



Minnesota State Association of Letter Carriers

# The Minnesota Letter Carrier

1st Qtr 2023

**Hello Sisters and Brothers of the MSALC**

**Happy new years 2023**

This last year was a very strange year for politics. But in long run still the results were the same, because voters (carriers and family members) took the time to get out and help the person they best thought would help letter carriers Jobs, health care, families and protect our livelihood.

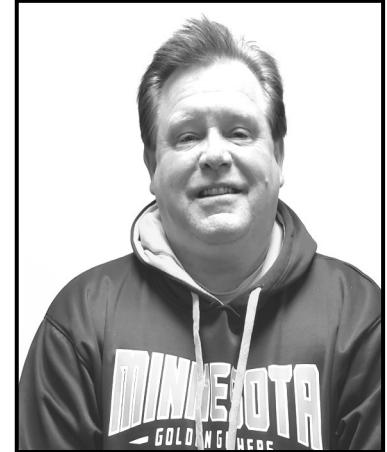
We lost really good people whom have died this last year. Some people moved on to new jobs or retiring, and some just got fed up with the games the post Office keeps coming up with, so they quit because they just don't want to put up with anymore; so out the door they go.

We have a new National President in Brian Renfroe. Good Luck Brian, I know you will do a great job leading the Letter carriers. And we have a new Executive Vice President in Paul Barner; you will do a great job as well, and we know this from your being at our state convention last October. James D Henry is the new Vice President. Both have the distinction of trying to work out a new contract agreement for NALC, along with safety which is so much on everyone's minds as we talk contract as well. Keep your eyes and ears open as to what is coming up there. Also, try to thank them for what there are doing to work out a new contract.

I know how hard everyone has been working this last year and now into February we still work way too many hours a week / month, 60 hours every week over and over again. This needs to stop! Thanks to a few of the members of congress who keep asking why is mail being left behind every day, every week, over and over again, which jeopardizes the safety of all Letter Carriers throughout Minnesota when thy work into the late hours in dark, snow rain, etc. Safety is always on the minds of letter carrier family members also. It is on the NALC's list of things coming up. Contract again Safety, Vans, trucks we drive every day out there on the routes.

I'm asking everyone to call their congressional members and thank them, and to ask for their support on Letter Carrier issues.

So make the calls, emails, ask the new Carriers if they need help. Stop and talk to them, take a split to help them out, so they'll stay here where we need them. STAY SAFE. Perry.



**Perry Schmidt  
President MSALC**



Legislative & Political Organizer, Brent Fjerestad , on the importance of contributing to LCPF (Letter Carrier Political Fund).

## **Paul Roue Vice President**

It's past time to pass the Social Security Fairness Act HR-82. We need to get it done this year. HR-82 eliminates a lot of unfair pay cuts our retirees face and future retirees will face. My Rep, Pete Stauber, is a co-signer on this legislation and if Stauber is your Rep call and e-mail his office to thank him. If your Rep isn't a co-sponsor call and e-mail them urging them to sign on as a co-sponsor. More co-sponsor's means a better chance it gets passed and goes to the senate.

Before you say "why should I care? This is just about those old CSRS fogies." This is why it is important to our union but it may also be important to you the new CCA. This bill affects more than just NALC members, it is estimated 2 million Americans positively impacted by the provisions in HR-82 if it becomes law. Is your spouse a railroad employee? Know family or friends who are? This bill directly affects them too. The railroad has over 135,000 employees who are under the Railroad Retirement Tax Act. When they are hired all Social Security contributions are pulled out and placed in the RRTA. The surviving spouse will be directly affected by the Government Pension Offset. For every \$3 of their pension they lose 2 dollars of survivor benefit all other retirees get in full from Social Security. HR-82 eliminates the unfair reduction of retirement benefits simply because one spouse worked in the Social Security system and the other spouse worked in a career outside the Social Security system. Me and all FERS employees are in the Social Security system and our loved ones, maybe others we know should be entitled to the full benefits we worked to provide. We worked, we paid the tax, we should get the full benefit.

**It's not an entitlement we were given... It's something we earned!**

## **Christa Abraham Secretary**

It's been an extremely busy couple of months since last years MSALC meeting. There's no doubt that the staffing shortages is causing havoc on all carriers. I help run the City Carrier Academy every week and I can tell you that as of recently there has been a definite uptick in the new hires coming through the doors. Completing the Academy is just a minor step, we need to work harder at retaining them. I hear nightmare stories of how these new carriers are treated once they arrive at their stations. Each new carrier must be given 3- 8 hour days of on the job training. Some of you may be saying "well yeah, I know that" BUT nearly every week I hear about one of them quitting due to not receiving all 3 days of training, receiving improper training and then being given full routes with little direction. New carriers should also have a day of Sunday training WITH ANOTHER CARRIER. As veteran carriers, we need to make sure these protocols are being followed. Let your new carriers know they are not alone and that we are all there to help them. Follow up with them after a few days and ask them how things are going. It can make a difference on if they decide to stay or quit. I know a big problem is management and how new carriers are being treated. But I have also heard that other carriers in stations (including some of the trainers) are treating them just as bad. We need to advocate for them and make them feel welcome. I know it's extremely stressful and tiring right now, but THEY are part of the solution to solving this crisis that has gone on for far too long. If there are any problems with getting management to follow the National Training Program, we need to let our branch presidents and our NBA office know asap.. I have high hopes knowing these carriers are finally coming through the doors to training. Now let's do whatever we can to keep them.

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

Happy New Year to 2023! Have you recovered from the Holiday Season yet? Or are you just as overworked as before? Between the massive amounts of snow and the bitter cold, I feel for you all. I wish I could magically make life easier while preserving your job security. Hopefully this is the year that we are able to retain enough new employees to lesson the daily workload. We have a new Senate and Congress in D.C. this year. Getting Bills passed may be a little tough for the next couple of years. The Republicans control the House while the Democrats control the Senate. In Minnesota we were able to maintain our status quo of federal Reps. Thank you to everyone who helped get Representative Angie Craig re-elected to Congressional District 2. She has been an amazing friend for Letter Carriers.

This year will be an election year for the MSALC at the State Convention. Now is the time to start thinking about what office that you would like to hold. Our convention will be at Ruttger's Bay Lake Resort east of Brainerd on Oct 1-4, 2023. More news on how to register will be sent out this summer. The Bylaws with a description of the officer duties can be found on our website [www.msalc.org](http://www.msalc.org). The group meets once per quarter with an option of zoom or in person attendance. Join us in October to learn how we resource your union dues.

## **Dave Zimney Executive Board**

Well it was the worst peak season I have experienced in my almost 23 years as a letter carrier, but somehow we survived it. It's now a new year and a new congress. Because it's a new congress, all of the postal legislation that we have been working on has to be reintroduced. As of writing this article only the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82) has been reintroduced, but it already has 168 cosponsors, 118 democrats and 50 republicans. As far as our Minnesota representatives go, we have 4 signed on as cosponsors. Brad Finstad in district 1, Angie Craig in district 2, Betty McCollum in district 4 and Pete Stauber in district 8 have all signed on. If you don't see your representative listed here then you know what to do. Send emails, write letters and make phone calls to your congressperson and tell them to support H.R. 82. Of course the best way to help the NALC get legislation passed is to give to the Letter Carrier Political Fund. You can sign up at NALC.org. Keep an eye out for notifications concerning information about the reintroduction of the Federal Retirement Fairness Act, which is expected to happen soon.

Contract negotiations have now officially started on our next contract. From what I have been hearing, the NALC is asking for large wage increases, hiring straight to career positions, a renewed focus on carrier safety and more. In my opinion, greatly increasing the starting wage and substantially reducing the gap between table one and table two is the best way to solve our staffing issue. The focus on carrier safety is just as important, as crimes against letter carriers have greatly increased across the country. God Speed to the NALC and the USPS on getting an agreement done quickly as many offices around the country are drowning in undelivered mail, packages and forced overtime. This next contract cannot come quick enough!

Because of all of the forced overtime, please remember to take some time each day to relieve the stress of our job. Nobody should be taking that stress home with them. There are some very simple things that can help you to reduce or cope with stress. Here is a list of a few that are backed by science to relieve stress: progressive relaxation, yoga, meditation, deep breathing, aromatherapy, music and laughter. Any one of these can help you cope with the stress from working too much overtime. Remember that not everyone is the same, while one person might enjoy some chill music, another person might enjoy going to a sporting event. While a hot bath might work for some, others might prefer practicing kickboxing on a heavy bag. If you feel the stress is getting to be too much, we are lucky to have the EAP program that is available to you and anyone living under your roof. You can contact them by calling 800-EAP-4-You or by visiting EAP's Web site, [www.EAP4You.com](http://www.EAP4You.com).

Stay safe out there brothers and sisters.

## **Jonathan Garcia Executive Board**

Workplace safety. The USPS is obligated to provide safe working conditions in its facilities and to develop a safe workforce. Article 14 of the National Agreement protects employees occupational safety and health rights. Article 14 also includes cooperation between Management and Union in the observation of rules and procedures regarding safety and correction of unsafe conditions. Employees also have obligations. Employees must file a report (PS Form 1767 Report of Hazard, Unsafe Condition or Practice), or have a designee file for them. This form is to be provided in the workplace in an easily accessible location. Employees can remain anonymous by filing the form through installation safety personnel. Employees must also notify their steward if one is available. This whole process is protected by the grievance process. Any discrimination against employees for filing reports of unsafe conditions is unlawful. Let's all be safe out there and observant in our workplaces. In solidarity,

## **Nick Tiemann Executive Board**

Hello Brothers and Sisters. With the New Year already upon us we must continue our focus again to some unfinished business from last year. H.R. 82 is a priority NALC bill which did not pass last year in congress. H.R. 82 is the Social Security Fairness Act which, if passed, would repeal provisions that reduce Social Security benefits for individuals that receive other benefits like a pension from a State or local government. It would also eliminate the windfall elimination provision. Also it would eliminate the government pension offset, which could reduce the Social Security benefits for spouses, widows, and widowers who also receive a government pension. I would encourage you to make the time to reach out to your representative to ask for their support of this bill. Also be on the lookout for another bill which will hopefully be reintroduced soon is the Federal Retirement Fairness Act. This bill would allow federal employees, including letter carriers, to make catch up contributions for time spent as a non career employee towards retirement. For example if you were a Casual, TE, or CCA. Take care and stay safe and have a great 2023.

## **Bill Wessinger Director of Retirees**

Hello Minnesota Letter Carriers, Active and Retired, This was my busiest election cycle ever, being a Precinct Chair, putting up and taking down lawn signs, filling out postcards, going to fundraisers and contributing needed funds. I also volunteered to be a Poll Watcher which was somewhat boring, being there the whole day with not much to do, but observe. I don't know if I would ever do it again, we'll see. My one local election result that wasn't what I expected, was Tina Folch not getting elected, but Judy Seeberger did get elected, these were the two candidates whose lawn signs I was putting up.

Our Branch 28 retirees took up a collection to purchase an AED for our union hall, by October we had it purchased and installed, way to go retirees.

Elections are over, but fundraising activities go on and on, why, because we don't have the deep pockets like the Koch contributors do. So if you get a chance to go to a fundraising activity, step up to the plate. Also, if you don't already contribute to LCPF, now would be an excellent time to get on board. With all the uproar about the Postal Service, we need to keep our politicians up to date on our priorities and how we feel things could be changed for the better and keep our jobs and benefits kept intact. There are people out there who would love to see the United States Postal Service privatized and then we would be out of a job, we must not let that happen. One other item that is of importance to us is HR82, Social Security Fairness Act, please contact your representatives and ask them to get on board with this bill and remember to thank them.

Be safe out there and everywhere.

## **Harold Weed LCCL 1**

Welcome to the new year! The good news to report is that our new Congressman, Brad Finstad, is an early co-sponsor of HR 82. This is a good opportunity to call his office and thank him for that vote. Contact info for his Rochester office is 507.577.6141. His Washington, DC number is 202.225.2472. His email is finstad.house.gov. You can always follow the progress of any Congressional bill at govtrack.us.

On a personal note, I want to acknowledge a long-time supporter of postal issues. Her name is Sister Gladys Schmidt, a member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Along with issues of world peace, climate change, social justice, etc. she supported letter carrier issues with phone calls, emails, letters and by attending Mankato Letter Carrier rallies. Although covid kept her from personally attending and holding signs at the last rally, she did make an appearance in her vehicle along with other sisters and supporters. Sister Gladys was a resident of Good Counsel in Mankato and with the recent sale of that property she is now residing in Shakopee. Sister Gladys is 97 years YOUNG and still politically active.

Keep the congressman's contact information for future reference and meanwhile call and say "thanks" for supporting HR 82.

## **Max Olsen LCCL 3**

With the beginning of the new year brings the introduction of the 118<sup>th</sup> congress. While control of the House of Representatives has shifted to a slim majority for the republicans, the representation of the third district has remained unchanged with Dean Phillips comfortably winning re-election last November. Things are just starting to ramp up in Washington, but our union is already at work pushing our legislative priorities forward.

One of those priorities is the passage of HR 82, The Social Security Fairness Act. This bill was introduced in the last session and had over 300 cosponsors in the House, including Dean Phillips. Even with widespread support and a last-minute push to have the bill added to the omnibus spending bill, it was unable to pass in the 117<sup>th</sup> congress. Fortunately, the bill has already been reintroduced this session, and already has over 150 cosponsors. While there is already strong support for HR 82, representative Phillips has not cosponsored the bill as of the writing of this article, and I would encourage members to reach out to his office at (202) 225-2871 and ask that he once again support the passage of this bill.

While it is unfortunate that one of our top legislative priorities was unable to be included in the year end spending bill, Dean Phillips was able to secure \$22 million in investment projects for the third district in that same bill, an increase from \$17 million in the previous year's budget. This includes funding for housing projects in Minnetonka and Brooklyn Park, improvements to water infrastructure in Corcoran and Plymouth, funding for the Highway 610 extension project, investments in the Minnesota Valley State Trail and the construction of a new trail along Zane Avenue in Brooklyn Park, funding for Hennepin Technical and Normandale College, solar and electric vehicle charging in Eden Prairie, the funding of facilities and equipment at North Memorial's Robbinsdale campus, and a number of investments aimed at increasing access to mental health care and domestic violence prevention.

Moving on from our top legislative priorities and big spending bills I'd like to touch on some of the legislation Dean Phillips has been sponsoring in the house, particularly HR 6852 and HR 345. Last session Phillips introduced HR 6852, The Stop Porch Pirates Act. The goal of this bill was to reduce package theft by increasing the penalties to be in line with penalties for stealing US mail, regardless of which shipper is delivering those packages. I've spoken with Phillips office and they informed me that he is no longer serving on the committee that oversaw the bill, but would likely cosponsor the bill if reintroduced this session. Phillips has also introduced HR 345, The Trust in Congress Act, which would require members of congress, as well as spouses and dependent children, to place investment assets into a blind trust while serving in congress.

A new year presents new opportunities, and given the fact that legislative priorities of letter carriers often carry bipartisan support, I'm optimistic about what we can accomplish over the next two years.

## **Joe Rian MDA Coordinator**

### MDA 2022 Report

\$12,168 was raised for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) by the MSALC during 2022. We were #1 in October for electronic contributions and placed #6 in the nation for the year in NALC 2022 for MDA.

The bulk of our contributions, \$11,823, came at the 2022 State Convention. The generosity of Hopkins Branch 2942, Connie Beissel, Chuck Glover and others pushed us over \$12,000 after the convention.

The Golf Tournament was won by Brainerd Branch 864

Raffle items donations from Branch 1058 Iron Range Merged included a shotgun won by Branch 9's Joe Tiemann; and a crossbow won by Rochester's Paul Delaney. Salmon fresh from Alaska was also raffled off.

A pumpkin signed by National Vice President Paul Barner was auctioned off for \$1602!

Here is a breakdown of convention activities and funds raised:

Silent Auction White Ticket Drawings \$1480

Golf Tournament (sponsors ans golfers)\$3100

Cribbage Tournament \$100

Football Board \$250

Live Auctions (Pumpkin and Dinner) \$3492

Raffles (50/50: Fish; Shotgun; Crossbow) \$3401

And a great big thank you to all the MSALC Golf Tournament Hole sponsors:

Columbia Heights VFW Post #230; New Heights Building and Renovation; AMES Uniforms (Alice & Harold Weed)

Branch 440 Rochester; Branch 28 St. Paul; Branch 864 Brainerd; Branch 1058 Iron Range Merged;

Branch 718 Albert Lea; Jen and Joe Tiemann; Patrick Johnson, Region 7 NBA; Branch 2942 Hopkins;

Branch 9 Minneapolis; Dispute Resolution (DRT) Office; Perry Schmidt, President MSALC; Anoka Station;

Stacey Ellingson, Anoka; Blaine Station; Richfield Station.

Special thanks to our ticket sellers Nick Tiemann, Paul Roue, Tom Quinn, Bill Wessinger and Connie Beissel, And our money counters Dave Zimney, Eric Marquardt and Nick Tiemann.

I am grateful for the support from all of you letter carriers out there in making this a very successful year of fundraising by MSALC for MDA. Your outstanding support continues to make incredible life-changing differences for families and children affected by neuromuscular diseases. You are all champions in my book.

Hip Hip Hooray! to you. One day we will **Deliver a Cure** once and for all and that will be a day to remember!

Thank you so much.

## **Dan Garhofer LCCL 4**

I am proud to represent the letter carriers as the 4th district LCCL. The fourth congressional district in Minnesota is represented by Congresswoman Betty McCollum. She is a member of the House of Representatives and is domiciled in Washington D.C. The 4th district covers nearly all of Ramsey county and part of Washington county. It includes all of St. Paul and most of its northern and eastern suburbs. Betty has been a proud supporter of the USPS and of the letter carriers issues. She is a supporter and co-signer of HR 82 which supports the elimination of WEP or windfall elimination provision and the Government pension offset. These provisions unfairly target USPS or government employees pensions. As a recent USPS retiree I am not bound by the Hatch act. The Hatch act is a law that prevents Government employees from engaging in political activities. Once an employee retires he is not bound by the Hatch act and can become politically active on behalf of USPS employees. The MSALC or the Minnesota State Association of Letter Carriers is the political wing of letter carriers and is tasked with putting forth letter carrier issues in the political arena. We are aligned with the NALC national office throughout the country to push our issues and support carriers.

## **Latisha McCabe LCCL 5**

On January 16<sup>th</sup> Ilhan Omar attended the 33rd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Breakfast at the Minneapolis Convention Center to discuss securing civil rights for Minnesotans. Then on January 17<sup>th</sup> Ilhan went to Sabathani Community Center and met with the Executive Director, Scott Redd. They met about the environmental justice energy project aimed at improving air quality and reducing asthma rates for our communities — especially BIPOC. Last year, they secured \$500,000 through Community Project Funding to repair their 100-year-old commercial building and upgrade their energy system. Community centers like these help Minnesotans strive for a more inclusive, healthy, and safe community.

On January 21<sup>st</sup> Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN) announced the U.S.-Africa Policy Working Group. The Working Group will endeavor to be a clearinghouse for active, sincere, and consistent engagement with experts and policymakers working with and in Africa. It will hold regular briefings with Administration officials, NGOs, and journalists, and make a point of hearing directly from people, organizations, and social movements directly impacted by U.S. policy.

The Working Group will be active on the various urgent crises in Africa, from the conflicts in Ethiopia and the DRC to the rash of coups and instability in West Africa and the Sahel. Just as importantly, it will also spend time focusing on the continent's many success stories, from Senegal's extraordinary leadership in global health to the inspiring African movements for democracy and human rights. It will also learn about Africa's interests in the broader global context, hearing directly from Africans about their perspectives on some of the greatest challenges facing the world today, from the Russian invasion of Ukraine to the rise of China, and from global pandemics to climate change.

On February 2 Congresswoman Ilhan Omar was removed from the House Committee of Foreign Affairs by the House Conservative Majority. She will continue to serve on the House Education & Workforce Committee, and will be joining the House Budget Committee this term. On February 7<sup>th</sup> Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN) hosted Andre Locke Sr., the father of Amir Locke, as her guest at President Biden's State of the Union Address. Ilhan proposed the Amir Locke End Deadly No Knock Warrants Act. Ilhan continues to strive for better in Minnesota.

## Shawn Hansen LCCL 8

As I am writing this, the latest news from the 8<sup>th</sup>, HR 82 is the first pieces of legislation proposed this congressional session. Congressman Pete Stauber has already signed on to it as a cosponsor.

The February Postal Record lists every member giving to LCPF, if you are not currently contributing to this, please reconsider, this is how we get letter carrier legislation passed.

Now that we are starting contract negotiations, the staffing or lack of staffing needs to be addressed. Here in Duluth, it is normal to not deliver a number of entire routes daily. To remove the "Service" from the Postal Service is unacceptable. If the plan from some to privatize the Postal Service, to not deliver mail is the way to do it. This is ruining our trust in the public, who in turn, can no longer trust in our service, and quit using our service and use other means to either pay bills or even ship products. Working you staff you have to the maximum hour limit daily is hurting staffing issues as well. With no work life balance, carriers are either going to quit or retire. This cycle has been going on for 3 years and has only worsened as of late. The cycle needs to end. With my rant over, for this to happen, we also need help from our legislator's and I will end this by reiterating how important it is to give to LCPF to help get them and keep them fighting for us in congress.



Current  
NALC Executive Vice President  
**Paul Barner**



**Debra Wempen, Br 440 Rochester.**  
**MISS PUMPKIN 2022**

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Short addendum to Joe Rian's MDA report. Branch 9, Minneapolis and Branch 28, St Paul started to compete on "buying" the signed pumpkin. Other Branches contributed to either St Paul or Minneapolis to build up the bidding rights. Finally, it was decided to combine the contributions as mentioned in Joe Rian's article. Debra Wempen from Rochester Branch 440 held the pumpkin during the bidding. With her permission, she became **Miss Pumpkin 2022**.

## **Eric Marquardt Treasurer; LCCL 7**

So far this year, we have been working a lot of hours just trying to keep our heads above water. This is definitely not unique. Because we have been meeting via Zoom, I have had more time as treasurer and less travel time. In our last quarterly Zoom meeting, we discussed the MSALC budget and adding a couple of lines to breakdown items for clarity. Financially, we are setting very well.

## **Eduardo Silva Executive Board; LCCL6**

Being short-staffed, I have not been able to personally visit with Tom Emmer's office. To date, Tom has not signed on as a co-sponsor on HR 82, the Social Security Fairness Act of 2023. I will be contacting his office and ask him for his support. I am looking forward to his next Town Hall Meeting.

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

### **FORM 50 WHAT IS IT**

The USPS has an Official Personnel Folder (OPF) on employees that contains documents concerning your appointment, compensation, benefits, administrative and payroll records. USPS may use these records to review employee qualifications, status, eligibility, rights and benefits. They're also used to track length of service and other information USPS needs to establish your amount of benefits. Before 2008, employees had to meet with their district personnel offices to review their folders. Now, OPF documents are available online and have become "eOPFs." Employees can go to LiteBlue at any time to review their files. Each eOPF is a secure and encrypted file, available only to employees by using their employee ID number and USPS PIN. Once you are logged on you click the HR tab and in the drop down box click "access OPF" and the next screen will have an access prompt to open your file. Employees should review their eOPFs to make sure documents are up-to-date and accurate. Accurate records will make processing personnel actions such as transfers, promotions or retirements easier. This article is going to explain one of the forms that will be in your eOPF the **Form 50**.

Often new carriers are asking their stewards or branch officers when their annual leave earned will increase or when they can expect to get their next step increase and other benefit information questions. The majority of the answers to these questions can be found on the Form 50 sent to carriers. The Form 50 is a notice of personnel action that has occurred in your career. It covers any action such as changing from a carrier 1 position to carrier 2, step increase, contract pay increase, or change in route. The information on this form will also inform you of your benefits and other career information that I will now explain. A copy of the Form 50 is printed in this paper.

**Lines 1-10**-is your personal information and this should be reviewed every time you receive it to verify or correct.

**Line 11**- is a veterans preference code 1-is a non-veteran, 2-is a 5 point veteran, 5-is a 10 point veteran and 3, 4, and 6 codes all deal with any type of veteran disability classification.

**Line 14**-is a self-identification disability code usually with a 05 meaning no disability.

**Line 15**-leave computation date is the date you became a career employee.

**Line 16**-is the date you entered on duty with prior time as a non-career (TE or Casual) employee.

**Line 17**-is the date your retirement years begin and your annuity will be based on.

**Line 18**-is the same as 17 only it has the pay period and beginning year listed (PPYR).

**Line 19**-TSP (Thrift Savings Plan) eligibility will mostly list a Y meaning you're eligible with deductions or possibly one of 4 other classifications.

**Line 20**-is the computation or enrollment date TSP began.

**Line 21**-lists whether you had prior CSRS (Civil Service) service time for retirement reasons.

**Line 23**-lists how many hours of annual leave you receive each pay period and line 24 tells you in what pay period and year the earned hours will increase and line 25 tells us our leave is advanced at the beginning of the year and our sick leave is earned by pay period.

**Line 26**-tells you in years and months of the military credit you have earned for retirement.

**Line 28**-lists your retirement plan that you are covered by.

**Line 30**-lists the amount of life insurance you are enrolled in and the amounts.

**Lines 32-50**-deal with station information you work at and the rural carrier craft.

**Lines 51-55**-is your occupation code, position title, label code, and designation and position code.

**Line 57**-tells us we have a uniform allowance.

**Line 60**-states whether you are a Q 1 or Q 2 City Letter Carrier.

**Line 61-62**-informs you of your grade and step currently at and the yearly salary.

**Line 65**-informs you of the pay period and year your next step increase happens.

**Line 84**-is the remark section that gives an explanation and reason why this form was generated and sent to you whether step increase or new position or whatever action triggered the form.

The remaining lines I did not explain deal with issues that usually do not affect city carriers. So as you can see this Form 50 has a lot of information on it that deals with your personal information and benefits that you currently have and will earn in the future. It is important that this information is verified and corrected if necessary to avoid problems later in your career. As always if there are any questions or concerns about your pay or benefits please contact your steward and/or the branch office.

**A sample Form 50 can be found on the MSALC Website: [msalc.org](http://msalc.org)**

**Scroll down to locate and print.**

## **Chuck Glover Editor**

The 2022 State Convention probably was the most informative gathering in years. Politics was center stage, even though I dislike politics in general, the speakers and letter carriers were very informative. Active letter carriers should seriously consider the upcoming convention which will be held October 1–4 at Ruttgers Bay Lake Lodge.

Brad Lehto, Vice President of MN AFL-CIO, and Kera Peterson, President of the St. Paul Regional Labor Federation, gave very interesting talks on how their organizations helped to defeat any “right to work” legislation and how the labor movement has seen a 70% increase in NLRB cases since last year (2021). Both Brad and Kera impress us on how the labor movement is working to improve working conditions and sustain a livable wage.

Former Branch 9 President, Samantha Hartwig, who is now a RWCA (regional workers compensation assistant), gave a very informative talk and slide show on E-Comp. Workers Comp has evolved now to where everything is online. Affected carriers can get can see, and get email updates on their comp case. Managers, even the dumbest of the dumb, can follow their instructions and fill out their required online forms and submit in a timely manner. Check it out online.



**Brad Lehto**  
Vice President  
MN AFL-CIO



**Kera Peterson**  
President  
St Paul Regional Labor Federation

THE MINNESOTA LETTER CARRIER  
 Correspondence address:  
 16230 Hyland Ave  
 Lakeville, MN 55044-7681  
 Website: msalc.org

**NON-PROFIT ORG  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 TWIN CITIES, MN  
 PERMIT #32308**



Several years ago I wrote an article about UPS drivers and their "total trucks" which monitored speed, acceleration, braking, seat belt usage, etc. Fast forward to today at USPS. Carriers now clock in on their IMD scanners. These scanners monitor your every move; how long in truck; how far you traveled; some have hidden cameras. They are required to be on their person at all times when on the clock. Coupled with homeowners who have doorbell cameras, letter carriers are being watched constantly. I watched a doorbell cam, where the carrier walked up the mailbox, put the mail in and turned and went about twenty feet, realized he had forgotten one piece, turned toward the house and flipped the mail on the ground and walked away. When called in to explain, he said it was only bulk mail. **SERIOUSLY?!** This type of "amateur hour" cannot continue. Be professional.

Finally, AMAZON. I'm not sure what sweetheart deal Louis DeJoy made with Amazon, but it is literally killing letter carriers. Carriers at some stations being told to only deliver packages and leave first class mail. At Christmas time, carriers were out till 10:30 and 11:00PM delivering at least 80% Amazon pkgs. In my opinion, the NALC hierarchy must "grow a pair" and confront the PMG about the erosion in letter carriers lives. Either limit the percentage of Amazon pkgs being dropped off at post offices, or cap at a certain rate, and charge double when exceeding this rate. If management can tell you what type of mail you get every day, they can detect the percentage of Amazon packages. HEY NATIONAL— GET ON IT!

I will now get off my soapbox. Chuck Glover, Editor