



Minnesota State Association of Letter Carriers

# The Minnesota Letter Carrier

1st Qtr 2024

Happy New Year everyone!

Yes, I know we're now into nearly spring 2024. Hope everyone made it through the holidays.

Happy Groundhog Day! Punxsutawney Phil has predicted an early end to winter- which comes as no surprise given the record-high temps we've seen recently. But while I wish the House was taking action to address climate change, House Republicans are instead continuing to focus on catering to the extremist MAGA wing of their party.

All this is no surprise to anyone that follows this every week on your local news. April 1st, Minnesota sent out 550 soldiers of the Arden Hills-based Minnesota National Guard Red Bull Infantry Division deployed to the Middle East to assist our nation's allies and partners in building security in the region. Good luck to all the women and men and stay safe. This past January a lot of us had the opportunity to Rally in Minneapolis with our National President Brian Renfroe and a lot of brothers and sisters. There was news coverage from TV to radio about the Carriers, specifically regarding their safety: working, driving, and going home to their families the way they walked in the door- SAFE at the end of each day. This year we have yet again a very important election. The President of the United States of America seat is up once again, then the house bills we should all be aware of. I wrote them down here and won't take up any more time. Congratulations on all the new Retirees this past year and upcoming year good luck on your next life choice. Be safe out there, watch your backs along with your sister's and brother's, take care of each other, we know the post office \_\_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_\_\_. <<fill in the blanks.



**Perry Schmidt**  
President

Perry B Schmidt

### House Bills

H.R. 82 – Social Security Fairness Act

Cosponsors: 304  
Democrats: 202  
Republicans: 102

H.R.5995 – Federal Retirement Fairness Act

Cosponsors: 64  
Democrats: 44  
Republicans: 20

H.R. 3721 – USPS Shipping Equity Act

Cosponsors: 17  
Democrats: 15  
Republicans: 2

2 Sponsors withdrawn:

Rep. Garamendi, John (D-CA-8th)  
Rep. Zinke, Ryan (R-MT-1st)

H.R. 618 - Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act

Cosponsors: 36  
Democrats: 27  
Republicans: 9

### Senate Bills

S. 597 – Social Security Fairness Act

Cosponsors: 50  
Democrats: 40  
Republicans: 7  
Independents: 3

S. 131 - Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act

Cosponsors: 3  
Democrats: 2  
Republicans: 1

### House Resolutions

H. Res. 376 (Door Delivery)

Cosponsors: 36  
Democrats: 23  
Republicans: 13

H. Res. 439 (Anti-privatization)

Cosponsors: 5  
Democrats: 5  
Republicans: 0

H. Res. 277 (Service Standards)

Cosponsors: 41  
Democrats: 33  
Republicans: 8

## **Erin Blazovic , Vice President**

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Erin Blazovic, and I am thrilled to have been elected as Vice President of the MSALC in October. I also serve as Recording Secretary of Zenith Branch 114 Merged of Duluth/Two Harbors/Silver Bay. I have been a City Letter Carrier since November 2020 (yes, I willingly started as a CCA during a peak season and during peak COVID) and am about to celebrate my first anniversary of becoming a Full Time Regular on a route in the beautiful neighborhood of Lakeside in Duluth. Prior to becoming a carrier, I was active in the Duluth theatre community, having performed in nearly 30 productions, mostly musicals, at the Duluth Playhouse and other companies. I also had prior careers dyeing yarn for Three Irish Girls Yarn and as Guest Services Assistant Manager at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center. I enjoy knitting, music, and spending time with friends in my free time.

It was just announced that Duluth will be home to a new Amazon distribution center on an 18-acre parcel of land that has been dormant for 35 years near the neighborhood I grew up in. Personally, I am excited to see the land get used for a project that will add plenty of jobs and may help alleviate the issues our carriers have in the city and surrounding areas. We have seen no sign of slowdown in the ordering habits of our customers. COVID and other illnesses are still around. Frankly, people just prefer interactions with their phones than real people or going to a store, causing carrier burnout. E-commerce is not going to slow down any time soon, and we somewhat hope it doesn't to keep the USPS in the black. The completion of this distribution center may take a while to come to fruition, but seeing some piles of dirt getting moved around this past weekend on a visit to my parents' house gave me hope. We need hope in our lives.

This winter has been unseasonably warm and had very little snowfall. Compared to last year when we set the season snowfall record with 140.1 inches, we're very grateful to have less than 20 inches so far in Duluth. While El Niño gives us a more desirable working environment in our neighborhoods and on the roads, it is still important to make sure our branch members are prepared for any weather condition out on our routes. Carry extra layers in case temperatures plummet, and keep extra sets of hand warmers available to be comfortable. Some good layers to have include hats, different pairs of gloves, and additional face and body coverings (balaclavas, neck gaiters, scarves, and/or ski goggles) to avoid frostbite when the polar vortexes hit. Make sure your vehicle is equipped with sandbags or puzzle weights, a shovel, and an ice scraper should any inclement weather occur. Finally, PLEASE wear ice grippers when the temperature is hovering around 32 degrees, and be sure to use handrails when they're available on stairs or ramps. Decreasing the risks of slip/trip/fall accidents is key to keeping a healthy carrier team in our offices.

Keeping our branch members in good health and practice takes some work, but it's doable, even with forced overtime and management issues. Take your allotted breaks. Be sure to drink plenty of water, even in colder months. Try to eat a balanced selection of multiple food groups on your lunch break. And lastly, be there for each other. Check in on the newer carriers in your office. Find someone to vent to if you need. Keeping emotions pent up is not healthy for you or your loved ones when you get home after a long day. As it was said by the great and wise Canadian philosopher, Red Green. "Remember, I'm pulling for you. We're all in this together."

**Christa Abraham, Secretary**

I have heard many carriers asking about the “CCA Buyback” bill. This bill, formally called the Federal Retirement Fairness Act (H.R. 5995) was introduced to the House on October 19th, 2023 by Rep Derek Kilmer (D-WA), David Valadao (R-CA), Don Bacon (R-NE) and Gerry Conolly (D-VA). This bill modifies the federal civilian service that is creditable service under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). Specifically, it expands the nondeduction service that may be creditable under FERS. Nondeduction service is federal service where an employee’s pay is not subject to retirement deductions (e.g., service under a temporary appointment). Currently, nondeduction service performed before January 1, 1989, is creditable under FERS so long as a deposit is made into the retirement fund to cover the period of nondeduction service. If this bill is passed, it will allow nondeduction service performed on or after January 1, 1989, to be creditable under FERS so long as a deposit is made into the retirement fund. In short, this bill would cover postal employees, such as letter carriers who spent time as casuals, TEs, and CCAs. The letter carriers who began their careers as non-career employees will benefit from the ability to make catch up contributions toward their retirement, allowing them to retire on time, regardless of how they started their careers. As for status, on October 25th, 2023, this bill was referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability. NALC strongly supports the Federal Retirement Fairness Act and will release any new development and movement. There are still many active city letter carriers that have worked in a non-career position with the USPS, and that time is not currently creditable for retirement. I urge you to reach out to your congressional district representatives asking for support to pass this bill in the House.

**Robb Petersburg, Editor**

Hello Minnesota letter carriers, my name is Robb Petersburg, the new editor for the State Association. I am excited to be part of the MSALC team beginning in 2024. I want to thank previous editor Chuck Glover for his years of contributions to the MSALC. I also want to thank all the 2023 state delegates for electing me to this position. I have been a letter carrier in Minneapolis since 2006, have handled grievances throughout the grievance procedure and am currently one of the two Northland Step B Team representatives.

I am hopeful 2024 will be a great year for letter carriers. Hopefully we will solidify a successful National Agreement, improve safety concerns, and continue to recover our staffing levels. Minneapolis held an “Enough is Enough” rally early January and National President Brian Renfroe spoke outside the Minneapolis Post Office. It was a cold day, but over 100 people joined us in support. Two letter carriers from Minneapolis got robbed at gunpoint while delivering mail. Those types of crimes have previously only been in the largest few metro areas in the country. Now, it has infiltrated our state. Only about 14 percent of these crimes are being prosecuted federally. The rally placed pressure on the Inspection Service and lawmakers to prosecute those criminals to the fullest extent of the law. We should not have to fear being shot or assaulted while delivering our routes.

There are no new recent updates regarding our National Agreement. The National Officers are still in the process of choosing an arbitrator and preparing for arbitration. The Federal Retirement Fairness Act is making progress, albeit slow progress. If this passes, it would allow carriers with non-career time to buy back that time to be credited toward years of service when calculating retirement. This is a bipartisan bill and would greatly help all those carriers who spent time as a TE or CCA. Contact your representative and ask them to support this bill that would improve retirement benefits for letter carriers across the nation.

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

2024 is here! Hope you all survived the Holiday Season without too much distress. Having much less snow to trudge through most certainly helps with the wear and tear on the body. There was a reason that Civil Service Carriers could retire at age 55 with a pension. Their bodies were worn out by that time. So take care of yourself. Making it to the retirement finish line in life is everyone's goal. And believe me, it is well worth it.

This year we have decided to move our annual MSALC convention to a new location. After reviewing several bids from resorts around the state, we have landed on Sugar Lake Lodge in Co-hasset, MN. We believe that this resort will offer us the best experience for 2024. It may be a bit farther north than we are accustomed to driving but it will also be more cost efficient than the resorts in the Brainerd Lakes area. We hope you all are able to make the excursion to the Grand Rapids area this fall. It should be a wonderful time.

Right now there are 3 bills in the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress that we are hoping to pass. Federal Retirement Fairness Act – H.R.5995, Repeal Social Security's WEP and GPO provisions – H.R 82 / S. 597 and the USPS Shipping Equity Act – H.R. 3721. Representative Angie Craig in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District has signed on to all the bills. These are bipartisan bills that we want both sides of the aisle to cosponsor. She is also holding our Postmaster General accountable for non deliveries in areas that we are understaffed. If your congress person isn't a cosponsor, ask them to. The more times that they get asked to sign on to a bill, the more likely that they will.

Have a safe and healthy new year

In solidarity



Congratulations to the elected members of the Minnesota State Association of Letter Carriers!

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## Darrell Maus, AFL-CIO Delegate; Retiree Council

### US POSTAL STRIKE

The U.S. Postal Strike of 1970 was a two-week strike by federal postal workers in March 1970. The strike began in New York City and spread to many other cities in the following two weeks. The strike was illegal, against the federal government, and the largest wildcat strike in U.S. history. The strike began just after midnight on March 18, 1970, as members of the NALC local branch #36 voted 1,555 to 1,055 to walk out the next morning. Even as President James Rademacher urged the membership to return to work, the wild-cat strike spread across the nation including our own branch 9. More than 210,000 from the then titled United States Post Office Department workers were involved across the nation, although initially the strike affected only workers in New York City. These workers which included the clerks and mail handlers decided to strike even though their leaders were not endorsing the strike.

As workers marched in picket lines in front of post offices from New York to Los Angeles, Americans who might have taken their mail for granted were anxiously seeking a resolution to the strike even though they were sympathetic to the carriers cause. At a time before cell phones and the internet, when fax machines were brand new and few in number, mail carriers toted the nation's commerce and vast amounts of business transactions and information in their bags. Letters, bills and checks to pay those bills, birthday cards, passports, legal documents, and even draft notices (over 9,000) piled up in mail sacks on post office floors across the nation. The strike crippled the nation's mail system. The stock market fell due to the strike's effect on trading volume and some feared that the stock market would have to close entirely.

On the afternoon of March 23, 1970, President Richard Nixon addressed the American public on television. He announced that he had, "just now, directed the activation of the various military organizations to begin in NYC the restoration of essential mail services." Nixon ordered 24,000 military personnel forces to begin distributing the mail. More than 18,500 military assigned to New York offices alone. The servicemen were from the regular Army, National Guard, Army Reserve, Air National Guard and Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps Reserve. There were some carriers at that time that were also a part of these forces and were the only ones that knew what the job consisted of. At the core of the carrier's complaints were recent Congressional actions that gave a 41% pay raise to Members of Congress while postal employees would receive a 4% raise. Letter carriers and other postal workers were at the low end of the national wage scale. The situation was so dire that some carriers in New York City were eligible for welfare programs. At that time it took 21 years for a carrier to reach the top pay scale amount of \$9,000 annually.

The strike came to an end a little over a week after it began. Postal workers eventually secured a larger pay increase and more benefits. Not a single worker was fired, as the Nixon administration continued to negotiate with postal union leaders.

The postal strike influenced the passage and signing of the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970. Effective July 1, 1971, the U.S. Post Office Department became the U.S. Postal Service, an independent branch of the Federal Government. The four major postal unions (National Association of Letter Carriers, American Postal Workers Union, National Postal Mail Handlers Union, and the National Rural Letter Carriers Association) won full collective bargaining rights: the right to negotiate on wages, benefits and working conditions, although they still were not allowed the right to strike.

It is because of the determination and will power of those carriers, clerks, and mail handlers that earned the pay and benefits that we now enjoy. We must not forget and be ever grateful and a huge **THANK YOU TO THE WORKERS WHO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN THE 1970 POSTAL STRIKE.**

<b>Dave Zimney, Executive Board</b>
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Thank you to everyone that went to the “Enough is Enough” rally in Minneapolis. With all the media attention it got, I would say that it was a huge success. I hope that our message got through to the right people and that any future attacks on letter carriers are met with serious prison time.

I want to give everyone an update on current legislation that is relevant to letter carriers and show how some of the bills have progressed since my last article that was printed in our 2023 convention booklet.

**S. 597 and H.R. 82 - The Social Security Fairness Act** These bills would eliminate the reduction in social security benefits for CERS retirees. S. 597 went from having 45 cosponsors back in October to now having 50, with both of our Senators signed on. H.R. 82 which had 289 cosponsors now has 304, Tom Emmer and Michelle Fischbach are the only two legislators from Minnesota not signed on.

**S. 567 and H.R. 20 - The Richard L. Trumka Protecting the Right to Organize Act (PRO) Act of 2023** The PRO Act aims to expand collective bargaining rights for workers and simplify the process of joining unions. S. 567 remains the same with 47 cosponsors and both of our Senators are signed on. H.R. 20 also remains the same with 214 cosponsors. From Minnesota; McCollum, Craig, Omar, and Phillips are all signed on.

**S. 700 and H.R. 1439 - Vote at Home Act** These bills aim to provide funding for the Postal Service to cover the expenses associated with mailing ballots to and from voters in federal elections. Furthermore, they promote vote-by-mail by sending ballots to all registered voters leading up to Election Day and introduce automatic voter registration for citizens providing identifying information to the Department of Motor Vehicles. S. 700 only has 15 cosponsors none are from Minnesota. H.R. 1439 still only has 22 cosponsors and again, none are from Minnesota.

**H.Res. 376 - Expressing the Sense of the House of Representatives** This resolution emphasizes the importance of the United States Postal Service continuing door delivery for all business and residential customers. This resolution went from 27 cosponsors to now having 36, with Angie Craig being the sole representative from Minnesota to sign on.

**H.R. 3721- United States Postal Service Shipping Equity Act** This legislation would grant the United States Postal Service the authority to mail alcoholic beverages and address other related matters. Currently it has only 17 cosponsors it had 16 back in October, with none hailing from Minnesota.

**S.582 and H.R. 1279 - The Sunshine Protection Act of 2023** This one is new to my list but it would definitely have an effect on letter carriers. These bills would make daylight saving time the new, permanent standard time. This would give us an extra hour of daylight in the evenings during winter. Only Tina Smith is signed on to the Senate version (16 cosponsors total) and only Dean Phillips is signed onto the House version (32 cosponsors total).

Please remember that the best way to get these bills passed is to give to the Letter Carrier Political Fund.

## Jonathan Garcia, Executive Board

Greetings and Happy New Year Brothers and Sisters!!! Hoping you all have survived peak season and the holidays and are starting the new year off on the right foot. This winter both the PO and weather have been unpredictable. Currently we are experiencing unseasonably warm weather, and this is a good time to think about those winter issues we all face and especially take time to assist and mentor our newer carriers. We work in the elements and when the temperatures dip back down soon again it's important to understand our surroundings while out delivering like icy conditions and the windchill as well as what our bodies are telling us. Things like frostbite and hypothermia are serious. Hypothermia, in which the body temperature loses heat faster than it can produce, has symptoms of shivering, fatigue, and loss of coordination. Frostbite affects those areas of the exposed body like your nose, fingertips and other areas of your body not covered up and exposed to the extreme cold. Lastly, and not thought of enough, is trench foot. Wear proper footwear and socks to keep your feet dry from the elements, so your feet do not become swollen, tingle, and develop ulcers.

We can all dress properly, with loose clothing that allows proper circulation while layering our clothing also. By layering, one can easily remove a layer if they start to warm up. Dressing properly, consuming warm food and drink, recognizing early signs and symptoms will go a long way to keeping us safe. Also mentoring our new carriers and loaning/gifting them cold weather gear when possible. Safety depends on us. Call safety when you need to. Take care and stay safe.

## Bill Wessinger, Director of Retirees

**NALC embraces retirees as few other unions do at a bargain:**

**It is wise to keep your membership when you retire!**

Dues for retirees are \$16.00 annually \*That's right, for as little as \$1.34 a month\* taken directly from your annuity entitlement, you receive the following benefits:

- Retirement Department assistance
- Option to take the NALC Health Benefit Plan for health insurance
- OWCP representation – for case help or scheduled awards
- Accidental death policy. The basic benefit coverage is \$5,000, and there is no cost to the member
- NALC Veterans Group if a veteran
- The right to run for local, state, regional and national office
- The right to participate in most union functions (except voting on ratifications of contracts and local memorandums of understanding) social and business
- Camaraderie with fellow letter carriers
- Union publications like the Postal Record
- Opportunity to rent at Nalcrest: a retirement community located in Central Florida with 500 garden-style rental apartments starting at \$383 per month that includes utilities
- Gold card status with an actual gold commemorative card after 50 years of membership. This status waives any dues after reaching 50 years
- Representation on the Executive Council and our local branch

## Delivering For You Sculpture

### Mankato, MN

November 21, 2023



Harold and Alice Weed of North Mankato commissioned a sculpture called *Delivering For You* from Bad River Art Studio in Aberdeen, South Dakota.

The statue is 6 feet tall and depicts a letter carrier delivering mail. It now has a permanent residence in front of the old post office in Mankato as part of the CityArt walking sculpture tour.

Harold worked in Mankato, Branch 90, before retiring. He held many NALC positions throughout the years, including MSALC President. The Weeds wanted to give back to the Mankato community with the statue.

There are very few statues of letter carriers in the country. Hopefully people will see this sculpture, think of their own letter carrier, and send their loved ones a letter through the mail. Letter carriers deserve recognition for their incredible service and dedication to the communities they serve. Whether during cold winter nights or hot summer days, the statue represents the service we all provide.

*Harold Weed next to the Delivering For You sculpture.*

Thank you, Harold!



*Harold and Alice Weed, along with MSALC President Perry Schmidt.*



*A bronze letter carrier squinting into the sun.*



## Harold Weed, LCCL 1

Greetings from tropical southern Minnesota (as of this writing, 2/6, the temp is 55 degrees).

Hopeful news regarding the Social Security Fairness Act H.R. 82 finds over 300 co-sponsors as of 2/2/24. Contact your Congressional Representative to urge the House Ways & Means Committee to advance this bill with a favorable recommendation to the floor. It has been a struggle to get to this point but letter carriers have reason to hope for a favorable recommendation and finally, its passage. Finstad is a co-sponsor of H.R. 82.

CD 1 Representative Brad Finstad's primary field office is in Rochester (507.577.6140) and he has a second office in New Ulm with part-time staffing (507.577.6151). Finstad also issues a weekly update "Finstad in the Field" which allows you to click on "contact my office" if you prefer to send him a message.

Here's to letter carriers everywhere – you are unsung heroes! Thanks for all you do!

## Latasha McCaleb , LCCL 5

Happy New Year! Congress woman Ilhan Omar has her work cut out for her in this up coming election. Last year she faced a challenging election going against Don Samuels. She was able to secure the election with 2500 more votes. This year she will be facing Don Samuels, Dalia Al Quida, Sarah Gad, and Tim Peterson for Minnesota 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. Don Samuel is an independent political activist Dalia Al Quida is a journalist running for the GOP, Sarah Gad is an DFL attorney, and Tim Peterson is an air force veteran.

Last September, Ilhan negotiated a bill funding the police department across the country. Ilhan has raised over 40 million dollars in her district that formed community projects. District 5 has started monthly townhall meetings, routine constituent services, and a new district office thanks to the work Ilhan has done. Ilhan is dedicated to improving district 5 by providing the necessary resources.

This year on January 24 Congressmembers Rob Menedez and Ilhan Omar introduced the legislation to lower the cost of childcare for the workforce training participants. This bill will create a pilot program to issue \$10,000,000 in federal grants to local workforce boards under the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* for the purpose of subsidizing childcare for workforce training participants. This bill will impact many people that struggle to provide childcare for their children. This bill will provide many parents with some relief. On January 22, which is the 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Roe V. Wade, Ilhan visited the newly expanded planned parenthood in Minneapolis where she discussed healthcare access and reproductive freedom policy. On Feb 24 she had the first townhall meeting in Golden Valley in which over 100 people attended. Ilhan no doubt is showing up for the people in the community and is making waves not only in Minnesota but across the country.

## Max Olsen, LCCL 3

The last few months we have continued to see slow progress on the legislative front. The Social Security Fairness Act (HR 82) currently has 304 cosponsors, including representative Phillips. Despite reaching the 290-cosponsor threshold to force the bill to the floor for a vote, it has remained in limbo for a number of months now. The Federal Retirement Fairness Act (HR 5995) has finally been reintroduced in the house, it currently has 69 cosponsors, and Dean Phillips has not yet signed on to the bill. The United States Postal Service Shipping Equity Act (HR 3721) currently has 17 cosponsors, and Dean Phillips has not signed on to the bill. The Vote at Home Act (HR 1439) currently has 22 cosponsors, and Dean Phillips has not signed on to the bill. If you are in representative Phillips district, I strongly encourage you to reach out to his office and ask him to sign on to any of the bills he has not yet cosponsored, he does not accept PAC money from any source, so hearing from us directly is the best way to get him on board with our legislative priorities.

Moving on from our legislative priorities to what Phillips has been focused on the last few months, the most significant developments from his office has been his run for the presidency in the Democratic Primary and his focus on the developing crisis in the middle east. Phillips announced a late entry into the Democratic primary challenging President Biden's bid for the white house. In the only contest at the time of writing, New Hampshire, Phillips received 19% of the vote, coming in a distant second to President Biden, who received 64% of the vote. Phillips has stated that he will not seek reelection to the house of representatives in 2024, but has until June 4<sup>th</sup> to finalize that decision.

Throughout the developing crisis in the middle east, Representative Phillips has been outspoken on the need to reach a lasting peace. As a member of the committee on foreign affairs and subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia Phillips has made a number of trips to Tel Aviv to strengthen ties and push for peace in the region. Early on in the aftermath of the October 7<sup>th</sup> attacks, Phillips' office helped coordinate evacuations of US citizens wanting to leave Israel or Gaza by coordinating with the State Department and the US embassy in Jerusalem. As the conflict has continued Phillips has put out statements on what he believes to be the best path forward to achieve a lasting peace in the region. Phillips has called for an immediate release of all hostages; upon release of those hostages, he has also called for an immediate ceasefire to all large-scale military operations and indiscriminate terror attacks that must be upheld by both parties. He has also called on a multi-national peacekeeping force to be deployed to Gaza to support humanitarian and reconstruction efforts, as well as a multi-national coalition to begin investing in a democratic civil society in Gaza and the West Bank to establish a new Palestinian nation.



*Perry, with National Officer Dan Toth and NBA Patrick Johnson at the 2023 MSALC Convention.*

*The signed pumpkin was auctioned for a record amount with the money going to MDA.*

## Nicholas Tiemann, Executive Board

### Take Action!

Did you know that contacting our elected Representatives and Senators and informing them on the Postal issues that are most important to Letter Carriers does not require much time. What if I told you that it can be done in five minutes or less. Well at NALC.org I will explain this simple and short process to make sure our voices are heard. First start out at NALC.org and midway on the top of the webpage you will see "Government Affairs". You then will want to hover over that and scroll down to the "Legislative Action Center" and click on it. On the right hand side of this page, (bottom of page if using NALC app) you will see where to login. You will need to provide your (First name + Last name + Zip + Last four digits of your Social Security Number) to login. If you are new you will need to register. Once logged in, you will next need to click on the "Read More" button underneath where it says "Take Action". This will bring you to the current issues page and will show which issues need action. Once here, it's just as simple as clicking the "Take Action" button for each issue that is displayed and this will send an email asking for your members support. It's that easy. I realize we are all busy but if we all take these five minutes or less we can really make a difference. So give it a try now and save that page to your home screen. Remember to check back every so often to Take Action!

## Shawn Hansen , LCCL 8

So, with this being a Leap year, also a Summer Olympics year, then it is also time for the POTUS election year. With family in Northwest Iowa, I attended my nephew's wedding last September, and the Republican presidential television ads were already in full swing. So, we have that to look forward to. It is still early in the primary season, but with both being incumbents, it is looking like 2020 again. I know that this may not be the most exciting race, but as far as Labor goes, it is a pivotal race. For those of us who were here for the Trump presidency, the entire Department of Labor was cut of funding except the department that audited federal unions. For those unfamiliar with the way federal unions operate, all federal unions are required to submit a report to the Department of Labor yearly, along with the IRS. In my 15 plus years involved with the Union, it is the only time I have witnessed both our local and the MSALC audited the same year. The Department of Labor also includes OWCP which made it harder for those who got hurt on the job. With fewer people to process claims, it slows the entire process down.

Not much different than what is currently going on in a lot of the cities in Minnesota, not enough employees to cover every route every day. Some routes don't go out for days. This has been going on in Duluth for a couple years now, and it seems it is happening throughout the state. This, along with carrier safety on the street is something that needs to be addressed first.

As far as the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional district race, it will be Pete Stauber being challenged again by Jen Schulz. This has the potential to be a much closer race than in 2022. On the plus side, as a Republican, we have had some positive results for Letter Carriers from Congressman Stauber. Regardless of the Party, the legislative needs of Letter Carriers are for the most part non-partisan. This is why LCPF does not contribute to just one party; this is the tool we use to help keep those informed and hopefully voting for an NALC agenda.

**THE MINNESOTA LETTER CARRIER**

Minnesota State Association of Letter Carriers

Correspondence address:

10010 Trenton Lane N

Maple Grove, MN 55369

**NON-PROFIT ORG**

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