

Minutes of the Meeting  
September 6, 2017

**Quorum:** (95) members were present. A motion was made by Norman St. Arnauld, second by Kate Tavernier and passed to accept the minutes of the June meeting as printed.

**Communications:**

- A note was received from Branch 46 Springfield thanking Branch 20 for the \$100 donation to their MDA golf tournament.
- A letter was received from Branch 86 thanking Branch 20 for the donation of \$100 to their MDA golf tournament.
- A letter was received from Paul Payton from the USPS CT Valley informing the branch that formal route count and inspections will take place in the following offices in September: Pawcatuck, New Milford and Willimantic. President Daniels is discussing with Management the possibility of making joint adjustments in these offices in lieu of inspections.
- A letter was received from the NBA regarding the Postal Service invoking Article 12 withholding. The branch will provide training to the stewards on how to file grievances on Article 12 as requested by the NBA's office.
- The branch has received a letter from the CT District advising that they are withholding 26 residual routes in the CT Valley District, three of which are in branch 20.
- A letter was received from the NBA's office informing us that letter carriers should be on the lookout for time clock manipulation/fraud by the Postal Service. There has been a number of improper editing of carrier's clock rings reported recently.
- A letter was received from retired carrier Dennis Redican thanking Branch 20 and Brother Bandon Jones for drawing his name in the \$300 Letter Carrier Political Fund drawing. He also advised in the letter that he was signing up for automatic annuity deductions to the Fund.
- A letter was received from NALC President Fredric Rolando congratulating Clinton Parker of Waterbury for being selected to receive the 2017 Eastern Area Hero Award presented by the National Association of Letter Carriers. Brother Parker will be the guest of the NALC at the nation's Capital October 2-5, 2017 culminating with the National Heroes Awards luncheon on October 4, 2017 at the Washington Court Hotel in D.C. The letter further stated; "While you may not think of yourself as a hero, an independent panel of judges determined your act of aiding police in a standoff was extraordinary and has named you the recipient of the Eastern Area Hero Award for 2017".
- A notice from the NBA's office was received informing the branch of an upcoming training for Local Negotiations will be held in Auburn, MA on September 14<sup>th</sup>.
- An official summary of the 2017 referendum on the proposed contract by region and branch of the voting for the 2016-2019 National Agreement was received by the branch. In Branch 20 92% (315) accepted the agreement and 8% (27) rejected it. Fifty-four percent (54%) of the active branch members voted.

**New Business:**

- ❖ During the months of July and August three merger meetings were held with the members of branch 20. The meetings were held in Waterbury, Meriden and Norwich. Two requests were made at these meetings: (1) That the vote on the resolution to begin merger talks be held off till 7:30 pm to allow for travel time for some of the members and (2) That President Willadsen of Branch 86 be in attendance at the September meeting. President Daniels honored both requests.
- ❖ Jason Perriell, has been appointed by President Daniels as Waterbury steward and Assistant Secretary/Treasurer.

- ❖ Local negotiations will begin October 16<sup>th</sup>. President Daniels, VP Jonathan Daniels, Treasurer Norman St. Arnauld, Secretary June Ruzala-Martin and Steward Charles Pendola will act as chief negotiators for the branch. All local agreements will have to be open to add wording to give the CCAs opting for choice and non-choice periods of annual leave provided by the new National Agreement. A motion was made by Lawrence Laidley, second by Kate Tavernier and passed to pay all expenses for the chief negotiators to attend the training in Auburn for Local Negotiations.
- ❖ Branch 20's Retiree Breakfast will be held on October 1<sup>st</sup>. There are more than 20 new retirees. A motion was made by Charles Pendola, second by Norman St. Arnauld and passed to fund the breakfast the same as past years with retirees attending at no cost, guest \$15, active carriers \$5, door prize expense of up to \$500 and jackets for the retirees.
- ❖ A discussion on Holiday gifts for the active carriers was held. The average amount which has been spent in the past has been \$14 per active carrier. A couple suggestions were made; a hot and cold cup and baseball caps along with lunch bags. The expense will be voted on at the October meeting.
- ❖ A motion was made by Kate Tavernier, second by Tim Thibault and passed to pay for pocket calendars for all Branch 20 members.
- ❖ A motion was made by Norman St. Arnauld, second by Charles Pendola and passed to fund the quarterly stewards' meeting with lunch, paid lost time and mileage.
- ❖ President Rolando has requested the attendance at the NALC National Hero's presentation of the Branch Presidents. While the cost of the Hero's attending is covered by NALC Headquarters, the Branch President's cost must be paid by the local Branch. Motion was made by Charlie Pendola, second by Tim Thibault and passed to pay all expenses for President to attend the Hero's ceremony in Washington, DC.
- ❖ At 7:30 pm a discussion on the resolution to begin merger talks with Branch 86 began. Branch 86 President Michael Willardson and Executive Vice-President George Laham were present to answer questions. President Daniels started the discussion with informing the members of the three meetings held for the members to get the information on the proposed merger. President Daniels then made a presentation on the merger that was given at all three meetings. After the presentation by President Daniels, President Willardson spoke. Questions were then taken from the floor. A motion was made by Charles Pendola, second by Mike Gardinello to vote on the resolution to begin merger talks with Branch 86. A hand count was taken with a vote of YES ninety-two (92) and NO zero (0). A vote to merge will be held at the October monthly meeting and all branch 20 members will receive the proposed by-laws for the merged Branch before the October meeting.

**Treasurer's Report** was handed out to all members present. A motion was made by Argjent Kala, second by Lawrence Laidley and passed to accept the treasurer's report as printed.

**Motion to adjourn** was made by Norman St. Arnauld, second by David Baillaigeon and passed.