

JEROME J. KEATING BRANCH



# BRANCH NINE NEWS

"AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL"

1964

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December 2025

## UPDATE FROM THE CLEVELAND RAP SESSION

by *Tim Bash*

On the weekend of November 21-23, eight Branch 9 members travelled to Cleveland, OH for the National Rap Session. The NALC holds a Rap Session every other year between National Conventions to update members on the latest information and provide educational opportunities to attendees.

This year's Rap Session occurred shortly after preparations for the next round of collective bargaining began in September. As you may have read in the Postal Record, the preparations for collective bargaining include the formation of two "Rank and File Bargaining Committees" to supplement the regular preparations usually carried out by the Executive Council. In addition to this, attendees of the Rap Session were allowed to offer their own proposals and indicate which proposals they feel should take priority.

In past bargaining sessions, the Executive Council (made up of Business Agents, National Officers and headquarters staff), split up into several groups and were assigned different articles of the contract. Proposals to change or add language to each article are collected from National Convention resolutions,

official bargaining positions of the NALC, proposals made in past collective bargaining sessions, and language from other union's contracts (such as the American Postal Worker's Union).

Hundreds of proposals have been submitted so far, with the second Rank and File Committee yet to meet. These proposals constitute a "wish list", and only some of them will make it to the main negotiating table. There are too many to list, but the hottest topics were the grievance backlog at Step B, changes to the 204b position, changing to an all-career workforce, bringing the parental leave policy in line with other federal workers, heat/extreme cold safety, and uniform program reforms. Be on the lookout for a survey that national is sending out to every NALC member to collect their feedback and list their priorities for the next contract; it should be made available in the coming weeks.

Time will tell if all of this input from the wider membership has much bearing on the main negotiating team, but it's a step in the right direction. Members will have a chance in October to vote on new union leadership if they fail to live up to member's expectations.

### President Renfroe's Address

He began the substance of his speech with some information about the battles ongoing in congress, with the threat of moving the USPS under the Commerce Department being the most existential to letter carriers.

**Continued on Page 11**



EVP Chris Pennock speaking at the Rap Session

**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 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING.**

# Welcome New Branch Niners

Malik Atkinson

Anissa Black

Zachary Blesi

Lydia Brecht

William Delmont

Dana Dickerson

Alexandra Gentry

Cecilia Gray

Chad Hillman

Jacob Lindgren

Garrett Munkholm

Chelsea Ness

Colin O'Leary

Andrew Roverud

Janaine Williams



**Congratulations to Dave  
Ayers on 50 years of federal  
service!**



**Tom Tadlock retired from Main  
Office with 37 years of service,  
but he missed his own party  
because he was stuck in an  
elevator. Hope you were on the  
clock Tom!**

## Branch 9 NALC

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St. Louis Park, MN 55416

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### President

Joe Rian

### Exec Vice President

Chris Pennock

### Recording Secretary

Andrew Hagan

### Treasurer

Barb Watzcak

### Financial Secretary

Stacey Ellingson

### Editor

Tim Bash

### Sergeant at Arms

Nate Serie

### Trustees

Cheryl Dombrock

Jorge Quintero

Zoe Bunzli

### Dir of Retirees

Vince Froelich

### Health Benefits Rep

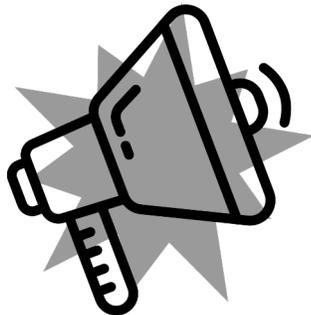
Susan Becker

The branch Nine News is a publication of Branch 9 NALC, and is published in the interest of and for members of Branch 9 NALC.

The opinions expressed by the writers are not necessarily those of the OFFICERS or of NALC Branch 9.

Join the NALC Veteran's Group





Please consider reaching out to your elected representatives about the following bills:

**HR1065/S463**

**Protect our Letter Carriers Act**

**HR70/S Res 147**

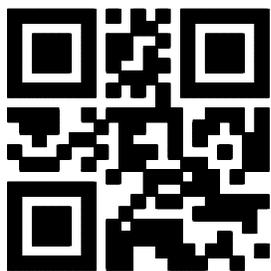
**Oppose Postal Privatization**

**HR3170**

**Improving Access to Worker's Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act**

**HR3011**

**USPS Shipping Equity Act**



follow this link to [nalc.org/action](https://nalc.org/action)

3 Retirees were pictured in the November issue, but were not named. Contratuatlations again to:

**Wayne Sibell  
Ben Negovsky  
Tom Tigges**

If you  
don't  
know your  
rights,  
you don't  
have any.

Mack Julion on the "Next Generation Carriers" Podcast

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.

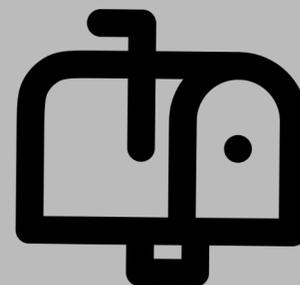
Send articles to:

[branch9news@branch9nalc.com](mailto:branch9news@branch9nalc.com)

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

**VERNON WEHAGE**



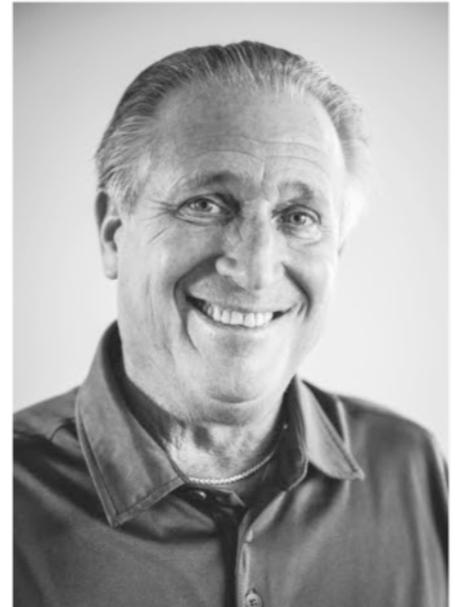
## **MOVING?**

Please notify the branch directly when you move, we are not notified otherwise!

Mail us notification of your new address at:

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

or call  
(612) 781-9858



**Joe Rian**

**H**appy Holidays Union Siblings!

It has been a busy month at Ye Olde Union Hall, a fitting end to a year of struggles and achievements for our branch. As we wrap up 2025, I want to thank everyone for your hard work this past year, and your patience with me and the Executive Board.

We have a great first half of 2026 to look forward to including a January Steward Appreciation Dinner, April 20-23 Region 7 Training, April 25th Ron St Clair Bowl-a-thon, May 3 Retiree Banquet and May 9 Food Drive. Lots of fun coming up.

More serious things are coming as well. The last COLA to our pay scale for our current National Agreement will take effect in March of 2026 and then BOOM! Our current contract expires in MAY 2026. Let's hope that we are at least voting on a new agreement at that time and not required to wait years as has been done in the last contract. Opening of bargaining is February 25,

2026.

And FYI, we are much better prepared this year for proposing changes to LMOUS when the opportunity arises after we have a new contract. Please, make a 2026 LMOU wish list for your office, **ESPECIALLY OUR ASSOCIATE OFFICES**, and send it in to me. We will do our best to fight for changes you request.

I was privileged to attend the Fall Committee of President's Meeting this past November. There was lots of "inside politics" talk about grievances but I will share some here from my notes.

1. 12 months back log at Step B in Florida. Wow.
2. Ask for and encourage Step B to insist on cease-and-desist language when warranted.
3. USPS is trying to remove arbitrators who are supporting escalating remedies. We need to fight harder against that.
4. LLV's unsafe vehicles. Period. Replacement is slow.
5. Uniforms. Every time we raise

uniform allotment, Galls raise their prices. It was suggested that we need to have a model where the USPS gives employees uniforms, not cash to buy them.

6. Attempting to schedule a National Rally for Our Contract around President's Day 2026 but dates have not been firmed up.

7. No question the grievance process in some parts of the country is out of control because of continued management non-compliance. USPSHQ refuses to fulfill their obligation to follow the contract or enforce it upon lower levels of management.

8. People will be shocked by an upcoming National OIG report with how much the USPS is spending on grievances. Government shutdown has delayed its release.

9. President Renfroe felt that if the grievances slowed down on the front end, informal A, the back log would be cleaned up quickly. Doesn't look like

management wants that to happen.

10. One installation has 2/3 of all the Step B grievances pending in the country. (Not Region 7 LOL) When they started sending these grievances to other regions, management claimed they were untimely. NALCHQ filed a grievance on this. Outcome uncertain.

11. 39,651 grievances pending at Step B. One branch has a third of those. One branch is filing 400 cases per week more than we can settle. 8477 pending arbitrations. We conduct 650 arbitrations per year/70 % NALC win rate. There are 77 DRT teams across the

country and they are overwhelmed.

12. It's clear the USPS wants out of the Step B process BECAUSE Step B decisions are precedent setting.

13. We also were told the Delivering for America Plan is probably dead.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention politics. Our legislative team at NALCHQ is top notch and it was noted again that if we stick together on our NALC issues, the NALC can win no matter who we voted for as individuals.

Our legislative people are looking forward to a reasonable outcome

for the 2026 budget but realize we have been lucky and should also be prepared for the worst. We have been able to avoid the layoff and closure problems other government agencies have experienced mainly because we have the support of about 25 reasonable Republicans who are sensitive to us politically in their districts.

The NALC has been in a protection mode and because our reputation in Washington is better than most, our credibility with lawmakers is big. We want to keep it that way.

This is a little taste of the last COP. Hope you all have a Happy New Year!






# EXEC VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



**Chris Pennock**

I want to wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season. Unfortunately, we know that with the delivery after dark and winter conditions carriers will get injured. Today I'm going to cover what you should know if you suffer an on-the-job injury.

The first thing is that when you report an injury Management will likely ask you to give them a write up of what happened. This is only a part of their own internal reporting process, and it is not the same thing as filing a claim with the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP). It's very important to understand that you have not filed a claim just because you gave your supervisor or manager a description of your injury. It's not uncommon for carriers to believe that they have filed a claim in this situation only to be surprised when they still receive bills from their medical provider. To file a claim go to [ecomp.dol.gov](http://ecomp.dol.gov). You'll need to have an account created and there's a button to do that. If you had a traumatic injury (one that happened on one shift) then file a CA-1. [NALC.org](http://NALC.org) has a webpage called injured on the job with a document on how to file a CA-1 in ecomp. If you have an injury that happened over time, I recommend reaching out to us for help as these claims are more complicated. If you

need help through this process, feel free to give the branch a call at 612-781-9849. We can schedule you for an appointment to come in and get your claim filed.

If you suffer an injury and have to leave work early there is a rule that says that you still get paid for that day if you have to seek medical treatment. Most of the time Management will not put you in for that and we should demand that they do this and file a grievance if they don't.

To take care of your medical bills, Management is required by federal law to provide you with a CA-16 Authorization for Examination and/or Treatment. They have to do this within four hours of reporting the injury. If they give you a properly filled out CA-16 you can then hand it to your medical provider, and the bills will be taken care of. Unfortunately, they rarely do this, instead they will give you a CA-16 that is expired, or that isn't filled out. If it isn't filled out it's of no use to anyone. Stewards, please follow up on this and file grievances on this issue. We have gotten money out of Management for their failures on this. Another way to get your bills paid is to give your provider your OWCP case number

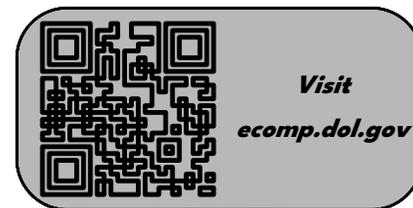
and date of injury, oftentimes that's all the information they need to get the bills processed.

Another benefit for workers that have a traumatic injury is the right to Continuation of Pay (COP). This is essentially injury administrative leave that does not come out of your own leave balance. It can be paid for up to 45 days after an injury, although the first three days will be your own leave, unless you're out for more than two weeks. Management should put you in for this right away after a traumatic injury, although we have to provide them with medical documentation that shows we can't work during this time. Again, this is often a fight with Management. Management may lie to you and say that they can't give you COP until you go to the doctor, but this is false. We just have to give them the medical within 10 days of the claim.

Many carriers have issues with the process and so it is very important to stay on top of things. We can help you through

this. The sooner you let us know there's an issue the easier it is to fix. This whole process is not friendly to workers, and we should look for political opportunities to throw this system out and

demand a complete overhaul that puts injured workers first.



The holiday season is one of the busiest times of the year, personally and professionally. With so much going on, it's easy to forget to extend the same care to ourselves that we offer to others. Self-compassion is about treating yourself with kindness, patience, and understanding—especially during busy times.

### Why Self-Compassion Matters — Especially Now

Practicing self-compassion during the holidays can make a real difference in how you feel and function:

- **Supports Calm Under Pressure:** Self-compassion helps you manage stress and pressure without slipping into harsh self-criticism. It allows for steadiness, even when things don't go as planned.
- **Builds Emotional Strength:** Being kind to yourself boosts resilience. It helps you recover from tough days and stay grounded amid chaos.
- **Strengthens Relationships:** When you're gentle with yourself, it's easier to be patient, kind, and present with others—whether it's coworkers, customers, family, or friends.
- **Encourages Work-Life Balance:** Self-compassion reminds you that it's okay to take a break, say no when needed, and prioritize rest. You can't pour from an empty cup.



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**The following members have declared their intention to be delegates the NALC National Convention in Los Angeles in 2026:**

Pam Donato	Robb Petersburg	Peter Noble	Jim Hendrickson
Heidi Iverson	Tyler Vasseur	Aleesha Berg	Keefe Farr
Paul Woida	Susan Becker	Zoe Bunzli	Ken Jambois
Alex Pouliut	Nathaniel Milbrath	Ryan Hanzal	Luke Geistlinger
Luke Ferguson	Chuck Glover	Jesus Barragan	Melia Derrick
Emmett Bongaarts	Nick Tiemann	Andrew Hagan	Michael Zagaros
Clint (CJ) Bailey	Joe Tiemann	Barry Weiner	Nick Alexander
Cathy Jones	Ned McCraine	Barb Watzcak	Nicole Goodin
Dan Bodelson	Cheryl Dombrock	Chris Hough	Oliver Zaragoza
Justin Leeson	Michael Meier	Connie Beissel	Patrick Paplow
Vince Froehlich	Nate Serie	Crystal Spiel	Ray Peterson
Lenny Larson	Bob Baird	James Spencer	Tim Bash



**The following members have declared their intention to be delegates to the MSALC State Convention in 2026:**

Ray Peterson	Bob Baird	Justin Leeson
Jim Hendrickson	Jesus Barragan	Cathy Jones
Barry Weiner	Peter Noble	Luke Ferguson
Chuck Glover	Michael Meier	Emmett Bongaarts
Connie Beissel	Nate Serie	Heidi Iverson
Luke Geistlinger	Nicholas Tiemann	Ryan Hanzal
Keefe Farr	Joe Tiemann	Aleesha Berg
Nick Alexander	Ned McCraine	Zoe Bunzli
Oliver Zaragoza	Susan Becker	Tim Bash
Pam Donato	Tyler Vasseur	Barb Watzcak
Nathaniel Milbrath	Robb Petersburg	
Andrew Hagan	Lenny Larson	



\* Indicates Associate Offices

## Thank you to all the Branch 9 Stewards and alternates for their hard work in 2025!

Andover*	No Steward	Jordan*	Kathy Carlson
Anoka*	No Steward	Lake Street	Emmet Bongaarts
	Dillon Maki (ALT)	Loring	Andrew Hagan
	Richard Newton (ALT)	Lost Lake	William Mathes
Belle Plaine*	Weston Fenner		Garett Christianson, Sr (ALT)
Blaine	Nate Milbrath		Ben Manthe (ALT)
	James Soencer	Lowry	Bryant Martin
	Justin Loss (ALT)		Lathan Luepke (ALT)
	Joe Tiemann (ALT)	Main PO	Aaron Hutchison
Bloomington	Aaron Nelson	Minnehaha	Ryan Hanzal
	Jeff Johnson (ALT)		Matt Fussy (ALT)
	Joshua Johnson (ALT)		Ben Noble (ALT)
Brooklyn Center	Chris Hough		Peter Noble(ALT)
	Crystal Spiel	Mound*	No Steward
	Suah Cain (ALT)	Nokomis	Heidi Iverson
Brooklyn Park	Joel Turrentine		Jesus Barragan Garcia (ALT)
	John McGlocklin (ALT)	Normandale	John Dalton
Burnsville*	Simon Lindstrom		Alicia Bruslavtsev (ALT)
Champlin*	No Steward	Osseo*	No Steward
Chanhassen*	Suman Roy	Powderhorn	Joe Wineman
Columbia Heights	Nate Serie	Richfield	Paul Lawyer
	Clinton (CJ) Bailey (ALT)		Susan Becker (ALT)
	Jenn Schreiter (ALT)		Jorge Quintero-Troetsch (ALT)
Coon Rapids	Alex Pouliot	Robbinsdale	Chad Zutter
Diamond Lake	Trent Goods		Dan Bodelson (ALT)
Eastside	Zoe Bunzli		Kyle Olson (ALT)
	Keefe Farr	Shakopee	Virasak Thongratsamy
	Nick Alexander (ALT)	St Louis Park	Dan Timm
	Luke Geistlinger (ALT)		Dave Dalke (ALT)
Edina	Eric Miner	Thomas Burnett	Cheryl Dombrock
	Robin Ochsner (ALT)		David Flynn
Elk River	David Benton		Kiara Dowdel (ALT)
Elmwood	Matt Fink	University	Tony Winkels
	Brent Kuphal		Mike Bourbeau (ALT)
	Darin Brown (ALT)	West Edina	Bob Shelstad
Fridley	John McGuinness		Henry Nguyen (ALT)
	Jonathan Trudell (ALT)	Zone	Tyler Vasseur
Golden Valley	David Mash		

# Letter Carrier Pay Schedule

## City Carrier Wage Schedule: Effective Nov. 15, 2025 (Third general wage increase)

The following salary and rate schedule is for all NALC-represented employees.

### Career city letter carrier increases

Effective Date	Type of Increase	Amount
Aug. 26, 2023	July COLA	\$978
Nov. 18, 2023	General wage increase	1.3%
March 9, 2024	January COLA	\$353
Sept. 7, 2024	July COLA	\$978
Nov. 16, 2024	General wage increase	1.4%
March 8, 2025	January COLA	\$416
June 14, 2025	Step P adjustment	\$1,000
July 12, 2025	Eliminate Steps AA and A from Table 2	
Sept. 6, 2025	July COLA	\$790
<b>Nov. 15, 2025</b>	<b>General wage increase</b>	<b>1.5%</b>
March 7, 2026	January COLA	TBD

### City carrier assistant increases

Date	Type of Increase	Amount
Nov. 18, 2023	General wage increase	2.3%
Nov. 16, 2024	General wage increase	2.4%
June 14, 2025	Wage adjustment	\$0.50
Nov. 15, 2025	General wage increase	2.5%

← Last General Wage Increase of the current contract

**NOTE:** Upon conversion to full time, part-time flexible employees in Table 2 will be slotted into the full-time step commensurate with their number of weeks as a PTF, and retain their time credit toward the next step.

**NOTE:** The full COLAs will be added to the salaries of all steps in Table 1 and Step P of Table 2, with proportionate application of the COLA to Steps A-O of Table 2.

**NOTE:** In accordance with Article 9.3.B, COLAs become effective the second full pay period after the release of the January and July Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers.

**Table 1: City Carrier Schedule**

RSC Q (NALC)

This schedule applies to all carriers with a career appointment date prior to Jan. 12, 2013.

Basic Annual Salaries																	Most Prev. Step
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	
City Carrier (Grade 2)	68,200	72,826	72,932	76,242	76,722	77,205	77,681	78,156	78,639	79,108	79,593	80,075	80,550	81,040	81,514	82,976	483
Carrier Technician*	69,632	74,355	74,464	77,843	78,333	78,826	79,312	79,797	80,290	80,769	81,264	81,757	82,242	82,742	83,226	84,718	493
Part-Time Flexible Employees - Hourly Basic Rates																	
City Carrier (Grade 2)	34.24	36.56	36.61	38.27	38.52	38.76	39.00	39.23	39.48	39.71	39.96	40.20	40.44	40.68	40.92	41.65	
Carrier Technician*	34.96	37.33	37.38	39.08	39.32	39.57	39.82	40.06	40.31	40.55	40.80	41.04	41.29	41.54	41.78	42.53	
Full-Time/Part-Time Regular Employees - Hourly Basic Rates																	
City Carrier (Grade 2)	32.79	35.01	35.06	36.65	36.89	37.12	37.35	37.58	37.81	38.03	38.27	38.50	38.73	38.96	39.19	39.89	
Carrier Technician*	33.48	35.75	35.80	37.42	37.66	37.90	38.13	38.36	38.60	38.83	39.07	39.31	39.54	39.78	40.01	40.73	
Step Increase Waiting Periods (In Weeks)																	
Steps (From-To)	A-B	B-C	C-D	D-E	E-F	F-G	G-H	H-I	I-J	J-K	K-L	L-M	M-N	N-O	O-P	YRS.	
	96	96	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	34	34	26	26	24	46	13.3	

\* Carrier Technicians receive an additional 2.1%

**Table 2: City Carrier Schedule**

RSC Q7 (NALC)

This schedule applies to all carriers with a career appointment date on or after Jan. 12, 2013.

Basic Annual Salaries																	Most Prev. Step
	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P		
City Carrier (Grade 2)	52,352	54,593	56,834	59,077	61,316	63,557	65,800	68,041	70,280	72,520	74,761	77,005	79,242	81,483	82,976	2,241	
Carrier Technician*	53,451	55,739	58,028	60,318	62,604	64,892	67,182	69,470	71,756	74,043	76,331	78,622	80,906	83,194	84,718	2,288	
Part-Time Flexible Employees - Hourly Basic Rates																	
City Carrier (Grade 2)	26.28	27.41	28.53	29.66	30.78	31.91	33.03	34.16	35.28	36.41	37.53	38.66	39.78	40.91	41.65		
Carrier Technician*	26.83	27.98	29.13	30.28	31.43	32.58	33.73	34.87	36.02	37.17	38.32	39.47	40.62	41.76	42.53		
Full-Time/Part-Time Regular Employees - Hourly Basic Rates																	
City Carrier (Grade 2)	25.17	26.25	27.32	28.40	29.48	30.56	31.63	32.71	33.79	34.87	35.94	37.02	38.10	39.17	39.89		
Carrier Technician*	25.70	26.80	27.90	29.00	30.10	31.20	32.30	33.40	34.50	35.60	36.70	37.80	38.90	40.00	40.73		
Percent Step P																	
	63.09%	65.79%	68.49%	71.20%	73.90%	76.60%	79.30%	82.00%	84.70%	87.40%	90.10%	92.80%	95.50%	98.20%	100.00%		
Step Increase Waiting Periods (In Weeks)																	
Steps (From-To)	B-C	C-D	D-E	E-F	F-G	G-H	H-I	I-J	J-K	K-L	L-M	M-N	N-O	O-P	YRS.		
	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	12.4		

\* Carrier Technicians receive an additional 2.1%

**Table 3: City Carrier Assistant Schedule**

Hourly Rates

RSC Q4 (NALC)

This schedule applies to CCA Hires with no previous TE service.

This schedule applies to CCA Hires with previous TE service after Sept. 29, 2007, who were on the rolls as of Jan. 10, 2013.

	BB	AA
City Carrier (Grade 2)	21.21	21.71
Carrier Technician (add 2.1%)	21.66	22.17
Steps (From BB to AA) in weeks	52	

	BB	AA
City Carrier (Grade 2)	22.88	23.38
Carrier Technician (add 2.1%)	23.36	23.87
Steps (From BB to AA) in weeks	52	





President Renfro addresses the Rap Session attendees 11-23-25

## Continued from Page 1

The last year has seen attacks on many federal workers, most notably those organized with AFGE (American Federation of Government Employees) and TSA workers, putting them in the position of having to collect union dues face to face rather than auto-deduction through payroll. You can imagine how difficult this would be for us logistically, and it wouldn't take long for the financial impact to affect our ability to serve the members.

On the other hand, President Renfro applauded the efforts of our lobbyists on Capitol Hill and touted their access to important decision makers. For instance the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" would have reduced our retirement benefits, eliminated money appropriated for a new electric vehicle fleet and infrastructure for USPS, prohibited the Postal Service

from collecting dues through payroll deduction, and disallowed the payment of Official Time (wages paid by USPS to stewards for grievance work.) Mr. Renfro said that many Republican members who voted for the bill were unaware of the substance of the bill and were unaware of the impact it might have on the Postal Service. The efforts of our lobbyists resulted in some of these representatives insisting that Speaker Johnson and Majority Leader Thune remove this language from the final bill. Thankfully, these efforts to further dismantle the USPS failed this time, but it does represent some drastic steps we've not seen before that would have a devastating impact.

Then President Renfro went on to describe the financial state of the USPS and the impact this will have on our collective bargaining efforts. The latest financial reports show a loss of 9 billion dollars over the last year, with Mr. Renfro adding "To be very honest about it. That number is lower than what we expected."

There are many reasons why the USPS is in a difficult financial position, and we're all likely familiar with some of them. In 1970, the USPS served 200 million people with 5.5 pieces of mail per delivery. Today we serve 340 million people but only 2.4 pieces of mail per delivery. Lower volume combined with a universal service mandate equals increased cost per piece with fewer pieces to spread that cost. Another factor is the decreased parcel volume and market share of that volume. USPS delivered 400 million fewer parcels in the past year, and the market share of total parcels shipped by all shippers went from 38% to 31%. The total USPS parcel volume was 68 billion last year, however "there's a pretty strong chance... Amazon [for] first time this year will deliver more Parcels than the postal service" according to Mr. Renfro.

## The Path Forward

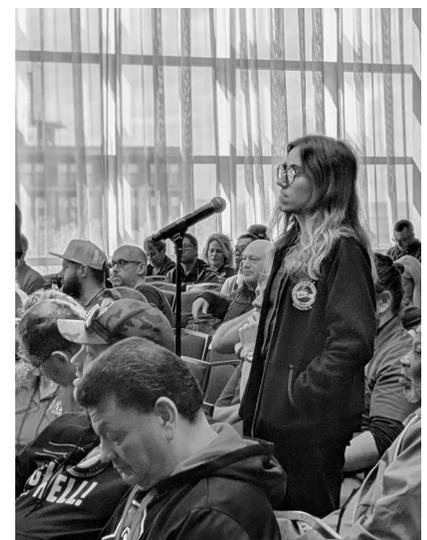
At the November GMM, Branch 9

members voted to hold a Contract Rally on Feb 22nd, unless President Renfro announces a different date for a National Day of Action. It seems that the efforts of Branch 9 members to encourage national leadership to open up the bargaining process and engage the rank and file members has had an impact. There will likely be a Contract Campaign with events all over the country, and while it might not get us the economic outcome we'd all like this time around, it is vital to organizing the future of our union and building the militancy that will get results in the future. Don't forget to mark your calendars for Feb 22nd and stay engaged, our current contract expires on May 22, 2026.

Note from the Editor:

Thank you Branch 9 for the opportunity to serve as your editor, I am excited for the opportunity and to hear your feedback. I hope you like the new look.

Zoe Bunzli representing Branch 9 at the mic.



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



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**DEC 7**

The Elves & The Shoemaker  
Children's Christmas Play  
Sidskick Theater  
Bloomington, MN

**DEC 9**

Steward Board Meeting  
Every Second Tuesday 7PM  
Crystal VFW

**DEC 23**

General Membership Meeting  
Every 4th Tuesday 7PM  
Crystal VFW

**JAN 13**

Steward Board Meeting  
Every Second Tuesday 7PM  
Crystal VFW

**JAN 27**

General Membership Meeting  
Every 4th Tuesday 7PM  
Crystal VFW

Northside Retiree Breakfast  
First Tuesdays @9:30

Elsie's  
729 Marshall St. NE  
Minneapolis

N Suburban Retiree Breakfast  
First Fridays @8:30

Denny's Restaurant  
9020 Quadday Ave NE  
Otsego

Fridley Retiree Lunch  
Second Tuesdays @11:30

Route 47 Pub and Grub  
7820 University Ave  
Fridley

**DEC 25**

Christmas

**JAN 1**

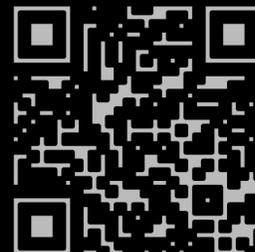
New Year's Day

**JAN 19**

Martin Luther King, Jr Day



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