

**NALC BRANCH 111**  
**Minutes of the Regular Union Meeting**  
**January 11, 2024**

**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 Dennis McCrady who passed away.

**Roll Call** by Steve McNees

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

**Reading of the Communications** by Steve McNees

- We received Christmas Cards from: the NALC Region 2 staff, Jim Edgemon, the NALC National Resident Officers, the Utah AFL-CIO President and staff, and the Utah Muscular Dystrophy Association.

**Application for Membership** by Mike Hansen

- Pebbles Bishop, Keyan Barbury, Chase Green, Abraham Alvarez, John Totanes, Andrew Johnson, Maria Paegle, Samantha Beckett, Jackson Lai, Tyler Paskett, Juan Loo, Jon Charlton, Stanley Huntoon, Jackson Godwin, Joshua Gallegos, Shawdene Luke

**Special Guest: Sheila Srivastava** is running for Salt Lake County Treasurer. She will support county workers joining AFCME. She is endorsed by the Central Fed and is requesting our endorsement also. The county budget is about \$2B and serves about 1.3M people. She is a certified public accountant. Her opponent is not a CPA or an accountant. She has a lot of experience in business and finance and is able project and understand the long-term effects of their decisions. SL County has the highest bond rating in the state.

**INSTALLATION OF BRANCH OFFICERS by NBA Nick Vafiadis:**

Trustees: Kirk McLaughlin, Chad Mortensen, and Kortnie Chatterton. Director of Retirees: Jeff Asay. Safety Officer: Justin Lindquist. Compensation Specialist: Bob Jewell. Health Benefits: Jimmy Kerekes. Sargeant at Arms: Mike Simonson. Treasurer: Mike Madsen. Secretary: Steve McNees. Vic President: Destiny Carrillo. Executive Vice President: Mike Hansen. President: Mike Wahlquist

**Special Guest: Nick Vafiades, NBA**

There are two more trainings scheduled for Jan. 22nd and the 1<sup>st</sup> week of February. • Mike Hansen and Bob Cottrell were thanked for serving at region. Salt Lake City finally got the all-career model. • Step B cases are taking about 3 months currently. There are 14,000 Step B cases currently pending at National. • Food drive- several food banks are no longer accepting food donations (only money). Seattle is doing this. The USPS wants us out of the food drive because it is unethical to accept money. In 2024 the food drive cards will cost over \$1M (over double 2022). They won't be delivered to businesses, apartment complexes, or CBUs. Food collected will go to local pantries. • Region has a Webx meeting each month (contact Mike Hansen for info).

**John Beaumont**

Our branch has one of the best records donating to the Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF). • The USPS is still controlled by congress. He presented a slide show explaining how the government has the right to make changes to our contract, benefits, working conditions, and retirement even though we negotiate for our benefits. • Only 5 unions out of 200+ still have a Cost of Living. Legislators wants to reduce or eliminate it. We get this benefit because of our legislative efforts. • COLA are determined by congress. • We are getting new vehicles. 40% will be electric. • Congress is trying to eliminate FMLA (we fight to keep it). Letter carriers make up 85% of the entire legislative Department. They want to eliminate the Social Security Supplement. LCPF fought to get new vehicles from congress. We got them. • CSRS employees lost 40-60% of their Social Security that they paid for. LCPF is working to fix this. • There is a bill to help worker compensation so other medical professionals besides doctors can complete approvals (\$131). • HR5995 – 63% of our membership are affected by this fairness bill. For TE, CCA, casuals- they can retire earlier or with more money. • Robberies – the prosecution rate is only 14-15%. We are working to get a bill to increase jail time and prosecutions. • We don't have a seat in congress. Only federal unions are controlled by congress. • All of us need to participate in LCPF to fight for support in congress. LCPF is voluntary. IT TAKES ALL OF US TO MAKE IT HAPPEN. Protect your future - Sign up today.

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

**MDA COORDINATOR** by Nathan Chester

- Nathan has volunteered to help Justin Lindquist as an alternate for Safety.
- We have set a goal of collecting \$10,000 for MDA this year. We have 1,100 members. • Mike Hansen is selling Super Bowl Squares for \$30 per square. There will be one prize per quarter. Prizes include a branch hoodie, 65 inch TV, Blue Tooth Speaker, Play Station 5. You can buy more than one square. Everything is set up with QR Codes so you can see how it works. Follow NALC branch111 on Facebook or contact Mike by email or text message. • You can also donate to MDA on the branch web page (branch111.com).

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

**LEGISLATIVE** by Chad Mortensen

- LCPF is very important for what we are doing on a national level. Collective bargaining is under attack. • The state of Utah is attacking state employees by not allowing them to have their dues deducted from pay checks. We need to support all unions. “One Fight”, will be advertised on the branch Facebook. Go online and support the state workers by signing their petition. • People with big money are trying to eliminate unions. • HR5995 federal retirement act involves state and federal employee (Hill AF Base, Universities, etc)

**TRUSTEES** by Chad Mortensen

- They are only required to meet quarterly. They bypassed this month and will meet again next month.

**MBA / COMPENSATION**, by Bob Jewell

- Bob works closely with Willy Bushell our regional compensation specialist (RWCA). The CA-20 is part B of a CA-16. It has been simplified with the help of our national compensation specialist. • “Federal Injury Center” is a private medical center. They are currently overburdened and not recommended at this time. These programs are not currently supported by the NALC.

**HEALTH BENEFITS** by Jim Kerekes

- Silver Script is a new program with NALC HB and Medicare. It provides for an annual \$600 refund for having Medicare Part B. Information has been sent out (or check with Jim or NALC.ORG). • You can sign up for Medicare part B, for free, for the next 6 months.

**ORGANIZER** by Justin Lindquist

- Everyone needs to remind new employees to sign up with the union once they get to your office.

**SAFETY AND HEALTH** by Justin Lindquist

- Nathan Chester has volunteered to help Justin with Safety and Health. •Justin and Nathan Chester attended the safety meeting today. The new postmaster didn’t show up. We have had about 50 accidents in the Salt Lake Installation, in the last quarter. We have to keep ourselves safe. • The conditions outside dictate our pace each day, not a supervisor’s estimate or intimidation. • Send copies of your safety forms (Form 1767) to Justin. They are reviewed at the safety meetings. Send them to Justin so that he can hold management accountable at safety meetings.

**DIRECTOR OF RETIREES** by Jeff Asay

- The Retiree’s big prize drawings at the end of the year is going to end. Now there will be surprise drawings at different meetings during the year instead. There will be no warnings.

**TREASURER** by Mike Madsen

- Income last month was \$30,695. We deficit spent by \$7,000 last month. • Progressive remedies since they were instituted in 2020 have provided \$52,000 of income. We have spent about \$25,000 of this money on additional training. We still have \$23,000 in this account. •We deficit spent \$95,000 last year. Our budget was for a \$77,000 deficit but we had a \$35,000 extra expense (approved) to pay for the building heating system, So, we were within our budget. • We have assets of about \$175,000 this year. Down about \$100,000 since Covid came around. • The proposed 2024 budget will be posted on the branch website. Next month we will vote on the budget.

**VICE PRESIDENT** by Destiney Carrillo

- Steward training is on Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>. They will be serving pizza. Training will be a continuation of “the morning estimate.”

**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT** by Mike Hansen

- 145 grievances so far this year. We had a little over 3,000 last year. • Super Bowl Squares -Text or Facebook Mike to get one the squares. It should be on Facebook within days. • The LCPF explanation tonight was excellent. Stewards, please donate and let your members know. LCPF is doing great work. We need uniforms!! • Tere - 371g opt in by tomorrow.

**PRESIDENT** by Mike Wahlquist

- SLC has gone to the all-career model. That creates some other problems and challenges that we haven't had to do before.
- About 80 conversion orientations have been done since December 16<sup>th</sup>.

**SPECIAL ORDERS:** none

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** none

**NEW BUSINESS:** Motion to sign up for a branch credit card that has rewards. A second motion to postpone the credit card motion until next month was made. The motion to postpone passed.

**GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:**

- Motion made to endorse Sheila Srivastava running for S.L.Treasurer (central fed has endorsed her). Motion approved

**DRAW AND ADJOURN – 8:30 pm**

- \$25 drawing winners: Gary Thorne and Robert Cottrell
- RETIREES – \$325 Melvan Evenson(was not present). Next month it will be \$350.
- PROGRESSIVE A - \$725 (Jeffrey Eskelson was not present). Next Meeting it will be \$750.
- PROGRESSIVE B - \$625 (Steve Warren was not present). Next Meeting it will be \$650.