

**NALC BRANCH 111**  
**Minutes of the Regular Union Meeting**  
**March 14, 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 February 2024 union meeting were posted. Without objection, they will be filed for future reference.

**Reading of the Communications** by Steve McNees

- This year's steward college will be year four. It will be a new track on Contract Interpretation. Classes are from April 14th through April 18th.
- We received a proposal from Computech explaining services and monthly costs to move our grievance files and search engines to the cloud and provide full onsite and remote support.
- Letter from Katie Olson who is running for Salt Lake County Council, District 2. She says she is committed to supporting laborers across SL County. She is seeking the endorsement of our branch and looks forward to hearing the thoughts and concerns of our members.
- Branch President Wahlquist and SLC Postmaster Tony Cline have sent a request for a formal Area/Region level intervention in the 84103 zone. There is a backlog of hundreds of grievances for Articles 15, 17, and 31 violations. They feel the Informal Formal A process is broken.

**Application for Membership** by Mike Hansen

- Jeremy Thomas, Ezra Halstead, Alisha Parkin, Michael Jensen, Valery Vasquez, Mukonkole Ngoyi, Cayden Romero, Vu Vo, Ashley Rhoads, Trinita Bayton, Deborah Shenk, Robert Gillespie, Ray Gullickson, Shirlyn Ringlen, Jason Waggoner, Dan McCampbell, Roxy Lyon, Glenn Call, Emma Pinchak, Byerly Neilsen, Calese Bradry, Caleb Glad, Samuel Collett, Thomas Richards, Jacob Mangum, Darric Parker, Brandy Salisbury, Sophia Barber, Jose Ruelas, Tuli Andrew, Leah Afemata, Roman Starikov, Stephanie Pearce, Max Valerio, Valentino Jurisic, Bret Saksa, Landen Roberts, James Hunt, Zachary Oscarson, Kayla Stockham, Jonathan Feraco.

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

**MDA COORDINATOR** by Nathan Chester

- Recommendations to play bingo during (maybe) and after union meeting starting next month. Cards are \$5 each (5 for \$20). There will be prizes for the winners. If everyone enjoys themselves, it might become a regular activity.
- We currently have \$3,000 in the MDA fund with a goal of \$10,000 this year.
- He is looking at having a casino or poker night in the future.

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

**LEGISLATIVE** by Chad Mortensen

- He is going to D.C. on the 19<sup>th</sup> to lobby our Senators and Representatives. They will be asking about the Federal Retirement Fairness Act (allow buyback of none career time for retirement).
- He talked to the IRS workers (quasi government) about their retirement. Their time as temporary employees is automatically applied to their retirement. Just not the USPS.
- The Letter Carrier Protection Act will empower Postal Inspectors to investigate and prosecute crimes against us.
- We, unions, are perceived as powerful by politicians. The more of us that contact our representatives the greater our voice is.

**TRUSTEES** by Chad Mortensen

- Trustees met Tuesday. There was only one small issue on a pending charge. There weren't any missing warrants.

**MBA / COMPENSATION**, by Bob Jewell

- Due to personal problems, last month's Steward Training on OWCP and C.O.P. was cancelled. It will be held next Wednesday.

**HEALTH BENEFITS** by Jim Kerekes

- Retirees should request the Silver Script handbook (1-833-272-9886, customer care) to find out what the rules are (over 100 pages long).
- April 1<sup>st</sup> is the beginning of the open season for the new health benefits plans.
- Information should be coming soon in the mail.

**ORGANIZER** by Justin Lindquist

- 5 weeks since his last report. He may have missed signing up 2 or 3 new members in the last four new employee training classes (that is good!).

**SAFETY AND HEALTH** by Justin Lindquist

- Supervisors don't know the rules and can be putting you in unsafe situations. If it is not safe – don't do it (it is your decision). Contact your steward.

**DIRECTOR OF RETIREES** by Jeff Asay

- There is a retiree drawing tonight (the amount is a secret). • He was disappointed the last month on how few joined his “Text Thread”. It is a way for Jeff to get out information on activities, legislation we need to react to, and a heads up the day before meeting if there will be a surprise retiree only drawing. • If you have diabetes, you must have your doctor certify that the drugs you are taking are for diabetes. If you don't you will be charged over \$400 per prescription (assumed as a diet drug). If you get it certified, you will only be charged about \$50 for a 3-month supply.
- There will be a retiree drawing at the union picnic/swim party.

**TREASURER** by Mike Madsen

- The progress/permissive grievance remedy fund has received about \$67,000 in total. We have spent about \$8,000 so we have about \$59,000 left for training. \$14,966 came in this month. • We had a net gain of \$27,377 this month. • 34.8% of all federal income goes to pay interest on our national debt.

**VICE PRESIDENT** by Destiney Carrillo

- OWCP training next Wednesday for stewards. Congratulations to all the stewards and members running for steward this month. • New stewards should go to steward training and get Destiney's contact information for when you need help.

**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT** by Mike Hansen

- 601 grievances so far this year. • It's union night at the Bees baseball game on August 10<sup>th</sup>. We will get 50 tickets. He has a post on Facebook (Branch111). Upcoming meetings, training, activities, and urgent information will be posted on the branch Facebook page (Branch111). Mike just got another order of Branch 111 swag (t-shirts, beanies, stickers). They will be posted for sale on Facebook also. • The USPS HEAT training is supposed to be going on in every office, now - before it gets too hot. Make sure your office is having the training.

**PRESIDENT** by Mike Wahlquist

- The first Region Committee of President's meeting was March 1-2. It was excellent training (better than nationals). • 2 Rap Sessions from now they are planning to have the Rap Sessions in Las Vegas (it will save money). We would be able to afford sending a lot more stewards. • Calendar: June 15th – Branch pool party (Murray Park). August 24 – steak fry at Murray Park Pavilion #5 at 6pm (food available till 7:30). • We are trying to get the settled grievances all put in the cloud so that officers and stewards can access the files to work on grievances. We will talk about this in the future.
- The 3 zone is a mess because of grievances. A mutual request for an Area/Regional intervention has been made. Mike is working almost every day in the three zone to help Stormy Blood get the backlog of grievances met on and appealed.
- Managers don't want to meet on 3 zone grievances. Management can't force anyone to represent the USPS on grievances. This has been posted nationwide that managers shouldn't take these positions. The next option is for the USPS to hire off the street to fill these management grievance handling positions.

**SPECIAL ORDERS:** none

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** none

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Phil Rodriguez read a “Contract Campaign Resolution” that is being sent to all branches. It would require national to post all national resolutions on the national website, and post responses, changes and local union negotiating activities. They want to post on the national website what it is that we want to bargain for. Bargaining updates would also be posted. Members input would also be posted. A motion to support the resolution failed.
- Proposed Bylaws Change: Article 5, Section 10, Current Language: “There shall be four drawings for the amount of twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars at the regular Branch meeting immediately after the adjournment of the Branch meeting.” Proposed Change: The amount of each drawing will change to “**fifty (\$50) dollars.**” Vote next month.
- Proposed Bylaws Change: Article 5, Section 3, Current Language: “The regular Branch meeting shall start at 6:30 P.M. on the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Thursday of each month.” Proposed Change: Start time will change to “**7:00 pm.**” Vote next month
- Proposed new standing order: Newly proposed credit cards – There shall be no more than 2 cards will be issued. Only the President and Executive Vice President will be authorized to use the cards. The card shall not be used for any personal charges. The card shall not be used to purchase fuel or services for any officer or member's personal

vehicle. The card shall not be used as a form of loan to any officer or member. Any mistaken use of the card by an officer must be reimbursed immediately upon discovery of the charge. All charges against the card must be accompanied by a receipt. The balance on the card must be paid in full at the end of each billing period. **Motion to postpone until the next meeting passed.**

**GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:**

**Veterans' medical benefits are available locally. The PACT Act has expanded benefits. Information and assistance is available at [va.gov](http://va.gov) – Enroll for free medical benefits for vets who served in certain times. Enroll and they will help you to determine what you may qualify for.**

**DRAW AND ADJOURN – 8:08 pm**

- \$25 drawing winners: Daniel DeHerrera and Kortnie Chatterton
- RETIREES – \$375 (Teresa Fredsall was not present). Next month it will be \$400.
- PROGRESSIVE A - \$775 (Cynthia Gilson was not present). Next Meeting it will be \$800.
- PROGRESSIVE B - \$675 (Mike Hales was not present). Next Meeting it will be \$700.

Retiree Surprise Drawing of \$300 for those attending – winner: Bob Jewell