

**NALC Branch #421
December 8th, 2022
General Branch Meeting**

- 1) The regular branch meeting of Alamo Branch 421 was held on December 8th, 2022 via ZOOM virtual meeting and in person. The meeting was called to order by President Richard Gould at 7:03 pm.
- 2) **Invocation** by Burnie Miller
- 3) **Pledge of Allegiance** led by Matthias Dearstyne
- 4) **Roll Call by Dennis Alltop, Recording Secretary:** Director of Retirees Joseph Blancarte was absent. All other Executive Board Members were present.
- 5) **Approval of Minutes from Previous General Meeting – Dennis Alltop**
 - a) Motion to accept the meeting minutes Mary Pardo, Second by Tony Boyd. Motion carries.
- 6) **Reading of Official Communications – Dennis Alltop**
 - a) We received a letter from The American Income Life Insurance Company, the company that provides a \$3,000 life insurance that is free of charge for all branch members. Once a year they send out a mailing with a letter signed by the branch President with information on insurance and the NALC Alamo Branch 421 membership and beneficiaries' information. If you fill it out and send it in, someone will contact you with more information on additional insurance.
 - b) We received a letter from Nicole Rhine, National Secretary-Treasurer, concerning the membership approved transfer of brother John Klimsak. They received the transfer after the dues were reported for the quarter, so he'll begin paying our dues in January.
 - c) We received a Christmas card from Federal Comp and Wellness and MSA Architecture and Interiors. They will be at the secretary's desk if anyone wants to see them.
 - d) On November 19th, we received a wage increase and a step P was created. Our secretary received a wage increase but the language in her contract does not address a step P, it only goes to step O. We consulted the Department of Labor auditor and she stated that we just needed to make a motion to change the appendix in the contract to include the step P and a branch vote to approve it. The executive board recommends the change.

- i) Motion to revise appendix c in the secretary's contract to include step P and give Brenda Coleman the step increase made by Dan Torres, seconded by Pete Velasquez. Motion Passes.

7) Application for Membership – Louise Jordan

- a) We have 1,188 active members and there are approximately 35 that have signed up and have not made the rolls yet. We have 503 retirees, 161 gold members, and 24 retirees that have not submitted their 1189's. We have 25 new members that signed up in December and they are Elijah Dunaway, Juan Gonzalez, Carol Ballard, Leslie Van Wie, Ted Moreno, Patrick Dominguez, Bracken Belohlavek, Khalid Abbassi, Allen Horne, Dino Cole, Wellington Llubes, Lenard Lee Thomas, Darwin Grande, Stacey Arnason, Lakiesha Drake, Frederico Sanchez, Eugene Webb, Joanna Reyes, Justin Whitaker, Tye Nishiguchi, Justin Moise, Chloe Randle, Wayne George, Victor Sutton, and Christian Castillo.

8) Unfinished Business –

- a) Tony Boyd questioned if we got any information on the participation of the branch in the midterm elections. Richard Gould responded that we have not.

9) New Business

- a) None.

10) Reports of Special and Standard Committees –

- a) Dan Torres, AFL-CIO report. The COPE committee endorsed Ezra Johnson, City Council District 10, even though he was not one of the three finalists. The Communication Workers of America are throwing a Christmas Party and all unions are invited. Henry Cuellar will be hosting a luncheon this Saturday at La Margarita. Tomorrow there will be a demonstration for the Starbucks workers union.
- b) Phil Jordan, Social and Recreation Committee. Had a meeting last week and signed a contract with Fiesta Texas and the family fun day will be on June 4th, 2023. The committee has talked to Seaworld about putting together a package for the fall. Schlitterbahn has reached out with some options. The San Antonio Missions are another organization the committee has been in talks with.
- c) Mary Pardo, Health Benefits Coordinator. Monday is the last day for open season. Stewards, please let the membership know. The Medicare Advantage Plan with Aetna is an option for the retirees, you must be A and B qualified. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
- d) Louise Jordan, MBA. Listed all the different insurances available, they are all on the NALC national website under the MBA tab.

- e) Martha Johnsen, Trustee Report. Spoke on the audits.

11) Good of the Association –

- a) Bonifacio Lopez spoke on a segment on the news about porch pirates. Suggest that the carriers leave notice instead of leaving the packages at the door.
- b) Raul Reyes puts a motion in for the branch to put in \$1000 for another softball tournament and it will be run by Jerry Garcia for a later date, seconded by Homar Hernandez.
 - i) Jerry Garcia explains that the \$1,000 will go towards paying the umpires, paying for the fields, and for prizes for the players. For the last tournament he was able to buy bases, field markers, and a scoreboard
 - ii) Dan Torres asks when the date is. Richard responds there is no date set yet.
 - iii) Nancy Feldt asks what the \$1500 for the last tournament was spent on. Jerry Garcia explained the cost breakdown.
 - iv) Mark Isenhour would like more transparency as far as what the money was spent on and mentioned that there were complaints about a team having no letter carriers and may not have even been postal employees.
 - v) Motion passes.
- c) Pete Velasquez would like the branch to push the Postal Service to at least give the new CCA's their Postal hat. At this moment they are not getting them.
- d) Henry McKnight would like the membership to know that as a veteran it is possible to get over 100% disability. Just go to the VA and talk to them about it.
- e) Doug Boethen suggests to the retired carriers to bring their used uniforms to the branch so the CCA's could use them. Richard points out that the branch does that already.

12) Improvement of the Service –

- a) Louise Jordan
 - i) The MDA Bowl-a-thon was a success, we had 64 bowlers on 16 teams. It was a great time. We made \$263 from the raffle and \$1,036.01 will be donated to the MDA. AMF won first place, second place was Beacon Hill, and third place was Leon Valley. We encourage the members to show up and participate.

ii) We adopted 507 angels for the Salvation Army Angel Tree Program. Thanks to everyone who participated.

iii) The Christmas party is next Saturday, December 17th. We will be decorating this Sunday if anyone wants to help. Doors open at 6, food will be served from 6:30 to 8. The party ends at midnight.

iv) Covid-19 can still be claimed as a workman's comp injury.

b) Richard Gould

i) If you have an OWCP injury or question please call the branch.

ii) Microphones have been purchased.

iii) We had 25 CCA conversions, and we don't have any PTF's in the installation.

iv) We had an individual that cashed their convention check but did not go. The branch has reached out to the individual multiple times, and he has not contacted anyone at the branch. The branch will move forward with charges on the individual.

v) Doug Boethin points out that during the month of December the carrier does not need to explain why they need auxiliary assistance.

vi) Rudy Ramon questions if anyone has tried to contact the individual that has not returned the money. Richard Gould explains that they've tried multiple times.

vii) Pam Graham questions if the individual was charged for their hotel and they were unable to cancel. Richard Gould explains that the individual has not contacted the branch to explain anything.

viii) Spoke on two Step B decisions for management failing to wash the vehicles on a regular basis and encourages the stewards to file non-compliance grievances.

ix) There are a lot of new stewards, and the branch will soon conduct steward training, either at the end of December or the beginning of January.

x) Thanked Louise for the work she put in for the Salvation Army Angel Tree Program. Also thanks all the carriers that helped as well.

xi) Wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

13) Financial Secretary's Report of Receipts – Erin McLaughlin.

- a) The November report was not available yet, the bank statements had not arrived. The October report was on the website and was available for the November meeting but was overlooked during the meeting. Because copies were not on the table again there was a motion to table the October expense report until next month made by Dan Torres, seconded by Nancy Feldt. Motion passes.

14) \$131 was collected for the Ted Carter Fund.

15) Yvonne Escalante won the Jacket.

**16) Motion to adjourn made by everybody, seconded by everybody. Motion carries.
Meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.**

Minutes prepared by Assistant Recording Secretary Esteban Ramirez IV