

JEROME J. KEATING BRANCH



BRANCH NINE NEWS

"AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL"

1964

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May 2013

COULD THIS BE THE END OF THE NOTORIOUS WOO?



Don't count on it. Just because our NBA, Chris Wittenberg, USPS Management and Labor Relations signed off on all WOO grievances prior to April 25, 2013, don't expect the abuse to end. Management still believes that they have "carte blanche" to violate the National Agreement on occasion (which means daily) and force carriers not on the overtime list instead of calling in an OTDL carrier.

Northland District Manager, Tony Williams seems to think that the National Agreement only works one way – his way. Just because he got by with a cheap settlement on this first go-around, doesn't mean that it will happen again.

Branch 9 carriers are angry. With workroom floors in disarray, we are committed to pursuing every

grievance and go for the maximum monetary remedy.

The only way postal management will abide by the National Agreement is to drag them to the bargaining table kicking and screaming (like children) until they end their abusive and deliberate violations of the National Agreement.

To the carriers who have had their lives turned upside down by abusive management practices, be assured of one thing, Branch 9 will continue to pursue contract violations.

To Branch 9 union stewards and the formal A reps who investigate and file grievances; your lives have been disrupted by the constant contract violations, yet you continue to fulfill your duties for that the Branch and it's members are grateful. You folks are amazing.

Finally to the postal managers who are led around like cattle by upper management, with no consideration for the personal feelings of carriers, **SHAME ON YOU!**

Chuck Glover (Branch 9 Editor)

STATEMENT ABOUT USPS' Q2 FINANCIAL REPORT

May 10, 2013—Statement from Fredric Rolando, President of the National Association of Letter Carriers, about the USPS financial report today.

The Postal Service's financial report—which included the first revenue increase in five years—reflects an improving financial picture as the economy gradually improves.

Operating revenue in the most recent fiscal quarter was \$121 million higher than the same period a year ago, while expenses fell by \$1.2 billion.

This positive trend undermines the doom and gloom scenarios postal critics cite—and it shows the folly of reducing services to Americans, as the postmaster general seeks to do.

As Chief Financial Officer Jim Corbett stated, increases of 2.4 percent in advertising revenue from mail and a striking 9.3 percent jump in revenue from package deliveries—an increase of \$267 million—largely offset a 2.7 percent decline in first class mail revenue.

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From the Editor's Desk



The next issue of the Branch 9 News will be a combined June/July edition.



Last punch for Gerald Thomas (Lost Lake) who is the #1 carrier on the Minneapolis Seniority Roster. Pictured with him is Steward, Carol Garnto, who now moves up one spot on the roster.



Steward, Loren McNellis (Columbia Heights) watches as Russ Ofsthun makes his last punch.

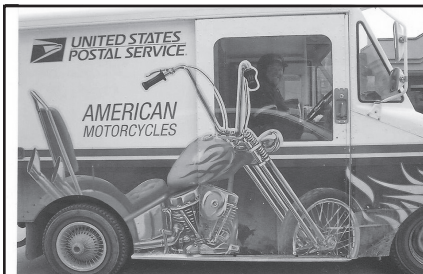


Photo sent in by Pat Paplow (Andover). I don't know where it came from, but I'll bet it turns heads.



Ken Jambois (Brklyn Center) graduated from the NALC Leadership Academy in Washington D.C. NALC Director of Life Insurance, Myra Warren presents Ken with his diploma.

NEW ADDRESS FOR NBA OFFICE

Effective June 1st
1300 Godward St. NE, Suite 2600
Minneapolis, MN 55413

In Memoriam
Oscar Ronglien
Arnold Vandenheuvel
Tom Woller
Merl Johnson
Merlin Rau

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Exec. Vice President
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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

A Busy Spring

The groundhog was wrong, winter lasted a lot longer than the 6 weeks that it was supposed to, but spring has finally arrived albeit in May. But the extended winter did not slow Branch 9 members down one little bit. This spring was a busy time for the membership as you participated in a wide variety of areas.

In late March hundreds of union members, their friends and families along with members of the community braved the blustery conditions to rally together to preserve Six Day Delivery. Thank you to everyone that participated in the rally. Your efforts continue to get our message out to the public that it's not about Saturdays. That was just the beginning; this spring five units have gone or are going through route inspections and the adjustment process. Unfortunately there is no new joint process for route evaluations or adjustments on the horizon. Until then, we will be going through the process outlined in Chapter 2 of the M-39.

In April management and the officers of Branch 9 participated in local negotiations to get new Local Memorandum of Understandings (LMUs) for all the offices covered by Branch 9. Both the Minneapolis and Osseo offices have issues that will be going through the impasse procedures as the parties were unable to reach an agreement.

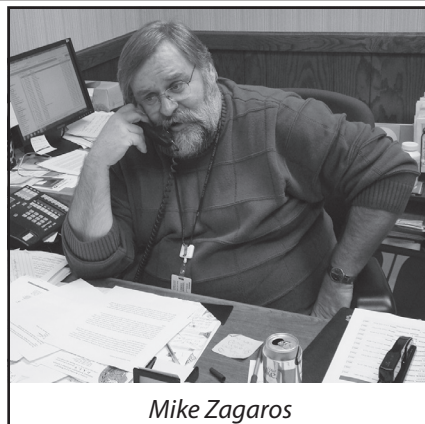
NALC President Fred Rolando was in town for the Regional Training where he spoke about the latest developments of what

is happening on the political and legislative front as well as the latest information on the CCAs.

Vice President George Mignosi and our own Pam Donato joined the 200 people who attended this year's Red and Gold Retiree Banquet where we honored our newest 50 and 60 year members. We also remembered our past Director of Retirees Cheryl Stately. Pam dedicated a plaque naming the apartments above our office as the "Stately Estates" in memory of Cheryl. We also presented President Emeritus Lenny Larson with the Retiree of the Year award for his efforts on behalf of the Branch this past year.

The membership was also involved in the helping the community with events like the Ron St Clair MDA Bowl-a-thon and silent auction where over \$8,000 was raised for MDA, and this year the carriers from Branch 9, Branch 28 and its partners collected over a million pounds of food to help Stamp Out Hunger.

In addition to all of this, a settlement has been reached regarding management improperly assigning overtime as a result of their implementation of an operational window often referred to as a WOO. This agreement resolves all of the outstanding grievances relating to what has been called simultaneous scheduling from May 14, 2012 through April 26, 2013. Simultaneous scheduling is the forcing of carriers not on the overtime desired list prior to maximizing the overtime desired



Mike Zagaros

list. This settlement recognizes that while management has the ability to establish an operational window, they can not violate the provisions of Article 8 on a frequent and continual basis to accomplish this. So where does that leave us? The settlement states that "the simultaneous scheduling of non-list carriers will be limited to a 'time to time' basis as outlined in the Article 8 MOU and consistent with recent regional arbitration awards on the matter." While the term 'time to time' may seem unclear, the language found in Arbitrator MacLean's decisions in the cases out of Branch 9 stated that management's use of simultaneous scheduling should be the exception rather than the rule. Essentially, he found that management violated the terms of the MOU when they forced with such regularity that the exception became the rule. The settlement also incorporates the language from Arbitrator MacLean that further clarifies that simultaneous scheduling should be "in situations which are 'unforeseen circumstances' or circumstances that call for 'immediate action' and that these would be non-recurring situations. This language

*President's article
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Rodney Anderson
(Branch 9 Director of Retirees)

Retiree Notes May 2013

These are just a few errant notes for our Branch Nine Retirees.

1099Rs:

First of all, I have heard from a lot of retirees concerned about OPM's announcement that at the beginning of the year they would stop mailing 1099Rs. That's our statement of retirement earnings (like a W-2 is for active carriers) to report our income to the IRS. Obviously, this is a matter of great concern to our retirees who are technology challenged.

Good news from Ernie Kirkland's last article as our National Director of Retired Members, as printed in the Postal Record (April 2013). OPM has backed down, and written that "*Later this year, OPM will make electronic 1099R forms available to all annuitants through an opt-in process. If annuitants choose not to opt in, they will continue receiving 1099Rs.*" In other words, if you do nothing, you will continue to get your 1099R through the mail.

Obamacare vs. our FEHBP:

Little by little, more provisions of the Affordable Care Act of 2010 (probably better known as "Obamacare") are beginning to kick in. You will remember how contentious an issue this was, and still is. I believe I read somewhere that the Republicans in the House of Representatives have voted something like 36 times to repeal it in the past two years. Since it doesn't come up in the Senate, their efforts are like their careers: Meaningless.

But what we want to know is, how will the "Obamacare" implementation affect those of us in the Federal Employee Health Benefit Plan? For the answer, I turned to Amy Burke's excellent article in the May 2013 edition of the NARFE (National Association of Retired Federal Employees) magazine. The answer is: it won't.

Ms. Burke writes that "...there are no provisions in the law affecting all federal employees or retirees, ... thanks to NARFE and other federal employee groups [such as the NALC] ... ACA's, most significant change for federal employees affects only members of Congress and their staffs, who must obtain insurance through health care exchanges instead of the FEHBP, effective January 2014."

All the better reason to have a health care plan from the FEHBP. Most of the significant changes from Obamacare --- insurers must cover adult children to age 26, no lifetime dollar limits, free preventive care, refusal to disallow enrollment to those with pre-existing conditions --- are already covered by the FEHBP. She quotes

David Snell, who says that "*The FEHBP is the jewel in the crown of Federal Benefits*".

Boycotts

At the March General Membership Meeting, Branch 9 voted to endorse the boycott of Hyatt Hotels. However, you may have heard that the workers at Crystal Sugar in Minnesota and North Dakota finally voted on April 20, 2013 to accept the offer of the company and end their strike. Whereas that is true, the boycott continues. I was at a State AFL-CIO Retiree Council meeting, where a letter was read from the president of the sugar workers local out there. He acknowledged that the company never gave an inch, so the workers finally voted to accept the company offer "*to end the hurt.*" However, he also encouraged everyone to continue to boycott Crystal Sugar until the company decides to negotiate a fair settlement in good faith.

Lots going on, Lots to watch

There are lots of other things going on that NARFE (as well as the NALC) are monitoring: plans of some Congresspeople to pare our benefits and pensions back ... their plans to impose the "*chained CPI*" (to potentially cut our cost of living adjustments) upon active carriers and retirees ... and yes, the Postmaster General still wants to mandate that all postal employees be put in one mandatory health care plan (which he would then destroy).

Keep aware and awake, Brothers and Sisters. Our vigil continues.

Rodney

Executive Vice President's Report

PS Form 1571

This form is better known as a Curtailment Slip. I previously wrote an article on the importance of a 3996 and a lot of the time the PS 1571 may be used at the same time that the instructions on a 3996 has been handed back to a carrier by their supervisor. The contract does not allow a carrier to delay mail without authorization from a manager or supervisor. When you are instructed to curtail, request the PS 1571 and your supervisor must provide it to you. You need to fill the form out in its entirety (see below):

1) Enter your delivery unit.

U.S. Postal Service UNDELIVERED MAIL REPORT		
Delivery Unit	Route No.	Date

TO: Delivery and Collection Superintendent
The Following Mail Distributed To Me For Delivery Was Left In The Office Or Returned Undelivered.
<i>NOTE: If mail left undelivered by carrier is later delivered on the same day, the manager should explain the action taken.</i>

	Preferential	Other
Letters		
Newspapers		
Magazines		
Flats		
Samples		
Other Pieces		

For Use By Parcel Post Carrier Only	
Parcel Post Distributed To Me For Delivery Was Left In The Office Or Returned Undelivered.	
Sacks	Outside Pieces

Remarks: (Reasons for nondelivery, Report of trips omitted or curtailed. Note any other matter of which record should be made.)

2) Enter your route number and the date.

3) Estimate the number of pieces to include letters, newspapers, magazines, flats, samples, and any mail left at your case (including leftover street skulch left from the days before). Whether by piece count or footage count make sure to enter the footage under preferential (first or second class), bypass or bulk flats, coverages, or parcels.

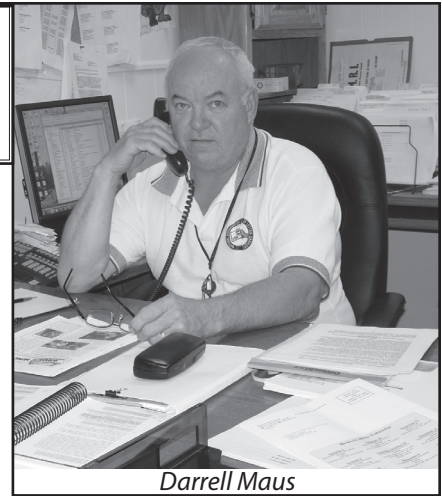
4) Make sure to do this same function on any mail that you have attempted to deliver on the street, but were instructed to stop delivering a coverage or parcels if you are instructed to forego their delivery to make it back to the station in time.

Any mail left at your case at any time should have a Curtailment Slip.

6) Enter the reason for the curtailment of mail. It may be as simple as "per management's instructions". Make sure to include the name of the supervisor or manager.

7) Be sure to sign the form and make sure to fill in if you're the Regular, T-6 or replacement carrier.

The PS 1571 will be your protection if some mail happens to appear at your case after you leave for the street. With the name of a supervisor or



Darrell Maus

manager on the form it will prove that you were instructed to leave mail. Remember we cannot curtail mail (only management can allow us to curtail) except when we are instructed to do so.

The M-41 Handbook states:

131.44 Report on Form 1571 all mail undelivered-including all mail distributed to the route but not cased and taken out for delivery. Estimate the number of pieces of mail.

131.45 Do not curtail or eliminate any scheduled delivery or collection trip unless authorized by a manager, in which case you must record all facts on Form 1571.

131.46 Before you leave the office, enter on Form 1571 the mail curtailed; when you return, add any mail which was not delivered and which was returned to the office. Follow any special local procedures set up to identify errors and corrective actions for mail because it was out of sequence.

Just as my last article talked about the importance of a 3996, the 1571 (Curtailment Slip) has to be part of your daily routine when warranted.

The Ron St. Clair

MDA Bowlathon and Silent Auction

We would like to start off by giving a big thank you to everyone who participated in the MDA Bowlathon. We had a wonderful turnout and are very grateful for all the volunteers and carriers who donated silent auction items and gave up their time to help. We hope that all of you enjoyed the new game, Pink Pin, which seemed to have been pretty successful since it raised an extra \$555. This year we had an abundance of raffle items which (though great for fundraising) caused a slow down for bowling. This issue will be addressed next year so that we can double the raffle volume without delaying the games. This was Amanda's first experience as the new MDA coordinator and has done a great job learning how this event is done. All suggestions are appreciated as we have learned this is a team effort. Thank you again.

In Solidarity,
 JoAnn Gilbaugh, and Amanda Greer
 Branch 9 MDA Coordinator's



Plenty of piping hot pizza was made available to Branch 9 bowlers.



Samantha Hartwig (Eastside) and Theresa Oelrich (Brklyn Center) checked in the bowling teams at the door, assigned lanes and collected money from non-bowlers for food.

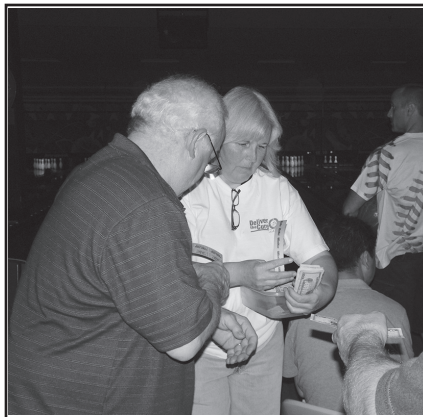


Despite the pressure of co-coordinating her first MDA event, Amanda Greer (Lake Street) was able to "mug" for the camera with her daughter.





Cathy "pretty in pink" Burton sold Pink Pin tickets. If the head pin was pink, a ticket would be drawn. If the ticket holder bowled a strike, they won. The prizes were either free bowling for 40 people or a group of Twins baseball tickets.



Darrell Maus and Lisa O'Neill (Coon Rapids) went lane by lane selling 50/50 raffle tickets.



Ann Baird and Connie Beissel (Burnsville) had the difficult task of recording all of the raffle drawing and silent auction winners.



The Master of Ceremonies, Mike Zagoros, with event volunteers, Cathy Burton (Lake Street) and Jeremy Rothstein (Normandale).



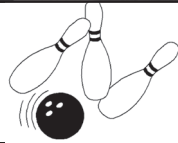
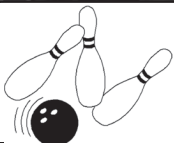
Part of the retiree team. Bob Baird, Michelle Benson, and Barry Weiner.



Mary Kay Glover filled in for Lenny Larson on the retiree team. It was reported that she's a better bowler than he is.



Amanda Greer and JoAnn Gilbaugh (Lowry) were the MDA Co-Chairs for this event. Weeks of planning go into the bowlathon to make it the success that it is. Thank you both for your hard work and time consuming dedication.



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

The Twin Cities Postal Headquarters

USA
Union preferred

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

CROSS RIVER BATTLE

Branch 9, Minneapolis vs. Branch 28, Saint Paul
Hockey Cup Challenge



Sunday, June 30
2:45PM

Charles Schultz Highland Arena
800 South Snelling Ave.
St. Paul, MN

Free Admission

No Tickets or Reservation Required

Bring the kids, family and friends. Cheer us on to another victory against our cross river rivals



The following is a list of paid members of PAL 9 for April 2013

Very Concerned Members

- Mark G Holland
- Gregory A Bauman
- Pamela A Thompson
- Mark L Thompson

Regular Members

- Alice E Nopola
- Loretta E Quick
- Robert W Masuda
- Charles M Glover
- Gerald T Mattox
- Carlos A Garcia
- William Hofstad
- Francis M Rice
- John Millner

Ron Lawrence
Treasurer PAL 9

Branch 9's

FISHING ON LAKE MILLE LACS

Twin Pines Resort & Motel-Restaurant

Located just two hours north of the Twin Cities on U.S. Highway 169 (mile marker 232).



Sunday, June 23rd



9:00AM - 1:00PM

(Meet at the resort at 8:30AM)

Twin Pines opens for breakfast at 7:00AM

COST: \$33/Adult \$28/Children under 12

The Branch will be hosting a roasted chicken lunch (with hash browns, cole slaw, and a drink) at Twin Pines Resort after we return from fishing. This lunch is included in the price.



Deadline is on Friday, JUNE 14TH

Name: _____ Station: _____

Amount Paid: _____

Name of Guests (if under 14 include age): _____

Checks payable to: Branch 9 Fishing
2408 Central Avenue NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418

CARRIER GUIDE TO FILE OWCP CLAIM (TRAUMATIC INJURY)

What is a traumatic injury?

A traumatic injury is an injury that is identifiable as to time and location and caused by an event that occurs over the course of 1 work shift. Examples: Sprained ankle, broken leg, broken arm, back injury as a result of falling down; etc...

What do I do after suffering a traumatic injury?

- See your own physician
- Tell management immediately
- Tell your steward
- Request and fill out Ca-1

Ca-1: Requests Continuation of Pay for up to 45 days from the date of injury and this form has to be completed within 30 days from date of injury to qualify. You do not need to use your annual leave or sick leave when you have an accepted OWCP claim however the first 3 days after injury you must use sick or annual leave before COP can be rung. Get the receipt on the last page of the Ca-1 signed by management.

What forms do I need when I see the Doctor?

- **Ca-16:** This form authorizes medical care and payment for the doctor up to 60 days. See your own doctor. You must request this form; management must issue this form within 4 hours of a traumatic injury.
- **Ca-17:** This form informs management what medical restrictions the injured employee has for the duration of the injury. A proper Ca-17 filled out on management's side will always have listed under section 7a, Continuous lifting 35 pounds, and Intermittent lifting 70 pounds.

Get completed copies of all forms (includes management's portion).

If management does not provide any of these forms notify your steward immediately.

Management only has 10 days to forward the completed forms to the Department of Labor.

If you are unable to fill out the forms on your own the steward or someone else on your behalf can fill out the forms for you.

Questions with anything call the Branch Office: 612-781-9858.



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

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We offer a "Life of the Garment" guarantee.
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Take waist in/out and change hem length

A.M.E.'s Uniforms is a UNION PREFERRED vendor

2013

HONORED GUESTS

50 YEAR GOLD CARD "LIFE MEMBERS"

- Richard Graves*
- Glenn Ingersoll*
- Merl Johnson*
- Roger Johnson*
- Eugene Keyes*
- Eugene Matthews*
- Ronald Roelke*
- Luverne Schwarz*
- Allen Smith*
- *Arnold Vandenheuvel*

60 YEAR RUBY PIN "LIFE" MEMBERS

- Lawrence Cronin*
- Lyle Herrmann*
- Ray Matuzek*
- Ryan Thomas*
- *Louis Ellis*

*Passed away just prior to the Retiree Banquet



Group photo of the 1970 Strikers



Reception check-in desk volunteers, Cathy Burton (Lake Street), Deb Grunnes (Osseo), and Angie (Br 9 Secretary).



Ann & Bob Baird with Barb Watzcak (Brklyn Center) checked in vehicles from the parking attendants. Not pictured is Rick Reimer (Brklyn Park).



Jonathon Peterson, and Ned McCrane, both from University Station, assisted retirees and parked their vehicles.



Rodney Anderson (Branch 9 Director of Retirees) welcomed honored guests with his usual wit, and of course, a joke.



NALC Vice President, George Mignosi, was the keynote speaker, and recognized the the new 60 yr and 50 yr life members.



Mike Zagaros (Branch 9 President) was the Master of Ceremony for the Retiree Banquet.



Darrell Maus (Branch 9 Executive Vice President) gives the invocation before the dinner.



Peg and Darrell Maus, Darlene and Mike Zagaros, and George Mignosi.



Two legends conversing during social hour. Gene McNulty (former National Business Agent), and Bill Michels (former Branch 9 President).



Branch 9 President Emeritus, Lenny Larson was named the Branch 9 Retiree of the Year, because of his tireless work for the Branch.



Cheryl Stately's children, Jeff Reiger, and Bobbi Reiger proudly accept the plaque that will be placed over the entrance of the apartments above the Branch 9 office.

Honor roll of Retirees who helped make Branch 9 the Union it is today.

50 YEAR GOLD CARD "LIFE" MEMBERS

Edwin J. Acker	Bruce A. Allen	Richard E. Ammend
Robert V. Andersen	Earl D. Anderson	Richard Anderson
Adrian F. Anderson	Gerald L. Arnold	Robert V. Atherton
John G. Bailey	Gordon M. Balfe	Jack J. Bartlett
Richard L. Benshoof	Donald W. Berg	Lowell H. Berget
Leonard W. Bergstrom	Donald C. Beyl	Larry L. Blesi
Harry A. Bloom	Donald H. Bodger	Jerome Bona
Nick C. Boosalis	Curtis F. Britz	Douglas H. Buystedt
Ralph J. Buystedt	William J. Carey	Bertram Carpenter
Gordon V. Clemens	Roger W. Coryell	Lawrence R. Cronin
Thomas P. Cronin	Larry Dahlberg	Darrell E. Dahlin
Joe C. Dinville	Roy C. Eide	Marvin W. Fischer
Charles L. Friend	Bruce Fritsinger	Gordon A. Froseth
Regis Gaudet	Clarence C. Gervais	William J. Gimble
Lindahl Gleason	Robert I. Gossler	Marvin E. Gragert
Donald A. Granger	William H. Halos	Frank O. Halvorson
Herbert Halverson	Adrian Hames	Edward J. Hara
Robert R. Harris	Albert C. Harvath	Roger Harwarth
Richard C. Hedlund	Arthur A. Heikkila	David L. Hempel
Lyle N. Herrmann	John L. Hilden	Elmer J. Hill
Marlin D. Holm	Lee Holsman	Kenneth Honkanen
Robert J. Hooper	Percy C. Hughes, Jr.	David R. Jackson
Dennis Jaeger	James W. Johnson	Kenneth W. Johnson
Richard B. Johnson	John Keeley	James W. Keenan
Anthony Kruse	Arthur G. Kujawa	Basil Kumpula
Merton A. Kvelland	Gary W. Kvistberg	Clarence R. LaBeau
Howard G. Lamson	Melvin H. Lange	Donald H. Larson
Donald B. Lemay	Charles L. Lenzen	Roger E. Lindahl
Robert Logelin	Thomas B. Lundeen	Jerome Madsen
George E. Martin	Robert Masuda	Gerald T. Mattox
Clair F. Mattson	Ray F. Matuzek	James L. McCabe
Eugene P. McNulty	John McPartlan	Earl G. Mealman
William Mechels	Robert C. Meyerson	Luverne Mickelson
Raymond A. Mika	Lawrence R. Molstad	Robert S. Nelson
Frank W. Newman	Carl F. Palm	Joe F. Pasiowitz
Glenn Paulson	Wain D. Pearce	Chester T. Peterson
Edwin G. Pohlmann	Richard C. Raum	Walter W. Reed
Francis Rice	Peter H. Richie	Oscar A. Ronglien
Thomas J. Ryan	Dayton J. Sjoström	Jack A. Soderlind
Daniel A. Solarz	Robert L. Solberg	Roger Solem
Russ V. Sondrol	Joseph F. Stanek	Walter S. Stanek
Albert J. Stauber	Kenneth L. Sykora	Paul R. Tanick
David Thompson	Martin Tich	Patrick B. Tighe
Harold L. Tilbury	Albin H. Tomlinson	George C. Torvik
William B. Tracy	Glen J. Trudell	John Vesovich
Jerome J. Waalk	Arthur C. Warmbold	Vernon C. Wehage
Robert E. Witt	Delmar P. Woida	Robert E. Zastera
James G. Zelenak	Robert E. Zimdars	Leo A. Zimney

60 YEAR "LIFE" MEMBERS

Robert Andersen
 Oliver H. Anderson
 Merlin D. Byers
 Donald W. Carlson
 Jack C. Carlson
 Vincent E. Chambs
 Walter C. Czerepak
 Glenn E. Delano
 Harold H. Delaria
 Wallace H. Eckdahl
 George L. Farmer
 Jerome A. Felegy
 Paul P. Felegy
 Herbert M. Franzen
 Walter E. Gegner
 George E. Gustafson
 Kenneth F. Hawkinson
 Andro Hiben
 Joseph J. Kinney
 Johannes S. Magdal
 Russell C. Magnuson
 Virgil R. Magnuson
 Vernon J. Mahrer
 Richard J. Martin
 John McKibbin
 Gordon N. McLeod
 Herman A. Metzler
 Elton L. Miller
 Robert Nelson
 Paul R. Nielsen
 Frank Newman
 Albert L. Olson
 Darwin A. Peter
 Dominick J. Prest
 William L. Rausch
 Roger E. Ritter
 Wallace M. Sjoquist
 Nicholas A. Skender
 Robert Solberg
 Marvin L. Sorem
 Raymond J. Sperrick
 John R. Sporrang
 Delmont R. Stokke
 Vernon S. Swenson
 Victor P. Thureson
 Lloyd W. Toll
 George G. Vados
 Earl W. Weisel
 Harold H. Zieba
 Fred P. Zubrycki

2013 Red & Gold Retiree Banquet

By: Rodney Anderson
Branch 9 Director of Retirees

This has been a very busy Spring for Branch 9, with the MDA Bowl-a-thon, the Food Drive, and of course the normal day to day activities like grievances, arbitrations and so forth. But on Sunday, May 5, Branch 9 took the day to honor our retirees at the Annual Red & Gold Retiree Banquet. About 160 people showed up, and a great time was had by all.

After a wonderful social hour of catching up with old friends and making new ones, we sat down to a terrific buffet. Then we launched into the program. Mike and Darrell thanked the retirees for their service as letter carriers and for their continued support to the Branch. We then honored our 50 and 60 year members. Unfortunately, due to personal circumstances, only three of our honorees were able to attend. But we cheered the reputable Richard Graves for his 50 years of membership in the Branch and presented his gold card and 50 year pin to him, as we did for my old friend from Fridley, Vern Schwarz. The only 60 year member attending received his ruby pin and was likewise one of my earliest friends during my own career, Tom "Ringo" Ryan.

There were others very deservedly honored. Our very own Pam Donato returned from Washington to honor and make a dedication in memory of my predecessor, the immortal Cheryl Stately. Many of you know that Cheryl lived in the Branch owned apartments above

the office. These apartments did not have a name so in memory of Cheryl we invited her family to the banquet and commissioned a sign, naming the apartments the "Stately Estates". A plaque, along with Cheryl's picture, will be posted at the front entrance of the apartments.

There were many terrific candidates for this year's Retiree of the Year Award. We have so many retirees that are constantly stepping up and helping out. For the 2013 Retiree of the Year, we chose Lenny Larson, our President Emeritus. Lenny continues to immerse himself in Branch activities, going to conferences, serving as the President of Pal 9, attending meetings, and sharing his wisdom with us in so many ways. Many are deserving of this award, but this year Lenny led the charge. Congratulations, Lenny, and thank you.

The festivities wound down with a short, but uplifting speech by George Mignosi, National Vice President and a member of Branch 41 in Brooklyn, NY.

Once again, this was a very successful event and a lot of fun, sharing old letter carrier stories, often liquid-fueled tales of the days of yore that get better with each retelling. This event wouldn't have been possible, however, without the incredible group of volunteers who handled all the details, from set-up to transportation, from valet parking to flowers and registration. Our thanks, and my deepest personal gratitude, to you all.

Rodney

USPS' FINANCIAL REPORT

continued from Front Page

Friday's report shows the absurdity of taking the radical step of degrading the postal network by eliminating Saturday delivery. This would cost the USPS its competitive advantage, drive customers away, reduce revenue and make the Postal Service less able to adapt to an evolving society.

The report also shows the urgency of fixing the congressional mandate that the USPS pre-fund future retiree health benefits decades in advance. Pre-funding—which no other agency or company is required to do—accounts for 90 percent of this year's red ink, according to the USPS report.

The sharp rise in Postal Service package deliveries, which reflects the opportunities offered by the Internet, outpaced the two major private competitors, the CFO reported.

This was accomplished with the smallest USPS career workforce since 1966, the USPS said, because of record worker efficiency.

The report shows the USPS moving sharply towards breaking even, despite a still struggling economy. The agency reported a \$200 million operating loss in the first half of fiscal 2013; in the full fiscal year of 2011 it had a \$5.1 billion operating loss, and \$4.8 billion in fiscal 2012. Instead of the postmaster general's "shrink to survive" strategy—which will only begin a death spiral for the USPS—what is needed is a dynamic business plan for the future to take advantage of the many opportunities for growth, including in the exploding package delivery market.

WILL YOU GIVE THEM THE SHIRT OFF YOUR BACK?

As many of you know, Branch 9 has for many years collected new and gently used uniforms for our new members. These new members would come into our office to get enough uniform items to ensure that they looked like professional letter carriers representing the USPS and the NALC on the street.

During New Employee Orientation the Branch lets new employees know that if they sign up with the Union they will be allowed to go to the Branch office and take the donated uniforms free of charge. This is a big selling point for new employees and lets them know that we, as a union, are willing to help them start their career as a letter carrier. **However, as it stands we are out of donated uniforms.**

If you have any gently used, clean, current uniforms that you would like to donate, please give them to your steward or you can drop them off at the Branch 9 office during normal business hours. Also, if you would like to donate a portion or all of your uniform allotment but you are not sure what to buy, call the Branch office and someone will be glad to help you.

If everyone donates just one shirt or one pair of pants, we can restock our uniform supplies.



*President's article
continued from page 3*

provides specific parameters that management must follow before they can force carriers not on the overtime desired list to meet their operational goals.

As a remedy for these grievances the parties agreed to a one-time lump sum payment of \$185,000 to the carriers in the Minneapolis Installation. As with all settlements of this type, this settlement will not make everyone whole and it isn't based on the specific amount of hours. There is no amount of money that can make up for the upheaval that management's actions have caused in the lives of those who did not want to work overtime and the impact of those who did. What the settlement does is establish that management's actions were in violation of the contract and should not be repeated and if they are a much swifter resolution to the matter should take place. The settlement allows us to include both groups of aggrieved carriers to be a part of this settlement: Those carriers on the overtime desired list that should have worked the overtime and the other, those carriers not on the overtime desired list who were improperly required to work overtime. Both groups will be included.

Since the signing of the settlement there have been multiple instances that we believe demonstrate that management's actions are in violation of the settlement. Grievances have been filed and are being processed. Based on the terms of this settlement, the

*President's article continued
on page 15*

MEMORIAL DAY SALUTE

We walked among the crosses
 Where our fallen soldiers lay.
 And listened to the bugle
 As TAPS began to play.
 The Chaplin led a prayer
 We stood with heads bowed low.
 And I thought of fallen comrades
 I had known so long ago.
 They came from every city
 Across this fertile land.
 That we might live in freedom.
 They lie here 'neath the sand.
 I felt a little guilty
 My sacrifice was small.
 I only lost a little time
 But these men lost their all.
 Now the services are over
 For this Memorial Day.
 To the names upon these crosses
 I just want to say,
 Thanks for what you've given
 No one could ask for more.
 May you rest with God in heaven
 From now through evermore.

- C W Johnson



*President's article
 continued from page 14*

resolution of new grievances should be resolved a lot more quickly.

There is a long list of people who are responsible for bringing a resolution to this matter. From the stewards who remained vigilant and filed over 1,200 grievances at the Informal Step A level, to the Formal Step A Representatives: Melia Derrick, Samantha Hartwig, Karen Pederson, Carol Garnto, JoAnn Gilbaugh, Joe Rian, Jeremy Rothstein, Steve Rowland and Darrell Maus who made sure that the best possible cases were forwarded to Step B, to the Step B Representatives and the Arbitration Advocates who presented the cases that allowed the Business Agent's office to bring a resolution to this matter.

Thank you Chris, Troy and Jake for your advice and counsel. Finally, and most importantly, to the members of Branch 9 for without your continued support none of this would have been possible. The final resolution of these cases and the distribution of the lump sum will be finalized by the end of June.

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Branch Nine News
2408 Central Avenue NE
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Branch Nine Calendar

June 4

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

July 2

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

August 6

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

July 9

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

August 13

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

July 9

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

August 13

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

June 25

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

July 23

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

August 27

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

Tuesday, June 25

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

Tuesday, July 23

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

August 22-September 2

Minnesota State Fair