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## WHERE HAS ALL THE LOGIC GONE? (Postal Reform...It really is not that complicated)

### HERE ARE THE FACTS:

1. The Bush Era Law of 2006 (PL 109-435) requires the USPS to prefund retiree benefits over the next 75 years in just 10 years starting in September 2007.
2. The Postal Service Retiree Health Benefit Fund already has a surplus.
3. No other federal agency is required to prefund retiree health benefits.
4. The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) should acknowledge the findings of two external private sector audits that found a surplus of between \$50 to \$75 billion of overpayments by the Postal Service to the Retiree Health Benefit Fund.
  - a. The Hay Group, by its analysis found overpayments of \$75 billion.
  - b. The Segal Company study showed overpayments of \$50 to \$55 billion.
  - c. Comment: Based on the pre-funding payment schedule of P.L.109-435, payments from September 30, 2012 thru September 30, 2016 would total \$28.4 billion.

**LOGIC WOULD CONCLUDE THAT THE OVERPAYMENT AS NOTED BY EITHER STUDY WOULD BE MORE THAN ENOUGH TO COVER THESE PREMIUMS AND THEN SOME.**



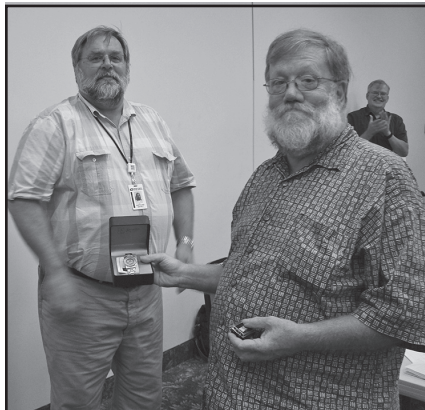
## Election Notice



This is an official notification to the membership of Jerome J. Keating Branch 9 NALC Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**Nominations for delegates to the 2014 MSALC State Convention, and the 2014 NALC National Convention will be held at the September General Membership Meeting on Tues., September 24, 2013 at 7:00PM.**

The General Membership Meeting will be held at the Golden Valley VFW Post 7051, 7775 Medicine Lake Road, Golden Valley. Candidates must complete the appropriate Letters of Intent and return same to the Recording Secretary at the September General Membership Meeting in which they are nominated or within 10 days thereafter no later than 5:00PM. Should an election of delegates to the MSALC Convention **OR** the 2014 NALC National Convention be necessary, it will be held at the October General Membership Meeting on October 22, 2013.



Marty Cornell (Main Office) receives his belated retirement watch and pin.

### ***Why can't I find a job?***

SIR – I am young and unemployed and face a lifetime on the dole. Why?

This morning I collected my job-seekers allowance from my bank, where I have it paid directly into my account. I did not see a cashier, but withdrew money from a cash point. Then I went to the supermarket and bought French apples, German sausage and Danish bacon. I scanned the items at a self-service till, no need for a check-out assistant.

I went home, switched on my Chinese computer and applied for jobs online. I do not send letters through the post; e-mail is more convenient. I then shopped online, I rarely use local shops.

Who can I blame for the lack of jobs?

*Nicola Sangster  
Brixham, Devon  
From the Economist, May 18, 2013*

### **From the Editor's Desk**

## **Feedback**



As Editor, I would be interested in hearing from carriers who have issues on how their station is being managed (or should I say mis-managed). Most station managers don't want their problems aired out, and try to keep their incompetency under wraps. For example at my station, in Burnsville the Route Edit Books have been sitting on the supervisors desk for over a month with no action having been taken; ordering of necessary supplies has also not been done, etc., etc.

Maybe "Mr. Big Picture" should start trying to motivate managers to do their jobs.

Your thoughts.....?

### **NALC Supported Legislation:**

#### **H.R. 961:**

In the House, 140 members (out of 435) have co-sponsored H.R. 961, a measure that calls for a refund of the USPS' surplus in FERS.

#### **Co-Sponsors:**

Rep Ellison, Keith [MN-5]  
Rep McCollum, Betty [MN-4]  
Rep Nolan, Richard M. [MN-8]  
Rep Peterson, Collin C. [MN-7]  
Rep Walz, Timothy J. [MN-1]

### **In Memoriam**

**Dennis Jaeger**

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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.

# Region 7 Update

## CCA Conversions

On June 7, 2013, the Postal Service sent the NALC a letter informing us that they are declaring the conversions of CCAs to full-time career status outside of the conversion ratio of 1.18 career carriers per route as outlined under Article 7.3.A and the Das Award an interpretive issue. The letter states:

***The interpretive issue is whether the Postal Service is required, notwithstanding the conversion ratio under Article 7.3.A, to convert a City Carrier Assistant (CCA) to full-time career status under the following circumstances: A residual vacancy exists in an installation that is not under Article 12 withholding, there is no available part-time flexible, full-time unassigned regular, or full-time flexible city letter carriers in the installation, and the installation employees CCAs.***

For the time being, it appears that the Postal Service will only convert when the ratio of full-time career employees to routes dips below 1.18. That said we are strongly encouraging branches that are not under a legitimate withholding, have residual vacancies, no PTFs, no unassigned regulars, no full-time flexibles, and employ CCAs to file grievances in an attempt to convert CCAs to full-time status. When the interpretive issue is

resolved, these grievances will go to Step B and should be resolved quickly based on the resolution of the interpretive issue through negotiations or arbitration.

We also encourage branches to file grievances under these circumstances because it is inevitable that the full-time to route ratio will dip below 1.18, and when it does, the Postal Service will have to convert CCAs to full-time status. NALC Headquarters monitors the 1.18 ratio, and per M-01819, the Postal Service must provide information to determine the current ratio every other pay period. To this date, we have not been informed that the ratio is below 1.18. However, this could change soon and we want our branches to have grievances at Step B in the hopes of expediting the process of converting our CCAs to full-time status.

If your office needs assistance in filing these grievances, let us know because we have sample grievances that we can send you electronically or via mail. If you have any additional questions on this issue, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

## House Committee Passes Issa's Bill

The House Oversight and Government reform committee passed Chairman Darrel Issa's (R-CA) postal bill (H.R. 2748) on July 24<sup>th</sup>. The NALC is asking committee members to vote "no" to this bill as it would slash services to Americans and eliminates at least 100,000 good jobs.

The bill in its current state includes the potential elimination of Saturday delivery which would sacrifice the Postal Service's biggest advantage over its competitors. Additionally, the forced removal of 30 million household & business mail boxes would impose an unfair and deeply unpopular burden on customers with door to door delivery while conversion costs would add an additional \$1 billion in debt.

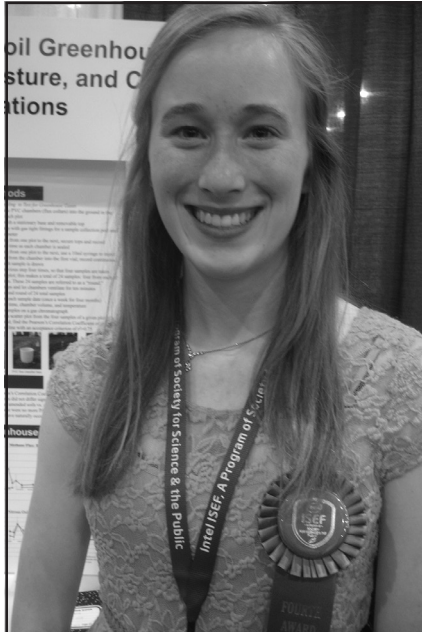
**H.R. 2748** also creates a costly new level of bureaucracy on the Postal Service. Instead of fixing what is really broken, the bill creates a new body that will be tasked with cutting costs by abrogating collective-bargaining agreements and dismantling the Postal Service's networks. Instead of adding new and costly Governance Authority, Congress should improve the existing USPS Board of Governors by requiring these individuals to be well-qualified business leaders focused on long-term growth and innovation.

There is a section within the bill that is a direct attack by Congress on collective bargaining. This attack mandates the terms of future collective-bargaining agreements and would completely undermine a process that has worked extremely well for over 40 years and has helped keep postage rates low and eliminated all taxpayer subsidies. In short, this kind of one-sided interference by

*Continued on page 7*

## William C. Doherty Scholarship Winner

*Sponsored by the National Association of Letter Carriers in honor of its President from 1941 to 1962, the William C. Doherty Scholarship Fund will award five scholarships (of \$4,000 yearly for 4 years) to children of members in good standing.*



*Rena D. Weis, recipient of the William C. Doherty Scholarship 2013.*

Rena D. Weis has won one of five (one for each USPS region) NALC scholarships given out across the country. The scholarship was based on diversity in extracurricular activities, sports, leadership, work experience and scholastic excellence. Throughout Rena's pre-college education, she has had many activities to engage in, including Track & Field, Girl Scouts, Soccer, Band, 4H, National Honor Society, and entering Science Fairs.

This spring Rena was given the John Philip Sousa Band Award which recognizes students for outstanding leadership, superior musicianship, dependability, and loyalty. She will continue with her music as a member of the U of M Marching Band this fall.

Rena has been a Scott County 4H

member since 3rd grade. In 4th grade, like many other students in primary school she was required to make a science fair project. So she grew some mold on bread and did OK with that, and even though science projects were not required in the future, she never stopped exploring the many areas from magnetism to the behavioral sciences.

She went to all of the South Central/Southwest MN. Science and Engineering Fairs every year where she received a number of awards. She also attended most of the State Science Fairs held in Bloomington.

In high school, she chose a specific area to study which was the various effects that Biochar may have on crops and soil. She has been doing research in that area for 4 years now. Her goal now was to be awarded an all expense paid trip to the the premier science fair. That would be ISEF the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair held that year in California. It is the largest international science fair in the world for high school students with participants from over 65 countries competing. As a sophomore her dream came true, and she got to present her research in Los Angeles.

In 2012, she was awarded the opportunity to present her research in Houston, Texas at another international science fair called ISWEEEP (International Sustainable World Environment Engineering and Energy Olympiad

Project). Her project on Biochar earned her a silver medal. Biochar is a substance produced from bio waste like wood shavings and corn stalks. In 2013, Rena expanded her research on Biochar to determine if adding it to the soil might help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Her results found that it reduced methane emissions (a leading greenhouse gas). She took soil gas samples for 8 months and analyzed the results using equipment at the Soil Science Lab at the U of M.

In 2013 Rena was in three competitions during the spring. She was awarded a trip back to Intel ISEF, which was held in Phoenix, Arizona this year, and back to ISWEEEP in Houston, Texas where she was awarded the bronze medal. She entered the Bio Genius Challenge online, and was one of eight chosen at large from across the United States to compete along with other entries from around the world. It was held at the Hilton Hotel in Chicago, Illinois, where she finished in the top ten.

She was awarded the 4th place award in her category of Environmental Science at Intel ISEF, which we all believe is the biggest accomplishment of her life so far. (She had to miss school for all of these events and I was worried she might not graduate!)

Despite time away from her studies, Rena graduated from New Prague High School, 5th in her class of 266 this May.

*Continued on page 10*

## Executive Vice President's Report

### FEEL LIKE YOUR BEING WATCHED?

The answer is yes you are. With the addition of the cell phones you are now required to carry along with your scanners to accomplish a quick and direct download for the packages you have scanned. The use of this new technology is great for USPS business customers where they are now able to get accurate and timely tracking information of their packages and other mail pieces. Our parcel post business is the one increase of pieces that we handle today and this will only help promote and increase that revenue stream. With that concept and intention in mind this union is in full agreement. The other capability of these new devices is the GPS tracking system that is programmed within the devices. Management can and will be able to track you wherever you are on a daily basis. This should be of no surprise to any of us, we knew it would be coming sooner or later. After we are the real reason for management not to make their numbers is because of carrier performance. We are to blame and they are trying to prove it with these new devices. Management will now be able to tell if a carrier is off his line of travel or at a stop off their route altogether or parked for a lengthy period of time.

So what does this mean for our carriers? It means nothing if you do your route the way we have stressed for years at this branch. Do it the same way every day. I have always told carriers to do your route anticipating that you are being watched. If for some reason on a certain day some out of the ordinary occurs on your route that requires unexpected time or travel make sure to inform your supervisor or at least write it down for future reference if you are ever questioned in the office.

### Parcel Delivery

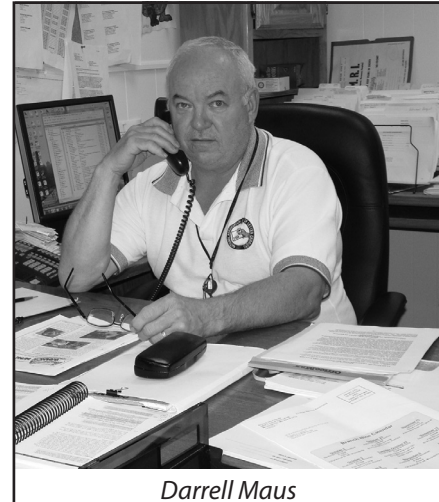
With the possible upcoming inspection process looming and the 3999's that are being done in our stations we must brush up on the proper procedures for the handling of parcels. In the M-41 (322.31) it states *"For any parcel that does not fit into the customer's mailbox or parcel locker (when available), an attempt to deliver must be made at the customer's door. If no one is available to receive the parcel, follow the procedures in 322.11 and 322.312."* This requires the carrier to attempt the package at the door even with prior approval from customers of where to leave them if they are not home. Carriers are not to merely drop and leave the parcels whether there is an agreed upon location or not.

#### 322.11 When a carrier is authorized to leave ordinary parcels

a. *Parcels must not be left in an unprotected location such as a porch unless the mailer participates in the carrier release program by endorsing the package "Carrier-Leave if No Response" or the addressee has given written directions for an alternate delivery location. Examples of protected locations are a locked vestibule, locked hallway, or with a doorman of an apartment building inside a storm door of a residence, etc. Form 3849, Delivery Notice/Reminder/Receipt, with the "It is located \_\_\_\_\_" block completed must be left in the mail receptacle location. Parcels must not be left where adverse weather can affect them.*

b. *By following the mailer's or addressee's instructions, the Postal Service provides customers with a more convenient way to receive parcels. Carriers are not liable for loss or theft where these instructions and postal regulations are followed.*

c. *Mailers who participate in the*



Darrell Maus

*carrier release program understand that there are areas where the Postal Service will not leave parcels for security reasons. Mailers also understand that carriers do not leave packages without protection form inclement weather. If there is not a suitable location to leave a carrier release parcel, Form 3849 must be left.*

#### 322.312 When the Carrier is Not Authorized to Leave Ordinary Parcels.

a. *When someone is usually available to receive parcels. When an ordinary or unnumbered insured parcel is not delivered on the first attempt and the carrier knows that someone at the address is usually available to receive parcels, do not leave Form 3849, Delivery Notice/Reminder/Receipt. Write the date and the carrier's initials and route number near the address and return the parcel to the office. Place the parcel in the gurney at the carrier's case. Attempt a second delivery on the next delivery day. If the parcel is not delivered after the second attempt, complete and leave Form 3849. Legibly endorse the form with the following information; Article number, date, Sender's name, Type of mail, Article requiring signature at time of delivery, Addressee's name and address, amount due, and Date and time customer can pick up at the office.*

b. *When someone is not usually available to receive parcels. If no one*

**VP article continued on page 10**



By: Chuck Glover (Burnsville)

During a recent service talk at the Burnsville Post Office we were introduced to the GPS/Bluetooth phones. Customer service was the reason for the bluetooth uplink. I replied that the real reason for the phones was to monitor a carrier's movements, and was told by management that if I wanted to only look at the *darkside*, carriers could be tracked by computer. Well, Mr. Manager, carriers ARE being tracked by our esteemed supervisors. Customer service is the last thing on their minds.

What is currently happening at UPS is an ominous sign of what will happen at the USPS, all in the name of *Customer Service*.

**From: Labornotes.org**  
**March 25, 2013**

### SURVEILLANCE

Working conditions have long been the stick in the craw of well-paid UPS drivers. The company's tight control of their every move puts them among the most regimented workers in the country outside those on an assembly line. Every second of a driver's day is monitored, through GPS, the touch-screens where customers sign for packages, and "telematics"—200 sensors mounted on each truck (in UPS lingo, a "package car").

Supervisors know what time a driver got out of his truck to deliver a package, how long it took to get the customer's signature, and how long to drive to the next stop. They know each time a driver backs the truck up—a violation of UPS "methods." They know about

"harsh braking" and the amount of time the truck is idling. Nichele Fulmore, a steward in Lumberton, North Carolina, says, "They know when the car cranks off, they know when you shut the door, when you scan that package. They can pinpoint you."

Matt Taibi, a driver in Providence, Rhode Island, says some managers post drivers' telematics readings, to show the worst offenders on each issue. And the telematics reports provide fodder for zealous managers. "You can go through anybody's records and find something," says Fulmore. "Some managers want to pick out a minute here and a minute there" to question employees about. "As a steward, I step in and say 'that's ridiculous.'"

Now UPS is rolling out what TDU calls "telematics on steroids." As it stands now, drivers are told, electronically, what order of stops to follow for the day. Under ORION, the technology—or a manager—will rearrange the route as the day progresses, taking even more decision-making out of the driver's hands.

### DISHONESTY

Besides surveillance and overtime, the other issue for UPS drivers is what the company calls "dishonesty." "They mean it to mean everything," Cohen says. "They've categorized everything that doesn't go by their rules and standards as being dishonest, and for that they are terminating people on the spot, with no progressive discipline."

Cohen gives an example: A driver

knows she's too far away from a store on her route to get there before closing time. So she keys in "closed." If the customer complains, the worker is fired for dishonesty. Cohen says a warning would be the appropriate response—especially since supervisors often counsel drivers to take this shortcut. Language added in the last contract allows management to fire drivers for dishonesty based solely on information gleaned from technology. This year the union proposed that such discipline be disallowed.

Can you see the handwriting on the wall?

The National Settlement (M-01458) states that *MSP data may not constitute the sole basis for disciplinary action*, however coupled with the GPS/Phone, some over enthusiastic managers, who try to brown nose their way up the corporate ladder, will use the data to question carriers productivity. As the management creed goes, "**the numbers don't lie, only carriers do.**"

The average letter carrier probably figures that if managers will just leave them alone, they will get the route done in time. Cutting corners on your route will show up on their reports. Do not believe for one minute that a manager cares about your well-being. They live and breathe DOIS, and other nonsensical acronyms. Only the union is concerned for your career.

Be safe, be consistent, be professional, and management won't have cause to discipline.

*Region 7 Update  
continued from page 3*

Congress is totally unjustifiable and is an attack on all postal employees.

**Title IV** of the bill fails to recognize the Postal Service's flawed rate-setting model. This bill does not allow the Postal Service the flexibility it needs to adjust rates to ensure that products cover their costs. Instead, the bill forces the Postal Service to cut services and eliminate jobs unnecessarily and provides no freedom for the Postal Service to meet the evolving needs of the American economy by allowing it to expand into new lines of business that would leverage its first and last mile networks.

Lastly, this bill fails to provide a long-term solution to the disastrous and unfair pre-funding burden that has been placed on the Postal Service. While the bill provides earlier access to the Postal Service's own money in the Retirement Health Benefit Fund and appears to defer pre-funding payments for two years, the remaining 40-plus years of scheduled payments will remain unaffordable, surpassing the \$5.6 billion annual payments mandated by current law.

What does this mean for the NALC and its membership? Let our lawmakers know, vote "NO" on H.R. 2748.

### **New PS Form 8190**

There is a new PS Form 8190, USPS-NALC Joint Step A Grievance Form. This form was recently updated to include the change to

Item 4, "Status", which required a change from "TE" to "CCA".

The new form is available and accessible on the NALC website ([NALC.org](http://NALC.org) under the drop down Contract Admin) or it can be printed right at the stations using light blue under the "Forms" heading.

for Netflix, postal officials may be feeling it's rather ungrateful for Netflix to blame them for closing a distribution center. They're having enough trouble defending their decisions to close mail processing plants. Now postal officials are getting blamed for closing a Netflix distribution center, too.

## **The genius' at L'Enfant Plaza stike again**

*Source: savethepostoffice.com*

Netflix is planning to close one of its distribution centers in Connecticut, and it's blaming the Postal Service. A Netflix spokesman had this to say:

"Netflix has closed the Bloomfield DVD distribution center due mainly to United States Postal Service transportation and service changes, along with increased internal production efficiencies, resulting [in] a small number of jobs lost."

That announcement has to be hurting some feelings at L'Enfant Plaza. Netflix is the Postal Service's largest individual commercial mail client, with postage expenditures topping \$500 million annually. For several years now, the Postal Service has been fighting with GameFly and the Postal Regulatory Commission in defense of the good deal Netflix receives on postal rates.

After everything they have done

## **The high cost of slowing down the mail**

The Netflix spokesman would not specify how the Postal Service is hurting business, but his reference to "service changes" is a clue. It may have something to do with the Network Rationalization plan to consolidate 240 mail processing plants. When fully implemented, the plan will end overnight delivery and slow down First Class mail a day or two. Netflix mails First Class, so slowing down the mail adds a day or two both ways, which means that subscribers get fewer movies per month. There are a lot of reasons besides mail delays that would turn people from DVDs to streaming (like convenience), but this is just the kind of thing that had critics of the Postal Service's Network Rationalization plan worried.

While the plan might save a couple of billion dollars in operating costs, it also has the potential to drive away billions in revenue as well.

According to a marketing study that the Postal Service tried to keep hidden, slowing down the mail could cause revenue losses of over \$5 billion a year.



*Rodney Anderson  
(Director of Retirees)*

### **Retiree Notes (for ACTIVE carriers)**

Yes, I know it's an oxymoron. But I have two issues to address to those of you who hope to one day soon become a Retiree!

First, let me return to a horse I've been flogging since I started this "job"; and that is, to BE SURE you join the Branch when you retire.

When you retire, both Branch 9 and the National NALC will send you a form 1189 to join (return them to Branch 9). After 6 months, you will get another gentle reminder from the Branch. But if a whole year goes by without your joining, brother or sister, you are COL (carrier out of luck) to ever rejoin.

I myself keep getting distressing reminders of all that is available to you as a Branch 9 retiree. Just in the past month, one retired carrier --- in fact, a very good friend of mine --- was told he couldn't attend our wonderful Red-Gold Banquet (where the food is delicious, plentiful, and FREE) because he never joined the Branch in retirement. 2 weeks ago I got a message that a retired carrier was

bent out of shape because she wasn't getting the Branch Nine News any longer, and couldn't keep up with her friends. I had a sinking feeling what the problem was, but asked our talented and indispensable Angie to look her up, and -- sure enough -- she had not joined in retirement.

Brothers and sisters, this is rapidly becoming my pet peeve, and my crusade. It's inexcusable, in my view, not to join. In the first place, the cost is negligible. Here's the secret: it will cost you \$4.19 per MONTH (taken directly out of your annuity) to belong to the NALC in retirement. In other words, you spend more for your dues as an active carrier per month, than you will in an entire YEAR as a retiree.

Furthermore, other priceless benefits will also disappear. You will be ineligible for Branch 9's social events, golf tournaments, fishing expeditions, etc. You no longer will get the Branch Nine News or any other notifications. And if you are depending upon the NALC Health Benefit Plan in retirement, **YOU ARE IN FOR THE BIGGEST SURPRISE OF YOUR LIFE!** That, like so many other benefits, is for NALC members only. You will find yourself, not only out of the plan, but suddenly severed forever from the FEHBP!

All right, thank you for enduring my soap box speech. Now on to better news, and that concerns NARFE. NARFE is the National Association Active and Retired Federal Employees, a national organization that works, lobbies, and advocates on behalf of all federal workers. They cover postal workers as well, and work hand-in-glove with the NALC. You may remember my recent article on how

"Obamacare" would impact us --- I got that information straight from an article in the NARFE magazine.

For those of you who would like to join the organization, which is open to ACTIVE AND RETIRED employees, it will cost you only \$45 per year (less if you sign up for more than a year), entitling you to the monthly magazine that will inform you about such things as information on State taxes or pensions, Congressional threats to our hard-earned retirements, and other regular alerts. Fortunately, we now have a local representative, a recent retiree who sits on the Executive Board of the state NARFE organization. Please feel free to contact Michelle Benson for further information, and to sign up. You may either reach her by e-mail at [benson2796@aol.com](mailto:benson2796@aol.com), or by phone at 612-805-4443. Thank you for taking on this important task, Michelle!

### **NALC Supported Legislation:**

#### **S. 316:**

In the Senate, 30 senators (out of 100) so far have co-sponsored S. 316, a postal modernization measure that preserves Saturday mail delivery.

**Co-Sponsor:**  
Senator Al Franken

#### **H.R. 630:**

In the House, 167 members (out of 435) have co-sponsored H.R. 630, a postal modernization measure that preserves Saturday mail delivery.

**Co-Sponsors:**  
Rep Ellison, Keith [MN-5]  
Rep McCollum, Betty [MN-4]  
Rep Nolan, Richard M. [MN-8]  
Rep Peterson, Collin C. [MN-7]  
Rep Walz, Timothy J. [MN-1]





*Julie Waldemar  
(NALC Health Benefits Rep)*

**Are you aware of all the Preventative Plan Benefits?**

If you are a current member of the NALC Health Benefit Plan or you are looking to maybe make a change in the open season look at this brief summary of these benefits. Where listed, preventative care procedures and services are paid in full when rendered by a preferred provider.

Covered adult preventative services include an annual routine physical exam, certain adult routine immunizations endorsed by the CDC, and certain routine tests such as: colorectal screening, diabetes screening, annual ECG/EKG, high blood pressure screening, a screening mammogram, osteoporosis screening, pap test, PSA test, total blood cholesterol, annual urinalysis and an annual chest x-ray. (Detailed info can be found in the official brochure. All benefits are subject

to the definitions, limitations, and exclusions set forth in the official brochure.)

Current members – Have you taken advantage of these preventative services this year? Have you filled out your Health Risk Assessment (HRA)? Once you complete the HRA, they will waive one \$20 co-payment (when the plan is the primary payor) for the next in-network medical office visit or consultation incurred in the same calendar year that the HRA is completed (two \$20 when at least two family members complete an HRA). Remember to take advantage of these services – they are important to keeping you healthy.

**NALC Supported Legislation:**

**H. Res. 30:**

In the House, 196 members (out of 435) so far have co-sponsored H. Res. 30, “expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of its 6-day mail delivery service.

Co-Sponsors:

- Rep Ellison, Keith [MN-5]
- Rep McCollum, Betty [MN-4]
- Rep Nolan, Richard M. [MN-8]
- Rep Peterson, Collin C. [MN-7]
- Rep Walz, Timothy J. [MN-1]

**Winner of the 2013 Walter E. Coullard/ Eugene P. McNulty Scholarship**



*Jake Tanner  
Father: Joe Tanner (Lowry)*

I just wanted to say thanks for giving me this scholarship. I am a 2013 graduate of Park Center Senior High School. A two year letter winner in football, I earned the team captaincy at the start of my senior season. I finished with 821 passing yards, 4 touchdowns, along with 200 rushing yards and 1 rushing touchdown, and was an All-Conference honorable mention. As a Junior, I threw for 400 yards and 10 touchdowns, while rushing for 400 yards and another score, which earned another All-Conference honorable mention. At Presentation College I will be majoring in Sports Management. Thanks again, and I will put the scholarship money to good use.



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

**AME'S UNIFORMS**

**OUR BUSINESS IS MAKING YOU LOOK GOOD!**

We offer "Life of the Garment" guarantee.  
If fixable we will repair your uniform at no cost to you.  
Take waist in/out and change hem length

**Ame's Uniforms are a UNION PREFERRED vendor**

*VP article continued from page 5*

is available to receive the parcel and the carrier knows that someone at the address is not usually available to receive parcels, complete and leave Form 3849 after the first attempt. Endorse the parcel near the address, showing the reason for nondelivery, e.g. N L (notice left), date attempted, and the carrier's initials and route number. Upon returning to the office, deposit the parcel in the designated place for undelivered parcels.

As we are partners in the Customer Connect Program and with the increased revenue and packages that we help generate it is equally important for us to follow these provisions of the M-41. If ever in doubt always scan a package and follow the instructions of the scanner. Soon all our packages will require scanning.

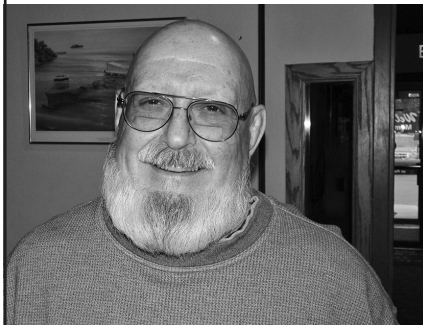
**The Following is a list of Paid Members of PAL 9 for July 2013.**

**Very Concerned Member**

**Patrick D. Keeler**

**Regular Member**

**David J. Johnson**



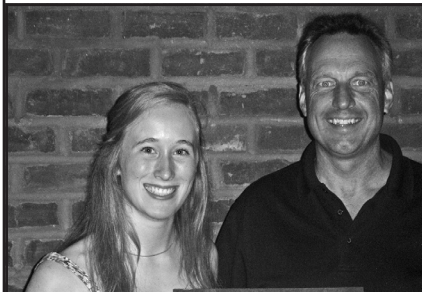
Ron Lawrence, Treasurer PAL 9

*William C. Doherty Scholarship continued from page 4*

This summer she was hired by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a Pathways Intern. She works out of a soil science lab at the St. Paul campus of the U of M.

Rena has been interviewed by MN Public Radio, the Minnesota Works Team, and recently Newsweek magazine has asked for her contact information and if they can quote her. She is working on writing a paper to be published in a scientific journal about her research on Biochar.

Rena will be attending the College of Biological Sciences at the U of M this fall.



Rena Weis with Chris Wittenberg (National Business Agent, Region 7) at a dinner in her honor as the recipient of the William C. Doherty Scholarship.



**Winner of the 2013 Jerome J. Keating/Austin B. Carlson Scholarship**



Kaitlyn Brandon  
Father: Mark Brandon (Shakopee)

Thank you for your letter notifying me of the scholarship award. I am a 2013 graduate of Shakopee Senior High School. During high school, I took several college credit classes and was named to the Honor Roll numerous times. I was active Student Council, National Honor Society, Dollar for Scholars, and the LINK Crew (a program that pairs upperclassmen with incoming sophomores to help with the transition to high school. Outside of school, I am active in my church choir, vacation bible school. I also work at the River Valley YMCA as a member of the activity staff. In August, I will be moving to Moorhead, MN to attend Minnesota State University - Moorhead to pursue a degree in Elementary Special Education, and also hope to obtain my adaptive coaching license.

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## Don't Drink the Postal Kool Aid

*"We need to make fundamental changes to the way we currently do business, changes that are part of our Five-Year Business Plan," said Chief Financial Officer Joe Corbett. "However, without comprehensive postal reform legislation signed into law, our hands are tied and we expect multi-billion dollar annual losses to continue."*

### Fact:

**August 9, 2013.** Although it reported a loss of \$740 million, the agency would have reported a profit of \$660 million absent the \$1.4 billion payment it was charged for pre-funding future retiree health benefits—a bill no other company or agency in the country is required to pay. Operating revenue is up 3.6 percent compared to the same period last year. That good operating picture was fueled by a sharp 8.8 percent rise in package delivery revenue from online orders, which offset the effect of online bill-paying, as well as by workers' compensation interest adjustments. As the economy gradually improves, so too are USPS finances: This year is better than last year, which in turn was better than 2011.

**Question:** My tax dollars pay your wages.

**Answer:** The USPS receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

**Question:** Mail is not reliable

**Answer:** The Federal Trade Commission estimates approximately 2 percent of identity crimes occur through the mail. Theft of a

wallet or purse is responsible for 5 percent — meaning your documents are safer in the mail than they are in your pocket.

### Fact:

We were ranked number one in overall service performance of the post offices in the top 20 wealthiest nations in the world by Oxford Strategic Consulting. And when it comes to safeguarding personal information, the Postal Service has been named the Most Trusted Government Agency for six years and the sixth Most Trusted Business in the nation by the Ponemon Institute.

### Fact:

The Postal Service can and does compete with the private sector — and it collaborates, too. UPS and FedEx pay the Postal Service to deliver more than 400 million of their ground packages to residences and the Postal Service pays them for air transportation — taking advantage of their comprehensive air network.

**Question:** I don't care about not having Saturday mail delivery.

**Answer:** While the average individual may or may not have an opinion regarding Saturday mail delivery, the business customers are just the opposite. According to the Postal Service's own market research, one third of American businesses oppose eliminating Saturday delivery. If you consider that business mailers account for 90% of the total mail volume, this is data that neither the USPS nor Congress should ignore.

### Fact:

USPS handles more than 43% of the world's mail. It's nearest competitor is Japan with only 6%. Our Postal Service delivers more in one day than FedEx does in a year, and more in three days than UPS does in a year.

### Fact:

Older than the country itself, the Postal Service is the centerpiece of a \$1.3 trillion national mailing industry employing 7.5 million in the private sector.

It is the only delivery service that reaches every address in the nation: 152 million residences, businesses and PO boxes 6 days a week.

### Fact:

So what's the problem? Simple: the US Treasury is sitting on \$42.5 billion in USPS profits under the guise of a so-called "trust fund" (source: USPS 2010 Annual Report) The ONLY reason the USPS is near bankruptcy is the skimming of over \$5 billion a year in "trust fund payments" enacted by Congress and the Bush Administration in the 2006 PAEA (Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act). Without PAEA, the USPS would still face a challenging future, but it would be facing it with ZERO debt, and a \$15 billion credit line.

## The NALC is opposed to less than 6-day delivery.

Mail is a great communication tool. No monthly plans. No signal outages. No roaming charges.

Regardless of geographic location, anyone can send a letter for just 46¢ anywhere in the United States and its territories.

Older than the country itself, it is the centerpiece of a \$1.3 trillion national mailing industry employing 7.5 million in the private sector.

U.S. Mail binds our vast country and is essential to small businesses that are open weekends and rely on it, businesses that create two-thirds of all new jobs.

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



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## Branch Nine Calendar

### September 10

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

### September 10

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

### September 24

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

### Tuesday, September 24

Delegate Letters of Intent for  
2014 MSALC and NALC Con-  
vention General Membership Meet-  
ing  
7:00PM  
Golden Valley VFW Post 7051  
7775 Medicine Lake Rd  
Golden Valley

### October 1

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

### October 8

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

*\*\*Pending motion at September  
General Membership Meeting\*\**

### October 8

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

### October 22

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

### Tuesday, October 22

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