

Meeting called to order by President Erick Poston 7:33 PM**Pledge of Allegiance****Memoriam****Recording Secretary Report****Nestor J Chaves****Roll Call of Officers**

With the exception of Administrative Vice President Charles Austin, who was excused, all other officers were in attendance.

The minutes for the October 13th 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 Dan Rupp and seconded by Bruce Graham to accept the minutes as presented, call for discussion, seeing none, the motion passed.

Communications**None****Membership**

Since our last meeting on October 13th, 50 PTFs/CCAs completed and submitted 1187's for membership into the NALC, Branch 40. We require a motion to accept them. Document on File

Bruce Graham made a motion to accept the 50 new members, seconded by Dan Rupp, call for discussion, seeing none, the motion passed. Document on file.

Retiree Report

Branch 40 had 2 members retire from pay period 21 thru pay period 22, their names were read.

Document on file

Reading of the Bills

Trustee A.T.Wilson

The bills were read for the month of October 2023, they included Utilities 193.92 cents, Office Expense 886.77 cents, Auto Expense 880.00, Postage and Printing 1,042.69 cents, Rent and Union travel expense 2,618.69 cents, Dues 1.25 cents, AFLCIO and other dues 830.00, and Retirement Checks 2,400, totaling 8,852.92 cents.

Document on file

Financial Secretary Report

Charnell Green

Income for the month of October 2023 totaled 77,613.45 cents. This included a USPS grievance settlement, biweekly dues, and miscellaneous deposits.

The expenses for October 2023 were 69,034.98 cents with a net income of 8,578.47 cents.

Year to date income is 818,371.54 cents with expenses at 667,105.71 cents for a net income of 151,265.83 cents.

A motion was made to accept the financial report by Regina Williams and was seconded by Judy Durham. Call for discussion, seeing none, motion was passed. The bills will be submitted for audit to the accountant.

AFLCIO

President Poston spoke to legislation important to letter carriers such as the Fairness Retirement Act, reintroduced in the house on October 19th, which would allow TEs and CCAs the opportunity to buy back time. He asked members to contact their representatives to sign on and to thank those who have. The Social Security Fairness Act is another important piece of legislation which would allow Civil Service retirees with social security time, to collect.

Health Benefits

At this time President Poston recognized **Patrice Ashley** and **Chris Anagnostopoulos**

Patrice reminded everyone that open season starts on November 13th and runs through December 11th 2023. She spoke about the NACL High Option plan with a monthly rate for self only of 237.05, self plus one 554.36, and family 480.54. Active carrier's rates are biweekly, self only 109.41, self plus one 255.86, self and family 221.79. You enroll into the plan by accessing Lite Blue but make sure you know the proper plan code, self only is 321, plus one 323, self and family 322.

The High Option Plan has had some increases in incentives for 2024 such as, 2 pairs of orthotics, a 350.00 benefit for hair loss due to cancer treatment, skilled nursing facilities increased to 30 days, hearing aid allowance of 2,500 every three years for adults and children up to 18 years old 2,500 per year. They also have updated the criteria for bariatric surgery, screening for mental health for children, reproductive procedures, AIC monitoring for 18 and older, skin cancer screening, genetic counseling and treatment. CVS will also cover all FDA vaccinations at 100%. Beginning in 2024, Medicare Part B premium will be reduced by 50.00 a month through the Silver Script Prescription Drug Plan.

She spoke about the 2025 new Postal Service Health Benefit Program to be administered through OPM. Enrolling in the plan means you must pick up Medicare Part B through the plan. There will be an early enrollment for Medicare Part B from April 1st 2024 through September 2024, with the penalty being waived.

Chris spoke about the NALC consumer driven health plan and the differences from a traditional health plan. It has a personal care account which is used to pay for medical expenses until you reach your deductible and then the traditional plan kicks in. The plan has many similar benefits which also have been increased, a Wellness Rewards Program which loads money on a Task Card for future medical expenses, and many online programs.

The cost for monthly annuitants, self only 119.72, self plus one 268.59, self and family 290.74 and for biweekly active letter carriers, self only 55.26, self plus one 123.96, self and family 134.19.

President Poston added that we are trying to give our members choices and provide them with information. If you have NALC insurance you can share your positive experiences with your fellow carriers, as ambassadors for the plan. If you have had problems reach out to Patrice and Chris as they can share those concerns with National, the team that administers the plan is very receptive to our concerns. If you reach out to the NALC plan inform them you are a union member of the NALC, as you will receive priority and this will reduce your wait time.

Patrice acknowledged and thanked Chris for all his support and for providing the literature for the meeting.

President Poston also asked the members to focus on their health benefits for 2024, including the cost of life insurance in retirement. Next year the Post Office will be responsible for notifying every annuitant and active employee of the changes in health insurance in 2025, nothing needs to be done this year.

Next year there will be a postal equivalent plan for the plan you are currently in, just for postal employees. If you don't make a selection in open season next year the DOL will put in a comparable plan. We are going to recommend that everyone next year select a plan even if you are continuing with your current choice.

MBA

Brian Wisniewski

Spoke about the various life insurance options, disability insurance, and the importance of reviewing your beneficiaries.

Retirees

Tom Griffiths

Spoke about the State Health Assistance Program at shiphelp.org, a website designed to assist with Medicare and Medicaid for free, this assistance is unsolicited with multiple sources.

Safety OWCP**Matt Nicholson**

President Poston gave his report to the members as he could not be in attendance.

The report covered the importance of making sure your time is being inputted correctly by management when you miss work due to an on-the-job injury. COP and wage loss compensation are not the same, as continuation of pay is paid by the postal service and wage loss is paid by the department of labor. COP is paid for 45 days beginning the date after your injury or the date you stop working due to your injury, with code 071. Upon expiration of the 45 days then you are eligible for wage loss compensation, code 049. When these codes are incorrectly inputted it will cause a significant delay in compensation. It is strongly suggested that 3971s be submitted for each full day or number of hours you are eligible for wage loss compensation, check the box LWOP with the type of absence, on the job injury with the reason incapacitated due to on-the-job injury and write LWOP 049.

Submit these to management on a weekly basis at the end of a pay period and verify the codes by checking your virtual time card on Lite Blue. The virtual time card is found in the employee apps section, it's the last option. Keep in mind you can only view the current pay period and if you discover management is not putting in the correct codes contact Branch office.

Matt Nicholson can be contacted at the Branch Office on Wednesdays.

President Poston spoke to the importance of filling out the 3971s and if management fills it out make sure you read it before signing the form.

Sargent at Arms**John Lee**

Thanked the members for their attendance at the meeting.

57 Active 26 Retirees

Executive Vice President Andre Laney

The penalty exclusionary period begins December 2nd and runs through December 29th, with no limit regarding hours worked by the overtime desired list during this period. Work hour limits still apply for everyone else, as governed by the M39 section 432.32.

Spoke about the difference in retirement regarding COLAs, as Civil Service employees get them without delay and FERS retirees cannot until they reach 62 years of age. There is a senate bill recently introduced, 3194, which would standardize retiree COLAs, as currently FERS employees are part of a two-tier system and get less. The Equal COLA Act will ensure that nearly 800,000.00 Federal Retirees will receive the full benefit to keep up with the cost of living.

Also spoke to the continuing problem with carriers being robbed for their arrow keys, with the latest incident in South Euclid. Management's policy in some stations of having carriers place the arrow keys where they are visible makes us a target and demonstrates their apathy for our safety. Ultimately if you are approached, comply, we want you to be able to go home.

He ended his report by thanking the Veterans for their service and sacrifice.

President**Erick Poston**

No Report

Unfinished Business

Judy Durham made a motion that all members get credit for December's meeting as it will be Branch 40's Christmas Party. Seconded by A.T. Wilson. Call for discussion, being none, the vote was taken, the motion passed.

New Business

The floor was open for Delegate nominations for the 2024 NALC National Convention to be held in Boston. The Recording Secretary and Assistant Recording Secretary notated the nominated members and a completed document will be included as part of these minutes. President Poston made the final call for nominations, being none, nominations were closed.

Recording Secretary Nestor Chaves was recognized and stated that the requirement was 16 meetings, with credit given for the summer meetings and the two in December. Leaving a total of ten meetings attended, tonight's meeting is for the next convention.

At this time under new business President Poston recognized the veterans in attendance as they were asked to rise representing, the US Army, Marines, Navy, and the Airforce. Food and beverage were provided.

Good of the Order

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM

At this time the name of Sheila Adams was read for the attendance award who was not present. Another 20.00 will be added and another member will be chosen for the January 2024 Branch meeting.

Recording Secretary

Nestor J Chaves

11/29/2023