



On May 11, letter carriers in virtually every community across the country shouldered the load by collecting food donations left by customers as part of the Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. The food helps the hungry in those communities, with donations delivered by NALC members to local food banks.

Since NALC's first national food drive in 1993, active and retired letter carriers, with the help of volunteers, have collected a total of 1.9 billion pounds of food leading up to this year's drive.

"Letter carriers showed up again for their communities and helped ensure that the needs of the hungry are met in every city and town in the United States," NALC President Brian L. Renfroe said.

One in 8 Americans, including millions of children, senior citizens and veterans, are unsure where their next meal will come from. The May food drive helps to relieve shortages that food pantries experience in spring and summer after holiday donations have been depleted. And when summer arrives, most school meal programs are not available, so the need for food grows. The annual food drive wouldn't be possible without the support of our national partners: the USPS, the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, the Rural Letter Carriers' Association.



Thanks to all the Branch 9 letter carriers who helped collect food for their local food banks. Thanks to our Food Drive Coordinator LaTasha McCaleb for all the time in organizing an important and successful event.

RETIREMENTS



Dana Bak (Main Office)
Last Punch with
Steward Aaron Hutchinson
Congratulations!



Bruce Helgren (Burnsville)
Last Punch with
Steward Patricia Webb
Best Wishes!

***2024 National
Convention Delegates
Meeting**

**Tuesday, June 25,
2024**

**6:00PM
“before” the June
General Membership
Meeting**

NEW MEMBERS

- Nickolas J Biever
- Chad S Boyum
- Joanne N Collins
- Thomas Gams
- Samuel J Hood
- Ricky R Jones, Jr
- Heidi L Kelley
- Michael A Kelley
- Shanika S Neal
- Owen L Pfliegig
- Francisco P Pinguil
- Alicia Poplett

IN MEMORIAM

- Burton Barber
- John Cooper
- Bill Mechels - Past Branch 9
President
- Alf Mork
- John Obrestad
- Dennis Wadnizak



Tesfaye Deyasso from SLP Station, received the Above & Beyond award today from Scott & Joe on behalf of Branch 9 and the Hero award from National presented by Region 7 NBA Patrick Johnson for his heroic efforts in helping save a man's life from a burning vehicle on 1 94 a month ago.

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Joseph Tiemann

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Darrell Maus

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

Ron St. Clare MDA Bowl A Thon

On April 27th 117 people attended the Bowl-A-Thon with the common goal of raising money for the MDA. This was a hugely successful event. Branch 9 raised over \$7800.00 for the MDA. This success did not come easy, it took a lot of planning and work to make this event as successful as it was. I want to thank the Executive Board for all their hard work planning, decorating, and working through the event to make it successful. A special thanks to Robb Petersburg for donating time, material, and his skill to make the wonderful bean bag boards. I want to thank all the active and retired carriers as well as their guests that participated in the event and every station that put together and donated the baskets that were for bid. Thank you to our MDA Ambassador's Abby and Jordan and their families for joining us and reminding us of what it is all about. I am grateful to all of you and look forward to doing it again next year. For those of you who were not able to make it out there is a QR code that you can scan in this issue of the Branch 9 News that takes you to a page where you will be able to donate to the MDA. The Executive Board voted on the most creative themed baskets and the winners are:

- Saint Louis Park
- Lowry
- Powderhorn

As a thank you for your creativity, Joe and I will be out this summer with donuts for your station.

Red and Gold Retiree Banquet

May 5th was a beautiful day. Not only because of the wonderful weather but also because we were able to meet and celebrate with a lot of our retired brothers and sisters. There were guests of honor that received 50, 55, and 65-year membership gold cards and pins. There was also a group of carriers that were around during the wildcat strike of 1970. The Branch 9 Executive Board, Executive Vice President Paul Barner, and Region 7 NBA Patrick Johnson were also in attendance.



The Retiree Of The Year Award went to Darrell Maus. When Melia Derik retired from being the Director of Retirees at the beginning of this year the first person that came to my mind to replace her was Darrell. Darrell loves Branch 9 and graciously volunteers his time and rarely even misses a GMM. Darrell is a valued member of the Executive Board and brings with him a depth of knowledge and experience. On a personal note, Darrell has become a good friend of mine, and I am honored to work with him.



Scott Bultena

There was great food and fellowship. I am truly thankful to everyone who attended this year. I look forward to seeing you all next year as well. Please keep in mind that there are two retiree breakfasts and one lunch every month, so you do not have to wait until next May to connect with your retired brothers and sisters. Details on all these events are on the back page of the Branch 9 News each month.

Memorial Day

We just celebrated Memorial Day. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has served in the military. Your sacrifice is appreciated, and I am grateful for your service. Memorial Day is also a solemn occasion that allows us to honor and remember the brave men and women who have given their lives in service to our country. It is a time to reflect on their sacrifices, pay tribute to their courage, and express our gratitude. Memorial Day serves as a potent reminder of the sacrifices made by countless individuals who fought for the values we hold dear. Again, thank you for your service and may God bless you all!

In Solidarity, Scott

Branch 9 2024 Scholarship Drawing Winners

WALTER E. COULLARD/EUGENE P. McNULTY – \$2,000.00

		<u>School Attending</u>	<u>Parent</u>	<u>Work Location</u>
Winner	Kaylee Nogai	DePaul University	Robin Ochsner	Edina
1 st Runner-Up	Lillian Tiemann	UW – River Falls	Nicholas Tiemann	Anoka
2 nd Runner-Up	Karma Bhumsang	UW – Madison	Kunsang Gongpa	East Side

JEROME J. KEATING/AUSTIN B CARLSON – \$2,000.00

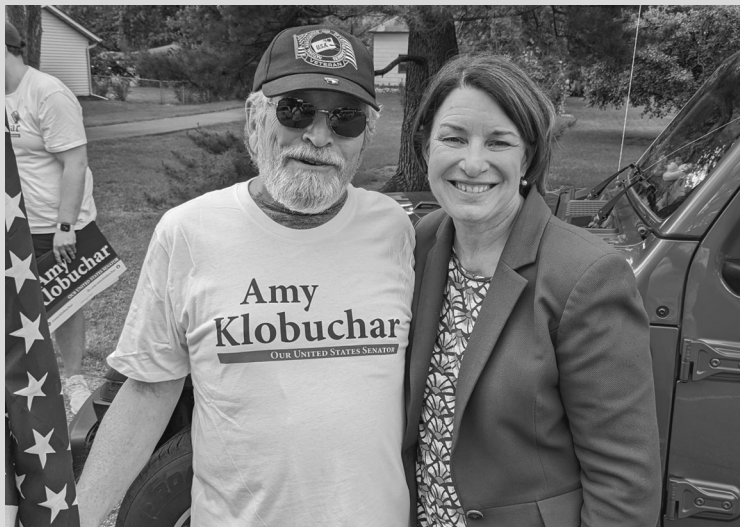
		<u>School Attending</u>	<u>Parent</u>	<u>Work Location</u>
Winner	Melisah Masah	Undecided	Cassious Masah	Golden Valley
1 st Runner-Up	Kaylee Nogai	DePaul University	Robin Ochsner	Edina
2 nd Runner-Up	Noah Crone	U of M – Duluth	Randal Crone	Diamond Lake

J. WESLEY WOODS – \$1,000.00

		<u>School Attending</u>	<u>Parent</u>	<u>Work Location</u>
Winner	Kelsey Nogai	Undecided	Robin Ochsner	Edina
1 st Runner-Up	Kaylee Nogai	DePaul University	Robin Ochsner	Edina
2 nd Runner-Up	Melisah Masah	Undecided	Cassious Masah	Golden Valley

LEONARD A. LARSON/BARRY J. WEINER – ADULT SCHOLARSHIP – \$1,000.00

	<u>Position</u>	<u>Work Location</u>
1 st Winner	Fredrick Brownson	Retired
2 nd Winner	Jordan Maxie	Brooklyn Center



MN Senator Amy Klobuchar still knows she can count on Branch 9’s President Emeritus, Lenny Larson (retired 17 years) to politically support her by walking side by side in a Chaplin parade. It’s time for Branch 9 to re-introduce itself to our Minnesota politicians with the current leadership.

**2024 Ron St. Clare
MDA Bowl-A-Thon
Total raised for MDA
\$7800.00**

And you can still donate by scanning the QR Code.



Exec. Vice President's Report



Joseph Tiemann

Hello Branch 9,

Heat

Summer is here and as we roll into it, we are faced with new challenges. Heat can create harsh obstacles while we as letter carriers are out delivering the mail. Dave Allmann, Branch 9s safety liaison, along with MPLS safety team have been visiting stations to go over the Heat Illness Prevention Program (HIPP). Heat can affect each person differently and even show differently in the same person from day to day. If you are experiencing any of the symptoms of heat stroke or heat exhaustion, it is extremely important to take it seriously and get to a cool place to recover. Follow the directions on the heat cards that management should have handed out to all carriers. If you have not received your card, let your steward know or reach out to the branch.

School's out for summer

Kids are out of school for the summer which means busier neighborhoods. Please take extra care looking out for kids playing in the street and running around the neighborhood. Also keep in mind that kids are home so they very likely will be the ones in charge of dogs while playing outside. Even if you have a great relationship with the dogs on your route, they may act differently when a child is added to the situation and be more protective. If you know a delivery has a dog or see a warning card, shake the gate or give them a whistle to see if they are out. A good rule of thumb is if the dog is out, don't deliver the mail. If the owner or kids are out playing, ask that they put the dog inside so you can complete the delivery.

POLCA

Over the last few months, I have been spreading the word about the Protect Our Letter Carriers Act. I have had many members ask me what we can do to get protection out on their route. Well, this is it. Around the country us letter carriers have held enough is enough rallies and it raised awareness to get this bill created, now its time to seal the deal. If this bill was passed into law, it would be a gigantic step toward keeping all letter carriers safe while out on their routes. Since 2020 we have had a 300 percent increase in violent crimes against letter carriers across the country. This bill would provide the 7 billion dollars that is needed to secure its infrastructure and it would strengthen sentencing for the crimes against letter carriers to be treated in the same manner as assaults on federal law enforcement officers. The POLCA is gaining support as on May 16th Sen Kristen Gillibrand (D-NY) and Sen Josh Hawley (R-MO) introduced POLCA in the Senate. This is a bipartisan, 1 issue bill. I encourage all our members, families, and friends to support this cause. For NALC members it is very easy (less than 5 minutes) to show your support. Just go to [NALC.org](https://www.nalc.org) and look for the Take Action link and it will take you through the quick steps.

Back in April we had our MDA Bowl A Thon and thanks to all of you it was a big success. In July the NALC is having a donation drive challenge for the branches across the country. It is time for the second Branch Challenge of 2024! From July 1 - July 31. NALC Branches are already

registered on the MDA/NALC website. Find our Branch page at [MDA.donordrive.com](https://www.mda.donordrive.com) then scroll down and select 1/1/24 NALC2024. Then at the top it will say July Branch Challenge, then click donate and search for branch 9. This will be our Branch's online hub for our branch to raise money online. The 2024 July Branch Challenge will continue to fundraise around MDA Summer Camp. \$3,000 is the average cost for one camper to attend MDA Summer Camp. Let's come together to raise enough to help send a kid or two to camp for a week.

Lets make sure we are being as safe as possible this summer. You and your health are more important than a manager's deadline.

In solidarity
Joseph Tiemann

The 2024 Retiree Red and Gold Banquet



Director of Retirees Report

Branch Communications

Did you know every species communicates in some fashion or another either through sight, sound, touch, smell.

Communications is nothing more than passing on information from one to another, a sender and a receiver. As human beings, we can communicate on all these levels, but as senders, we communicate primarily through the spoke or written word. As letter carriers, we work for a communications company, the US Postal Service that focuses on the written word. The same could be said about the union. One of the main jobs of the NALC and Branch 9 is to communicate. We communicate to management, to Congress, to the media and to our own members.

This question is heard on every workroom floor and at every meeting whether it is held by the union, management or jointly. For some reason, we have problems with communicating our thoughts and ideas and disseminating information to others. It is not just the Postal Service but anytime there is more than one person involved in a situation eventually there will be some type of communication problem. Branch 9 and the NALC are no different. As a Branch, we have a number of ways we use to communicate in writing through mailings, flyers to our Stewards,

the Stewards and General Membership meetings, and the Branch 9 News. It is the official publication of Branch 9. It continues to provide information about the issues facing letter carriers and their families from inside and out of the Postal Service. The members can read about the latest news from the officers and information about upcoming events that they participate in alone or with their families.

Another option is our web site called www.branch9nalc.com. This is a convenient place for the members to get access to up to date information as well as to provide a place where other information not so current can be stored and reviewed by stewards and members alike. There are previous issues of the Branch 9 News and information on a variety of topics such as safety, political action, and other Branch functions. There is also information that can be used to enforce the contract such as the JCAM and the agreed upon individual Local Memorandums of Understanding. We also have a Facebook page also called Branch 9 Online. The primary



Darrell Maus

purpose was to use the page to provide more immediate information related to branch events and political activities. All anyone has to do to get the information is sign up on Facebook and go to <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Branch-9-Online> or search by typing in Branch 9 Online. As more communication options become available, the Branch will continue to explore ways to get the message out to the membership. Thanks goes out to our Editor of the Branch News Jeremy Rothstein who also is our Webmaster of the Branch 9 NALC web site.



Jerome J. Keating
NALC Branch 9
Minneapolis Minnesota
3001 Cedar Lake Rd. Lewis Park, MN 55426 Phone: 612-331-5111 Fax: 612-331-5114



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!

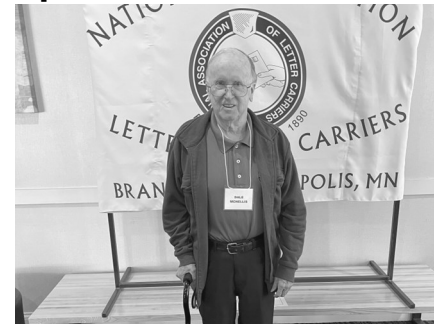
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The 2024 Retiree Red and Gold Banquet



The 2024 Retiree Red and Gold Banquet



THE STRAIGHT SCOOP

I was honored to be selected by the NALC Executive Council to serve on the Article 10 evidentiary panel and by my panel colleagues Brother Brian Hellman and Sister Myra Warren to serve as the chairperson. Now that NALC has made our report available to the membership, I hope that members will read it carefully before making their judgements about the charges that were filed against Brian Renfro. I say this because it is apparent that there remains considerable misinformation and misunderstanding about the Article 10 process, and how it played out. And in particular, the purpose and standing of an investigative report which has come to be dubbed the "Weir Report". In the scheme of Article 10, that report is meant to serve solely as an initial finding of facts, presented to the executive council for the purpose of determining whether charges have sufficient substance to be moved forward. Four of the original eight charges met that standard in the judgement of the council. Thus, pursuant to Article 10, our evidentiary panel was appointed to conduct hearings. We held six days of hearings at NALC headquarters in Wash DC. Both the charging party Brother Jackson, and the charged party, Brother Renfro had ample opportunity to fully present their evidence and arguments, and to confront the others, in a format similar to arbitration, in our best effort to assure due process. After closing arguments, the panel spent numerous days deliberating and writing our report to the council with our findings, judgements and recommendations. Pursuant to the meaning and intent of Article 10, it was this report which the council chiefly relied upon in making its decisions. But unfortunately, due to political agendas, naive or lack of information, the so called "Weir Report" continues to be bandied about like it is the holy grail on this issue. That is a disservice to the parties, the Article 10 process, and the NALC.

To be clear, the panel believes

Branch 9

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME!

Sunday, June 23, 2024

2:07PM



Saint Paul Saints
vs.
Toledo Mud Hens

Price \$16/each
(Outfield Reserved Ticket, Section 103)

30 Tickets available - Limit 4
(First come, First served basis)



Link and password to purchase the tickets:

<https://sp6.glitnirticketing.com/spticket/web/loggingroup1.php?refresh=&refresh=>

PASSWORD: *branch9nalc*

that Brother Weir made a sincere effort. But some of what he reported as "facts" did not stand up when tested under evidentiary standards. Further, the report was rife with his personal opinions and judgements which respectfully, the panel felt went beyond the scope of his mission.

So, members interested in being more fully and accurately informed about the outcome of the charges should carefully read our panel's report. You will also see that the executive council did not follow all of our recommendations, which under the NALC Constitution, was their right.

All of the above reflects my own point of view and opinions and not an official position of NALC.

The panel's report to the executive council can be found : *In an attachment to this message or in the Member Only portal on the NALC WEBSITE at NALC.ORG*

Barry Weiner
Panel Chairperson
Retired National Business
Agent Region 7
June 10, 2024

What is a Trap Shoot? Trapshooting is a shotgun sport, in which 5 participants (squad) shoot together at small disks that are launched in the air called clay pigeons. There are five stations, laid out in an arc. A round of trap is 25 clay pigeons, 5 being shot from each station in rotation Branch 9 welcomes members of all abilities to participate, even if you have never shot Trap in your life!



Branch 9 NALC
Clay Trap Shooting at
Metro Gun Club
 10601 Naples Street NE, Blaine, MIN 55449

Sunday, September 15, 2024
 10:00AM
 \$40/person

This is a Branch 9 sponsored event for our members.
 The limit for non-member guests per member is 1.
 (Contact Ken Jambois for exceptions at 763.370.1392)

PRICE INCLUDES

MANDATORY - 20 minute class on:

- *Gun Safety
- *Proper Procedures of shooting in the fields

SHOOTING

- 2 Rounds (25 shots each)
- 50 Rounds of Shells (Target Loads)
- *20 Gauge Shotgun will be provided for each Squad of 5 if necessary
- *May bring own 12 **OR** 20 Gauge Shotgun, but not shells

SCOREKEEPER

- *This is not a serious competition, but a scorekeeper will be provided for each squad. *
- *Scoring is based on the final scores as they are posted when the shoot has

been completed and gives every contestant an equal chance to win, no matter what his/her shooting ability.

*When all the shooting has been completed, the scores are listed in numerical order from the highest to the lowest. They are then divided into groups according to score. The highest score in each class is the winner!

LUNCH

*Subway sandwiches will be provided after the event. If you have dietary restrictions, contact Ken Jambois.

Branch 9 Clay Trap Shoot
 (Deadline is Monday, September 6th)

Name: _____ Cell #: _____ Station: _____
 Name of Guest: _____ Amount Pd: _____
 Bringing Shotgun _____ Need Shotgun _____
 Size 12. **or** 20 Gauge (circle one)

Checks payable to: Branch 9, 5831 Cedar Lake Road South, St. Louis Park, MN 55416

Branch Nine News
5831 Cedar Lake Road South
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PRSR STD
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Branch 9 Calendar

June 11

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

June 19

JUNETEENTH
HOLIDAY

June 23

St. Paul Saints Game
2:07 PM

June 25

**2024 National Convention*
Delegates Meeting 6 PM
General Membership Meeting
7:00 PM
Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN

July 4

INDEPENDENCE DAY
HOLIDAY

July 9

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

July 23

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

August 5-9

NALC 73rd Biennial
Convention- Boston, MA



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

Stay informed by:

*Join Veterans Group [https://www.nalc.org/
member-benefits/join-the-nalc-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

