



VOLUME 72 No 10

Official Publication of Branch Nine, NALC

December 2020

NALC, USPS reach tentative National Agreement

***Pending ratification vote**

HIGHLIGHTS OF TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE 2019-2023 NATIONAL AGREEMENT

Contract term

The 2019 National Agreement will last 44 months, covering the period Sept. 20, 2019, to May 20, 2023.

General wage increases

All letter carriers, career and non-career alike, will receive four wage increases under Article 9 as follows:

- 1.1 percent effective Nov. 23, '19, paid retroactively.
- 1.1 percent effective Nov. 21, '20, paid retroactively.
- 1.3 percent effective Nov. 20, '21.
- 1.3 percent effective Nov. 19, '22.

CCAs will receive additional wage increases of 1 percent on these four dates for a total of:

- 2.1 percent on Nov. 23, 2019 (paid retroactively);
- 2.1 percent on Nov. 21, 2020 (paid retroactively);
- 2.3 percent on Nov. 20, 2021; and
- 2.3 percent on Nov. 19, 2022.

These additional 1 percent increases will be paid in lieu of COLAs for CCAs.

Cost-of-living adjustments for career letter carriers

All career letter carriers will receive seven COLAs based on changes in

the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W) using the existing COLA formula and the July 2019 CPI-W as the base month. The first two will be paid retroactively:

- The first COLA will be \$166 annually effective Feb. 29, 2020, paid retroactively.
- The second COLA will be \$188 annually effective Aug. 29, 2020, paid retroactively.

The remaining five will be paid in the future as follows:

- The third COLA will be effective March 2021.
- The fourth COLA will be effective September 2021.
- The fifth COLA will be effective March 2022.
- The sixth COLA will be effective September 2022.
- The seventh COLA will be effective March 2023.

The COLAs will be applied to the two pay tables for career city carriers in the same manner used in the 2016 National Agreement.

Wage schedule changes

The contract provides for the addition of a new top step to Tables One and Two on Nov. 19, 2022. The new career Step P will be \$444 annually greater than Step O. Carriers with at least 46 weeks in Step O on Nov. 19, 2022, will advance to Step P. Those with fewer than 46 weeks will advance to Step P upon reaching 46 weeks in Step O.

Effective June 19, 2021, the CCA Step CC hourly pay rate (currently \$17.29) will be eliminated, and CCA Step BB and its higher pay rate (currently \$17.79) will become the new entry step for newly hired CCAs.

A new PTF Step AA, with a waiting period of 46 weeks to PTF Step A, has been created as the starting wage for CCAs converted to career under the new 24-month automatic conversion. The hourly pay of PTF Step AA will equal the hourly pay of Full-time Regular Step A.

New 24-month automatic conversion of CCAs to career status

While the Postal Service will maintain additional CCAs afforded to it under the Sunday package formula mutually agreed to during the previous contract, all CCAs in every size office who would have otherwise continued as non-career employees after 24 months of relative standing will now be automatically converted to career status. Those CCAs who have reached 24 months of relative standing without being converted to career will be converted to part-time flexibles and placed in a new PTF Step AA in Table Two. The Step AA hourly rate will equal the Full-time Step A hourly rate, and the

Tentative Nat. Agreemt cont'd on page 4

ADD YOUR PHONE TO THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

The State of Minnesota has released a free COVID-19 Exposure Notification App, <https://covidawaremn.com>. The voluntary app notifies you if you've been near someone who tested positive for COVID-19. If you test positive, you can use the app to anonymously notify anyone you've been near.

COVID-19 cases are surging in Minnesota and we all need to do our part. The **Minnesota AFL-CIO** is partnering with State Government in helping to get the word out because it has the potential to save the lives of countless workers and families while we await vaccine approval & distribution over the coming months.

How **COVIDAware MN** works. **COVIDAware MN** uses Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) technology to notify you if you have been exposed to COVID-19, so you can reduce the risk of infection for your friends, family, and neighbors, and help Minnesota slow the spread.

If you test positive for COVID-19, the lab that performed the test will report it to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). Someone from the state or local health department will contact you to ask questions about where you have been and who you were around, and they will provide you with a verification code to enter into the app so that you can anonymously notify others of a possible exposure, to help slow the spread of the virus.

When Minnesotans decide to download and use **COVIDAware MN**, they are helping others in the community make informed decisions about their health and are playing their part to slow the spread of the virus. The more individuals that download the app, the better we can inform our community about potential exposures.

Anyone that lives in the state, or spends a lot of time here, should download **COVIDAware MN**.

NEW MEMBERS

Negasi G Abai

Megan C Arts

Teresa A Atkinson-Sikora

Michael V Bolander

Abby J Braunsehweig

Christopher V Brennan

Kenneth L Currie

Mesfin A Ghebreyesus

David W Gough

Aaron M Johnson

Divittian R Johnson

Liu Kaidony

Elia O Krumm

Samuel R Mattick

Eric G Miner

Juan G Morfin Sanchez

Olivia L Olson

Khang D Quach

Kunphel T Rangkor

Lakisha M Sellers

Neilson R Sellers

Dylan K Shepard

Karen Stovall

Sean M Tillmann

Lobsang Tsering

Sean C Wilkinson

Sierra B Williams

Welcome Branch 9 Members!

IN MEMORIAM

Jack C. Carlson
Robert Steinmetz

Branch 9, NALC
4001 Stinson Blvd. Suite 304
Columbia Heights MN 55421
Voice: (612) 781-9858
Fax: (612) 781-9849
Website: branch9nalc.com

Branch 9 Officers

President

Samantha Hartwig

Exec. Vice President

JoAnn Gilbaugh

Recording Secretary

Robb Petersburg

Treasurer

Lisa O'Neill

Financial Secretary

Stacey Ellingson

Editor

Jeremy Rothstein
branch9news@branch9nalc.com

Sergeant at Arms

Ronaele Bolden

Trustees

Christa Abraham

Johnna Lush

Chris Pennock

Director of Retirees

Melia Derrick

NALC Health Benefits Rep.

Ken Jambois

HBR: (763) 370-1392

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

December President Report Reflections of 2020

We finally made it to the end of year, and what a crazy year it has been. January began with the rumblings of COVID-19 and it was hard to imagine an actual pandemic at that time. In February as COVID spread across the planet we began to really see the effects and seriousness of this new threat to public safety.

Then, March happened.

COVID was the reason that the state began to shut down, and we began to see more people wearing facemasks in public as the pandemic appeared to pick up steam. I wondered how letter carriers would be impacted by this pandemic, and what would the job look like in the future if COVID did not stop spreading. In the beginning of March, I was not overly concerned, but wary of how COVID could impact our jobs going forward into the year.

It got worse, on Sunday, March

22nd the most unlikely event occurred. The Branch Office at 2408 Central burned to the ground. As I stood there watching our home away from home, and all the history and memories going up in flames it was surreal, and unbelievable. Our tenants that rented the apartments above the office were now homeless, and there was nothing that could be done to prevent it.

Monday, March 23rd

Mike Zagaros decided to officially retire as the Branch 9 President. I was sworn into office by our Business Agent, Troy Fredenburg, on the same day. My first duty was to appoint JoAnn Gilbaugh as the Executive Vice President. As we

sat in the Business Agent's office on Monday my thoughts began to take over, the Branch had nothing. We no longer had a place to work, and lost everything (our grievance files, OWCP files, computers). With everything starting to close or already closed due to COVID, getting back on our feet was not going to be easy.

We attempted to purchase laptops for me and JoAnn; but that was easier said than done. We had to wait several days for the laptops to be delivered because the store was closed due to COVID. JoAnn and I spent the first week working out of our cars and gathered office supplies so we could continue to keep the business of the Branch moving ahead. The only option we had was to work from home until we found a temporary office space. The Executive Board stepped up to the challenge, and because of them JoAnn and I were able to focus on searching for a temporary office space.

We searched for office space all over the Minneapolis area and surrounding suburbs. By the end of April, we found our new temporary Branch 9 home in Columbia Heights. As of May 1st, we had a temporary office to work out of.

Between the Branch Office burning down, and finding the temporary office, it was obvious that COVID was not going to disappear anytime soon. I knew that for our carrier's safety we needed to cancel the MDA Bowl-A-Thon, Retiree Banquet, Food Drive, and all-in person meetings (GMM's, Steward Board, trainings, etc.). We started the transition to online meetings. Things began to look better, we had a place to work out of, and everything appeared like it was starting to come together; I did not know how wrong I was.



Samantha Hartwig

The week of May 25 brought the death of George Floyd at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer. This sparked civil unrest that led to the Minnehaha and Lake Street Post Offices being burned to the ground. Mail delivery in these areas was delayed by a few days until the civil unrest dissipated. Carriers all over the city volunteered to help get packages and the backlog of mail delivered. The following week mail was again being delivered from temporary post office locations for Minnehaha and Lake Street.

While all of this was going on, the business of the Branch continued, a little slow at first, however; everything continued to move forward. Grievances were moving through the system, and the normal Branch business was being conducted with weekly Executive Board Meetings for the first couple of months after the Branch Office burned down. With the assistance of the Branch 9 Executive Board and our Formal Step A grievance advocates we were able to keep working.

Then the Presidential Election

took over. The USPS was cast into the center of the political arena like never before in history. There

Pres. Report cont'd on page 8

Tentative Nat. Agreement cont'd from page 1

waiting period in PTF Step AA to PTF Step A will be 46 weeks. Upon conversion to full time, regardless of the PTF step they are currently in, PTFs will be placed in the full-time step commensurate with their number of weeks as a PTF, and retain their time credit toward the next step.

Recently retired letter carriers

Letter carriers who have retired over the last several months will receive applicable retroactive general wage increases and COLAs. The Office of Personnel Management will also make any annuity adjustments made necessary by the retroactive increases.

Health insurance

In 2020 and 2021, there is no reduction in the Postal Service's share of premium costs for career letter carriers' health insurance (73 percent of the weighted average Federal Employees Health Benefits [FEHB] Program plan premium, capped at 76 percent of any given plan's premium). The Postal Service's share will decline by 1 percentage point to 72 percent in 2022 and 2023, and will be capped at 75 percent of any given plan's premium. The biweekly impact of this Article 21 change will depend on which plans carriers enroll in, but will, in any case, represent a small fraction of the biweekly pay increases provided by Article 9 of the tentative agreement.

On health insurance for CCAs, the tentative contract maintains the Postal Service's biweekly contribution of \$125 toward self-only coverage in the USPS Non-career Health Plan for Plan Years 2020 and 2021. For CCAs who wish to select self-plus-one or self-and-family coverage under the USPS plan, the first-year contribution by USPS will be 65 percent in Plan Years 2020 and 2021, rising to 75 percent in their second year of service. However, effective in Plan Year 2022, the Postal Service will contribute 75 percent of the premiums for self only, self plus

one or self plus family, regardless of the year of employment.

Uniform allowance

Increase in uniform allowance on May 21, 2021, to \$487 (5 percent increase from current rate) and on May 21, 2022, to \$499 (another 2.5 percent increase). Additional allowance credits for newly eligible employees have been increased by the same percentages.

Job security protections for letter carriers

The no-layoff clause that protects letter carriers after six years of service as career employees is retained in the tentative agreement, as well as the prohibitions against contracting out city carrier work.

Another option for full-time letter carriers who work their holiday

Article 11, Sections 3 and 4 have been modified to now allow full-time employees who work their holiday to elect to have their annual leave balance credited with up to eight hours of annual leave in lieu of receiving holiday pay.

Other notable MOUs

The new contract updated, revised and combined several MOUs, continued dozens of others, and added several new MOUs on a variety of topics. Among the most notable new MOUs are:

MOU Re: Qualifying period—exception for City Carrier Assistants

CCAs with a minimum of 90 days of service prior to conversion to career status without a break in service are exempt from the Ninety-Day Qualifying Period in ELM 512.313. Previously, all newly converted employees, regardless of time in service, were required to complete 90 days of employment as a career employee prior to being allowed to take annual leave.

MOU Re: Managed Service Point Scans—No later than 60 days from the ratification date of the 2019 collective bargaining agreement,

Managed Service Points (MSPs) will be removed from the street delivery portions of city letter carrier routes.

MOU Re: City Delivery and Workplace Improvement Task Force

This renamed MOU modifies the MOU Re: City Delivery Task Force and expands the role of the task force for the purposes of jointly seeking methods to improve the cultural and operational environment in city delivery offices.

MOU Re: City Carrier Uniform Task Force

Establishes a national-level task force to improve the efficiency and accessibility of the uniform program and to improving the overall quality of available uniform items in a cost-effective manner. The task force will also explore ways to incorporate improved materials and uniform designs into the uniform program while continuing to supply city carriers with sufficient uniform items.

Finally, of special interest to NALC branch leaders, the contract set the dates for local MOU negotiations:

MOU RE: Local Implementation

The local implementation period will be April 29, 2021, to May 28, 2021.

Look for updates on the NALC Member App and visit nalc.org for further information on the new contract and the ratification process. A more detailed summary of the contract will be provided in the December issue of The Postal Record.



Exec. Vice President's Report

It is difficult to decide where to start when you're trying to recap a year like 2020. It has been a year like no other. We lost the Branch 9 office and two stations to fire. We endured the most contentious Presidential Election in over 100 years. We've developed a familiarity with the words of pandemic, COVID-19, quarantine, social distancing and new-normal. We've had to adjust to masks, stay-at-home orders, hybrid learning and, for many, loss of income in their household. For those who are unable to spend time with family or have lost a loved one due to the pandemic, 2020 has been especially cruel.

Peak season has always been a "grin and bear it" situation. We know that it will be tough, and we'll be swamped. But we are emotionally and physically exhausted in numbers greater than any I have witnessed in 20 years of being a Letter Carrier. I've received so many phone calls from members who are struggling. We are a resilient bunch, so why does the tiredness feel so much worse this year?

If we stop to take stock, we have shouldered a lot in 2020. Consider what we've been through. It gives perspective and explains how and why we are feeling so stressed and drained. Along with that view, we should be very proud of what we have accomplished and take strength from the knowledge that we have consistently outperformed the expectations placed on us.

We've been under immense pressure and prolonged stress since March. While everyone else was under stay-at-home orders, we were showing up to work every day, doing our jobs with ever-changing circumstances and pandemic rules. Remember the directives that changed daily on how to safely deliver express, certified and other accountables?

Management's scramble to adjust to social distancing and CDC guideline compliance left our heads spinning. We worked our way through it, but at the time it was exasperating.

As we moved into summer, we were thrust into the spotlight, dealing with a new Postmaster General who seemed hell-bent on destroying us. If there was ever a doubt that we are essential workers, the American Public's response was loud and clear that we are essential to them. But the spotlight didn't waiver. The continued accusations that we couldn't handle the volumes of vote by mail ballots, or that we have somehow been complicit in voter fraud, was not only an unthinkable insult to our institution, but a personal insult to the integrity and dedication of everyone of us. I know I'm not the only one whose blood pressure still spikes when we are unjustly accused and cast as dishonest and untrustworthy.

I would be remiss if I didn't dedicate at least one paragraph to masks. If someone had told me at this time last year that I would spend an inordinate amount of my time in 2020 dealing with a mask mandate, in fact whole days devoted to the issue, I would have laughed and asked them what planet they came from. Who could have dreamed that something as simple as a mask could cause such extreme levels of stress, from both sides of the issue?

When you look at the big picture of 2020, our exhaustion is understandable. The experts call it COVID fatigue, and they say it affects all of us in one way or another. There is just no easy solution to the situation that we've been thrust into. The only thing that we can be certain of is that pretty much everything is uncertain.



JoAnn Gilbaugh

We have been living under intense, long-term stress. That is why we are so emotionally and physically spent. The specialists say that understanding why we are exhausted and recognizing why we feel this way is the beginning of the path back to normal. Please remember, I'm just the messenger, because the first step they recommend is exercise (and yes, I realize the majority of us walk all day long). The idea is that it helps to release endorphins. The next step is talking. It's important to maintain relationships, even when we can't visit face to face. Step three is positive thinking. We're unable to change the circumstances caused by COVID, but we can change how we view the situation. Start small, and after time, positivity will come naturally. The last step is compassion. It is a gift; choose to be gentle to yourself and caring to others. Be that person that lights up the room with a kind word and their smile.

It's been a challenging year, but we will prevail together. Unionism is about helping each other and coming together for the common good. Unionism embraces communication, positivity, and compassion. We are Branch 9 strong and should be very proud of all we have survived and what we have accomplished in 2020.

From my family to yours, we wish you a very Happy Holiday season and New Year.

Jo

FROSTBITE PREVENTION

Newer employees (CCA's) should be mindful of the danger signs of frostbite. Have the chemical warming packets in your pockets before leaving the station.

The following information is from the National Safety Council.

Prolonged exposure to low temperatures, wind and/or moisture can result in cold-related injury from frostbite and hypothermia. Here are some suggestions on how to keep warm and avoid frostbite and hypothermia.

Dress Properly

Wear several layers of clothing to insulate your body by trapping warm, dry air inside. Wool and polypropylene trap air and do not retain moisture. Choose a coat with a wind and waterproof outer layer.

The head and neck lose heat faster than any other part of the body. Your cheeks, ears and nose are the most prone to frostbite. Wear a hat, scarf and turtleneck sweater to protect these areas.

Danger Signs

The extent of frostbite is difficult to judge until hours after thawing. There are two classifications of frostbite:

- **Superficial frostbite** is characterized by white, waxy or grayish-yellow patches on the affected areas. The skin feels cold and numb. The skin surface feels stiff and underlying tissue feels soft when depressed.
- **Deep frostbite** is characterized by waxy and pale skin. The affected parts feel cold, hard, and cannot be depressed. Large blisters may appear after rewarming.

What to do

- Get the victim out of the cold and to a warm place immediately.
- Remove any constrictive clothing items and jewelry that could impair circulation.
- If you notice signs of frostbite, seek medical attention immediately.
- Place dry, sterile gauze between toes and fingers to absorb moisture and to keep them from sticking together.
- Slightly elevate the affected part to reduce pain and swelling.
- If you are more than one hour from a medical facility and only if refreezing can be prevented, then frostbite can be rewarmed by ***immersing the area in lukewarm, not hot water*** (100 to 105°F). If you do not have a thermometer, test the water first to see if it is warm. Rewarming usually takes 20 to 45 minutes or until tissues soften.

What not to do

- Do not use water hotter than 105°F.
- Do not use water colder than 100°F since it will not thaw frostbite quickly enough.
- Do not rub or massage the frostbitten area.
- Do not rub with ice or snow.
- Do not apply a heat source to frostbitten skin.

**Call your station supervisor to inform him/her of your condition.
This is a safety issue, and not negotiable.**

Let's help Ralph! Brothers and Sisters-



Ralph is a Husband, a Father of 2 and a Letter Carrier out of St. Louis Park, MN. On November 21st, Ralph pulled up to some

cluster boxes and put his LLV in park and shut it off. While he was delivering, he heard some police sirens getting closer and before he knew it, he was struck by a person who was being chased by the police. This person was in a Chevy Tahoe traveling at a rate of over 70 miles per hour! He was hit head on pushing the LLV *several yards backwards and then it rolled onto the right side. He did have his lap belt on.

He does not remember much after that but was told by those who pulled him out from under the LLV, that he was unconscious until the Paramedics arrived.

He will be out of work for a long time.

Lets help Ralph out and help to be able to put his mind at ease while he's recovering.

If you cant help out financially, I'm certain he and his family would accept prayers for 100% healing, keeping his pain to a minimum and thankfulness that he is still here.

Thank you all.

https://www.gofundme.com/f/lets-help-ralph?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=co



WE NEED YOUR HELP RESTOCKING OUR INVENTORY!



Please donate your current, gently used/ freshly washed City Letter Carrier uniforms:

**Shirts
Pants
Winter/Rain Gear, etc.,**



These items may be dropped off at the
Branch 9 Office
4001 Stinson Blvd., Suite 304,
Columbia Heights, MN 55421



Please help a new carrier stay safe on the street and be recognized as a postal employee.



AME'S UNIFORMS

OUR BUSINESS IS MAKING YOU LOOK GOOD!

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

We offer "Life of the Garment" guarantee.
If fixable we will repair your uniform at no cost to you.
Take waist in/out and change hem length

Ame's Uniforms are a UNION PREFERRED vendor

Pres. Report cont'd from page 3

were attacks on not only the ability of the Postal Service to handle mail in balloting, but also the integrity of Postal employees, especially letter carriers. As I watched the first Presidential debate and listened to the President of the United States accuse letter carriers in West Virginia of selling ballots I was disgusted by such an unfounded accusation.

Attacks like that, against the USPS, is why it so vital for all of us to get involved in politics. We need friends on both sides of the aisle in Congress to help us get bi-partisan legislation passed that will help the USPS now, and into the future. There is too much **misinformation** out there on social media. We need friends in Congress that will listen to the accurate information we can give them about what is really going on, and what needs to be done for a viable Postal Service into the future. We make these friends in Congress by donating money, either through our local PAL 9 fund, or the National LCPF fund. **Our objective, and only objective is to support candidates who will support the USPS and working-class employees.** If you would like to contribute to either both these PAC funds, or just one of them, we can help you get involved.

Mail in balloting has been around for decades, but we have had to convince the American people of the ability of the USPS to get the job done. Here, in Minneapolis, everyone did an amazing job with getting the ballots delivered. I am not aware of any issues with ballots cast by mail in the Twin Cities.

Here we are December (finally)

The Minnehaha and Lake Street carriers have settled into their temporary home at the old Kmart building on Lake Street

in South Minneapolis. COVID is still impacting staffing levels, and overtime is on the rise. The Branch 9 Building Committee is putting together information for the membership to have the best-informed decision possible before the membership decides on our permeant Branch residence.

New Tentative Agreement

The NALC and the USPS have reached a new tentative National Agreement. This agreement, if accepted by the membership, will be a 44-month contract effective from September 20, 2019 through May 20, 2023. There will be an automatic conversion to PTF for any CCA that has worked 24 months, and this is a permeant change, not a one-time agreement. We will see four (4) general wage increases, and seven (7) Cost of Living adjustments, additionally all back pay will be retroactive for all hours worked, including overtime. On November 19, 2022 there will be a Step "O" added to the letter carrier pay scale for career employees. Full-time career employees who work on their holiday schedule, will get to choose to either have the holiday pay; or have up to 8 hours of annual leave added to their annual leave balance. There will be retroactive pay for recent retirees; however, we are waiting to find out the exact dates that will cover recent retirees. The uniform allowance will increase, and the six year no layoff clause is maintained.

With the challenges of COVID and being in public spaces, all our Branch meetings have moved to online, via ZOOM. There will be an online "Rap Session" for all Branch and State Presidents in the near future on the specifics of the tentative agreement.

I will be conducting a Branch 9 "Rap Session" after the National

"Rap Session", and before the ballots to vote on ratification of the contract are sent out by National in the mail. I will be using our General Membership Meeting (GMM) email list for the "Rap Session" invite. If you want to join the ZOOM "Rap Session" please complete the form in the Branch 9 News with your email address and send it to the Branch office. If we do not have your email address for the GMM ZOOM Meetings we will not be able to send the invite to you.

Branch 9 has been dealt a lot of massive challenges this year, and together we have managed to move forward. I cannot think of any other Branch in the NALC that has ever has to deal with so many challenges in less than year. Together, we have navigated through the COVID-19 Pandemic, a change in Branch leadership, the Union office burning to the ground, Civil Unrest, two post offices burning to the ground, and being the center of a Political tug-of-war.

As we move into 2021, I am hoping for a less stressful year, and relief from the COVID-19 Pandemic. We will be continuing with the ZOOM online meeting for the foreseeable future. I am proud of all that we have survived together, and it will only make this Branch stronger in the years to come. Goodbye 2020, and Hello 2021!

Happy Holidays
Samantha





*Season's
Greetings*

*Wishing all of you a safe and
happy holiday season*

From the Branch 9 Executive Board

Request to Join ZOOM GMM Meeting

It's a whole new world!

EVERY MONTH ON THE 4th TUESDAY (until further notice). Branch 9 members will be able to attend monthly GMM's via computer in the comfort of your own home.

All of these meetings will be closed captioned.

If you are a Branch 9 NALC member and wish to join in on these monthly meetings, please fill out the registration form below. **If we do not receive your completed form, you will NOT be sent the invite.**

Active/CCA Carrier

Retired Carrier

STATION: _____ Steward's Initials: _____
If Active Member

NAME: _____

COMPLETE ADDRESS: _____
Address, Unit #, City, State, Zip

PHONE #: _____ E-Mail: _____

POSTAL RECORD #: _____

(Must have to confirm you are a NALC member in good standing – located on Postal Record mailing label)

E-mail/Scan to angie@branch9nalc.com, fax to 612.781.9849 or mail completed form to 4001 Stinson Blvd, Ste 304, Columbia Heights, MN 55421

YOU ONLY NEED TO SIGN-UP ONCE FOR THESE ZOOM GMM's!

If you have any question's contact the Branch at (612) 781.9858.

2021 Regional Training Seminar Registration Form

Name: _____ Branch Number: _____
(Please print clearly)

Phone Number: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____
(REQUIRED)

Attendance Options

Please Check One:

- Monday - Wednesday
- Monday - Tuesday
- Wednesday

Training Options for Monday – Tuesday

Please Check One:

- Basic Steward Training
- Intermediate Steward Training
- OWCP Training (Limit 30 Attendees)

Training Options for Wednesday

Please Check One:

- Leadership Forum (Limit one attendee per Branch)
- Workshops

On Wednesday there will be four separate workshops including topics such as: LMOU Negotiations, Arbitration "Year in Review", Investigative Interviews, and a Question and Answer segment with Jason and Patrick.

In addition, Leadership Forum will be led by NBA Troy Fredenburg, where the limited attendees will discuss strategic planning for the NALC at the local and regional level.

All of this year's training sessions will be done virtually via a live video conference. In order to ensure a smooth and productive virtual training seminar we are asking attendees to do the following:

- Make sure you have access to a device that can display video on both ends (yours and ours)
- Be in an area that has reliable internet service
- Set yourself up in an area free from distractions

Leading up to the training session, you will be sent a meeting invite for the virtual training that will include instructions on how to login for the sessions. This can only be done via email, which is why we are requiring you to give us your email address.

Please fill out the personal information in clear writing including a good email address as this will be the mechanism we will use to invite you to the training sessions and send you the appropriate links to login to the training. *This is only a tentative agenda, subject to change*

Dates of training: March 22 to March 24, 2021. Presented virtually.

Also choose the days in which you would like to attend. Deadline for registration forms will be March 1, 2021.
 mail to: NALC Region 7- 1300 Godward St. NE Suite 2600 Minneapolis, MN 55413

Branch Nine News
4001 Stinson Blvd. Suite 304
Columbia Heights MN 55421

Change Service Requested

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

Stay informed by:

- *Join Veterans Group <https://www.nalc.org/member-benefits/join-the-nalc-veterans-group>
- * Branch9nalc.com (website)
- * "like" our Branch 9 Facebook Page

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

Most BRANCH 9 Meetings and events have been modified see meeting notice.

Please continue to check the website and Facebook page for the latest information.

<u>December 22</u>	<u>December 25</u>	<u>January 1</u>	<u>January 12</u>
GMM	Christmas Day	New Years Day	Steward Meeting
7:00 PM	Holiday	Holiday	7:00 PM
Zoom/Online			Zoom/Onlines

THE DIRECTOR OF RETIREES IS SCHEDULING ONLINE SOCIALS

If you wish to be part of them, contact Melia, the Branch office or check our Facebook page.

All other breakfasts and meetings are cancelled until further notice.

TAKE ACTION

Our letter carriers need your help to continue delivering for America. Take a stand and demand action from Washington to help our letter carriers!

Ask your Member of Congress to support the Postal Service through COVID-19 Funding.

Call your Senator now at 844-477-7651.

Urge them to support funding for our U.S. Postal Workers. These heroes deliver critical goods to those in need and we cannot afford to not fully fund the USPS.

TAKE ACTION NOW!