

VOLUME 64 No 10

Official Publication of Branch Nine, NALC

2013 A New Year New Challenges

Postal Reform – NALC President Fred Rolando pointed to a key underlying message from the USPS's financial report on Thursday for Fiscal Year 2012, which ended Sept. 30. "This crisis, manufactured by Congress, is what's creating on Capitol Hill a false sense of urgency to act immediately,"



"Almost \$11.1 billion of the Postal Service's reported \$15.9 billion loss this past fiscal year stems from the pre-funding mandate—an unfair burden that no other company or government agency bears. "In fact, leaving aside pre-funding and other actuarial adjustments, a fraction of the overall losses—\$2.5 billion came from the actual delivery of mail," he said. "That's still a lot of money, but it needs to be stressed that it's about half of the \$4.9 billion in losses recorded the previous year. "Addressing pre-funding would help take away the manufactured sense of urgency and

allow the entire postal community—employees as well as lawmakers and managers—to come together to develop a forward-looking business plan to help the Postal Service succeed in the 21st century,"

Branch 9 By-Laws – Declining Branch revenues will require the Executive Board to look for changes in Branch 9 business. Most of the revenue expenditures are set by Branch 9 By-Laws. Any future savings will be in the form of By-Law resolutions. Current By-Laws can be viewed on the Branch 9 website. The formal call for resolutions will be in the January 2013 Branch Nine News.

Contract – Dec. 5, 2012 – The interest arbitration board that will set the terms of a new National Agreement between NALC and USPS continues to meet and also to accept written testimony and exhibits from both sides. The NALC anticipates that an award decision will be made sometime in January.

December 2012

Kyung Lee (Brooklyn Park)

NEW HIRES - TE'S

Felicia Zanic (Coon Rapids)

Spolinsky Jacox (Bloomington)

Andrey Scheglowski (West Bloomington)

> Carl Loewecke (Elmwood)

Jeffrey Eilders (Coon Rapids)

Kevin Leahy (University)

Beth Servais (Eastside)

Jim Withrow (Lowry)

Jenny Kaminski (Diamond Lake)

Katrina Stamboulieh (Lost Lake)

> Jason Lofgren (Elmwood)

Welcome to all!

Branch Nine News



The Branch 9 News exists for the Rank-and-File members. As Editor, my job is to relay letter carrier news and information to our members in each issue, as well as photos of Branch sponsored events.

One of the editor's restrictions is that each issue has to go to print in four-page increments. Because no article fills a page exactly, I must fill space with articles from other union sources. Nobody should be naïve enough to think that our local union has all the answers or complete information for our members.

Many other NALC publications and union sources contain information that is germaine to Branch 9 letter carriers lives and working conditions and I'm constantly checking these publications and web sites for information that will be of interest to the widest segment of our members.

I am also always looking for informative articles by our members. If a member takes the time to write an article, I wil try to place it in the paper. I will not print an article for anyone who seems to have a personal agenda to advance, or an axe to grind against a particular manager, postmaster, or union member. This is not to say that we won't take management to task on issues, but negative attacks do not benefit anyone.

As editor, I answer to the president

and executive vice president of Branch 9, who review each issue as it develops, which could require five or six modifications before it goes to print.

I look at each issue at least a couple dozen times and can't see the forest for the trees when it comes to spelling mistakes, so lastly, I wish to thank our Branch Secretary, Angie (ever ready with her red pen) for her ability to correct spelling mistakes and see the paper with "fresh eyes" and suggest sentence and grammar changes.

Looking at Branch publications from around the nation, I believe our Branch 9 News is one of the best, and as editor, I will present articles to educate, entertain, and inform our membership to the ever-changing post office and union life. If you wish to submit an article, send it to my address at: branch9news@branch9nalc.com



Samantha Hartwig (Eastside), flanked by Exec. Vice President, Darrell Maus and Retired NBA Barry Weiner (LES Labor Advisory Committee Member) proudly displays her diploma from the Labor Education Service at the Uof M.



December 2012

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Exec. Vice President Darrell Maus

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> Treasurer Lisa O'Neill

Financial Secretary Melia Derrick

> Editor Chuck Glover

Sergeant at Arms Jim Nelson

Trustee Barb Watczak

> Trustee Mike Smith

Trustee Samantha Hartwig

Director of Retirees Rodney Anderson

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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.

Branch Nine News

President's Report

As Father Time gets ready to hand-off his duties to Baby New Year, and 2012 makes way for 2013 it's time to take a look at what has happened in 2012. There was a lot that happened this year, some good – some not so good. From the return of route adjustments based on 6-day count and inspections to management's implementation of an operational window or "WOO", from the Cities Readiness Initiative to the National Convention, 2012 has been one for the books and there are a lot of people to thank for helping us all get through it.

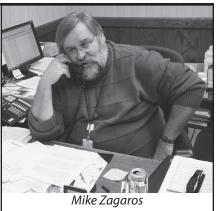
Route inspections and

adjustments – 2011 brought FSS (flat sequencing) to 6 offices along with it there was massive route displacement and excessing. In 2012, those units were the first to go through the 6 day count and inspection process in many years. As a result of the inspections, assignments were put back in at each of these units, though some routes still remain out of adjustment on a given day. Thank you to those individuals who volunteered to be the coleaders during the inspections, Lisa O'Neill, Julie Waldemar and Dwayne Olson. Their efforts and monitoring provided much needed relief to those units. At the national level, there was no agreement on a successor to IRAP, MIRAP or JARAP to jointly evaluate and adjust routes and as a result the management was left with the M-39 adjustment (the minor adjustment process or 6-day count and inspections) processes. Three non-FSS units

were inspected and adjusted this spring. While no other units were inspected or adjusted this past fall, management has indicated that they will be inspecting more units this spring, stay tuned. Prior to any unit being inspected, the Branch will continue to conduct off-theclock training on the inspection procedures. You can get a head start and prepare yourself for these inspections by reading the 2012 NALC guide to Route Inspections (available on-line on the City Delivery Page at: www.nalc.org

Volunteers - 2012 is best described as the year of the volunteer as the membership was called on more than ever this year and you responded. Even with the additions of route inspections carriers still took time out to support Branch 9 events like the Ron St. Clair MDA bowl-a-thon and silent auction in April where over \$5,000 was raised. Thank you JoAnn Gilbaugh and her crew of volunteers for your efforts.

On the first Sunday in May carriers participated in the first full scale exercise of the Cities Readiness Initiative proving that the "postal plan" (where letter carriers could in the event of a biologic attack distribute life saving medication) works. Members volunteered at the Retiree Banquet, and at the State Fair and of course the 2012 Food Drive. Thank you to all the station coordinators for helping make a difference and once again participating in the largest one day collection of food anywhere. Thank you to Samantha Hartwig and Bob Baird, your work made



this one of the smoothest Food Drives ever.

Branch 9 Volunteers answered the call throughout the year whether it was for a rally outside of Senator Klobuchar's office on S-1789, or making phone calls to your representatives on pending legislation or participating in the Labor 2012 events, you were there getting involved and speaking out for working families. Special thanks goes to our released members Lisa O'Neill and Cathy Burton who worked untold hours on behalf of working families in the Labor 2012 campaign and thank you to all members who contributed to COLCPE and PAL 9.

Last but not least to all the volunteers who worked on the 2012 National Convention a huge thank you, it was largely through your efforts that our convention was one of the best ones ever. To Barb Watczak, our volunteer coordinator for the convention, a heartfelt thanks for all your work.

Management's implementing of an Operational Window –

Without a doubt the one issue that has had the largest impact on carriers this year has been

Presidents article continued on page 7

Branch Nine News

Rodney Anderson Branch 9 Director of Retirees

Joining Branch 9 in Retirement

At this writing (late November), I just got done calling the Main Office retirees to tell them about the Main Office Christmas/Retirement party. Our Branch Secretary, Angie, updated my list of telephone numbers of retirees who had worked at the Main Office. However, to my appalled surprise, I am finding a disturbing new trend: a couple of letter carriers who were faithful brothers during their career have dropped their membership with the NALC in retirement.

The number isn't large; in fact, it's very small. But I'm astonished that it exists at all. Sisters and brothers, continuing in the NALC after retirement isn't a burden --- it's practically all gravy, like so many parts of retirement.

If anything, the great benefits of membership in Branch 9 magnify in retirement. The Branch sponsors the monthly retirement breakfasts, a terrific opportunity to exchange information and camaraderie. Twice per year are big branch-wide dinners, one before Christmas and one in the spring. And the Red-Gold Dinner (the one in the Spring) is FREE if you just show up. Great food, great companionship.

Besides, I continue to bang the drum of the responsibilities we retirees bear for our working brothers and sisters. Not only do we continue to participate fully in the MDA and Food Drive charities for which our Branch is famous; but recently with the idiotic WOO program wiping out spare time of active carriers, we retirees find ourselves bearing the increasing burden of things like the bag stuffing for the National Convention, or working our Branch 9 booth at the state fair.

But it's a light burden compared to the advantages. We find ourselves welcomed at all Branch social events and helping out in every respect. We are still eligible for all of the terrific advantages of NALC membership (like the wonderful NALC Health Plan); and all this for less than \$5 per month.

Sisters and Brothers, I preach to all my active friends to get out of the Big Blue Lunatic Asylum as soon as you can. Retirement is a wonderful time of your life, something we all look forward to. Just be sure you continue your NALC membership to derive even more of its many benefits.

Rotten Rodney Anderson

December 2012

Main Office Christmas/Retirement Party

December 13 was the date for the annual Main Office Christmas/ Retirement Party, at Legend's in Nordeast Minneapolis. About fifty Main Office carriers from long past to the present showed up to share old stories (the kind that get better with each retelling) and make new memories. In addition, we honored seven carriers who had retired from the Main Post Office in 2012. Darrell Maus handed out the pins and watches which they had labored so many decades to earn. It makes one wonder how many years of experience are pictured here? Somewhere near 300?



2012 Main Office Retirees (I to r) are Phil Pearson, Donovan Taylor, Roger Tanghe, Jim Kloster, Michelle Benson, Joe Olson, and Tom Nassif.



Executive Vice President's Report

Committee of Presidents Meeting

I, along with nearly 300 officers of the nations NALC locals attended the Committee of Presidents meeting hosted by Las Vegas Branch 2502 on Sunday and Monday, October 14 - 15. NALC President Fred Rolando was scheduled to speak and everyone in attendance knew that the discussions would be with the challenges that face the USPS and the letter carriers of the NALC.

Political Issues

There was a political canvas scheduled in a Las Vegas neighborhood urging residents to support labor friendly candidates. Branches from California and Nevada even brought two busloads of carriers in on Sunday to Las Vegas to take part in this event. Nevada is coded as a pivotal state. After the canvass a barbeque lunch was provided at Branch 2502 offices where President Rolando gave a national overview of the upcoming elections. He was quick to point out how dangerous these elections could prove to be. Of course as you read this article the elections are over, but President Rolando was very adamant that the NALC will continue to monitor and educate President Obama and help him to understand the issues concerning letter carriers and the Postal Service.

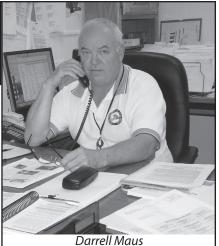
President Rolando also spoke of how "Postmaster General Donahoe continues to selflegislate" and how he continues to scare the public with talk of defaults and how this is driving business away. President Rolando urged all officers to monitor such articles and news reports and answer them with the real facts concerning the pre-funding. The NALC offices in Washington have and will continue to write editorials and participate in radio and talk show interviews.

Contract

Concerning collective bargaining and the contract arbitration President Rolando made it very clear that the NALC has no interest in any discussions concerning two important issues: 1) reducing the wages of our top-level letter carriers, especially since our job has become more difficult, and 2) any kind of talk concerning the contracting out of our jobs. He was very adamant that "The NALC's focus was on the working conditions, getting adequate staffing in our stations and to stop the bullying and mismanagement in our offices."

PTF's and TE's

The NALC is also pressing for a career track for TE's. President Rolando said "We need a guarantee that our non-career brothers and sisters have a track for becoming career letter carriers." This statement of commitment was met with great approval from all the NALC officers in attendance. He also spoke of the memorandum that was signed converting roughly half of our 14,000 PTF's to regular and the hiring of an additional 3,400 TE's to address our staffing issues.



These TE's are above the current percentage of allotment and the agreement is only in effect for one year. With the current short staffing in our stations there is no talk of an early out for letter carriers.

Parcels

With the E-Commerce parcel business expected to continue to grow President Rolando made it clear the importance of accurate scanning. He emphasized the real time scanners that private companies like UPS and FedEx use. "If the USPS isn't able to get the revenue to cover the expenses it is doomed. We must make sure the USPS doesn't blow this opportunity. UPS and FedEx will need us since they do not have the universal delivery network like the USPS does."

Dispute Process

President Rolando also spoke on the issue concerning our grievance procedures and how sometimes this is taken for granted. "We must use this contractual right and process correctly at every level to protect our membership and file timely grievances." The issues on the rise for discipline include; MSP scans, OWCP (Workers Comp), FMLA, covert street observations,

Exec. VP article continued on page 7

Political Addresses and Phone #'s

MN REPRESENTATIVES 651.296.2146 Toll Free 1.800.657.3550

1st Congressional District

Tim Walz – Democrat 227 East Main Street Suite 220 Mankato, MN 56001 Phone: 507.388.2149 Fax: 507.388.6181 Toll-Free: 1.877.846.9259 Website: walz.house.gov

2nd Congressional District

John Kline – Republican 350 West Burnsville Pkwy Suite 137 Burnsville, MN 55337 Phone: 952.808.1213 Fax: 952.808.1261 Website: kline.house.gov

3rd Congressional District

Erik Paulsen – Republican 250 Prairie Center Drive Suite 230 Eden Prairie, MN 55344 Phone: 952.405.8510 Fax: 952.405.8514 Website: paulsen.house.gov

4th Congressional District

Betty McCollum – Democrat 165 Western Avenue North Suite 17 St. Paul, MN 55102 Phone: 651.224.9191 Fax: 651.224.3056 Website: mccollum.house.gov

5th Congressional District

Keith Ellison – Democrat 2100 Plymouth Avenue North Minneapolis, MN 55411 Phone: 612.522.1212 Fax: 612.522.9915 Website: ellison.house.gov

6th Congressional District

Michele Bachmann – Republican 6043 Hudson Road Suite 330 Woodbury, MN 55125 Phone: 651.731.5400 Fax: 651.731.6650 Website: bachmann.house.gov

7th Congressional District

Collin C. Peterson – Democrat 714 Lake Avenue Suite 107 Detroit Lakes, MN 56501 Phone: 218.847.5056 Fax: 218.847.5109 Website: collinpeterson.house.gov

8th Congressional District

Rick Nolan -- Democrat PO Box 1041 Brainerd, MN 56401 Phone: 218-270-2153 Toll-Free: 855-238-7425

MN SENATORS 651.296.0504 Toll Free 1.888.234.1112

Amy Klobuchar – Democrat 1200 Washington Avenue South, Suite 250 Minneapolis, MN 55415 Phone: 612.727.5220 Fax: 612.727.5223 Toll Free: 1.888.224.9043 Website: klobuchar.senate.gov

Al Franken - Democrat

60 East Plato Blvd Suite 220 St. Paul, MN 55107 Phone: 651.221.1016 Fax: 651.221.1078 Website: franken.senate.gov

MN GOVERNOR

Mark Dayton Office of the Governor 130 State Capitol 75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd St. Paul, MN 55155 Phone: 651.296.3391 Toll Free: 1.800 657.3717 Fax: 651.296.2089

Lame Duck? maybe, maybe not.

Any action on postal reform appears to have been pushed to the next session of Congress. The new cast of character who may decide our fate as postal workers will in all likelyhood be Senator Tom Carper, (D-DE) who will replace Senator Joseph Lieberman, (I-CT) as Chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee. Senator Susan Collins, (R-ME) is retiring and her probable replacement will be Senator Tom Coburn, (R-OK), who supports five-day delivery and an aggresive costsaving approach much like Rep. Darrell Issa, (R-CA), who heads the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

Given the so-called fiscal cliff, and Hurricane Sandy cleanup, the government will be extremely tempted to put six-day delivery and our benefits on the chopping block.

Becoming an E-Activst is the easiest way to keep up to date on potentially rapid changes by this lame-duck Congress. Remember what happened in the 2006 lameduck Congress? Stay updated and stay involved.

Branch Nine News

Exec. VP article continued from page 5

and issues concerning the investigative interviews.

Route Adjustments

At this time there is no type of joint agreement concerning the adjustment of routes. JARAP has expired and the Postal Service had no desire to enter into any type of adjustment process with the Union. Therefore the Postal Service must comply with the provisions of Chapter 2 of the M-39 and the M-41 to inspect and adjust routes.

Solidarity

Lastly President Rolando emphasized that we must stand in solidarity on the workroom floor. We cannot allow union brothers and sisters to bad mouth the unions and not show support to each other. He urged all the officers in attendance when returning to there respective locals on his behalf thank all the brother and sisters who have stepped up to be stewards and to urge all of our membership to be supportive.

I WANT TO WISH EVERYONE A SAFE, HEALTHY AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

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

Very Concerned Members Charles M. Glover

Regular Members George E. Martin

Ron Lawrence Treasurer, PAL 9

How far have we come in the past 20 years?

In light of the horrific tragedy in Connecticut, It is important to reiterate our committment to provide a safe environment stemming from our own tragedy at Royal Oak, Mich.

On Valentine's Day twenty years ago, the Postal Service, NALC and other employee organizations signed the Joint Statement on Violence and Behavior in the Workplace (M-1242). In so doing, the organizations committed to the following principles: There is no excuse for and will be no tolerance of violence or any threats of violence by anyone at any level of the Postal Service. Every employee at every level of the Postal Service should be treated at all times with dignity, respect, and fairness. Making the numbers is not an excuse for the abuse of anyone. The parties affirmed their belief that dignity, respect and fairness are basic human rights and pledged their efforts toward a safer. more harmonious, as well as a more pro-

Six months later, the parties further realized that the same discussions and cooperative efforts taking place at the national level also must be made at the regional, and district levels and signed the second joint statement (M-1243). It is essential to our efforts that the same discussions and cooperative efforts take place among representatives of management, postal unions, and management organizations at the region, division, and MSC levels. We can—and must work together to resolve the factors contributing to disputes in our workplace, and we expect our

ductive workplace.

counterparts at all levels of the organization to work toward that end. The Postal Service, by virtue of signing the joint statements, also promised to deny rewards to those who violated these rights and to remove repeat offenders from the Postal Service.

Presidents article continued from page 5

management's implementing an operation window in May. They call it simultaneous scheduling of overtime. We call it a violation of the contract. The net result has been thousands of hours of forced overtime by carriers not on the OTDL when there were carriers on the OTDL available who could have worked it. Hundreds of grievances have been filed documenting the violations.

There have been two decisions by Arbitrator MacLean the first one was favorable and the second one was not. There are more cases being appealed to arbitration with the next one scheduled to be heard early in February. There have been no real discussions with management indicating any kind of change on this issue at this time. When there is we will get that information out as quickly as possible. Thank you to all the stewards and the Formal Step A Representatives for continuing to do the work that is necessary to protect the rights of our members.

Change and Transition -

2012 will be also remembered the changes here at Branch 9. When our dear friend Branch 9 Director of Retirees, Cheryl Stately passed away it was like we had

> Presidents article continued on page 10

Winter Blues? (or how to live healthy and feel better).

As winter approaches, some will begin to feel sluggish and gloomy. Winter depression accounts for about 10% of cases of major depression. The November issue of the Harvard Mental Health Letter examines this condition, referred to as seasonal affective disorder, and explores whether a little bright light can alter this dark mood. Seasonal affective disorder (SAD) is defined as depression that occurs repeatedly at the same time of year, usually starting in the fall and ending in the spring. People with SAD are sad, tired, anxious, irritable, unable to concentrate, and inclined to avoid friends and social activities. But often they have physical symptoms as well, such as overeating and excessive sleep. *Source:*





Healthy ways of dealing with change.

Recognize that change is a part of life.

Life would be boring and stagnant if things didn't change. Change keeps us fresh, alive.

Anticipate change.

Don't become too complacent. Being flexible and open to change will lessen the surprise when it does happen. Harvard Health Publications Oct. 2004

No one is immune to change. We experience change every day - from common annoyances like navigating a construction detour to get to work, to life altering events like the loss of a loved one. In today's complex world, its not that we don't expect change in our lives. It's just that it would be nice to have some advance warning. A couple of changes you might experience: Workplace changes (merger, loss of employment, or a job promotion), quality of lifestyle changes (a new baby, adoption, relocation, elderly parents, or illness).

Into our lives a little change must fall. All of us can expect to deal with change in our lives and each of us will respond to it in different ways. some of us are frozen by change and find it difficult to make decisions, while others may feel motivated by change to make positive transitions in their lives.

Monitor change around you.

Be an active participant in life and notice your surroundings. You'll be able to spot change and deal with it a lot easier.

Adapt to change quickly.

When you begin to anticipate and monitor change, you'll be able to adapt faster with less stress.

Learn to enjoy change. Understand that change is a necessary part of life.

Expect that change will happen over and over - and over again. Life is a series of changes.

Make the Call

Usps Employee Assistance Program 1-800-327-4968 (1-800-EAP-4-YOU) TTY: 1-877-492-7341 www.EAP4YOU.com

Practical Suggestions for Feeling Better.

Give yourself permission to feel what you are feeling.

Express your feelings as they arise either verbally or in writing. It is normal to experience a full range of feelings after you express them in a safe environment. Unexpressed feelings can contribute to other stress reactions such as lethargy, agitiation, moodiness, volatility, difficulty in concentrating, and even depression.

Take care of yourself.

Get enough rest and eat regularly. If you are irritable or tense from lack of sleep or if you are not eating correctly, it may be more difficult for you to function and to cope with any reaction you may experience.

Take on thing at a time.

When you're stressed, an ordinary workload can sometimes seem unbearable. When this happens, remember that it is a temporary condition and that you can work your way out of it... one step at a time.

Source: Magellan Health Services

2012 Hunger Hero Award

Branch 9 has been recognized by Second Harvest Heartland because of our NALC letter carrier food drive.

The 890,000 lbs collected by Branch 9 carriers equates to about 700,000 meals. Every letter carrier who collected food that day should feel proud that they helped those in need this past year.

Accepting this award on behalf of Branch 9 carriers are from (I to r): Mike Zagaros (President Branch 9), Marie Pauley (Event Coordinator, Second Harvest Heartland), Bob Chatman (Chief Operating Officer, Second Harvest Heartland), and Darrell Maus (Exec. Vice President Branch 9).



The Twin Cities Postal Headquarters

UNIFORMS

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

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

2012 Retiree Holiday Party

On December 5, many of Branch Nine's retirees gathered with their spouses, friends, and some of the Branch officials for the annual Retirees' holiday party, at the Babcock VFW Post in Richfield. This annual tradition is eagerly anticipated by many of us -- good food, terrific company, and a good time to share fellowship and general camaraderie.

Santa had even stopped by. Each guest was greeted by a welcoming committee, and treated to a hot-off-the-presses NALC 2013 Retirees' calendar, and a special Branch Nine Christmas tree ornament crafted by one of Santa's elves --- who bears a suspicious resemblance to our intrepid and indispensable Branch Nine secretary, Angie!

We hope that it was the beginning of a joyous holiday season for the retirees, and all of you! See you there next year!



Julie Waldemar (HBR Rep) with retiree, Tom Woller and his friend Connie Borcherdina



Lenny Larson (President Emeritus) and Barry Weiner (retired NBA)



Mike Smith (BR 9Trustee) with his wife Darcy



Jim Nelson (BR 9 Sgt.at Arms) brought his charming daughter Jennessa



Rodney Anderson (BR 9 Director of Retirees) and his wife Frances



Ann Baird and retiree, Michelle Benson

Presidnts article continued from page7

been struck by a bolt of lightning. But we, like our union adapt and move forward. We will continue to remember Cheryl in our hearts and thank Rodney Anderson for being willing to step up and work on behalf of our retired members.

To the members of the Executive Board and our various committee members thank you. Your work is what makes the Branch go. To Trustees Barb Watczak and Samantha Hartwig who will be leaving the E-Board in January. Thank you, we owe you a debt of gratitude for all your efforts on behalf of the members of Branch 9.

As we say goodbye to 2012, no one knows what 2013 will bring, but there will be a decision on a new National Agreement. It is expected sometime after January. Unless something drastic happens in the lame duck session, we still need something to be done in Congress so Postal Reform discussions will have to begin anew. There should be a resolution of the matter of operational windows for Minneapolis as well as our Associate Office. But whatever the challenge, whatever the struggle, we will get through it, as long as we do it together.

To all the members of the Branch 9, I want thank you for your support in what has been a trying year. In this holiday season, may you, your families and friends enjoy this time together in happiness and peace.

Mike.



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

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Branch Nine Calendar

January 8

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

January 8

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

<u>January 20 & 21</u>

Annual Branch 9 Ice Fishing Twin Pines Resort & Motel Lake Mille Lacs

January 22

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

<u>Tuesday, January 22</u>

General Membership Meeting 7:00PM Golden Valley VFW Post 7051 7775 Medicine Lake Rd Golden Valley New Officers and Stewards sworn in

February 5

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

February 12 Southside Retiree Breakfast 9:00AM Fred Babcock VFW 6715 Lakeshore Drive, Richfield

February 12 Stewards Meeting 7:00PM Golden Valley VFW Post 7051 7775 Medicine Lake Rd Golden Valley

February 26

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

Tuesday February 26

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

March 5

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

<u>March 12</u>

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