

VOLUME 73 No 3

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April 2021

We were forced to postpone our annual **Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive** next month due to safety concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic. We remain committed to conducting the food drive when it is safe to do so. The effects of the pandemic on people all over the country have depleted many food banks. Our help is now needed as much, or more so, than ever.

We continue the **Stamp Out Hunger Donor Drive**. We have created a webpage where anyone can select their state and find direct links to food banks in their area where they can make a direct financial contribution. Please go to nalc.org/food to view the page. Our intent is to give our customers an opportunity to contribute safely, just as they do during the second Saturday in May each year.

As summer approaches, local food banks and church shelves normally would be well-stocked, benefiting from the 70 million-plus pounds of food recently received from the Letter Carriers' annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, held in May for the past 28 years. To deal with this urgent situation, the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) has developed this plan to address the problem of hunger that affects one in eight Americans, including millions of children, elderly and military veterans



LETTER CARRIERS' DONOR DRIVE

National Partners



Please donate what you can to a food bank in your community.

1. Go to nalc.org/food
2. Select your state
3. Choose a food bank in your area
4. Make a contribution

It's that easy. All collections stay in the local community.

#NALC #stampouthunger #donordrive #lettercarriers #heroesdelivering

By-Law Proposal Vote Notice

Branch 9 members will be voting on the By-Law proposals at the April 27, 2021 GMM

See flyer on page 18 if you wish to join.

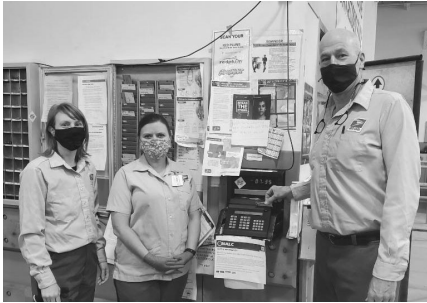
Special Building Corporation Meeting

Branch 9 members will be specifically dealing with the business of the By-Laws/Articles of Incorporation on May 4th, 2021 7:00 PM

GMM invite list will be used to send out the invite for this Special Meeting of the Building Corporation.

See flyer on page 18 if you wish to join.

RETIREMENTS



Last punch for Kurt Neitzel (Burnsville Station) with Stewards Karen Stennes and Patty Webb. Happy Retirement!



Last punch for Randy Paulson (Loring Station) with Steward Chris Walker. Congratulations on Your Retirement!



Last punch for Dale Schmitz (Richfield Station) with Stewards Rosa Espinoza and Joe Rian. Best Wishes In Your Retirement!



Dan "Frenchy" Courteau (Main Office) at his retirement party with President Samantha Hartwig. Frenchy was Sam's first trainer when she started at the P.O. Wishing You the Best in Retirement!



Last punch for Moges Kebede (University Station) with Steward Tony Winkels Enjoy Your Retirement!

IN MEMORIAM

Eugene Thompson

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome Branch 9 Members!

- Gary Mortenson
- Samantha Sheedy
- Aleesha Berg
- Andrew Hagen
- Tyler Clendenen
- Joram Livengood
- Marquita Winters
- Katherine Wright
- Kevin March

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Branch 9 Officers

President
Samantha Hartwig

Exec. Vice President
JoAnn Gilbaugh

Recording Secretary
Robb Petersburg

Treasurer
Barb Watczak

Financial Secretary
Stacey Ellingson

Editor
Jeremy Rothstein
branch9news@branch9nalc.com

Sergeant at Arms
Ronaele Bolden

Trustees
Christa Abraham
Latasha McCaleb
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

Spring has finally sprung with the extended daylight hours, and warmer weather. We are still dealing with the COVID-19, overtime issues, carriers injured on-the-job.

COVID

Now the state of Minnesota has opened up the eligibility for getting the COVID vaccine to the entire state. First, and foremost, no one can require you get the vaccine ever. If you do want to get vaccinated sign up through your health care provider, or the vaccine finder. If you visit the State of Minnesota Department of Health website there is data about the vaccine at your fingertips to research and be informed. As I sit here writing this article I think about my mom, and how much relief she feels after getting the second COVID shot. Then I think about my son's other grandmother who I learned over Easter weekend is currently in the hospital with COVID and developed pneumonia. I share this personal information not to scare anyone into getting the vaccine, but to illustrate that the longer this pandemic rages the closer to home it will hit. At first, I was skeptical about getting the vaccine with how it appeared to me as something that was rushed through, but I have changed my thoughts. I will go in and get vaccinated as soon as I can get an appointment, because I would hate to be the reason that someone else's grandmother contracted COVID because I did not see the benefits. My ask is that everyone does their research on the vaccine and make an informed decision about getting vaccinated.

Overtime

There is still much overtime being worked everywhere, and Amazon Sundays are part of the issue. It was recently brought to my attention that some Non-OTDL carriers were forced to work on Amazon Sunday. As in any other day of the week if management wants to force a Non-OTDL work

on his/her non-scheduled day (Sunday is a non-scheduled day for full-time regular) the entire OTDL MUST be maxed out to 12 hours of work first. When this Sunday forced overtime issue was brought to the attention of the Postmaster, he was not happy to hear about it. We also learned that some CCAs have not had a Sunday off, while other CCAs routinely get several Sunday's off. According to the Postmaster there should be no forcing of Non-OTDL carriers ever on an Amazon Sunday. The Postmaster has agreed to try and improve Sunday scheduling. We need stewards to contact the Branch Office and give us the names of CCAs that have never had a Sunday off and/or worked more than 4 Sundays in a row so we can get an idea of what stations are working CCAs, and what stations are not working them on Sunday's.

On the job injuries

We spent a lot of time assisting injured carriers with on-the-job injuries, dealing with Postal Management, and the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP). The biggest issue we see at the Branch office is our members believing that management is giving them the correct advice on how to file a claim, getting bills paid, and getting paid when injured. The majority of Postal Supervisors have no idea what their responsibilities to an injured employee are. Forget about asking any 204b Supervisors about OWCP rules they truly have no clue and have limited access to properly assist in any OWCP issue.

In May I will be conducting basic OWCP training for management in Minneapolis. This will be a joint training that will focus on what management's responsibilities are to injured letter carriers, and hopefully it will help. This will be a joint training, meaning I will have a management assistant teaching, and I asked the management representative to focus on explaining to supervisors how to



Samantha Hartwig

get the CA-16, which is used in traumatic injuries and guarantees payment of medical expenses for up to 60 days. If you do get injured on-the-job you need to report the injury immediately, even if you do not think you need medical treatment. If you decide to file an OWCP claim you can either get the paperwork from your supervisor, which is the old slow way to do it, or you can file it online.

To file an OWCP claim online you need go to the following website: www.ecomp.dol.gov. The right-hand side of the page is a login, if you do not have an account with ecomp already, then you will need to register for an account before you can file the OWCP claim, and creating an account just takes a few minutes. After your account has been created then you can go to the ecomp page and log in. You will need your supervisor's email address for the online filing, because they will get emails to do their portion of the claim form from OWCP. Online filing is a great way make sure that your claim gets filed and does not sit on the boss's desk for the next three weeks under stacks of paper.

New Building

As I wrote about in the previous issue of the Branch Nine News, we are searching to purchase a new building for the Branch. Before we purchase a new building, we need to clean up the Building Corporation by-laws from 1965. The by-laws are outdated and

President Report cont'd on pg. 17

2021 Proposed By-Law Additions & Changes

ARTICLE II SECTION 2

CURRENT LANGUAGE

The monthly dues of this Branch for all active and associate members shall be equal to 2 hours base pay of Carrier Technician Step O, payable biweekly. This ratio between the current minimum dues structure of the NALC National Dues would be maintained as the permanent dues structure for Branch 9. Members retiring after December 31, 1960 shall pay \$12.00 per annum. Members retiring after December 31, 1977 shall pay \$18.00 per annum. Members retiring after December 31, 1987 shall pay \$24.00 per annum. Members retiring after December 31, 1996 shall pay, per annum, an amount equal to two hours City Carrier pay at Step D letter carriers pay at the time of their retirement.

PROPOSED NEW LANGUAGE

The monthly dues of this Branch for all active and associate members shall be equal to 2 hours base pay of Carrier Technician ~~Step O~~ **Step P**, payable biweekly. This ratio between the current minimum dues structure of the NALC National Dues would be maintained as the permanent dues structure for Branch 9. Members retiring after December 31, 1960 shall pay \$12.00 per annum. Members retiring after December 31, 1977 shall pay \$18.00 per annum. Members retiring after December 31, 1987 shall pay \$24.00 per annum. Members retiring after December 31, 1996 shall pay, per annum, an amount equal to two hours City Carrier pay at Step D letter carriers pay at the time of their retirement.

Submitted by the Branch 9 Executive Board

The pay increase will NOT take place until November 19, 2022 (11/19/22).

ARTICLE III, SECTION 3

CURRENT LANGUAGE

The President shall perform all duties as outlined in the National Constitution for Subordinate Branches. The President shall be Chief Steward of the Branch. The President shall be a full-time officer of Branch 9. Effective January 1, 1997, for the faithful performance of his/her duties, he/she shall be paid thirty percent (30%) more than a Carrier Technician Step O, per annum, payable biweekly.

PROPOSED NEW LANGUAGE

The President shall perform all duties as outlined in the National Constitution for Subordinate Branches. The President shall be Chief Steward of the Branch. The President shall be a full-time officer of Branch 9. Effective January 1, 1997, for the faithful performance of his/her duties, he/she shall be paid thirty percent (30%) more than a Carrier Technician ~~Step O~~ **Step P**, per annum, payable biweekly.

Submitted by the Branch 9 Executive Board

The pay increase will NOT take place until November 19, 2022 (11/19/22).

ARTICLE III, SECTION 4

CURRENT LANGUAGE

The Executive Vice-President shall perform all duties as outlined in the National Constitution for Subordinate Branches. The Executive Vice-President shall be the Chair of the Stewards Board. The Executive Vice-President shall chair the Branch membership meeting at the discretion of the President or when the President is absent...

The Executive Vice-President shall be a full-time Branch 9 officer. Effective

January 1, 1997, for the faithful performance of his/her duties, he/she shall be paid twenty-five percent (25%) more than a Carrier Technician Step O, per annum, payable bi-weekly.

PROPOSED NEW LANGUAGE

The Executive Vice-President shall perform all duties as outlined in the National Constitution for Subordinate Branches. The Executive Vice-President shall be the Chair of the Stewards Board. The Executive Vice-President shall chair the Branch membership meeting at the discretion of the President or when the President is absent...

The Executive Vice-President shall be a full-time Branch 9 officer. Effective

January 1, 1997, for the faithful performance of his/her duties, he/she shall be paid twenty-five percent (25%) more than a Carrier Technician ~~Step O~~ **Step P**, per annum, payable bi-weekly.

Submitted by the Branch 9 Executive Board

The pay increase will NOT take place until November 19, 2022 (11/19/22).

ARTICLE III, SECTION 5

CURRENT LANGUAGE

The Recording Secretary shall perform the following duties: The Recording Secretary shall keep a correct record of the proceedings of the Branch in a book to be kept for that purpose. He/She shall draw all warrants on the Treasurer ordered by the Building Corporation. He/She shall notify applicants for membership in writing of their election or rejection, and members of their suspension,

By-Laws cont'd on page 6

Exec. Vice President's Report

If you know me, you know that I love analogies. A new one presented itself in mid-March and I just have to share.

My sister lives on an acreage in South Dakota and has several farm cats that mouse the outbuildings. She feeds them just enough to keep them around and has converted a granary into a "cat house" shelter for them.

I received a Facebook message from her, that she had discovered a new black and white "kitty" when she went to the cat house to feed them before an expected snowstorm. The kitty had looked at her with big sad eyes, so she told it that it could stay, but had to leave as soon as the storm ended. Being a fellow cat lover, I told her she should let the kitty stay; after all, it had adopted her! My sister promptly replied, "well alright, but if that skunk stinks up the place she's gone!"

The next few days I received reports on the "kitty" which was promptly named Stinky. My sister had reminded her that the storm was over, and she needed to go. The next day, Stinky was not in the cat house and the problem seemed to be solved. But the next day she was back and had built a nice comfy nest.

At that point it was no longer fun and games. My sister was worried that Stinky was expecting babies, and more skunks were certainly not welcome. The next day she reported that her husband had resolved the "Stinky situation", but not without some collateral damage. His clothes were hanging outside, her house was airing out and the cathouse would be out of commission for a while!

Now for the analogy. We have many problems that show up, be it new legislation, new procedures, or rules. Sometimes

it is old business, that we thought had been laid to rest, but has reappeared. It is easy to dismiss the situation, or even be sympathetic to a certain point, especially if we are told it will go away once the storm passes. If we are laser focused on the trouble at hand, it is understandable when the "skunk" issue is put on the back burner or left to someone else until things settle down.

The problem with procrastinating is that rarely does an issue go away when it is delayed or ignored. Instead, it can take root and grow, even multiply, and spread, until the inevitable "stink" of the situation overtakes us. This past year we have dealt with more than our fair share of storms and stinky situations. So much so, that it is hard to tell which problems were the skunk and which were the storm!

Take for example, the vacancies on the Board of Governors (BOG) of the Postal Service and the role it plays. The BOG selects and appoints our Postmaster General. Skunk or Storm? (Or skunk babies)? Do your friends and family still complain to you about mail delays? Mine do. We cannot rest now just because it is quiet. There are many more changes coming.

Last year was a roller coaster with Congress and funding for the Postal Service. The CARES Act, HEROES Act, Postal Service Emergency Assistance Act, Delivering for America Act, coronavirus relief and end-year omnibus appropriations bill were all in play. Skunk or Storm? While we made some progress, the fact remains that our participation in the Letter Carriers Political Fund (LCPF) is crucial to the Postal Service survival. The monies from this fund opens doors and dialogs with our Representatives and Senators from both sides of the



JoAnn Gilbaugh

aisle. LCPF is not funded by your union dues and is signed up for separately. If you do not currently participate, please consider \$5 a paycheck to secure the future of the Postal Service.

Let's move the discussion to the workroom floor. While the storm of forced overtime has slowed down at some stations, for many it has not. Add in the skunk babies of OWCP violations, management harassment, and blatant violation of the contract, and don't forget the constant push to go faster at all cost.

One thing is certain, this past year our performance and importance to the American public was front and center. While we have received great support from our customers, we cannot ignore that we were also the scapegoat (scape-skunk?) for late arriving holiday packages. It was certainly stinky when our competitors were not up to the task and dropped everything at our feet to deliver. Now it's time to air things out and start anew.

No matter the skunk or storm, there remains one truth. There is no better group than the brothers and sisters of Branch 9. Together we can make our workplace better and the USPS stronger. We are Branch 9 strong.

In Solidarity,
Jo

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By-Laws cont'd from page 4

expulsion or acceptance of resignation. He/She shall report to the National Secretary-Treasurer immediately the suspension, expulsion or reinstatement of a member. He/She shall attend to all correspondence of the Branch, and properly mark and file all papers for inspection at any time and notify the members of special meetings when ordered by the President. He/She shall make, semi-annually, a report to the Branch showing the number of members elected, rejected, initiated, suspended, reinstated, withdrawn, the number of deaths, and giving the date of death. Within one (1) week after his/her term expires, or upon an earlier termination thereof, he/she shall deliver to his/her successor all books and papers, together with all other property of the Branch in his/her possession. The Recording Secretary shall be paid the sum equivalent to 13 hours of Carrier Technician Step O pay each month.

PROPOSED NEW LANGUAGE

The Recording Secretary shall perform the following duties: The Recording Secretary shall keep a correct record of the proceedings of the Branch in a book to be kept for that purpose. He/She shall draw all warrants on the Treasurer ordered by the Building Corporation. He/She shall notify applicants for membership in writing of their election or rejection, and members of their suspension, expulsion or acceptance of resignation. He/She shall report to the National Secretary-Treasurer immediately the suspension, expulsion or reinstatement of a member. He/She shall attend to all correspondence of the Branch, and properly mark and file all papers for inspection at any time and notify the members of special meetings when ordered

by the President. He/She shall make, semi-annually, a report to the Branch showing the number of members elected, rejected, initiated, suspended, reinstated, withdrawn, the number of deaths, and giving the date of death. Within one (1) week after his/her term expires, or upon an earlier termination thereof, he/she shall deliver to his/her successor all books and papers, together with all other property of the Branch in his/her possession. The Recording Secretary shall be paid the sum equivalent to 13 hours of Carrier Technician ~~Step O~~ **Step P** pay each month.

Submitted by the Branch 9 Executive Board

The pay increase will NOT take place until November 19, 2022 (11/19/22).

ARTICLE III SECTION 6

CURRENT LANGUAGE

The Financial Secretary shall perform the following duties: The Financial Secretary shall keep a record book showing the names of members, when admitted, and places of residence, collect dues and all other monies due the Branch, keep a regular account thereof, and at each meeting (or prior thereto whenever the prompt payment of the National per capita tax or other necessity may require same) pay the same to the Treasurer, take his/her receipts and retain them as vouchers in settlement. He/She shall personally, or through duly authorized deputies appointed when necessary for each station, and who shall whenever practicable be the station delegate or representative selected or appointed to represent the station, solicit payment from all members in arrears, and on the day of election and before ballot is taken, furnish the President with a list of

members not entitled to vote. He/She shall semi-annually furnish the National Secretary-Treasurer with a list of names of all the members of the Branch in good standing and shall notify the National Secretary-Treasurer monthly of the election of new members, all those suspended, expelled, deceased or resigned. He/She shall publish a monthly report of Branch receipts. He/She shall keep account of all properties, investments, and funds of the Branch which at all times shall be open for inspection, and at the end of his/her term make a report, and deliver to his/her successor in office, when qualified, all books, papers and property in his/her possession belonging to the Branch. The Financial Secretary shall receive receipts for all monies of the Branch and keep a regular account thereof. The Financial Secretary shall receive receipts for the Branch 9 Building Corporation and keep a regular account thereof. The Financial Secretary will reconcile all Branch accounts and all Building Corporation accounts per the account statement schedule. The Financial Secretary shall maintain and coordinate the insurance policies of Branch 9 and the Branch 9 Building Corporation. To ensure the faithful performance of their duties, the Financial Secretary and his/her deputies shall be bonded in such amount and in such manner as the Branch may direct. The Financial Secretary shall be paid the sum equivalent to 13 hours of Carrier Technician Step O pay each month.

PROPOSED NEW LANGUAGE

... The Financial Secretary shall receive receipts for the Branch 9 Building Corporation and keep a regular account thereof. The Financial Secretary will reconcile all Branch accounts and all Building Corporation accounts per the account statement schedule. The Financial Secretary shall maintain and coordinate the

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insurance policies of Branch 9 and the Branch 9 Building Corporation. To ensure the faithful performance of their duties, the Financial Secretary and his/her deputies shall be bonded in such amount and in such manner as the Branch may direct. The Financial Secretary shall be paid the sum equivalent to 13 hours of Carrier Technician ~~Step O~~ **Step P** pay each month.

Submitted by the Branch 9 Executive Board

The pay increase will NOT take place until November 19, 2022 (11/19/22).

ARTICLE III SECTION 7

CURRENT LANGUAGE

The Treasurer shall perform the following duties: The Treasurer shall receive, receipt for, and disburse all monies of the Branch, and keep a regular account thereof. He/She shall pay all warrants on him/her by the Recording Secretary voted by the Branch and signed by the President, and have all accounts receipted upon payment of the same. He/She shall pay all warrants on him/her by the Recording Secretary voted by the Building Corporation and signed by the President, and have all accounts receipted upon payment of the same. He/She will publish a monthly report of Branch expenditures. He/She shall, whenever requested by the President, and at the end of his/her term, make a report showing his/her receipts, disbursements, and amount of money on hand; deliver his/her books, papers, and money to his/her successor in office, when qualified; and to ensure the faithful performance of his/her duties, he/she shall be required to furnish a bond in such sum as the Branch may direct. The Treasurer shall be paid the sum equivalent

to 20 hours of Carrier Technician Step O pay each month.

PROPOSED NEW LANGUAGE

The Treasurer shall perform the following duties: The Treasurer shall receive, receipt for, and disburse all monies of the Branch, and keep a regular account thereof. He/She shall pay all warrants on him/her by the Recording Secretary voted by the Branch and signed by the President, and have all accounts receipted upon payment of the same. He/She shall pay all warrants on him/her by the Recording Secretary voted by the Building Corporation and signed by the President, and have all accounts receipted upon payment of the same. He/She will publish a monthly report of Branch expenditures. He/She shall, whenever requested by the President, and at the end of his/her term, make a report showing his/her receipts, disbursements, and amount of money on hand; deliver his/her books, papers, and money to his/her successor in office, when qualified; and to ensure the faithful performance of his/her duties, he/she shall be required to furnish a bond in such sum as the Branch may direct. The Treasurer shall be paid the sum equivalent to 20 hours of Carrier Technician ~~Step O~~ **Step P** pay each month. at the time of their retirement.

Submitted by the Branch 9 Executive Board

The pay increase will NOT take place until November 19, 2022 (11/19/22).

ARTICLE III SECTION 8

CURRENT LANGUAGE

The Sergeant-at-Arms shall preserve order in the meeting under the instruction of the President. He/She shall sign the attendance book one-half hour

after the actual start of all Branch meetings. It shall be his/her duty to see that no one but members are present at the meetings unless directed by the President or a vote of the Branch. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall be paid the sum equivalent to 5.5 hours of Carrier Technician Step O pay each month.

PROPOSED NEW LANGUAGE

The Sergeant-at-Arms shall preserve order in the meeting under the instruction of the President. He/She shall sign the attendance book one-half hour after the actual start of all Branch meetings. It shall be his/her duty to see that no one but members are present at the meetings unless directed by the President or a vote of the Branch. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall be paid the sum equivalent to 5.5 hours of Carrier Technician ~~Step O~~ **Step P** pay each month.

Submitted by the Branch 9 Executive Board

The pay increase will NOT take place until November 19, 2022 (11/19/22).

ARTICLE III SECTION 9

CURRENT LANGUAGE

The Health Benefit Representative shall be enrolled in the NALC Health Benefit Plan, shall perform such duties as the Constitution and the Laws of the NALC Health Benefit Plan requires, and shall serve as N.S.B.A. and M.B.A. officer. He/She shall write a periodic article in the Branch Nine News to keep the members well informed on health benefits and insurance plans. He/She shall correspond with the Plan whenever the need arises to aid members of the Plan on any insurance policy. He/She shall make his/her telephone

By-Laws cont'd on page 8

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By-Laws cont'd from page 7

number available to the members. He/She shall visit the retired carriers club at least once a year to answer their questions on health benefits. The HBR shall be paid the sum equivalent to 13 hours of Carrier Technician Step O pay each month. The yearly rebate check from the Mutual Benefits Association will go to the Branch.

PROPOSED NEW LANGUAGE

The Health Benefit Representative shall be enrolled in the NALC Health Benefit Plan, shall perform such duties as the Constitution and the Laws of the NALC Health Benefit Plan requires, and shall serve as N.S.B.A. and M.B.A. officer. He/She shall write a periodic article in the Branch Nine News to keep the members well informed on health benefits and insurance plans. He/She shall correspond with the Plan whenever the need arises to aid members of the Plan on any insurance policy. He/She shall make his/her telephone number available to the members. He/She shall visit the retired carriers club at least once a year to answer their questions on health benefits. The HBR shall be paid the sum equivalent to 13 hours of Carrier Technician ~~Step O~~ **Step P** pay each month. The yearly rebate check from the Mutual Benefits Association will go to the Branch.

Submitted by the Branch 9 Executive Board

The pay increase will NOT take place until November 19, 2022 (11/19/22).

ARTICLE III SECTION 10

CURRENT LANGUAGE

The Trustees shall perform all duties as outlined in the National Constitution for Subordinate Branches. The Trustees shall examine and report to the Branch

the condition of the Books of the officers at least once every three months, compare the vouchers and records and see that they correspond with the collections and disbursements. Trustees, in conjunction with the Financial Secretary, shall perform an annual inventory of Branch property and report same at the October General Membership Meeting. They shall have custody of all Branch property and shall perform such other duties as the Branch By-Laws may require. For the faithful performance of his/her duties each Trustee shall be paid the sum equivalent to 6.5 hours of Carrier Technician Step O pay each month.

PROPOSED NEW LANGUAGE

The Trustees shall perform all duties as outlined in the National Constitution for Subordinate Branches. The Trustees shall examine and report to the Branch the condition of the Books of the officers at least once every three months, compare the vouchers and records and see that they correspond with the collections and disbursements. Trustees, in conjunction with the Financial Secretary, shall perform an annual inventory of Branch property and report same at the October General Membership Meeting. They shall have custody of all Branch property and shall perform such other duties as the Branch By-Laws may require. For the faithful performance of his/her duties each Trustee shall be paid the sum equivalent to 6.5 hours of Carrier Technician ~~Step O~~ **Step P** pay each month.

Submitted by the Branch 9 Executive Board

The pay increase will NOT take place until November 19, 2022 (11/19/22).

ARTICLE III SECTION 11

CURRENT LANGUAGE

The Editor will be responsible for publishing and distributing the Branch Nine News. He/She will publish a minimum of 10 issues per calendar year, unless directed. The Editor will coordinate a publishing schedule with the Branch President and Executive Vice President. He/She will communicate with the Branch 9 Webmaster to share information between the Branch Nine News and the Branch 9 Website. The Editor may perform other such duties as the President may direct. The Editor will be paid the sum equivalent to 16 hours of Carrier Technician Step O pay each month.

PROPOSED NEW LANGUAGE

The Editor will be responsible for publishing and distributing the Branch Nine News. He/She will publish a minimum of 10 issues per calendar year, unless directed. The Editor will coordinate a publishing schedule with the Branch President and Executive Vice President. He/She will communicate with the Branch 9 Webmaster to share information between the Branch Nine News and the Branch 9 Website. The Editor may perform other such duties as the President may direct. The Editor will be paid the sum equivalent to 16 hours of Carrier Technician ~~Step O~~ **Step P** pay each month.

Submitted by the Branch 9 Executive Board

The pay increase will NOT take place until November 19, 2022 (11/19/22).

2021 Proposed By-Law Additions & Changes

ARTICLE II SECTION 2

CURRENT LANGUAGE

Effective January 1, 2000, the Steward of any station, branch or section of Branch 9 shall be paid the sum equivalent to 4 hours of Carrier Technician Step O pay each month. Pay shall be divided into 2-1/2 hours of Carrier Technician Step O pay per Stewards Board Meeting and 1-1/2 hours of Carrier Technician Step O pay per General Membership Meeting, per month, payable quarterly, when each steward attends the Stewards Board Meeting or General Membership Meeting. Subsequent stewards pay increases will be recalculated and placed into effect January 1st of each year based on the cumulative carrier's pay increases from the previous year. In the event that a steward cannot attend the Stewards Board or General Membership Meeting, he/she may still receive his/her monthly allotment, provided he/she sends another carrier who signs the attendance book with his/her name, "for the Steward." Stewards may be excused from a meeting by a full-time officer (who will notify the Sergeant-at-Arms) for valid reasons including, but not limited to illness, vacation, labor and/or Union classes and bona fide emergencies...

PROPOSED NEW LANGUAGE

Effective January 1, 2000, the Steward of any station, branch or section of Branch 9 shall be paid the sum equivalent to 4 hours of Carrier Technician ~~Step O~~ **Step P** pay each month. Pay shall be divided into 2-1/2 hours of Carrier Technician ~~Step O~~ **Step P** pay per Stewards Board Meeting and 1-1/2 hours of Carrier Technician ~~Step O~~ **Step P** pay per General Membership Meeting, per month, payable quarterly, when each steward attends the Stewards Board

Meeting or General Membership Meeting. Subsequent stewards pay increases will be recalculated and placed into effect January 1st of each year based on the cumulative carrier's pay increases from the previous year. In the event that a steward cannot attend the Stewards Board or General Membership Meeting, he/she may still receive his/her monthly allotment, provided he/she sends another carrier who signs the attendance book with his/her name, "for the Steward." Stewards may be excused from a meeting by a full-time officer (who will notify the Sergeant-at-Arms) for valid reasons including, but not limited to illness, vacation, labor and/or Union classes and bona fide emergencies...

Submitted by the Branch 9 Executive Board

The pay increase will NOT take place until November 19, 2022 (11/19/22).

ARTICLE III SECTION 16

CURRENT LANGUAGE

The Director of Retirees must be a retired letter carrier and work with and under the supervision of the President. He/She shall perform the following duties: 1) Be active in 9 PAL, 2) assist in coordinating Branch 9 legislative programs, 3) serve as liaison between active and retired members, 4) attend retired letter carrier meetings and functions, 5) report on retiree issues at General Membership Meetings of the Branch, 6) write articles for the Branch Nine News, 7) prepare a plan of action for the year and submit reports as needed, 8) develop new and varied programs of interest to retirees, 9) assist retirees and their families with questions or problems, 10) conduct such

training sessions or seminars to provide appropriate information as deemed necessary to active and retired carriers. He/She may perform other such duties as the President may direct. The Director of Retirees shall be paid the sum equivalent to 13 hours of Carrier Technician Step O pay each month.

PROPOSED NEW LANGUAGE

The Director of Retirees must be a retired letter carrier and work with and under the supervision of the President. He/She shall perform the following duties: 1) Be active in 9 PAL, 2) assist in coordinating Branch 9 legislative programs, 3) serve as liaison between active and retired members, 4) attend retired letter carrier meetings and functions, 5) report on retiree issues at General Membership Meetings of the Branch, 6) write articles for the Branch Nine News, 7) prepare a plan of action for the year and submit reports as needed, 8) develop new and varied programs of interest to retirees, 9) assist retirees and their families with questions or problems, 10) conduct such training sessions or seminars to provide appropriate information as deemed necessary to active and retired carriers. He/She may perform other such duties as the President may direct. The Director of Retirees shall be paid the sum equivalent to 13 hours of Carrier Technician ~~Step O~~ **Step P** pay each month.

Submitted by the Branch 9 Executive Board

The pay increase will NOT take place until November 19, 2022 (11/19/22).

J. Wesley Woods \$1,000 Scholarship Application Form

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

High School _____

Member parent's name _____

Work unit _____

School to attend (if known) _____

Jerome J. Keating/Austin B. Carlson \$2,000 Scholarship Application Form

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

High School _____

Member parent's name _____

Work unit _____

School to attend (if known) _____

Walter E. Couillard/Eugene P. McNulty \$2,000 Scholarship Application Form

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

High School _____

Member parent's name _____

Work unit _____

School to attend (if known) _____

High School Seniors, please submit your scholarship applications to Branch 9 by May 25, 2021

Every spring, Branch 9 awards three scholarships to graduating seniors: the **J. Wesley Woods Scholarship (\$1,000)**; the **Jerome J. Keating/Austin B. Carlson Scholarship (\$2,000)**; and the **Walter E. Couillard/Eugene P. McNulty Scholarship (\$2,000)**. These awards have made it easier for many students to begin their post-secondary education while honoring the sacrifices and contributions of important Branch 9 Leaders.

The following rules apply to all three scholarships:

A. Any senior graduating from high school and is a dependent of a Branch 9 member is eligible for these scholarships.

B. The scholarships may be used for any accredited trade school, vocational/technical institute, community college, or university.

C. Three names will be drawn for each scholarship. The first name picked will be the winner, then first and second runner-up respectively. The winners of any drawing will not be eligible for the other drawings.

D. The application for the drawings will run in the March and April issues of the Branch Nine News. The drawing will be held at the May General Membership Meeting. The applications shall contain the following information:

1. The applicant's name, address, and home phone number.
2. The name of the applicant's parent or guardian who is a member of Branch 9.
3. The intended school of choice, if known.

E. Payment to the winners will be made after they have enrolled and can show proof of payment towards their tuition.

Members with dependents who graduate from high school this spring and who plan to attend an accredited educational institution next fall, should complete the applications and return them to the Branch Office by May 25. All three forms should be submitted as there are three separate drawings for each scholarship. Please enter the three scholarship drawings only once.

2021 Minnesota AFL-CIO Scholarships

UNIVERSAL APPLICATION FORM

(Entry Deadline: May 28, 2021)

The Minnesota AFL-CIO sponsors scholarships for high school seniors graduating in 2021. There are three requirements for the Minnesota AFL-CIO scholarships. To be eligible, you must:

- be a **union member** or a **dependent** of a union member whose local union is affiliated with the Minnesota AFL-CIO;
- have a **straight “B” average** or better (*2.0 in a 3.0 grade point system/3.0 in a 4.0 grade point system*);
- attend a post-secondary institution located **within the state of Minnesota**.

Winners will be selected by lot by the Minnesota AFL-CIO Education Committee.

Please submit ONE application only. Duplicate entries will be disqualified.

Select One Option Only:

Applying for college or university

DAVID K. ROE SCHOLARSHIP

(two \$1,000 scholarships awarded)

David Roe served as president of the Minnesota AFL-CIO from 1966 – 1985 and is President Emeritus.

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY MEMORIAL AWARD

(two \$1,000 scholarships awarded)

Hubert Humphrey served as U.S. Senator from Minnesota, and Vice President of the United States.

Applying for vocational/technical

DONALD PILLA MEMORIAL AWARD

(one \$1,000 scholarship awarded)

Donald Pilla was a young union trade unionist killed on the picket line.

PART 1 – TO BE COMPLETED BY THE APPLICANT: (Please print or type)

Applicant _____
Last First Middle

Home Address _____
Street City State Zip

High School _____ Year of graduation _____

Parent’s Name _____ Phone (____) _____
(or Guardian)

Home Address _____
Street City State Zip

AFL-CIO Local Union Affiliated with the Minnesota AFL-CIO _____
Local No. Name of International Union

~ OVER ~

PART II – TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT: (Please print or type)

Date of birth _____ Age last birthday _____

What is your post secondary education objective? _____

Which College, University or Vocational Technical or Trade School located *within the State of Minnesota* are you planning to attend? _____

PART III – TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL UNION OFFICER : (Please print or type)

I certify that _____
(applicant or parent or legal guardian of applicant)

is a member in
good standing of _____ Local No. _____
Name of International Union

and has held membership in this local union for a period of one year prior to the date of this scholarship application, and that *our local union is an affiliate of the Minnesota AFL-CIO* (a requirement for the applicant’s eligibility).

Local Union Officer _____
Name Title

Address _____
Street City State Zip

Signature of officer _____

Date _____ Phone (____) _____

PART IV – TO BE COMPLETED BY HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, COUNSELOR OR ADVISOR:

This applicant has at least a straight “B” average in senior high school.

Signature _____ Date _____
Principal or Counselor or Advisor

SPECIAL NOTE TO COUNSELOR: After Parts I, II, III, and IV are completed, please attach to this an official transcript of the applicant's high school record - including that of the first trimester/quarter of senior year - and mail postmarked no later than May 28, 2021 to:

**Minnesota AFL-CIO
Education Committee
175 Aurora Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55103
(651) 227-7647
mnaflcio@mnaflcio.org**

Adult Learners Scholarship

Leonard A. Larson/ Barry J. Weiner Scholarship

**Adult Learners,
please submit your scholarship
application to Branch 9 by
May 25, 2021 or bring to that
night's GMM**

**Leonard A. Larson/Barry J. Weiner
Adult Learner Scholarship
Application Form**

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

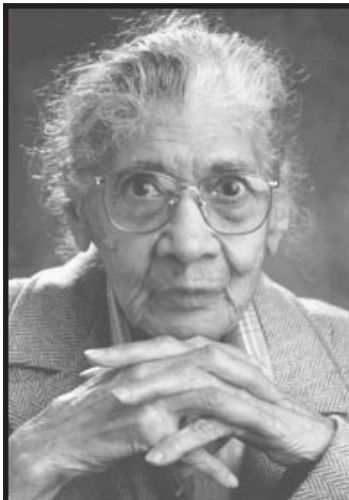
Active or Retired _____

Work Unit _____

Two (2) \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded.

The following rules apply to the two scholarships:

- A. Any member active or retired in good standing of Branch 9 is eligible for one of the two scholarships.
 - B. The scholarships may be used for any accredited trade school, vocational/technical institute, community college, or university. The Adult Learner Scholarships may also be used for any community, county or state adult educational program.
 - C. One name will be drawn for each scholarship. The first name picked will be the winner. The winners of any drawing will not be eligible for the other drawings.
 - D. The application for the drawings will run in the March and April issues of the Branch Nine News. The drawing will be held at the May General Membership Meeting. The applications shall contain the following information:
 - 1. The applicant's name, address, and home phone number.
 - 2. Whether active or retired.
 - E. Payment to the winners will be made after they have enrolled and can show proof of payment towards their tuition.
 - F. Benefits under the Adult Learner Scholarships expire one year from date of drawing.
- Members who plan to attend an accredited education institution should complete the application and return it to the Branch Office by May 25, or bring to that night's General Membership Meeting.



Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship A Labor and Education Partnership

This scholarship provides financial assistance to racial/ethnic minority union members and their families who wish to pursue post-secondary education at one of Minnesota's State Universities or at one of the two year community and technical colleges that are part of the Minnesota State colleges and Universities (MnSCU).

Application for 2021 - 2022 academic year now being accepted.

<http://www.nelliestone.org>



Jerome J. Keating Local Branch 9, National Association of Letter Carriers

P. A. L. 9 (Political Action League)

Joel Carter President	James Fodstad Treasurer	Rodney Anderson Secretary
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BOARD MEMBERS

Bob Baird	Connie Beissel	JoAnn Gilbaugh	Samantha Hartwig
Lenny Larson	Johnna Lush	Elizabeth O'Neill	Jeremy Rothstein
Barry Weiner			

January 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Re. P.A.L. 9 ANNUAL LETTER

2020 was quite the year! A pandemic, like we have never experienced during our lifetime; social unrest originating here, in Minneapolis, but affecting the world; and culminating in a National Election where the fundamental exercise of our democracy was challenged.

Postal workers here and across the country have been stricken by the COVID virus, and some sadly have died. The riots in Minneapolis caused two post offices to be burned down, and others were threatened. The Postal Service was also a central storyline during the election. Could the USPS handle the crush of ballots in the mail? Will the Postal Service run out of money to operate, even before November arrived? **We have, so far, triumphed over these ordeals.** The installation of a new administration this month will give Congress an opportunity to address these problems and more.

The Postal Fairness Act passed the House, 309 - 106, with broad bi-partisan support, but did not come to a vote in the Senate. This bill would have repealed the pre-funding mandate that has sapped Postal Service funds since it was passed in 2006. The epidemic depleted revenue for many businesses and hit the Postal Service hard. In the Spring of 2020, the first COVID relief bill passed. The CARES Act allowed a \$10 billion loan to the Post Office but came with a lot of strings attached. The Heroes Act was passed recently by the House, but not the Senate. This Act would give \$15 billion for various pandemic related costs to keep the Postal Service running.

We have many challenges in the year ahead. A continued and consistent effort by PAL 9 and our friends in Congress is needed to make the Postal Service whole, and better equip us to meet the challenges of technology and commerce in the 21st century. It takes money to influence and support our allies in Congress. Your continued financial support for PAL 9 is needed now as much as ever.

Thank you for your continued support.

Joel Carter
Joel Carter
President, PAL 9

James Fodstad
James Fodstad
Treasurer, PAL 9

Rodney Anderson
Rodney Anderson
Secretary, PAL 9

Name: _____

Address: _____
(Street and Apartment Number)

Address 2: _____
(City, State and Zip)

_____ \$25.00 (Annual Dues)
 _____ Very Concerned Membership (\$50.00 or More)
 _____ Active Carrier (Station _____)

Clip & Mail To:
 James F. Fodstad
 7032 Jersey Avenue North
 Brooklyn Park, MN 55428
 _____ Retired Carrier

LEGISLATIVE GOALS FOR PAL 9 IN 2021

Much as in preceding years, repealing the pre-funding mandate is central to the financial health and sustainability of the Postal Service. The law passed in 2006 took \$5 billion in revenue from the USPS every year til we could pay it no more. This charge to future retiree health benefits accounts for more than 85% of losses suffered by the Post Office over the past 10 years. The difference this year is we have a real chance of getting it done, repealing this charge that no other government agency or private company has to pay.

A bi-partisan majority of the US House has again co-sponsored H.R. 695, the USPS Fairness Act, as it is aptly named. The House passed the Act in the last session of Congress, but that was as far as it went.

Six of the eight Minnesota Representatives have already signed on as co-sponsors; a call, letter, or email to Jim Hagedorn in Congressional District One and Michelle Fischback in CD7 to get them on board would be in order.

A companion bill in the US Senate, S. 145, also titled the USPS Fairness Act, has only a few co-sponsors. Please contact Senators Tina Smith and Amy Klobuchar to encourage their support.

PAL 9 continues to identify worker and postal friendly candidates to support at the local and state level. Please contact me through the Branch office if you know of such a candidate.

Sincerely, Joel Carter
PAL 9 President

2021 Minnesota AFL-CIO Labor Leadership Grants

Sponsored by the Minnesota AFL-CIO for members of affiliated unions seeking to develop their abilities and skills as union leaders.

The Tobey Lapakko Labor Leadership Grant ***(a total of \$1,000 in grants will be awarded)***

Available to women who are union members in good standing to help defray the cost of classes, programs or conferences sponsored or endorsed by the AFL-CIO or affiliated organizations.

The Charles McKenna Leadership Grant ***(a total of \$1,000 in grants will be awarded)***

Available to men who are union members in good standing to help defray the cost of classes, programs or conferences sponsored or endorsed by the AFL-CIO or affiliated organizations

Martin Duffy Adult Learner Scholarship Award ***\$500 Tuition Scholarship for use at any accredited University, College or Vocational School.*** ***Two Scholarships are awarded each year.***

No academic performance standards or records required for eligibility. Awards must be used within one year of receipt of notification letter.

Please submit ONLY one application.
Duplicate entries will be disqualified.

Information and applications available at
<http://www.mnaflcio.org/about/scholarships-awards>

Application on pages 11-12



Dave Allmann

Well last month's article sure became obsolete with the quick warm up and the melting that occurred. We must turn our safety senses on to different hazards. The first thing is the children. A lot of them have been stuck in their homes and have not been going to school. As the weather warms, they will be releasing some of that bottled up energy. We already know how unpredictable they can be. Please always keep an eye out for the children.

Who let the dog out? What difference does it make, that dog is coming after you? You need to make a snap decision. Is this dog friend or foe? Meanwhile you are fumbling for the dog spray and the dog is getting closer. There will only be 3 outcomes, a dog bite, you petting the dog, or you spraying the dog. I suppose you could find another outcome. There is a policy regarding dogs and preventing dog bites. The purpose here is to educate you as to our responsibilities as well as what to expect from management. Some of which will bring on arguments and different opinions. All of which I get and understand. There should be updated dog warning cards on every route. The cards should identify any dangerous dogs and any information that may be helpful to others. I carried off a route that the carrier had a card for every

dog on his route. You would know the dog's name, breed, color, and characteristics of each of them. These should be cased in every day, even if you are the regular on the route. Life happens at any moment and there may be a time where you must leave your route and someone else will have to carry it. Always have your satchel on you, even when you are just dropping off mail/package. If a dog were to come charging, you can stick the satchel out for the dog to bite.

Management is also able to add dog warnings to the scanners. This is a great option as it will send out a warning before you get to the house. The downside to this is the scanners have GPS which is very unreliable. The problem has been worked on and we are still waiting for a better product. We can still use it as another tool in addition to the dog warning cards.

The highly debated, do not give the dogs treats. Do not go into a yard when there is a dog. Invisible fence or chained, do not enter the yard. If there is a dog out that prevents you from delivering the mail, simply write the date and dog out on the piece of mail and bring back to the station. If there is a loose dog running around the block that you feel is dangerous, follow the same procedure for the block. You should notify management when you are unable to make a delivery. Management also plays big role when it comes to dangerous dogs. When you have problems with dogs, notify management, steward, and safety captain. Management should then send a letter to the homeowner regarding the problems that you are having. Mail delivery can also be suspended until the homeowner takes care of the issue. At this point there should be a suitable solution for you to safely deliver the mail. There are several ways that this can be done.

Safety Liason Report

Your safety is paramount when it comes to dog issues. If you are still having problems with a dog, please let your safety captain or steward know. There is a zero tolerance when it comes to dogs, please let me know if this is not being done. Please help make sure that your newer CCA's know what to do with dogs.

Springtime brings an increase of sever weather as the temperatures warm. Have a plan to where you will head for safety if you need to. How will you be notified if there is severe weather coming? Will you have time to seek shelter when the sirens go off? Do your CCA's know where to go? These are things that should be figured out before you get caught in a storm. Again, you do what is best for your safety.

Stay Hydrated!
DA

Break Time for Nursing Mothers Frequently Asked Questions –

During the Region 7 training there were a lot of questions about breastfeeding mothers as Letter Carriers are not being allowed privacy or harassed. The Affordable Care Act of 2010 covers this issue.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148, known as the "Affordable Care Act") amended section 7 of the Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA") to require employers to provide "reasonable break time for an employee to express breast milk for her nursing child for one year after the child's birth each time such employee has need to express the milk." Employers are also required to provide "a place, other than a bathroom, that is shielded from view and free from intrusion from coworkers and the public, which may be used by an employee to express breast milk." See 29 U.S.C. 207(r).

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/nursing-mothers/faq>

Director of Retirees Report

ATTN RETIREES: That has been the beginning of the Facebook announcement for our monthly zoom meetings during Covid. This is the announcement that April was the last such zoom. At the GMM, I reported that both Denny's in Otsego and Elsie's in NE Minneapolis will now take our groups. While Denny's will take up to 20 people and 10 in Elsie's (Pattie the waitress, says hi), the Branch is still cautious wanting to protect our retirees. For that reason, these places will not be advertised in the Branch 9 News nor will the Branch reserve those rooms at this time. Retirees meeting there do so on their own. Please take Covid precautions seriously and stay home if you are sick.

That said, we are hopeful that by August 15 we can safely meet at the world-famous Red and Gold Retiree banquet (my world is small). Pencil in the date for an in person gathering. It was extremely sad that we had to cancel last year's banquet, so we are very much looking forward to seeing everyone this summer. There will be plenty of people to honor for their time and work in the union.

On the political side, the NALC

is supporting the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82) to protect retirees. This one bill aims at two long time nemeses for retirees: Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO). The Windfall provision can in some instances reduce Social Security benefits for individuals who also receive a pension from an employer who did not withhold Social Security taxes. For instance, if a CSRS retiree also worked a second job that did collect SS, their SS benefits could be reduced because their CSRS pension did not collect FICA money. People supporting the offset say the retiree is double dipping; the NALC stands with the theory that the retiree earned both monies. The Government Pension Offset reduces Social Security survivors' benefits for widows and widowers who also receive government pensions of their own. Obviously, we have many federal employee couples. The survivor deserves the entire benefits due them. So, do you know where your Congressperson stands on this bill? Congress.gov shows that Emmer-R (CD6), Craig-D (CD2) and Stauber-R (CD8) are on board. My Congress person (CD3) is not on the list, so I called Phillip's office. Notice that this bill



Melia Derrick

has bipartisan support. That is a good sign for movement on this bill.

Stayed tuned in
Melia Derrick

President Report cont'd from pg. 3

need some more clarity on the process of purchasing a building. I have appointed a building Corporation by-law committee that has been meeting, and three-fourths of the Building Corporation Committee need to approve the by-laws, and then those by-laws are brought to the membership for final approval. I am calling a special meeting of the Building Corporation to specifically deal with the business of the by-laws on Tuesday May 4th at 7:00PM. According to the current by-laws we need a least 50 members in attendance at the Special Meeting. The GMM invite list will be used to send out the invite for this Special Meeting of the Building Corporation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

In Solidarity,
Samantha



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

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.

NALC Health Benefits Rep. Report

Covid-19 Special Enrollment Offered to Uninsured

MNsure is offering a special enrollment period (SEP) for any Minnesotan who is uninsured or who is not currently enrolled in a qualified health plan through MNsure. The American Rescue Plan expands benefits to Minnesotans through MNsure. This special enrollment period has been extended through Friday, July 16, 2021.

Who qualifies? Minnesotans who do not have current health insurance or are not enrolled in a qualified health plan through MNsure.

If you are currently enrolled in a qualified health plan through MNsure, you cannot use this special enrollment period to change plans.

How to enroll? You must select a plan by 11:59 pm July 16, 2021. Coverage will start the first of the month after your plan selection. Go to MNsure.org or contact the Mnsure Contact Center. It is open 8am to 4pm Monday-Friday at 651-539-2099. Outside the Twin Cities call 855-366-7873.

This is a very good option for CCA's who did not take health coverage when they were hired or for CCA's who were converted to a regular



Ken Jambois

carrier and did not sign up for benefits. Again go to MNsure.org for more details.

Branch 9 NALC Health Benefits Representative
Ken Jambois
763-370-1392

SAVE THE DATE

2020 & 2021 Red & Gold Retiree Banquet
(Provided COVID allows for group gatherings)

Sunday, August 15, 2021

Delta Hotels by Marriott Minneapolis Northeast
1330 Industrial Blvd, Minneapolis, MN

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

Change Service Requested

PRSRT 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, please continue to check the website and Facebook page for the latest information on Branch 9 meetings and events.

<u>April 13</u> Steward Meeting 7:00 PM Zoom/Online	<u>April 27</u> GMM By Law Proposal Vote 7:00 PM Zoom/Online	<u>May 4</u> *Special Meeting* Building Corp. 7:00 PM Zoom/Online	<u>May 11</u> Steward Meeting 7:00 PM Zoom/Online
<u>May 9</u> Mother's Day	<u>May 25</u> GMM Scholarship Drawing 7:00 PM Zoom/Online	<u>May 31</u> Memorial Day Holiday	



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!