. The combination of a more generous pension formula and higher salaries means that lawmakers' pensions are often more than twice as big as those of other federal employees.

***Federal Times***  
***November, 28, 2011***

## Welcome New Members

Scott Bade  
Kelly Walls  
Patricia Waschbusch  
Christopher Ross  
Candice Cody

## From the Editor's Desk



### Every Piece Every Day.

This is the new mantra of upper management at the Postal (dis) Service. Here at Burnsville (an FSS Site), we will be done with six-day counts and inspection by the time this goes to print.

Imagine our chagrin when the Saturday before inspections began, we delivered four retail advertiser flats which were dated for delivery during the week of inspection. Management lemmings are mum on this subject, and I doubt that even Mr. "Big Picture" at the Northland District had any say in this deliberate snub of our advertisers wishes.

Retailers depend on timely delivery of dated material. Merchandise stocking, employee staffing, and ad placement on the retail floor are just some of the necessities that depend on timely mail delivery.

The only logical scenario is that L'Enfant Plaza is deliberately ignoring our bread-n-butter business customers in the hopes that the postal balance sheet will dip so far in the red that nothing can stop our death spiral.

As Bugs Bunny would say, "What a bunch of maroons!"

## In Memoriam William Hubbard

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# President's Report

## Time for Action

### Have You Made The Call?

The flier called it a "phone call to action." Branch 9 carriers were asked to call their Senators and ask them to "say no to S-1789. The next night over 50,000 letter carriers participated in a telephone hall meeting with NALC President Fred Rolando where he again asked carriers to contact their Senators by calling 1-888-863-6103 and ask them to "say no to S-1789 as it was written." So what is S-1789?

S-1789 is one of the many bills in Washington dealing with the Postal Service. It is supposedly going to reform the Postal Service and put it on a path to financial security for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The only problem is that as it is currently written, it won't work. What it will do is eliminate Saturday delivery (and the jobs that go with it) within two years. It would phase out door to door delivery (and the jobs that go with it) in favor of either mounted or centralized delivery. There is a theme here. The bill also does not adequately address the pre-funding of future retiree health benefits problem that is the millstone around the neck of the Postal Service. It also does not return our surplus CSRS contributions and as a parting shot, punishes injured workers with reduced compensation. It is bad news for the Postal Service. This bill will probably be up for discussion and debate after the Easter recess. It is important for the Senate to hear from us. That's why we are asking everyone to call 1-888-863-6103. To those of you who were in on the telephone town hall meeting, thank you. If you weren't and would

like to be included in the future please make sure that the Branch Office has your current phone number and we will inform NALC Headquarters.

### Will you be there?

During the town hall meeting, President Rolando announced that the NALC is preparing for another day of action similar to the one we did last September only this time it will be centered around S-1789. The details for this event are still in the planning stage. The date that is being proposed will be Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup> and the location is expected to be the local offices of Senator's Klobuchar and Franken. As more information becomes available we will work to keep everyone informed on the Branch 9 website [www.branch9nalc.com](http://www.branch9nalc.com) and on Facebook at Branch9 online. By the time you receive this issue we should be in the final stages preparing for the event. As with everything else, it is events like these when it's the numbers of people who show up that count. Will you be there?

### Counting on the counts

The 6-day and inspections at the FSS sites are coming to an end and the routes are being adjusted. So far, significant time is being put back in at these sites. We are down to the last two sites and by mid April we should be done with these inspections... or so we thought. We just received word that management has decided to have three non FSS sites (Main Office, Brooklyn Center and Loring) scheduled to go through 6 day count and inspections before the end of May. Once again the Branch will work to schedule off the clock



**Mike Zagaros**

trainings and we will have a presence on the workroom floor during the inspections. Unless the parties at the national level come to some form of an agreement, this appears to be the avenue of choice by management. While many of our members haven't been through an inspection before, it's not the end of the world. What we have learned so far, is that if carriers work in a safe manner and continue to provide great service to their customers, the rest should be ok. If you are concerned about these inspections, refer to your new "NALC Resource Guide" that was mailed to every member, go to the Branch sponsored training for your unit, ask questions and most importantly trust yourself. Whether it is a route count and inspection, PRAM or some version of RAP, we will continue to work to make sure that management adjusts the routes to as close to 8 hours as possible.

It's springtime, the season of potential growth and there is a sense of newness in the air. But it takes work for things to grow. We need everyone to get involved from making phone calls, to contributing to COLCPE and 9PAL; from showing up at rallies to learning how to protect your route. It's about

*Article continued on page 15*



## What Happens When You Assume?

*Melia Derrick,  
Step A Coordinator*

“But it isn’t too many days past 14!” That was the statement from a carrier to his steward when asked if he had received a Letter of Warning following the Day in Court. The steward was doing the follow up to file a grievance if management had actually issued discipline on the missed scan. They did. The carrier didn’t tell the steward within 14 days and the discipline can’t be grieved now.

The contract is quite clear that after discipline is issued the Union has 14 days to investigate whether the discipline issued was for just cause. That includes matters like whether the carrier knew the “offense” was a rule and if broken would lead to discipline. Just cause also demands that management investigate the circumstances of the event and actually *prove* that the carrier acted as charged. It also means that management must treat equitably all carriers who break this “rule” not just those who don’t make their A list. Even when a carrier may have broken a “rule” that does not mean that discipline was issued for just cause.

However, the Union never gets to test the theory of just cause if the carrier does not inform the steward that discipline was issued. The National Agreement does not require management to have a steward present when it hands the discipline letter to the carrier. Some managers routinely include the steward at these meetings; others seem to intentionally do so on the steward’s day off.

Therefore, if you get a discipline letter **LET THE STEWARD KNOW**. Please don’t assume the steward “should” know or that management told the steward. You are the grieved party; and management wants the discipline to stick. Don’t count on management to do the right thing. Let your steward know that discipline was issued.

Don’t assume that “I did it; so I deserve the Letter of Warning” or “I am too embarrassed to let the steward (or anyone else) know I got discipline.” A steward can sometimes get management to rescind the letter, or at least reduce the time the letter is active. We have a carrier who, for whatever reason, did not tell the steward about a Letter of Warning. It therefore has a “life” of two years. The offense, if grieved, is usually settled for three months at the most. This carrier got in trouble again 4 months later. Guess what? He was now facing a “progressive” 7 day No Time Off Letter. Trouble can sometimes sneak up on a carrier. Take all discipline seriously and let your steward know.

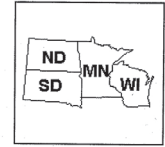
### OPEN HOUSE

MAY 5, 2012

1:00 - 3:00PM

BRANCH 9 OFFICE  
2408 CENTRAL AVENUE NE  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55418

### 33rd Annual NALC Region 7



### Regional Training Seminar

April 30 – May 4  
2012

Holiday Inn Metrodome  
Minneapolis, MN

Monday and Tuesday.  
Advanced Leadership Training  
(25 person limit)  
Intermediate Steward Training  
Basic Steward’s Training  
8AM - 5PM

Wednesday  
Group Seminar  
8AM - 5PM

Thursday  
8:30AM - 5:30PM  
Mock Arbitration

Friday  
8:30AM - Noon  
MDA/Food Drive/EAP  
/Customer Connect  
RAP Session and graduation  
\*\*All participants must pay a  
meals and breaks fee, based on the  
selected attendance option\*\*

All week \$198.78  
Mon. & Tues. \$74.10  
Wed.- Fri. \$124.68  
No Registration Fee

Registration Forms may be picked  
up at Steward or General Mem-  
bership Meetings

Registration Forms must be to the  
Region 7 office by 04/23/12.

# Executive Vice President's Report

## WEEKENDS OFF

**YES!!!** In a carriers mind these words and expectations sound great right? Nothing could be further from the truth. The Bills that have gone before the legislators all talk of 5-day delivery. What that could mean for our stations is something far different then what the media is proclaiming. In our stations you could have 5 to 10 routes open on any given day and those routes may be the ones that would not be delivered on a Monday and other routes left open not delivered on a Tuesday to cover Monday's open routes and so on through the week. The Postal Service will have a say in that decision and it will likely be based on operational needs rather than what we (as carriers and a Union) say as to a weekly schedule. Yes, numerous businesses are closed on Saturdays, but the mail we deliver that day is important to the public with the delivery of medications and packages to mailers like Netflix and business promotions for companies with the routine of Saturday coupons and hopeful consumer spending.

The Postmaster General has already mentioned in the news that maybe a reduced 5-day work week for the service is not enough, maybe we should go to 4-days or even 3-days if the finances dictate that. Maybe Saturday would not be the day delivery is eliminated, but rather a Wednesday so instead of having a Sunday rotating schedule all carriers would go to a Sunday - Wednesday schedule then long holiday weekends or even weekends at all could be a

thing of the past.

We are the only door to door delivery throughout this country that has a continuous 6 day a week delivery system and instead of cutting back we should be promoting it with new business and revenue capabilities. The damage that will be done with this type of foresight will definitely push business mailers to look for alternate delivery methods. This along with the closing of mail processing sites and 2 to 3 day delivery of First Class mail will start a spiral downward and any future policies the Post Office may try to initiate will not be able to save the current Post Office from elimination.

**With all the misinformation and the untruths that are coming out of Washington by certain groups and the lack of any bipartisan efforts by our legislators the loss of the Post Office as we know it is a real possibility and sadly for some legislators it is a goal.** Our Union has been very aggressive and working continuously to combat all of the political fronts that put our Postal Service at risk. If the legislators are allowed to control the number of days in our work week do you think it will stop there. Will our pay be next, our health insurance, our vacation time, our no-layoff clause, or our rights to seniority. Trust me these issues have been talked about in certain political circles. This is not something that is isolated to only the NALC, you may have heard and seen on the news that it involves other Unions nationwide too. For example,



*Darrell Maus*

look at the teachers where seniority (tenure) is currently being debated by our legislators.

The talk on the workroom floor has some carriers (that were considering) not bidding on C-2 (utility) positions thinking that sometime in the future they could lose their assignment and then be excessed, or moved 100-500 miles away, or even laid off. The truth is the provisions and guidelines for this scenario would have to be addressed at the time of any implementation of a reduced work week by the parties at the National level. There are no current answers. This union is aware of the issues on the workroom floors daily and we are constantly addressing them with management. But to look at the political arena and the damage that could be put upon the workforce makes the issues in our stations pale in comparison. That is why it is so important to keep informed with current and correct information by signing up to be an E-ACTIVIST, to donate to COLCPE, and to PAL 9. Then follow that by doing your part and volunteering for phone banks, and also calling your representatives when asked by your union. Our voices and actions are our greatest defense and we must activate them to ensure a secure future.

# Steward's Corner

*Reprinted from  
NALC Activist  
July 2009*

## What's your duty?

Imagine this situation. Bob thinks he has a problem and goes to his steward. "I didn't get paid for the holiday last Friday," he says. "Do you know why?" Sally the steward asks. "The boss says it's because I didn't work the day before the holiday," Bob says. "Well did you?" Sally asks. "No, but I had a good reason not to. The boss has been getting on my back and I needed to teach him a lesson, so I didn't come in on Thursday." "You know, the contract says you have to work the last hour before or the first hour after a holiday to get holiday pay. We may not like it, but for now that's the way it is," says Sally. "Well, my boss is a jerk and I can prove it. I want to file a grievance," Bob insists.

A big part of our job as union representatives is to protect the gains we have won in our contracts, to fight to improve our wages, hours and working conditions and to defend carriers against injustice from management. Sometimes, as the above example illustrates, it can be tough, but it is our duty. We also know that sometimes we have to defend carriers we or others may not personally like, because we must defend a principle bigger than the individual person.

## Represent all workers

Throughout the years a legal principle has been developed by the National Labor Relations Board called "the Duty of Fair Representation" (DFR). The legal principle quite simply states that a union must represent all workers equally and without prejudice. A union cannot

refuse to represent or improperly represent a worker due to the worker's age, sex, creed, nationality, race, religion, political beliefs, union status or personality. The legal obligation of DFR requires an exclusive representative to represent the interests of all bargaining unit employees: 1) without discrimination; and 2) without regard to whether the employee is a dues paying member of the exclusive representative. DFR is grounded in the principle that when a union attains the status of exclusive representative, it must use that power to fairly and equally represent all members of the unit.

**"A union must represent all workers equally and without prejudice."**

First, let's look at the aspect of DFR which involves the alleged disparate treatment by the union of an employee based on union membership. This usually concerns situations where a non-dues paying bargaining unit employee claims disparate treatment from that received by dues paying union members. In other words, an employee alleges he/she was treated differently just because he/she was not a union member.

Basically, an exclusive representative may not treat non-union members differently than dues paying union member in matters over which the union has exclusive control. Thus, the duty not to discriminate

based on union membership attaches only when an employee has no right to choose a representative other than the union to represent employees in the underlying dispute.

A second aspect of DFR concerns situations where either a union member or a non-member in the bargaining unit claim the union was ineffective in its attempt to represent an employee in a dispute with management. Under the law, a simple mistake is not grounds for a failure in your duty to represent employees, but failure to act in good faith is.

The duty to represent all workers is especially true in cases where non-members or anti-union workers present a complaint which could be a grievance. Personal feelings or the feelings of the membership cannot be allowed to interfere with the processing of that person's grievance. The key factor in a "failure to represent" case is that the union knowingly commits these acts because of prejudice or hostility towards an individual. If an honest mistake is made, that is not considered to be "failure to represent." If basic principles in grievance handling are followed there should not be a problem with "failure to represent" charges.

## What should be done

Here are some basic guidelines for proper grievance handling:

Listen to the worker's complaint(s) don't blow it off.

Investigate what happened; don't accept the boss's word as fact.

If the worker wants to file a first step grievance, meet with the supervisor at Informal Step A, even if you're not sure of the merits.

Keep all notes of the investigation and meeting.

Discuss the grievance with the chief steward, if you have one, or the NBA's office if you are unsure.

Keep the carrier or carriers involved in the grievance fully informed about what is happening to their grievance. If you must make a compromise settlement, make sure the reason for that decision is explained and fully understood.

Never allow prejudicial statements to be made about the grievant in a discussion on whether to file their grievance

### **What we don't have to do**

If a grievance has no merit, there is no obligation to process it past the first step. Make sure the carrier is told why this is happening. If necessary, have another steward or office explain the reasoning behind the decision.

A steward does not have to pound the table over a grievance that is questionable or non-existent. Present the carrier's case in a straight forward manner if they ask you to do so.

Sometimes a carrier has suffered an injustice that we cannot win by pointing out a specific contract violation. Make sure the individual understands that you agree an injustice has occurred but it cannot be won as a contractual violation

There is no obligation to process a "non-grievance" all the way to the final step of the grievance procedure. If the union decides not to process a grievance make sure the investigation is complete and the facts are in order

There is no obligation to take every case to arbitration. As long as the issue has been dealt with on its merit, there should be no problem

### **Our role in fighting discrimination or harassment**

We have always felt it is the role of the union to fight against any kind of discrimination or harassment a carrier may be suffering.

An injury to one is an injury to all. If a carrier approached a steward or an officer and has a complaint of harassment or discrimination, it must be taken seriously. The incident must be investigated and, if necessary, action must be taken. If the harassment is coming from another employee the union must approach it just as seriously as if the harassment was coming from a member of management. The grievance procedure and the union exist to improve the conditions of working people and by keeping this in mind we won't have to worry about complaints of failing to represent the membership or non-member workers.

### **Finally, what should Sally do?**

Sally talks to the chief steward. Neither one of them think Bob has a good case although both agree Bob's boss is a jerk and maybe he has been harassing Bob. Sally decides to investigate more on the possible harassment of Bob. She is going to present Bob's case at Informal Step A, but will turn the discussion to deal with the attitude of Bob's boss. Sally and Bob agree he doesn't have a chance to get the holiday pay, and won't pursue it past the first step, but they will pursue the question of harassment. Bob agrees in the future his best way of dealing with the harassment is through the grievance process.

**Bottom line; represent all carriers conscientiously, thoroughly, and equally. That is your duty!**

**This year we will be honoring 29 retirees at Branch 9's Red & Gold Banquet on Sunday May 6th Join us in recognizing their accomplishments.**

#### **60 YEAR RETIREES (JOINED IN 1952)**

Jack Carlson  
Vincent Chambs  
Jerome Felegy  
Kenneth Hawkinson  
Elwood Hansen  
Joseph Kinney  
Vernon Mahrer  
Richard Martin  
Herman Metzler  
Donald O'Connor  
Wallace Sjoquist  
John Sporrang  
Earl Weisel  
Fred Zubrycki

#### **50 YEAR RETIREES (JOINED IN 1962)**

Earl Anderson  
Gerald Arnold  
Lowell Berget  
Joe Dinville  
Bruce Fritsinger  
Regis Gaudet  
Roger Harwarth  
Kenneth Honkanen  
Dennis Jaeger  
John Keeley  
Basil Kumpula  
John McPartlan  
William Mechels  
Roger Solem  
John Vesovich



## J. Wesley Woods - \$1,000 Scholarship Application Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

High School \_\_\_\_\_

Member parent's name \_\_\_\_\_

Work unit \_\_\_\_\_

School to attend (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

## Jerome J. Keating/Austin B. Carlson \$2,000 Scholarship Application Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

High School \_\_\_\_\_

Member parent's name \_\_\_\_\_

Work unit \_\_\_\_\_

School to attend (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

## Walter E. Couillard/ Eugene P. McNulty \$2,000 Scholarship Application Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

High School \_\_\_\_\_

Member parent's name \_\_\_\_\_

Work unit \_\_\_\_\_

School to attend (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

### High School Seniors:

### Submit scholarship applications to Branch 9 by May 22, 2012

Every spring, Branch 9 awards three scholarships to graduating seniors: the J. Wesley Woods Scholarship (\$1,000); the Jerome J. Keating/Austin B. Carlson Scholarship (\$2,000); and the Walter E. Couillard/Eugene P. McNulty Scholarship (\$2,000). These awards have made it easier for many students to begin their post-secondary education while honoring the sacrifices and contribution of important Branch 9 Leaders.

The following rules apply to all three scholarships:

A. Any senior graduating from high school and is a dependent of a Branch 9 member is eligible for these scholarships.

B. The scholarships may be used for any accredited trade school, vocational/technical institute, community college, or university.

C. Three names will be drawn for each scholarship. The first name picked will be the winner, then first and second runner-up respectively. The winners of any drawing will not be eligible for the other drawing.

D. The application for the drawings will run in the March and April issues of the Branch Nine News. The drawing will be held at the May General Membership Meeting. The applications shall contain the following information:

1. The applicant's name, address, and home phone number.
2. The name of the applicant's parent or guardian who is a member of Branch 9.
3. The intended school of choice, if known.

E. Payment to the winners will be made after they have enrolled and can show proof of payment towards their tuition.

**Members with dependents who graduate from high school this spring and who plan to attend an accredited educational institution next fall, should complete the applications and return them to the Branch Office by May 22 or bring them to that night's meeting. All three forms should be submitted as there are three separate drawings for each scholarship.**



# Where Do You Live?

By: **Connie Beissel**  
 2nd Congressional District Liaison

Every 10 years the United States draws new boundary lines for government officials called redistricting. Redistricting is the process of redrawing the boundaries of election districts, and is done after the completion of the decennial census. The voters who live in each district then elect individuals to represent the people of the district in a legislature or other governing body. The purpose of redistricting is to ensure that the people of each

district are equally represented.

In Minnesota, the state legislature has statutory responsibility for redistricting congressional, legislative, and Metropolitan Council districts. County boards are responsible for redistricting county commissioner districts, city councils for redistricting city wards, and school boards for redistricting board member districts. In addition, cities and townships will establish (or reestablish) their precinct boundaries as part of the redistricting process, as will counties that have unorganized territory.

On February 7th Minnesota held its precinct caucuses. You were

probably aware of the Senate District you lived in and which precinct you belonged to.

On February 21st new district lines were drawn. More likely than not you no longer live in the same district that you were in 3 weeks prior. Not only did the lines change but so did the names/numbers. If you became a delegate to your senate district convention congratulations. If your district has changed you may need to move (Just kidding), but you will be contacted as to this change.

Do you know who your Congressman is now? Did you gain a

*Continued on page 12*

## \*\*\* HOCKEY FANS \*\*\*

# Come out and root for Branch 9 In The Cross River Battle HOCKEY CUP CHALLENGE GAME

SUNDAY, MAY 20, 2012  
 5:20 PM TO 6:50 PM

**SCHWAN'S SUPER RINK  
 NATIONAL SPORTS CENTER  
 1700 105<sup>TH</sup> AVE. N.E.  
 BLAINE**

**ADMISSION FREE  
 NO TICKETS OR RESERVATIONS NEEDED**

*Bring your family and friends to the stands and cheer for us to beat our cross river rivals!*



Br 9 Minneapolis

VS



Br 28 Saint Paul

# Adult Learners Scholarship

## Leonard A. Larson/ Barry J. Weiner Scholarship

### Leonard A. Larson/ Barry J. Weiner Adult Learner Scholarship Application Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Active or Retired \_\_\_\_\_

Work unit \_\_\_\_\_

Two (2) \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded.

The following rules apply to the two scholarships:

A. Any member (active or retired) in good standing of Branch 9 is eligible for one of the two scholarships.

B. The scholarships may be used for any accredited trade school, vocational/technical institute, community college, or university. The Adult Learner Scholarships may also be used for any community, county or state adult educational program.

C. One name will be drawn for each scholarship. The first name picked will be the winner. The winners of any drawing will not be eligible for the other drawings.

D. The application for the drawings will run in the March and April issues of the Branch Nine News. The drawing will be held at the May General Membership meeting. The applications shall contain the following information:

1. The applicant's name, address, and home phone number.
2. Whether active or retired.

E. Payment to the winners will be made after they have enrolled and can show proof of payment towards their tuition.

F. Benefits under the Adult Learner Scholarships expire one year from date of drawing.

**Members who plan to attend an accredited educational institution should complete the application and return it to the Branch Office by May 22, or bring it to that night's meeting.**

### Adult Learners:

Submit scholarship  
application to Branch 9  
by May 22, 2012

**UNIFORMS  
UNLIMITED**

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

The Twin Cities Postal Headquarters

USA  
Union preferred

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

# Branch 9's Annual Red and Gold Retiree Banquet Sunday, May 6, 2012

## Ramada Plaza, Minneapolis

### 1330 Industrial Boulevard, Minneapolis, MN



*Menu*

- Mixed Green salad
- Pasta Salad
- Grilled Flank Steak
- Forest Mushroom demi-glace
- Chicken Breast with Lingonberry
- Hash-n-white Cheddar Potatoes
- Wild Rice Blend
- Fresh Seasoned Vegetables
- Assorted Rolls and Butter
- Fruit Pies and Tortes
- Fruit Trays and Cake



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

*Retirees the \$12.00/per person registration fee is refundable upon arrival. Cost for active members is \$18 and cost for stewards is \$9.*

*Reservations must be returned to the Branch Office no later than Monday, April 30.*

*For more than 50 years Branch 9 has honored its retirees with the Red & Gold Banquet. Please join us for a day of good time and fellowship, as we say thank you to those who have come before us. Active members are also welcome to join in the festivities.*

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

Name of your Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Retired

I would like a ride to the Banquet

Active

I am willing to give someone a ride  
(Call Cheryl Stately 763.232.4870)

*Return by April 30 to:  
Branch 9, NALC  
2408 Central Avenue NE  
Minneapolis 55418*

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_



## Shared Wisdom from Retiree's

### What advice would you give to carrier's considering retirement?



**Don Casey  
(Burnsville)  
Retired 1986**

I would suggest that you keep your union membership and your union health insurance. Make sure you have enough income for several months and have some long range plans about what you will do with your life so that you can enjoy your retirement years.



**Rodney Anderson  
(Main Office)  
Retired 2010**

Aren't you weary of a world where you are despised, blamed for everything, treated with contempt, and disdain by the true culprits? Well, a New Dawn awaits you; it's called retirement. My advice to a prospective retiree? Get the #\$\$%^&# out of that lunatic asylum NOW!



**Harley Ring  
(Minnehaha)  
Retired 1997**

Make sure you have enough pension benefits and life insurance. If married, you will need to deduct survivors annuity benefits for your spouse. It also takes approximately a month to receive your first check. Remember, at home you will have twice the spouse time and half the income.

### Where do you live continued from page 9

USPS friendly representative or lose a friend of postal issues? This is important to know when the time comes to call or write your legislator. The future of the Postal Service is in the hands of Congress. The future of your job is in your hands. You can make a difference. Become an E-Activist, Carrier Core Volunteer and/or an automatic contributor to COLCPE. Let your Congress Person know your feelings about a USPS specific bill. They can't vote the way you want them to if they don't know which way is the correct way.

## FYI



**Never  
Trust  
Any  
Dog**

Case your dog warning cards daily  
Carry your dog spray  
Let your sub know any dangers

### Food Drive continued from front page

This year the food drive will take place on Saturday, May 12, 2012. Spring is the time when food banks need the most help stocking their shelves with food; the Holiday Season is over, the weather is getting nicer, and people are not just thinking about the need for food this time of year.

This year we will once again be delivering the blue Cub Foods bags to every house in the Metro Area; however due to financial constraints we will not be delivering any postcards. It is more important

than ever to talk to the customers on your route about the food drive, and make sure everyone receives a blue Cub Foods bag.

Every station has a food drive coordinator, if you do not know who your coordinator is then talk to the steward. May 12th, is the day to help our local communities, and give someone the gift of food for another day. Remember to have fun on the day of the drive, do a station cook out, pot luck, or something to get all the carriers, and volunteers involved. In one day we can help Stamp Out Hunger.



# 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 your own poles. For more information call 1.800.450.4682 or visit [www.twinpinesmillelacs.com](http://www.twinpinesmillelacs.com)

## Sunday, June 10th

### 8:00AM - 12:00PM

(Meet at the resort at 7:45AM)

\*Twin Pines opens for breakfast at 7:00AM\*



### \$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, June 1st

# Union Busting



**Mike Smith**  
**Branch 9, Trustee and**  
**Political Coordinator**

Plain and simple, “right to work” is another way to describe union busting. No ifs, ands, or buts. What’s in a name? “Right to work”, when first told to the average person, sounds like a good idea. People need to get back to work, correct? In reality, “right to work” is ill-conceived, or “right to work with lesser pay and rights”. Most of the younger generation of workers don’t understand what it was like for hard working Americans before labor unions. Yes, unions, whom we all can thanks for 5 day work weeks and 8 hour days. Let’s not forget about benefits such as vacations, safety and health protections, and the right to a pension. I urge every Branch 9 member to read “Carriers in a Common Cause”, a real good publication about life before the NALC to the current times.

An article in the Star Tribune on February 25, 2012 (“Delta’s use of temp workers worries full-timers”) in a way really describes “right to work”. The temps make \$10.82 per hour, or about \$22,000 per year if they are lucky to work 40 hours per week. If they don’t like it, or have work related complaints, the “right to work” amendment guarantees that Delta has the right to fire them. Is it any wonder why many Delta

workers want to organize?

Please read up on the proposed “right to work” amendment, and talk to your friends and family members. Make sure to call your state representative and voice your opinions.

PS. To my brothers and sisters of Branch 9, I want thank you for all your hard work, time, and money collected for COLCPE, the NALC’s petition drive to save 6 day delivery, and for all our events for MDA.

## The Following is a list of Paid Members of PAL 9 for March 2012

### Very Concerned Members

**Keith A Brakke**  
**Cheryl Stately**  
**Dale Forde**  
**Mary E. Neveaux**  
**Theresa Homstad Johnson**  
**Joseph Steckler**

### Regular Members

**Chuck Glover**  
**Renee Hickerson**  
**Tom Holten**  
**Dennis M. Johnston**  
**Herbert J. Hess**  
**Wallace Eckdahl**  
**Morris R. Gross**  
**Teri L. Koch**  
**James M. Nelson**

**Ron Lawrence**  
**Treasurer**  
**PAL 9**



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

Once again it’s time for the Red & Gold Retiree Banquet taking place on May 6. We have 15, 50 year retirees and 14, 60 year retirees. Congratulations to all of them. Hopefully you can come join us to congratulate them in person. Be sure to get your registration forms back to Branch 9 by the deadline of April 30, 2012.

On Wednesday, May 9 is the St. Paul/Minneapolis Cribbage Tournament. This time we are planning to have breakfast before cribbage starting at 9:00AM. Cost is \$3.00. Cribbage will follow starting at about 11:00AM. The cost for that is also \$3.00. The breakfast and cribbage games will again be held at the Branch 28 office at 1715 Van Dyke Street, Maplewood, MN. Please let me know at 763.232.4870 if you plan on having breakfast.

We are also planning on having an Open House at Branch 9 at 2408 Central Avenue NE on Saturday, May 5 from 1:00 - 3:00PM. It will be a good time to see all of the history picture boards on the walls. They are the ones from our first 100 years and also some new picture boards have been added. I’m sure that there will be pictures of people you know, and maybe some of yourself. Hopefully you can attend these events.



# By-Law Proposals

**By-Law Proposal #1**

Change to Article II Section 8

**Currently Reads**

SECTION 8. Effective January 1, 2008, Branch 9 shall sponsor three annual scholarships for dependents of Branch 9 members: 1) the \$1,000 annual J. Wesley Woods Scholarship, 2) the \$2,000 annual Jerome J. Keating/Austin B. Carlson Scholarship, and 3) the \$2,000 Walter E. Couillard/Eugene P. McNulty and two \$1,000 Leonard A. Larson/Barry J. Weiner Adult Learner Scholarships for Branch 9 Members.

**Change to Read**

SECTION 8. **Effective January 1, 2013**, Branch 9 shall sponsor three annual scholarships for dependents of Branch 9 members: 1) the \$1,000 annual J. Wesley Woods Scholarship, 2) the **\$1,000** annual Jerome J. Keating/Austin B. Carlson Scholarship, and 3) the **\$1,000** Walter E. Couillard/Eugene P. McNulty and two \$1,000 Leonard A. Larson/Barry J. Weiner Adult Learner Scholarships for Branch 9 Members.

Submitted by Mike Zagaros

**By-Law Proposal #2**

Change to Article 1 Section 3

**Currently Reads**

SECTION 3. Special meetings shall be called by the President upon the written request of 1/6 of the members in good standing, or by vote of the Branch. Notification of such meetings, stating the object of the call, shall be given the members by the Recording Secretary as directed by the Branch or as required by the By-Laws.

**Change to Read**

SECTION 3. Special meetings shall be called by the President upon the written request of 275 of the members in good standing, or by vote of the Branch. Notification of such meetings, stating the object of the call, shall be given the members by the Recording Secretary as directed by the Branch or as required by the By-Laws.

Submitted by Mike Zagaros

February 28, 2012

*Presidents article continued from page 3*

getting involved. Springtime this year is about action. Nothing about the Postal Service or our jobs exist in a vacuum, it's all interrelated. Whether it's about our new contract, or what legislative fix the parties in Washington come up with, or what management plans to do to our routes. It's time for action.



**Connie Beissel,  
Union Steward (Burnsville)**

**Proud to be a  
Letter Carrier**

During my last AFL-CIO phone bank, I noticed something amazing about letter carriers. We were calling union members about an upcoming election. My phone list identified the union affiliation of the person I contacted. I called members of AFSCME, CWA, Laborers, letter carriers, etc. What amazed me was that every time I reached a letter carrier, they identified themselves as letter carriers. They didn't know I was a letter carrier, as I identified myself only as an AFL-CIO member. No other person I talked to that evening identified what union they belonged to. Letter carriers are proud of their union and not afraid to say so.

*You're Invited to Branch 9's Open House*

*Saturday May 5th*

*1:00 - 3:00*

*at the Branch Office*

*2408 Central Avenue NE*

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

Change Service Requested

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

## Branch Nine Calendar

### April 14

MDA Bowl-A-Thon  
Park Tavern  
7:00 - 9:30PM  
3401 Louisiana Ave. S.  
St. Louis Park

### April 24

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

### Tuesday, April 24

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

### April 30 - May 4

NBA Region 7 Training  
Holiday Inn Metrodome  
1500 Washington, Ave. S.  
Minneapolis

### May 1

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

### May 5

\*\*\*\*\* Open House \*\*\*\*\*  
Branch 9  
1:00 - 3:00PM or later  
2408 Central Ave. N.  
Minneapolis

### May 6

Red and Gold Retiree Banquet  
1330 Industrial Blvd, Minneapolis  
Registration: Noon - 1:30pm  
Lunch 1:30 - 3:30

### May 8

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

### May 8

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

### May 12

\*\*NALC FOOD DRIVE\*\*

### May 22

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

### Tuesday, May 22

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