

Meeting called to order by Administrative Vice President Charles Austin at 07:33 PM**Pledge of Allegiance****Memoriam****Recording Secretary Report****Nestor J Chaves****Roll Call of Officers**

With the exception of President Erick Poston and Executive Vice President Andre Laney, who were excused, all other officers were in attendance.

The minutes for the September 8th 2023 Branch 40 meeting were posted on the website and copies were made available at this meeting. There were no questions regarding the minutes.

A motion was made by A.T. Wilson to accept the minutes as presented and was seconded by Patrice Ashley. Charles Austin with no objections from the floor stated the motion passed.

Communications

First communication was from the United Labor Agency regarding their annual dinner for recognition of the Labor Movements Unsung Heroes. Anyone interested in nominating someone should contact the Branch.

Second communication was in regards to the 60th Celebration of Nalcrest, the NALC's retirement community, on February 1st and 2nd of 2024. The Nalcrest Foundation was requesting the Branch to purchase an ad in their Commemorative Booklet.

Third and final communication was from Brian Pearson of the United Labor Agency thanking Branch 40 and its members for their participation in the recent Labor Day Parade and Fundraiser.

Communication Documents on File

Charles Austin made a request for a motion from the floor to support the NALC Nalcrest by purchasing an ad in there 60th Anniversary Booklet.

A motion was made by Dan Rupp for Branch 40 to purchase a full-page ad, it was seconded by William DeVore. Charles Austin with no objections from the floor stated the motion passed.

Membership

Since our last meeting on September 8th 2023, 44 PTFs/CCAs completed and submitted 1187's for membership into the NALC, Branch 40. We require a motion to accept them. Document on File

Patrice Ashley made a motion to accept the 44 new members, seconded by Judy Durham. Charles Austin with no objections from the floor stated the motion passed. Document on file.

Retiree Report

Branch 40 had 9 members retire from pay period 18 thru pay period 20, their names were read.

Document on file

Reading of the Bills

Trustee A.T.Wilson

The bills were read, they included Utilities 387.84, Office Expense 2,791.48, Auto Expense 959.91, Postage and Printing 337.66, Rent 8,000.00, Calendars 4,500.00, Delegate Fees 13,062.43, Dues including AFLCIO 1,709.20, and Retirement Checks 2,260.00, totaling 34,008.52 cents.

Document on file

Financial Secretary Report

Charnell Green

She informed the members that the expense for the rent was for the remainder of the year, the delegate fee was for the Ohio State Convention and the bills which were read were for the months of August and September.

She spoke to recent letters sent out by her to some members of Branch 40. When members are in a non-pay status the Union is unable to collect their dues. The current dues are 34.94 for active carriers and it is reduced to 16.25 for carriers in a non-pay status. The letter informs these members that the dues are increasing in Pay Period 1 of 2024 to 24.00. After conversations with the officers, it was agreed that the dues needed to be changed, as the Branch still has to pay the members share to the State and National.

Raul Moncrief asked if a vote was needed to approve the increase for these members.

The answer was no. The By Laws were reviewed by both her and President Poston and they did not prohibit the increase. She asked if there were any other questions.

Dan Rupp under information stated that those in a non-pay status still owed the full dues, it's Branch 40 that has reduced them to help the members.

Under information former Treasurer Mary Cambell-Stack stated that she took over as treasurer in 2014. Since 2015 the amount has been 16.25 with the Branch still paying one third of the dues to National, the States share, and AFLCIO.

Charnell went on to speak about some members carrying balances of over 100 and 200 dollars, non-payment could result in cancellation of their membership and those enrolled in the NALC Health Plan would lose their insurance. The reduced rate is less than active members and the Branch does not believe it is unreasonable.

Tom Griffiths retiree, stated that there was a vote to offset dues for military members and those injured on the job in 2012 and he believed there was language in the By Laws.

Recording Secretary Nestor Chaves stated that this pertained to only those in a non-deduct status who were not paying full dues, with the Branch making up the difference.

Charnell Green went on to report the following, Bi-weekly dues income for August and September of 2023 was 152,319.62, miscellaneous deposit income for the same period was 4,476.00, USPS grievance settlement pay was 16,000.00, for a

total of 172,795.62. The expenses for August and September of 2023 were 158,319.52, with a net income of 14,476.10. The year-to-date total income is 740,758.09 with total expenses at 656,703.71, with a net income year to date of 84,054.38. This concluded her report. Documents on File.

Charles Austin requested a motion for the financial report to be accepted as presented and submitted for audit to the accountant.

A motion was made to accept the financial report by Bruce Graham and seconded by Jeffrey Glenn. Charles Austin stated that the motion had passed.

An unidentified member under point of order was recognized and pointed out that a second doesn't approve a motion it needs to be up for a vote.

At this point Charles Austin asked for any questions or discussion regarding the prior motion, being none, the motion was passed.

At this time Charles Austin introduced EAP District Consultant Susan Frate.

She informed the members that she was the newly assigned District Representative for EAP, Employee Assistant Program. EAP was the brainchild of the union and management as they wanted to develop a program to assist all employees, these problems could be personal or work place concerns.

The program services currently include short term counseling and problem resolution solving with the focus being on mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, and trauma. EAP also provides coaching to help those seeking to reach personal goals and community referrals to find resources locally.

The most common reasons for those seeking assistance are trauma, grief, loss, stress, anxiety, depression and substance abuse. Those seeking help for substance abuse are referred out but the clinician assigned to you will monitor your progress.

The key features of EAP are confidentiality, privacy as we follow HIPPA Laws, and it's a voluntary program. The services also extend to anyone who is a dependent in your home, not a tenant. Services are rendered in person, over the phone, and video. All of the clinician are professional with Master degrees and are well experienced.

You can reach us 24-7, 365 days a year, by calling 1-800-EAP-4YOU or access the website at WWW.EAP4YOU.COM. Each employee is allowed one approved on the clock session and we provide you with documentation, other appointments are scheduled on your time, she is located at 2400 Orange Ave in number 35.

She appreciated the members for allowing her to speak and thanked them for their service and hard work.

AFLCIO

Patrice Ashley

Spoke about the upcoming election on November 7th prior to our next Branch meeting. She wanted everyone to be mindful and research the candidates that are seeking election.

MBA

Brian Wisnewski

He asked the members to review their life insurance policies including their designated beneficiaries, to take advantage of prescreening, and review the IRA benefit product through the Union.

Regarding route adjustments, Sections and Cranwood have being pushed out until spring of 2024. Excessive stationary events at relay points are becoming a problem, it's difficult to defend a 20-minute relay time and carriers should try to take personal needs separate from their lunches.

Health Benefits

Patrice Ashley

Open season starts Monday November 13th thru Monday December 11th, the 2024 booklets are available online. It's important to review your plan, compare it to the others, and make the best decision for you and your family. The NALC Health plan is a good plan with many free benefits compared to the other plans.

Spoke about the Wellness Spa held at the Branch Office on October 1st which was well attended and provided good information for women's health. The Branch will hold another Wellness event on Sunday January 14th.

Administrative Vice President

Charles Austin

Charles Austin informed the members that the Branch was looking for someone to head up the position of recreational coordinator to plan events for the Branch, anyone interested should contact the Branch Office.

Spoke about the recent October 9th golf outing hosted by Branch 40 with 97 attending. The Branch hopes to increase participation next year as it was a good time.

Informed the members that Erick and Andre were attending the Committee of Presidents Meeting and the Health and Benefits Convention, we look forward to the information they will share at the next meeting.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Tom Griffiths was recognized and informed the members he was the new Director of Retirees and he spoke about the website Retirement Benefits USPS.Gov, you can join the group and receive an E News Letter which has a lot of good information. There will also be seminar on October 24th but you have to register, they will be going over the USPS Medicare plan with specific information on parts A,B,C, and D.

At this time Charles Austin read the name for the attendance award for 140.00 dollars. Terrance Ward was not in attendance and next month the award would be increased by 20 dollars.

Charles Austin entertained a motion to have a Christmas Party at the December 8th Branch meeting instead of the regular business meeting.

The motion was made by Dan Rupp, seconded by Chris Balega, there were no questions nor discussion, vote was taken and the motion passed.

Good of the Order

Bruce Graham made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Judy Durham.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM

Recording Secretary

Nestor J Chaves

10/27/2023