

JEROME J. KEATING BRANCH



BRANCH NINE NEWS

"AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL"

1964

VOLUME 67 No 8

Official Publication of Branch Nine, NALC

October 2015

JAN. 9 1978

WIND CHILL 56°
BELOW ZERO

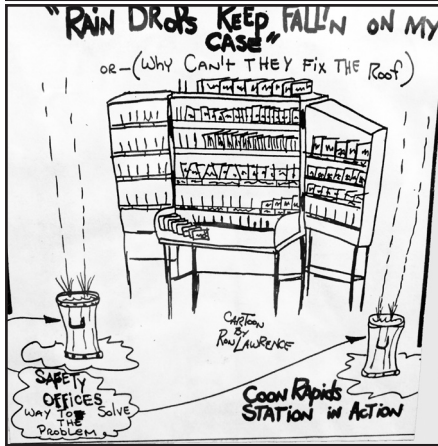


Feb. 78
Most BR9 News Mpls.



YOU CAN'T TELL A
BIRDWATCHER FROM A
SUPERVISER ANYMORE!

Most BR9 News



"RAIN DROPS KEEP FALL'N ON MY CASE"

OR - (WHY CAN'T THEY FIX THE ROOF?)

Cartoon by
Ray Lawrence

COON RAPIDS
STATION IN ACTION

SAFETY
OFFICES
Way to
Solve
Problems

Jerome J Keating

Branch 9
NALC

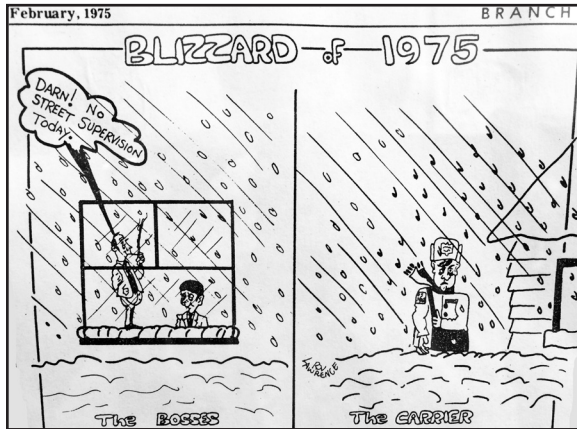
125

years



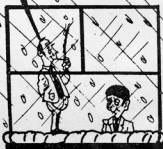
IT'S FINALLY
WHERE IT
BELONGS

"KOKOMO
PLAN"



BLIZZARD of 1975

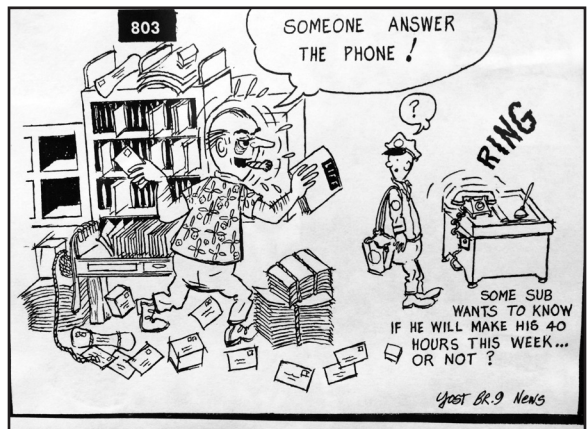
DARN! NO
STREET SUPERVISION
TODAY!



THE BOSS



THE CARRIER



803

SOMEONE ANSWER
THE PHONE!

RING

SOME SUB
WANTS TO KNOW
IF HE WILL MAKE HIS 40
HOURS THIS WEEK...
OR NOT?

Most BR9 News

RETIREMENTS



Sue Gohr (Anoka) takes her last punch with Steward Jim Nelson Happy Retirement!



Jeff Mattson (Brooklyn Park) last punch with Stewards Vince Froelich and Melia Derrick.



Tom Yarmenko (Nokomis) last punch with Steward Jim Keenan.



Robert Tabery (Bloomington) last punch with Steward Vicki Fleming.



Duane Olson (Brooklyn Park) with Steward Melia Derrick.

Welcome New Members

- John Batista
- Kim Casmeay
- Leatha Falls
- Kanika Hune
- Mattia Glotzbach-Kras
- Flint Johnson
- Dustin Jones
- John Kapla
- Yvette Madison
- Corinne Majernik
- Robyn Myrmel
- Christopher Oorlog
- Michael Sarenpa
- Max Schorman
- Jill Staehnke
- Chue Thor
- Cristine Weber

In Memoriam

Julie Waldemar (Active)

The following is a list of PAL 9 Paid Members for July/August 2015.



REGULAR MEMBERS

- Ronald Levinson
- Karen M Torell
- W.T. "Billy" Whritenour
- Joseph Steckler Jr
- Daniel V Magnuson

Ron Lawrence
Treasurer PAL 9



Bob Trester (Coon Rapids) celebrates his last punch with Maggie Savaloja, Mary Watroba and Mark Holte

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Website: branch9nalc.com

Branch 9 Officers

President

Mike Zagaros

Exec. Vice President

Darrell Maus

Recording Secretary

JoAnn Gilbaugh

Treasurer

Lisa O'Neill

Financial Secretary

Melia Derrick

Editor

Jeremy Rothstein
branch9news@branch9nalc.com

Sergeant at Arms

Jim Nelson

Trustees

Mike Smith
Cathy Jones
Ken Jambois

Director of Retirees

Rodney Anderson
(651) 270-7807

NALC Health Benefits Rep.

Julie Waldemar
(612) 963-6252

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

Branch 9's Jewel

On Sunday, September 13th, Julie Waldemar's long battle with cancer was over, but a large hole in our collective hearts opened up.

Julie (known to many of us as Jules) served the Branch in a variety of roles such as Steward, Recording Secretary, Health Benefits Representative, Route Adjustment Team Leader and she also served on numerous task forces and committees. Julie was very detail oriented and had the patience of a saint. But it was when she gave of her time and talents by volunteering that she truly shined. Whatever we needed, Julie was there. She especially loved spending time with two groups of people at Branch events, the retirees and the children of our members. Julie would help organize our Retiree Banquets making sure that everything was just so and things went smoothly, whether it was saying a kind word to retirees at the registration table or making sure that the right people had the right flowers. She worked the duck pond and helped with the kids games at Branch picnics. Pam Donato called Julie the Branch's power shopper and the queen of the endcaps making sure there were plenty of things for the kids that were coming to the picnics. She was a veritable Pied Piper at our MDA fundraisers, organizing events for the kids to keep them content while there parents were bowling for the cure. Julie said she preferred to work behind the scenes and when it was time to be recognized, she would say it was nothing and move on to the next thing.

When I heard the news of Julie's passing, it took my breath away. I was going to her house later that

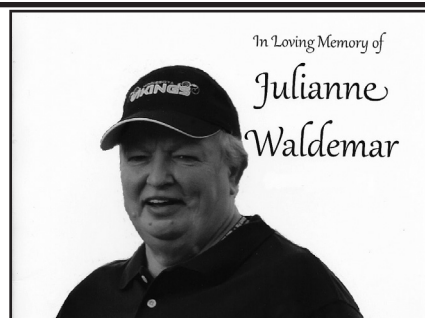
day. She wanted me to look at some paperwork.

Over the past few weeks, Julie and I had several conversations and texts because she wanted to make sure everything was in order. Julie knew her time was short, and she wanted everything double checked and organized. Organized to not only reflect her wishes but also that it was easy for those she left behind to follow after she was gone. In the days that followed as news of her death spread, many were caught unaware as to how serious Julie's condition had become. But that was the way Julie wanted it.

Julie was an organizer, a planner and a creative soul. One of Julie's last projects was her letter to all of us that was in the memorial service program that she created. When her sister Jacquie first showed me the program, I thought to myself, that this was so Julie.

"I loved my life. I cared about everyone and about everything I was fortunate to be involved in. My family is special and always made me feel special. My friends kept me sane and out of trouble (most of the time). But mostly my God gave me the strength to live life to the fullest and to be the caring person I was ... Everyone in my life played a very important part in creating 'me' and I couldn't have lived like I did without you all."

With the loss of someone that had the caliber like Julie Waldemar, the question of how should we remember her comes up. We each have our individual memories to remember her by. Many of mine have food associated with them. Whether it was her famous cheese dip or Jacquie's raspberry pie with raspberries from the garden or a red velvet cake from Costco or her



list of food that she would have to bring back from the State Fair. She knew that happiness could be found through our stomachs. But how should we as a Branch remember Julie? In her own style, she told us that too.

"I hope to be remembered, with laughter, love and having made a difference. Like I always said "I lived 'til I died!"

It is with these words that we, as an organization, have a call to action to carry on Julie's legacy of 'Making A Difference.' Each year on the second Sunday in September, we as individuals, and as groups should give of our time and talents to Make A Difference (MAD) in the community. On that day Branch 9 members will be MAD. There will be a lot of conversations at work and at the Branch in the weeks and months ahead as we all work to come up with our own way to make a difference. The thing that we need to focus on is - will we be making a difference in other people's lives. On that day (the 2nd Sunday of September) we will be remembering Julianne Waldemar one of Branch 9's jewels and as we think of her, we will be fulfilling her last wish.

"... I may not be the most important person in your life... I just hope that when you hear my name... you smile and say That's My Friend."

With a smile on my face, I say thank you for allowing me to be your friend Julie. You will always be remembered with laughter and love and for being a friend to all of us .

BRANCH 9 AT THE MN STATE FAIR 2015



Volunteering at the Branch 9 kiosk
Connie Beissel (Burnsville) and Rodney
Anderson (Dir. of Retirees)



(r) Stacey
Ellingson
(Anoka),
Kyle
Tangen
(CCA)
and Jim
Magnuson
(Retiree)

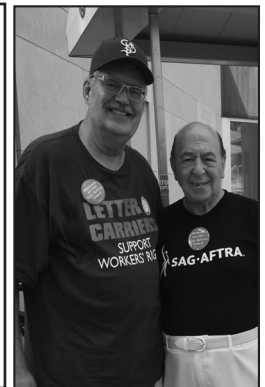


Rodney and Darrell with Mary Lawrence
US House Representative candidate for 2nd Dist.



(l) Stacey
Ellingson
(Anoka)
checking for
postcards.

(r) Rodney
with Barry
Zevon



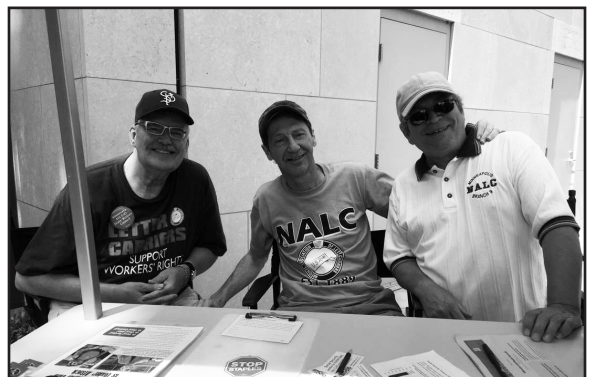
Darrel Maus, VP and Nancy Hall, Steward
(Thomas Burnett)



Jim Nelson,
Sgt at Arms
(Anoka)
and Mike
Zagaros,
President



Hanging out at the MN State Fair. Rodney
with Emy and Charlie Peshea (Ret. VP)



Rodney Anderson (Dir. of Retirees Br. 9), Barry
Weiner (Retired Business Agent Region 7) and
Lenny Larson (Br. 9 President Ameritus)

Executive Vice President's Report

STATE FAIR



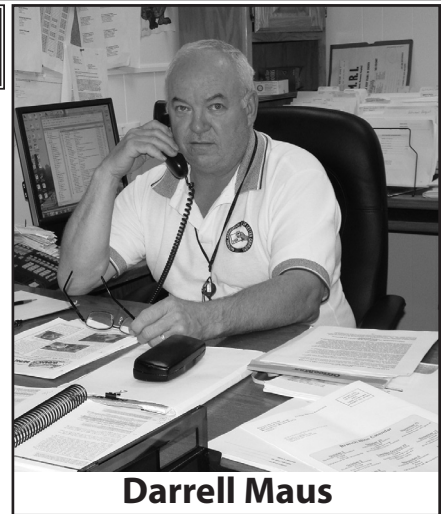
mail delivery, and enhance postal services such as postal banking. Good service is crucial to maintaining a vibrant, public Postal Service that connects residents and businesses alike in all areas and provides living-wage jobs that strengthen our communities.

The smell of corn dogs, cotton candy and the beer garden are now gone from the Minnesota State Fair grounds. But, the Branch 9 kiosk had another successful year and the fun and memories should last us well into winter! We had a fantastic turn out of both active and retired Branch 9 members who volunteered to staff our kiosk and inform the fair goers of all the current political issues that will affect America's Post Office.

Our seasoned volunteers mentored the rookie volunteers in the fine art of "working the crowd" and "Informing the public of the real issues of the service"! It was realized very quickly that the public wanted to be part of some kind of action to insure their Postal Service survived and remained in place as is. This year we urged concerned fair goers to sign the APWU's petition post cards "**I Stand With Postal Workers**". It is an APWU campaign urging Postmaster General Megan Brennan to keep post offices open and expand lobby hours, maintain prompt

There were some that still think taxpayer money is used for postal operations and that the current system is wasting their money. Comments like UPS or FedEx would do a better job and do it cheaper and would be better for the country. When we informed them of the amount of packages the Postal Service delivers for these companies in our last mile system (57% of UPS and 34% of FedEx) they were amazed.

This being our 12th year at the AFL-CIO's House of Labor, we had many fairgoers return specifically to our booth to see what we were up to this time around. Repeat "customers" are the greatest compliment to any organization. They know we're up to something good and they want to be sure to get involved. As they would leave our booth, they thanked us over and over for the information and as always informed us of how they loved their carrier and don't want to ever lose them or the Postal Service.



Darrell Maus

It was also fun to meet fairgoers who had never been exposed to the letter carriers "interactive" style. You could pick them out right away. They'd slow their pace as they got closer and you could almost read their minds... "these people look like they're going to talk to me... what do they want and why". Then once they knew some of the real facts it was followed by a big thank you and encouragement from them to keep up the great work. All of the people we talked to from all over the country were first of all amazed at the factual information that was relayed to them and very concerned about what could happen to their mail delivery. When we emphasized how important it was to contact their Congressman and relay the message of how important "**THEIR POST OFFICE**" is to them it was almost always followed up with the commitment to do so.

FROM MIKE AND MYSELF WE WANT TO SAY GREAT JOB AND THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS.

Branch 9 Candidates for President



VOTE JEFF JOHNSON FOR BRANCH 9 PRESIDENT

Hi, I'm Jeff Johnson, a candidate with honesty and integrity. I am a candidate who will fight for the rights of all union workers because when we stand together we can do powerful things. I am here to look out for all carriers, from young workers in their first week of the job looking for a wealth of information, to veteran carriers concerned with contract rules that are no longer honored, to any carrier with unexpected health or family crises, to the soon-to-be-retirees. I believe policies and procedures and contracts should be honored and that the purpose of contracts and rules and regulations are to provide a safe and stable work environment of respect and dignity.

In my 20 years of experience, I have gained a deep and thorough knowledge of the policies and procedures that govern our workplace and I have used that knowledge, at times to assist union stewards, to correct a wrong when management has broken the policies to the detriment of me or fellow workers. When rules are

not adhered to and union doesn't step in, more rules will be broken and policy goes out the window. That's how a union loses ground becoming weak and ineffective. I am here to support workers in situations where policies that protect carriers are not being enforced. As president, I will ensure that there will no longer be untimely grievances, which are unacceptable. I will take a genuine interest in our rank and file and I understand and appreciate the diversity that exists. I am here to look out for you.

**IT'S TIME FOR JEFF! A TRUE
CHAMPION FOR THE PEOPLE.**

**A VOTE FOR JEFF JOHNSON IS A
VOTE FOR US.**

**LET'S PUT SOME RESPECT BACK
INTO BRANCH NINE!**



My name is Mike Zagaros and for the past 5 years, I have had the privilege to be your Branch President. It truly is a privilege, because you've allowed me to be a part of your lives and hopefully I have been able to

make a difference in your lives too. I have come to you to ask for your support and your vote for President of Branch 9 for the 2016 - 2018 term.

I won't bore you with my previous service to the Branch, because it is not about how many positions I have had that should be the reason you should vote for me. While experience is important, the deciding factor should be it is who is best equipped to make a difference into the future as we deal with the continuing evolution of both the Postal Service and the NALC.

The one thing I know is that what we do as letter carriers and the culture around us will not wait for us to catch up. Your President needs to be your advocate in a variety of forums be it on the workroom floor through the grievance/arbitration process, or the sometimes complex journeys through worker compensation, to meeting and working with our elected officials to ensure that they are aware of the impacts of proposed legislation. One of the most important duties of the President is to educate and develop the current and the next generations of leaders.

This is a formidable list, but it is what you have a right to expect in your President. I believe that I am the best candidate to represent all letter carriers into the future and I am asking for your vote as President of Branch 9.

VETERAN'S DAY



BRANCH 9 WOULD LIKE TO
THANK OUR MEMBERS WHO
HAVE SERVED.

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO
RECOGNIZE THOSE MEMBERS
WHO ARE CURRENTLY SERVING
AS WELL AS THEIR FAMILIES

Don Albee
Aaron Bautista
Sean Bergen
Johnathan Brankley

"As we express our gratitude,
we must never forget that
the highest appreciation is
not to utter words, but to live
by them." -John Fitzgerald
Kennedy

PLEASE JOIN BRANCH 9 FOR A COMBINED CSRS & FERS RETIREMENT SEMINAR.

Tuesday, November 17th, 2015
6:30 - 8:30PM

CRYSTAL VFW
5222 56th Avenue North
(Bass Lake Road)
Crystal, MN 55429

CSRS (Specific Information)
6:30PM

FERS (Specific Information)
7:00PM

General Retirement Information
7:45PM

RSVP To:
Branch 9 - 612.781.9858

This is a unique opportunity to ask questions and get valuable
information regarding your retirement.



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

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

Ame's Uniforms are a UNION PREFERRED vendor

Vote Jeff Johnson



For Branch 9 President

I've known Jeff for about 20 years during my postal career. He's shown me that he has a genuine concern for letter carriers being treated with dignity and respect at the workplace

I spent a 33-year career helping letter carriers, two years Executive Vice-President, 15 plus years as steward and eight years as Peer Evaluator / District Peer Coordinator

My experience has made me a good judge of people's character, that's why I am endorsing Jeff Johnson for Branch 9 President

Authored by
Chris Williams

RE-ELECT

Mike is a proven leader who cares about making the lives of all letter carriers better.

Mike is the most experienced and knowledgeable candidate running for the office of Branch President.

"I am ready and able to meet the challenges of the future"



MIKE ZAGAROS
President
Branch Nine

Ballots for contested Branch 9 Office election will be mailed out on November 1, 2015. If you do not receive a ballot please contact the Branch Office at 612-781-9858. All Ballots must be returned to the Election Committee before November 24th. Ballots will be collected at 9:00 a.m. November 24, 2015.

Election Committee - Keiran Hughes (Chairperson),
Susan Becker, Loren McNellis

Branch 9 Election

Office of President

*Mike Zagaros - candidate

*Jeff Johnson - candidate

The following positions elected by unanimous ballot

Exec. Vice President

Darrell Maus

Recording Secretary

JoAnn Gilbaugh

Treasurer

Lisa O'Neill

Financial Secretary

Samantha Hartwig

Editor

Jeremy Rothstein

Sergeant at Arms

Jim Nelson

Trustees

Joe Rian

Stacey Ellingson

Ken Jambois

Director of Retirees

Rodney Anderson

NALC Health Benefits Rep.

Mike Smith

Carper introduces iPost Act

On Sept. 17, Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE), ranking member of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, introduced the Improving Postal Operations, Service and Transparency (iPost) Act of 2015.

Fredric Rolando, President of the National Association of Letter Carriers, released the following statement regarding the bill:

NALC appreciates the tireless efforts of Senator Carper and his staff to craft a bill that will advance the process of achieving much needed postal reform. While Senator Carper's new bill contains several provisions we cannot support and raises a number of serious concerns for letter carriers and the larger federal employee community, we believe it is a good

place to begin the conversation about how to preserve and strengthen the Postal Service for the American people while protecting the legitimate interests of all the key stakeholders.

Over the past few months, NALC has been working with a coalition made up of the four major postal unions, several key mailing industry groups, and the executive leadership of the U.S. Postal Service, to develop consensus postal reform legislation.

iPost summary and analysis

Arbitration: Unfortunately, the bill includes a provision to require interest arbitrators appointed to resolve postal contract disputes to give special attention to the financial condition of the Postal Service. NALC opposes this provision since arbitrators already consider USPS finances – adding it to the law could bias arbitrators

toward the positions of postal management.

Door delivery: The iPost bill includes language encouraging the conversion of door delivery access points to cluster or curbside delivery points for residential and business customers, on a voluntary basis requiring customer consent. NALC has adamantly opposed inclusion of this language and will fight for its removal.

Closures and consolidations:

iPost contains language that would delay for two years from the date of enactment the closure or consolidation of any mail-processing plant or facility currently in operation, and it identifies a series of procedures USPS must follow to determine whether a plant should be slated for closure.

For more detailed information visit <http://www.nalc.org/news/nalc-updates/carper-introduces-ipost-act-updated>.

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

“Knowledge is Power”

**CCA
Rights and Benefits**

Relative Standing

CCAs are credited with something similar to seniority called relative standing. Relative standing is determined by the original CCA hire date in an installation. For those CCAs who were Transitional Employees (TEs) before being hired as CCAs, all time served as a TE after September 29, 2007 is added. However, time spent on a five day break is not included for purposes of calculating relative standing. Section f of the CCA General Principles found on page 134 of the National Agreement covers relative standing:

f. When hired, a CCAs relative standing in an installation is determined by his/her original CCA appointment date to the installation, using Article 41.2.B.6.(a) where applicable, and adding the time served as a city letter carrier transitional employee for appointments made after September 29, 2007 in any installation.

Relative standing is extremely important for a few reasons. First, when CCAs are converted to full-time career status within an installation, the CCA with the most relative standing in that installation is the first one

converted to full-time career status. Section g of the CCA

General Principles found on pages 134-135 of the National Agreement states:

g. When the Postal Service hires new city letter carrier career employees, CCA employees within the installation will be converted to full-time regular career status to fill such vacancies based on their relative standing. A CCA who does not accept the career opportunity will not lose his/her relative standing for future career opportunities.

Relative standing also comes into play when the Postal Service needs to separate a CCA due to lack of work. Section h of the CCA General Principles requires the Postal Service to separate the CCA with the least relative standing first:

h. CCA employees may be separated at any time during their term of appointment for lack of work. Separations for lack of 4 work shall be by inverse relative standing in the installation. Such separations are not grievable except where the separations are pretextual. CCAs separated for lack of work will be given preference for reappointment ahead of other CCAs with less relative standing in the installation if the need for hiring arises within 18 months of their separation.

Another situation where relative standing is important is when the Postal Service decides to not reappoint a CCA for operational reasons. In this circumstance, the CCA with the least relative standing in that installation is separated first. Section i of the CCA General Principles found on page 135 of the National Agreement covers this:

i. CCA employees are separated for 5 days between appointments. When operational circumstances indicate that reappointment for a CCA(s) is not needed and the installation employs a CCA(s) with lower relative standing, the CCA(s) will be reappointed and the CCA(s) with the lower standing in the installation will be separated instead. Such separation of a CCA(s) with the lowest relative standing is not grievable except where the separation is pretextual. These CCAs separated for lack of work during or upon completion of their term of appointment will be given a preference for reappointment ahead of other CCAs with less relative standing in the installation provided the need for hiring arises within 18 months of separation.

A CCA separated for lack of work or due to operational circumstance will be given preference for reappointment ahead of other CCAs with less relative standing in the installation if the need for hiring arises within 18 months of their separation.



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612-377-0011

The Twin Cities Postal Headquarters



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

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2408 Central Avenue NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418-3712

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- **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

Oct 15, 1914

Clayton Act

President Wilson, a friend of labor unions, signs the Clayton Act, which exempts unions from the Sherman Anti-Trust Act. In coming years, the new law will prove toothless, as courts void many of its union protections.

October 26

POCUM

6:00 PM

Labor Centre -2nd Floor
312 Central Ave, Minneapolis

October 27

Nokomis Retiree Breakfast

9:00AM

Fred Babcock VFW

6715 Lakeshore Dr, Richfield

October 27

General Membership Meeting

7:00PM

Crystal VFW

5222 Bass Lk Rd, Crystal

October 31

HALLOWEEN

November 3

Southside Retiree Breakfast

9:00AM

Fred Babcock VFW

6715 Lakeshore Dr, Richfield

November 6

Election Day

November 6

Southside Retiree Breakfast

9:00AM

Fred Babcock VFW

6715 Lakeshore Dr, Richfield

November 11

HOLIDAY

Veterans Day