

JEROME J. KEATING BRANCH



# BRANCH NINE NEWS

"AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL"

1964

VOLUME 65 No 3

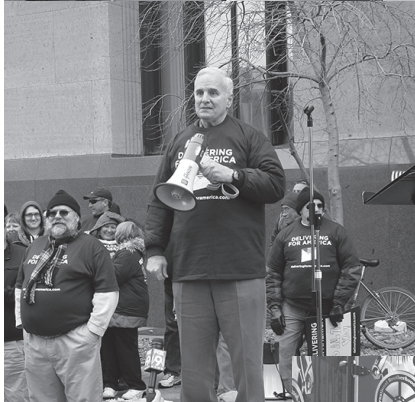
Official Publication of Branch Nine, NALC

April 2013

## DELIVERING FOR AMERICA 6 DAYS A WEEK

Brutal blustery weather could not stop concerned letter carriers and their families, along with other union members of the Regional Labor Federation, from voicing their shared opinion on continuing 6-day delivery. The Minnesota State Association, as part of a nationwide NALC action, held a rally in front of the Minneapolis Main Post Office on Sunday, March 24th. Minnesota Governor, Mark Dayton arrived wearing his "Delivering for America" shirt. Governor Dayton gave an impromptu speech on how vital the Postal Service is to our states economy, and how letter carriers bind communities together with 6-day universal service and daily contact with our elderly citizens.

Letters of support for letter carriers are found beginning on page 9.





## From the Editor's Desk

### Social & Rec.

Ken Jambois is planning another fishing trip to Mille Lacs Lake for June. No firm date yet, but look for the ad next month in this paper.

### RLF

Regional Labor Federation is starting to screen candidates for the upcoming elections.

### NALC Food Drive

Donate online from May 1 - 14 at [2harvest.org/stampout](http://2harvest.org/stampout). TCF Bank will match all cash donations up to \$25,000. Cub Foods is sponsoring the bags and postcards this year. 23 designated Cub Foods locations will also be accepting food from noon until 6PM on May 11th. Transportation pickup locations will be furnished at Branch Meetings.

### PAL9

Checks made out to PAL9 are very important because monies are used towards local politicians who support letter carrier issues. Support PAL9 and help make a difference.

### By-Laws

Voting on the proposed By-Laws has been moved to the May General Membership Meeting. The makers of the motions to change the By-Laws will be out of town on Union business.

## In Memoriam

Raymond Cassidy  
Leonard Bergstrom  
Louis Ellis  
Thomas Dahl



Chris Williams (Lost Lake) retired with the best wishes of Mike Zagaros.



Norm Olson retired out of the West Bloomington Station.



Eastside Stewards, Rich Hage and Robin Nelson, flank Mike Schultz as he finishes his last day with the Post Office.

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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

Mike's response to the "Going Postal" article from the Twin Cities Business Magazine. December 2012

In your December editorial entitled "Going Postal - it's time to let the private sector help reform government spending" (December 2012 issue) you chose the Postal Service as your subject. It is interesting to note that of all the government's agencies and departments, you chose the one entity that does not rely on taxpayer funding.

As you correctly stated, the Postal Service does not receive taxpayer funding for its operating expenses and has not since the 1980s. As of 2006, the Postal Service had no debt, its revenues exceeded expenses and it was operating within its mandate to break even. That was until Congress, as you put it, "meddled" in the Postal Service's affairs. In a lame duck session of Congress (December 2006), legislation was passed called the "Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act." This legislation mandated that the Postal Service pre-fund health benefits for future retirees, 75 years in the future. This is something no other entity, public or private in the country is required to do. In addition, Congress required that these future obligations be paid for in 10 years. This has nothing to do with employee pensions, as Congress long ago ensured that the Postal Service fully funded its employee pension obligations.

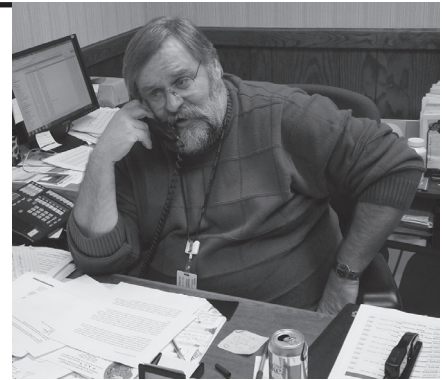
This pre-funding has been the primary driver of the Postal Service's financial problems since then. It accounts for 80% of all

postal red ink.

You suggest that Congress "tap into the private sector's expertise in restructuring troubled businesses." However, what you suggest sounds more like what a hedge fund would do rather than restructuring something that you maintain "is as important as reliable energy." What you really are speaking about is privatization and the auctioning off of the Postal Service, the second largest employer in the United States, an institution whose existence is called for in the Constitution, and that is older than the county itself.

Under your scenario, you would have private industry bid for the right to decide how the Postal Service would be split up and franchised. That may sound enticing to some, as the revenues from postal operations in 2011 were 66 BILLION dollars. As you correctly wrote, this would sharply drive up the costs by the introduction of corporate profits and market conditions into the pricing equation. This would affect small businesses and could hamper them from creating new jobs due to these increased costs. By allowing rates to increase based on these new factors, business "would finally have to pay enough for the Postal Service to make money" delivering the mail, even though that was never the intent of either the Post Office or the Postal Service when they were created. But the cost to the public would be even greater.

The USPS and its employees provide the world's most efficient and effective delivery network. In



Mike Zagaros

addition, they contribute to the community-at-large in a variety of other ways. Under a program President George Bush began, the "Cities' Readiness Initiative," letter carriers have volunteered to be trained to deliver medicines to residents in major metropolitan areas in event of a biological attack. The first full scale exercise of this program was right here in the Twin Cities and was a success. The "Carrier Alert" program protects the elderly and disabled living alone. This is a formal version of something letter carriers do every day on the job, which involves saving people from fires, summoning help when a resident faces a medical emergency after falling or taking ill, helping put out fires, finding missing children or stopping crimes. In addition, letter carriers annually conduct the country's largest single-day food drive, replenishing food pantries throughout Minnesota and around the country. All this is done for free, and without a dime of taxpayer money.

What you classified as a "constructive starting point" that is needed to "finally solve our greatest government spending problems..." would instead result in turning the United States Postal Service into Postal Profits

*President's article  
continued on page 19*

## St. Paul T.E. Testing for CCA's



Eastside carriers receiving their 25 & 30 yr NALC pins are: Steve Fischer (25), Susan Hobar (30), Rosemary Wallace (25), Lori Schultz (25), Steve Schultz (25).



Columbia Heights Steward, Loren McNellis with 25 & 30 yr NALC pin recipient's, Russ Ofsthun (30) and Paul Stemper (25).



On behalf of all Branch 9 letter carriers, President Mike Zagaros and Executive Vice President, Darrell Maus, accept the Coppertop Award rating of 5-Stars from the City of Minneapolis for our National Convention which was the largest Convention in 2012.

### MINNESOTA SENATORS

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#### Senator Amy Klobuchar – Democrat

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### The Following is a list of Paid Members of PAL 9 for March 2013.

#### VERY CONCERNED MEMBERS

Howard G. Lamson  
Patrick E. Paplow  
Wesley E. Thomas  
Charles M. Glover  
Michael T. Zagaros  
Curtis M. Blackwell  
Peter E. Wilson

#### REGULAR MEMBERS

Morris R. Gross  
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J.W. Bill Stambaugh  
Roger G. Harwarth  
Ronald D. Levinson  
Joe L. Williams  
Wayne J. Kelash  
Herman M. Weidner  
Deborah A. Grunnes  
Ned McCraine  
Raymond C. Williams  
Herbert J. Hess  
Daniel C. Holland  
Mark E. Edgren

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



# Executive Vice President's Report

## 6 DAY vs. 5 DAY

Just like the pendulum on a clock the conversations on this issue swing back and forth with the members of our branch. Some like the idea of having something they have never had before, Saturdays off. Others realize this would be a hit to the overall business functions of the Postal Service that it would never recover from. NALC President Rolando stated ***"To cut a day of mail delivery would disrupt the nation's only universal delivery network, place disproportionate harm on the rural communities, senior citizens, and small business owners who rely on six day mail service, and it would only serve to accelerate a financial death spiral for the Postal Service."***

There goes that pendulum swing again. To have Saturdays off would be a very shortsighted gain. The financial hit to the Service will adversely impact the future of the Post Office. In a February 6 press conference the postmaster general stated that *if 5 day delivery doesn't resolve the financial situation of the Postal Service we could end up with a 4 day or 3 day work week in the future.* I compare this cost cutting measure to a couple talking about their family budget and trying to figure out how to pay for a \$10,000 monthly mortgage and coming up with a solution that we can just cut down on our grocery bill by \$50 a week and that will take care of it.

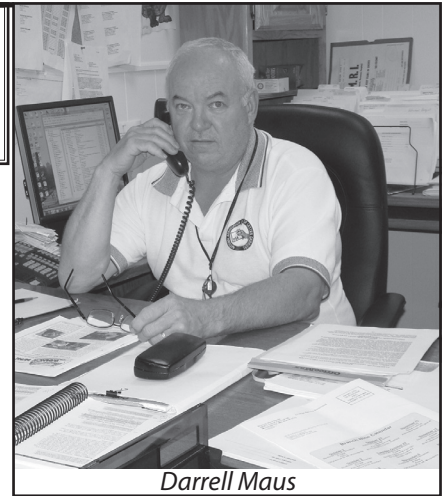
Now lets take a look at the impact on the Post Office with that type

of thinking. First of all we will still have 6 days worth of mail that now would have to be delivered in 5 days. Where would the savings be there? We all know how much overtime is paid out on the day after a holiday and the service problems faced at the stations, this would now be a weekly situation.

Second it would delay the vital mail that the American public relies on. Rural communities would have mail delivered several days later then they are used to. They would lose confidence in the Postal Service and the loss of revenue from this would definitely impact the income of the Post Office.

Thirdly it would impact the mailers and open up delivery business for our competitors that are waiting in the wings for an opening to get to our postal customers. No business or company has the delivery system network that the Post Office has and to lose our guarantee to the sole use of this system would be a devastating hit to the Post Office. We have consistently been the most trusted federal agency in the government and our customers trust and rely on us. This would not be the case if private companies take over our deliveries. The Post Office is part of a 1.3 trillion dollar mailing industry. To say this impact would not be felt by the financial system of this country is pure BS.

Fourth the loss of 23,000 middle class jobs would greatly impact the job market and hamper and possibly stall the economic



Darrell Maus

recovery that we are starting to see. The slash and shrink plan the Postmaster General has proposed would stall any competitiveness the Postal Service has put in place. We do not need a plan to decrease or dismantle our postal service, we need a plan that will strengthen it.

Lastly the solution to this problem rests in the hands of the people responsible for placing the financial burden on the Postal Service. CONGRESS!! Almost all of the financial losses the Post Office has incurred is because of the pre-funding mandate. Congress put it there, they can take it away. Call your congressman and urge them to do the right thing for the American people. 6 day is the only way to preserve and secure the financial future of the Post Office. Say no to 5-day delivery! Which way has the pendulum swung now?





Ken Jambois, Steward- Brooklyn Center

## SAFETY – OUR LIVES DEPEND ON IT!

What is safety? How can Postal Carriers work safer? I will try to answer these questions by discussing five areas of importance for Postal Carriers:

1. Parking points
2. Slips, trips and falls
3. Runaway/rollaway
4. Form 1767 and
5. Form 4565

On February 28, 2012, letter carrier Anthony Dunn of Los Angeles, CA was struck by a commercial vehicle while he stood at the back of his Postal vehicle working mail. Anthony had served as a letter carrier five years. Anthony lost both legs in the accident and passed away the next morning. On January 14, 2012, letter carrier Doug Poole of Columbus, OH (eighteen year letter carrier) was struck by an SUV while working the mail out of the back of his Postal vehicle. He was pinned between the vehicles and his legs were crushed. He survived but continues to need treatment to this day.

Are you parking your Postal vehicle at the safest parking point possible? We all have many parking points each day on our mail routes. When working out of the

back of your vehicle do not talk on cell phones or use headphones. Be aware of your surroundings. Stay alert and be ready for the unexpected. Is there a better choice to protect ourselves? Is there a safer place to park your vehicle so your back is not exposed to traffic? If there is, maybe you should have a discussion with your station manager to move the parking point to a safer place. If your manager does not want to discuss the hazards of the parking point you could fill out a Form 1767. If the 1767 is not responded to in a favorable way, contact your union steward.

Since February 1, 2012, there have been 50 slips, trips and falls in Minneapolis, MN. This is alarming. As letter carriers we have tools to help prevent these accidents. Some of these tools are ice grippers, high top shoes and the Form 1767. In the winter months the weather is always changing. And the freeze/thaw cycle is dangerous. As carriers we have the choice to wear our ice grippers. If we are aware of the work environment on our route and we know that it is icy we should strap on those ice grippers. High top shoes help support our ankles. In all seasons it is wise to wear high top shoes. Form 1767 can be filled out if there are icy stairs that we cannot walk up or if there are holes that need to be filled in on our walking paths in the summer months on our mail routes. Turn the 1767 into your supervisor.

Runaway/rollaway accidents are preventable. There are steps as letter carriers we must take every time we move our Postal vehicles, the LLVs (Long Life Vehicles), Postal vans or 2-ton vehicles. There are certain steps as carriers we should take every time we exit the Postal

vehicle. Place the vehicle in park, set the brake, properly turn the wheels, turn the ignition off and remove the keys. The brake will assist the vehicle to stay in park. Properly curbing the wheels determines the direction the vehicle will travel if struck or it begins to roll. Point the wheels so the vehicle will stay away from the center of the road. Turning off the ignition and removing the key causes the steering column to lock, assuring the vehicle's wheels stay in a curbed position. No matter how much grief your supervisor gave you in the morning about your DOIS numbers- follow these steps and your vehicle will stay parked and you will not be disciplined for having a runaway/rollaway vehicle.

Form 1767 is a very good tool for letter carriers to use to keep a safe work environment. This form is a tool that is given to us by a negotiated contract between the NALC (National Association of Letter Carriers) and the US Postal Service. Form 1767 is a U.S. Postal form to report hazards, unsafe conditions or practices in your workplace or on your mail route. These forms should be available in your Post Office. There should be a designated spot for these forms. If the 1767 is not available ask your station manager or steward where the form is and how to get one. All carriers have the right to fill out a Form 1767. Do not feel intimidated to fill one out. Why should we fill out a 1767? The main reason is to create a safer work environment, whether in your Post Office or on your mail route. How to fill out a 1767? The form has four pages to it with carbon in between each page. Each page goes to a certain Postal department. The blue goes to the employee. Now what is

the safety problem? I will use an example of a blind spot in a Post Office where a mirror should be placed on the wall in a corridor to help people from running into each other. First I write on the 1767 the location of the problem. At Brooklyn Center, MN in the hall going to the dock. Next I describe the unsafe condition and what corrective action I suggest. Heavy traffic area of carriers and mail handlers. Recommend a mirror mounted eight feet off the floor on the wall. I submit this to my supervisor and wait up to seven days for a response. Management must go through and see if there is a problem. Put in a work order and have a mirror installed. You should receive a blue copy saying that the problem is fixed and if not, contact your steward so a grievance can be filed. There are many reasons to fill out a 1767. For example, you have a hole on your walking path on your route or debris on the street on your mounted route. Just fill a Form 1767 and get the process moving to make a safer work environment for you and your co-workers.

PS Form 4565 is a vehicle repair tag form. If our Postal vehicle has any mechanical problems this Form 4565 should be filled out. These forms are typically located where your vehicle keys are located. If for any reason your Postal vehicle is not running right or has something broken on it, fill out a Form 4565. Fill this form out for your safety and your co-worker who might use your Postal vehicle when you are on annual or sick leave. Don't take chances with broken vehicles.

I hope I have given you some tools to be safe in your Postal facility and on your mail route. A safe

work environment is important. The less chance of injury to ourselves lets us be more useful in our personal lives and productive at our jobs as letter carriers. On your mail route be aware of the surroundings, park your vehicle correctly, don't wear headphones, and fill out Form 1767 if there are any hazards on your route or in your workplace. If your vehicle has mechanical problems fill out a Form 4565. And most important, take charge of your safety because no one cares about us more than we care about ourselves. Be responsible for your own safety. Use the tools we have to create a safe work environment.

*Source: Manuel L. Peralta Jr. Leadership Academy 15, Safety and Health discussion.*



*Rodney Anderson  
Director of Retirees*

**HONOR FLIGHTS**

My Uncle Wayne is an ornery old cuss. He turned 90 this April, and getting him off his farm for anything but his weekly journey to church is a major chore.

But fortunately, it's not impossible. My cousins nearly had to hogtie him to get him on the plane, but last summer, he was on an Honor

Flight to Washington DC that turned out to be one of the most rewarding and moving of his long life.

Because Uncle Wayne's life wasn't always defined by his farm. From 1942 thru 1945, he was a soldier in our greatest national trial, the Second World War. He drove a truck on the famous Red Ball Express that provided the sinews to our victorious drive thru France and Belgium into Germany itself. Wayne would be the last man on earth to consider his duties heroic. We would beg to differ, but in any case they made him eligible for an Honor Flight.

A WHAT? you ask.

The Honor Flights are a program organized by military veterans to provide a last tribute to our World War II soldiers. To be eligible, you must be a veteran of World War II, not wheelchair-bound, and have never visited the World War II Memorial in Washington DC. It is absolutely free. You fill out an application, and are flown early one morning on Sun Country Airlines to Washington DC by "Veteran Guardians", who then take the honorees to the beautiful World War II Memorial in the middle of the Capitol Mall, between the Lincoln Memorial and the Capitol Building. They are then flown home that evening. It's a daylong tribute by a grateful nation to our "Greatest Generation" who gave us our greatest victories.

For further information and applications, you may contact Jerry Kyser at 651-481-8835; or, if you have a computer, check out the website at [www.honorflighttwincities.org](http://www.honorflighttwincities.org).





AMY KLOBUCHAR  
MINNESOTA

COMMITTEES:  
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AND TRANSPORTATION  
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE  
JUDICIARY  
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 24, 2013

Ms. Lisa O'Neill  
President  
Minnesota State Association of Letter Carriers  
Union Labor Center, Room 490  
312 Central Avenue, S.E.  
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Dear Friends:


Thank you for inviting me to join you at today's rally to protect the U.S. Postal Service and six-day mail delivery. While my schedule prevents me from being here with you in person, I want to commend you and all for the hard work you are doing every day to defend this critical institution.

We all understand the Postal Service faces serious financial challenges, and we remain committed to working to find a solution to the Postal Service's long-term financial viability, however a piecemeal strategy that focuses on cutting services and forgoes a critical competitive advantage is not the solution. That is why I cosigned a letter this February urging the Postmaster General to maintain Saturday mail delivery.

I also voted this week for the FY14 Continuing Resolution that maintains six-day delivery through the end of this fiscal year. This resolution passed the Senate, and has since been approved by the House of Representatives, and it is currently awaiting the President's approval. With the national unemployment rate at 7.8 percent, moving to five-day delivery will hurt middle class families. Looking forward, we need a comprehensive postal reform bill that removes the serious undue financial burdens from the Postal Service, and sets the Postal Service down a path towards modernization while protecting its crucial obligations and services.

Thank you for everything you have done and continue to do in protect the U.S. Postal Service. I would especially like to thank Lisa O'Neill, and the leadership of the Minnesota State Association of Letter Carriers, for their continued leadership and tireless devotion to these critical issues. You represent Minnesota's best, and I am honored to serve you in the United States Senate. I look forward to working with you on our shared goal of maintaining six-day delivery and ensuring the viability of the U.S. Postal Service.

Sincerely,

  
Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator

BETTY McCOLLUM  
4TH DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

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GLOBAL HEALTH CAUCUS,  
CO-FOUNDER

CONGRESSIONAL  
NATIVE AMERICAN CAUCUS,  
CO-CHAIR

March 24, 2013

Minnesota State Association of Letter Carriers  
c/o Lisa O'Neill  
1865 North Ham Lake Drive NE  
Ham Lake, MN 55304

Dear Friends:

Thank you for inviting me to attend the rally today. I regret that I'm not able to join you in person. Thank you all for Delivering for America!

The communities, families and businesses I represent depend on the certainty and convenience of six-day mail delivery, and I strongly oppose the proposal to reduce service. As cosponsor of H. Res. 30, I believe it is important that we all stand up in strong support for the preservation of Saturday delivery.

The United States Postal Service not only delivers for America, it is our nation's second-largest employer, and is foundational to the American economy. Congress has the power to act, and it must act to address the Postal Service's serious fiscal challenges by preserving six-day delivery, relieving the unprecedented prefunding requirement for retiree health benefits; and returning overpayments to provide immediate fiscal relief to allow the postal service to address other financial needs.

Thank you all for standing together with the men and women all across our nation who deliver for America every day. I am proud to stand with you to keep our Postal Service and our economy moving forward for the American people.

Sincerely,

Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

KEITH ELLISON  
5TH DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 24, 2013

I am sorry I couldn't join you today. I had a previously scheduled event outside of Minnesota and I wasn't able to get back in time.

I want you to know that this is a fight we are in together. I stand in solidarity with you today. The cut backs you are facing are substantial, un-fair and wrong.

The men and women standing here today go through all odds to deliver the mail. Rain or shine. Tornadoes or clear skies. Dogs barking and even biting. The service you provide is invaluable to our community.

The workers and families that will be impacted by these cuts aren't to blame. The root of the problem, as we all know, is a silly requirement to pre-fund billions in future of health care costs. No other government agency or private company makes these types of payments and if they did they would also be negatively impacted.

I will do whatever it takes to protect six-day delivery. I have signed onto numerous bills to protect and defend this valuable public institution. The Progressive Caucus came together to do an hour on the House floor talking about the benefits of the work you do.

We must stand together. We must fight together. We must not allow this attack on the working people of the postal service and their families.

I ask that you talk to your neighbors, your friends, get on twitter and Facebook and call members of Congress, even people that support your cause to make sure your voices are heard.

In solidarity,

Keith Ellison



**Minneapolis**  
City of Lakes

**City Council**

**Barbara A. Johnson**  
City Council President  
Council Member, Fourth Ward

March, 2013

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Minneapolis MN 55415-1383

Office 612 673-2204  
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TTY 612 673-2157

barbara.johnson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

TO: Patrick R. Donahoe  
United States Postmaster General

As members of the Minneapolis City Council we appreciate the service provided to our citizens by the U.S. Postal Service. We know that letter carriers keep an eye on our older and disabled residents who live alone through the Carriers Alert program. The Postal Service employs many Minneapolis residents and postal facilities are a vital part of our City's economy. There are many Postal service retirees that live in Minneapolis.

Minneapolis is also home to a vibrant printing and direct mail industry that contributes to our strength as a city with a diversified economy. A change to less than 6 day delivery will affect that industry directly.

We perceive that a substantial part of the financial challenges to the Postal Service comes from the mandate to prepay health premiums for future retirees. This is a challenge not required of any other government service.

We wish to support the designation of March 24 as Protect the Post Office Day and encourage the Congress to save the Postal Service and preserve the 6 day delivery.

Sincerely,

	Barbara Johnson
	Robert Lilligren
	Meg Tuthill
	Sandy Colvin Roy
	Lisa Goodman

Cam Gordon	
John Quincy	
Kevin Reich	
Elizabeth Glidden	
Diane Hofstede	

cc: President Barack Obama  
Senator Amy Klobuchar  
Senator Al Franken  
Representative Keith Ellison



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TOLL FREE #:  
(877) 486-9259



**TIMOTHY J. WALZ**  
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
FIRST DISTRICT, MINNESOTA  
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Economic Opportunity

March 28, 2013

President Lisa O'Neill  
Minnesota State Association of Letter Carriers  
2408 Central Ave NE  
Minneapolis, MN

Sent via email to: [president@msalc.org](mailto:president@msalc.org)

Dear President O'Neill,

I write to express my gratitude and support of your efforts to pursue reforms that will improve the effectiveness and long-term growth of the United States Postal Service (USPS). USPS makes it possible for hardworking Americans, especially those living at the end of the back-country road, to stay in touch with their family, friends, and the rest of the world.

Any efforts in Washington to reform how USPS meets the needs of its customers - mothers and fathers, small business owners, and senior citizens - must work to improve its effectiveness and long-term growth. Rather than eliminating six-day service, Congress should remove the onerous employee benefit pre-funding requirements that no other business on earth must follow. We need to end the attack on USPS and its workers, who persevere through harsh winters and heavy rains to make sure Americans are connected.

Thank you for your commitment to serving the greater good. I will continue standing with you in Congress.

Sincerely,

Tim Walz  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

TJW/mk

AL FRANKEN  
MINNESOTA

SUITE  
SH-309  
202-224-5641

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2309

Dear Friends:

Thank you for the invitation to join you today in support of a strong postal service. I am sorry my schedule prevented me from joining you.

Many Minnesotans rely on the mail to get their essentials like newspapers and paychecks, and for many parts of the state—especially rural communities—the U.S. Postal Service provides the only way to get something delivered. While the postal service is facing financial difficulties, the elimination of Saturday delivery will only make those problems worse by forcing customers to take their business elsewhere. A piecemeal strategy that focuses on cutting services and forgoes a critical competitive advantage is not the solution.

That is why I joined several of my Senate colleagues in introducing legislation to modernize the postal service and to repeal the onerous law that is largely responsible for the postal service's financial problems that forces the post office to pre-fund 75 years of future health care benefits for retirees over the course of 10 years – a burden placed on no other government agency, and almost no private businesses.

Thank you for making your voices heard today, and you can count on me to continue to fight to ensure Minnesotans have the reliable and quality postal service that they need.

Sincerely,



Al Franken  
United States Senator

# Branch 9's Annual Red and Gold Retiree Banquet Sunday, May 5, 2013 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*

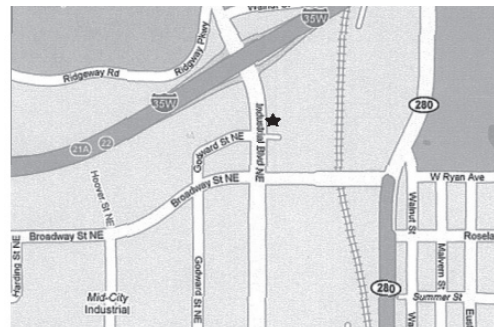
*Wild Rice Blend*

*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 29.***

*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: \_\_\_\_\_

<input type="checkbox"/> Retired	<input type="checkbox"/> I would like a ride to the Banquet	<b><i>Return by April 29 to: Branch 9, NALC 2408 Central Avenue NE Minneapolis 55418</i></b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Active	<input type="checkbox"/> I am willing to give someone a ride (Call Rodney Anderson 651.486.6571 (c) 651.270.7807	

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

## 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 28, 2013

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 contributions 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 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. 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 education institution next fall, should complete the applications and return them to the Branch Office by May 28 or bring them to that night's meeting. All three forms should be submitted as there are three separate drawings for each scholarship.**



# Adult Learners Scholarship

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

### Adult Learners:

**Submit scholarship application to Branch 9 by May 28, 2013**

**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.

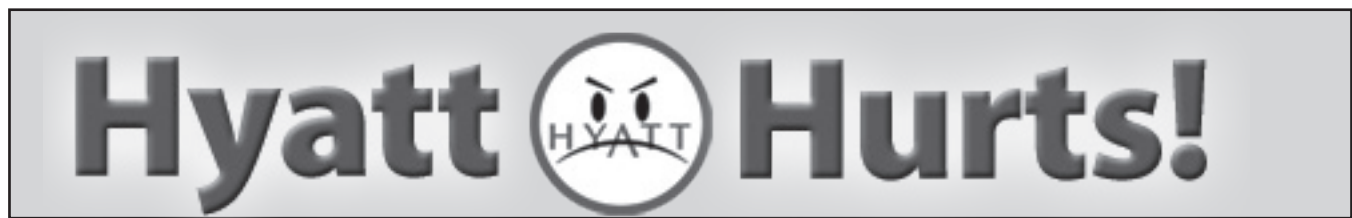
D. The application for the drawings will run in the March and April issues of the Branch Nine News. The drawing will be held at the May General Membership Meeting. The applications shall contain the following information:

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.

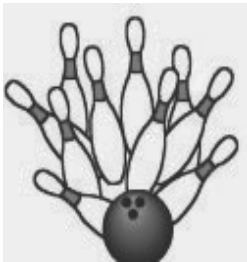
**Members who plan to attend an accredited education institution should complete the application and return it to the Branch Office by May 28, or bring it to that night's meeting.**



<p><b>UNIFORMS UNLIMITED</b></p> <p>Minneapolis 2220 Lyndale Avenue South Minneapolis, MN 55405 612-377-0011</p>	<p>The Twin Cities Postal Headquarters</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <p><b>USA</b> Union preferred</p> </div>	<p>St. Paul 935 N. Dale Street St. Paul, MN 55103 651-224-7567</p>
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# Ron St. Clair Memorial MDA Bowl-a-thon

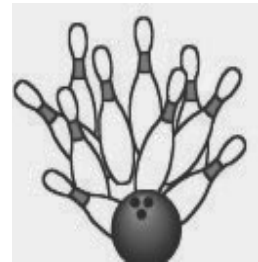
**Saturday, April 27, 2013**



## **LOCATION**

Park Tavern

3401 Louisiana Avenue South  
St. Louis Park, MN 55426



## **TIME**

7:00 - 9:15PM

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20 lanes of bowling (all teams bowl at same time)

Teams of 4 - 6 - MAIL your **teams with names** to:

Branch 9

2408 Central Avenue NE

Minneapolis, MN 55418

2 games, shoe rental, pizza and cash bar

\$50 per bowler minimum collected for MDA - checks  
made out to Branch 9.

Silent and live auctions

Games for the kids

Contest for best gift basket - winning station will receive  
a free breakfast

Deadline for registration is **Tuesday, April 16th**

**FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED**

*Presidents article  
continued from page 3*

Incorporated at the expense of everyone from small business owners to the American public as a whole, all in the name of profits for the few.

The issues of the Postal Service can be resolved. The Service has always been able to adapt to changing conditions from the telephone, to the fax machine and will do so again - provided Congress fix the pre-funding problem it created. Then the stake holders can focus on providing universal communication services to all citizens, as it has always been, for the common good.

**Excerpts from "Going Postal" from the Twin Cities Business Magazine. December 2012**

The second-largest U.S. employer is losing \$5 billion a quarter. By mid-October, it hit its borrowing limit for the first time in history. By early November, it had amassed \$26 billion in debt—\$15 billion owed to the U.S. Treasury and \$11 billion in retiree health benefits it defaulted on in August and September, according to the Wall Street Journal. It's on track to lose nearly \$20 billion a year.

- Have FedEx Corp., United Parcel Service of America, Inc., and others bid to participate in a project led by Donahoe and experts from McKinsey & Co. and Accenture;

one bidder would merge with, restructure and then franchise the Postal Service.

- This privately operated postal business could increase postage rates based on market conditions rather than today's congressionally mandated cap at the rate of inflation. First-class postage could be increased to \$1 and bulk-rate postage doubled in the next two years. Yes, this means businesses relying on today's overly cheap rates would finally have to pay enough for the Postal Service to make money delivering it.

One of the top priorities should be restructuring the U.S. Postal Service, which to most businesses is as important as reliable energy. It delivers more than 200 billion pieces of mail per year, connecting virtually every U.S. home and business. And it's close to needing a huge taxpayer-backed financial bailout because it cannot right itself as long as Congress continues to meddle in its affairs.

- The 223 mail-sorting facilities identified for closure and 35,000 related job losses could instead be refocused on shipping; the service could compete more aggressively in an area that today only accounts for about 10 percent of its revenue.
- Postal Service employees could apply for a job in the new postal operations. Most would be re-hired, while weaker performers

would finally be vetted out. Benefits in the new operation would be in line with the private sector (401 (k)s instead of pensions, health savings accounts, etc.).

- Rural post offices could be franchised for up to \$100,000 per location based on trailing three-year average mail volumes. Franchisees would receive revenues based on how much mail they process. They could also offer non-Postal Service products and services at their locations, such as coffee shops with free Wi-Fi and small convenience stores.

**Hunger Statistics in America**

**50 million or 1 in 6 Americans live in food insecure households.** Food insecurity means not knowing where the next meal will come from.

**17 million or 1 in 5 are children.** Nearly 20% of children live in food insecure households. Food insecurity is associated with grade repetition, absenteeism, anxiety, aggression, poor math scores, difficulty with social interaction, and ultimately poor health.

**3 million are seniors over age 65.** Seniors in food insecure households must sometimes decide between paying for food and paying for medicine.

**The NALC Food Drive helps our communities.**



**Br. 9 Retired Letter Carrier  
Kerry Herdine  
Home: 952.854.2655  
Cell: 612.805.8407**

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2408 Central Avenue NE  
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## Branch Nine Calendar

### Saturday April 27

Branch 9 MDA Bowl -a-thon  
7:00PM - 9:15PM  
Park Tavern  
3401 Louisiana Ave So  
St. Louis Park, MN 55426

### April 29 - May 3

Regional Training Seminar  
Radisson Hotel  
2540 Cleveland Ave. N  
Roseville, MN 55113

### May 5

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

### May 7

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

### Saturday May 11

NALC Food Drive

### May 14

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

### May 14

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

### May 28

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

### Tuesday, May 28

Proposed By-Laws voted on  
General Membership Meeting  
7:00PM  
Golden Valley VFW Post 7051  
7775 Medicine Lake Rd  
Golden Valley

### June 4

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

### June 11

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

### June 11

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