

NALC BRANCH 111
Minutes of the Regular Union Meeting
February 11, 2021

The meeting was conducted remotely using Zoom software.

Convened at 6:30 pm

Pledge of Allegiance conducted by Mike Simonsen

Moment of Silence for Heber Inkley who passed away.

Roll Call by Steve McNees

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

Reading of the Communications by Steve McNees.

- Letter from President Wahlquist to Governor Spencer Cox. It explained the service that is provided by USPS workers 7 days per week. He expressed disappointment that even though we are considered essential workers, we were removed from that status in Utah. Governor Cox was asked to reconsider this and change our priority.

Application for Membership by Mike Wahlquist

Crosby Christensen, Kohnman Osenbach, Cassius Willis, Eric Meszaros, Daniel Stange, Gage Kidrick, Nathanael Gubler, Damon Liddiard, Nathan Darling, Terry Taylor, Elizabeth Melgoza, Eric Creel, Isaias Ahumada-Velazquez, Shane Valdez, Mark Reed, Melissa Hughston, Jacob Sandage, Kate Lamoreaux, Lennon Townes, Arthur Greene, Adolfo Monroy, Araceli Garcia, William Daniels, Nicolai Siscov, Michael Vo, Vitaliy Dovbysh, Brandy Salisbury, Tyler Walker, Tonette Weldon, Brett Fernelius, Maribel Adame-Cario, Luis Perez Gonzalez, Kimberly Francisco, Daniel Lopes, Luisa Tahí

LCPF by Josh Thibodeau – not present

ORGANIZER by Justin Lindquist – not present

SAFETY AND HEALTH by Justin Lindquist – not present

Chad Mortensen – Justin is trying to get more training to OJIs to get new employees started out right.

LEGISLATIVE by Chad Mortensen

- He attends the Wednesday morning AFL-CIO breakfast meetings (on zoom) where they discuss current legislation. One bill would restore the state sending out vehicle registration reminders. This would be good for the USPS and the state (they are losing income from people not remembering to register their cars).
- Nationally HR-695 and S-145 (USPS Fairness Act) are again being discussed (same as last year). They would repeal the prefunding mandate for retirees' health care. Last year it passed in the house but not brought up in the senate. Hopefully, this year will be different.
- How do we get the senate to approve it? It will take the LCPF (Letter Carrier Political Fund). It was emptied for the presidential election and needs to be restored to get these bills passed.
- The State AFL-CIO convention will be held this year (probably remotely). Elections are this year.

TRUSTEES by Chad Mortensen

- The trustees met Tuesday. They reviewed November and January records. The bank ran another check wrong but they quickly found the error.

MBA, COMPENSATION by Bob Jewell

- Bob works with lots of CCAs that are getting hurt. We need to help them so they don't work too fast or too hard (slips, trips and falls).

MDA COORDINATOR by Jeremy Bailey – no report

HEALTH BENEFITS by Jim Kerekes

Jim is getting lots of questions on health benefits and life insurance. You can find out what life insurance you have by calling Human Resources, looking on your pay stub, or your yearly statement. There may be an open season on life insurance in 2026 (doesn't happen very often). Everybody is automatically signed up for basic if you don't wave it.

You can change your life and health insurance if there is a qualifying life event (marriage, kids, divorce, etc).

DIRECTOR OF RETIREES by Jeff Asay – No report.

TREASURER by Mike Madsen

- The budget needs to be approved tonight. It is on the branch website (branch111.com Current Events). There were 5 corrections to last month's version. Pages 3-8 are only supplemental pages for the first two pages. Most items are based on last year's proposed budget.

VICE PRESIDENT by Amie Gallo

- Management is checking on when carriers are backing (from reports) and having discussion with them. Remind all carriers to avoid backing when possible. • "Deems desirable" for medical documentation is a problem again. There are lots of B-team decisions about when this is appropriate. Have your steward file grievances if necessary. • Management may be going after employees for attendance because we no longer have the CARES Act, for emergency sick leave. • Management is not always following the CDC contact guidelines (15 minutes per day exposure to those with Covid, not 15 continuous minutes). File form 1767s, grievances and OSHA complaints if they ignore the rules.

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT by Mike Hansen – Excused

PRESIDENT by Mike Wahlquist

- The postmaster in SLC is looking into moving out of the downtown building. They don't have any hard facts yet.
- Mike met with Jeff Worthington, President AFL-CIO, about Spencer Cox. Mike wrote to Cox criticizing him for not getting carriers vaccinated as essential workers. Worthington was on Cox's initial Covid committee where postal workers were listed as on the list as 1b (essential). Worthington wrote to Cox about this. Worthington got a form letter from Cox saying they weren't changing how they are scheduling vaccinations. Mike will send Cox another letter. • Currently, all adults should be vaccinated by the end of May.

SPECIAL ORDERS: none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- There was a quorum (38) in attendance. Zoom software to conduct polls was used for recording votes.
- There was a motion to raise the bounty for signing up new members from \$25 to \$50. The motion passed 81% voted Yes and 19% voted No.
- There was a motion to buy 200 face masks for newly hired CCAs. The cost is \$1,000 (\$5 each). The motion passed 80 voted Yes and 20 voted No.
- The proposed budget was reviewed line by line by Mike Madsen. See "Current Events and Info" at branch111.com for the budget. A motion to accept the proposed 2021 budget, as presented, passed. Yes 97% No 3%

NEW BUSINESS: none

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

- Chad encouraged everyone to write to Governor Cox to get vaccines for the USPS. The state has voted to use the postal service network and infrastructure in rural communities. We are relied upon especially in rural communities. The governor has shunned us contrary to what the legislature is wanting. The governor should support us at this critical time.
- Is there a projection when we might be back to regular branch meetings? If all adults are vaccinated as projected (end of May) we could be back as early as June.
- There will not be a State Convention in April. It will probably be this fall (2nd week in August possibly). Steward College has been cancelled. An alternate steward college for new stewards is being developed.

FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE SERVICE: none

DRAW AND ADJOURN – 7:40 pm

- \$25 drawing winners: A.J. Clayburn and Josh Jessop - checks to be mailed
- RETIREES – \$275 (Tamara Phillips was not present). Next month it will be \$300
- PROGRESSIVE A - \$375 (Scott Vernieuw was not present). Next month it will be \$400.
- PROGRESSIVE B - \$25 (John Cross was not present). Next month it will be \$50.