



VOLUME 66 No 10

Official Publication of Branch Nine, NALC

December 2014

## GOOD NEWS: \$633 Million Y-T-D Operating Income & Once Again, Americans Love the Post Office

**The Postal Service's financial results for October 2014**—the first month of Fiscal Year 2015—were posted on the Postal Regulatory Commission's website last night.

For October 2014, the Postal Service reported \$633 million in operating income. This reflects a more than two-fold increase from the \$274 million operating income reported in the same month last year.

Total mail volume was up nearly 7 percent over the same month last year and 14 percent increase in Shipping & Package Services volume.

These strong results were made possible because of the level of service provided by postal workers, and because of the strong network of mail processing plants and post offices across the country.

### **2014 Postal Service results: \$1.4 Billion operating profit**

The Postal Service had a \$1.4 billion operating profit in 2014, a more than four-fold increase over last year's \$312 million operating profit.

Postal Service profitability has clearly turned the corner, as evidenced by the last two years of

operating results, and the Postal Service's forecast for an additional half billion of profit in 2015.

2014 saw record package revenue increases and the rate of decline in First-Class Mail volume slowed markedly, both of which helped to propel the 2014 operating results.

### **While the U.S. Postal Service has recently withstood a barrage of**



**negative attention, from getting hacked to announcing the continued multibillion-dollar deficits, it enjoys the most positive image of the 13 high-profile government agencies** Gallup recently tested. The poll also stated that younger Americans are more likely than older Americans to review the Postal Service favorably.

The Postal Service is the nation's second-largest employer, and an agency virtually all Americans in-

teract with to some extent in their daily lives. Younger Americans, who may have accumulated less experience with the service, have a very positive image of the job it is doing. All age groups give solid approval ratings to the Postal Service

In fact, from the standpoint of the recipient, the Postal Service may be making even more package deliveries than customers expect, as it will frequently deliver millions of packages for UPS and FedEx in their "last mile," thereby increasing these touchpoints and reinforcing these ratings over time.

With the country becoming more reliant on the Internet and rapidly embracing e-commerce, the increased amount of shipping and packaging could prove even more beneficial for the Postal Service both in its image ratings and financial performance. If the way in which Americans consume the agency's services affects its image, future ratings could trend upward as the market shifts. **The Postal Service has actually seen significant growth and profitability in its shipping and packaging business year after year.**

*Excerpts from: nalc.org and gallup.com*

## NOTICE TO ALL BRANCH 9 MEMBERS

Any proposed amendments to the Branch 9 By-Laws must be presented in writing to the Recording Secretary no later than the February 24, 2015 General Membership Meeting.

## RETIREMENTS



*Bill Morgan (University) with Steward Tony Winkels*



*Linda Larson (Lost Lake) with Steward Carol Garnto*



*Ron Dauner (Edina) with Steward Kevin Rood*

The following is a list of Paid Members of PAL 9 for November, 2014



### Concerned Members

Michael J Spurbeck  
Theresa M Homstad-Johnson

Ron Lawrence  
Treasurer PAL 9

## MEETING HALL LOCATION CHANGE

Starting in January 2015 the Steward Board and General Membership Meetings will be held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at the Crystal VFW 5222 Bass Lake Road Crystal, MN 55429



*Dave Kieffer (Coon Rapids) with Stewards James Spencer and Victor Boehmer*

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Darrell Maus  
Recording Secretary  
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Treasurer  
Lisa O'Neill  
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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 1st 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.

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## President's Report

### 2014 – The Year in Review

It's the holiday season, a time for reflection and a time for hope that the New Year will bring us all glad tidings. It's a tradition that there is an end of the year report to our members about what has happened in the past year and to give a glimpse of the year ahead. So let's look at 2014, the Year of the Horse.

**As the year began,** management was still getting used to the concept of converting CCA's to regular. Beginning in November of 2013 through the end of November 2014 there were 190 CCA's that were converted to full-time career carriers, and there is every indication that this trend will continue in 2015.

At the beginning of the year the primary emphasis by station management was on attendance reviews. Carriers returned from an unscheduled absence only to receive a "welcome back" packet of postal rules and regulations about being regular in attendance. While the district manager had placed us on notice that this would happen, it gets down to the approach taken on a change. If the carriers don't understand the reason why for the change there will be resistance. But this is only the first of many changes to come in Minneapolis.

In management staffing we saw almost an entirely new staff in the Postmaster's office, including Doug Stephens (the new Minneapolis Postmaster) as well as new MCSO's and several new/different station managers and a lot of newly promoted supervisors. With all of these changes there has been a heavy loss of institutional

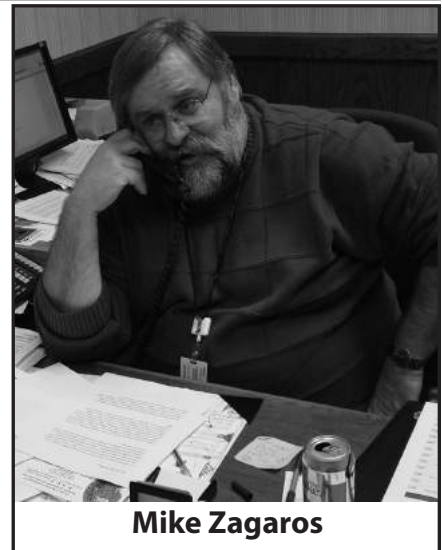
knowledge (the how and why things have been the way they have been done) about the Minneapolis Installation.

At the stations, we have seen the return of earlier start times, but the new focus is on leave times. Gone are the days of "every piece every day." Instead the mantra is "be on the street by 8:30". This continues to create problems as carriers learn to carry mail in this environment. If the instruction is that you are to be on the street at a certain time and you are not able to do so and still case up all the mail, seek out instructions from management. If you are instructed to curtail mail, make sure that you understand what mail should be curtailed and record it on PS Form 1571 (Report of Undelivered Mail). If you believe that you have conflicting instructions ask for clarification and/or seek out your steward.

This year, we saw the rebirth of the "Safe Driving Program" in Minneapolis, along with the safe driver's awards (many thanks to Barb Rimer and our own Angie Syverson for their efforts). We will continue this program in future years by recognizing those carriers who did not have any at fault vehicle accidents during the previous year.

This past winter was extremely hazardous for carriers with something called the "Polar Vortex." The extreme temperatures along with slippery conditions made for a dangerous time for carriers on the street. Please take the time to work safely and remember to leave yourself an out.

There was a variety of events this past year involving Branch 9 members including the National



**Mike Zagaros**

Convention that was held in Philadelphia. While the number of delegates was down from previous conventions, we were still well represented. Branch 9 was recognized for the highest percentage of members for branches our size contributing to COLCPE at the "Gimme 5 level". In addition two of our members were recognized for their articles in the Branch Nine News, JoAnn Gilbaugh and Jeremy Rothstein in the Promoting Unionism category. The Twin Cities once again collected over 1 million pounds of non-perishable food items in our attempt to "Stamp Out Hunger." Thanks again to our Food Drive Coordinator Samantha Hartwig and all of the volunteers for their efforts in this campaign. The Ron St. Clair MDA Bowl-a-thon and Silent Auction was another success. Thank you to all the volunteers that made that event possible. Volunteers are also what makes the Branch 9 MN State Fair kiosk work. Thank you all for giving your time to meet with fair goers and speak the truth about what's really happening to the Postal Service. We were joined by the APWU this year and they were very helpful in getting our message out.

*President's Report cont'd on page 6*



# DELIVERY AFTER DARK

With Day Light Savings Time, seasonal shorter daylight hours and later start times, carriers are once again dealing with delivering mail after dark.

There is no blanket policy regarding Delivery after Dark because the very core issue to contend with is whether a particular carrier on a particular route can **SAFELY** deliver the mail. Bottom line, each carrier must weigh their individual circumstances about the type of delivery to be carried (door to door, walking, mounted, apartments, cluster boxes, etc.), their surroundings (unfamiliar, high crime, many steps, animals and hills, etc.) and their experiences in attempting to make after dark deliveries.

Some mail delivery may be able to be made safely even after daylight hours. Most apartments have lighted entryways and don't present the safety hazards that walking on uneven terrain, up and down stairs, going door to door and being exposed to the elements would. Because carriers have the most experience and best knowledge of what is safe or unsafe in the performance of their duties, and because they are often times held responsible for accidents and injuries that might occur while completing those duties, only the carrier, themselves, can make the decision on whether Delivering after Dark can be done safely. So, if presented with a situation where you believe you'll be out delivering mail after dark, **REMEMBER THAT YOU DO HAVE RIGHTS**, and follow these instructions:

- 1.) Inform your supervisor in the morning of your need of auxiliary assistance in order to complete your street duties before dark. **THIS MEANS FILL OUT A FORM 3996-HELP SLIP.**
- 2.) Notify your supervisor prior to heading out to the street that you may not be able to complete your duties on the street by dark.
- 3.) When out on the street you realize that you definitely will be out after dark, call your supervisor and make them aware of that reality. Stress your concern for your safety and again request auxiliary assistance.
- 4.) Assuming no help arrives and you are faced with darkening conditions, attempt to continue.
- 5.) IF while attempting delivery, you literally experience a safety hazard (i.e. stumbling, tripping, hear dogs barking but unable to see that threat, not able to see potential dangers using your LLV/van's outside mirrors ...) call your supervisor. Explain your situation and notify them that you cannot safely continue delivery then return to your station.
- 6.) **COMPLETE FORM 1571**-Curtailement form for the undelivered mail.

Be sure to hand the curtailement slip to the supervisor, and **ASK FOR A COPY**. The copy is for your protection. You could also request a Form 1767-Notice of Hazardous Working Condition. This will help you document the safety hazards you encountered while attempting delivery after dark.

It is important to note that these instructions are not intended to endorse or encourage the unnecessary curtailement of any mail. It is about each carrier's safety and the protection of the mail in our charge. This is also not a blanket policy or approach. It very simply is the responsibility of each carrier to measure their safety and ensure that they are working safely. PERIOD.

## Executive Vice President's Report

### COMMITTEE OF PRESIDENTS

I recently attended the Committee of Presidents meeting in Cincinnati, OH on September 21st and 22nd which is held twice a year in the spring and fall. This meeting is attended by the President (or designee) of all the local branches nationally that make up the NALC. Our National President Fredric Rolando delivered the most current information concerning the union and issues with Postal Service at the national level.

### LEGISLATION

President Rolando made it very clear that any legislation that comes out of **congress that does not address the pre-funding mandate will be very damaging to the workers and the Postal Service.** While our retirement funds are currently 100% pre-funded the mandate to pre-fund future retiree health benefits 75 years into the future is crippling the service. This fund is a 100 billion dollar requirement for the Postal Service with 50 billion dollars currently achieved. It is this remaining 50 billion that is currently and will continue to cripple the Postal Service if immediate action is not taken. Postmaster General Donahue feels the only way to achieve this commitment is to cut and save by reducing mailing requirements and the days of service and the closing of mail processing plants. **President Rolando and the NALC legislative advisors have come up with possible solutions to the pre-funding mandate** and continue to inform all elected officials that these ideas (listed below) are more reasonable and will insure a more beneficial outcome.

a. Instead of the 100% pre-funded mandate reduce the benefit requirement amount to a 60% or 70% mandate at this time and change at a later date when Postal Service returns to more profitable conditions.

b. Use the over-funding currently in the CSRS/FERS retirement funds to cover the mandated payments.

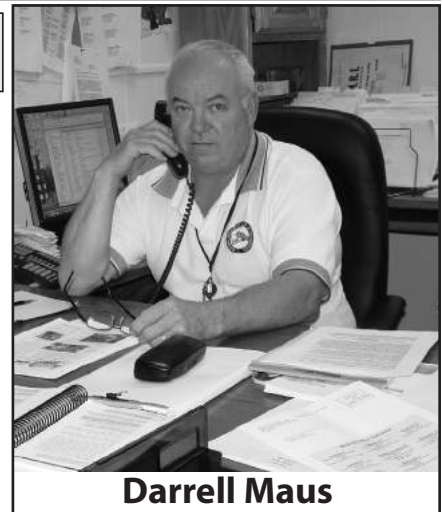
c. The current requirement for the pre-funding payments over a 10 year period be increased to 30 years thus reducing the yearly payment amounts.

d. Currently there are over 100 health insurance plans in the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) nationally. If the FEHBP only dealt with 5 or 6 company's offering plans the amount of enrollees in each plan would be larger and reduce premium costs to the Postal Service resulting in savings.

e. Develop new business strategies to increase revenue with increased parcels and the development of e-commerce services.

### 5 - DAY AND PLANT CLOSURES

President Rolando made it very clear that this issue is not carriers having Saturdays off but rather the beginning to the elimination and selling off of the Postal Service. Rep Darrell Issa the chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee realized that as soon as his group were unable to achieve 5-day delivery switched his tactics to trying to close up to 82 processing centers in an attempt to allow the pre-funding mandate to continue to be funded. Even going as far to estimate that up to 10 million dollars may be saved by this action and have



**Darrell Maus**

those funds used for the depleted Highway Fund. Even though this is Issa's last year as chairman **our fight has to continue and not allow any legislation be passed in this "Lame Duck" Congress.** That is what crippled the Postal Service when the pre-funding mandate was passed in 2006 during the Bush Administration. President Rolando stressed to us the need to inform our members what is at risk in the political arena. **We have an ongoing war with congress whose goal is to reduce or eliminate benefits including health, retirement, collective bargaining and workers compensation.** He went on to say that the only thing members of congress listen to is money and stressed the need to motivate our members and urge them to donate time and money to the election process and donation to COLCPE. Currently only 9% of our members nationally have a payroll deduction for COLCPE and if we are going to win this war against congress we have to do better.

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors is made up of 9 appointed members, the Postmaster General and the

*Exec VP Report cont'd on page 6*



*Exec VP Report cont'd from page 5*

Assistant Postmaster General. Currently there are 5 vacancies on the Board making decisions with the Postmaster and Asst Postmaster. These positions are filled by friendships and favors from the administration in office at the time. Why the current administration is not filling the remaining vacancies is a constant question being asked by the union. **Another requirement to be on this Board is have at least 50% of them having major business experience. Currently no one on this Board has any major business experience.** It seems the only business conducted during the quarterly meetings is deciding where to go to dinner rather than doing what they are supposed to do which is discussing business issues and make productive decisions. President Rolando was very clear that the current Board of Governors has to go and be replaced with a commission consisting of businessmen and businesswomen with the agenda of growing (not reducing) the Postal Service. The growth can happen through new business strategies and that will returning it to profitability. That is what the forefathers of this

country insisted on when Postal Service was first established. **That every citizen had the right to an informational delivery system available for all to use.**

**CITY DELIVERY**

Director of City Delivery Brian Renfroe spoke of the newly agreed upon City Delivery Route Alternative Adjustment Process (CDRAAP) with the zones involved to be selected by November 21st. The current list of Minneapolis stations chosen as of November 24, 2014 are; **Bloomington, Brooklyn Park, Coon Rapids, Eastside (Z-13), Golden Valley, Loring, Lost Lake, Main Office, St. Louis Park, Thomas Burnett, University (Z-14), Fridley, Robbinsdale, and Diamond Lake.** The Branch 9 Associate Offices chosen are **Champlin and Shakopee.** The process will begin with adjustment teams after January 3, 2015. We will inform all offices of when the process will begin for their stations.

**I want to thank all the officers, stewards and volunteers for all the work and efforts of this past year. Have a happy and blessed holiday season to all.**

*President's Report cont'd from page 3*

Finally in November we had our first CSRS/FERS Retirement Seminar. A total of almost 200 people showed up for this seminar. Thank you Darrell, Julie Waldemar and Rodney Anderson for their help with the presentations. We have had numerous requests for a repeat performance of these sessions so we are looking at conducting another retirement seminar with Branch 28 (St. Paul) in February. As we finalize our preparations we will be providing more information on the Branch 9 Website, Facebook page and flyers sent to the units.

On the social side of things, in January there was the annual Martin Luther King Day Ice Fishing Event. The fishing did not go as well as we hoped for; but reports were that a good time was had by all. There's always next year (see the 2015 annual ice fishing flyer on page 15). The Red and Gold Retirees Banquet in May was well attended and NALC Director of Safety and Health Manny Peralta brought everyone up to speed as to what was happening in Washington. Finally in August we said so long to Midway Stadium in St. Paul with a cookout and a ballgame. Next year the Saints will be moving to their new ballpark in Lowertown. If you have ideas on other types of get-togethers please contact Trustee and Entertainment Chair Ken Jambois at Brooklyn Center or give us a call at the Branch Office.

Legislatively and politically 2014 had its ups and downs. After several hearings in the House and Senate, no legislation on "Postal Reform" made it to the floor for a vote. After a lot of posturing no action was taken on less than 6 day delivery or door to door

*Presidents Report cont'd on page 7*

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## CSRS & FERS Retirement Seminar

Branch 9 hosted a retirement seminar on November 19 for carriers that are planning to retire in the near future. Mike Zagaros, Darrell Maus Rodney Anderson and Julie Waldemar answered questions and helped put minds at ease.

If you missed this seminar we are planning on having another in the near future. Due to the need, Branch 9 and Branch 28 (St. Paul) are planning on alternating hosting the retirement seminars.

If you have any questions contact the Branch office or check out the articles by our Director of Retirees Rodney Anderson at <http://branch9nalc.com/retirees.html>.



delivery for now. The language in the Appropriations bill as it relates to both still exists but will it remain is one of the major questions for 2015. On the state level there were successes, the Legislature passed an increase to the Minimum Wage bill and the Marriage Equality bill. While some may disagree with the specifics of either bill, it made the lives of many Minnesotans better. In April, there was a successful rally in front of the Staples Store here in Roseville and also all around the country to stop the Postal Service from setting up full-service window service at Staples Stores and using their employees rather than Postal Employees to service them. We had a number of volunteers that were involved in the LABOR 2014 Campaign, a special thank you to: Pat Paplow, Jim Nelson, Stacy Ellingson, Ken Jambois, Theresa Oelrich, Judy Thorbus, Melia Derrick, Vince Froehlich, Connie Beissel, Lisa O'Neill, Bill Ladd, Cathy Jones, Carol Garnto, JoAnn Gilbaugh, Kieran Hughes, Joe Wineman, Jeremy Rothstein, Mark Olufson, Ned McCraine, Tony Winkels, Mike Smith, Bob Baird, Rodney Anderson, Gary Ruhl, Barry Weiner, Marty Cornell, Joel Carter and Darrell Maus. Your efforts made a difference. **Everything is still on the table as for as legislation related to the Postal Service. The rhetoric by some is troublesome. We must stay vigilant and be involved.**

**Remembrances** - Once again our ranks have been diminished with the passing of some of our members. This year, 21 of our brothers and sisters have passed away. During this holiday season, please take a moment to remember them and their families in your heart: Gerald Starr, William Carey, Joseph Biernat, Earl Mealman, Thomas Flavin, LuVerne Schwarz, Ronald

### Suicide Prevention – How We Can All Help in the Workplace

For those contemplating suicide, death usually is not the main focus, rather it is the need to stop unimaginable pain. And, more than 90% of completed suicides have a contributing factor of a mental disorder, most commonly depression and/or alcohol abuse. By knowing the warning signs, taking them seriously, and engaging the person in getting help, you can help save a life. While someone exhibiting these signs may not be considering suicide, these signs are red flags that the person may need some help: *Always sad-Withdrawal-Desperation-Sleep problems-Anxiety-Weight loss/gain-Pessimism-Talk of suicide-Unexpected rage Impulsiveness*

Start with a general question such as "I noticed you seemed very upset when you got to work today. Are things okay?" Share your concern with the person – "I care about you and want to know you are okay. Is there anything I can do?" Listen to how the person responds and encourage them to open up and talk. Be sure not to judge, give ultimatums, or act shocked. Don't give advice. Let them know that you care and that you take them seriously. Help the person get to resources and follow up with the person. A great resource is the Employee Assistance Program or EAP. While you can give the person the information about the EAP, it is better to offer to call now – "Would it be okay if I called them now and let you speak to a counselor?" Remember, if the person expresses desperate thoughts or a threat of suicide, call 911.

Question – Ask the person if they are having thoughts about suicide. Open up a conversation that may lead you to ...

Persuade and support the person to seek professional help so you can...

Refer the person to resources for prevention and an evaluation.

If you know someone who you are concerned about, the EAP is also available for you.

**EAP: 800-327-4968 (800-EAP-4YOU) TTY: 877-492-7341  
Employee Assistance Program**

Marohn, George Vados, Benjamin Brown, John Sporrang, Paul Felegy, Edwin Acker, Allen Smith, Kenneth Delbow, Nicholas Skender, Dominick Prest, Theresa Mariana (CCA), Vincent Champs, Paul Nielsen, August Graziano, and LeRoy Sheller. Rest in Peace.

**A look ahead** – Now that the National Parties have signed off on a new route evaluation and adjustment process (CDRAAP, City Delivery Route Alternative Adjustment Process) for 2015, we soon should have a schedule of when those offices selected will be reviewed. Not all offices were selected at this time. Prior to the start of an

evaluation, Darrell and I will be out to the units to discuss the process and how it will proceed. You can get more information about CDRAAP in the Postal Record and online at [www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org).

As we review 2014, yes there are still some of the same issues facing us from the past years, but whatever the challenge, whatever the struggle; we will get through it, as long as we do it together.

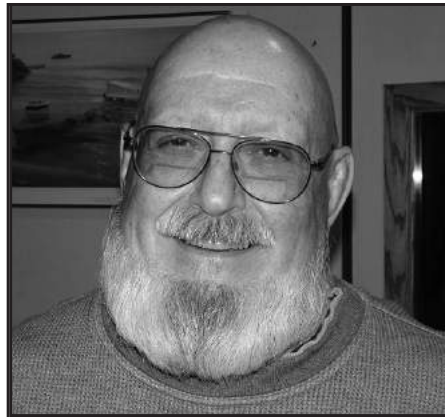
**To all the members of the Branch 9, I want thank you for your support. In this holiday season, may you, your families and friends enjoy this time together in happiness and peace.**

## We Need to Be Involved, Active, & Vocal

Dear Brothers & Sisters of Branch 9,

I've had the honor of being the Treasurer of PAL9 NALC for the past 22 years. I've tried to do the job so that it has been of benefit to the members of Branch 9. I've listened to many of you over the years with your many concerns and tried my best to do the right thing. Something happened this past week that made me pause and wonder. I received an email from a close friend of mine who is very active in his union and is retire as I am. Here is the email I received:

Help Keep Postal Standards in Place to Prevent Delayed Mail  
On January 5, 2015, the United States Postal Service is slated to lower "service standards" to virtually eliminate overnight delivery – including first-class mail from one address to another in the same city or town. The American Postal Workers Union (APWU) and its sister postal unions, the National Association of Letter Carriers, National Postal Mail Handlers, and the National Rural Letter Carriers are taking part in a National Day of Action on November 14, 2014 to prevent that from happening. Help tell the Postmaster General to stop delaying America's mail by going to <http://tinyurl.com/lgc5ycn>



**Ron Lawrence**

In Minneapolis and St. Paul nothing happened. To say I'm disappointed is an understatement. In the past it has been Branch 9 and not APWU that has taken the lead. I would think if it affects the work force then there should be something in front of the Main Post Office, to say so.

Now that the election is over and the Republicans control both the House and Senate in Washington, I feel that the Postal Unions and the Post Office will be a target. So I feel that everything should be done to let them know we are going to fight to protect the work force and the many Vets in the Post Office across this great country of ours. If that means having a demonstration in front of the Main Post Office so be it. The public needs to know that the Postmaster General is planning to lower "Service Standards" and trying to put the blame on the work force.

## Welcome New Members

FERAOL A ADEM  
CHANTA A BRADLEY  
TAWANA L BROWN  
KAREN CARLSON  
KENDRA L COFFIELD  
GRACIELA COLE  
JEREMY J DAVID  
TIARRA Q DOW  
AMANDA V ERICKSON  
ALLEN R EVANS  
NETERRE M FAGERBERG  
DALICIA S FERGUSON  
NEIL A GROON  
NATASHA L GUNDERSON  
SCOTT R HANSON  
VANG HER  
WYATT W HOLIWAY  
KRISTA L HUBMER  
REBEKAH R ISAAK  
JOEL S JABLONSKI  
MAURICE JOHNSON  
ERIC A JOYCE  
BARRY J KRINKE  
JASON S LEWIS  
CIERICA N MANNING  
HEIDI J McFEE-HANSEN  
ABDIRIZAK Y MOHAMUD  
KYLE J MULCAHY  
TIN PHAN  
GABRIEL A POLLAK  
JEFFREY L REED  
TRACY D ROBERTS  
RODNEY E SPEED, JR  
NEVA M STARES NICK  
MATTHEW D SWANSON  
THOMAS J TANNUZZO  
FALESEA A TURNER  
JOE A UNG  
LAMAR G WALLACE  
SARA A WALSH  
WES S WHITBY  
PHILA M YANG



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**



## Director of Retirees

### Congratulations!

A lot of carriers are going to be retiring by the end of this year. Recently I was able to participate in one for Bill Morgan at University, by presenting him with a NALC retirement watch, pin and membership pin which was a great treat for me. Warmest congratulations to all of you new retirees. You will love retirement; and unlike postal management's belief, you'll never have to justify your annuity. You've earned it.

**I would like to ask all of you new retirees to consider donating your uniforms to the Branch.** The Post Office is hiring a LOT of new CCAs, and Branch 9 tries to help by giving them gently used, clean uniform items. Like your service to your customers, your kindness to these new members will not be forgotten.

Many of you are sick to death of politics; but much of my job for the Branch gets me closely involved, which is fine because I'm something of a political junkie. I have been to some "de-briefings" thru the AFL-CIO and other various retiree groups, and thought I would share a couple of things with you.

Actually, pro-labor candidates did

very well in the State of Minnesota. The only important races we lost were the majority in the MN House of Representatives. But a DFL analyst told us that the new **Absentee Ballot law was a great success.** 55% of those ballots were for pro-Labor candidates. 2/3 of Rick Nolan's winning margin came from absentee ballots; and close legislative wins like those of Yvonne Selcer and Barb Yarusso were probably decided by absentee ballots. The DFL Party was very, very grateful to Labor. Much of their funding came from Labor donations; and well over half their volunteers came from organized labor. **I know for a fact that Branch 9 stood very tall in those ratings.**

But before we congratulate ourselves too much, we are Federal, creatures of congress, and the congressional races nationally were disastrous for us. **Many of the new committee chairs in Congress are very anti-Labor.** The new chair of the Senate Committee that oversees the Postal Service for example is teabagger Ron Johnson from Wisconsin, he has loudly said that he wants the Postal Service to go bankrupt, so that (among other things) the "expensive" collective bargaining agreements can be voided.



**Rodney Anderson**

**What can we do?** There are several things. First, I urge you to contribute to both **COLCPE**, and to give generously to **PAL 9 (Political Action League)**, our Branch's lobbying efforts. These are the people who work for us with congress. Further, please consider becoming an "e-Activist", which will obligate you only to making your views known to congress in general and your congressman in particular. These are things you should be doing anyway.

**Finally, educate yourself on the issues.** Branch 9 is very good about sending alerts out to the stations, and there are several websites for active and retired carriers to explore. I don't know what the next two years will bring, but **I for one will not lose my pension and benefits without a fight!**

**UNIFORMS  
UNLIMITED**

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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



**Jerome J. Keating Local Branch 9**  
**National Association of Letter Carriers**  
**P. A. L. 9 (Political Action League)**  
11581 Ilex Street N.W., Coon Rapids, Mn 55448-2316

Lenny Larson, President  
Rodney Anderson , Secretary - Ron Lawrence, Treasurer

Board Members:  
Mike Zagaros - Darrell Maus - Bob Baird - Rick Onslow - Barry Weiner  
Lisa O'Neill - Connie Beissel - Jeremy Rothstein

P.A.L. 9 ANNUAL LETTER

January 2015

Dear Sisters & Brothers;

It is with a happy heart that we can report that our political efforts and contributions from 9 P.A.L. were very successful over the last year. It is with a sad heart that we must report that the overall election, nationwide, was pretty much a disaster for working families and individuals. You have probably read a lot of the spin about why labor or liberal candidates did not do well this year but one fact is glaringly clear; poor voter turnout. It seems as though people have lost faith in their government and the politicians running it. With all the D.C. gridlock, who can blame them?

We as Federal workers stand to lose a lot and under paid, non-union worker's fight to gain an economic foothold will be severely restricted with the new Congressional makeup. That is why we cannot give up hope and just walk away from participating in the management of our great democracy. This is exactly what the uber-rich plutocrats want.

We know that our own members are tired of hearing about the fight to save the Postal service and our jobs. Some believe that it is all rhetoric, nothing ever changes. Things do change. It was not all that long ago that USPS was the largest workforce in the United States. We have lost nearly half the workforce (nearly half a million jobs) since I started my career. The majority party that comes to power in January is already plotting our demise. One powerful committee chair has already stated that the Postal Service should file bankruptcy to get out of its' burdensome Union contracts!

The coming years will find us in a constant fight to preserve our livelihood and as you all know, that will take money. In order for us to win, we will need to continue to work for our supporters locally and nationally. Even more important will be efforts to win over those that do not. P.A.L.9 and COLCPE donations are just the starting point. Get involved,save your job.

Lenny Larson  
President PAL 9

Ron Lawrence  
Treasurer PAL 9

\*\*\*\*\*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ \$ 25.00 Annual Dues

Clip & Mail to: Ron Lawrence  
1581 Ilex Street NW  
Coon Rapids, MN 55448-2316

\_\_\_ Very Concerned Membership ( \$50.00 or More )

\_\_\_ Active Carrier ( Station \_\_\_\_\_ )

\_\_\_ Retired Carrier

# Ice Fishing Outing 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).

For more information call 1.800.450.4682 or visit [www.twinpinesmillelacs.com](http://www.twinpinesmillelacs.com)

## Noon Sunday to Noon Monday January 18 & 19



**\$41/Adult**

**\$36/Children under 14**



Contact Ken Jambois with questions at 763.370.1392

**\*The Branch will be hosting a chicken and rib buffet dinner at the Resort on Sunday, January 18th from 3:00 - 8:00PM, and included in the price of the ice house.\***

### Several Types of Houses Available:

- \*4 Hole Ice House (sleeps 2 - 3)
- \*8 - 12 Hole Ice House (sleeps 5 - 6)
- \*10 - 14 Hole Ice House (sleeps 10)
- \*14 Hole Ice House (sleeps 14)
- \*6 - 10 Hole Ice House (sleeps 4 - 6)
- \*10 - 12 Hole Ice House (sleeps 8)
- \*11 Hole Ice House (sleeps 10)

Each house includes: Propane heat, lights, table/chairs, covered pad for bunks, carpeted floors.  
Cook stoves are available in the larger houses. **Check in time is 1:00PM.**

### Branch 9 Ice Fishing

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Station:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Type of Ice House:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Guests (if under 14 include age):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount Paid:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline is  
Thursday, January 15th**

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



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

Change Service Requested

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
TWIN CITIES MN  
PERMIT NO. 91964



Stay informed by:

- Signing up for E-activist at [NALC.org](http://NALC.org)
  - [Branch9nalc.com](http://Branch9nalc.com) (website)
- "like" our Branch 9 Facebook Page
- Follow us on Twitter



## Branch 9 Calendar

### December 23

\*NOTICE\*

General Membership Meeting  
COMBINED with the  
December 9 STEWARDS BOARD

### December 23

Nokomis Retiree Breakfast  
9:00AM  
Fred Babcock VFW Post 5555  
6715 Lakeshore Drive  
Richfield

### December 25

**Christmas Day**  
HOLIDAY

### December 30

Nokomis Retiree Breakfast  
9:00AM  
Fred Babcock VFW Post 5555  
6715 Lakeshore Drive  
Richfield

### January 1

New Year's Day  
HOLIDAY

### January 2

N Suburban Retiree's Breakfast  
8:30AM  
Denny's Restaurant  
9020 Quaday Ave NE  
Otsego

### January 6

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

### January 13

Southside Retiree Breakfast  
9:00AM  
Fred Babcock VFW Post 5555  
6715 Lakeshore Drive  
Richfield

### January 13

\*NEW LOCATION\*

Steward Meeting  
7:00PM  
**Crystal VFW**  
**5222 Bass Lk Rd**  
**Crystal**

### January 19

Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
HOLIDAY

### January 27

\*NEW LOCATION\*

General Membership Meeting  
7:00PM  
**Crystal VFW**  
**5222 Bass Lk Rd**  
**Crystal**