

June Ruszala-Martin | Secretary



Minutes of the Meeting

January 7, 2015

Quorum: (36) members were present. A motion was made by Kate Tavernier, second by Louis Esposito and passed to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as printed.

Communications:

There were no communications.

New Business:

◆ The first order of business was the installation of officers for a three year term of office from 2015 through 2018. Mike Gardinello, former Branch President of Watertown, CT swore in the officers of Branch 20. President Daniels then congratulated the newly elected officers and the newly appointed stewards of the Branch and asked the newly installed officers to take a moment and reflect upon the oath of office they just took. President Daniels said to them, "To the generation of union leaders who have built this great union your oath of office is not just hollow words to be repeated and then forgotten. They are a solemn promise, on your honor, to hold in high respect and esteem the position to which you have been elected. They are a solemn promise to faithfully attend the meetings of the Branch, observe and faithfully execute the laws of the NALC and the by-laws of the Branch. The oath requires you to guard all property placed in your charge and to use that property solely to promote the welfare of the NALC and its members. Any violation of this oath is a violation of your honor and would rightly be considered a very serious breach of trust."

◆ Mike Gardinello Chairman of the Election Committee gave a report on the expenses incurred for the recent Branch 20 elections for the positions of President and Vice-President. The expenses incurred by Branch 20 were: \$10,711.23 less payment received of \$1,000 from candidate Paul Daniels for election mailing costs. Chairman Gardinello then reported the election results: President: Paul Daniels 363 - Thomas Sagnella 293; Vice-President: John Daniels 364 - Lynda Flood-Doms 296. A motion to accept the Election Committee's report was made by Kate Tavernier, second by Tim Thibault and passed. President Daniels thanked the Election Committee for an outstanding job.

◆ Stewards reported that Holiday gifts of thermos bottles for all active carriers were a big hit. The Vernon office was short six gifts and is waiting for Barker's to deliver additional bottles.

◆ Tom Sagnella had some questions on the election and how the mailings by the candidates were handled. A discussion was held. Carl Richards then quit as steward of the Meriden Office.

Treasurer's Report was handed out to the members present. A motion was made by Kate Tavernier to accept the report as printed, second by Mike Gardinello and passed.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Kate Tavernier second by Mike Maddalena and passed.

February 4, 2015

Quorum: (20) members were present. A motion was made by Norm St Arnaud, second by Tim Thibault and passed to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as printed.

Communications:

◆ A letter was received from NALC President Rolando that stated NBA John Casciano referred President Daniels letter to him for review and response. President Daniels letter alleged that the Branch 20 mailing list maintained by the CT State Association of Letter Carriers was improperly used for candidate mailings in the recent election of officers of Branch 20 and that the CSALC Executive Board failed to investigate the charge when brought to their attention. Rolando's response noted that the misuse of a Branch mailing list by a candidate in a Branch election may be the basis for a post-election appeal, that the issue of safeguards against potential misuse of CSALC mailing lists in the future is certainly an appropriate issue for consideration by the CSALC Executive Board and potentially for debate at the next convention and that charges of misconduct against state association officers may be filed under Article 10 of the NALC Constitution with the Executive Council of the NALC.

◆ A letter of Censure of Candidates Thomas Sagnella and Lynda Flood-Doms by the NALC Branch 20 Executive Board was read into the record by Secretary June Ruszala-Martin. The Censure letter listed the election violations committed by the candidates that included violations of NALC Branch 20 Election Committee rules and the Department of Labor, LMRDA rules and law. Responding to a member's request for clarification of the term "Censure" President Daniels responded that the censure by the Executive Board was an expression of disapproval of the actions of candidates Sagnella and Flood-Doms and a statement of reprimand. A copy of the Censure letter will be attached to these minutes.

◆ A letter was received from the Department of Labor informing the Branch that an audit will be held to determine the union's compliance with the provisions of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act (LMRDA). They will be reviewing all the financial records and the bookkeeping system used by the branch for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012. The audit will begin February 17th and will be conducted over a period 5 days. A local audit will take place on February 12th with the new trustees.

◆ A letter was received from Branch 19 member Joe Mahon informing the Branch that there will be a surprise retirement party for NALC Dispute Resolution Team member Charles Page. Tickets will cost \$45 a person and will include a dinner and a gift for Chuck. President Daniels stated that Chuck was a good friend of ours and has helped us with many of our grievances and the Branch will miss him.

◆ A letter from the NBA stated that President Rolando had appointed Brother Gennaro Mascolo as primary NALC DRT Team member replacing Charles Page.

◆ A letter was received from NBA Casciano informing the Branch that three processing plants in New England were closing. With the Southern plant closing there will be about 158 employees excessed. At this time it is not clear what the impact might be to the NALC.

New Business:

◆ President Daniels advised that CCA's are not entitled to administrative leave for an "Act of God" under Article 10 of the National Agreement. Also if a regular full-time carrier had either sick or annual leave the day of the blizzard they are not entitled to administrative leave.

◆ MDA was discussed. With fewer carriers participating in the bowl-a-thon each year a discussion was held on ways to raise money for MDA. A raffle was discussed and a motion was made by Jerry Winzer, second by Tim Thibault and passed to spend up to \$1,000 for a raffle prize for MDA in lieu of the bowl-a-thon. VP John Daniels will work with MDA to arrange for a legal raffle.

◆ The Vice-President's computer is very old, no longer can be repaired and needs to be replaced along with a new printer. The branch is also working with an idea of a branch web site. These items were further discussed. A motion was made by David Adeyemi, second by George Salmon and passed to spend up to \$2,000 to upgrade the computer systems.

◆ President Daniels has appointed Kala Argjent as the new steward in the Waterbury Plaza Station.

◆ A letter was received from the NEOA thanking the branch for its donation and support over the last 15 years and asked if we would continue that support. A motion was made by John Rich, second by Norm St. Arnauld and passed to make a donation of \$100 to NEOA.

◆ Discussion was held on the delegates to the State Convention in April. Seven delegates have met the criteria to be paid delegates and along with the president and vice president will be paid per the Branch by-laws. A motion was made by Norm St. Arnauld, second by Mike Richards and passed to pay the delegates one night's hotel cost, mileage and \$40 per day per diem for two days.

◆ A motion was made by Norm St. Arnauld, second by Jerry Winzer and passed to purchase up to 5 tickets to Charles Page's retirement party.

Treasurer's Report was handed out to all members present. Motion made by Tim Thibault, second by Jolanda Velez-Ruberte and passed to accept the report as printed.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Norm St. Arnauld, second by Tim Thibault and passed.

March 4, 2015

Quorum: (16) members were present. Minutes of the February meeting were accepted as printed with a motion from Norman St. Arnauld, second by Mike Maddalena and passed.

Communications:

A thank you was received from the Waterford East Lyme Animal Control thanking the branch for the donation in memory of Sandra Woodward, wife of William Woodward from the Norwich office. A thank you note was read from NEOA thanking the branch for the donation to help educate the public on the dangers of substance abuse. The Branch received an audit report from our trustees stating that an audit was done on February 12th and found all financial records to be in good order. The branch received a letter from the NBA informing us of the 2015 Rap Session to be held on April 25-26th at the Providence Biltmore Hotel.

New Business:

◆ A motion was made by David Adeyemi, second by Norm St. Arnauld and passed to send up to 6 stewards and officers to the rap session with per-diem and mileage.

◆ National is establishing 7 Worker's Compensation Officer positions across the country. These officers will be full-time and trained in workers compensation. There will be a full time person at our Local Business Agents office to help stewards and carriers with any issues they may have when it comes to workers compensation.

◆ Charles Page the NALC member on the B Team has retired from the Postal Service. President Daniels spoke with Chuck and has asked him to do a presentation on Article 16 at our April stewards and officers meeting. Chuck has agreed and will discuss what is needed in the grievances and what is not in order for the branch to be successful at the B Team grievance level.

◆ A motion was made by David Adeyemi, second by Norm St. Arnauld and passed to pay Charles Page his time for preparation and the time he spends with us at the steward's meeting, along with lost time, miles and a lunch for all stewards and officers present at the April Steward's meeting.

◆ A Department of Labor agent has spent 3 days in the office reviewing the minutes and all financial records of the branch. He has left for his office with some of our records which he has signed for in order to continue the audit. A final report will be issued and an exit interview will be held in approximately forty-five days.

Treasurer's report was handed out to all members present. A motion was made by Tim Thibault, second by Chris Jolly and passed to accept the report as printed.

Motion to adjourn was made by Norm St. Arnauld, second by Tim Thibault and passed.