



The Minnesota Letter Carrier

1st Qtr 2022



Hello everyone.

The phone calls and emails to congressional members every week or more, asking them to vote "YES" for the Postal Reform Act, on March 8th, paid off. Letter Carriers should applaud the 79 Senate members who voted to approve this legislation, which was adopted by the House of Representatives with a bipartisan majority last month. Now Mr. President, sign this bill as you said you will, and let the Postal Service start working on much needed improvements. Take the time to thank our Minnesota Senators for being there for us when it mattered most. Thank you everyone who made phone calls or emails and made this happen.

I hope the New Year has started out good for all. These last few years have really been hard, trying times for everyone; from National, State, and Branch Officers to all members, not just the carrier craft, but the APWU craft as well.

State Convention.

We had hoped to have our Convention at Arrowwood Lodge in Alexandria this fall, but the dates that were open, did not coincide with the vacation slots that were reserved by delegates, so we will be holding this years State Convention at Cragun's Resort. I have been working non-stop trying to arrange lodging, meeting areas, guest speakers, political training classes for members. If there is something in particular you want addressed or get trained on, you can leave a message with our editor at MNSALC.org.

We are also trying to reach out to someone, maybe Mark



Perry Schmidt
President
MSALC

Gortzie, to give a class on retirement. The sky's the limit.

Post Office

We have lost many carriers this past year who have said, "enough!" 12 hour days out in the dark with no letup in sight is just crazy. The Upper Brass is saying that we will be getting more help, but we just don't see it happening anytime soon. For the many carriers who have stuck it out; thank you for what you are doing for the Postal Service. I want to particularly want to thank the CCA's who are usually forced to go back out in the evening to carry a split of mail that was left. Your job is not easy, and I hope the senior carriers are giving you words of support. Please, senior carriers, help them where you can. Teach them how to stay safe on the street, and practice safety while driving and/or in the office.

We also have lost fellow carriers this past couple of years. We all know someone, whether COVID related or not. Remember that family comes first. The Post Office is our job, not our life. Take the time to thank our families who also are stressed over your long work hours.

**THANK YOU ALL,
Carriers and Families,
for keeping
Service
in the
Postal Service**

**Paul Roue
Vice President
MSALC**

Postal Reform passed by a large margin. Great news. 6-day delivery now law so we don't have to beg every year to have it renewed. The Pre-Funding burden eliminated. The Medicare provisions in the bill. All of these are great and greatly help the long term financial stability of the Post Office.

So the fight is done and we don't really need the Letter Carrier Political Fund right? WRONG! We need to keep fighting to maintain a financially viable Post Office and keep it vibrant enough to continue to pay us fairly for the hard work we do. We need to continue to fight for our retirees to improve the situations they face. Please sign up for the Letter Carrier Political Fund. If you are attending Regional Training or the State Convention, we are going to encourage you to sign up. If you don't think our PAC is important I will leave you with the provision that is also in the Postal Reform bill that just passed.

"§ 2903. Use of funds from sale of property

"In the event that the Postal Service permanently ceases operations, any funds derived from the sale of any real property owned by the Postal Service shall be used to pay any outstanding liability with respect to the salaries and expenses of any Postal Service employee. The balance of any remaining funds shall be deposited into the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund established under section 8909a of title 5."

Your paycheck does rely on our ability to push back against those who would like to see the Postal Service fail. That fight takes money to lobby politicians. To Lobby just means we educate politicians on why our issues are important both for the politician and the Post Office. Sign up and start contributing to our PAC today!



**Eric Marquardt
Treasurer
MSALC**

The Post Office has been facing an increasing shortage of new hires these last couple years. Younger people do not look to the postal service as a career anymore. Why should they? New hires can expect to work 12-hour days, six and most times seven days a week, and having to put up with abusive management. You want time off? FUGETABOUTIT! Yes, the Postal Service has very good health insurance, but this is not something that younger people even think about. They want good pay, and reasonable working conditions. Private companies are paying better, and even giving incentive bonuses to attract new employees. A few examples are:

Fedex drivers: \$19.36/hr
UPS drivers: \$38/hr
Amazon driver: \$18.32/hr

Don't want to go out in the elements?

Best Buy: \$15/hr
Cub Foods: \$10.80/hr
Target: up to \$24/hr

For years the Post Office had an endless pool of young workers who supervisors/postmasters would "use, abuse and spit them out" because they could. Well now that pool is drying up. If the Post Office really wants career employees, they must change their own mindset on how to treat employees. Postmasters and managers should have to go through mandatory human resources training on respect in the workplace. If a Postmaster or manager, or supervisor can't get with the program, get rid of them. Stop shuffling bad managers from station to station, or district to district. The post office would not for one minute, put up with a carrier or clerk, who acted like some managers do now. Stop looking at a carrier as a body to fill a route on your daily schedule and start treating them as a human being. Maybe, just maybe, the Post Office will start to hire and keep younger employees who want to make the postal service a career.

**Christa Abraham
Secretary
MSALC**

Happy end of winter brothers and sisters! Well, we finally did it!! We finally got H.R. 3076, Postal Reform to pass through the House AND the Senate. As I am writing this, the bill is currently enroute to President Biden's desk so he may sign it into law. H.R. 3076 is a bipartisan bill that will improve the financial stability of the Postal Service. It includes key provisions for letter carriers, including one that eliminates the mandate that requires the Postal

Service to pre-fund its retiree health care benefits for decades in advance. This has been a financial burden on the Postal Service for more than 50 years and after over a decade of our leaders trying to have this bill passed through congress it has finally happened. Thank you to our NALC National Officers for your hard work and dedication to achieve this. But also, thank YOU Minnesota NALC carriers. I know many of you have called and written to your senators advocating for this bill. We couldn't have accomplished this without each of you. This Postal Reform will also eliminate the need to renew the six-day delivery requirement every year through the congressional appropriations process, this will now be a federal law. There are also many more provisions included within this bill that will financially benefit and help to sustain the future of The Postal Service. I encourage you to read up on it. I am excited to see what this will mean for the Postal Service and for our jobs. I think we can all breath a little easier knowing this will be behind us. Well done NALC!

Bill Wessinger
Director of Retirees
MSALC

Hello to all,

I'd like to start off by thanking everyone for their get well wishes and prayers for me on my triple by-pass surgery on January 20th. Surgery went well, the surgeon said I'm healing well and she gave me permission to start driving again, I'm back in the game. Again, thank you all, unionism has so many unwritten benefits, I still never want to go through this again.

Hello to all recent retirees and those thinking about retirement, I think you may have the wrong impression about remaining in the NALC. Your union dues amount to less than \$5. a month depending on your branch and you continue to receive all the benefits of a career employee, minus the representation on the workroom floor and voting on the contract. You get your branch paper if they have one, the Postal Record, people at National and at home fighting for us to keep all our hard fought for benefits, remember Congress could take away or change those benefits with the stroke of a pen. You can run for an office, partake in all branch activities and continue to be kept up to date on what's happening locally and nationally. Also please don't forget to continue to contribute to LCPF at your requested amount, this is our added insurance to keep our benefits. You can't find a better insurance plan out there for the money. Please be safe all the time.

Connie Beissel
Executive Board Chair
MSALC
LCCL2 ; AFL-CIO Delegate

2022 is here! Covid is starting to wind down a bit, finally. This year looks very promising for us to get back to normal socialization. At this time we are planning on holding an In Person State Convention in October at Cragun's Resort. It will be delightful to see all of you in the flesh and blood again. Zoom was an amazing way for us to stay connected for the last 2 years but I am so over it.

Letter Carriers everywhere should be able to breathe a big sigh of relief knowing that the Postal Service will now have the money to continue normal operations after the signing of Postal Reform in Washington DC. Plus we are guaranteed 6 day delivery of mail from here on out. This is a huge victory for all postal employees.

When you have a chance, please thank your congressperson and both senators for voting yes on Postal Reform. For some of you that may be a new congress person after the redistricting that was done in February. Now is the perfect time to introduce your self (whether via phone, email or letter writing) to your new (or same) Representative in Congress.

Jonathan Garcia
Executive Board
MSALC

Greetings Brothers and Sisters, hope the new year is treating you well. We do have some good news in the Postal Reform Act but we still are dealing with a lot of other issues

both at work and in the world right now. Pandemic yet, war in Europe, inflation and workplace staffing shortages. We all deal with things, issues differently. So please take care of yourselves and watch out for your fellow brothers and sisters. There is help out there, the Employee Assistance Program. Providing confidential education, referral and counseling to help employees through personal issues of all types including drug abuse and alcoholism. Carriers seeking help can contact their local union officers for information, call 1-800-EAP-4YOU (1-800-327-4968) TTY 877-492-7341 or go to www.eap4you.com. Thank you and be safe out there.

**Dave Zimney
Executive Board
MSALC**

All that is left is the signature.

I'm sure you have all heard by now that HR 3076 has passed the House and the Senate. The only thing left is for President Biden to sign the bill into law. This is a huge victory for all of us Postal Employees. It has been a long hard battle to get postal reform passed but finally all of our hard work has paid off. This would not have happened without the efforts of our; National Leaders, Legislative and Political Organizers, Letter Carrier Congressional Liaisons, NALC State Associations, rank and file members who contacted their representatives and especially those members who donate to the Letter Carrier Political Fund. It would be unfair to not point out that our Postmaster General Louis DeJoy also deserves credit for his part. It took bipartisan support to pass HR 3076 and with his history of fundraising for the Republican party, DeJoy used his influence to garner support for HR 3076 which was key to it's passing. So for that, I thank him. President Biden is expected to sign the bill into law soon, so the question I have is, what comes next? What is the next issue that is important to letter carriers? Right now there is a debate over whether or not our new vehicles should be electric or not. In my opinion we need a compromise now, we cannot wait any longer for the LLV's to be replaced. It seems like every week a LLV starts on fire and they are becoming a safety hazard for letter carriers. S.2747 The Freedom To Vote Act is another important issue. Not only does this bill include much needed campaign finance laws as well as making election day a federal holiday, it will also expand vote by mail which would be a huge boost for the Post office. Whatever postal or letter carrier issues are important to you, the best way to address them is by giving to the Letter Carrier Political Fund. Without this fund we would have never passed HR3076 and the same is true for whatever comes next. You can find out how to contribute to the political fund by going to NALC.org and clicking on the Letter Carrier Political Fund icon.

**Nick Tiemann
Executive Board
MSALC**

We Did It!!! H.R. 3076 Postal Service Reform Act passed. With the enormous help of all the letter carriers that contacted their U.S. Representatives and expressed how important this reform is for the country. This long awaited bill will become law. This is great news for letter carriers which will finally preserve 6 day mail delivery and eliminate pre-funding of the retiree health care benefits. With the large bipartisan support for this bill just goes to show how much power we have when we all come together to show how vital the United States Postal Service is to the American people. I would like to ask that you contact your Representative and thank them for their vote on supporting this bill. Although this is a great victory, we also have to be ready for future issues that may come up and one of the best ways to prepare is by giving \$5 to the Letter Carrier Political Fund. This can be done by using PostalEase as a payroll deduction. This fund will help to get Representatives from around the country to keep supporting letter carrier issues. If we all can give a little we can make big things happen.

**Harol Weed
LCCL 1
MSALC**

With the recent passing of our Congressional Representative, Jim Hagedorn, CD 1 is in a period of "who's in, who's out and who's still thinking about it".

As of March 15, twenty candidates have filed for the 1st Congressional District Special Election. The Republicans show candidates who have filed paperwork, the DFL has declared candidates, as do the Legal Marijuana Now Party and the Independent party.

Candidate backgrounds include agricultural law, state representative, law professor, business owner and retired CEO. With multiple filings, the special primary election will be May 24. The results of this election will determine who will advance to the August 9 special election. The winner of the August 9 special election will fill out the remaining term of the CD 1 Representative. Voters in this election will be from the "old" District 1.

The November 8 general election will determine who the CD 1 Representative will be for the next 2 years. Voters in this election will be from the "new" District 1.

To find out more about these candidates and others who may file thru March 15, google MN CD 1 Special Election. The candidates do not have to live in the district.

Dan Garhofer
LCCL 4
MSALC

March 8th 2022 is a day that will be remembered in the history of the USPS and the NALC. The Senate passed the Postal Reform Act on March 8th. This legislation now will be sent to President Bidens desk for signature. When President Biden signs this bill it will be a cumulation of years of lobbying, politics and activism that has spanned over 35 years. I remember fighting for this reform when I first became a letter carrier. This undue financial burden has drained valuable resources from the company. This was a Bipartisan bill that was supported in the House and Senate. I never thought I would see this day. This reform Bill will help transform the USPS into the modern era. We need vehicles, career employees and updated technology and facilities. The Reform will allow many changes that needed to be done 30 years ago. I would like to thank the carriers that have been involved in this battle, it shows that perseverance can pay off. We can thank our Senators Tina Smith and Amy Klobuchar and I would like to Congress Person Betty McCullom for her unwavering support during her whole career. This is a PROUD day for the National Association of Letter Carriers.. take a Bow.....

Eduardo Silva
LCCL 6
MSALC

Hi Everyone,

Congratulations to all of us! The Postal Service Reform Act of 2022 passed the Senate and now the Postal Service will have a brighter future ahead. This remarkable moment will strengthen and protect our jobs, open a path towards financial stability by repealing the pre-funding mandate that was hurting the organization for decades. Now we are ensured six day delivery and more transparency to postal operations, and finally maximizing participation in Medicare, by enacting prospective Medicare integration. I believe we are moving in the right direction after fighting and lobbying for many years in Washington. I know postal legislation it's not one of the most popular topics among us letter carriers. But it's necessary that we understand how important the decisions made in the House and Senate can directly affect our careers, and that brings me to my next topic: the November elections. It's our job to get informed about the candidates that are supporting our Postal issues. There are many different sources to obtain information, so get involved, ask questions, participate!

To conclude, I would like to take a moment to say how proud I'm to see all the letter carriers out there working really hard, putting in 12 hours days or more, working in the dark, in extreme cold weather conditions, expending more time at work than at home, sacrificing their families. It has been really hard but I hope the lack of help will end sometime soon. Please be safe out there, make sure you take care of yourself and thank you for the hard work that all of you put in every day!

Shawn Hansen
LCCL 8
MSALC

As I am writing this, HR 3076 has passed both chambers of the capital awaiting the Presidents signature to become law. This has been a long fight, and with everyone's hard work, we had 7 out of 8 in the house vote yea and both Senators vote yea.

So here is what is happening in Duluth right now. We are severely short staffed, to the point where multiple routes don't even go out on any given day. All able bodied carrier are mandated 12 hours a day, 6 days a week. This includes Sundays, so you are working Sunday or your day off during the week. Now if you do the math, that's 72 hours in a workweek. Our Union Stewards are hard at work writing multiple article 8 grievances, and yes along with Amazon, some routes are going out on Sunday's. So this week, we had a team from district observe us last week, their solution, Duluth needs Flow chart training. So forgive me for a short article, this is my first day off in over a week.

POSTAL REFORM ACT OF 2022

HOW MINNESOTA REPRESENTATIVES VOTED

TAKE THE TIME TO THANK THEM FOR THEIR SUPPORT

Congressional Roll Call Vote on HR 3076
Postal Reform Act
February 8th, 2022

6th Congressional District
Tom Emmer
Otsego District office: 763-241-6848

Voted: YES

1st Congressional District
The late Jim Hagedorn
Rochester District office: 507-323-6090

Voted: YES

7th Congressional District
Michelle Fischbach
Willmar District office: 320-403-6100

Voted: YES

2nd Congressional District
Angie Craig
Burnsville District office: 651-846-2120

Voted: YES

8th Congressional District
Pete Stauber
Hermantown District office: 218-481-6396
Chisholm District office: 218-355-0726
Cambridge District office: 763-310-6208
Brainerd District office: 218-355-0862

Voted: YES

3rd Congressional District
Dean Phillips
Minnetonka District office: 952-656-5176

Voted: YES

US Senate Vote
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4th Congressional District
Betty McCollum
St. Paul District office: 651-224-9191

Voted: YES

Amy Klobuchar
Minneapolis District office: 612-727-5220
Moorhead District office: 218-287-2219
Virginia District office: 518-741-9690
Rochester District office: 507-288-5321

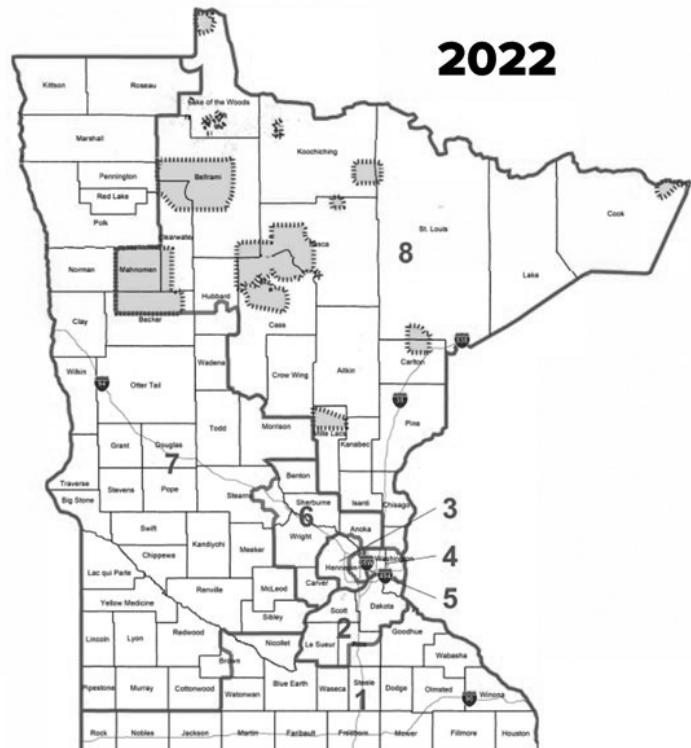
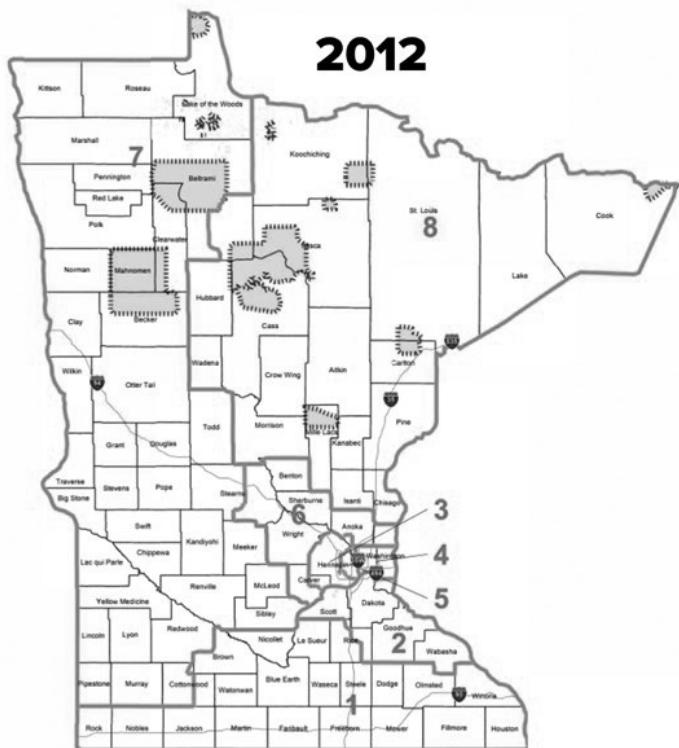
Voted: YES

5th Congressional District
Ilhan Omar
Minneapolis District office: 612-333-1272

Voted: YES

Tina Smith
Duluth District office: 218-722-2390
St. Paul District office: 651-221-1016
Moorhead District office: 218-284-8721
Rochester District office: 507-288-2003

Voted: YES



Congressional District Map ordered by Minnesota Supreme Court shows significant boundary changes to Districts 1 and 2.

LCCL (Letter Carrier Congressional Liaison)

LCCL's are active or retired letter carriers who are regularly in contact with Minnesota Congressional Representatives to keep them aware of Carrier issues. Carrier issues are non-partisan.

LCCL Congressional District 4 Dan Garhofer

LCCL Congressional District 5 Open Position

LCCL Congressional District 1 Harold Weed

LCCL Congressional District 6 Eduardo Silva

LCCL Congressional District 2 Connie Beissel

LCCL Congressional District 7 Eric Marquardt

LCCL Congressional District 3 Perry Schmidt

LCCL Congressional District 8 Shawn Hansen

THE MINNESOTA LETTER CARRIER
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Chuck Glover
Editor
MSALC

FILIBUSTER

(or how to grind the Senate to a halt.)

A Filibuster is an attempt to delay or block a vote on a piece of legislation.

In 1917, Senate Rule 22, allowed the Senate to invoke Cloture (cut off debate) and limit debate with a two-thirds majority vote. In 1975, the Senate reduced that number from two-thirds to three-fifths of all senators duly chosen and sworn, or 60 of the current 100 senators.

Traditionally, the Senate filibuster was reserved for only the most controversial issues, but its use has increased significantly, which has ground senate business to a halt.

THE SLIPPERY SLOPE.....

When a senator introduces a bill, it goes to the appropriate committee for discussion, hearings, and amendments. When the majority of committee

members vote in favor, the bill then moves to the full senate for discussion and vote. A simple 51 votes is all that's required to cut off debate.

BUT.....

Because of the filibuster by just **one** senator, the bill now requires a 60 vote, or a supermajority to cut off debate (cloture) and vote on the legislation.

AND NOW THE REST OF THE STORY.....

Today, filibuster remains a part of senate practice, although only on legislation, that is until the Republicans adopted new precedence in 2010 by forcing cloture by a simple majority to end debate on the Supreme Court nomination of Brett Kavanaugh.

This simple majority rule was called the "Nuclear Option." Normal rules were suspended by the majority party and rammed through by a simple 51 vote majority.

The Democrats used the same "Nuclear Option" to pass Civil Rights legislation.

Since its inception in 1917, the Senate has used filibuster more than 2,000 times; about half of them have been used in just the last 12 years.

The Senate views themselves as the worlds greatest deliberative body, however they act like spoiled children who didn't get their lollipop.

Sources: CNN; Brookings Institute; Senate Website; The Week.