

BRANCH 111 N.A.L.C. “THE WASATCH BRANCH”

Retirees and 1 guest are cordially invited to the
Branch 111, N.A.L.C. RETIREES DINNER.
Wednesday, October 25, 2023
From 3:30 to 5:30 P.M. at Chuck-A-Rama :
12344 Minuteman Drive, Draper

Pavement
Pounder

Pavement
Pounder



August 2023

Publication 2023.08

Branch 111 Steak Fry

August 26, 2023 : Murray Park –Pavilion #5 : 292 E. Murray Park Ave.

Members can bring a spouse or a guest. Cost is \$10 per person. Retirees and a guest are free (paid from the Retiree’s fund). Tickets are available on branch111.com or in person at the branch.

Delegate Nominations for National Convention will be at the September Branch Meeting

September

Monday 4th Labor Day Picnic
Thursday 7th E-Board
Thursday 14th Branch Meeting
Wednesday 20th Steward Dinner

October

Thursday 5th E-Board
Thursday 12th Branch Meeting
National Convention delegate elections and Branch Officer Nominations will be at the October Branch meeting.
Wednesday 18th Steward Training
Wednesday 25th Retirees Dinner (3:30-5:30)
Oct 30th - Nov 2 RAP Session

November

Oct 30th - Nov 2 RAP Session
Thursday 2nd E-Board
Thursday 9th Branch Meeting
Wednesday 15th Steward Training

The President's Report

Employee Claims

I can't tell you how many times my uniform was damaged at work. Several times it was from dog attacks, and other times it was from falling or slipping, and still other times my clothing was snagged by a rogue piece of wrought iron railing. Accidents happen, and we all have things that get damaged and broken at work. The sad thing for me is that nobody ever told me that I could file a claim for personal items that were lost, damaged, or destroyed at work. My intent with this article is to pass along the information that I learned too late... that you can file a claim and be reimbursed for personal items (with a \$60 minimum value) that are lost, damaged, or destroyed at work.

Article 27 states:

“Subject to a \$60 minimum, an employee may file a claim within fourteen (14) days of the date of loss or damage and be reimbursed for loss or damage to his/her personal property except for motor vehicles and the contents thereof taking into consideration depreciation where the loss or damage was suffered in connection with or incident to the employee's employment while on duty or while on postal premises. The possession of the property must have been reasonable, or proper under the circumstances and the damage or loss must not have been caused in whole or in part by the negligent or wrongful act of the employee. Loss or damage will not be compensated when it resulted from normal wear and tear associated with day-to-day living and working conditions.”

And then later in the Article it states:

“1. Personal Property. The property must be “personal property.” This includes cash, jewelry, clothing and carrier uniforms as well as other items that are worn or otherwise brought to work. Personal property does not include automobiles”

So this means that you can submit a claim for any clothing item, cash, jewelry, bag, sunglasses, radio, phone, etc... as long as its value is over \$60 (adjusting for depreciation), and the item's loss or destruction was not caused by the employees negligence or wrongful act. If your vehicle was broken into and items were stolen, you get to file a claim. If you left your door open and your items were stolen, then your negligence contributed to the loss, so you would not get to file a claim. If a dog ripped your \$90 postal pants, then you get to file a claim. If you cut up your pants with scissors following the latest ripped pants trend, then your willful actions caused the damage, and you do not get to file a claim. But if you slipped and your glasses fell off your face and broke, you get to file a claim. Slipping is not a negligent or wrongful act, accidents happen, so you will still be able to file a claim. But if you broke your glasses while breaking a Postal rule or regulation (use your imagination), then you wouldn't be able to file a claim. You might have noticed that automobiles are excluded from Article 27 Claims.

Article 27 goes on to say [on the topic of automobiles]:

“However, if a letter carrier's automobile is damaged by “the negligent or wrongful act” of the Postal Service, the carrier may seek recovery under the Federal Tort Claims Act.

To initiate a Tort Claim, a carrier should complete and submit a Standard Form (SF) 95. Note that the standard for establishing liability under the Tort Claims Act is different than the standard for reimbursement under Article 27, because they treat fault differently. The Postal Service must pay a claim under Article 27 unless it was “caused in whole or in part by the negligent or wrongful act of the employee”—whether or not there was also negligence on the part of the Postal Service. However, to recover under the Tort Claims procedure the employee must establish that the damage was the fault of the Postal Service.”

The rules for automobiles are quite a bit different, and the Postal Service must be at fault in order to file a Federal Tort Claim. Examples of this would be when a Postal Service vehicle strikes an employee's personal vehicle. Or when a runaway Nutting cart slams into your personal vehicle. You will not be able to file a tort claim if something non-Postal related damaged your vehicle, unless you can prove that the damage occurred from the Postal Service committing a negligent or wrongful act, and that can often be tough to prove.

Michael Wahlquist – President
Branch 111, NALC

Utah Is Strong

Over the last year many regional stewards and myself have been part of a program that Region started to help other Branches throughout Region 2 get caught up on backlogged grievances that have been a burden on their Branch. I am proud to say that Utah is heavily represented on these teams. Branch 68, Branch 2171, and Branch 111 all have stewards and officers on these teams. I have been able to visit many different offices in several states in our Region. It has been very helpful to see how other branches file grievances and conduct business. It has also reminded me how strong we are here in Utah. We have the most stewards participating in this program in the region. Utah also requires very little help from these teams. With the exception of a couple offices with very very poor management, Utah can handle whatever comes our way. I am very proud of that. I can speak for Branch 111 when I say we have amazing stewards. Being on the road and seeing grievance work from all sizes of branches, Branch 111 stands tall.

Our stewards do high quality work and remind management at every turn that we will be following the contract. I see this now more than ever. Not only do we have some of the most experienced Formal A stewards leading the way, we have more new stewards eager to learn than we have had in a long time. Almost every office within Branch 111 has motivated stewards who are fighting for their people. These new stewards are learning fast and soon will be taking on Formal A cases on their own. We have been lucky to have had good leadership at the Branch for quite some time and the training that our stewards have received over the last several years has been amazing. Mike Wahlquist, Amie Gallo, Lance Henry, Phil Rodriguez, and now Destiney Carrillo have always made sure to help educate our stewards. I am very proud of Branch 111 and I know our members are in good hands. I am also excited to watch these new stewards grow and become leaders in our Branch.

In solidarity
Mike Hansen
Executive Vice President

Branch 111, NALC

Listen to Your Body, Your Life May Depend on it!

As Letter Carriers who expose our bodies to varying conditions and weather, we must listen to our bodies. Yes, sometimes a tummy ache is just a tummy ache, but as I very recently found out a tummy ache can turn into more. I had been scheduled out for 12 hours but called my supervisor and brought back my last hour of mail. The initial tummy ache that I thought I had turned into a stay at the hospital and a Cholecystectomy that I am currently recovering from.

Just remember no matter how much pressure is being put on you to deliver the mail, if your body is telling you that you can't do it anymore, please let your supervisor know that you are unable to perform your duties due to sickness or a condition. You must take care of yourself first and if for any reason management harasses, tries to intimidate, etc. Please let your steward know immediately so that behavior can be addressed immediately.

In Solidarity,
Destiney Carrillo
Vice President

Health Benefits : Jim Kerekes

I recently decided to check into the Federal Group Life Insurance rates for retirees who when they retire decide to keep some of the options. Seeing the rates helps them to choose if they want to keep some of the options in retirement. That also prompted me to look at the rates for active employees.

The options you know that you pay for are A B and C. The Basic is free as an active employee. A is \$10,000. B is 5 times your yearly salary. Option C is family coverage up to 5 multiples.

Active employees rate chart is different than for retirees.

Since there are more active employees carrying most of the options, you might want to look up the new rates which started on October 1 2021. That's what I found out when I decided to look into the Life Insurance.

The rates went down. Look at your age bracket and all the options you have and see how much money you are saving every two weeks. I did that for the age group 55-59. With the top pay salary currently at \$75,299. So if that person in that age bracket has the maximum of Basic and A B and C they are saving \$8.47 per payday if I figured it right. The total value of that persons life insurance is \$501,500.

If my figures are off try that same age bracket for yourself. You should calculate your age bracket for yourself to see how much you are saving every two weeks.

Everyone should frequently review all their benefits. That includes health, dental vision, tsp ,etc. Some people when they are close to retirement are sometimes apprised about their benefits and start asking questions like what can I do about that. Don't let it be to late to do something that should have been done earlier.

If anyone wants help with life insurance or other of the benefits text me before calling.

Tom McPartland, Retiree, Branch 111

I was deeply moved by Lance Henrie's article in the July, 2023 Pavement Pounder. He indeed wrote a passionate composition of great gratitude to his Union and his retirement which he does not take for granted. Brother Henrie wrote, in my opinion, the finest, bravest article I have seen in a very long time. Gratitude is a virtue often lost on many, and openly spoke of by few.

At the end of brother Henrie's letter he asks us not to 'feel sorry' for him, and I will not violate his noble wishes. Like Brother Henrie, I am retired I too am grateful for all the NALC has done for me. I live in the George E. Whalen Ogden Veterans Home, where I am happy, but it is expensive but my retirement pay checks covers this. I am diagnosed with Parkinson's Lewy Body Dementia and before properly medicated, I too had hallucinations and talked to persons who were not there. I do pretty well for now except for the twitching, but like Coach Jerry Sloan, who had the same mental disease, I eventually will live with dementia and die, if the Parkinson's doesn't get me first. But like Brother Henrie, I can't tolerate sympathy, at all. I really can't. Friendship and The Gospel is all I really want.

The Good Lord gave me a great life and the NALC a great retirement, even a career within my beloved Branch 111. Friends I made serving my Union have lasted a life time within my heart. Thanks Steve McNees, you and Susan are something extra special. Thanks to Mike Whalquist, Steve and I did a good job training you. I can not forget the bedrock of Branch 111 for 26 years, being the best Branch Treasurer in the entire NALC. Without Mike Madson at the financial helm, Branch 111 would of got lost a long time ago. I ask all our members to say "Thank you" to all of these Giants of men. (Jimmy Williams, you were the best. I really miss you.)

Be grateful my brothers and sisters for the Lord's tender mercies and YOUR Union, The National Association of Letter Carriers. Also, be humble like Brother Lance Henrie. Think of him as your friend and enjoy your retirement when that wonderful day comes.

Branch 111 Steak Fry

August 26, 2023 : Murray Park –Pavilion #5 : 292 E. Murray Park Ave.

Members can bring a spouse or a guest. Cost is \$10 per person. Retirees and a guest are free (paid from the Retiree's fund). Tickets are available on branch111.com or in person at the branch.

SAVE THE DATE!

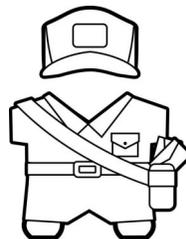
Retirees and 1 guest are cordially invited to the Branch 111,
N.A.L.C. RETIREES DINNER Wednesday, October 25, 2023

From 3:30 to 5:30 P.M. at Chuck-A-Rama 12344 Minuteman Drive .Draper

Uniforms Needed!

Please bring any uniforms you may have that you'd be willing to donate.

We accept any uniforms in new or used condition, but please none in bad condition.



NALC BRANCH 111, Minutes of the Regular Union Meeting for August 10, 2023

Convened at 6:32 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

Moment of Silence for **Bruce Morgan** and **Robert Taylor** who passed away :Roll Call by Steve McNees :

Minutes of the June 2023 union meeting were posted. Without objection, they will be filed for future reference.

Reading of the Communications by Steve McNees

- Letter from Region requesting a phone call from Pres. Wahlquist. • An invitation from Ironworkers Local 27 to their 2023 Golf Tournament to be held Sept. 23rd, 8 am, at Fox Hollow Golf Course. Contact Destiny at 801-972-5714. • A letter of condolence and a packet of information was sent to Bruce Morgan's wife concerning Bruce's passing away.
- Alta L Crane, daughter of branch member Michael Hayes was chosen as one of five winners of the 2023 William C Doherty Scholarship Award competition. This award consists of \$4,000 per year for four years for each winner.
- National President Brian Renfroe announced that he is healthy and has resumed his duties. • Newly retired member, Flame Weinmaster, has moved to Colorado and wishes to have his membership transferred to Branch 229.

Application for Membership by Mike Hansen. None

BRANCH LIASON WITH MDA - Joey Wiscome

- There isn't much to do locally anymore since MDA is now run on a national level. He is volunteering with Project Strong to help with summer camp. He also helped with a carnival and other kid's activities which he loves doing.

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

MDA COORDINATOR by Jeremy Bailey – not present

DIRECTOR OF VETERAN AFFAIRS by Jimmy Fleming – no report

LEGISLATIVE by Chad Mortensen

- Get involved in the Special Election in District 2. Chad supports and would recommend Becky Edwards. • If you write to a local leader, Chad recommends that you write to them on a post card, to their local office. • Bruce Morgan was a great example for contacting his local and national representatives (we will miss him).

TRUSTEES by Chad Mortensen

- The Trustees met Tuesday. Nothing eventful popped up. Madsen and Wahlquist are doing a great job. Bills are getting paid, and we have money in the bank.

MBA, COMPENSATION by Bob Jewell

- People are still getting hurt. Supervisors are still pushing some carriers to the point where they are working unsafely.
- Some supervisors who know how to give out compensation forms, aren't doing it. • Stewards, be sure that all the carriers in your office are registered with OWCP, through ecomp, so when they get injured, they can go right to their phones while still on the street and complete a CA-1. When they get back to the office the supervisor should have the report and give them a CA-16. • Some managers are saying that they don't have to give you a CA-16. Contact Bob to confirm you are being given the correct information by supervisors and the compensation office.

HEALTH BENEFITS by Jim Kerekes

- Many have signed up for benefits/insurance/programs before retirement, then don't find out until they retire what the costs are for the benefits they have applied for over the years. Many go up as you get older (like life insurance) and people aren't aware of it until they retire, realizing they should have cancelled it years ago. • Jim gave examples of how rates go up as you get older. • It pays to review your whole history at the USPS, from time to time, so that you can track the changes in rates and fees. • Life insurance goes up when you are 35 and goes up a lot once you hit 55 and more at retirement age.

ORGANIZER by Justin Lindquist – not present : SAFETY AND HEALTH by Justin Lindquist – not present

DIRECTOR OF RETIREES by Jeff Asay

- Jeff expressed how Bruce Morgan was a great and honorable guy. Carriers are the most visible representatives of the U.S. government. Be like Bruce.
- Retirees, if you do not have Medicare part B currently, you will not be required to sign up for it during the changes next year. But you will have 8 months to sign up for part B for free, if you will need it. More information will be coming out before the changes. If you have questions, you can call Jeff Asay or Jim Kerekes for help and answers to your questions.
- You will need to make a choice of health plans by the Fall of 2024. If you haven't made a choice, OPM will assign you to a health plan similar to the one you currently have.
- You should log into your OPM account regularly (at least once a year) so that your credentials (passwords, etc.) do not expire (creating new ones is not fun).
- Aug. 26 th is the Steak Fry. Jeff will pay for the retirees and a guest. There will be retiree only drawings for cash prizes totalling \$1,500. You also get a ticket for the other drawings for the evening.
- A second retiree dinner will be held Oct 25 th 3:30 to 5:30pm at the Draper Chuck-a-Rama. This is to make up for many not being aware of the first dinner.

TREASURER by Mike Madsen : • no report, we had \$5,000 more income than we had expenses last month.

VICE PRESIDENT by Destiney Carrillo – excused, no report

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT by Mike Hansen

- 1,684 grievances assigned so far this year.
- The Steak Fry is Aug 26 th . Tickets are available now. Text or email Mike Hansen or Mike Wahlquist to get tickets. You can also purchase tickets on the branch web site (branch111.com) and print out or save a copy of the receipt.
- Sept 4 – Labor Day Picnic at the Magna Park. We will be selling hot dogs and hamburgers.
- Sept 20 th is the Steward Dinner. Let Mike know if you are coming or not (please!).
- Two days later there is a Bees game on Friday Sept 22 nd . Text Mike to get tickets.
- Oct. 25 is the retiree's dinner.
- At the Sept union meeting we will have Nominations for National Convention delegates.
- At the October Union Meeting we will have election of delegates to National Convention. We will also have nominations for Branch Officers at the October Union Meeting.
- Announcement of Branch Officers election results will be at the December Union Meeting.
- The Region 2 office will have Backlog Teams meetings with offices (mainly small offices without strong leadership) throughout the region to work on problems they are having with management. They are meeting with all employees to fight the problems together.

PRESIDENT by Mike Wahlquist

- At the Labor Day picnic at the Magna Park, they will have a car show and you will be able to see all the different laborers that will be there. Help serving food is still needed.
- The Ironworkers ran the building for about 20 years until about 2021. The building is getting older and two of the unions are complaining about the running of the building. The AFL-CIO was running the building HOA without pay. They have resigned as the leaders. Nobody wants to fill the positions. One of recommendations is that HOA leadership will get paid for doing the work.
- The heating and air conditioning is supposed to get fixed before winter.
- We are not going to be charged by the HOA for our training room that we share with the rest of the building.

SPECIAL ORDERS: none : • A motion was made to allow retired branch member Flame Weinmaster to transfer his membership to Colorado, branch 229. The motion passed.

FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE SERVICE: • Make sure you drink enough water (but not too much).- The TAP act has been extended until Monday to help injured veterans. The VA will help you fill out the paperwork, making it very easy to get payment for past injuries.

DRAW AND ADJOURN – 7:45 pm : \$25 drawing winners: Brock Lister and Alisha Satini

RETIREES – \$200 (Jim Christensen was not present). Next month it will be \$225.

PROGRESSIVE A - \$600 (Ray Berrett was not present). Next Meeting it will be \$625.

PROGRESSIVE B - \$500 (Christopher Garrett was not present). Next Meeting it will be \$525.

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The financial records of Branch 111 are available to anyone by appointment and a monthly record is always available at Branch 111 monthly meeting.

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Mike Hansen
Vice-President
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