

**NALC BRANCH 111**  
**Minutes of the Regular Union Meeting**  
**November 10, 2022**

**Convened** at 6:32 pm

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

**Pledge of Allegiance** conducted by Mike Simonsen

**Moment of Silence** for Dennis Bramble, David Cracroft and Keith (Rusty) Guernsey, who have passed away.

**Roll Call** by Steve McNees

**Minutes** of the Oct. 2022 union meeting were posted. Without objection, they will be filed for future reference.

**Reading of the Communications** – Steve McNees

- National sent notice of the NALC Advanced Formal A and Beyond Training Sessions held in Maryland. The next classes are Jan. 7-13, 2023 and Feb. 4-10, 2023. There will be 2 fall classes in Sept. and Oct. 2023.

**Application for Membership** by Mike Hansen

- Julia Garcia, Melanie Smith, Thomas Moza, John Enciso, Alejandro Ruiz, Robert Yglesias, Betty Knowlden, Zachary Thorne, Alisha Bultez, Ryan Jones, Miranda Rankin, Stanlynn Bartley, Vincent Williams, Jose Aceves, Kenneth Richins, Anthony Farias

**LETTER CARRIER POLITICAL FUND** by Josh Thibodeau – excused

**MDA COORDINATOR** by Jeremy Bailey

- Last week at Regional Rap Session we raised over \$5,000 for MDA. Four other branches at Rap Session brought the total raised to over \$10,000. So far this year, the branch has raised over \$9,600 for MDA.

**DIRECTOR OF VETERAN AFFAIRS** - Jimmy Fleming

- Tomorrow is Veterans Day. Call/email Jimmy if you or a friend have questions about VA benefits.

**LEGISLATIVE** by Chad Mortensen

- Branch 111 is being recognized politically as an entity that people want to help us and get our support. The USPS is the most trusted federal agency.
- Last week was the Utah Legislative Gun Shoot. The NALC was represented by Dee Frankland (president of a Washington state branch) who came to represent our union (because rap session was at the same time). She had never shot a gun before, but came to learn more about what is going on legislatively. She, Rep. Jim Dunnigan, Rep. Handy, and Chad took third place. Next year we will try to have more teams.
- **This year a bill is being introduced in Utah that will prohibit companies from deducting union dues automatically from employees pay checks.** This is union busting legislation that we will have to fight this year.

**TRUSTEES** by Chad Mortensen

- The Trustees will meet Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm.

**MBA, COMPENSATION** by Bob Jewell

- Thanks to members in our branch who are helping injured carriers get their compensation forms filed properly rather than leaving it to management to do (many errors and omissions). If you don't complete your forms on line a manager will do it for you using your paper forms. In one case Bob helped fix errors where a manager turned in a paper CA-1 form and the staff who entered the form digitally got the name backwards and the date of injury wrong.
- It is very important for every carrier to get registered with OWCP so they can quickly record an injury (even while still on the route) and get medical treatment immediately.
- It is winter, be careful.

**HEALTH BENEFITS** by Jim Kerekes

- Open season start Monday and ends Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>. Any changes have to be turned in before 10pm on the 12<sup>th</sup>.
- For those on Medicare: Medicare part D is the government prescription plan. If you have Medicare and Part B, getting part D is double coverage and not needed.
- For next year, NALC is offering a High Option Plan for annuitants - Aetna Medicare Advantage. You would still have to pay your NALC premiums. No additional charges for Aetna. Plus, there is a \$75 reduction, per person, each month for Part B premiums. It has unlimited physical, occupational, and speech therapy visits. Dental and vision needs more research. In the Aetna plan the medicine costs are about the same as NALC HB.

**ORGANIZER** by Justin Lindquist – not present

**SAFETY AND HEALTH** by Justin Lindquist

**DIRECTOR OF RETIREES** by Jeff Asay

- Blake Mellor was recognized as a new retiree and presented an NALC Retirement Watch.

- Tomorrow is Veterans Day. Veterans at the meeting were asked to stand and be recognized (about 12-14 stood, several more were on Zoom).
- Please contact Jeff or the office if an active or retired member passes away. There is a lot of paperwork and benefits available that we can help their families with.
- The NALC prescription plan is equivalent to or better (pays more) than the Medicare Part D option.

**TREASURER** by Mike Madsen –

Last month's financial activity was available to all attending the meeting. Last month: Income was \$26,370, Payroll was \$26,000.

**VICE PRESIDENT** by Amie Gallo – no report

**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT** by Mike Hansen

- 1,818 grievances have been filed so far this year.
- Mike and Amie Gallo have been scanning Step B grievance files so that they are easily accessible. They also filed thousands of grievance files over the last week.
- Buckle up and stay safe.

**PRESIDENT** by Mike Wahlquist

- Mike has had Covid for the last 2 weeks (3<sup>rd</sup> time). He thanked Mike Hansen and Amie Gallo for holding down the office and scanning and filing all the grievances. This was done while Justin Lindquist was laying new flooring in the branch office.
- It is the holiday season and we are way under staffed.

**SPECIAL ORDERS:** none

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** none

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- A motion was made: If your name is on the Steward of the Year Plaque and you go into management, your name will be removed from the plaque. A motion to amend was made: to just cover the name with a "void" sticker. The amendment to the motion failed. The original motion also failed.

**GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:**

The training at the Regional Rap Session was exceptional. We should try and send more people to the Rap Session in Coeur D'alene next year.

**FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE SERVICE:**

**DRAW AND ADJOURN** – 7:45 pm

- Drawings for 20 Turkeys (Costco gift cards): Kim Mortensen, Has Haslam, Mike Wahlquist, Bob Valdez, Eric Grotepas, Kirk McLaughlin, Alan Nagata, Mike Madsen, Robert Cottrell, Stormy Blood, Chad Mortensen, Gerald Maxfield, Jonny Johnson, Keith Warner, Courtney Chatterton, Marv Jewell, Steve Warren, Tim Gallo, Phil Rodriquez, Bill Craig.
- \$25 drawing winners were Amie Gallo and Destiney Carrillo
- RETIREES – \$200 (4,15 Timothy Martinez was not present). Next month it will be \$225
- PROGRESSIVE A - \$375 (2,40 Melinda Bird was not present). Next Meeting it will be \$400
- PROGRESSIVE B - \$275 (15,34 David Polster was not present). Next Meeting it will be \$300