NALC Alamo Branch 421 General Branch Meeting

October 8, 2026

The regular branch meeting of Alamo Branch 421 was held via Zoom virtual meeting and in person. The meeting was called to order by President Homer Hernandez.

Invocation led by Mary Pardo, recognized the passing of Rodolfo "Rudy" Trevino and Dan Pollock.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Jaime Garcia

1. **Roll Call: Dennis Alltop**

Officer's Present

- ***President*** Homer Hernandez
- ***Vice President*** Esteban Ramirez
- ***Recording Secretary*** Dennis Alltop
- ***Financial Secretary*** Erin McLaughlin
- ***Treasurer*** Jose Rodriguez
- ***Health Benefits Representative*** Mary Pardo
- ***Sergeant-at-Arms*** Alex Alcorta
- ***Director of Retirees*** Dan Torres
- ***Trustees:*** Raul Reyes, Rigoberto Hidalgo, and Joe Stevens

2. **Reading of Communications, Notices, Bills, etc: Dennis Alltop**

- Letter received from Kevin Welch resigning as Assistant Recording Secretary due to ongoing health issues.

  “Dear President Hernandez and Vice President Ramirez,

  Good morning. Due to my ongoing health issues, I have decided to resign from my position as the Assistant Recording Secretary. I perform my duties to the best of my abilities, and I’m grateful for the opportunity to serve this Branch and its members. Thank you for your continued support while I was carrying out my duties. I wish you both continued success moving forward.

  Sincerely, Kevin Welch.”

Point of Information (POI):

- Dan Torres informed the Branch of a raffle for collectibles benefiting the Ted Carter Fund.

3. **Reading of Minutes of Previous Meetings**: **Dennis Alltop**

- August meeting minutes **approved.**
- September meeting minutes **approved**.

4. **Application for Membership**: **Esteban Ramirez**

- 1,150 active members, 452 retirees (including 124 Gold Members),18 retirees have not submitted Form 1189.

- Nine new members were introduced. They are Estevan Luera, Sunnie Scott, Abdiel Balderas, John Gutierrez, Jerome Saunders, Eli Salazar, Ovidiu Andreica, Dominic Skloss, Mary Buford Golden.

POI: President Hernandez informed the membership of AFL-CIO delegate election conducted, during meeting. Nicole Ramirez explained the procedure to vote as the General Branch meeting is being conducted.

5. **Branch officer nominations opened for the upcoming Branch election, conducted by Esteban Ramirez.**

- **President**: ***Raul Reyes*** (Nominated by Jose Rodriguez), ***Ruben Tapia*** (Nominated by Ruben Marin), ***Homer Hernandez*** (Nominated by Jim Ruetze)

- **Vice President:** ***Jose Rodriguez*** (Nominated by Raul Reyes), ***Joe Stevens*** (Nominated by Juan Reyes), ***Joseph Rehmet*** (Nominated by Gary Garcia)

- **Recording Secretary**: ***Erin McLaughlin*** (Nominated by Tony Boyd), ***Sean Jacquemotte*** (Nominated by Raul Reyes)

- **Financial Secretary**: ***Richard Reyes*** (Nominated by Jose Rodriguez), ***Sony Leon*** (Nominated by Eric Herrera)

- **Assistant Recording Secretary**: ***Jarred Westbrook*** (Nominated by Joseph Mendez), ***Mike Ramirez*** (Nominated by Margaret Garza)

- **Health Benefits Representative**: ***Kameron Gordon*** (Nominated by Raul Reyes), ***Mary Pardo*** (Nominated by Nancy Feldt)

- **Director of Retirees**: ***Joseph Blancarte*** (Nominated by Raul Reyes), ***Dan Torres*** (Nominated by Alex Acorta)

- **Sergeant-at-Arms:** ***Alex Alcorta*** (Nominated by Dan Torres), ***Sergio Dovalina*** (Nominated by Raul Reyes)

- **Trustees:** ***Eric Herrera*** (Nominated by Sony Leon), ***Jose Pedroza*** (Nominated by Alex Acorta), ***Rigoberto Hidalgo*** (Nominated by John Kruithof), ***Jaime Garcia*** (Nominated by Sergio Dovalina), ***Abigail Martinez*** (Nominated by Frank Santos), ***John Kruithof*** (Nominated by Rigoberto Hidalgo)

- **Treasurer:** ***Zachary Spitz*** (Nominated by Jose Rodriguez) ***Margaret Garza*** (Nominated by Mike Ramirez)
- Membership advised that election information and ballots would be mailed to members.

6. New Business:

- **Wreaths Across America:** Louise Jordan made a motion for the Branch to purchase ten wreaths for Wreaths Across America at $17 each, totaling $170 (Second by Dan Torres) Motion. **Motion Passed**.

- **Compensation for Union Hall Coverage:** Erin McLaughlin made a motion to compensate Joseph Stevens for 32 hours worked at the Union Hall while Esteban Ramirez was absent. Second Carmichael Lewis. Vote: 26 For, 4 Against. **Motion Passed**.

- **Union Hall Grounds Maintenance:** Esteban Ramirez raised concerns regarding lawn maintenance at the Union Hall. Membership discussed obtaining bids, purchasing equipment, or using volunteers. Jackie Turnbull volunteered to temporarily maintain the grounds while long-term options are explored. Motion for the Executive Board (Second by Dan Torres) to investigate maintenance options and associated costs. **Motion Passed**.

- **Dan Torres** announced the NALC Bowl-a-thon to be held on November 29, 2026. $30 per bowler. 5 per team; total $150 benefits the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

7. Unfinished Business:

- Kelly Cantu asked for Brother Juan Reyes be allowed to speak and for an apology from the chair. An apology from the chair was offered.

- Raul Reyes requested that members be allowed to speak.

- Esteban Ramirez contacted Juan Reyes via phone and put him on speaker near the microphone to be heard. Brother Reyes spoke about rumors used against his name via social media. And the appreciation of Joe Stevens for grievance settlement.

8. Reports of Standing and Special Committees:

- **Mary Pardo** - *Health Benefits: D*iscussed effects of stress on members and families. Encouraged candidates to conduct respectful election campaigns. Reminded members that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Announced Federal Employee Health Benefits Open Season will be November 9 through December 14.

- **Dan Torres** - *AFL-CIO:* Reported on AFL-CIO activities and delegate participation. Announced United Way Coat Drive. Reported passage of several AFL-CIO resolutions. Encouraged support of labor actions and union-endorsed candidates.

Alex Alcorta closed the sign-in sheet at 8:00 pm

Esteban Ramirez- *Building Committee* reported the foundation repair contract is pending Executive Board approval. Projected start date is November 2. Repairs are expected to last three to four days. Plumbing contractor will provide a free estimate after foundation repairs are completed.

9. Good of the Association:

- Nancy Feldt suggested candidates use annual leave while campaigning at stations to ensure fairness.

- Zachary Spitz thanked Kevin Welch for his service and requested consistency in minute-taking procedures.

- Joseph Mendez reminded members to contact National if they had not received election ballots.

- Henry McKnight encouraged members to remain informed on political and legislative issues affecting workers.

- Kelly Cantu questioned internet service expenses shown on financial reports.

- Pamela Graham requested members avoid excessive profanity during meetings

10. For the improvement of the Service: Homer Hernandez

- A new Postmaster has been assigned. A meeting is scheduled with management leadership.

- Budget proposal will be completed and presented at the next meeting.

- Members needing light-duty assignments should contact Branch leadership promptly.

- Encouraged participation in upcoming union elections.

- Informed the membership that the Branch appointed Mike Ramirez as the Assistant Recording Secretary for the rest of this term.

11. Treasurer's Reports of Expenditures: Jose Rodriguez

- June Financial Report **approved**. (Motion made by Carmicheal Lewis, Second Jaime Garcia)

- July Financial Report **approved**. (Motion made by Nickole Ramirez, Second Mike Nefford)

- August Financial Report **approved**. (Motion made by Alex Alcorta, Second Esteban Ramirez)

- September Financial Report (Motion made by Nickole Ramirez, Second Zachary Spitz) **tabled** until the November meeting due to incomplete distribution of supporting documentation.

- Nancy Feldt requested the previous year's budget.

- Kelly Cantu questioned Jose Rodriguez for internet charges.

    - Jose Rodriguez explained that irregular expenses were related to fraudulent checks, reissued payments, and banking issues.

- Adolph Flores closed AFL-CIO elections.

- Erin McLaughlin and Jose Rodriguez re-emphasized that the membership has the right to review financial documents at the Union Hall.

Fund raising and Raffles:

- Ted Carter fund raised $145.00

- Multiple winners

AFL-CIO Delegate Election Results:

The following members were elected as AFL-CIO delegates: Louise Jordan (26 votes), Dan Torres (26 votes), Esteban Ramirez (21 votes), Mike Ramirez (20 votes), Nickole Ramirez (18 votes), Margaret Garza (17 votes), Homer Hernandez (16 votes), Sony Leon (16 votes)

12. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by Louise Jordan. Second by Carmicheal Lewis.
Meeting adjourned