

## **Meeting called to order by President Poston at 07:40 PM**

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Memoriam**

### **Roll Call of Officers**

With the exception of Administrative Vice President Charles Austin, Recording Secretary Nestor Chaves and Trustee Jeffrey Glenn all other officers were in attendance.

A motion was made to dispense the reading of the minutes for the previous Branch 40 meeting held November 9th, 2022 by Dan Rupp. It was seconded and the motion was passed.

### **Communications**

#### **Mary Campbell Stack**

The first communication was from the coordinator of the Letter Carrier Band, Deborah Mahoney. Cleveland is one of only eight cities that has a Band and currently our Band has no carriers participating. They are seeking members to join and fliers with information is available at this meeting.

The second Communication is a request from Deborah Mahoney for payment of a bill for a musical score purchased for the Band.

President Poston requested a motion for the payment of the bill of 106.00 dollars.

A motion was made by Michael Hazzard to pay the 106.00 dollars and it was seconded by Judy Durham. The motion passed.

### **Reading of the Bills**

Trustee A.T. Wilson read the Bills for the month of November 2022, which totaled 6,042.90. The Bills would be submitted for audit and a copy is included.

## **Application for new members**

### **Andre Laney**

Since our last meeting on November 09th, a total of 24 CCA's filled out 1187s for membership into the NALC, Branch 40.

A motion was made by Dennis Perk and seconded by Dan Rupp to accept the new members. Motion was passed, document included.

## **Financial Treasurers Report**

### **Mary Campbell-Stack**

On November 29<sup>th</sup> the Board of Trustees met to review six months of bills. Originally this was supposed to happen on the 15<sup>th</sup> but due to her contracting Covid there was a delay and she also thanked the members for approving the Band expense. The upcoming proposal early next year to increase the dues will be needed. Despite the Post Office efforts with the hiring of CCA's, their abuse of them is why we are losing them.

## **AFLCIO**

President Poston spoke to information received from Legislative Activist Brian Pearson. On the State level we were not as successful but on a local level we contributed to the election of 32 candidates who were pro labor, including several union members.

Went on to state that more doors were knocked on than anywhere else in the State of Ohio, he thanked Mary Campbell Stack and Patrice Ashley for their efforts. Over the next month they will be organizing a team of legislative and political representatives to serve as liaisons between the Federation, the State House and Senate. They hope to have regular contact with 20 elected officials within our jurisdiction.

We plan on further discussing our involvement in our January and February Branch meetings.

## **Health Benefits**

### **Patrice Ashley**

Spoke to the recent approval by the FDA for prescriptions for weight loss and infertility. The NALC Health Plan now has virtual nutrition counseling and a woman's telehealth program. Another service is the Remote Heart program, which will issue a monitor that will send data directly to your physician.

Spoke about the Medical Health Advantage plan, with a deadline of December 13<sup>th</sup> for signing up, retirees should have received information regarding the plan. The plan does offer additional benefits such as dental, vision, gym membership, and the deduction of 75.00 dollars off Part B.

President Poston added that carriers who want to retire prior to the end of the year should make any health plan changes during open season and you must have carried a Federal Health plan for 5 years prior to retirement to carry health coverage into retirement.

## **MBA**

### **Brian Wisniewski**

No Report

President Poston Informed the members we would be departing from our regular branch business and recognized the Article Ten Committee.

## **Article 10 Committee**

### **Chairperson Charnell Green**

Chairperson Charnell Green recognized the other members of the committee as Phil Kilrain and Pam Pilkington. The committee investigated the Article 10 Charges filed by Tom Tyndall against James Bokisa.

Charnell Green read the Committees report into the record. The committee concluded its report as follows:

After conducting interviews and receiving several carrier statements, we concur that these carriers agree with Mr. Tyndall's assessment. A complete copy of the committee's report is included.

President Poston disbanded the committee and recognized James Bokisa, as with Article 10 the charged party is entitled to defend himself.

James Boiksa recognized the committee and the difficulty of having to investigate a fellow Union brother but it is a valuable asset the branch has to keep people accountable. Regardless of whether the outcome was in his favor or Tom's the Article 10 process is not flawed.

He went to speak to recognizing familiar faces at the meeting whom he did not know and that many of the members don't know him either, that aspect was something he had struggled with. Spoke about refraining from speaking about the issues at the station with the committee because they didn't know the situation and focusing only what was read. It was his hope that the committee recognized his restraint keeping to the task at hand.

Went on to say he was not aware he had left Tom Tyndall off of several grievances, did not question the committee's findings, and stated that none of it was intentional. He asked the members not to vote for his nor Toms benefit, but to consider how their vote would impact the Branch and the Midpark Station.

President Poston at this time explained that the Branch by a simple majority vote would determine whether the facts as presented by the committee sustained the charge.

The Question was asked:

Do the facts as read by the committee sustain the charge?

The result of the vote by the members was to sustain the charge.

At this time President Poston stated the Branch would now entertain a motion to fix a penalty if any be required.

A motion was made by an unidentified member to have the charged party, Jim Bokisa, step down as the Union Steward of Midpark and be removed from office. Retiree Jim Cherney amended the motion by including a 5-year penalty, and it was seconded by the original maker.

President Poston stated for the record that the motion would be for the charged party, Jim Bokisa, be removed from Union Steward for a minimum of five years.

Questions of removal from office are decided by ballot and requires two thirds vote and at this time Sargent of Arms John Lee was instructed to distribute the ballots.

Mike Hazzard was recognized and asked for clarity on what several meant in regards to number of incidents in the committee's findings. He was informed that there was no approximate number of incidents.

The ballots were collected from the ballot box and tallied.

President Poston informed the members that the Bylaws state it requires two thirds vote to sustain the motion to remove the charged party from his position as Union Steward. The vote by the members did not meet the two thirds required, therefore the Branch would now proceed to determine the punishment: Suspension, Fine, or Reprimand.

The Fine an amount thereof must be approved by a two thirds secret ballot vote, if Suspension be determined the Branch sets the terms, and if a Reprimand be determined the President shall openly reprimand the accused in an open meeting.

President Poston would now entertain a motion for either a Fine, Suspension, or Reprimand.

A motion was made for a Reprimand and was seconded by William Devore.

The question was asked and the motion for the Reprimand was passed.

This concluded the Article 10 charges against James Bokisa and President Poston would prepare a verbal Reprimand for the January Branch meeting.

### **Executive Vice President**

#### **Andre Laney**

Wished everyone a happy holiday then spoke about the Medicare Advantage plan as being a good option. It does require you to be enrolled in the NALC High Option but provides additional benefits such as dental, vision, with no additional costs. It also allows you to opt in and out ,may reduce your premium on Part B, provides for limitless physical, and occupational speech therapy. Under Postal Reform it also eliminates the penalty for retirees who did not initially sign up for Medicare Part B.

### **Administrative Vice President**

#### **Regina Williams**

Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### **President**

#### **Eric Poston**

The Branch received a correspondence from the Post Office, a check for 500.00 for Article 41 hold down grievances. The Branch will be receiving another check for 40 Article 41 cases in the amount of 20,000 dollars. He thanked the Union Stewards for their hard work and recognized many of them could not attend due to staffing shortages. Staffing continues to be a problem and we are reporting to National. On July

30<sup>th</sup> we converted 155 CCAs to PTFs and at the end of December all of them will be Regulars.

**Unfinished Business**

None

**New Business**

None

Dan Rupp made a motion to adjourn, it was seconded, and passed.

Meeting Adjourned 8:50 PM

Nestor J Chaves

1/10/2023

**A signed copy is on file at the branch office.**