

NALC BRANCH 111
Minutes of the Regular Union Meeting
December 8, 2022

Convened at 6:34 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 Melvin Frank Spilker (6/18/2021), Harry Weir (10/7/2021), Ronald Van Ry (11/27/22), Closs Stewart (2/10/2019), and Thomas Hamilton (10/16/2020) who have passed away. Frank Saltzgiver

Roll Call by Steve McNees

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

Reading of the Communications – Steve McNees

- We submitted donations from the Steak Fry, Labor Day Picnic, and the Bowl-a-Thon to the MDA for a total of \$7,674.
- Four branch officers and stewards' requests to attend Advanced Formal A and Beyond Training in Maryland were denied because the classes were full.

Application for Membership by Mike Hansen

- none

LETTER CARRIER POLITICAL FUND by Josh Thibodeau – excused working

MDA COORDINATOR by Jeremy Bailey

- We have raised over \$9,000 this year. Jeremy will donate the rest of his budget to MDA to put us above \$11,000 donated this year. This is the largest amount our branch has ever donated to MDA in a year.

DIRECTOR OF VETERAN AFFAIRS - Jimmy Fleming

- He has veteran patches for any veteran wishing to have one. You can contact him at veteransaffairs@branch111.com to request one.
- The Wounded Warrior Program has additional/increased compensation available to some. Contact Jimmy for more information.

LEGISLATIVE by Chad Mortensen

- The railroad workers are getting hosed by congress much like letter carriers in 1970. Dec 13th at 11:30am a rally will be held on Capitol Hill (top of State St.) to support railroad workers. Also write congressmen and legislators (Utah's are not supporting them) to support their cause.
- We fought and got 6-day delivery, funding & pre-funding. Now CCAs and casuals need to get retirement credit for all time worked. The Federal Retirement Fairness Act (HR 4268 - will probably change numbers next year) will accomplish this. Chad will lobby next year, especially at Hill AFB and the IRS. Phil Rodriguez is working with 7 other states. They need us (retired and active carriers) to speak up about the years they were not able to buy back their time.

TRUSTEES by Chad Mortensen

- The trustees met Tuesday and went through 3 months of books. There were a few issues (couple of checks without warrants and a debit card disbursement in the wrong folder). Thanked everyone for doing a good job of recording all info on their expense reports. The branch is doing well financially.

MBA, COMPENSATION by Bob Jewell

- Bob is busy which isn't good because that means carriers are getting hurt. Make sure you get everyone to register now with the Dept of Labor (<https://owcp.dol.gov/>) so they are prepared to fill out the CA-1 on their phone even while still on their route.
- Please be safe.

HEALTH BENEFITS by Jim Kerekes

- Monday is the deadline to change insurance plans. For retirees: The new NALC High Option - Etna Medicare Advantage plan (PPO CO4 CSA plan - extended service area plan). You have to have Medicare parts A & B first. You get a new Medicare card when you sign up. You have to call every doctor or hospital billing department to make sure they will bill Etna. They also must accept Medicare. The billing dept. has to follow the instructions on the back of your new Medicare card. IHC and Alta View Hospital will bill Aetna.
- Medicine downside is that you have to call Aetna to see if your medication is in their preferred generic drug list. If so, it will cost you nothing.
- There is no deadline to sign up. It takes effect the month after you sign up. You can join or quit at any time and go back to NALC high option & Medicare. The plan gives \$900 per person per year to help pay Medicare part B costs. They have some dental, vision, and hearing benefits and the Silversneakers fitness program.

ORGANIZER by Justin Lindquist – not present

SAFETY AND HEALTH by Justin Lindquist

DIRECTOR OF RETIREES by Jeff Asay

- Jeff went to Fairview today with other officers to award a 60-year Service Pin and certificate to Jim Christensen (92 years old).
- Jeff has 11 presents that Santa Claus will draw names to award from the retiree roll. The money comes from money left over in the retiree's fund. Those on zoom can pick their present up at the branch office. The presents contain checks for \$100 (10) and one for \$500.

TREASURER by Mike Madsen –

- If you get a check tonight, don't forget to put your name on the payee line to be able to cash it.
- We received \$31,531 for progressive permissive remedies (article 17/31 violations) since 2020. Thanks to Stormy Blood.
- Income last month was \$44,991 which is more than normal because of progressive remedies of \$13,200.
- We brought in \$4,422 more than we spent last month.
- We approved a budget with a deficit of \$40,000 for this year, but we are currently \$45,000 under budget.

VICE PRESIDENT by Amie Gallo – no report**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT** by Mike Hansen

- 2,014 grievances filed so far this year.
- We are trying to get more members on our Facebook page (NALC BRANCH 111)
- Training for stewards is on the 21st.
- Our annual leave is credited on the first day of the 1st complete pay period of the new year. It will be on the 14th of January this coming year (pay period 3).
- Joe Horsley was given his Regional Steward Plaque for completing his 4th year of Steward College.

PRESIDENT by Mike Wahlquist

- Thanked Amie Gallo and her daughter for Christmas decorations in our office (1st time in a long time).
- Last week they took a 60-year pen to the family of Ronald Van Ry who passed away just over a week ago.
- There have been quite a few CCA conversions the last couple of months.
- The postal service is massively under-staffed. The Salt Lake Installation needs 140 CCAs but only has 35. Priority is to get parcels delivered while routes are not getting delivered. Management is also delivering mail.
- The post office is not hiring because our contract ends next May and they are waiting to use it as a bargaining chip. Other places are worse than in Utah.
- What is the maximum hours during the December exclusion period? The ODL can work beyond 12. All others (includes PTFs, CCAs, etc.) are limited to 11.5 hours plus ½ hour lunch. Scott Canfield sent out notice to management that everyone is excluded and can be worked over 11.5 hours. Mike is already filing a grievance. Stewards should all be filing grievances for each non-ODL carrier worked over 11 ½ hours. More progressive remedies will probably be requested.

SPECIAL ORDERS: none

- Proposed Bylaws Change (read only- discuss/vote on next month): That we strike all language in the Bylaws that currently says “Step O” and replace each such citation with the language “Step P”.
- A Motion was made and approved by the Executive Board, to raise the President's 120 Days fund by \$5,000 with the money to come from the steward training fund. The motion passed unanimously

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: none**NEW BUSINESS:** none**GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:****FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE SERVICE:****DRAW AND ADJOURN** – 7:58 pm

- \$25 drawing winners were Ray Kosierowski and Kelly Grater
- RETIREES – \$225 (Gary Thorne was present and won). Next month it will be \$25
- PROGRESSIVE A - \$400 (Scott Gunther was not present). Next Meeting it will be \$425
- PROGRESSIVE B - \$300 (Julie Montgomery was not present). Next Meeting it will be \$325

HAM DRAWING WINNERS (\$25 gift cards)

Alisha Chadwick, Joseph Rivera, Stan Neering, Jeff Asay, Joe Horsley, Jennifer Ogden, Brent Console, Bill Craig, Amie Gallo, Bob Valdez, Clementine Alvey, Steven Franz, Stan Burmood, Rocket Ron Hermansen, Arlynn Venema, Bob Jewell, Steve McNees, Aaron Johnson, Mike Miller, Gary Thorne

RETIREE CHRISTMAS DRAWING

\$500 Winner: Keith Warner

\$100 Winners: Eldon Butters, Gus Rohrbach, Jonnie Johnson, Sheila Davis, Rocket Ron Hermansen, Rick Watson, Randy Baker, Craig Ball, Stan Burmood, Yvonne Madsen