

**NALC Branch #421
June 10, 2021
General Branch Meeting**

- 1) The regular branch meeting of Alamo Branch 421 was held on June 10, 2021 via ZOOM virtual meeting. The meeting was called to order by President Richard Gould at 7:05 PM.
- 2) **Invocation** by Burnie Miller
- 3) **Pledge of Allegiance** led by William McAfee
- 4) **Roll Call by Esteban Ramirez, Assistant Recording Secretary:** All Executive Board Members were present.
- 5) **Approval of Minutes from Previous General Meeting** – Esteban Ramirez
 - a) Motion to accept the meeting minutes made by Louise Jordan, Second by Bernie Miller. Motion carries.
- 6) **Reading of Official Communications** – Esteban Ramirez
 - a) We received a list of applicants for our scholarship from the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation. There were five applicants. The Sponsor for one retired in 2006 and did not maintain their membership. One sponsor was a life member of Branch 283 in Houston, we called Houston so we could forward the information, but Houston does not give scholarships to dependents of retirees. The three remaining are eligible for scholarships; Erin Perez, Son of Jose Perez; Calvin and Kelvin Rodriguez, the sons of Rudy Rodriguez who passed away in 2018.
 - i) Esteban Ramirez requests a motion to award Eri, Calvin, and Kelvin our 2021 scholarships.
 - ii) Dan Torres makes the motion, Second by Martha Johnsen. Dan Torres makes a point of information that the scholarship is named the Concepcion Creeper Elizondo Memorial Scholarship. Creeper was a long-time member of the branch.
 - iii) The motion carries.
 - b) We received a letter dated June 7th from Adam Reyna notifying the branch that he is resigning from his position as Recording Secretary effective immediately.

- c) We received a letter from the San Antonio AFL-CIO dated June 7th, 2021 informing the membership about the annual Labor Day Breakfast Celebration on August 28th, 2021.
 - i) Esteban Ramirez requests a motion to reserve one table for the event.
 - ii) Bernie Miller makes the motion. Second by Dan Torres.
 - iii) Bernie Miller requests that it gets paid for by the Ted Carter fund. Louise Jordan states thanks to the donations of the members we have \$520 in the Ted Carter fund which will cover expenses for the table.
 - iv) Dan Torres states that Homar Hernandez and himself are part of the committee and it is a great event that benefits the AFL-CIO.
 - v) The Motion Passes.

7) Application for Membership – Louise Jordan

- a) The branch was twenty four (24) new members. They are Lacie Romero, Francisco Cerda, Victor Vazquez, Jessica Aguirre, Ricky Palacio, Joseph Coleman, Germany Orria Sepulveda, Gabriel Medina-Velez, Cachika Prude-Freemang, Michael Cisneros-Lopez, Wilfredo Cortes, Tashauna Browner, Michael Gardnerswartz, Javier Torres, Edward Lowery, Richard Martinez, Luis Elizalde, Zandra, Blas, Ruben Ramirez, Nathan Martinez, Benjamin Perez, Laura Frias, Mark Lara, Jacob Marin. Current membership count is 1,123 active members and 531 retired members.

8) Carlos Rodriguez spoke on HR 3076 and other topics.

9) Unfinished Business –

- a) None.

10)New Business

- a) William McAfee asked when the Postal Service is going to wash the vehicles.
 - i) Richard Gould responded that he would talk to Postmaster Carr and try and get the issue resolved.

- b) Homar Hernandez announced that he is running for President of TSALC. Spoke on his accomplishments. He served as a District 5 board member for 2 years and had all his congressional seats filled with an LCCL and all District 5 congress representatives were signed up to all Letter Carrier bills. As Vice President he started placing Letter Carrier Political Fund coordinators in every Branch. As Vice President he signed up 155 members to the Letter Carrier Political fund, more than every other executive board member. He organized, along with team Branch 421, the vaccine drive and got more than 400 letter carriers and their family members vaccinated. He also organized along with team Branch 421 the defeat of Proposition B. Homar Hernandez asked for the support and vote from Branch 421 members.
 - i) Dan Torres makes a motion to instruct delegates to support Homar Hernandez for President of the Texas State Association of Letter Carriers, second by Gerry Aldorf.
 - ii) Louise Jordan offers a friendly amendment, instead of instruct she would like it to say recommend. The maker of the motion accepts.
 - iii) The motion carries.
 - iv) Dan Torres makes a motion to recommend Kathy Ruffo for Secretary of State for the TSALC, second by Homar Hernandez.
 - v) The motion carries.
- c) Arturo Carrisal asked for suggestions from carriers on what they should focus on when training the new CCA's so we could try and retain them as much as possible. He provided his number 210-421-3368.

11) Reports of Special and Standard Committees –

- a) Dan Torres, AFL-CIO. Nominations for AFL-CIO Central Labor Council Executive Board will be accepted at the August 25th meeting, the election will be in September. The Central Labor Council is looking for members for the Young Active Labor Leaders group, if ya'll are interested contact the Central Labor Council. The CLC gave a \$1000 donation per district for the May election which was used to communicate only with union members. Spoke on the Labor Plaza and the future plans for it. The San Antonio Firefighters Association thanked Homar Hernandez and Branch 421 for the work that was done defeating Proposition B.
- b) Phil Jordan, Social and Recreation Committee. Spoke on the upcoming Family Fun Day at Fiesta Texas on July 25th, 2021. We were contacted by Sea World about a possible event.

- c) Mary Pardo, Health Benefits. Spoke on wearing your mask, washing your hands, and social distancing. Read names of deceased members and wanted to have them put on the website. Challenged officers of the branch to donate \$25 to the Ted Carter fund and encouraged members to donate as well.
 - i) Homar Hernandez offered to donate his executive board check to the Ted Carter fund.
- d) Kathy Ruffo, Dignity and Respect Committee. Spoke on a few dignity and respect issues at Frank Tejada and with Arnold Pena.
 - i) Ernest Rosas asked what kind of settlements are coming out of the dignity and respect grievances.
 - ii) Kathy Ruffo responded that we've haven't really gotten good resolutions from them, but they have been getting management to do standup talks.
- e) Louise Jordan, MBA. Spoke on different insurance plans offered by MBA and directed the membership to the NALC website for more info.

12) Good of the Association –

- a) Mark Isenhour spoke on making sure that carriers close their windows on their LLV's all the way because of a recent theft at Serna station. Make sure your vehicles are secure.
 - i) Dan Torres states it has been a policy for a long time to roll up your windows because its always been an issue with the LLV windows.
 - ii) Tony Boyd reiterated the policy on rolling the windows all the way up.
- b) Abraham Heikal asked about doing a heat abatement.
- c) Darryl Zander spoke on stations not having certified OJI's.
- d) William McCain asked about the backpay for the new contract.
 - i) Richard Gould states that they are still working on it. Kathy Ruffo states that we should get it the first or second week of July.
 - ii) Bill McCain recommends that we put something in the timely messenger letting the retirees know that they need to go to their last station to pick up their checks.
- e) Abraham Heikal asked what if an OJI feels unsafe because of Covid. Louise Jordan responded that there should not be two people in the vehicle at the same time.

13)Improvement of the Service –

- a) Louise Jordan
 - i) Wants members to know that she's been doing the CCA orientations and she's been giving the names of the stewards so they'll know who to reach out to. Richard ordered the new badges for the stewards to wear so they can be identified.
 - ii) Spoke on the LMOU negotiations and how her rose colored glasses are destroyed. Management LIES.
- b) Homar Hernandez thanked Richard Gould for pushing the stewards to file the Act of God grievances which was a success.
- c) Richard Gould
 - i) Gave an update on the building and showed photos.
 - ii) Spoke on the need for tables and chairs for the union hall and is hoping to have a branch meeting at the hall in September or October.
 - iii) Adam Reyna resigned as the Recording Secretary for personal reasons and notification has been sent to the postal record for the election and the delegates for the national convention. Esteban Ramirez has stepped up to fill in as Recording Secretary in the interim.
 - iv) Spoke on the Act of God grievances and show the Pre-Arbitration agreements. Thanked all the stewards that worked on the grievances.
 - v) Talked about the rash of 16.7 suspensions throughout the city. Urged carriers to wear their seatbelts and to work safely. Esteban Ramirez and Raul Reyes have handled the grievances and gotten them all back pay. Thank you to the stewards who are handling those issues.
 - vi) Spoke on having an open house for the union hall and a retiree luncheon.
 - vii) Urged the membership on supporting Homar Hernandez and Kathy Ruffo for the positions they are running for with the TSALC. Stated we needed some change at the state level.

14)Financial Secretary's Report of Receipts – Dennis Alltop.

- a) No concerns of questions were raised with regards to financial reports or expenditures.

15)Motion to adjourn made by Jerry Aldorf, second by Dan Torres. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.