

NALC BRANCH 111
Minutes of the Regular Union Meeting
January 13, 2022

Convened at 6:33pm

The meeting was also broadcast over Zoom for those unable to attend in person.

Pledge of Allegiance conducted by Phil Rodriquez

Roll Call by Steve McNees

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

Reading of the Communications by Steve McNees

- Received an extension from National, of the dispensations from 2020, to utilize alternative electronic meeting methods through the end of 2022 and meeting scheduling.
- Received four Christmas cards and one thank-you card.

Application for Membership by Mike Hansen

Christopher Mitchell, Kaylie Eddleman, Elysa Reed, Sarah Farley, Kurt Warner, Brian Petterborg, Samuel Cook, Jose Ascu, Zhu Xiao Kun, Kyle Attebery, Jennifer Alvarez, Johnathan Sims, Gareth Davies, Doug Bywater, Brett Coplen

Guest: Nick Vafiades, NBA:

- National is taking an overtime 12/60 case to arbitration to stop the USPS working carriers beyond 12 hours in a day or 60 hours in a week. This is the only way to stop mandatory work over 12/60 to continue. It is up to the carrier to determine if it is safe for them to work beyond these limits even if mandated.
- Mandatory vaccination was overturned by the Supreme Court today.
- The staffing shortage is universal. UPS and Fedex are advertising on tv. It is industry wide. Portland posted to hire 300. They had 89 apply. After interviews and background only 50 remained. The number making it through training was in the teens. Only three made it through the first month. None of them were fired.
- In the beginning PM DeJoy promised President Rolando that non-compliance with the national agreement was a top priority for him. But he had no intent to do so, and hasn't complied. DeJoy does serve an important position. The Postal Reform bills should hit the floor by Feb. 1st. Postal reform is bipartisan and currently there are enough votes in the senate and the house. But, some Republican friends say they won't vote if DeJoy is not in office. When Postal Reform goes to the floor, we all must contact our representative to get them to vote for the bills.
- For the P.O., Covid infections tied the record of Dec. 2020.
- We have a rash of management not giving stewards time and information. We now have a friendly National Labor Relations Board. So, file charges if not given time and information.
- He is having problems with our new district leaders. They are not responding to him or the branch.
- There are negotiations going on to create a joint route inspection process.
- Just out – we are going to be delivering 500,000 home Covid tests kits.
- National Convention and the Rap Session in SLC are still scheduled to happen. There may be a vaccination mandate to attend.
- The CCA mentorship program is working well and should expand soon.

LETTER CARRIER POLITICAL FUND by Josh Thibodeau

Best way to get legislation passed is to donate, or increase your donation, to LCPF. We are the best branch in the region at 17.7% donating.

MDA COORDINATOR by Jeremy Bailey

Amie Gallo and he are looking for volunteers to form a committee to help with preparing for MDA events like at the Rap Session coming to SLC. Suggested events are bowling and axe throwing, Maybe get other unions and branches involved with us. Talk to Jeremy if you are interested in helping.

DIRECTOR OF VETERAN AFFAIRS - Jimmy Fleming – excused/Covid

LEGISLATIVE by Chad Mortensen

- HR 3076, Postal Reform, this will bring oversight to the USPS and eliminate prefunding. We need to get Curtis and Steward on line with us. We are not asking for more funding; we just want to have more oversight in the Postal Service.
- Contact our representatives using their local address, not their national address.
- 17 routes downtown didn't get delivered today. City Council members are supporting us and are asking the union how they can help to get mail delivered.
- The Postal Reform Act is our main priority. It will also allow city and state governments to use postal facilities to provide government services.
- LCPF is making our chances better to get the legislation passed. No union dues go to political activity.
- We support candidates/legislators who support us. We don't support political parties.

TRUSTEES by Chad Mortensen

• They met Tuesday. They got the quarter finished and closed out the year. • Some charges came through Dec. 30th that look questionable and are being followed up on.

MBA, COMPENSATION by Bob Jewell

• Filling out a request for Continuation of Pay for Covid is simple. You can do it at home or work on a CA-1 without a supervisor around. Approval is coming back in less than a day. • Everyone needs to register with OWCP now, not after you get hurt or sick. Covid is an OWCP issue, CA-2 issue, not a reason to use sick leave. Many are using sick leave, just because... Filing the CA-1 can protect you in the future from long term effects that may arise from Covid. • More information will be in the Pavement Pounder. Please call Bob if you have questions or need help. • OWCP/COP cases cannot be cited in discipline.

HEALTH BENEFITS by Jim Kerekes

• The Wellness Incentive Plan provides money, in the form of a debit card, when you complete certain activities such as tobacco cessation (\$50), weight loss program (\$50), and others. You can also get \$50 for sending in a picture of your vaccination document to our health benefits plan. • Starting Saturday, your health insurance will cover getting covid rapid tests from pharmacies.

ORGANIZER by Justin Lindquist –

• 23 new CCAs were in training the last 3 weeks. Only one didn't join the union. • There will be another orientation next week. • We are still over 90% organized.

SAFETY AND HEALTH by Justin Lindquist

The quarterly safety meeting was today. Not much got accomplished because upper management wasn't there.

• Justin is trying to create a network with stewards to keep track of what is going on in each office and create our own safety topics.

DIRECTOR OF RETIREES by Jeff Asay

• It is tax season. OPM will send out your tax documents. The tax forms may be a little late this year. You can check online for your tax info. You will be required to create a new password if you haven't logged in during the last year.

TREASURER by Mike Madsen

• December income was \$28,446 with \$28,115 in expenses. Our end of year net surplus was about \$16,686. • W-2s are available tonight. Those not picked up will be mailed. • The proposed budget is online at branch111.com and will be discussed at next month's meeting.

VICE PRESIDENT by Amie Gallo - excused

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT by Mike Hansen

• In 2021 there were 2,218 grievances filed. 112 grievances have been filed this year. • CA-1 registering with OWCP (ecomp.dol.gov) is easy. The first 3 days after an injury, aren't paid on COP unless you are off more than 14 days. Sundays, non-scheduled, and holidays are considered part of the first three days. • File covid claims now. There may be health problems in the future due to Covid that won't be paid for if you didn't file a claim originally. • Carriers in Sandy haven't been getting a non-sched day off since Thanksgiving. Some are being mandated on Sundays. This is the same in many other offices. • They are paying him to do union work at home, after hours.

PRESIDENT by Mike Wahlquist

• In some places, like California, they have to file grievances because CCAs aren't getting paid because the computer programs can only pay up to 99 hours in a week. • We are still recommending getting vaccinated and boosters. Vets can go to the VA to get their vaccines.

SPECIAL ORDERS:

Reading of Bylaws Proposal: I propose a change to the bylaws, my proposal is to update the bylaws of NALC branch 111 to include attending and voting by way of current technology such as zoom. Submitted by Russ Shosted

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

• The B team sustained a grievance from Downtown by Stormy Blood regarding a supervisor making illegal changes to carrier time rings. The remedy was to pay \$50 for each of the 1,600 time rings changed by the supervisor. The supervisor is still supervising Downtown.

FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE SERVICE: none

DRAW AND ADJOURN – 8:13 pm

- \$25 drawing winners: Spencer Heinz, Russ Shosted
- RETIREES – \$150 (George Westerman was not present). Next month it will be \$175
- PROGRESSIVE A - \$125 (Nathan Fetzer was not present). Next Meeting it will be \$150
- PROGRESSIVE B - \$25 (Anna Davis was not present). Next Meeting it will be \$50