

Official Publication
of Branch III
Home of the
"Wasatch Branch"
Branch III
Chartered
January 24, 2003

The Pavement Pounder



Bountiful

Lehi - Magna

Midvale

Murray

Salt Lake

Sandy

Taylorsville

Tooele

West Jordan

West Valley

Dugway

DECEMBER 2008

Union Meeting Drawings

December 13, 2008

2 Door prizes - \$25.00 EA

Progressive Retirees - \$300.00

Name drawn - John Groves (present)

Next month \$25.00

Progressive Union B - \$125.00

Name drawn - H. Rupert (not present)

Next month 150.00

Progress Union A - \$575.00

Name drawn - D. Moss (not present)

Next month \$600.00

The next drawings will be at the January
8, 2009 Union Meeting

You must be present to win

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The President's Corner

Mike Miller

Well, Branch elections are over and you have a new administration that will take office on January 1st. I believe the members have elected some of the best officers available, and I am sure that they will serve the branch well. I have worked with most of them and find them to be the best of the best this branch has to offer.

Now that the elections are over we need to stand together and support our elected officers. Just because we didn't for someone who was elected does not mean we should not support them. The majority of the body has spoken and now we need to support those who have been elected.

My hat is off to all those who threw their names into the hat and decided to run for office. Serving the membership is one of the most selfless things a member can do, and it can also be one of the most thankless jobs there is. Everyone seems to have their own interpretation of how things should be done, and sometimes it tends to cause hard feelings. And I have a great deal of respect for any elected official who can continue to keep foremost in their minds the best interests of the members as a whole.

Your newly elected officials are as follows:

President -	Mike Wahlquist
Vice President -	Phil Rodriguez
Sergeant at Arms -	Stan Hawker
Trustee -	Joan Larsen
Trustee -	Rick Watson
Trustee -	Kim Mortensen
Health Benefits -	Jim Kerekes
Safety and Health -	Arlynn Venama

I wish all of you the best of luck in your efforts to serve the members of Branch 111, and I pledge my 110% support to each and everyone of you.

**Parenting Skills:****Improving Parent/Teen Communication**

Good family relationships require good communication. When teenagers were asked to write down ways in which their parents could improve communication styles, here is what one group had to say:

Don't pressure us to achieve all the time. Remind us from time to time to slow down or goof off.

Praise us if we do OK. Sometimes, it seems like nothing we do is good enough. Tell us you love us, even if we act like we don't want to hear it.

Be honest with us. Sooner or later we will find out the truth. It makes us feel dumb if our parents lied to us.

Don't yell! Nothing makes us want to fight back more.

Let us form our own opinions. Chances are, they'll be a lot like yours. If we have a major problem, help us to solve it, but don't feel you have to solve it for us. We'll never learn how to solve problems as adults if we aren't given the chance to try on our own.

Give us a chance to disagree with you without telling us that we're "talking back." We love to hear about when we were little, and we like to hear stories about you when you were little, too. These stories don't have to teach a lesson--they can just be fun.

Never stop talking to us. You are the only ones we can count on for reassurance and love.

TTY: 1-877-492-7341

If you have any questions about your program services, please call your program toll-free number at 800-327-4968.

To learn more about improving parent/teen communication, and how you can learn parenting skills. Call and speak to a program representative at the EAP Service Center.





Vice President's Report

Michael J. Wahlquist

My Last Vice President's Report Change!

We can learn, grow, and become better than we once were. Or, we can stagnate, decline, and eventually fail. We get to choose how we will embrace it, but either way, change happens.

I'd like to thank the membership of this Branch for giving me the opportunity to serve as the next Branch President. I realize that this responsibility will not be easy. However, the Branch has seen fit to elect many fine officers with whom I will serve, and with their help, I believe that we will succeed. For myself, I commit that I will give this Branch my absolute best during the years to come.

We have just been through an election, and like many elections, this one was difficult and painful for many people. In elections, sometimes negative or untrue things are said. And it is never easy to see the candidate that you voted for, receive too few votes to gain the office. People feel disappointed and hurt. Yet if NALC members maintain respect for each other, the healing can begin immediately. That is what needs to happen now. We need to come back together as a Branch united. We are a Union, which means that we are exponentially stronger together

than we could ever be apart. As the Latin saying goes: E Pluribus Unum – From many, one. Let every Letter Carrier commit himself or herself to this Union, and we will overcome whatever obstacles the world may offer us. It is amazing to see the strength of a group of people working together.

I believe in transparency and in being above board. During the next Union meeting, on January 8th (beginning at 6:00 PM), the Branch will be voting on the annual budget for 2009. This is the meeting at which the membership will decide how much and upon what our Union dues will be spent. I encourage every member to attend this meeting, especially since this meeting will determine how our Branch will function during the year to come. If we're going to pay our dues, let's follow through and decide how they will be spent!

We are going through many other changes right now. Most of us will have our routes evaluated and adjusted within the next 60 days, due to the national agreement on the Alternative Route Count Methodology. With gas prices and the stock market dropping to extremes we can expect other changes in the future (Actually, in today's economy, we probably should just be grateful we have jobs that are stable and secure). Regardless of what the future offers, we have the advantage of facing it as a group, and not as individuals. Just remember that with change, we can learn, we can grow, and we will become better than we once were.



PAVEMENT POUNDER ARTICLES

Any Branch 111 member may submit articles to the Pavement Pounder for publication. All articles submitted must comply with the Pavement Pounder "Statement of Policy". No articles attacking or criticizing another member of the branch will be printed in the Pavement Pounder. Articles rejected by the Editor may be taken to the Executive Board.

Editor



Branch III NALC

The Concerted Action Corner

Number 36

December 2008

A Tribute

Recently a friend of mine e-mailed me to ask me to write a recommendation for him. I was busy and did not even read his e-mail until several days after he sent it. By then it was too late for him to use. However I would still like to write the recommendation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to recommend to you my friend, mentor and colleague, Mike Miller. Mike is the hardest working man I have ever known. Any task that he takes on is performed to the best of his ability, which is considerable. Mike possesses that rare combination of intelligence, knowledge, experience and judgment that equate to true wisdom. Mike leads by example. People follow Mike because of the content of his character. Mike is loyal and steadfast in the face of challenges and obstacles. Mike is always willing to share his knowledge and experience. He has taught me many valuable lessons, often without me even being aware for some time afterward that he was passing on a lesson. I was not the first nor will I be the last to benefit from my association with Mike. Any opportunity given to Mike will be seized and the task completed.

I am proud to say that Mike Miller is my friend. I could have no better.

We in Branch III have been blessed to have Mike Miller serve as our President. Yes, there have been those who disagree with him, but our branch has benefited from Mike's hard work and diligence. No task large or small was beyond him. Mike has made the union and the membership his primary concern for many years, often at the sacrifice of other things important in this life. Mike has been an example of union values that all of us can appreciate. Branch III is better for his leadership, and Mike leaves a legacy in those he has mentored. Mike now assumes the role of retired president, but I know that he will still be ever ready to contribute to the branch and the members. We still need his wisdom.

A New Beginning.

The branch elections are over. Unfortunately, there was some real division in the branch. In the end both ends of the spectrum saw some of their favorites elected. The membership has spoken and the membership has exercised its judgment through the power of the ballot. It was somewhat disappointing to see how many of our members failed to take the time to complete the ballot and send it in. Only slightly over half of the members voted.

As with any election comes a new beginning, and new ideas and direction. I am excited to see how our new president and the other officers will carry us forward over the next three years. I have every confidence in Mr. Wahlquist and look forward to serving under his leadership. As most of us know all too well, our new leaders take office at a time of great challenges to the Postal Service. I know with the help and support of all of us, Branch III will not just survive but thrive.



The election is over and it is time to come together again as one. Let us put aside our differences and unite again as union brothers and sisters under one banner and one voice.

Jeffrey D. Asay

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THE PAVEMENT POUNDER POLICY AND NOTICES

Union meetings are held at the Union Labor Center on the second Thursday of each month.

NALC Branch #111
2261 S Redwood Rd #14
Salt Lake City UT 84119-1330

Business Hours:

Mon, Wed, Fri 7:30 AM – 6:00 PM
Tues, Thursday 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Please call before visiting the Branch office to ensure someone is there.

Change of address: Please send your new address to the branch office if you have moved recently or are planning to move in the near future.

Statement of Policy

The Pavement Pounder newsletter is published twelve times a year. The Pavement Pounder is a publication of Branch 111. The articles printed in the newsletter are submitted by the senior union officers, members and Auxiliary of the branch to inform the members of events, news, educational matters and other material deemed for the good of the association. The appropriateness of articles published is determined by the editor. The Editor reserves the right to edit or reject articles submitted based on appropriateness. Articles attacking or criticizing others will not be published. The Pavement Pounder will not be allowed to be used as a weapon against anyone or group of people. The Pavement Pounder is to be used to educate and edify the membership of the branch. The opinions expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily the opinions of the NALC or of Branch 111 or of its officers or editor.

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Arlynn Venema

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 2008

- 11 Union Meeting 6:00 PM
- 12 Payday - # 25
- 17 Steward Meeting 6:00 PM
- 25 Christmas Day Holiday
- 26 Payday - # 26

January 2009

- 1 New Year's Day Holiday
- 8 Union Meeting 6:00 PM
- 9 Payday - # 1
- 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
- 21 Steward Meeting 6:00 PM
- 23 Payday - # 2