

NALC BRANCH 111
Minutes of the Regular Union Meeting
February 8, 2024

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

Roll Call by Steve McNees

Minutes of the January 2024 union meeting were posted. Without objection, they will be filed for future reference.

Reading of the Communications by Steve McNees

- Pursuant to a vote at the last branch meeting, a letter of formal endorsement was sent endorsing Sheila Srivastava to be the SL County Treasurer. • Jeff Howell wrote to the branch. He is running for the Utah House District 23. He is requesting our branch's support. He indicates his support for workers, quality of life, fair wages, and collective bargaining.

Application for Membership by Mike Hansen

- Alicia Davidson, Gillian Morris, Daniel Tate, Bobbie Morgan, Jesse Fischer, Richard Hart, Celia Mancinas, Nathan Hacking, Steven McCulloch, William Echternkamp, David Shipman, Ray Gullickson
Sworn in: David Shipman and Ray Gullickson

LETTER CARRIER POLITICAL FUND (LCPF) by Josh Thibodeau –

- The Retirement Fairness Act currently has 74 signing on so far.

MDA COORDINATOR by Nathan Chester

- He has a goal to raise \$10,000 this year. We have raised \$3,050 so far from the Super Bowl Square game. He has a goal chart that will be displayed regularly. • You can make donations on our branch111.com website. He is considering having game nights (bingo, poker, cornhole etc). Maybe after union meetings and other nights. He needs suggestions on how to notify members of coming games or activities.

DIRECTOR OF VETERAN AFFAIRS by Jimmy Fleming – no report

LEGISLATIVE by Chad Mortensen

- Super busy time for legislation. There are state and national bills regarding the post office. • People we endorse and support have been helping us at the state and national level. Future national leaders will come from local and state leaders, who we can support if they are willing to support us. • Currently, state bill HB92 would end vote by mail. This will negatively affect letter carriers. Hopefully, local leaders we support, will support us and vote against this bill. We hope there will be those we supported locally who have moved up. • HB214 would stop properly ball dated ballots from not being counted if received after election day. Fortunately, this was killed immediately. • Locally, HB285 would not allow union deductions from state employees (school teacher, etc) pay checks. • You can send representatives messages by texting “1fight” to 2342466 to receive messages about current issues. All you have to do then is press “send” to have an email sent to your representatives. • Chad will be in DC on March 19th to meet with all of our representatives and senators. They will be talking about HR-5995 (Retirement Fairness Act). HR82 will also be discussed (Windfall Elimination Act) trying to get it out of committee. There is a good chance it could happen now. Please contact the House Ways and Means Committee and let them know your/our position (google for email address or phone #). • June 14th is the AFL-CIO golf tournament for the food bank. • June 28th is the AFL-CIO State Convention.

TRUSTEES by Chad Mortensen

- The trustees met Tuesday and went through all of December and January warrants, receipts, etc. They didn't find any errors or mistakes. The system is working. Just ask, if you have any questions about our finances.

MBA / COMPENSATION, by Bob Jewell

- He is getting daily calls about injuries. The main complaint of injured employees is that supervisors are not completing their parts of form CA-1. If you get hurt, call your supervisor and then Bob. • If you sign up with OWCP you can fill out your CA-1 on the street so your supervisor will have it in their email when you get back to the office. • If the supervisor doesn't have it when you return, contact your shop steward. When you return be sure your CA-1 is completed and get a CA-16 and CA-17 (doctor's work status report) from your supervisor. • Problems – carriers are not getting paid COP because supervisors don't know what they are doing. • Stewards will be getting training on OWCP/Compensation this month. • Everyone should sign up with OWCP before being injured (now). Call Bob if you

get injured and are not sure about all the requirements. Bob's number is on the Pavement Pounder and the branch website (branch111.com).

HEALTH BENEFITS by Jim Kerekes

- **MEDICARE:** www.keepingposted.org has information about the new HB plans with updates. This is a good source of information on the new plans.
- Those who haven't already signed up for part B Medicare will be informed on when and how to sign up for free. More information is supposed to be mailed out soon. Check to make sure your spouse has also signed up for part B benefits.
- Silver Script doesn't cover everything. You have to request a list of the drugs that are covered. If you cancel Silver Script you won't get your \$600 refund.
- If you are working and 65 or older, you don't have to sign up for part B until you retire.

ORGANIZER by Justin Lindquist

- He has signed up all 33 of the newest carriers, in training.

SAFETY AND HEALTH by Justin Lindquist

- Doors open and seatbelts off is a problem. If you see a carrier doing this you could let them know it is totally dangerous/wrong. There have been a lot of accidents.
- Remember – weather conditions dictate your pace.

DIRECTOR OF RETIREES by Jeff Asay

- One check for \$250 will be awarded tonight. There won't be a big Christmas give away any more. Jeff will have unannounced drawings in random months for differing amounts. He is trying to increase regular attendance from the retirees.
- He would like everyone who is interested in activities or information to text him and give him your number to be added to his text message list. This will allow him to only contact those who have approved him to contact them. He will then advertise branch events and activities that are more friendly to retirees.
- There will be a retiree dinner in October this year.
- Jeff's number is in the Pavement Pounder and on our website (branch111.com)

TREASURER by Mike Madsen

- Today, he deposited \$13,000 from progressive/permissive remedies from overtime grievances. We have collected \$65,000 in remedies since 2020. We have spent \$29,000 of this and have \$36,000 left.
- We had \$42,000 income last month with expenses of \$32,315 for an increase of \$9,685 for January.
- He had copies of this year's proposed budget for all in attendance (and on the website).

VICE PRESIDENT by Destiney Carrillo

- Steward training is on the 21st with pizza being served. There will be OWCP training (in 2-3 parts) and maybe some training from grievance files we have.

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT by Mike Hansen

- 317 grievances so far this year.
- Super bowl squares (game) receipts, for MDA, have been really successful.
- He has ordered t-shirts and beanies with the branch logos on them to sale to members.

PRESIDENT by Mike Wahlquist

- A vehicle was stolen from the Northwest office this week. The thief was quickly tracked down in Bountiful because the carrier's scanner (GPS) was still in his truck. The carrier did everything right as far as not engaging with the thief. The carrier went home safe that night. We all get to make some choices on the things we can control with safety most important.
- Management is working on changing technology so Arrow keys will be replaced with digital keys. Unfortunately, the USPS is very slow with technology.
- Hiring – Since Dec. 16th, there have been almost daily benefit orientations because of all the new hires. Because now, people get benefits from when they are hired in the Salt Lake and Sandy installations.
- Getting a date for the national arbitration is going very slow. It will likely be at least 6-9 months.

- We are out of uniforms. We need uniform donations desperately, more than ever before. We have a lot of new hires and there are a lot more to come. We need your donated uniforms.
- Cloud migration – we have talked to two IT companies to see about transferring our grievance and other files with cloud migration. They will be well protected. More updates to come. Mike wants to get things updated as much as possible.
- A new Formal A agreement assigns Destiney Carrillo to all Formal A grievances in the Salt Lake installation. She is the branch trainer. This will greatly improve grievance quality.

- A long discussion regarding the new formal A agreement and availability of Step B files to stewards, required a motion to extend the meeting by 30 minutes. The motion passed.

SPECIAL ORDERS: none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: none

2024 Proposed Budget approval: A motion was made to approve the budget as proposed with specific line items held out. The motion passed. • Requested items to be held out for discussion: Retirement watches budget, MDA budget, Orem travel expenses. • Motion to reduce the Retiree Watch budget by ½ to \$500. The motion passed. Motion to reduce the MDA budget from \$5,000 to \$4,000. The motion passed. Motion to increase the Orem travel expenses from \$400 to \$600, to be used for travel and food expenses. The motion passed. • Motion to sign up for a branch credit card that has rewards with the reward money going to MDA. An amendment made to have the money go to the general fund. The amendment passed. The motion to get a credit card with rewards going to the general fund passed.

NEW BUSINESS: none

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION: none

DRAW AND ADJOURN – 9:00 pm

- \$25 drawing winners: Jeff Asay and Bob Valdez
 - RETIREES – \$350 (Dan Moss was not present). Next month it will be \$375.
 - PROGRESSIVE A - \$750 (Teresa Teubner was not present). Next Meeting it will be \$775.
 - PROGRESSIVE B - \$650 (Belinda Madrid was not present). Next Meeting it will be \$675.
- Retiree special drawing of \$250 for those attending – winner: Gary Thorne