

VOLUME 67 No 9

Official Publication of Branch Nine, NALC

November 2015

Jerome J Keating



Since 1993 the Jerome J. Keating Branch 9 office has been located at 2408

Central Avenue NE. It took vision and commitment to be able to purchase our building. This purchase continues to be in financial terms a real plus for the Branch and it's members. The following article (written by Mike Zagaros) and photo were the Branch Nine News' front page news back in January, 1993.

Branch 9 Has A New Home

After many years, a dream has been realized. On December 3, 1992, Lenny Larson, Ken Soine and Mike Zagaros (the Executive Committee of the Building Corporation) signed the papers, handed over the check, and purchased the building and property at 2408 Central Avenue NE. After many false starts on other properties, the Branch has a permanent home. The building formerly the office of Fudalli, Keefer & Keefer will now house the offices of Branch 9 and five newly renovated apartments on the second floor.

A lot of work, discussion and effort went into obtaining the new building. After a General Membership Meeting early in 1992, the membership gave the Board of Officers of the Building Corporation some direction as to the type of space they would like to see, concentrating on office space. The Officers and the Building Committee investigated several different locations deciding on our new building.

When negotiations began in earnest, arrangements were made for an open house to allow the membership an opportunity to see the building we were looking at. At the October General Membership Meeting, the Building Corporation received unanimous approval to proceed with the purchase of the building.

A number of people are responsible for making this purchase a reality. In addition to the current Officer's Board, if the officers of the past had not established the Building

Corporation and continually funded the Corporation we might not have had a building. To all of you our thanks. But, we would be remiss if we didn't acknowledge 3 special people who helped make this purchase possible. First Darcy Winter, our broker, who met and worked with the Board of Officers many, many times to make sure that whatever we needed done was done. Second, Suzanne (Couillard) Sandahl, our attorney, who made sure that all the l's were dotted and the T's crossed and that the Branch was protected. Finally and most importantly, William (Bill) Keefer, the previous owner, whose understanding, flexibility and patience in dealing with us, enabled us to have a new home. If you're in the neighborhood stop by and take a look, it's home.



RETIREMENTS



Jerry Milbauer (St. Louis Park) takes his last punch with Steward Mark Olufson- Happy Retirement!



Mary Ann Golob celebrates her retirement with a few of her Branch 9 friends (Dave Gustafson, Greg Wallin, Jeff Berg, Frank Baumgardner, Vince Wyckoff, Kieran Hughes, Pat Ritchie, John O Laughlin).



Fred Brownson (Powderhorn) last punch with Steward Joe Wineman

Welcome New Members

Joe G Adams
 Ryan L Anecki
 John M Batchelder
 Ann R Beckman
 Timothy L Blanch
 Sharmaan Brocks
 Darrin O Brown
 Surachai Butsa
 Daniel L Carlberg
 Lillian F Carlon
 Ayanna I Halbert
 Dominique D Hall
 Samuella H Igaya
 Brian S Koeltzow
 Paulette J Kutzler
 Melina P Lamer
 Jeffrey P Langeness
 Seth K Larbi
 Roxanne R Madsen
 Mckenzie M May
 James P Moreside
 Jack L Mutnick
 Jason D Paintner
 Samantha E Patrick
 Adam E Paul
 Timothy T Quigley
 Ubaldo Rivera Fonseca
 Tracy M Sitterley
 Ashleigh R Trifunov
 Liza K Vetter
 Devin C Walter
 Douglas J Weingartz
 Cheng Yang

David Ketter Receives Branch 9's ABOVE and BEYOND Award



David Ketter (Brooklyn Center) receives the Above & Beyond award for assisting an injured customer. (L-R) Troy Fredenburg (RAA), Steven Records (MCSO), Mike Zagaros (B9 President), Mark Schannauer (Brooklyn Center Manager), and John Schmidt (Acting Minneapolis Postmaster)

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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.

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

DMS, RIMS and Scanners

A couple of years ago, District Manager Tony Williams used the phrase *"the hills have eyes"* to let us know that there were people watching carriers on the street. Last month, management informed us that that they are changing the way they are monitoring carriers on the street through their Delivery Management System (DMS). They are no longer relying on the MSP scan points and parcel deliveries to see how carriers are performing. They are now relying on the GPS and their Regional Intelligent Mail Server (RIMS) system. This is not a new system as carriers were being monitored with this system before with the old scanners combined with the cell phones. We have been expecting this as they told us this past summer, that they would have the passive GPS up and working in the near future and that they would be able to identify where carriers are every minute on the street. **So what does all this mean?**

First, Operations Programs Support has a monitoring office on the 4th floor that they are using to monitor specific zones in an effort to improve overall operations (their words). They are contacting offices with the results of their monitoring. Supervisors are also watching their computer screens and are asking questions like *"why did you spend x amount of time at y location?"* If you are questioned about your scans by your supervisor, ask to have your steward present. If you are asked a question like the one above and you know what happened. Answer it. If you are not sure, say that. According to the minutes of the most recent Committee of Presidents Meeting, Director of City Delivery Brian Renfroe said

that the National Parties are in agreement, that the RIMS report cannot be the sole basis for disciplinary action.

There have been several phone calls regarding having your scanners with you at all times when you are on the street. With the notable exception of lunch and breaks, management has the ability to ask you to keep your scanner with you when delivering the mail. They can also have you scan parcels, accountables and other mail at the point of delivery, which is usually at the door. There is an old axiom in labor/management relations. *"Obey now and grieve later."* In other words, follow the instructions of management unless it is against the law or when following the instruction would put your personal safety in jeopardy.

Open Season for FEHBP, FEDVIP and FSA

Beginning November 9th and ending on December 14th, career postal and federal employees will have the ability to enroll or make changes to their health benefits plans; to make changes or enroll in the Federal Vision/Dental Plan (FEDVIP); and to sign up for the Flexible Spending Account (FSA) for 2016. You must sign up every year to continue to take advantage of the FSA.

Dare to Compare?

Take a look at your health plan and compare it with the NALC Health Benefit Plan. You might be surprised at the results. There is a new option in 2016 for members of the Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan (FEHBP). **Beginning next year there are three enrollment options: Self, Self and Family and the new Self plus one category.** This category



Mike Zagaros

is intended for those employees and retirees that have only one dependent. In theory the premiums for this category are supposed to be in between single and family coverage. However there are approximately 40 health benefit plans including the NALC Health Benefit Plan, this is not true. It all comes down to the formulas that OPM uses to set the premiums. So please double check the premiums before you make any changes. OPM is no longer producing the Guide to Federal Benefits beginning with the 2016 benefit year (this year) as part of the Going Green Initiative. The information that is normally in this guide is available at <https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/healthcare/plan-information/guides>. With so much of the information about your benefits only available on line, I encourage you compare your plan with others that are available. You have the ability to compare premiums and benefits of up to 4 different health insurers in a side-by-side comparison at <https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/healthcare/plan-information/compare-plans>. Again this year there will be a mini health fair before the General Membership Meeting on November 24th at the Crystal VFW beginning at 6:00. I believe that when you look at all the plans and compare them to the NALC Health Benefit

Pres. Report cont'd on page 7

Delivery After Dark

Sunday, November 1, 2015 is when Daylight Savings Time ends and there will be less daylight hours for delivering mail and carriers will again be exposed to the possibility of delivering mail after dark.

What should you do? Is it safe to be delivering mail after dark? That depends. There is no uniform policy regarding delivery after dark. That's because we are not dealing with a consistent situation for everyone.

There are some delivery areas that may not be safe and should not be delivered to after dark. That depends on whether or not a carrier can safely make that delivery based on individual circumstances such as is it unfamiliar territory, a high crime area, is there poor visibility or other hazards (i.e. animals, uneven surfaces or other impediments such as fences, toys, etc).

The time to plan for delivering after dark is now before you find yourself literally in the dark. Are there parts of your route that are less hazardous than other to being delivered after dark (apartments with lighted entryways or well lit neighborhoods). Discuss these issues with your supervisor, steward and safety liaison then make a plan and write it down for the CCA's who may be delivering your route for the first time.

If you find yourself in a situation where you believe you'll be out delivering mail after dark, REMEMBER THAT YOU DO HAVE RIGHTS, and follow these instructions:

1. Inform your supervisor in the morning of your need of auxiliary assistance in order to complete your street duties before dark. **THIS MEANS FILL OUT A FORM 3996 - HELP SLIP.**
2. Notify your supervisor prior to heading out to the street that you may not be able to complete your duties on the street by dark.
3. When on the street if you realize that you definitely will be out after dark, call your supervisor and make them aware of that reality. Stress your concern for your safety and again request auxiliary assistance.
4. Assuming no help arrives and you are faced with darkening conditions, attempt to continue.
5. **IF** while attempting delivery, you literally experience a safety hazard (i.e. stumbling, tripping, hear dogs barking, but unable to see that threat, not able to see potential dangers using your LLV/van's outside mirrors ...) call your supervisor. Explain your situation and notify them that you cannot safely continue delivery then return to your station.
6. COMPLETE FORM 1571 - Curtailment form for the undelivered mail.

Be sure to hand the curtailment slip to the supervisor, and ASK FOR A COPY. The copy is for your protection. You can also request a Form 1767 - Notice of Hazardous Working Condition. This will help you document the safety hazards you encountered while attempting to deliver after dark.

It is important to note that these instructions are not intended to endorse or encourage the unnecessary curtailment of any mail. It is about your safety and the protection of the mail in our charge.

There is not a single answer for every possible situation. It simply is the responsibility of each carrier to measure their safety and ensure that they are working safely. PERIOD.

Executive Vice President's Report

SAFETY

With DUO's (station consolidations) and the increased volume of parcels on our routes the space at these stations has and will continue to be an issue with safety. All the extra equipment, like the machines for sorting parcels, carriers, vehicles that are now in one building rather than two, and the increased gurneys full of parcels all have the walls of our buildings bulging. Be aware of what is around your case and keep it picked up and if more space is required see your safety liaison or steward. Watch where you are walking and make sure the floor is free of waste and debris to avoid a slip, trip, or fall. Keep these things in mind when you move to the street and begin to load your vehicle by using proper lifting methods and making sure your mail is placed in the vehicle in a way to avoid it shifting. Mail should never be placed on the dash, floor or double decked on top of another tray as it will slide at every stop or turn. This could be a distraction and may cause us to be in a vehicle accident.

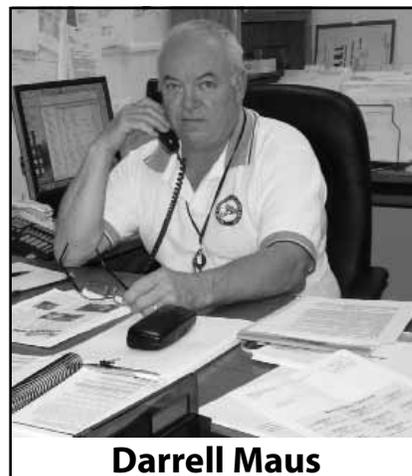
Carriers on mounted routes should never work mail from their laps. This is considered a safety issue despite the fact that many carriers have been observed doing precisely that by management (whether on a 3999 or street observation) and nothing is ever said to them. We have to walk and drive safely between stops whether the mail is ready to be put in the box when you get there or not. We also need to take the time to have the vehicle in our control whether on a park and loop route and you curb the wheels properly and apply the brake at each park point or on a mounted route and we have to put the vehicle in neutral on level ground or in park on unlevel ground at each box. With the changing weather conditions

of the season and the reduced hours of daylight it requires us to be more focused on safety. Do not take shortcuts that puts 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. Safety is the one issue of our job that we are in control of.

SERVICE

Mention the words "Post Office" to anyone and they will most likely generate an image of their carrier. We are the post office to our customers and we are called upon everyday to answer questions about postage, packaging, services, regulations, directions, as well as trying to explain an issue with a mailed parcel or one they have not yet been received. To lose the communication and trust of our customers is something that would be a bigger blow to the post office than saving a few minutes of pay in your day. Still we are under obligation to follow our instructions and it is hard when these instructions go against the service carriers have delivered in the past because of management's attempts to save time. The mandate to be off the street by a certain time and to curtail the casing and sometimes delivery of mail is something that goes against the way our carriers have consistently been delivering.

So what can you do to protect yourself? We have the DOIS Agreement (M-1664) and the sentence in the agreement that addresses this issue states "**DOIS PROJECTIONS ARE NOT THE SOLE DETERMINANT OF A CARRIERS LEAVING OR RETURN TIME, OR DAILY WORKLOAD**". So why does management use this? Because they can. **Management can use whatever they want to measure**



Darrell Maus

a day's workload whether it be a Rubik's Cube, Magic 8 Ball, or a crystal ball.

We do not want carriers to argue about what DOIS says when a supervisor or manager talks to you about your day. That can lead to insubordination and or discipline. Rather if they instruct you to be on the street at a certain time plan on fulfilling that instruction. If they tell you to be on the street at 9:00 and it takes you 20 minutes to pull down your route, if you are not ready to begin to pull down at 8:40 seek new instructions immediately! **Do not stay at your case without management's instructions to do so. Ask them what they want you to do, curtail the mail left to sort and make the leave time or finish casing and hit the street later.** Ask your supervisor to please inform you what to do. They have to answer this request and the instructions need to be clear, if that is not the case ask to see your steward. **Management has the right to tell you when to hit the street and when to return, but they cannot project a higher workload for you to accomplish in that time.** Remember this DOIS Agreement was signed and agreed on by both parties in Washington.

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

VP Report cont'd on page 7

2015 MSALC CONVENTION



Kieran Hughes, Past MSALC President, Branch 9 Delegate and Retiree

While central Minnesota may seem detached from the action, the Minnesota State Association meetings organize our activists from throughout our state around the challenges confronting our members. The state convention marshals our strengths and energizes delegates with union values, firing them up for their return to the work floor.

This year's gathering in Brainerd from October 4-7, the first under President Warren Wehmas, succeeded on all those counts. With no national election this year, Warren focused the convention on training that meets the everyday needs of letter carriers—dealing with management in the office, pursuing workplace safety, and building union awareness.

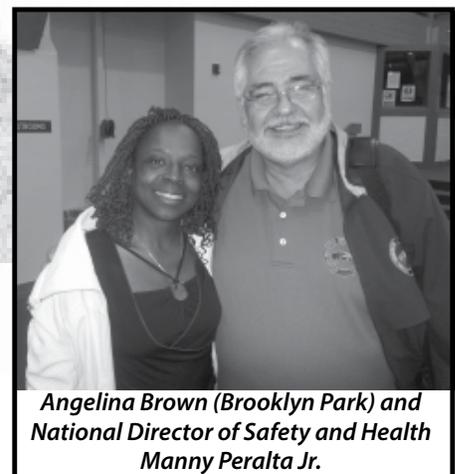
The convention opened with management's main man—District Manager Tony Williams—delivering a short talk before opening the floor to questions. Tony congratulated the carriers on a **"fantastic year"** that saw Northland the fourth best overall district in the country with the third lowest overtime rate. Carriers will be happy to know, too, that Northland carriers

scanned at a rate of 99.1% which was first or second best in the U.S. Despite our lofty performance, Williams acknowledged the **"worst overall service since measurement began," with on-time delivery in the low-to-mid 90's."**

Williams cited City Carrier Assistants as one concern. Northland hired 700 CCAs during the fiscal year but loses 15% of that complement each month. A bigger issue with CCAs is that they suffered 56% of reported injuries last year, with many more unreported. Delegates suggested that numbers-driven supervision is the main culprit. Williams outlined plans to provide them more scheduled time off and implored experienced carriers to mentor CCAs. He finished by previewing USPS intentions for wider use of scanners. Safety was a recurring theme at the convention, with National Director of Safety and Health Manny Peralta Jr. focusing delegates on how safety awareness improves the workplace for all carriers. Emphasizing the NALC's concern with the tone of work floor interaction with management, Peralta outlined the steps necessary to enforce our right to dignity and respect. Similar to enforcing any contractual issue, letter carriers must present factual accounts quoting actual language and describing gestures that a supervisor's uses to intimidate or bully. Peralta suggests a simple approach: "What would a camera on your shoulder have recorded?" Stewards should conduct detailed interviews of carriers who suffer abuse from supervisors and let them speak for themselves, even if the descriptions are raw or unsophisticated. **"True words work best,"** he advised.

Manny provided specific examples of successful grievances that ended abusive practices, sometimes by shipping out the supervisor. He emphasized that stewards should formally present the case to management, either with a written agenda for a labor/management meeting, complete with notes of what was discussed, or through the grievance process. The objective is to resolve the problem; a written record shows that we tried. Peralta also addressed the peril of heat stroke. Several recent deaths have raised the NALC's awareness—deaths that he believes could have been prevented with better supervision and heightened awareness. In addition, 170 carriers were hospitalized for heat-related illnesses in 2015. **"Trust yourself, not managers, with your safety,"** Peralta warned. With more extreme weather and longer hours on the street, greater awareness of the risk is essential. He challenged stewards to educate CCAs about safe habits and how to report problems.

Delegates heard an edgy account of organizing against the race to the bottom at Delta Airlines from a baggage handler who paid for his activism with his job. Kip Hedges was fired by Delta after a



Angelina Brown (Brooklyn Park) and National Director of Safety and Health Manny Peralta Jr.

26-year career when he spoke up in favor of a national effort to raise the wages of airport workers. He detailed how **Delta uses many casual workers who earn \$12 per hour with no benefit while "close to a majority of baggage handlers earn less than \$15."**

Realizing that such workers are cut off from ways to improve their lot and knowing that the Metropolitan Airports Commission had the authority to order changes, Kip joined the effort to pressure the MAC into raising the minimum wage for airport workers to \$15. Their efforts won a \$1 increase over the state minimum and eight days of sick pay. Hedges estimated that the local economic impact from a \$15 minimum wage would be \$900 million in the first year. **Delegates voted to support the movement "\$15 Now"** with a \$1000 donation in response to Kip's urging that we follow labor's tradition of supporting all workers.

Delegates were treated to a nuts and bolts training session from Branch 9's Troy Fredenburg and Jason Karnopp where small groups conducted a mock grievance investigation and Informal Step A meeting. The hands-on training enabled activists to offer input into various factors to consider during a grievance investigation and provided an insider's view into pressing issues of respect. The lively session gave delegates a chance to practice what had been preached and demonstrated how stewards need a nuanced approach when confronting abusive supervisors. Formal convention business addressed several bylaw proposals and all proper agenda items. One lengthy discussion centered on how to plan yearly meetings that address our challenges while still fulfilling the needs of branches. Importantly, the delegates have opened the door for our MSALC officers to tailor future even-year gatherings to fit whatever they needs foresee. Given that 17% of

NALC members have less than two years seniority, the MSALC's strength at organizing and unionizing will be tested soon to meet that looming challenge.

VP Report cont'd from page 5

you have the right to dictate the time it takes.

A giant THANK YOU to all the Veterans who have served and the service men and woman currently serving in the Armed Forces and their families for their commitment of service to our country.

Pres. Report cont'd from page 3

Plan you can see for yourself the value of the NALCBP. Take a look at the NALCHBP this year, it may be what's best for you and your family.

Who's Next?

With the influx of younger members to the NALC, the question is often asked how do we get them involved with the Branch and the NALC? Where are the next group of leaders going to come from? At the October General Membership Meeting, a motion was passed that may help answer these questions. The motion calls for the establishment of a working group to focus on engaging our newer members and getting them involved in the activities of the branch. I am looking for people who would be willing to work and develop and action plan to present to the membership. If you are interested, please contact me at the Branch Office 612-781-9858 or by email at mikez@branch9nalc.com.

Holiday Season

As the holiday season approaches. There will be some changes to the Sunday delivery of Amazon packages. Beginning after November 22nd and proceeding through the New Year's Day, there will be no Amazon Hubs. Each

station will be responsible for staffing its own package delivery. There will most likely be more changes in the days ahead. As we learn of them, we will work to keep you informed. In the meantime, have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Branch 9 By-Laws

ARTICLE VI.D SECTION 9

Election of Shop Stewards shall be held following the election of Branch officers at each associate office, branch, station or section, commencing on December 1st.

Each station shall conduct its own election in the following manner: A.) Designation of election committee; B.) Post on Union bulletin board notice of election which shall be five (5) days prior to voting; C.) Nominations shall be made from the floor; D.) Balloting shall begin after the fifth (5th) day and conclude within five (5) days.

The new Shop Steward shall take office at the Steward's Board Meeting in January and shall be installed along with the Officers prior to or during the January General Membership Meeting.

Ballots shall be kept for thirty (30) days. Election results shall be posted on the Union bulletin board. If there is no officer or member who will run for election, the President may appoint someone.

In the event of a vacancy of a Shop Steward position an election will be held, unless such election would have to take place less than ninety days before the regular election for Stewards in the station. In this instance, a Steward may be appointed by the Branch President to serve out the time remaining on the resigned or vacant Stewards term.

Director of Retirees

Grab Ahold of Your Backside

This is the annual article that sort of writes itself, the one we retirees await with dread. It contains the information in changes in our pensions due to health care costs, Medicare premium changes, COLAs from OPM, etc. But not so this year. The news this year can be defined as worse ... and MUCH worse.

FEHBP premiums are rising, but not significantly. I haven't done an exhaustive study, but let me use our health plan, NALC, as an example. Monthly rates for we retirees will actually decline \$9.51 per month for SELF ONLY plans, down to \$157.19 per month. For those with the NALC FAMILY Plan, monthly costs are going up slightly over \$6, to \$343.82. You needn't explore other options too long to see that this is still a terrific bargain.

But things get complicated when we introduce the SELF-PLUS-ONE plan. This is brand-new this year, aimed at Empty-Nesters and those with no large number of dependents. The way the law was written, SELF-PLUS-ONE was mandated to cost less than FAMILY plans, which is obvious to everyone.

In fact, they are costing us MORE. National NALC HBP Director Brian Hellman was at our MSALC State Convention, and noted that this is the case with at least 40 plans covered by the FEHBP. The reason is that, as you know, we pay actually only a small part of our premiums. The Postal Service pays the rest. And the Postal Service is paying, on the average, about \$30 LESS for the SELF-PLUS-ONE plans, which leaves YOU to pick up the rest. **For example, if retirees pick up the NALC SELF-PLUS-ONE, it will cost them \$351.67 per month — \$7.85 MORE than the FAMILY plan..**

But it might get much worse. This is for those of you on Medicare, who receive no Social Security benefits, which is 30% of Retirees (including me). **Get ready for a BIG hit on your Medicare part B premiums — a 52% hit!**

This gets complicated, so I hope I can make it clear. **Social Security has a rule called the "Hold Harmless" provision.** It says that if the economy is such that there is no COLA raise for your Social Security monthly payments — which is the case for 2016 — then your Medicare premiums will not increase. This involves 70% of recipients. But for those of us



Rodney Anderson

who get no Social Security every month, guess who gets to make it up? **As things stand now, our Part B premiums for CSRS retirees will rise from the 2015 monthly payments of \$104.90 to \$159.10 — the 52% increase I mentioned above.**

Half of Medicare recipients make \$24,150 or less — and you can imagine how devastating this hit of \$650.40 per year will be.

Before you stick your heads in the oven, this is not set in stone — yet. Aware of this outrage, several groups friendly to us such as NARFE and the ARA (groups to which all retirees should belong) are heavily lobbying Congress to support H.R. 3696 and S. 2148 which would eliminate or at least soften this blow. So all I can advise is to be aware, stay informed, and write your Congressman!



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

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CRIBBAGE TOURNAMENT

On October 14 we once again had that infamous fraternal internecine bloodbath (also known as the Branch 9 vs. 28 Cribbage Tournament) occurred at the Branch 28 office in Maplewood. Blood flowed, chairs flew, the WWE taped it for re-broadcasting, the cops refused to get involved ... it was a fright!

Do I have your attention now? All right, seriously, about 20 Twin Cities Retirees showed up for our semi-annual Cribbage Tournament, and a terrific time was had by all. Branch 28's Keith Proesch claimed the crown as the first-place winner, but Branch 9's Rollie Matt and Len Ambrose took second and third places respectively.

And everyone had a wonderful time, fun fellowship, and a nice lunch. Many thanks to Florence and Smokey and the folks at Branch 28 for hosting us; and we'll see you again next Spring — seeking to get Keith Proesch's title back to our side of the river!



(L-R) 3rd Place - Len Ambrose (Br. 9), 1st Place - Keith Proesch (Br. 28) and 2nd Place - Rollie Matt (Br. 9)

Ice Fishing Outing on Lake Mille Lacs

Twin Pines Resort & Motel-Restaurant

Located just two hours north of the Twin Cities on U.S. Highway 169 (mile marker 232). For more information call 1.800.450.4682 or visit www.twinpinesmillelacs.com

Contact Ken Jambois with questions at 763.370.1392

Noon Sunday to Noon Monday

January 17 & 18

\$41/Adult

\$36/Children under 14



This is a Branch 9 sponsored event for our members. The limit for adult non-member guests per member is 2.

The Branch will be hosting a chicken and rib buffet dinner at the Resort on Sunday, January 17th from 3:00 - 8:00PM, and included in the price of the ice house.

Several Types of Houses Available:

- *4 Hole Ice House (sleeps 2 - 3)
- *6 - 10 Hole Ice House (sleeps 4 - 6)
- *8 - 12 Hole Ice House (sleeps 5 - 6)
- *10 - 12 Hole Ice House (sleeps 8)
- *10 - 14 Hole Ice House (sleeps 10)
- *11 Hole Ice House (sleeps 10)
- *14 Hole Ice House (sleeps 14)

Each house includes: Propane heat, lights, table/chairs, covered pad for bunks, carpeted floors. Cook stoves are available in the larger houses.

Check in time is 1:00PM.

Branch 9 Ice Fishing

Name: _____ Station: _____

Cell Phone #: _____ Type of Ice House: _____

Name of Guests (if under 14 include age): _____

Amount Paid: _____

**Deadline is
Thursday, January 14th**

**Checks payable to:
Branch 9 Ice Fishing
2408 Central Avenue NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418**

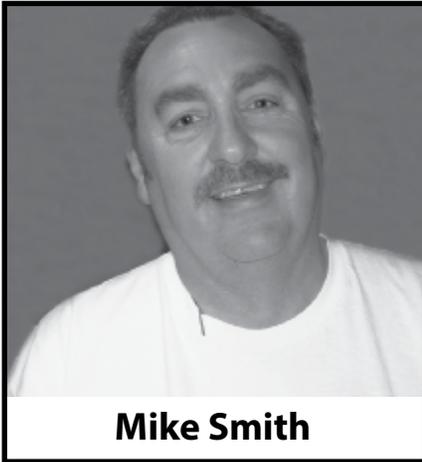
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Minneapolis
2220 Lyndale Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55405
612-377-0011

The Twin Cities Postal Headquarters



St. Paul
935 N. Dale Street
St. Paul, MN 55103
651-224-7567



Mike Smith

Hello Branch 9 members: My name is Mike Smith and I am your new Health Benefits Representative. I know I cannot replace my predecessor, Julie Waldemar, but I will do my best to continue the great job she did as our HBR for the last 7 years.

Branch 9 President Mike Zagaros and I just returned from Las Vegas, where we had two and a half days of pretty intense training about the NALC health plan. There

NALC Health Benefits Rep

is so much to learn about our health plan, but the training was excellent and I feel confident that I am able to answer your questions regarding the plans our members might have. At the very least I will do some research and find out the answers.

Open Season this year is from November 9th through December 14th. I encourage Branch 9 members that do not have the NALC Health Benefit Plan to check the plan out. In my opinion it is the best bang for the buck. **To compare plans go online to www.opm.gov/insure.** **On the right side of the page you click on "Quick Link" and then "Compare Health Plans."** Just insert your home zip code and click "Search". Under "employee type" choose "US Postal Service" on "Annuitant". Click "next".

Choose a pay frequency, such as "biweekly" on "monthly". Click "next". the comparison will then be shown on your screen. You can then select up to 4 plans you wish to compare. this year, the premium for self-only on the NALC High Option plan actually went down in price.

Please feel free to call me at 612-963-6252 (NALC) with any questions. Or visit <http://www.nalchbp.org/>

In Solidarity,
Mike Smith



2015 BENEFITS
OPEN SEASON

NOVEMBER 9 - DECEMBER 14

Request for Annual Leave Donations USPS Annual Leave Sharing Program

The following list of carriers are incapacitated for available Postal Service duties.

RICHARD A BURKE - City Carrier at the Thomas Burnett
LSP# 15-4E-553-1024

GREG E GREENWELL - City Carrier at Coon Rapids
LSP# 15-4E-553-1131

ROBIN T PIERSON - City Carrier at Powderhorn
LSP# 15-4E-553-0985

MICHAEL WILLIAMS - City Carrier at Robbinsdale
LSP# 15-4E-553-1195

Any Northlad District Career, CCA, MHA or PSE employee who is interested in donating **earned** annual leave may access PS Form 3970-D, *Request to Donate Leave* at <http://blue.usps.gov/formmgmt/3999.htm>. An Employee may also contact (a) the immediate supervisor, (b) the HR Shared Service Center at 1-877-477-3273, option 5; or (c) a union representative to request this form.

Mail PS Form 3970-D, *Request to Donate Leave*, with **Parts I and II completed to:**

Attn: Leave Share Coordinator
HR Shared Service Center
Compensation and Benefits
PO Box 970400
Greensboro NC 27497-0400



Retiree Holiday Party

Wednesday, December 2nd

This year's event will once again feature friendly libations, good food, and plenty of time for reminiscing and extending holiday cheer to all our colleagues we have worked with and known for so many years.

Fred Babcock VFW
6715 Lakeshore Drive
Richfield, MN
612.869.5555
Social Hour begins at 6:30PM
Dinner from 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Dinner Menu
Choice of Prime Rib or
1/2 Oven-baked Chicken or Walleye
Salad
Potato
Vegetable
Coffee, Tea, Milk

Please complete the reservation form below and return it to the Branch office by November 27.

Retiree Holiday Party

Name: _____

Chicken Prime Rib Walleye (Circle One)

Name of Guest 1: _____ Chicken Prime Rib Walleye

Name of Guest 2: _____ Chicken Prime Rib Walleye

Cost: Chicken Dinner \$18.00/person
Prime Rib Dinner \$21.00/Person
Walleye Dinner \$21.00/Person

Amount Paid: _____

All checks made out and mailed to:
NALC Branch 9 Retiree Holiday Party
2408 Central Avenue NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418



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**



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

November 11

VETERAN'S DAY
HOLIDAY

November 22, 1909

ILGWU Strike

The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) calls a strike in New York, demanding a 20-percent pay raise and a 52-hour workweek. 20,000 workers from 500 factories walk off the job. "Uprising of 20,000" is the largest labor action by women in the nation's history.

November 23

POCUM
6:00PM - Labor Centre -2nd Floor
312 Central Ave, Minneapolis

November 24

Nokomis Retiree Breakfast
9:00AM
Fred Babcock VFW
6715 Lakeshore Dr, Richfield

November 24

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

November 26

THANKSGIVING DAY
HOLIDAY

December 1

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

December 2

Retiree Christmas Party
6:30PM
Fred Babcock VFW
6715 Lakeshore Drive, Richfield

December 4

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