Minutes from the January 10, 2023 meeting of Branch 361 NALC

1. The January monthly meeting of Branch 361 was called to order by Brother Kirkland at 7:00 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 led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Recording Secretary Smith read the monthly minutes from the December monthly meeting.

Brother Kirkland asked if there were any corrections or additions.

Brother Holbrook made a motion to accept the minutes as read, with a second by Brother Duncan.

The Motion carried.

1. Brother Kirkland addressed the membership and stated any discussions happening on the floor need to go to microphone so that everyone can hear what is being said.
2. Brother Kirkland addressed the membership introducing himself and stated that one topic he wants to address is nonmembers as our branch has right at eighty (80) nonmembers. That is more than any branch in KY other than Louisville and Northern KY. We are going to find out what’s wrong. I asked this young lady what the problem is and she said representation and we are going to fix that. I plan on meeting every nonmember, every steward, every officer, and anybody who wants to meet, all you have to do is call me. My number is 248-202-1733. If I can’t help, then I will leave. I was tasked with two things with the resignation of your President and Vice President. We will have elections for two or three positions and don’t be upset if what you want fixed is not fixed overnight. The next is training. Back in the day we were better trained; Lexington was the best branch in the region, and we are trying to get back to that but give us time. If you have a nonmember in your building talk to them or give them my number so I can talk to them. We are going to have Stewards training and have a Steward in every zone and an assistant in every zone. You have the facilities, you have the money and you have the people. Get involved and come to the meetings. Every person that is a Letter Carrier has the same goal.
3. The following carriers submitted applications for membership in the NALC and Branch 361:

Robert Young, Jacqueline Parker, Jeremy Humphries, and Ansu Dulleh

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

The Motion carried.

1. Standing committee:
   1. Brother Holbrook addressed the membership stating the By-Laws have not been mailed out due to the special election and we will be sending out a call for the election and nominations. Brother Holbrook made a motion to table reviewing the proposed By-Laws for the first reading to happen at the March monthly meeting with a second by Bill Craig.

The Motion carried.

1. Health Benefits Representative Whitcomb stated Happy New Year everybody! 2022 was a challenging year and Baptist Health officials say Baptist Health Lexington, La Grange, Floyd, Louisville and

Richmond could not reach a new contract agreement with Cigna. We’re told the Cigna contract for those facilities has since been terminated, effective December 20. Officials say Baptist Health Medical Group providers in select counties in Kentucky, served by those locations, will no longer participate in the Cigna network starting Jan. 1, 2023.

* 1. Brother Holbrook stated for those eligible for Medicare A and B you can still go to doctors who are out of network, keep your receipts and NALC will reimburse you. If you don’t want to go through the trouble of submitting for reimbursement you can apply for Aetna anytime but it does not take effect until the first month after you sign up.
  2. Brother Kirkland stated that the NALC does not negotiate plans that do not benefit the carrier and if you have a problem call the number on the back of your card.

Brother Whitcomb stated have a great year and let’s have a great food drive this year, I appreciate you all!

1. Trustee Smith gave the following expenditure report for the month of December:

Trustee Expense Report December 2022:

1. Utilities $ 1,999.83
2. Participation $ 50.00
3. Office Supply $ 237.18
4. (084) Union Time $ 839.78
5. Convention $ 184.16
6. Mileage $ 724.96
7. Meeting Meal/Drinks $ 742.36
8. Retiree Appreciation $ 20.21
9. MDA $ 46.00
10. Building Maintenance $ 450.00
11. Building Supplies $ 141.17
12. Postage $ 360.00
13. Salaries $ 16, 719.94
14. Total Expenses: $ 22,515.59

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

The Motion carried.

1. Brother Kirkland stated 1977 was when our first new Officers took office, and the first order of business was to give the members their dues back and that was $6 per month, and we couldn’t afford that. This is your money and there’s nothing we can’t accomplish together once we get the separation out of the way. The leaders have to lead.
2. Financial Secretary/Treasurer Lindsay gave the following financial report for the month of December:

December 2022 Financial Report:

1. Deposits $ 13, 809.52
2. Checks $ 22, 515.59

The account balances are:

1. Checking $ 89, 530.83
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

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

The Motion carried.

The following items were brought up under good of the Association:

1. Brother Kirkland addressed the membership stating that the first order of business is that we had charges presented at the December monthly meeting, so I need to appoint a committee of three (3) disinterested members. I ask Daney Collins, Sidney Caywood and John Evers to chair that meeting and they are tasked with reporting the findings at the March meeting. Brother Kirkland stated the second order of business is to address the vacancies.
   1. Brother Holbrook made a motion stating in addition to the President and Vice President we will add Sergeant at Arms to fill that vacancy with a second by Brother McNulty. Brother Kirkland stated according to the labor laws you cannot serve over thirty-six (36) months in one election term. We will get a notice out and the intent is to have the election completed and officers installed at the March 7, 2023, meeting and if not, maybe we postpone that meeting until we get the results in.
   2. Brother Waltz ask what is the point of putting in the sergeant of arms when we have individuals who want to fill that position now? Why not appoint them?
      1. Brother Kirkland stated I am not the President, and I cannot appoint that position and I don’t know that I can get disposition from the President to fill that position. Let the membership choose.
      2. Sister Caywood stated I understand the Executive Boards decision, however the By-Laws I read says that the election will take place for two offices and that is the President and Vice President. So, if we have elections for these three (3) positions and someone loses will this give them grounds to challenge the election? We need to make sure we do not put ourselves in that position. We need to be extra cautious especially the ways things have played out. We need to do it by the books.
2. Brother Kirkland addressed the membership and stated if you’re a Steward in Lexington you have been asked to do the leave books and Cindi will be providing the training, so the leave is all done the same.
3. Brother Kirkland ask for volunteers for the Election committee. The following members volunteered: Mike Holbrook, William Stover, John Evers, James Herren, Teresa Lee, Keisha Dunlap, Tammi Baran, and Angie Weekly.

The Motion carried.

1. Brother McNulty stated it’s good to see this many people out here, it’s good to see everybody and we want to keep this place filled up. The more participation the more camaraderie. You may think the people in Washington don’t know what’s going on, but they do. We’ve had a lot of discussions over the last several months regarding the branch and at the Eboard. We have to move forward for the good of our branch. We got people at the National level who have been here that know what is going on. A lot of us have heartburn over the branch for problems we cannot solve. We only have one guy who is a friend of labor running in KY and that’s Andy Beshear. These people can be influenced one way or the other and there’s no better Union than ours who can get it done. We can persuade people to vote the NALC way.
2. Brother Kirkland stated I would like to see all the stewards in the conference room. How many CCA’s are in attendance? We have three (3) here. We need about thirty more, bring three (3) with you to the next meeting.
3. Sister Lindsay conducted the $50 door prize drawing with Brother Wilson winning. Congratulations James!
4. Brother Holbrook addressed the membership stating that the retiree luncheon will be held on Sunday March 5, 2023. I will have tickets available at the next meeting through the month of February, see me for a ticket. Deadline for the newsletter is tomorrow.
5. Brother Jim Smith conducted the 50/50 MDA drawing with Brother “Frosty” Duncan winning. Brother Duncan donated his winnings to MDA! Thank you, Ken!
6. A motion to adjourn was made by Brother McNulty with a second by Sister Lindsay. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.