

NATIONAL Association of Letter Carriers Branch 421

General Branch meeting September 12, 2024

1) The regular Branch Meeting of Alamo Branch 421 was held September 12, 2024, via ZOOM virtual meeting and in person. The meeting was called to order by President Homer Hernandez at 7:05 pm.

2) Invocation by Burnie Miller

3) Pledge of Allegiance National Business Agent (NBA) Region 10 Shawn Boyd

4) Special Guest Speaker Shawn Boyd (NBA) spoke gave kudos to career carriers for being 96 % organized and retired carriers for being 90% organized. Region 10 has training coming up on Saturday October 12, 2024, at the Dallas Marriott Fort Worth. Presidents and Officers meeting that Saturday afternoon. Leadership Academy applications deadline September 27, 2024.

Jim Ruetze, Lock hill: Do you need to reapply if you have applied before? You shouldn't have to but reach out to the national to verify. DRT and Advocacy training are coming up.

President Homer Hernandez" what qualifies you for DRT? Be a steward, contract knowledge is important, be active in your union. Robberies and theft of arrow keys, prosecution is getting better. Heat awareness, be safe and take care of yourself out there.

Heather Calhoun, NECA: we have broken mailboxes and locks on boxes that need to be changed.

Tony Boyd retired: asked about when the new mail trucks are going to hit region 10. Looks like Bryan, College Station and Waco, Texas will be the first to get new vehicles.

Raul Reyes, NECA: our vehicles here in San Antonio are beyond repair. We need new vehicles here. You need to look for yourself and each other.

Pete Velasquez, Laurel Heights, made a recommendation for the CCA instructors to go through the same process as the leadership program and the DRT process. I wish we had enough carriers wanting to be instructors in the CCA Academy so that we could have an application process, but we don't. Covid changed a lot of things, people are looking for quality of life more than anything, and I can tell you this is one job that has struggled with quality of life since I've been with the postal service. Management doesn't understand that.

5) Roll Call by Recording Secretary Dennis Alltop, Kevin Welch, Beacon Hill were on ZOOM, all other executive board members were present.

6) Reading of Official Communications by Recording Secretary Dennis Alltop spoke about signup sheet for next year's State Convention. Signup sheet for San Antonio AFL-CIO: you can sign up to be a delegate for that too.

Read a letter by Ernest Gonzales proposing open bargaining to NALC President Brian Renfroe and that it be sent within one week of motion passing. Ernest Gonzales, Beacon Hill, made the motion to accept the letter. Matthias Dearstyne 2nd.

Louise Jordan, Thousand Oaks: against motion, says it should have been presented so all the members could read it.

Ernest Gonzales, Beacon Hill: for the motion, presented the letter because as a union steward, he keeps getting asked about the contract.

Tony Boyd retired: against the motion for some of the same reasons sister Louise Jordan talked about.

Mark Isenhour, Serna: I'm in favor of the motion.

Steven Gross, Thousand Oaks: against the motion, letter was done by one person and not the branch.

Raul Reyes, NECA: in favor of the motion because members need to be included in the transparency of what is going on.

President Homer Hernandez: for the motion, we as members should know what is going on as paying union members.

Pamala Graham, Thousand Oaks: against the motion, better that we don't know what they're fighting for.

Louise Jordan, Thousand Oaks: call for the question.

Vote taken; question is called. Vote taken on the motion, (motion passes)

Dan Torres retired: made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Dennis Alltop 2nd.
Mary Pardo, retired: October, should be September to sign up for Medicare Part B.

Louise Jordan, Thousand Oaks: correction to (minutes from August 15, 2024, General Branch Meeting???) Congressional people "spoke" to us, not "spook".

7) Application for Membership – President Esteban Ramirez Current membership count is 1,223 plus approximately 6 signed up but not on the roster yet, 489 retirees, 142 Gold Members and 33 retirees that have not submitted 1189's yet. The branch has 10 new members, they are Brandon Chilcote, Jacob Casillas, Roman Verdusco, Josep Maldonado, Erin Miller, Julianna Martinez, Joe Guerro, Aldona Pettit, Joe Salinas and Kyler Jurney.

8) Unfinished Business - President Hernandez.

Tony Boyd retired: spoke about the unfinished business of the \$25,000 arbitration award awarded to the Branch. Eleven stations were mentioned in the grievance. Eleven Step B Decisions were included in the grievance.

Pete Velasquez, Laurel Heights: spoke to carriers from the different stations, said they don't want the money, they want it to be used in a way that is beneficial to the branch. Adding additional fans, ice machines, training. The big issue was how do you deal with supervisors like this?

Mark Isenhour, Serna: our station felt like the way it was written, that we would be compensated for by it. Mixed emotions on compensating carriers at Serna station. Money should be used to assist the stewards and help them.

Rigoberto Hidalgo, Beacon Hill: spoke to carriers at Beacon Hill station and one of the recommendations made was for training on how to deal with supervisors, managers like that. More training for the stewards and new employees (the CCA's) on how to deal with supervisors like that.

Pete Velasquez, Laurel Heights: read the committee's recommendations. Money separates people and we don't want that to happen to our branch so keep that in mind. Creating a Dignity and Respect Team and sending two individuals to Washington for training. Looking at the cost of \$7,000. Looking to spending \$5,000 on steward resources, i.e. laptops, printers, pin drives, and additional storage equipment. Looking to provide some suicide prevention training as well at a cost of \$1,000 to \$3,000. Formal A training for stewards at a possible cost of \$8,000. Possibly invite someone from National and have them come here to do the training.

Tony Boyd retired: expanded on the training in DC, spoke to individuals and was told that they are certified classes that are given on Dignity and Respect.

Burnie Miller retired: made a motion to accept the committee's proposal.

Louise Jordan, Thousand Oaks 2nd

Ernest Gonzales, Beacon Hill: Can we put those in the Budget?

President Hernandez: we know what to spend, but yes, we can put it in the budget.

Joe Blancarte retired: against the motion, agrees on some of the items presented, but disagrees on some. Don't think we should send two people to DC, we should have the training here, so that more people can attend.

President Hernandez: we could look at that.

Tony Boyd retired: for the motion; we talked about sending someone, the President and Vice President have say in who goes, put someone who going to do a good job. You can modify where the training is, you need to have quality people doing this. Then the information can be shared.

Louise Jordan, Thousand Oaks: made a friendly amendment take the suggestion and work out the details of when and where.

Dan Torres retired: it's flexible, not set in stone.

Richard Gould, Lock hill: did they cover the entire \$25,000?

Pete Velasquez, Laurel Heights: the breakdown comes to \$21,000.

Richard Gould, Lock hill: made a friendly amendment to \$3,500.00 for a better sound system in the hall.

Tony Boyd retired: Pete said there is flexibility in how to spend.

Raul Reyes, NECA: question is Louise Jordan's amendment up to the members or the president to decide?

President Hernandez: they have four categories to spend it on.

Louise Jordan, Thousand Oaks: not a president's decision, maybe executive board. I was asking for flexibility to spend.

Ernest Gonzales, Beacon Hill: if we're not spending the money now, I don't think we need to vote. I call for the question.

Dan Torres, retired 2nd (motion to call the question passes).
Vote taken to accept the committee's recommendation (motion passes)

9) New Business - President Hernandez.

Ernest Gonzales, Beacon Hill made a motion to raise the meal budget from \$300 to \$500 for the next 3 months.

2nd Jose Rodriguez.

Louise Jordan, Thousand Oaks: where would the money come from?

President Hernandez: out of the steward training.

Rudy Ramon, retired: are we running out of food at the meetings?

Esteban Ramirez IV: yes.

Gerry Aldorf: in favor of motion, food prices have gone up. Having the same food item needs to change.

Vote taken (motion passes)

10) Kevin Welch, Beacon Hill, nominate self for State Convention. Richard Gould nominated himself for the State Convention. Rudy Ramon, nominate self for the State Convention. Darryl Zander, retired, nominated himself for State Convention. Fred Flores nominated himself for the State Convention.

11) Louise Jordan, Thousand Oaks, motion Gifts for Christmas Salvation Army. 2nd Pam Graham. (Motion passes)

12) Reports of Special and Standard Committee

Mary Pardo, retired: Postal Service paying penalty for Medicare part B, I have the applications, last day is September 30, 2024.

Dan Torres, AFL-CIO: Happy to see Branch 421 supports LACLA CBTO- Regional Conference.

Joe Stevens, Serna: presented the Article 10 Committee finalized report. Motion to accept the committee report Rudy Ramon, Pete Velasquez 2nd (Motion passes)

13) Good of the Association – Burnie Miller, Retired, all members not signed up for Medicare Part B are advised to sign up for Part B.

14) Ernest Gonzales, Beacon Hill: I figured out what's going on with the sound here, we are going to look at things to fix the sound system.

15) Mary Pardo retired: suggested to the executive board, Military Veterans send in a military picture to post at the Union Hall for Veterans Day.

16) Improvement of the Service – President Hernandez appointed Vice President Esteban Ramirez IV to committee against vandalism and violence against carriers at the office of City Council. Employee Compensation Operations & Management Portal (ECOMP), Get on and register! Voting – Election time, get out to vote, we will be doing phone banking, Got two quotes for the back light, \$350 and \$380.

17) Financial Secretary's Report of Receipts – Jose Rodriguez will postpone until October Branch Meeting that way July, August and September financial reports can be uploaded online and made available at union hall.

18) Ted Carter Fund - \$51.35 Doug Boethm – Dollar Pot, Mark Isenhour – Jacket

19) Motion to Adjourn 10:13 PM By Doug Boethm 2nd Pete Velasquez