



**Branch 9 election results
are as follows:**

President:
Joe Rian 528
Scott Bultena 237

Executive Vice President:
Chris Pennock 519
Will Mathes 234

Recording Secretary:
Andrew Hagan 471
Robb Petersburg 278

Director of Retirees:
Joe Tanner 407
Darrell Maus 357

BALLOTS

Mailed to Branch 9 members.....	2000
Returned to election committee	900
Ballots counted	801
Spoiled	99*

*These were a combination of members in a no deduct status, moved unable to forward, or failure to sign ballot return envelope.

Contract Ratification Notice

On Oct. 17, NALC and USPS reached tentative agreement on the terms of the proposed 2023-2026 National Agreement. Shortly after being announced by President Renfroe, NALC Secretary-Treasurer Nicole Rhine provided a list of NALC regular members, excluding retirees, OWCP departees, and non-letter carrier regular members, as of ninety (90) days prior to the date the proposed agreement was reached. Per Article 16 of the NALC Constitution, the 185,894 active letter carriers on this list are eligible to vote in the contract ratification election.

Beginning on Dec. 9, eligible active letter carriers will be mailed a ballot to vote on the proposed 2023-2026 National Agreement between NALC and USPS. Included in the mailing will be a letter from NALC President Renfroe; a booklet containing all the contractual language changes in the tentative National Agreement; a summary of the tentative National Agreement provisions; a ballot and secrecy envelope; a return envelope; and instructions for casting a vote on the contract. The mailing will begin with eligible members on the West Coast of the United States and finish with those on the East Coast. The Ballot Committee will monitor and observe the dispatch of the ballots, which is expected to be completed by Dec. 13.

The deadline for ballots to be returned will be Jan. 13, 2025. Members should return their ballot as soon as possible after reviewing the tentative agreement and election material. The Ballot Committee will observe the receipt and tabulation of the ballots and upon completion of counting will certify the results of the election. Such results will be timely furnished to the National President and the membership in accordance with the NALC Constitution.

MOSAIC of Hyattsville, MD is handling the printing and mailing of the election materials, and Survey and Ballot Systems of Eden Prairie, MN is conducting the ballot counting. The Ballot Committee will provide further updates once the mailing of the election material is completed.

*Statement from Ballot Committee on Contract Ratification Election
President Renfroe announced the appointment of a Ballot Committee to monitor and observe the dispatch, receipt and tabulation of the ratification ballot for the proposed 2023-2026 National Agreement between NALC and USPS. The 15-member committee, chaired by Paul Roznowski of Branch 3126, Royal Oak, MI, have released the following statement:

NOTICE TO ALL BRANCH 9 MEMBERS
**Any proposed amendments to the
 2025 Branch 9 By-Laws must be
 presented in writing to the
 Recording Secretary no later than the
 February 25, 2025 General Membership Mtg.**

RETIREMENTS



Last Punch for Vince Froehlich (Loring) with EVP Joe Tiemann. Congratulations!



Last Punch for George Shimmel (Coon Rapids) with stewards Andy Graham and Jessie Vasquez. Best Wishes!

NEW MEMBERS

- Melvin Barth
- Shelby Jarosz Beach
- Kimberley Johnson
- Zachary Kezer
- Nam Lee
- Jonathan Oslund
- Hussein Osman
- Mark Schutte
- Pamela Warren

IN MEMORIAM

- Betty Brown
- James Cassell
- John Dornfield
- Larrie Lovstad
- Dennis Ryan
- Harold Tilbury

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Ame's Uniforms are a UNION PREFERRED vendor

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

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

Voice: (612) 781-9858
Fax: (612) 781-9849
Website: branch9nalc.com

Branch 9 Officers
President
Scott Bultena

Exec. Vice President
Joseph Tiemann

Recording Secretary
Robb Petersburg

Treasurer
Barb Watczak

Financial Secretary
Stacey Ellingson

Editor
Jeremy Rothstein
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.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

I hope you all have the chance to slow down a bit this season and celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! This is our busy time of the year. Letter carriers work hard delivering packages and gifts this time of the year. I hope that you all enjoy the time that you have with your friends and family this Christmas and New Year! I appreciate all that you do not just this time of the year but all year round!

We have a lot planned for 2025 and it is my hope that those of you who are active in Branch 9 will continue to be active. I also hope that those of you who rarely go to Branch sponsored events will become more active. Here is a layout of some of the events in 2025:

General Membership Meetings are on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7pm at the Crystal VFW.

In April we will have a bowl a thon to benefit Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). Details will be in the Branch 9 Newsletter (BNN).

On May 4th we will have a Retiree luncheon at the Delta Hotel in Minneapolis. Check the BNN for details.

June/July (date not yet determined) we will have a summer picnic. Details will be in the BNN.

September/October (date not yet determined) we will have a golf tournament to benefit MDA. Details will be in the BNN.

This is just a short list of the opportunities that our members will have to connect with other carriers and become more involved in Branch 9. Other activities will be announced throughout the year and communicated to the membership via BNN.

Membership Dues

There will be no increase in membership dues this year. Any increase that results from the new contract will not go into effect until January 2026.

New Year Resolution

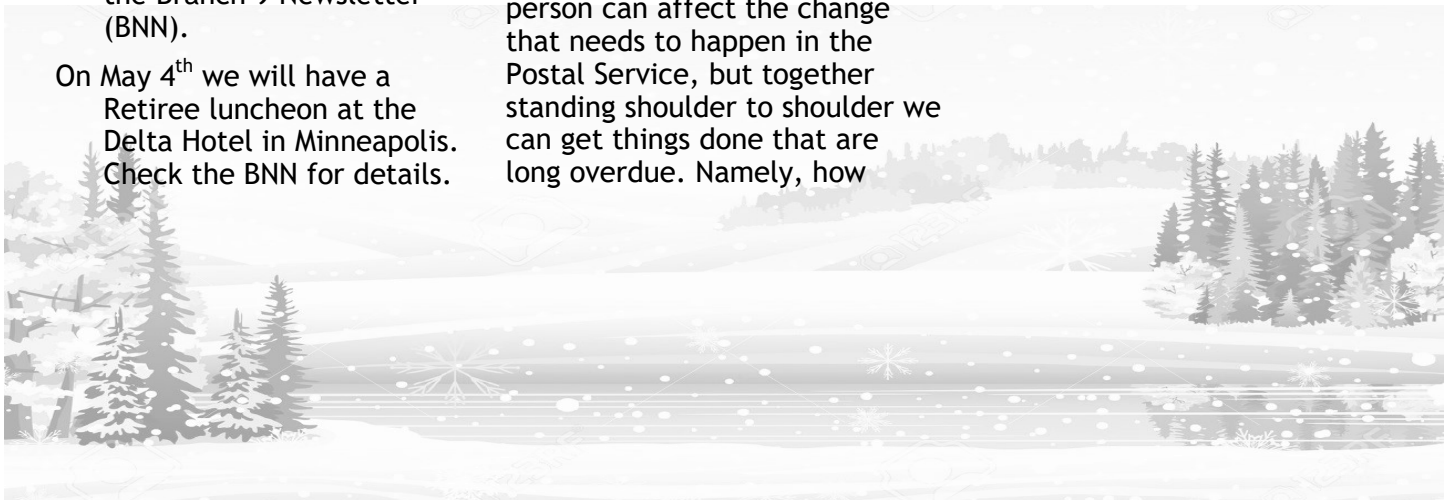
The reason I do this job is because there is no greater satisfaction than helping someone who needs help, being a voice for someone who has not yet found their voice. No one person can affect the change that needs to happen in the Postal Service, but together standing shoulder to shoulder we can get things done that are long overdue. Namely, how



Scott Bultena

letter carriers are being treated at some stations. Please resolve this year to be active in defense of your fellow carriers. If you see or hear a supervisor or manager mistreating someone, please talk to your Steward about it and be willing to write a statement about the details of the mistreatment. Too many times when discussing these issues with Stewards I am told that carriers will not write statements because they are afraid of retaliation. Let's resolve this year that we are going to stand up to managers not only for ourselves but for the carriers that we work with. This will send a clear message to management that mistreatment will not be tolerated.

In Solidarity, Scott



OIG INTEGRITY TESTS

During the previous Holiday Seasons, we have reported that there have been Postal employees disciplined and even removed for using gift cards that they found in collection boxes, on the street, in waste baskets and in some cases given to them by customers saying they found the gift cards in front of the Post Office. In all of these instances, the gift cards were planted by the OIG. Our office has learned that the OIG is again planting gift cards to test Letter Carriers.

In the recent examples that we have heard of, the OIG are conducting "integrity tests". In these tests, the OIG agents are placing gift cards that have values of \$25 - \$50 in the outgoing mail slots, collections boxes and even in single-family mailboxes. As Letter Carriers, it is common for our customers to leave gifts in their mailbox even outside of the holidays, and we normally accept those gifts.

Where a Letter Carrier may get into trouble is when they accept cash in any amount or gifts (including gift cards) valued above \$20. That said, the rules are the rules and below is language from the Code of Federal Regulations 5 CFR 2635.204(a), which should be considered the next time one of your patrons, gives you a gift.

Gifts of \$20 or less. An employee may accept unsolicited gifts having an aggregate market value of \$20 or less per source per occasion, provided that the aggregate market value of individual gifts received from any one person under the authority of this paragraph shall not exceed \$50 in a calendar year. This exception does not apply to gifts of cash or of investment interests such as stock, bonds, or certificates of deposit. Where the market value of a gift or the aggregate market value of gifts offered on any single occasion exceeds \$20, the employee may not pay the excess value over \$20 in order to accept that portion of the gift or those gifts worth \$20. Where the aggregate value of tangible items offered on a single occasion exceeds \$20, the employee may decline any distinct and separate item in order to accept those items aggregating \$20 or less.

If you have any questions, regarding gifts from your customers contact your supervisor to get verification that it is acceptable to accept the gift in question. If you disagree with the supervisor's opinion based on the language above, contact your steward for clarification. As always, feel free contact the Branch Office at 612.781.9858 for clarification.

Exec. Vice President's Report

Brothers and Sisters,

The results of the Branch 9 officer election have been announced. I just want to say congratulations to the newly elected officers of Branch 9. I wish you all the best of luck and offer any support to help the branch and its members.

The ballots for the Tentative agreement should be mailed out across the country starting December 9th. I have heard that they will be sent to the west coast first and then trickle east. I encourage you all to vote on this. Only about 30 percent of carriers voted in the last TA. I said it last month but I will say it again, let's get as close to 100 percent voting participation from Branch 9 to show National that we are engaged members. At the November GMM, the members in attendance discussed, voted, and passed a motion to recommend a no vote on the 2023-2026 Tentative Agreement. The entire Tentative Agreement language has been made available to review on NALC.org website. I encourage everyone to view the agreement for yourself and make an informed decision. To view the agreement, visit NALC.org, click on workplace issues, in the drop-down menu click on resources, and click on the first link which will bring you to the complete language as well as other tools regarding the TA.

Safety and 1767s

Over the last month I have

received multiple calls from carriers explaining they have been dealing with safety issues for a long time. The problem with some of these issues is that they were not properly reported to management. The proper way to report any safety issue to management is by filling out a PS Form 1767. This form requires management to investigate the issue.

There is a wide range of safety issues, but any situation that you feel is unsafe is a reason to fill out a PS Form 1767. I recently had a manager explain to me that a suspicious customer following a carrier around out on the street is not a reason for a 1767. He continued to explain to me that a 1767 is more for a tripping hazard around the office. He is wrong. I could not believe that he said that to me, and it is why I am writing about this now. Remember, management is responsible for providing a safe working environment for employees.

The rules governing safety can be found in Article 14 of our JCAM and in the Employee and Labor Manual (ELM) section 824. Bottom line is if you have a safety concern, just fill out the PS Form 1767 and then notify the steward of the issue, letting them know that a PS form 1767 was filled out and turned into management. This is the first step in reporting safety issues. Your steward can then follow up

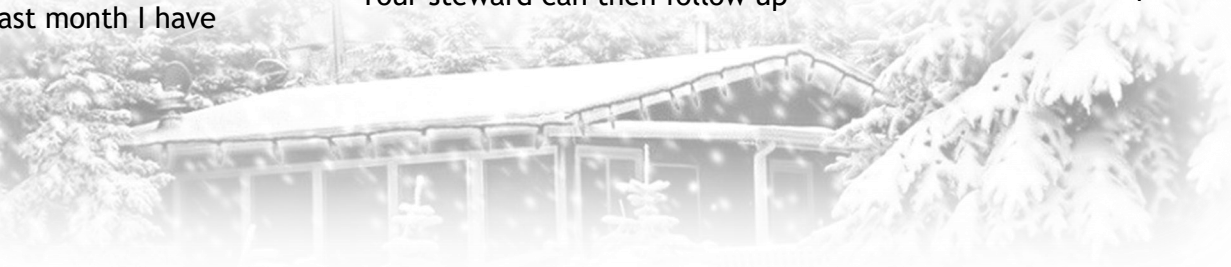


Joseph Tiemann

on the issue with management and with our Safety liaison for MPLS, Dave Allmann. This will allow him to be aware of the situation and follow up with district safety as well. Please be safe out there and report any issues you see so your fellow carriers can avoid them and create a safer work environment.

I would like to wish you all a safe and happy Holiday season. As carriers we know this is the busiest time of the year and any day can become a grind. I have said it before but I believe it is vital that we all keep an eye out for one another. Stress can rise very easily this time of year. The most important thing is that we all make it home to our loved ones safe and sound. If you need to reach out and talk to someone, there is EAP, or reach out to your steward or the branch. You are not alone.

In Solidarity,
Joseph Tiemann



Branch 9's Holiday Event

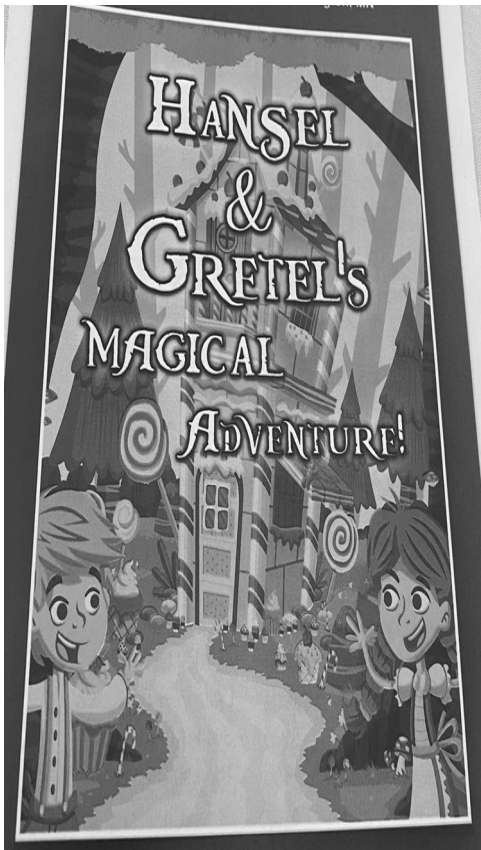
On Sunday December 8th, Branch 9 continued its long tradition of hosting a special holiday event for its members and their families. This year's event was breakfast along with a special matinee



Ken Jambois, Santa, Stacey Ellingson and Will Mathes

showing of Hansel and Gretel's Magical Adventure. This special performance was offered by the Sidekick Theatre (formerly the Old Log Cabin Theatre) at the Minnesota Masonic Heritage Center in Bloomington.

Branch 9 ticket holders were greeted by members of the Executive Board along with a special guest from the North Pole... the one and only Santa Claus! Everyone had the



opportunity to meet and take photos with Santa. At 11AM everyone met in the dining room for fellowship and a tasty breakfast buffet which included made to order waffles!

The featured presentation started shortly after 1pm to a packed house. The actors involved all the kids and made it a very entertaining experience. After the show, kids were invited to pick out a plush toy to bring home as a keepsake.

We missed you if you were unable to come this year. Please make sure to add this special holiday event to your calendar next year and join us for some family fun!

-Will Mathes



Lori Kellhuis and Santa



Paplow Family



Hartwig Family



Hickerson Family



Morgan Family



Hanschen Family



Praml Family



Sobon Family



Jaszczak Family and Kellerhuis Family



Ellingson Family

Season's Greetings

*Wishing all of you a safe and happy
holiday season.*

From the Branch 9 Executive Board



NALC PRIORITY LEGISLATION

PROTECT OUR LETTER CARRIERS ACT (H.R.7629/ S.4356)

To deter crimes and assaults against letter carriers by securing keys and collection boxes, directing U.S. attorney offices to prioritize cases involving assaults against letter carriers, and strengthening sentencing guidelines for those found guilty of these crimes

Introduced by Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Rep. Greg Landsman (D-OH),
Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Sen. Josh Hawley (R-MO)

SOCIAL SECURITY FAIRNESS ACT (H.R.82/S.597)

To repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset, provisions that reduce Social Security benefits for individuals who receive other benefits, such as a pension from a state or local government

Introduced by Rep. Garrett Graves (R-LA), Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D-VA),
Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Susan Collins (R-ME)

FEDERAL RETIREMENT FAIRNESS ACT (H.R.5995)

Would allow certain federal employees to make catch-up retirement contributions for time spent as non-career employees after Dec. 31, 1988, making such time creditable service under the Federal Employees Retirement System. This includes letter carriers who served as casuals, transitional employees and city carrier assistants.

Introduced by Reps. Derek Kilmer (D-WA), Gerry Connolly (D-VA),
David Valadao (R-CA) and Don Bacon (R-NE)

IMPROVING ACCESS TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION FOR INJURED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ACT (H.R.618/S.131)

Would expand the role of nurse practitioners and physician assistants to allow them to treat injured federal workers under the federal workers' compensation program

Introduced by Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI), Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT),
Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME)

USPS SHIPPING EQUITY ACT (H.R.3721/S. 5069)

Would allow the Postal Service to ship beer, wine, and other alcoholic beverages directly from licensed producers and retailers to legal customers

Introduced by Reps. Dan Newhouse (R-WA) and Jennifer Wexton (D-VA),
Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-WA), Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)

DOOR DELIVERY RESOLUTION (H. RES.376)

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of door delivery for all business and residential customers

Introduced by Reps. Dave Joyce (R-OH) and Sanford Bishop (D-GA)





Jerome J. Keating Local Branch 9, National Association of Letter Carriers
P. A. L. 9 (Political Action League)

Joel Carter
President

Melia Derrick
Treasurer

Rodney Anderson
Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS

Bob Baird
Larry Goodermont
Joe Tiemann

Susan Becker
Andrew Hagan
Barry Weiner

Connie Beissel
Kieran Hughes

Jim Fodstad
Lenny Larson

January 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Each year we ask Branch 9 members for their financial contributions to support the work of PAL 9 NALC, your Political Action Committee. It is our job to engage and support elected officials that are worker friendly and want to preserve the US Postal Service.

2025 will be a year with the potential for great change in the United States. A new administration will be in Washington, controlling both the executive and legislative branches of government. They have not always been friendly to workers' interests or sympathetic to the needs and function of the Postal Service. We will have to rely on our friends on both sides of the aisle to protect our gains in worker protections and fend off challenges that would weaken the Service.

Of all the postal related bills the best progress comes with the Social Security Fairness Act, which repeals the GPO and WEP to give promised retirement benefits to those who have qualified for them. It passed out of the US House with a bipartisan majority, 327-75. In the Senate Leader Schumer has promised a final vote on the act before December 31st. Other Bills of interest are:

- POLCA, the Protect Our Letter Carriers Act
- The Federal Retirement Fairness Act
- The Equal COLA Act

You can learn more about these bills at nalc.org, under the "Government Affairs" menu.

Your continued support for PAL 9 is greatly needed and much appreciated.

Joel Carter
President, PAL 9

Melia Derrick
Treasurer, PAL 9

Rodney Anderson
Secretary, PAL 9

Name: _____

Address: _____
(Street and Apartment Number)

Address 2: _____
(City, State and Zip)

_____ \$25.00 (Annual Dues)

_____ Very Concerned Membership (\$50.00 or More)

_____ Active Carrier (Station _____)

Clip & Mail To:

Melia Derrick
3723 Brookdale Circle North
Brooklyn Park, MN 55443-2868

_____ Retired Carrier



Winter Walking

Slips, trips, and falls are among the top causes of injuries to Postal employees, with a total of 15,696 slip, trip, and fall-related incidents reported in FY24.

Slip—when your foot loses traction with the surface you’re walking on. You may lose balance and potentially fall. Icy or wet surfaces, spills that haven’t been cleaned up, poor footwear and loose rugs or mats are primary causes.



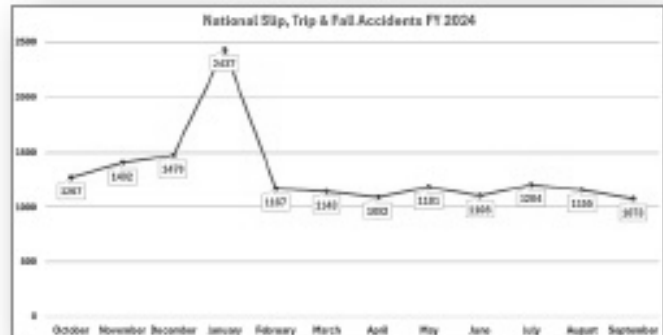
Trip—when you catch your foot on or in something and you stumble. You are propelled forward or to the side and potentially fall. The primary causes are walkway clutter or obstacles, poor visibility, uneven surfaces and poor footwear.

Fall—when you come down suddenly and your body drops from one level to another. There are same-level or elevated falls. Misstep, slips (loss of traction), trips (interference with walking), loss of balance are the primary causes.



Slip, trip, and fall accidents rise in the winter months. Follow these tips to stay safe this season.

- Watch your step and use handrails on stairs or ramps.
- Clean spills quickly and maintain good housekeeping.
- Wear boots or shoes that fit well and have good traction.



Category	FY24 STF Accidents per Category	Estimated Cost per Event	Estimated Total Cost
long term medical care	64	\$ 360,000.00	\$ 23,040,000.00
missed days	7,541	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 316,722,000.00
medical treatment	3,516	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,516,000.00
			\$ 343,278,000.00

Last year, slips, trips, and falls had a significant financial impact on the Postal Service with an estimated cost over \$343 million.

Staying safe this winter is crucial to prevent these consequences. Being mindful of winter walking conditions and taking precautions, we can protect ourselves and others from avoidable injuries.



Minneapolis Carriers - 2025 "Once-a-Month Bidding" Calendar

10 Day Bid Period: Starting on Wednesday, Ending on Friday

Vacancy Announcement OPENING Date	Vacancy Announcement CLOSING Date
Wednesday, January 1, 2025	Friday, January 10, 2025
Wednesday, January 29, 2025	Friday, February 7, 2025
Wednesday, February 26, 2025	Friday, March 7, 2025
Wednesday, March 26, 2025	Friday, April 4, 2025
Wednesday, April 23, 2025	Friday, May 2, 2025
Wednesday, May 21, 2025	Friday, May 30, 2025
Wednesday, June 18, 2025	Friday, June 27, 2025
Wednesday, July 16, 2025	Friday, July 25, 2025
Wednesday, August 13, 2025	Friday, August 22, 2025
Wednesday, September 10, 2025	Friday, September 19, 2025
Wednesday, October 8, 2025	Friday, October 17, 2025
Wednesday, November 5, 2025	Friday, November 14, 2025
Wednesday, December 3, 2025	Friday, December 12, 2025
Wednesday, December 31, 2025	Friday, January 9, 2026

To place a bid, use the toll-free phone bidding line:

1-877-477-3273, Option 2

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

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
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TWIN CITIES MN
PERMIT NO. 91964

Branch 9 Calendar

December 10

Steward Meeting
6:00 PM

*General Membership Meeting
7:00 PM

Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN

*GMM moved per motion

*Budget Meeting

December 25

Christmas Day
Holiday

January 1

New Years Day
Holiday

January 14

Steward Meeting
7:00 PM

Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN

January 20

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Holiday

January 28

General Membership Meeting
7:00 PM

Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN

*Installation of Officers

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

