

## **NAPS Branch 105 Regular Meeting # 4 Minutes: Wednesday, November 17 , 2021**

Meeting Place: Santa de Prata Society Hall, 29 Walnut Grove Avenue, Cranston, RI

Members present: 23 (15 general, 5 associates, and 3 guests)

Our President, Sabir “Jamal” Salih called the meeting to order at 6:10pm, with the Pledge of Allegence led by Victor Giorgio.

Roll Call of Officers: President, Sabir (Jamal) Salih, Vice President, Shaun Branch, Treasurer, Susan Evans, Legislative Rep, Donna Machala – all present.

Executive Board Members who were present: Dave Costa, Kristine Moore, Tony Alviti, Victor Giorgio.

Absent: Al Kesack, Jessica Sargo

Jamal stated that we had three guests tonight: Kim Lewin, President Branch 118. Area VP, Bill Austin, and Cy Dumas, former AVP.

There were no first timers.

**Shaun Branch gave the Vice President's report:** He stated that there was one seven day pending and one emergency placement.

Motion to accept the Vice President's report: made by Bob Conroy Sr and seconded by Victor Giorgio. All were in favor.

**Secretary report:** No report. The position is currently vacant.

**Susan Evans gave the Treasurer's Report:** Sue indicated that there is a copy of the Treasurer's report on each table. There was only one expense in September for a retiree gift card. As of October 31, 2021, we are currently in the black by \$10,480.33. The expenses year to date are \$11,106.64. Our total assets are \$69,460.48.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Victor Giorgio and seconded by Shawn Branch. All were in favor.

**Donna Machala gave the Legislative's report:**

Donna attended the NAPS Legislative ZOOM Meeting on October 13<sup>th</sup> with Chuck Mulidore and Bob Levi. There are two Board of Governor positions that will become vacant: Ron Bloom is to vacate; he is serving in the additional one year “hold over”, and is there until Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> unless President Biden nominates him and Senate confirms, and John Barger's term expires Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> also, but may serve one additional year as “hold over”. If Bloom vacates, we will have 4-4 tie. The Senate has five legislative weeks to confirm President Biden's nomination.

NAPS asks:

-In mid-May, Oversight & Reform Committee approved H.R. 3076, Postal Service Reform Act, by bipartisan voice vote.

- Cosponsored by Chair & Ranking GOP of Committee.
- Enactment would be first step in USPS restoration.
- As a result of H.R. 3076 provision to better integrate FEHBP with Medicare for future postal retirees.
- Reduces FEHBP premiums for postal employees and retirees (right now all retirees, FEHBP picks up).
- Reduces USPS health costs and long-term health liabilities.
- Reduces pressure on USPS to further degrade mail service and provides resources to restore quality service.
- Urge committee to advance 3076 to House floor by early November.

On NAPS Headquarters website, naps.org, under legislative center, go to legislative action center, scroll down to "Welcome to Voter Voice!". This is a grassroots advocacy software enabling you to reach out to your elected officials and ask them to vote for or against legislation that matters to NAPS. The suggested and editable letter is already composed for you. You will just add your contact info and send it off. Very easy. You will receive an email confirmation that your letter was sent. Voter Voice also shows your activities so you can see when you sent messages and the topic. Our representatives need to hear from each one of us and numbers count. They ask their staff members what's hot. We must advocate for ourselves and we need everyone to write in. The last message I sent was on November 1<sup>st</sup> urging congressional support to pass the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021. You can do this also, it's quick and easy.

NAPS Supported Legislation: H.R. 5587, Postal Police Reform Act of 2021, was introduced October 15th by Representatives Andrew Gabarieno (R-NY) and Bill Pascrell, (D-NY). The legislation clarified that postal police officers may exercise essential law enforcement authority to investigate crimes undermining the integrity of our mail system and to protect postal personnel and property, including areas outside of postal facilities. (There are no additional co-sponsors.)

The 2022 Legislative Training Seminar (LTS) is scheduled for March 27 – 30 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott, in Washington, DC, depending on the public health situation. More information will be coming soon regarding registration. The early bird registration fee will be \$225 if submitted on or before March 6. Price increases to \$300. Registration will close on March 13.

Donna encourages everyone to listen to NAPS Chat weekly podcast, available on naps.org and our naps105.org website. It is hosted by Bob Levi, NAPS Director, Legislative and Political Affairs.

In the November 5<sup>th</sup> podcast, Bob discusses health plan enrollment with Jay Fritz, manager of OPM's Outreach and Program Services. Open season runs through December 13<sup>th</sup>. Go to [www.opm.gov/openseason](http://www.opm.gov/openseason), put in your Zip Code to show plans available to you for consideration. Five HMO plans are dropping out of FEHBP.

Supervisors Political Action Committee (SPAC) is our legislative fundraising arm of the organization to aid political candidates who support NAPS' legislative priorities. Only NAPS regular, associate, or auxiliary members are eligible to donate to SPAC. Members can donate online, through payroll deductions, or by sending a check or money order to NAPS Headquarters. I have enrollment forms available.

Motion to accept the Legislative report was made by Jim Bourque and seconded by Bill Downes. All were in favor.

Bob Conway Jr stated that Donna Machala was mentioned in the National Magazine.

**Jamal introduced Bill Austin, Area Vice President:**

Bill thanked Jamal for the invite to tonight's meeting. He stated he had recently been to Branch 120 Southeastern MA and Branch 96 Portland Maine for branch meetings and swearing in of the officers.

Bill said he gets a lot of emails and filters them out and only sends those that are important. He sent them to the branch presidents.

Bill has send out information regarding his training seminar at the Red Jacket Resort in North Conway NH, May 19 – 22, 2022. Bill thanked Sue Evans for all the records she sent to him from previous years. He will be inviting the AVP, District Managers, POOMS, and Plant Managers

He attended a ZOOM meeting with Dana Coleman, AVP on the processing side. There will be 40 new buildings that were approved right away.

Bill stated they were putting up jobs now. The Atlantic Logistics is bringing in 63 new STOs, 17 engineers, and 31 operation support specialist.

Bob Conroy Jr asked Bill if the pay level for transportation manager changed. He said no. Bob said it had been one and a half years. He will send email to Bill and he will forward to HQ.

Jamal asked if the new 40 buildings would be permanent. Bill said he thought so.

Victor Giorgio said they needed relief supervisors. No one is just working 5 days. Bill said last month there had been talk about putting back jobs. Jamal said if had been 14 – 15 years since they had relief supervisors.

Bill Downes asked Bob Conroy Jr about SWC. Bob said that if there are changes that they have to go after Human Resources. They are still using 2004 data. Bill said there was a new committee with post masters and delivery people. There are 5 people on the committee.

Susan Evans asked Bill of at the 2022 National Convention the officer positions would all be up for new voting. Bill said yes.

At 6:50 pm, Jamal said we would break for dinner. The meeting was resumed 7:25 pm.

Jamal thanked newly retired Bob Conroy Jr for his long time membership and this great work ethic.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Jamal said the Ballot Committee found that all officers ran unopposed. Eboard members are Jim Bourque, Bill Downes, Victor Giorgio, Mike Imondi, Kristine Moore, and Richard Wilson. Jamal cast one vote for all.

Scholarship Committee: Kristine Moore was the chair. She stated they had 8 applications. She had them in separate envelopes and pulled 3.

1. Matthew Mandeville (son of George)
2. Shannon McNally (daughter of Lisa)
3. Grace Starosciak (daughter of Marion)

A motion was made to add another \$500 scholarship at the next meeting.

**New Business:** Jamal asked for volunteers to be on the Audit Committee and Budget Committee, 3 needed on each.

Audit Committee will be chaired by Rose Russo. With Kristine Moore and Victor Giorgio..

Budget Committee will be chaired by Susan Evans. With Tony Alviti and Betty DiSalvia.

Victor Giorgio suggested a fourth person. Tony Parente. Bob Conroy Sr said there should always be an odd number on committees. Kyle Novo became the fifth.

Bob Conroy Sr asked if he could read a motion.

*"Prior to the virus, we would normally end the fiscal year with a balance of about \$38,000 to \$40,000. As of September 7, 2021, our total assets are \$69,600.00. This is \$29,600 over our normal average yearly ending amount.*

*This is mainly because we have not had any in person meetings and hence a saving on meals. We also have saved on trips and other NAPS activities. etc. etc.*

*Over the years we have seen our membership decrease from a high of 282 members in year 2006 to the present membership of 146 active members. Although we also have retired associate members, their numbers have also decreased over the years. Associate members are an important part of NAPS as dues money provided by them are used for the entire benefit of NAPS.*

*My personal opinion which I have previous expressed at these meetings many times is that it will be harder and harder to recruit craft employees to become supervisors because of the lack of respect by the Postal Service, namely Decent contracts. Having emergency financial funds would help our local to continue the important work NAPS in the present and in the future. We are one of the few branches that provide a meal with each meeting.*

#### THE MOTION

*The motion I am making no way reflexes my lack of faith in the president of this branch nor the entire executive board. I believe it is a sound financial motion which will benefit the present and future members of NAPS Branch 105.*

*My motion is that NAPS Branch 105 opens a new account and transfers \$20,000 into this account. This would be an emergency account and no funds can be withdrawn or transferred from this fund without the prior approval of NAPS 105 executive board and also prior approval of the membership voting on at a regular meeting or a special meeting called for that purpose.*

*It should be noted that this motion would not be part of the constitution and by laws. Hence would not require a 2/3 vote to pass or change it in the future.*

*If I have a second on this motion, I would like to explain the motion in more detail.  
Robert Conway, Sr."*

Bob went on to explain that he would like to see a new account set up with \$20,000 in it for emergency use only. Use of the account can only be approved by eboard and members. Victor Giorgio seconded it. Bill Downes asked what the benefit of it would be. Bob said no one could touch it if not approved by eboard and members. Bob Conroy Jr said it should be added to our By-Laws. Bill Downes asked what would constitute an emergency. Bob Sr said it would be up to the eboard. The motion has been postponed to the February meeting by a vote of the members.

Donna Machala made a motion to donate \$500 to the American Red Cross Holiday Cheer for postage for the boxes of supplies sent to military. Seconded by Shawn Branch. Passed.

Jamal opened Good and Welfare up for discussion. Jim Bourque suggested getting a committee together to try to get members back to meetings; a Membership Committee. Jamal said Bob Sr had ideas.

Bob Sr stated it is taking too long for the minutes to be put on the website.

Jamal said Bob Sr sent a letter to all nonmembers and got no responses.

Kristine Moore stated that the members in the field do not know who the other members are.

Bob Sr said in the past they had a convention in Newport and it was well attended. He also stated he recently had to deal with OPM regarding death benefits. He asked if we could get someone to explain how to file the death benefits.

Bill Austin swore all members of the executive board in.

SPAC was pulled by George Mandeville and he had the winning ticket. Split \$120.

**Motion to adjourn** the meeting was made by Victor Giorgio and seconded by Bill Downes at 8:35 pm.

*Susan Evans*

Susan Evans  
Treasurer