



BRANCH NINE NEWS

"AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL"

1964

2025 "Stamp Out Hunger" NALC Food Drive



Carriers at Diamond Lake Station pose in front of a portion of their donations

Dear Branch 9: Together, We're Feeding Our Communities!

Greetings Branch 9! I'm Jessie Vasquez, one of your Formal Step A Representatives and new District Coordinator for the NALC's Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. Stepping up to lead at the last minute in 2025, I was honored to guide our remarkable Branch 9 union family, retirees, new hires, and management, in a powerful show of unity. Diamond Lake Station's fantastic cookout and Blaine Station's joint vision, with nearly all carriers purchasing their own food drive shirts, sparked our enthusiasm. With incredible support from food pantries and the AFL-CIO, we rocked the nation's largest one day food drive, collecting 76,824 pounds of food, up from 61,173 in 2024.

(Continued on page 4)

Editor's Report

New Postmaster General Announced: What This Means for Future of USPS

It was announced in March that Louis DeJoy was stepping down after five years as Postmaster General at USPS.

In that time DeJoy oversaw big increases in prices, a slowing of service, increased harassment of postal workers through the one hour office time and other attempts at speed-ups, and a botched implementation of his 10-year "Delivering for America" plan, that would have neighborhood post offices closed down, and operations moved into massive suburban Sorting and Delivery Centers, a process that degraded service and worsened access.

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RETIREMENTS



Naomi Bristlin of Richfield Station with President Joe Rian

Congratulations!



Leo Rubi of Minnehaha Station with Steward Matt Fussy

Enjoy our retirement!



Natalie Mayotte of Columbia Heights with Steward Nate Serie and EVP Chris Pennock

Happy Retirement!

IN MEMORIAM

Stephen Boughton

Larry Dahlberg

Jerry Sandman

Philip Sheridan

Steven Townsend - Active PTF

NEW MEMBERS

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Emano Abeb | Brandon Larson |
| Fenja Abrams | Rataya Latney |
| Yahye Aden | Justin Leeson |
| Jabril Anderson | Jennifer Loff |
| Jennifer Anderson | Cole Maas |
| Mariah Barnes | Drake McDougall |
| Monica Bean | Chris Melby |
| Jason Biagi | James Moore |
| Andrew Brynildson | Trenton Nellis |
| Donald Carter | Jameela Powell |
| Ameriyae Casburne | Justin Powers |
| Ephrem Eyassu | Diana Reyes |
| Lucas Foley | Matthew Roderick |
| Chofor Fru-Tilong | Bret Rosen |
| Solomon Gebremedhin | Jared Sooper |
| James Giese | Elliot Stalnaker |
| Matthew Gould | Judan Stanek |
| Levi Hillman | Orion Vang |
| Marquites Jolly | Rshawda Wallace |
| Logan Kern | Yiilikai Woldemariam |

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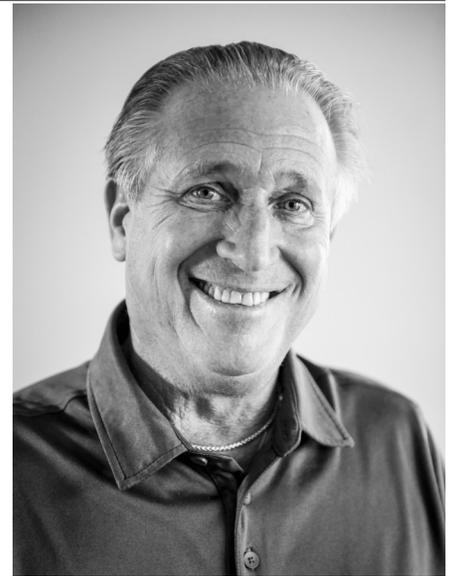
The Branch Nine News is a monthly publication of NALC Branch 9, and is published in the interest of and for the members of NALC Branch 9.

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



Joe Rian

I had an opportunity to watch the sentencing in Federal Court of an individual who robbed two of our brother carriers at gun point in 2023. I was accompanied by MSALC President Perry Schmidt, St. Paul Branch President Chad Lemm, and 3 Branch 9 retirees Pat Paplow, Connie Biessel and Joel Carter. Here's the story.

On November 18, 2023, a young man St. Paul, MN assisted another person who approached a letter carrier in Edina, MN, pointed a handgun at him and demanded the "mailbox keys", which the victim did not have. Instead, he handed over two sets of USPS vehicle keys. The following day, the same young man approached another USPS letter carrier in Brooklyn Center, MN, pointed a handgun at the letter carrier's head, demanded and then stole two USPS mailbox keys from the terrified letter carrier. Over the course of several days, the same young man was using the keys to rob mailboxes.

The young man was subsequently arrested and on Tuesday, December 17, 2023, pled guilty to armed robbery of U.S. Postal Service employees on these two separate occasions.

On Wednesday, May 28, 2025, the same young man, now 26 years old, after apologizing to all postal employees for his actions, was sentenced in U.S. District Court in St. Paul, MN, to 132

months in a federal prison, plus 5 years of supervised release and almost \$78,000 in restitution for one count of aiding and abetting armed robbery and one count of armed robbery against a US Postal employee.

Upon announcing the sentence, the judge made note that

- 1- Federal guidelines for this offense mandated a sentence of no less than 10 and no more than 15 years.
- 2- The robbery was planned and intentional, not a crime of opportunity.
- 3- That crime attacked some of the most vulnerable people in America, letter carriers doing their jobs, out on the street, alone, unprotected.
- 4- And the crime targeted an essential government entity, the United States Postal Service, an entity that everyone in America relies on for communication.

The judge made clear that this crime demonstrated a marked escalation in the young man's criminal history, up from a record of 7 felonies in 5 different states, a previous 2 year incarceration and a demonstrated record of committing crimes while on and off probation. The judge stated it was clear to him that the young man was a greater risk to the

public now than ever before and that the public would be better served with this sentence.

Lastly, the judge also noted that the 132-month sentence is necessary to protect the Postal Service's essential role in society and to discourage others from committing similar violent crimes against letter carriers. He postulated that the public wouldn't even have a Postal Service if United States law couldn't guarantee the safety of letter carriers and the service they provide to America. Indeed, he said, no one would even want to apply for the job of city letter carrier if their life was in danger of being robbed at gun-point every day.

It is nice to know that this US Federal Court Judge, the US Attorney's Office and the US Postal Inspection Service, have our backs when it comes to letter carrier safety.

(Continued from page 1)

While far from pre-COVID totals, we're now tightly tracking numbers to set bold goals for 2026. Thank you to all who spread the word; each share filled our community's pantries!

Our dedicated coordinators, including eager newcomers, boosted totals by rallying neighborhoods, with Chanhassen leading at 7,740 pounds, Coon Rapids at 5,534, and Blaine at 4,771—their shirts spoke volumes! See the excitement in the slideshow on Branch 9's Facebook page!

For 2026, I'm focused on securing \$6000 to \$10000 for bags, which nearly double donations, through sponsorships starting in July, and partnering with local networks to boost awareness. I also aim to raise funds to support stations, making the drive a fun, united day for union and management. More volunteers will lighten our city carriers' load. Join us at the Branch 9 Summer Picnic on August 3, 2025, from 10 AM to 4 PM, to celebrate our coordinators with certificates. Branch 9, let's keep feeding our communities!



Jessie Vasquez



Exec. Vice President's Report

We have some news to share on the implementation of the new overtime rules in the new contract. A new memorandum was just released that puts these changes in effect at the start of the new quarter on July 1. There are changes to CCA and PTF work hour limits, new overtime lists, the elimination of the 10-hour overtime list, automatic payment of an additional 50% base pay for working beyond the 12/60 limits, the ability to volunteer to work beyond the 12/60, and lastly there's a new right of refusal to work over 12/60. Some of these changes are self-explanatory and some require will explanation.

All PTFs and CCAs now have a contractual guarantee of one day off per service week except in December. The old contract somehow did not guarantee a single day off per week for part-time employees and it's a great thing that this has been changed. Management is to notify PTFs of their N/S day by Wednesday of the preceding service week. Stewards, this is something we should enforce.

During the first 11 weeks following Carrier Academy part-time employees will have a restricted work schedule. For the first 8 weeks they are limited to working only in their home station, and that includes Sundays. So, if you're not stationed at a hub

and you're in your first 8 weeks you should not be working on Sundays.

For the first 4 weeks you're limited to 8 hours per day 40 hours per week. On weeks 5-8 the limitation is 10 hours per day and 56 hours per week. Weeks 9-11 the daily work limit is raised to 11.5 hours per day and 60 hours per week. At week 12 and beyond there is no 60-hour limit, but the daily 11.5 hour limit remains. Beginning on week 9 CCAs and PTFs may volunteer to work a 7th day per service week.

There are two new overtime lists that will be posted shortly with the end of the quarter OT sign-up. One list is for volunteers who wish to work up to 12 hours on their regularly scheduled day. If you sign only this list, you will not be volunteering to work your N/S days. The other list is for carriers who wish to only work 8 hours of overtime on their N/S days. The strange thing about this designation is that on your regularly scheduled days you will be considered a non-list (aka 8-hour) carrier who does not want OT and there is no option to sign up for OT on your N/S days and to be considered a work assignment carrier and do the OT on your own route as well. If you sign both lists you will be on "the big list" like we have now with the 12 hour ODL.



Chris Pennock

The 12/60 limits are also changing. If you want to work beyond these limits the contract now allows you to do so. It also makes it so that the system (TACS) will automatically pay you an extra 50% base pay for working over the limits that will show up in your paycheck just like any other rate of pay. For full-time employees who do not wish to work beyond 12 hours there is an explicit right of refusal that will protect you against discipline for refusing to go over 12/60.

These are some of the biggest changes to Article 8 of our contract that we've had in a long time. I encourage those that have read this article to share the information with your co-workers. Knowledge is power!

Report from the Mayday Parade 2025

Emmett Bongaarts, Steward Lake Street Station



Every year on the first Sunday in May folks in the Twin Cities come together for a celebration of artistic spirit and radical politics. This year, on a beautiful spring day in Minneapolis, more than 20 members of Branch 9 and the local chapter of Build a Fighting NALC joined the May Day parade to spread the word about the struggle facing the city letter carrier. Over the course of the afternoon, hundreds, if not thousands of people chanted along with us: "US Mail Not For Sale!" And "Fight! Fight! Fight! Right to Strike!" It was a lot of fun, and it felt very special to see the support our community has for us.



EDITOR'S REPORT

(Continued from page 1)

Taking his place is David Steiner, a current FedEx board member, who has bragged about his history of union busting while CEO of Waste Management. We should make no mistake, DeJoy was pushed out because his brand was tainted from the failed attempts to implement his "Delivering for America" plan, and now Steiner is being put in as a fresh face as part of a broader attempt to privatize the postal service by the Trump administration.

The new Postmaster General is coming at a time when major changes are underway in the logistics and delivery industry. Amazon is investing \$4 billion into expanding its rural delivery network, and UPS dropped a large portion of their Amazon deliveries, which is now being taken up by FedEx, all as the trade war ramps up, and a recession looms on the horizon. There are winners and losers in every economic downturn, and Amazon is positioning itself to take full advantage of potentials for both a recession, and the carving up of USPS.

Under pressure from Branch 9, and the broader reform movement in NALC, we pushed national leadership to call for national rallies on March 23 to fight back against any attempt to privatize the postal service. While I have criticisms that the messaging of the rallies outside of Minnesota focused just on privatization, and not linking that need to the need to fight for a strong contract, these rallies were still the biggest national day of coordinated actions by NALC in over a decade. It's going to take this sort of action, on a much larger scale, bringing in all of the postal unions, the entire labor movement, and the American public (who overwhelmingly oppose privatization), to fight back against any attempt to privatize USPS.

We must oppose privatization, but we can't just fight to save the postal service as it currently exists. We need a postal service that works for postal workers, and the public we serve. A postal service that provides



Tyler Vasseur

universal, affordable, and reliable service for the American public, and that provides stable, high quality careers for workers. That is why a section of NALC members are getting organized to fight for things like a \$30/hour starting wage, an End to Mandatory Overtime, an All-Career Workforce, and the Right to Strike!

Without the Right to Strike, we will continue to fight with one hand tied behind our backs, and will be open to further attacks, whether it's from the president, congress, corporations, or the Postmaster General.

Get active in NALC, and fight for the postal service that workers and the public need!

Become a contributor to the Branch Nine News!

Email the Branch Nine News Editor, Tyler at branch9news@branch9nalc.com

- Articles due by the first of the month to make it into that month's issue of the paper
- Articles about specific issues at your station, ideas for the union, cartoons, or even suggestions on layout and design are all welcome
- If you have an idea, but don't know where to begin, the Editor can work with you to help form your idea into an article
- Proposed articles are published at the discretion of the President, Executive Vice President, and Editor

2025 Red & Gold Dinner — Retiree Banquet



Director of Retirees Report

Efforts to remove the “high-5” retirement annuity calculation proposal from the recently passed House Reconciliation bill were successful.

The provision would have lowered retirement payments for many federal employees in the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) and the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) by calculating annuities based on the average of an employee’s highest five consecutive years of salary, rather than the current calculation based on highest three consecutive years of earnings.

The current annuity calculation based on highest three consecutive years of earnings will remain in place.

Sadly, the bill still contains a proposal to eliminate the FERS annuity supplement. Currently, FERS retirees receive an annuity supplement if they retire before they become eligible for Social Security at age 62. As currently written in the bill, the elimination of the FERS annuity supplement would take effect Jan. 1, 2028. According to

the language of the bill, the elimination would not impact any federal employee “entitled” to the supplement prior to 2028.

A separate provision on increasing the FERS contribution rate to 4.4% across the board was already struck from the legislation. All current federal employees will maintain their current FERS contribution rates, according to the House-passed version of the legislation.

However, another provision that remains in the House’s final version of the bill would require all newly hired federal employees to choose between keeping a 4.4% FERS contribution rate and becoming an “at-will” employee — or keeping their civil service job protections but taking on a 9.4% FERS contribution rate. Current federal employees would not be impacted by this proposal.

(As you may already know, an at-will employee in the United States can be terminated by the employer at any time and for any reason, except for illegal reasons, such

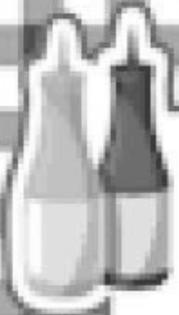
as discrimination. Similarly, the employee can quit their job at any time, without providing notice. This legal principle means that the employer and employee have no contract outlining specific reasons or procedures for termination.)

The so called “One, Big, Beautiful Bill” passed by the House also includes provisions to eliminate taxes on tips and overtime.

Try to watch these issues as they are discussed in the US Senate. The President is trying to get the bill passed into law by July 4, 2025.

Joe Tanner

Branch 9 Director of Retirees



Join Branch 9

for a day of fun for the whole family,
food and a softball tournament

Please get your teams ready to rumble!!
(5 innings will have an umpire available.)

Aquatore Park

9191 Lincoln Street NE, Blaine, MN 55434
(East and West Pavilions)

Sunday, August 3, 2025

10am – 4:00pm

Price is \$5 per person

Food served at the East Pavillion - 11am – 1pm

Hot dogs, burgers, brats
2 types of potato salad
Assorted fruit, desserts, etc.,
(Catered provided by Unique Dining)

Return registration form and payment by **No later than Monday, July 14, 2025.**
(checks made out and mailed to: Branch 9, 5831 Cedar Lk Rd S, St. Louis Park, MN 55416)

Branch 9 Picnic Registration Form

Member's Name: _____ Station: _____

Number of Guests: _____ Amount Paid: _____

Name of Guests (include ages of children):

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| #1. _____ | #2. _____ |
| #3. _____ | #4. _____ |
| #5. _____ | #6. _____ |
| #7. _____ | #8. _____ |



**BRANCH 9
2025 SCHOLARSHIP DRAWING WINNERS**

WALTER E. COULLARD/EUGENE P. McNULTY – \$2,000.00

		<u>School Attending</u>	<u>Parent</u>	<u>Work Location</u>
Winner	Lucy Lewandowski	U of M	Joseph Lewandowski	East Side
1st Runner-Up	Nikko Schirer	Undecided	Michael Schirer	Diamond Lake
2nd Runner-Up	Cora Lasho	Anoka-Ramsey	Lisa Hammerstad	Champlin

JEROME J. KEATING/AUSTIN B CARLSON – \$2,000.00

		<u>School Attending</u>	<u>Parent</u>	<u>Work Location</u>
Winner	Mahliek Anda	Bethel University	Geoffrey Anda	Anoka
1st Runner-Up	Kathryn Peterson	Univ. of St Thomas	Michael Peterson	Anoka
2nd Runner-Up	Nikko Schirer	Undecided	Michael Schirer	Diamond Lake

J. WESLEY WOODS – \$1,000.00

		<u>School Attending</u>	<u>Parent</u>	<u>Work Location</u>
Winner	Violet Kriz	UW - Stout	Aaron Kriz	Fridley
1st Runner-Up	Clarissa Larson	Moorhead State	Clarissa Yeavello	Burnsville
2nd Runner-Up	Nikko Schirer	Undecided	Michael Schirer	Diamond Lake

LEONARD A. LARSON/BARRY J. WEINER – ADULT SCHOLARSHIP – \$1,000.00

	<u>Position</u>	<u>Work Location</u>
1st Winner	Charles Rivers	Retired
2nd Winner	Robb Petersburg	Lost Lake

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

June 10

Steward Meeting
7 PM
Crystal VFW

June 24

General Membership
Meeting
7 PM
Crystal VFW

July 8

Steward Meeting
7 PM
Crystal VFW

July 22

Steward Meeting
7 PM
Crystal VFW

August 3

Branch 9 Picnic
10am
Aquatore Park
Blaine, MN

August 12

Steward Meeting
7 PM
Crystal VFW

Northside Retiree Breakfast

1st Tuesday of the Month
9:30AM
Elsie's
729 Marshall St. NE, Minneapolis

N Suburban Retiree Breakfast

1st Friday of the Month
8:30AM
Denny's Restaurant
9020 Quaday Avenue NE, Otsego

Fridley Retiree Lunch

2nd Tuesday of the Month
11:30 AM
Route 47 Pub and Grub
7820 University Ave

Stay informed by:

*Join Veterans Group [https://www.nalc.org/
member-benefits/join-the-nalc-veterans-group](https://www.nalc.org/member-benefits/join-the-nalc-veterans-group)

* Branch9nalc.com (website)

* "like" our Branch 9 Facebook Page

Contribute to the PAC

The Letter Carrier Political Fund is the anchor for NALC's legislative and political activities.

nalc.org/government-affairs/political-activity

