



*Minnesota State Association of Letter Carriers*

# The Minnesota Letter Carrier

1st Qtr 2026

**Happy New Year, everyone!** The RAP Session was held a few months ago in Cleveland, where branch and state officers gathered to prepare for the 2025 National Convention. Attendees took part in many classes, learned what other leaders are doing in their states, and built new friendships. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend as I was at my daughter's wedding in Puerto Rico. While it was a difficult choice between 45-degree weather in November or being in the 80s by the water, I hope to attend the next session.

There has been a lot happening politically here in Minnesota. Senator Tina Smith announced she will not be seeking another term, and we should all thank her for the great work she has done for our state. Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan and U.S. Representative Angie Craig are running against each other. Other candidates include Kaela Berg, State Senator Matt Klein, and former State Senator Matt Little, whom we endorsed at the convention in October. Governor Tim Walz has also announced he will not be seeking another term, and we wish him the best in his future endeavors.

Looking ahead, the National Convention will be held in Los Angeles from August 3–7. I hope many members can attend, as there is so much to learn and experience. Our State Convention will again be held at Sugar Lake Lodge near Grand Rapids from October 3–6. If possible, I encourage members to become delegates and attend to hear from state and national officers and learn more about preparations for the 2026 contract.

With the midterm elections approaching, it's important to stay informed about the candidates running for office. We should support those who stand with letter carriers and will work to protect our interests. Finally, we remember the brothers and sisters we lost this past year. Please check in with your branch to see if any members or families need help so they are not forgotten. Wishing everyone a great 2026. I look forward to seeing you around the state at upcoming conferences and conventions.



**Perry Schmidt**  
President

**Rest in peace, Ron Westad.**

## **Dave Zimney, Executive Board**

Time to contact your Senators.

We are making some ground on the House side with the different bills that we have in Congress. However, on the Senate side we have a lot of work to do. House Resolution 70, has 230 cosponsors while the Senate version (Res. 147), has only 7 cosponsors and none of them are from Minnesota. This resolution calls on congress to take all appropriate measures to keep the Postal Service an independent establishment of the federal government and not become subject to privatization.

H.R. 1065 The Protect Our Letter Carriers Act (POLCA) would, among other things, require harsher sentencing guidelines when it comes to assault or robbery of a postal employee. On the House side we have 159 cosponsors, on the Senate side (S.463) only 10. Again, none of them are from Minnesota.

H.R. 1522, the Federal Retirement Fairness Act, which would count time spent as a CCA or TE towards retirement, currently has 122 cosponsors. There is no Senate version of this bill!

H.R. 2550 “The Protect America’s Workforce Act” would nullify President Trump’s March 27 executive order seeking to end collective bargaining rights for unionized federal employees. This bill has 226 cosponsors in the House, but again, this bill has no Senate version.

Now is the time to contact your Senators and tell them to get on board with legislation that supports letter carriers. You can contact our two Senators online here:

<https://www.smith.senate.gov>

<https://www.klobuchar.senate.gov>

## Robb Petersburg, Editor

There is already so much happening in the nation this year. There will likely be even more before this gets published. Rest assured that the NALC is here to support and represent city carriers. Whether you are protesting or supporting national issues, or following international concerns, the NALC is committed to supporting our postal issues. We also ask you to help with our endeavor.

All letter carriers can benefit from the legislation we have presented to Congress. It is quite possible that over half of current letter carriers have put in time as a CCA. The way it sits, the CCA non-career time does not count toward years of service when our retirement amounts are calculated. Passing this legislation would not only help anyone who has spent time as a CCA, but will also help the USPS gain a more consistent and reliable workforce, making it easier on our daily lives.

The NALC supports other legislation in front of Congress too, such as the Protect Our Letter Carriers Act (POLCA), an anti-privatization bill, and a workers' compensation related bill that would make it a smoother process for injured carriers.

Please contact our Senators and your specific House Representatives and demand they support our legislation. Our postal issues are not partisan and there is no reason any politician should not support our causes. In addition, please set up regular contributions to the LCPF, which is our only opportunity to play the game with Congress. The NALC website has easy to follow instructions for either way you choose to help. Together, we can ensure that no letter carriers get left behind and we all can continue to receive the benefits that were promised to us.



MSALC President Perry Schmidt with NALC President Brian Renfro, 2025 MSALC State Convention

## Chey Sauke, LCCL 1

Greetings fellow carriers! What a year 2025 has been for all of us. Here's to persevering into 2026, getting closer to the mid-term election season. Since my last article, I have had the opportunity to speak with Jake Johnson directly and talk about issues letter carriers face. Unlike Brad Finstad who has been dodging conversations with people for quite a while now, Jake's team was prompt to converse with me.

We discussed the Protect Our Letter Carriers Act (POLCA), opposing postal privatization, federal retirement fairness act, and other issues carriers are facing. He said that supporting these bills is a "no brainer" move and plans on taking action on them when the time comes.

I also got to talk with Jake at the DFL dinner in November where he spoke passionately about his plans for District 1. He really seems to have an understanding of what hard

work is based on his career as a public school teacher. I have confidence that he has what it takes to fight for us and to fight the corruption in congress.

Jake has been meeting with union branches to discuss their concerns. If you are interested in having your branch meet with Jake, or would like to follow and support his campaign you can reach out to him via email at:

[info@jakejohnsonforcongress.com](mailto:info@jakejohnsonforcongress.com)

[www.jakejohnsonforcongress.com](http://www.jakejohnsonforcongress.com)

X: @JakeJohnsonMN

Instagram: @JakeJohnsonMN

Facebook: Jake Johnson for Congress



Harold Weed addresses the 2025 MSALC delegates

## **Nicholas Tiemann, Executive Board**

As a letter carrier, I know firsthand how demanding this job is and how much dedication it requires. That is why one of the most important political issues facing the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) today is passage of the Federal Retirement Fairness Act (H.R. 1522). This legislation addresses a long-standing injustice that affects many of us who began our careers in non-career positions.

Like thousands of other carriers who started as CCAs and TEs, I started as a Casual with non-career time before becoming a PTF and then making regular. Doing the same work as career employees walking miles every day, working long hours, weekends, and holidays and yet none of that time counted toward my federal retirement. Under current law, that time of service is essentially erased, forcing carriers to work longer to earn the retirement we all deserve.

The Federal Retirement Fairness Act (H.R. 1522) would finally fix this problem. It would allow letter carriers to buy back their non-career time by making retirement contributions, giving us retirement credit for the years we have already given to the Postal Service. This is not a handout; it is a fair opportunity to earn what should have counted all along.

The NALC has made this issue a top legislative priority because it directly affects the future of our workforce. With more carriers spending years in non-career status before conversion, retirement fairness matters now more than ever.

Passing this bill would show respect for letter carriers and recognize the sacrifices we make every day. A secure retirement is part of what keeps this job a true middle-class career. I urge you to contact your representative and ask them to support this bill.

## Max Olsen, LCCL 3

Happy New Year, brothers and sisters! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. In the time since our last quarterly newsletter was put out, I've had the opportunity to meet with Representative Morrison's staff to discuss the top legislative priorities of the NALC; this meeting was coordinated in conjunction with Branch 9 President Joe Rian and Legislative Organizer Andrew Hagan. Separately, I was invited to attend a meet-and-greet event with Representative Morrison by representative of PAL 9, an independent political action committee organized by Branch 9. Unfortunately, I could not attend this meeting, however I was able to speak with the PAL 9 representatives who relayed to me that they did get an opportunity to speak directly with Rep. Morrison and make her aware of our top legislative priorities.

Despite multiple meetings with Rep. Morrison and her staff, she has continued to be slow to cosponsor our bills in the House. To date, she has only signed on to H. Res 70, which commits to maintaining USPS as an independent agency and ensuring it is not subject to privatization, and currently has 230 cosponsors. HR 1065, which aims to reduce attacks

against letter carriers by updating arrow key security and increasing prosecution rates, currently has 159 cosponsors. HR 1522, which would allow carriers to buy back non-career time, currently has 122 cosponsors. HR 3170, which aims to expand care options for injured workers by allowing Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants to handle worker compensation cases, currently has 17 cosponsors. HR 3011, which would increase revenue by allowing the shipping of alcohol through the postal system, currently has 8 cosponsors.

To everyone who has continued to call, write, and email Rep. Morrison's office, thank you. Please continue to reach out and ask for support on these important bills. We are in a political moment where it is becoming more and more difficult to capture the attention of our elected leader, and because of that it is important for all of us to do our part to keep up the pressure.



National Business Agent Patrick Johnson,  
2025 MSALC Convention

## Shawn Hansen , LCCL 8

As I am writing this, “ICE” had just shot and killed a middle aged woman in Minneapolis. This is a White House policy that just wants to incite the people in Democrat run cities and states.

Recently, here in the 8<sup>th</sup> congressional district, Congressman Stauber was one of the votes to overturn the executive order to remove bargaining rights of many Federal employees. He then asked for the resignation of Governor Waltz. It seems to be the usual workings of Congressman Stauber. He will vote or speak against the White House as long as he’s not the only one, but will do the partisan attacks as well.

Even during the shutdown when the House was not in session for over a month, Congressman Stauber still had absolutely zero in-person town halls.

With the midterms about 11 months away, there is no Democratic front runner at this time. Again, I will reiterate the importance of LCPF. Until true finance reform is done, this is our best way to put forth Letter Carriers’ exclusive legislation while we can not use union dues. UPS and FedEx give a lot more money than we currently can contribute. Consider contributing to the LCPF as “work insurance”.



Delegates to the 2025 MSALC Convention

Sugar Lake Lodge

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

Happy New Year? Just when you thought things couldn't get worse with this administration-2026 comes along and shit hits the fan in MN.

The government shutdown in October/November put a great deal of stress on Federal workers. I do not know which was worse: Those workers laid off without pay or those that had to continue working without pay. Thank goodness we do not rely on taxpayer money for us to stay open.

The shutdown prompted me to figure out a way to help those families. At my St. Paul Regional Labor Federation (SPRLF) meeting I suggested that we do a 'pass the hat' fundraiser to buy grocery gift cards. That night I raised \$835 and within three days I had over \$1100. We contacted the two union presidents that preside over the TSA workers and the VA Hospital workers. They organized an appreciation dinner for the workers of those two unions. We were able to purchase forty five \$25 gift cards to hand out. Thankfully after 43 days of no pay congress decided to pass a temporary bill to open government buildings again. Temporary! I say temporary because there is another possible shutdown looming. It is called 'kick the can down the road' funding bill.

If we do not take a majority in either the House or Senate this year, things could get a lot worse for Americans. Remember- you get what you vote for!



Connie Beissel with 2nd Congressional District candidate  
Matt Little

## Take Action at [nalc.org](https://nalc.org)

### **Protect Our Letter Carriers Act (H.R. 1065/S. 463)**

Cosponsors: 160

Democrats: 139

Republicans: 21

### **Oppose postal privatization (H. Res. 70/S. Res. 147)**

Cosponsors: 230

Democrats: 209

Republicans: 21

### **USPS Shipping Equity Act (H.R. 3011)**

Cosponsors: 8

Democrats: 7

Republicans: 1

### **Federal Retirement Fairness Act (H.R. 1522)**

Cosponsors: 122

Democrats: 104

Republicans: 18

### **Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Fed- eral Workers Act (H.R. 3170/S. 3296)**

Cosponsors: 17

Democrats: 10

Republicans: 7

## **Christa Abraham, Secretary**

Registration is now open for the 2026 Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, which will take place on Saturday, May 9, 2026. Branches must register through the Members Only portal by Friday, March 20, 2026. A step-by-step registration video and additional resources are available in the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive tool kit, which will be updated as the event approaches. NALC President Brian Renfroe reaffirmed the union's commitment to fighting hunger and supporting local food pantries through this annual nationwide effort.

## **Andrew Hagan, LCCL 5**

Hello, and happy New Year to all of you! What a tragic way to start the year with the killing of Renee Good in Minneapolis, MN. Often, I hear or read online comments from letter carriers asking, “Why should the union get involved?” and “We should only be concerned about contract issues.” When the opportunity presents itself to have a discussion, I reply with absolutely this is a union issue. The community is our “o i ce” and when our community is under attack and has dangerous situations we need to be vocal about our position. The union steward for Lake Street station was delivering one route over from the shooting. A trustee for Branch 9 lives on the same block the shooting took place. To put it simply, labor is the community and the community is labor. On the 19<sup>th</sup> of January it will be Martin Luther King Day. MLK understood the power labor has in the community and shaping politics. In fact, one of the first big actions MLK was part of was the Memphis, TN sanitation strike in 1968.

Another example of the important role labor has in politics and shaping the community is that pro-labor candidates win if there is 80% union involvement versus 29% without. To do my part I have shown up at Rep. Omar town halls and other events she has been to. I have gone to Rep. Morrison event to promote letter carrier issues. Max Olsen, Joe Rian and I had a meeting with Morrison’s staff this past fall and had good discussions. I must say that Omar is a better labor advocate than Morrison. You can go on [Congress.gov](http://Congress.gov) and check out what our political leaders are doing for us letter carriers and labor as a whole. I hope you all have a safe winter and hope to see you at Region 7 training this spring. As always go to [NALC.org](http://NALC.org) to get the latest updates on politics and union news.

*When the power of love overcomes the love of power  
the world will know peace.*

*- Jimi Hendrix*



Sugar Lake, Wright County, MN

**Below are the disbursements made to members of Congress  
from Sept. 1, 2024, through August 31, 2025:**

**Stauber, Pete**

**\$2,500**

**Emmer, Tom**

**\$5,000**

**THE MINNESOTA LETTER CARRIER**

Minnesota State Association of Letter Carriers

Correspondence address:

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Maple Grove, MN 55369

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