Minutes from the May 3, 2022 meeting of Branch 361 NALC

1. The May monthly meeting of Branch 361 was called to order by President Preston at 7:08 pm, this meeting was held in person as well as via zoom.
2. President Preston asked those in attendance to observe a moment of silence for those serving and those who have passed.
3. Brother Hudson led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Recording Secretary Smith read the monthly minutes from the April monthly meeting.

President Preston asked if there were any corrections or additions.

Brother Clark made a motion to accept the minutes as read, with a second by Brother Collins.

 The Motion carried.

1. The following items were brought up under Communications:
	1. Brother McNulty addressed the membership and stated the KIM training will be in Covington October 8-10, they should have about twenty (20) classes so if you are a delegate and would like to attend, please let Cindi know. I attended the Indiana state association meeting and received a lot of good information from that training. The Primary election is going on across the state and it affects us inside and outside of our work lives. There are a lot of issues going on that effect the communities we live in. Today was the last day to request an absentee ballot for the elections on the 17th of this month. We received communication that the National convention is requiring only proof of vaccination.
	2. Brother Smith stated that he is selling raffle tickets for MDA if anyone would like to purchase tickets please see him.
2. The following carriers submitted applications for membership in the NALC and Branch 361: Zachary West, Megan Nelson, Leon Simmons, and Justin Riley.

Brother Harris made a motion to accept the new members as read, with a second by Brother Clark.

The Motion carried.

1. Health Benefits Representative Whitcomb stated that he remembers his first time at a Union meeting and Ron O’Bryan came up to him and said welcome Brother and it made him feel comfortable. Brother Whitcomb stated that many times we think of a family as a group of people sharing a common bond. Why do Unions call each other brother and sister? Brother and sister is used as a form of respect and to build relationship, it’s a warm jester. While no family is perfect, our Union family is always ready to serve the members it represents. Thank you, all Brothers and Sisters.
2. Trustee Craig gave the following expenditure report for the month of April:

 Trustee Expense Report April 2022:

1. Utilities $ 585.80
2. Participation $ 50.00
3. Office Supplies $ 1,048.15
4. Newsletter Mailing/Printing $ 450.18
5. MDA $ 72.00
6. Payroll/School Taxes $ 1, 877.47
7. Building Supply $ 151.79
8. Building Maintenance $ 875.00
9. (084) Union Time $ 985.39
10. Training $ 1, 108.29
11. Total Expenses: $ 7, 204.07

Brother Whitcomb made a motion to accept the expense report as read with a second by Brother Smith.

 The Motion carried.

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

 April 2022 Financial Report:

1. Deposits $ 13, 309.51
2. Checks $ 7, 204. 07

The account balances are:

1. Checking $ 79, 840. 59
2. Savings $ 76, 265. 84
3. Building Fund $ 13,043.69
4. Retiree Fund $ 15,359.11
5. Hall Rental Fund $ 11, 985.33
6. Convention Fund $ 18,004.60

Brother McNulty made a motion to accept the financial report as read, with a second by Brother Clark.

The Motion carried.

1. The following items were brought up under New Business:
	1. President Preston addressed the membership and stated that at the Eboard meeting we discussed combining the spring picnic into the fall festival how do you all feel about that.
		1. Sister Caywood stated that right now things are good but come fall there is no guarantee, and the CDC is predicting that the Southern states are going to have another surge of this variant. Come fall the Northern states will have a surge but if the thinking is that Covid will be gone then we are taking a chance.
		2. Sister Dunn stated that we have more people attend that picnic than the fall festival.
		3. Brother Holbrook stated it takes longer to plan the picnic and typically we hold the picnic in July so this gives us more time to plan, and we will be in-between waves. If we combine this will give us adequate time to plan, or we will be rushed to plan the picnic in July.
			1. Brother Clark ask if we have a venue secured for the picnic?
				1. President Preston stated no we do not
			2. Brother Clark stated a lot of venues like to preplan. We had several venues with a clause to cancel.
			3. Sister Dunn stated that the pools would be closed by October, and we could do bounce houses or paddle boats if we did it earlier.
			4. Sister Lindsay stated we are looking at renting to camp out on a farm and horseback riding as this is for the kids.
			5. Sister Dunn stated there is a lot we can look at in Jessamine County. Stating there is so much to look into, and she can start doing that if needed.
			6. Sister Caywood asked will we not do the picnic and only have one fall event, is that correct?
			7. Brother Clark ask if we have a venue for the fall event?
				1. President Preston stated we are discussing venues and trying to get ideas for what we want to do.
				2. Brother Clark ask if we have an event committee? Brother Clark suggested that we get the committee up to start looking at venues
				3. Sister Caywood stated we will call the event the Harvest Picnic.
				4. Brother Holbrook stated if we set a committee up tonight, we would have enough time to plan something for late September early October.
				5. Brother Clark ask what would the budget be?

Sister Lindsay stated that it depends on if we are doing separate events or combining them.

Brother Clark stated he would like to make a motion to combine the funds from the picnic and the festival into one.

Brother Collins second the motion.

President Preston stated $750 for the fall festival and $1,250 for the picnic.

Brother Holbrook stated this was a recommendation from the Eboard so it only requires one vote.

Sister Dunn, Sister Dunlap, Brother Clark, Brother Hudson, and Sister Armstrong all volunteered to be on the event committee.

* + - * 1. Sister Dunlap stated that as Sister Dunn stated we do not have as good of turn out in October, she suggests doing a save the date to mail out to all the members.
1. President Preston conducted the $50 door prize drawing with Brother Winburn winning. Brother Winburn donated his winnings to MDA, thanks Steve!
2. Brother Smith conducted the 50/50 drawing for MDA with Brother Casteel winning. Brother Casteel donated his winnings to MDA, thanks Joey.
3. The following items were brought up under the good of the Association:
4. Brother Clark addressed the membership stating that he believes with the retiree account he would like to suggest a monthly breakfast or lunch for the retirees to get together to invite the President and Vice President as well as the Eboard. The most valued asset for the NALC is the retirees because we have gone through everything. The Postal Service does the same thing with a different twist, and I would like to meet with the retirees and the Eboard.
	1. Siter Lindsay stated who is going to plan this?
	2. Brother Clark stated that Brother Holbrook is the Director of Retirees, so I suggest that he handle that.
	3. Brother Holbrook stated he has been speaking with Brother Kirkland and they are planning to start this in the late summer at the Union Hall. Early June we will send out the mailing to the retirees in the state.
	4. Brother Clark stated at least a quarter of the Branch is retirees and we want to share what we know.
	5. Sister Dunn stated that’s a good idea but maybe doing it in the evenings for the CCA’s to attend because those are the ones who need to hear it.
	6. Brother Holbrook stated he and Brother Kirkland have discussed footing the first meeting so they do not need a vote to move the funds and then moving forward they would use the money in the Retiree fund, and it would be held more on a quarterly basis.
	7. Sister Caywood stated it could be isolating to not be around your Union family, so if we each pay for our own food it would be worth it because we must be part of the solution.
	8. Brother Clark stated he believes the branch officers should be paid to attend.
	9. Brother Whitcomb stated we have 500 years of experience and that’s a lot of knowledge to pass on to the next generation.
	10. Sister Dunlap stated she is a CCA and the fatigue from the load, I think something that would touch new people coming in would be to have retirees’ mentor the stations close to them, and you all get to go back and see your people and then we get to learn from someone and then CCA’s may be more likely to attend a meeting after that.
5. Brother Clark stated the National Convention is coming up in Chicago and this is a special convention because a lot of things are going on and I still have contacts with headquarters, and this is an election year. We have a new business agent David Mudd and he is working extremely hard so I would ask that you all vote for David and don’t be misled from some outside source. The two main aspects of any Union are local negotiations and legislation.
	1. Sister Caywood ask if President Rolando will be running?
	2. Brother Clark stated he does not think President Rolando will run and that Executive Vice President Brian Renfro will be nominated.
	3. Sister Caywood stated the Union mantra is you don’t leave until you’ve prepared your successor or that’s how it should be.
6. Brother Clark stated that I appreciate Denise and everyone up here allowing me the ability to speak freely. All the delegates that are going to the Convention it is very important and if you are not a delegate this time run the next time because we decide the future of the NALC, and highly consider the ticket President Rolando and Executive VP Brian Renfro will put forth.
	1. Brother Blackburn ask if they will start seven-day counts
	2. Brother Clark stated it is his understanding that only those that request a special count will get the seven-day count but keep in mind they will be doing joint teams so if someone is interested in participating put the word out.
7. Brother McNulty stated knowledge is power and Brother Clark gave everyone knowledge just now. Brother McNulty stated that Zed does a great job, Crystal does a great job as a Secretary Cindi does a great job as a treasurer and Denise, we are not going to let her fail. After 3076 the Social Security Act is on the front burner, and you all saw President Rolando here and these are the people you want to support. We need to teach management how our contract works and hold their feet to the fire. The Federal Retiree Act and that’s another one the NALC will be pushing.
8. President Preston stated the food drive is coming up so please pass the word that the brown bags do not have the stamp on them like the plastic bags and it is not an option to deliver them. The same as the cards it is treated like a regular piece of mail and please pass that knowledge along to your coworkers.
	1. Sister Caywood stated she would type up a memo in the next two or three days and I would put management on notice that these have postage on them and if a letter carrier threw anything else away, they would be in trouble, so these are no different.
	2. Brother Evers ask if we were doing the cards and the bags the same day or on two days.
		1. President Preston stated they would be done over two days.
		2. Brother Casteel ask what day of the week will the cards and the bags go out?
			1. President Preston stated that any day you do not have red plums, we do not want to send them out on the day we deliver red plums.
	3. President Preston stated if you want to go to the KIM training, please sign up, the sign-up sheet is up front on the table.
		1. Sister Lindsay stated remember that you have to take Annual Leave that Saturday to attend.
	4. President Preston stated she needs the stewards, delegates, and executive board to stay after the meeting.
9. A motion to adjourn was made by Sister Dunn with a second by Sister Dunlap. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.