



JEROME J. KEATING BRANCH

VOLUME 67 No 4 Official Publication of Branch Nine, NALC May 2015

## THE "JEROME J KEATING" BRANCH 9

Although Jerome J. Keating entered the Post Office March 28, 1924, and despite the fact that he served in elective offices at every level of our union for 36 subsequent years, he still represented in his career the very model of a MODERN labor leader. College educated, well read, conversant with the arts, beautifully articulate and a gifted writer, he was always widely different from the rough-hewn leaders who led and dominated labor in the days of his youth.

Jerome has always been, in short, the perfect gentleman from the top of his head to the tips of his toes. Nonetheless, his constant gentility never prevented him from fighting fearlessly and well for those who had entrusted him with leadership.

**Jerome J Keating**

**Branch 9**

**NALC**

**125**

**years**

On Capitol Hill, in the White House, and in the circles of labor, Jerome was always considered somewhat unique: his fidelity and integrity were unquestioned, his word unbroken. In his thirty-three years of national office in the National Association of Letter Carriers, he gained the total respect and affection of everyone who worked for him and with him.

Since we, in Jerome J. Keating Branch 9, consider Jerry "Mister Minneapolis," we hate to admit that he was really born in Denver, Colorado (September 29, 1903). However, he immediately realized his mistake, and at a very tender age he migrated to Minneapolis with his parents. (He has said he permitted himself to be born in Denver because he wanted to be close to his mother.) Jerome attended Immaculate Conception and St. Anthony grade schools in Minneapolis and then went to East High School here, from where he was graduated in 1920. In those days youngsters didn't go to college almost automatically, as they do now. A college education was reserved for the very fortunate or the very determined. Jerome was one of the latter. After trying a few rather unsatisfactory jobs, he entered the Minneapolis Post Office as a substitute carrier, in March,



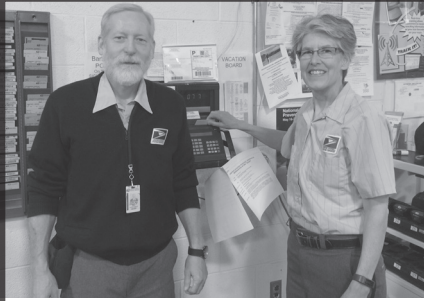
JEROME J. KEATING - LABOR'S GREAT GENTLEMAN

1924. He intended the mail man job to be only a stop gap to help pay his way through the University of Minnesota. However, when he graduated from the University, with honors, in 1930, the depression was in full sway and the letter carrier's job looked a great deal better than it had looked in the 1920's.

Few people know that upon his graduation the university authorities approached him with the suggestion that he might want to continue the academic life as an instructor and, later, as a professor. Oddly enough, in 1930, a letter carrier's job offered more security than that of a college teacher, and Jerome chose to remain in the postal service.

*Keating continued on page 3*

## RETIREMENTS



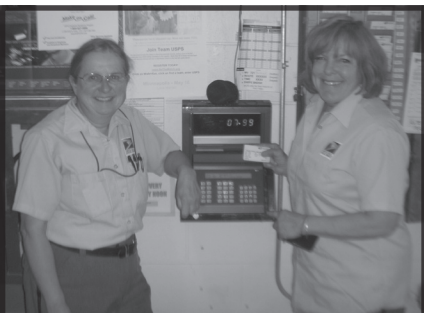
*Barb Stevens (St. Louis Park) making her last punch as Steward Mark Olufson looks on.*



*Darrell Maus congratulates Jerry Banken (Champlin) on his retirement.*



*Stewards Tammy Streeter and Michelle Guzman congratulate John Marszalek (Coon Rapids) as he makes his last punch.*



*Steward Carol Garnto with Michelle Di Battista (Lost Lake) are all smiles during her last punch.*

## In Memoriam

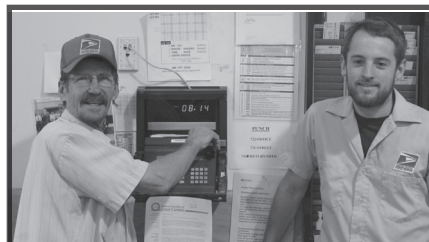
Roger Solem

## Welcome New Members

Komivi Amegenou  
Caresse J Anderson  
Verna Bowman  
Viken A Djerdjian  
Terese R Hawkenson  
Moises A Hernandez  
Nikia T Holmes  
Jeffrey A Koelmel  
Bee Lor  
Evalina L Neal  
Carl A Sampson  
David L Scott  
Kyle C Tangen  
Chavonn D Taylor  
Choua Xiong  
Kor Xiong  
Thomas Engseth  
James Knutson  
Joseph Neimy  
Ruth Pisk



*Steward Tony Thompson with Sue Skie are all smiles watching Mike Vik's (Columbia Heights) take his last punch.*



*Dave Schwartz (Golden Valley) is congratulated by Steward Adam Tinglestad during his last punch.*

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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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*Keating continued from page 1*

There were several other reasons involved. First of all, there was this pretty, vivacious and extremely talented young female pharmacist named Marion Catherine Halloran who worked in a drug store and doubled as a clerk in the store's postal sub-station. Jerome was not only in love, he was also determined to save the fair Marion from the "ignominy" of being a postal clerk. In September, 1932, they were married.

Then, there were certain indications that Jerome had a very promising future in the NALC and he felt he could accomplish more for his fellow man if he remained where he was and explore that future. The rest, of course, is history. He served as President of Branch 9 in 1932 and 1933. In 1935 he was elected at the Cleveland National Convention as Chairman of the NALC Constitution and Laws Committee, a position he held until 1941, when he was elected (on the Doherty ticket) as a member of the National Executive Board.

Things were moving swiftly at this point. In January, 1942, the new NALC President, William C. Doherty, appointed Keating Chief Collector of the Mutual Benefit Association. He and Marion moved to Nashville, Tennessee, and lived there, where he directed the NALC Life Insurance Program, until Doherty appointed him (December, 1945) as Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, a residential office. At the 1946 Convention (Detroit), he was elected Secretary-Treasurer. This was when the fabulous Doherty-Keating partnership began, and it served the membership magnificently well for 17 years.

In September, 1952, at New York, the convention elected Jerome J. Keating Vice-President, and in Denver, 1962, upon Doherty's retirement to become our first

Ambassador to Jamaica, Jerome succeeded him to the Presidency. He served with great honor and distinction until 1968, at Boston, when he voluntarily laid down his burden of leadership and was succeeded as President by the dynamic James H. Rademacher. But the foregoing words constitute the bare bones of the Keating story, and they do not do full justice to Jerome J. Keating.

During his active years in Washington, his personality and his total integrity had an enormous effect on everyone with whom he came in contact. Kindly as he always was, he never had anything but the back of his hand for the four-flusher, the cheat, the hypocrit, the selfish opportunist or the man without principle. Gentlemanly as he always was, he could on occasion be capable of a towering wrath, almost Biblical in its intensity, when he thought his members were being double-crossed or mistreated.

Few who were at the 1966 Convention in Detroit will ever forget his searing anger as he directed his keynote speech at the mangers in the Post Office Department who, he felt, had gone back on their word and had betrayed the postal employees. And there have been times in Committee meetings - even in his own office - when righteous anger would pour forth from him like lava from a volcano. Those who experienced this anger never forgot it, and ever after took steps to avoid doing and saying the kind of thing that caused it.

But, above, all, Jerome never held a grudge. When these occasional bursts of wrath were over, they were over. The point had been made and Jerome would return to normal again. Above all, Jerome J. Keating always had character and, if he had a fault, it was that he couldn't really comprehend why

others couldn't have the same kind of character he had. Modest as he always has been, it simply never occurred to him that people with the kind of character he possessed came along about once in a lifetime. So - in conclusion, Jerry - you have given us - the National Association of Letter Carriers - and the nation itself - fifty golden years.

Everyone whose life you have touched was the better man or woman because of this contact. You have uplifted the entire cause of labor. You have influenced all our lives for the better, and have brought dignity, security and recognition to the profession of letter carrier.

We are eternally grateful to you and for you.

March 1924 - Entered Post Office as a substitute carrier

1932-33 - Branch 9 President

1935-41 - Chairman NALC National Constitution and Laws Committee

1941 - Elected to NALC Executive Board

1942 - Chief Collector M.B.A.

1945 - Assistant Secretary

1946 - Secretary

1946-62 - Editor POSTAL RECORD

1952 - National Vice President

1962-68 - National President

## *The Postal Connection to 'Fast Track'*

The House and Senate are in negotiations regarding so called "fast track" legislation that has been crafted to allow the Obama administration (and any future administration) to negotiate international trade agreements in secret and to push them through Congress on a straight up-or-down vote, with no chance to amend them.

**What is the impact?** Trade deals are just as likely to destroy American jobs as they are to create them, and they clearly drive down U.S. wages.

Two agreements currently under negotiation--the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and U.S-European Union Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (T-TIP)--are even more dangerous. If implemented, they would undermine America's democracy by giving multi-national corporations special rights to challenge approved labor and environmental regulations.

TPP and T-TIP are being negotiated in secret and are designed to protect the interests of multi-national corporations, not workers or citizens. They are focused on investment rules, corporate rights and the ability of countries to regulate in the public interest.

**Consider:** • \*These agreements threaten to weaken or eliminate labor and health-and-safety laws, prohibit domestic content policies ("Buy American") in government procurement, and force countries to compensate companies for profits lost to new environmental regulations. •

\*These agreements can establish private tribunals to resolve disputes outside of our court system--tribunals that are secret and unaccountable to voters. • \*"Fast track" would only allow a quick vote on TPP and T-TIP as well as a number of other trade agreements under negotiation.

### **What is the postal connection?**

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is sponsoring the negotiation of a Trade in Services Agreement (TISA) among dozens of countries, while the U.S. government is in bilateral talks with the European Union on T-TIP, an agreement that would cover the U.S.'s economic interaction with the E.U.'s 27 member countries.

In these negotiations, the Europeans are calling for the U.S. to phase out the U.S. Postal Service's monopoly on the delivery of letter mail, based on the phase-out policy adopted by the E.U. between 1992 and 2011.

In other words, both T-TIP and TISA are direct threats to letter carrier jobs and the Postal Service's affordable universal network.

In addition, NALC's application for a seat on an industry trade advisory committee was denied on the grounds that we represent government employees, even though Wall Street banks are using TPP negotiations to prohibit postal banking while European countries are seeking to repeal postal monopolies in the TISA and T-TIP negotiations. We and the rest of the American public are being shut out of the secret trade negotiations.

**Trade deals have the potential to deregulate USPS:** While we do not believe that the Obama administration would agree to postal deregulation in a larger trade agreement, the decisions made now on trade will last for years--so there is no guarantee that future administrations won't agree to postal deregulation.

\*If the current White House administration, or a future one, agreed to end the postal monopoly as part of a larger trade deal, USPS' system of affordable universal service would collapse.

\*If the current White House administration, or a future one, agreed to a deal that prohibits postal banking, the Postal Service would miss the opportunity to serve 68 million Americans who are unbanked or under-banked (as determined by the latest Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation survey on access to financial services).

\*Wall Street banks in particular are aggressively lobbying against postal banking and do not want to see the success of Japan Post's bank replicated elsewhere.

**What is the bottom line? The entire AFL-CIO--**as well as non-affiliated unions such as Service Employees International Union (SEIU), the Teamsters and the National Education Association (NEA)--are united in opposition to "fast track" authority, and we urge members of the House and Senate to oppose any legislation that would allow negotiation of trade deals behind closed doors.

From the NALC FACT SHEET

## Executive Vice President's Report

### **COMMITTEE OF PRESIDENTS**

I attended a Committee of Presidents meeting on April 19th and 20th in Honolulu. This meeting is held twice a year (spring and fall) and are attended by the President (or designee) of all the branches that make up the NALC. Our National President Fredric Rolando discussed with us the most current information concerning the union and issues with the 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 for the next 75 years 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.

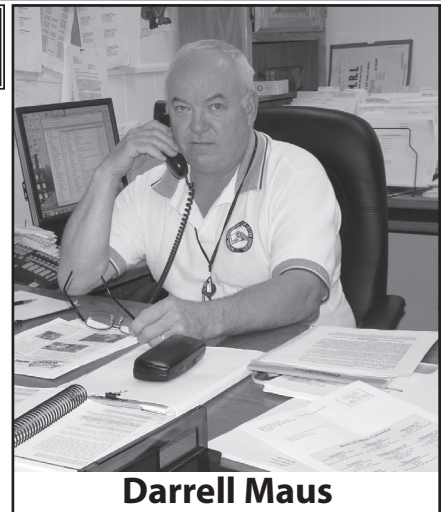
Former Postmaster General Donahoe felt that the only way to achieve this commitment was to reduce mailing requirements and days of service and also by closing mail processing plants.

President Rolando told us of meetings that took place between Donahoe and certain congressman behind everyone's back. Even Donahoe's staff were not aware of these meetings. **President Rolando was very clear when he stated we are in a war with congress**

**to save the Postal Service as we know it today. Congress was willing to stop plant closures but in exchange they wanted the Postal Service to discontinue door to door delivery and implement cluster box delivery for all businesses and most residential customers.** The NALC is strongly opposed of these changes.

In meetings with the new Postmaster General Brennan, President Rolando stressed that it is time for positive publicity to come from the Postal Service instead of all the previous negative information being passed to the media. The new Postmaster General is in agreement with this and President Rolando stated this was encouraging to hear. In their talks the Postmaster General said she did not want to change to 5-day delivery and/or change the current door to door delivery. Her main concerns were plant closures and service standards.

Postmaster General Brennan and President Rolando are in agreement that the **pre-funding mandate has to be addressed by congress, after all they are the ones that crippled the Postal Service with this requirement. He went on to say that the only thing members of congress listen to is money and getting re-elected** 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 10% 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.**



**Darrell Maus**

### **BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

The Board of Governors is made up of 9 appointed members, the Postmaster General and the Assistant Postmaster General. Currently there are only 3 Governors on the Board and 2 of them will be off this year. President Rolando referred to this as the Board of Governor. He stressed that no governors are better than a board of bad governors.

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 to 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 (while few) has to go and**

# Branch 9's Annual Ron St. Clair MDA Bowl-a-thon

This year's bowl-a-thon took place on Saturday, April 18, 2015 at the New Hope Bowl. It was a fun night of bowling and a great night for MDA! Branch 9 raised over \$10,000. That money will go a long way helping families with kids with Muscular Dystrophy. Thank you everyone that helped out and participated in this year's event.



**Anover/Anoka Team**



**Elmwood Team**



**Lost Lake Team**



**Lowry Team**



**Julie Waldemar and Ken Jambois**

**MDA<sup>®</sup>**  
**Fighting Muscle Disease**



**Brooklyn Park Team**



**St. Louis Park Team**



**Columbia Heights Team**



**Powderhorn Team**



**Zone 4/54 Team**



**Lake Street Team**



**Retiree Team**



## Director of Retirees

### The Postal Prefund Requirement for Dummies Part 2

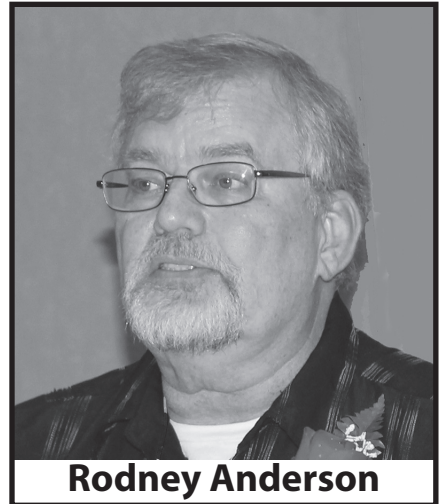
The PAEA didn't look as dangerous in 2006 as it eventually became. For one thing, it transferred the \$27 billion obligation for Veterans back to the Treasury Department. Further, the law established the Postal Service Retirement Health Benefit Fund, adding to it the \$3 billion in escrow along with the \$17 billion that the CSRS plan already held. But, it also required the Postal Service to pre-fund within the next ten years (2006-2016) a pension requirement that would run through 2056. This would be done by requiring the Postal Service to make payments ranging from \$5.4 billion to \$5.8 billion per year into the RHBF, far exceeding the actuarially determined amounts needed if a normal amortization table of probable retiree health-care costs over the next half century. This means that not only are we funding the health benefits for future retirees who have not even been born yet, but due to this fiscal sleight-of-hand, we are the only company, public or private, that is required to PRE-fund health care costs for retirees.

Did someone go crazy? No, there was an obvious method to their madness. If the Postal Service suc-

cessfully paid those requirements ever year into the RHBF, then not only would the retiree health care liability be satisfied decades ahead of its need, but the more than \$50 billion the Postal Service collected would be useful in helping out the bottom line of the unified federal budget. And if the Postal Service was unsuccessful in making those annual payments (which proved to be the case after the economy tanked in 2007 and 2008), and if as a result they did manage to privatize the Postal Service, all that money would be available to a greedy Congress.

Actually at first times were good, the stock market was booming, our war-driven economy was bustling right along, and for a couple of year the USPS came close to honoring its annual \$5 billion obligation. And then in 2007, the Republicans ran the economy into the ground and the problems of the USPS — and everyone else except the 1% — dramatically increased.

The Postal Service was never actually able to make those huge pre-fund payments. And by 2011, Congress decided to fix things (as in "Oh, crap, here we go again"). Several groups have come up with plans to give the Postal Service temporary relief, but raising the



**Rodney Anderson**

later payments to this prefund to \$7 or \$8 billion per year. The primary problem of postal financing today is that we are actually making money EXCEPT for the pre-fund payment which comes due every Sept 30. The USPS has poured billions into the fund, and indeed if we used a reasonable pay-as-you-go system, we would be profitable.

Which is why you are hearing double figures, depending upon who we're listening to. Take last year for example. **The Postal Service actually "made" a \$689 million profit. In any other company, that would be a handsome measure of success.** But due to the fact that we had the \$5.5 billion payment into the pre-fund, that still left us nearly \$5 billion in the red. And until Congress and a friendly Administration makes an effort to reduce or eliminate that



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Kerry Herdine  
Home: 952.854.2655  
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pre-fund requirement, we seem to be on an eternal downward spiral. **Is the Postal Service profitable? Yes — apart from that Pre-fund requirement.**

**To summarize.** As I did the research for this article, two big facts kept popping up. First, brothers and sisters, the dice are loaded. The table is tilted; the game is rigged. Independent of that pernicious pre-fund requirement, the USPS is making enormous profits: \$689 million for the last fiscal year. \$1.1 billion for the first three months of this fiscal year. \$195 million for January 2015 alone.

However, by any measure, we will not be able to satisfy the crushing \$5+ billion pre-fund requirement from the 2006 law. And secondly, this seems to be the diabolical plan of many in high places, not only in the private sector but in some cases within key branches of the Congress and federal bureaucracy.

Simply put, they want us to fail. How nice for them: privatize the Postal Service, crush the federal unions, and help themselves to what has already been put into the postal pre-fund account. It reminds me of our booth at the

State Fair in the summer of 2013. One man came up and gruffly asked what this postal pre-fund is all about? I was working that day with Connie Beissel, who gave him a 5-minute summary of what had happened and how we had wound up in this pickle. Connie was excellent in her explanation; but the dissatisfied man walked away, saying over his shoulder to her, ***"I know you're lying to me. That's the craziest thing I ever heard."***

Welcome to the weird and wild world of Postal and Congressional finance.

## CRIBBAGE WIN!

On April 15, Branch 9 faced Branch 28 in our semi-annual cribbage tournament. A terrific time was had by all, and everyone pronounced it our most successful tournament ever!

Branch 9 had seven players in the tournament and Branch 28 had

19 players. Rollie Matt (Branch 9 retiree) pretty much ran the tournament, at which he is so experienced and adept.

**Branch 9 took both Third Place and First Place. Len Ambroe, took third and the grand prize winner was old Nordeaster and Main Office veteran Ric Colburn.**

The point, of this tournament is not about winning, but about the amity and fraternity, and that was in abundance. Lots of new friends were made, old friends greeted, and as usual Smokey and Florence treated us to a great lunch. Many thanks to everyone that attended.

*We hope you can join us in the fall.*



**The Winners of the 2015 Spring Cribbage Tournament!** (l-r) Len Ambroe (3rd Place), Ric Colburn (1st Place) and Jim Larsen (2nd Place, Branch 28)

**UNIFORMS UNLIMITED**

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St. Paul, MN 55103  
651- 224 - 7567

## Good Shoes...

are the foundation of a city letter carrier. To make them last and you looking good requires a good shine. If you work at a Minneapolis station you may recognize this humble shoe shine box. Although I'm uncertain of their history, the shoe shine boxes have been a staple since my career began in the 70's.

Minnehaha Station actually has two. My guess is that constructing and painting these was a Branch 9 project. (If you know the story, tell the editor.) With fewer carriers now than in these boxes' heyday, our second box goes unused and is looking for some loving care in a new station. Interested?

Contact Kieran Hughes through the Branch and your station will boast a vintage artifact as well as shined shoes.

Submitted by  
Kieran Hughes (Retired Minnehaha)



### The following is a list of PAL 9 Paid Members for March & April 2015.



#### VERY CONCERNED MEMBERS

Stacey A Ellingson  
Lawrence J Gildner  
Linda L Olson  
Leonard H Rardin  
Peter E Wilson

Troy Fredenburg  
Virginia A Hasser  
Jonathan E Peterson  
Cyril Toay

#### REGULAR MEMBERS

Michael R Adams  
Michelle M Benson  
Steven Boice  
Vincent J Froehlich  
Morris R Gross  
James Hiben  
Susan Hoban  
David J Johnson  
Ronald A Manzke  
Steve Oehlerich  
Jeremy J Rothstein  
Raymond "Chris" Williams

Williard G Beauchaine  
Steven R Bjoraker  
Veronica V Fencis  
Doris Swanson Gbala  
Nancy T Hall  
Renee C Hickerson  
Thomas Hoban  
Karin A Lebak  
Wendy Noren  
Thomas E Owens  
Herman M Weidner  
Robert E Zastera

Ron Lawrence  
Treasurer PAL 9

## Memorandums Renewed & Modified

The NALC and USPS have agreed to renew three Memorandums of Understanding:

#### **Full-time Regular opportunities**

–City Letter Carrier Craft  
(M-01856),

#### **Sunday Delivery**

–City Carrier Assistant Staffing  
(M-01857),

#### **Signing Overtime Lists**

(M-01858)

The MOUs remain largely unchanged except for one significant change in M-01857, where the parties agreed that city carrier assistants (CCAs) who served a cumulative 360 days as a city carrier assistant directly before being converted to full-time career status will not serve a probationary period.

You can read more about these MOUs in Director of City Delivery Brian Renfro's upcoming column in the May edition of The Postal Record.

## OIG Report Looks at Local Mail Volume Levels

Full report: <https://www.uspsoig.gov/sites/default/files/document-library-files/2015/rarc-wp-15-010.pdf>

Americans use the U.S. Postal Service to meet a variety of needs. The letters, greeting cards, bills and statements, payments, advertising, magazines, catalogues, and packages the Postal Service delivers make it a vital infrastructure for a wide range of communication and commerce. <sup>1</sup>However, in recent years, the overall demand for postal services has been in decline.

Total mail volume reached a peak of 213 billion pieces in Fiscal Year (FY) 2006, but declined to only 155 billion pieces in FY 2014, a decrease of over 25 percent. <sup>2</sup>Major factors contributing to this recent decline include electronic substitution and the 2008 Great Recession. <sup>3</sup>However, the mailstream is composed of many different products, and these products each have different types of customers and different demand characteristics.

There is more to the story of volume decline than a simple uniform drop in total demand. Mail has experienced an over-all decline, but some products' volumes have remained essentially steady and some products' volumes even increased. From FY 1998 to FY 2013, Standard Mail's volume decreased by only about 2 percent, though there were a number of swings up and down during this timeframe. <sup>4</sup>Between FY 2008 and FY 2013, overall parcel volumes actually grew significantly, increasing 23 percent even in the face of significant economic headwinds.<sup>5</sup>

With the rise in e-commerce driving tremendous growth in the package delivery market, the Postal Service has an opportunity to increase the revenue it earns from its parcel services and meet the growing needs of its customers. <sup>6</sup>Identifying and improving products like these, products with steady or growing demand, will help the Postal Service attract the customers who use these products and to meet their needs. Making such customers aware of other products they could use is likely to help provide a sustainable source of revenue for the Postal Service.<sup>7</sup>

First-Class Mail (FCM) is the flagship product of the Postal Service, and has traditionally had the highest revenue and contribution of all mail. FCM is used by both households and businesses for the presentation and payment of bills, for professional and personal correspondence, advertising, notification, and more. The letters, flats (large envelopes), and cards that comprise FCM can be divided into single-piece (individual pieces of FCM) and workshared (bulk entry of FCM that has been presorted by mailers or consolidators).

The Postal Service's financial operating model and networks were largely built to support FCM letters and flats, which make up a critical portion of the Postal Service's revenue and volume. However, FCM volume has declined significantly over the last 15 years. FCM reached a peak volume of over 103 billion pieces in FY 2001, and fell to 64 billion pieces in FY 2014, a decline of over 37 percent.<sup>8</sup> The decline has left the Postal Service in an increasingly difficult financial position, and it must find ways to adapt to its new circumstances.

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1 U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General (OIG), The Postal Service's Role as Infrastructure, Report Number RARC-WP-15-003, December 15, 2014, <https://www.uspsoig.gov/sites/default/files/document-library-files/2014/rarc-wp-15-003.pdf>.

2 Postal Service, A Decade of Facts and Figures, <http://about.usps.com/who-we-are/postal-facts/decade-of-facts-and-figures.htm>.

3 OIG, State of the Mail, Report Number RARC-WP-12-010, April 27, 2012, <https://www.uspsoig.gov/sites/default/files/document-library-files/2013/rarc-wp-12-010.pdf>.

4 Postal Service, Revenue, Pieces, and Weight Reports, <http://about.usps.com/who-we-are/financials/welcome.htm>.

5 Postal Service, A Decade of Facts and Figures, <http://about.usps.com/who-we-are/postal-facts/decade-of-facts-and-figures.htm>.

6 OIG, Package Services: Get Ready, Set, Grow!, Report Number RARC-WP-14-012, July 21, 2014, <https://www.uspsoig.gov/sites/default/files/document-library-files/2014/rarc-wp-14-012.pdf>.

7 OIG, Enhancing Mail for Digital Natives, Report Number RARC-WP-14-001, November 18, 2013, [https://www.uspsoig.gov/sites/default/files/document-library-files/2013/rarc-wp-14-001\\_enhancing\\_mail\\_for\\_digital\\_natives.pdf](https://www.uspsoig.gov/sites/default/files/document-library-files/2013/rarc-wp-14-001_enhancing_mail_for_digital_natives.pdf) and OIG, Mail Innovations, Report Number RARC-WP-14-013, September 22, 2014, <https://www.uspsoig.gov/sites/default/files/document-library-files/2014/rarc-wp-14-013.pdf>.

8 Postal Service, Revenue, Pieces, and Weight Reports, <http://about.usps.com/who-we-are/financials/welcome.htm>

*VP Report cont'd from page 5*

be replaced with a commission consisting of businessmen and businesswomen with the agenda of growing (not reducing) the Postal Service. 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.

### **CCA's**

President Rolando stressed to everyone that organizing our new employees is very important. **These new employees will one day be career carriers and officers of this union.** One of the items that the NALC started working on as soon as the Das Award came out was the issue of the next Collective Bargaining Agreement that expires in 2016. The hourly pay gap between CCA's and regular carriers prior to the Das Award is on the top agenda. **The Postal Service knows they need to raise the hourly wage if they are going to retain CCAs.**

### **CITY DELIVERY**

The Director of City Delivery Brian Renfro spoke of the newly agreed upon City Delivery Route Alternative Adjustment Process (CDRAAP). The total amount of routes involved in this process nationwide is 58,000 and most of them chosen by the NALC. The current list of Minneapolis stations chosen 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. So far in Minneapolis the problems have been minor with no grievances filed and relief being put back into some stations.

Brian also spoke of a total of 16,000 CCA's have been converted so far in the nation with only about 1,400 PTF's currently left. He also told us of a **new Carrier Academy Training Program that is being initiated and will hopefully help ensure that our new CCA's get the proper training and enable them to succeed as carriers.** One of the requirements is that a CCA will shadow a regular carrier (on the Saturday) before starting the orientation process to see what the job is really like.

Currently the Postal Service is using 3500 Dodge vans for city delivery and **the 2 main issues are the lack of side windows and the backup camera being hard to see on sunny, bright days.**

The blind spots created with the lack of windows was addressed and extra wide angle mirrors are to have been installed on all the vehicles. If you are using one of these new vans and the mirrors have not been installed please fill out a 1767 (Safety Hazard Report) and contact your steward or the branch.

Brian also updated us on the proposed new vehicles the service is attempting to purchase. 3 contractors have been contacted to come up with a new vehicle using the requirements provided by a committee of carriers, the NALC and the Postal Service.

The cab would be similar to that of an LLV with a tray beside the seat

and a second sliding tray underneath the top tray. The driver's seat would be able to adjust up or down and back and forth with a seat back including lumbar availability. The driver will be able to get up and walk to back of vehicle without exiting and able to stand up in the rear. There will be storage racks on one wall to stack our DPS, FSS and flat trays of mail. There will be an exit door right behind the



driver's seat so a carrier can exit the vehicle with a package and not be behind or on the street side of the vehicle. All the relay work between blocks can be done in the vehicle. The vehicle will have a rear camera as well as a dock for the new scanners. Brian did state however that the amount of electronics that will be in the vehicle will be dictated by the final price.

The last thing Brian spoke about was new uniforms that are currently being used and tested in three different climates. Updates on these tests and any actions taken will be announced at the completion which will be in the near future.

## NALC President Rolando's Response to the Herald-Press' Commentary "Postal Service Vital"

A recent commentary you published, which claimed that the U.S. Postal Service is "careening toward financial catastrophe" and mentioned the word "taxpayer" in each of the first five paragraphs, stood reality on its head.

Given the importance of the Postal Service to residents and businesses in Huntington and throughout the Hoosier State, I'd like to provide some pertinent information and facts.

The Postal Service – which is based in the Constitution, links communities large and small throughout this vast nation and delivers to 153 million homes and businesses six and even seven days a week – consistently ranks as the public's most trusted federal agency.

It earns its own revenue by selling stamps and is not funded by taxpayers.

It is the nation's largest employer of military veterans. As communications change, the Postal Service is adapting – to the explosion in e-Commerce, for example. Private carriers like FedEx and UPS rely on efficient postal networks, bringing millions of their packages to the post office for last-mile delivery, saving themselves and their customers money. This partnership benefits all involved, especially the public.

Postal Service operations are profitable, and increasingly so. The Postal Service had a \$1.4 billion

operating profit in Fiscal Year 2014. Already, 2015's black ink exceeds \$1.4 billion. Cash on hand stands at \$7 billion, highest in years.

What is driving this strong financial performance? As the economy recovers from the Great Recession, letter revenue's rising. And as folks in Huntington and elsewhere shop online, package revenue's skyrocketing – which makes the Internet a net positive, auguring well for the future.

The red ink stems from congressional politics, not the mail. In 2006, a lame-duck Congress mandated that the Postal Service prefund retiree health benefits. No other agency or company has to prefund for even one year; the Postal Service must prefund 75 years into the future and pay for it all in a 10-year period. That \$5.6 billion annual charge is the red ink.

And yet, some in Washington want to degrade the service that residents and business owners in Huntington and across the nation have come to rely on – ending Saturday and door-to-door delivery and slowing the mail by closing dozens of mail processing facilities. Degrading postal networks and networks that have returned to profitability – as those who mislead through fear tactics and misinformation seek to do – is irrational. It ignores the source of the red ink and tries instead to convince people that the services they depend on are the problem.

Indiana is an important state with a mix of urban and rural areas and many elderly residents, veterans and small businesses relying on high-quality service.

Ending Saturday delivery would take a toll on Indiana's residents and small businesses. They're open weekends, employ 1,157,117 people – and would see costs rise if compelled to hire private carriers to receive checks on Saturday. Ending door delivery would force people to traipse around neighborhoods in Indiana weather seeking 'cluster boxes.' And slowing the mail by closing 82 processing plants around the country is illogical.

Such actions would send the Postal Service into a downward spiral by driving mail – and revenue – away. And they'd cost jobs. The national mailing industry, which depends on a robust, six-days-a-week Postal Service, employs 7.5 million Americans in the private sector – including 170,731 Hoosiers.

Indiana's residents and small-business owners should press their representatives for a common-sense approach – preserve and strengthen the now-profitable postal networks, while addressing the pre-funding fiasco. Then the Postal Service can continue to provide Americans and their businesses with the world's most affordable delivery network.

By NALC President Fredric V. Rolando



**Vs.**



**The Minneapolis Social and Recreation Committee  
would like to invite you to a**

***Twins* versus *Detroit Tigers* baseball game!**

**SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2015 AT 1:10 PM**

***Come watch Joe Mauer and Torii Hunter beat Miguel Cabrera  
and the Detroit Tigers!***

**Send all requests for tickets to:**  
Minneapolis Social & Rec Committee  
Attn: Twins Game  
P.O. Box 582844  
Minneapolis MN 55458-2844

Deadline to order is **June 20, 2015**. All tickets  
will be picked up at **will-call** window.  
We will have seats in **SECTION 319**.  
Register now for this fun event!

**All ticket orders are due with payment by June 20, 2015.**



\_\_\_\_\_ #Tickets x **\$30.00ea** (\$40 value) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

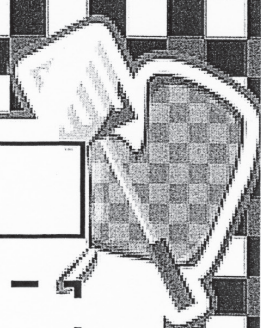
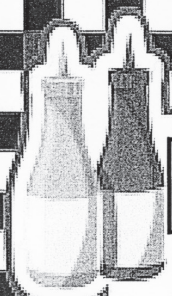
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Pay Location \_\_\_\_\_

Checks or Money Orders only! Make checks payable to MPLS Social & Rec Committee.  
All sales are final and No Refunds will be given. Questions? Call 612-349-4906

**TICKETS ARE PICKED UP AT THE WILL-CALL WINDOW ON THE DAY OF THE GAME**

***This discount is available only through your Mpls Social & Rec Committee!***



# BRANCH 9 Picnic

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9th

10:00AM to 5:00PM

ELM CREEK PARK RESERVE

ACORN SHELTER

2400 JAMES DEANE PARKWAY

MAPLE GROVE, MN 55369

**FRISBEE GOLF**  
Cost \$4.00

**SWIMMING**  
Cost \$4.00

Kid's Games  
Water Balloon Toss  
Relay Races  
Large Play Area  
Face Painting and  
MUCH MORE

**VOLLEYBALL**  
LUNCH to be served at  
1:00PM

## BRANCH 9 Picnic Registration Form

Return Registration Form to Branch 9, 2408 Central Avenue NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418

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

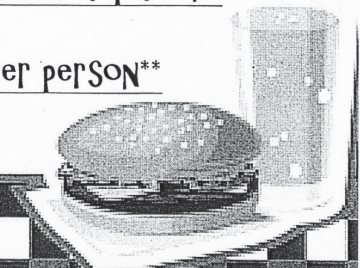
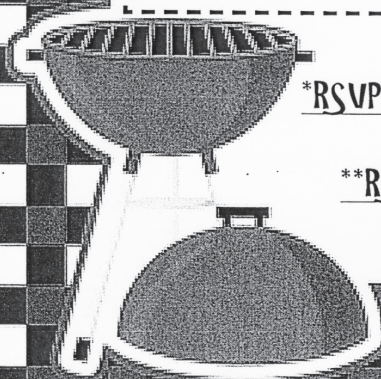
Station: \_\_\_\_\_

Total # people: \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*RSVP FROM NOW UNTIL JULY 1st FOR JUST \$2.50/PER PERSON\***

**\*\*RSVP AFTER JULY 1st THE COST IS \$5.00/PER PERSON\*\***



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



**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 25**  
**MEMORIAL DAY**  
**CLOSED**

**June 2**  
Northside Retiree Breakfast  
9:30AM  
Elsie's  
729 Marshall St. NE, Minneapolis

**June 9**  
Steward Meeting  
7:00PM  
Crystal VFW  
5222 Bass Lk Rd, Crystal

**May 26**  
Nokomis Retiree Breakfast  
9:00AM  
Fred Babcock VFW  
6715 Lakeshore Drive, Richfield

**June 5**  
N Suburban Retiree Breakfast  
8:30AM  
Denny's Restaurant  
9020 Quaday Avenue NE, Otsego

**June 21**  
**FATHER'S DAY**

**May 26**  
General Membership Meeting  
7:00PM  
Crystal VFW  
5222 Bass Lk Rd, Crystal  
**\* Scholarship Drawings\***

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

**June 23**  
General Membership Meeting  
7:00PM  
Crystal VFW  
5222 Bass Lk Rd, Crystal