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March 2021

It can be difficult for letter carriers to understand

what it was like for our brethren to have launched, at 12:01 a.m. on March 18, 1970, what is now called the Great Postal Strike. Today, we are guaranteed a decent wage and benefits, are protected from management abuses, and are represented by a strong union. But it wasn't always like that.

Letter carriers in the late 1960s were poorly paid and denied collective bargaining rights. Their low pay and benefits were dictated by Post Office managers and a negligent Congress. Postal workers had suffered a 50-year losing streak beginning with World War I. Pay scales were frozen, then cut back, and even the prosperity of the 1950s passed them by as President Dwight Eisenhower vetoed four bills to raise postal salaries. By 1967, things were so bad that post office job turnover was around 25 percent a year, unsurprising with many carriers having to work a second job or take food stamps to support themselves and their families. Letter carriers became increasingly frustrated about being bullied and denied a living wage.

Our union, the National Association of Letter Carriers, was caught between a political rock and a legal hard place. Congress was incapable of raising wages and letter carriers couldn't go on strike because of a law against

strikes by government employees. Complicating matters, President Richard Nixon proposed in May 1969 to replace the cabinet-level Post Office with a self-supporting postal corporation. NALC and other postal unions objected because the plan would have kept the ban on strikes while stripping away Civil Service benefits and job protections.



In June, NALC President James Rademacher announced a court challenge to the federal no-strike ban. A week later, he testified before Congress warning of a strike over the low postal pay. That wasn't enough for many members. Within New York Branch 36, a "rank-and file movement" had formed around 23-year carrier Vincent Sombrotto, who later became NALC president. They pressed the union for meaningful action.

On March 12, 1970, Branch 36 President Gus Johnson was interrupted at a branch meeting as he described a compromise reform bill, worked out secretly between Presidents Nixon and Rademacher.

Shouts broke out: "No, no! Not enough! Strike! Enough talk! Strike!" A tumultuous debate ended with agreement to hold a strike vote on March 17. When the tally was announced at 11 p.m., the branch had voted 1,555 yes, 1,055 no—an almost 3-to-2 margin in favor of a strike.

At the stroke of midnight, members of Branch 36 began setting up picket lines around post offices throughout Manhattan and the Bronx. Within hours, other branches joined in and the wildcat strike eventually spread to other cities across the land. The end result of the strike was that Congress passed the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970, creating the U.S. Postal Service. It gave postal unions the power to bargain for wages and benefits, and the ability to arbitrate contract disputes and enforce members' rights.

Too often, we assume things have always been the way they are, but the foundation for today's postal workplace was laid by the strikers of 1970. As we have for each of the last 44 years, we remember—and thank—the brave men and women who made the present and future better for all of us when they put their jobs and freedom at risk by going on strike.

From the NALC Postal Record
 Read more at
<https://nalc.org/about/our-history/carriers-in-a-common-cause>

RETIREMENTS



Last punch for Anita Faulk (Main Office Station) with Steward Aaron Hutchison
Enjoy your Retirement Anita!

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

IN MEMORIAM

Duane Dudgeon
Gordon Clemens

NEW MEMBERS

- Clinton Bailey
- Molly Bergstrom
- Amelia Berry
- William Bialucha
- Amber Flores
- Brent Francisco
- Luke Geistlinger
- Elise Kraus
- Caleb Melendez
- Sue Nieland
- Tashi Paljor
- Joaquin Palmer-Burrous
- Mitchell Puff
- Matthew Ramirez
- Kiara Russell
- Kelly Ryan
- Jolene Tucker
- Lauren Vandoeren
- Jeffrey Wilcox
- Lakenesha Wilson

Welcome Branch 9 Members!

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

Branch 9 Officers

President

Samantha Hartwig

Exec. Vice President

JoAnn Gilbaugh

Recording Secretary

Robb Petersburg

Treasurer

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.

The Following is a list of Paid Members of PAL 9 for February 2021.

Very Concerned Members

Kelly Lundgren David Johnson Ronald Barker Francis Rice
Jason Karnopp Lawrence Gildner Donna Wiecks Michael Zagaros
Benjamin Boughton Jeanne Louis John Marszalek Kitty Berg
Susie Hoban Thomas Hoban

Regular Members

Donna J Wiecks Paul C Skarman Michelle M Benson
Linda Stipe Kenneth Lucas Michael Kahleck John Heithoff
Vernon Zierman Steven Winover Colleen Sagedahl Richard Hobot
Craig Ites Craig Hanschen Jeanne Louis Herb Hess Scott Randolph
Mary Fick Steven Grivicich

Jim Fodstad
Treasurer PAL 9

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

March 22, 2021 marks the one-year anniversary

of the branch office at 2408 Central Ave in Northeast Minneapolis burning to the ground. After the fire I appointed a building committee to gather the information needed to either rebuild or buy another building. The findings of the committee were presented at the February General Membership meeting. Based on the insurance money we will be receiving of \$1.1 Million dollars, and the exorbitant cost to rebuild what we had at a cost of at least \$3 Million dollars, the only option we have at this time to purchase an existing building, and to sell the land at 2408 Central Ave. In the last year, the costs for building materials have doubled or more, and where the \$1.1 Million dollars could have been enough to rebuild a couple of years ago, at this time it is not an option.

The temporary office space in Columbia Heights is leased through April of 2022, so while we are not in a rush to purchase a new building, the building committee is continuing to look at buildings with the help of our broker.

While we continue to look at properties, we also need to update the Building Corporation By-laws, which govern how we purchase and sell property. Just to make sure there is no confusion for anyone new to all of this, we have by-laws for Branch 9, that we will be discussing at the April General Membership Meeting, and we have separate by-laws for the Building Corporation that will be addressed at a different meeting soon. This is not a fast process, and as we get closer to a potential new home updates will be given at the General Membership Meetings.

COVID is still the thing that has been dictating how we conduct gatherings, and so far, there appears to be no end in sight for continuing virtual meetings. We are always looking for input from

the membership on how they like the virtual meetings, or if there is a desire to return all in person meetings when COVID restrictions lift. Any suggestions for hybrid meetings, or a combination of some in person and some virtual meetings will be entertained going forward. Please share your thoughts and comments with us so we can get a sense for what the members of Branch 9 would prefer.

With the increase in vaccinations, I am very hopeful that going forward we will be able to hold our annual retiree banquet. It is currently set for Sunday August 15th and will be for 2020 and 2021 Red and Gold retirees. This is subject to change if COVID does not ease up.

The Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive will not be happening again this year. Right now, the only way is to donate online through the NALC website. Go to NALC.ORG and click on the Food Drive link under the community services tab. This will direct you to the 2021 Stamp Out Hunger Donor Drive which asks you to select your state food bank. Under Minnesota there is a list of several food banks to pick from so you can donate where you wish your money to go.

The results of the contract ratification vote are in and the contract was ratified by the membership 60,111 votes to accept, and 3,341 votes to reject it. Soon there will be dates selected to open negotiations for all Local Memorandums of Understanding (LMOU). All LMOUs for every installation that Minneapolis Branch 9 represents can be found on the Branch 9 website. The website can be reached by typing in the address bar: branch9nalc.com, and that will bring you to the Branch 9 website. Click on Contract/Agreements & LMOUs, select the LMOU for your installation. Read through your LMOU, and if you have suggestions to improve upon your LMOU please email myself and



Samantha Hartwig

JoAnn Gilbaugh with your ideas. Your input, on your LMOU, will help us decide if we want to open negotiations at your installations. As always please give us a call, or an email with questions about LMOUs.

As the weather starts to warm up, we need to start thinking about safety in severe weather, heat, and sunshine. Start looking around on your routes for places you can seek shelter in the case of severe weather if there is a need to take cover. Have your sunscreen with you, and use it every day, and wear a hat to help protect your skin from the sun. It is never too early to start preparing for the change in seasons.

The USPS is continuing to hire CCAs. Please help look out for our newer carriers, and help them understand how to deliver the mail, and what their rights are. CCAs are the future of the USPS and the NALC, and we need the help. There are still some stations that force non-OTDL carriers to work overtime, and with COVID having a negative impact on staffing, with carriers on occasion needing to quarantine, the new CCAs are a welcome sight.

I cannot thank all the active carriers enough for the hard work and long hours that are worked every day. Together we will get through this, and hopefully there will be relief in sight this year.

In Solidarity,
Samantha

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,

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Exec. Vice President's Report

Last year, at this time we were preparing for the 130th anniversary of Branch 9. The National Association of Letter Carriers had officially formed as a union in 1889, and on March 24, 1890, the Minneapolis letter carriers were granted a charter. From the very beginning of the NALC, Minneapolis has been at the forefront of our cause. Many do not realize that we were designated our branch number because we were the 9th city in the nation to receive a charter.

The NALC's official history, *Carriers in a Common Cause*, reports that 'the catchphrase at the time of the first national convention was, "We should be co-laborers in a common cause"'. This publication can be found on our NALC website, under the "about us" history tab.

Would it surprise you to hear that a main concern of Letter Carriers 130 years ago was overtime and the 8-hour day? It was the first of many matters tackled by our fledgling union. In 1888, a year before the NALC was founded, Congress enacted the 8-hour day, thanks in large part to Congressman "Sunset" Cox. He was a tireless champion of letter carriers, and his actions fortified the importance of forming a union. At the time of the passing of the 8-hour workday bill, carriers were working at least 10 to 12 hours a day, 7 days a week. Sound familiar? Although the face of the 8-hour day has changed, and we reap the benefits of overtime pay, the issue of workhours remains at the core of our daily battle in the workplace.

Another concern the NALC has dealt with over the decades is income. From the very beginning, the fate of Letter Carrier hourly wages was dictated by Congress, and ultimately the President, who did not treat us well. In the 1950's, a critical pay increase bill was approved, only to be vetoed by President Eisenhower. This meant that many carriers had to continue to work two jobs to support their families.

In 1960, NALC President Bill Doherty and our branch namesake Jerome J. Keating led the "Crusade for Economic Equality", which demanded Congress to pass a pay bill. Eisenhower responded with his 4th veto regarding an increase in wages. This time however, Congress overrode the veto, marking the first victory of what has become decades of NALC successful lobbying efforts.

While gaining higher pay was a notable victory, Letter Carriers remained vulnerable to the whims and actions of postal management. Although the NALC had existed for 70 years, Letter Carriers still lacked rights and protections on the workroom floor. There was no national contract. But we were in luck – President Kennedy believed in the value of unions and in 1962, passed Executive Order 10988. This recognized unions and gave labor organizations "national exclusive recognition" to represent employees. Although the order excluded wages, hours and benefits, workers could now be represented in the workplace. In the resulting election to choose representative unions, the NALC campaign was one of six postal unions granted this recognition.

Branch 9's Jerome J. Keating was the National President of the NALC from 1962 to 1968. He had the distinction of being the lead negotiator of the NALC's first National Postal Agreement. To quote *Carriers in a Common Cause*: After signing, Keating reflected, "...such triumphs are never instantaneous creations. They never spring complete and perfect from the brow of any individual. Years of campaigning on the part of the postal unions preceded the events".

Fast forward to the 1970 wildcat strike. As history often does, it repeated itself. Working conditions were deplorable, and the pay was worse. Minneapolis carriers voted to strike and joined the movement which changed everything. Our branch 9 strikers put everything on the line. They



JoAnn Gilbaugh

risked their jobs, their pensions, and the threat of jail time to gain the benefits that we enjoy today. They deserve the accolades; out of their misery, the NALC became a force of solidarity to be reckoned with. Collective bargaining rights were won, and the Postal Service was forever changed.

Branch 9 didn't stop there. Soon after the strike, the "One Man, One Vote" movement was birthed at a meeting in Bloomington, took the nation by storm, and became an amendment of the NALC Constitution by vote at the 1972 National Convention. Throughout the following decades, Branch 9 members continued to contribute to our cause, both locally and nationally.

When we lost our office building to fire on March 22, 2020, we lost a wealth of our history gathered from our very beginnings in 1890. The display of each era was impressive and contained a visual history of the actions and contributions made by rank and file Minneapolis Letter Carriers. But this physical loss cannot diminish the great strides that were made, or the significance of contributions which Branch 9, and its' members have made.

We have a rich history that deserves to be celebrated, as we reflect on the 131st anniversary of our branch. We should all recognize those who came before us for their efforts. Likewise, we must resolve to take up the torch to forge a better future for those letter carriers who are yet to come.

In Solidarity,
Jo

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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.

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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).

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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 _____

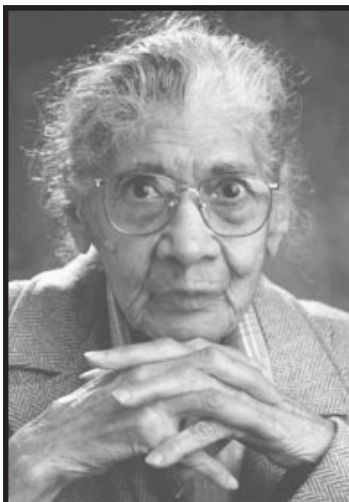
Active or Retired _____

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.

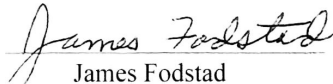
Postal workers here and across the country have been stricken by the COVID virus, and some sadly have died. The riots in Minneapolis caused two post offices to be burned down, and others were threatened. The Postal Service was also a central storyline during the election. Could the USPS handle the crush 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.

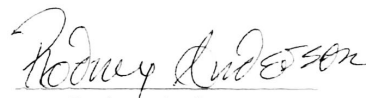
The Postal Fairness Act passed the House, 309 - 106, with broad bi-partisan support, but did not come to a vote in the Senate. This bill would have repealed the pre-funding mandate that has sapped Postal Service funds since it was passed in 2006. The epidemic depleted revenue for many businesses and 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
President, PAL 9


James Fodstad
Treasurer, PAL 9


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

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

It is hard to believe that we have been dealing with COVID-19 for a year now. It has been one heck of a journey with many twists and turns. In the beginning, we were screaming for sanitization items such as hand sanitizers, gloves, wipes, and masks, all of which were hard to come by. It appeared that the Post Office was sent to the back of the line to get supplies. Some of you may have a different opinion than I do, and I am ok with that. But from my communications from Tony, they worked endless hours trying to get us the protection that we needed. As the shelves were being completely stripped of sanitizing items, it only increased the difficulty of obtaining such items. This was a very challenging time for all of us as we were trying to find the same things for our own homes. I do not think anybody was prepared for this pandemic. Using that lens, I must thank management for the efforts they put forth for us.

Then came the riots and the loss of Lake Street and Minnehaha stations. I cannot begin to tell you the extent of the loss that we suffered. For many carriers, they saw their neighborhoods burn and saw the emotional toll on their customers. Not to mention

Safety Liason Report

the affect it had on the carriers and their families. We were all affected by this. Yet through it all, we did what we always do, got the mail delivered. Lake Street and Minnehaha unfortunately had missed many deliveries and had quite a pile of mail and packages. But through their hard work and dedication they got themselves caught up in a short period of time. I do not want to leave out the many carriers who volunteered, and some that were forced, to help get things caught back up.

Once things settled down, we get the mask issues. The varying opinions had created some tough times at some stations. Then things got interesting when faced with the mask mandates. Some would not wear them, and others had not worn them properly. This caused a lot of friction amongst the carriers. This was followed by finger pointing of who was not wearing them. But finally, things have settled down with everyone wearing masks properly, yet willing to acknowledge that we are not at 100 percent in compliance.

At this time, we are doing very well when it came to safety. Accidents were down as well as the injuries. But then all the election things started to heat up which lasted what seemed like an eternity. Followed by a record-breaking peak season. All the while we were given new vehicles to drive.

This was a turning point in our safety. Our accident rates increased in which a lot of them were preventable. That of course, would be the hitting of stationary objects. We need to get focused back onto safety. In which we are counting on everyone to take safety seriously. It is very easy to point to someone else as the

reason why the accident occurred in the first place, it is harder to point the finger at ourselves. Furthermore, it is our responsibility to perform our job safely. We have reduced our accidents the last 2 years and I know we can do better.

How are the CCA's in your station? Have you checked in to see how they are doing? March is one of the more challenging months. From freezing temperatures to balmy temperatures, and I am talking about just one split. You know what to look out for but, do they know? Please help them out with what you have experienced over the years.

Through all of this, I want to personally thank each one of you for what you have done this past year. We have met the challenges head on and without fail been able to get all the mail delivered on a timely basis. Our customers are counting on each of you to be there with the mail tomorrow. Your families are counting on you coming home the same way as you left home. Your co-workers are counting on you to carry your route. We all expect you to enjoy your upcoming vacations without any injuries.

Safety begins with you!
DA



Walk with care and take short steps.

Director of Retirees Report

The new contract was open for a membership vote and I hope active carriers put in their ballot. While retirees can't vote, very recent retirees might have a small dog in this contract. Recent retirees will receive back pay for hours worked since September 2019 until their retirement. With the two COLAs and the two general wage increases in this contract, some retirees may see a slight raise in their high-3 average salary and therefore, their monthly annuities according to the December 2020 Postal Record. Good news for some.

For other retirees it is the vaccine that is holding their focus. Minnesota is moving through the over 65 years of age group as the vaccine doses increase with over 51% of those 65+ having gotten at least one shot. Some people are just unlucky in the lottery and are still waiting. If you are interested in getting in line, Minnesota has opened the website [MN.gov/covid19/vaccine](https://mn.gov/covid19/vaccine) to sign up and locate sites for vaccinations in your area.

Another way to get a shot is through Minneapolis Vaccine Hunters (actually for all of Minnesota), a Facebook group and

website. They can often identify those sites which have doses about to be wasted if someone doesn't take them NOW. So, if you are up to jumping into your car at a moment's notice, this might be helpful. This same group can identify sites to sign up for a more sure appointment. Remember your health clinic and even neighborhood pharmacies are now offering shots. Sign up with sites close to you. One thing to avoid is paying for appointments or vaccinations. Scammers are out there. Do not pay anyone to get an appointment. Another thing scammers are doing is asking for your social security number in order to "secure" your appointment. DON'T DO THAT. Protect your Social Security number.



Melia Derrick

Of course Congress is back in session. While the Covid bill is the talk right now, you can bet Social Security is coming up. Republicans have falsely complained that it is the ruin of the national economy, driving the deficit to new levels and will be bankrupt without major reduced benefits to seniors. Once again, Social Security doesn't increase the deficit and isn't on the edge of bankruptcy. It can largely be fixed by simply raising the tax cap from \$137,700 to \$400,000 income. Unions have long supported just scraping the cap altogether. With little support for that, there is now a push for at least a raise the cap to \$400,000. It's a start.

Stay tuned in,
Melia Derrick



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

Now that Open Season is long past, how can you change your health, dental or vision plans? There are options to change your health, dental and vision plans; only if you have a qualifying life event occur. So, what is a Qualifying Life Event (QLE)? A QLE is a term defined by Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to describe events deemed acceptable by the IRS that may allow participants in health, dental and vision plans to change their plans outside of open season.

What are some qualifying life events QLE? They are divided into three categories: me/my family, job and retirement.

Me/My Family would include if I've acquired a new family member, my child's status is changing, a family member died, I'm getting married or remarried,

I'm separated or getting a divorce, I'm moving and/or going to work for another Federal agency, if I die and if I've gained or lost coverage under my spouse.

My Job-my employment status is changing (not retiring), I'm called up to/return from military active duty, I'm on leave without pay, I'm in receipt of workers compensation and I'm leaving Federal service (not retiring).

Retirement-I'm thinking about retiring, I'm turning 65 years old, I'm retiring on disability and I'm returning as a reemployed annuitant in the Federal Government.

Also, if you are a CCA and are converted to a career carrier-you can sign up for health benefits within 60 days.



Ken Jambois

With all these situations available outside of open season for a qualifying event to happen-this a good option to make some changes. All this information is available with greater detail on the OPM.gov website. Please call me if you have questions.

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

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

Stay informed by:

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

Contribute to the PAC
The Letter Carrier Political Fund is the anchor for NALC's legislative and political activities.



nalc.org/government-affairs/political-activity

Branch 9 Calendar

Most BRANCH 9 Meetings and events have been **modified**, please continue to check the website and Facebook page for the latest information on Branch 9 meetings and events.

<u>March 9</u> Steward Meeting 7:00 PM Zoom/Online	<u>March 18</u> Postal Strike Anniversary of 1970	<u>March 23</u> GMM 7:00 PM Zoom/Online	<u>April 13</u> Steward Meeting 7:00 PM Zoom/Online
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THE DIRECTOR OF RETIREES IS SCHEDULING ONLINE SOCIALS

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

All other breakfasts and meetings are cancelled until further notice.

TAKE ACTION

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

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

Call your Senator now at 844-477-7651.

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

TAKE ACTION NOW!