Minutes from the September 13, 2022 meeting of Branch 361 NALC

1. The September monthly meeting of Branch 361 was called to order by President Preston at 7:14 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.
	1. Brother McNulty addressed the membership stating that Brother Gary Hamilton passed away last night.
3. Brother Hudson led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. President Preston stated that due to technical difficulties we would not be reading the August monthly minutes.
5. Brother McNulty introduced our guest speaker Brother Chuck Eddy. Brother Eddy represents the 22nd District stating the district has as many registered democrats as there are republicans. Brother Eddy stated that it takes courage and temporary insanity to do this. Brother Eddy is part of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Union and is very much in support of unions, funding public education, and increasing minimum wage. Brother Eddy stated that he uses the Post Office and will send out somewhere between 7,000 to 10,000 handwritten post cards soon. Brother Eddy thanked everyone for their time and stated if you do not have any other questions I will go on. God Bless you all.
6. The following carriers submitted applications for membership in the NALC and Branch 361:

Fielden Lisle, Jessica Roberts, Riki Panvata, Nathan Dent, Brett Brewer, Henry Lynn, Jared Isenbarger, Tommy Warner, DeQuan Robinson, Justin Richardson, Daniel First, Jacob Gilbert, Edward Arnold, Evan Barnett, Malia Green, Daniel Harney, Austin Hill, Miguel Lopez, Cole Svatba, Chris Kentrup, and Star Smith.

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

The Motion carried.

1. Health Benefits Representative Whitcomb showed a video of fellow carrier Chris Lombardi out of the Frankfort, KY Post Office regarding dog bite awareness. The incident took place on June 28th and we are approaching the 10-year anniversary. This happened on a route the carrier was familiar with, and he was aware the customer had a very aggressive dog in the duplex. Brother Lombardi did a visual scan of the yard, he saw and heard nothing, so he went through the gate into the yard. Brother Lombardi delivered both houses of the duplex. As he was preparing for his next delivery, he looked over and there was a 95-pound pit bull within a few feet. The pit bull was on his arm before he could get his dog spray. The pit got him to the ground but by the grace of God Brother Lombardi was able to get up, run to the gate and get out of the yard. Brother Lombardi kept going in and out of consciousness and then woke up in the ER. Brother Lombardi had to have tendon fusion surgery on his arm. Altogether he had to have four surgeries and nine months of rehab. Brother Lombardi has PTSD from this and takes it day by day. Brother Lombardi stated he is very blessed to be here and for all the carriers when you are out, and I can’t stress this enough stay safe. Brother Chris Lombardi spoke and stated no one on zoom could hear the video so Brother Lombardi told the members on zoom his story. Brother Whitcomb thanked Brother Lombardi for getting on zoom and sharing his story. Brother Whitcomb stated despite the cliché there is a bias for the relationship between dogs and postal carriers.
	1. President Preston stated that we are invading their territory daily and not all dogs have good dog owners.
	2. Brother Wood stated that dog did not have a good dog owner and when I was on that route, I made the customers move the boxes to the fence and once I left the route the customers moved the boxes back to the house.
	3. Sister Dunlap addressed the membership stating that she was attacked by a dog and feels there should be something done because she is also suffering from PTSD. Sister Dunlap stated there should be something in place to protect Letter Carriers by putting a law into place. Sister Dunlap stated this may be a good time as we just lost a carrier to a dog bite, and we need to be protected more.
	4. President Preston stated if you don’t feel safe going into the yard, don’t go in the yard and let your supervisor go out there with you and have them make the customer place the box outside of the fence.
	5. Brother McNulty stated in addition fill out a 1767 safety form to start the process.
	6. Sister Caywood stated no matter what process is in place we cannot 100% eliminate dog bites with our job. We need to emphasis especially to the new CCA’s that you are responsible for your safety and if you do not feel safe you should protect yourself because safety does depend on you. Sister Caywood stated that you are the only person that can make that call at that time and it’s a message we should drive home to the new carriers.
2. Trustee McNulty gave the following expenditure report for the month of August:

 Trustee Expense Report August 2022:

1. Convention $ 17,561.67
2. Utilities $ 739.79
3. (084) Union Time $ 1,266.65
4. Training $ 600.00
5. Insurance/Bonding $ 6,243.30
6. Newsletter Printing/Mailing $ 702.07
7. Per Capita $ 909.40
8. Postage $ 24.00
9. Retiree Appreciation $ 35.15
10. Participation $ 50.00
11. Office Supplies $ 292.31
12. Building Maintenance $ 390.00
13. Total Expenses: $ 28, 814.34

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

The Motion carried.

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

 August 2022 Financial Report:

1. Deposits $ 13, 376.78
2. Checks $ 28, 814.34

The account balances are:

1. Checking $ 79,199.76
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

Sister Armstrong made a motion to accept the financial report as read, with a second by Brother Holbrook.

The Motion carried.

1. President Preston conducted the $50 door prize drawing with Brother Collins winning. Brother Collins donated his winnings to MDA, thanks Daney!
2. The following items were brought up under New Business:
	1. Brother East stated they have a carrier who has resigned and our next CCA to go regular is currently a 204b but has a hold down, can she keep her hold down?
		1. President Preston stated that if she goes to the desk, she broke her hold down and stated she will talk to Patrick in the morning
	2. Brother Holbrook ask if we were going to make a final decision on the fall festival?
		1. Brother Hudson stated the Fall Festival will be October 22nd. We have two bon fires reserved at Eckarts Orchard starting at 4:00 p.m.
		2. Brother Waltz ask if the branch is going to cover the cost of tickets?
			1. Brother Hudson stated the branch will purchase tickets at the door for guests.
			2. Brother Waltz ask does the branch cover members only or members and their families.
			3. Brother Hudson stated the branch will cover members and their families.
			4. Brother McNulty stated that October 22nd is a Saturday so please make sure to let members know that.
		3. President Preston stated those on the Fall Festival committee need to get with Brother Hudson to discuss who will pick up food and help with what needs to be done.
		4. Sister Blackburn ask if there will be flyers to put out?
			1. President Preston stated yes.
		5. Brother East stated he has a 30-acre farm in Garrett County, and you are welcome to use it if anyone would be interested if it saves the branch money, I’m all for it.
			1. Brother McNulty stated I would like to open this for discussion if it is going to save the branch money.
			2. Brother Holbrook ask if we can cancel the orchard?
				1. Brother Hudson stated that we can cancel up to two days prior and pay a 10% fee.
			3. Brother Waltz stated that we already have a difficult time with participation, and I think it will decrease if we have to drive further.
			4. President Preston ask that those who are present and on the committee can you go back and discuss the options?
3. The following items were brought up under good of the Association:
	1. Sister Caywood stated that Covid is now an epidemic meaning it will not go away and it is my opinion that we go back to having the meetings at the Union Hall. Sister Caywood stated if we wait to get out of the red, we may not ever go back to the Hall. We are not forcing anyone to come if they are not comfortable. Sister Caywood stated we need to get back to the Hall for the good of the association, if the Eboard needs to discuss that than you can do that in a few weeks but there are a lot of reasons we need to get back to the Hall.
		1. President Preston stated we will discuss it at the Eboard meeting and I agree with you.
	2. Brother McNulty stated the election is November 8th and I talked to the executive board about postal issues and union issues and when you vote on November 8th you may not be voting for a democracy. Nothing in the U.S. Constitution or KY Constitution states we are allowed to overturn elections, that will not only cause turmoil in the streets, but it’s also going to turn the banks upside down. If you like the way you live now you better get out and vote. Brother McNulty stated to help support and pay for the funds for the Labor Day event hosted by the Central Labor Council, we need to table that discussion until I receive a bill.
	3. Brother Hudson stated regarding the Fall Festival, at the previous monthly meeting we put it to a vote, and we will keep that. Brother Hudson thanked Brother East for his offer.
4. A motion to adjourn was made by Sister Armstrong with a second by Sister Blackburn. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.