



### Branch 9 News wins award for Overall Excellence.



This year at the National Convention the Branch 9 News won 2nd place for small branches in Overall Excellence.

This category recognizes publications that best serve the membership. Judges considered content (appropriate and original articles, useful

*Continued on page 4...*

### The Great MN Get-together

Branch 9 supporting letter carriers at the Minnesota State Fair by educating people about letter carrier safety and filling out postcards to their legislators in support of POLCA, Protect Our Letter Carrier Act (H.R. 7629/S. 4356)



### \*ELECTION NOTICE\*

This is an official notification to the membership of Jerome J. Keating, Branch 9 NALC, Minneapolis, Minnesota and is in accordance with the Branch 9 by-laws for the election of officers and delegates. Nominations for the offices of president, executive vice president, recording secretary, financial secretary, treasurer, editor, sergeant-at-arms, health benefits representative, director of retirees, three (3) trustees, delegates to the 2025 MSALC convention, four (4) delegates to the Minnesota AFL-CIO/ Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation (RLF), and two (2) delegates to the St. Paul Regional Labor Federation (RLF) will be held at the September General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, September 24, 2024 start time 7:00 p.m. This meeting may be attended either virtually or in person at the Crystal VFW, 5222 56th Avenue North, Crystal, MN 55429.

With the exception of MSALC delegates, the term for all offices will be three years, beginning in January 2025. the president and executive vice president shall be delegates to the NALC convention, MSALC convention and Minnesota AFL-CIO/Minneapolis RLF by virtue of their office.

Candidates must complete the appropriate letter of intent and return same to the recording secretary at the general membership meeting for which they are nominated, or within 10 days thereafter, to the Branch 9 office, by no later than 5:00 p.m.

Elections for contested officer positions and Minnesota AFL-CIO/ Minneapolis or St. Paul RLF delegates will be by referendum ballots that must be returned to the designated post office box selected by the election committee by 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 26, 2024. Should an election of delegates to the MSALC convention be necessary, it will be held at the October General Membership Meeting on October 22, 2024.

## RETIREMENTS



Scott Cameron (c) (Thomas Burnett)  
Last Punch with EVP Joe Tiemann,  
Steward David Flynn, Pres. Scott  
Bultena and Alt. Steward Adam Paul  
*Congratulations!*



Jim Lonetti (r) (Nokomis)  
Last Punch with  
Steward Duane Pederson  
*Happy Retirement!*

## NEW MEMBERS

Ryan Babb  
Michael Banac  
Bradley Barrows  
Jordyn Beard  
Tevaris Beasley  
Ephrem Biru  
Ryan Brick  
Raimundo Chimborazo-  
Palchizaca  
Richard Dallman  
Alexis Damey  
John Forslund  
Christopher Hanlon  
Marstavian Jackson  
Emmanuel Johnson  
Alemayehu Kahsay  
Heidi Kelley  
Jerone Kellum Jr  
Lafe Krick  
Tenisha Leonard  
Peter McCann  
Kir Darryus Moody  
Maurice Mukes  
Ashton Rowe  
Sabira Said  
Marco Saltos  
Christopher Sullivan  
Jaystin Thunder  
Tashi Tsetan

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

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Fax: (612) 781-9849  
Website: [branch9nalc.com](http://branch9nalc.com)

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  
Nicole Goodin  
Latasha McCaleb  
Nick Tiemann

Director of Retirees  
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.

# AME'S UNIFORMS

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If fixable we will repair your uniform at no cost to you.  
Take waist in/out and change hem length

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Br. 9 Retired Letter Carrier  
Kerry Herdine  
Home: 952.854.2655  
Cell: 612.805.8407

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## National Convention, Boston 2024

This month my report is on the National Convention that took place in Boston August 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, 2024. There were 5109 delegates representing 602 branches present at the convention.



President Renfro opened the convention giving a "state of the union" address to the delegates in attendance. The number one thing on everyone's mind right now is, *where are we at with the contract?* On this President Renfro said, "Today, we are near agreement on the major economic pieces of a tentative agreement. It is very possible, even likely, that a tentative agreement to send out to NALC members to consider for ratification will be reached," he said. "Such an agreement will address the goals that I've outlined from the start of this process last year." Renfro said that as much as he would like, he cannot make the process go faster, but he's "committed to staying in this fight to get what our members have earned and deserve. We are almost there, and we are going to finish that job." Still, he added, NALC is prepared to go to interest arbitration if negotiations fall apart.

There were many great speakers including AFL-CIO President Liz Schuler, Representative Steve Lynch, International Steel Workers V.P. Roxanne Brown, President of the Mail Handlers Union Paul Hogrogian, The maker of the Protect Our Letter Carriers Act

Brian Fitzpatrick and the original sponsor of the act Greg Landsman, as well as many other great speakers.

A motion was made and passed that allows retirees to rejoin the union no matter how long they have been retired. Before this motion was passed, retirees had up to 1 year to fill out an 1189 to remain in the union into retirement unless there were special circumstances that prevented them from filling out the 1189.

Branch 9 won second place for overall excellence among small branch publications for our Branch 9 Newsletter. Special thanks to Jeremy Rothstein for all the hard work that he puts into making our newsletter one of the best in the nation!

The convention discussed and passed a motion to overturn President Renfro's ruling that 3 members do not have standing to appeal decisions by the Executive Council that found the NALC President not guilty on 3 of the 4 Article 10 charges. Another motion was made and passed that the charges will be heard no later than Wednesday of the convention. A motion was then made and passed that President Emeritus Fred Rolondo chair the hearing for the Article 10 charges.

President Emeritus Rolondo explained the rules for the Article 10 appeals: The charging parties. Chris Jackson and Charlie Miller had 20 minutes to present their case, on each charge, to overturn the ruling of the Executive Council. President Renfro had 20 minutes to present his case to uphold the Executive Councils ruling. Each party had 5 minutes for rebuttal. The delegates then voted on whether to uphold the decision of the Executive Council or to overturn the



**Scott Bultena**

decision. Here are the results of the appeals:

**Charge 1: Neglect of Duty.** The delegates voted to uphold the Executive Councils decision of Not Guilty by a teller vote of 2997 to 1576.

**Charge 2: Circulating False or Misleading Statements about an NALC Officer.** The Executive Councils ruling of Not Guilty was upheld by a teller vote of 2949 to 1478.

**Charge 3: Impaired Driving in an NALC vehicle.** The Executive Councils finding of guilty, and the loss of driving privileges, was upheld by a teller vote of 2783 to 1438.

**Charge 4: Abandonment of Position.** The Executive Councils ruling of Not Guilty was upheld by a teller vote of 2674 to 1712.

Workshops were offered before and after the general session. These workshops were well attended by the delegates of Branch 9. Some of the workshops offered were City Delivery, Following a Grievance From Start to Finish, OWCP claim basics, Strategic Planning for New Branch Leaders, Building Retirement Security with the Thrift Savings Plan, and many more.

In Solidarity, Scott

...continued from page 1

information, local angles), style (clear writing, effective headlines, good story placement) and overall appearance (readability, attractiveness, use of photos and art). Although Branch 9 is not considered a small branch, as large branches are defined as having 500 or more members, but the judges may alter that threshold to create a balanced number of entries in both categories.

Editors of branch and state association newsletters and websites were invited to enter NALC's biennial competition for outstanding periodical publications. A panel of publications experts determined award winners in the various categories. The decision of the judges is final. Winners were announced at a workshop held during the national convention in Boston Aug. 5-9.

"It's an honor to be recognized for creating a quality newsletter for the membership", Editor of the BNN. "Thank you to the membership for their contributions in writing articles and providing information important to the members."

The 73rd Biennial Convention of the National Association of Letter Carriers began on Monday, Aug. 5, with a powerful call for solidarity by NALC President Brian L. Renfro to the thousands of delegates gathered at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center.

The convention addressed the ongoing contract negotiations, the assault on letter carriers and the legislation to help protect them. The delegates endorsed the Harris-Walz presidential ticket. It was acknowledged letter carriers are delivering democracy as people can vote by mail, 75 percent of voters in 26 states have access to voting by



mail for any reason, including eight states and the District of Columbia that automatically mail ballots to all voters.

Much was addressed and



discussed regarding carrier safety i.e. heat. The days were filled with many speakers, from legislators to

other Union leaders.

The Article 10 appeals involving President Renfro were heard. The delegates considered three appeals and voted to deny all three.

The delegates voted to adopt resolutions:

- A resolution dealing with heat safety in bargaining passed.
- to bargain with management over back pay,
- to negotiate over debt-collection procedures, and

- to call for improved vehicle training.
- NALC members who were in good standing at retirement but did not submit a Form 1189 in a timely fashion to regain their membership in the union.

The delegates also voted to



approve a motion made from the floor for the NALC to create a standing committee on diversity, equity and inclusion.

The convention ended with an invitation from the host branch President of the Los Angeles, CA Branch 24, to the 2026 convention.

More information about the recent National Convention can be found @ <https://www.nalc.org/union-administration/nalc-convention>

*Top Pic. (Branch 9 delegates, not all delegates are pictured)*

*Mid Pic. (Andrew Hagen, Susan Becker and LaTasha McCaleb)*

*Right Pic. (Crystal Spiel, Chris Hough, Barry Wiener and Ken Jambois)*

# Exec. Vice President's Report

Hello Branch 9,

National Convention in Boston

The 73<sup>rd</sup> Biennial National Convention took place in Boston August 5 - 9 and I had the honor of attending as a representative of Branch 9. This is my second national convention, the first one being Detroit in 2018. This convention was very different from Detroit. There was a bit of tension in the room right off the bat and some unprecedented events occurred. In a room of around 5000 delegates, there are around 9 microphones spread out throughout the room. At the start of the convention every microphone lit up with members waiting to speak. When the members were able to start speaking, the first main thing that was brought up was a vote to hear the four appeals on the four charges against our National President Brian Renfroe on Wednesday, instead of the original schedule of hearing them on Friday. The vote passed to hear the appeals on Wednesday and when the appeals started, the rules were announced that each party would have 20 minutes to explain their positions to the supreme body followed up by a 5-minute rebuttal. I have never seen a room with so many people so quiet when the process started. This was the first time this has ever happened where the supreme body addressed charges against a National President. This whole process was intense and extremely interesting. In the end, the supreme body ultimately upheld the Executive Councils decisions on all four charges. Here are the vote totals for each charge, **Charge 1:** 2997 to 1576 **Charge 2:** 2949 to 1475 **Charge 3:** 2783 to 1438 **Charge 4:** 2764 to 1712.

That wasn't all that happened at

the convention. Just over 5 thousand delegates from all over the country voted on various resolutions that were submitted by branches all over the country. 18 general resolutions, 1 legislative, and 37 national resolutions were heard. Not all of these passed, but around 25 of the national agreement resolutions, 5 general resolutions, and the one legislative resolution did get approval by the delegates of the convention. Voting on these resolutions is a large part of what being a delegate is all about, conducting the business of the union on a national level.

Most NALC members are not able to travel and attend these conventions, but a big part of the convention is having guest speakers. This includes presidents of other unions including postal unions, the president of the AFL-CIO and various members of congress. If you want to see any of these speakers and their speeches, they are available to view on Youtube.com. In YouTube, search NALC and look at the videos available to view. Amongst the videos there is also one for the enough is enough rally that took place in Minneapolis.

## State Fair POLCA

The unofficial sign of the end of summer is the Great Minnesota Get Together. This year at the



*Joseph Tiemann*

State Fair, Branch 9's mission was to obtain members of the public to fill out postcards to support the Protect Our Letter Carriers Act. After the fair ended, we collected all the postcards and are sending them to each of their representatives to show the public support for this act. I worked the fair the Saturday, Sunday and Monday on the second weekend, and the main takeaway for me was that the public wants this bill to happen. There were many people that came up to the booth to talk and thanked their letter carrier for their service. Once they were at the booth and heard what was going on with letter carriers across the country, people were happy to help. Almost everyone that we spoke with told me that they couldn't believe that this was going on. It's easy to sell something to someone who wants to buy it, so let's keep spreading the message about how important this issue is. If you come to a meeting, please fill out a postcard, or take action online at [NALC.org](http://NALC.org) to help get this bill passed.

In solidarity,  
Joseph Tiemann

## POSTAL SERVICE HEALTH BENEFITS PLAN TRANSITION FOR RETIREES

If you're a Post Office employee or retiree (annuitant), you've probably heard by now that the Post Office is set to transition to the Postal Service Health Benefits Plan (PSHB), which the Office of Personnel Management describes as a "new, separate program within the FEHB program", splitting its group health plan from the rest of the federal workforce in January 2025. This split is a legal requirement resulting from the passage of the Postal Service Reform Act of 2022.

The USPS is doing its best to ensure that employees and annuitants experience very little change to their coverage as a result. In fact, this is a necessity of the law under 5 U.S.C. 8903c(c)(2), which instructs that a health carrier's "2025 PSHB plan must have equivalent benefits and cost sharing to the carrier's 2025 FEHB plan".

Since preparations for the transition have started, there have been a few important announcements, with more expected near the beginning of Open Season, which starts on November 9th and goes until December 11th. Here are the important ones:

1. 32 plans have been granted provisional participation in the new PSHB program. In order to be fully approved, health insurance carriers will need to successfully negotiate their offerings and rates, but it's very likely that all will do so.

These 32 plans represent approximately 20% of the plans offered under the FEHB, but they include some of the most widely used plans from the national and regional insurers that cover the greatest numbers of participants.

2. Participants will not be required to actively enroll in a new PSHB plan during Open Season. Instead, the USPS plans to automatically "crosswalk" participants into the plan most similar to the one they had under FEHB. And, in cases where there isn't an equivalent option available, OPM will automatically enroll individuals into the most affordable, no-fee, non-high-deductible plan available in PSHB.
3. While many know about the integration of Medicare Part B in the new plan, there's been less talk about the fact that PSHB Carriers must now integrate a Part D Employer Group Waiver Plan (EGWP). Part D Medicare is prescription drug coverage and, in the past, has been a choice available to FEHB participants. But under the PSHB, carriers are required to provide prescription drug benefits for Medicare Part D-eligible Postal Service annuitants and their Part D-eligible family members, and no other prescription drug coverage will be available to them.
4. At least one major insurance carrier, FEP Blue Cross Blue Shield, has already sent letters to current participants letting them know that a plan similar to their current plan has been conditionally approved and stating that they'll share more details on the PSHB benefits and premiums "later this year, in time for Open Season"
5. The USPS reports new plan details will be available as of September 15, and will be sent out via hard mail in the weeks that follow.
6. The USPS says that participants will receive a "crosswalk letter" in late October showing the new plan into which the USPS intends to enroll them. If you agree, there's nothing to do: you'll be enrolled in that plan.
7. Details of the new PSHB plans will be offered on a new PSHB centralized online system available in late October, and enrollment in the new plans will be available on that site.

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To stay up-to-date on the latest, you can attend PSHB webinars hosted by the USPS every 2 weeks until December 5th here: <https://www.keepingposted.org/pshb-lunch-learn-seminars.htm>. These webinars include live Q&A, where participants can ask questions about their particular situation.

*Article written by Lacie Harmon. Lacie is a Federal Benefits and Retirement Specialist who helps federal employees understand and maximize their benefits. She teaches regularly at federal agencies and offers monthly federal retirement webinars. Past classes taught include for clients such as the FAA, USDA and GAO, as well as union locals of the APWU and NALC. Web: <https://www.lacieharmon.com> | Facebook | Email: [LHarmon@thefederalbenefitsgroup.com](mailto:LHarmon@thefederalbenefitsgroup.com)*

Contact Ken Jambois-Health Benefits Representative Branch 9 with any questions.

Ken Jambois: [kjambois88@aol.com](mailto:kjambois88@aol.com) or 763-370-1392

*Annual Branch 9 vs. Branch 28*

**RETIREE CRIBBAGE TOURNAMENT**

**\$2.00 Entry Fee**

**Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
10:00AM**

**PLACE:**

NALC Branch 9  
5831 Cedar Lake Road South  
St. Louis Park, MN  
612.781.9858

- If you have any questions, call Darrell Maus at 612.810.7729.
- Bring a friend, your cribbage board and cards.
- Lunch will be provided (hot dogs, chips & beverages).

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

# Branch 9 MDA Golf Tournament

## October 14, 2024

### Rum River Hills Golf Club



**Rum River Hills Golf Club.**

16659 St. Francis Blvd. NW  
 Ramsey, Minnesota 55303

**\$50.00 per person.** Teams of 4, individuals will be assigned to a team.

- \*Includes 9 holes of golf, with a golf cart.
- \*Scramble format.
- \*Shotgun start
- \*Raffle ticket drawings
- \*Proxies on the course
- \*MDA Fundraiser

**Starts at 9am**

Lunch approximately noon.  
 (Pulled pork sandwiches, potato salad, chips and a cookie.)

**Checks made out to:** *Branch 9 NALC.*

**Mail to:** NALC Branch 9 - 5831 Cedar Lake Rd  
 St. Louis Park, MN 55416

**Deadline** for signing up  
**Monday October 7, 2024.**

**Contact:** Joe Tiemann 612-860-4440



**MDA Branch 9 NALC  
 Fundraiser**



**Branch 9 MDA Rum River Hills Registration Form**

**Mail to:** NALC Branch 9 - 5831 Cedar Lake Rd St. Louis Park, MN 55416

Teams of 4. Individuals will be assigned to a team

List names and station:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

Amount paid: \_\_\_\_\_ Checks made out to: ***Branch 9 NALC***



# **COLOR CODED LETTER CARRIER CALENDAR ORDER FORM**

**It's time to order your 2025 color coded calendar!**

**Calendars are \$4.75/each**

*(check only and made out to Richdon- NO CASH)*

**Mail your checks with the order form below to:**

**NALC Branch 9**

**Atten. Ken Jambois**

**5831 Cedar Lake Road South**

**St. Louis Park, MN 55416**

If you have any questions, contact-

Ken Jambois C: 763-370-1392 or Chris Hough C: 612-644-5903

**THE LAST DAY TO PURCHASE A CALENDAR  
WILL BE AT THE SEPTEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2024 GMM**

**COLOR CODED LETTER CARRIER CALENDAR ORDER FORM**

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Station: \_\_\_\_\_ # of Calendars \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Check \$ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Checks made out to Richdon)*

**Branch 9 NALC  
Part-Time Flexibles, City Carrier Assistants  
and New Career Employees Meeting**

This meeting provides Part-Time Flexibles (PTFs), City Carrier Assistants (CCAs) and New Career Employees a great opportunity to learn more about your rights at work and your future with the Postal Service.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2024  
7:00PM**

**BRANCH 9 OFFICE  
5831 Cedar Lake Road South  
St. Louis Park, MN 55416**

- Hold-Downs vs. Bidding
- Conversion to Career
- Using your Annual Leave
- What is happening to the Postal Service?
  - Moving from Station to Station
  - Use of Personal Vehicle
- Other topics will be addressed via a *Question and Answer* format.

This meeting will be led by President Scott Bultena, Executive VP Joseph Tiemann and the E-Board will also be in attendance.

***Remember, if you don't know your rights, you have none!***

**Please join Branch 9 for  
Breakfast and a showing of  
Hansel & Gretel's Magical  
Adventure!**

**SUNDAY,  
DECEMBER  
8, 2024.**



Minnesota Masonic Heritage Center  
11411 Masonic Home Drive  
Bloomington, MN 55437



**Santa will be our special guest from  
11:00am - 1:00pm**

(children 5 and under will receive a stuffed animal).

**Price is \$25 per adult/guest/child**

**Breakfast Buffet  
11:30am**

Waffle Bar, Scrambled Eggs, Cheesy Hash-browns,  
Bacon, Fresh Fruit, Orange Juice, Coffee.

**Show Start Time  
1:00pm**

65 minute run time

(Available for 200 people - first come, first served.  
Tickets are Gen. Admission - Pick up at theater)

**Return registration form and payment  
No later than Friday, November 29th, 2024.**

(checks made out and mailed to:  
Branch 9 NALC, 5831 Cedar Lk Rd S,  
St. Louis Park, MN 55416)

**Branch 9 Holiday Party  
Registration Form**

Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Number of Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Guests (please include ages of  
children):

- #1 \_\_\_\_\_
- #2 \_\_\_\_\_
- #3 \_\_\_\_\_
- #4 \_\_\_\_\_
- #5 \_\_\_\_\_
- #6 \_\_\_\_\_
- #7 \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Ken Jambois with questions 763.370.1392

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

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
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TWIN CITIES MN  
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## Branch 9 Calendar

### September 24

General Membership Meeting  
7:00 PM  
Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN  
*Nomination of officers and delegates*

### October 3

PTF/CCA/New Career  
7:00 PM  
5831 Cedar Lake Road South  
St. Louis Park, MN 55416

### October 7-9

2024 MSALC Convention

### October 8

Steward Meeting  
7:00 PM

*(pending motion, may move to 6 pm before GMM)*

### October 14

Holiday  
Columbus Day  
Indigenous People's Day

### October 14

MDA Golf Tournament  
Rum River Hills  
9:00 AM

### October 22

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

### December 8

Holiday Party  
Sidekick Theater  
"Hansel and Gretel"  
11:00 AM

### 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>

\* 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)

