



Letter Carrier Political Fund

January newsletter

Hello members of branch 9!

There has been lots of political activity regarding the post office and federal employees in the last several months. I'm going to briefly go over them. First, by now we all know President-elect Trump has won the presidential election. I personally don't like the guy. But this is what we have in front of us. I was however surprised he appointed Labor Secretary Oregon Rep. Lori Chavez-DeRemer who is one of the few Republican lawmakers to sign on to the Protecting the Right to Organize Act -- otherwise known as the PRO Act -- legislation that would make it easier for workers to unionize, and her nomination is being applauded by some key labor unions including the NALC. She still has to be confirmed by the U.S Senate. Remember weeks later Trump mentioned that his team would look into privatization of USPS. I hope that's just his normal trolling, but we can't ignore the possibility. Second, our greatest leader of all time Postmaster Dejoy (Yes that's sarcasm) was called to Congress for two hearings. As you can guess Congress had some tough questions for him. "You've exhausted my patience" "Well, I want you to know, and I want you to expect that I hate this plan, and

I'm going to do everything I can to kill it." - Senator Josh Hawley from Missouri. Senator Rand Paul doesn't like Dejoy but he also doesn't like the union. In fact, Dejoy highlighted the service has cut 50,000 worked hours but the claim of deficit has gone up. Senator Paul believes it's because the service hires too many union workers and we get paid too much.

U.S Representative Raja Krishnamoorthi from Illinois during his time to speak held up 1571's (curtailment forms) to show Dejoy his plan isn't working. One of the examples shown said "delivering for America" in the remarks section of the form. Let's not forget when Representative Rich McCormick from Georgia had a heated discussion with Dejoy and Dejoy ended up covering his ears like a child. As we are going through this difficult time let's take comfort that there is great bipartisan support for the postal service. That was clear when we FINALLY passed the Social Security Fairness Act as the last big legislative accomplishment for the 118th Congress. However, there is criticism of this bill passing. The biggest question is "how can the people who didn't pay into social security get benefits from it?" It increases the amount paid out of the

Trust Fund by an estimated \$190 billion over 10 years, without any corresponding increase in the amount paid in. It is estimated that the Act will shorten the life expectancy of the Trust fund by another 6 months. So as nice as it is to improve our retired members' quality of life, we have an interesting hurdle in front of us. Is the amount of social security we pay as workers going to increase? We'll see. But there is still big legislation we need passed sooner rather than later. For example, Federal Retirement Fairness Act H.R 5995 which would allow non career employees to buy back the months/ years of service to credit for retirement. Second big bill is P.O.L.C.A H.R 7629 which would increase criminal penalties against the scoundrels who attack us letter carriers. I am hopeful we can gain ground in the 119th Congress. We can be successful with your help by contributing to our political PAC LCPF. Please go to NALC.org and go through the steps to register. Or come to our monthly GMM's every 4th Tuesday of the month and sign up there. Together we can make a difference!

In Solidarity,
Andrew Hagan LCPF coordinator

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 Bradley Harju (Fridley) with Steward Perry Korzenowski and fellow retiree Tenzing Tsersing. Congratulations!



Last Punch for Tenzing Tsersing (Fridley) with Alt. Steward Jon Trudell and fellow retiree Bradley Harju. Best Wishes!



Last Punch for Brian Roger (Loring) with President Joe Tiemann and Steward Andrew Hagen. Good Luck in Retirement!



Last Punch for Duane Pederson (Nokomis) with Alt Steward Jesus Barragan. Congratulations!

NEW MEMBERS

Karen Bergstrom

Maxwel Brown

Leo Burkhalter

Dana Dickerson

Charles Jones

Patrick Kruegel

Robert Lyle

Benjamin Malm

Rupel Marshall, III

Connor McCrary

Jason McKinney

Tenzin Phuntsok

Randy Vega

Perran Wetzel

IN MEMORIAM

None



Last Punch for Todd Aldentaler (Lake Street) with Steward Emmett Bongaarts. Best Wishes in Retirement!

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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

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to start with some good news. Our very own Branch 9 carrier Tesfaye Deyasso has been selected as the NALC National Hero of the Year. This is a big deal. As carriers that deliver to the public every day, we come across a lot of situations where the public is in need of help. I am sure most of you have seen the



Joe Rian, Chris Pennock, Tesfaye Deyasso, Patrick Johnson, Joe Tiemann, and Dan Timm

footage of Tesfaye's heroic moment as it was everywhere on our NALC socials (link is on Branch9nalc.com). But in the video, it shows a man stuck in a burning car on I-94 with the door blocked by a guardrail. In the video you can see that Tesfaye was the first person to run up to the burning car to help the man. A few others helped to try and pull the door open; the window was finally broken open and Tesfaye was able to help get the man out of the vehicle. Seconds after the man was pulled out of the vehicle, the car burst into flames. Tesfaye's actions were incredible, he is a true hero and an inspiration. I know he did not do this for any glory in the aftermath, but he selflessly put his own safety on the line to save the life of another. I am so proud

to be part of a branch that has a superhero in it. I had the opportunity to help present the National Hero of the Year award to Tesfaye's in January at his station, St. Louis Park. Congratulations Tesfaye, you deserve every bit of attention for your heroic action.

California fires

The different footage of the fires that are burning in California is all over the place. My heart goes out to anyone dealing with the fires and state of emergency in California or who has family or friends in the area dealing with the devastation. The pictures of the aftermath are intense and almost unbelievable. I saw a photo of a clean looking LLV and a letter

carrier continuing to make deliveries to a neighborhood that was completely scorched. This just shows the importance and the deep impact we as letter carriers have on the communities we serve. Carriers are out delivering essential resources to people in need. I had a carrier in our branch reach out to me about how to help. The good news is there is an easy answer. It is called the disaster relief foundation. The disaster relief foundation was announced at the 2018 convention in Detroit and was created to help alleviate the members suffering from natural disasters, such as these fires in California. Many carriers and carrier families have lost everything and anything you can donate will help. There is a



Joseph Tiemann

convenient way to donate to the foundation by going to NALC.org/disaster. There are links to donate in different ways or you can learn more about how the fund helps those in need. If you want to help our brothers and sisters out in the LA area or for any other natural disasters, please check out that link.

In closing

It was an honor and a privilege to serve as your Branch 9 Executive Vice President and President (for a brief time). Many of you have reached out to say thanks to me but the reality is I should be thanking all of you. Without the members, the stewards, the Formal A's, the Step B team, the Executive Board, Past Presidents and Officers, the retirees, Patrick (National Business Agent) and the staff up there, it would be next to impossible to get anything done. My most sincere thanks to everyone who has helped me along the way. Thank you, Scott, for the opportunity. I never in a million years would I have thought I would be serving as your Branch President.

See you on the route!

In solidarity,
Joseph Tiemann



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

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Bob Baird
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Susan Becker
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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

Exec. Vice President's Report

Happy New Year Branch 9!

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you. I am Joe Rian and presently I am your Executive Vice President. After a swearing in and installation ceremony on January 28, 2025, will officially become your new President of Branch 9. As you may recall, I was elected, along with our Executive Board, during the Branch election in November of 2024. It is a very exciting time for Branch 9.

In addition to new Executive officers and Executive Board members, we also have new stewards, safety liaisons and on the job trainers at each station. I encourage you to get to know us all because we are all part of a team here to serve you.

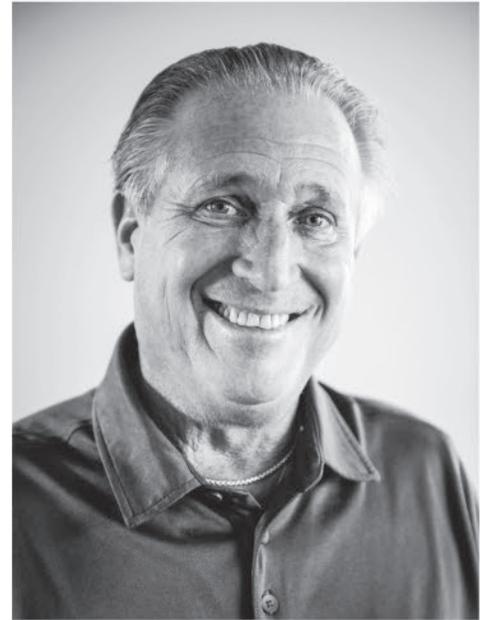
Whenever there is a change in leadership, there is also often cause for concern that the normal business routine will be disrupted. I would like to assure you that I will do my best to make sure the transition does not interfere with our daily obligations and responsibilities of Branch 9 to you, the members.

USPS management has put us on a fast track for change. Scanning packages, GPS, stationary events, minimum time standards, maximum time standards, volume increases in post, volume decreases

in letters, safety this, attendance that. It goes on and on. It often seems hard to keep up with it all but it's not impossible if we work together. Please try to help each other over the rough spots and keep us strong and united for the future.

One of the greatest challenges we have coming in 2025 will be route adjustments. As you may know, we do not have a joint route adjustment process. It is all management. Sadly, this means when Postmaster DeJoy gets beat up by Congress for the inefficiencies of his Delivering for America plan, you can bet the next day he is trying to capture savings somewhere. The easiest way to achieve savings in the short term is to cut jobs, which means cutting carrier routes for us. Management will generally conduct full route counts and inspections at stations they think they can take time out of and in doing so, try to cut more routes than necessary.

Remember our time is recorded every day by our scanner. This can be a good thing and a bad thing. For example, the scanner is our friend when we carry packages up to the door and scan them at the front steps because it records all the time it takes to walk back and forth to make that package



Joe Rian

delivery. (Just a friendly suggestion, scan your packages at the door you deliver, not in the truck.)

Likewise, the scanner can be our enemy if we spend a little too much time shopping a garage sale or shooting the breeze with our favorite postal patron. Most route examiners, human or computer generated, will disallow this time and one way or another, take it away during adjustments.

Let's recommit ourselves this year to taking all our authorized lunches and breaks and to take the time to do the job right every day.

I look forward to seeing you at the next general membership meeting.

A 'Community Solidarity' Story

Solidarity is a secret to our success. Solidarity with the public and with our fellow carriers. It is easy to take the unity and solidarity of the NALC for granted. But it's a very big deal that has been built step by step by more than a million fellow letter carriers from all over the country for more than a century. Our success is built by becoming a strong voice to advance our needs in congress and at the bargaining table. But there is a larger force at work, it's our work and service for the common good of the community. The pride we take in serving the public extends far beyond delivering the mail to more broadly serving our fellow citizens. This solidarity and service is a strength of our union. Community solidarity is a general role of the labor movement.

This community solidarity is being displayed locally at Palmer's Bar. Palmer's is an iconic dive bar on the West Bank in Minneapolis.

This is not meant to be an ad for Palmer's but an example that solidarity can be found in a variety of facets of the community. Palmer's has been a West Bank institution since 1906, 'a community center with a kick, a place that wears its history proudly. Everyone is welcome there'. In 1906, the bar was owned by the Minneapolis Brewing Company (predecessor to Grain Belt Brewery) and was a second home to dock, rail and lumber workers; boat crews, immigrants, gadflies and transients long before Prohibition was ushered into law. Palmer's today is still a proud second home to many working Twin Cities people.

Cornbread Harris, a local union

musician who performs at the AFL-CIO pavilion during the Minnesota State Fair, is a regular performer at Palmer's, "Church of Cornbread".

It is evident Palmer's has a history of supporting workers of the community. As such, local letter carriers have patronaged Palmer's Bar. Ben Noble, a Minnehaha



letter carrier, has been one fostering this community solidarity relationship. For instance, when local carriers organized and rallied for safety and better wages, Palmer's invited all the participants back to their place for a celebratory beverage. Their solidarity with letter carriers for the work we do day to day is now displayed out front of their establishment, they fly the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) Flag.

Ben and I have known each other for a few years, as he taught at the carrier academy, and he invited me to see this display of community solidarity in person. In my tourist mode of taking pictures of the flag, I experienced their supportive

idealism and flying the flag is just an extension of their community. The customers and people working there support each other. As Ben and I had a couple drinks, people with varied backgrounds and ages comingled. Although described as a dive bar, it became evident it was a neighborhood gathering where people focused on their commonality. Divisiveness will get you "86'd". In the couple hours that I was there, Ben and I talked about family, friends, work, ideals and our union while learning and appreciating our exchange of thoughts and ideas. As I left, I bought the bouquet of flowers for my wife, being sold by a man at a table by the door.

Although it was a brief moment of camaraderie between two people, it was representative of a much bigger ideal, of the strength in community solidarity.

We face political divisions and economic challenges. Public approval of labor

unions is rising and union organizing efforts are taking place all over the country. That's happening because the public sees unions like ours fighting for our members but also fighting for their fellow citizens. As we represent and work toward the betterment of letter carriers we also work toward the betterment of workers. Let's not let those who create division control our path, it is with solidarity we heal and strengthen our union, our fellow workers, and community. If you're not sure what that is, start small and try Palmer's Bar.

In solidarity,
Jeremy Rothstein

USPS

MENTAL HEALTH

WISE MIND



Wise Mind for Mental Wellness

Wise mind is a concept often used in cognitive behavioral therapy. It is a state of mind that integrates both rational thinking and emotional experiencing. When someone is in wise mind, they are able to make more measured decisions and actions, that balance both logic and emotion. The following is a breakdown of the three states of mind:

Reasonable Mind:

The Reasonable Mind is the state of mind where decisions are made based solely on logic and facts. It's analytical, rational, and objective. However, decisions made only from this state may ignore or dismiss emotions and gut feelings, which are important sources of information.

Emotional Mind:

The Emotional Mind is the state of mind where decisions are solely influenced by emotions and feelings. It is subjective, impulsive, and reactive. While emotions provide valuable information about personal values and needs, decisions made solely based off emotions may lack rationality and long-term perspective.

Wise Mind:

The Wise Mind is the fusion of rational and emotional mind. It integrates both reason and emotion. When an individual is in wise mind, they are able to acknowledge and validate their emotions while also considering facts and logical thinking. Decisions made from wise mind are grounded in both emotional wisdom and rationality, leading to choices that are effective, authentic, and mindful.

Achieving wise mind involves mindfulness practices, self-awareness, and learning to recognize and regulate emotions.

If you would like more information on learning to use your WISE mind, your EAP is here to help. Contact us today at 800-327-4968 (800-EAP-4YOU), TTY: 1-877-493-7341 or visit us online at EAP4YOU.com.



CALL US TODAY: 800-327-4968
800-EAP-4YOU | TTY: 877-492-7341
WWW.EAP4YOU.COM

NALC statement on the Los Angeles wildfires

NALC President Brian L. Renfroe has released the following statement regarding the Los Angeles wildfires:

NALC continues to stand with our members affected by the wildfires in the Los Angeles area. These fires have devastated communities. Homes have been destroyed. A number of our members have been displaced from evacuation zones. While the situation remains critical, together we will persevere.

Letter carriers are more than just deliverers of mail. We are an essential part of our communities. In times of crisis, we step up for the people we serve and for each other. Many of our members have adjusted rapidly to ensure the safe delivery of mail and service to our communities. These members exemplify the standard of service we proudly provide.

The NALC Disaster Relief Foundation (DRF) is here to assist members who have been affected. If you have experienced property damage due to wildfires, we encourage you to immediately apply for aid through the DRF. The fund provides grants rapidly when assistance is needed most. The application and more information can be found at nalc.org/disaster.



For those able to contribute, I ask you to consider donating to the DRF during this crisis. Every dollar donated goes directly to helping letter carriers in need—there are no administrative costs deducted. Your generosity ensures that our fellow members can begin rebuilding their lives as quickly as possible. Donations can be made by mail or online, and since the DRF is a 501(c)(3) organization, contributions may be tax-deductible.

As the fires continue to affect so many, NALC is here to support you. Whether you need help or want to assist others during this difficult time, we are stronger together. Stay safe and keep taking care of one another.



USPS EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Resources designed to help letter carriers and their loved ones overcome life challenges.

WWW.EAP4YOU.COM

The USPS Employee Assistance Program (EAP) offers resources and tools designed to help you navigate and overcome life challenges. These resources are also available to family members of letter carriers. EAP has counseling tools and resources designed to help you overcome life challenges. Here, you'll find completely free, confidential access to the counseling programs and services you need to live a balanced and happy life. Some of these resources included:

- Face-to-face, video, or telephonic counseling
- "In the moment" support
- Health and wellness
- EAP orientations
- Suicide prevention
- Promotions
- Work-life balance
- Preparing for retirement
- Critical incident response
- Elder and childcare

For more information about EAP services, contact your local union officers, visit eap4you.com or call 1- 800 - EAP- 4YOU (800-327-4968) TTY: 877-492-7341.

The PSHBP/FEHBP transition and your Jan. 17 paycheck

NALC active members should note that today's (Jan. 17) paycheck will feature prorated health insurance deductions since it covers workdays in both December (covered by your FEHB plan) and January (covered by your new PSHB plan). USPS will deduct for four days of coverage under your 2024 FEHB plan *and* for 10 days of coverage under your 2025 PSHB. Your Jan. 31, 2025, paycheck will be the first one reflecting only PSHB premiums.

Please note that the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) reports that there will be a delay in processing some PSHB participants' change of enrollment forms (Form 2809). As a result, some participants who requested a change in plan for 2025 in the first PSHB Open Season may be temporarily enrolled in their auto-enrolled plan instead—generally the same plan they enrolled in 2024. OPM aims to finish processing these forms by the end of January. Carriers in this situation have health insurance coverage in their old plan for the period before the Form 2089 is processed—and USPS will make retroactive payroll adjustments as needed.

Please note: Members who enrolled in a plan in 2024 that is not participating in the PSHB program in 2025 were auto-enrolled in Blue Focus, the lowest-cost health plan in the PSHB program without membership dues, as required by regulation. If such members are affected by the OPM's delay in processing their Form 2809 or have other enrollment questions, please contact Blue Focus directly.

Finally, any NALC HBP-covered employee or annuitant who has not received their new insurance card should call 888-636-NALC (6252) to ensure that the Plan has the correct mailing address.

NALC submits comments on OSHA's proposed heat safety rule

Last year, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced a proposed rule on heat injury and illness prevention. The agency accepted public comments on the proposed rule through Jan. 14. NALC submitted comments that are available [here](#).

An informal public hearing on the proposed rule is scheduled for June 16. The complete proposed rule is available in the Federal Register. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/08/30/2024-14824/heat-injury-and-illness-prevention-in-outdoor-and-indoor-work-settings>

"NALC has fought for years to protect letter carriers from the increasing dangers of excessive heat," NALC President Brian L. Renfroe said. "This proposed national standard is the ultimate solution to achieve that protection for letter carriers and other workers who are exposed to heat while on the job. We appreciate OSHA's commitment to this necessary regulation and stand ready to help in any way possible to move this proposed rule forward."

The Social Security Fairness Act

This bill was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Biden on January 5th, 2025. It didn't so much do something, as un-do two laws passed in 1977 (the Government Pension Offset) and 1982 (the Windfall Elimination Provision).

These laws deducted earned Social Security benefits from public employees that had participated in retirement programs like Civil Service or teachers pension programs, but had also worked other "private sector" jobs that paid sufficiently into Social Security to provide a retirement benefit from that program. Other public employees like police and firefighters, city, county or state workers were affected.

The Social Security Administration is working to calculate the restored Social Security benefits effective from January of 2024, to be paid in a lump sum. Retirees affected by past deductions should see an average increase in their Social Security checks of \$360. If you received no Social Security payments at all, but feel you qualified for them, you should contact the Social Security Administration to be sure they have your contact information and work history.

Joel Carter

FROSTBITE PREVENTION

Newer employees (CCA's) should be mindful of the danger signs of frostbite. Have the chemical warming packets in your pockets before leaving the station.

The following information is from the National Safety Council.

Prolonged exposure to low temperatures, wind and/or moisture can result in cold-related injury from frostbite and hypothermia. Here are some suggestions on how to keep warm and avoid frostbite and hypothermia.

Dress Properly

Wear several layers of clothing to insulate your body by trapping warm, dry air inside. Wool and polypropylene trap air and do not retain moisture. Choose a coat with a wind and waterproof outer layer.

The head and neck lose heat faster than any other part of the body. Your cheeks, ears and nose are the most prone to frostbite. Wear a hat, scarf and turtleneck sweater to protect these areas.

Danger Signs

The extent of frostbite is difficult to judge until hours after thawing. There are two classifications of frostbite:

- *Superficial frostbite* is characterized by white, waxy or grayish-yellow patches on the affected areas. The skin feels cold and numb. The skin surface feels stiff and underlying tissue feels soft when depressed.
- *Deep frostbite* is characterized by waxy and pale skin. The affected parts feel cold, hard, and cannot be depressed. Large blisters may appear after rewarming.

What to do

- Get the victim out of the cold and to a warm place immediately.
- Remove any constrictive clothing items and jewelry that could impair circulation.
- If you notice signs of frostbite, seek medical attention immediately.
- Place dry, sterile gauze between toes and fingers to absorb moisture and to keep them from sticking together.
- Slightly elevate the affected part to reduce pain and swelling.
- If you are more than one hour from a medical facility and only if refreezing can be prevented, then frostbite can be rewarmed by **immersing the area in lukewarm, not hot water** (100 to 105°F). If you do not have a thermometer, test the water first to see if it is warm. Rewarming usually takes 20 to 45 minutes or until tissues soften.

What not to do

- Do not use water hotter than 105°F.
- Do not use water colder than 100°F since it will not thaw frostbite quickly enough.
- Do not rub or massage the frostbitten area.
- Do not rub with ice or snow.
- Do not apply a heat source to frostbitten skin.

**Call your station supervisor to inform him/her of your condition.
This is a safety issue, and not negotiable.**

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr and labor justice

As we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr and his accomplishments in advancing civil rights and labor justice I'd like to share part of Dr. King's speech he made during the famous 1968 Memphis sanitation strike. "You are demanding that this city will respect the dignity of labor. So often we overlook the work and the significance of those who are not in professional jobs, of those who are not in the so-called big jobs. But let me say to you tonight that whenever you are engaged in work that serves humanity and is for the building of humanity, it has dignity and it has worth." AFSCME Memphis Sanitation Strike, April 3, 1968. We as laborers still face economic inequality and undignified working conditions at times. We must pick up Dr. King's torch for labor and civil rights justice and move forward collectively.



- Andrew Hagan Branch 9 LCPF coordinator

President Biden signs Social Security Fairness Act; WEP and GPO repealed

On Jan. 5, President Joe Biden signed the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82) into law, delivering a hard fought victory for letter carriers and public servants across the nation. The legislation, which was overwhelmingly passed by the Senate on Dec. 20 and the House on Nov. 12, will ensure that affected Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) retirees no longer face unfair reductions in their Social Security benefits.

"The passage of the Social Security Fairness Act is a monumental win for retired letter carriers and other public servants, ensuring they receive the full Social Security benefits they've earned and deserve," NALC President Brian L. Renfroe said. "We extend our deepest gratitude to the members of the House and Senate, and especially to the NALC members who fought tirelessly to make this law a reality." The Social Security Fairness Act repeals the WEP and GPO provisions in Social Security law that previously unfairly reduced or eliminated Social Security benefits for certain CSRS federal annuitants, including letter carriers.

As he prepared to sign the bill into law, President Biden thanked labor leaders and reflected, saying, "Today is a victory for the dignity of work and the dignity of workers." With this landmark legislation now signed into law, public servants who have dedicated their careers to serving the country will no longer face unjust financial penalties, ensuring they receive the full Social Security benefits they have earned. For more on NALC's long fight to repeal WEP and GPO, see the January issue of The Postal Record. NALC will be in touch with more information regarding the enactment and timing of these changes for affected members.

Deadline for contract ratification ballot returns extended to Jan. 27

On Jan. 2, the 15-member Ballot Committee, chaired by Paul Roznowski of Branch 3126, Royal Oak, MI, released the following statement: Beginning on Dec. 9, active letter carriers eligible to vote in the contract ratification process were mailed a ballot to vote on the proposed 2023-2026 National Agreement between NALC and USPS. Mailing of ballots to the 185,894 eligible active letter carriers was completed on Dec. 16.

Due to delays in the Postal Service delivering ballots in some locations and to ensure adequate time for replacement ballots to be delivered and returned, the deadline for receiving returned ballots in the contract ratification election has been extended. To be counted, ballots must now be received by Jan. 27, 2025. The previous deadline was Jan. 13. If you are eligible to vote on the proposed agreement and have not received a ballot, you may call NALC Headquarters at 202-393-0614 (9 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Eastern time) to request a replacement ballot. A replacement ballot will be mailed after eligibility is verified.



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

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OUR BUSINESS IS MAKING YOU LOOK GOOD!

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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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5831 Cedar Lake Road South
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
S  19

PRSR STD
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PAID
TWIN CITIES MN
PERMIT NO. 91964

Branch 9 Calendar

January 28

General Membership Meeting
7:00 PM
Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN
**Installation of Officers*

February 11

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

February 17

Presidents' Day
Holiday

February 25

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

March 11

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

March 25

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>

* 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

