

June Ruszala-Martin | Secretary



Minutes of the Meeting

September 2, 2015

Quorum: (19) members were present. A motion was made by Norman St. Arnauld, second by Kate Tavernier and passed to accept the June minutes as printed.

Communications:

A letter was received from Director of Retired Members, Ron Watson thanking the branch for the generous contribution as a result of our 27th Annual COLCPE Drive. This year's drive resulted in \$17,350 being collected from 90 active carriers and 95 retired members. A notice was received from National informing the branches that the NALC has entered into a voluntary agreement with OLMS to conduct a new election for the position of NALC Director of Retired Members under OLMS supervision. The new election will take place in September and October 2015. An audit of the Branch 20's books was held on September 2, 2015. Trustees Jolanda Velez-Ruberte and Mike Maddalena found all the books to be in good order. A notice was received informing branch presidents that the fall 2015 COP meeting will be held September 20th & 21st in Jacksonville, FL. The registration fee is \$75 and room rates are \$115 per night.

Old Business:

The branch voted to send and pay expenses for up to 2 carriers who are interested in attending the NALC advance steward training class. The class was still being put together in the early summer and has now opened up to applicants. David Adeyemi and Charles Pendola have submitted their names to the NALC. Applicants will be chosen on a first come first serve basis. An exit interview by the Department of Labor in July with President Daniels and Treasurer Norm St. Arnauld was held to go over the audit of the Branch 20's books. The Department of Labor review found all books to be in very good order and that all requirements of Branch 20's by-laws were followed. The audit did determined that the President and Vice-President were being paid less salary than the Branch 20's by-laws required. A written report will be forthcoming.

New Business:

- ◆ Article 12 (withholding) has been lifted in the area. Letter carrier positions are no longer frozen and we will have some CCAs being promoted in Groton, East Hampton, Torrington and Watertown. The vacant positions have to be posted on E-Reassign for 21 days.

- ◆ A motion to send President Paul Daniels to the COP meeting on September 20 & 21st and pay all expenses was made by Kate Tavernier, second by Chris Jolly and passed.

- ◆ The retiree breakfast will be held on October 4, 2015. A motion was made by Tom Sagnella, second by Mike Maddalena and passed to purchase up to \$500 worth of door prizes, to pay for the retirees' breakfast, to pay for jackets for the retirees and to have guests pay \$15 for a ticket.

- ◆ Holiday gifts for the active carriers was discussed. The cost would be up to \$15 per active member and will be voted on at the October meeting.

- ◆ President Daniels had several inquiries on uniforms for the CCAs. Seems as though management was having problems getting the uniform allowance authorized. President Daniels had the Poom send an email to all offices with clear instructions on getting the allowance authorized and how to purchase the uniforms for CCAs.

- ◆ A motion was made by Mike Maddalena, second by Chris Jolly and passed to pay the bill of \$444 to have the office building cleaned and to pay an estimated of \$700 to clean the air ducts of mold in the entire building.

- ◆ A motion was made by Kate Tavernier, second by Chris Jolly and passed to have the union building cleaned annually. **Treasurer's report** was handed out to all members present. A motion was made by Kate Tavernier, second by Mike Maddalena and passed to accept the Treasurer's report as printed.

Good of the Association:

Steward David Adeyemi advised that Waterbury carrier and retired member Alan Lacombe recently passed away.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Norman St. Arnauld, second by John Rich and passed.

October 7, 2015

Quorum: (23) members were present. A motion was made by Norman St. Arnauld, second by Kate Tavernier and passed to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as printed.

Communications:

Steamatic, the company who cleaned the air ducts in our office building, sent us a thank you note for choosing them for our cleaning needs and if we refer a friend or family member to them they would send us a \$25 gift card.

Old Business:

Holiday gifts for the active carriers was discussed and it was been decided to purchase coolers for the carriers this year. A motion was made by Philip Trahan, second by Charles Pendola and passed to spend up to \$15 per active carrier for a holiday gift.

New Business:

- ◆ Some of our retired members have asked President Daniels if they could get the pocket calendars that the active carriers get each year. Discussion was held and a motion was made by Tom Sagnella, second by Brian Carroll and passed to purchase pocket calendars for both active and retired carriers.

- ◆ A motion was made by Charles Pendola, second by Jolanda Velez-Ruberte and passed to pay lost time, mileage, lunch and a holiday gift for the stewards' and officers' meeting to be held on December 16th.

- ◆ Election season is upon us and President Daniels handed out a list of what Letter Carriers can and cannot do during the election season based upon the Hatch Act.

- ◆ The Department of Labor has finally finished a 6 month review of the Branch financial records and has found that the President and Vice President are being paid less than what the by-laws call for. Norman St. Arnauld, John Daniels and Paul Daniels as a committee will review our by-laws and amend them as necessary and they will be brought to the November meeting for discussion. The audit by the DOL was further discussed. President Daniels thanked Secretary

Ruszala and Treasurer St. Arnauld for keeping such good financial records.

- ◆ A motion was made by Tom Sagnella, second by Charles Pendola to reimburse the President and Vice President for one year's salary loss. Discussion was held and Paul and John stated that they did not want the money and the motion failed.
 - ◆ Branch 20 has about 10 CCAs that will be promoted to regular very soon. If you are nearing retirement and you have the paperwork in hand it can be filled out on the clock. President Daniels reported that Branch 20 was the best organized branch in Connecticut with 98.2% of our carriers belonging to the union.
 - ◆ President Daniels discussed the COP meeting that was held in Jacksonville, FL in September. Subjects included safety vests for carriers, merging small branches that are inactive and their members need information or representation, NALCREST is full, transfers and promotions and much more.
 - ◆ The branch proposed web-site was again discussed. So far we have not found any carrier who is interested in putting together the web-site. Motion was made by Kate Tavernier, second by Tim Thibault to have President Daniels look into a company that sets up web-sites and see what they have to offer and what is involved in doing a web-site. A discussion was held and the motion passed.
 - ◆ President Daniels discussed upgrading the branch Flip cell phone to an iPhone. A motion was made by Philip Trahan, second by Charles Pendola and passed to upgrade the branch cell phone.
 - ◆ President Daniels discussed appointing a CCA coordinator. The branch has 122 CCAs at the moment and there is so much information that these carriers need. It is thought that the coordinator would be able to provide the CCA's with the information they need as they go along. A motion was made by Charles Pendola, second by Philip Trahan and passed to have President Daniels appoint a CCA coordinator who will develop a training program for CCA carriers and to provide lost time as needed.
- Treasurer's report** was handed out to all members present. A motion was made by Kate Tavernier, second By Tim Thibault and passed to accept the treasurer's report as printed.
- Motion to Adjourn** was made by Norman St. Arnauld, second by Kate Taveriner and passed.

November 4, 2015

Quorum: (22) members were present. A motion was made by Norman St. Arnauld, second by Kate Tavernier and passed to accept the October minutes as printed.

Communications:

A thank you note was received from recent retiree Sue Kaminski thanking the branch for a nice retirement breakfast with the good food. Sue also thanked the branch for the generous gift she received and stated that it was nice to see many of her former co-workers and that now she feels officially retired. A letter was received from Steward David Adeyemi informing the branch that he would accept the nomination as delegate to the 2016 National Convention.

New Business:

- ◆ Nominations to the 2016 National Convention were open to the floor. Nominated members were:
 - ◆ Norman St. Arnauld; David Adeyemi; David Cutrali; Ben Sakowich; Jerry Winzer; Chris Jolly; Jolanda Velez; Brian Carroll; Tom Sagnella; Kate Tavernier and June R. Martin.
 - ◆ Nominations were closed and all nominated members were declared elected delegates by President Daniels. The President and Vice-President are elected by our local by-laws.
 - ◆ Norman St. Arnauld, Paul Daniels and John Daniels who made up the committee to review Branch 20's by-laws proposed the following changes: Article 7. DECEASED MEMBERS OR FAMILY, SECTION 2 to be amended. ARTICLE 9 SALARIES, SECTION 1 to be amended along with SECTION 2; ARTICLE 10 CONVENTIONS, SECTION 4 to be amended and ARTICLE 11 DUTIES OF OFFICERS, SECTION 3 to be amended. Actual changes were read to the members present and a written copy given to the Secretary. The proposed by-law changes were discussed. There were no comments from the members present. The proposed by-law changes will be posted on the letter carrier bulletin boards for 10 days prior to the regular December meeting at which time they will be voted on by the members present at the meeting and if passed will then be send to National for their approval.
 - ◆ A motion was made by Charles Pendola, second by Chris Jolly and passed to send President Daniels to the National Holiday Party.
 - ◆ A discussion was held on the joint training of stewards with Branch 86. The training will educate the stewards in many different aspects of their job to effectively represent their members. It is hoped that the Business Agents office will be able to send someone from his office to help in this training. Charles Pendola and David Adeyemi should be back from the NALC advanced training class and should be able to share this information with the stewards present. A motion was made by Tom Sagnella, second by Charles Pendola and passed to pay for the joint training sharing the cost of the room, and lunch along with leave without pay and mileage for our stewards and officers to attend this training.
 - ◆ National is holding several different meetings to train and educate branch officers. President Daniels has spoken to Jerry Winzer to see if he was interested in being back-up for the treasurer when he was away and Jerry stated he was. We will look to send him to the next available training.
 - ◆ President Daniels reported that the position of CCA coordinator will be discussed with the officers and stewards at the December stewards' meeting and hopefully a CCA coordinator will be selected at that time.
 - ◆ Jolanda Velez stated that she has a carrier in her office who is very interested in developing a web site for Branch 20 and will be invited to the stewards' meeting to present his ideas.
- Treasurer's report** was handed out to all members present. A motion was made by Kate Tavernier, second by Tim Thibault and passed to accept the treasurer's report as printed.
- Motion to Adjourn** was made by Norman St. Arnauld, second by Tim Thibault and passed.