

## Union Meeting Minutes April 4, 2012

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Guests announced in attendance: Our NBA Tim Dowdy, State President Tonya Detrick, Carolyn King- President of Martinsburg, West Virginia and Carriers from Silver Spring.

- 1) Roll Call- All present.
- 2) Minutes from the March Meeting. Motion to dispense with reading the March minutes and accept as written and distributed. Motion by, Mike Hotovy. 2<sup>nd</sup>. by, Theo Anthony. Motion carries.

### 3) Communications

- A) Next Union meeting is Wed. May 2, at 7:00 pm.
- B) Next Executive Board meeting is Wed. April 25, at 6:30 p.m.
- C) Next Steward's meeting is Wed. April 11, at 6:30 p.m.
- D) Grievances of note.....Read at meeting by President Lerch. We are all caught up!
- E) Clockrings after 1800. We are doing well in Rockville but, please tell your Steward. We need these to prove that there is not a Window of Operation in the city of Rockville.
- F) Please consider signing up for COLCPE. Our COLCPE coordinator is Shearly Shawn. This money goes to support legislation beneficial to Letter Carriers and their families and to support candidates that support Letter Carriers. We are asking for one dollar per pay period.
- G) Any comments on our AWARD WINNING newsletter or our NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED web site? [www.nalc3825.com](http://www.nalc3825.com). The web site has been updated many times recently. Mike Hotovy was thanked for his article. Also, the newsletter came out today. Mike Hotovy got a well deserved applause for the job he did in putting out this issue of Unity.
- H) April 12 demonstration concerning S- 1789 at Ben Cardin's office in Baltimore (6:00-7:30pm) President Lerch's good friend Mike Smith (President of Baltimore's branch) is the site coordinator. This is a very critical time for the NALC. (Blue day off)

I) Communication from Tonya Detrick dated 03/01/12. Passed out at meeting.

J) Sum up Frederick rally to reopen the closed mail facility and the Town Hall meeting. Kevin Abernathy did a good job of speaking and made the local newspaper! Kevin gave the sum up. Two biggest lies- Postal Service is broke and can't operate in the internet age. Also discussed- The USPS made 611 million in profits when you deduct 5.5 billion for pre-funding future retiree health benefits through the year 2082. USPS made profit during worst economic downturn since the Great depression. And, no other agency public or private pre-funds for future retiree health benefits. Also, the USPS has over funded their pension plans by 50 to 75 billion and the USPS should get that money back.

K) NALC Fact Sheet on S. 1789. Passed out at meeting. Also President Lerch thanked everyone who called Senators Mikulski and Cardin's office.

L) Dowdy communication dated 03/12/12. Read at meeting.

M) Jerome Hotten, head of the District route inspections, sent the Branch a new schedule. Diamond Farms and Damascus dates were changed to May 19- 26<sup>th</sup>. Pike Annex remained the same.

N) Cartoon from NALC branch 33 (Beverly, MA.) passed out at meeting.

O) Unsafe parking spots article by Manny Peralta. Read and passed out at meeting. At this time President Lerch introduced the keynote speaker Tim Dowdy. President Lerch addressed the meeting by saying that the Executive Board voted to boycott Customer Connect, but a tremendous amount of legislation has surfaced since then and our contract is now in mediation and possibly heading to arbitration. So Tim will want to talk about more than Customer Connect.

Also, President Lerch pointed out that Tim first got involved with the Union because he wanted to make the workroom floor a better place to work and hated to see his brothers and sisters mistreated in the workplace. He can not have a more noble reason than that for getting involved in our Union! So President Lerch asked everyone to join him in welcoming our National Business Agent for region 13, Tim Dowdy. Tim spoke at the meeting.

4) Application for Membership- None

6) Committee Reports

A) NALC Food Drive is 05/12/12. Shearly Shawn is our coordinator.

B) Picnic Committee. Kevin Abernathy is our Picnic Coordinator. Picnic Committee so far is Kevin Abernathy, Robert Weisner, Sergio Lemus, George Abid, Ismael Lemus and Arlene Galang. Anyone else want to volunteer? Kenneth Lerch, Clariza Turner, Claudia Jimenez, Kimie Yang, Mark Munro, Walter Peralta, and Tom Preston also volunteered.

7) MBA Report- None

8) Health Benefits Report- None

9) New Business

A) By-law proposals. George Abid is our by-laws coordinator. We met on 03/21/12 and have the proposals. George read the proposed changes.

B) Lobby Day is 04/19/12. The branch is sending up to ten people and paying a flat rate of \$200.00 for the day. The people going are Kenneth Lerch, Tom Preston, Shearly Shawn, Sergio Lemus, Kevin Abernathy, Mike Curley, Mike Hotovy, Steve Klein, and Viktor Fraker.

C) Gaithersburg Labor/Management meeting. Agenda Items? 1) PM Office time, 2) DOIS, 3) Special Inspections. Call President Lerch for any more Agenda Items.

D) The Executive Board recommends that we send one more person to the Regional Officers' training in Dover, Delaware at the cost of approximately \$900.00 more. This would be nine people going. In addition to President Lerch, Chuck Clark and Beth Parsons, President Lerch wants Kevin Abernathy, Shearly Shawn, Gary Kirwin, Sergio Lemus, Vivian Walker, and Steve Klein. Motion by, Kevin Abernathy. 2<sup>nd</sup> by, George Abid. Motion carries.

E) Please ask Delegates to put in writing if they are not going to the Convention. Let President Lerch know as soon as possible

but not later than the June Union meeting. Please think about re-posts for AL and the possibility of discipline if you got the leave to go to the Convention and you don't cancel the leave and take the week off.

F) The following were excused by motion at tonight's meeting. 1) Vivian Walker. by. Don Lewis. 2<sup>nd</sup>. by. Beth Parsons. 2) Raj Babra. by. Steve Klein. 2<sup>nd</sup>. by. Mike Hotovy. 3) Mike Curley. by. Walter Peralta) Karim Abdullah. By. Kevin Abernathy. 2<sup>nd</sup>. by. Mark Baker. 5) Jermaine Graham. by. Robert Weisner. 2<sup>nd</sup>. by. Mark Baker. 6) Kirkland Walker. by. Kevin Abernathy. 2<sup>nd</sup>. by. Mathew Ackah. All were passed by Motion.

10 Improvement of Service- NONE

11) Good of the Association- NALC COLCPE "give me five" drawing. 1) Erbin Valdez. 2) Jean Schmidt. 3) Vivian Walker. 4) Natasha Colman. Each will receive a one hundred dollar gift card from American Express.

12) Treasurer's Report- Given by Beth Parsons. Motion to accept by, Steve Klein. 2<sup>nd</sup>. by. Buzzy Denell. Motion carries.

13 Motion to Adjourn- Motion to adjourn by Shearly Shawn. 2<sup>nd</sup>. by Theo Anthony. Motion carries. Meeting Adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Thomas A. Preston  
Recording Secretary, Branch 3825