Minutes from the February 7, 2023 meeting of Branch 361 NALC

1. The February monthly meeting of Branch 361 was called to order by Brother Kirkland at 7:03 pm, this meeting was held in person as well as via zoom.
2. Brother Kirkland asked those in attendance to observe a moment of silence for those serving and those who have passed.
3. Brother Kirkland stated is anyone here not currently a member of the branch? While you are welcome you are not allowed to participate in discussions or vote.
4. Brother Smith led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
5. Recording Secretary Smith read the monthly minutes from the January monthly meeting.

Brother Kirkland asked if there were any corrections or additions.

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

 The Motion carried.

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

Markita Wilson, Bryan Carpenter, Tobin Crawford, DeAnte Gooch, Gary Eastman, Jennifer McConniel, Anthony Martin, Stacy Freer, April Begley, Darnell Hollis, Alexander Boss, Culbertson Sebastian, Sheldon Price, Fabiola Recinos, Nicholas Pace, Aaron Hammingh, Shawn Salyers, Juan Martinez-Limon, and Matthew Trout

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

 The Motion carried.

1. Standing Committee: Brother Kirkland stated that we have two issues to discuss the first being the authorization for zoom meetings that expires in June and the other is members in a non-pay status for various reasons. Historically we waived those dues, then we decided to determine the rate of dues for those members, but it is very difficult for the secretary to determine that amount based on why the member is off. The Executive Board discussed that members who are off on compensation, the Executive Board would determine a flat rate for dues owed. Brother Kirkland stated that there is nothing urgent in the Bylaws other than the zoom meetings. The Executive Board also discussed a motion to raise the food drive budget from $750 to $5,000. This would make it a community endeavor and provide shirts for those who are participating in the food drive. Another recommendation from the Executive board is for the branch to spend up to $5,000 for stewards to have laptops, as many are using their own. The branch is going to have to spend money to get the stewards trained. We used to spend about 60% of our budget on training, now it’s about 2% and you see you get what you pay for. I am here strictly because the National President is concerned about the branch.
2. Brother Holbrook gave a report on the Election committee stating the secret ballots have been stamped and are locked up. The envelopes coming back have the P.O. Box address label. If we went by the By-laws, we would have nine (9) days to get the ballots out, for members to vote, and for the ballots to be returned. We hope to get the ballots out on Thursday. After nominations tonight the election committee will meet in the conference room, to determine the order of names on the ballot. Tomorrow night at 6 p.m. we will meet and prepare the ballots with the names and Thursday at 6 p.m. we will seal the ballots and take them to Nandino. If any nominees wish to do a mailing, they need to notify me by the 10th. If any candidate wishes to do the mailing on Monday, the 13th that is when the mailings will be labeled. Sister Lindsay will let you know the fee of the mailing during her report. The National Recording Secretary Treasurer notified us that the people in the no deduction status still have National dues paid so therefore they are in good standing, and we do not have time to go through the required process to remove them, so they are eligible to vote. For those who have recently submitted applications for membership they will not be on the rolls so we will need a motion to send those members ballots.
	1. Brother Stover read the instructions for completing the ballot.
	2. Brother Kirkland stated the intent is for every member to get a ballot. Only active, retired and gold card members can vote, no supervisors or post masters can vote. We have 675 members of those 419 are full dues paying, 196 are retirees, and 60 are no pay gold cards.
3. Brother Collins read the Article 10 findings report brought by Sister Crystal Smith against former branch President Denise President for failure to discharge the duties of her office. The fourteen (14) dates in the facts support this charge. Brother Collins stated in order to get more members involved we must build back trust in the branch. (Findings attached)
	1. Brother Kirkland stated thank you to the committee you are now excused from your duties.
	2. Brother Clark stated we now open the floor to any carrier to make a motion for what the committee has reported as facts. You make a motion, then we open it for discussion, and we vote. If it doesn’t pass you can make further motions. The first motion is to make a guilty or not guilty motion.
	3. Sister Jamie Smith made a motion to find the report guilty with a second by Sister Dunlap.

The Motion carried.

* 1. Sister Barron stated she wanted to make a motion to permanently suspend Denise Preston from holding office.
		+ 1. Brother Kirkland stated you can’t do that because she is a member in good standing and has the right to hold any office.
				1. Sister Dunn stated what are our options?
				2. Brother Kirkland stated she has resigned so you can make any motion
				3. Sister Smith stated the Constitution reads if such charges are proved shall be fined, reprimanded, suspended or expelled as the laws may direct or the Branch determine.
				4. Brother Sox made a motion that the branch takes no further action regarding the matter with a second by Sister Dekal.
				5. Brother Herron stated what is the point if we can’t do anything.
				6. Sister Barron stated then she would like to change her motion to suspend.
			2. The members present voted on the motion made by Brother Sox to take no further action.

The Motion carried.

1. Health Benefits Representative Whitcomb spoke on American Heart Month stating the National heart, lung, and blood institute together with the American heart association celebrate heart month by motivating Americans to adopt healthier lifestyles to prevent heart disease. Some healthy habits to lower your risk of heart disease include eating healthy food and drinks, getting regular physical activity, and not smoking. A new tool available is called Hello Heart which enables you to measure your blood pressure using a free FDA-cleared monitor that will send data privately to your doctor. Giving you access to the most advanced hypertension management tool on the market at no cost for eligible members. Brother Whitcomb stated you need a code to sign up so go to our NALC health website to the Hello Heart tab and sign up there.

1. Trustee Craig gave the following expenditure report for the month of January:

 Trustee Expense Report January 2023:

1. Utilities $ 724. 55
2. Payroll/School Taxes $ 7, 289. 35
3. Office Supply $ 785. 61
4. Property Taxes $ 152. 41
5. Newsletter Mailing $ 1,304. 24
6. Building Supplies $ 167. 58
7. Per Capita $ 7.00
8. Retiree Appreciation $ 17.60
9. MDA $ 28. 00
10. Total Expenses: $ 10, 476. 34

Brother Holbrook 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 January:

 January 2023 Financial Report:

1. Deposits $ 21,670.61
2. Checks $ 10,476.34

The account balances are:

1. Checking $ 100,725.10
2. Savings $ 76, 294. 56
3. Building Fund $ 13,048. 59
4. Retiree Fund $ 15,364. 88
5. Hall Rental Fund $ 11, 989. 84
6. Convention Fund $ 18,011. 38

Sister Lindsay stated the fee for the mailings will be set at $60 for labels and for the election committee to place them on your mailing.

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

The Motion carried.

1. Brother Kirkland stated that at this time we will take nominations for the vacancies:
	1. Nominations for President: Zed Waltz nominated. Elected by acclimation.
	2. Nominations for Vice President: Michael Hudson and Angela Wise.
	3. Nominations for Sergeant at Arms: Linda Dunn and Brad Coulter.
		1. Brother Kirkland stated this is a personal preference, I would like to ask Brother Hudson to come up and speak:
			1. Brother Hudson stated I have been a member of the branch since 2015 and I just want the branch to succeed, and I think I can fulfill the position.
			2. Sister Wise stated I have been a Union member for 17 years, a zone steward, Vice President in 2013 and received the Fred Harmon award and I have never stepped away from a position.
			3. Sister Dunn stated I have been a carrier and NALC member for 18 years; the union has been in my life since I was 18 years old. I saw how strong we were when I came here in 2012, I have a strong voice and I want us to get back to that. The job is not done until it’s Dunn.
			4. Brother Coulter stated I have been a member of this branch for 20 years I stepped up again when I saw the branch was going in the wrong direction and when Denise stated she was stepping down I told her to designate me as the Formal A designee. I think we have the people to get the branch back where it needs to be.
2. Brother McNulty made a motion to have the Executive Board determine what dues are to be paid for members in a non-pay status with a second by Brother Collins.

The Motion carried.

1. Sister Dunlap made a motion that those members who have submitted an 1187 and are not showing on the dues roster be sent a ballot for the election with a second by Brother Collins.

The Motion carried.

1. Brother Holbrook made a motion to allow funds up to $5,000.00 for the food drive with a second by Brother Clark.

The Motion carried.

1. Sister Lindsay stated that last year we had a surplus of $13,388.80 this is where we are getting the funds for the food drive, retiree fund, etc.
	1. Brother Waltz stated the $5,000.00 for the food drive was already voted on for this year’s budget.
		1. Brother Kirkland stated that is accurate. The motion would be to move the money to training.
		2. Sister Caywood made a motion to move $4,250.00 to training with a second by Brother Whitcomb.

The Motion carried.

1. The following items were brought up under good of the Association:
	1. Brother McNulty addressed the membership stating that I appreciate all you all do on the legislative side. We got a new President Brian Renfroe and in his acceptance speech he spoke about the Social Security Fairness Act and the Windfall Elimination, where they said we were double dipping which basically screws you out of some funds you paid into Social Security, we are still working on that. The bill will be reintroduced in the next congress. The next bill H.R. 4268 the Federal Retirement Fairness Act is for TE’s and non-career employees, who could buy back their time because no one wants to stay longer than they have to. We got 4 of the 6 representatives supporting NALC and the US Postal Service. I appreciate you all continuing to let us educate you.
	2. Brother Smith stated I put together packs for homeless veterans and those who know about it bring back small toiletries when they travel. If you are traveling and these toiletries are in your hotel room, I’ll be glad to take them. I also collect bottle caps, there is a place in Harrodsburg that makes benches out of them, so if you think about it, please bring them to me.
	3. Brother Holbrook stated Sunday March 5 is the retiree luncheon if you would like to come, I have tickets. It will be held at the Union Hall, there will be no charge and the reception will start at 12:30 and the meal will be served between 1:00 p.m. and 1:15 p.m.
	4. Sister Lindsay stated if you are not already giving to the political fund come see me. I have information and I can help you sign up. This how we got the bill passed to get rid of the prefunding act.
		1. Brother Kirkland stated these are bills that will affect your lives and the money goes to democrats and republicans.
	5. Sister Smith stated anyone that wants volunteer for the food drive committee please let me know, we will meet at the Union Hall on Thursday February 16, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
2. Brother Kirkland conducted the $50 door prize drawing with Brother Sox winning. Brother Sox donated his winnings to MDA. Thanks Joey!
3. Brother Smith conducted the 50/50 MDA drawing with Brother McNulty winning. Congratulations Bob!
4. A motion to adjourn was made by Brother Collins with a second by Brother Smith. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.