



Minnesota State Association of Letter Carriers

The Minnesota Letter Carrier

1st Qtr 2025

Happy new year everyone! Welcome to 2025 and hope this year is the best time of your life. We have a new President at a white house near you. The people have spoken, and we have to accept it. Some things are the same as we go into 2025, as there is not much news to talk about regarding our contract. I hope if you were able to vote, you did.

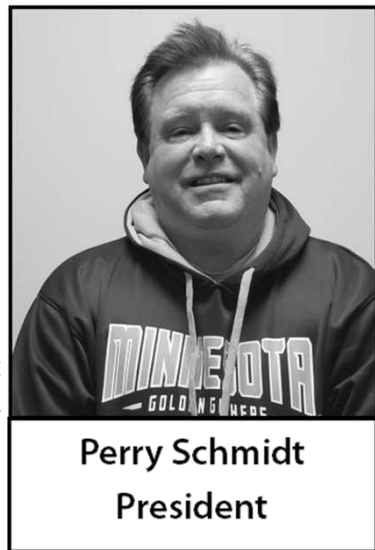
We had a new convention site this last October in Grand Rapids up at Sugar Lake Lodge. It seemed to work out really well. We had a good convention as we talked about a lot of new topics and did a lot of sit downs with other carriers from all over the state. We had very good talks about what is going on in the state and across the country, discussing what we do as a Union with branch and state politics, and what affects us in the upcoming 2025 year. We had several new changes with the local branch Presidents, such as in Minneapolis and in St. Paul over the last year, so there are new leaders taking over to run their branches.

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

The law repeals the WEP and GPO provisions in Social Security law that previously unfairly reduced or eliminated Social Security benefits for some CSRS federal annuitants, including letter carriers. As Anthony Mitchell will say this is a huge milestone for retired public servants, including letter carriers who have been unfairly penalized for a long time.

Again, I hope everyone has a great 2025! Make sure get out help the new carriers at the offices, and make sure you help out the new leaders at the branches in our state. The job is not always easy, so lend a hand.

Perry B Schmidt



Perry Schmidt
President



Golfers at the 2024 MSALC Convention

Erin Rode, Vice President

Happy 2025 to all of my MSALC brothers and sisters! We can all say that 2024 was an interesting and eventful year, and so far, this year is shaping up to be even more of a bumpy ride. The incoming administration has expressed interest, once again, to privatize the Postal Service. Our union must maintain a strong stance against this, as eliminating the service we provide to all American citizens would be extremely devastating, from delaying life-saving medication delivery and severing important communication channels to potentially resulting in loss of American jobs and livelihood.

The signing of the Social Security Fairness Act is a huge success for our retirees to finally receive the benefits that they earned during their careers. We still have a fair amount of bills that did not pass in the previous Congress, including the Protect Our Letter Carriers Act, Federal Retirement Fairness Act, and USPS Shipping Equity Act. Donating to the Letter Carrier Political Fund will keep the pressure on our legislators to reintroduce these bills and work towards bipartisan agreement to help our current and past employees. More information on the LCPF, Congressional action, and ways to contact your Representatives and Senators can be found at www.nalc.org under the Government Affairs menu.

Minnesotans do love to talk about the weather; that's just a fact of life in the Land of 10,000 Lakes. Winter has arrived and although there may not be record amounts of snow yet, we still have to keep ourselves safe in the elements. It has been a colder season so far, so please keep your skin covered as much as possible to prevent frostbite and hypothermia. Take breaks to warm up as needed, and dress in layers of loose-fitting clothing. Management may not always keep an eye on windchill factors, so please advocate for yourselves and your coworkers in cases where it may be dangerous to deliver. Stay hydrated and be safe out there!

Eric Marquardt, Treasurer; LCCL 7

Privatizing the Post Office

I have heard some carriers talk about President Trump wanting to privatize the Post Office. There has also been talk about it on social media. People have said the Post Office can't be privatized because it's in the constitution. That is a misconception.

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 7 requires Congress to establish a postal system, it reads "The Congress shall have power to..... establish Post Offices and post Roads."

The clause grants but does not require Congress to create a mail system. There's also no requirement that one be maintained if it is created. As such, there's no constitutional barrier to dissolving the Post Office.

It would take an act of Congress for the Post Office to be privatized. I don't believe it will happen, as too many rural people rely on the Post Office. It would be a major election issue for Congresspeople.



*Harold and Alice Weed with the signed
MDA fundraiser pumpkin*

Robb Petersburg, Editor

A new year is upon us, and with that comes some uncertainties. I'll begin with the good side of things. I am very hopeful that carrier-friendly legislation will pass this year. HR 82 has just been passed into law. Last year, the Protect Our Letter Carriers Act (POLCA) gained momentum but fell short of our goal. This year, we will have fewer politicians to educate on that issue, so we should be able to gain more support.

Thanks to all of you who contribute to the LCPF. I hate that money rules politics, but that is how the game is played. If we choose not to play by the rules, we will end up getting played. My favorite thing about the LCPF is that it is not partisan. It is not about Republican vs Democrat, or the rich vs the poor. It is about common sense legislation that aims to provide better working conditions and benefits for federal employees.

The LCPF only gives money to those politicians who support our specific bills. Please consider signing up if you are not yet contributing. A common amount is \$5 per pay period. This is only \$130 for an entire year and amounts to just 0.32% of the income for a CCA who does not work any overtime. For us letter carriers at the top step, it is only 0.17%, again, if we do not gain any overtime. To add a little perspective, top step has received about 14% in raises since covid started. If more of us contributed just a small amount, we would have better benefits and a better retirement package.

The incoming White House administration was not friendly to federal workers in the past. That being said, most Americans, both rural and urban, appreciate the USPS and all of us. I understand anything could happen, but I would be surprised if the people allowed harmful legislation to pass. Keep your head up, things will get easier and things will get brighter.

Bill Wessinger, Director of Retirees

Hello Minnesota Active and Retired Letter Carriers

Where do I start, I do hope you were able to spend time with loved ones, family and friends to enjoy the holidays. As an active carrier, the weather has been good for you and good for retirees, also.

What were people thinking when they went to the polls? It bewilders me how anyone could vote for a convicted felon, a cheat, a liar, a fraud, a sexist, you get my point. He is already talking about dismantling the United States Postal Service, gutting Social Security and Medicare and the list goes on. We must be vigilant and contribute to the Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF). We must be ready to write, text, call, or whatever it takes to let our concerns be heard by our elected state and federal officials. If you value your job and its benefits, you must get on board and read your union publications, attend your branch meetings, and stay informed. Please don't let George do it, he's busy also and thinks you're going to do what is necessary to protect your jobs. We must all be prepared to act at any given moment to save our United States Postal Service and everyone's benefits. In 1984, letter carriers didn't listen, and we lost our Civil Service Retirement System and in came the Federal Employees Retirement System, so it can happen if you don't keep informed and act.

Connie Beissel Executive Board Chair; AFL-CIO Delegate; LCCL-2

Happy New Year!?

Your National Union Officers have come to a tentative agreement on your contract. It is up to you to decide if it is good enough to live with it for the next couple of years. Just like all elections, it is your right to vote, don't blow off that right. By the time this is in the mail, we should know if it has been ratified by the active members or not. FYI, retirees can't vote so they rely on the active union members to make the best decisions for all of us.

Who knows what the next four years will be like with the newly elected POTUS? He was not union friendly nor postal friendly the last time he was in office. I worry that he will try his best to bust up all unions this time around. Angie Craig was re-elected to the 2nd Congressional District. Amy Klobuchar was re-elected to the Senate. Angie has been a true friend of the post office and all unions. I'm sure that we can count on her to fight for our rights to organize and remain a postal service that delivers to every address every day.

The 2025 State Convention will be at Sugar Lake Lodge again this year. Everyone seemed to really like the resort last year. The dates will be from Sept 28th to Oct 1st. Sunday the 28th will be a golf tournament followed by an ice-breaker dinner. Monday and Tuesday will be the convention sessions during the day followed by a dinner Tuesday night with a live auction to raise money for MDA. Wednesday morning will include breakfast before you check out. As always, 8 meals will be included with the price for a three-night stay. Hope you can join us this year. It will be an election year for all board members. If you have an interest in joining the board, be sure to have someone nominate you for the position of your choice. Plus, we are looking for an MDA representative to help out with the fundraising events that we do.

Stay safe and warm this winter.

Dave Zimney, Executive Board

I'm sure that everyone will be writing about the passage of the Social Security Fairness Act, so I will skip it. For those of you who are new to the NALC, the State Associations of the NALC are the entities whose primary focus is legislation. It's the job of the state associations to build relationships with each member of congress that represents their home state. Each state association has what we call Letter Carrier Congressional Liaisons (LCCLs). These liaisons are responsible for building those relationships with the member of congress that represents the district that they live in. Their job is to educate and inform their representative of the issues that concern letter carriers and to try and convince them to support and vote for the bills we want passed. This is not an easy job. 2025 brings in a new congress, and with that, all the legislation from the previous two years expires and must be reintroduced. Every bill that the state associations have been working hard to get passed will have to start all over again. It is important to know that the best way to get legislation passed is to give to the Letter Carrier Political Fund. Now that billionaires and millionaires will be running our country for the next 4 years, it's vital to the working class to have the support of as many legislators as we can get. Unfortunately, our political system works in such a way that money is what influences legislators more than anything. Hell, you can even buy a Supreme Court justice these days. The working class needs to pool its money together in order to take on the wealthiest among us. The best way for us letter carriers to do that is to give to the Letter Carrier Political Fund. Please go to [NALC.org](https://www.nalc.org) and start giving.

Eduardo Silva, Executive Board; LCCL 6

Recent talks of privatization and cutting benefits are challenges that are looming on the horizon for the future of the Postal Service. This is adding unpredictability and stress to an already fragile moment in our company. The results of the last election are another challenge that continues to spark strong emotions and deep reflections about the moral compass of our nation. For many, including myself, America has always been a country that values honesty, respect, and dignity—a nation built on principles that uphold social values and encourage innovation, progress, and peace. Yet, the outcome of the last election left me questioning whether these ideals still hold true for the many Americans.

The leadership we choose reflects the collective priorities of our society. Leaders should stand for integrity, compassion, and a commitment to improve the lives of all citizens. However, the results of the election seemed to signal a departure from these principles. Instead of unity and progress, we witnessed a growing divide—one that highlights racial intolerance, disregard for minority rights, and a lack of empathy for those seeking refuge and opportunity in our country.

Immigrants, who have long been the backbone of America's growth and diversity, are increasingly attacked. The narrative that paints them as criminals ignores their aspirations and contributions. It disregards their desire to dispose of the American dream—a dream that once symbolized hope and opportunity for all people.

Also concerning is the persistent racial inequality that continues to plague our nation. The treatment of Black Americans remains a stark reminder of our failure to address systemic racism. The continued use of excessive force against marginalized communities reflects a justice system that often prioritizes power over equity. Such actions perpetuate a cycle of fear and mistrust.

The events of January 6th, 2021, served as a harsh culmination of these divisions. The Capitol insurrection was not just an attack on a building but an assault on democracy itself. The loss of lives and the obvious disregard for the rule of law underscored the dangers of political extremism and misinformation. Additionally, efforts to overturn election results and legal controversies have only increased the sense of disappointment.

As a nation, we must confront these challenges head-on. It is vital to reaffirm our commitment to moral values, equality, and justice. We must reject intolerance and division in favor of empathy and inclusion. America's strength lies in its diversity and its ability to adapt and grow from its imperfections.

While the path forward may seem uncertain, it is not too late to reclaim the ideals that have long defined this country. By fostering dialogue, holding leaders accountable, and prioritizing humanity over partisanship, we can work toward a future where democracy thrives and every individual feels valued and respected. Only then can we correctly make America great again.

Happy New Year Everyone!



Previous NBA Barry Weiner holding the prized MDA fundraiser pumpkin

Jonathan Garcia, Executive Board

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters! Happy New Year and hoping you all survived peak season, and the new year is treating you well. It is important to remember our solidarity as the new year begins. We need to continue to stand together as we face a new administration taking over the White House, our tentative agreement being voted on and the same old hardships we face as carriers in our offices and on the streets delivering. We together have seen the passing of the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82), the reaching of a tentative agreement, and the continued commitment of letter carriers engaged in the labor movement. Please stay engaged as we fight for fair wages, safety on the streets and a better work-life balance. Watch over each other and encourage engagement with our newest carriers/union members. Make sure you participate in voting, meetings, and labor growth. Let us continue the good fight and continue to be heard.

Nicholas Tiemann, Executive Board

Hello fellow MN Sisters and Brothers. With the recent horrific news and images coming out about the Los Angeles wildfires, I would like to share information about the NALC Disaster Relief Foundation (NALCDRF) and ways you can receive assistance if you are ever in need of help or want to contribute to other members in need. The Disaster Relief Foundation was established in 2018 to help fellow members that are affected by natural disasters such as wildfires, destructive storms (hurricanes, tornadoes, floods), and earthquakes. When disaster strikes, the NALCDRF helps those affected by creating and sending response teams, providing necessary supplies, providing emotional support, and in some cases providing financial assistance. If you or someone you know who is affected by such disasters, start by reaching out to your branch president, National Business Agent's office, or contacting the NALC headquarters for help. Any NALC member affected by hardship from a disaster can submit the Application for Relief Grant at www.nalc.org/disaster or by calling 202-423-2443. While on the website, you can contribute financially, sign up to be a volunteer on a response team, and also find ways to donate supplies. Even the smallest contributions can mean a big deal to someone in need.

Harold Weed, LCCL 1

Welcome to the new year! Legislatively, 2025 is off to a great start. On Sunday, January 5, President Biden signed into law the Social Security Fairness Act, H.R. 82. This was the culmination of over 40 years of unrelenting efforts to return fairness to the Social Security program. A wide array of public servants, including postal workers, were affected by seeing their benefits unfairly reduced. What a great example of persistence, never giving up! Implementation of this change will become known soon.

Keep up to date with legislative priorities by visiting the NALC website.

Best wishes to all for a healthy and happy new year!

The fight always continues!

There have been a number of rumors of the new US Administration proposing attacks on federal employee's rights. Some of the proposals would change the employee's FERS contributions, eliminate the retirement bridge, change retirement calculations to using the high-5 instead of high-3, and no longer requiring the employer to provide paid steward time. This has been tried before, so as more details unfold, the NALC will keep you informed. It is more important than ever to pay attention to what congress does with federal employee's benefits. Stay tuned!

Pictures from the 2024 MSALC Convention



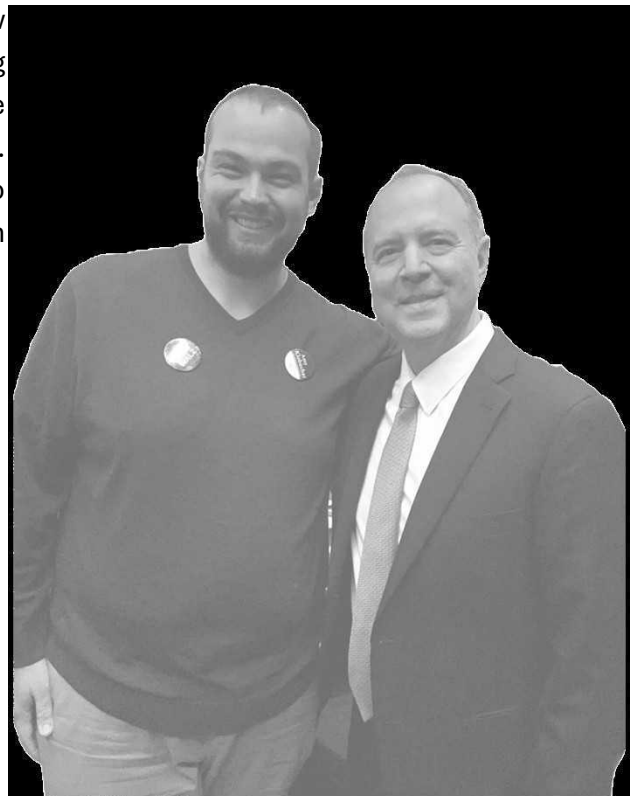
Andrew Hagan, LCCL 5

Hello brothers and sisters from the state of Minnesota! Hope all is well wherever you may be. There has been a lot to go over since the last article. I'll start with our state convention held at Sugar Lake Lodge from October 7-9th. This was my first state convention and I had a great time. The weather was incredible and I got to see the Northern lights for the first time. The attendees got to hear a lot about politics and how important being involved is for our craft. Anthoney Mitchell joined us to talk Letter Carrier Political Fund. He highlighted some of the achievements we've made by lobbying politicians for letter carrier issues. I am happy to announce that H.R 82 (WEP/GPO) has been passed in the U.S House of Representatives and Senate!! Jennifer Shultz is from the 8th Congressional district in Minnesota, and she stopped by to talk to the letter carriers, but she lost her election. I am looking forward to going again this year and hopefully bring more people from my branch.

Next is the Founders Day dinner which was held on October 28th. This is a fundraiser/dinner for the DFL party. My local branch PAC bought a table and I and several others got to go. The highlight for me was getting to meet and get a picture with the keynote speaker from California Senator Adam Schi . He spoke about the normal talking points. Unions are the back bone of this country... etc. I also got to meet (again) Senator Klobuchar. I expressed to both Schi and Klobuchar that it is an honor to be delivering and being a part of our Nation's election process. Regardless of the outcome we delivered the people's votes.

Now to talk about the next big event- the election. Ilhan Omar won her district again. She has been a strong voice for us in Congress but still has not signed on to the POLCA bill. Maybe this session we can change her mind. As much as I dislike Trump and his policies, I hope there is some good for us letter carriers. Maybe he'll tell DeJoy to trim the fat of management so we stop wasting money. One can wish. But it never does anyone any good to panic and despair. We must work with what we've got until the next election in 2026.

I believe by the time this article comes out we should have a vote count on whether our contract gets approved or disapproved. My two cents is we should be voting this crap down. Simply put, you and I deserve better! We have fellow brothers and sisters struggling to make ends meet. How embarrassing is that! Letter carriers should never be struggling to provide a living standard for themselves or loved ones. I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and a safe winter. Maybe we'll get lucky like last winter. To join LCPF please go to NALC.org, find the "take action" section, and click on "contribute to our PAC". Every dollar truly makes a difference!



Max Olsen, LCCL 3

The 118th congress comes to a close with the passage of one of our top legislative priorities, HR 82, The Social Security Fairness Act. The bill passed the House 327-75 and the Senate 76-20 and was signed into law by President Biden. In addition to the passage of HR 82, we gained a significant amount of support on HR 7629, The Protect our Letter Carriers Act, ending the session with 138 cosponsors. Representative Phillips ends his term in congress having supported HR 82, HR 7629, HR 5995, and HR 618.

On November 5th Kelly Morrison was elected as representative to Minnesota's third congressional district, receiving 58.5% of the vote. Since being sworn in to the 119th congress, Morisson has voted against HR 23 and HR 29, which both passed the house. HR23, the Illegitimate Court Counteraction Act, will impose sanctions on members of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and rescind funds appropriated for the ICC. HR29, the Laken Riley Act, will require the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to detain non-US nationals charged with burglary, theft, larceny, or shoplifting. It also authorizes state governments to sue the federal government over immigration policies.

Abigail Small, LCCL 4

Hello everyone. We've made it to the new year, and Congresswoman Betty McCollum has been re-elected to represent our district for the 119th Congress.

One of the major legislative achievements from the last Congress, H.R. 82, the Social Security Fairness Act, was just signed into law. This was introduced in January of 2023, and it did not pass the House until November of 2024. Congresswoman McCollum co-sponsored the bill back in February 2023, but representatives on both sides of the aisle continued to add their name to the list up to the final days before the vote.

As we go into a new session of Congress, it's important to see how our representatives are voting and what legislation they are supporting. The easiest way to do so is to look online. Congresswoman McCollum has a page on her personal website to show all of her voting record, but I find websites like govtrack.us to be easier to use for specific issues that affect us as letter carriers. You'll find a timeline, who introduced it, who supported it, and if you're interested you can often read the exact text of the bill.

So many of the bills we support, like the Federal Retirement Fairness Act (the "CCA buyback" bill), don't receive a vote and are re-introduced in new sessions of Congress. Hopefully the success of H.R. 82 will carry through to any new or re-introduced legislation this year. As always, NALC.org will provide updates on what is going on and information on how to contact your representatives.

Take care, stay safe, and stay warm!

Note: By contributing to the Letter Carrier Political Fund, you are doing so voluntarily with the understanding that your contribution is not a condition of membership in the National Association of Letter Carriers or of employment by the Postal Service, nor is it part of union dues. You have a right to refuse to contribute without any reprisal. The Letter Carrier Political Fund will use the money it receives to contribute to candidates for federal office and undertake other political spending as permitted by law. Your selection shall remain in full force and effect until cancelled. Contributions to the Letter Carrier Political Fund are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. Federal law prohibits the Letter Carrier Political Fund from soliciting contributions from individuals who are not NALC members, executive and administrative staff, or their families. Any contribution received from such an individual will be refunded to that contributor.

Shawn Hansen , LCCL 8

So, last November, we had an election, and the Presidential race of course made National headlines. Here in the 8th Congressional District, Pete Stauber defeated Jen Schultz (the latter made an appearance at the state convention) 57.99% to 41.92%. At the Same time, Donald Trump also received more votes than Kamala Harris 56% to 41%. In the Senate race, Republican Royce White got about 5000 more votes from the 8th district than Amy Klobuchar. Looking at the state house races, outside of Duluth, it was a very Republican sweep.

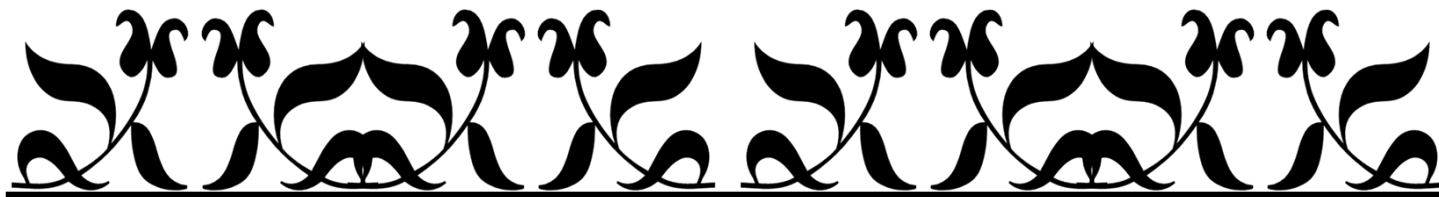
This is how much the political shift has gone from Jim Oberstar who was from a family of minors, and a Democrat who won easily from 1975 until 2011. From there, we went from a blue to purple district under Rick Nolan, then to a red district under Pete Stauber.

Party affiliation does not necessarily mean that an elected official is labor friendly. However, as the national trend is going, instead of voting for candidates who would be labor friendly, the trend of rural voters is to just vote Republican.

Needless to say, the AFL-CIO has its work cut out for the foreseeable future. Again, regardless of party, as I am writing this, The Social Security Fairness Act H.R. 82 was signed into law on January 5. We had all 8 House members and both Senators vote yes on this. This is attributed to the work of LCCL's, and to LCPF. Without it, a lot of this wouldn't be possible.

We are making gains, but we still have a long way to go. Here in Duluth, we still have routes that may not be delivered for multiple consecutive days. This is an atrocity and something that needs to be addressed. We are the Postal Service, and if you remove the service, then we are doomed as an organization.





2025 MSALC Convention

Location: Sugar Lake Lodge
37584 Otis Lane
Cohasset, MN 55721

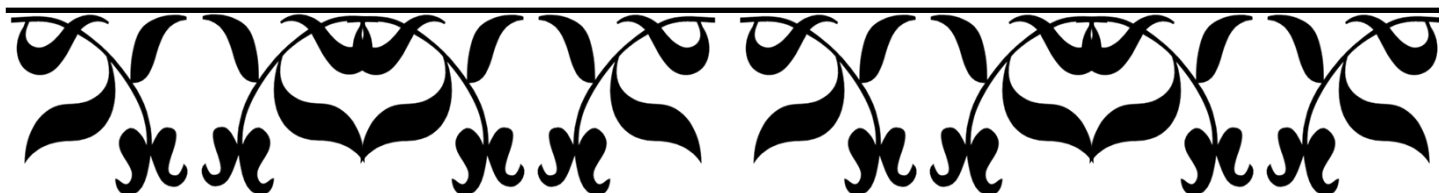
Phone: 218-327-1462

Reservations: Arrival Date: September 28, 2025
 Departure Date: October 1, 2025

Rates: Three Night Lodging and meal Package
 598.51 per person / double occupancy / two people per two bedroom unit
 798.07 per person / single occupancy

Included:

- Lodging: Accommodations for THREE nights with your choice of the above options.
- Meals: Package includes 3 Breakfasts / 2 Lunches / 3 Dinners / 4 Full-Service Breaks.
- Concessions: Complimentary use of the Asplin Suite for 3 nights for your hospitality room, complimentary green fees and golf carts during your stay!
- Activities: Use of tennis and pickle ball courts, fitness center, volleyball, horseshoes, bonfires, canoes, bikes, stand up paddle boards, kayaks, bocce ball, bean bag boards, putting green, etc.



THE MINNESOTA LETTER CARRIER

Minnesota State Association of Letter Carriers

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Maple Grove, MN 55369

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