

**NALC BRANCH 111**  
**Minutes of the Regular Union Meeting**  
**August 10, 2023**

**Convened** at 6:32 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 Bruce Morgan and Robert Taylor who passed away.

**Roll Call** by Steve McNees

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

**Reading of the Communications** by Steve McNees

- Letter from Region requesting a phone call from Pres. Wahlquist.
- An invitation from Ironworkers Local 27 to their 2023 Golf Tournament to be held Sept. 23rd, 8 am, at Fox Hollow Golf Course. Contact Destiny at 801-972-5714.
- A letter of condolence and a packet of information was sent to Bruce Morgan's wife concerning Bruce's passing away.
- Alta L Crane, daughter of branch member Michael Hayes was chosen as one of five winners of the 2023 William C Doherty Scholarship Award competition. This award consists of \$4,000 per year for four years for each winner.
- National President Brian Renfroe announced that he is healthy and has resumed his duties.
- Newly retired member, Flame Weinmaster, has moved to Colorado and wishes to have his membership transferred to Branch 229.

**Application for Membership** by Mike Hansen

None

**BRANCH LIASON WITH MDA - Joey Wiscome**

- There isn't much to do locally anymore since MDA is now run on a national level. He is volunteering with Project Strong to help with summer camp. He also helped with a carnival and other kid's activities which he loves doing.

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

**MDA COORDINATOR** by Jeremy Bailey – not present

**DIRECTOR OF VETERAN AFFAIRS** by Jimmy Fleming – no report

**LEGISLATIVE** by Chad Mortensen

- Get involved in the Special Election in District 2. Chad supports and would recommend Becky Edwards.
- If you write to a local leader, Chad recommends that you write to them on a post card, to their local office.
- Bruce Morgan was a great example for contacting his local and national representatives (we will miss him).

**TRUSTEES** by Chad Mortensen

- The Trustees met Tuesday. Nothing eventful popped up. Madsen and Wahlquist are doing a great job. Bills are getting paid, and we have money in the bank.

**MBA, COMPENSATION** by Bob Jewell

- People are still getting hurt. Supervisors are still pushing some carriers to the point where they are working unsafely.
- Some supervisors who know how to give out compensation forms, aren't doing it.
- Stewards, be sure that all the carriers in your office are registered with OWCP, through ecomp, so when they get injured, they can go right to their phones while still on the street and complete a CA-1. When they get back to the office the supervisor should have the report and give them a CA-16.
- Some managers are saying that they don't have to give you a CA-16. Contact Bob to confirm you are being given the correct information by supervisors and the compensation office.

**HEALTH BENEFITS** by Jim Kerekes

- Many have signed up for benefits/insurance/programs before retirement, then don't find out until they retire what the costs are for the benefits they have applied for over the years. Many go up as you get older (like life insurance) and people aren't aware of it until they retire, realizing they should have cancelled it years ago.
- Jim gave examples of how rates go up as you get older.
- It pays to review your whole history at the USPS, from time to time, so that you can track the changes in rates and fees.
- Life insurance goes up when you are 35 and goes up a lot once you hit 55 and more at retirement age.

**ORGANIZER** by Justin Lindquist – not present

**SAFETY AND HEALTH** by Justin Lindquist – not present

**DIRECTOR OF RETIREES** by Jeff Asay

- Jeff expressed how Bruce Morgan was a great and honorable guy. Carriers are the most visible representatives of the U.S. government. Be like Bruce.
- Retirees, if you do not have Medicare part B currently, you will not be required to

sign up for it during the changes next year. But you will have 8 months to sign up for part B for free, if you will need it. More information will be coming out before the changes. If you have questions, you can call Jeff Asay or Jim Kerekes for help and answers to your questions. • You will need to make a choice of health plans by the Fall of 2024. If you haven't made a choice, OPM will assign you to a health plan similar to the one you currently have.

• You should log into your OPM account regularly (at least once a year) so that your credentials (passwords, etc.) do not expire (creating new ones is not fun). • Aug. 26<sup>th</sup> is the Steak Fry. Jeff will pay for the retirees and a guest. There will be retiree only drawings for cash prizes totalling \$1,500. You also get a ticket for the other drawings for the evening. • A second retiree dinner will be held Oct 25<sup>th</sup> 3:30 to 5:30pm at the Draper Chuck-a-Rama. This is to make up for many not being aware of the first dinner.

**TREASURER** by Mike Madsen

• no report, we had \$5,000 more income than we had expenses last month.

**VICE PRESIDENT** by Destiney Carrillo – excused, no report

**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT** by Mike Hansen

• 1,684 grievances assigned so far this year. • The Steak Fry is Aug 26<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are available now. Text or email Mike Hansen or Mike Wahlquist to get tickets. You can also purchase tickets on the branch web site (branch111.com) and print out or save a copy of the receipt. • Sept 4 – Labor Day Picnic at the Magna Park. We will be selling hot dogs and hamburgers. • Sept 20<sup>th</sup> is the Steward Dinner. Let Mike know if you are coming or not (please!).

Two days later there is a Bees game on Friday Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>. Text Mike to get tickets. • Oct. 25 is the retiree's dinner.

• At the Sept union meeting we will have Nominations for National Convention delegates. • At the October Union Meeting we will have election of delegates to National Convention. We will also have nominations for Branch Officers at the October Union Meeting. • Announcement of Branch Officers election results will be at the December Union Meeting. • The Region 2 office will have Backlog Teams meetings with offices (mainly small offices without strong leadership) throughout the region to work on problems they are having with management. They are meeting with all employees to fight the problems together.

**PRESIDENT** by Mike Wahlquist

• At the Labor Day picnic at the Magna Park, they will have a car show and you will be able to see all the different laborers that will be there. Help serving food is still needed. • The Ironworkers ran the building for about 20 years until about 2021. The building is getting older and two of the unions are complaining about the running of the building. The AFL-CIO was running the building HOA without pay. They have resigned as the leaders. Nobody wants to fill the positions. One of recommendations is that HOA leadership will get paid for doing the work. • The heating and air conditioning is supposed to get fixed before winter. • We are not going to be charged by the HOA for our training room that we share with the rest of the building.

**SPECIAL ORDERS:** none

• A motion was made to allow retired branch member Flame Weinmaster to transfer his membership to Colorado, branch 229. The motion passed.

**FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE SERVICE:**

• Make sure you drink enough water (but not too much). • The TAP act has been extended until Monday to help injured veterans. The VA will help you fill out the paperwork, making it very easy to get payment for past injuries.

**DRAW AND ADJOURN** – 7:45 pm

- \$25 drawing winners: Brock Lister and Alisha Satini
- RETIREES – \$200 (Jim Christensen was not present). Next month it will be \$225.
- PROGRESSIVE A - \$600 (Ray Berrett was not present). Next Meeting it will be \$625.
- PROGRESSIVE B - \$500 (Christopher Garrett was not present). Next Meeting it will be \$525.