

NALC BRANCH 111
Minutes of the Regular Union Meeting
April 13, 2023

Convened at 6:30 pm

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

Conducting: Mike Wahlquist, President

Pledge of Allegiance conducted by Mike Simonsen

Moment of Silence for John Zambos who passed away.

Roll Call by Steve McNees

Minutes of the March 2023 union meeting were posted. Without objection, they will be filed for future reference.

Reading of the Communications – Steve McNees

- The Utah Labor Community Services is sponsoring a Golf Tournament on June 9, 2023 at The Ridge Golf Club in West Valley. There will be lunch, awards, and raffle drawings.
- We received the Union Labor Center Owners Association Balance sheet.
- We received the Agenda and Minutes of the Union Labor Center homeowners Assoc. meeting held in April.
- Jay Reupena, Stormy Blood, Kim Mortensen, and Destiney Carrillo received confirmation to attend the NALC Advanced Formal A and Beyond Training in Maryland in September.

Application for Membership by Mike Hansen

- Jessica Luna, Jacob Morrison, Shawna Butts, Mariah Kraft, David Reyna Rodriguez, Olivia Young, Tristan Rodriguez, Jose Sandoval-Sanchez, Anthony Gomes, Logen Garner, Joshua Lozano, Jeremiah Garner, Kylie Ardelean, Scott Newman, Alexander Christensen, Scott Evans

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

MDA COORDINATOR by Jeremy Bailey – not present

DIRECTOR OF VETERAN AFFAIRS - Jimmy Fleming – not present

LEGISLATIVE by Chad Mortensen

- Chad and two others were in DC for 2 days meeting with our legislators or their aides. They were able to educate the new aides. Senate bill S957 (windfall elimination) was one of the bills discussed. Our representatives need to hear from the retired carriers to know we are all concerned. The buyback of time worked as TE's and casuals for retirement was discussed, but hasn't been a bill presented this year.
- Almost election time in Utah. Everyone should get involved in your party's meetings.
- The AFL-CIO elections are coming up soon.

TRUSTEES by Chad Mortensen

- The trustees met Tuesday and reviewed 2 months of books. Chad requested that members and officers deposit their checks in a timely manner.

MBA, COMPENSATION by Bob Jewell

- There are big changes coming to OWCP. They are hiring more employees to handle disability, claim loss, medical bills, health insurance payments, and overpayment. There is now an Escalation Bar on the OWCP website that you can request a claims examiners help. You leave a message requesting help. They have 2 days to respond. If they don't respond in two days you can submit your request again and it goes to the supervisor who has two days to respond. If they don't respond in two days you can appeal even higher.
- When you first fill out a CA-1 you have had 30 days to get your medical documentation in. It is now 60 days. Call your claims examiner and let them know you have submitted your documentation so it doesn't just sit for 60 days.

Mike Wahlquist turned the gavel over to Mike Hansen so he could attend a family activity.

HEALTH BENEFITS by Jim Kerekes

- It appears that OPM will be responsible for active and retired employee claims in the future. If you don't sign up timely in the new system you will be assigned to a plan similar to your last plan.
- HR isn't going to be able to handle all of the new plans. Make sure they have your current address.
- The money put in the retiree's future benefits fund will be put into the new plan to help fund the new program.

ORGANIZER by Justin Lindquist – not present

SAFETY AND HEALTH by Justin Lindquist – not present

DIRECTOR OF RETIREES by Jeff Asay

- April 26th is the Retiree Dinner at the Draper Chuck-A-Rama. Each retiree and one guest at free. Contact Jeff if you need a ride.
- Do not try to call OPM. It takes many hours to get someone to talk to. Learn how to login to OPM on

your computer/phone and learn how to use it. Keep your login information and passwords in a safe place where you can find them. As soon as you get your CSA number and temporary password – login in and set up your complete OPM account.

TREASURER by Mike Madsen

- Checks have gone out to those attending state convention.
- There was \$28,000 income last month which was \$2,000 more than we spent.

VICE PRESIDENT (vacant)

- Amie Gallo was appointed as a Regional Grievance Assistant. She will work in the NBA's office in Washington state.

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT by Mike Hansen

- 869 grievances filed so far this year.
- The branch has Branch Hoodies for sale. They are \$25 each. Call or text Mike Hansen if you order one to give him your size. They can be paid for on the branch website (branch111.com) under "Donations, Purchases, and Payments."
- Food drive – everything is going great. It is May 13th this year. The steward will meet on April 27th to prepare the bags and cards to be distributed to the offices.
- We are sending 27 stewards to steward college this year. This is the best we have ever done.
- If anything abnormal happens to a letter carrier, call Mike Hansen and he will help you through the issue. Same goes if you are being called into a management investigation alone.
- Get everything out of your vehicle that may be banned from postal property (if you park on postal property). This includes guns, other weapons, drugs, etc. They have been requesting employee's keys and inspecting their cars.
- Advos are going away. They have already stopped sending them in several communities.
- If you are having trouble logging in to LiteBlue, don't let it wait too long to get help. If you don't have a pin number, immediately ask for a temporary one from your manager.

PRESIDENT by Mike Wahlquist

- They had an owners meeting where they talked about the property behind our building that was sold. They also discussed the heating/cooling system which needs to be replaced. There is a \$600,000 bid currently for just the heating boilers.
- New hires will likely make regular within 6 months in Salt Lake. Now is a good time to let friends know the USPS is hiring. People who take the postal exam need to be made aware that if they fail to complete even one question on the exam, they will automatically fail. Make sure to answer every question.

SPECIAL ORDERS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Bylaws Amendment:** Jeff Asay discussed the proposed changes to the bylaws. They mostly just updated the old language by changing pronouns. There were consolidations in places such as the presidential duties that were scattered throughout the bylaws. They are now combined into one article for clarity. The president is a letter carrier and the branch pays him the same benefits as an active carrier. The language wasn't clearly stated in one place, it now is. Copies of the new bylaws were available to everyone on the back table and by email last week. There was a Motion to adopt these changes to the bylaws. All changes will have to go to National for their approval. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Nominations of Delegates to the AFL-CIO Convention** June 23rd. Nominations were opened. Nominations will remain open until next month's meeting. Nominees: Kirk McLaughlin, Chad Mortensen, Jim Kerekes, Kim Mortensen, Mike Simonsen, Mike Hansen, Keith Warner, Trey Terry
- **Motion to combine/move the money allotted to Steward College** to the State Convention fund. This will fully fund the State Convention. The Steward College expenses would then be paid using \$8,341 money set aside from the branch Training Fund along with \$1,271 from the general fund (part of this motion). The total is not to exceed \$15,211.71. The motion as presented, not to exceed \$15,211, passed without amendment.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

- The NALC Step B team will be at the Stewards College. Those at training will be able to ask them how they came to a settlement on one or more of their grievances.

FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE SERVICE:

DRAW AND ADJOURN – 7:51 pm

- \$25 drawing winners: Blake Mellor and Mike Simonsen

- RETIREES – \$100 (Cary Webb was not present). Next month it will be \$125.
- PROGRESSIVE A - \$500 (Mary Wilcox Riggs was not present). Next Meeting it will be \$525.
- PROGRESSIVE B - \$400 (Jeremy Manwell was not present). Next Meeting it will be \$425.

- BRANCH HOODIE - Spencer Heinz