

VOLUME 74 No 3

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April 2022

UNIFORM ALLOWANCE

Each employee required to wear a uniform receives a uniform allowance. Effective May 21, 2022 the annual allowance for all eligible employees shall be increased from \$487.00 per year to \$499.00 per year. The increase shall become effective on the employee's anniversary date. A CCA becomes eligible for a uniform allowance upon completion of 90 work days or 120 calendar days of employment as a CCA, whichever comes first. See JCAM Article 26.

The anniversary date for the purpose of annual uniform allowance eligibility for a CCA is the calendar date the CCA initially becomes eligible for a uniform allowance. Once established, the anniversary date does not change. Therefore, when a CCA is converted to career status, he/she retains the same anniversary date held as a CCA. Official uniform items can only be purchased from USPS licensed vendors.

Recently some newly converted CCA's have not received their uniform allowance CITI credit card after conversion to career letter carrier. Your station manager has to contact the 4th floor downtown. They contact CITI card and you should receive your uniform allowance credit card in the mail. The CITI card comes in a very plain envelope. So open all your mail. If you do not receive your uniform allowance credit card in a timely fashion please let your Union Steward know. CITI customer service phone number 1-800-287-5003

Ken Jambois
Union Steward (Brooklyn Center)

SOLIDARITY IN TOUGH TIMES

At the January General Membership Meeting, the new officers and stewards were sworn in. I would like to congratulate all those elected to their new positions. I was excited to see many new names and faces. I also look forward to seeing the members of Branch 9 benefit from these elected leaders.

At the meeting, our NBA Troy Fredenburg and National Officer Manny Peralta held an open discussion with those in attendance. The main subject regarded staffing issues. It is important to remember the USPS can only hire those who apply. We simply have not had enough people apply for the CCA position. The Branch President is unable to solve the staffing shortage. There are currently tests throughout the nation in an effort to retain new employees. President Samantha Hartwig and the Minneapolis Postmaster have adopted some of those ideas into a local agreement aimed at CCA retention.

There have been concerns involving carriers on extended leave or continuously absent from work. It is not the position of the NALC to discipline carriers. There are many possible legitimate reasons for absenteeism. Our union has fought for a long time to gain benefits which protect us when we are hurt or sick, along with other medical complications. Instead of blaming each other, we could defend each other's rights. We typically do not know what other carriers are going

through, whether it be injury, mental health issues, or any other difficult situation. If we retract our own rights because of the few, all of us will lose those rights we so desperately fought for. We must maintain that our health and safety take precedence over all other postal issues. We need to advocate for defending the rights of our brothers and sisters, not ask to take them away for our own personal convenience.

The conversation turned to being overworked and working past the hourly maximums. Manny provided us with a brief review of how the limits came to fruition. The 12- and 60-hour limits originated in our National Agreement more than thirty years ago, and management began to violate those provisions. We took the violations to a national arbitrator who would not give us a uniform remedy. We then negotiated a consistent remedy with the USPS for 50% base pay for hours worked beyond those limitations. I bet you'll never guess that management continued to work carriers past those limits.

Once again, we took it to a national arbitrator. This time, the arbitrator told us we had already negotiated a standard remedy and they would be unable to grant us more of a remedy than we had already agreed to. There are always different approaches to getting the things we want, but the things we take forward on a national level take a lot of time

Solidarity cont'd on page 2

The following is a list of Paid Members of PAL 9 for Feb.-Mar., 2022

Very Concerned Members

Ronald Barker	Douglas Buystedt
Ralph Buystedt	David Burandt
Dale Carney	James Couillard
Stacey Ellingson	Dale Forde
Cindy Fossum	Troy Fredenburg
Kieran Hughes	Jake Karnopp
Ned McCraine	Dale McNellis
Bill Mechels	Steven Oehlerich
Duane Pederson	Ruth Pisk
Francis Rice	Johnea Rystedt
Peter Schilling	Harry Sedesky
Philip Sheridan	Wesley Thomas
Jon Thompson	Barry Weiner
Donna Wiecks	Joseph Wineman

Members

Donna Autio	Timothy Bearth
Lisa Beckstrom	Barry Berkovitz
Steve Bjraker	Sheryl Christensen
Katherine Duax Kunkel	
Sonja Dybvik	Jon Frick
Marlys Fox	Deborah Grunnes
Craig Hanschen	Craig Ites
Amy Jaszczak	Kathleen Johnson
Todd Kunkel	Karen Lebak
Ron Levinson	Lerold Mellom
Russ Ofsthun	Patrick Paplow
Ted Parker	Dennis Ryan
Colleen Sagedahl	John Vesovich
Paul Skarman	Jeffrey Smeets
Brett Thompson	Karen Torell
Gary Weihn	Gay Woodgate

Jim Fodstad
Treasurer PAL

Branch 9 members will be voting on the By-Law proposals at the April 26, 2022 GMM

NEW MEMBERS

Anthony Capers
Jesus Delgadillo
Steven Fung
Benjamin Glomski
Madeline Knorr
Jenna Marshall

In Memoriam

**Daryl Wetzstein
Robert Yost**

Solidarity cont'd from page 1

and we must be careful on how we approach the situations. We want to stop working over our limitations, so we need to prove through the grievance procedure management has continuously and egregiously violated those provisions and they have not bargained in good faith.

The point is, we need to continue filing these grievances. Even if it feels like we are banging our heads against a brick wall with no end in sight. The NALC leaders that were here before us did not give up and their efforts solidified many of the rights we have today. We must not give up either, or our future brothers and sisters will have less rights than they deserve. I know these are challenging times, but we cannot lose faith in what we can accomplish if we stick together. We don't grow when things are easy; we grow when we face challenges. This is our opportunity to grow stronger and more unified than ever before. With these new stewards and officers stepping up to be leaders, I am excited to see just how strong we can become.

Robb Petersburg
Recording Secretary

Branch 9, NALC
5831 Cedar Lake Road South
St. Louis Park, MN 55416

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Fax: (612) 781-9849
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Branch 9 Officers

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Samantha Hartwig

Exec. Vice President

JoAnn Gilbaugh

Recording Secretary

Robb Petersburg

Treasurer

Barb Watzczak

Financial Secretary

Stacey Ellingson

Editor

Jeremy Rothstein
branch9news@branch9nalc.com

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Ronaele Bolden

Trustees

Christa Abraham
Scott Bultena
Joe Tiemann

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

As we move into the Spring with warmer weather and sunshine there is still the omnipresent reality of understaffing and extreme working hours. This new reality has increased the frequency of letter carriers suffering on-the-job injuries. I have seen the increase in claims filed for workers' compensation (OWCP) in the last two years alone. Along with the increase in on-the-job injuries, there has also been a decrease in knowledge among USPS management personnel on their responsibilities to assist injured employees in the OWCP process.

Management must inform anyone injured on the job of their right to file a claim for compensation with OWCP. The responsibilities of management can be read in the ELM section 544.11, located at NALC.ORG, under the workplace resources tab. More often than not management remains silent when there is an on-the-job injury, and this has created financial hardships for some our members, with OWCP claims not getting filed with OWCP timely, for medical and possible wage loss compensation.

To reduce this issue, we need to really monitor management when someone does get hurt while working. The first step is for everyone, regardless of being injured or not, to set up their own personal ECOMP Account online. OWCP will ONLY accept claims filed online.

If you file a paper form for OWCP (CA-1 traumatic injury, or CA-2 Occupational injury) the USPS injury compensation department has to enter that information into ECOMP and then submit it to OWCP for you. The USPS has informed the NLAC that the paper OWCP claim forms comprise 75% of the claims, and only 25% of OWCP claims are submitted through ECOMP. In other words, 75% of the USPS OWCP claims are entered from the paper claim form to ECOMP by the USPS, and

then submitted to OWCP. This has caused issues with the incorrect information, wrong dates entered by the USPS, not the injured carrier.

We need everyone got to WWW.ECOMP.DOL.GOV. On the right-hand side of the page there is a link to register for an ECOMP account. If you have an account, then it is ready to go if you suffer an on-the-job injury in the future. From that account is the only way to file a claim with OWCP at this time. ECOMP is great for us, as it sends email updates about the status of your claim in real time, much easier to keep track of everything. If you need assistance, please give the Branch Office a call.

Our new Branch 9 OWCP Representative, Ben Reed from the West Edina Station, is at the office on most Thursdays from 7:30AM to 4:00PM. We also have an email address strictly for injured members to use, OWCP@BRANCH9NALC.COM.

Memorandums of Understanding (MOU)

There are several COVID MOUs that have been extended through May 6, 2022. These can be found on the NALC Website. The Annual Leave Carryover from 2022 to leave year 2023 is 520 hours (M-1979).

Regional Training

NALC National President Fred Rolando, and Executive Vice President Brian Renfroe spoke at the Region 7 Training on March 31st. President Rolando told those in attendance that the next round of contract negotiations will begin in February 2023, as the contract expires in May of 2023. The COLAs to date under the current contract have equated to approximately an increase in wages of 6%. At this time, the USPS will only observe the Juneteenth Holiday as a paid holiday for career employees only. The NALC will be pursuing this as a paid holiday for all carriers, not just career carriers in the next round of



Samantha Hartwig

negotiations.

There is a National Level Dispute scheduled for arbitration on April 21st regarding PTF step AA pay. The USPS ended up creating a lower, new annual rate of pay that affects PTF overtime and night shift differential pay. There is no need to file grievance on this at our level, as they have the information at their level for all the PTFs. When there is a resolution on this, we will get it out to the local stewards.

All route adjustments across the country are on hold as the National Parties are working on a new route adjustment process. If management claims they are doing any route adjustments, we need a call to the Branch Office immediately.

Staffing was addressed and there are some places in Colorado and California where CCAs cannot even be hired, so they are being allowed to hire PTFs now. The NALC is looking at areas where routes are not being delivered daily, and the continuous contractual violations. The USPS said they would send the NALC a proposal for new hires and only offered to convert CCAs to PTF and hire PTFs in some installations, not all installations. The new Postal Reform Act is expected to be signed into law by President Biden soon. This legislation now makes 6-day delivery the law. The legislation also requires Medicare Integration

Pres. Report cont'd on page 4

2022 Proposed By-Law Additions & Changes

ARTICLE II SECTION 3

CURRENT LANGUAGE

As of January 1, 1989, forty percent (40%) of one month's dues, per year, per active and associate member shall be placed in the Convention Fund to be used for State and National Conventions. Revenue producing fund raisers may also be used to augment this fund.

- a) Eligibility to receive funds for conventions is determined by Article V of these ByLaws.
- b) The Convention Fund shall not be used for any other purpose unless so ordered by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting membership in a referendum ballot. The ballot to state the purpose and amount of such demand.
- c) The convention fund will be capped at sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000). Once this amount is achieved, contributions will be discontinued and reallocated in equal amounts to organizing, training and education and legislation.

PROPOSED NEW LANGUAGE

As of January 1, 2022, thirty-five percent (35%) of one month's dues, per year, per active and associate member shall be placed in the Convention Fund to be used for State and National Conventions. Revenue producing fund raisers may also be used to augment this fund.

- a) Eligibility to receive funds for conventions is determined by Article V of these ByLaws.
- b) The Convention Fund shall not be used for any other purpose unless so ordered by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting membership in a referendum ballot. The ballot to state the purpose and amount of such demand.
- c) The convention fund will be capped at sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000). Once this amount is achieved, contributions will be discontinued and reallocated in equal amounts to organizing, training and education and legislation.

Submitted by the Branch 9 Executive Board

ARTICLE II SECTION 4

CURRENT LANGUAGE

As of January 1, 1995, thirty percent (30%) of one month's dues, per year, per active and associate member shall be placed in a fund to be known as the Jerome J. Keating Branch 9 Building Corporation. These funds to be transferred to the Branch Building Corporation monthly as accrued.

PROPOSED NEW LANGUAGE

As of January 1, 2022, thirty-five percent (35%) of one month's dues, per year, per active and associate member shall be placed in a fund to be known as the Jerome J. Keating Branch 9 Building Corporation. These funds to be transferred to the Branch Building Corporation monthly as accrued.

Submitted by the Branch 9 Executive Board

ARTICLE I SECTION 4

CURRENT LANGUAGE

Branch Steward Board Meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of each month. The General Membership Meeting will be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month. The meetings will be held at 7:00 P.M. The place of the meetings will be determined by a standing motion of the Branch. By decision of members in attendance at a General Membership Meeting, future meetings may be combined or cancelled, or meeting night changed for legitimate business reasons.

PROPOSED NEW LANGUAGE

Branch Steward Board Meetings will be held on the third Friday of each month. The General Membership Meeting will be held on the first Saturday of each month. The meetings will be held at 6:00PM.

Submitted by Nate Serie

Pres. Report cont'd from page 3

for new retirees aged sixty-five and older effective January 1, 2025. Medicare Part A is free and Part B is medical insurance with currently costs about \$170.00 a month. What this integration will do is help lower costs for the USPS. If eligible retirees who did not enroll in Medicare at age 65 this law will have 90-day grace period to enroll into Medicare without any penalty sometime in the year 2024. The NALC Health Plan will now create a new NALC Postal Employee only section to the Health Plan because of this legislation that only Postal Employees will be eligible for, and it stays in the Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan (FEHBP). All of us with the current NALC Health Plan will be required to switch over to the Postal Employee only NALC Health Plan when it is implemented. As we get more detailed information on how Medicare integration will impact retirees that will be shared with everyone.

New Office

As I write my article, we are in the process of preparing to move the office to our new permanent office. The new address for mailing to Branch 9: **5831 Cedar Lake Road South, St. Louis Park, MN 55416**. Please mail any correspondence to this address. Our office phone number and fax number are not changing. The new space will allow us to hold training, CCA meetings, smaller events such as the retiree cribbage tournaments at the office. We are not sure if there will be adequate space for the GMM yet; but hybrid meetings are the future going forward where some members are online and some members are in person. There is chance in the future we may be able to accommodate this, however we are sure yet. The GMMs will continue to be held at the Crystal VFW and by ZOOM.

In Solidarity,
Samantha

Exec. Vice President's Report

We're finally moved into our office! I hope that everyone will come to our Open House on Sunday, June 5th to see our new Branch 9 home. There's plenty of space to conduct branch business, as well as hosting small gatherings such as trainings and the retiree's Cribbage Tournament with Branch 28. More details will be forthcoming in the next Branch 9 news, on our Facebook page and GMM meetings.

Now that we're in a permanent space, it is time to rebuild our branch history display that was lost in the 2020 fire. As the Chair of the newly formed History Committee, we will be mapping a course with the goal of telling the story of Branch 9 from its' inception in 1890 to present. We are still looking for a member or two to help. If you're interested, please contact me at the branch. We have already started to receive a few items, so if you have something to bring in, please call us so that we don't end up with two many duplicates!

The first order of business for the committee is going to be reconstructing our Wildcat Strike display. With the technology available to us, we would like to capture audio and video of those who walked the line for Branch

9, who are willing to tell their stories and recollections of this historic event that paved the path for the rights we enjoy today. If you are reading this, were a part of the strike, and are willing to participate, please contact the branch office to let us know. We are searching for members who have experience with either audio or video recording, editing etc., or interviewing skills that would be willing to meet with us and our Branch 9 strikers. I'm



Charter and Memorabilia - were lost in the fire

looking forward to learning more about the working conditions in Minneapolis during those times. I'm willing to bet that many of the problems from then will be relatable to the issues that we face now. History within the Postal Service always seems to repeat itself.

Since we lost everything in the fire, we are looking for pictures from Branch 9 events throughout the years – National and State Conventions, retiree Christmas parties, station gatherings, etc.



JoAnn Gilbaugh

For those of you who had never visited our offices at 2408 Central Ave. NE, our hallways were filled with boards covered by plexiglass that contained pictures and written stories of our 130-year history, decade by decade. When the building burned, we were discussing creating the next panel, from 2010 – 2020. While it will be a lot of work, I'm certain that the committee and all those involved will enjoy learning and chronicling the journey of Branch 9 and its' members. Once the History Committee gets up and running, we will give updates on what we are doing, and how members can participate in the project.

In Solidarity,
Jo



Strike Board -was lost in the fire



Convention Pins -were lost in the fire

**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 24, 2022**

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 24. All three forms should be submitted as there are three separate drawings for each scholarship. Please enter the three scholarship drawings only once.

Adult Learners Scholarship

Leonard A. Larson/ Barry J. Weiner Scholarship

**Adult Learners,
please submit your scholarship
application to Branch 9 by
May 24, 2022 or bring to that
night's GMM**

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 24, or bring to that night's General Membership Meeting.

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

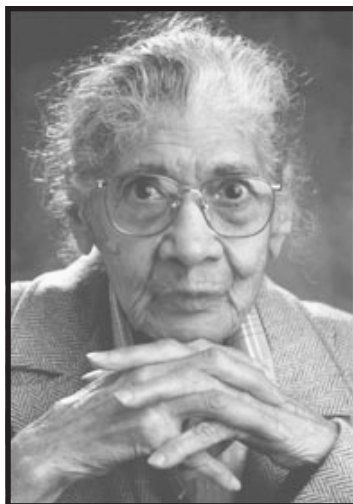
Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Active or Retired _____

Work Unit _____



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 2022 - 2023 academic year now being accepted.

<http://www.nelliestone.org>



Ben Reed Branch 9 OWCP Rep.

NEW OWCP REP.

In December 2021, I followed through on a job transfer from Hartford, Connecticut, to my hometown of Minneapolis, Minnesota. I was excited for this opportunity to prove to myself that I could follow my heart and navigate uncertain waters ahead of me. I was thrilled to be reunited with some old co-workers at the west Edina post office. They inspired me to want more for myself and look out for my fellow union brothers and sisters. Starting at WECA as a CCA in December 2013 and returning 8 years later with some newfound knowledge from my training in Connecticut.

My time on the east coast was very productive for my career. I was appointed union steward by the president of branch 86 and elected the following year by my constituents. Being a part of the safety committee was gratifying for me to talk about day to day issues at hand with my colleagues. Getting involved with customer connect and raising over eight thousand dollars during the Covid 19 epidemic, was quite a challenge for me. Before the end of my time in Connecticut I was starting to get involved with OWCP training, My Hope is that I continue with this

2022 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>

craft to service the needs of my fellow employees.

On a personal note, I am a man of faith, who is passionate about fishing, from the ocean waters of Rhode Island to the rivers of upstate New York. Last February Branch 9 held it ice fishing event

on lake Mille lacs which I was happy to take part in. Fishing has taught me that I can be the knot that ties the OWCP case to the employees claim, I look forward to reuniting with my Branch 9 sisters and brothers.

-BR
WECA

2022 Minnesota AFL-CIO Scholarships

UNIVERSAL APPLICATION FORM

(Entry Deadline: May 27, 2022)

The Minnesota AFL-CIO sponsors scholarships for high school seniors graduating in 2022. 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 27, 2022 to:

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

Director of Retirees Report

The passage of Postal Reform has raised questions about what that means for retirees' health care insurance. The following information is from the NARFE (National Association of Retired Federal Employees) Fact Sheet. This organization is an extremely reliable proponent of the Postal Service and provides solid information.

As of January 1, 2025, a new Postal Service Health Benefits (PSHB) program will begin. This program establishes a postal-only risk pool and is predicted to actually lower average costs of coverage and therefore premiums. It will mirror the current FEHB plans, but include only Postal workers, annuitants and their families. The PSHB must "to the greatest extent practicable" include plans with equivalent benefits to FEHB plans. Therefore, the NALC and Blue Cross Blue Shield plans will remain (examples of the two largest choices of retirees), just under a "new" PSHB plan. During the Open Season for 2025, postal employees can choose their new PSHB plan. If you do nothing, you will be automatically enrolled in an equivalent plan offered by

the health carrier that you were enrolled in during 2024. **No one will be dropped from health coverage**; if there is no equivalent PSHB of your personal FEHB insurance, you will be placed in the lowest cost nationwide plan option within the PSHB.

If you are a current retiree who did not apply for Medicare Part B when first eligible or did so with a permanent penalty, you will be able to correct that during a Special Enrollment Period (SEP) in 2024. April 1 of 2024 begins the six-month SEP when the late enrollment penalty will be waived for annuitants and their families. OPM and the Social Security Administration will determine who is eligible for the SEP and inform them.

Exceptions to enrollment in Medicare Part B as condition of coverage:

1. Anyone who is a **postal annuitant as of January 1, 2025** is not required to enroll in Medicare Part B nor are any family member of such a postal annuitants.
2. **Postal employees at least 64 as of January 1, 2025** will not be required to enroll



Melia Derrick

in Medicare Part B when they retire. Family members of such a postal employee are also exempt from the Part B enrollment requirements.

3. Postal annuitants or family members **residing outside the United States** will not be required to enroll in Medicare Part B.

4. If the annuitant or family members is receiving health benefits provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, they are not required to enroll in Medicare Part B.

*Stay tuned In,
Melia Derrick*

SAVE THE DATE

June 5th, 2022

**OPEN HOUSE
of
Branch 9's new home**



located at

**5831 Cedar Lake Road South
St. Louis Park, MN 55416**

Open to Branch 9 members



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

Branch Nine News
5831 Cedar Lake Road South
St. Louis Park, MN 55416

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

April 12

NOTICE Steward Meeting
moved to 6pm before April 26
GMM- via motion

April 26

General Membership Meeting
7:00PM
In person and ZOOM
Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN

May 8

Mother's Day

May 10

Steward Meeting
7:00PM
In person and ZOOM
Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN

May 14

FOOD DRIVE

May 24

General Membership Meeting
7:00PM
In person and ZOOM
Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN

May 14

MEMORIAL DAY
HOLIDAY

June 5

SAVE the DATE
Branch 9
OPEN HOUSE
5831 Cedar Lake Road South
St. Louis Park, MN 55416

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.

Northside Retiree Breakfast

1st Tuesday of the Month
9:30AM
Elsie's
729 Marshall St. NE, Minneapolis

N Suburban Retiree Breakfast

1st Friday of the Month
8:30AM
Denny's Restaurant
9020 Quaday Avenue NE, Otsego

Fridley Retiree Lunch

2nd Tuesday of the Month
11:30 AM
Route 47 Pub and Grub
7820 University Ave