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July/ August 2016

Addressing the elephant in the USPS

By Fredric Rolando, President, National Association of Letter Carriers
Published in THE UNION DEMOCRAT on Jul 18, 2016

The U.S. Postal Service delivers to 153 million homes and businesses from coast to coast and provides Americans with the most affordable delivery network of any industrial nation. It's older than the country itself and is consistently rated the public's most-trusted federal agency.

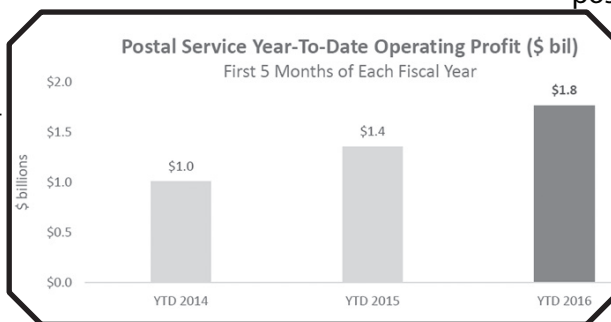
And yet there are misconceptions about it that circulate in the media, largely from forces seeking to privatize it, as was the case with a recent commentary piece in the Union-Democrat. Like most such pieces, to advance its agenda it painted a dire — and misleading — picture of postal finances and blamed entities such as employees and the Internet while ignoring the actual culprit.

Given the importance of the USPS to residents and businesses in Sonora and throughout the Golden State, I'd like to take this opportunity to offer some facts and some context.

For starters, the Postal Service is operating in the black, and has been since 2013. Its earned revenue (USPS gets no tax dollars;

it earns its revenue by selling stamps) exceeded operating expenses by more than a billion dollars in both Fiscal Year 2014 and Fiscal Year 2015. And in the first half of FY 2016, the operating profit stands at \$1.8 billion — meaning that over the past two-and-a-half years, Postal Service operations are \$4.4 billion in the black.

After a significant decline in first-class mail during the worst



recession in 80 years, first class mail is stabilizing as the economy gradually improves. Meanwhile, Internet-sparked online shopping has sent package delivery revenues skyrocketing. As a result of these factors, along with record worker productivity, overall revenue at USPS has steadily increased over the past four years.

There is red ink, but it has nothing to do with the mail and everything to do with flawed public policy. In 2006, a lame-duck Congress mandated that the Postal Service pre-fund future retiree health benefits decades in advance. No other entity in the country, public or private, has to do this. That mandate, costing \$5.6 billion annually, not only accounts for the red ink — it disguises the actual profits postal operations have been generating for years.

Addressing this elephant in the room — pre-funding — is imperative because of the Postal Service's role in so many facets of American life, including in a diverse state like California with its mix of major cities, small

towns and rural areas. In many places, the post office is the center of civic life.

More broadly, the Postal Service is the centerpiece of the \$1.3 trillion national mailing industry, which employs 7.5 million Americans in the private sector, including 966,901 Californians.

Continued on page 11

2017 MSALC Convention Election Notice

This is an official notification to the membership of Jerome J. Keating Branch 9 NALC Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Nominations for delegates to the 2017 MSALC State Convention will be held at the September General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, September 27, 2016 at 7:00PM.

The General Membership Meeting will be held at the Crystal VFW. Candidates must complete the appropriate Letters of Intent and return same to the Recording Secretary at the September General Membership Meeting in which they are nominated or within 10 days thereafter no later than 5:00PM.

Should an election of delegates to the MSALC Convention be necessary, it will be held at the October General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, October 25, 2016.

Welcome New Members

Christopher Barlau
Latoria Bentley
Daniel Berrios
De'von Bethea
Kebede Biru
Richard Carlson
William Chatwin
Alexander Cramer
David Dalke
Deon Davis
Marcas Dorsey
Weesam Faraj
Shannon Griffin
Ismail Ismail
Shaquita Johnson
Jeremy Larson
Tenzin Lobsang
Deborah Malmon
Michael McCarthy
Carissa Nelson
Jay Ngo
Benjamin Parker
Travis Walker

In Memoriam

Harold Zieba

Branch 9, NALC
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Minneapolis, MN 55418
Voice: (612) 781-9858
Fax: (612) 781-9849
Website: branch9nalc.com

Branch 9 Officers

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Mike Zagaros

Exec. Vice President

Darrell Maus

Recording Secretary

JoAnn Gilbaugh

Treasurer

Lisa O'Neill

Financial Secretary

Samantha Hartwig

Editor

Jeremy Rothstein

branch9news@branch9nalc.com

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Jim Nelson

Trustees

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Stacy Ellingson

Joe Rian

Director of Retirees

Rodney Anderson

C: (651) 270-7807

NALC Health Benefits Rep.

Mike Smith

HBR: (612) 963-6252

CRIBBAGE TOURNAMENT Wednesday, October 12, 2016

10:00AM

PLACE:

NALC Branch 28
1715 Van Dyke Street
Maplewood, MN
651.771.0533

\$3.00 Entry Fee



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.

Any official NALC organization may reproduce our articles provided appropriate credit is given.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Watchful Waiting -vs- Acting Now

There is a term called "watchful waiting" that is normally used by doctors in some cancer treatments whereby the doctor does not actively treat a patient but monitors the growth of the disease because the treatment may not be as effective at that time. The watch and wait method is used to ensure that when treatment is started, it is effective. This approach cannot be used for every situation. Sometimes we need to act now.

National Agreement: By the time you are reading this article, the 2016 National Convention in Los Angeles should be just about over. We have 27 delegates that will be in attendance this year. During the convention, we should learn more about where we stand with a new National Agreement. Our contract expired in May, but the parties have continued discussions in an attempt to reach a negotiated settlement. In the meantime, the APWU received the Arbitrator's decision on their National Agreement and the Rural Carriers reached a negotiated settlement last year. What will be the impact of these two agreements have on our contract, I don't know. But "what's happening with our contract" is the question most often asked when Darrell and I are doing a station visit. The answer remains the same, we are watching and waiting, but there are too many issues that we can't afford to wait too long on.

Safety: One of the primary topics at our labor/management meetings continues to be letter carrier safety. Personal safety is

something that we can't afford to just monitor, count and wait for the right time to treat. NOW is the time to treat. We have a trifecta of safety topics for 2016 that we discuss every month: **dog bites, motor vehicle accidents and slips, trips and falls.** These types of incidents invariably lead to carriers getting hurt and having to deal with the ins and outs of our worker's compensation program.

Dog bites - So far this year, we have already exceeded last year's totals in dog bites and we still have 5 months left. The USPS rule is simple and absolute. If there is a dog out, we don't deliver. Even if the owner is present, do not put yourself in harm's way the animal is just following its instinct to protect. Ask the patron to put their dog away. If you are going to the door to attempt a parcel delivery, always put your foot against the door to prevent surprises. *Remember, there is no such thing as a dog that won't bite.*

Motor Vehicle Accidents/Slips, Trips & Falls - Throughout the spring and early summer, Darrell and I have been making the rounds doing the 2015 safe driving award presentations in Minneapolis. The vast majority of you received your pins in front of your peers. It's important that we do this, because we need to focus on the positives of driving safely and recognizing those who do. Unfortunately, at our current rate, we will soon surpass last year's totals for motor vehicle accidents and slips, trips & falls. Again we still have 5 months left in this calendar year.

By now some of you are probably tired of hearing my cliché "leave



Mike Zagaros

yourself an out." Simply put, this means to leave yourself with options. Take the extra time that is needed to be safe, and try to expect the unexpected and be aware of your surroundings. While this is often easier said than done. This should be every carrier's goal. Occasionally, I hear that management is pushing us too hard. That still is not a reason for taking shortcuts that put you at risk. If that is happening, let your steward know or call the Branch Office. It doesn't matter how many safety programs we have, the most important component is you. It begins and ends with you.

Worker's Compensation: If you are injured at work, after notifying your supervisor, please contact your steward. Too often, carriers have been relying on management to handle all phases of their worker's compensation claims and bills. This is shortsighted and often causes needless delays. Carriers need to take an active part in their claims. First, after reporting the injury, you need to complete the proper claim forms. Usually this is either a CA-1 for a traumatic injury (an injury that happened on 1 day) or CA-2 for an occupational illness or

Pres. Report continued on page 11

Postal Banking - Could It Help Americans and The Postal Service?

With its advocates that include Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and former presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT), the concept of postal banking has emerged as a way to ease the financial burdens faced by the poorest Americans. But critics have scoffed at the idea. "How could postal employees run a bank?" they ask. Though little remembered, there was a time when the U.S. Post Office was the safest bank in the country, helping to keep the entire financial industry afloat. For millions of Americans, the idea of postal workers running a bank is what convinced them to do any banking at all. As postal banking returns to the national stage.

The Democratic platform laid out some of the party's main talking points for the general election. The 55-page platform said that a Hillary Clinton administration would work to let the U.S. Postal Service offer "basic financial services," including cashing checks and giving USPS more flexibility in choosing with services it provides, in an effort to revitalize the government service.

The postal service's Office of the Inspector General recommended that the agency consider offering

check cashing, money transfers and modest loans to customers who don't have their own banks.

The U.S. Postal Service once offered simple banking services



to the public beginning in 1911, but federal reforms abolished the services in 1966. With the postal service now facing costly mandates from Congress, the notion of restoring banking has been bandied about as a way to get the agency on more solid footing while extending some basic services to underbanked communities.

It's a potential alternative to the high-interest payday loans that poorer Americans rely on. When the Postal Banking was abolished, most zip codes had at least 1 bank and 1 savings institution. Today only 21% of all zip codes have only 1 bank within their zip code area. 35% of all postal retail facilities are in zip codes that do not have a bank in their area. 10% of Americans do not have a checking account and 68 million do not have access to or limited access to basic banking services.

Today, new problems have arisen that have led many advocates of financial services reform to go back to the future. Retail banking networks have shrunk in many urban and rural communities, leaving nearly 70 million Americans unbanked (for more on the proposal for modern postal banking, see the December issue of *The Postal Record*). Or the for the history of postal banking go to <https://www.nalc.org/news/the-postal-record/body/USPSS.pdf>.



Exec Vice President's Report

Weingarten Rights

With the amount of carriers being called into their station manager's offices for job discussions I want to make sure that every carrier knows their rights under Weingarten. In the J-Cam it states *"Federal labor law, in what is known as the Weingarten Rule, gives each employee the right to representation during any investigatory interview which he or she reasonably believes may lead to discipline."* This rule cannot be exercised by the steward, but rather the employee must request their steward to be present. Also a carrier has the right to a pre-interview consultation with their steward (before going into the office) where information can be discussed privately. The Branch has become aware of instances where the steward was not requested and afterwards the carrier informed us that they wished they had requested their steward's representation prior to the meeting especially when it involved OIG agents or postal inspectors. This issue usually occurs in cases that deal with our newer and junior employees whether CCA's or regulars. Our experienced carriers need to watch out for them and make sure they know that they are not alone.

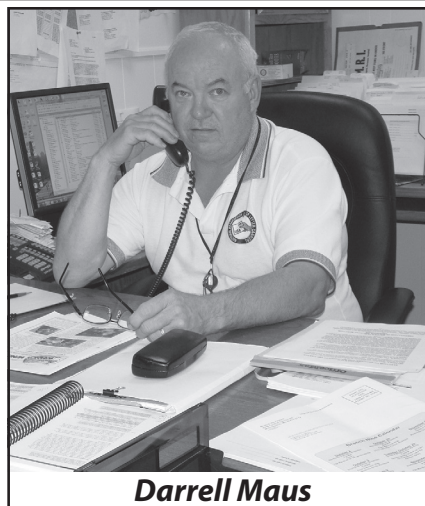
In Minneapolis there has been a long time established and recognized agreement that whenever a carrier is called into the office for any type of discussion the steward is to be present, unless the carrier does not want the steward there. This rule also gives the employee the right for the steward's assistance. The steward is not there as a silent partner. Management will be in violation of the rule if they try to restrict the steward to the role of

witness or passive observer. So when your presence is requested in the office by a supervisor or manager protect yourself - know your rights and exercise them by asking for your steward to be present.

Safety

We deliver mail in an environment that is completely out of our control. We cannot control other drivers, bike riders, pedestrians, pets or even the weather (although that would be nice). Watch where you are walking and make sure the ground is level and free of debris to avoid slips, trips, or falls. Take the time to be safe on steps and be assured that they are in good condition and if not make sure your supervisor is notified. Be alert and always be aware of the conditions around you. When loading your vehicle with the mail it should never be placed on the dash, floor or double decked on top of another tray as it will slide around at every stop or turn. This could be a distraction and may cause you to be in a vehicle accident while trying to keep the trays in one place and never use your cell phone when your postal vehicle is in motion period.

Carriers on mounted routes should never work the mail from their laps. This is considered a safety issue despite the fact that many carriers have been observed doing precisely that by management (whether on a 3999 or street observation) and nothing is ever said to them. You have to walk and drive safely between stops whether the mail is ready to be put in the box when you get there or not. You need to take the time when driving to keep your hands and feet in control of the vehicle. On a park and loop route make sure you curb the wheels properly



Darrell Maus

and apply the brake at each park point. On a mounted route put the vehicle in Neutral on level ground or in Park on unlevel ground at each box.

With the changing weather conditions on certain days whether it's a storms (rain or snow) or hot weather you must be focused on safety. Do not take shortcuts that may put your safety at risk. We cannot sacrifice safety for time. It is our responsibility to be safe on the clock at all times. If ever an instruction is given to you by management that puts your safety at risk, see your steward.

As Mike and I has said at several safety talks always leave yourself an out.

2016 Color Coded Calendars

\$4.00/each
Payable to: "Richdon"

Orders/money are due by the August 25 GMM

or

Mailed to:
c/o Cheryl LaCroix
Brooklyn Park PO
5001 Edinbrook Ter
Brooklyn Park, MN 55443

If you have any questions contact Cheryl at 763-229-3784

House OGR leaders introduce and mark up bipartisan postal bills

On July 12, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (OGR) advanced two postal reform measures: the Postal Service Reform Act of 2016 (H.R. 5714) and the Postal Service Financial Improvement Act (H.R. 5707). The bills were formally introduced earlier in the week by a bipartisan group of leaders of the OGR Committee: Chairman Jason Chaffetz (R-UT), Ranking Member Elijah Cummings (D-MD), and Reps. Mark Meadows (R-NC), Gerry Connolly (D-VA) and Stephen Lynch (D-MA).

The introduction followed a couple of weeks of consultations

with stakeholders, groups that provided written comments on earlier discussion drafts of the bills. No amendments to either bill were formally proposed or adopted, and both received committee approval by unanimous voice votes.

Before the bills can be considered by the full House of Representatives, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) must analyze the bills to determine their costs—their “CBO scores.” That analysis will occur over the summer recess, and Congress could take up the two bills when it returns to Washington, DC, after Labor Day.

Reprinted from the NALC.org website

Branch 9 Racial and Economic Justice Committee

First Meeting

Wednesday, September 14th

7:00PM

Richfield American Legion
501 Portland Avenue South
Richfield, MN

Second Meeting

Thursday, September 15th

7:00PM

Crystal VFW
5222 Bass Lake Road
Crystal, MN

Postal Service Financial Improvement Act

Summary: H.R. 5707 was introduced by Reps. Stephen Lynch (D-MA) and David McKinley (R-WV) prior to the committee markup. The legislation would authorize the Treasury Department to diversify the investment of the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund (PSRHBF), which covers the Postal Service’s premiums for retiree health insurance.

Specifically, the bill would allow 25 percent to 30 percent of the PSRHBF to be invested in private-sector stocks and bonds through index funds such as those offered by the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). The legislation also would establish a PSRHBF Investment Committee to advise the Secretary of the Treasury on investments made from the fund.

“We have a unique opportunity to put the Postal Service on a path to a more stable financial footing and ensure a secure future for

postal employees, the mailing community, and the American people who depend on this trusted government institution,” Lynch said.

“This important legislation will provide the Treasury Department with the flexibility to keep the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund strong,” McKinley added, “so these workers can get the health care coverage they earned for their retirement.”

NALC evaluation of H.R. 5707: The union applauds the introduction of H.R. 5707, although we hope to strengthen it by raising the percentage of assets in the PSRHBF that may be invested more sensibly.

Under current law, 100 percent of the PSRHBF must be invested in low-yielding Treasury bonds that are now earning just 1 percent to 2 percent annually—far below the rate of health care inflation. Over the past 10 years, the long-term

Life Cycle Funds in the TSP have earned 6 percent to 7 percent annually on average. Investing the PSRHBF in a diversified portfolio of stocks and bonds, following best practice in the private sector, would make sense. Doing so also would reduce the burden of pre-funding in the future by reducing the PSRHBF’s unfunded liability.

“The committee’s action on H.R. 5714 and H.R. 5707 is step one in a very long process for Congress,” President Rolando said. “As it is currently drafted, we would oppose final passage of H.R. 5714, and we definitely want to improve H.R. 5707. But there will be plenty of opportunity to address the deficiencies in these bills. NALC will remain intimately involved in their progress, and we will continue to work with stakeholders and committee leaders to achieve sensible legislation.”

Reprinted from the NALC.org website

NALC evaluation of H.R. 5714:

** Unacceptable door delivery cuts. The bill proposes significant cuts in door-to-door delivery, a major reduction in the quality of service that would undermine the Postal Service's health in the future. It would give USPS the discretion to mandatorily convert 5.5 million business delivery points from door delivery to centralized delivery. It also would allow the Postal Service to convert a significant number of residential door deliveries to cluster-box or curb-line delivery on a voluntary basis. Such conversions not only would place the Postal Service at a competitive disadvantage in the delivery of parcels, but it also would undermine the value of direct mail. Indeed, read-and-response rates are four times higher for Standard Mail pieces delivered to doors rather than to cluster boxes. The resulting loss of package and direct-mail volume, and the associated revenue loss, likely would overwhelm any cost savings.

NALC will mobilize its allies on Capitol Hill to oppose these door delivery cuts. More than 200 representatives in the House of Representatives have co-sponsored a resolution (H.Res. 28) calling for the

preservation of door delivery services. We will seek to increase this number over the summer recess and work to pass an amendment to remove the door delivery provision (Section 202) from the bill.

** Medicare hardship exception needed. More than 90 percent of Medicare-eligible retired letter carriers already enroll in Part A (hospital insurance), and more than 80 percent enroll in Part B (medical insurance). The bill would require the 10 percent to 20 percent minority to enroll in Parts A and B of the Medicare program (except for those covered by FEHBP plans with fewer than 1,500 postal participants).

Although there is no cost to enrolling in Part A, and while many non-enrolled Medicare-eligible retirees will welcome the chance to enroll in Part B with no late-enrollment penalty (which is to be waived under the bill), NALC has urged the OGR committee to do more for the minority of non-enrolled seniors to ensure that no retiree will face a financial or

medical coverage crisis as a result of the mandate. Indeed, we will urge Congress to provide for a "hardship exemption" process that would allow the Postal Service to grant waivers to the requirement to enroll in Part B to current non-enrollees under special circumstances.

A hardship exemption would complement the bill's Medicare Transition Fund, which will subsidize (over three years) the Part B premiums of current non-enrolled Medicare-eligible seniors who would be required by the bill to enroll.

** Excessive pre-funding target. Under current law, USPS is required to amortize 100 percent of its unfunded liability. NALC has urged the committee to adopt an 80 percent funding target, as proposed by the Senate's legislation (S. 2051). This would lower the cost of pre-funding.

** Investing the PSRHBF. Although a separate legislative proposal to better invest the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefit Fund (PSRHBF) was adopted by the oversight committee on July 12, NALC had hoped it would be included in H.R. 5714. We will continue to push for that.



Reprinted from the NALC.org website

Join Branch 9 for
*“The Great Minnesota
 Get-Together”*

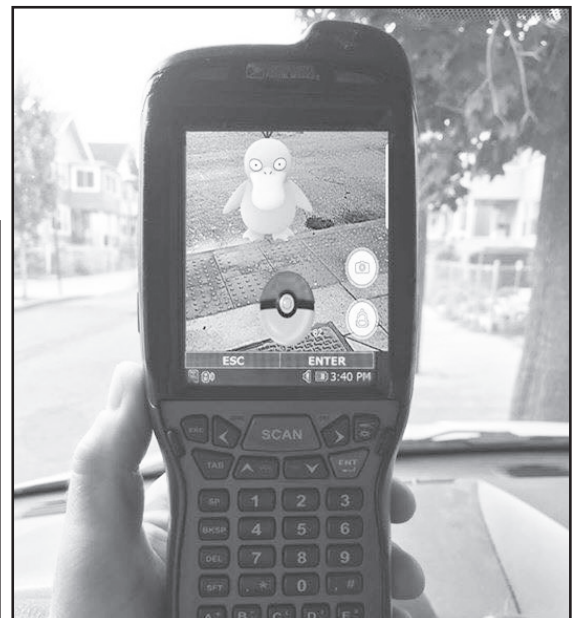


August 25 - September 5

2 shifts available:
 9:00AM - 1:00PM
 1:00 - 5:00PM

**Call the Branch Office or talk to
 your steward to sign up.**

Letter Carrier Humor





Thank you very much for the Jerome J. Keating/Austin B. Carlson Scholarship. I look forward to putting it to good use.

My name is Cameron Schilling and I am a 2016 graduate of Bloomington Kennedy High School. I was a linebacker on the Kennedy football team, have worked at

McDonald's for the past three years and was also active in Boy Scouts obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout. In the fall, I am continuing my education at Normandale Community College. I plan to attend Normandale for two years and then complete my education at the University of Minnesota—Twin Cities or University of Wisconsin—Madison earning a degree in Business.

I would like to thank the officers and members of Branch 9 for supporting my education by providing me with this scholarship.

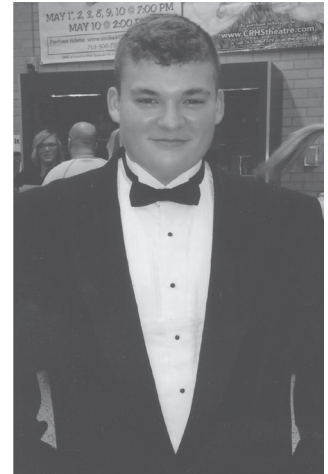
Cameron Schilling

I would like to thank the Walter E. Couillard/Eugene P. McNulty and Branch 9 for the Scholarship!

I have just graduated from Coon Rapids High School. I will be attending St. Cloud State University in the fall, pursuing a degree in Education. My goal is to be teaching middle school or high school History. I also would like to pursue a minor or perhaps a double major in Music.

I enjoyed my 6 years in band and do not want to let that go idle. My free time will be taken up with the Trap Shooting Club, the sport I fell in love with my sophomore year of high school.

Thanks again for this opportunity!
Joe Miskowicz



Life Insurance Open Season (September 1 - September 30, 2016)

The Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Program, FEGLI, is having an Open Season from September 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016. This is the first FEGLI Open Season since 2004.

During the month of September 2016, if you are a Federal employee eligible for FEGLI, you can elect any coverage that FEGLI offers, including Option C coverage on the lives of your eligible family members. Employees who are in their first 12 months of workers' compensation are also eligible but they must meet pay and duty status requirements before their coverage can come into effect.

You do not need to be currently enrolled in FEGLI to elect coverage during the Open Season. Open Season elections have no medical exam required and no health questions to answer.

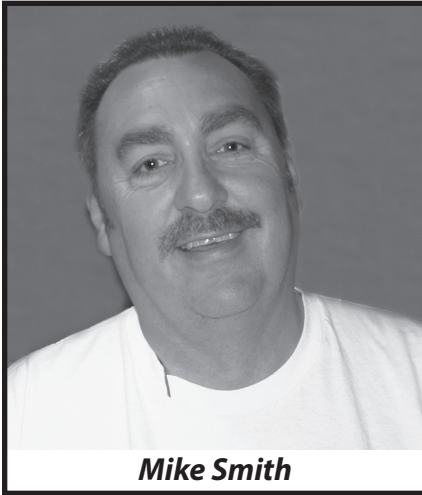
Elections made during the FEGLI Open Season have a one-year delayed effective date. Coverage you elect in the September 2016 FEGLI Open Season will be effective on the first day of the first full pay period on or after October 1, 2017, as long as you meet pay and duty status requirements.

For most biweekly employees, this means your coverage will be effective on October 1, 2017. For most Postal employees, this means your coverage will be effective on October 14, 2017.

Your new premiums will be effective when your new coverage is effective. You will not pay your new premiums during the one-year waiting period.

The FEGLI Open Season is for FEGLI-eligible employees and qualifying compensationers only. Annuity holders are not eligible to make FEGLI Open Season elections. By law, annuity holders are never allowed to elect or increase their FEGLI life insurance coverage, even during an Open Season. Like employees, annuity holders can cancel or reduce FEGLI coverage at any time unless assigned.

Health Benefits Representative Report



Mike Smith

I want to report that between our NALC High Option and the CDHP and Value Option plans, nationally we gained 5601 new enrollments! The more members that join our plan, the lower our costs and rates stay.

Did you know that CVS MinuteClinic provide our members with affordable and convenient health care services throughout the USA?

Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants provide retail health care in more than 1,100 CVS Pharmacy stores, with an impressive 95% customer satisfaction rate.

Practitioners can:

- * Diagnose, treat and write prescriptions for common family illnesses such as pink eye, strep throat, and eye, nose, and throat infections.
- * Treat minor wounds, joint sprains, and skin conditions such as ringworm, poison ivy, lice and acne.
- * Education for those with high cholesterol, high blood pressure, and diabetes.
- * Provide vaccinations for flu, hepatitis, and pneumonia.
- * Provide a wide range of wellness services, including camp and sports physicals, and health screenings.

Please remember if you have any questions regarding our plan, or are thinking of switching to the NALC Health Benefit Plan, give me a call at (612) 963-NALC.

Member Responsibilities:

- * Read the information the Plan provides you and ask us questions when you need to know more.
- * Make sure you understand your benefits under the NALC Health Benefit Plan, including your costs for services as outlined in Section 4 of our brochure.
- * Accept personal responsibility for any charges not covered by this Plan, if applicable.

* Provide information the Plan needs to process your claims (to the extent possible) including other health insurance coverage your family may have.

* Keep your provider informed about your medical history and your current health status including the medications you take so they can effectively treat you and manage your care.

* Inform your provider about any living will, medical power of attorney, or other directive that could affect your care.

* Participate with your provider to understand your health condition and develop mutually agreed upon treatment goals to the degree possible.

* Follow your provider's instructions and treatment plan, ask questions if you don't understand them.

* Treat your health care provider, their staff and others respectfully and honestly.

* Voice your opinions, concerns or complaints to our customer service and /or your health care provider.

* Make sure you obtain authorization required under the Plan for certain services.



UNIFORMS UNLIMITED

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

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disease (an injury that takes place over more than one day). Once you have filled out the appropriate form, make sure that you receive a receipt. This is proof that you filed the claim. The second step is to ask your steward for the appropriate checklist (either CA-1 checklist or CA-2 checklist). This will allow you to keep track of your claim and the normal steps that are involved. If you are receiving bills for your injury, do not simply give them to your supervisor and expect them to be paid. Unfortunately, that's not how the bills are paid. The easiest way for bills to be paid, is for your provider to electronically submit a bill to the Office of Worker's Compensation Programs (OWCP) ACS web bill processing portal. This portal is available at <http://owcp.dol.acs-inc.com/> you can follow-up with what bills have been submitted, approved or denied.

Branch 9 has a new resource to help with workers compensation issues. An agreement has been reached with the postmaster to have Samantha Hartwig work in our office (on Thursday's) to help members with their compensation questions. She will "normally" be in the office from 6:30AM – 3:00PM.

The most important thing you can do when dealing with worker's compensation issues is to ask questions. While patience is often required when dealing with

worker's comp, often times this is another situation where we need to act now.

Branch 9 Racial and Economic Justice Committee: Earlier this spring, a motion was approved calling on the Branch to form a Racial and Economic Justice Committee. In order to develop the framework for this committee, we need to hear from you. On September 14th and 15th there will be two listening sessions that will be available to all Branch 9 members. The purpose of these meetings is to identify issues and situations where the issues of race interfere at work and in the Branch. ***The first meeting will be on the south side on Wednesday, September 14th at the Richfield American Legion at 6501 Portland Avenue South. The meeting begins at 7:00PM. The second meeting will be on the north side on Thursday September 15th at the Crystal VFW (our normal meeting hall) at 5222 Bass Lake Rd. This meeting is also scheduled to begin at 7:00PM.*** Please come and add your voice. **We can't work towards solving the problems until we know what the problems are.**

Not every issue needs the same response. Sometimes it is appropriate to act now and sometimes we need to be watchfully waiting. **Regardless of which approach is used, the important thing is to not ignore the issue.**

Address the elephant in the USPS continued from page 1

It's also the nation's largest civilian employer of military veterans. Nearly one-quarter of letter carriers are wearing their second uniform.

Along with delivering 40 percent of the world's mail, USPS and letter carriers play a key role in communities throughout the country. In mid-May, letter carriers conducted their 24th annual food drive — the largest single-day food drive in the country — to help replenish food banks, pantries and shelters in Sonora and elsewhere.

And every day as they deliver mail on their routes, letter carriers around the country help save the elderly or other residents who have fallen or experienced medical problems, locate missing children, rescue people after automobile accidents or help stop crimes in progress.

If California's elected representatives in Washington work toward constructive and targeted postal reform that addresses pre-funding while preserving and strengthening the invaluable and profitable postal networks, the Postal Service — which is based in the Constitution — can continue to provide all Americans with the world's most affordable delivery services.



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

AME'S UNIFORMS

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Stay informed by:

- *Signing up for E-activist at NALC.org
- * Branch9nalc.com (website)
- * “like” our Branch 9 Facebook Page
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Contribute to the PAC
The Letter Carrier Political Fund is the anchor for NALC’s legislative and political activities.



nalc.org/government-affairs/political-activity

Branch 9 Calendar

August 15-19

*70th Biennial Nat’l Convention
Los Angeles Convention Center*

August 23

*General Membership Meeting
7:00PM
Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN*

August 25 - September 5

MN State Fair

September 5

*Labor Day
Holiday*

September 13

*Stewards Meeting
7:00PM
Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN*

September 14

*Racial and Economic Justice
Committee Meeting
7:00PM*

*Richfield American Legion
501 Portland Avenue South*

September 15

*Racial and Economic Justice
Committee Meeting
7:00PM
Crystal VFW
5222 Bass Lake Rd.*

September 27

*General Membership Meeting
7:00PM
Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN*

Northside Retiree Breakfast

1st Tuesday of the Month
9:30AM @ Elsie’s
729 Marshall St. NE, Minneapolis

N Suburban Retiree Breakfast

1st Friday of the Month
8:30AM @ Denny’s Restaurant
9020 Quaday Avenue NE, Otsego

Southside Retiree Breakfast

2nd Tuesday of the Month
9:00AM @ Fred Babcock VFW
6715 Lakeshore Dr, Richfield

Nokomis Retiree Breakfast

4th Tuesday of the Month
9:00AM @ Fred Babcock VFW
6715 Lakeshore Dr, Richfield

POCUM

4th Monday of the Month
6:00PM - Labor Centre -2nd Floor
312 Central Ave, Minneapolis