

**NALC BRANCH 111**  
**Minutes of the Regular Union Meeting**  
**December 9, 2021**

**Convened** at 6:34 pm

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

**Pledge of Allegiance** conducted by Mike Simonsen

**Moment of Silence:** Eugene Bankhead who passed away.

**Santa and Mrs. Claus** were present. They were available for photos and gave out the prizes.

**Roll Call** by Steve McNees

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

**Reading of the Communications** by Steve McNees

Received a copy of a settlement with Higbee & Assoc. regarding the improper use of a photo in the Pavement Pounder.

Without objection, they will be filed for future reference.

**Application for Membership** by Mike Hansen

Vincent Williams, Quincy Mason, Brando Carballosa, Jeremiah Carter, Bridger Feigt, Kirk Cleverly, Jennifer Von Sivers, Chris Tanem, Jon Haycock, Alex Murphy, Xibing Jiao, Rachel Mims, Jayna Brechwald, Lance Clayton

**LETTER CARRIER POLITICAL FUND** by Josh Thibodeau

Over the last couple months, he signed up 8 members as new LCPF donors.

**MDA COORDINATOR** by Jeremy Bailey – No Report

**DIRECTOR OF VETERAN AFFAIRS** - Jimmy Fleming

• The NALC Website has information and a Veterans Guide ([nalc.org/community-service/nalc-veterans](http://nalc.org/community-service/nalc-veterans)). • Jimmy's email: [veteransaffairs@branch111.com](mailto:veteransaffairs@branch111.com)

**LEGISLATIVE** by Chad Mortensen

• We endorsed 3 candidates this cycle. One is still up for election (Sim Gill). Darin Mano won for Salt Lake City Council.

Phil Rodriquez, Karen Mayne and Chad have been working for years on an infrastructure bill to allow states to use the postal service for state business. Utah is set to go and has the money set aside to implement the bill when it passes. It will be brought up again next year.

• The Kellogg company is working its people 7 days per week and 16 hours per day. Their union went on strike, but the company is just firing those who do strike. In support of their union, we should consider not buying their products until they treat their workers fairly.

• The Grace Carrol Labor School is at the U of U in July 2022. It is one of the best labor trainings there is. We just need funding for some of our members.

**TRUSTEES** by Chad Mortensen

• Everything is looking good. They didn't meet last month but worked with Mike Madsen on the Rap Session expenses.

**MBA, COMPENSATION** by Bob Jewell

• OWCP has changed their ecomp page. You can now see all your past records for your entire career. All you need to do is register at [ecomp.dol.gov](http://ecomp.dol.gov). The November Postal Record has more info on this. Now when you login you have to select "Wespac" and then "nb-ut" to get into the program to file a claim. If you have and questions or problems – call Bob!

**SPECIAL GUEST:** John Beaumont –Assistant to President Rolando for legislation.

• Today we got through ways and means markup on the Postal Reform Bill. It has taken 16 years to get to this point. Please immediately contact your representatives in the house to vote for the Postal Reform bill (HR3076). Rep. Owens is on board, but the others are not yet (but they voted for it in the past).

It will do away with the \$6.5B postal debt for pre-funding. This will help with our negotiations. We need the money for new vehicles. This is a non-partisan issue. Contact your representatives over the next couple of weeks because it will be coming up after the recess. It will keep postage rates down and improve delivery. •Our LCPF donations are great in Utah. We are an example for the rest of the country. • LCPF donors: the national average is 7.7%, Utah is at 11-12%, our branch is even higher. If you can donate or increase your donation it is really needed. Retirees can have

donations taken out of their annuities. • 26% of our members are veterans. • The windfall issue isn't coming up for a while. • A bipartisan bill for current and former Casuals, TEs and CCAs will allow them to buy back their non-career years for retirement, once they make regular (HR 4268 by Kilmer).

**HEALTH BENEFITS** by Jim Kerekes

• Open season ends Monday at midnight eastern time. • Our plan is run by and funded by letter carriers. It is not underwritten by anyone else. • Jim is worried about our personal health. Don't live to die, live to live.

**ORGANIZER** by Justin Lindquist – not present

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

**DIRECTOR OF RETIREES** by Jeff Asay

• There will be a 5.9% COLA increase for CSRS on Jan. 3rd. FERS will receive 4.9%. It is important for retirees to participate in LCPF because it protects our benefits and insurance. Write your congressmen. • Mrs. Claus has a purse full of checks (20) for retirees at the end of the meeting. One is for \$1,000, two are for \$500 and seventeen are for \$100.

**TREASURER** by Mike Madsen

• November income: \$28,000, expenses were \$22,832, with a net increase of \$5,168. • So far for the year we are \$16,749 under budget.

**VICE PRESIDENT** by Amie Gallo

• There will not be a steward training meeting this month.

**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT** by Mike Hansen

• 2,087 grievances have been filed so far this year. • Kelly Grater received the 2021 Steward of the Year Award.

**PRESIDENT** by Mike Wahlquist

• There will be double gift cards given tonight because there was no meeting last month (40 \$20.00 checks).  
• We are understaffed nationwide. We are severely down in several offices. We have fewer CCAs than last year. • The post office is getting few responses to job offers. • If you ever get too fatigued to finish your route you can bring your mail back, especially if you have worked more than 12 hours. • Work Limits: Non-ODL and CCA is 11 ½ hours with ½ hour lunch. ODL carriers are 12 hours and ½ hour lunch except in December there is no 12-hour cap. • Covid: One station is not enforcing the mask rule. It is still in effect - if you cannot ensure at least 6 feet of separation you must wear a mask.

**SPECIAL ORDERS:** none

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

• Nomination of delegates to the 2022 National Convention in Chicago:  
Nominations received prior to the meeting: Mike Wahlquist, Kirk McLaughlin, Jim Kerekes, Mike Madsen, Steve McNees, Mike Simonsen, Steve Warren, Spencer Heinz, Stormy Blood, Jimmy Fleming, Kim Mortensen, Tracey Smith, Josh Thibodeau, John Reil, Amie Gallo, Mike Hansen, Bob Jewell, Keith Warner, Frank Davis, Sherise Morgan. • Nominated at the meeting: Brent Console, April Pettley, Phil Rodriguez (unfunded), Chad Mortensen, Keke Chamberz, Alan Nagata, Russ Shosted, Kelly Grater. • Nominations closed. All have certified that they have not applied for a management position in the last two years. All are elected by acclamation.  
• Motion was made to uphold the Executive Boards recommendation to follow the bylaws regarding the number of meetings required to qualify for funding to convention, rather than allow an exemption approved by national.  
Discussion: Do we wish to allow the national dispensation to allow people to not make the parameters of having to make a certain number of meetings to qualify a delegate for funding to convention? Do we wish to allow that dispensation, or do we want to uphold the bylaws and require the meetings to be a funded delegate?  
Motion to table motion to next month – motion was withdrawn.  
The motion to uphold the recommendation of the Executive Board was discussed.  
The Motion to support the executive board and not allow dispensation of the attendance rule failed.

**NEW BUSINESS:** none

**GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:** none

**FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE SERVICE:**

**DRAW AND ADJOURN** – 8:13 pm

- \$25 drawing winners: Blake Mellor, Vicki Pfeifer, John Reil, Troy Scherzinger
- RETIREES – \$125 (Brenda Ford was not present). Next month it will be \$150
- PROGRESSIVE A - \$100 (Clayson Gladwell was not present). Next Meeting it will be \$125.
- PROGRESSIVE B - \$275 (**Kim Mortensen was present & Won**). Next Meeting it will be \$25.

**Hams & Turkeys drawing winners (\$20):**

Jimmy Kerekes, Heather Harrison, Russ Shosted, Taylor Davis, Marv Jewell, Stan Burmood, Jimmy Fleming, Stan Hawker, John Reil, Frank Davis, Bruce Morgan, Keith Warner, Ray Kosierowski, Larry Fox, Billy Craig, Steve McNees, Jenny Woodall, Jeff Asay, Aaron Johnson, Bob Jewell, Bob Valdez, Josh Thibodeau, Kiki Chamberz, Gary Thorne, John Groves, Brent Console, Sharla Groves, Kelly Grater, Arlynn Venema, Kim Mortensen, Kirk McLaughlin, Monte Jones, Rudy Scherzinger, Spencer Heinz, Mike Simonsen, Phil Rodriquez, Brent Bray, Ron Hermansen, Blake Mellor Randy Baker.

**Retiree Christmas Drawings (\$100 checks except as noted)**

Craig Ball (1,000), Santa Arlin Venema (500), Steve McNees (500), Mike Madsen, Ron Hermansen, Stan Neering, John Groves, Brent Bray, Stan Burmood, Pat Busath, Joan Larsen, Kitt Robertson, Stan Hawker, Vicki Pfeifer, Sharla Groves, Kirk McLaughlin, Keith Warner, Jim Kerekes, Eldon Butters, Marv Jewell.