

NALC BRANCH 111
Minutes of the Regular Union Meeting
March 11, 2021

The meeting was conducted remotely using Zoom software.

Convened at 6:30 pm

Pledge of Allegiance conducted by Mike Simonsen,

Moment of Silence for Carrie Strickland and Jack Raymond who have passed away.

Roll Call by Steve McNees

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

Reading of the Communications by Steve McNees.

none

Application for Membership by Mike Hansen

Simon Zivny, Tanner Jones, Mick Cross, Maxwell Martinez, Bobbie Gallup, Elizabeth Thorson, Alexandria Oliva, Brandon Parker, Austin Rosado, Kelly Sanchez, Robert Pioch, Jacob Williford, Chad Hurst, Julie Montgomery, Faisal Ways, Deirdre Flynn, John Cassidy, Robert Balken II, Daniel Delgado, Susana Miramontes, Ellysha Jones, Connor Jensen, Andrew Kazal, Celeste Neville, Christopher Melendez, James Burke, Hector Garcia

LCPF by Josh Thibodeau – not present

MDA COORDINATOR by Jeremy Bailey

•We are definitely going to have a bowling event later this year when it will be safe. •The summer party will be at the Murray Aquatic Park on either June 26th or June 12th.

LEGISLATIVE by Chad Mortensen

•The state legislative session is done. They created a definition of what an apprenticeship program is (going through trades training, not occupational schooling). •Nationally the House passed the PRO act that protects workers organizing. It is going to the Senate where they are hopeful it will pass. •HR695 & SB145 would eliminate health benefits pre-funding. Contact your legislators and encourage them to vote for these bills. •It is party convention time. You are encouraged to become a delegate for your party. It is the delegates who pick who is running for office. It would be good to pick Letter Carrier friendly and labor friendly candidates.

TRUSTEES by Chad Mortensen

• They met last Tuesday and reviewed last month's books. It went smooth and easy with everything in order. Let trustee know if you have questions about the budget, checks, or would like to see the books.

MBA, COMPENSATION by Bob Jewell

• Changes are coming to ECOMP by August. It will be more user friendly (web based). Users will be able to go online and see all of their information related to their compensation case. Now you can only see the forms. They are trying to get everyone to register with OWCP on ECOMP. If something happens you can quickly get on your phone, tablet, or a computer and file a CA-1 (report of injury). You can also use a computer at work. This will get around management submitting (or not) your claim through Human Resources. Bob advises all active carrier to get registered on ECOMP (www.ecomp.dol.gov).

HEALTH BENEFITS by Jim Kerekes

Nothing new on our national health plan.

ORGANIZER by Justin Lindquist

In the last month he has met with 56 new CCA and signed up 55 of them. One in Holladay hasn't sign up yet.

SAFETY AND HEALTH by Justin Lindquist

Start filling out the form 1767 instead of just arguing about unsafe working conditions with your supervisor. The form documents safety issues. Then make sure they are getting processed. If you fill out a 1767, send a copy to Justin or the union office so he can make sure management is processing and addressing them correctly. Get your office safety captain involved also.

DIRECTOR OF RETIREES by Jeff Asay

Planning on a retiree's dinner probably the end of October or the first part of November. Jeff will be paying for all retirees that go to the steak fry this year (from the retirees' funds). He is also planning a great Christmas party.

TREASURER by Mike Madsen

- LM2, spreadsheets are all made and he is already completing the form. The IRS 990 spreadsheets are done and will be filed electronically (for the first time) this year.

VICE PRESIDENT by Amie Gallo - excused**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT** by Mike Hansen

The Zoom password will be "branch111" for all meetings from now on.

- Grievance report: 550 filed so far this year. •Case filing is all caught up.
- Those 50 and older, BMIs over 30, diabetes and some other conditions can now get vaccinated. By April or May, everyone should be able to get their shots.

Pres. Biden signed the new Covid Rescue bill, similar to Family First, for federal workers who need to use leave for Covid related issues (childcare, school closing, covid, etc). •Another bill was signed for \$570 million allocated for federal workers to use for Covid related problems, including 600 hours of leave. There is also vaccine leave to get vaccinated or for complications with vaccinations. Goes until Sept 30th. There is no more 2/3 limitation as in Family First. The plan can be used for virtual learning for your kids. See nalc.org for more info.

PRESIDENT by Mike Wahlquist

- New Covid Stimulus Plan (posted on nalc.org): It establishes a federal emergency leave fund, for federal and postal employees, replacing the 2020 Family First (FFCA) program that expired December 31st. It provides up to 600 hours of paid leave for each full-time employee with a proportional amount to part time workers. Same covid related reasons as in the FFCA but includes getting vaccinated. This bill has no 2/3 reduction like the previous bill. Workers Compensation language presumes a positive Covid-19 diagnosis for employees as work related. Benefits include medical, disability, and survivor benefits for workers who contract Covid for a 3-year period beginning January 27, 2020. This is very good news !!
- The Executive Board anticipates having a physical branch meeting in May. •Zoom meeting in April. •Planning a June summer party, a steak fry in August, and a retiree party in late fall. •Covid report: cases are way down in our branch. There was trouble at Sandy main office, otherwise there was only a couple others in the last two weeks.

SPECIAL ORDERS:

- Executive board approved a motion to spend up to \$15,000 to renovate the branch office (flooring, paint, etc). It has been at least 25 years since there has been any work done on the office. Motion passed (25 for and 5 against).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: none**NEW BUSINESS:** none**GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:**

- Next year the Grace Carroll Rocky Mountain Labor School will be held in Utah the week of July 14th. This will be a great union activity. •Seventeen USPS districts have been eliminated to save money. The Salt Lake district will be combined with the Las Vegas district. We don't know who will be moving or where.

FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE SERVICE: none**DRAW AND ADJOURN** – 7:32 pm

- \$25 drawing winners: - Steve Warren and Vicky Pfeifer checks to be mailed
- RETIREES – \$300 (Dennis McCrady was not present). Next month it will be \$325
- PROGRESSIVE A - \$400 (Steve Jensen was not present). Next month it will be \$425.
- PROGRESSIVE B - \$50 (Andrew Kazal was not present). Next month it will be \$75.