

**NALC BRANCH 111**  
**Minutes of the Regular Union Meeting**  
**November 12, 2020**

**The meeting was conducted on the Internet using Zoom software.**

**Convened** at 6:35 pm

**Pledge of Allegiance** conducted by Mike Wahlquist

Moment of Silence for Kim Lyon and Harry Condas who have passed away.

**Roll Call** by Steve McNees

**Minutes** of the October meeting were posted. Without objection, they will be filed for future reference.

**Reading of the Communications** by Steve McNees.

By letter dated 10/27/20, supervisor Karl Lopez, of the Holladay branch, has notified the branch that he has filed a Whistleblower Complaint with the US Office of Special Council against the union. He charges that Branch 111 is unethical with its application and interpretation of the national agreement. He also claims that the union is blind to the corrective action and management rights Articles. Specifically, he claims the union is clogging the system with repetitive grievances for the same things. He is upset that the union is asking for and receiving monetary remedies for repetitive violations of steward rights. He then cites 3 grievances where the Step B team has given \$700 monetary remedies to the union for repeated violation of his steward's rights. He is concerned that some management people are "just able to keep their heads above water. What level of perfection is attainable?" "I alone cannot decipher all the nuances of the National Agreement."

11/6/20 Letter to Karl Lopez from Mike Wahlquist re: Whistleblower Complaint.

Mike explains that the increasing monetary remedies are for refusing to provide stewards with appropriate steward time and requested documents. This is the result of his long track record of ignoring cease and desist orders that have not stopped repeated Steward rights violations. Surely, management would not be agreeing to these remedies at every step of the grievance procedure, including Arbitration, if the remedies were not proper or necessary. Mike suggested that providing requested union time and documents, according to our agreement, would avoid any future grievances and progressive remedies.

By letter dated 10/9/20, President Rolando informed the branch that Letter Carrier Nathan Chester's daughter, Hannah, had won the William C Doherty Scholarship Award competition. She will receive \$4,000 per year for four years for college. [Hannah thanked the members of Branch 111 for their support.]

**Application for Membership** by Mike Hansen

Amanda Ruiz, Richard Jewell

**LCPF** by Josh Thibodeau – not present

**ORGANIZER** by Justin Lindquist – not present

**LEGISLATIVE** by Chad Mortensen –not present

**TRUSTEES** – Chad Mortensen – not present

Kirk McLaughlin: Everything is looking good. Not much financial activity lately.

**MBA, OWCP, COMPENSATION** by Bob Jewell – excused vacation

**MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY ASSOC.** by Jeremy Bailey – no report

**HEALTH BENEFITS** by Jim Kerekes

Jim has 200 of the 2021 health plan booklets which includes premiums. Contact him if you would like one. Premiums are going up in most plans. Our plan has not had any changes to benefits. Changes can be made until Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>.

**SAFETY AND HEALTH** by Chris Zambos – not present

Chris Zambos has resigned from his position as Safety and Health Director. A new one will be appointed within 30 days.

**DIRECTOR OF RETIREES** by Jeff Asay

If you are on Medicare and NALC Health Benefits, you do not need any Medicare Advantage plan.

No Retiree Activities are planned for this year. There won't be multiple drawings for retirees this December.

**TREASURER** by Mike Madsen

We can now accept credit cards for payments (calendars, tickets, etc.).

We are about \$35,000 under budget instead of the \$60,000+ over budget that was approved in January.

**VICE PRESIDENT** by Amie Gallo

Steward training will be by zoom next Wednesday. It will be open for Q & A during the steward training. •Congratulated Mike Hansen for being elected as the Steward of the Year. Kelly Grater came in 2<sup>nd</sup> place with Dave Tanner in 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

•We are up to date scanning in and updating B Team and Arbitration decisions.

**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT** by Mike Hansen

Mike will send the zoom numbers for steward training to all stewards tonight. •1,366 grievances filed so far this year.

•We are caught up on all grievance recording. •Calendars are still available at the office as stewards are preparing for vacation selections. • Steward shirts have been made and are available at the union office. • Stewards needing help with vacation selection can call the office and/or you can find each office's Local Agreement posted on the branch web site (branch111.com). Each office has different selection procedures. •Lots of carriers are still out delivering today because it is the day after a holiday.

**PRESIDENT** by Mike Wahlquist.

We are over 4,000 COVID cases per day in Utah. Mike caught the virus and was quarantined for 14 days. He thanked Mike Hansen and Amie for a great job filling in for him. • The state has a mask mandate in effect. Some offices still have troubles dealing with masks. Do your best if there is a mask problem and bring it to management's attention if you feel that your safety is in jeopardy (fill out form 1767). • As we have had positive tests in the branch, others in the office are still doing good and not getting infected. • Not many CCA conversions lately.

Vacation selection process.

**SPECIAL ORDERS:**

**Nomination of Delegates to the 2021 Utah State Convention.** Nominations and acceptance of nomination, have been accepted prior to the meeting by means of email, text, phone, mail, or in person. Nominations were opened.

NOMINATED: Russ Shosted, Stormy Blood, Kim Mortensen, Heather Harrison, Kyle Christensen, Kirk McLaughlin, Jeff Assay, Mike Madsen, Keith Warner, Jim Kerekes, Bob Valdez, Mike Hansen, Amie Gallo, Steve Warren, Mike Simonsen, Destiney Carrillo, Monte Jones, Jeremy Bailey.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** none

**NEW BUSINESS:** none

**GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:**

Any retiree wanting a NALC pocket calendar can get them at the office or call/text Jeff Asay to have one mailed to them.

•We have veteran patches for any member who is a veteran. Call the office to get one. Veteran pins are also available, but we need your name to submit to National to get one.

**IMPROVEMENT OF THE SERVICE:** none

**DRAW AND ADJOURN** – 7:26 pm

- \$25 drawing winners: Mike Madsen, Kelly Grater- checks to be mailed
- RETIREES – \$200 (Phillip Schow was not present). Next month it will be \$225
- PROGRESSIVE A - \$300 (Roger Peck was not present). Next month it will be \$325.
- PROGRESSIVE B - \$625 (Dean Weston was not present). Next month it will be \$650.