Minutes from the October 5, 2021 meeting of Branch 361 NALC

1. The October monthly meeting of Branch 361 was called to order by President Becraft at 7:17 pm, this meeting was held via zoom.
2. President Becraft led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Recording Secretary Smith read the monthly minutes from the September monthly meeting.

President Becraft asked if there were any corrections or additions.

Sister Preston made a motion to accept the minutes as read, with a second by Brother Quintania.

The motion carried.

1. Brother Wiles read the 2022 Proposed Budget.

President Becraft asked if there were any corrections or additions.

Sister Caywood made a motion to accept the reading of the proposed budget with no corrections or addendums as read, with a second by Sister Preston.

1. The following carriers submitted applications for membership in the NALC and Branch 361:

James Boyd, Shawn Hall, Jonathan Bray, Tianwei Huang, Joseph Clay, Brandon Cronce, Landon Price, and Jacob Niggemeyer.

Sister Preston made a motion to accept the new members as read, with a second by Brother Whitcomb.

The Motion carried.

1. Health Benefits Representative Whitcomb spoke on the Teal Pumpkin Project and open season. The Teal Pumpkin Project involves placing a teal pumpkin on your doorstep to indicate that in addition to candy a non-food item is offered as a treat. The Teal Pumpkin Project is one way to make trick-or-treating safer and more inclusive. Open season runs from the beginning of the second week in November through the end of the second week of December. Open enrollment begins on November 8th and closes December 13th, this is your one opportunity a year to make changes to your health benefits. Any members needing assistance with the NALC Health Benefit Plan can go to the NALC website or call 1-888-636-6252 for further assistance.
2. Trustee Craig gave the following expenditure report for the month of September:

Trustee Expense Report September 2021:

1. Utilities $ 403.00
2. Participation $ 50.00
3. Building Maintenance $ 6,929.55
4. Training $ 735.85
5. Postage $ 36.37
6. Office Supplies $ 45.83
7. Personal Items $ 929.57
8. Newsletter $ 1,200.93
9. Total Expenses: $ 10,331.10

\* Fall Festival $ 100.00 (Reimbursed)

\*\* Transferred $ 16,000.00 from Checking Account to Convention Fund.

Sister Caywood made a motion to accept the expense report as read with a second by Sister Preston

The Motion carried.

1. Financial Secretary/Treasurer Lindsay gave the following financial report for the month of September:

September 2021 Financial Report:

1. Deposits $ 12,600.09
2. Checks $ 10,231.10

The account balances are:

1. Checking $ 67,024.14
2. Savings $ 76,246.83
3. Building Fund $ 13,040.44
4. Retiree Fund $ 15,355.29
5. Hall Rental Fund $ 11, 982.35
6. Convention Fund $ 16,000.00

Brother Waltz made a motion to accept the financial report as read, with a second from Sister Preston.

The Motion carried.

1. President Becraft shared pictures with the membership of the hall renovations.
2. President Becraft conducted the $50 door prize drawing with Brother Sox winning. Brother Sox donated his winnings to MDA, thanks Joey!
3. The following items were brought up under the good of the Association:
4. Brother McNulty addressed the membership stating the Postal Reform is still on track to move forward. Brother McNulty urged members to keep taking action on the NALC website or app and reminded members to go online and contribute to the political fund.
5. Sister Caywood addressed the membership stating in the newsletter article President Becraft asked for suggestions to get more people involved in the union. Sister Caywood suggested the membership consider hosting an open house, so that members can come in at their own leisure as well as help members to understand this is their hall.
   1. Brother Whitcomb stated that he was a CCA for six (6) months before he knew that we had monthly union meetings let alone a union hall.
   2. Brother Goodpaster stated he is not familiar with any other unions that have anything comparable to our hall.
   3. President Becraft stated that he thinks the open house is a good idea and will let Sister Caywood take the lead.
   4. Sister Lindsay stated that the only issue is that the new CCA’s work on Sunday
   5. Brother Holbrook stated he would like to have an open house committee and for sister Caywood to chair it.
      1. Sister Caywood stated she would be happy to chair the open house committee.
   6. Brother Quintania addressed the membership stating that he believes more members would join and stay in the union if we win grievances and people get paid.
6. Sister Lindsay stated that the union was supposed to be about brotherhood and sisterhood, stating we should be in this together, it should not just be about money.
7. Sister Caywood stated that the NALC is at 90% to 93% membership, so she wanted to dispel the myth that membership was lacking. There are times when your brother or sister benefits from the union and you may not, however society has a habit of making it about themselves and that is not what the union is about. Sister Caywood stated that we should file every legitimate grievance.
8. Brother Goodpaster stated we are contractually bound to be corrective in nature not punitive, so we must establish patterns in order to win grievances.
9. Brother McNulty stated for all members to look up the word camaraderie, stating it’s more than the money.
10. Brother Craig stated the problem is not membership but participation. Brother Craig stated that good points were made but we moved away from the point of the discussion.
11. Brother Holbrook addressed the membership stating the Retiree Luncheon is scheduled for the First Sunday in March, March 6, 2022.
12. President Becraft addressed the membership and stated the holiday schedule for Lexington is posted but to bear with him, hopefully any corrections can be sorted out tomorrow.
    1. President Becraft ask if all locals in Lexington have been distributed? If not, extras are available at the hall if anyone needs them.
13. Brother Quintania addressed the membership and asked if any memorandums of understanding for Covid Leave were extended?
    1. President Becraft stated that paid time off as far as he was aware had not been extended.
    2. Brother Clark stated if any member gets covid they need to file a CA-1 so that it can be approved for Workers Compensation Continuation of Pay. Brother Clark stated that the last Postal Record included a page on how to file a claim.
14. President Becraft addressed the membership and ask Brother Clark if he was aware of the Rural Carriers Union in Kentucky filling grievances to get City Carrier Collection boxes?
    1. Brother Clark was unaware of these potential grievances but stated we needed to intervene and ask that President Becraft send the information over to him.
    2. Brother Goodpaster ask about the territory grievance filed for his neighborhood.
       1. Sister Lindsay stated that grievance was won, and it is city territory.
15. Brother Stover addressed the membership and ask about steward training as he is interested and how covid has impacted that?
    1. President Becraft stated that he hopes to get back to having steward trainings at the hall in January and February of next year.
    2. Brother Clark stated that KEM training is virtual this year, but he is hopeful it will be back to in person next year.

12. A motion to adjourn was made by Brother Wiles with a second by Brother Stover. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.