



# ALL OUT FOR MARCH 23 RALLY!

**Fight for a strong contract! NO to privatization!**



*Illustration by Latham Luepke, Lowry Station*

Branch 9 to hold a contract and anti-privatization rally on Sunday, March 23 at 11am at the Minnesota State Capitol steps in St. Paul.

Our fight for a strong contract is now directly tied to the existential fight for a public postal service. We encourage all members to discuss this with coworkers, set up carpools, and mobilize your stations. Now is the time to fight!

More info in the EVP Report (p. 3) and Editor's Report (p. 1 cont'd on p. 6).

## Editor's Report

### 55 years since the 1970 Postal Strike: Lessons for Today

55 years ago this month postal workers walked out on an illegal wildcat strike (without the support of union leadership) against the federal government.

Letter Carriers were suffering from wages that couldn't keep up with inflation, and inaction from Congress, who before collective bargaining, oversaw raises (or lack thereof) for postal workers. It was estimated that in New York City, 20 percent of letter carriers had a second or third job, and 10 percent received food stamps and other welfare payments.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## RETIREMENTS



Last Punch for Tsering Thatsekhangsar (Lake Street) with President Joe Rian and Steward Emmett Bongaarts. Congratulations!



Last Punch for Ken Jambois (Brooklyn Center) with Steward Chris Hough and President Joe Rian. Enjoy your retirement!

## NEW MEMBERS

Osman Barrie  
 Collin Carlson  
 Michael Edwards  
 Haniel Flomo  
 Henry Kershaw  
 Aziza Lake  
 Dillon Matzke  
 Jason Michalicek  
 William Stiteler  
 William Stalzner  
 Avery Winden

## IN MEMORIAM

Denise Allenson

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

Voice: (612) 781-9858  
 Fax: (612) 781-9849  
 Website: [branch9nalc.com](http://branch9nalc.com)

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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

## Upcoming events

This is a busy season for us. Our annual Ron St. Clair Bowlathon for Muscular Dystrophy is coming up Saturday April 28 th at the New Hope Bowl. Look for the flyer in this copy of Branch 9 News and get your team together. It's a lot of fun. And pizza, too.

The Annual Red and Gold Retiree Banquet is Sunday May 4th. We honor all Branch 9 retirees at this luncheon. Do you know we have people in the branch who have been NALC members for 60 years or more? It is a very fun time with stories galore, great food and the opportunity to reconnect with some long-lost co-workers you might not have seen for years.

And lastly, the Great American Annual NALC Food Drive Saturday May 10th . This is the day we collect food from the people on our routes to help feed those Americans who may have fallen on hard times due to illness, loss of job or homelessness. This is when we can really shine as NALC letter carriers. Tons and tons of food is collected. It's incredible what we can do together for our country as letter carriers.

## Legislation

Please learn about these bills, talk about them and urge your congressional representatives to sponsor them and help get them passed. All three have bipartisan support.

Protect our Letter Carriers Act (POLCA) H.R. 1065/S. 463 NALC supports the Protect Our Letter Carriers Act, which would mod-

ernize key infrastructure and keep letter carriers safe as they deliver essential mail and packages to every community in the country. This bill would also re-

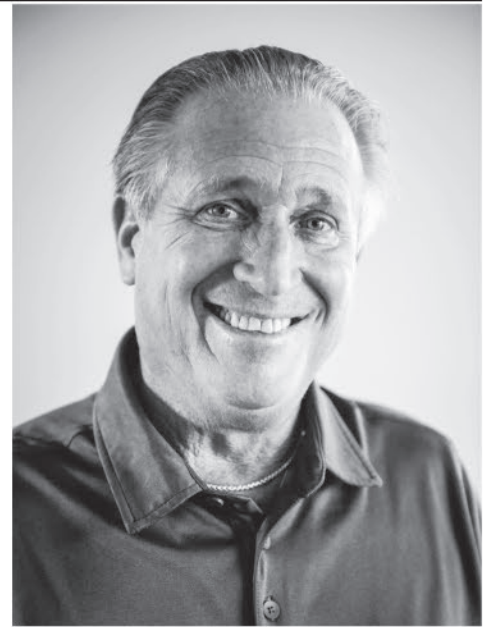
quire the Department of Justice to appoint an assistant U.S attorney in each judicial district to prioritize postal service crimes and, require the U.S. Sentencing Commission to treat assaults on postal workers the same as assaults on law enforcement officers.

House Resolution 70 calls on Congress to ensure that the Postal Service remains an independent establishment and not subject to privatization. The NALC opposes postal privatization in all forms.

The Federal Retirement Fairness Act H.R. 1522 This bill would allow postal employees (CCA, TE's, casual) who are promoted to career positions the option of "buying back" the time they had worked as a non-career employee to use toward retirement. NALC supports this bill, which would benefit more than 65 percent of current letter carriers by allowing them to make catch-up retirement contributions for time spent as non-career employees, making it credible service under FERS.

## The Contract

You already know the Tentative Agreement (TA) was voted down by a large margin. And with a better than normal voter turnout, our voice spoke loudly to management that we



*Joe Rian*

believe we deserve a lot better in pay and in working conditions. Let's focus on the basic problem we have here. From top to bottom, we have an uncaring employer who does not agree with us on the financial and community value of our work.

We all must continue to persevere in educating management and correcting their misconceptions about who we are. Never pass up the opportunity to remind USPS management that their numbers don't deliver the mail, people do. No supervisor, manager, MCSO, Postmaster or District Manager have a right to dehumanize us as workers and cheapen our labor on the work room or at the arbitration table.

Remember, we are workers who have honor, we have integrity, and we have the desire to deliver for America every day and we do it, every day, better than anyone else in the world.

# P.A.L. 9

## Political Action League



**Very Concerned  
(\$50 or more  
donated)**

Connie Beissel  
James Couillard  
Larry Biermann  
Joe Bedor  
Francis Rice  
William Tuffs  
Jericho Tabor  
Joel Carter  
Duane Pederson  
Jonathan Peterson  
Donald Holthus  
Stacey Ellingsoon  
Charles Scheid  
Colleen Sagedahl  
Phil Wixsten  
Kathleen Ungar  
Dan Molitor  
Jane Doe  
Gregory Piela  
Andrew Truckenmiller

**Concerned  
(\$25 donated)**

Gary Kroeten  
Larry Melander  
Dennis Johnston  
Mark Larson  
Herbert Hess  
Burton Pansch  
Leonard Hrcncir  
James Hamilton  
Douglas Dopp  
David Millette  
Gary Weih  
Richard Hobot  
Richard Onslow  
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Ken Lucas  
James Hiben  
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Doris Gbala  
John Keeley  
Steven Olson  
George Muzetras  
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Brett Thompson  
Bruce Wallace  
Very Concerned  
Harry Sedesky  
Patrick Rottach  
Jerry Baumgartner  
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Paul Stemper  
Jeff Johnson  
Cindy Fossum

Linda Olson  
Pamela Thompson  
Leonard Rardin  
Peter Schilling  
Concerned  
Dallas Holm  
Paul Hultgren  
Andrew Olufson  
Ryan Wiebold  
Steven Schwede  
Michael Meier  
Joseph Tieman  
Mary Hargreaves  
Ben Taylor

## Exec. Vice President's Report

Hello Brothers and Sisters of Branch 9!

It's been a crazy month. The White House is saying that they want to take control of USPS and put the organization under more direct control of the administration through the Commerce Department. This is an attack on the public post office and something we should all oppose.

When the rulers look at USPS, they see an \$80 billion a year organization that's staffed by union workers with "bloated" benefits. That's how they talk about us.

What they see is a massive source of untapped profit that could make them richer. We need only look across the pond to Europe to see what happens when mail service is privatized. Conditions for workers deteriorate. Benefits are cut, wages are slashed, and further speedups are instituted.

The results are also disastrous in terms of the service provided to customers. Post offices close, delivery days are reduced, and mail is delayed. There has been pushback since this plan was announced, which is good, but more is needed to send a clear message of "Hands Off the Postal Service!" We don't know when or even if the White House will put out the executive order taking over USPS.

However, I just saw an article that reported that Elon Musk suggested that the US should privatize the Postal Service (and

Amtrak). They're still pushing this plan, and we need to push back.

I invite all Branch 9 members to join us on **March 23 at 11AM on the steps of the capitol building in St. Paul** to raise our voices together in support of our public Post Office and for a strong contract. Help us build this action to be as large and broad as possible.

Invite friends, family and co-workers! Big public displays of support are a big part of how we can fight back against these attacks on us from the administration.

Management has been on a tear lately, abusing and threatening carriers. This is part of an ongoing attempt at a speedup. They're telling carriers to deliver 12 hours of mail in 8 hours or you'll be fired. They're threatening carriers with medical restrictions to disregard their doctor's orders and deliver overtime when the carrier has an 8 hour per day medical restriction.

I want to encourage our members to stand up for themselves in these situations. Know that the Union will have your back. We've been training our stewards in defending against discipline so that we don't feel like

we have to skip our lunch and breaks and run our routes off. We have the right to work safely, to take the time to do the



*Chris Pennock*

job the right way, and to follow our medical restrictions. If Management gives you an impossible order, just laugh at them. Show them you won't be bullied.

As workers we come to work not looking for any trouble, but here Management is giving it to us. We get calls frequently in the office from carriers asking what to do when they can't get the bosses to understand they can't do what's being asked of them. When Management is acting crazy and abusive like this give yourself permission to tell them "No". Uncomfortable as that can be that may be what it takes to get through the day. And if you see Management bullying your co-workers, please stand up for them.

An injury to one is an injury to all.

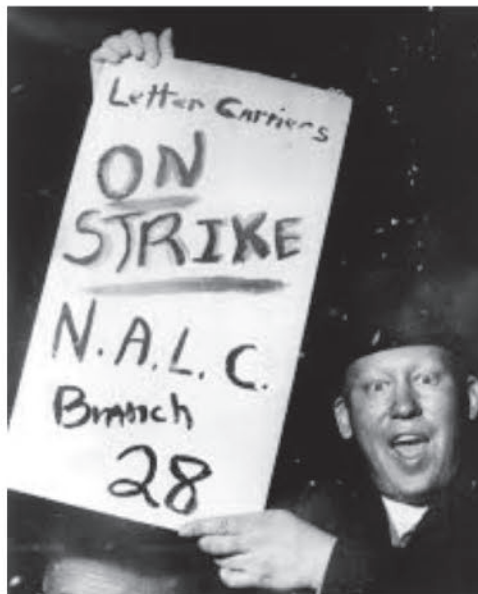
# Editor's Report: 55 years since the 1970 Postal Strike

(Continued from page 1)

In 1970 alone, 1 in 6 union members went out on strike. Postal workers in New York took notice, and after years of organizing demonstrations, marches, and in particular a defense campaign for workers who staged a "sick-out" in the Bronx the year prior, decided to take action. On March 17, Br. 36 in Manhattan/Bronx voted to walk out, beginning what was to become the biggest wildcat strike in US history.



From there, the strike spread over the next week to branches in cities across the country, including Br. 9 in Minneapolis, Br. 28 in St. Paul, Br. 47 in Denver, Br. 11 in Chicago, and dozens of others. Postal workers set up picket lines at post offices, and processing facilities, and effectively shut down the post office. President Nixon called in the National Guard, and rushed to meet with union leaders to stop the strike from spreading. But support for postal workers was high, and by March 26, after workers effectively shut down the mail sup-



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(Continued from page 6)

ply for eight days, the strike was called off. Postal workers won a 14% wage increase, and collective bargaining rights (the first, and only federal workers who have this right), and the US Post Office Department was converted from being part of the Executive Branch into the independent agency, the United States Postal Service, that we know today.

The entire Branch Nine News could be dedicated to the history of the 1970 strike, but for space I need to limit this article to just the overview, and move onto some of the lessons we can learn from this today. For those who are interested in a deeper history, I recommend Philip Rubio's book, "Undelivered: From the Great Postal Strike of 1970 to the Manufactured Crisis of the U.S. Postal Service".

### Lessons for Today

What are letter carriers faced with today? NALC has been negotiating for a new contract for over two years, we've been hit by years of inflation and economic uncertainty, NALC members voted to reject the Tentative Agreement (TA) that was announced in October 2024 by an over 2-to-1 margin (see February BNN for more info), and after the 15-day renegotiation period, the contract is set to go to binding interest arbitration.

In mid February Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, architect of the controversial "Delivering for America" plan, which seeks to slow down delivery, consolidate post offices into Sorting & Delivery Centers, push one hour office time and other speed-up measures, among other things, announced his resignation. And a few days later it was leaked that the Trump

Administration plans to release an Executive Order (EO) that would likely dissolve the Postal Board of Governors, and take USPS into the Executive Branch, under the Commerce Department.

Based on previous comments made by President Trump about privatization, and the current attempts by Elon Musk's DOGE to cut federal agencies, and attack federal workers, this EO could mean massive attacks on our Collective Bargaining rights, our wages and working conditions, hard-fought for benefits like retirement, and healthcare, cuts to the non-career workforce, and plans to privatize the postal service in whole, or in part, by outsourcing mail processing operations.

### How to Fight Back?

1970 showed us that when letter carriers stand up, join with other postal workers, and build public support, we can fight back and win. Today, postal workers, and all federal workers are faced with a potential existential threat. But we are getting organized, and fighting back. National NALC leadership has launched a "Fight Like Hell" campaign, with a rally of several hundred in Washington DC on February 24. What started as a fight for a strong contract after the overwhelming rejection of the TA, has turned into a fight against any attempt to privatize or attack the rights of all postal workers. We need to link our fight to that of all federal workers in the face of attacks from DOGE.

**ALL OUT FOR MARCH 23 RALLY!**

To fight for both a strong contract, and against any at-



*Tyler Vasseur*

tempts to privatize or attack our rights. We will be rallying on Sunday, March 23 at 11am on the steps of the Minnesota State Capitol in St. Paul. All friends, family, supporters, and other union members are welcome.

If the EO is announced before then, and it is as bad as we fear, there are plans to call for a special meeting to discuss how to respond and fight back.

The spirit of 1970 is growing again within the ranks of NALC, and across the entire labor movement. If we get organized and fight back, we can win! I urge all members to discuss this article with their coworkers, mobilize your station to the March 23 rally, and get involved in Branch 9.

Solidarity,  
Tyler Vasseur

Branch 9  
Ron St. Clair MDA Bowl-a-thon

**Saturday, April 26, 2025**

**LOCATION**

NEW HOPE BOWL  
7107 - 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North  
New Hope, MN 55427

**TIME**

5:30 – 8:30PM

- 
- ◆ 30 lanes of bowling
  - ◆ Teams consist of 4 – 5 bowlers
  - ◆ FAX 612.781.9849 **OR** e-mail [angie@branch9nalc.com](mailto:angie@branch9nalc.com) your stations team registration (including each player's name)
  - ◆ \$50 per bowler – checks made out to Branch 9
  - ◆ \$25 per non-bowler – checks made out to Branch 9
  - ◆ Bowlers will receive 2 games, shoe rental and pizza
  - ◆ Cash bar and restaurant on site
  - ◆ Silent auction baskets – donated by each station
  - ◆ Raffle ticket drawings – Members please donate “new” items
  - ◆ 50/50 raffle drawings
  - ◆ Three (3) stations with the “*Best Themed*” *silent auction baskets* will receive donuts at their station
  - ◆ Deadline for registration is **Friday, April 18, 2025**
  - ◆ **All proceeds will go to MDA**

**If you have any questions, please contact Joe Rian or  
Chris Pennock at the Branch office 612.781.9858.**

# **Become a contributor to the Branch Nine News!**

Do you want to write an article, pitch an idea, or draw a cartoon for the Branch Nine News?



Email the Branch Nine News Editor, Tyler at [branch9news@branch9nalc.com](mailto: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

**J. Wesley Woods  
\$1,000 Scholarship Application  
Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 High School \_\_\_\_\_  
 Member parent's name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Work unit \_\_\_\_\_  
 School to attend (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

**Jerome J. Keating/Austin B.  
Carlson  
\$2,000 Scholarship Application  
Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 High School \_\_\_\_\_  
 Member parent's name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Work unit \_\_\_\_\_  
 School to attend (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

**Walter E. Couillard/Eugene P.  
McNulty  
\$2,000 Scholarship Application  
Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 High School \_\_\_\_\_  
 Member parent's name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Work unit \_\_\_\_\_  
 School to attend (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

**High School Seniors,  
please submit your scholarship  
applications to Branch 9 by  
May 27, 2025**

Every spring, Branch 9 awards three scholarships to graduating seniors: the J. Wesley Woods Scholarship (\$1,000); the Jerome J. Keating/Austin B. Carlson Scholarship (\$2,000); and the Walter E. Couillard/Eugene P. McNulty Scholarship (\$2,000). These awards have made it easier for many students to begin their post-secondary education while honoring the sacrifices and contributions of important Branch 9 Leaders.

The following rules apply to all three scholarships:

A. Any senior graduating from high school and is a dependent of a Branch 9 member is eligible for these scholarships.

B. The scholarships may be used for any accredited trade school, vocational/technical institute, community college, or university.

C. Three names will be drawn for each scholarship. The first name picked will be the winner, then first and second runner-up respectively. The winners of any drawing will not be eligible for the other drawings.

D. The application for the drawings will run in the March and April issues of the Branch Nine News. The drawing will be held at the May General Membership Meeting. The applications shall contain the following information:

1. The applicant's name, address, and home phone number.
2. The name of the applicant's parent or guardian who is a member of Branch 9.
3. The intended school of choice, if known.

E. Payment to the winners will be made after they have enrolled and can show proof of payment towards their tuition.

**Members with dependents who graduate from high school this spring and who plan to attend an accredited educational institution next fall, should complete the applications and return them to the Branch Office by May 28. All three forms should be submitted as there are three separate drawings for each scholarship. Please enter the three scholarship drawings only once.**

# Adult Learners Scholarship

## Leonard A. Larson/ Barry J. Weiner

**Adult Learners,  
please submit your scholarship  
application to Branch 9 by  
May 27, 2025 or bring to that  
night's GMM**

**Leonard A. Larson/Barry J. Weiner  
Adult Learner Scholarship  
Application Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Active or Retired \_\_\_\_\_

Work Unit \_\_\_\_\_

**Two (2) \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded.**

The following rules apply to the two scholarships:

- A. Any member active or retired in good standing of Branch 9 is eligible for one of the two scholarships.
  - B. The scholarships may be used for any accredited trade school, vocational/technical institute, community college, or university. The Adult Learner Scholarships may also be used for any community, county or state adult educational program.
  - C. One name will be drawn for each scholarship. The first name picked will be the winner. The winners of any drawing will not be eligible for the other drawings.
  - D. The application for the drawings will run in the March and April issues of the Branch Nine News. The drawing will be held at the May General Membership Meeting. The applications shall contain the following information:
    - 1. The applicant's name, address, and home phone number.
    - 2. Whether active or retired.
  - E. Payment to the winners will be made after they have enrolled and can show proof of payment towards their tuition.
  - F. Benefits under the Adult Learner Scholarships expire one year from date of drawing.
- Members who plan to attend an accredited education institution should complete the application and return it to the Branch Office by May 28, or bring to that night's General Membership Meeting.

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



PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
TWIN CITIES MN  
PERMIT NO. 91964

## Branch 9 Calendar

### March 25

General Membership Meeting  
7 PM  
Crystal VFW

### April 11

Steward Meeting  
7 PM  
Crystal VFW

### April 25

General Membership Meeting  
7 PM  
Crystal VFW

### April 26

MDA Bowl-a-thon

### May 4

Retiree Banquet  
12 PM  
Delta Hotel Marriot  
Minneapolis



Saturday, May 10

### 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](http://Branch9nalc.com) (website)

\* "like" our Branch 9 Facebook Page

## Contribute to the PAC

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

[nalc.org/government-affairs/political-activity](http://nalc.org/government-affairs/political-activity)

