

**VOLUME 75 No 8**

**Official Publication of Branch Nine, NALC**

**October 2023**

The 2023 Minnesota State Convention was held at Ruttger's Bay Lake Resort, October 1st to 4th. It



began with an MDA fundraiser golf tournament at Jack's 18 golf course. (See additional photos on page 9). The MDA events/fundraising were led by Branch 9's Ronaele Bolden. Thanks Ronaele!



MSALC 2023 Convention was held at Ruttger's Bay Lake Resort

The following day the convention business began. The MN State AFL-CIO President Bernie Burnham spoke. There was OWCP training by Samantha Hartwig. The RAA report and JSOV training was given by Jason Karnopp. Branch 9's resolution passed. The evening concluded with dinner, a bingo/cribbage tournament, Monday Night Football, and bonfire.



The elected MSALC Executive Board for 2023. Installed by National Officer Dan Toth Director of Retired Members.

The next day Dave Zimney led a memorial service. RAA Joel Malkush provided training and information on TIAREAP. Luke Kane talked about LCPF. NBA Patrick Johnson conducted a RAP session and Dan Toth gave a National Report. The evening concluded with a banquet, a MDA live auction, and bonfire. National Officer Dan Toth Director of Retired Members installed the newly elected state officers and board members.



Members attending the daily meetings



MDA Golf fundrasier Perry Schmidt, Robb Petersburg & Scott Bultena

The new MSALC board meet the following morning ending the 2023 convention.

*(See additional photos on page 9).*

# RETIREMENTS



Randy MaNamara (Anoka Station) (R). Last Punch with Steward Rich Newton  
*Happy Retirement!*

# NEW MEMBERS

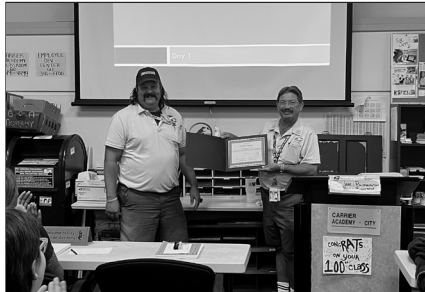
- Tyler Balbuena
- Jason Buerger
- Angelica Crockrom
- Matthew Duscher
- Derek Earley
- Aaron Esperum
- Keefe Farr
- Beatriz Godinez Gonzalez
- Brandon Hall
- Brian Hang
- Wiley Hester
- Alicia Hogdal
- Fayiah Kundu
- Jerry Lefkowitz
- Levi Leider
- Courtney Malott
- Peter Noble
- Dustin Sheehan
- Susan Stieper
- Natalie Tawney
- Tashi Tsering
- Gwendolyn Washington
- Brandon Welter



Crystal Spiel (Brooklyn Center Station) (R), proud mother, signs up her recently hired daughter Marley Wolfe as an NALC member.  
*Welcome Marley!*



Nick Tiemann was recently installed by Region 7 RAA Jason Karnopp as Branch 9's new Trustee. Nick was previously the Associate Office Representative.  
*Congratulations Nick!*



Jeff Babey (Bloomington Station) (R) City Carrier Academy instructor receives a certificate of recognition for his 100th class taught from Academy Lead Trainer Jon Raven (Brooklyn Park Station).



What a great time at the recent Branch 9 Fishing Trip at Twin Pines Resort Mille Lacs Lake. Sean Davich(BC), Joseph Tiemann, Jason LaFerriere(Champlin), Nick Tiemann(Anoka), Judy Thorbus(Retired Lost Lake), Ron Peterson(Retired BC)

# In Memoriam

**Kyle Gustafson**  
**(Active – Military Leave)**

Branch 9, NALC  
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St. Louis Park, MN 55416

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## Branch 9 Officers

**President**  
Scott Bultena

**Exec. Vice President**  
Joseph Tiemann

**Recording Secretary**  
Robb Petersburg

**Treasurer**  
Christa Abraham

**Financial Secretary**  
Stacey Ellingson

**Editor**  
Jeremy Rothstein  
[branch9news@branch9nalc.com](mailto:branch9news@branch9nalc.com)

**Sergeant at Arms**  
Will Mathes

**Trustees**  
Ronaele Bolden  
Latasha McCaleb  
Nick 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

## State Convention

The State Convention this year was a great success. Dan Toth, our National Director of Retired Members, was present. Mr. Toth shared that during the collective bargaining process 203 proposals were given to the bargaining committee. He emphasized the biggest problem that we face is staffing and the Union at the National Level is doing everything that they can do to negotiate a contract that rewards Letter Carriers and makes the job more attractive to new carriers. Safety is also a major concern. Mr. Toth told us that National is working to get congress involved, seeking tougher penalties for crimes against Letter Carriers. They are discussing the possibility of voluntary body cams that carriers could wear to record interactions with the public as they work their routes.

President of the MN AFL-CIO Bernie Burnham came to thank Letter Carriers for our contributions to the Labor movement. She talked a great deal about Solidarity and standing together in support of our Union as well as supporting other Unions. Ms. Burnham expressed that a great part of Solidarity is listening to what others have to say. I could not agree more and am very thankful that Ms. Burnham came out to speak to and encourage us at the convention.

This year we have a new MDA Coordinator, Ronaele Bolden. I would like to thank Ronaele for stepping up as Joe Rian stepped down out of this position. Ronaele did a great job explaining the challenges that kids with Muscular Dystrophy face and was instrumental in motivating people to participate in the drawings, auctions, etc. that helped raise awareness and funds. Ronaele has a great personality, and his

humor is infectious. I look forward to seeing all the good Mr. Bolden will do for the MDA in this role and I am proud that he is a member of Branch 9. As I write this article, we do not yet have the totals on how much was raised for the MDA. When those numbers become available Mr. Bolden will report them to the membership.

## Mental Health

I am concerned about the mental health of some Branch 9 members. As I go around doing station visits, I see quite a few carriers that appear to me to be depressed. I know what this looks like because I have struggled with depression for most of my life. It is not a surprise to me that with the long hours that we are required to work, and for many of us, the poor treatment we receive on a daily basis that carriers are struggling.

We all have moments in our lives when we feel sad or down in the dumps, but if weeks go by and those feelings linger, it may be depression. Depression can leave you feeling overwhelmed and, in some cases, unable to function. If you feel that you need to speak to a professional, please don't hesitate to reach out to your doctor or make a call to the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) their number is 800-EAP-4YOU (1-800-327-4968)

According to the CDC nearly 46,000 Americans died by suicide in 2020. Unfortunately, those numbers are rising across the country. Most people who commit suicide don't want to die, but to end their pain. Please recognize some of the warning signs and reach out to help anyone who:

- Talks about suicide either jokingly or seriously.
- Focus or dwell on the topic of death.
- Make plans. The person may



**Scott Bultena**

take steps to prepare for death, like updating a will, giving stuff away, saying goodbye to others, some may write a suicide note.

- Becomes withdrawn. Avoids friends and family, loses interest in activities, becomes isolated.

- Shows despair. May talk openly about unbearable pain, or feeling like they are a burden on others.

- Shows swings in mood or sleep.

- Drinks or takes drugs.
- Acts recklessly.

## How to Help

- Take all suicide warning signs seriously. Your involvement and support may help save a life.

- Don't be afraid to ask whether the person you're concerned about is thinking of suicide, is depressed, or has problems. Talking about it won't make the person act on their feelings. It might help ease suicidal thoughts -- and lets you know if you need to take further action.

- Encourage the person to talk to a mental health professional as soon as possible. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is always open. You can reach a trained counselor at 988.

In Solidarity, Scott

## Soldier from Twin Cities falls to his death while on hiking expedition south of Anchorage

By Paul Walsh Star Tribune  
September 11, 2023 — 11:23am



A Twin Cities man serving in the Army fell to his death during a hiking expedition with fellow soldiers in the mountains of Alaska, according to military officials and his family.

Kyle Lee Gustafson, 34, of Fridley, a police brigade soldier attached to the 11th Airborne Division, was on a hike Sept. 2 along the Turnagain Arm south of Anchorage, the military reported. An arm is a narrow extension of water, or an inlet, flowing out from a much larger body of water.

Searchers recovered Gustafson, who was airlifted to Providence Alaska Medical Center in Anchorage, where he died, the release continued.

Gustafson joined the Army in December 2020 and was last serving as an explosive ordnance disposal specialist with 716th Ordnance Company in Hawaii. He arrived in Alaska in May.

Timothy Gustafson said Monday that his son was with four other soldiers who "lived to go hiking. It sounds like they were given five peaks and a time frame to reach the peaks of all of these mountains. On the fourth one, apparently Kyle slipped."

The father said the five were told that if they completed the challenge, they would receive four days off in October.

Kyle Gustafson first served in the Marines for four years and saw action in Afghanistan before his honorable discharge in 2011, Timothy Gustafson said.

From there, he was hired by the U.S. Postal Service and delivered mail for four years out of the Eastside Station in Minneapolis, the father said. He took a six-month break to fight wildfires out West and returned to the Postal Service.

Timothy Gustafson said his son would do his mail route while on leave, including when he was home this past Christmas, when the weather was especially cold.

He recalled his son as saying that "everybody needs their mail" and added that Kyle would run up the hills to houses when the mail truck couldn't make it.

His sister, Angela Gustafson, said Kyle "loved volunteering at the cat shelters off the Army bases in Florida and in Alaska. It was his own therapy. The boy was quiet, but his actions were loud and loving. ... He hated seeing people feel left out."

Kyle Gustafson received his entire education in the Fridley School District and was on the wrestling, swim and track teams in high school.

"Kyle was a very strong man," his father said, "and believed in everything he did."

# Exec. Vice President's Report

Brothers and Sisters,

## SAFETY

I think it is safe to say that summer is behind us. The elements that we deliver in can be the hardest part of this craft and it takes a toll. We had an extremely hot, dry, smokey summer and talked about heat a lot as it has a major impact on our safety. Now that fall is setting in, we face another set of challenges. The volume tends to increase as we approach the end of the year. Leaves will fall and cover objects hidden in our walking paths. The amount of daylight is shortening and with increased workloads, will have carriers delivering in the dark. Safety is the most important part of a carrier's day and being put into a situation where a carrier is scheduled to deliver after dark brings on a multiplier of safety concerns. It is important to know your rights when it comes to delivery after dark. I encourage you to visit the Branch 9 website ([www.Branch9nalc.com](http://www.Branch9nalc.com)) to utilize the resources that can help you understand your rights.

Here is a checklist from the delivery after dark safety checklist:

1. Inform your supervisor in the morning of your need for auxiliary assistance in order to complete your street duties before dark. **THIS MEANS FILL OUT FORM 3996 - HELP SLIP.**
2. Notify your supervisor prior to heading out to the street that you may not be able to complete your duties on the street by dark.
3. When on the street if you realize that you will without question be out after dark, call your supervisor and make them aware of that reality. Stress your concern for your safety and again request auxiliary assistance.

4. Assuming no help arrives and you are faced with darkening conditions, attempt to continue.

5. IF, while attempting delivery, you literally experience a safety hazard (i.e. stumbling, tripping, hear dogs barking, but unable to see that threat, not able to see potential dangers using your LLV/van's outside mirrors, etc) call your supervisor. Explain your situation and notify them that you cannot safely continue delivery and return to your station.

6. COMPLETE FORM 1571 - Curtailment form for the undelivered mail.

Be sure to hand the curtailment slip to the supervisor and ASK FOR A COPY. The copy is for your protection. You can also request a Form 1767 - Notice of Hazardous Working Condition. This will help you document the safety hazards you encountered while attempting to deliver after dark. It is important to note that these instructions are not intended to endorse or encourage the unnecessary curtailment of any mail. It is about your safety and the protection of the mail in our charge.

## IMPORTANT DATES

October 31st Halloween: The reason I bring up Halloween is because of the added traffic of kids in neighborhoods. Ideally, it would be great if all carriers were done and off the street by dark. But the reality is there will be carriers out when the children in our communities are trick or treating. Please take extra caution.

2024 Vacation bidding: November 1st will be the start of vacation bidding here in Minneapolis.

Open season: Open season will start on November 13, 2023, and run through December 11 2023.



*Joseph Tiemann*

Carriers will be able to change their health plans or keep their current health plan during this open season window for 2024. Also, this is the time to sign up for any flexible spending accounts. I encourage you to check out the NALC health plan. It is a plan created by carriers for letter carriers.

Penalty Exclusionary Period: As we all know, peak season is really 3 to 6 months now as parcel demand keeps increasing. The penalty exclusionary period is set, and the dates are from December 2nd to December 29th. This will affect pay period 26 of 2023 and pay period 1 of 2024. During this time there will be no double time.

November 26, 2023: There will be a holiday party at the Crystal VFW in the basement. The party is from 12 noon to 4. We would love to have a great turnout and have a fun time. Please rsvp with the branch if you would like to attend.

Hope to see you there.

In solidarity,  
Joseph Tiemann

**NALC VETERANS GROUP**

The USPS is the nation's second largest employer of veterans and make up almost one quarter of the membership in the NALC. In 2015, the NALC created the Veterans Group to provide veterans, active and retired, access to information and specific rights. The Veterans' Preference Act gives preference to qualified military veterans who were honorably discharged, five points, and wounded/ disabled, ten points toward the hiring process

**USERRA (Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act)**

This 1994 Federal law protects military service members and veterans from employment discrimination on the basis of their service and allows them to regain their civilian jobs following a period of uniformed service. This applies to Armed Forces, Reserves, National Guard, and more.

**MILITARY LEAVE**

The USPS allows absences related to military activities with or without pay and no action permitted to discourage

participation. Military leave may be taken intermittently with advance notice (PS Form 3971).

**Military leave is limited to career letter carriers and requires authorized military orders and allows up to 15 days of paid leave per fiscal year.**

**ANNUAL LEAVE ACCRUAL**

Based on the number of years of creditable military service and limited to career letter carriers.

**RETIREMENT CREDIT (FERS)**

The best information on obtaining retirement credit is to download from [nalc.org](http://nalc.org), Director of Retired Members, Ron Watson's article from the Postal Record (October, 2015). Further information can be found at [myfedbenefitshelp.com](http://myfedbenefitshelp.com). This site will show the benefits of military buyback over time and will have an estimator of cost.

**EAP (Employee Assistance Program)**

EAP offers counseling to veterans for common areas of concern such as: Pre-deployment; deployment; returning home; helping children adjust to the

deployment; returning to work and managing the family budget during deployment.

**DUAL COVERAGE**

Dual Coverage is for when a veteran is injured on-the-job, they can use both OWCP (Office of Workers' Compensation Program) and DVA (Department of Veterans Affairs).

**MORE INFORMATION**

Download a copy of the NALC Veterans Guide from the [nalc.org](http://nalc.org) website under the Community Services menu. The Veterans Group is about letter carrier veterans helping other letter carrier veterans.

I wish to thank past Branch 9 President, Pam Donato for her assistance. I'm sure the old "cannon cocker" Lenny Larson, and many other old duffs' like us wish these services were available way back when.

**Now what's stopping you from signing up to be a part of the NALC Veterans Group? The mail in form is below or a fillable form is online at**

**[nalc.org](http://nalc.org).** Plus, after you join, your name will be on the list the NALC gives to the branch stating

that YOU are a veteran. So, when a veteran's list is posted in this paper your name will be included.

Retired  
Branch 9  
Member,  
Chuck Glover



**You continue to serve your country—  
THANK YOU!**

**NALC Veterans Group**

Complete this form and mail it to:  
NALC Veterans Group, c/o NALC,  
100 Indiana Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20001-2144

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

NALC BRANCH NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ BRANCH OF SERVICE: \_\_\_\_\_

**I BELONG TO THE FOLLOWING VETERAN GROUP(S):**

AMERICAN LEGION    DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS    VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

# Director of Retirees Report

Open Season will soon be upon us. It is projected that premiums this season will rise an average of 7.7% which is more than inflation, so blame the appropriate entities. Not people using “too much” healthcare or immigrants using medical services. Your premiums for health insurance and Medicare Advantage (MA) help support CEO and shareholder salaries and profits.

Medicare Advantage is a scam which unfortunately our union entered. These programs are not motivated to get you the best care for the least cost. They are for profit companies that get a fixed dollar amount for each person they enroll annually. That is regardless of how much they spend on each customer. The less they spend on you, the more profit.

With traditional Medicare, you talk with your physician or hospital and decide on your treatment, they bill Medicare, and you never see or hear about the bill. Medicare Advantage (MA) programs routinely second-guess the physician and do everything they can to intimidate you into paying out-of-pocket yourself. Often, they simply refuse payment and wait for you to file a complaint against them, which is a lengthy and complicated process.

Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP) reports that MA programs overcharges taxpayers from \$88-140 billion annually. Part B premiums totaled \$131 billion in 2022. Or said another way, Medicare Part B could have been totally funded by Medicare Advantage overcharges. Humana, if not for MA overpayments, would have suffered almost \$900 million losses in 2022.

Not only does MA undertreat patients and overcharge for that privilege, but they also have narrow networks for care. Scripps is one of many health care groups around the country dropping Medicare Advantage plans. Van Gorder CEO of Scripps says “it’s become a game of delay, deny and not pay;” In the last month, medical groups in Ohio, Virginia, Oregon, Missouri, Oklahoma, and South Dakota have all terminated or partially terminated their contracts with Medicare Advantage plans, citing delayed reimbursements and administrative conflicts. Mayo clinics will not accept MA plans.

So why do people enroll in these scams? Medicare Advantage participants do not need supplementary coverage. This is an essential feature of the marketing of Medicare Advantage plans: seniors accept the costs of narrow networks and managed



**Melia Derrick**

care in exchange for not needing to pay the cost of supplementary coverage.

However, when you need that expensive, lifesaving treatment and they deny you, getting back into traditional Medicare can be hard or expensive. The same insurance companies can refuse to enroll you in Medigap plans that fill the 20% hole in real Medicare. Or raise your rates for those plans because of preexisting conditions. So, choose a healthcare plan that serves your family. Do so knowing the ins and outs of how that plan will work for you.

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**

## **NALC.org NEWS**

### **Update to Article 10 charges**

This is an update to the August 31 notification concerning charges received by the NALC Executive Council proffered against President Brian L. Renfro by another member of the Council.

Pursuant to Article 10 of the NALC Constitution, the appointment of the panel of three disinterested members has been made. They are as follows:

Brian Hellman, retired member of Branch 36, New York, NY  
 Myra Warren, retired member of Branch 132, Dallas, TX  
 Barry Weiner, retired member of Branch 9, Minneapolis, MN

In accordance with Article 10, the panel shall conduct an evidentiary hearing and make a report with recommendations to the Executive Council, which shall be served on the accused officer and charging member, who may, within 15 days, file with the Executive Council objections or comments thereon.

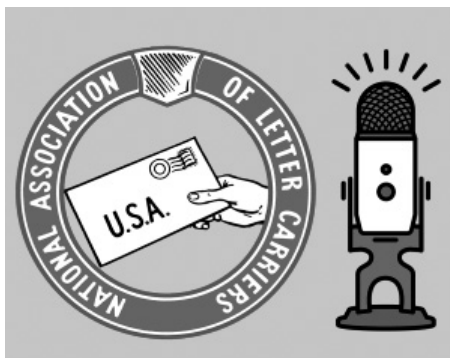
### **Day and Taub confirmed to Postal Regulatory Commission**

On Thursday, Sept. 28, the Senate confirmed the nominations of Thomas G. Day and Robert G. Taub to be Commissioners of the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC). After being nominated to serve as PRC Commissioners by President Biden, their nominations were advanced by the United States Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs following hearings that took place earlier this month.

As an independent agency that exercises regulatory oversight over the Postal Service, the PRC's responsibilities include preventing anticompetitive practices, promoting accountability, adjudicating complaints, setting postal rates and helping oversee delivery service standards.

The PRC is made up of five commissioners who are nominated by the president for six-year terms and confirmed by the Senate. Taub is a two-time appointee to the Commission following unanimous confirmations by the U.S. Senate in 2011 and 2016. This will be Taub's third term, and he previously served as the chairman of the Commission from December 2014 until January 2021. A first-term commissioner, Day will bring broad experience in both the global and domestic postal sectors, including 35 years working in senior roles at the Postal Service.

"NALC congratulates Thomas Day and Robert Taub on their confirmations to this important agency," NALC President Brian L. Renfro said. "We look forward to working with them to ensure the Postal Regulatory Commission fulfills its oversight responsibilities to promote a Postal Service that benefits the men and women who deliver America's mail and our customers."



**YOU ARE THE CURRENT RESIDENT  
 PODCAST**

### **You Are The Current Resident: An NALC Podcast**

You Are The Current Resident is a podcast from the National Association of Letter Carriers.

<https://youarethecurrentresident.podbean.com/>

Many Episodes available like the following:

USPS Sorting and Delivery Centers (S&DCs)

Sunday Sep 10, 2023

Special Assistant to the President Douglas Lape joins the discussion on "You Are the Current Resident" for a closer look at USPS Sorting and Delivery Centers (S&DCs). Tune in wherever you listen to podcasts!



**MDA golf fundraiser at the MSALC convention.**



LaTasha McCaleb presented her NALC Leadership Academy project at the recent Steward board meeting. LaTasha is one of two representing Region 7 in class 27 of the academy.



The presentation was about past Branch 9 presidents, a brief history and then a discussion of the issues some faced during their term. Former presidents Lenny Larson was in person and via Zoom Jan Wild, Mike Zagaros and Pam Donato. The issues ranged from getting floor mats for casing to the reoccurring issue of staffing.

LaTasha has two more weeks of class at the Maritime Conference Center in Maryland with members from all over the country and then a week at the Region 7 office.

Great job in your presentation and representing Branch 9

**Open seasons dates are set for changing health, vision and dental plans.**

November 13, 2023 through December 11, 2023. The open enrollment is a time to change or sign up for health, dental or vision plans. If you are happy with the plan you have do nothing. If you want to do some changes and want some resources go to [opm.gov](http://opm.gov) or [liteblue.usps.gov](http://liteblue.usps.gov). To do the changes go to [liteblue.usps.gov](http://liteblue.usps.gov). The new rates are out for all the plans. Compare rates on [opm.gov](http://opm.gov) or [liteblue.usps.gov](http://liteblue.usps.gov) on the checkbook.

Ask yourself some questions. Should I pay more for premiums each month , or less for the premium and more for the health benefits when I need care? How much health care do my family and I use on an annual basis? Do I want a low deductible or a high deductible? Is my provider, facility or pharmacy in the network? Do I have upcoming surgeries or medical needs? What kind of prescriptions am I currently taking and will the insurer cover them?

If you would consider the NALC health plan and have questions- you can go to the website [NALCHBP.org](http://NALCHBP.org) or call a Nalc health benefits operator at 888-636-6252 and discuss the Nalc health plans. Please consider the Nalc plan-its a not for profit plan. If you are changing your plan please do it early in open season. Don't procrastinate. We will have a health fair and it will be November 28, 2023 before the General membership meeting at the Crystal VFW starting at 6pm downstairs. If anyone has questions please call me.

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

# BRANCH 9 HOLIDAY PARTY

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2023**

**NOON – 4:00PM**

Crystal VFW - (Basement)  
5222 - 56th Avenue North  
Crystal, MN 55429

\$5.00/Adults and Children

**BUFFET LUNCH - 12:30 -2:00 PM**

- Sloppy Joe's
- Chicken Tenders
- Pasta Salad
- Assorted Desserts
- Soda And Coffee
- Cash Bar.

**SPECIAL GUEST**

Santa

## BRANCH 9 HOLIDAY PARTY REGISTRATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Station: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Guests (s): \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Guests (if a child, please include age):

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**RETURN REGISTRATION FORM AND PAYMENT TO:**  
**(CHECKS MADE OUT TO BRANCH 9 HOLIDAY PARTY)**  
**BRANCH 9, 5831 CEDAR LAKE ROAD SOUTH, ST. LOUIS PARK, MN 55416**

## Delivery After Dark

Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 5th, and with that comes a decrease of daylight hours available. Carriers will once again be exposed to the possibility of delivering mail after dark.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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](http://nalc.org/government-affairs/political-activity)

## Branch 9 Calendar

### October 24

General Membership Meeting  
7:00PM  
Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN

### November 7

Election Day

### November 11

Veterans Day  
Holiday

### November 14

Steward Meeting  
7:00 PM  
Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN

### November 23

Thanksgiving Day  
Holiday

### November 24

Happy Holidays Party  
Noon to 4:00PM  
Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN

### November 28

General Membership Meeting  
7:00PM  
Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN

### December 12

Steward Meeting  
7:00 PM  
Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN



### 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