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# The Pavement Pounder

## Branch 111 NALC

### “The Wasatch Branch”

Publication  
2025.10  
November-  
December  
edition

Midvale - Millcreek - Murray - Northwest - Orem - Sandy - South Salt Lake - Sugarhouse - Tooele - West Jordan - West Valley

Branch 111 is proud of the work we do, and would like to wish all of you very Happy Holidays!



## The President's Report

# 2025 RAP Session in Cle Elum, Washington



We sent a record number of representatives from Branch 111 to the 2025 RAP Session. This was because we had enough progressive/permissive money left over which had been earmarked by the body for this purpose. I want to congratulate those who went. It was excellent training, and I feel that those that went represented Branch 111 at a very high level.

I made some notes from President Renfroe's report, and they are as follows:

President Renfroe:

**COLAs** – Retiree COLA was released in time, goes into effect on December 1st, effective on the payment on January 1st. The Contract COLA stands at \$272.00 for two months, four more to go, but delayed by the government shut down.

**Contract Negotiations** – We have a few more months before we go to the bargaining table. We have selected sub-committees for the negotiations made up of the Executive Council. We must go over Convention proposals, resolutions, etc. In mid-September, we had a rank-and-file bargaining session meeting. This was to define our priorities that we should be focused on during negotiations. We have done polling, and we plan on during surveys. How do we prioritize? We want an all-career workforce. But we must decide if an all-career work force outweighs benefits to members later in their careers (perhaps those same members).

We officially open negotiations on February 25th. We will be working during the first few months of 2026 to prepare for negotiations. On March 23rd (this year) we had over 300 rallies. We will be preparing to do the same thing in 2026. We will get signs, banners, materials, etc. prior to the actions. We want to ultimately influence the Postal Service with our rallies.

**National RAP** - We plan on having members have access to our executive council sub-committees at National RAP. We want our proposals to be complete by the end of January.

**Contract Compliance** - The Postal Service is refusing to comply with the contract, and it is getting worse. Delays right now are caused not just by the process, but by the sheer volume of grievances that are being impassioned right now. We must find a way to put pressure on the Postal Service to comply with the contract. Congress has tried to get involved in our collective bargaining agree-

ment. We tell them to stay out of it. But the OIG has now come in and has decided to do an audit on all USPS grievance payments. The OIG audit will make recommendations to the USPS on how to fix this. They have officially started this study (audit). Renfroe hasn't seen the audit yet, but it will "raise some eyebrows". We will take action to coincide with this report to encourage Congress to make changes to the USPS to encourage contract compliance. Our letter has been drafted. Now the government has shut down (including the OIG). Renfroe thinks the shutdown will end in a week or so, and the OIG report will come out, and hopefully the structural changes will come after all of that.

**New Provision** - You can sell your Annual Leave back to the Post Office. If you have 520 hours, you can sell back 80 hours of leave, but the leave you are selling back is the next year's leave. They are going to change the amount to 440 for the leave sell-back. And you must have used less than 75 hours of sick leave in the previous year.

**Current Issue** - We have had issues with ICE agents. They ask Letter Carriers about their patrons. The Postal Service will do messaging to carriers about how to handle that situation. The right answer is that they must contact the Postal Inspection service, we don't give out any information to anyone except a Postal Inspector (or management). We currently have removals for carriers who have reported the locations of ICE agents. We can't do that, so don't do it. We cannot do anything politically when we are in uniform. Tell your members, don't get involved in anything to do with ICE while you are in uniform. Off the clock, and out of uniform is different.

**LCPF** - Money is the game... money is influence. Congress answers my calls because we give them money. That's the way it works. We just got through record cuts with no harm to the USPS despite many being proposed, and no harm to our retirement or benefits. Contributing to the PAC is the easiest way to protect your job.

**Health Benefit Plan hours** - will now be extended until 6:00PM Eastern time zone.

This concludes President Renfroe's report. We are living in tumultuous times to be certain; volumes are going up and down at a record pace, and as President Renfroe mentioned, it is becoming increasingly difficult to get management to follow the contract. We are doing better than most here in Utah, mostly because we have amazing Shop Stewards. If you have any concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to call the Branch 111 Office.

Happy Holidays!

Michael Wahlquist – President  
Branch 111, NALC

# Food for Thought

Over the last few months I have been very busy trying to keep up with my daily workload and the demand of Leadership Academy. Now that leadership is behind me I can get back to focusing on the Branch, Sandy, and carrying some mail.

Leadership Academy was an experience that is difficult to describe, but in the best possible way. I returned home less than 48 hours ago and was right up against the deadline for my Pavement Pounder article. Instead of not writing an article I thought I would just take a few minutes and share with you some numbers the Director of Life Insurance, Jim Yeates provided students at leadership about our branches. I found them very interesting.

As of last week Branch 111 had 885 Members. The table below breaks down some interesting statistics about us.

Age	Female	Male	Total
Under 25	12	31	43
25-30	14	60	74
30-35	25	88	113
35-40	25	80	105
40-45	30	86	116
45-50	34	101	135
50-55	37	88	125
55-60	20	68	88
60-65	16	40	56
65-70	5	21	26
Over 70	0	4	4

Tenure	Female	Male	Total
Under 5 Years	111	294	405
5-10	37	122	159
10-15	11	56	67
15-20	2	23	25
20-25	14	59	73
25-30	28	70	98
30-35	12	29	41
35-40	2	11	13
Over 40 Years	1	3	4

Retirement	Female	Male	Total
CSRS	0	1	1
FERS (0.08%)	59	201	260
FERS (3.1%)	2	17	19
FERS (4.4%)	145	425	570
Other	12	23	35

Female	Male	Members
218	667	885

Veterans	Female	Male	Total
	2	45	47

Career/CCA	Female	Male	Total
Career	206	644	850
CCA	12	23	35

What does this tell me about our branch besides that I am getting old?. 45.76% of our branch has under 5 years of service. Also, only 13.22% of our branch is under 30 years old.

Almost half of our membership is new and they are starting later in life. These numbers help me understand why things are so different at the Postal Service. I don't know if this is a good or bad thing but it makes me think. I do know this, the 254 carriers in the branch that have 15 years or more need to help the new people. If we don't, the old days will eventually just be a memory.

In Solidarity  
Mike Hansen  
Executive Vice President  
NALC, Branch 111





## HEALTH BENEFITS

Correction for last months article. I said the 2026 Part B premium would be \$206.50 per month. When the final amount was given from OPM it was different. So the correct amount will be per month in 2026 \$202.90.

Most organizations today don't like to print materials and instead refer you to their website. If ever you want a paper copy of something (like a health plan brochure) send an e-mail or make a phone call and request what is available. Even a list of drugs your plan provides. On the back of most, if not all, medical cards is a customer service phone number. Human resources for active employees and OPM for retirees can probably provide copies. Call me and I can try to help get materials.

My next item to report is from my National Health plan director in my news letter. Which I'm going to type word for word.

Important Information Regarding our Silverscript PDP and our NALC High Option Plan-Aetna Medicare Advantage ( High Option Members Only):

Postal Service annuitants and eligible family members are required to have Medicare Part D coverage through their insurance carrier to maintain enrollment in their Postal Service Health Benefits (PSHB ) plan.

High Option annuitants and family members who are enrolled or eligible to enroll in our Silverscript Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) also have the option to enroll in our NALC High Option Plan-Aetna Medicare Advantage (Aetna MAPD) if they both have Medicare Parts A & B. This is an alternative option to our Silverscript PDP, and Medicare Part D coverage is included in the plan.

Silverscript PDP coverage may not be effective until February 1, 2026, for new members who enrolled in the NALC Health Benefit Plan. This is due to a 21-day decision making period (opt- out period) given to members who are newly auto-enrolled into our Silverscript PDP. To ensure Silverscript PDP coverage is effective January

1,2026, new members may call Aetna at 866-241-0262 to waive their 21-day opt-out period and enroll immediately.

If members have questions, or if they would like to enroll or switch their coverage between Silverscript PDP and Aetna MAPD, they may contact Aetna at 866-241-0262. As a reminder, should a member opt out of all required Medicare Part D coverage through NALC Health Benefit Plan, they will have no prescription coverage in the PSHB for the remainder of the year.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Per the rules of the Postal Service Reform Act of 2022, Medicare eligible annuitants and their family members must be enrolled in the Plan's Silverscript PDP EGWP or NALC High Option- Aetna Medicare Advantage. Those who choose to opt-put **WILL LOSE PRESCRIPTION BENEFITS.**

For the rest of my article:

I always want Silverscript enrollees to not lose their \$600.00 if they and their spouse ( if one or both of them are eligible ) qualify for the reimbursement. For the year 2024, if you haven't requested it – you have until December 31<sup>st</sup> 2025. If that is the case do it about 8 days before the 31<sup>st</sup>. Also you have until December 31, 2026 to request it for the year 2025. If you haven't filed for 2024 or 2025 yet, you can file for both before this year ends. If your one person you could get \$1200.00 for the two years. If you are husband and wife you could get \$2400.00. If you file for both years this year you may have to use one form for one year and another form for the other year. The forms are the same form, you use multiple copies to separate the years you are requesting for reimbursement. It can be done on the computer or by mail. Call if you have any questions on any of this article. MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR

Jimmy Kerekes, Health Benefits



**NALC BRANCH 111**  
**Minutes of the Regular Union Meeting**  
**December 11, 2025**

**Convened** at 6:36 pm

The meeting was also broadcast over Zoom for those unable to attend in person.

**Conducting:** Mike Wahlquist, President

**Pledge of Allegiance** conducted by Nate Chester

**Moment of Silence** for Bob Fowler who passed away.

**Roll Call** by Steve McNees

**Minutes** of the October union meeting were posted. With no objection the minutes will be filed for future reference. The November meeting had been cancelled.

**Reading of the Communications** by Steve McNees

- Rec'd a Christmas card from the Region office, Tawny at MDA, and Iron Workers Local 27
- Pres. Wahlquist sent a president's report to Sen. Mike Lee.
- Pres. Wahlquist notified Stormy Blood she was being removed as a steward.
- Charges were brought against Stormy Blood requesting she be expelled from Branch 111.
- President Renfro remanded Stormy Blood's appeal of Pres. Wahlquist's decision to remove her steward duties. He also sent a letter explaining why she can't appeal to national until a branch vote is taken.
- Rec'd notice that all downtown grievances appealed to Formal A will be handled by NV-UT Labor Relations, until further notice.
- We rec'd notification of management's Formal A representative for Mail count and inspection grievances.

**Reading of Charges:** Charges made by President Wahlquist and Stormy Blood were read in their entirety.

- The committee to investigate the charges brought by President Wahlquist are Jayne Hogan, Brent Bray, and Kortnie Chatterton. The committee for charges brought by Stormy Blood will be selected by the Vice President.
- The committees will research, interview, and read documents to determine the facts of the charges and determine if the facts support the charges. They will then make a written report and present it after completing their investigations.

**Application for Membership** by Mike Wahlquist

Travis Lorenz, Breanna Batty, Emma Pridham, Joelle Shelley, Lisa Means, Abel Rosales, Gary Capurro, Manuel Bustamante-Meza, Spencer Kilpack, Emily Forsyth, Amy Waugaman, Robert Pierce, Reuben Sanders, Chad Miller, Samantha Mota, Jake Weirick, Bianca Canal, Hyde Camille, Kent Farrington, Nicholas Rydalch, Jessica Thompson, Dana Lawrence, Karili Olivera-Caraballo

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

As a union it is against federal law for us to lobby for any candidate (Hatch Act). But we can contribute to the Letter Carrier Political Fund, through our pay checks, to have LCPF keep Congress updated on our needs to get legislation passed. Contact Josh if you want to sign up.

**MDA COORDINATOR** by Nathan Chester

We donated \$9,576 to MDA this year! • February is the Super Bowl. We will be playing Squares with a large screen TV and a Power Wheels Car for prizes.

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

**LEGISLATIVE** by Chad Mortensen

The new district 1 has a lot of candidates running. Chad likes one candidate that has been good for our issues, but it is too early to endorse anyone. • When you talk with a candidate, talk about your issues (retirement, buy-back of your service time, protection of letter carriers, or other issues you may have).

- **TRUSTEES** by Chad Mortensen

- They met Tuesday. They are learning a new credit card system so they are missing a couple of warrants.
- Everything appears to be looking good. They are looking very carefully at each warrant.

**COMPENSATION** by Bob Jewell – no report

Minutes (continued)

**HEALTH BENEFITS** by Jim Kerekes

- Open season is still open. You can send in your Silver Script reimbursement request to get \$600 for each year (current year and previous year).

**ORGANIZER** by Justin Lindquist -not present

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

**DIRECTOR OF RETIREES** by Jeff Asay -no report

**TREASURER** by Mike Madsen

- Income \$45,000, Expenses about \$44,100, monthly gain \$900 • There is about \$30,000 left in the Progressive Permissive Remedy fund.

**VICE PRESIDENT** by Destiney Carrillo

- Next week is steward training. • Nathan Chester, Mike Porter, and Les Schofield were selected as the committee to investigate the charges filed by Stormy Blood.

**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT** by Mike Hansen

1,990 grievances so far this year.

**PRESIDENT** by Mike Wahlquist • no report

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- History: The charges against Stormy Blood from the October meeting were addressed. A vote to support the president's decision in October was taken. A motion to reconsider the vote was made and passed, but the meeting ended before the reconsideration could be challenged or addressed. • Tonight a motion to rule the reconsideration last meeting out of order was made. A subsequent motion to postpone the vote on the reconsideration until next meeting was made. The motion passed 56-41.

**SPECIAL ORDERS:**

A motion to increase the President's 120 Day Fund by \$6,000 was made by the E-board. The motion passed.

A motion to increase the Office Supplies Fund by \$6,000 was made by the E-board. The motion passed.

A motion to require those on Zoom to fully display their name and a picture or video to confirm the person watching is actually who they say they are was made.

A motion to extend the meeting by 30 minutes was made. The motion failed. The meeting ended at 8:30pm.

The motion regarding Zoom was postponed to next meeting.

**GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:** none

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

**DRAW AND ADJOURN:** 8:30 pm

- \$50 DRAWING WINNERS: Rob Hein, Marv Jewell
- RETIREES – \$125 (Terry Webber was not present). Next month it will be \$150.
- PROGRESSIVE A - \$125 (**Monte Jones was present and WON**). Next Meeting it will be \$25.
- PROGRESSIVE B - \$275 (Kent Boynton was not present). Next Meeting it will be \$300

COSTCO \$25 GIFT CARD WINNERS: Josh Jessup, Ato Kitiona, Elisha Satini, Lucas Wahlquist, Rudy Scherzinger, Bob Jewell, Adam Willden, Brock Lister, Kirk McLaughlin, Jennifer Ogden, Craig Ball, Rob Hein, Rick Watson, Greg Stubbs, Charles Moran, Ray Lozano, Isaias Ahumada-Velazquez, Chrystal Reeves, Jim Kerekes, Brent Console, Archie Astudillo, Pat Busath, Les Schofield, Michael Bevan, Gerald Maxfield, Tyler Jones, Rocket Ron Hermansen, Adam Bryant, Josh Thibodeau, Gillian Morris, Vicki Pfiefer, AJ Pasela, Michael Porter, Ricardo Palafox, Marshal Buker, Kirstyn Milligan, Steve McNeese, Aaron Saxon, Destiney Carrillo, John Mister

National Association of  
Letter Carriers  
2261 South Redwood  
Road, Suite 14  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
84119

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Salt Lake City,  
UT  
Permit No. 1981

### Upcoming Events

#### January

Thursday 8 Branch meeting  
Wednesday 21 Steward Training

#### February

Thursday 5 E-Board  
Sunday 8 Super Bowl (MDA)  
Thursday 12 Branch Meeting  
Wednesday 18 Steward Training



### Branch 111 Officers

#### **President**

Mike Wahlquist  
385-216-0476

#### **Executive Vice-President**

Mike Hansen  
801-628-1848

#### **Vice-President**

Destiney Carrillo  
562-370-3590

#### **Treasurer**

Mike Madsen

#### **Secretary**

Steve McNeas

#### **Sergeant-at-Arms**

Mike Simonsen

#### **MBA & OWCP**

Bob Jewell  
801-244-0929

#### **Editor**

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#### **L.C.P.F. Coordinator**

Josh Thibodeau  
801-953-6343  
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#### **Legislative**

Chad Mortensen

#### **Health Benefits**

Jim Kerekes  
801-557-6033

#### **Organizer**

Justin Lindquist  
801-301-9293

#### **Safety & Health**

Justin Lindquist  
801-301-9293

#### **Food Drive**

Josh Jessop

#### **MDA**

Nathan Chester  
801-450-0617

#### **Director of Veteran Affairs**

Jimmy Fleming  
veteransaffairs@branch111.com

#### **Trustees**

Chad Mortensen  
Kirk McLaughlin  
Kortnie Chatterton