



The Branch 9 Ron St. Clair MDA Bowl-A-Thon was a huge success. It was so great to see that we had a higher turnout than the previous year. Also we had the privilege of having two MDA Ambassadors and their families join us for the night of bowling. Abby and Jordan have previously attended this event and were so excited to be back again this year. Abby and Jordan did an amazing job talking about what it means to them to be a part of this event. How impactful it is to them that the money raised from this fundraiser helps send them to camp which they enjoy so much. We had over 11 stations representing and many retirees. We also had many stations donating fantastic baskets for the silent auction which created some fun bidding wars. There were also many great raffle ticket items to choose from and the 50/50's were definitely a hit. There were also many wonderful lane sponsors which was awesome. It was so great to see everyone enjoying themselves and reminiscing about stories from the past and hopefully creating new ones. It was also a wonderful opportunity to see people meet new friends. The success of this event was possible because of you. So I hope you all had a blast and thank you very much for your generosity.

Nick Tiemann
MDA Coordinator

More photos on pages 6-7

Branch 9 Ron St. Clair MDA Bowl-A-Thon



RETIREMENTS



Eddie Smith (Anoka)
Last Punch with
Steward Cole Ostendorf
Congratulations!

NEW MEMBERS

Dejuan Barker
Collin McKane
Joseph Pace
Maria Rockhold
James Smith
Xavier Zaccagnini

IN MEMORIAM

William Meister
Clair Mattson

PAL 9 May 2024

VERY CONCERNED MEMBERS

Greg Piela
Michael Spurbeck
Jake Karnopp
Theresa Johnson
Jeffrey Babey
Gay Woodgate
Dale Mc Nellis
Thomas Hoban
Susan Hoban
Martin Cornell
Thomas Buchner
Bradley Knutson
Leonard Rardin
Jon Thompson
William Mechels
Randy Paulson
Connie Beissel

CONCERNED MEMBERS

Karen Torell
Mary Miller
Marlys Fox
Wm. Tuffs
David Millette
Barbara Kelly
Lawrence Gildner
Brett Thompson
Barb Watzak
Brad Harju
Bruce Roepke
Mark Mellesmoen
Steve Oehlerich

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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

A True Hero

On April 18th, 2024, at approximately 6:30pm an individual lost control of his vehicle, hit a light pole and veered off I-94. The vehicle started on fire. Tesfaye Deyasso, a letter carrier from the Saint Louis Park station, was the first person on the scene to try to get the accident victim out of the burning car. He was quickly joined by other good Samaritans. They frantically tried to open the car door to allow the man to get air and ultimately to get him out of the burning car. The car was next to a guard rail making it difficult to get the door to open. Mr. Deyasso and the others did not give up trying to get the man out of the car. Thankfully, a highway helper showed up and was able to break the window and with the help of Mr. Deyasso they pulled the man to safety before the car became engulfed in flames. After this ended it took Mr. Deyasso 6 hours to be able to breathe normally because he had inhaled so much smoke. Here is a link to the local news story:



<https://www.fox9.com/news/good-samaritan-helps-pull-driver-from-crash>

Mr. Deyasso's selfless actions show his true character. Mr. Deyasso is a man that cares about the well-being of others and is willing to risk his own safety to help someone from what would have been certain death. I feel that Mr. Deyasso is a true hero that needs to be recognized for his courage and bravery.

Disallowed Time

A couple stations have sent grievances up to Formal A for management changing clock rings, disallowing time that carriers have actually worked. Most stations are now keeping carriers to the 12/20/60 limits set in the contract. This is great but what is happening is some supervisors and managers, in order to not go over the 12-hour limit, are taking the time worked over the limit and disallowing it. Let me be very clear on this. **This is wage theft!** Stewards, please put in information requests for employee everything (EE) reports and file a grievance if this is happening at your station.

New Postmaster

The Minneapolis installation has a new Postmaster. His name is Chad Way he comes here from Madison, WI. Medora Walker is off to reign terror on a different installation. That is all I have to say about her departure. Joe and I have had a chance to meet with A/Postmaster Way. He seems like a reasonable person



Scott Bultena

that will be good to work with. The President from the Madison, WI. Installation did not have anything negative to say about him so I am hopefully optimistic that we will be able to develop a good working relationship with him. It is too soon to tell, but again, we are hopefully optimistic.

Uniforms Needed

Over the past few months many new people have been hired. Many of them have come to the Branch office to get uniforms to wear until they get their allowances. Our stock is looking pretty sparce, so we are in need of some gently used uniforms. If you have some that you are not using and are taking up space in your closet, please consider donating them to the Branch. We and the new people coming in would greatly appreciate it.

In Solidarity, Scott

Have You Heard?

If you've been the victim of office gossip, you know it can be both cruel and destructive. Such malicious gossip has shattered many people's lives and careers.

Gossip is a type of verbal terrorism. "To destroy somebody's good name is to commit a kind of murder," says Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, author of "Words That Hurt, Words That Heal."

What is gossip?

Gossip is anything negative you say about someone to someone else -- whether the information is true or false. Some people, however, believe it's OK to talk about others if what they say is true. While it's legal to spread truthful information about someone, it is gossip, and unethical.

Gossip ruins lives

Obviously, gossip causes damage because it can ruin a person's reputation. Spreading rumors about someone else's personal life can lead to the breakup of a marriage and family. Talking negatively about someone's job performance can be devastating to that employee's career.

Why people gossip

Spreading secret information, especially something negative, makes people feel important. It also adds a bit of intrigue to the same old boring workday.

"For most of us, exchanging critical evaluations about others is far more interesting and enjoyable than exchanging good news," explains Rabbi Telushkin.

Another type of gossip -- complaining

This type of gossip happens all the time at work. One employee gets mad at another employee, so the disgruntled person complains to a third party to vent his or her feelings.

This type of office triangle damages companies for the following reasons:

Nothing gets resolved between the two angry employees. A third person becomes involved and must take sides. Pretty soon the entire office gets caught up in an undercurrent of damaging gossip, with everyone choosing sides. The resulting tension lowers office morale and affects employee productivity.

What if you've done it

Notice how often your talk unintentionally drifts toward discussion of other people. Next, notice how often you're a willing recipient of gossip. If you listen to gossip, you're guilty, as well. A listener must complete the gossip connection.

"If you have publicly said something cruel and regret it, call the victim of your remarks immediately and apologize," advises Rabbi Telushkin. "Gossip spreads like wildfire, and you have no control over which direction it heads or how much damage it leaves in its path."

Taken from EAP4YOU.com

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Exec. Vice President's Report

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Ask for your steward

I am hearing reports of management trying to be sneaky when conducting investigations on carriers. The Post Office is doing a lot more training for supervisors and managers. Management is being told that if they do not get the results that upper management wants, then they will be on a telecon to explain why. This is where management is likely to get sneaky. If management is asking you anything about your job performance whether it be in the office or on your route, your first response should be, 'I would like my shop steward.' Things management may ask you: 'Scanner data shows you sitting for 20 minutes.' Ask for your steward. 'Hey what happened to a package you had on your route 3 weeks ago?' Ask for your shop steward.' If, in any way, the answers to their questions could lead to discipline, then you would need your shop steward present.

These are your Weingarten rights. In MPLS we have an agreement that, even if a conversation is for a job discussion, a steward should be present. This agreement can be found on the Branch 9 website (Branch9nalc.com) if you are interested in learning more about it. If you receive any discipline via management handing it to you or mailing it to your address, then please contact your steward right away. Stewards only have 14 days at informal (station level) to get your discipline grieved. This is a very firm timeline.

Bowl-a-thon

I would like to thank everyone who came out to and helped set up the 2024 Ron St. Clair MDA Bowl-a-thon. There is a lot that goes on behind the scenes to make this event a success, so thank you to everyone who made it happen. There were great baskets donated for the silent auction and unique items for the green ticket drawing. The main reason for the event is to raise money for MDA to help send kids to Camp Courage, but it was great seeing everyone have such a fun time too. We will announce the total amount of money raised at the next GMM on May 28th.



Retiree banquet

Over the weekend Branch 9 held our annual Red and Gold Retiree Banquet. The event is for us to take the time to honor and celebrate our Branch 9 retired letter carriers and to thank them for paving the way for our generation. Congratulations to Darrell Maus for receiving the Retiree of the Year award at the event. I heard many stories of some great times that people had over their careers, but also



Joseph Tiemann

heard stories of how postal management mistreated and hounded carriers over their route times. Sounds familiar...

The guest speakers were our Region 7 National Business agent Patrick Johnson and our National Executive Vice President Paul Barner. Mr. Barner talked about some of the bills that are currently still needing support to pass. These are H.R 7629 Protect Our Letter Carriers Act (POLCA) and H.R 5995 Federal Retirement Fairness Act. When the time comes, he encourages everyone to reach out to their congress representative and let them know that they should support these bills. It is easier than ever to take action on NALC.org and learn more about these Acts.

As always, please check out the Branch 9 website for information about upcoming events this summer. We have some great events scheduled.

In solidarity,
Joseph Tiemann

(Pictured- Guest Speaker at the Red and Gold Retiree Banquet National Executive Vice President Paul Barner)

A few Saturdays ago, Branch 9 closed down and took over the New Hope Bowl (outside of Minneapolis) so that we could have an exclusive Branch 9 night out and annual MDA Bowl-a-thon.

This year's participation in the event was outstanding! Carriers came together from across Minneapolis with one goal in mind... raise money so that kids with Muscular Dystrophy can go to summer camp, and be kids!

We occupied most of the lanes in the bowling alley with teams from each of our local stations. In addition to the bowlers, many more came just to hang out and be part of the fun of this annual event.

The bowling was complemented with an endless buffet of Pizza, multiple 50/50 drawings, silent auctions and raffles. Two young ambassadors from MDA came out especially for this event. These ambassadors are just two of the children that we will be helping this year. Both took time to address the attendees. It was inspiring to hear all the hope and joy in their voices as they told us what our contributions mean to them.

The overall mood of the evening was very upbeat. In fact, I can't even remember talking once about station issues. This was a huge contrast from last year! If you didn't make it to the event, I hope that you will consider joining us next year.

During the course of the evening, most everyone scored some well deserved strikes and spares, but the only score that mattered at the end of the night were the dollars that we raised for MDA!

If you're encouraged by the efforts of Branch 9, please allow us to encourage YOU to go to MDA.org right now. Send them some of your treasure. You'll be glad that you did.

Together, we are unstoppable!

william@branch9nalc.com



TEAM BROOKLYN CENTER



TEAM ST LOUIS PARK



TEAM BLAINE



TEAM ANOKA



TEAM 4/54



TEAM LAKE STREET



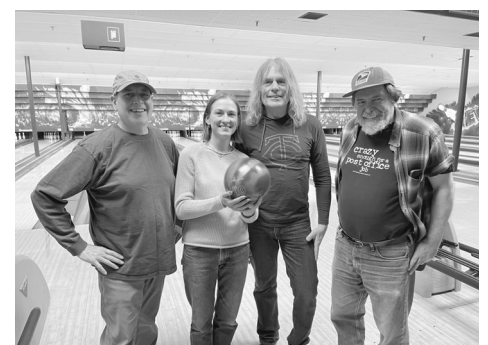
TEAM COL. HEIGHTS/ RICHFIELD



LUCKY LOWRY CARRIERS



TEAM UNIVERSITY



TEAM POWDERHORN




TEAM LOST LAKE



TEAM RETIRED





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

Letter Carrier Political Fund Coordinator May Newsletter

"The long run is too long. You've got weeks, not months to fix this. And if you don't fix it, 36% on-time delivery, I don't think you're fit for this job," Ossoff (D- GA) replied. This was one of many heated exchanges during the U.S Senate hearing on April 16th. The committee that oversees the U.S.P.S is the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. After thousands of complaints were submitted about Americans not getting reliable service in multiple regions of the country the committee decided to call a hearing. Postmaster General DeJoy during his opening remarks tried to blame some of the failures on the decades long neglect of modernization to U.S.P.S. He was quickly met with criticism from the Senate committee. DeJoy has been Postmaster since June 2020. The committee pointed out that he's had 4 years to get an upward swing in service with his Delivery for America Plan but has clearly fallen on its face. In Atlanta, GA where the S and DC model was first implemented has seen massive decline in service. Kubayanda (Postal Regulatory Commission Chairman) specifically mentioned the length of time it currently takes for individual letters and cards mailed within the Atlanta area to arrive. According to Kubayanda, letters and cards that should arrive in a "generous two-day window" met that standard only 16% of the time in March. The chair of the committee Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI) sent a letter to DeJoy calling on USPS to pause all network changes until it can clearly demonstrate that such changes will not degrade local mail service. *The USPS has "lost control of the process...and I've never, ever seen service this poor in my career."* Day was nominated by President Biden and confirmed by the Senate in September. He served 35 years in the Postal Service. Senator Rosen (D-NV) had to point out consolidating the plant in Reno, NV and moving it to Sacramento, CA would be negligent. The only

highway to transport mail is through the Donner pass. It gets massive amounts of snow yearly. The highway is closed 37 days a year due to weather. Plus sending mail 130 miles to Sacramento back 130 miles to Reno does not make sense. *"USPS is expected to lose about \$6 billion this year. It doesn't sound like a whole lot of success with people going in the right direction."* Rand Paul (R-KY). In regard to the Post Office in Baring, Mo., Senator Hawley said, "this is a rural community in my state, and they don't have a post office at all. What bothers me is I haven't heard anything about the timeline for getting it rebuilt [...] I'm frustrated by the fact that it has been months and months, and I was told ninety days in September, and this is now the middle of April, and here we are." As you can read from these quotes there is a big problem with the quality and direction of the service. There was a letter sent to the board of governors signed by multiple senators including our own Senator Klobuchar. The last paragraph is as stated "We have a vested interest in seeing USPS succeed. Our constituents rely on it for their daily correspondence, bills, lifesaving medications, and sometimes, their livelihood. The U.S. Postal Service is, by law, a fundamental service provided to the people by our government. It has become clear that under the DFA, USPS is continuing to implement changes that are harmful to Americans and the American businesses that rely on the service. As the Board of Governors, you must step in before further harm is caused." Please go to the [NALC.org](https://www.nalc.org) take action page to write letters to politicians who support our union and USPS. Another reminder to support H.R 7629 (Protect Our Letter Carrier Act) and H.R 5995 (Federal Retirement Fairness Act). Additionally, we need to continue the pressure on the White House to order the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to recalculate

our pension. If we don't get it fixed now the next time we will have a chance is years from now. "It's President Biden's turn to deliver for the Postal Service. Unfair valuation of postal pension fund obligations has led to the loss of over \$90 billion. Congress directed OPM to fix its flawed methodology, but they keep stalling. When running for election, then-former Vice President Biden acknowledged this gross misallocation and expressed support for fixing it. It's time for President Biden to prove that his "pro-labor" agenda doesn't exclude postal workers. Join us in urging the Biden Administration to act quickly to remedy this unfair misallocation." - NALC Facebook page

Lastly, May 27 is Memorial Day. As a service roughly 16% of the work force are veterans. We had an active military service member die in our own branch. 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. I also want to recognize the letter carriers who have served their community and country that have died while delivering. One from our own region is Aundre Cross from branch 2 was murdered while performing his duties. Eugene Gates from branch 132 died while delivering during the heat in Texas last summer. There are many more tragic stories in the last year that ended in death of a letter carrier and military men and women. I hope we all take the time to reflect on the sacrifices these public servants and many more like them have made for our Country.

Thank you,

Andrew Hagan
Branch 9
Letter Carrier Political Fund
Coordinator

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

Name _____
 Address _____

 Phone _____
 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 _____
 Address _____

 Phone _____
 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 _____
 Address _____

 Phone _____
 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 28, 2024**

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

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/login/group1.php?refresh=&refresh=>

PASSWORD: branch9nalc

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
St. Louis Park, MN 55416

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

Branch 9 Calendar

May 14

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

May 27

MEMORIAL DAY
HOLIDAY

May 28

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

June 11

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

June 19

JUNETEENTH
HOLIDAY

June 25

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

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

