

VOLUME 64 No 6

Official Publication of Branch Nine, NALC

July/Aug 2012



It is with great sadness that we inform you that our Branch 9 Director of Retirees, Cheryl Stately passed away on July 30th at HCMC.

Memorial notice on Page 10.



NALC President, Fred Rolando,

was the guest speaker at the July 17th General Membership Meeting. Normal business was set aside to hear Fred talk about issues on the National level.

Contract: The Postmaster General has relinquished all responsibility to get a negotiated contract. PMG Donohoe is going to let Congress do what he is unwilling to do. Fred made one thing

crystal clear. Like it or not, money is the only way to get a legislator's ear. COLCPE is the only way to funnel money to politicians who endorse letter carrier issues, and as everyone knows, NO union funds can be used for politics. Over and over, Fred repeated that money is the only way to get access to a politician. Once a legislator is elected, he/she is already looking to be re-elected. COLCPE is our only source to help save our careers.



Election Notice



This is an official notice of elections for the officers and delegates of Jerome J. Keating Branch 9 NALC, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Nominations for the offices of: President; Executive Vice President; Recording Secretary; Financial Secretary; Treasurer; Editor; Sergeant at Arms; NALC Health Benefits Representative; Director of Retirees; three (3) Trustees; Delegates to the 2013 MSALC State Convention; five (5) Delegates to the Minnesota, AFL-CIO/Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation (RLF); three (3) Delegates to the St. Paul Regional Labor Federation (RLF) will be held at the September General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, September 25, 2012 at 7:00pm at the Golden Valley VFW Post 7051, 7775 Medicine Lake Road, Golden Valley.

With the exception of MSALC delegates, the term for all offices will be three (3) years beginning in January 2013. The President and Executive Vice President shall be Delegates to the NALC Convention, MSALC State Convention and Minnesota AFL-CIO/Minneapolis RLF by virtue of their office. Candidates must complete the appropriate Letter of Intent and return same to the Recording Secretary at the General Membership Meeting in which they are nominated or within 10 days thereafter; no later than 5:00pm. Elections for contested officer positions and Minnesota AFL-CIO/Minneapolis or St. Paul RLF Delegates will be by referendum ballot that must be returned to the designated post office box selected by the Election Committee by 9:00am, Tuesday, November 27, 2012. Should an election of delegates to the MSALC State Convention be necessary, it will be held at the October General Membership Meeting on October 23, 2012.





James Dickson (Brooklyn Park) receives his gold retirement watch from Exec. Vice President Darrell Maus.



John O'Laughlin (ctr) (Minnehaha) at his retirement party.

In Memoriam

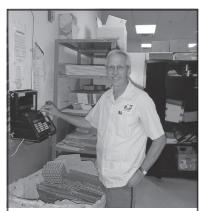
Joseph Burkett Gregory "Kim" Daeger (Active) Cheryl Stately Correction: From the June edition. Dan Wiborg (not Doug Wiborg) is the parent of Lucas Wilborg the winner of the 2012 Jerome J. Keating/Austin B. Carlson scholarship.

In This Issue:

Important information from the General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, July 17.

Very revealing article on the 1970 Postal Strike by former Branch 9 Executive Vice President, Wain Pearce. Page 6

Lots of Convention pictures



Jim Kloster retires out of the Main Office on 8/3/12.



Roger Tanghe retires out of the Main Office on 8/3/12.

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Financial Secretary Melia Derrick

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Sergeant at Arms Jim Nelson

> Trustee Barb Watczak

Trustee Mike Smith

Trustee Samantha Hartwig

Director of Retirees Cheryl Stately

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The Branch Nine News is a monthly publication of NALC Branch 9, and is published in the interest of and for the members of NALC Branch 9. The opinions expressed by the writers are not necessarily those of the OFFICERS, or of NALC Branch 9. Articles MUST be submitted to the editor by the 2nd 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

The last 30 days have been a series of highs and lows for this branch, from the incredible high of hosting one of the most successful national conventions that the NALC has ever held; to the devastating low of the loss we feel at the passing of our dear sister and friend Cheryl Stately, Branch 9's Director of Retirees. Yet the business of branch and the NALC moves on.

National Convention

After months of talking about it, it finally happened. Letter carriers from all over the country convened in Minneapolis for the 62nd Biennial National Convention. From the Workshops before and after session, to business of the convention during session there was an incredible amount of information provided. During the week there were presentations on a variety of subjects. But there was one presentation that stood out as far as content and importance and that was the presentation by Ron Bloom vice president of U.S. investment banking at the consulting firm Lazard.

Ron Bloom and Lazard is a consultant to the NALC who was retained to provide the NALC a detailed review of the Postal Service and his honest opinion as to the whether the Postal Service could be salvaged and if so how? You could have heard a pin drop as the delegates listened intently for over an hour as Mr. Bloom went through and spelled out the Postal Service's situation. "On its current trajectory, while it will probably take a while, but there will come a day when the Postal Service is reduced to a tiny shadow of its former self." He identified the reasons for this and told us something very sobering, that if things don't change "this business is going out of business, but" he said "it is not going out of business today." He told us that we have tools but that we must get in front and fight for the America's Postal Service. I want to encourage everyone to go to the NALC website at www.nalc.org and watch Ron Bloom's presentation. If you go to the home page and look to the item "convention wrap-up" and click on the link that says "click here you can find the video's of the majority of the speakers, the daily Convention Chronicles and photos from the convention for you read and/or watch it for yourself. The news while bleak it is not hopeless.

Throughout the convention, I received tremendous amount praise for the convention. All the accolades the Branch received were the results of the efforts of you the members. There aren't words to express the pride and gratitude I felt at the way the members of Branch 9 responded to every request and challenge that came about before and during the convention. There are many people to thank for their work in making the Minneapolis Convention the success that it was. First, a special thank you goes to Branch 9 Volunteer Coordinator and Trustee Barb Watczak. Her efforts to coordinate and schedule the convention volunteers be it T-Shirt sales, working with Sergeant-at-Arms and the bag stuffing was one of the reasons everything went off without a hitch. The largest request of the host branch as far as volunteers are concerned is the preparation of the delegate materials usually referred to as the "bag stuffing." Preparing over 8000 delegate bags along with bags for the auxiliary, guests to the convention was one of the most often talked about items with the questions would there be enough volunteers and how long would it take? Beginning at 10 am, Branch 9 members retired and active members along their family



and friends completed the task in record time. Thank you to all who answered the call. The people from the Headquarters NALC had never seen this task completed so quickly and efficiently.

Thank you also goes to the Sergeant at Arms Chair Jim Nelson and all the Sergeant at Arms for your assistance to the delegates during the convention. Thank you to Transportation Committee Chair Bob Baird and his drivers for their handling of the changing needs of the guests and speakers to the convention. Thank you to the Band Committee Chair JoAnn Gilbaugh for coordinating the venues so that the Letter Carriers bands in town could also perform at locations around the city. A special thank you goes to President-Emeritus Lenny Larson for taking on the task to working with the National Convention's service project the Military Care Packages, and aiding in the coordination of packing the care packages for deployed letter carriers and their families.

A large thank you goes to the officers of Branch 9, you were there to fill in wherever you were needed and your support was invaluable. To the delegates, and members of Branch 9, for your patience, your

Continued on page 9



I am a graduate of DeLaSalle High School and will be attending Cornell University in Ithaca, New York this fall. My intended major is Applied Economics and Management with a possible concentration in finance and strategy. Next year I will be playing football for the Big Red. I also enjoy golf, fishing, quiz bowl, as well as competitive reading tournaments. I spend my summer teaching youth golf with the First Tee of Minneapolis. Thank you very much for the schlarship. It will be put to good use.

Sincerely, Lucas Wiborg



Dear Branch 9, NALC, My name is Michelle Rubi'. I am the daughter of Leo Rubi', a letter carrier at the Minnehaha station. I am a 2012 graduate of Cretin Derham Hall High School. I am honored to accept the Walter E. Couillard/ Eugene P. McNulty Scholarship. My goal is to become a nurse. In the fall I will attend St. Paul College. When I reach my goal of becoming a nurse, I hope to become a member of the Minnesota Nurses Association.

Thank you. Sincerely, Michelle Rubi '

Shyam Das named arbitration chair for next NALC-USPS pact

The NALC and the Postal Service have agreed upon the selection of National Arbitrator Shyam Das as chairman of the three-person arbitration board that will set the terms of the next collective-bargaining agreement between the union and the USPS. Das is a member of the American Arbitration Association's labor panel and has been a full-time labor arbitrator since 1977. He has served on national arbitration panels involving postal workers since 1996 and has chaired arbitration proceedings involving United Steelworkers and the Major League Baseball Players Association.

The board is now working on a schedule for hearings. Once arbitration is underway, those hearings and related testimony could last for several months. After the proceedings are complete, the arbitration panel will meet to broker a final and binding "award" that sets the terms of the next contract.

The last time an NALC-USPS agreement was reached through interest arbitration was in 1999

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contact your steward for sizes and availability.



Executive Vice President's Report

DOIS SAYS - IMPROPER CONDUCT FOLLOWS?

Carrying mail, whether on foot or curb side delivery, is honest, hard work and we do it day in and day out! We are out there daily in good weather or not, new rules and policies, forced overtime, unfounded expectations, carriers EARN their paycheck! Our work load is not very predictable or consistent, and occurs mostly in the outdoors, in weather conditions often cursed by inside workers. Knowing these truths, why, oh why, would we allow ourselves and our work ethic to be defined by some troubled supervisor and/or manager? Where the only vision they see about a days workload has come off a computer screen and it is the absolute and only guide they use.

It seems as of late, some management personnel have developed a very poor habit. It apparently begins when a carrier fails to meet the "expectations" that DOIS has generated. The carrier will not have any consideration by the supervisor on what their judgment of workload is for the day. Then when the carriers input turns to reality for the day, the carrier is then called into the manager's office, where a supervisor or manager bombards you with several of their subjective observations. "Why is it taking you so long out there?" "You're not giving us an honest effort!" "If you're times don't improve, I'll have to discipline you!" "What happened to you? You use to be such a good carrier?" These meetings vary with regard to specifics (or lack of), are sometimes layered with inconsistent messages and are void of any of your personally witnessed "deficient activities" Almost all of the carriers that have been through this leave the meeting feeling less of a person than when

they walked in. For whatever reason, some carriers allow this perception of their work ethic and performance to own them. Despite their own reality of self worth and character, they take on this cloud of guilt and shame. It's impossible to make people be nice, let alone professional or genial in their managerial style. Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "Nobody can make you feel inferior without your permission".

Unfortunately, as a result of these meetings, the carrier is left feeling dejected, devalued, angry and upset. They have informed management what their days workload consists of and when that estimate turns out to be accurate and not according to DOIS numbers we are scorned. Never mind the fact that you are not on the Overtime Desired List, never mind you have a family gathering you must attend, never mind it is your day off, management needs you to work and be done by a certain time and that is the only rule they have to follow.

The whole negative perception is based on a flawed formula (DOIS) or on the incorrect assumption that you are a machine, able to replicate exact time performances, regardless of countless variables in your day. Management will say "well we just had formal inspections and we adjusted your route to you and 8 hours", RIGHT!! That's after they took away all the allied time like personal needs, gas vehicle, customer contact, and unnecessary motions, thus affirming that DOIS is a flawed formula.

Convention

It seems like such a long time ago when Branch 9 was soliciting for Minneapolis to be the site of the 2012 National Convention.



Darrell Maus

Time passes so quickly. After all the planning and preparation, the convention became a reality and I can assure you it was viewed as a massive success. We received rave reviews from our National Officers and also from other people from across the country. They all enjoyed and appreciated the time they spent in our city and state. None of this would of been accomplished if it weren't for the dedication and hard work done by our officers and the great members of this Branch. To all the volunteers that helped make this convention the success that it was, THANK YOU. Special thanks need to be given to the committee heads, Barb Watczak (Volunteer Chair), Bob Baird (Transportation Chair), Jim Nelson (Sergeant at Arms Chair), and Joanne Gilbaugh (Band Chair) for the hours of planning and achieving the staffing requirements needed to accomplish our goals. Also thanks go to all the volunteers involved with the bag stuffing, staffing the guest registration tables, T-shirt sales, transportation, and the sergeant at arms volunteers. THANK YOU. It was great for our volunteers to see how much planning is involved, being able to witness all the behind the scenes activities and of course to take part in the daily proceedings. To the people who had the honor of reciting the Pledge of Allegiance (Samantha Hartwig, Chuck Glover, Mike Smith & Jerome Keating) and to the outstanding singers (Donnia Riley and Mike Zagaros) of our National Anthem. THANK YOU.

History must Not Be Repeated

For those who may not know me, my name is Wain Pearce, and I was the Executive Vice President of Branch 9, as well as the Editor of the Branch 9 News during the 1970 postal strike. I am one of only five members of Branch 9 to ever receive an order to appear in Federal Court to show cause why we should not be held in contempt of the anti-strike injunction. The judge gave us two choices either lead our carriers back to work or go to jail. With a united voice we told the judge that the letter carriers had voted to go out on strike, and the only way they were going back was by a vote to return. The judge agreed to allow us time to hold a vote by the letter carriers to either return to work or remain on strike. He cautioned us that if the carriers voted to remain on strike we would be arrested and placed in jail, we would also face a \$1,000.00 fine, and automatic loss of job.

Executive Vice President Darrell Maus wrote an excellent article on the 1970 postal strike last month. What I would like to do is take you on a walk down memory lane, and present some of the events that were occurring during 1969 that lead up to the strike in March, 1970.

During 1969 there had been rumblings from the rank and file members, particularly in New York Branch 36. The Post Office seemed to be ignoring it, after all 195 years of history showed that the postal employees had never done more than complain. Strikes against the government were illegal.

A spark had been lit when congress had offered only 4.1% pay increase

for the postal employees after giving themselves a 41% increase, and giving the president a 100% pay increase. After giving themselves this Huge raise, they then asked the postal employees to hold back and set the pattern on pay increases as they were very concerned about inflation.

At about this time articles began appearing in the major newspapers and magazines concerning the seriousness of the conflict between the postal service and the postal employees unions. The media was carrying the stories that many postal employees were on welfare because their pay was so low, while others were being forced to work a second job just to keep food on the table. As editor of the Branch 9 News I had written in the April issue that, "If congress continues to drag their feet on adequate retirement legislation, a modernistic labor management bill and a realistic pay scale, can a strike be far off." In less then a year we were on strike.

In the May '69 issue of the Branch 9 News I had written a warning to my fellow letter carriers, "If you as a letter carrier think that congress is going to give you a realistic pay increase this year, that they will pick up the full cost of your health insurance, and pass a modernistic labor management bill while you sit back and do nothing, then you are committing suicide through inaction. The letter carriers have never gotten something for nothing, we have always had to fight for everything we have ever received. It is going to be a tough fight but we have a just cause, and in unity we can win."

In the June '69 issue I wrote, "Pay is not the only sector where postal employees are being exploited-our working conditions are deplorable,

our fringe benefits are far behind private industry. The only thing that keeps them from being completely out of sight is the fact that we pay for most of them ourselves. It would be nice if the government would at least pay their share. I don't propose dropping tea bags into Boston Harbor, but I do think that you will see more than one wildcat strike in the high-cost-of-living area's throughout the country if justice fails to prevail. The time to put dignity back into the Post Office, and get it out of the poverty program is now, not tomorrow."

Throughout the remainder of 1969 and on into 1970, negotiations continued on with the president and congress dragging their feet and refusing to see what was happening across the country. The longer they dragged this out the angrier the rank and file carriers got. NALC President James Rademacher warned the president and congress that if they failed to act there was the danger that he may well lose control of his union which is exactly what happened when he failed to call for a national strike. This failure caused a deep distrust between the rank and file membership and the National leadership, and in March the strike was on.

The letter carriers had been driven way past desperation and were in no mood for compromise. They had chosen to engage the government in a new kind of confrontational politics in which they had very little to lose and everything to gain. Aligned against them was the U.S. government with the weight of legality, the Republican White House, the Democratic Congress, and the veiled threat of a National Guard call up to deliver the mail. Against these odds stood the letter

carriers with nothing but their unity and their faith that they served a just cause. Against all odds we WON!

For the first time letter carriers were standing ten feet tall instead of begging on their knees. It was one of the proudest days of my life. Today the National Association of Letter Carriers faces the greatest threat to their jobs since the 1970 postal strike. The QUESTION-now is what price are you prepared to pay to keep what the strikers of 1970 gave you?

In closing, I would like to make some comparisons between the conditions that existed in 1970 and the conditions of today. The strikers of 1970 won their war and now the battle to keep what they won is in your hands. The 1970 strikers gave you more then just a pay raise, we gave you a reduction in the number of years for you to reach the top pay grade, we achieved collective bargaining on wage and benefits, binding arbitration, federal mediation, cost of living increases, and the government agreed to pick up a larger share of our health care.

In 1970 the postal employees had the support of a large share of the media, the vast majority of the people supported the strike and would honk and wave as they drove by. Many would stop by and hand out cookies to those who were manning the picket lines, Many teamster drivers gave us great support, refusing to cross the picket lines at the Main Post Office. The officers of Branch 9 were firmly united, as were the rank and file. Once the vote was taken, we were totally committed to each other, there would be no turning back. We had the advantage that on April 1, the welfare checks were due to go out and the politicians did not want another segment of the country

angry at them. Many of the carriers in New York pulled the street address stripes out of their cases making it impossible for the National Guard to case the mail.

What about the letter carriers of today, I believe you have an up hill fight on your hands. There is an anti union spirit sweeping across the country. A strike would be suicidal, almost all government checks are now direct deposits, technology is against you.

The Post Office has made a very smart play. I believe that their negotiating team knew going in that the changes they sought within the Post Office they were never going to get at the bargaining table, and have now done an end around collective bargaining and gone back to congress to get what they were never going to get at the bargaining table.

As I wrote way back in 1969, any letter carrier that thinks they are going to get something from the government for free without fighting for it, has stupid written across their forehead. Wake up; the Post Office is trying to take you back to pre-1970 and make beggar's out of you again.

I learned one thing during the strike, and that was in the final analysis you cannot count on anyone but yourself and your fellow carriers. If you think that you can count on the president, the Democrats or the Republicans, you have another thing coming, their concerns will always be on reelection, not your welfare.

Wain Pearce Former Branch 9 Executive Vice President The Following is a list of Paid Members of Pal 9 for June 2012

Very Concerned Members
Michael J Spurbeck
Charles M Glover

Regular Members
Douglas T Waldhoff
Ned McCraine

Ron Lawrence Treasurer PAL 9



Branch 9 Editor, Chuck Glover is recognized by the NALC for an article he wrote for the Branch 9 News.



Jeremy Rothstein is recognized by the NALC for his work as Webmaster of the Branch 9 website. This is the second time Jeremy has been given this award.

Convention Prep Work

The 2012 National Convention was a resounding success because, in no small part, of our volunteers. Beginning with the convention bag stuffing on Thursday, July 19th, well over 100 volunteers, young and old, prepared about 9,100 delegate and guest bags at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

With supplies stacked up in the middle of a huge square, volunteers picked a delegate bag at the beginning of each row (approx. 20 feet long) and filled it with various manuals and workbooks which were deposited at the end of each row, counted, and placed in a hamper or APC.

Following initial instructions, our volunteers fanned out to begin filling bags. This system worked so well that the last bag was filled aound 3pm. The final shift of volunteers were called and told that the work was all done.

We learned that other branches that had hosted the National Convention stuffed convention bags right up to the Opening Ceremony because they could not get volunteers. Our National officers could





Branch Nine News

President's article continued from page 3

assistance before, during and after the convention while we were the ones to receive the praises it was only because of your efforts. Finally to Pam Donato, you said we could do it and was there to help us get it done, thank you.

If you are interested in the materials that were distributed at the convention contact the branch office as we have some of the convention bags.

Remembering Cheryl

Early Monday morning following the convention, Branch 9 Director of Retirees, Cheryl Stately passed away. She had fallen gravely ill just prior to the convention. Our friend Cheryl had left an indelible mark on so many lives here and around the country. During the week of convention as news of Cheryl's condition spread people we seeking updates and offering prayers. There was a heaviness that among the delegates because she wasn't there. You see, Cheryl was always there. It didn't matter the event, the reason or the cause, if you needed help, Cheryl was there. If there was a need, she was there. She worked at a number of stations, Edina, Loring, Fridley and the Main Office to name a few. She stepped up several times and served as steward at stations and later Director of Retirees because she was needed. She was a trailblazer too.

She was a woman who worked hard fitting in a place where there were very few female carriers. I remember the stories she would tell about the Post Office back in the day. She will be missed. I for one will miss the hugs she would give me when she would say that she needed her "mikey fix" that day.

Please come and join Cheryl's family and friends Saturday September 22nd at the Palmer Lake VFW in Brooklyn Park beginning at 5:00 as we join to remember her with stories and fellowship.

There is a flyer on page 10 I hope to see you there.













UNIFORMS

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

Celebrate the Life of Cheryl Stately



Please join us on

<u>September 22, 2012</u>

at the Palmer Lake VFW 2817 Brookdale Drive, Brooklyn Park, MN 55444

5:00PM - Midnight

5:00PM - Social Hour 6:00PM - Memorial

Pot Luck Dinner to follow

Cheryl's family is requesting that you bring a dish to share.

(hot dish, salad or dessert)

Call Barb Watczak at 612.388.8919 or Ann Baird at 612.599.8945 to R.S.V.P. your pot luck contribution.

Please R.S.V.P. by September 12.

You do not need to bring a dish in order to attend this event.

Who's in the game?

By Lisa O"Neill (Coon Rapids)

My question is "Who's in the game?" I am referring to the game of politics. Now I know some folks dislike it when I say "politics is a game". Politics is more than just legislation and government. Politics occur in our everyday lives with every personal interaction we have whether it's the boss, the partner or even the kids. We just don't use the label "Politics" for those interactions. Instead we describe these personal exchanges as "doing what is necessary to get along" or "getting what we want" or even "just keeping peace in the family!" Most letter carriers want no part in the politics game. They just want to watch others play from the sidelines because after all, it should be enough that I pay my Union dues. Like it or not, politics will determine the future role of the Postal Service for America and like it or not, politics is a reality in our work life. I call it a game simply as an analogy for what we do is serious work that will affect many people, whatever the outcome.

So why ask now? It is estimated that H.R. 2309 (Rep. Issa's bill) will be on the floor of Congress for debate and a possible vote as early as July 23. Coincidently, that is the first day of our national convention. Each congressman and congresswoman will have to decide on what they want the future role of the Postal Service to be for American citizens and businesses. These legislators will discuss the bill, perhaps add amendments if allowed and vote accordingly. It is anyone's guess as to the final decision of Congress.

Can we affect the decision Congress will make? ABSOLUTELY! Politicians are influenced by their constituents who voice their opinions. So if you want to make a difference in your career, call and have a conversation with your member of Congress or their staff.

Provide information on how you will be directly affected by their vote on H.R. 2309. Tell them how your family will be affected. Oh and don't forget to mention how your friends, your neighbors and every citizen alike will be affected by this one piece of legislation. Don't leave this to someone else. You are the best representative for you and your future. If you value your pay and

benefits, get over whatever the reason(s) for not making the call. There are almost 300,000 individual "you" calls that can be made so just think of the impact WE can make if everyone makes the call. Make the call and make a difference!

So I ask you one last time "Who's in the game?"

2013 Color Coded Calendars

\$3.75 Each

Group orders & money need to be in to Cheryl LaCroix at Brooklyn Center no later than

September 11th!

Checks made out to RICHDON, INC.

Send cash or check to: Brooklyn Center Post Office c/o Cheryl LaCroix 6448 Lee Ave North Brooklyn Center, MN 55429 (763) 566-9425 or (763) 229-3784

Remember: By September 11th

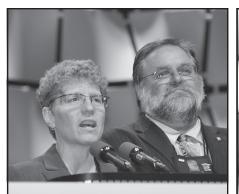
-Please fill out, and send this slip---

,
2013 CALENDAR ORDER SLIP
*NAME OF CONTACT PERSON:**
PHONE NUMBER:
NAME OF STATION OR INDIVIDUAL:
HOW MANY TOTAL CALENDARS:
S AMOUNT SENT:





Samantha Hartwig (Eastside), Darrell Maus (Exec VP), Mike Smith (Richfield), Jerome Keating, and Chuck Glover (Burnsville) all had the honor of reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to start each day of Convention business.



Branch 9 Presidents, Mike Zagaros and Pam Donato welcomed the thousands of delegates to the Minneapolis Convention Center at the opening ceremony.



Donnia Riley (Lowry), and Mike Zagaros each sang an impressive a capella of our National Anthem.



Branch 9
delegates
during a lull in
the action, and
applauding one
of the various
speakers at the
podium.





Delegates picking up their convention bags.



Congressman Keith Ellison is escorted to the podium by the Branch 9 delegation for his speech.



Guest Registration Volunteers
- Jim Magnuson (Retired), Jan
Wild (Retired) and Cari Bren
(Retired).



Just a few of the many Sgt. at Arms security that checked delegate credentials, kept order and control of the thousands of delegates.



The transportation department consisted of two vans and two limosines. Transporting NALC staff to and from the airport before the convention began and after it ended. Mike Smith (Richfield) and Ken Jambois (Brooklyn Center) were the limo drivers, and were on call 24/7.



National Convention Volunteer, Michelle Benson (Retired)



Carol Garnto (Lost Lake) distributing daily chronicle.



Impossible to see in black and white, but it really was a sea of red COLCPE shirts





Before the doors opened, T-Shirt volunteers waited for the rush. Once the doors opened, sales were brisk. Thanks to all who volunteered.



In an effort to teach participants on how to handle supervisor questions the CAU (Contract Admin Unit) presented... On a workroom floor far, far away Supervisor Darth Vader (aka Mike Zagaros) was instructed by his former mentor Obi-Wan Kenobi (aka Fred Rolando) on how to properly do a "morning go around." Darth Vader did not get the message.





President Past Pam Donato, and President Emeritus Lenny Larson.







Ken Jambois (dark shirt) poses with our Region 7 Representatives. Jason Karnopp (RAA), Chris Wittenburg (Region 7 National Business Agent), Troy Fredenburg (RAA).



Convention delegate brought in supplies for U.S. troops overseas, and for local veterans homes.

Rally at Verizon On Thursday during the convention, hundreds of

EAPOLIS CONVENTION CENTER delegates who contributed "Gimme 5" through COLCPE wore their red shirts, which they received by being a contributar, gathered outside the Convention Center, then marched downtown in support of Verizon workers who are in the midst of bitter contract negotiations, where several workers were fired for their union activities.





Branch 9 2012 Convention Delegates

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

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Branch Nine Calendar

September 11

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

September 11

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

September 22

Celebrate the life of Cheryl Stately (Branch 9 Director of Retirees) 5PM - Midnight Details on page 10

September 25

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

Tuesday, September 25

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

October 2

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

October 9

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

October 9

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

October 23

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

Tuesday, October 23

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