Minutes from the July 12, 2022 meeting of Branch 361 NALC

1. The July monthly meeting of Branch 361 was called to order by President Preston at 7:14 pm, this meeting was held via zoom.
2. President Preston asked those in attendance to observe a moment of silence for those serving and those who have passed.
3. Recording Secretary Smith read the monthly minutes from the June 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 Wiles.

The Motion carried.

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

Jonathon Smith, Joshua Wethington, Cody Huff, Christopher Linkous, Andrew Preece, Jaxon Pilcher, Lesley Burgess, Carey Schultz, and Husein Suleimen.

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

The Motion carried.

1. President Preston ask Brother Hudson if he had any information on the Fall Festival?
   1. Brother Hudson stated that he would need to discuss it with the Eboard.
2. Health Benefits Representative Whitcomb stated July is National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month. This is a nationwide effort developed by Mental Health America in hopes to improve access to minorities through NAMI, the nation’s largest national grass roots mental health organization. Mental Health issues can show up in different ways, from an inability to carry out daily activities, increased discomfort, loss of appetite, and changes in school performance. For more information visit nami.org.
3. Financial Secretary/Treasurer Lindsay gave the following expenditure report for the month of June:

Trustee Expense Report June 2022:

1. Utilities $ 2,371.06
2. Participation $ 50.00
3. Office Supplies $ 148.33
4. Meeting Meal/Drinks $ 98.05
5. MDA $ 26.00
6. Newsletter $ 20.10
7. Building Supply $ 9.00
8. Mileage $ 170.24
9. Food Drive $ 450.00
10. Salaries $ 17, 447.27
11. Total Expenses: $ 20,790.05

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

The Motion carried.

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

June 2022 Financial Report:

1. Deposits $ 13, 820.07
2. Checks $ 20, 790.05

The account balances are:

1. Checking $ 85,038.60
2. Savings $ 76, 275. 34
3. Building Fund $ 13,045.31
4. Retiree Fund $ 15,361.02
5. Hall Rental Fund $ 11, 986.82
6. Convention Fund $ 18,006.84

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

The Motion carried.

1. The following items were brought up under New Business:
   1. President Preston stated in the Postal Record that Branch 361 came in first place for the food drive in our division for a branch our size. President Preston stated, Zed you did a great job, thank you.
   2. Brother McNulty stated we use to have an annual Golf Scramble as a fundraiser for Labor Day and we will be having the Labor Day Picnic on Monday September 5, 2022 at Masterson Station. We tried to set up a golf scramble but the other Unions stated they don’t play golf, so instead the Labor Council discussed selling a basket of cheer, can the branch donate or purchase $200 worth of tickets for the basket of cheer? Brother McNulty stated I would like to make a motion for our branch to purchase $200 worth of tickets for the basket of cheer and if our branch wins, we raffle the tickets for muscular dystrophy or however the branch so moves to donate it. Brother Clark stated he would like to second the motion.
      1. President Preston ask can we move branch funds for that?
      2. Sister Lindsay stated that we have an unplanned fund. Sister Lindsay ask when Brother McNulty would know if they are doing the basket?
      3. Brother McNulty stated he should know something by tonight
      4. Brother Wood ask what is a basket of cheer?
         1. Brother McNulty stated it is a basket of stuffed animals and bottles of liquors.
      5. Brother Kirkland ask who is providing the basket? Brother Kirkland stated that he suggests doing a random drawing at the monthly meeting if we win.
      6. Brother McNulty stated that the Central Labor Council is providing the basket.
      7. Brother Clark stated that it is his understanding that our Branch would purchase the $200 worth of tickets and if we won the basket of cheer, we would then raffle the basket for muscular dystrophy, correct?
         1. Brother McNulty stated that is correct.
         2. Brother Clark stated he would like to keep his second on the motion.

The Motion carried

1. The following items were brought up under the good of the Association:
   1. Brother McNulty stated that he wanted to thank everyone for staying involved as legislation takes time. At the National level we heard President Rolando speak about H.R. 4268 the Federal Retirement Fairness Act and that would affect fifty (50) percent of the current membership. CCA’s and TE’s would be able to get the status from this new bill if it were to pass that would really benefit the active membership. Brother McNulty stated that the Social Security Fairness Act where they said we were double dipping which basically screws you out of some funds you paid into Social Security. We need to keep putting pressure on our representatives and the best way to do that is to call them or email them. We need to be pushing for the Letter Carrier Political Fund, if you are off the clock and out of uniform talk to people including other Letter Carriers to contribute.
      1. Brother Colter ask if you started as an RCA would the Retirement Fund count for that?
         1. Brother McNulty stated yes, if you were noncareer it would make such time after Dec 31, 1988 creditable service under FERS. If you can find a way to buy back the time and get credit for that you will not have to work so long.
      2. Brother Waltz ask how will they determine when you buyback time?
         1. President Preston stated she believes the same way they do military buyback
         2. Brother Kirkland stated the percentage of earnings plus interest over time you haven’t paid. Brother Kirkland stated that 1.3 million retirees are affected by the Windfall Elimination Provision and that excludes school teachers. Those effected by service time, counting the number of people who retired, it approaches almost 60%. Brother Kirkland stated regarding the Political Carrier fund if every letter carrier gave $1 per pay period, we would get more than we were legally able to accept. Everyone who came on after Jan 1, 1989 was impacted by this provision. I wanted to compliment Zed as Lexington has never been #1 in the KIM Region for the food drive so congratulations.
      3. President Preston stated based on all the hours work and how they have been abused the TE’s and CCA’s deserve that time.
         1. Brother Kirkland stated I don’t agree with that, we were all abused. The people who work 70 or 80 hours a week do so for two reasons either they want to or they have to. If a carrier works over 60 hours a week, we have a national contract in place for that and the remedy is 50 percent of your pay and administrative leave.
         2. Brother Clark stated don’t ask for administrative leave as a remedy only the postmaster can approve that instead ask for paid time off.
      4. Brother Waltz stated he wanted to thank everyone on here because the food drive is not a one man show and every person on here helped.
      5. Brother Whitcomb stated with the convention coming up I want to put together a proposal since currently our allowance does not allow us to purchase head lamps. I propose we should put together a presentation for the convention so we can use our allowance to purchase headlamps or am I going down the wrong road?
         1. Brother Kirkland stated I think you are going down the wrong road, when it gets dark you shouldn’t be out there working as it is not safe. If it is a requirement of your job the Post Office should provide it. Some areas you can carry mail in the dark but I don’t think issuing headlamps as part of our uniform allowance is not the correct path.
   2. Sister Caywood stated as a point of information for those confused about the Labor Day raffle, we have always supported the Central KY Labor Council and sometimes 30-40 carriers participated in the golf scramble so we would spend between $700 and $800 out of the Participation fund which has already been budgeted. The $200 in tickets is a different means of supporting the Central KY Labor Council and this is probably the least amount we have ever spent to support the Labor Council.
2. President Preston conducted the $50 door prize drawing with Sister Armstrong winning. Congratulations Caitlin!
3. Sister Lindsay stated we need to have a delegate meeting to convene at the Union Hall as we have shirts, checks and we need to get as many people in the classes as we can and make sure everybody knows what their responsibilities are at the convention.
   * + 1. President Preston stated that on July 26, 2022 all delegates need to come by the Union Hall prior to the Eboard Meeting at 7:00 pm. Remember if you lose your credentials that is on you.
          1. Sister Lindsay stated that you must also have your vaccination card for the convention
          2. Brother Waltz ask if he read correctly that the convention is now requiring mask?

Sister Lindsay stated yes

President Preston stated yes and also Sister Lindsay and myself have a link for a bus pass and parking pass if you all want that let me know.

Sister Lindsay stated both options will save money compared to what the hotels are charging.

Sister Lindsay stated if anyone is driving up and back for the convention, we need to transport our chair back covers so let me know.

1. A motion to adjourn was made by Brother Holbrook with a second by Brother Craig. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.