

VOLUME 66 No 3

Official Publication of Branch Nine, NALC

April 2014



SAT., MAY 10, 2014

President Rolando Page 3

> Exec VP Article Page 5

How to Retire Page 8

Branch 9 Scholarship's Pages 6 & 8

Postal Union Alliance Page 10

Red & Gold Retiree Banquet Registration Form Page 11

Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe has pledged the Postal Service's full backing to the food drive. "We'll continue to encourage all postal employees across the country to support the food drive by collecting donations, delivering postcards and promotional bags, and doing everything they can to make this year's food drive the best in our history!"



By-Law submission (page 7) to be voted on at the May 27th General Membership Meeting.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION LETTER CARRIED LAST OUNCE GARGING OF MACH



Richfield's, Terry Young, flanked by Joe Rian (Steward) and Darrell Maus closes out his postal career with the celebratory last punch.



Barb Gelschus (Brooklyn Park) dishes out some of her retirement cake to celebrate her final day at the Post Office.



Bob Albrecht (Andover) makes his final punch while Union Steward, Pat Paplow looks on with envy.

From the Editors Desk



Welcome to our new City Carrier Assistant's (CCA's)!

Help them learn the safe and proper way to delivery the mail. Remember, they will be planning your retirements, so treat them well.

Latonia Monroe Serenity Blaylock Michael Korpi Samuel Sarver Derek St. John Danny Vo **Emmanuel Fombe Daniel Bodelson Travis Spangler** John Schnagl Kao Yang Folly Ekoue Lisa Eichhof Sevilla Anderson Charity Auman Jean Fjeldseth Randall Herman Claudia Hunter Jason McKinnie David Okerson Rubio Maldonado Brian Pepinski Sandra Newman Daniel DeMars Phear Xion

In Memoriam
Ronald Marohn

Branch Nine, NALC
2408 Central Ave. NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418
Voice: (612) 781-9858
Fax: (612) 781-9849
E-Mail Addresses:
Website: branch9nalc.com
Editor:

Branch Nine Officers

branch9news@branch9nalc.com

President Mike Zagaros

Exec. Vice President Darrell Maus

Recording Secretary Jeremy Rothstein

Treasurer Lisa O'Neill

Financial Secretary Melia Derrick

> Editor Chuck Glover

Sergeant at Arms Jim Nelson

> Trustee Mike Smith

Trustee JoAnn Gilbaugh

Trustee Cathy Jones

Director of Retirees Rodney Anderson

NALC Health Benefits Rep. Julie Waldemar (612) 963-6252

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 Rolando's Response to the 2015 Budget Request

Reprinted from www.nalc.org

Postal Service needs real reform: Following Tuesday's House Oversight and Government Reform hearing on the Obama administration's Fiscal Year 2015 budget request for the United States Postal Service, National Association of Letter Carriers President Fredric Rolando released a statement: "It's time for Congress to strengthen the postal recovery, not cripple the Postal Service with even more destructive service and job cuts."

April, 8, 2014—Following today's House Oversight and Government Reform hearing on the Obama administration's Fiscal Year 2015 budget request for the United States Postal Service, National Association of Letter Carriers President Fredric Rolando released the following statement:

Today's hearing focused on the Obama administration's proposals to slash postal services, proposals that were first developed during the Biden-Cantor deficit reduction talks in 2011 and have been included in the four budgets released since. Portions of these proposals are included in H.R. 2748.

But we are not dealing with the same Postal Service we were when H.R. 2748 and the administration's budget proposals were originally crafted. The proposals did not make sense in 2011 because they never offered a real solution to the Postal Service's financial challenges, which were largely created by Congress.

The proposals make even less sense now: The Postal Service has returned to operational profitability and is capturing a growing share of the booming e-commerce market. USPS had an operating profit of \$623 million in 2013 and in the first quarter of 2014 alone reported black ink of \$1.1 billion.

Congress should focus on unchaining USPS from the retiree health pre-funding burden—which is required of no other public or private entity—and freeing the agency to grow and innovate. Discussing job-killing proposals that degrade or dismantle our invaluable postal networks is not the conversation we should be having.

It's time to move forward with innovative solutions that allow the Postal Service to evolve and use its established network to serve the nation's communication and e-commerce needs. It's time to start thinking about how we bolster service for tens of millions of businesses and households that have come to rely on door-to-door delivery, six days a week.



Fredric V. Rolando NALC President

It's time to discuss how to position the Postal Service to build successful partnerships with more American businesses, like Amazon has in moving toward seven-day delivery.

It's no longer 2009. The Postal Service's employees have done their part to help the Postal Service bounce back from the Great Recession as some 200,000 jobs have been eliminated. In fact, the service cuts have gone too far, all to pay for a misguided pre-funding policy.

Now it's time for Congress to strengthen the postal recovery, not cripple the Postal Service with even more destructive service and job cuts.

USPS announces new scanning device: The Postal Service has announced the deployment of a new Mobile Delivery Device (MDD) to be used by letter carriers. The device, from Honeywell, will transmit scan data in real time and will replace the current Intelligent Mail Device (IMD) and paired cell phone.

M-01664

Mr. William H. Young President National Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO 100 Indiana Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20001-2144

NALC# 8266
Re: Q01N-4Q-C 05022610
Class Action
Washington DC 20260-4100

Dear Mr. Young:

Recently, our representatives met at the Interpretive Step to discuss the abovereferenced grievance.

After reviewing this matter, the parties agree to resolve this dispute based on the following:

The Delivery Operations Information System (DOIS) is a management tool for estimating a carrier's daily workload. The use of DOIS does not change the letter carrier's reporting requirements outlined in section 131.4 of Handbook M-41, the supervisor's scheduling responsibilities outlined in section 122 of Handbook M-39, or the letter carrier's and supervisor's responsibilities contained in Section 28 of Handbook M-41. DOIS projections are not the sole determinant of a carrier's leaving or return time, or daily workload. As such, the projections cannot be used as the sole basis for corrective action. A five minute time credit for lines 8-13 will be added or when route inspection data is available for lines 8-13 the actual average information will be used for daily workload projections.

Management is responsible for accurately recording volume and other data in DOIS. Other than obvious data entry errors, route based information may only be changed through a full-count and inspection or minor route adjustment. Additionally, the parties have previously agreed that functions in DOIS which relate to the route inspection and adjustment process must be in compliance with the city letter carrier route adjustment process in Subchapter 141 and Chapter 2 of the M-39 Handbook. Exceptions are offices that have jointly established an alternate route adjustment method. DOIS base information in such offices shall, as appropriate, comply with the alternate route adjustment method.

Please sign and return the enclosed copy of this decision as acknowledgment of your agreement to settle this grievance.

Sincerely,

Doug Tulino
Vice-President
Labor Relations

U.S. Postal Service

William H. Young

President

National Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO

Date: <u>/-50-07</u>

The terms of this settlement became effective September 11, 2007 with ratification of the 2006-2011 National Agreement.

Executive Vice President's Report

Morning Carrier/Supervisor Expectations

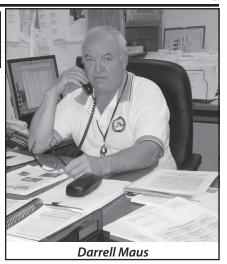
A carrier's workload is not very predictable or consistent, and occurs mostly outdoors in weather conditions often cursed by those that work indoors. Knowing these truths, why, oh why, would we allow ourselves and our work ethic be defined by some supervisor or manager that is demanding us to fulfill their expectations. Where the only vision they see about your day's workload comes off a computer screen and is the absolute and only guide they use.

It seems as of late, more and more management personnel are developing some very poor habits. It apparently begins when a carrier fails to meet the "expectations" that DOIS has generated for their daily workload. A carrier does not receive any consideration by the supervisor on their judgment of what their workload is for the day. Carriers are given unclear instructions or merely told to be back by a certain time and don't call in I have no help for you. Then when the carrier's projection become the reality for the day, they are then called into the manager's office where a supervisor or manager bombards them with several of their subjective observations. "Why is it taking you so long out there?" "You're not giving us an honest effort!" "If your times don't improve, I'll have to discipline you!" "What happened to you? You use to be such a good carrier?" All to often a Day in Court follows with discipline being issued and labeled as "Failure to Follow Instructions" whether their instructions for the day were achievable or not.

These meetings vary in regards to specifics (or lack of) and are sometimes layered with inconsistent messages and are void of any of the personally witnessed "deficient activities." For whatever reason, some carriers allow this perception of their work ethic and performance to own them. It is impossible to make people be nice, let alone professional or genial in their managerial style. Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "Nobody can make you feel inferior without your permission".

Unfortunately, as a result of these meetings, the carrier is left feeling dejected, devalued, and angry. They have informed management of what their day's workload will consist of and when that estimate turns out to be accurate (and not according to DOIS numbers) they are scorned. Never mind the fact you are not on the overtime desired list, never mind the family gathering you must attend, never mind it is your day off, never mind you have a doctor's appointment, management needs you to work and be done by a certain time and that is the only rules they seem to follow.

This negative perception is based on a flawed formula (DOIS) and on the incorrect assumption that you are a machine, able to replicate exact time performances, regardless of the countless variables in your day. Management



will say "well we just had formal inspections and we adjusted your route for you and to 8 hours", RIGHT!! That's after they took away all the allied time like personal needs, gas vehicle, customer contact, and other deemed unnecessary motions. Affirming that DOIS is a flawed formula.

So what can you do to protect yourself? We have the DOIS Agreement (M-1664) that is printed in this issue and I urge you to cut it out and put it in your case drawer. The sentence in the agreement that addresses this issue states "DOIS PROJECTIONS ARE NOT THE SOLE **DETERMINANT OF A CARRIERS** LEAVING OR RETURN TIME, OR **DAILY WORKLOAD**". So why does management use this? Because they can. Management can use whatever they want to measure a day's workload whether it be a Rubik's Cube, Magic 8 Ball, or a crystal ball. But the DOIS Agreement states they cannot solely use it.

We do not want carriers to argue about what DOIS says when a supervisor or manager talks to you about your day. That can lead

VP article continued on page 7

Adult Learners Scholarship

Leonard A. Larson/Barry J. Weiner Scholarship

Adult Learners:

Submit scholarship application to Branch 9 by May 27, 2014

Leonard A. Larson/
Barry J. Weiner
Adult Learner Scholarship
Application Form

Name	 	
Phone	 	
Address	 	
Active or Retired	·····	
Work unit		

Two (2) \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded.

The following rules apply to the two scholarships:

- A. Any member active or retired in good standing of Branch 9 is eligible for one of the two scholarships.
- B. The scholarships may be used for any accredited trade school, vocational/technical institute, community college, or university. The Adult Learner Scholarships may also be used for any community, county or state adult educational program.
- C. One name will be drawn for each scholarship. The first name picked will be the winner. The winners of any drawing will not be eligible for the other drawings.
- D. The application for the drawings will run in the March and April issues of the Branch Nine News. The drawing will be held at the May General Membership Meeting. The applications shall contain the following information:
- 1. The applicant's name, address, and home phone number.
- 2. Whether active or retired.
- E. Payment to the winners will be made after they have enrolled and can show proof of payment towards their tuition.
- F. Benefits under the Adult Learner Scholarships expire one year from date of drawing.

Members who plan to attend an accredited education institution should complete the application and return it to the Branch Office by May 27, or bring it to that night's General Membership Meeting.

A.M.E.'s UNIFORMS

OUR BUSINESS IS MAKING YOU LOOK GOOD!

Br. 9 Retired Letter Carrier Kerry Herdine Home: 952.854.2655 Cell: 612.805.8407 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 is a UNION PREFERRED vendor



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

Very Concerned Members

Lawrence J Gildner Colleen Copeland Linda L Olson Gregory J Bedor Lisa A O'Neill

Regular Members

Joseph P Bedor
Mary E Neveaux
William Knotz
Peter T Schilling
Mark E Edgren
Wesley C Meade
Roger G Harwarth
Charles R Jennings
J.W. "Bill" Stambaugh
Robert W Masuda
Charles E Foreman
Clarence R LaBeau
Mary C Miller
Willard G Beauchaine

Ron Lawrence Treasurer PAL 9 VP article continued from page 5

to insubordination. Rather if they instruct you to be on the street at a certain time plan on fulfilling that instruction. If they tell you to be on the street at 9:00 and it takes you 20 minutes to pull down your route, if you are not ready to begin to pull down at 8:40 seek new instructions immediately! Do not stay at your case without management's instruction to do so. Ask them what they want you to do, curtail the mail left to sort and make the leave time or finish casing and hit the street later. Ask your supervisor to please inform you what to do. They have to answer this request and the instructions need to be clear, if that is not the case ask to see your steward. Management has the right to tell you when to hit the street and when to return, but they cannot project a higher workload for you to accomplish in that time. Remember the DOIS Agreement was signed and agreed on by both parties in Washington.

This is the USPS's mail, their buildings, their vehicles, and their routes and they have the right to tell carriers what to do with them, but you have the right to dictate the time it takes.

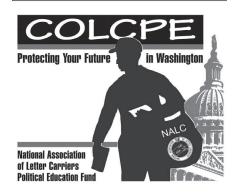
By-Law submitted as per Article VII, Section 2 of the Branch 9 2013 By-Laws

Article III
Officers Duties, Pay
& Expenses

Add: Section 21
City Carrier
Assistant (CCA) Advisor

The Branch President shall, at the beginning of each term, appoint a City Carrier Assistant (CCA) Advisor to the Executive Board. This appointee must be a Branch 9 City Carrier Assistant. The duties of the position to include attendance at **Executive Board Meetings and** CCA meetings to assist in presenting issues specific to CCAs other duties at the direction of the Branch President, Compensation for the City Carrier Assistant (CCA) Advisor will include lost time and other expenses as determined by the President and the Executive Board.

Submitted by, Branch 9 Executive Board





Minneapolis 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

J. Wesley Woods - \$1,000 Scholarship Application Form			
Address			
High School			
Member parent's r	name		
Work unit			
School to attend (if	f known)		
	Keating/Austin B. Carlson blarship Application Form		
Name	Phone		
Address			
High School			
Member parent's n	ame		
Work unit			
School to attend (i	f known)		
V	Valter E. Couillard/		
	Eugene P. McNulty		
\$2,000 Scl	holarship Application Form		
Name	Phone		
Address			
High School			
Member parent's n	name		
Work unit			
School to attend (if	known)		

High School Seniors: Submit scholarship applications to Branch 9 by May 27, 2014

Every spring, Branch 9 awards three scholarships to graduating seniors: the J. Wesley Woods Scholarship (\$1,000); the Jerome J. Keating/Austin B. Carlson Scholarship (\$2,000); and the Walter E. Couillard/Eugene P. McNulty Scholarship (\$2,000). These awards have made it easier for many students to begin their post-secondary education while honoring the sacrifices and contribuitons of important Branch 9 Leaders.

The following rules apply to all three scholarships:

- A. Any senior graduating from high school and is a dependent of a Branch 9 member is eligible for these scholarships.
- B. The scholarships may be used for any accredited trade school, vocational/technical institute, community college, or university.
- C. Three names will be drawn for each scholarship. The first name picked will be the winner, then first and second runner-up respectively. The winners of any drawing will not be eligible for the other drawings.
- D. The application for the drawings will run in the March and April issues of the Branch Nine News. The drawing will be held at the May General Membership Meeting. The applications shall contain the following information:
- 1. The applicant's name, address, and home phone number.
- 2. The name of the applicant's parent or guardian who is a member of Branch 9.
- 3. The intended school of choice, if known.
- E. Payment to the winners will be made after they have enrolled and can show proof of payment towards their tuition.

Members with dependents who graduate from high school this spring and who plan to attend an accredited education institution next fall, should complete the applications and return them to the Branch Office by May 27 or bring them to that night's meeting. All three forms should be submitted as there are three separate drawings for each scholarship.



How to Retire (Part 3)





Rodney Anderson (Branch 9 Director of Retirees)

This is the third in a series on HOW to retire. <u>I caution readers</u> that this is not a complete review; that would take a 500-page book. Furthermore, as I write this, Congress is monkeying around with our pensions and benefits which may render anything I write subject to change. But I hope this will give you some kind of focus or direction to make the process easier, and aid you with what to expect.

Sources of Income

For CSRS retirees, these are

basically twofold: your annuity and your Thrift Savings.

FERS retirees also have those two sources (though your pension will be about half of the CSRS pension) plus Social Security, so educate yourself regarding Social Security Benefits (www.ssa.gov). Furthermore, once you hit age 65, you will be signing up for Medicare; however, that is independent of a federal retirement, so I will not discuss that here. Just be aware of that obligation. The above are

generally your sources of income, although depending on your individual circumstances you may have some other kind of private or military pension.

As I said in my last article, you order your "Blue Book" from the Office of Shared Services, which should have all the forms and information you will need. You then make an appointment for a consultation by phone with a Retirement Specialist, who will be able to tell you what forms to fill out and how. I remember that in my instance, the caseworker walked me line by line through the whole process. When you make the appointment, you give them your phone number and they will call you at the appointed time. This may take weeks or even over a month to work your way on to the schedule, so please plan on extra time for that.

It seems that few people use this, but please be aware that you are entitled to make this phone appointment on the clock, and management is required to give you 2 hours to do so. However, I personally wanted my wife on the line, and preferred the relaxed atmosphere of our home.

There are a couple of other forms that you may need to send in with the official forms. If, for example, you are electing Survivor's Benefits for your spouse, OPM asks that you enclose a copy of your Marriage Certificate. If you are a Veteran, they ask for a copy of your DD 214. In both these cases, all they need

is a photocopy of the original, not notarized or certified or anything.

One more issue: how far in advance of your retirement day must you mail in your forms to Shared Services? The answer is a matter of individual choice. I have seen manuals telling prospective retirees that they should let their supervisors know 6 months in advance. That's fine, if you wish to do that. But if circumstances are that you can't take the madness any more, one counselor told me to mail the forms in a week in advance, so they have a couple of days to process them.

If you want to ask me anything, either call or write me at the Branch office, or send an e-mail to rodney@branch9nalc.com. My phone number is 651-270-7807. I may not know the answer off-hand, but so long as you're an NALC member, I'll find out for you.

Say What?

One manager used her card to withdraw \$32,000 in cash to gamble, according to Freedom of Information Act documents obtained by the Examiner. Closed investigations by the USPS inspector general found the manager also used her card to rent cars for personal use, charging the agency a total of \$45,000 in personal expenses. The employee repaid the money and took an early retirement offer.

Source: govexec.com

PROCLAMATION

"The United States Postal Service shall be operated as a basic and fundamental service provided to the people by the Government of the United States, authorized by the Constitution, created by Act of Congress, and supported by the people. The Postal Service shall have as its basic function the obligation to provide postal services to bind the Nation together.... It shall provide prompt, reliable, and efficient services to patrons in all areas and shall render postal services to all communities."

- Postal Reorganization Act, as amended

A Postal Union Alliance

he U.S. Postal Service is under unprecedented attack. A congressionally-manufactured financial crisis drains the USPS of vital resources. Six-day delivery is under constant threat of elimination. The reduction of service standards and the elimination of half of the nation's mail processing centers has slowed service and wiped out tens of thousands of good jobs. Post offices in cities and small towns are being sold or closed or having their hours cut back. Corporate privatizers seek to gain control over larger segments of postal operations – and to get their hands on the Postal Service's \$65 billion of annual revenue. The Postmaster General's policies of subcontracting and degrading service are fueling the privatization drive.

The four postal unions stand together to end the attack. We stand for a *public* Postal Service, enhancement and expansion of service, and protection of good union jobs in our communities. We stand with the people of our country in defense of their right to a universal postal service operated in the public interest.

We commit to work together to:

- Maintain six-day and home delivery.
- Protect and restore service standards and mail processing facilities.
- Maintain full-time, full-service public post offices in every community.
- Oppose the subcontracting of work and privatization of services.
- Expand postal services to include basic banking, notary, check-cashing and other services.
- End the corporate welfare of excessive pre-sort discounts.
- Form a common front in the fight for genuine postal reform legislation.
- Organize joint actions and speak in a united voice.
- Unite with other labor unions in defense of the rights of postal workers and all workers.
- Encourage joint efforts of our union members at the local level.
- Support maximum cooperation in the next round of contract negotiations.
- Build an alliance with the American people in defense of the public postal service.

WE STAND UNITED TO PROTECT AMERICA'S POSTAL SERVICE!

Tw (hu)

Fredric Rolando

President, National Association of Letter Carriers

Mark Dimondstein

President, American Postal Workers Union

John Hegarty

President, National Postal Mail Handlers Union

Jeanette Dwyer

President, National Rural Letter Carriers Association





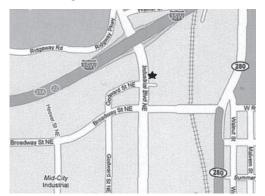




Branch 9's Annual Red and Gold Retiree Banquet Sunday, May 4, 2014

Ramada Plaza Minneapolis 1330 Industrial Boulevard, Minneapolis, MN





Registration Noon - 1:30 Social Hour 12:30 - 1:30

Lunch 1:30 - 3:30

Retirees: the \$12/per person registration fee is refundable upon arrival. Cost for active members is \$18 and cost for stewards is \$9.

Reservations must be returned to the Branch Office <u>no later than</u>
<u>Tuesday, April 29.</u>

For more than 50 years Branch 9 has honored its retirees with the Red & Gold Banquet. Please join us for a day of good times and good fellowship, as we say thank you to those who have come before us.

Active members are always welcome to join in the festivities.

Name:		
Name of your G	uest:	Return by April 29 to:
Retired	☐ I would like a ride to the Banquet	Branch 9, NALC 2408 Central Avenue NE Minneapolis, MN 55418
Active	I am willing to give someone a ride (Please call Rodney Anderson at 651.270.7807)	Amount Enclosed

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

Change Service Requested

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



GIMM

€ GCC/IBT →192-0

Stay informed by:

- Signing up for E-activist at NALC.org
 - Branch9nalc.com (website)
 - "like" our Branch 9 facebook page
 - Follow us on Twitter



Branch 9 Calendar

May 2

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

Sunday, May 4

Red & Gold Retiree Banquet Registration starts at Noon Ramada Plaza Minneapolis 1330 Industrial Blvd Minneapolis

May 6

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

Saturday, May 10
NALC FOOD DRIVE

May 13

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

May 13

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

May 27

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

Tuesday, May 27

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

June 3

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

June 6

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

June 10

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

June 10

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