

NALC BRANCH 111
Minutes of the Regular Union Meeting
January 12, 2023

Convened at 6: pm

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

Conducting: Mike Hansen, Executive Vice President

Pledge of Allegiance conducted by Mike Simonsen

Moment of Silence for Danny Giles who passed away.

Roll Call by Steve McNees

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

Reading of the Communications – Steve McNees

- We received \$9,485.90 from the Utah Labor Center Owners Assoc. from the sale of property east of the labor center.
- Gerald Maxfield's string was changed with his agreement. • We received the official 2022 summary of votes for National Officers. • We received acknowledgement from the MDA, for 3 donations totalling \$7,624 for 2022.
- We received Holiday/Christmas Cards from the MDA, the Coby family, our National Officers, Jodi Miller (Monarch Dental), Utah State AFL-CIO officers and staff, and the Ironworkers Local 27 officers and staff.

Application for Membership by Mike Hansen

- Allyssa Monserret, Rolando Jones, Brenda Groesbeck, Johnny Hackford, Zachariah Straw, Austin Swensen, Antwain Stutson, Joseph Davis, Steven Komperda, Alison Steele, Peyton Nicholas, Grace Ghazaleh, Adrean Capulet.
- Jude Eaton was sworn in as a new member.

Special Guest Speaker: John Beaumont (NALC Legislative and Political Organizer)

We have a new congress but that is nothing to worry about because a lot of good work was started in the last congress to protect our rights and move on as letter carriers. We have support for our issues from both sides of Congress. They are working hard to get the Windfall Elimination provision passed within the next 2-4 years. • Health Benefits are changing with the inclusion of Medicare. We will work to see that no FHB benefits are lost in the process. Veterans' health benefits are through the FHB also and we are working to protect and increase their benefits also. We need to protect the benefits we have. We protect our benefits through legislation. We treat every single letter carrier equally by protecting their benefits. This is done, not by dues, but through legislation. They are working on a bill to allow non-career time to be included in retirement calculations (affects 60% of our membership).

Sign up to give to the LCPF to protect our rights and futures. • We are one of only 4 unions in the nation that still has a COLA. It is ours through legislation.

LETTER CARRIER POLITICAL FUND (LCPF) by Josh Thibodeau – not present

MDA COORDINATOR by Jeremy Bailey – No report.

DIRECTOR OF VETERAN AFFAIRS - Jimmy Fleming

- He will have a couple of articles in the next Pavement Pounder.

LEGISLATIVE by Chad Mortensen

- Senator Karen Mayne has relinquished her seat in the senate. She will be missed. Her possible replacements have been endorsed by the AFL-CIO. • Chad is focusing with labor caucuses to improve our retirement benefits for transitional type employees and for other federal workers (like the IRS). You can help by donating to LCPF.

TRUSTEES by Chad Mortensen

- They met Tuesday and finished up all of 2022. Everything was found and looked good.
- One issue is how to account for MDA money that is coming in. Money going out is handled properly.

MBA, COMPENSATION by Bob Jewell

- On Jan. 27th, COVID rules are changing. FICA Covid cases will be handled differently. The ARPA program made it easy to be covered. This ends on Jan. 27th. • Those diagnosed with Covid after the 27th will have to file CA-2 rather than a CA-1 (will not be used anymore). This is because there is no clear, identifiable incident(s), over a single day or work shift, to which an injured worker can specifically attribute the alleged incident/events that caused their Covid-19. To file a Compensation claim (CA-1) you will have to file within time limits (within 3 years usually), be a federal employee, provide medical evidence of diagnosis of Covid-19, show it happened in the course of duty, and show a relationship between your Covid and work. It will be very hard to get a doctor to certify that you got covid in the line of duty.

HEALTH BENEFITS by Jim Kerekes

- A new postal health benefits overview is being sent out to retirees.
- The Postal Service Health Benefits Program will become effective in 2025.

ORGANIZER by Justin Lindquist – not present**SAFETY AND HEALTH** by Justin Lindquist – not present**DIRECTOR OF RETIREES** by Jeff Asay

- The retiree's annual budget comes from retiree dues only. Usually, there is around \$8,000 in the budget each year (from retirees) which is used for retiree activities during the year.
- 2023 Calendar: Retiree Dinner the end of April. The Steak Fry (no date yet). Retirees' tickets will be paid for out of the retiree fund. Retiree drawings are paid out of the retiree fund only.

TREASURER by Mike Madsen –

- Copies of the newly proposed budget were made available tonight. The budget is not complete (costs for some classes and trainings haven't been announced yet) but will be discussed and voted on next month.
- December's income was \$27,987. We spent \$11,185 more than we brought in last month.
- We have about \$260,000 in savings.

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

- About 2,400 grievances were filed in 2022.
- Leave for this year is credited on Jan. 14th.
- There was a lot of discipline for attendance. Carriers working extended hours/days, with bad working conditions, and no leave caused an increase in sick leave use. This has created a lot of grievances to be filed.

PRESIDENT by Mike Wahlquist • Excused**SPECIAL ORDERS:**

- A Proposed Bylaws Change was Read (discussion and vote next month): Article 4, Section 8 will add: *The Vice President shall work in the Branch 111 Office two days each month during the normal operating hours of Branch 111.* Article 8, Section 7.B will be replaced with: *The Vice President shall receive a monthly salary of 40 hours at NALC City Carrier Grade 2, Step O, Carrier Technician rate.*
- A Proposed Bylaw Change was voted on: *That we strike all language in the Bylaws that currently says "Step O" and replace each such citation with the language "Step P".* The motion passed.

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

We currently have a new bylaws committee to review and suggest changes to improve the language in our bylaws. Let Jeff Asay know if you have anything to add, change, or just make suggestions. You may attend their meeting next Thursday at 6:30pm. The bylaws are on our website (branch111.com) under Member Resources.

FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE SERVICE: none**DRAW AND ADJOURN** – 7:37 pm

- \$25 drawing winners were Aaron Johnson and Mike Madsen
- RETIREES – \$25 (Chad Fenwick was not present). Next month it will be \$50
- PROGRESSIVE A - \$425 (Cheryl Madill was not present). Next Meeting it will be \$450
- PROGRESSIVE B - \$325 (Christian Gomez was not present). Next Meeting it will be \$350