

NALC Branch 421
October 12th 2023
General Branch Meeting

- 1) The regular branch meeting of Alamo Branch 421 was held on October 12th, 2023 via ZOOM virtual meeting and in person. The meeting was called to order by Louise Jordan at 7:01 pm.
- 2) **Invocation** – Burnie Miller
- 3) **Pledge of Allegiance** – Dennis Alltop
- 4) Motion to set aside the meeting by Tony Boyd, seconded by Jim Ruetze, for guests. Caesar Villegas from Federal Comp and Wellness spoke about some of the services they provided as well as discussing their November 3rd golf tournament. Louise Jordan said the branch already had one team put together but would still need volunteers for the tournament.
- 5) **Roll Call** – Dennis Alltop
 - a. All members of the executive board were present.
- 6) **Approval of Minutes from Previous General Meeting** – Dennis Alltop
 - a. Correction to dollar pot winner name.
 - i. Raul Reyes said page seven had only his first name, and there were several occurrences throughout the minutes. He requested his full name be added.
 - b. Motion to accept the minutes with corrections by Mary Pardo, seconded by Cornelia Lashley.
- 7) **Reading of Official Communications** – Dennis Alltop
 - a. Bexar county appraisal district sent a letter approving the waiver of 2023 rendition penalty of \$300.
 - b. The MDA sent a letter for the branch challenge from October 1st through 31st.
 - c. The Salvation Army sent a card including meal tickets for their Thanksgiving banquet.
- 8) **Application for Membership** – Esteban Ramirez
 - a. There are 1213 active members, including 24 not on the roster yet, and 473 retirees, including 142 Gold members and 16 members who have not submitted their 1189's.
 - b. There were 31 new members. Roy Villarrel, Johnathan Gomez, Charles Tillman Jr, Starla Jean Robertson, Rebecca Miranda-Elliott, Joe Valdez, Adam Banda, Erick Arceo, Eduardo Rocha, Rosa Dispennette, Jose Lopez Jr, Christina Bolish,

Daniel Forton, Lexie Gentry, Geronimo Pena, Mark Anthony Santillan, Ashley Hernandez, Fiona Hudson, Tatyana Bradley, Jesse Damian Aguilar, Kameron Gordon, Jonathan Casares, Jesus Angel Chavez Sr, Loriann Deleon, Clara Martinez, Edward Perez, Jarred Joseph Westbrook, Sonia Loor, Brandon Olsen, Aaron Stephenson, and Alex Moreno.

- i. No new members were in attendance.

9) Nominations for Branch Officers

a. President

- i. Raul Reyes nominated Homer Hernandez. Homer Hernandez accepted.
- ii. Nancy Feldt nominated Louise Jordan. Louise Jordan accepted.

b. Vice President

- i. Richard Gould nominated Esteban Ramirez. Esteban Ramirez accepted.
 1. Esteban Ramirez won by acclamation.

c. Recording Secretary

- i. Erin McLaughlin nominated Dennis Alltop. Dennis Alltop accepted.
 1. Dennis Alltop won by acclamation.

d. Financial Secretary

- i. Pete Velasquez nominated Cornelia Lashley. Cornelia Lashley accepted.
- ii. Matthias Dearstyne nominated Erin McLaughlin. Erin McLaughlin accepted.

e. Treasurer

- i. Pete Velasquez nominated Jose Portales. Jose Portales accepted.
- ii. Erin McLaughlin nominated Stephen Gros. Stephen Gros accepted.
- iii. Homer Hernandez nominated Jose Rodriguez. Jose Rodriguez accepted.

f. Assistant Recording Secretary

- i. Isaac Hernandez nominated Kevin Welch. Kevin Welch accepted.
- ii. Erin McLaughlin nominated Matthias Dearstyne. Matthias Dearstyne accepted.

g. Health Benefits Representative

- i. Armando Gutierrez nominated Mary Pardo. Mary Pardo accepted.
 1. Mary Pardo won by acclamation.

h. Sergeant at Arms/Assistant Treasurer

- i. Homer Hernandez nominated Alex Alcorta. Alex Alcorta accepted.
- ii. Jay Davis nominated David Woolery. David Woolery accepted.

- i. Director of Retirees
 - i. Pete Velasquez nominated Joseph Blancarte. Joseph Blancarte did not accept.
 - ii. There were no other nominations. The position will be vacant.

- j. Trustees
 - i. Michael Nefford nominated Raul Reyes. Raul Reyes accepted.
 - ii. Raul Reyes nominated Jerry Garcia. Jerry Garcia accepted.
 - iii. Yoshi Kuwabara nominated Sean Jacquemotte. Sean Jacquemotte accepted.
 - iv. Erin McLaughlin nominated Jay Davis. Jay Davis accepted.
 - v. Homer Hernandez nominated Rigoberto Hidalgo. Rigoberto Hidalgo accepted.

Nominations were declared closed after each officer position.

10)Unfinished Business – Louise Jordan

- a. Jim Ruetze said that a motion was postponed last meeting regarding cellphones for the president and vice president. Jim Ruetze made a motion to bring it up again, seconded by Pete Velasquez.
 - i. Homer Hernandez said he withdrew the motion. Louise Jordan said they researched the issue and Cricket is not a union company.
- b. Armando Gutierrez asked about appointing someone as director of retirees. Louise Jordan said she reached out to national and the president in January will assign the duties to another member of the executive board.

11)New Business – Louise Jordan

- a. Cornelia Lashley made a motion to purchase an ash tray outside for the smokers, seconded by Esteban Ramirez. There was no discussion. The motion passed.
- b. Nancy Feldt made a motion to donate \$300 to Federal Comp and Wellness for the food they brought to the meeting and for their golf tournament, because they donated \$500 to the branch. Seconded by Mary Pardo. The motion passed.
- c. Joseph Blancarte made a motion that the branch send four people for \$100 to the November 17th CBTU fundraiser. Seconded by Carlos Harris.
 - i. Armando Gutierrez asked if it could come out of the Ted Carter fund. Joseph Blancarte accepted the amendment. The motion passed.
- d. There is not a designated smoking area, and one has to be agreed to according to the law. Louise Jordan said they would look into it.
- e. Joseph Blancarte said at the beginning of next month there would be some voting for Proposition 9. It would allow retired teachers to increase their COLA, and Joseph Blancarte asked voters to support Proposition 9.
 - i. Louise Jordan said that was for the good of the association.

12) Reports of Special and Standard Committees – Louise Jordan

- a. Mary Pardo talked about open season in 2023, starting on November 13th. She would be attending the Las Vegas NALC Health Benefit 36th Annual Seminar from October 15th through 18th. She had flyers in the back of the hall with open season information. The Medicare Advantage Plan was also coming back. She talked about mental health and the substance abuse hotline. Last month Mary Pardo talked about the free blood pressure machines and said that she got hers and they work very well. She also talked about the heat disappearing temporarily and exercising outside. Members should also be aware of COVID, other viruses, and get vaccinated.
- b. Phil Jordan had no updates.
- c. Louise Jordan spoke for Dan Torres and said the AFL-CIO finished their elections and had a full board. There were new, young members who were looking to see changes.
- d. Esteban Ramirez was the new MBA representative. He said the NALC website had lots of insurance resources available.
- e. The Trustees presented the budget. They passed out copies and line-by-line explanations to the members who wanted them. The budget was reviewed by the executive board last night at the executive meeting. Any changes or questions could be brought up at the next meeting.

13) Good of the Association – Louise Jordan

- a. Joseph Blancarte said that the retirees' luncheon would be on November 14th at Luby's on Main Street. He was hoping for a bigger turn out this year and would have guest speakers.

14) Improvement of the Service – Esteban Ramirez

- a. Esteban Ramirez said he was grateful for the support, and they would continue to train the stewards. Two stewards went to Formal A and Beyond and would be putting a training program together. The NBA Fall School was also very good. He thanked the membership, the stewards, and said all the stations were covered. Article 8's grievances were also being taken care of.
- b. Louise Jordan gave a report on the golf tournament. The audit was not done yet because the Citicard bill was not in yet, but the profits were approximately \$4200 dollars.
- c. Louise Jordan said the NALC Disaster Relief Fund flyers were in the back. Three carriers lost everything in the Maui fires. There was a briefing at the NBA school and the Disaster Relief Fund had given out 2.1 million dollars since the fund was created in 2018. 100% of the funds go to the affected carriers.

- d. Louise Jordan said the NBA school was a success. There were four OWCP classes and several grievance classes. She also brought back flyers with information for veterans.
- e. Pete Velasquez said that the new CCAs sometimes ask who the president and vice president are, and he wanted to know if they could get a picture of the officers for new people. Louise Jordan said he could not make a motion at this time, but she did ask all the past presidents to send a picture before and Tony Boyd was the only one who sent anything in.
 - i. Nancy Feldt said that she had always wanted to do that. She also went to the NBA school to volunteer and said they took a collection for the carrier who was killed in Houston when his LLV was struck and flipped. Louise Jordan reminded the members to wear their seatbelts and close their doors.
- f. Cesar Hernandez asked where the spring school would be held and Louise Jordan said they had no information yet, but that it would be north of Houston.
- g. Pete Velasquez asked about the sign-ups for the Boston Convention and if the names were released. Louise Jordan said it went out in an email and was posted in the back. Only 45 members qualified so there didn't have to be an election.
- h. Homer Hernandez asked about the Carmichael Lewis update. Louise Jordan said she emailed the DOL and was told that they were preparing for the shut down, so it was delayed.
- i. Matthias Dearstyne was recently DRT certified.

15) Budget Discussion – Erin McLaughlin

- a. There were no questions. Motion to accept by Tony Boyd, seconded by Cornelia Lashley.

16) Ted Carter Fund – \$87

17) Dollar Pot - \$41, goes to Juan Hernandez.

18) Branch Jacket – Matthias Dearstyne

19) Motion to Adjourn – Made by David Woolery, seconded by Gerry Aldorf, at 8:03 pm

Attendance:

In person 44

Zoom 25

Minutes prepared by Assistant Recording Secretary Matthias Dearstyne