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REMEMBERING OUR PAST, FINDING FUTURE SUCCESS

In his keynote speech on Monday, July 21, to the more than 5,300 delegates on hand for the National Association of Letter Carriers' 69th Biennial Convention in Philadelphia, President Fredric V. Rolando highlighted the many victories letter carriers have celebrated since the 2012 convention in Minneapolis, while also laying out the challenges the union faces in the coming months and years.

Rolando noted what a remarkable achievement it is within the labor movement that our union is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year. He used that milestone as a springboard to review the NALC's past successes as they relate to the challenges that lie ahead—for the union and for the U.S. Postal Service. **"The task before us is a daunting one," he said, "because it involves a wide variety of fronts—political, legislative, managerial, commercial, not to mention the media and the public. But the National Association of Letter Carriers is up to the task. Our union is strong and unified, we know what's at stake, and we have the facts on our side."**

"Not many institutions get to celebrate their 125th anniversary,"

Rolando said. "That's a remarkable achievement when one considers how much has changed since the NALC was founded in Milwaukee 125 years ago. **Our union has endured and thrived through tumultuous times," the president continued. "It is a proud history of service, solidarity and progress—a history we celebrate this week."**

Rolando noted that he had to report to the Minneapolis Convention in 2012 that immense challenges complicated the NALC's efforts to defend letter carriers at the bargaining table and in Congress—challenges such as the poor economy, congressional dysfunction, misguided USPS leadership and technological change. "It is sobering to report that many of these obstacles remain with us today," Rolando said.

The Internet technology revolution shows no sign of abating, he said, **"technological change may be one area where there is cause for cautious optimism."** The Internet also is generating new business via soaring e-commerce deliveries, Rolando said.



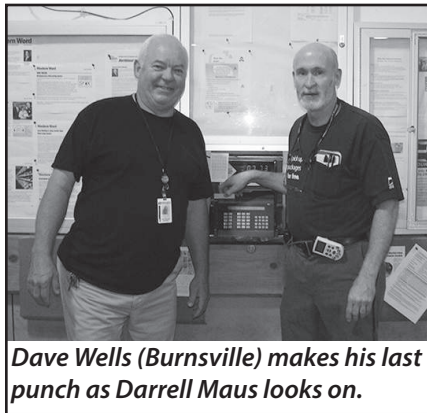
Fred Rolando's opening comments at the 2014 National Convention.

Despite the challenges of the past two years, the president said, **letter carriers can point to several positive victories as well, particularly our work with the broader labor movement during the 2012 general election to halt the surge of anti-labor political forces in the United States, and the contract the NALC secured through interest arbitration. "Although we did not emerge unscathed from the binding arbitration process, we achieved our most important strategic goals," he said. "We won pay increases, kept our COLA clause, maintained the ban on subcontracting, won an all full-time career workforce and developed a pathway to career jobs for non-**

President Rolando cont'd page 4



Richard Palbicki (Bloomington) with Steward Vicki Fleming are enjoying his last day.



Dave Wells (Burnsville) makes his last punch as Darrell Maus looks on.



Kevin Squier (Brooklyn Center) and Steward Theresa Oelrich are all smiles as he takes his final punch.



Jonathan Peterson (University) receives his retiree watch and pin from Mike Zagaros.



Mary Weegman celebrates her retirement at Golden Valley.



Bob Hoffman (Edina) receives his retiree watch and pin from Mike and Darrell.

Retiree pictures cont'd page 9

In Memoriam

**Kenneth Delbow
Dominick Prest
Nicholas Skender**

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President's Report

The dog days of summer are upon us, August is here. The 2014 National Convention in Philadelphia has come and gone and preparations for a variety of things are being made including the State Fair, Labor 2014 campaign season, and the Minnesota State Convention to name a few. Now is the time to take a deep breath, reflect, and then move forward.

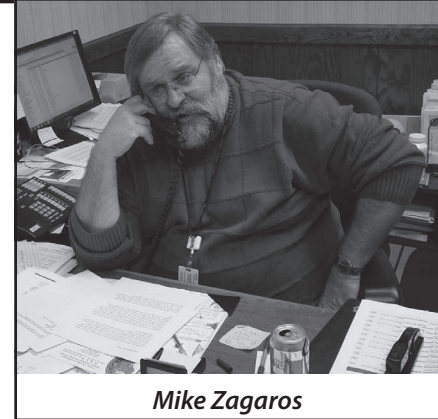
National Convention – The business of the 69th Biennial National Convention began on a Monday morning with a tribute to those carriers who have died on the job since our last convention in Minneapolis, among them was our own Leo Brandt from Brooklyn Center. President Rolando addressed the thousands of delegates and he talked about the past, present and future of the NALC. Please take a moment to read President Rolando comments that are printed in this issue. Branch 9's delegation (24 members) attended all the general sessions and many of the training sessions the preceded and followed each general session. In the Branch Communications Workshop two of our own, JoAnn Gilbaugh and Jeremy Rothstein were recognized and awarded with Second and Third place respectively for their articles in the *Branch Nine News* in the *Promoting Unionism* category. Congratulations to both JoAnn and Jeremy.

There is more information about the convention available online at www.nalc.org and elsewhere in this issue. I'm sure that there will be more discussion at the August

General Membership Meeting on the 26th. Being around and meeting letter carriers from all over the country is invigorating and rewarding. Sharing the good and the not so good with people who understand where you are coming from and what you're trying to accomplish is refreshing and reminds us that we are not alone. That commonality of purpose of working together to make life better for all letter carriers is what the NALC is all about. I encourage everyone to consider being a delegate to a letter carrier convention. Our next National Convention will be in Los Angeles in 2016.

CRI – The Cities Readiness Initiative is being placed on hold. Further discussion will be needed at the Federal Level as to the future direction of this program. What will happen next, is that all volunteers who have med kits in their homes will be sent a letter this month explaining further what is happening and asking that the medication be returned in the enclosed envelope as it has expired. It is hoped that all pre-populated medications will be returned by the end of August. I want to thank all of you who continued to volunteer and participate in this program by keeping your information up to date. We know that the program will work because you proved it to everyone. As more information becomes available, we will make sure to keep you informed.

CCA Conversions & Meeting - "Do you know where I am in rankings?" This is a question that Darrell and I hear when we are out



Mike Zagaros

at the stations. Understandably, CCAs want to know, when they are likely to be converted to career status. The process for conversion starts with a 21 day posting on e-Reassign. This allows for current PTFs from around the country the opportunity to transfer to full-time positions listed on the monthly posting (go to www.nalc.org to see the current month's vacancies). In the July posting, there were many full-time positions listed for the offices covered by Branch 9, however they were not residual vacancies (routes or T-6 assignments) and the Postal Service has decided not to create those positions at this time. In the current August posting, there are residual positions for Minneapolis, Anoka, Burnsville and Chanhassen. If there are no unassigned regulars or transfer requests, then these positions will be filled by the CCAs with the highest rankings for their installation. CCAs will have the option to be converted or not. To learn more about your rights as a CCA or a newly converted career carrier, there is meeting especially for you on **Thursday, September 25th at the Golden Valley VFW at 7:00 p.m.** This meeting is specifically tailored to CCAs and new regulars so bring your questions. I hope to see you there.

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President Rolando cont'd from page 1
career bargaining unit letter carriers. We avoided a permanent two-tier workforce and helped position the Postal Service to become a major player in package delivery again."

Our satisfaction was tempered by the January 2013 death of what he called "our union's animating spirit over the past 40 years," former NALC President Vincent R. Sombrotto. "To call Vince a giant in NALC history would be an understatement," President Rolando said. "He was a leader like no other. Nobody knew better than Vince that NALC conventions are about the future," Rolando added. "So while we celebrate our distinguished history this week and review the events of the past two years, we should also draw inspiration for the battles ahead."

Philadelphia marks the third consecutive convention that finds the NALC battling USPS over Saturday delivery, Rolando said. **"For L'Enfant Plaza, Saturday delivery is a cost, plain and simple," he said. "For us, Saturday delivery is the Postal Service's competitive advantage."** But our problems aren't limited to L'Enfant Plaza, the president said. "The past two years, we've defeated several legislative efforts that would have harmed the Postal Service, us, and the millions of businesses and people who depend on a robust Postal Service," Rolando said. "We beat back these proposals, thanks to excellent work from our legislative and political staff and you, our grassroots activists." There is a silver lining in the legislative process, the president said. "The Obama administration has agreed to discuss alternative proposals for postal reform in next year's budget," Rolando said. "Plus, the recent financial turnaround at USPS and personnel changes at the Office of

Management and Budget give us hope that we can turn the administration in our favor.

The NALC has made other progress, too. "We have built unity among the four postal unions," Rolando said. "And with them we have reached consensus among key business groups, mailers and trade associations on a sensible industry coalition plan." This plan, developed with the other postal unions as part of our recently formed alliance, became the core of a consensus plan the NALC hopes to offer Congress in the future.

The NALC faced two major challenges in the last round of collective bargaining, Rolando said: The Postal Service's financial losses, and the agreement reached by APWU in 2011, which complicated the task of resisting USPS' concessionary demands. "Thanks to the tireless efforts of the NALC's officers, staff, legal team and expert witnesses," the president said, **"the Das award in January 2013 allowed us to meet most of our strategic goals: Producing a fair contract for letter carriers and for the Postal Service." The Das award created a path to career employment for part-time letter carriers as well via the City Carrier Assistant (CCA) position.** "The CCA workforce remains a work in progress," Rolando said.

"Looking forward, we will focus on reducing the percentage of non-career carriers, raising CCA compensation by achieving general increases and COLAs, improving their health benefit coverage and winning pension credit for CCA service. "But we are not waiting for the next round of bargaining to make progress for CCAs," he said, noting that the NALC has entered into multiple memorandums of understanding with the Postal Service that have resulted in thou-

sands of part time flexible and CCA conversions to full-time career status. "The stakes in organizing CCAs are high," he said, "because CCAs, who are more numerous and who have a clear path to career status, are pivotal to the future of the NALC."

Even as the NALC fights for long-term job security, the president said, **the union remains dedicated to preserving the safety, health and well being of our active members.** "That has been the focus of the joint Safety-Service Committee," Rolando said, "set up to deal with routine delivery outside traditional delivery hours and to combat unsafe work conditions, whether in sunshine or after dark." The work of the committee, he said, has resulted in major staffing improvements, hundreds of route adjustments, changes to starting times, revised transportation schedules and improved safety equipment and practices.

"At the Minneapolis Convention we began a discussion the future of the NALC, its structure and possible reforms to become more efficient and effective," Rolando said. To advance that debate, Rolando appointed a Special Review Committee composed of branch, state and national leaders to report on these matters to the Philadelphia Convention. "Our goal," he said, "is to maintain our powerful union so letter carriers can shape their destinies together.

"It's up to us to save the Postal Service, just as we have always done," he said. "We cannot count on USPS management or Board of Governors members. We have to stay strong and mobilize enough allies to force change in Congress. We need a new USPS governance structure and new management. "Imagining and building a dynamic postal service

President Rolando cont'd page 8

Executive Vice President's Report

THE ACTIONS OF MANAGEMENT

You are all aware by now that management has taken the monitoring of carriers to a whole new level and are using their own reports (whether GPS or Missed Scan) to form conclusions that seem to always lead to discipline.

Carriers are being handed Letters of Warning for missing a single scan or not making a DOIS projected leave time. The latest is some management is looking at a GPS report and automatically alleges that the carrier has extended their lunch or break, when in reality they are replenishing the front of their vehicle with mail before resuming delivery.

The stance taken by management has been that if a carrier cannot fulfill the instructions given to them that morning then there is no acceptable reason they can use as a defense and discipline is required. It appears that the way we, as carriers, have done our jobs for years is now considered a time wasting practice or a failure to follow instructions.

This is not what the National Agreement states when it asks the question whether management had Just Cause to issue a carrier discipline. 115.1 of the M-39 states "The delivery manager must make every effort to correct a situation before resorting to disciplinary measures". Management has the right to give us instructions and we are required to follow them unless they are against the law or they put our personal safety at risk.

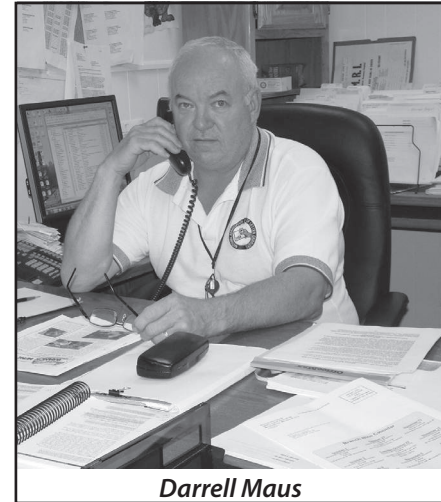
I believe the issue of not following instructions (that sometimes leads to carriers being disciplined) is when the instructions do not make sense or are unclear. The service we carriers provided our customers and were so proud of appears to be a thing of the past, and is being replaced with a mandatory requirement to succeed with the projected numbers that management has come up with for these routes and to be back at the station by a certain time or else.

Make sure you follow management's instructions. Scan every mailbox that has an MSP label, scan every package that has a scan label and let the scanner tell you if it is a scannable package

115.1 of the M-39 states "The delivery manager must make every effort to correct a situation before resorting to disciplinary measures".

or not, and make sure you make the leave and return times your supervisor tells you to.

When the time comes and you have not finished casing and you have to start pulling down your route to make the leave time, find a supervisor and inform them by a Help Slip (3996) and ask them what you should do. Finish casing the mail and not make my leave time or curtail it. Management has to answer this request and the instructions need to be clear. If this is not the case ask to see your



Darrell Maus

steward. If your instructions are to curtail then fill out a Curtailment Slip (1571) and proceed to make your instructed leave time.

If management wants they can curtail mail whether it be bulk bypass flats, buckets of flats, even FSS or DPS, and currently post almost daily. **This is their mail and their routes and management has control of both.** The issue of return time to the station should be handled in the same manner. Inform management of your delivery situation and that you anticipate being finished at a later time than previously instructed and get revised instructions whether by phone or returning to the station in person.

So what can you do to protect yourself? We have the DOIS Agreement (M-1664). 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*

Exec VP Report continued on page 8

2014 National Convention in Philadelphia, PA

Fresh off a Philly cheese steak...I proudly attended the 69th Biennial Convention in Philadelphia, which coincided with our 125th anniversary of our great union the National Association of Letter Carriers.

I went to meetings, donated some of my time to union causes, became a delegate, so that I would have an opportunity to meet and be a part of this awesome band of members who get things done.

The education at the convention is quite the learning experience with work-shops, speakers, passing resolutions. The oneness of all the convention goers when honoring our safety, charities, veterans, diversity, retirees, auxiliary, birthdays, anniversaries, and sadly our deaths. I feel well represented.

Come see for yourself, attend a union meeting. Keep doing all those great things you're doing for USPS, our union, and yourself.

Thank your union stewards. You are the union's superpower. Be proud – every delegate I talked to, thought the 2012 convention and City of Minneapolis were beautiful.

With Brotherly Love and Sisterly Compassion,

Johnea Rystedt
Columbia Heights
NALC/BR9
State/National Delegate



MILLION MILE SAFE DRIVING AWARD RECIPIANTS

All letter carriers operating motor vehicles on official business are eligible to participate in the Safe Driver Award Program. Each year a carrier works without a preventable accident or having their driving privileges suspended or revoked, they are eligible to be recognized under this program. Those carriers who have 30 accumulated years driven, without a preventable incident are recognized as members of the "Million Mile Club." For the year ending December 31 2013, there were 93 new members of the "Million Mile Club" with at least 30 years of safe driving.

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Gerald Anderson | Fridley | James Langham | East Side |
| Donald Asmussen | Bloomington | Richard Langsdorf | Richfield |
| David Ayres | Loring | Ronald Levinson | Thomas E Burnett |
| Sheri Azzone | Coon Rapids | Brian Lord | Loring |
| Bradley Beaman | Lake Street | Richard Lusian | Elmwood |
| Timothy Bedor | Main PO | Daniel Lyrek | Golden Valley |
| Paul Blesi | Main PO | Joseph Maghrak | University |
| Katherine Bolton | Loring | Jeffrey Mansk | Thomas E Burnett |
| Keith Brakke | Thomas E Burnett | Patrick Martin | Brooklyn Park |
| James Bremseth | Main PO | Ned McCraine | University |
| Frederick Brownson | Powderhorn | Thomas Miskowic | Columbia Heights |
| Mark Callahan | Bloomington | James Murray | Coon Rapids |
| Harry Carlson | Lost Lake | Gary Nelson | Lost Lake |
| George Cease | Powderhorn | Alfred Ness Jr | Coon Rapids |
| Terrance Cierzan | Lost Lake | David Nielsen | Coon Rapids |
| James Coleman | West Edina | Dwayne Olson | Thomas E Burnett |
| James Couillard | Edina | Paul Olson | Thomas E Burnett |
| James Dugan | Fridley | Susan Oswood | Main PO |
| Scott Englund | West Edina | Theodore Parker | Brooklyn Center |
| Kermit Erbes | Main PO | Randy Paulson | Loring |
| Anita Faulk | Main PO | Robert Phillips | Lost Lake |
| Frederick Ferber | Lowry | Robert Pullis | Coon Rapids |
| James Fodstad | Main PO | Thomas Quale | Richfield |
| Dale Forde | St Louis Park | Scott Randolph | Fridley |
| Carol Garnto | Lost Lake | Charles Rivers | Lake Street |
| Michael Giffis | Lost Lake | Dennis Ryan | Coon Rapids |
| Craig Hanschen | Brooklyn Park | Larry Schutte | Coon Rapids |
| James Hiben | Loring | Richard Sheehan | University |
| Hibbert Hill Jr | Lake Street | Jeffrey Sherman | Fridley Carrier |
| Sandra Hodges | Brooklyn Park Br | Paul Skarman | Bloomington |
| James Hogan | Thomas E Burnett | Robert Sorum | Thomas E Burnett |
| Thomas Homstad | Thomas E Burnett | Cheryl Streeter | Bloomington |
| Randolph Hoverman | Fridley | Peter Symitzek | Elmwood |
| Kieran Hughes | Minnehaha | Howard Thomas III | St Louis Park |
| Robert Jensen | Main PO | Nicholas Verrall | Thomas E Burnett |
| Dennis Johnson | Brooklyn Center | Martin Vopava | Columbia Heights |
| Philip Johnson | Elmwood | Jeffrey Wadtke | Brooklyn Park |
| Randall Johnson | Robbinsdale | Julianne Waldemar | Golden Valley |
| Robert Johnson | Lost Lake | David Wallentiny | Fridley |
| David Kiefer | Coon Rapids | Danette Warner | East Side |
| Paul Kilzer | Richfield | Douglas Weingartz | Lost Lake |
| Gary Kozicky | West Edina | Robert Welcher | Main PO |
| Tom Kunshier | Fridley | Dan Wiborg | Fridley |
| Lowell Kvam | Minnehaha | Philip Wixsten | Nokomis |



The following is a list of
PAL 9 Paid Members for
for June & July, 2014

Very Concerned Members

Charles M. Glover
Howard G. Lamson

Regular Members

Sara S. Harris
James M. Harris
W.T. "Billy" Whritenour
Roger W. Coryell

Ron Lawrence
Treasurer PAL 9



President Rolando cont'd from page 4
for the 21st century is the challenge for the next two years and for the next 25 years as well," the president said. "That's the mission we must embrace in Philadelphia," Rolando said.

"Together, brothers and sisters, nobody can defeat us. Nobody can divide us, and nobody can get in our way." "Let's get to work!"

*From the NALC CONVENTION
CHRONICAL - 7/21/2014*

Exec VP Report cont'd from page 5

*a Rubik's Cube, Magic 8 Ball, or a crystal ball. **But, the DOIS Agreement (signed by both parties in Washington) states they cannot solely use it.***

We do not want carriers to argue about what DOIS says when management talks to you about your day. 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.**

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

**Welcome to the new Brothers
& Sisters of Branch 9**

Timothy Anger
Scott Botz
Donald Brooks
Timothy Budig
Amanda Cash
Stephen Clifford
David Cullen
Jonville Davis
Charles Debevec
Peggy Franzwa
James Gill
James Graf
Marlon Grommes
Rick Hansen
Jake Hintze
Larry Horton
Nathan Huepenbecker
Zenaida Hyland
Meseret Isaak
Aneisa Jones
William King III
Brian Legros
Steve Luger
Jeremy Lyons
Theresa Mariana
Wanda McCalpin
Anthony Mena
Felix Meyer
Ashley Montgomery-Johnson
Marces Morales
Timothy Morris
Virgil Morris
Benita Mulbah
Olanrewaju Oremodu
Jennifer Paige
Leslie Peterson
Ty Phommachanh
Steven Schneider
Brittany Smith
Forte Sumpter
Aaron Tucker
Rocky Walton
Ryan Westgard
Matthew Woodburn
Hyemin Yi
Peggy Ziebarth



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

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Ame's Uniforms are a UNION PREFERRED vendor

President's Report cont'd from page 3

Labor 2014 – With less than 100 days until the general election and Labor Day just around the corner, the 2014 election season is going into high gear. There is a problem that occurs with the “Off Year Election” (mid-term or when it’s not a presidential election year). That problem is that there is a significant number of voters who won’t go to the polls to vote. These voters are often referred to as ‘drop off voters.’ But there is a solution to that. This year in Minnesota, there is the **“NO EXCUSE ABSENTEE BALLOT.”** This year, there are three ways to cast your ballot before Election Day. You can vote absentee by mail, in person, or by having a person you know pick up and deliver your ballot for you. Beginning with this year’s Primary Election, any voter may vote absentee. Absentee ballots are available 46 days before an election which is September 19 for the General Election (November 4). To learn more about voting by absentee, visit the Secretary of State’s website at www.sos.state.mn.us and go to the elections page or you can contact the Branch Office for assistance. Let’s make sure everyone has their say by casting a ballot voting in this year’s election.

In the coming weeks, there will be plenty of opportunities to get involved in supporting those candidates that support our issues

on the Federal, State and Local levels. Join in on the discussions and make your voice heard. There is too much at stake to be on the sidelines.

UPCOMING EVENTS

State Fair – The “Great Minnesota Get Together runs from August 21 through Labor Day. Branch 9 will once again be meeting fairgoers at the House of Labor talking about the Postal Service and dispelling the some of the myths and half-truths that have been spread by those who would rather see the Postal Service and its employees gone. This year we will be joined by members of the Minneapolis APWU in helping get our message out. If you would like to join us for a shift contact the Branch Office for shift availability. Volunteers receive a free ticket per shift. We’ll see you at the Fair.

Calendars – It’s that time of year again, time to order the color coded calendars for 2015. These calendars are \$4.00 this year if you are part of our special order. Once again Cheryl LaCroix from Brooklyn Park is coordinating Branch 9’s order. Thank you Cheryl! The deadline to place your order is Tuesday evening September 9th at the Stewards Board Meeting. Please make your checks out to Cheryl LaCroix. You can also place your orders by mailing your checks to the Branch Office.

President's Report cont'd page 11

Retiree pictures cont'd from page 2



Jim Dugan (Fridley) makes his last punch with Steward Michelle Alexander.



Bob Whelan (Burnsville) with Steward Connie Beissel finishes out his carrier with that final punch.



Bob Johnson (Lost Lake) with Steward Carol Garnto are all smiles as he makes his last punch.

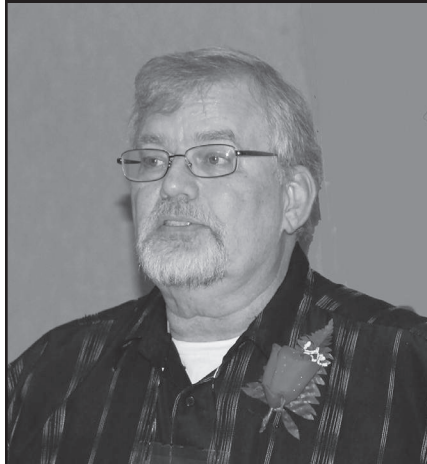
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The Twin Cities Postal Headquarters

**USA
Union preferred**

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St. Paul, MN 55103
651- 224 - 7567



Rodney Anderson
(Director of Retirees)

**Vote Early, and Vote
... Once**
(Hey guys and gals, this ain't Chicago)

However, owing to the 2013-14 Minnesota State Legislature, you can vote early. In fact, the AFL-CIO (with whom we are of course affiliated) is strongly encouraging this No-Excuse Absentee Voting opportunity now open to all Minnesotans.

No doubt you'll be hearing much more about it. The AFL-CIO and every union organization that I know about will be pushing this program this autumn. The theory is very simple: the more convenient voting becomes, the more people who vote. And the more people who vote, the greater the chance that pro-Middle Class and pro-Working Class candidates will prosper. For example, I recent heard the statistic that First District Congressman Tim Walz (a friend to the NALC) generally wins by an average of 24 points in Presidential election years, when the most people vote. But in "off-years" (Congressional election years with no Presidential election, such as 2014 is), his average margin has been only 4-5%.

Actually we hope for the ultimate solutions: Early Voting, or Voting

by Mail. These are two programs that we hope to see the next Legislature move on.

You may have read Lori Stuerdevant editorial in the Minneapolis Star-Tribune had an editorial on July 20 proposing that Minnesota adopt the Early Voting that already exists in other states. Why not open the polls, say, 10 days before the election and keep them open through election day? Other places simply mail ballots to all eligible voters through the mail, which I assume you can see the benefits to the US Postal Service. In Colorado, Washington, and Oregon, Voting by Mail is the only option. Those states mail a ballot along with information on the process and the candidates, and save money by using no election judges or polling places.

Minnesota is unfortunately not so advanced, but this year we may use No-Excuse Absentee Voting. In the past, absentee voting was allowed, but the voter had to give a reason, such as going on a trip or whatever. Beginning this election, you may vote absentee without giving a reason.

You may request a ballot beginning September 19 (45 days before the election) for the

election on November 4. Just go to MNVOTES.ORG (the website for the Minnesota Secretary of State, our chief elections official) and follow the instructions. Or you may go to your county elections center; or in the case of larger towns, just to your city hall and vote absentee. You may also register to vote using these same methods.

Voting is especially critical to us, as public employees. And Minnesota has made it much more convenient and painless than it has ever been. So Vote, brothers and sisters. Only do it once, but VOTE!!!!

**CCA'S & NEWLY
CONVERTED REGULARS**

Join us for a question and answer session.

**September 25, 2014
7:00PM
Golden Valley VFW
7775 Medicine Lake Rd
Golden Valley, MN**

Inform your steward or call the Branch office to RSVP.

We look forward to seeing you there and answering your post office and union questions.



It's almost time for the Great Minnesota Get-Together! Mike Zagaros and Jerry Sirois (APWU) are getting our kiosk ready for the the big day.

AMAZING!

I recently returned from attending my 22nd NALC national convention spanning forty four years (*time flies when your having fun*). Even after all these times, I still find myself amazed by this gathering of some eight thousand **delegates from all across this country, elected and sent by their branches to represent them at what is, by virtue of the NALC constitution, the supreme body of our union.**

I wish that all of the membership could witness this incredible exercise in union democracy. Delegates freely discuss, debate and vote on, resolutions on numerous issues including future union proposals at contract negotiations and legislation. They do the same for any proposed changes to the NALC constitution. **Basically, we are the ultimate decision makers about the shape and course of our organization.** The national president chairs the convention. He went more than the extra mile to be sure that every delegate that wanted to had a chance to speak on all of the above, and whatever else was on their mind.

The new national contract, which this time around came from an arbitration award, was one of the many topics discussed, including a number of workshops explaining its content and answering questions which delegates had about it. When I first saw the arbitrator's decision setting forth the terms of our new national agreement, I was also amazed. During the ten years that I was National Business Agent for Region 7, I had the opportunity to participate in national contract negotiations and, when necessary, arbitration. With that perspective, I was very fearful about what the outcome would be. We were facing perhaps the worst conditions for negotiations and arbitration ever, given the

financial condition of the Postal Service (regardless of the reasons for that) and the hits which the APWU had taken with their new contract. I just could not see how we would be able to overcome all of management's proposals to set us back which included a pay freeze, elimination of or capping of cost of living allowances, cut backs in leave, extensive weakening of our health and retirement benefits, and the elimination of the ban on sub contracting of letter carrier work.

To my amazement, management achieved none of those goals. To the contrary, career carriers (which are 90% of the carriers covered by this contract) retained all of our benefits and will receive general wage increases and colas thru the life of the contract. And continued job security with maintenance of the no lay off clause and continued ban on sub contracting.

The influx of the new category of City Carrier Assistants is also benefiting career carriers in many work locations by eliminating or reducing the amount of forced overtime. Although the starting salary which the arbitrator set for CCAs is disappointing (**be assured that the NALC will be working hard to improve upon that going forward**), they are provided a path to career employment and eventually, the same salary their fellow career carriers make. **And I would say to my brother and sister CCA NALC members that frankly, but for the creation of this new category, most of you probably would not now be working for the Postal Service as it had been many years since they had done any substantial hiring of letter carriers.**

So yes, I do find all of this quite amazing.

Barry Weiner
Retired National Business Agent
Region 7

President's Report cont'd from page 9

A Special Thank You To – Barb Rimer & Angie Syverson

After a long absence the Minneapolis Installation is once again participating in the USPS Safe Driving Program in conjunction with the National Safety Council. It took considerable amount of time and patience to search for and go through the records. This summer, letter carriers at all the Stations and Branches in the Minneapolis Installation were recognized for their years of safe driving including 93 carriers who became members of the National Safety Council's Million Mile Club. This would not have been possible without the efforts of our Safety Director Barb Rimer (Brooklyn Park) and our Secretary Angie Syverson. The next step is to get the Associate Offices up to date and participating in the Safe Driving Program.

Chuck Glover - After many years of service, Branch Nine News Editor Chuck Glover has decided to step down from his position as editor. Chuck has been a tremendous asset to the members of Branch 9 as the Steward for the Burnsville Post Office and as a part-time officer. But it has been his service as editor that will leave a lasting legacy. Chuck has been the primary purveyor of information to the members of Branch 9 and he has done it well often under difficult circumstances. He has left so very large shoes to fill. Thank you Chuck for your years of service to the members of Branch 9. I hope you enjoy your retirement.

As we see the end of summer approaching, it's time to take that deep breath and then we need to move forward together for the betterment of all.

Branch Nine News
2408 Central Avenue NE
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Branch 9 Calendar

August 21

MN State Fair Starts
Call the Branch to volunteer
2 Shifts available
9:00AM - 1:00PM
1:00 - 5:00PM

August 26

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

Tuesday, August 26

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

September 2

Notice of Intent for funding
for the State Convention
due at the Branch Office
by 5:00PM

September 2

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

September 5

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

September 9

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

September 9

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

September 25

CCA & Newly Converted Regular
Informational Meeting
7:00PM
Golden Valley VFW Post 7051
7775 Medicine Lake Rd
Golden Valley