



The Pavement Pounder

Branch 111 NALC

"The Wasatch Branch"

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edition

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



★ **BRANCH 111** ★

STEAK FRY

SAVE THE DATE!

OFFICIALLY
AUGUST 29TH
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
6:00 PM

WE ARE GOING BACK TO
MURRAY PARK
★ **PAVILION #5** ★

THIS IS A CATERED EVENT!

FOOD | **FUN** | **RAFFLE**

★ **FOR BRANCH MEMBERS AND A GUEST** ★

SCAN THE QR
FOR RSVP AND TICKETS!



★ We look forward to seeing you there! ★

**GREAT FOOD
GREAT PEOPLE
STRONGER
TOGETHER**

**BRANCH
111**
Stronger Together
NALC
SALT LAKE CITY, UT

The President's Report

The Art of Parcel Delivery

Thirty-one years ago, I was on a route in the Downtown Station, somewhere North and West of the Capitol. The street I was on was not exactly the “nicest”, in fact it was a pretty-rough area back then. This street used to get about 20 government-issued certified letters at the beginning of every month (for those of you who have been around long enough to know what that means). I had a medium-sized box for a house at the end of the street, and it barely fit into my satchel, but since I had no third bundle that day, I decided to bring it with me.

When I got to the house to which the parcel was addressed, I noticed they had a chain-link fence all around the property, right up to the sidewalk. I shook the gate (any experienced Letter Carrier will shake the gate to flush out protective canines), and seeing and hearing no response, I entered the yard and made my way to the front door. I rang the bell and knocked (long experience has taught me to do both... saves me time and prevents debates with customers in the long run) and waited 20 seconds for a response (my own rule, but there is no set amount of time to wait). When there was no answer, I looked around, and I decided that it was “safe enough” to leave the parcel. This was in the days before scanners, so there was no bar-code to worry about and it was a different time in the Post Office. I had been taught that if you were going to leave a parcel, it should be in a safe and protected location. The porch was covered, and I placed it to the side so that it would be less visible from the street.

However, as I delivered mail down the other side of the street, I began to think that in that particular neighborhood, it might be better to leave notice. So, after getting back to my half-ton, I drove back to get the parcel, and “leave notice”. I flipped a U-Turn in the middle of the road (truly a simpler time, these days I would drive around the block) and drove back to the house. But to my surprise, the parcel was gone. At first I thought that the people must have come home. But it was a quiet day, and I hadn’t seen or heard any traffic on the street. As I continued to look at the house, I noticed that there seemed to be a lot of garbage in the yard that I hadn’t noticed before. In fact, there were torn papers scattered all over the yard. I then noticed a large pit bull chewing on the remains of a large blue binder, neither of which had been there 10 minutes earlier. What I was seeing was the shredded remains of the parcel I had just delivered. I will never know why the dog didn’t attack me or bark when I had made the delivery a few minutes earlier. Regardless, the dog clearly thought that its job was to annihilate any parcels within reach. What is the moral of the story? I don’t really have one, but it makes a good introduction to this article... The Art of Parcel Delivery.

So, how do you deliver an ordinary parcel (A parcel that has no special services requested by the sender)? This seems obvious to Letter Carriers, but let’s look at the actual instructions from the M-41, “Delivery Carriers Duties and Responsibilities”, which should be found in every route book. Section 322.31 states:

“322.31...For any parcel that does not fit into the customer’s mailbox or parcel locker (when available), an attempt to deliver must be made at the customer’s door. If no one is available to receive the parcel, follow the procedures in 322.311 and 322.312.” [the manuals do not say how long you wait after ringing and/or knocking, but please use common sense]

“322.311...

A. Uninsured parcels or parcels that do not require a signature may be left in an unprotected location such as a stairway or uncovered porch when the mailer participates in the Carrier Release Program by endorsing the parcel “Carrier – Leave If No Response” or the addressee has given written directions for an alternate delivery location. PS Form 3849, Delivery Notice/Reminder/Receipt, with the ‘It Is located: _____’ block completed must be left in the mail receptacle notifying the addressee of the mail left in the authorized alternate location.

B. By following the mailer’s or addressee’s instructions, the Postal Service provides customers with a more convenient way to receive parcels. Carriers are not liable for loss or theft where these instructions and postal regulations are followed.

C. Mailers who participate in the carrier release program understand that there are areas where the Postal Service will not leave parcels for security reasons. Mailers also **(continued next page)**

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understand that carriers do not leave packages without protection from inclement weather.

If you are like me, there are a few rules about leaving packages that you were probably not aware of. Clearly you should “attempt to deliver”, which goes above and beyond a “knock and drop”, even though there have been managers who have given that very instruction (but lost the resultant grievance). And clearly, you are able to leave packages in protected locations, and unprotected locations if released to do so by mailer or customer (customer releases must be written, signed by the customer, and kept in the route book), with weather and theft issues to be determined by the Letter Carrier, and delivery made or notice left as appropriate. Ok, now let’s look at when we are not authorized to leave ordinary packages, and this gets a bit crazy, if you ask me:

“322.312 When the Carrier Is Not Authorized to Leave Ordinary Parcels

- A. When someone is usually available to receive parcels. When an uninsured parcel, a parcel not requiring a signature, or a parcel that is not part of the Carrier Release Program is not delivered on the first attempt and the carrier knows that someone at the address is usually available to receive parcels, do not leave Form 3849, Delivery Notice/Reminder/Receipt. Write the date and the carrier’s initials and route number near the address and return the parcel to the office. Place the parcel in the gurney at the carrier’s case. Attempt a second delivery on the next delivery day. If the parcel is not delivered after the second attempt, complete and leave Form 3849. Legibly endorse the form with the following information: (1) Article number (if applicable) (2) Date (3) Sender’s name (4) Type of mail (5) Article requiring signature at time of delivery (if applicable) (6) Addressee’s name and address (7) Amount due (if applicable) (8) Date and time customer can pick up article at post office.***
- B. When someone is not usually available to receive parcels. If no one is available to receive the parcel and the carrier knows that someone at the address is not usually available to receive parcels, or the parcel is insured, requires a signature, or is not part of the Carrier Release Program, complete and leave Form 3849 (see exhibit 322.312) after the first attempt. When the carrier does not know if someone is usually available to receive parcels, Form 3849 should be left after the first attempt if the parcel is insured, requires a signature, or is not part of the Carrier Release Program. Endorse the parcel near the address, showing the reason for nondelivery (e.g., “No Response”), date delivery was attempted, and the carrier’s initials and route number. Upon returning to the office, deposit the parcel in the designated place for undelivered parcels.”***

So there are a few things contained in these rules that really surprised me the first time I read them, such as: if you know someone is usually home, you are not supposed to leave notice but are to attempt it again the next day. And, when you bring back a parcel that has had notice left, that you endorse the package with initials, route number, and date of attempt near the address, and write the reason for non-delivery.

The essence of this article was to inform Letter Carriers of how they have the contractual right to deliver parcels the correct way, and to show that management cannot force us to sacrifice customer service, tell us to “slick” through the job, or ask us to cut corners as it relates to service just to make their numbers. If a Letter Carrier were to follow all the above-mentioned rules, then parcel delivery would truly become an artform. Some Letter Carriers might argue that they don’t have time to follow the rules of proper parcel delivery, but then the opposite is also true, which is that if you are following the rules of proper parcel delivery, the route will be adjusted accordingly, and a Letter Carrier will then have time to do it correctly.

Michael Wahlquist
President
Branch 111
NALC



IF YOU GET HURT AT WORK, DO NOT GO IT ALONE!

I have written a few different articles about what to do when you get injured on the job. I feel it is worth writing about again.

Recently I have been helping several carriers who have eventually come to the Branch for help, specifically Bob Jewell. I am realizing that 99% of the time when an injured carrier tries to navigate the complicated world of OWCP on their own the case gets screwed up in one way or the other. Carriers trust that management will process the case correctly and time after time it is not.

I am still unsure if it is just that most supervisors haven't been trained properly or if it is intentional. Probably a little of both. Either way, it is costing carriers a lot of heart ache and thousands of dollars.

IF YOU GET HURT AT WORK, UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES, DO YOU TRY TO HANDLE IT ON YOUR OWN. IF YOU REPORT AN INJURY TO MANAGEMENT, YOUR NEXT PHONE CALL MUST BE TO YOUR STEWARD.

Not all carriers read these articles so it is up to all carriers to help their coworkers when they hear that one of them got injured at work. Encourage them to call their steward, do not rely on management to do it correctly, they won't. Here is some of what I wrote last time.

A traumatic injury is defined as: *"A wound or other condition of the body caused by external force, including stress or strain, which is identifiable as to the time and place of occurrence and member or function of the body affected. The injury must be caused by a specific event or incident or series of events or incidents within a single workday or work shift."*

I could write pages on the process but I want to keep it simple. Follow this process:

- 1. Assess your injury and call 911 if it is an emergency.***
- 2. Immediately notify your supervisor of your injury and your intent to file a claim using ECOMP. Get your supervisor's email, you'll need it later.***
- 3. Call your Steward or the Union Hall. You can call me if you don't know who else to call at 801-628-1848. Call the Union immediately after reporting the injury to your manager.***
- 4. Get medical attention. You have the right to seek treatment from your own doctor. If you are examined by a physician's assistant or nurse practitioner, ask them to have a Doctor review and counter-sign the report.***
- 5. While waiting to see the doctor, register on ecomp.dol.gov. This is just setting up your profile. Personal info and password. This will save time later.***
- 6. Follow up with Branch Compensation Specialist Bob Jewell at 801-244-0929. Bob will help you file a CA-1 and help with everything else you need to know. ASK ABOUT COP!***

Those who seek assistance from the Union have a far better experience and far better results with their claim. Just do it!

In Solidarity,
Mike Hansen
Executive Vice President
Branch 111, NALC



NALC “Stamp Out Hunger” Food Drive

The Stamp Out Hunger numbers are in, and I wanted to pass them along this year. Going into this year’s Stamp Out Hunger season, I attended multiple meetings with local food banks, and the overall feeling was one of “realistic expectations.”

“Food donation levels are down, and requests for food assistance are up.” This was the overall takeaway from my early meetings this year. Going into full preparation mode this year, I was dreading what was looking to be a year of lower return across the entire state.

Numbers from all the offices started rolling in during the first week in June, and as I started putting together our numbers, I was very pleasantly surprised. Statewide, Utah carriers collected 19% more food than last year. Almost every office in the state outperformed their 2025 numbers.

I wanted to pass along the numbers to my fellow carriers to show you all how much of an impact we have on the communities we carry in. I know that not everyone loves the food drive, but I hope everyone can love the reality of the impact we can have on real lives in our neighborhoods. Please accept my most sincere thanks for all the hard work you all put into the food drive. So much of what we do goes without proper appreciation, so please know that I appreciate every carry and family member that donated their bodies and time to bettering the lives of people all around you. Thank you all!

In Solidarity and Gratitude,

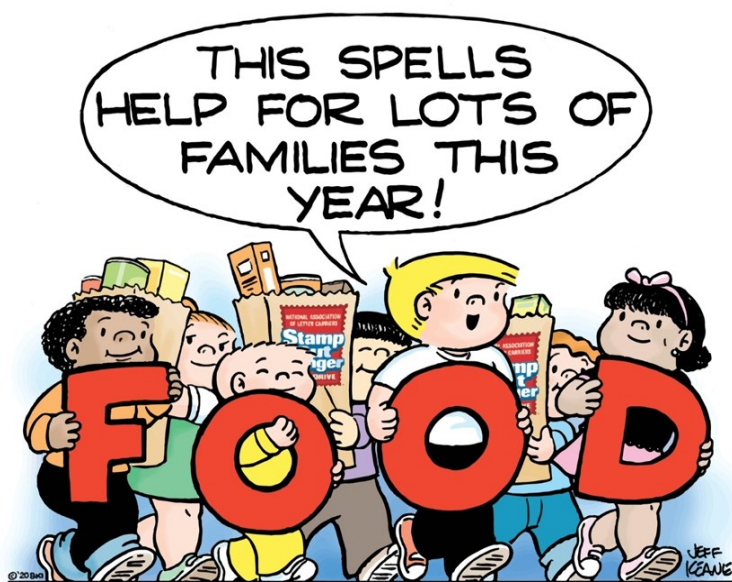
Josh Jessop

Stamp Out Hunger Utah State Rep

Branch 111, NALC



Bountiful	24,889	Kearns	11,555
West Valley	19,637	Orem	11,101
West Jordan	18,739	Millcreek	8,458
Alta Canyon	16,785	Lehi	7,460
Holladay	15,965	Midvale	6,352
Murray	15,802	Foothill	5,913
Orem Mtn. Shadows	15,717	Northwest	3,434
Cottonwood	15,316	Airport	3,274
Sandy	14,262	South Salt Lake	2,817
Downtown	13,265	Heber	2,777
Tooele	12,009	Magna	2,641
Sugarhouse	11,856	Dugway	398



LETTER CARRIERS' FOOD DRIVE

NALC BRANCH 111
Minutes of the Regular Union Meeting
July 09, 2026

Meeting 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 Jim Kerekes

Moment of Silence for Steve Franz and Don Taylor who have passed away.

Roll Call by Destiney Carrillo

Minutes of the June Union Meeting were posted.

With no objection the minutes will be filed for future reference.

Reading of the Communications by Steve McNees

The 84103 zone requested the removal of a steward. President Wahlquist sent a response to all who signed the letter. • Stephanie Pilcher was sent a letter of Formal Endorsement. • A 10 day extension of time limits was given for Logan Merchant. • A letter from President Renfro wrote indicating it would be a violation to allow advertisement from the Fifth Third Bank since it would compete with the MBA program. • Delegate letters and releases were sent out for those attending the AFL-CIO Convention. • The USPS sent notification of consideration to revert the vacant PTR position on Route 88002. A motion to file communications for future reference was passed.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP by Mike Hansen. New Members: Ashley Dayley, Steve Romero, Rebecca Ridl, Nelly Martinez, Bradley Robertson, Colten Rowe, Debra Latu, Erica Sanchez, Jenny Kern, Rebecah Evans, John Martin, and Luken Baty.

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

MDA COORDINATOR by Nathan Chester
\$3,115 has been received so far from the MDA Bowling last month. There are still a couple of donations outstanding. • Total MDA donations so far this year are \$6,115. • There will be a raffle at the Steak Fry.

DIRECTOR OF VETERAN AFFAIRS by Jimmy Fleming – no report

LEGISLATIVE by Chad Mortensen

The AFL-CIO Convention last month was really good. They had break-out sessions. They had lawyers that explained Weingarten and other rights. Another on immigration and how to respond to questioning from them. One on endorsement procedures. • Next year we should try and get one of our branch members on the AFL-CIO Executive Board so that we know the issues being discussed and ask questions that affect us. • They are still working on a bill to allow the P.O. to do some of the government and private business work for them. • Reach out to your

representatives and make sure they do not privative the USPS and understand the harm that will be caused to a lot of people.

TRUSTEES by Chad Mortensen

The did not meet this month (only required once per quarter). •

COMPENSATION by Bob Jewell – no report

HEALTH BENEFITS by Jim Kerekes

• There is talk that we might go back to Lite Blue. • Members have been encouraged to set up their accounts on login.gov (probably all federal employees) to get to your health plans. • Some people signing up for the health plans are having troubles. If you or another member has problems, call Jim.

ORGANIZER by Justin Lindquist – not present

SAFETY AND HEALTH by Justin Lindquist – not present

DIRECTOR OF RETIREES by Jeff Asay –

You must have a **login.gov** account now for all federal programs and benefits. This is for all active and retired members. • The retiree's dinner will be the same this year (Golden Corral) unless someone suggests a different place or activity. • Jeff awarded Gus Rohrbach with a 70-year membership Plaque!

TREASURER by Mike Madsen

Last month we had income of \$56,000, expenses of \$26,000, with a net increase of \$29,000. This month we will have quarterly payroll so it will be totally different than last month.

VICE PRESIDENT by Destiney Carrillo

Next Wednesday Steward Training will be held on Zoom. The subjects will be Cal time and Weingarten Rights and how to go over them with our carriers.

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT by Mike Hansen

• 851 grievances filed so far this year. • Nation Convention is coming up and he has turned in a warrant with check amounts to Madsen today. Madsen will work on getting check out this coming week. • There are 16 funded delegates attending convention with a few others self-funding. Each delegate will get about \$1,875 while fully funded delegate will get a little over \$2,300. Most expenses will be paid except for per-diem. • August 21st is the Union Night at the Bees Baseball Game. Cost is about \$21. Tickets will be available online. All information will be posted on our website (branch111.com) and on our Facebook page. • The Branch Steak Fry will be August 29th at Murray Park, pavilion 5. It will be catered this year and Bob Jewell will be bringing even more Dutch Oven desserts.

PRESIDENT by Mike Wahlquist -

• This year the summer pool party and steak fry will be catered so that branch officers will be able to mix with members, shaking hands and talking to them instead of BBQing and serving food. This would also eliminate hauling all the equipment to and from the park, the work/time setting up, cleaning, and taking

Minutes (continued)

down. • The Summer Party is this Saturday at 6:15pm. This is for families. The pool is ours from 6:15-8:15 at the Murray pool. • Delegates attending the AFL-CIO Convention were John Mister, Jimmie Kerekes, Fernando Palafox, Phil Rodriguez, Kim Mortensen, Josh Thibodeau, Gareth Davies, Chad Mortensen, and Keith Warner.

SPECIAL ORDERS:

• Proposed Bylaws Changes

A- Current Language: ARTICLE 4 – OFFICERS SECTION 2

2. Elected offices to be filled are: President, Executive Vice President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Health Benefits Representative, MBA & Compensation Specialist, Safety and Health Representative, Director of Retirees and three (3) Trustees. The Trustees will choose the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees. Elected offices are for a term of three (3) years.

Proposed Change: Article 4, Section 2 -

Elected offices to be filled are: President, Executive Vice President, Vice President, Recording Secretary/ Financial Secretary (the duties of both offices are combined), Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Health Benefits Representative, MBA & Compensation Specialist, Safety and Health Representative, Director of Retirees and three (3) Trustees. The Trustees will choose the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees. Elected offices are for a term of three (3) years.

B – Current Language ARTICLE 8 – FINANCIAL, SECTION 7.D

D. The Secretary-Treasurer shall receive a monthly salary of 32 hours at NALC City Carrier Grade 2, Step P, Carrier Technician rate.

Proposed Change:

D. The Treasurer shall receive a monthly salary of 32 hours at NALC City Carrier Grade 2, Step P, Carrier Technician rate.

C- Current Language: ARTICLE 7 – COMMITTEES, SECTION 6:

Section 6. No delegate or alternate elected to any National, State, or AFL-CIO Convention shall receive any convention expenses from this Branch unless their regular Union Dues and assessments have been paid in full, as provided for in Article 3 Section 1 of the By-Laws and in accordance with Article V, Section 2 of the National Constitution.

Proposed Change: Delete this portion of Article 7 Section 6.

D- ARTICLE 8 – FINANCIAL, Section 6.h.

Current Language: H. The President shall have a discretionary payroll account, to distribute to any union member in good standing, to conduct union business, attend special meetings, regional assemblies, and conferences. Pay shall be equal to NALC Grade 2 Step P Carrier Technician rate. The Executive Board must approve the use of monies from this account to pay the President.

Proposed Language: Delete Article 8, Section 6.h. Renumber all subsequent sections.

Proposed Standing Order:

Regarding payment of dues for those in a Non-Pay Status:

National Officers are excluded from this process. 2. If you are in LWOP status, Branch 111 will only collect National and State dues. 3. Invoices will be sent at 6 month, again at 9 months, and again at 12 months. 4. If there are no payments after 15 months then the member is taken off the roles. 5. Any payment resets the invoice process.

The proposal was approved by the Executive Board. The motion was seconded by the members. The motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION: none

FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE SERVICE: none

DRAW AND ADJOURN: 7:30 pm

•\$50 DRAWING WINNERS: Adam Bryant and Blake Mellor

•RETIREES – \$125 (Bobby VanWynen was not present). Next month it will be \$150.

• PROGRESSIVE A - \$175 (Steven Young was not present). Next Meeting it will be \$200.

• PROGRESSIVE B - \$125 (Jeff Ingleby was not present). Next Meeting it will be \$150



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 DATES

August 3-7 NALC National Convention
August 6 Executive Board
August 13 Branch Meeting
August 19 Steward Training
August 29 Steak Fry
September 3 Executive Board meeting
September 10 Branch Meeting
September 13 Steward Dinner
September 16 Steward Training

Go to **branch111.com** or use the QR code below to register to attend the August branch meeting via zoom.

August Branch Meeting



Register Now

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 McNees

Sergeant-at-Arms

Mike Simonsen

MBA & OWCP

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Kirk McLaughlin
Kortnie Chatterton