



Minnesota State Association of Letter Carriers

The Minnesota Letter Carrier

3rd Quarter 2025

Hi everyone, I hope the summer is going well so far for all letter carriers and your families.

It has been a wild few months here as letter carriers and people who live in Minnesota. We lost Mark and Melissa Hortman, former 61st Speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives, on June 14. It is a day we will all never forget. Senator Hoffman and his wife were shot as well, and we are hoping for a speedy recovery. That day was also marked by the peaceful protests of the No Kings March, a nationwide movement against authoritarianism. It was on the great steps of our Capitol. Authorities tried to stop it but it turned out to be both a joyful day and a very sad day in Minnesota.



Perry Schmidt
President

I was in Washington in late March with the State Presidents where we rallied for the Nations Rural Carriers. There were speakers who talked about how everyone stands with the Postal Service along with the rural and city letter carriers. Pete Stauber from the 8th District spoke and committed to standing behind us all the way. Just say “Hell no, we won't go”. Please remind everyone to call their congress members to thank them for signing on and if they have not signed on to any of our bills to please consider signing on to help your letter carriers. Also, remind your members of congress HELL NO to increasing retirement contributions. If you need help making that call, ask your branch president to help you make that call.

I want to remind everyone that this year's state convention is up in Sugar Lake Lodge again, and this is an election year. We will have a national speaker this year. So, if you are a delegate or want to come to this convention, please become a delegate from your branch.

I also want to say to all our Brothers and Sisters we lost so far this year, you are missed. To all the new carriers that have joined this great big family, welcome aboard. Finally, to all that have retired, congratulations. Janet Musta, you will be missed for your contributions to the state and your branch.

Perry B Schmidt

Steve Sommers and Dan Proesch

St. Paul Retired Letter Carrier's Club

THE END OF THE WINDFALL ELIMINATION ACT AND THE PENSION OFFSET ACT ON 1/4/2025, HAS CREATED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SOME OF OUR RETIREES

If you worked as a Civil Service Employee to retirement, and did not pay into Social Security, or paid much less than your spouse paid, then you are now entitled to half of your spouse's earned Social Security monthly payments without affecting your spouse's monthly payments. There are requirements like age and years of service.

You are required to set up a Social Security account online and request this change. Logging into Social Security will direct you to obtaining a Login.gov password. Then you can get a Social Security password. It's not difficult. You can also call 1-800-772-1213. Social Security will offer either an in-person interview in their office, or some places may do an interview over the phone. This takes about 30 minutes and all identification is verified. In a few weeks, your new account will be updated by Social Security explaining the months used to determine your entitlement. For those of us who meet these specific requirements, an additional half of your spouse's Social Security Income could be a sizable amount monthly.

In addition, there is a 6-month back pay inclusion, followed by a final payment that verifies everything is correct, when your monthly payments begin, or increase. This back pay payment under the best circumstances could be many thousands of dollars! If you had some previous Social Security work in the past that already qualifies for a small monthly payment you're still eligible. For example: Spouse gets \$1800, and you get \$300 now, then you would get \$600 more a month for a total of \$900, or half of \$1800.

If your spouse earned a larger monthly payment from Social Security, it is likely that you could benefit significantly by getting online, obtaining the 2 passwords, setting up a Social Security account and requesting the meeting.

Max Olsen, LCCL 3

Minnesota 3rd congressional district is represented by Kelly Morrison. Morrison is a freshman congresswoman who was elected in 2024. Prior to her election, she served as a State Senator. Morrison has a background in the medical field and has made healthcare a main focus of hers during her time in congress.

When it comes to supporting legislative priorities of the NALC, Morrison has been slow to cosponsor our legislation. She has only recently cosponsored HR 70 and has yet to sign on to any other bills. It's more important now more than ever to keep reaching out to our members of congress. We can push our priorities forward by supporting the Letter Carrier Political Fund and using the 'take action' section of the NALC app or website.

Bill Wessinger, Director of Retirees

Hello Minnesota Letter Carriers, Active and Retired,

What kind of s__t show have we gotten ourselves into? I've been around for 79 years, and this is the only time I have felt afraid of what is happening. I have even thought about buying a gun and going through the proper channels to carry. Maybe not.

I hope everyone that can, has been attending the rallies and protests, written your legislators or visited them or their staff. We need our representatives to listen to us, their constituents, or we vote them out.

I made it to the NALC "FIGHT BACK" rally at the state capital on the March 23, which was very well attended. April 5 was also well attended, "HANDS OFF", estimates of 25,000 or more people made for a great show of displeasure at what is going on in our country. And on June 14 it was "NO KINGS" rally and I was in Prescott, WI for this one.

There has been so much going on that I could fill up a page or two, I can only say I have been busy, and you all should also be busy fighting to keep your jobs and benefits. If you don't fight, we could all lose everything we have fought for. Get busy NOW.

Shawn Hansen , LCCL 8

As of writing this, two DFL candidates have entered the 8th Congressional race.

Cyle Cramer of Chisago City, and Emanuel Anastasia of Tower. Along with Republican Pete Stauber, have all filed with the FEC.

With the Senate expecting to vote on "The Big Beautiful Bill" in July, it looks like the FERS retirement supplement that was eliminated in the House version is not in the Senate version.

Harold Weed, LCCL 1

Jake Johnson has thrown his hat in the ring as a Democrat running against incumbent Brad Finstad. For the past 10 years, Jake has been paying it forward as a public school teacher in Rochester, so that the next generation can achieve the American dream.

Follow and share Jake's campaign at:

[Twitter/X](#) - @JakeJohnsonMN

[Bluesky](#) - @jakejohnsonmn.bsky.social

[Instagram](#) - @JakeJohnsonMN

[Facebook](#) – Jake Johnson for Congress

After 50 years serving as the 1st Congressional District Liaison, I will be stepping down at this fall's MSALC Convention. I have enjoyed every year and want to thank all the presidents and letter carriers that put up with me.

Minnesota State Association of Letter Carriers

This is the official notification of the 2025 MSALC State Convention THIS IS AN ELECTION YEAR

September 28th - October 1st, 2025
Sugar Lake Lodge
37584 Otis Lane
Cohasset, MN 55721

Branches having twenty (20) members or less are allowed one (1) delegate. Branches having twenty (20) members, or more are allowed one (1) delegate per each twenty (20) members or fraction thereof. Your local's allotment of delegates is based on the January 2025 member printout from National.

Enclosed you will find the hotel registration form. Delegates must submit their request either via mail or by email (rachel@sugarlakelodge.com). There is also a fillable PDF form posted on the MSALC.ORG website.

The delegate registration fee is \$60 per person. **Please fill out the attached pre-registration form** and return it **along with your registration fees** to Christa by **September 10th**, so that delegate badges may be printed, and the MSALC will have a good indication of attendees. Christa's address is listed below.

Delegate registration will take place Sunday between 3pm – 5pm in the lodge lobby, and Monday 8am – 9am. in the Convention room.

The Committee of Presidents meeting will be held on Sunday, September 28th at 5:30pm. The icebreaker dinner and golf awards will be held at 6:30pm-8pm in the dining room.

****A memorial service for deceased members will be held on Tuesday of the Convention. Please send names of those brothers and sisters who have passed since the 2024 Convention to Christa, so that we can acknowledge them during this time. You can email these lists to her at the email listed below ****

The MSALC asks that each branch contribute a gift(s) for the MDA raffle and live auction. State officers and executive board members should also remember to bring a contribution. The more, the better, so if you're able to contribute more, please consider doing so.

You can download and print the resolution and bylaw change forms directly from the MSALC website, msalc.org.

September 28th- October 1st, 2025
Lodging Package includes 3 nights lodging, 3 dinners, 2 lunches, and 3 breakfasts
Guest Rooms Rates:
Single: \$798.07; Double \$598.51

Send completed forms to:

Christa Abraham, MSALC Secretary
13405 Arrowhead St. NW #2
Andover, MN 55304-3884
612-554-2438
msalcsecretary@gmail.com



MDA GOLF TOURNAMENT

September 28, 2025

9 HOLE - FOUR PERSON SCRAMBLE

SUGARBROOKE GOLF COURSE

SHOTGUN START

12 noon Registration

1 pm tee time

\$50 w/cart

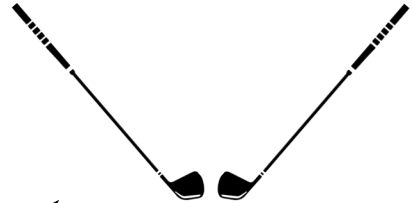
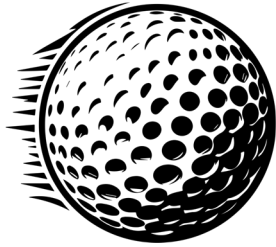
Prizes for: *longest putt*

Longest drive (men & women)

Closest to pin (men & women)

Low score team

Free unlimited golf during convention



Our foursome is as follows

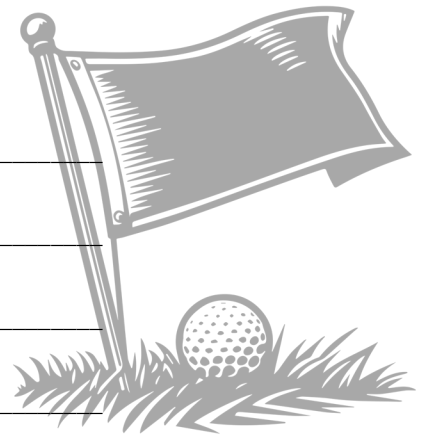
Please find a foursome for the following

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____



Send this completed registration form with checks made out to MDA by **09/14/25** to:

MSALC TREASURER

PO BOX 1306

ALEXANDRIA, MN 56308

Convention Agenda

2025 MSALC State Convention

****This Agenda is Tentative and Subject to Change****

Sunday Set 28th

Arrive at Sugar Lake Lodge

Noon – Golf Registration @ Sugarbrooke Golf Course/MDA

1:00 – Shotgun start

3:00 – 5:00 PM – Delegate Registration in Lodge lobby

5:30 PM – Committee of Presidents Meeting

6:30 – 8 PM – Icebreaker Dinner and Golf Awards @ Dining Room

Monday Sept 29th

Breakfast – Dining Room

8:00 – 9:00AM – Registration @ Conference Room (Same room as convention)

9:00 AM – 4 PM – General Convention Session

Invocation

Guest speakers

Lunch – Dining Room

Nominations

Committee Reports

Speakers/Training

RECESS

Dinner – Dining Room

Hospitality Room in lower level Asplin Suite

Tue Sept 30th

Breakfast – Dining Room

9:00 AM – 4 PM General Convention Session

Invocation

Memorial Service

Guest speakers/Training

Lunch – Dining Room

Elections (if needed)

Speakers/Training

Committee Reports

NALC/NBA Updates

RECESS

6:00 Banquet, Live MDA Auction, Adjournment

Wed Oct 1st

Breakfast – Dining Room

MSALC Board meeting – room TBD

Check out 11:00AM

Minnesota NALC Branch Presidents,

The MSALC is publishing a 2025 Convention Booklet.

This will contain:

- ◆ The previous MSALC convention minutes, a current copy of the MSALC bylaws, MSALC Officer reports, a tentative convention schedule, a 2026 proposed budget, and the 2025 detailed income/expense report.
- ◆ Legislative training information.

The MSALC convention booklet is not a budgeted item. The cost for printing and binding is covered by submitting Branch ads. Only union friendly organizations will be permitted to place an ad in the convention booklet.

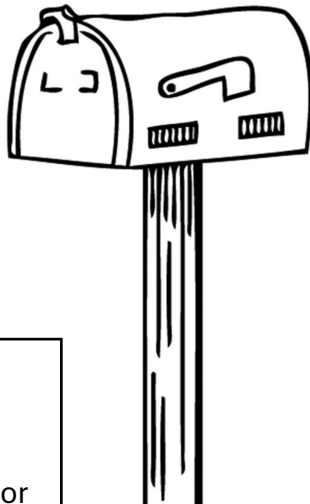
Suggestions for your ad: photo of station letter carriers, union stewards, or branch officers.

Should you want help creating your Branch ad, contact the MSALC Editor. Send a drawing or description of the ad you would like placed.

MSALC
Convention
information
available on
msalc.org:
 Hotel Registration
 MDA Golf Flyer
 Sugar Lake Resort Map
 Bylaw Form
 Resolution Form

Send Checks to:

Christa Abraham
 MSALC Secretary
 13405 Arrowhead St. NW #2
 Andover, MN 55304

**AD DEADLINE 08/25/2025****All ads are in black & white**

Full page..... (9 1/2 x 7 3/8).....\$120
 Half page.....(4 3/4 x 7 3/8).....\$65
 Quarter page..(3 5/8 x 3 7/16).....\$45

Send your ad (.jpg, .pdf) to:

Robb Petersburg, MSALC Editor
 Contact: msalceditor@gmail.com or
 763.300.4117 to leave a message

Cut along this line

Payment receipt for your records**Date:** _____**Business:** _____**Donation to MSALC: \$** _____**Thank you for your support!**

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

Sentencing hearing of Rubin Adams who plead guilty to two accounts of armed robbery for holding up 2 letter carriers at gunpoint in the Minneapolis area

Wow, How interesting! I attended the sentencing hearing with Joe Rian, Chad Lemm, Perry Schmidt, Joel Carter and Pat Paplow of the man who robbed two letter carriers at gunpoint last year. The judge explained why he sentenced Adams to more time than our prosecutor was asking for. The Federal guideline for committing a Federal crime against a Federal Agency has a sentencing range of 120 months to 150 months in Federal prison. Our side was asking for 130 months and the defendant's side was asking for 120 months. The Judge gave him 132 months in prison and 5 years of supervised release upon release.

Rubin David Adams of St. Paul has a long history of criminal acts. This was his 7th felony in 5 states while on probation. After he stole the coveted Arrow Key from one of the carriers he went on to commit 33 thefts with that key totaling \$60,000 in mail theft. After all was said and done it cost the Postal Service \$77,998.03 in losses. The Judge also ordered that he pay full restitution of said costs from any money that he earns while incarcerated and following his release.

The Judge was sympathetic to America's Mail Carriers. He went on to explain how the country depends on the safe delivery of the mail. He noted that carriers are out on the street every day unprotected and vulnerable to crime. Carriers shouldn't have to worry that they will be assaulted while on duty. If the country loses trust in the Postal Service they may stop using the USPS and the agency will cease to be.

Thank you Judge Tostrud!

Andrew Hagan, LCCL 5

What an exhausting three or more months! Between attacks from D.C. on our retirement benefits and union busting policy to political events I've attended it's been crazy. As we all know by now there are attacks and potential cuts on our hard-earned retirement benefits. Sad to think we might lose the high three calculations or carriers having to increase their FERS contribution. As of the time I'm writing this article these have been removed from the chopping block... for now. But a senate committee headed by Rand Paul from Kentucky has added cutting and selling the electric vehicles the postal service needs. There is no doubt we as letter carriers need an updated fleet that provides A/C and safer mechanics than the LLV's. Another attack coming from D.C is the elimination of "official time" or "steward time" in the White House 2026 budget plan. Make no mistake this will bankrupt local branches and ultimately National. If the union has to pick up the tab we would be a goner. The other choice is to work on grievances for FREE! We collectively must call our legislative leaders and inform them how dangerous and wrong this is. You can call 202-224-3121 to get in contact with your Congressional Rep.

Moving on to two fun and important events I and other carriers got to do in the last couple months. First,

I must brag about Branch 9 having the National Hero of the Year recipient. It's a big honor to have Tesfaye Deyasso in my branch. He and President of Branch 9 Joe Rian joined me when I had a meeting with Rep. Omar on April 24th in CD 5. Rep. Omar read a Congressional Record publication recognizing Tesfaye's heroic actions. She has and continues to be supportive of Letter Carriers. Rep. Omar serves on House Education and the Workforce Committee where she is Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections which is a big deal to Letter Carriers. We need better laws protecting us from unsafe workplace environments.

The last thing I want to share is my time at the Humphrey-Mondale dinner in June. It was great to finally see a full table of letter carriers from Branch 9 at this event. Our local PAC bought a table. It is encouraging to hear the new chair of the DFL highlight the failures the party has when it comes to labor. Hopefully Democrats engage with labor more. U.S Rep. Angie Craig stopped by our table and her exact words were "We need to get rid of Angela Bye" those are magical words! The special guest was JB Pritzker and he had some encouraging words about the future, but time will tell. All these things I've talked about are because of the political contributions from you, the letter carrier. The money you give goes to fighting our issues in D.C. and supporting and talking to candidates we need. Please go to NALC.org and click Government Affairs and see how you can help further our mission.

Eduardo Silva, Executive Board; LCCL 6

Greetings to all brothers and sisters,

I want to express my concern about a significant issue within our company that I've noticed changing over the years. As union members, we need to do more to address it. Our customer service has been declining and has become unacceptable in recent years.

For example, the number of collection boxes in the St. Cloud area has been drastically reduced. Some business districts, such as downtown, which previously had nine collection boxes, now have only two. In other areas, blue boxes have disappeared entirely.

It seems the Postal Service has abandoned our customers. Regardless of whether we deliver first-class mail daily or collect mail from the boxes, customer service has been reduced to one focus: delivering packages. This shift is driven by the need to meet a daily delivery quota of 99.9% based on bar codes. This is not the mission of our Postal Service. Our customers are the backbone of our company, and we are witnessing them being neglected due to a misguided strategy of cutting costs and ineffective management.

Our union should take a more active role in protecting our customers because, ultimately, this will also safeguard our jobs and enhance the reputation of our company and its principles by providing excellent service to the American people. It's time to wake up and take action! We must contact our representatives in Congress to explain what is happening within our organization. Change must come from the top, with those who have the power to restore us to our former standards.

Wishing everyone a great summer!

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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