

**NALC BRANCH 111**  
**Minutes of the Regular Union Meeting**  
**November 9, 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

**Roll Call** by Steve McNees

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

**Reading of the Communications** by Steve McNees

- From District Manager in Nevada: Notice of the impacts expected as mail processing in Provo is moved to Nevada. 31 full-time residual vacancies, from all crafts, within 50 miles from Provo, will be filled by excessing employees in Provo.

**Application for Membership** by Mike Hansen

- David Evans, Ali Mahmoud, Jimmy Underwood, Bruce Kanirie, Tara Lundgren, Sherisse Johnson, Brock Neilson, Malorie Everett, Brett Nelson, Christina Seegmiller, Michael La, Cassandra Olivares, Daniel Trujillo, Jeffrey Bailey, Parker Buchanan, Erick Van, Sampath Malalage, Judson Rideout

**LETTER CARRIER POLITICAL FUND (LCPF)** by Josh Thibodeau

- A couple more members have signed up for LCPF. • The Federal Retirement Fairness Act, has been reintroduced in the House. It would allow employees to buy back time spent in non-career status (casual, CCA, etc) to add to their retirement fund.

**MDA COORDINATOR** by Jeremy Bailey

- Jeremy helped raise \$660 for MDA at the Regional Rap Session plus another \$160 on Venmo.

**DIRECTOR OF VETERAN AFFAIRS** by Jimmy Fleming

- The USPS is sending out Challenge Coins to all veterans this year. • Nov 11<sup>th</sup> is Veterans Day. Free events are being held in Draper and a parade in Layton.

**LEGISLATIVE** by Chad Mortensen

- Federal Fairness Retirement Act – HR 5995 will allow people to buy back their time as non-career employees. There are 10 Republicans and 11 Democrats who have already signed on. None are from Utah, so call or write your representative and ask for their support.
- The AFL-CIO and Central Fed do the groundwork for us and vet local politician. Our union is unable to give money to politicians or election campaigns. So, we have LCPF to donate to political causes. • AFL-CIO approved candidates: Erin Mendenhall, Alejandro Puy, Valdemoros and Chavez, Young & Jones, LeFever, Jordan Davis, Dominguez, Dekeyzer, Mitchell, Sanchez, Whitelock, VanWagoner, and Thompson. • The Joe Hill memorial is done. The unveiling is Nov 18<sup>th</sup> at 9am at Sugarhouse Park (north side). • AFL-CIO Hockey night is Dec 9<sup>th</sup>. Half off all tickets. Contact Mike Wahlquist for tickets.

**TRUSTEES** by Chad Mortensen

- Trustees met Tuesday and reviewed two months of finances. Everything is caught up and being done properly, except for correcting one hotel billing (being done).

**SPECIAL GUEST:** Garry Hrechkosy is running for re-election as city councilman in Murray, District 5. He has the endorsement of the Central Fed and would like our endorsement also.

**MBA / COMPENSATION,** by Bob Jewell

- The new Regional Workers Compensation Specialist is Willy Roschell.

**HEALTH BENEFITS** by Jim Kerekes

- Went to the health seminar in Las Vegas. The information for 2025 hasn't come out from OPM yet. • NALC HB is owned and run by our national union. Members of other crafts have to pay our union dues and their own union to belong to our plan. • There are only 2 options next year. • Open season starts Monday. • OPM has decided that no health plan can change their plan for 2025. • There are a lot of additional things you can get with NALC High Option. You can see the additional benefits in the annual brochure. New for 2024: 2 sets of orthotics, a/c testing every year, hearing aids. • The health plan will give back \$50 per month for everyone who is covered by Medicare A & B. Premiums next year are \$174. • There is not much information about 2025. • Retirees, next year is open to add Medicare Part D for those who didn't have it before (no penalties).

**ORGANIZER** by Justin Lindquist - not present

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

**DIRECTOR OF RETIREES** by Jeff Asay

- Had a really successful retirees' dinner. We learned to plan well in advance so we can properly advertise coming dinners.
- Pocket calendars are available to the retirees and members (they are in the office).
- Next month there will be many gifts to be given out to retirees in attendance.

**TREASURER** by Mike Madsen

There is an expense report on the desk in the back of the room. • There was \$8,740 in progressive permissive remedies paid by the USPS last month. • Income last month was \$38,000. We spent \$2,749 more than we collected for the month.

**VICE PRESIDENT** by Destiney Carrillo

- The rap session was great. She got a lot of new training material to use in the branch.

**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT** by Mike Hansen

• 2,760 grievances filed so far this year. • Rap session was successful. • Lite Blue is having trouble with new employees logging in. Stewards, tell your members to make sure they can log into Lite Blue. • Our branch is 89% organized but only 82% of the CCAs. We need to do better. • Now is a good time to explain to new people about the importance of donating to LCPF (off the clock). • President Renfro was present at the Rap Session and reviewed how the national negotiations were going. • A lot of agreements have been made already. • Heat training – considering national grievances to be filed, but not this year. • Collection boxes are going to have electronic locks. • The USPS is dramatically adding postal inspectors. Making penalties stronger for assaulting postal workers. • Combining stations into one building is going to happen more and more but we don't know how it will work. • All health benefits plans will change to a postal subset.

**PRESIDENT** by Mike Wahlquist

- The Downtown office is going to be a hotspot - getting a new station manager, Alicia Turner. • Magna is a hotspot. Tom LaMont is going to assist steward Joe Horsley.
- Cameras in vehicles – this has been happening more and more. You should look for new little holes in your dashboards or other areas of the vehicle. Cameras can be added any time they want. If they think there may be a problem, they may send bait (drugs, valuables, etc.) through the mail. If you see/smell anything questionable, call your supervisor to get instructions about what to do. • He met with Tony Cline. They are sending all of Provo mail to Las Vegas to be processed (shutting down the plant in March). • Hiring is continuing to improve and we hope to have enough CCAs for the peak season. It seems they are hiring more.

**\*\* Our uniform bank has been depleted with all the new CCAs. We really need uniforms donated from retirees and active carriers.**

**SPECIAL ORDERS:** none

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- A motion was made to endorse Garry Hrechkosy for Murray City Council, District 5. The motion passed.

**GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:**

- We need a new flag in front of the building. • Veterans were asked to stand and be recognized. • Form 2809 will be given to CCAs during training to sign up for health benefits. • There is a food bank in our building for those members who need help, especially with Thanksgiving coming.

**FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE SERVICE:** none

**DRAW AND ADJOURN** – 8:06 pm

- 25 GIFT (turkey) CARDS, Kelly Grater, Alisha Chadwick, Marv Jewell, Steve Warren, Tracie Uresk, Troy Sherzinger, Clementine Alvey, Steve McNees, Brock Lister, Bob Valdez, Quincy Mason, Robert Cottrell, Brent Console, Blake Mellor, Craig Ball, Ray Kosieroski, Amie Gallo, Steve Ingram, Bob Jewell, A J Clayburn, Chad Mortensen
- \$25 drawing winners: Gus Rohrbach and Alisha Chadwick
- RETIREES – \$275 (Sidney Wade was not present). Next month it will be \$300.
- PROGRESSIVE A - \$675 (Jennifer Su'a was not present). Next Meeting it will be \$700.
- PROGRESSIVE B - \$575 (Cory VanEtten was not present). Next Meeting it will be \$600.