







# Executive Vice President's Report

## COLLECTIVE UNITY & STRENGTH

The NALC is in the midst of negotiations for our National Agreement. Negotiations for this contract are inarguably some of the most significant terms of how it will affect letter carrier's day to day lives in the future.

I wish I could write about everything the negotiating parties are talking about and the progress that is being made, but this is all done behind closed doors and only made public when or IF an agreement is reached.

There are no daily postings of progress reports although there still seems to be a lot of information on "the web" ready to inform us of all the bargaining news (and you all know that this information has to be true because it was on the Internet).

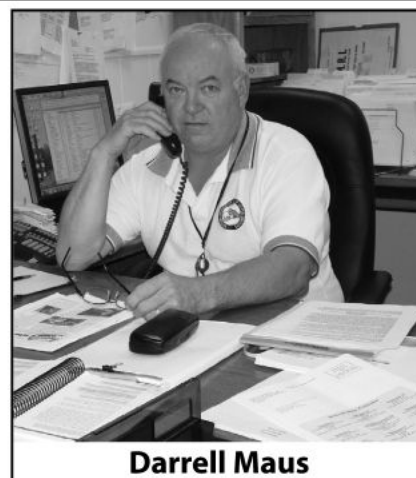
When we talk about the Union we use the term "collective bargaining" when we refer to the process of negotiating our contract, we chant "solidarity". The banner of our own Branch Nine News declares "An Injury To One, Is An Injury To All". This union membership stuff can really pack a powerful punch! Unfortunately, it can also lull us into a false sense of strength and security if we start to believe these words have power merely by their definition and use.

Branch 9 has been lucky throughout the years because we have been fortunate enough to have a good working relationship with our postal management. This relationship has given us the ability to negotiate our own local agreements here in Minneapolis. This type of working relationship is very rare and does not occur often in the rest of the country. The agreements created by Branch 9 and postal management

are powerful and enforceable documents which help give our membership a voice in the areas of safety, work environment, new probationary employees and steward's rights. But, these documents (by themselves) do not demand respect and compliance nor do they (on their own) defend a carrier who has been wrongly accused or is poorly treated. The power and beauty of these agreements is only recognized when we, the Union, back them up with action and participation. The problem with this is that at some of our Branch 9 stations, carriers are not holding management accountable to these agreements. In fact, in some of our stations the Union does not have anyone representing the Union as a safety liaison, customer connect coordinator, job instructor trainer and most importantly no steward - so where is our collective strength?

Now, I agree totally that being a station steward is not for everyone. It's a TOUGH, DEMANDING and often thankless job that is not for the faint of heart. But when no one stands up what happens then? Is it really conducive to a good working environment if everyone just closes their eyes and lets management do and treat people however they want? You can't just hope that things will get better because they won't. Someone has to decide to stand up and lead that stations "collective strength" in order for things to get better.

Ultimately, our strength as a union is defined by each and every one of us. What we, as individuals, bring to the table is what we, as union members, can lay claim to collectively. It has been said that a chain is only as strong as its weakest link so, I'm challenging all of you to find a way to help



Darrell Maus

identify that weak link and work with management to become aware of all the issues at your station. If it's a safety issue inform your safety liaison. If it is any other type of issue inform your steward or call the Branch.

CCAs are the future of the post office. Try to find a newer carrier to step up (alternated steward, safety liaison, etc.) and then help them get ready to become our future union leaders. Your actions will hopefully have great influence and may lead to other random acts of solidarity and people stepping up for the branch and the NALC. You are one of over 2200 Branch 9 members. It is you that is the union. It is the collection of all of our efforts that truly define our strength.

Lastly I want to urge our members to ask this question to the non-union members at your station. What reason do you think you have for receiving the same pay and benefits that I receive and not give or contribute anything to receive them?

Throughout the years the NALC has worked hard to get Union members decent hours, good pay and benefits. It's time for the non-union members to step up and instead of watching from the sidelines free of charge become a part of our Union team.

**I WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY & SAFE 4TH OF JULY!**

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# Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive Brings in Thousands of Pounds of Food

<b>FOOD COLLECTED</b>	<b>POUNDS</b>
Minneapolis	311,734
St. Paul	167,506
Minneapolis Associate Offices	151,083
St. Paul Associates Offices	128,106
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>773,758 lbs</b>
<b>DONATIONS</b>	
Minneapolis	\$2,048
St. Paul	1,009
Online	45,867
Land O'Lakes Match	25,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$73,924</b>
<b>DONATIONS CONVERTED TO POUNDS</b>	
	323,787 lbs
<b>TOTAL POUNDS</b>	<b>1,097,545 lbs</b>



*Nick Zagaros (Brooklyn Center Steward) is being video taped by LES (Labor Education Service) while picking up food drive donations.*



*Do you want paper or plastic? This year in Osseo and Blaine carriers tried something new - paper bags sponsored by the UFCW. Nice job Adam Minnick (Osseo)!*

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# Branch 9 Retirees step in to help out during the 2016 NALC Food Drive

The Minneapolis Retiree Council pitched in on a cold, blustery but sunny Saturday May 14, 2016 in St. Louis Park to help the National Association of Letter Carriers annual union food drive. Union letter carriers delivered donated food to area collection sites. All food went to local community food shelves, food banks, pantries and shelters.



*Pictured left to right: Bob Baird (NALC); Bob Hilliker (AFSCME Retirees United); Rodney Anderson (NALC); Tom Beer (MRRRC President) and Rita Doucet (MAPE). Not pictured: Louise Sundin, Chris Lynch and Katie Farber also gave of their time for the food drive. Thank you all for donating your time*



*Al Gulden (retired) helping out at the Lake Street Cub Foods site.*

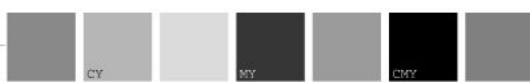


*2016 Branch 9 Retiree of the Year, Bob Baird helps collect the food donations picked up by carriers on their routes at the Cub Foods drop site in Knollwood.*



*Darrell Maus (Exec VP) and several volunteers helping out at the Brooklyn Center Cub Foods site.*

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## MDA Muscle Walk

This year's MDA Muscle Walk of Twin Cities MN was a smashing success, and we have the statistics that prove it!

Total funds raised - \$234,258.70  
Total number of participants - 848  
Total number of teams - 147

On May 14, 2016 (the same day as the NALC Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive) the Branch 9 Muscle Walk team helped give families affected by MDA hope — hope for freedom of the harmful effects of Muscular Dystrophy, ALS and other related muscle-debilitating diseases.

Joe Akmakjian, MDA's National Goodwill Ambassador, shares in that hope and wanted to send a message to you for turning that hope into action:

MDA Muscle Walk empowers individuals in hometowns across America to raise critical awareness and funds for muscle-debilitating diseases that severely weaken muscle strength and mobility.

This year our Branch 9 team members were Jeremy Rothstein (Normandale), Stacey Ellingson (Anoka) and Joe Rian (Richfield).



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# NEWS & INFORMATION

June 16, 2016 [www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org)

## House committee releases postal reform 'discussion draft'

On June 15, the leaders of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee released a discussion draft of a potential postal reform bill. The draft Postal Service Reform Act of 2016 was issued jointly by Committee Chairman Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) and Ranking Member Elijah Cummings (D-MD).

NALC officers and Headquarters staff members are currently conducting a detailed review of the contents of this draft bill. Although the committee has made great progress toward sensible legislation—embracing many of our ideas for reform—our initial review has revealed a number of shortcomings and omissions in the draft bill, and at least one provision that NALC simply cannot support.

We will do all that we can to work with our industry-labor coalition and with the members of the committee and their staffers to reach consensus on legislation that we can all support.

Meanwhile, the House committee is consulting stakeholders on the draft measure before it formally introduces and marks up a bill. NALC will be intimately involved in that process.



## AFL-CIO votes to endorse Clinton for president

[www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org)

The general board of the 12.5 million-member AFL-CIO has voted to endorse Hillary Clinton for president of the United States. The endorsement reflects a comprehensive, democratic process initiated one year ago to capture the interests of the 12.5 million working people the federation represents.

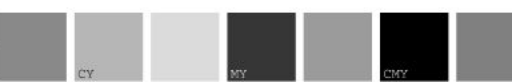
"Hillary Clinton is a proven leader who shares our values," AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka said. "Throughout the campaign, she has demonstrated a strong commitment to the issues that matter to working people, and our members have taken notice.

"Sen. Bernie Sanders has brought an important voice to this election and has elevated critical issues and strengthened the foundation of our movement," Trumka said. "His impact on American politics cannot be overstated."

AFSCME President Lee Saunders, chairman of the AFL-CIO's Political Committee, said that this election offers voters a stark choice. "Working people know that Hillary Clinton has the temperament and experience to unite all Americans in our fight to increase incomes at home and extinguish threats abroad," Saunders said.

NALC is a member of the AFL-CIO. President Fredric Rolando sits on the federation's executive council and is the vice chairman of its finance committee.

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## Beat the Heat, Stay Cool

It's that time of year again, when the temperatures begin to rise, and the potential for heat-related illnesses becomes a factor during your daily work routine.

Here are some quick tips for battling the heat:

1. Hydrate before, during, and work. Prevention is important, so make sure to maintain good hydration by drinking at least eight ounces of water every 20 minutes.
2. Dress appropriately for the weather. On warm days, make sure to wear light colored, loose-fitting, breathable clothing to keep body temperatures down.
3. Utilize shade to stay cool. When possible, use shaded areas to stay out of direct sunlight.
4. Know the signs of heat stress. You should understand what heat stress is, and how it can affect your health and safety. Here are some things to look out for:
  - Hot, dry skin or profuse sweating
  - Headache
  - Confusion or dizziness
  - Nausea
  - Muscle cramps
  - Weakness or fatigue
  - Rash

Finally, it's important to notify your supervisor or call 911 if you're experiencing signs of heat-related illness. This will not only ensure your safety, but can also save your life.



## Preventing Accidents While Parked

Don't let one moment of inattention from you or someone else end your life or make you have to live with something that could haunt you forever.

Recently our Postal Family has suffered two (2) major devastating accidents. Both involved letter carriers legally parked and working out of the rear of their delivery vehicles. In both cases the carriers were hit from behind by another vehicle. One of the employees died and the other is still being treated for their injuries.

We ask that you and your supervisors re-visit the selection of each of your park points to reduce your exposure to traffic unnecessarily, while working from the rear of your delivery vehicle. Look for a safer location to park your vehicle, like a nearby side street with less traffic. Always take that extra precautionary measure to stay safe and park in an area with less traffic. Remember to allow at least 20 feet from an intersection or 30 feet when at an intersection that is regulated by a traffic light.

Do not talk on a cell phone or use headphones to listen to music. We want you to be able to hear your surroundings. Stay alert and be ready for the unexpected. All your senses must be working to their fullest. If someone is speeding or swerving or braking, being able to hear that vehicle may make the difference and give you those extra seconds you need to move into a safer area.

Use Flashers and Strobes when parked and working from the rear of your delivery vehicle. This will increase your visibility to other drivers.....but remember to turn them off when you are ready to pull away.

Also, please remember you can always share concerns with your supervisor regarding safety hazards on your route.

(Reprint from USPS Safety and Health Headquarters 3/30/12)

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## BRANCH 9 2016 SCHOLARSHIP DRAWINGS

### **JEROME J. KEATING/AUSTIN B CARLSON - \$2,000.00**

		<u>School Attending</u>	<u>Parent</u>	<u>Work Location</u>
Winner	Cameron Schilling	Normandale Comm College	Peter Schilling	West Edina
1 <sup>st</sup> Runner-Up	Sam Nelson	Anoka Tech	Jim Nelson	Anoka
2 <sup>nd</sup> Runner-Up	Owen Patrick	Marquette University	Barry Patrick	Lowry

### **WALTER E. COULLARD/EUGENE P. McNULTY - \$2,000.00**

		<u>School Attending</u>	<u>Parent</u>	<u>Work Location</u>
Winner	Joe Miskowicz	St. Cloud State	Mark Miskowicz	Coon Rapids
1 <sup>st</sup> Runner-Up	Michael Feneis	Unknown	Veronica Feneis	Coon Rapids
2 <sup>nd</sup> Runner-Up	Jenna Trost	St. Cloud State	Joe Trost	Fridley

### **J. WESLEY WOODS - \$1,000.00**

		<u>School Attending</u>	<u>Parent</u>	<u>Work Location</u>
Winner	Catherine Allmann	Unknown	David Allmann	Normandale
1 <sup>st</sup> Runner-Up	Kathryn Smith	U of MO at Kansas City	Michael J. Smith	West Edina
2 <sup>nd</sup> Runner-Up	Bryce Johnson	Unknown	Jeff Johnson	Elmwood

### **LEONARD A. LARSON/BARRY J. WEINER - ADULT SCHOLARSHIP - \$1,000.00**

		<u>Position</u>	<u>Work Location</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> Winner	Fredrick Brownson	Retired	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Winner	Sean Burke	Active Carrier	Richfield

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.**




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### Branch 9 has its annual Spring Q&A session for CCAs and Newly Converted Regulars

Newly hired career-track City Carrier Assistants (CCAs) and newly converted career carriers who had questions about pay, workload, relative standing, uniforms, annual and sick leave, rights under the NALC-USPS National Agreement, health insurance, opting and hold-downs, and the various contract memorandums of understanding (MOUs) that deal specifically with CCAs attended the meeting.

The members controlled the topics of the meeting and had their issues that affect them answered, with fellow CCAs that may have similar questions. The members in attendance were able to meet fellow carriers that are dealing with the same problems and build connections through unionism.

If you missed this question and answer session, don't worry we will be scheduling another one in the fall. Check with your steward, or watch for the flyer to appear in the Branch Nine News, on our website and also on our Facebook page.



# 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



# AME'S UNIFORMS

## OUR BUSINESS IS MAKING YOU LOOK GOOD!

We offer "Life of the Garment" guarantee.

If fixable we will repair your uniform at no cost to you.

Take waist in/out and change hem length

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

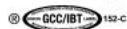
**Ame's Uniforms are a UNION PREFERRED vendor**

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Branch Nine News  
2408 Central Avenue NE  
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**Stay informed by:**

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

**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](http://nalc.org/government-affairs/political-activity)

## Branch 9 Calendar

### July 4

Independence Day  
HOLIDAY

### August 2

Steward Meeting  
7:00PM  
Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN

### July 12

Steward Meeting  
7:00PM  
Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN

### August 15 -19

70th Biennial National Convention  
Los Angeles Convention Center

### July 26

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

### August 23

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

### August 2

National Night Out

### August 25 -September 5

MN State Fair

### 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

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